The Editorial Page: Seven years after August 5 — delaying J&K statehood undermines gains 10

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LoP HELD OVER REMARKS DIRECTED AT ACTOR LINKED TO CM VIJAY

Udhayanidhi arrest sparks row, TN House meets today

Tamil Nadu Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin after being questioned by police in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, Tuesday. PTI

HC orders release; DMK leader says row a bid to divert attention from Cauvery dispute

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, August 4

THE ARREST of DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin, the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Tamil Nadu Assembly, on Tuesday over his alleged sexually coloured remarks at a public meeting on the ties between Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and a Tamil actor escalated into a showdown between the TVK-led government and the DMK in the state.

The row triggered a war of words between the Vijay-led TVK and the DMK on the eve of the Assembly's Budget Session, setting off statewide protests and a legal battle in the Madras High Court.

Hours after the police took Udhayanidhi to Thanjavur, he was questioned at the Sengipatti police station before being released on bail as per the High Court's order.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS special

Gen Z loud and clear on the street but invisible in Parliament, Assemblies

Only 6 MPs & 20 MLAs from GenZ, given eligibility age is 25 for candidates, but population share is nearly 26%

Anjishnu Das
New Delhi, August 4

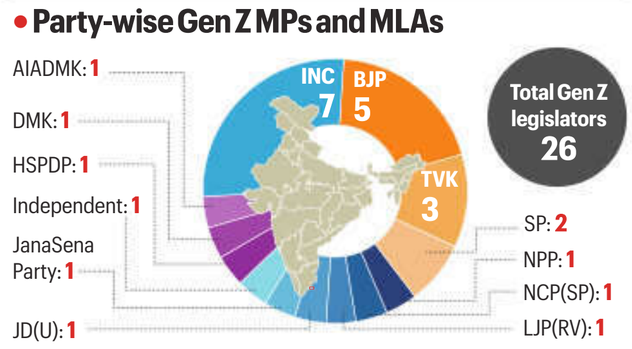
ON THE streets, Gen Z's voice rings loud and clear, but in Parliament and the state legislatures, it remains a faint echo.

The reason: Gen Z accounts for over a quarter of the country's population, yet its representation in politics is restricted to just 26 legislators across the country — six Lok Sabha MPs and 20 MLAs, a low number even though the minimum age to contest elections is 25, which rules out a chunk of this demographic.

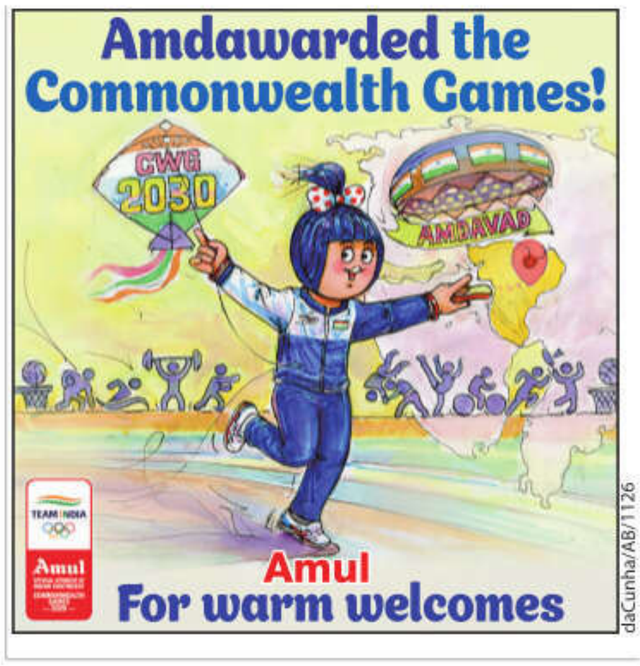
Defined as those born

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

• Party-wise Gen Z MPs and MLAs



SOURCE: LOK SABHA, STATE ASSEMBLIES, ADR



Happening today

• **OPPOSITION PDP** will hold protests in J&K to mark the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

INSIDE

PHUKET-DELHI FLIGHT HITS TURBULENCE, 17 INJURED PAGE 4

INDIAN VESSEL HIT, SINKS OFF YEMEN, ALL CREW SAFE PAGE 9

'India can reach AI frontier in one year with $10-billion push'

Sarvam AI's Pratyush Kumar and tech investor Rajan Anandan

ENS Economic Bureau
Mumbai, August 4

INDIA CAN catch up with frontier artificial intelligence models developed in the West within a year, with the country's AI ecosystem currently only a $10-billion investment away from competing with global players, according to Pratyush Kumar, co-founder and CEO of

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS AADA
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THE PAVILION

Business as Usual
By EP UNNY

THE BIG PICTURE

INDIA TO JAPAN, VIA NORTH EAST PAGE 15

Govt to SC: 2-stage JEE format for NEET-UG under consideration

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, August 4

THE CENTRE has informed the Supreme Court that the authorities concerned are considering whether the NEET (UG) examination for medical courses should be held in a single-stage or in two stages on the pattern of the JEE for engineering courses.

The government said this in an affidavit filed Monday before the top court which is hearing petitions on the need for reforms in the National Testing Agency (NTA) framework to prevent question paper leaks.

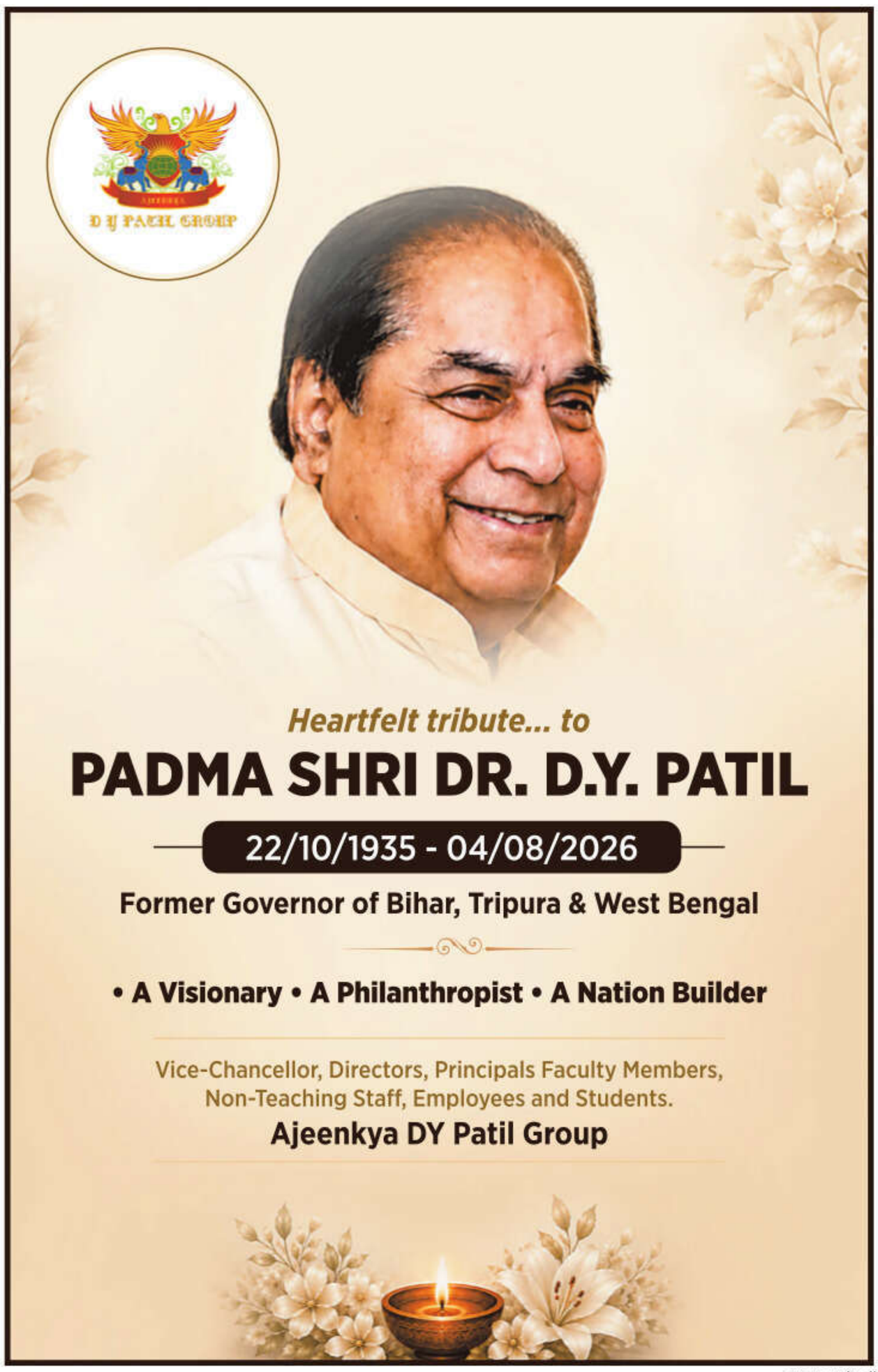
The affidavit, which outlined the security protocol associated with the conduct of the NEET (UG) exam, said "in respect of NEET (UG), the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

E. EXPLAINED

Exam reforms, tougher laws

The task force on exam reforms, headed by Nandan Nilekani, was announced by the PM a day after students called off their protest over paper leaks. The government has also established fast-track courts and brought in a tougher law to deal with those behind the leaks.



Can boarded-out cadets be given quota as ex-military personnel, asks SC

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will consider what benefits can be provided to officer cadets boarded out from the military on account of disability suffered during training, even if the ex-servicemen tag could not be extended to them.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan said this after the Centre cited problems in extending the ex-servicemen nomenclature to the outboarded cadets.

"Without using the word ex-servicemen, what benefits you can get we will see," Justice Nagarathna said.

The court also asked the government to "reconsider the recommendations made by the Sabharwal Committee in light of the fact that the matter is now taken up by this court in order to ameliorate the condition of the outboarded candidates".

The July 2015 report by a committee headed by Lieutenant General (retd) Mukesh Sabharwal had looked into the issue of the disabled candidates and made some recommendations, including treating them as ex-servicemen and providing disability pension to them.

Justice Nagarathna said if the outboarded cadets cannot be treated as ex-servicemen, they can be brought in the category of ex-military personnel and be provided reservation benefits.

The court said that "States and UT's could also consider granting reservation to outboarded cadets in the quota of ex-military personnel...".

Justice Nagarathna told the Centre's counsel, "See the plight of the parents, see the plight of the child. Arm is not there, amputation, wheelchair-bound. Who will look after (them), after the parents go...They were qualified to be in the training. So they are not just an ordinary student...that is why the degree of disappointment is high. We have kept that in mind. That is the only reason why we instituted this – the degree of disappointment... for that person, family, parents, is so high, because the expectation was so high..."

The SC had taken suo motu cognizance of the matter following a report in The Indian Express on August 11 last year about how these officer cadets have been battling severe disability with mounting medical bills and little benefits. According to the report, around 500 officer cadets have been medically discharged from top institutes such as the National Defence Academy since 1985 due to varying degrees of disability incurred during training.

The court will now hear the matter on September 8.

India slams Pakistan over civilian killings in PoK during polls

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

INDIA ON Tuesday upped the offensive on Pakistan over the elections in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), calling them a "complete farce" and slamming the killing of at least 90 civilians in the crackdown by its forces.

This is the second time in the last four days that Delhi has responded sharply to Islamabad's "ruthless" use of force against peaceful protesters. Earlier, on July 31, India had called upon the international community to scrutinise and hold Pakistan accountable for the "atrocities" being committed in the PoK.

On Tuesday, responding to questions, the Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "This so-called local election in PoK is a complete farce. The real happening is that of public protests and wanton killings by Pakistani forces. Such hollow exercises cannot hide reality."

"Since June this year, at least 90 civilians have lost their lives in the continuing crackdown. The Pakistani establishment has answered public discontent with bullets, blackouts, intimidation and repression, and now seeks to manufacture legitimacy through a hollow electoral exercise. It must be held accountable, and the world should see through the flimsy veneer of Pakistan's hypocritical lecturing on human rights," the MEA spokesperson said.

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

Udhayanidhi arrest

Earlier in the day, at around 9.30 am, a joint team of police from Thanjavur and Chennai's Neelankarai arrived at Udhayanidhi's residence in the East Coast Road neighbourhood in the state capital. Security had been tightened outside the house. As television cameras gathered, officers escorted the former deputy chief minister into a police vehicle at around 11 am. Before leaving his residence, the LoP accused the Vijay government of "manufacturing" a controversy to divert attention from the Cauvery water dispute.

"I spoke for over 20 minutes on farmers, their welfare and the Cauvery river water issue. They have manipulated something that I never spoke about and are using it as a diversion tactic," Udhayanidhi, son of DMK president M K Stalin, told reporters. "Even a basic member of my party will not be threatened by such arrests. We will face it legally."

His arrest followed a complaint filed by a functionary of the TVK women's wing over Udhayanidhi's purported remarks at a farmers' protest in Thanjavur Monday. During his speech, while he attacked CM Vijay over the Cauvery row, someone in the gathering shouted the name of a popular Tamil actor associated with Vijay. Udhayanidhi responded with what critics described as a sexually suggestive double entendre, triggering widespread outrage and demands for action against him.

Police registered a case against Udhayanidhi under multiple sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act and the Information Technology Act. Police sources said six FIRs have since been registered across the state against him.

As Udhayanidhi was driven by the police for over 300 kilometres to Thanjavur for questioning, his lawyers rushed to the Madras High Court to seek anticipatory bail. During the hearing, Advocate General P S Vijay Narayan told Justice G K Ilanthiraiyan that the state had no intention of remanding the LoP in judicial custody and that he had been taken to Thanjavur only for interrogation.

Recording the submission, the court directed the police to release Udhayanidhi on station bail after questioning. Disposing of his anticipatory bail plea, the judge also directed him to cooperate with the investigation and appear before the investigating officers whenever required.

Hitting out at the Vijay government, M K Stalin questioned why his son had been transported by the police to Thanjavur if the intention was only to question him. "If the purpose is to conduct an investigation, why not conduct it in Chennai?" he asked.

Calling the HC's direction to release Udhayanidhi "a blow to the fascist nature" of the TVK government, the DMK chief alleged that the LoP's arrest was intended to keep him away from the Assembly a day before the tabling of the Budget.

The ex-CM accused the Vijay government of trying to deflect attention from its alleged mishandling of the Cauvery dispute. "The incompetent dummy Chief Minister could not bring Cauvery water, could not even speak to stop the Mekedatu dam," he said, alleging that the TVK was preoccupied with arresting critics instead of answering the Opposition's questions.

Stalin claimed that Udhayanidhi had neither named anyone nor made any obscene remarks, accusing their political opponents of circulating edited versions of his speech. "Arrogance leads to destruction. Continued arrogance will hasten destruction," he said.

The TVK, however, defended the police action. Energy and Law Minister R Nirmalkumar said a person holding a constitutional office has a greater responsibility to maintain dignity in public life, He said Udhayanidhi was "unfit to remain Leader of the Opposition" and "unfit to be in public life".

The political reactions over the LoP's arrest from across the spectrum reflected both condemnation of his remarks and unease over his arrest. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami or EPS criticised Udhayanidhi's comments as unbecoming of the office he holds but urged the government to withdraw the arrest move, describing it as "politically motivated" on the eve of the Assembly session.

MDMK general secretary Vaiko alleged that Udhayanidhi had reduced himself to the level of "a fourth-rate platform speaker" and that his remarks were unbecoming of the LoP.

The BJP, which demanded Udhayanidhi's arrest immediately after his speech, maintained its stance. BJP leaders called his comments "vulgar and shameful", with senior party leader Tamilisai Soundararajan saying that they reflected poorly on public discourse while shifting attention away from farmers and the Cauvery issue.

Udhayanidhi's arrest triggered demonstrations by the DMK workers across the state. DMK cadres blocked roads and raised slogans in Chennai, Tiruchi, Madurai, Coimbatore, Erode, Ooty and other districts, accusing the government of suppressing the Opposition.

The TVK workers organised counter-protests condemning Udhayanidhi's remarks. The party's national spokesperson petitioned the National Commission for Women, seeking action against him while alleging that his remarks objectified women.

With hundreds of the DMK workers gathering outside the Thanjavur East police station, where Udhayanidhi was supposed to be taken for questioning, police shifted him to the Sengipatti police station, about 20 km away, citing security concerns. The move came after he had been brought all the way from Chennai on the ground that the case fell under the jurisdiction of the Thanjavur East police station.

On reaching Sengipatti, Udhayanidhi initially refused to get out of the police vehicle, questioning the change of venue. He was then assured by the police, sources said, that his interrogation would be completed within an hour so that he could board his scheduled 10 pm flight from Tiruchirappalli to Chennai in accordance with the high court's direction that he be released after questioning.

During the brief standoff, Udhayanidhi was learnt to have spoken to the DMK's Thanjavur district leaders, following which the party cadres began moving towards Sengipatti. After his questioning there, Udhayanidhi received a rousing reception from the DMK workers outside the police station before he headed to the Tiruchirappalli airport.

Speaking to reporters at the airport, the LoP dismissed his arrest as a "diversion tactic" by the Vijay government to shift attention from the DMK's farmers' protest and prevent the Opposition from raising the Cauvery issue in the Assembly.

Maintaining that his 25-minute speech at the Thanjavur event was entirely about farmers' issues, the Mekedatu dam and the TVK government's "mishandling" of the Cauvery row, Udhayanidhi denied making any derogatory remarks. "I did not speak in double meaning... I only demanded that Cauvery water be secured for Tamil Nadu," he said, alleging that portions of his speech had been "cut, copied and pasted" to create a "false narrative".

Rejecting allegations of misogyny against him, he said he had never intended to disrespect any woman and added that he had been brought up to treat every woman with dignity. Calling his arrest "a comedy", he accused the TVK government of "behaving like a circus tent staging a performance".

AI frontier

Indian AI unicorn Sarvam AI.

Speaking at the Express Adda on Monday, Kumar said, "The gap (between Indian and global AI) is actually not as big as it looks. It's actually $10 billion. If we were to invest $10 billion today, we could reach the frontier by Independence Day next year."

Sarvam AI has emerged as a key player in India's push to build indigenous AI capabilities, developing homegrown models and deploying them across private enterprises as well as the country's strategic sector.

Rajan Anandan, managing director at venture capital firm Peak XV Partners, said 2026 is the year India formally entered the global AI race, pointing to new investments in computing capacity, the launch of domestic models and growing demand for enterprise applications such as voice AI.

"The way that we think about it is that India is early in the AI game, and 2026 is the year that India has entered the AI race," Anandan said. "Compute was a big constraint, but starting at the AI summit in February in Delhi, we've had over $400 billion of AI capex that has been announced."

The India AI Impact Summit, held in New Delhi in February, had seen big names like the Reliance Group, Adani Group and the Tata Group, among others, commit to investments in the country's AI ecosystem.

At the Express Adda, Kumar and Anandan were in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, Indian Express Group, and Soumyarendra Barik, Assistant Editor, The Indian Express.

Anandan said voice AI, in particular, will be the "first billion dollar revenue category" for Indian enterprises in the AI space, with the overall market projected at around $10 billion. Voice AI, which uses artificial intelligence to conduct and respond to spoken conversations, is emerging as one of India's earliest large-scale enterprise AI opportunities, particularly in customer service and call centres.

Asked why India had defined its AI goals in the context of having "sovereign" models, a narrative Sarvam has also leaned on, Kumar said India should focus on deploying "whatever are the best" AI models on "price and accuracy" tradeoffs. He added that India "needs to have its own story, which we rely on and continue to compound".

Addressing anxieties around AI's impact on jobs, which has already seen some of India's largest employers in the IT services sector signal a slowdown in headcount addition, Anandan said, "The largest companies have never been the source of employment growth, ever... We had a period of time where IT services (hired in large numbers)... but they will not hire lots and lots of people because they will leverage AI."

Though he agreed there will be "significant dislocation" of current jobs -- for instance, in sectors like customer care -- requiring companies and individuals to upskill, he said a large share of new jobs would need to come from the innovation ecosystem.

"Upskilling is going to be the single biggest thing. We have the world's largest young population, and we have to make sure that we're upskilling them to unleash innovation. A million Indians turn 18 every month, which means 12 million Indians are entering the workforce every year, so we have to create 100 million jobs in the next eight years... a few top companies are not going to be able to do that, so it has to be done by a large number of entrepreneurs starting businesses," Anandan said.

Anandan cited the example of Microsoft hiring 6,000 forward deployed engineers, a role which, he said, did not exist 18 months ago. Forward-deployed engineers combine software development with an understanding of business problems, working inside client organisations to tailor and implement AI systems for specific use cases.

Anandan also said that the recent students' protest at Jantar Mantar could represent early signs of a broader anxiety over jobs and economic opportunities. "What we saw possibly was early signs of (what can happen) if we don't create opportunities for 100 million Indians over the next decade, you're going to see things like this possibly happen," Anandan said.

The Express Adda is a series of informal interactions organised by the Indian Express Group, featuring those at the centre of change.

Previous guests include Union Ministers S Jaishankar, Mansukh Mandaviya and Hardeep Singh Puri; Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen; His Holiness the Dalai Lama; cricket icons Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma; chess legend Viswanathan Anand; Olympic gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra; and motivational strategist Gaur Gopal Das.

Gen Z

between 1997 and 2012, or in the age band of 14-29, Gen Z accounts for 36.74 crore, or 25.8%, of the country's 142.6 crore population in 2026, as per 2011 Census projections. The Gen Z population aged 25 and older alone accounts for an estimated 8.9% of the country's population.

When the age band is stretched to 40, the number of legislators in this group expands to 397 MLAs and 40 MPs.

6 MPs in Lok Sabha

The current Lok Sabha, elected in 2024, offered the first opportunity for Gen Z representatives to enter the Lower House. The Congress has the most Gen Z MPs at three, followed by the SP at two and the LJP(RV) at one. UP and Karnataka have two Gen Z MPs each, while Bihar and Rajasthan have one each.

The Gen Z MPs are: SP's Pushpendra Saroj (27) from Kaushambi and Priya Saroj (27) from Machhlishahr in UP; Congress's Sagar Khandre (28) from Bidar and Priyanka Satish Jarkiholi (29) from Chikkodi in Karnataka, and Sanjna Jatav (28) from Bharatpur in Rajasthan; and LJP (Ram Vilas)'s Shambhavi (28) from Samastipur in Bihar.

These six MPs were the only winners among the 98 Gen Z Lok Sabha candidates in 2024 who accounted for just 1.2% of all 8,360 candidates in the fray.

Four of these six Gen Z MPs are women; four are college graduates; and two hold postgraduate degrees. According to their election affidavits, Priya Saroj, Khandre and Jatav are trained lawyers, Shambhavi holds an MA in sociology, Jarkiholi is an MBA, and Pushpendra Saroj holds an accounting and management degree from a London university.

Five of these six Gen Z MPs belong to established political families; only Jatav, a Dalit MP, does not.

Pushpendra Saroj's father Indrajit is a former UP minister and national general secretary of SP, while Priya Saroj's father is a sitting SP MLA and three-time former Lok Sabha MP.

Among the Congress's Gen Z MPs, Khandre's father Eshwara is a sitting Karnataka MLA, former state minister and the party's state working president, while his late grandfather Bheemanna was a four-time MLA and prominent Lingayat leader. Priyanka Jarkiholi, the other Karnataka MP, is the daughter of four-time sitting MLA Satish Jarkiholi, from the prominent Jarkiholi political family that also has members in the BJP.

LJP(RV) MP Shambhavi's father Ashok Choudhary is a Cabinet minister in Bihar's NDA government and national general secretary of the Nitish Kumar-led Janata Dal (United).

The Lok Sabha has another 34 MPs aged 40 or under, taking the total number of under-40 legislators to just 40 in the 543-member House. UP has the largest representation in this group at 10 MPs, followed by Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh at five each, and West Bengal and Maharashtra at four each.

20 MLAs in states

Of the 4,131 MLAs across 28 states and three Union Territories, just 20 belong to Gen Z. Six were elected from seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and three from Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Since a Gen Z candidate would have hit the eligible age to contest an Assembly election only in 2022, most of these MLAs were elected in the last two years, with as many as nine elected in 2026 alone.

Tamil Nadu has the most Gen Z MLAs at four after its 2026 Assembly poll — three from the ruling TVK and one from the AIADMK. West Bengal has the next highest at three, all from the BJP, while Bihar, Meghalaya and Telangana have two each. Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Puducherry and Rajasthan have one Gen Z MLA each. All these states last went to polls between 2023 and 2026.

A party-wise breakdown puts the BJP on top with five Gen Z MLAs, followed by the Congress at four and the TVK at three. Among the other parties with Gen Z MLAs are the AIADMK and DMK in Tamil Nadu, the Jana Sena Party in Andhra, the JD(U) in Bihar, the NCP(SP) in Maharashtra, and two regional parties in Meghalaya — all with one MLA each — besides one Independent in Rajasthan.

Of the 20 Gen Z MLAs, 16 are at least college graduates, including five postgraduates. One is a diploma holder, another has studied up to Class 10 and two others up to Class 12. Nine were elected from reserved seats (six from SC and three from ST seats) and eight of them are women.

Twelve of these 20 Gen Z MLAs are political newcomers without prior electoral experience or family backgrounds, including Tamil Nadu MLA Dhilipan Jaishankar, a doctor; West Bengal MLA Santu Pan, a former journalist; and Bihar MLA Maithili Thakur, a prominent playback singer.

Keerthana S, the youngest minister in Tamil Nadu's newly elected TVK government, has no electoral experience but was a political consultant with I-PAC before contesting the 2026 polls. Ravindra Singh Bhati was a student leader before becoming a Rajasthan MLA as an Independent.

The remaining eight Gen Z MLAs come from political families. Most prominent among them are Aditya Surjewala, a Haryana MLA and son of senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala; Rohit Patil, a Maharashtra MLA and son of former Deputy CM R R Patil; and Puducherry MLA Vignesh Kannan, whose father is former Lok Sabha MP and ex-Puducherry Assembly Speaker P Kannan. Several others, such as Mynampally Rohith in Telangana, Tanzil Hussain in Assam, Upasna Mohapatra in Odisha and Damanbait Lamare in Meghalaya, are also children of former legislators.

Under 40, bigger basket

As many as 397 MLAs across India are 40 or younger, including the 20 who belong to Gen Z. As a share of an Assembly's total membership, Chhattisgarh has the highest proportion of MLAs aged 40 or younger at 35.6%, followed by Tamil Nadu at 20.9%, Meghalaya at 16.7%, West Bengal at 15.7%, and Bihar at 15.6%. Of these states, Tamil Nadu and Bengal held their latest elections this year, while Bihar voted in late 2025. In absolute terms, Tamil Nadu has the most MLAs aged 40 or younger at 49, followed by Bengal at 46, Bihar at 38, UP at 37, and Chhattisgarh at 32.

These numbers matter because, by the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, Gen Z could account for the largest share of India's voting-age population. While the 2011 Census does not have age-wise projections for 2029, its projections for 2031 place the Gen Z population, which will then be aged between 19-34, at approximately 26.3%. Millennials, in contrast, will comprise 21.7% of the population in 2031, down from roughly 22.2% in 2026. Older generations, including those born in 1980 or before, will together account for 24% of the population by then.

NEET-UG

migration from the Pen-and-Paper mode to a Computer-Based mode, whether in a single-stage or a two-stage examination on the pattern of the Joint Entrance Examination (Mains and Advanced), is presently under active consideration by all stakeholders".

The Centre said "the final approach will be adopted after considering, and with the benefit of, the recommendations of the High-Powered Task Force under the chairmanship of Shri Nandan Nilekani" constituted recently.

It said "the composition of the Task Force, with domain expertise drawn from technology, space, intelligence, academia and public administration, ensures a rigorous and holistic examination of the technological, security, equity, infrastructure and pedagogic dimensions of the transition".

The Centre pointed out that the NTA "has, in the recent past, migrated seven of its eight major examinations to Computer-Based Testing, with a multi-session, multi-day schedule. These include JEE (Main), CUET (UG), CUET (PG), UGC-NET and CSIR-NET" and "NEET (UG) presently remains the only major examination of the National Testing Agency that is conducted in the Pen-and-Paper mode".

The affidavit said "it is imperative to point out that NEET (UG) is a sui generis examination on account of a multitude of factors including its scale, spread, spectrum of candidates, the wide and diverse spectrum of options contingent on the rank upon passing (ranging from MBBS, Dental, Ayush, Veterinary, Nursing) and the fee structure. There are over 22 lakhs registered candidates, with a majority of rural candidates and majority of women candidates. The figures and statistics of the NEET (UG) examination reflect its one-of-a-kind status".

The Centre said "in view of the fact that NEET (UG) is conducted on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which acts as the Test Indenting Agency, and that the National Medical Commission is the apex regulator, any structural change in the design of NEET (UG) will be undertaken only in structured consultation and concurrence of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the National Medical Commission, under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019".

The Centre said it "also remains committed to providing candidates with adequate advance notice of any change in the mode or design of the examination, so that any transition may be smooth, equitable and free of avoidable stress to the candidates".

The Court will take up the matter on August 6.

Industrial plot scam: Punjab CMO officials on radar, ED searches 11 sites

Kanchan Vasdev
Chandigarh, August 4

The Enforcement Directorate, Tuesday, conducted searches at 11 locations across Punjab as part of it's ongoing investigation into alleged irregularities in the allotment and transfer of industrial plots by the Punjab Small Industries and Export Corporation Limited (PSIEC).

Although ED was yet to release an official statement about its findings from the day-long searches, sources revealed that certain high-ranking officials with their linkages in the chief minister's office and the state government have come under scanner. The role of each individual is yet to be elaborated by the investigating agency.

Sources said that ED's action was related to the ongoing investigations into the money laundering case against Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora. However, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party termed the ED action a witch-hunt and "political vendetta" by the BJP-led union government.

The AAP, in a late night statement, alleged the ED was being misused to target the Punjab government after failing to find any evidence of any wrongdoing against Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. "The massive public anger against the 'ED Party' (BJP), as witnessed during the Jantar Mantar protest, has clearly rattled Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Instead of addressing the growing public outrage, the ED Party (BJP) has chosen to misuse central agencies and pursue political vendetta against its opponents," it said.

The searches were conducted at premises linked to current and former PSIEC officials, property dealers and alleged benamidars [pseudo-owners]. Those searched included PSIEC executive director Bhai Sukhdeep Singh, retired chief general manager Surendra Pal Singh, retired general manager Jaswinder Singh Randhawa and retired sub-divisional engineer Savtej Singh.

The money laundering investigation stems from a Vigilance Bureau FIR registered on March 8, 2024, against PSIEC officials and private persons for allegedly conspiring with property dealers to obtain prime industrial plots in the names of relatives and associates. According to the ED sources, private persons used fake firms and fictitious addresses while applying for industrial plots and, in connivance with PSIEC officials, managed to secure allotments.

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

SIR 2026
हरियाणा

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, HARYANA

फॉर्म 6

फॉर्म 6 के माध्यम से नाम जुड़वाएं

कोई भी पात्र व्यक्ति अपना नाम मतदाता सूची में शामिल करवाने के लिए फॉर्म 6 भर सकता है।

कौन फॉर्म 6 भर सकता है ?

18+
जिनकी आयु 18 वर्ष या उससे अधिक हो गई है 01.07.2026 के अनुसार
जिन मतदाताओं की आयु 01 जुलाई, 2026 को 18 वर्ष या उससे अधिक हो चुकी है, वे फॉर्म 6 भरकर मतदाता सूची में अपना नाम जुड़वा सकते हैं।

SIR
जिन्होंने SIR के दौरान अपना एन्यूमरेशन फॉर्म जमा नहीं किया
जो मतदाता किसी कारणवश SIR (विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण) के दौरान अपना एन्यूमरेशन फॉर्म जमा नहीं कर पाए, वे अब फॉर्म 6 भरकर अपना नाम जुड़वा सकते हैं।

गैर हाजिर मतदाता (Absentee Voter)
जो मतदाता सेवा, व्यवसाय, शिक्षा या अन्य कारणों से अपने मतदाता क्षेत्र से बाहर रहते हैं, वे फॉर्म 6 भरकर अपना नाम मतदाता सूची में शामिल करवा सकते हैं।

स्थायी रूप से स्थानांतरित हो चुके मतदाता
जो मतदाता स्थायी रूप से एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर चले गए हैं, वे अपने नए निवास स्थान की मतदाता सूची में नाम जुड़वाने के लिए फॉर्म 6 भरें।

फॉर्म 6 जमा कैसे करें ?

फॉर्म 6 घोषणा–पत्र सहित → अपने BLO या अपने क्षेत्र के ERO/AERO को → 31 जुलाई, 2026 से 30 अगस्त, 2026 तक जमा कराएं।

अधिक जानकारी के लिए

वेबसाइट पर जाएं www.voters.eci.gov.in
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ECINET ऐप डाउनलोड करें

जुड़ें मतदाता सूची में – निभाएं लोकतंत्र की जिम्मेदारी

BLO से संपर्क करें या 'BOOK A CALL की सुविधा का उपयोग करें
पात्रता और विवरण की पुष्टि के लिए समय पर आवेदन करें

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AIRCRAFT LANDS SAFELY, DGCA TO PROBE

Air India flight from Phuket to Delhi hits turbulence, 17 injured

Sukalp Sharma & Devansh Mittal
New Delhi, August 4

AN AIR India aircraft operating a flight from Phuket to Delhi encountered turbulence on Tuesday, leading to a sudden drop in altitude of about 300 feet and causing injuries to 13 passengers and four crew members. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has started a probe into the incident.

The flight carrying 137 passengers and eight crew members landed safely in Delhi, and the 17 injured were taken to the hospital for medical evaluation. The airline said that as of 6.50 pm, five passengers have been discharged.

Sources indicated that the aircraft was flying over Odisha at an altitude of about 36,000 feet when the incident occurred.

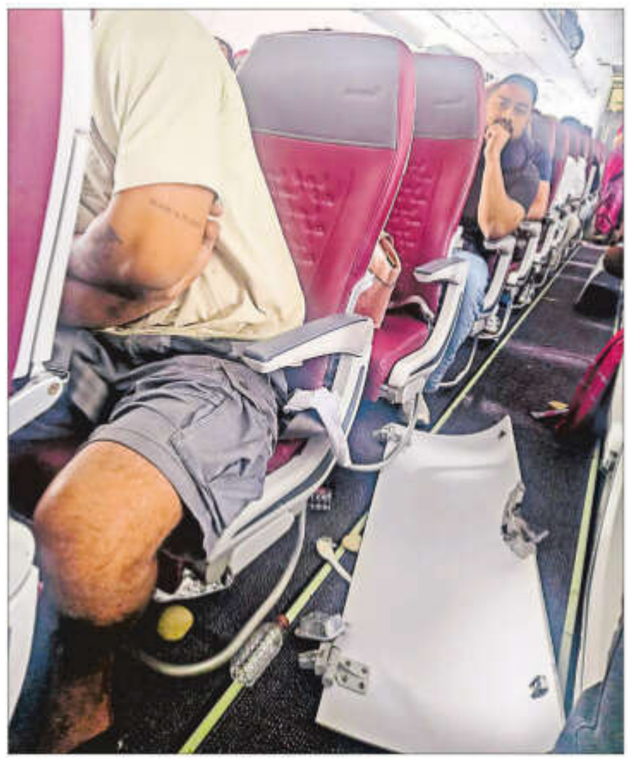
The Airbus A320 aircraft – registered as VT-EXO – landed at Delhi airport at 11.07 am. It had departed from Phuket at 8.41 am (local time).

"Air India confirms that flight AI2379, operating from Phuket to Delhi, experienced a brief in-flight turbulence-related event during cruise, resulting in a momentary change in altitude. The aircraft landed safely in Delhi and all passengers and crew have safely disembarked," an Air India spokesperson said.

The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said that the aircraft has been moved to a hangar and its flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder have been secured for detailed examination. "The DGCA has initiated a detailed investigation into the occurrence. The Ministry of Civil Aviation and DGCA are closely monitoring the situation. Passenger safety remains the highest priority, and all necessary measures are being taken," it added.

"In accordance with established safety and regulatory procedures, the relevant regulatory authorities have been informed. Air India is fully cooperating with the investigation, and the aircraft manufacturer has also been notified," the airline said on Tuesday evening.

An official from DGCA said the pilot in command had reported a severe injury to one of the cabin crew members and a few minor injuries on board. The Air India said that no serious injuries were reported.



Inside the flight after it hit turbulence; injured passengers. ANI

After first being treated at a airport medical facility, the injured passengers were subsequently taken to Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj and Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon.

A Fortis Hospital spokesperson said that the hospital had received seven patients, who had undergone necessary radiological investigations (CT/MRI/X-rays). Sources at Medanta said they had received six patients, and none were seriously injured.

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu and Aviation Secretary Samir Kumar Sinha visited Fortis Hospital met the injured passengers.

In aviation, turbulence is a routine occurrence, with scores of flights experiencing it to varying degrees on a daily basis. Some of it may occur near the ground, when strong winds around the airport can cause turbulence as aircraft take off or land, or at higher altitudes, where an updraft or downward flow of air in storm clouds can trigger turbulence as planes fly through or near them.

Turbulence also occurs on the edges of jet streams — strong, fast, and narrow air currents that circle the globe. While turbulence is commonplace, serious injuries caused by it are rare, and fatalities even more so.

Turbulence is an irregular motion of the air resulting from circular whirls of air, or eddies, and vertical air currents — updrafts and downdrafts. Its severity can range from a few minor bumps during the flight to the aircraft being tossed around with rapid and harsh changes in altitude, which can lead to injuries to those on board and, in extremely rare cases, result in structural damage to the plane.

GROUND report

Bloodstains, silence and unfinished lesson of a Faridabad teacher who lived to teach

Abhimanyu Hazarika
Gurgaon, August 4

DRIED BLOOD marks the spot where an ordinary school day had descended into horror.

The classrooms of Saraswati Senior Secondary School in Faridabad's Sikrona were silent on Tuesday, its gates locked a day after a 21-year-old youth in a mask allegedly walked in, dragged a teacher out of her classroom in broad daylight and stabbed her at least 20 times, leading to her death.

On Wednesday, the school will gather for a *havan* in the memory of Sandhya Karhaja, a beloved teacher who always wanted to teach.

Born in Dabua in Haryana's Faridabad, Sandhya married for love seven years ago and moved to nearby Sikrona with her husband, Vikas 'Vicky' Karhaja. She taught at several private schools in the area before joining Saraswati Senior Secondary School.

On Monday morning, her classroom was where the 30-year-old taught for the last time.

Amit from neighbouring Kot village entered the school around 9.40 am, dragged Sandhya out of her classroom and stabbed her to death before fleeing on a motorcycle. He was arrested within two hours.

According to Sandhya's family, Amit was a former student in a school in Kot where Sandhya had previously taught. She allegedly rejected his advances and stopped speaking to him.

Dried blood marks at the school premises; victim Sandhya Karhaja. EXPRESS

"Nine months ago, he began following her after she rejected him and stopped talking to him. She filed a police complaint, but his relatives came with folded hands asking us not to pursue the case. They promised they would handle the boy, so we let it be," said Vikas, a driver.

However, the matter did not end there. Three months later, the family again approached Amit's relatives after he allegedly resumed harassing Sandhya. "This time, I went to his place. His family repeated the same assurances and again, we did not pursue the matter," Vikas said.

His cousin, Pawan Kumar, added that Amit crossed a line a month ago. "He threatened to kill Vicky. He said, 'If she can't be mine, I won't let her be yours too'. His elder brother Ravi knew about all this but did nothing. After the murder, the family calmly let him return home. They are part of the conspiracy, but have not been are not named in the FIR. Why?" he asked.

Vikas said his family would urge police to probe Amit's relatives when their statements are formally recorded.

He also wondered how secure the school was. "They let him enter in a mask just because he said he was her husband."

Across the narrow lane from the family's home, overlooking paddy fields, grief has settled heavily. Sandhya's five-year-old son and three-year-old daughter move from one elder to another, asking for their mother.

"She never told me about the recent threats. Had she done so, I would have brought her home. Now this house has become a *shamshan* (crematorium)," said Sandhya's mother Sudha Devi. "He struck my daughter more times than a butcher strikes."

Sandhya, she said, had always dreamt of becoming a teacher. She was also stubborn when it came to getting what she wanted. "We did not pressure her to get married. She chose Vikas on her own and they got married in court," she added.

Sandhya's elder sister, who is set to get married, said, "I hadn't spoken to her for the last two or three weeks because I was busy preparing for my wedding. The way he killed her, people don't even treat animals like that."

"For us, justice means either him getting a death penalty or being killed in an encounter," she added.

At the school, the attack has left everyone shaken.

School owner and Principal Dr Tejpal Sharma (59) said Sandhya had been teaching in the school for a little over a year. "She was loved by all the children. She even taught one of my children... I have sent them to a relative's because they are disturbed," he said, admitting that security needs to be strengthened at the school.

He recalled initially mistaking Sandhya's screams for a child receiving an electric shock because of the rain. "...By the time I reached the spot, she was on the floor... The accused tried to hit me and threatened to kill me. I went back to get a stick, but by the time I returned, he had fled. I informed the police and took Sandhya to the hospital."

Sharma said the school would bear the education expenses of Sandhya's children.

The offer has done little to ease the family's anger.

"We are not that poor, in fact the couple was building a two-storey home for themselves. Instead, the school should be sealed for letting the accused in so easily, just because he posed as Vicky. Why will we send the children there now? Even if they give us Rs 20 lakh, we will not accept it," Sandhya's aunt said.

A police spokesperson, meanwhile, said Amit was remanded to three-day police custody on Tuesday.

Yellow alert for today

Rain lashes India Gate as parts of Delhi on Tuesday saw intermittent rainfall. The IMD has forecast a generally cloudy sky with moderate rain on Wednesday and issued a yellow alert for the Capital. The city's air quality remained in the 'satisfactory' category for the fourth consecutive day this month, with an AQI of 64 at 4 pm, according to the CPCB. The IMD has also forecast rainfall over Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, Punjab and east Uttar Pradesh between August 4 and August 6. Rainfall is likely to continue until August 10. PRAVEEN KHANNA

• Skywatch

Forecast: August 5, 2026

Very light to light rain.

MAX: 32-34
0.2°C below normal

MIN: 23-25
3.9°C below normal

• AQI Tracker

IGNOU Good **AQI: 41**

Dwarka Satisfactory **AQI: 77**

Alipur Moderate **AQI: 112**

Vivek Vihar Good **AQI: 41**

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

EXPRESS special

For 39 yrs, his heart worked the 'wrong' way: Delhi doctors pull off a world's first

Tabshir Shams
New Delhi, August 4

FOR 39 years, a Delhi man lived with a heart that was wired differently from birth. He did not know that one side of his heart was doing a job it was never designed to do — pumping blood to the entire body instead of just the lungs. Over time, that extra strain weakened his heart and damaged one of its valves, leaving him in need of a complex operation.

Last month, doctors at VMMC & Safdarjung Hospital performed what they say is the world's first robotic replacement of this damaged heart valve in a patient with an unusual heart anatomy. Instead of opening his chest through the breastbone, the surgical team carried out the operation through a small incision using a robotic system — a first for a condition where the heart is essentially a mirror image of a normal heart.

The patient was born with two rare congenital conditions. One, called congenitally corrected transposition of the great arteries (ccTGA), meant that the heart's pumping chambers were connected differently from normal. The other, dextrocardia, meant that his heart was located on the right side of his chest instead of the left.

To explain why this mattered, Dr Anubhav Gupta, professor and HOD, Department of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery (CTVS), says normally, the right side of the heart pumps blood to the lungs, while the stronger left side pumps oxygen-rich blood to the rest of the body. In this patient, those roles were reversed. "The right ventricle, which is naturally built to pump blood only to the lungs under low pressure, had spent nearly four decades pumping blood to the entire body. Over time, that constant workload caused it to weaken," he says.

The team that conducted the surgery. EXPRESS

Compounding this, the valve that needed replacement was a tricuspid valve, a one-way gate that controls blood flow between two heart chambers, the right atrium (upper) and the right ventricle (lower). Normally found on the right side of the heart, it sits on the patient's left side, doing the job of the mitral valve, which is designed to handle the blood flow in the left side of the heart.

"These are birth defects that often remain silent for decades," says Dr Gupta. "Patients may not develop symptoms until adulthood, once the mismatched ventricle can no longer keep compensating," he adds.

While similar cases have been reported in medical literature, he says the only published report of this combination being treated surgically dates back to 2011 and involved conventional open-heart surgery. That meant the Safdarjung team had no roadmap to follow.

Before the operation, the doctors created a three-dimensional reconstruction of the patient's heart using CT scans.

Surgeons normally operate on this valve from the patient's right side but in this case they had to reverse the entire setup and approach it from the left. "We mirrored the whole operation. Everything — the ports, the instruments and our surgical approach — had to be redesigned to match the patient's anatomy," says Dr Gupta.

The team spent four days planning the operation before performing the robotic procedure, which lasted about three to four hours. Unlike conventional open-heart surgery, which requires splitting the breastbone and temporarily stopping the heart while a heart-lung machine takes over circulation, the robotic procedure was performed through a single incision of about three centimetres.

The patient did not require a sternum incision or rib spreading and was discharged within a few days.

Dr Gupta says the operation demonstrates that even highly complex congenital heart defects can be managed through minimally invasive robotic techniques.

"This can now be done at other centres too. Surgeons will now have a mirrored, left-sided approach they can follow for similar anatomy, rather than starting from scratch as we had to," adds Dr Gupta.

After 2 rounds of allocations, hundreds of UG seats vacant at DU off-campus colleges

Vidheesha Kuntamalla
New Delhi, August 4

AFTER TWO rounds of seat allocations for undergraduate courses, hundreds of seats remain vacant in several Delhi University (DU) off-campus colleges even as the university's most sought-after colleges have been able to fill their seats.

Off-campus colleges are those located outside the North and South Campus clusters, spread across the Capital and the NCR, while remaining fully affiliated with DU.

According to the list released for the third round under the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) for the 2026-27 academic session, Bhagini Nivedita College, one of the off-campus colleges, has more than 800 seats lying vacant. With over 600 vacant seats, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, another such college, follows. Satyawati College still has over 400 seats vacant while Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar College has over 300 yet to be filled.

Most vacancies, according to the data, are concentrated in the Other Backward Classes–Non-Creamy Layer (OBC-NCL), Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe and Economically Weaker Section (EWS) categories, while relatively few seats remain vacant in the unreserved category. The largest number of vacancies are concentrated in Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit and several BA programme combinations, involving language subjects.

• Admission timeline at a glance

THIRD ROUND OF COMMON SEAT ALLOCATION SYSTEM

- Declaration of allocations: **August 8**
- Deadline for candidates to accept allocated seat: **Till 11.59 pm on August 11**
- College to verify, approve online applications : **August 8 till 4.59 pm; then August 12**
- Deadline for online payment of fees by the candidate : **Till 11.59 pm on August 13**

The DU is staring at the trend of vacancies at off-campus colleges this year after acknowledging last year that it had failed to fill all undergraduate seats for the third consecutive year since adopting the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) for admissions.

Top colleges saturated

According to DU's admissions office, on Saturday, as of 7 pm, 34,507 candidates have frozen their seats. The latest vacancy list shows that Hansraj College, Kirori Mal College, Sri Venkateswara College, Ramjas College and Dyal Singh College—which figured among the six most preferred colleges during the beginning of this year's admission process—are nearly full after two rounds of seat allocation.

At Dyal Singh College, which featured among the top six choices in the initial admissions trend, the remaining vacancies are largely confined to language courses such as Hindi, Sanskrit, Punjabi and Urdu. Several B A programme combinations with mainstream subjects, including Bengali and History and Bengali and Political Science, have already been filled.

St Stephen's College, Miranda House and Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) — despite not featuring among the six most preferred colleges in the initial preference trends — have also been nearly filled, according to the third-round vacancy list.

Last year's vacancies

As of last September, more than 7,000 seats, out of the university's 71,624 undergraduate seats remained vacant despite multiple rounds of allocations and mop-up admissions. The university had subsequently asked colleges to submit detailed course-wise vacancy data.

Defending the university's centralised admission process earlier, Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh had said, "After CUET, the university's admission process has become more logical, transparent and accountable with a centralised system. Now, every stakeholder is aware of the status of every seat. In DU's CSAS admission system, every allocation is made public, for which a very scientific method is adopted."

He had said that seat allocation is carried out solely on the basis of candidates' CUET scores and the preferences submitted by them. Responding to criticism that CUET had resulted in a large number of vacant seats, Singh had argued that the trend existed even before the entrance examination was introduced.

Citing data from the university's admission branch, he had said that in 2019, before the introduction of CUET, 68,213 undergraduate seats were filled against a sanctioned strength of 70,735, leaving 3.56% of the seats vacant.

By contrast, he had said that under the CSAS in 2025, the university recorded 72,229 admissions against 71,642 sanctioned seats, amounting to admissions 0.65 per cent above the sanctioned strength. Singh had also pointed to instances where colleges admitted more than 200 students against a sanctioned strength of 11 seats under the earlier admission system, arguing that such over-admissions made it difficult to track and regulate actual enrolments.

On concerns that prolonged vacancies could eventually lead to the closure of certain courses, Singh had said that the university had advised colleges to revisit their seat matrices and suggest ways to fill seats that continue to remain vacant.

Two firefighters killed while putting out massive blaze at Greater Noida factory

'Left everything, ran,' said staffer, recounting horror

Mishal Mussaddique
Noida, August 4

The firefighters were dousing the flames when a wall and iron beam at the unit collapsed. ABHINAV SAHA

TWO FIREFIGHTERS were killed and three others injured on Tuesday when a wall and an iron beam collapsed at an electronic chip manufacturing factory in Greater Noida where they were trying to put out a massive blaze.

The fire broke out at the ILJIN Electronics in the Ecotech Industrial Area in the early hours of Tuesday. Officers said the police received a call around 3.10 am and rushed to the spot.

Senior police officers, along with a team of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), were deployed at the site. Initially, four to five fire tenders arrived. By morning, almost 10-12 tenders were present, according to fire personnel at the site.

Recalling the mayhem, an employee of the firm said, "We were working the night shift. Around 3 am, we could see smoke coming out of the second floor of the building. Next thing we knew we were getting evacuated, leaving almost everything behind."

The firefighters were attempting to douse the blaze when a wall and an iron beam inside the factory suddenly collapsed.

As five firefighters got injured, they were rushed to the Yatharth Hospital where doctors declared fireman Rohit Yadav and Chief Constable Driver Tirthpal Singh dead, officers said. The rest of the personnel — Chief Constable Driver Rajpal Singh, firemen Manish Kumar and Amit Kumar — were admitted to the ICU and later were declared out of danger, according to the police.

On the collapse of the wall, a firefighter blamed the construction quality.

"The roof was made of mild steel, material which we are seeing more often in these regions. Contractors prefer it because it's cheap and easier to put up. But it is not fire resistant like reinforced cement concrete (RCC). Moreover it melts which can lead to such accidents," he told *The Indian Express*.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, and further legal action on, police said.

ONLY 63% OF ENUMERATION FORMS DIGITISED SO FAR

Delhi SIR deadline extended for 2nd time within weeks

Devansh Mittal
New Delhi, August 4

WITH ONLY around 63% of enumeration forms digitised in Delhi, the Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday extended the door-to-door verification exercise under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls until August 17. Now, the final electoral rolls will be published on Oactober 27. The extension comes with just four days left before the earlier August 8 deadline.

Data released by the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Delhi, showed that only around 63% of the forms had been digitised by 8 pm on Tuesday. The enumeration phase, which began on June 30 and was originally scheduled to end on July 29, had already been extended once to August 8. It will now continue until August 17.

In this phase, booth level officers (BLOs) conduct door-to-door visits to distribute enumeration forms, electors fill out their details and BLOs upload the details on the EC portal.

The draft electoral rolls will now be published on August 24 instead of August 17. (*See box*) The final electoral rolls will now be published on October 27 instead of October 19.

In a statement, the CEO's office said the schedule had been revised "keeping in view the main objective of the SIR that 'no eligible citizen is left out while no ineligible person is included in the electoral roll'" and to give electors more time to submit their enumeration forms. It also requested all electors, who are yet to submit their enumeration forms, to do the same at the earliest.

Officials in the CEO's office had earlier told *The Indian Express* that they expect 30-40% of names in Delhi's electoral rolls to be deleted. "Delhi has a large population of migrant labourers, government employees and private sector professionals, all of whom move frequently and often do not update their addresses. This is why the deletions may exceed 30%," an official had said.

Neighbouring Gurgaon, where the enumeration exercise just got over recently, also saw 29% of the electors getting excluded – the highest in Haryana.

The extension in Delhi comes days after the EC similarly revised the SIR schedule in Odisha and Telangana.

Delhi has over 1.45 crore registered voters. Among its districts, South East had the lowest digitisation rate at around 50%, followed by South (56%) and East (57%). Outer North (73%) and South West (71%) recorded the most digitisation of forms.

The exercise, meanwhile, has become a political flashpoint. AAP leader Somnath Bharti on Monday alleged that BJP was using SIR to delete around 30 lakh genuine voters. "The EC's requirement for voters or their parents to be listed in the 2002 electoral roll is excluding lakhs of eligible voters. Among poorer sections, landlords often do not allow tenants to obtain any permanent address proof. Thus, names of many such tenants are being deleted," he had said.

"During elections, you will see many lower income electors returning to their villages to vote. They want to remain registered in their villages because they receive government benefits. Many people have their names on electoral rolls in both places. One of those votes will now be deleted," a senior BJP functionary had told *The Indian Express* earlier.

• THE REVISED TIMELINE

BLOs in Sangam Vihar. GAJENDRA YADAV

JUNE 30 - AUGUST 17: House-to-house visit by BLOs

AUGUST 24: Draft electoral rolls publication

AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23: Filing claims & objections

AUGUST 24 - OCTOBER 22: Notice phase/disposal of claims and objections

AROUND **63%** ENUMERATION FORMS DIGITISED BY 8 PM ON TUESDAY

OCTOBER 27 Publication of final rolls

SOURCE: OFFICE OF CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER.

Govt chalks out new plan to tackle overhead wire clutter in Chandni Chowk

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

THE DELHI government's plan for shifting overhead cables in Chandni Chowk underground has hit a roadblock. Even as the work on two pilot stretches was supposed to be completed by July, the project is yet to begin due to coordination challenges with multiple agencies involved. With the agencies finding the network way more denser than initially expected, the government is now drawing up a revised plan and forming a high-level committee to bring all stakeholders together, said officials.

Power Minister Ashish Sood said the Power department is expected to set up the committee within the next few days. The committee will be headed by the Additional Chief Secretary (Power), with members from all departments, including the MCD, PWD, Delhi Jal Board, power utilities, IGL, discoms, telecom agencies and others that maintain underground utility lines, said officials.

"Chandni Chowk is a very densely populated market area with narrow lanes and shops. If we dig up the roads and shift the overhead wires underground, and then some other department, say, digs up the road to lay a drain, sewer or water connection, it will affect the day-to-day business and livelihoods of people and traders and also lead to heavy traffic jams. To address this issue, a committee will be formed so that all the departments concerned work in sync with proper coordination," said a senior government official.

Two stretches — More Sarai Road and Esplanade Road — were selected for the pilot project. The estimated cost, Rs 8 crore, is now set to be revised.

Kejriwal march to PM house halted, wanted to submit 2.3L petitions against E20 policy

Devansh Mittal
New Delhi, August 4

Arvind Kejriwal with other AAP leaders at the protest. PRAVEEN KHANNA

DELHI POLICE on Tuesday stopped AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal and other party leaders from marching towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi's residence with around 100 people to submit over 2.3 lakh petitions against E20-blended petrol, prompting them to stage a protest on Firoz Shah Road.

Kejriwal was accompanied by former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh and AAP leader Jasmine Shah, among others.

The march was stopped near 5, Firoz Shah Road. Protesters carried bundles of petitions – collected from across the country – and raised slogans against the Centre's ethanol-blended fuel policy. Police later took custody of the petitions after informing the delegation that the PM would not meet them.

The petition, addressed to the PM, said there was "neither logic, nor science, nor engineering, nor economics" justifying the government's E20 policy, and urged authorities to give consumers the choice between pure petrol and E20 at fuel stations, and to lower E20's price to reflect its reduced calorific value and mileage.

Addressing mediapersons later in the day, Kejriwal said AAP had sought an appointment with the PM a month ago but received no response. He called the refusal to meet the delegation a reflection of a "dictatorial attitude".

"The BJP-led Central Government itself admitted in Parliament that fuel efficiency does decrease (in case of E20 petrol). It also admitted that engine components are affected, specifically the rubber components. So, if engine parts are getting damaged and mileage is reducing, why is this being imposed forcibly," Kejriwal asked.

He reiterated that the Centre was pushing E20 due to pressure from US President Donald Trump. "Trump is putting so much pressure on him that PM Modi does not have the courage to say no. He is forcing India to buy ethanol from the US and sell it here."

He warned that if the policy is not withdrawn, "the country will once again be compelled to launch a major movement".

The BJP, meanwhile, alleged that Kejriwal is trying to revive his "failed politics" through his protest. "...E20 has not even been implemented for four months, yet he claims vehicles have been getting damaged for the last four years. That itself shows how unbalanced and prejudiced his allegations are," BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi told mediapersons in the Parliament House complex.

He alleged that the AAP leader has failed to produce any technical or scientific evidence to support his claims. "If he is indeed a mechanical engineer, he should explain the impact of E20 fuel on an engine's suction, compression, power and exhaust cycles. He should explain its impact on the piston and cylinder. Instead, there is no research, no evidence and no data from any company. He is only trying to create confusion," Trivedi claimed.

Nigerian woman jumps off 6th floor during NCB raid, injured

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

A NIGERIAN woman was injured as she allegedly attempted to escape by jumping from the sixth floor of a residential building during a Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) raid in South Delhi's Mehrauli, officers said on Tuesday. Two other Nigerian nationals were arrested and over 300 gram of cocaine was seized during the operation.

The operation was conducted on Monday night in Mehrauli's Gandhi Colony following intelligence inputs about alleged narcotics trafficking, according to the agency.

According to the NCB, members of the raiding team searched the premises after receiving the tipoff. Two Nigerian nationals, identified as Gabriel Nwankwo Uchenna and Igwe Chikezie Joshua, were arrested during the operation.

During the search, another Nigerian national, identified as Ugochukwu Nwabugo, allegedly attempted to flee by jumping from the sixth floor of the building. She suffered injuries to her head, back and leg. The members of the NCB team, officers said, arranged for her immediate evacuation to Fortis Hospital, from where she was referred to the AIIMS Trauma Centre for specialised treatment. She is currently undergoing treatment at AIIMS and is recovering from her injuries.

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(भारत सरकार का नवरत्न उपक्रम)
(A NAVRATNA UNDERTAKING OF GOVT. OF INDIA)
Regd. Office: CONCOR Bhawan, C-3, Mathura Road, New Delhi – 110 076
CIN: L63011DL1988GOI030915 Phone: 91-11-41222500/600;
email: investorrelations@concorindia.com; www.concorindia.co.in

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS
TRANSFER OF EQUITY SHARES OF THE COMPANY TO INVESTOR EDUCATION AND PROTECTION FUND

Shareholders are hereby Informed that pursuant to the provisions of Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules") as amended from time to time, the Final Dividend declared for the financial year 2018-19, which remained unclaimed for a period of seven years will become due to be credited to the IEPF on 02.10.2026. The corresponding shares on which said dividend has remained unclaimed for seven consecutive years will also be transferred as per the procedure set out in the Rules.

The Company will not transfer such shares to the IEPF Authority where there is a specific order of Court/ tribunal restraining any transfer of such shares or where the shares are hypothecated/ pledged under the Depositories Act, 1996.

In compliance to the Rules, the Company has communicated individually to the concerned shareholders and the details of such shares liable to be transferred to IEPF are also made available on its website. Shareholders concerned may refer to the web-link: **https://cms.concorindia.co.in:8000/uploads/cms/pdf/6x1ctCPMlK7SfvB_Listofsharestransfered.pdf** to verify the details of their unencashed dividend(s) and to verify the details of the shares liable to be transferred.

Shareholders are requested to claim the Final Dividend declared for the financial year 2018-19 and onwards before the same becomes due for transfer to the IEPF.

Concerned shareholders holding shares in physical form and whose shares are liable to be transferred to IEPF Authority, may note that the Company would be issuing duplicate share certificate(s) in lieu of the original held by them for the purpose of transfer of shares to IEPF and upon such Issue, the Company shall Inform the depository by way of corporate action to convert the duplicate share certificates into DEMAT form and transfer those shares in favour of IEPF Authority. The original share certificate(s) which are registered in the name of original shareholders will stand automatically cancelled and be deemed non-negotiable. Concerned shareholders holding shares in dematerialized form may note that the Company shall inform the depository by way of corporate action for transfer of shares in favour of the DEMAT account of the IEPF Authority.

The shareholders may further note that the details made available by the Company on its website shall be deemed as adequate notice in respect of above matter of transfer of shares to IEPF Authority.

In case the Company does not receive any communication from the concerned shareholders on or before 02.10.2026, the Company with a view to adhering with the requirements of the Rules, will transfer the unclaimed Final Dividend of FY 2018-19 to the IEPF by the due date i.e. 01.11.2026. The corresponding shares, on which dividend is unclaimed for seven consecutive years, shall also be transferred to IEPF Authority without any further notice.

Please note that no claim shall lie against the Company in respect of unclaimed dividend amount and shares transferred to IEPF. Shareholders may claim the dividend and corresponding shares transferred to IEPF including all benefits accruing on such shares, if any, from the IEPF Authority after following the procedure prescribed in the Rules.

Any shareholder(s)/person(s) who has/have any claim(s)/queries in respect of such shares or dividend or for any clarification on the above matter, may contact the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agents, M/s Beetal Financial & Computer Services (P) Ltd., Beetal House, 3rd Floor, 99, Madangir, Behind Local Shopping Centre, New Delhi-110062 Ph.: 011-29961281/82/83; email: beetalrta@gmail.com or concor@beetalfinancial.com.

For Container Corporation of India Limited
sd/-
(Harish Chandra)
Principal Executive Director (Finance) & CS

Place: New Delhi, India
Date : 02.08.2026

CSB Bank
PUBLIC NOTICE ON AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS

The borrower/s in specific and interested bidders in general, are hereby informed that on account of non-repayment of the Banks due by the borrowers as under despite the payment notice and recall/auction notice issued by the Bank, the gold ornaments pledged with the bank security by the respective borrowers for the loan availed by them will be sold in public auction on "as is where is" and "non-recourse" at branch premises on **19th August 2026 at 10.30 AM**. The auction may be adjourned to any other later date at the discreation of the bank upon publication of the same in the Bank's notice board. The borrowers are hereby further inform that the gold ornaments will be disposed of by public auction/e-auction, if the auction is not successful, and if there is a further balance to be recovered thereafter, legal action will be initiated against the borrower/s for recovery of the balance amounts due to the bank. "In case of Deceased borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs."

S. No.	Auction Center CSB Branch	Account Name	Client ID	No.of Acc.	Bal. Outstanding as on 02-08-2026	Weight (grams)
1	Gautam Nagar	Deepanshu Saini	04619546	001	3,04,119.35	31.50
2	Gautam Nagar	Kanhiya Lal Gautam	00587252	002	28,02,184.04	292.20
3	Karol Bagh	Ishank Dilori	03792019	001	3,84,880.86	74.11
4	Karol Bagh	Ram Tirath	04550979	001	46,725.45	8.39
5	Palam	Jyoti Shokeen	07938071	002	12,39,587.97	120.47
6	Palam	Roshan Mehta	05017911	001	27,894.69	6.70
7	Dwaraka	Anil Kumar Mahto	07941391	001	4,24,742.74	47.56
8	Dwaraka	Kamlesh Goiya	05022842	001	1,71,429.05	30.94
9	Dwaraka	Rajni Singh	10164144	001	2,59,053.43	28.60
10	Dwaraka	Renu Sharma	10073690	001	8,35,623.82	98.99
11	Dwaraka	Rupa Bakshi	10172181	001	3,52,905.53	38.30
12	Rohini Sector 7	Ankit	08107079	001	26,45,865.31	224.93
13	Rohini Sector 7	Salma	10165843	001	2,06,968.55	26.71
14	Shalimarbagh	Premlata	10167760	002	9,16,122.86	97.22
15	Shalimarbagh	Rachna Vaid	08314418	001	8,35,626.44	98.64
16	Shalimarbagh	Rohit	08320203	001	6,69,316.80	71.99
17	Okhla	Amarjit Yadav	04206236	002	3,64,098.91	45.95
18	Okhla	Munesh	10046318	001	20,15,918.70	251.36
19	Okhla	Nivedita Sharma	10171564	001	7,75,478.85	99.95
20	Okhla	Preeti	04397940	001	2,99,139.05	48.00
21	Okhla	Radha Kishan Sharma	10132434	001	60,109.53	5.80
22	Patel Nagar	Mayank Jain	07996111	002	80,66,100.87	688.00
23	Mayur Vihar – New Delhi	Shailendra Sahani	08340764	001	15,82,763.28	177.38
24	Mayur Vihar – New Delhi	Vicky Das	08232196	001	3,79,669.50	87.70
25	Tilak Nagar, New Delhi	Mohd Shadab	04691481	001	5,63,144.90	97.00
26	Rajouri Garden	Baidnath Kumar Jha	07802970	001	1,89,007.71	20.00
27	Rajouri Garden	Geeta	07781407	003	4,90,369.90	48.02
28	Rajouri Garden	Kajal	08312215	003	5,15,703.59	48.35
29	Rajouri Garden	Kuldip Kaur	04844272	001	8,72,763.47	92.30
30	Rajouri Garden	Kunal	10165879	001	1,92,798.54	20.70
31	Rajouri Garden	Rajdeep Kaur	07645295	001	8,76,816.90	93.16
32	Rajouri Garden	Tushar	08160161	001	1,51,274.57	16.00
33	Najafgarh, New Delhi	Divesh Kumar	10171108	001	1,00,733.77	10.43
34	Najafgarh, New Delhi	Prema Devi	05012499	001	1,84,655.68	20.23
35	Narela	Reena Kashayap	04785395	001	64,254.98	8.39
36	Bhajanpura–New Delhi	Arun Singh	03918043	003	23,04,170.15	352.29
37	Bhajanpura–New Delhi	Lalit Kumar	10167435	001	2,57,526.37	30.47
38	Bhajanpura–New Delhi	Nadim	10000177	001	3,58,585.07	55.85
39	Bhajanpura–New Delhi	Sanjay Kumar	04466062	001	1,04,585.77	21.50
40	Bhajanpura–New Delhi	Shambhu Shah	10164327	001	2,63,209.38	34.40
41	Bhajanpura–New Delhi	Sumit Chaudhary	08194467	003	30,61,294.47	486.97
42	Bhajanpura–New Delhi	Umesh Chandra	10002191	001	2,14,354.23	34.00
43	Tri Nagar, New Delhi	Nimmi	10170028	001	63,688.31	7.40
44	Tri Nagar, New Delhi	Pawan Kumar	05022376	001	1,70,115.06	31.49
45	Shyam Nagar –New Delhi	Maqbool Ahmed	04627262	001	3,36,558.81	45.28
46	Shyam Nagar –New Delhi	Sanjay Kumar	05022365	001	1,09,099.81	18.59
47	Laxmi Nagar	Ankit Tomar	10049363	001	1,91,353.37	19.82
48	Kalkaji	Radha Kishan Sharma	10132434	001	3,12,381.45	32.70
49	Saraswati Vihar - Pitampura	Bhagat Singh	10015257	001	7,85,218.72	66.50
50	Saraswati Vihar - Pitampura	Deepak	10017756	001	8,09,620.06	71.80
51	Model Town-New Delhi	Mahinder Kapoor	04851030	001	55,526.52	16.00
52	Model Town-New Delhi	Sushant Kapoor	04851153	002	3,77,861.92	72.52
53	Kamla Nagar-New Delhi	Komal Sharma	10249151	001	6,71,733.47	60.40

For more details/account wise information borrowers/interested bidders may contact respective branches and for participating in the auction

NCT OF DELHI | 05.08.2026 Sd/- Authorized Officer, CSB Bank

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(भारत सरकार का नवरत्न उपक्रम) (A Navratna Undertaking of Govt. of India)
CONCOR Bhawan, C-3, Mathura Road, Opposite Apollo Hospital, New Delhi-110076

Open Tender Notice (e-Tendering mode only)

Online Open **E-bids** are invited through two packet Open tendering system for supply of sub-assemblies for 46 modules of 25T axle load BLCS wagons as per RDSO/Golden Rock Workshop (GOC) latest drawings & as per the Quality Assurance Program indicated in the Annexure-12 of the tender documents. The complete bid document can only be downloaded from the website (**www.tenderwizard.com/CCIL**) during the tender sale period and the intending bidders should submit the document sale price of ₹ 1000.00 inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment at the time of making online request.

Bid Reference	CON/T/BLCS/Sub-Assembly Set/e-103985/2026
Tendered Quantity	Sub-Assemblies for 46 modules of BLCS wagon (As per "Schedule of Requirement" Clause 1.6 of Section-II)
Bid Security (Earnest Money) Deposit	₹ 10,00,000/- (Ten Lakh Only)
Cost of Document (Non-refundable)	₹ 1,000/- through online payment gateway to CONCOR
Tender Processing Fee (Non-refundable)	₹ 3,540/- (including GST @18%) through online payment gateway to CONCOR.
Pre-Bid Meeting	Through Video Conference on 12th August 2026 at 11:30 hrs IST. For sharing the link please send mail on Email ID: wagonmfg@concorindia.com up to 10:00 hrs of 12th August 2026 (IST).
Period of Tender Sale (Online)	05.08.2026 at 15:00 hrs. to 01.09.2026 at 15:00 hrs.
Date and Time of Submission of Bid	01.09.2026 Upto 16:00 hrs.
Date and Time of Opening of Bid	02.09.2026 at 11:00 hrs.
Place of Opening & Communication Address	GGM/P&S/AREA-III, Container Corporation of India Ltd., NSIC, MDBP Building, 3rd Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate, Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station, New Delhi-110020, Email : wagonmfg@concorindia.com

For Qualification Criteria, Experience with respect to nature of work etc. please refer to detailed tender notice available on website **tenderwizard.com/CCIL, concorindia.co.in & eprocure.gov.in**. Further, Corrigendum/Addendum to this tender, if any, will be published on said websites only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same. GGM/P&S/AREA-III

GHAZIABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Navyug Market, Opp. Old Bus Stand, Ghaziabad 201001, Uttar Pradesh
E-mail: gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com, Website: www.ghaziabadnagarnigam.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Reference Number:	129/Nirman/2026-27 Dated: 04.08.2026
Name of the Department	Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam (GNN)
Name of the Project	Selection of Agency/ Service Provider for development of road inventory using suitable technology for road survey & condition assessment for Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam
Tender/ Bidding Type	Open
Tender Category	Consultancy Services
Type of Works	Services
Period of Services	1 Year
JV/consortium	Allowed
Bid System	Two Bid System (Technical & Financial)
Evaluation Type	QCBS Method (T: F) (30:70)
Publishing date and time on the e-tendering portal	05-08-2026, at 11:00 AM
Last date and time for submission of queries	08-08-2026, at 3:00 PM Pre bid queries may be mailed to **nirmanvibhag01@gmail.com**
Pre-bid Meeting Date and Time	10-08-2026, at 3:00 PM, at Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam , Navgug Market, Opp-old bus stand Ghaziabad -201001 (UP)
Release of corrigendum (if required) on the e-tendering portal	Any time before opening of the bids
Bid Submission Closing Date & Time	19-08-2026, at 3:00 PM
Date, Time and Venue for opening of technical bids	19-08-2026, 4:00 PM at Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam, Navgug Market, Opp-old bus stand Ghaziabad -201001 (UP)
Time and date of opening of financial proposal	To be intimated later
Bid Validity Period	90 days
Bid Opening Authority	Municipal Commissioner, Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam
Department Address for Communication	Chief Engineer (Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam) **Email: nirmanvibhag01@gmail.com, gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com Phone: 8178016833**
Tender Fees	INR 11,800/- (Inclusive of 18% GST) To be deposited on e-Tender portal **https://e-Tender.up.nic.in**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)/ Security Deposit	INR 1,00,000/- (To be deposited on e-Tender portal **https://e-Tender.up.nic.in** **Note:** The EMD of the successful bidder shall be returned upon submission of an equivalent amount in the form of an FDR towards Bid Security.

Chief Engineer
Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation

ONGC
ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

ENGAGEMENT OF DOCTORS ON FIXED TERM BASIS – ADVT. NO. 3/2026 (R&P)

ONGC, a 'Maharatna' Public Sector Enterprise, intends to engage total 24 Medical Officers-Occupational Health/Homeopathy/ Specialists on fixed term basis for a period upto 30.06.2028 on a consolidated Annual CTC ranging from ₹7,80,000-₹15,60,000/- (depending upon the nature of the post) at various locations of ONGC across India.

Interested & eligible candidates need to register on www.ongcindia.com from **05.08.2026** to **18.08.2026**. Candidates may visit the website for detailed advertisement containing complete relevant information.

Head Corporate R&P
ONGC

एनटीपीसी NTPC
NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
CIN: L40101DL1975GOI007966
Regd. Office: NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi- 110003
Tel. no.: 011-24360959/24387333
Email: isd@ntpc.co.in; Website: www.ntpc.co.in

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF NTPC LIMITED IN RESPECT OF THE 50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Notice is hereby given that **50th Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the Shareholders of the Company will be held on **Thursday, 27th August 2026 at 10.30 A.M. (IST)** through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM), to transact the business as stated in the notice dated **03rd August 2026**.
2. In line with the applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Integrated Annual Report including Notice of 50th AGM (AGM Notice), Standalone and Consolidated Financial Statements, Auditors' Report and Directors' Report for the financial year ended 31st March, 2026 has been sent to the shareholders of the Company through emails at their registered e-mail addresses. Notice of the 50th AGM and Integrated Annual Report are available on the Company's website viz. **www.ntpc.co.in** and on website of stock exchanges i.e. **www.bseindia.com** and **www.nseindia.com**. Notice shall also be available on the e-voting website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) i.e. **www.cdslindia.com**.
3. In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, and Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015, the Company is pleased to provide remote e-voting facility to its Shareholders enabling them to cast their vote electronically for the resolutions as set in the AGM Notice through the e-voting services provided by CDSL.
4. The remote e-voting period will commence on **Monday, 24th August, 2026 at 9:00 AM and ends on Wednesday, 26th August 2026 at 5:00 PM**. The e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL, for voting thereafter. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently. The detailed procedure/instruction for joining the meeting, remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM are contained in the Notice of AGM.
5. A person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the **cut-off date i.e. Friday, 21st August 2026** only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting / e-voting at the AGM. The voting rights of the shareholders shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company. Shareholders participating through the VC facility shall be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.
6. Any person holding shares in physical mode or a person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a Shareholder of the Company after dispatch of Notice of the AGM is sent and holds shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at **helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com**. However, if he/she is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting, then he/she can use his/her existing User ID and password for casting the vote.
7. A member may participate at the AGM through VC/OAVM even after exercising his/her right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again. Shareholders may note that the facility of e-voting shall be made available at the AGM.
8. **Record date for payment of Dividend** - The record date for the purpose of determining entitlement of shareholders for the final dividend is Wednesday, 02nd September 2026. The final dividend, once approved by the shareholders at the 50th AGM, will be paid on or after 23rd September 2026.
9. Shareholders are requested to read the instructions pertaining to remote e-voting as printed in the AGM Notice carefully. If you have any queries or issues regarding attending AGM & e-Voting from the CDSL e-Voting System, you can write an email to **helpdesk.evoting@cdslindia.com** or contact at toll free no. 1800 21 09911.

For and on behalf of NTPC Limited
Sd/-
(Ritu Arora)
Company Secretary

Place: New Delhi
Date: 04.08.2026

Leading the Power Sector

BJP takes stock after bypoll setbacks

Liz Mathew
New Delhi, August 4

PM Narendra Modi and Rajya Sabha MP Nitish Kumar during a meeting at Parliament House, Tuesday. PTI

A DAY after the BJP lost two of its bastions in the bypolls in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, the party appears to have begun the stock-taking exercise, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussing the political situation with senior leaders from the states concerned on Tuesday.

Modi met former Bihar chief minister and JDU leader Nitish Kumar and former Madhya Pradesh CM and Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in his office chamber in Parliament House.

While the meetings were to discuss "development issues", sources said "political developments" also came up. The party is trying to come to terms with the embarrassing defeats in Bihar's Bankipur seat vacated by its national president Nitin Nabin, and Datia in Madhya Pradesh, a stronghold constituency of the party for almost three decades until 2023.

Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor won the high-stakes Bankipur bypoll against Neeraj Kumar, while Congress candidate Ghanshyam Singh defeated BJP's Ashutosh Tiwari by 6,016 votes in Datia.

Nitish, now a Rajya Sabha member, was accompanied by JDU leaders — Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Lalan Singh and Sanjay Jha. "The discussion was about the social, economic and development issues. It was about how to take the state forward. Of course, the political scenario also came up for discussion," said a source. The PM wanted to take feedback directly from the senior leaders of the coalition partner.

However, a senior party leader insisted that "it was more of a courtesy meeting" as Nitish has not met Modi since he came to Rajya Sabha. In his meeting with Chouhan, during which the issues related to the Agriculture ministry, including the farmer protests in different parts, were discussed, the BJP's rout in Datia also came up.

Meanwhile, the BJP's dismal performance in the bypolls was a hot topic in party leaders' conversations inside and outside Parliament. The defeat in Bankipur, which has a high presence of forward castes, a key support base of the BJP, has alarmed the party leadership. "It was clearly an angry response to the UGC regulations and the NEET paper leaks," said a senior BJP MP.

The UGC regulations on caste discrimination on campuses, which were withdrawn after many upper caste groups protested in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and the NEET paper leaks that affected many families could "hurt the party's prospects in the coming polls too". Assembly polls are due early next year in five states — Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa.

"There is an assessment process. The party has begun collecting feedback, and we will certainly do the needful correction," said a senior office-bearer of the BJP. "We have to plug the holes... there is no doubt about it. Party leadership is aware of the resentment among the Brahmins and Thakurs... as well as OBC communities over the UGC guidelines. We will chalk out strategies to address their concerns before we launch the campaign for these elections."

BJP dissolves Datia district organisation

Anand Mohan J
Bhopal, August 4

LESS THAN 24 hours after suffering one of its most politically significant defeats in recent years, the BJP on Tuesday dissolved its entire Datia district organisation, signalling the scale of introspection triggered by the party's loss in the high-stakes Assembly by-election.

In an order issued by BJP state office secretary Shyam Mahajan, the party said that following the directions of state president Hemant Khandelwal and on the recommendations of a committee constituted to review the Datia bypoll results, the entire existing organisational structure of the district had been dissolved with immediate effect.

The order removes the district president, district office-bearers, district executive, mandal committees, morchas, cells, projects, departments and all other organisational units in Datia from their responsibilities. The organisational overhaul followed an intense day of introspection within BJP. Before dissolving the Datia unit, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav chaired a high-level review meeting at his official residence attended by state BJP president Khandelwal, Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Devda, ministers, senior office-bearers and leaders who had managed the Datia campaign.

Party sources said that the meeting examined the reasons behind the 6,016-vote defeat, allegations of factionalism, the performance of the party organisation and complaints of sabotage by local leaders. The review is also expected to have disciplinary consequences. Sources said complaints against Datia district president Raghuvir Kushwah and several office-bearers would be compiled and sent to the central leadership. Internal reports have flagged allegations that more than a dozen BJP councillors worked against the official candidate during the campaign, with disciplinary action under consideration.

The action comes a day after the Congress retained the Datia Assembly seat, with veteran leader Ghanshyam Singh defeating BJP debutant Ashutosh Tiwari in a contest that had evolved into a prestige battle for both parties. BJP's defeat exposed deep organisational fault lines. Mishra's supporters had openly protested after BJP replaced him with Tiwari, with road blockades, resignations and clashes with police forcing the party into damage-control mode during the campaign.

V-P and Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan conducts proceedings during Monsoon Session on Tuesday. PTI

Amid Opp protests, RS passes Registration of Births and Deaths Bill

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

THE RAJYA Sabha passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026, by a voice vote on Tuesday afternoon, amid slogans from the Opposition. The Lok Sabha had cleared the Bill last week. The Upper House ran for less than an hour in the afternoon, before being adjourned for the day soon after the passage of the Bill.

The Bill, which has stricter provisions for delayed registrations, was introduced by MoS Home Nityanand Rai. The Bill seeks to amend provisions of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969, to tighten the existing norms, mandating an order from a Judicial Magistrate (First Class) for birth and death registrations made over two years after the event.

Under the existing law, registrations delayed by over one year require an order from a district magistrate, sub-divisional magistrate, or an authorised executive magistrate, and the provision will continue to apply for delays of up to two years under the amended law.

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge started the discussion by saying that the only way to see the House function normally is if the Prime Minister shows up, but he was cut short by the Deputy Chairperson Harivansh. While BJP members supported the Bill, some members such as BJD's Santrupt Misra, United People's Party Liberal member Pramod Boro, and Shiv Sena's Jyoti Nagnath Waghmare objected to the provision of a judicial magistrate's order for birth and death registrations. Boro said the judicial magistrates are overburdened and this requirement will lead to delays in registrations. He said there was a disparity in the number of judicial magistrates across states.

Waghmare said the registration process should be made easier with camps and door-to-door activities, and penalties should be removed. BJP member Biswajit Sinha, who gave his maiden speech in the House, said that the Congress members were against the Bill because they were allowing Pakistani and Bangladeshi citizens to register in India.

The Opposition members, on the other hand, tried to again raise the issue of the Home Minister's absence in the House. Congress's Phoolan Devi Netam and DMK's Tiruchi Siva said the Home Minister himself should have presented the Bill.

CPIM member V Sivadasan said the Bill was very important and there was a need for proper documentation. He went on to say that the cause of death should be accurately documented, such as malnutrition and paper leaks.

In his reply, Rai said there was a need for the members to understand the Bill. He said late registration, especially beyond two years, was being misused and therefore should happen on orders of a Judicial Magistrate. "This has been done so that ghosts do not continue to be voters for certain parties or babies born elsewhere are not registered here by some states," he said.

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

Pat on the Back

SEVERAL OPPOSITION MPs seem to be impressed with the "political clarity" of Samajwadi Party's chief whip in the Lok Sabha, Dharmendra Yadav, when he speaks at the Opposition bloc meetings at Rajya Sabha LoP Mallikarjun Kharge's chamber in Parliament. Some of the Opposition leaders were heard praising Yadav at an event at the Constitution Club of India on Tuesday. One of them said his style of working was very "straightforward", something that other party leaders should try to emulate. Yadav takes charge of party affairs in Parliament when SP chief Akhilesh Yadav is busy or travelling.

No Comments

JOURNALISTS EXPECTING soundbites from MPs attending Parliament were left confused, and mildly amused, when BJP MP Ravi Kishan told them he was observing a "*maun vrat* (vow of silence)" as advised by his Pandit ji (priest). The Gorakhpur MP went on to verbally request the journalists to let him remain *shaant* (quiet) so as to honour his "*maun vrat*".

Old Friends And New

A DAY after the BJP's defeat in two by-polls — Bankipur and Datia — PM Narendra Modi was seen engrossed in an animated conversation with the party's national president, Nitin Nabin, who was seated to his right in the first row during NDA MPs' 'Mangal Milan' at Parliament House. 'Mangal Milan' is a weekly strategy meeting of the NDA allies when Parliament is in session. A video of the meet released by the BJP showed Nabin smilingly listening to the PM. The others present in the meeting included new NDA member Sudip Bandyopadhyay, who was attending the first 'Mangal Milan' after breaking away from the TMC and joining the NCPI in June.

EXPRESS special

Prashant Kishor's win a setback for BJP, but it will worry RJD more

Deeptiman Tiwary
New Delhi, August 4

Some in the RJD are concerned about a section of the party's core voters shifting towards the Jan Suraaj Party. PTI

THE BJP'S shock defeat in the Bankipur Assembly bypoll has delivered a rare setback to the ruling party in one of its strongest urban bastions, but the result has also exposed a dilemma for Bihar's principal Opposition party, RJD.

There are clear signs that a section of the Tejashwi Yadav-led party's core support base shifted to Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor in an election where defeating the BJP appeared to become the overriding objective for many voters.

Kishor polled over 64,000 votes to defeat the BJP. The RJD's Rekha Kumari finished a distant third with around 14,000 votes. In the 2025 Assembly polls, Rekha Kumari had secured over 46,000 votes while the BJP had won Bankipur with more than 98,000 votes. Kishor's JSP had managed just over 7,000 votes.

For the RJD, the outcome is particularly significant because Bankipur, despite being an upper-caste-dominated traditional BJP stronghold, also has a sizeable population of Yadavs and Muslims who form the party's core social coalition. The sharp fall in the RJD's vote share has fuelled concerns that a section of these voters backed Kishor, believing he was better placed to defeat the BJP.

At the same time, the BJP's defeat has reinforced a growing belief within the Opposition that the party is vulnerable even in seats long considered impregnable, potentially giving fresh momentum to anti-BJP forces.

What RJD leaders say

In his first comments on the bypoll verdict, Leader of Opposition (LoP) Tejashwi Yadav chose to focus on the BJP's loss, saying its defeat was the result of the "negative politics" of Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary.

"The Bankipur results have made it clear that in Bihar and the rest of north India, the BJP can be defeated. It shows that public frustration with the government's failures has reached a critical level. The BJP's problems are only going to grow," RJD MP Sudhakar Singh told *The Indian Express*.

However, senior RJD leaders in private acknowledged that the result had also forced the party into introspection. "We were not fancying our chances because Bankipur is a BJP bastion...But an atmosphere developed in which voters concluded that the BJP had to be defeated," a senior RJD leader said.

"Yes, the concern for us is that in this desire to defeat the BJP, some of our core voters saw Prashant Kishor as having a better chance. But there is also a silver lining. This victory will convince our cadre that the BJP can be defeated even in its strongholds if they work hard on the ground. We will see how to harness the momentum building against the BJP."

According to the RJD leader, one factor that contributed to the anti-BJP sentiment was resentment over a series of police encounters since Samrat Choudhary became Chief Minister. The RJD has alleged that around a dozen encounters have disproportionately targeted Yadavs and Muslims. "The anger over these encounters influenced many Yadav and Muslim voters. They were more inclined to ensure the BJP's defeat than remain loyal to one particular party," the leader said.

Another RJD functionary argued that the shift should not be read as a structural erosion of the party's support base. "This is an urban constituency dominated by upper-caste voters. Once they began moving towards Kishor, some of our voters also consolidated behind him to maximise the chances of defeating the BJP. Such momentum sometimes develops in the final days of an election," the leader said.

"Our core support remains intact. We are a cadre-based party with a deep organisational network. Kishor cannot match that... He will eventually have to engage with questions of caste and identity. That is a politics the RJD has practised for decades."

BJP sees silver lining

The BJP, while acknowledging the setback, also believes the bypoll may have longer-term political benefits. "The rise of Kishor is not necessarily bad news for us. This bypoll was an aberration in which he managed to attract some of our voters... In the longer run, his party is more likely to divide anti-BJP votes," a senior BJP leader said.

Within the BJP, leaders attributed the defeat to a combination of local and political factors. Party sources said resentment among upper-caste voters over the proposed UGC equity regulations coincided with heightened youth discontent following the Cockroach Janata Party-led protests. They also pointed to the party's last-minute change of candidate, which deprived it of the advantage of a well-known local face.

BJP's Prasad denies making *'kutta-billi'* remark, hits out at Kishor

Santosh Singh
Patna, August 4

IN THE run-up to the high-stakes bypoll for the Bankipur Assembly constituency, Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) founder Prashant Kishor had repeatedly accused MP Ravi Shankar Prasad of saying that even a cat or dog ("*kutta-billi*") could win the seat on BJP's ticket.

Invoking the purported remark throughout the campaign, Kishor was heard telling voters in nearly every speech how the ruling party was "underestimating the discretion and intellect" of the electorate. The alleged statement effectively became JSP's central campaign line against the BJP. However, a day after the JSP founder secured a resounding victory in the bypoll, Prasad, a former Union minister and BJP's Patna Sahib MP, has dismissed the remarks attributed to him, claiming he never uttered the said words.

Prasad, who issued a clarification video Tuesday, said, "How can people stoop to such a level? Neither I nor any BJP worker made a '*kutta-billi*' reference at any point. I challenge them to show proof of any such remark. In fact, I had even clarified before the election how JSP was making a motivated statement by falsely attributing it to us. We respect each of our workers and voters."

On the clarification, senior JSP leader and former MLA Kishore Kumar Munna said, "Now that the BJP has lost the poll, its leaders are coming with clarifications. It shows they are not able to digest defeat."

LS passes Appropriation Bill, adjourned amid protests by Opposition

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

THE LOK Sabha passed the Appropriation (Number 3) Bill, 2026, on Tuesday amid protests from the Opposition benches over police action against protesting students and the alleged theft of donations from the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, was also tabled in the House which ran for less than an hour in the afternoon and adjourned for the day soon after the passage of the proposed legislation.

The House was adjourned at 11 am after Speaker Om Birla's appeals to let question hour continue didn't find any takers from the Opposition benches. The Lok Sabha reassembled at 2 pm, but sloganeering by the Opposition members continued.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, but it was not taken up for consideration.

However, the Appropriation (Number 3) Bill, 2026, dealing with demands for excess grants was put to a voice vote and passed. As sloganeering by opposition members continued in the well of the House, Dilip Saikia, who was in the Chair, adjourned the House for the day.

'Sangh Parivar is far more democratic than Gandhi parivar'

EXPRESS interview

SUSHMITA DEV
BJP RAJYA SABHA MP

RAJYA SABHA member **SUSHMITA DEV** recently joined the BJP, weeks after switching over from the TMC. Her stint in the TMC lasted five years, much shorter than her decades-long association with the Congress before that. In an interview with **DIVYA A**, Dev speaks about what caused her disillusionment with her former parties, the government's handling of the protest against the NEET paper leak, and the RSS. Excerpts:

You have been with three political parties. How has your experience been?

I started my career in student politics with NSUI, the Congress' student wing, and left in 2021. So, going from the Congress to the Trinamool was not an ideological change... Mamata didi herself exited from the Congress and formed this party.

What I realised very quickly is that the TMC's vote-share in Bengal or anywhere else in the country is not ideological; it's leader-centric. In contrast, the Congress has an ideological base, if you don't like the BJP, you vote for the Congress. But the BJP's vote is entirely ideological. When they had two MPs or when they had no MPs, and today when they are on the Treasury benches, they have never compromised with their ideology.

What about the top leadership of the parties?

The Congress does a lot of review meetings after every election. So, it comes across as democratic, but when it comes to implementation, there is a lack of internal consensus. And in Trinamool, there are hardly any forums for discussion. Power is concentrated in the hands of one person, because she built the party and ran it.

The critics will tell you that you don't have a voice in the BJP. It's only two people, PM Modi and the Home Minister (Amit Shah). I don't think it's true because all the MPs have a guardian minister; you can talk to them about what you're facing in your state. Apart from that, you have the organisation...If nothing works, whether you like it or not, the Sangh Parivar has its eyes and ears to the ground.

Have you met anyone from the Sangh Parivar?

No, but it is very clear to me that very tall, experienced Sangh leaders are very much a part of the parliamentary system. So there are so many layers of engagement. In the Congress, if somebody at the top gets upset with you, your career is over. You can't take on the family and survive in the Congress. But if you're a meritorious person in the BJP, they will always be a platform.

What do you think about the role of Sangh Parivar in the BJP?

The Congress is also ruled by a parivar. One party is with the Gandhi Parivar and for the BJP, their ideologue is Sangh Parivar. And it's better to have a large organisation like the RSS, where there are different views, than one family. *Parivar toh dono taraf hai.* (There is a family on both the sides). There is a first family on that side and on this side, there is a Sangh Parivar. But Sangh Parivar is far more democratic as it is a larger institution than one family.

Why did you quit the TMC?

My situation in the Trinamool was like no one else's because I was not a person doing politics at the grassroots level in Bengal. I felt it was extremely difficult for the TMC leader to pursue the growth of her party outside Bengal. I had a choice between the Congress and the BJP. I felt that the way they (BJP) are working in the northeastern states, their acceptance is growing. After talking to the Assam CM (Himanta Biswa Sarma) and Home Minister Amit Shah, it was clear to me that if I want to work for the next 10-15 years for my people, the BJP is the party.

What do you think of the government's handling of the students' protest?

The way the Modi government responded — whether it is by bringing new legislation, by Dharmendra Pradhanji stepping down — they handled it well. What is now sub judice is whether the force used there was proportionate and necessary or was it disproportionate. However, looking at thousands of people marching towards Parliament, would they have stopped at the gate? That is also the Home Minister's responsibility to protect Parliament.

DKS: Will accept resignations

Bengaluru: Undeterred by threats of resignation by a few MLAs over their non-inclusion in the state Cabinet, Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said he would accept their resignations within minutes.

He said tendering resignation was part of politics. "Nobody can stop them," he said, adding the legislators can secure their future only in Congress. "...Party is important. If anyone resigns, I will accept it within a few minutes." The remark was in response to queries regarding resignations announced by Congress MLAs Yashvantharaya-gouda Patil, Belur Gopalkrishna and B K Sangameshwar. There were speculations that legislators from Kolar and Chikkaballapur were contemplating mass resignations as none from the districts featured in Cabinet. ENS

Cong team to meet Soren today as Ranchi job protest tests ties

Move comes after silence from Congress high command, its bid to keep spotlight on 'paper leaks', police action in Delhi

Manoj C G
New Delhi, August 4

AS THE Jantar Mantar-style protest by students and youth in Ranchi demanding a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in state government recruitment examinations continues, the Congress, a key constituent of the JMM-led government in Jharkhand, is learnt to be unhappy with the efforts — or the perceived lack of them — by Chief Minister Hemant Soren to resolve the issue. The party is keen to be seen as standing with the protesting youth.

Sources in the Congress said a delegation of party leaders, led by AICC in-charge of Jharkhand K Raju and comprising the party's ministers in the Jharkhand government, is scheduled to meet Soren on Wednesday to urge him to take steps to "address the genuine concerns" of the protesters.

Job aspirants in Ranchi have been holding an indefinite sit-in at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium.

The protesters, who were initially demanding a CBI probe into alleged irregularities in the conduct of examinations, escalated their agitation on Wednesday by demanding that the inquiry instead be conducted by an independent panel of retired High Court judges from outside Jharkhand.

The developments come at a time when the Congress is trying to keep the spotlight on the BJP-led Centre over alleged paper leaks by focusing on the police action against protesters at Jantar Mantar in Delhi.

The Congress and other Opposition parties have been disrupting Parliament, demanding the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah in the House and seeking his accountability for the police crackdown.

The Congress high command has so far remained publicly silent on the Jharkhand protest but is apprehensive that the state government's handling of the agitation could politically hurt the party. Sources said the leadership has also asked national office-bearers of the Youth Congress and the NSUI to meet the protesters at the stadium and extend support to them.

"(Leader of the Opposition) Rahul Gandhi has been raising the issue of paper leaks and examination irregularities for some time now. He is set to address a student convention in Prayagraj on Saturday. So if we don't support, or are not seen as supporting the protest in Ranchi, the optics would go against the party," a senior Congress leader said.

Breaking his silence on the issue, Soren said on Wednesday that his government was treating the concerns of the job aspirants with "utmost seriousness."

"With close scrutiny and complete seriousness, decisions addressing their demands and queries will be announced at the appropriate time. I am confident that the protesters will be reassured," he said.

Relations between the JMM and the Congress have been frosty since the run-up to the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, when the Soren-led party decided to withdraw from the contest, alleging a "political conspiracy" by its allies, the Congress and RJD, to "deprive it of seats."

Last month, Congress-JMM ties came under further strain over the Rajya Sabha elections in Jharkhand. The Congress "unilaterally" announced its candidate for one of the two seats that the INDIA bloc was in a position to win, despite the JMM's insistence that it should contest both seats. The Congress refused to relent and went ahead with its nominee.

However, despite the alliance having the numbers, the Congress candidate lost following cross-voting by ruling alliance MLAs, triggering fresh unease between the two parties.

Job aspirants and students gather during a march to protest against the state government over alleged paper leaks and irregularities in JPSC and JSSC examinations, in Ranchi, Jharkhand, Tuesday. PTI

As protest enters Day 11, CM breaks silence: 'Govt stands with youth'

Shubham Tigga
Ranchi, August 4

As the students' protest over alleged irregularities in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) examination entered its 11th day, Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Tuesday reacted to the agitation for the first time, stating that the government stands with the youth and that they would get justice.

Speaking to reporters in Ramgarh while attending the first death anniversary of his father, Shibu Soren, the CM said, "Whatever is required for the youth, within the framework of the Constitution and the law, the government stands with them."

He said, "The government is sensitive to the issue. We are looking into the matter with utmost seriousness. I cannot literally tear open my chest and show you that, but that is the reality. One thing is certain: Whenever we take up an issue, our objective is to resolve it properly before considering the matter closed."

Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren pays tribute to his father and former CM Shibu Soren on his death anniversary, in Ramgarh, Tuesday. PTI

He said, "The investigation agency has been working on this case. We are waiting for its report... and the outcome of the probe. Very soon, we will inform the students as well as the people of the state about the developments in this matter."

Meanwhile, as the protest at Ranchi's Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium continued for the 11th consecutive day, more students and aspirants from different districts joined the agitation. Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha (JLKM) leader Devendra Mahato, who has extended support to the students, has been on a hunger strike for the past two days over the issue.

The controversy began after the declaration of the preliminary examination results of the 14th JPSC Combined Civil Services Examination.

TWO YEARS AFTER OUSTER

Delhi distances itself from Hasina event today, Dhaka warns its media not to air

Exiled leader who faces death sentence set to announce return

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, August 4

MOVING TO address concerns in Dhaka, Delhi made it clear Tuesday it was neither involved in nor was it going to endorse any view aired during ousted Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's public interaction scheduled Wednesday in the Capital.

She is expected to announce her return home and outline her vision for Bangladesh.

The event, being held at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia, is timed to coincide with the second anniversary of the fall of the Hasina government on August 5, 2024.

Faced with widespread protests in Bangladesh, Hasina had fled the country. She has been living in India ever since. This is the second time she will be addressing the public via virtual mode in Delhi.

Bangladesh has sought India's cooperation to ensure that Hasina, or anyone linked to her organisations that have been banned, is not allowed to use Indian territory to deliver political speeches or carry out activities aimed at creating instability in Bangladesh.

News agency *Reuters* reported Tuesday that Bangladesh Information Adviser Zahed Ur Rahman warned his country's media that announcing or publicising Hasina's planned speech would violate a December 2024 order by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal that prohibits media outlets and social media platforms from publishing or broadcasting Hasina's speeches, statements, interviews, and audio or video messages.

Hasina aide Abu Obaidha Arin said the event would go ahead, adding that Dhaka's "efforts to silence dissent cannot extinguish voices" beyond the country's borders.

Wednesday marks two years of the fall of Hasina government

E. EXPLAINED

Amid steps to restore ties

Relations between Delhi and Dhaka dived after the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government two years ago. The two countries have been trying to repair ties ever since Tarique Rahman took charge as PM earlier this year. Visa services have been restored and India has invited Rahman to the BRICS summit next month.

In New Delhi, responding to questions about Hasina's scheduled interaction, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "The interaction you refer to is being organised by a private media entity. The government has no involvement whatsoever in it. Neither does it endorse any views that may be expressed at the forum."

This is a carefully calibrated response to an issue that is a diplomatic hot-button for the Bangladesh government led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, who is also chief of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Rahman's Foreign Affairs Adviser Humaiun Kobir raised the issue of Hasina's interaction during a meeting with Dinesh Trivedi, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, at the Prime Minister's Office Monday.

Kobir said such activities could undermine the positive progress in Bangladesh-India relations. In response, Trivedi assured him that the matter would be considered appropriately, saying the Indian side would conduct the necessary inquiries and remain vigilant on the issue.

India and Bangladesh have been working towards repairing ties since February when Rahman's BNP won the elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first to congratulate him on his victory, which was followed by a phone call.

Prior to the Bangladesh elections, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had travelled to Dhaka for the funeral of Rahman's mother and former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. After the elections, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, accompanied by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, had attended Rahman's swearing-in ceremony.

India has also invited Rahman to the summit of the BRICS leaders scheduled next month.

On Tuesday, Jaiswal confirmed the invitation. "You would be aware that a formal invitation for a bilateral visit to India was extended to the Bangladesh PM upon his assumption of office in February 2026. As far as the BRICS Summit is concerned, India has separately extended an invitation to Bangladesh PM in his capacity as the current Chair of BIMSTEC to attend the outreach session of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi," he said.

"The invitation has been extended as per the standard practice being followed in BRICS for the outreach sessions. Other heads of regional groups have also been invited in a similar manner," he said.

For Dhaka, however, the Hasina event in Delhi, where she and her Awami League leaders will get a platform, is a major political issue.

FCC president Waiel Awwad, in an invitation email, said the topic was "Sheikh Hasina's Homecoming". "In this exclusive engagement, Sheikh Hasina will address the international media virtually to announce her homecoming and outline her vision for Bangladesh," he said.

On Congress's 'Gungi Gudiya' jibe at Sunetra Pawar, NCP asks: Remember Indira Gandhi?

Alok Deshpande
Mumbai, August 4

TEMPERS HAVE flared in the ruling Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) a day after the Maharashtra Congress took a 'Goongi Gudiya' jibe at Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar, with party leaders accusing the Congress of endorsing a criticism once directed at former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

On Monday, the Maharashtra Congress posted a clip from Sunetra Pawar's press conference, showing MLA Dhananjay Munde stopping her from taking questions from reporters about the law and order situation in Beed. The video also shows Pawar wrapping up the presser soon after. The caption on the video read: "How long will Sunetra Pawar remain *Gungi Gudiya* (silent doll)?"

The jibe at Sunetra Pawar has drawn sharp criticism from party leaders. Umesh Patil described the post as objectionable and said the party appeared to be contradicting its own political legacy.

He also recalled that during Indira Gandhi's political career, her opponents had used similar expressions against her. However, Indira Gandhi responded through her leadership and achievements, particularly during the Bangladesh Liberation War and with her decisive approach to national security, he said.

Umesh Patil also reminded the Congress that it had once regarded the term 'Goongi Gudiya' as unfair and insulting to a woman."Does this mean the Congress is now indirectly admitting that the criticism levelled against the late Indira Gandhi at the time was justified?" he asked.

Students don't need PM's forgiveness but his apology: Rahul at Vaiko book launch event

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

LOK SABHA Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said on Tuesday that the students of India are in "severe pain" and they don't need Prime Minister Narendra Modi's forgiveness but his apology for his government's actions against them.

Speaking at an event to launch the book of former MP Vaiko, Rahul said the students are on the streets because of the RSS attempts to change the country's history, adding that "India will not tolerate its history to be trampled upon by anybody". The book titled "Vaiko in Parliament" was released at the Constitution Club of India.

In his speech, Rahul said: "Whenever I judge a politician, the first thing, most important thing I look for is consistency. Does the person believe in some ideas, maintain those ideas consistently, or does the person say one thing one day, another thing the next day ... another thing the third day. And Mr Vaiko has been among the most consistent parliamentarians in our country. He holds a consistent position, does not compromise ... the position is clear."

Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav during MDMK chief Vaiko's book launch function in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANIL SHARMA

Rahul added, "Students are on the streets ... in severe pain, they don't have work, they are asking for fairness in exams, they are asking for an education system that works, and on the other side we have the Prime Minister who is forgiving them. Who is he to forgive them? I don't know. Where he gets the idea that he has the right to forgive the future of India, I don't know, but that's what he chooses to do. And behind the thinking of the Prime Minister, and behind the thinking of his colleagues, and particularly the RSS, is a very dangerous and caustic idea. The idea that this country is not an expression of the many."

The senior Congress leader thanked Vaiko for his service to the country, saying that it was an honour to be at the launch of his book. "He is an inspiration for all of us," he said.

Among others present at the event were Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Tamil Nadu Education Minister A Rajmohan, TMC MP Sagarika Ghosh, Congress leaders P Chidambaram and Manickam Tagore, besides former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah, CPIM general secretary M A Baby, CPI general secretary D Raja, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, RJD leader Manoj Kumar Jha, and NCP-SP leader Supriya Sule.

Karni Sena: Police water cannon action led to protester's death

Hamza Khan
Jaipur, August 4

THE KARNI Sena on Tuesday alleged that a protester died of injuries sustained in police action during a rally they took out in Jaipur on Monday to demand rollback of the new UGC regulations. The outfit has demanded action on the guilty personnel while warning of more intense protests, including a gherao of the CM residence and a Rajasthan bandh, giving a 7-day ultimatum.

Talking to journalists, Mahipal Singh Makrana, the national president of the Shri Rajput Karni Sena (SRKS), demanded Rs 1 crore compensation for the family of deceased Devraj Singh, a government job for one of his family members, and suspension of personnel behind the water cannon and cane charge.

Slamming the police action, former CM Ashok Gehlot accused the BJP government of adopting a "dictatorial attitude."

The SRKS, backed by other upper-caste outfits, was taking out the Savarna Nyay Yatra with the rollback of The University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, being one of their chief demands. Before the protest, Makrana had led what he claimed was a "24 day and 800-km long march" to press for the demands.

However, as the police tried to stop them from proceeding further through barricades on Monday, the protesters clashed with personnel, leading to some persons, including Devraj — as per SRKS — sustaining injuries.

"Water cannon was fired at women without any warning. Kids as young as seven were cane charged; women and the elderly too were lathi-charged. We are saddened that due to a strike from the same water cannon, our OBC brother Devraj Singh, who had come to support us, was hospitalised and (he) eventually passed away," Makrana said.

He said the Sena will support Devraj's family financially as well; his Jaipur-based family was handed Rs 1 lakh on Tuesday evening. Other outfits, too, have promised financial support to Devraj's family, which includes two children — aged 5 and 7, respectively.

Karni Sena leaders told The Indian Express that Devraj was first admitted to a private hospital and later referred to the SMS hospital. Deepak Maheshwari, Principal and Controller of SMS Medical College, though, said he has no knowledge of such a case being brought to the hospital.

One train in the front, one in the rear... here comes President's Special

Sujit Bisoyi & Divya A
Bhubaneswar, New Delhi, August 4

ONCE THERE was a 'Twin Car Presidential Saloon' that, as per the Indian Railways Yearbook 2021-22, is now a Star Exhibit at the National Rail Museum in Delhi.

Once the Railways was the preferred mode of travel for the country's head of state, with a government press release in 2021 talking about how the first president, Dr Rajendra Prasad, often undertook train journeys. The first was soon after taking office, when he visited his birthplace Ziradei in Siwan district, taking a 'President's Special' from Chhapra.

Now it is not everyday that the President hops onto a train — even if it's for just two hours. When she does, those two hours must pack in a lot.

On Tuesday, President Droupadi Murmu, who arrived in native Odisha for a three-day visit yesterday, travelled from Bhubaneswar to Berhampur, a distance of 170 km, by a 'President's Special', after a rain forecast meant plans to fly had to be ditched. This involved an ultra-luxury private rail car, with air-conditioned bedrooms, a living-cum-dining room, and a kitchen, said East Coast Railway (ECoR) officials.

The President cannot travel without an escort, and so there was a train in the front and another in the rear as her special chugged to its destination. No other train was allowed on the track during the time she travelled.

Murmu's co-passengers on the 9 am to 11 am ride included Chief Minister Mohan Charan Manjhi and Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati.

An ECoR spokesperson said the Railways made the preparations, including rolling out a red carpet literally — starting from the platform, and going up a ramp, onto the coach — after the President's Secretariat contacted them.

If the Railways took care of the train part, the administration managed the security detail, including the deployment of bomb disposal squads, sniffer dogs and intensive baggage screening at the Bhubaneswar and Berhampur railway stations, an official said. Apart from Government Railway Police and Railway Protection Force personnel, commandos of Central agencies travelled on the train.

At the starting terminal in Bhubaneswar, and the train's final halt in Berhampur, around 15 platoons (comprising 450 personnel) each of police personnel were deployed. Ganjam Collector V Keerthi Vasan said the venues of the President's visit in the district have been declared "no-flying" zones.

President Droupadi Murmu travelled from Bhubaneswar to Berhampur by a 'President's Special' on Tuesday.

In Berhampur, Murmu will visit the Maa Kandhuni Devi shrine near Taptapani to offer prayers. Taptapani, located among lush forests, is a popular tourist destination for its natural hot springs.

The last time Murmu took the train as President was also a two-hour trip to another religious destination.

She boarded the Maharaja Express and travelled from Delhi to Vrindavan to visit the Banke Bihari Temple in September 2025. For that journey, 12 coaches out of 18 of the luxury Maharaja Express were marked out for the President and her staff, and featured a Presidential Suite, deluxe cabins, dining cars, and a lounge.

In the evening, she took the train back to Delhi from Mathura.

The sweetest ride for Murmu, however, would have been the one in her home district, Mayurbhanj. On November 21, 2023, the President flagged off three new trains from Badampahar Railway Station in Mayurbhanj, taking the inaugural ride on the Badampahar-Shalimar Express and getting off at Rairangpur, close to her birthplace Uperbeda.

The track on which Murmu travelled in Odisha Tuesday includes, incidentally, a 100-km stretch that is among Odisha's oldest, opened on March 1, 1896, during the British era. It crosses the Chilka lake, and it was while traversing it, as he was being transported to a prison by the British authorities, that one of Odisha's foremost poets and social activists, Utkalmani Gopabandhu Das, wrote a poem on the beautiful journey.

Come Wednesday, the President cavalcade will make the same journey in reverse.

RAJASTHAN LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Pashudhan Bhawan Parisar, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Phone: 0141-4064974

No. :- FV( ) RLDB/RGM/Semen Depot/2026/3116 Dated :- 31/07/2026

Invitation of E-Bids

E-bids are invited from 10.00 AM on 03.08.2026 to 5.00 PM on 24.08.2026 for the procurement of Portable fully automated multi-species veterinary Computer Assisted Semen Analyzer from Manufactures, distributors or bona-fide dealer, having an estimated value of Rs. 192.00 Lakh for the institutions of Department of Animal Husbandry for a period of 01 years rate contract. Details of the bidding document may be seen on the State Public Procurement Portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** and RLDB website i.e. **rldb.rajasthan.gov.in** and may be downloaded from there. **UBN : ANH2627GLRC00160**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/8509 Chief Executive Officer

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS
THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 32/2026-2027 Dated: 04.08.2026

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

S. N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	19260618	SET OF DRIVE ASSEMBLY COMPONENT	51 SET	29.08.26
02	07260204	CONTROL ARM ASSEMBLY	5015 NOS	08.09.26

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

2686/26 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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

CANCELLATION NOTICE

Due to some unavoidable circumstances NIT No. **73/PR/JBVNL/2026-27** is hereby cancelled.

Sd/-
Dy. General Manager Purchase

PR No. 379146

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टॉल फ्री नं० 1800 345 6570 पर दर्ज करायें।

PR.NO.386654 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(26-27):D

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. 17/2026/RS/JHS Date : 31.07.2026

E-Tender Notice

For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (Rolling Stock) North Central Railway, Jhansi invites open tenders through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:

S.N.: 1, Tender No.: JHS-RS-WC-T6-2026-27, **Description:** Repairing & preventive maintenance of Cab Air Conditioners of Electric Locomotives.
Tender value : ₹ 2,08,82,849.68 | **Earnest money :** ₹ 4,17,700.00
Completion period from the date of issue of LOA.: 24 Months

S.N.: 2, Tender No.: JHS-RS-WC-T7-2026-27, **Description:** Replacement of defective & rusted pneumatic pipelines of conventional Electric Locomotives.
Tender value : ₹ 27,80,836.50 | **Earnest money :** ₹ 55,600.00
Completion period from the date of issue of LOA.: 18 Months

Closing date of tender: For S. No.: 1 & 2:- 31.08.2026

Note: (1) tenderer will submit the tender online upto **31.08.2026 (15:00 Hrs.). (2)** Complete details & for submission of tenders can be seen in Indian Railway website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** 1770/26 (MG)

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

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun -248001 Corporate Identity No. UA40109UP2001SGC025867/2358 Telephone-(0135)-2763672-76, Website: www.uktenders.gov.in

CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE

This office e-tender specification no. CCP-II/4/2026-2027 invited previously for design, fabrication, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 33kV D/C overhead Line using lattice towers from Sonprayag to Sri Kedarnath Jl (15 Km.) on turnkey basis is hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs of 17.08.2026. Part-1 of the e-tender shall be opened on 18.08.2026 at 15:45hrs.

Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website **www.uktenders.gov.in**.

No. : 586/EE(CM)/UPCL /A-2
Date : 04.08.2026
Superintending Engineer
Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" Use LED Bulb to Save Electricity (Foll Free No. 1912) Pay Electricity Bill Online 24 x 7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 1804185 0405/Fax No 0135-2780911)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Tejbir Singh, S/o: Babu Ram, R/o: Village Gundawali Kishanpur, P.S. Sikandra Rao, Distt. Hathras, Uttar Pradesh** has committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in case **FIR No: 300/1998, U/s: 406/411/201/34 IPC, P.S. Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Tejbir Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Tejbir Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Tejbir Singh** of **P.S. Okhla Industrial Area, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **21.08.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Akansha Gautam
JMFC-2, South East Distt., Room No. 513, Saket Courts, New Delhi

DP/10812/SE/2026

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun

Ref. No. 481/I1-02(xix)-2/ITCO/URRDA/24 Date : 04.08.2026

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice- 04(P-IV)/2026-27

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of **Almora & Pithoragarh** for **03** number of packages with estimated cost totaling to **Rs. 30.81 Crore** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors (Class-A and above) registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: **06-08-2026.**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in.** The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with **CONCERNED CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid,** either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: **20-08-2026 01:00 PM.**

For further details please log on to **www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in**.

Chief Engineer,
URRDA, Dehradun.

* *Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.*

Note : *For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-3517698 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.*

भरतपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, भरतपुर

क्रमांक :- लेखा/भ.वि.प्रा./2026-27/14502 - 15 दिनांक :- 31/07/2026

अल्पकालीन ऑनलाईन निविदा सूचना सं0 32/2026-27

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भरतपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, में उपयुक्त श्रेणी एवं विभिन्न विभागों में ए एवं एए श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से कुल 01 कार्य हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

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

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

UBN विवरण:–01. **WAQ2627WSOB00098**

राज.संवाद/सी/26/8506 अधिशाषी अभियन्ता

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 30/GCD/LDH/TS/PSPCL/2026 Dated: 05.08.2026

ASE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No.1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites Short Term e-Tender for Outsourcing of 1 no. New 66 KV Substation Bhamipura with 20 MVA PTF works on partial turnkey mode under Grid Construction Division, Ludhiana under Grid Construction Circle, Ludhiana.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 05.08.2026 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

No. 13944/PB C 767/26

Lonavala Municipal Council (MH)
e-Tender Notice No. Etender/tp/01/2026

e-Tender invited for the work of "Preparation of the development plan (Third Revised) for Lonavala Municipal Council" Please visit website www.mahatenders.gov.in for Detailed information.

Sd/-
Chief Officer,
Lonavala Municipal Council,
Tal. Maval Dist. Pune

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. office PSEB Head Office. The Mall, Patiala 147001)
Corporate Identity No. UP0109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 32/GCD/LDH/TS/PSPCL/2026 Dated: 05.08.2026

ASE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No.1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites Short Term e-Tender for Outsourcing of 1 no. New 66 KV Substation Tapprian Khurd with 12.5 MVA PTF works on partial turnkey mode under Grid Construction Division, Ludhiana under Grid Construction Circle, Ludhiana.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 05.08.2026 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.**

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

No. 13947/PSPCL **No.** C769/26

NDDB Dairy Services
NDDB House, Chaudhary Jhandu Singh Marg, near Kamal Cinema Complex, B4 Block, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi, Delhi-110029

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB), LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (LCB)

Sr. No.	Description of Tender with Bid Ref Number	Event Start/ Close Date	Estimated Cost	EMD
1	Set up Interior Work (Electrical_Audio_Video) Artificial Inseminator Training Centre at Cow Sanctuary Muzaffarnagar UP NDS/COW_SANCTURY/MUZAFFARNAGAR/ ELECTRICAL_AUDIO_VIDEO/Aug/26-27	10 August 2026 31 August 2026	Rs. 1.0 Cr	Rs. 1.0 Lakh
2	Set up Interior Work (Furniture) Artificial Inseminator Training Centre at Cow Sanctuary Muzaffarnagar Uttar Pradesh NDS/COW_SANCTURY/ MUZAFFARNAGAR/FURNITURE/Aug/26-27	10 August 2026 31 August 2026	Rs. 1.15 Cr	Rs. 1.15 Lakh
3	10 KL BMC for MPOs NDS/MPO/ARC/BMC/10KL/26-27	05 August 2026 26 August 2026	Rs. 3 Cr	Rs. 3 Lakh
4	Supply & Testing of Aluminum Can (in Punjab & UP) 2026-27/JICA/NDS/MPO /05/Milk Can	05 August 2026 26 August 2026	Rs. 3.5 Cr	Rs. 3.5 Lakh

For further details pertaining to IFB and for downloading the bid document, please visit the websites: **https://events.ncdfiemarket.com/bidder/, https://www.nddbdairyservices.com/ & https://www.ncdfiemarket.com/index.php/auctions-2/#tab-44753**

Please Note: Any corrigendum/modification etc. will be posted only on the above websites

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERING

Name of Office	NIT No./Name of Work	Starting date (Time)/ Closing date (Time)	Estd.Cost /EMD
RM & SR Division, BBMB, Nangal	**NIT No 47/2026/RM** Obtaining one no Fiber Glass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Boat for sedimentation Survey / Inspection of Bhakra reservoir	Document downloads Start date & time: **03.08.2026 at 1700 hrs.** Pre-bid meeting date and time: **10.08.2026 at 1100 hrs** Tender submission start date and time: **12.08.2026 at 1500 hrs** Tender submission closing date and time: **02.09.2026 at 1500 hrs** Opening bid date and time: **03.09.2026 at 1500 hrs**	Estimated cost: Rs. **406.80 Lacs** Earnest Money: Rs. **813600.00**

For detailed NIT/Terms & Conditions etc. please visit/downloaded from BBMB website **www.bbmb.gov.in, www.etenders.gov.in**
NOTE : If any, Corrigendum, shall be uploaded on website only.

305-PR-BD. Sectt.-5 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

GUJARAT METRO RAIL CORPORATION (GMRC) LIMITED
(SPV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Gujarat)
Block No.1, First Floor, Karmayogi Bhavan, Sector 10/A, Gandhinagar: 382010, Gujarat. (CIN): U60200GJ2010SGC059407

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Dated : 05.08.2026

E-Tenders are invited from reputed and experienced Contractors for the following tender :

Tender No. and Name	Tender Fees
Tender No. GMRC/Utility Shifting-1/Ph-3C/2026 "Utility Identification & diversion / shifting of utilities for proposed Metro Ring Corridor (i) From APMC Station to Prakash Nagar Station (From Chainage 0.00 to 9612.332 M) (ii) From Vadaj Station to APMC Station (From Chainage 27106.277 to 36169.007 M) of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project, Phase - 3C"	INR 25,000/-
Tender No. GMRC/Utility Shifting-2/Ph-3C/2026 "Utility Identification & diversion / shifting of utilities for Proposed Metro Ring corridor from Prakash Nagar Station to Vadaj Station (From Chainage 9612.332 to 27106.77) of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project, Phase - 3C"	INR 25,000/-

Interested bidders are requested to visit **https://tender.nprocure.com** for eligibility criteria, applying/ downloading the tender document. **Last date and time for Bid Submissions is 15:00 Hrs. on 05.09.2026.**

Any alterations in Eligibility Criteria and terms of the Tender Document, or any amendment to the Tender Document, etc, will be uploaded on **https://tender.nprocure.com** and GMRC's Website **www.gujaratmetrorail.com** without any obligation or press notification or other proclamation.

General Manager (Civil), GMRC

NSCN(K) insurgent surrenders

Itanagar: A militant belonging to the banned outfit NSCN(K) surrendered before security forces in Arunachal Pradesh's Tirap district on Tuesday, police said. Self-styled 'lieutenant' Hewan Boham (35), a resident of Olingtong village in Longding district, surrendered at the office of the Tirap superintendent of police in Khonsa.

The insurgent laid down his arms before a joint team of police, Assam Rifles, and CRPF. **PTI**

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, जिला खण्ड–II बीकानेर

क्रमांक–554 दिनांक:–24/7/2026

अल्पकालीन ई–बोली सूचना संख्या: 09/2026–2027

Bid for **Constt of Various Various Missing Link Road Lunkaransar and SriDungargarh** are invited from interested bidders from **27-07-2026 to 06-08-2026 06.00 PM**. and to be opened **07-08-2026 02:00 PM.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http:// eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state; and PWD Department website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs 1519.00 Lacs.**

UBN No. :- PWD2627WSOB07862, PWD2627WSOB07863, PWD2627WSOB07864 PWD2627WSOB07865, PWD2627WSOB07866

हस्ता/–
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, सानिवि जिला खंड–II बीकानेर

DIPR/C/13440/2026

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर

क्रमांक :- हस्ताक्षर 23753816 दिनांक :- 31/07/2026

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या :- जोन दक्षिण/08/2026-27

जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से प्राधिकरण एवं राजकीय विभाग में नियमानुसार उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार से सिविल कार्यों हेतु मुहरबंद बिड आमंत्रित की जाती है। इन कार्यों की अनुमानित लागत, बिड बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, बिड शर्ते आदि का सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.jodhpurjda.org** एवं **www.sppp.raj.nic.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।

NIB Code :- JOD2627A0118

UBN No. :- JOD2627WSOB00215 To JOD2627WSOB00218

राज.संवाद/सी/26/8510 अधिशाषी अभियंता (दक्षिण)

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Main Administrative Building, Sector-96, Noida, G.B. Nagar (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

(A) 1. 34/GM/AO/Sr. M.(E&M)-II/2026-27/ET, Internal Electrification of Newly Constructed Community center in Sector-11, Noida. **Cost Rs. 65.74 Lacs.**

Which can be uploaded by date: 18.08.2026 Upto 5.00 PM. pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date: - 19.08.2026 at 11.00 AM

(B) 1. 28/GM(E/M)/SM(E/M)-I/E.T./2026-27, D/O Village (M/o Street Light and Installation of New Lights in Some Streets and Internal Electrification in Panchayat Ghar, Barat Ghar, Govt. Primary School, Junior High School in Village Salarpur, Bhangel & Nagla Charandas), Noida. **Cost Rs. 66.53 Lacs.**

2. 51/GM (E&M)/S.M./E/M- III/26-27, Providing Decorative Pole & High Mast on Internal road of F & G Block sector-44, Noida. **Cost Rs. 47.74 Lacs.**

3. 58/GM (E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/26-27, D/o Village (Internal Electrification Work for Panchayat Ghar in Village Nayabans), Noida. **Cost Rs. 37.76 Lacs.**

Which can be uploaded by date: 11.08.2026 Upto 5.00 PM. pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date: - 12.08.2026 at 11.00 AM

General Manager (E&M)
NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE MYSORE SUGAR COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Sugar Town, Mandya-571 402.

MSCo/MM/119/2026-27 DATE: 04-08-2026

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Mysore Sugar Company Ltd., Mandya is inviting tender for Boiling House equipments stabilization cum modernization of existing sugar plant to 5000 TCD for production of plantation white sugar on **"Turn Key Basis"** from the interested manufacturers/ dealer for following. Tender No: MSCO/2026-27/SE0016

Sl. No	Description	EMD of Rs.
01.	Design, Drawing, Supply, Errection & Commissioning (Including Civil works) and performance for one crushing season of Mill and Boiling House equipment for stabilization cum modernization of existing sugar plant to 5000 TCD for production of plantation white sugar on "TURN KEY" basis.	Rs. 15,00,000/-

Tenders can be available from **03.08.2026** to **16.09.2026 @ 5.30 PM.** Pre-bid Meeting will be on **02.09.2026 @11.00 AM** at Factory site Mandya. The date of opening of technical bid is on **18.09.2026 @11.00 AM** and commercial bid opening is on **21.09.2026 @ 11.00 AM** onwards at Managing Director office. For further details contact e-procurement web site **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** No. **080-25501216 / 25501227, 9964390489 / 9886470666.** Managing Director reserves the right to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason and Managing Director decision in this regard is final and binding.

Sd/-
GENERAL MANAGER

DIPR/MANDYA/SHIRDI SAI/346/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
HEADQUARTERS: DELHI FIRE SERVICE: NEW DELHI-110001

Notice for Invitation of Applications for Third Party Auditors

Applications are hereby invited from the eligible Third-Party Auditors for their registration and empanelment with Principal Director of Delhi Fire Service as Fire Safety Auditor (Third Party).

In pursuance of the provisions contained in Delhi Fire Service (Amendment) Rule 2025, "Fire Safety Auditors" as specified in rule (iv-a) read with Rule 35, 36, 37 and 38 of the said rules are authorised to issue Forms H, I, J and K for compliance of the provisions contained in these Rules.

The eligible and qualified persons or association of persons or companies are hereby informed to apply on Form "U" (**https://dfs.delhi.gov.in/dfs/forms**) along with all requisite and mandatory documents on e-mail id director.dlfire@nic.in to the Principal Director, Delhi Fire Service for their registration / empanelment to act as a Fire Safety Auditors categorically mentioning the subject as "Application for registration / empanelment as Fire Safety Auditor under DFS (Amendment) Rules- 2025".

For details of eligibility please refer schedule VII of Delhi Fire Service (Amended) Rules 2025 (**https://dfs.delhi.gov.in/sites/ default/files/Dfs/dfs_amendment_rules 2025.pdf**).

Sh. Mukesh Verma, Divisional Officer (Mobile No. 9810445332) is the Nodal Officer for any query/ clarification.

(Sachin Rana)
IAS
Principal Director

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0161/26-27

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 ITD. ROHTAK	2026_HBC_536642_1	DATE EXTENDED UPTO 10.08.2026 AT 16:00 PM OPENING ON 11.08.2026 AT 11:30 AMM	vitaindia@gmail.com	9896401185 vitarohtak@gmail.com
2	THE ROHTAK CO OP MILK PRODUCERS UNION ITD. ROHTAK	2026_HBC_535654_1,2026_HBC_535651_1,2026_HBC_535653_1, 2026_HBC_535655_1	DATE EXTENDED UPTO 10.08.2026 AT 16:00 PM OPENING ON 11.08.2026 AT 11:30 RM	vitaindia@gmail.com	9896401185 vitarohtak@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No. 47813/HRY

'To assist CBI': NEET paper leak accused offer to undergo lie-detector test

Nirbhay Thakur
New Delhi, August 4

A DESIGNATED fast-track court in Delhi — dealing with the 2026 NEET paper leak case — on Tuesday heard a plea by the two key accused who have volunteered to undergo a polygraph or lie detector test and brain mapping. The special court has sought a response from the CBI on the maintainability of the application filed by the accused, among other matters.

The application has been moved by accused Dinesh Biwal and Vikas Biwal who sought a "voluntary conduct of polygraph examination, brain electrical activation profile (BEAP)/ brain mapping, and such other scientific examination as may be permissible in law to facilitate a fair, impartial, and truthful investigation". A polygraph test measures bodily responses like breathing, heart rate, sweat and tracks stress that may occur when a person is not being honest.

The application reads, "..That the primary objective of any premier investigating agency like the CBI is to bring real offenders to justice and prevent innocent citizens from suffering wrongful incarceration. If the polygraph and BEAP tests confirm that the applicants possess no information regarding the source of the paper leak, the procurement of question papers, or the financial channels of the syndicate, such negative findings will prove invaluable to the CBI. It will enable the Investigating Agency to redirect its resources towards tracing the actual perpetrators and masterminds rather than squandering investigative capital on wrongfully implicated individuals."

The roles prescribed to the accused by the CBI were procuring and circulating the leaked NEET UG question paper in networks in Sikar and Jaipur.

"Dinesh Biwal...stated that Yash Yadav (another co-accused) had provided NEET UG 2026 leaked question sets in PDF format to his elder brother...on the Telegram application in consideration of Rs 12 lakh, to be paid later, after taking security in the form of original educational documents and a signed blank cheque," the CBI submitted before court.

In their application moved before Special Judge Ajay Gupta of the Rouse Avenue Court, the accused stated that they had "maintained their innocence from the inception of the investigation and continue to assert that they have neither committed nor participated in the offences alleged against them".

Stating that they had "unwavering confidence" in the investigative process, the accused represented by advocate AP Singh mentioned in their application that they wanted to "assist the investigating agency by voluntarily offering themselves for recognised scientific examination, so that every lawful investigative avenue capable of aiding the search for truth may be explored".

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
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Corrigendum to Tender No. Y/SG/ 36/2026-27/15, Dated: 03.08.2026 PUB/523

On behalf of the president of India, Sr. Division Signal & Telecom Engineer, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites open tenders for the following works through **e-Procurement** up to **11.30 Hours of 18.08.2026.**

Tender Dated 03.08.2026

Sl. No.: 1, Tender No. Y/SG/36/2026-27/15, **Name of the work:** Hyderabad Division: SC-MUE Section: Malkajgiri - Signalling and Telecommunication arrangements in connection with Doubling of Malkajgiri - Moula-ali Gate Cabin & (2) Malkajgiri - signalling arrangement in connecton with Malkajgiri Yard Remodeling: Provision of Down Loop Line and 02 additional lines., **Tender Value (Rs.):** 19,54,25,308.03, **EMD (Rs.):** 39,08,500.00

For bid document and other details log in to **https://ireps.gov.in.** Any corrigendum issued online only.

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Hyderabad
A613

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

SC seeks Centre's response to plea on constitutional validity of CAPF Act

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's response to a plea challenging the constitutional validity of the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, which allows the continued deputation of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers in the forces.

A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Vijay Bishnoi issued notice to the government on the plea by a group of officers who contended that the Act goes against a May 23, 2025, SC judgment in the case Sanjay Prakash vs Union of India.

The SC had said in the judgment that "keeping in mind the twin objectives of service mobility of the cadre officers of CAPF thereby removing stagnation on the one hand and the operational/functional requirement of the forces on the other hand..." **ENS**

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Open E Tender Notice No. E-04-CPOH-RYP-2026, Dt. 03.08.2026 PUB/SCoR-132

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tender for the following work **up to 28.08.2026, 15:00 hours** and the date mentioned against.

Sl. No. 1, Tender No. E-04-CPOH-RYP-2026, **Name of work:** Rayanapadu - All works related to service buildings, water tanks and roads etc. at CPOH/RYP & ZTMD/ RYP for the period from 01-07-2026 to 30-6-2027, **Period of completion:** 24 Months, **Tender Value (₹):** 28,00,000.00, **E.M.D. (₹):** 56,000.00, **Date of Closing:** 28.08.2026. (Item One Only)

1. Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above works, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at "**www.ireps.gov.in**".

2. The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** before the date of tender closing to note any changes/ corrigenda for any tender.

Deputy Chief Engineer/CPOH/ Rayanapadu
SCoR-A155

For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents, please visit the website at https://www.ireps.gov.in.

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
Ganderbal www.cukashmir.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTICE 2026 MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAMME (M.ED.)
(For Working Professionals/In-service Candidates)

The Central University of Kashmir invites applications from Working Professionals/In-service candidates for admission to Two-Year Master of Education Programme (M.Ed.) under New-Normal Mode / Blended Mode for the Academic Session 2026-2027. The registration process shall begin from 5th August, 2026. The last date of registration is 11th August, 2026 (upto 11:55 PM). For registration process & detailed information, candidates are advised to visit the University website: www.cukashmir.ac.in

Date: 04.08.2026 S/d Director (I/C) Directorate of Admissions

Asaram, a self-styled godman

Asaram gets 20-day parole, HC criticises panel for denying relief

Hamza Khan
Jaipur, August 4

TWO MONTHS after it upheld self-styled godman Asaram's life imprisonment in a minor's rape case, the Rajasthan High Court Monday approved his request for a 20-day parole. It also criticised the Jodhpur district collector-led committee for turning down his parole plea.

A bench of acting Chief Justice Sanjeev Prakash Sharma and Justice Sanjeet Purohit granted 85-year-old Asaram the relief on account of age and for having spent over 13 years in jail.

The counsel for Rajasthan and others had placed before the HC the minutes of the meeting held by the district collector on July 31. According to the minutes, the panel rejected Asaram's 20-day parole request because "there is an information from police that the petitioner may abscond and also on the count that he would not be eligible to be granted parole in terms of the rule 14(a) of the Rajasthan Prisoners Release on Parole Rules, 1958, as there is a criminal case registered against the petitioner out of Rajasthan and also he has been convicted by the court of another state (Gandhinagar in Gujarat)". It was also pointed out that Asaram is undergoing treatment and the medical officer concerned has issued no certificate deeming him fit for release on parole.

FIGHT AGAINST 'DIGITAL ARREST' FRAUD

Adopt SOP against mule accounts in 4 weeks, SC directs states & UTs

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, August 4

EXPEDITING EFFORTS to check the menace of 'digital arrest' scams, the Supreme Court Tuesday directed states and UTs to formally adopt and circulate within four weeks the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prescribing temporary debit holds on suspicious amounts/ accounts to prevent mule activities and cyber-enabled fraud.

Issuing a series of directions, the bench of CJI Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana said, "While the progress reported at this juncture is appreciable, the mechanisms already put in place require wider adoption, faster disposal, and continued follow-up."

In April this year, the Supreme Court was told by the Centre that the Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC), constituted following directions from the Court, had agreed with the SOP framework, proposed by the Reserve Bank of India, prescribing action by banks for placing temporary debit holds on suspicious amounts/ accounts.

On Tuesday, the bench asked states and UTs to notify and operationalise State Cyber Crime Coordination Centres within the time period. It said the SOP must additionally incorporate a grievance redressal mechanism, a money restoration module and measures for public awareness regarding both.

The bench asked the Registrar Generals of all High Courts to bring the grievance redressal mechanism to the attention of courts and adjudicating authorities dealing with freezing of bank accounts. "An aggrieved person may ordinarily be encouraged to avail of that mechanism in the first instance, though it shall not be a bar to any prosecution, statutory, or other legal remedies," it said.

States and UTs have been directed to adopt the e-zero FIR mechanism in consultation with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

Underlining the need for fast disposal of complaints regarding freezing of bank accounts in such cases of cyber-enabled financial frauds, the bench asked the IDC to issue necessary advisories and directions to all States, UTs, ministries and government departments to undertake extensive public awareness programmes on prevention of cyber crime and digital arrest scams, grievance redressal and money restoration modules and the SOP of the Ministry of Home Affairs on custody and restoration of defrauded money. It asked the panel to coordinate with banks regarding steps to prevent 'digital arrest' scams, facilitate recovery of defrauded money, assist investigations and ensure compliance with applicable laws.

To reinforce protection of victims of 'digital arrest' fraud, the bench also asked the IDC to consider the proposal for introducing a shared liability and victim compensation framework for them. The IDC was told to examine the proposal for reducing the existing monetary threshold for CBI to undertake investigation into such cases — for example, by aggregating fraudulent instances involving the same organised network

Given the misuse of telecom services for perpetrating cyber fraud, the bench asked the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Department of Telecommunications (DoT), and I4C to examine whether time-based restrictions can be imposed on audio and video calls and to inform the bench about its feasibility, utility and possible alternatives.

The bench underlined the need for greater public awareness on the subject of cyber-enabled financial frauds and asked legal services committees across the country to do more in this regard. Perusing a status report by I4C, the bench noted that defrauded money totalling Rs 18.05 crore had been restored to victims in 36,290 cases. According to the report, the number of 'digital arrest' complaints received on the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) fell from 1,23,672 in 2024 to 58,239 in 2025. The following period until June 30, 2026 saw 16,377 complaints.

The bench said, "So far as the investigation by the CBI is concerned, the report reveals that the investigative agency has presently registered 10 digital arrest cases and several related cases. In one investigation, it identified 238 victims across 67 first-layer bank accounts, involving transactions of approximately Rs 80 crore, and conducted searches at 93 locations across 16 States. It is further stated that the Inter-Departmental Committee has requested the CBI to examine the feasibility of lowering the existing threshold of Rs 10 crore and to consider taking up cases involving the same organised network where the cumulative fraud exceeds the prescribed threshold."

It asked "all adjudicating authorities... including the RBI, ombudsmen, consumer protection fora, FEMA/ jurisdictional authorities, jurisdictional courts and law enforcement agencies... to ensure that recovered amounts are disbursed to victims of digital arrests in an expeditious manner."

The Supreme Court had taken suo motu cognizance of the matter in November last year following a written complaint by a senior citizen couple from Ambala in Haryana. The couple had said that they were cheated of Rs 1.05 crore by 'digital arrest' scammers who allegedly threatened them with forged orders of the Supreme Court, Bombay High Court and Enforcement Directorate.

Hit by projectile, Indian vessel sinks near Yemeni waters; 14 seafarers rescued

Sonowal condemns attack, says all 13 Indian sailors safe

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

AN INDIAN ship with 13 Indian seafarers on board sank after getting hit by a projectile near Yemeni waters. All 14 seafarers were rescued by the Yemeni forces.

Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Indian MSV Faize Noore Oliya has been hit by a projectile near Yemeni waters, causing the vessel to capsize and sink... India strongly condemns this unprovoked attack on the defenseless mechanised sailing vessel. The safety of our people is our supreme priority & I am relieved to inform that ALL 14 seafarers (including 13 Indians) have been safely rescued by the Yemeni Coast Guard and brought to the Port of Mokha."

The minister added, "I have instructed the Director General Maritime Administration (DGMA) to take immediate steps in coordination with all agencies to ensure the absolute security of Indian seafarers in the region and provide all necessary assistance to the rescued crew."

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "We condemn the attack on the Indian flagged commercial vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya that sank in the Red Sea, off the coast of Yemen on August 4, 2026. All 13 Indian nationals have been rescued... Our Embassy in Riyadh is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Yemeni authorities for the safety and security of the crew. We thank the Yemeni authorities for their support."

The MEA said the continuing incidents of attacks on commercial shipping in the region are "deeply worrisome". "The targeting of commercial shipping in the region must end, and free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the international waterways in the region, in keeping with international law, must be restored at the earliest."

CRPF personnel outside Nagaon's 34 Battalion camp, Tuesday. PTI

CRPF officer shoots 2 dead, injures another colleague before dying by suicide

Press Trust of India
Nagaon, August 4

A CRPF officer shot two of his colleagues dead and injured another, before killing himself in Assam's Nagaon district on Tuesday, police said.

Nagaon Deputy Superintendent of Police (HQ) Paramita Sarkar told PTI that the incident took place at the 34 Battalion camp in Katimari around 7 am, when ASI/GD Ballani Premabaram, who was on duty at the main gate, fired at his colleagues.

"Two personnel, HV/GD Vishnu Prasad Baghel and SI/GD Ramnawal Singh Yadav, died on the spot," Sarkar said.

Another CRPF personnel ASI/Mane Govind Sripul was injured in the incident and taken to a private hospital, she said. He was later referred to the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, the DSP said.

Nagaon Senior Superintendent of Police Partha Protim Das said that ASI Premabaram, who hailed from Andhra Pradesh, was found to be on duty at the main gate of the CRPF Camp this morning, without his assigned weapon.

"He subsequently took an INSAS rifle from the Guard Room and proceeded towards the rear side of the Quarter Guard, where he opened fire on Baghel, who succumbed to his injuries," Das told PTI.

Premabaram then fired at Yadav, who had come for document verification from Lucknow. He also died on the spot, the Assam Police SSP said.

"The ASI also fired at Sripul, causing serious injuries to him. After firing, Premabaram entered the B/171 Barrack and shot himself," Das said.

Police said they are investigating the matter along with the CRPF.

EXPRESS special

MP: Despite red flags, panel nod for power project in tiger corridor

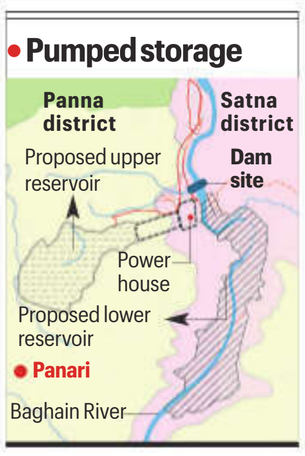
Nikhil Ghanekar
New Delhi, August 4

DESPITE "TAKING note" of the reservations expressed by a Madhya Pradesh Forest Department officer and acknowledging its location in an area used by tigers and other wildlife, the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) recently recommended clearance for the Panari pumped storage hydropower project in the Panna-Ranipur tiger corridor, as per official documents.

The 1,800 MW project had sought wildlife clearance as it requires 411.48 hectares of forest land that falls within this key tiger corridor and the satellite core areas of Panna Tiger Reserve. The corridor in question connects forests around the Panna reserve across Satna and Panna districts to the Ranipur Tiger Reserve in Chitrakoot, UP.

Prior to the project's clearance in the SC-NBWL's July 9, 2026, meeting, the panel had ordered a site inspection in January to ascertain its impact.

A four-member team comprising officials from the Environment Ministry and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a scientist from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), and a DFO from Madhya Pradesh visited the site and recommended clearance, but with certain riders.



However, the DFO also underlined that the project is situated in an area that sees continuous, unhindered movement of tigers, leopards and bears. The DFO also highlighted that the proposed project is likely to block the corridor. Further, the DFO stated that due to the implementation of the Ken-Betwa river-linking project, wildlife activity and movement in this corridor had increased, and that there is no alternative pathway for wildlife dispersal.

However, clearance was recommended for the project with conditions to implement mitigation measures, so as to maintain "the integrity of the wildlife corridor", the minutes of SC-NBWL's July 9 meeting show.

The key condition includes the construction of three 30-metre-wide wildlife overpasses across the Baghain River, which is frequently used by wildlife. The wildlife panel also directed changing the alignment of a muck-dumping area to avoid a new road in a forest, minutes of the July 9 meeting state. Further, muck-dumping areas and job facility areas were to be relocated from the tiger corridor, wherever feasible, the minutes state.

While recommending clearance for the project, the standing committee did note the "reservations expressed by the field officers regarding possible fragmentation of the corridor".

During deliberations on the proposal, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav sought the views of WII Director, Madhya Pradesh Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW), and NTCA Member Secretary.

The NTCA member secretary stated that the proposal may be recommended keeping in view the committee's report and mitigation measures recommended. WII Director stated that, although the project would have "significant implications" for habitat connectivity, these could be reduced through scientifically designed mitigation measures; therefore, the proposal may be recommended. The CWLW agreed with the recommendations of the broader four-member site inspection committee and said that mitigation measures should be ensured.

Madrasa education does not foster patriotism, says UP Dy CM Maurya, links it to terrorism

Maulshree Seth
Lucknow, August 4

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya

UTTAR PRADESH Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Tuesday courted controversy by alleging that "students receiving education in madrasas do not develop a sense of patriotism" and that "terrorist attacks in India and elsewhere were a consequence of madrasa education".

Responding to questions from reporters on the sidelines of the Monsoon session of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, Maurya said, "Those who receive Madrasa education do not say *Bharat Mata ki Jai* or sing *Vande Mataram*. Their mindset becomes like that of terrorists."

He further alleged, "This is not the first time. It is a reality that whatever terrorist attacks have taken place in India or anywhere in the world are certainly the result of Madrasa education."

Maurya's remarks came the day the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the proposal for amendments to the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Rules, ending the Board's authority to grant higher education qualifications equivalent to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

Hasina should be allowed to return to Bangladesh, says Taslima

Atri Mitra
Kolkata, August 4

EXILED BANGLADESHI author Taslima Nasrin on Tuesday said former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should be allowed to return to her country and the ban imposed on the Awami League, Hasina's political party, should also be lifted to ensure democratic participation.

Nasrin made the remarks while addressing a gathering after paying tribute at the grave of social reformer Begum Rokeya at Panihati in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district.

Criticising religion-based politics, the author said, "...Religious politics is inherently misogynistic and harmful to society. Sheikh Hasina should be allowed to return to Bangladesh, and the ban on her party should be withdrawn so that it can participate in politics. Democracy demands that all political parties have the opportunity to participate in democratic activities."

• BRIEFLY

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma visits a flood-affected area, Tuesday. PTI

ASSAM

Flood-hit people dependent on mining in Nagaland, says Himanta

ASSAM CHIEF Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday claimed that most of the people affected by the Upper Assam flood depend on coal-sand mining activities in neighbouring Nagaland, and they must decide on closing the illegal operations. Sarma's statement came after the opposition's demand to shut illegal coal-sand mining to prevent a recurrence of floods in Upper Assam districts. After visiting flood-hit areas, he said that Assam cannot stop mining activities in Nagaland, and the Centre will have to intervene. PTI

Jharkhand: 13 killed, 4 injured in lightning strikes

AT LEAST 13 people died and four others were injured in lightning strikes in Jharkhand's Giridih, Dumka and Latehar Tuesday, police said. Of the 13 fatalities, 8 were from Giridih, Dumka (3) and Latehar (2). "At least 7 persons were killed and 3 others injured due to lightning strikes," Khorimahua SDPO Amarendra Kumar confirmed. PTI

2 drug smugglers jump from bridge, drown

TWO DRUG smugglers drowned after they jumped off a bridge into Chambal river while trying to evade arrest by police during a chase on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Rajasthan's Kota Tuesday, police said. Nine plastic bags containing 117 kg of poppy husk were found abandoned along the highway following the incident. PTI

Visionary educationist who left a legacy in healthcare, sports too

Express News Service
Pune, August 4

FORMER GOVERNOR and education pioneer D Y Patil died in Kolhapur Tuesday. He was 90. Widely recognised in Maharashtra as "Shikshanmaharshi," or visionary educationist, Patil, who served as the Governor of Tripura and Bihar, left an enduring legacy across the fields of education, healthcare, and sports.

Dnyandeo Yashwantrao Patil began his political career with the Congress party, but later stepped away from active politics to focus on education.

He served as the mayor of Kolhapur from 1957 to 1962, and was elected as an MLA from the Panhala constituency in 1967 and 1972.

Born on October 22, 1935, in Ambap, a small agrarian village in the Kolhapur district, he carved a niche for himself primarily in the education field.

In 1983, he established the Ramrao Adik Institute of Technology (RAIT), the first engineering college in Navi Mumbai. The Patil family runs engineering colleges, a medical college, and a school in Pimpri-Chinchwad and Pune.

As many as three deemed universities, 6 private universities, and more than 180 educational institutions operate in cities such as Kolhapur, Mumbai, and Pune under the D Y Patil Group.

In recognition of his contributions to education and social service, he was honoured with the prestigious civilian award, the Padma Shri, in 1991.

The D Y Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai is named after him. He is survived by four sons and a daughter.

As leaders from various political parties paid tributes to Dr D Y Patil his son, Satej Patil, Congress MLC said the family has lost their biggest support.

"My father, Padmashri Dr D Y Patil (Dada), passed away today at 11:08 am in Kolhapur at the age of 91. He was my biggest support. His entire life was devoted to social service. He took education to the lowest strata of the society and lived a life full of values and principles. He was a man of principles and a true patriot for whom country came first," Satej Patil said.

D Y PATIL
1935-2026

The Congress MLC said with his father's departure, the sheltering banyan tree of their lives has fallen.

"Our strongest pillar has fallen. Throughout his life, Dada connected with people, lit the lamp of education in the lives of millions of students, and made social service the goal of his life. He instilled in us the values of living as a good human being. His affectionate, loving hand, his reassuring words, and his teachings on living by values will forever remain our ultimate treasure... It is impossible to express these feelings in words," he said.

Paying tributes, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said Dr Patil revolutionised the education sector. "The news of the passing of Padma Shri Dr D Y Patil, founder of the D Y Patil Group and former Governor of Tripura, Bihar, and West Bengal, is extremely sad," he said

Beginning his journey as a grassroots worker, he progressed to important constitutional positions, serving twice as an MLA and later as the Governor of various states. "He made invaluable contributions to revolutionising the education sector and bringing educational opportunities to ordinary and needy students in society. Starting from a small school, his journey is truly astounding. The reach of his work expanded to include around 200 institutions, diverse types of universities, and thousands of students, especially through the establishment of colleges offering diverse courses such as medical, engineering, pharmacy, and architecture, alongside modern facilities, he elevated not only his educational group but also the reputation of Maharashtra, he said.

MPCC chief Harshavardhan Sapkal said Dr Patil provided millions of students with the opportunity for gaining knowledge. "Dr Patil carved out an inspiring journey, rising from a farming family to become an educationist, a Mayor, an MLA and a Governor. He upheld the tradition of public service in his public life, while through the institutions he built in the education sector, he provided millions of students with the opportunity for knowledge." Throughout his life, Sapkal said Dr Patil lived by the belief in action that education is the most effective tool for social transformation.

"As a senior leader of the Congress party, he constantly maintained social commitment, people-oriented thinking, and a development-oriented vision. The ideal he created in both politics and education will remain inspiring for future generations."

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said, "news of the passing of former Governor, renowned educationist, and social worker Dr D Y Patil is extremely sad. His contribution to the fields of education and public service will always be remembered. I express my deepest condolences to all the bereaved family members, well-wishers, and supporters."

● WEB EXCLUSIVE
'Is AI eating up all the jobs? The truth is that we just don't know'. — *By Nidhi Singh*
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Computers are useless.
They can only give you answers.
— Pablo Picasso

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IN 1932
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

In struggle for justice, a story of impunity

AFTER BRIJ Bhushan Sharan Singh's acquittal by a Delhi court in the sexual harassment case filed by six women wrestlers, Vinesh Phogat, one of the complainants, said in a social media post: "We have not given up hope and the wrestlers will continue their fight." The hope for justice has, from the beginning, been the load-bearing feature of the struggle to pursue the case against the former Wrestling Federation of India chief — he was also the BJP MP from Kaiserganj when the accusations surfaced. Hope for justice fueled their vigil at Jantar Mantar when they began their agitation in 2023; it helped them weather institutional indifference until Singh was forced to resign from his position and a case against him was finally registered by Delhi Police in April that year. And hope is what will see them through the days to come as they appeal Monday's verdict. Yet the story of this case is no longer only about one individual or one verdict. It is about the extraordinary resilience required of those seeking accountability when the accused occupies a position of power, and about the special endurance demanded by a justice system that often seems to test the survivors as much as the allegations they bring before it.

The wrestlers' fight tells a larger story of entrenched impunity. The defining images of the protest bear witness to it: Wrestlers sleeping on the footpath as they protested against lack of progress in the case; their march towards Parliament that ended with them being dragged away by the police; and the haunting sight of decorated athletes standing on the banks of the Ganga in Haridwar, saying they would immerse their medals in the river. Most sexual harassment cases have arduous trajectories. The twists and turns of the case against Singh — including a report by a government-appointed oversight committee that was never made public and the withdrawal of a complaint under the POCSO Act — have underlined how much more difficult it is to pursue such complaints when there is an overwhelming imbalance of power.

The episode also reveals why so many women hesitate to come forward in the first place. It is not simply the fear of being disbelieved; it is the knowledge that the process itself can become a punishment, with years of recounting traumatic experiences before multiple authorities, public scrutiny, political hostility and institutional delay, only to find that justice remains elusive. Irrespective of this case's legal outcome, the larger question raised by the wrestlers' struggle remains unresolved: How many times must survivors tell their stories before institutions respond with sensitivity and urgency?

Udhayanidhi's arrest is TVK's own goal

THE REMARKS made by former Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister and current Leader of Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin about a female actor are misogynistic. The DMK has said that party supremo Stalin's son was only criticising the Vijay-led government on the Cauvery water issue, but that explanation cuts little ice — his words carried a double entendre. The immediate weaponisation of the police and law and order machinery by the TVK government against Udhayanidhi is also problematic — he was arrested a day after his remarks, on a formidable array of charges, including criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity between groups, provoking riots. This rush to target a political opponent by a strong-armed state points to the blurring of lines between government and party. It reeks of a familiar politics of vendetta in Tamil Nadu. For a new government still trying to establish that it represents a break from the past, this is a misstep. That Madras High Court ordered Udhayanidhi's release is welcome. But the episode raises questions.

Actor-turned-politician Vijay rode a popular wave to office on the promise of providing a departure from politics-as-usual under the DMK-AIADMK duopoly that has marked Tamil Nadu for decades, even as he signaled affinity with key figures of the Dravidian movement such as Periyar. The heavy-handed use of state machinery against the Leader of Opposition is reminiscent, however, of dismal episodes featuring his predecessors — the dramatic midnight police swoopdown on M Karunanidhi during Jayalalithaa rule in 2001, for instance. The police has claimed, after the Madras HC order, that it merely wanted to question Udhayanidhi, but the slew of charges in its FIR, filed with alacrity after the ruling party's complaint, suggests otherwise.

In the interval between Udhayanidhi's statement and the police action, his words were condemned across the political spectrum and by large sections of civil society. That should have been the beginning of a conversation on a broader coarsening of political rhetoric. Instead, the story is now one of executive overreach, with the DMK accusing the government of using the police to settle political scores. That's an own goal by a party and government on which many in Tamil Nadu pinned hopes for change.

Love me like AI does

IT CARRIES the pathos of a 21st-century tragedy, and an indictment even of modern dating. The machine, it appears, is acing the game of love. Given the overwhelming response to AI companionship, China has introduced regulations forbidding chatbots from cultivating emotional dependence, banning virtual romances with minors, and requiring companies to issue alerts when users display signs of emotional distress. These measures are not merely about taming an emerging technology. Against the backdrop of an ageing population — China's population declined for the fourth consecutive year in 2025, while the birth rate fell to a historic low — they also reflect an attempt to nudge people back towards relationships rooted in the real world.

Yet that is easier said than done. AI companions are engineered to be infinitely patient and emotionally fluent; unlike human beings, they possess the miraculous ability to say the right things at the the right moment. Not for them the awkwardness of forgotten birthdays, bitter misunderstandings, and tetchy exchanges that begin with "we need to talk". The algorithm offers companionship stripped of inconvenience or the uncomfortable possibility of rejection. In societies where loneliness is increasingly pervasive, such frictionless intimacy becomes formidable competition for the imperfect business of loving another person.

China is not alone in grappling with this reality. States such as New York and California in the US have introduced measures requiring chatbots to periodically disclose that they are not human. Such safeguards acknowledge a truth: As artificial companionship grows more persuasive, the real contest may not be between humans and machines, but relationships that demand vulnerability and those that promise affection without risk.

Seven years after August 5: Delaying J&K statehood undermines gains

AMITABH MATTOO

ANNIVERSARIES CAN often become rituals. Worse, they can become alibis. Seven years ago, Article 370 was abrogated, and the state of Jammu and Kashmir was reduced to two Union Territories. The constitutional argument around it is over. The law that Parliament passed received the imprimatur of the Supreme Court and has attained a measure of political finality. The bigger question is: Did the 2019 intervention achieve what was promised?

Three principal rationales were given in 2019 for the abrogation and downgrading of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. First, that Article 370 had taken on a psychological resonance well beyond its legal purport. It fed the idea of conditional integration and in doing so nurtured separatism. On this score, the record is significant. The separatist lexicon has clearly lost much of its sheen. The Hurriyat exists only on paper. Apart from the occasional sermon delivered by the Mirwaiz from the pulpit at Jama Masjid, little of the once all-pervasive separatist combine survives. Political parties that forecast a constitutional apocalypse have resumed electoral politics and elections are increasingly inclusive. Cycles of mass agitation once commonplace, the ecosystem of hartals, shutdowns and street violence that routinely brought life in the Valley to a halt have significantly abated, if not ended.

The absence of an uprising, however, is not the presence of belonging. Integration cannot be judged merely by quiet streets, tourist arrivals, cultural festivals, or the National Song and National Anthem being sung with ritualistic precision. Does the citizen fully feel that this is his or her republic, too: Equal, responsive, and unafraid to question?

Second, the arrangement held the promise of strengthening nationalist political forces while allowing the state to deal more aggressively with cross-border terrorism and home-grown militancy. There is no denying the substantial security gains. Terrorist networks have been disrupted; the organisational sinews of violence, much of it fuelled from across the border, have been – rightly — dealt with ruthlessness. Targeted killings continue, however, to be a reminder that operational stability is not yet political certainty. The Pakistan-sponsored terrorist attack on Baisaran in Pahalgam last year was just one reminder of that.

No less significant, the Assembly election in 2024, the first in 10 years, returned the National Conference to power. August 2019, and the delimitation that followed, did not yield the political realignment that was either expected or would have served the Centre's purposes best. That the Union government gracefully accepted the verdict of polls it did not win tells you something that no amendment to the Constitution can – Indian electoral democracy functions in Jammu and Kashmir, and its sovereignty there is not contingent on winning elections. Contrast that with the manipulated governance structures in POJK, and the mass uprising and repression being unleashed across the LOC.

Third, direct central rule was also meant to cleanse the state of long-entrenched networks of patronage and corruption, improve governance, and deliver development on the ground directly from New Delhi without local interference. It is here that the promise of 2019 remains most unfulfilled. Direct rule may have temporarily increased accountability, but the emergency dispensation has been allowed to settle into permanence. There is now an elected Chief Minister and cabinet in Jammu and Kashmir. But powers are scattered between them, the Lieutenant Governor and New Delhi. The Lieutenant Governor cannot be held accountable at the polls; the chief minister can but does not have the authority of a full state government. Both positions are diminished by this arrangement.

> The biggest concern is the youth. For years now Jammu and Kashmir has reported one of the highest youth unemployment rates in India, much higher than the national average

I spent much of my summer vacation this year in Srinagar, which once ranked among the most liveable cities in India. Today, traffic is a nightmare, construction unregulated, public spaces being systematically reduced, and the air citizens breathe is toxic. Smart cities are not made by decorative pavements or Instagram-worthy building facades while the citizen cannot move freely or breathe with dignity. Today, Srinagar is being mutilated in the name of development. If this is normalcy, it is normalcy without governance.

The biggest concern is the youth. For years now, Jammu and Kashmir has reported one of the highest youth unemployment rates in India, much higher than the national average. This is not just an economic crisis. It is potentially a political and social time-bomb. Employment in the state needs to be treated as a national security issue and not yet another bureaucratically disguised welfare programme.

The continued exile of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley remains a profound test. No claim of normalcy will be complete, or morally justified, until a community that was driven out by terror can return in safety and dignity. Return must not mean segregated colonies or merely employment "packages". It must be voluntary, and allowed to reclaim real, political, cultural, educational and social space instead of being announced by the government as yet another administrative "achievement". Kashmir without its Pandits is diminished; Pandits without the promise of being able to return to Kashmir remain prisoners of memory.

None of this is to deny what was gained. The permanent-resident regime that 35A entrenched — women forfeiting property on marrying outsiders, the refugees of 1947 stateless in all but name — created what was, in practice, a hierarchy of citizenship within a single republic. It is gone, and its defenders never did explain why autonomy required it. That is a real achievement, and it is precisely why the rest matters so much.

And that is why statehood can no longer be postponed. It is not a concession to separatism; it is the completion of integration. The Centre made it clear that the UT arrangement was meant to be temporary. The Supreme Court recorded the assurance that statehood will be restored at the earliest. Elections have since taken place. There is an elected government in place. Continuing to withhold statehood now will eat into the achievements of 2019. It demoralises those who participated in elections, estranges as many in Jammu as in Kashmir, and turns what was meant to be a temporary provision into a breach of trust.

The writer is dean, SIS, JNU and former Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu

Nolan's Odysseus remains unchanged, we remain unmoved

PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

FOR ALL its monsters, divine retribution and shipwrecks, *Odyssey* has always been a poem about an ordinary human longing: The desire to go home. But homecoming is never a simple reversal of departure — time transforms both the place one leaves behind and the person who left it. And so, every return arrives with an element of estrangement. One can cross the threshold of one's own house and still arrive as a stranger.

Which is why watching Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* feels oddlyunfulfilling. It is spectacular in its ambition, operatic in its vision of an extraordinary man overcoming impossible odds to reclaim his place in the world and at home. Unlike most Nolan films, it even allows its women their moments of assertion. But it leaves little emotional imprint because it refuses to engage with Odysseus in his complexity — notwithstanding the travails of his journey or the ravages of time, the Odysseus who returns to Ithaca after 20 long years in the film is essentially the same man who left it.

In the *London Review of Books*, classicist Emily Wilson, whose 2017 feminist interpretation of Odyssey has been cited by Nolan as one of his chief source materials, writes, "Nolan's Odyssey lacks many of the elements that make the poem great. It has nothing convincing to say about time, memory, history, war, or about the relationship between one warrior's glorious return and the lives of his family, adversaries, comrades, friends and neighbours. It lacks psychological, emotional, political and ethical depth."

Wilson's review has drawn criticism, including from writers such as Joyce Carol Oates, for being dismissive — especially as a translator — of alternative readings of the classic. But it is difficult to ignore her critique altogether. The point of an adaptation has always been to engage with the question: What does this story mean now? But, as with most of his films, be it *Memento* (2000), *The Dark Knight* (2006), or *Oppenheimer* (2023), Nolan reads the Homeric epic as a story of masculine perseverance.

Yet Odysseus is more than the sum total of his greatness. In every telling and every translation, he is a great man. But his charisma is matched by his manipulation, his compassion by his propensity for startling brutality. And, as with all epics born of oral tradition — and this is perhaps why Nolan's interpretation feels inadequate — he is also a storyteller. Homer invites us to admire his hero's ingenuity, but also to wonder what kind of a narrator he is. Odysseus survives not only because he is extraordinary but because his greatness precludes the ability to shape a narrative: What to reveal, what to conceal and how to cast himself in the best possible light. In that, both the epic and its hero are post-modern. Both are fascinated with the narrative itself, with the act and art of recounting the adventures at its core.

It makes *Odyssey* a poem about narrative authority, about whose account gets accepted as truth and whose voice is dismissed. The Homeric epic never entirely separates storytelling from self-mythologising. Much of Odysseus's adventures are revealed through his own telling. He is a man whose greatest talent lies in persuading others, and perhaps even himself, of the justness of his actions. He is the story's most accomplished spin doctor. It is this that makes the epic profoundly contemporary. We live in an age obsessed with narratives, with the idea of curated identities and personal brands. Questions about who controls the story increasingly determine who controls power and Homer asks, again and again, not who is the strongest, but who gets to tell the tale.

That complexity is largely absent from Nolan's version. Matt Damon's Odysseus joins the familiar gallery of Nolan protagonists, burdened by destiny, morally serious, defined by endurance, a Hollywood imagination of what stoicism entails. The result is an adaptation that is visually astonishing but intellectually narrow.

The greatest epics hold out because they throw up new questions for every generation, even as they refuse to settle into a singular interpretation. Nolan's film is a cinematic triumph, but in the end, it is the story of an uncomplicated man. It fails to move because it never stops to ask who ultimately gets to decide what home — and heroism — mean.

> Matt Damon's Odysseus joins the familiar gallery of Nolan protagonists, burdened by destiny, morally serious, defined by endurance, a Hollywood imagination of what stoicism entails

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Israel's October election complicates Gaza roadmap

R SWAMINATHAN

SINCE THE war in Iran began in February this year, the world has largely lost its focus on the devastating situation in Gaza. Though a ceasefire has been in force since October 10 of last year following the 20-point Trump peace plan, a continuous, low-intensity conflict has persisted in Gaza. Additionally, while the supply of food and medical aid to Gaza has increased, no progress has been made on reconstruction. The movement of Gazans through the Rafah border crossing into Egypt, its only outlet to the outside world, remains restricted. Israel has expanded its physical occupation of Gaza's territory from the 53 per cent agreed upon under the ceasefire framework beyond the Yellow Line, to more than 60 per cent.

While Hamas has managed to retain control over the 40 per cent of Gaza's territory where more than two million residents are concentrated, the collapse of the local economy and the shutdown of smuggling through the Egyptian tunnel network have dried up its revenue generation. External funding has ground to a halt; its chief patron, Iran, is consumed by the war with the US, Hezbollah's operational capacity in Lebanon has collapsed, and traditional donors like Qatar have been applying diplomatic pressure. Left unable to pay the salaries of its cadre and with its weapons stockpiles depleted by sustained Israeli attacks, Hamas has handed over local governance to the National Committee for the Administration of Gaza and agreed to surrender its heavy weaponry under a 15-point roadmap of the Board of Peace.

Besides elaborating how Hamas's disarmament and the decommissioning of its military infrastructure will be linked to a synchronised, phased withdrawal of IDF and clarifying that no Palestinian weapons would be transferred to Israel or to any non-Palestinian entity, the roadmap also contains some concessions to Hamas. Hamas will be able to retain privately owned firearms to be registered and licensed by NCAG, in addition to the retention of some of its police officers in the new setup, subject to vetting.

While Netanyahu has avoided criticising Trump's roadmap, his far-right coalition partners have been quick to dismiss an IDF withdrawal, stating their avowed policy of Israeli settlements in Gaza. The NCAG, waiting in Cairo for about six and a half months to enter Gaza and assume governance, has still not been given the necessary clearance by Israel. The requirement that member nations contribute $1 billion to secure a seat on the Board of Peace appears to have made no meaningful progress either.

Any immediate progress seems unlikely as elections are scheduled for October 27 in Israel. Netanyahu is trailing in the opinion polls and is also facing intense internal threats from his far-right partners. Having failed to prevent a potential agreement between the US and Iran, it is almost impossible for him to agree to specific territorial withdrawals, as he will not like to project weakness to the electorate. Netanyahu was also hoping for Trump's endorsement during his recent trip to Washington, but did not succeed. He was content in emphasising that it marked his seventh meeting with the President in just a year and a half.

Thus, while Hamas's agreement to disarm and relinquish the administration of Gaza is a critical milestone that place pressure on Israel to reciprocate, subsequent progress is expected to be rather slow.

> While Netanyahu has avoided criticising Trump's roadmap, his far-right coalition partners have been quick to dismiss an IDF withdrawal, stating their avowed policy of Israeli settlements

The writer is former ambassador of India to Egypt and former Permanent Representative of India to the Arab League

40 YEARS AGO
August 5, 1986

INDIAN EXPRESS
C'wealth mini-summit breaks down
UK's limited offer rejected
60 feared drowned in Bihar

Thatcher isolated

THE COMMONWEALTH mini-summit broke down, with a totally isolated British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, declining to fall in line with the other six participants to implement the programmes of economic sanctions against South Africa listed in the Nassau accord. "It was six against one", a conference source said.

Jayewardene hints at war

THE GOVERNMENT would be compelled to take military action to resolve the ethnic crisis if peace negotiations failed,said Sri Lankan President J R Jayawardene. He also allayed the fears of the people who thought the provincial councils' proposal would threaten the country's unitary nature.

Gundu Rao's new party

FORMER CHIEF minister Gundu Rao's new party will be called the Indian National Congress (Indira Gandhi) and will be launched at a convention at the historic Glass House in Lal Bagh on August 22. The expelled Congress-I leader said that Pranab Mukherjee, another party leader expelled by the high command, Sisir Bose, a prominent Congress-I rebel from West Bengal, and Ashok Bhattacharya, leader of the opposition in the Tripura Assembly, and another party rebel, would attend the convention.

Pakistan PM on Kashmir

THE PAKISTAN Prime Minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said Pakistan would agree to a political solution to the Kashmir issue in light of the resolutions of the United Nations and the Shimla agreement.

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

Israel has closed all avenues of peacefully resolving the Palestine question.

— Dawn, Pakistan

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As Gen Z leads change in Subcontinent, is Pakistan doomed to be the exception?

C RAJA MOHAN

ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

ACROSS SOUTH Asia, Generation Z has emerged as an unexpected force in politics. Over the last few years, students and youth in Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka have driven unprecedented political change. In India too, the political consequences of an increasingly assertive Gen Z could be profound over the longer term. What about Pakistan? Will it forever remain the Subcontinent's exception?

Pakistan has the same youthful demographics as the rest of the region, and even deeper economic anxieties. Yet its youth has struggled to shape the country's political trajectory. The army's pervasive dominance and extensive control have made popular mobilisation exceptionally difficult. Change still appears to come from the top; the army remains the principal source of political change. While the rest of South Asia debates how young citizens are reshaping politics, Pakistan is once again discussing Rawalpindi's power grab dressed up as reform.

The latest debate was triggered by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi's declaration that Pakistan's system of governance had effectively collapsed and required a sweeping overhaul. If he were an ordinary political figure, Naqvi's call for radical reform would have been dismissed as loose talk. Coming from Rawalpindi's current civilian subordinate, however, Naqvi's remarks deserve close attention.

It is evident that Pakistan's military establishment is contemplating not merely another intervention in politics but a redesign of the state. No authoritative draft of a revised political structure is in the public domain. Yet the direction is unmistakable. The discussion reportedly ranges from breaking up the existing provinces into smaller units and revising fiscal federalism in favour of the Centre to vesting greater authority in the army leadership and its preferred technocrats.

This represents an important evolution in Pakistan's political history. Ayub Khan, Yahya Khan, Ziaul Haq and Pervez Musharraf all interrupted constitutional politics through military coups. General Asim Munir is pursuing something more ambitious: Institutionalising military predominance within the constitutional framework itself.

The confidence behind this project has been reinforced by the new White House warmth towards Asim Munir. The Anglo-American media that only a short while ago was pleading the case for the release of Imran Khan, jailed by Munir, is now celebrating the self-promoted field marshal as a strategic genius. Anglo-American support has always emboldened Rawalpindi to tighten its grip over Pakistan's polity and society.

The more interesting question, however, is not what Munir wants or what the Anglo-Americans like. It is whether Pakistan's civilian politicians are once again preparing to help the generals consolidate power and write their own political death warrant. In their endless internecine struggles, Pakistan's civilian parties have repeatedly turned to the army to gain advantage over one another. That allowed Rawalpindi to install and uninstall civilian governments at will. Had the civilian parties chosen collective action over short-term partisan gain, they could have pushed the army back into the barracks long ago.

> In their endless internecine struggles, Pakistan's civilian parties have repeatedly turned to the army to gain advantage over one another. That allowed Rawalpindi to install and uninstall civilian governments at will

There was one brief moment of hope. In 2006, Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif signed the Charter of Democracy. Having both experienced repeated military interventions, they recognised that democracy could survive only if civilian parties stopped inviting the army into their partisan battles.

The moment did not last. Both the Pakistan People's Party and the Pakistan Muslim League soon reverted to the familiar temptation of seeking tactical advantage over each other. Later, Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf repeated the same mistake, initially benefiting from military patronage before becoming its victim.

That pattern is now set to repeat itself as the army shows the door to the current civilian government. The generals may design the blueprint, but they still need the civilian parliament to approve it. But the prospects of a united opposition to the Army's project appear bleak. Pakistan's missing Gen Z movement reinforces this imbalance. The country has no shortage of youthful anger. But the Army's instrumentalisation of religious nationalism and the ever-expanding state control over society have prevented that frustration from coalescing into a nationwide democratic movement comparable to those witnessed elsewhere in South Asia.

The Pakistan army is well placed to get what it wants. Yet Rawalpindi's ability to deliver positive change is limited. The reforms pushed by the army over the decades have been less about strengthening institutions than about concentrating greater authority in its own hands. The justification remains the same — that civilian politicians are corrupt and incompetent.

While the army's political power has steadily expanded, its capacity to generate broader social and economic gains has always fallen short. History offers many examples of authoritarian regimes that have delivered sustained economic growth. Pakistan is not one of them. Despite privileged ties with the world's leading economic powers, the US and now China, and close association with the oil-rich Gulf states, Pakistan has been on the path of economic decline over the last three decades.

There is little evidence to suggest that giving still greater authority to the field marshal will produce dramatically different outcomes. Pakistan's civilian leaders surely know this, but can they summon the will for collective action? While there is a murmur of dissent against Munir's plans, few would bet on Pakistan's political parties to prevail.

Pakistan's predicament offers a wider lesson. If there is no meaningful resistance to the dominant political force and its regressive ideology, societies have to endure prolonged stagnation and repeated humiliation. Resistance certainly imposes immediate costs. Yet it is also the mechanism through which institutions recover their balance and political systems renew themselves.

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Bringing up miniature citizens & Jantar Mantar pushback

ASHOK LAL AND NASEERUDDIN SHAH

FOR CENTURIES, Japanese masters have perfected the art of the miniature. They take the wild, untamed potential of a majestic tree, prune its shoots, and wrap its branches in rigid copper wire. The result is a domesticated object, an ornamental dwarf, small enough to sit on a drawing-room table without ever threatening to crack the walls.

What Japan does to flora, the modern Indian state machinery is now doing to human potential. First, the state starves the roots, allowing the physical body of the child to wither through structural neglect. Then, for those children who manage to survive, the state prunes away the capacity for critical thought, wrapping the developing mind in the copper wires of myth, conformity, and sanitised history. The ultimate goal of this political project is to transform a canopy of free-thinkers into citizens who are docile enough to never challenge power.

Let us take the case of Gujarat, a region frequently touted as an ideal developmental model. Gujarat's Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) stands at 20 deaths per 1,000 live births, while in Uttar Pradesh it sits at a staggering 37. Before an Indian child can even learn to read, their physical survival is a high-stakes gamble against state apathy. For the children who beat the heavy odds of infant mortality and chronic malnutrition, the education system designed by the state acts as a massive sieve. It drops millions of students out of formal learning before they can ever develop deep roots of intellectual questioning.

In Gujarat, the secondary school dropout rate sits at 16.9 per cent. This crisis is worsened by the grim reality of over 1,600 government primary schools operating with only a single teacher. In UP, the educational cliff-edge is even steeper. Driven largely by the massive closure of public schools, a minuscule 3 per cent of Uttar Pradesh's 2.6 lakh schools offer a continuous path of education from Class I through to Class XII. The modern state treats a child's health as an unnecessary financial expense, and their intellect as a direct threat.

The most insidious pruning, however, is reserved for those who manage to stay in the classroom. The near-total erasure of the Mughal period from state-approved textbooks is a prime example. In doing so, the state deprives the child of understanding the phenomenal philosophical, artistic, and literary strides that defined early modern India.

Crucially, it removes the study of how a vast, multi-religious empire was held together through institutional negotiation. This history illuminated the architecture of diversity, showing how the ruling class was built as a multicultural mosaic to prevent majoritarian or singular factional capture. Removing this narrative is an amputation of institutional memory of pluralistic statecraft.

The historical consensus on the unique, collaborative, and fiercely debated contributions of figures like Gandhi, Nehru, Patel, and Maulana Azad too is being systematically dismantled. Gandhi's radical, lifelong pursuit of communal harmony has been heavily toned down. Nehru, the main architect of India's modern scientific temper, secular statehood, and industrial planning, is routinely airbrushed out of the history of the very public institutions he built. Azad, a towering intellectual and India's first education minister, has had his name quietly excised from key historical references.

By removing the intense debates and the absolute diversity of thought within the freedom struggle, the state ensures that a child never learns how a pluralistic democracy is negotiated.

How can we truly build a modern knowledge economy on such a foundation? The country desperately needs an educational landscape deeply rooted in what Tagore famously called the "freedom of mind". Classrooms must actively celebrate dissent, foster rigorous comparative historical analysis, and re-establish unyielding adherence to the scientific temper. Only when we stop pruning our children's natural curiosity and start investing fundamentally in both their physical well-being and their intellectual liberty will the next generation grow to its natural, expansive height. Only then can they cast a wide and protective shade across the future of the republic.

Encouragingly, the Gen Z movement is already reclaiming their right to grow into citizens who can think horizontally. They are connecting the dots between systemic health deficits and policy failures, whilst actively questioning the ideological rewrite of their own past. In response, the state is employing oppressive measures. This struggle highlights a defiant generation refusing to be minimised and actively demanding the space to grow.

Lal is a playwright and a poet. Shah is a theatre and film actor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A rethink needed

BARELY NINE months after his fledgling JSP was routed in the Bihar Assembly elections, Prashant Kishor stormed a BJP bastion with a thumping victory in the Bankipur bypoll. He challenged the BJP in its fort, winning the seat that's considered its stronghold since 1995. It is a loss that comes on the heels of the Gen Z protests in the national capital ('The outsider is in: Patna sends a message via PK,' *IE*, August 4). For the BJP, losing the Bankipur bypoll goes beyond the typical loss of a stronghold and should prompt a probe into internal issues and a reassessment of the electorate's changed demographic profile.

S S Paul, Nadia

What BJP must do

DESPITE THE turbulence having subsided for the time being, the leaders of the Cockroach Janta Party have warned that they will gather for the protest again if demands are not fulfilled ('What remains of Jantar Mantar after the crowds have gone home,' *IE*, August 4). The BJP government should initiate reform, prioritising transparency, ethical practice, and corruption-free functioning in education, police, judiciary, and other areas of governance. They must involve Gen Z, NGOs, and prominent members of civil society to achieve efficiency and accountability. The reforms should be meaningful and effective, and for the long run.

Subhash Vaid, New Delhi

The migrant question

SPAIN REMAINS one of the principal gateways to Europe, experiencing sustained migratory pressures that extend well beyond its national borders ('In Spain's migrant crisis, fuel for Europe's far right,' *IE*, August 4). As migration is inherently transnational, the challenge cannot be addressed by Spain in isolation. It requires closer cooperation with the European Union, neighbouring Mediterranean states, and countries of origin and transit to develop coordinated migration policies.

Vaibhav Goyal, Chandigarh

Why must people be poor in a state rich with minerals?

BABULAL MARANDI

JHARKHAND POSSESSES nearly 40 per cent of India's mineral wealth, yet many of its mining districts remain among the country's least developed. For decades, coal, iron ore, bauxite and limestone have fuelled India's economic growth, while the communities living closest to these resources have continued to struggle with poor healthcare, inadequate schools, damaged roads, polluted environments and shrinking livelihood opportunities.

It was this contradiction that prompted the Centre to establish the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) in 2015. PM Narendra Modi had argued that mining-affected communities bear the greatest social and environmental costs of extraction but receive the least share of its benefits. DMFT sought to correct this imbalance by ensuring that a portion of mining revenues was reinvested in the welfare of those living in mining-affected areas. Unfortunately, that promise remains largely unfulfilled.

I recently travelled through West Singhbhum, including the Saranda mining belt, and witnessed first-hand the widening gap between the district's immense mineral wealth and the condition of its people. West Singhbhum, home to some of India's richest iron ore reserves, should have been a model of inclusive development. Between 2016 and 2026, nearly Rs 3,700 crore accumulated under its DMFT. Such resources could have transformed Saranda and surrounding mining villages through better hospitals, schools, drinking water systems, roads and livelihood programmes. Instead, what I saw were struggling local markets, shrinking economic activity, unemployed youth and communities asking a simple question: Where has the money gone?

The DMFT Rules require every district to make annual reports, budgets, approved works, project progress, governing council decisions, and beneficiary details publicly available. Yet, across Jharkhand, these disclosures are either missing, outdated or inaccessible. Mining-affected communities, for whom the fund was created, have little means of knowing how thousands of crores collected in their name have actually been spent. In Jamda, once a bustling mining township, local traders spoke of declining incomes. Several mining leases expired years ago. As mines shut down, employment disappeared. The effects spread far beyond mine workers. Transport operators lost business, roadside eateries emptied, shops struggled to survive, and young people increasingly migrated in search of work.

> Odisha's mineral resources are less than half of Jharkhand's. Yet in 2025-26, Odisha generated nearly Rs 46,000 crore in mining revenue compared with Jharkhand's Rs 22,000 crore

Cross the border into Barbil in neighbouring Odisha, barely 20 km away, and the contrast is striking. The geology is identical. The mineral deposits are the same. What differs is governance. Odisha ensured timely auctions after mining leases expired. Jharkhand hesitated. The consequences are visible in the numbers. Since 2019-20, India has auctioned 434 mineral blocks. Odisha auctioned 45, Chhattisgarh 41, while Jharkhand auctioned only three, despite being the country's richest mineral-bearing state. The production gap is equally revealing. Between 2018-19 and 2024-25, Odisha's iron ore production increased from around 120 million tonnes to nearly 180 million tonnes. Jharkhand's production remained almost unchanged at approximately 23 million tonnes.

Revenue tells an even more compelling story. Odisha's mineral resources are less than half of Jharkhand's. Yet in 2025-26, Odisha generated nearly Rs 46,000 crore in mining revenue compared with Jharkhand's Rs 22,000 crore.

Delayed auctions reduce production. Lower production means lower royalty collections. Lower royalties translate into reduced contributions to DMFT. Mining-affected villages receive fewer resources precisely because the mining economy itself has been allowed to stagnate. The debate around DMFT, therefore, is not merely about financial accounting; it is about restoring trust. Before organising new investment summits or announcing ambitious industrial plans, the state must first demonstrate that it can effectively manage the resources it already possesses.

The writer is Jharkhand's first Chief Minister and currently the Leader of the Opposition in the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly

The return of the writer to her home away from home

PRASKANVA SINHARAY

TASLIMA NASRIN'S visit to Kolkata is a significant event for Bengal politics. She has been living in exile for more than three decades since Islamic fundamentalist groups in Bangladesh targeted her for her critical writings on religious texts and political fundamentalism, and issued fatwas after the publication of her acclaimed novel *Lajja* (1993). Nasrin acquired Swedish citizenship after Bangladesh revoked her passport, and kept on shuttling between countries. But she constantly expressed her wish to stay in India, closer to her homeland. She has been repeatedly attacked by right-wing Islamist groups and Hindu nationalist forces.

Her return to the city she identifies as "home away from home" after 19 years, to speak at a public meeting, is not only important for the ruling BJP government in West Bengal, but it also raises larger questions about religious majoritarianism.

Nasrin had to leave West Bengal in 2007 when the Left Front was in power. The inability of the secular Left government to ensure her safety and maintain law and order in the face of agitations by religious fundamentalists was widely criticised. The subsequent TMC government also could not bring her back to the city. Both the Left and the TMC governments were accused of minority appeasement and giving in to the assertions of Islamic fundamentalists by failing to accommodate the writer-activist in a state with a significant Muslim population. Nasrin's return after almost two decades is now an opportunity for the Hindu nationalist BJP to portray itself as capable of leading a strong government that can ensure the security of the feminist writer-in-exile from Islamic fundamentalist forces.

This is evident from the chain of events surrounding her arrival in the city. Billboards were put up in the streets, and people blew conch shells to welcome the writer at the airport; her visit was reported by some media houses as "*ghar wapsi*" (homecoming), and the BJP MLA Sourav Sikdar called her visit a testament to the party's electoral slogan "*bhoy* out, *bhorosa* in" (fear out, confidence in).

> This is a moment to revisit Nasrin's life and writings, which foreground larger questions about democracy and freedom of speech

The presence of the chief minister, Suvendu Adhikari, at Nasrin's public meeting at Rabindra Sadan further points to the likely use of this visit by the BJP leadership as a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it is a chance for the BJP government to craft a liberal image by comparing itself with its predecessors, whom it accuses of minority appeasement. On the other hand, the BJP is likely to cite the case of Nasrin, as it has done before, as an example to essentialise and vilify Muslim culture and politics as anti-women and regressive.

Nasrin's visit to Kolkata and the celebrations around it thus present an old and known paradox. A writer who has been a victim of religious majoritarianism in her homeland finds a safe haven in a country also witnessing majoritarian rule. This is, therefore, a moment to revisit Nasrin's life and writings, which foreground larger questions about democracy and freedom of speech, "secular humanism", and notions of home and exile. Nasrin has been an ardent advocate against religious majoritarianism and has unequivocally criticised all religious texts, labelling them as "out of place and out of time". Humanism, she has argued, should be the "new faith". Her visit to Kolkata is not a story of party politics, of *bhoy* and *bharosa*, but the tale of the return of the writer-activist who stands against religious fundamentalism and majoritarian politics.

The writer is a political scientist based in New Delhi

Extradition push: 274 fugitives returned to India since 2021

Mahender Singh Manral
New Delhi, August 4

INDIA HAS brought back 274 fugitive criminals from 36 countries since 2021, marking a sharp escalation in extradition and deportation efforts.

The Centre has made the return of fugitives a national priority, combining legal reforms, international cooperation, intelligence coordination and technology-driven tracking to pursue offenders wanted in terrorism, organised crime, narcotics, cyber fraud, financial offences and serious crimes such as murder, rape and offences under the POCSO Act.

Amit Shah, minister of Home Affairs, has repeatedly described fugitive offenders as a challenge linked not only to law and order, but also to India's sovereignty, economic stability and national security, a MHA spokesperson said in a statement.

"Before 2014, India's extradition framework was marked by outdated procedures, limited treaty coverage and weak inter-agency coordination. India then had extradition treaties with only 37 countries, while around 110 extradition requests were pending. Between 2004 and 2013, India secured the extradition of only four fugitives a year on average," the spokesperson said.

The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018, was among the first major steps to address this gap. "The law allowed authorities to proceed against economic offenders who had fled the country and to attach and confiscate their assets..." the spokesperson said.

After 11-month ordeal, 32-yr-old finally ruled as an 'Indian' by HC

Rafikul Biswas was detained in Bengaluru on suspicion of being a 'Bangladeshi', case continued even after West Bengal certified he was a resident

Mustafa Plumber & Atiya Firdos
Bengaluru, August 4

THE ORDEAL of over 11 months of Bengaluru-based Rafikul Biswas ended finally on Tuesday after the Election Commission told the Karnataka High Court that the EPIC (voter I-card) issued to him after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) held in the state was "genuine", and that his family had been residing in India for "generations".

Detained on the suspicion of being a Bangladeshi national in September last year, Biswas, 32, spent two months in detention, only getting out on medical grounds. He has struggled to prove his identity since, despite the West Bengal government certifying that he is an Indian, and him and his family clearing the arduous SIR test in the state.

On Tuesday, Justice Suraj Govindaraj took on record the memo filed by Additional Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, and quashed the detention order against Biswas, saying, "... the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) would not have any jurisdiction on the petitioner and the order (detention) dated 29-08-2025, would not be sustainable".

Biswas told *The Indian Express:* "I couldn't be happier. It finally feels like I belong. It feels as though Bengaluru is mine."

His advocate Clifton D Rozario said: "This is an important case, where a detention order issued to an Indian citizen, on the erroneous allegation that he is Bangladeshi, has been quashed."

Biswas worked as a school bus driver and a scrap dealer when he was detained by the Bengaluru police, on allegations that he was a Bangladeshi national. Police produced a birth certificate and an identity document with Biswas's photograph, certifying him as a Bangladeshi.

Days into his detention, Biswas was hospitalized following a heart attack. On December 19, he suffered from another cardiac episode, and was released on medical grounds.

On directions of the court, enquiries were conducted by the Superintendent of Police, Krishnagar Police District, Nadia, and Block Development Officer, Nadia, in October 2025, after which they said Biswas is an Indian citizen by birth.

During the SIR held in West Bengal earlier this year, Biswas got a fresh voter ID card along with his other relatives.

In January this year, the West Bengal government, then led by the Trinamool Congress, filed a report based on inquiries by two different state agencies, saying that documents on record as well as the fact that Biswas and his family had cleared the SIR meant his claims of being an Indian were right.

During the SIR held in West Bengal earlier this year, Rafikul Biswas got a fresh voter ID card along with his other relatives. EXPRESS FILE

But, on July 14, Biswas ran into another hurdle, when counsel for the West Bengal government sought time to "seek instructions", citing the fact that there was a new party in power in the state, namely the BJP. "I have instructions that the new authorities want to review the document submitted before the court," the counsel said, adding that this didn't mean they would "be filing a contradictory report".

Not amused, Justice Govindaraj slammed the West Bengal government: "How many times do you need time? Not fair. You are wasting the court's time and everybody's time."

Rozario also contested the government's stand. "Can my citizenship depend on the vagaries of who is in power in a particular state? This is extremely dangerous," he said.

On July 23, Central government counsel Aditya Singh, representing the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), submitted that discrepancies remained in Biswas's records. While his earlier voter I-card mentioned his date of birth as 1986, his new one said it was 1994, Singh said, adding that the ECI be called to clarify.

The Bench agreed, telling the ECI to state if the voter I-card produced by Biswas now was genuine. At the same time, it observed: "Is your submission that the SIR conducted is faulty?... If the SIR was conducted properly and this is the voter ID card issued, you are bound by it, and we are also bound by it. You cannot continuously make these submissions... There has to be a limit to something."

The ECI's submission on Tuesday followed this hearing.

'A decade lost in a day'

While relieved that the shadow over him has lifted, Biswas said that all that he had built over the past decade in Bengaluru was destroyed "in a single day" when he was arrested. "I used to work as a school bus driver, and the school removed me because they believed I was a Bangladeshi," he said.

His scrap godown and the house he was living in were also attacked, Biswas added. "Those who did so wanted me to leave. They thought they would win if I left. But I belong here. I am an Indian."

But, he was haunted by fear. "I was afraid that police would question me again or that goons would attack me, my family or friends. I had no money. Somehow we survived... Rebuilding will take years."

Biswas also talks about his acquaintances back home in Bengal being "harassed" and facing repeated questioning on the suspicion of being Bangladeshis. "Today it was me; tomorrow it could be one of my friends."

R Kaleem Ullah, the national vice-president of the All India Shramik Swaraj Kendra, said the High Court's order had restored justice to an innocent man. "With Independence Day approaching, Rafikul has one more reason to celebrate. In many ways, he has got his own independence."

'No third-party insurance, no fuel': SC asks Centre for vehicle pilot project

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, August 4

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday said it is "shocked" to learn that nearly 56% of all vehicles plying on Indian roads do not have valid insurance, and asked the government to plan a pilot project to link fuel for vehicles at petrol pumps with their insurance status.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and P K Mishra said the direction should "be enforced through the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) and IRDA (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).

The court was hearing an appeal which flagged lack of compliance with Section 146 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which requires all vehicles to have a valid insurance policy covering third parties. The bench also considered whether there should be a uniform motor vehicle policy structure covering all occupants of a vehicle, in addition to the statutorily mandated coverage of third-party risks.

Writing for the bench, Justice Karol said: "As deliberated upon in court, the IRDA in consultation with the MoRTH to deliberate and evolve a pilot project whereby fuel for vehicles to be linked with valid insurance status. In the absence thereof, the vehicle concerned would be refused fuel at petrol pumps until such time that valid insurance is obtained."

The court said "the benefit therein is two-fold" — it will assist in identification of uninsured or unregistered vehicles and also prompt the owners of these vehicles to ensure that they have valid insurance status. "Such projects would ensure ground-level compliance with the statutory mandate of Section 146 of the MVA," said the bench.

The bench said this may be done through the use of ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) cameras and noted that "the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has, in principle, no objection to the same".

The court further directed that "a pilot project be implemented allowing citizens to verify insurance status, and ultimately assist in the implementation of the statutory mandate under the MV Act". The bench said this will allow citizens to know whether the vehicle they are travelling in or sending goods in or transporting employees has valid insurance and also allow for prompt reporting of uninsured vehicles.

The bench noted that though it had issued directions in July 2018 mandating purchase of third-party insurance for three years for new cars and five years for two wheelers at the time of purchase/registration of new vehicles, a large number of vehicles remained uninsured even though eight years had passed.

The court said it is "in the interest of road safety that the period be enhanced by one year" and "directed that henceforth, third-party insurance for four years for new cars and six years for new two-wheelers be required to be purchased". It asked IRDA to immediately issue necessary directions.

UP ASSEMBLY MONSOON SESSION

SP pushes for debate on donation 'theft', BJP says no party worker named by SIT

Maulshree Seth
Lucknow, August 4

AFTER THE Samajwadi Party sought an urgent debate on Tuesday in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly linking the ruling party to the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the BJP sought to distance itself from the issue, saying no party worker or leader was named in the report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the purported embezzlement.

In its first clear response to the Opposition's allegations over the controversy, the ruling party accused the principal Opposition party of attempting to "spread confusion" around the issue.

The SP moved to bring the issue — politically sensitive for the BJP, which has placed the construction of the Ram Temple at the centre of its political and ideological narrative — into the Assembly, demanding an urgent debate over the issue of "faith".

As soon as the House convened on the second day of the Monsoon session on Tuesday, Leader of Opposition Mata Prasad Pandey demanded an immediate discussion on the alleged theft of donations, demanding that the matter be taken up before any other business of the House.

Pandey questioned why an issue involving donations offered by devotees to the Ram Temple should not be discussed on priority and pressed the government for answers over the alleged theft.

Speaker Satish Mahana, however, rejected the demand for an immediate discussion, saying there was no urgency warranting it. It was after the Speaker's rejection that the Opposition party sharpened its attack, with its legislators entering the Well of the House and repeatedly raising slogans, seeking to turn allegations concerning the donations into a direct attack on the BJP government.

It was against this backdrop that Parliamentary Affairs Minister and senior BJP leader Suresh Khanna responded to the Opposition's attempt to link the party to the alleged theft.

"*Jo SIT report aayi hai, usmein BJP ke ek bhi vyakti, kisi bhi karyakarta ko aaropi nahi paya gaya hai* (In the SIT report, not a single BJP functionary or worker has been named as an accused)," Khanna told the House, accusing the Opposition of trying to create a "misleading political narrative" around the investigation. "These people spread confusion," he said.

Meanwhile, SP MLA Sachin Yadav, 42, was suspended by Speaker Satish Mahana for the entire session for displaying a picture of CM Yogi Adityanath during a protest against the alleged donation theft.

EXPRESS special

Siddhivinayak Temple 'theft': It began with a probe into a VVIP queue racket

Apoorva Agashe & Alok Deshpande
Mumbai, August 4

AS MAHARASHTRA is roiled by its own temple theft allegations, it may have all begun with something far smaller – a probe into complaints that some staffers of Mumbai's Siddhivinayak Temple were taking money from devotees to slip them into the VVIP 'darshan' queue.

The sum involved in the alleged scandal has since been climbing, as the Opposition spots an opportunity against the BJP, which is already on the back foot over the Ayodhya temple donation theft. MNS chief Raj Thackeray, who has taken the lead, puts the figure siphoned off at "Rs 18 crore every year".

The authorities at Siddhivinayak Temple – one of Maharashtra's richest and most visited, with thousands coming daily and lakhs during festivals – however, maintain that the accused have been caught and the theft checked.

Temple trustee Rahul Londhe said they stumbled upon the alleged theft when he and other trust members, who had taken over in late 2023, were scanning CCTV footage to identify employees involved in taking money for VIP darshan. "We scrutinized several CCTV cameras and found that some employees were stealing from the donation box. We alerted the police and they arrested the accused," Londhe said.

A view of the Siddhivinayak Temple in Mumbai. AKASH PATIL

Earlier this year, he added, suspicions rose again as the trustees were puzzled by the fact that donation collections remained flat even as devotee numbers rose.

Shiv Sena leader and Trust President Sada Sarvankar told The Indian Express that they observed the donation figures for months before he and another trustee, Bhaskar Shetty, decided to approach the Anti Corruption Bureau for help. "Vishwas Nangre-Patil, who was in-charge (of the bureau at that time), provided us with a few men to inspect the possibility of theft."

While they didn't find anything suspicious initially, Sarvankar said, they kept up their vigil on the advice of the investigators. The focus was narrowed to the weekly donation counting process, he said and soon, during one session, a CCTV camera was found blocked.

In March this year, temple employee Rajendra Pendurkar was caught allegedly removing cash from a donation box kept in the priests' room, while authorised representatives were absent. Further scrutiny, the trustees said, revealed that several other employees were doing the same. "It is impossible that a single person will work on this alone. We traced the racket and found eight others... Along with these, another 19 employees have been suspended for activities such as taking money to give quick darshan etc," Londhe said.

An FIR regarding this was registered at Dadar Police Station on March 20. Police subsequently recovered Rs 80,000 and said CCTV footage showed individuals repeatedly removing cash from a small donation box over about 10 days. The eight people who were arrested are out on bail, with a chargesheet filed in the case.

The trust believes the "racket" was running for at least six months before it was detected, an inference Londhe said they drew from the rise in donation collections after the scam was uncovered.

On paper, the process to secure donations is elaborate. Around 30 donation boxes are opened weekly, on Wednesdays. Each is then sealed with the signatures of the financial officer and the executive officer; emptied under a senior administrative officer's supervision; counted in the presence of select employees, a government-appointed deputy executive officer and bank representatives; and finally, the cash deposited in a bank immediately after.

The figure of Rs 18 crore annual theft is contested by the temple, neither does it appear in either the March 20 FIR or the chargesheet. Raj Thackeray's argument is that weekly donations before the alleged theft was detected were below Rs 50 lakh. After the arrests and tighter monitoring, these reportedly rose to around Rs 1.5 crore. His sum is an extrapolation of that roughly Rs 1 crore weekly jump, over a year.

Police sources said that as far as they are concerned, the matter is over. "We arrested eight individuals, all had siphoned off Rs 10,000 each. A chargesheet has been filed. If the temple trust feels the case needs to be re-investigated, they can approach the court," a senior official at the Dadar Police Station said.

Report: Only 30% urban households under AMRUT have sewerage connection

Damini Nath
New Delhi, August 4

ONLY ABOUT 30 per cent of urban households under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), the Centre's flagship civic infrastructure scheme, have sewerage connection, read a report presented by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs on Tuesday.

Of the 11.32 crore urban households, as per the City Water Balance Plans (2025), only 3.44 crore had sewerage connections, while 2.84 crore have septage systems.

"The data also revealed significant inter-State variations in sanitation infrastructure, with Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar reporting a greater dependence on septage systems than on sewer networks," the report read.

Under AMRUT (2015-2021, covering 500 cities) and AMRUT 2.0 (from 2021 till now, covering all cities), a total of 7.4 crore urban households have been connected to sewerage and septage systems, the report further read.

The report of the committee, chaired by TDP legislator Magunta Sreenivasulu Reddy, also flagged the slow progress of sewerage projects. Of the 59,261.67 km network that's approved, only 27,418.87 km have been laid so far.

"Out of the total 8,743 projects approved under AMRUT 2.0, only 594 projects, with an approved cost of Rs 68,309.90 crore, pertain to sewerage and septage management, accounting for about 6.79 per cent of the total number of projects... only 104 (or 17.51 per cent) have been completed, while 398 (67 per cent) are still under implementation," the report read.

"Further, 502 projects (84.51 per cent) have reached the awarded stage and 38 projects (6.40 per cent), involving an approved cost of Rs 7,564.03 crore, remain at the tender stage," the report further read.

The data provided by the Ministry also revealed that Rs 22,762.99 crore out of the total Rs 66,059.53 committed as central assistance has been released so far.

The committee recommended that the Ministry set up a database of existing sewerage network, functional status and household connectivity gaps, and carry out periodic assessments. It also recommended that manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks should be eliminated.

The AMRUT 2.0 mission period has been extended till March 31, 2027.

How Vijay may have given Udhayanidhi what dynasty never could

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, August 4

FOR PERHAPS the first time in his political life, Udhayanidhi Stalin did not look like the son of a former chief minister. He looked like an Opposition politician.

As police escorted him out of his residence in Neelankarai on Tuesday after remarks directed at Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay over the Cauvery water row, the images were striking not because Tamil Nadu had witnessed an arrest, but because of the character in the frame.

Until recently, Udhayanidhi occupied the safest address in Tamil Nadu politics — MLA, Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and political heir. Every chapter of his public life unfolded within the architecture of power painstakingly built over decades by M Karunanidhi and, later, by M K Stalin.

Hardly three months ago, he walked into the Assembly not as the deputy chief minister everyone expected him to remain, but as Leader of the Opposition. Across the aisle sat Chief Minister Vijay.

The two men have known each other for years. Vijay was Udhayanidhi's senior at Loyola College. Later, the relationship continued inside Tamil cinema. Vijay became the larger-than-life star who built one of Indian cinema's greatest fan cultures through nearly three decades and around 70 films.

Udhayanidhi entered films later, producing and acting in roughly 20 films under the Red Giant banner, often portraying the amiable urban everyman rather than the invincible mass hero. Those who know them say Udhayanidhi always addressed Vijay with the deference reserved for a senior.

Yet the arrest, which comes a day before the Assembly session is set to begin, tells another story. The FIR invokes a wide range of provisions, including criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity, obscenity, criminal intimidation, provisions of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, and the Information Technology Act.

Former Tamil Nadu deputy chief minister Udhayanidhi Stalin being greeted by supporters after his arrest in Chennai on Tuesday. PTI

The controversy itself did not begin with the arrest, however; it began with Udhayanidhi's own words.

Addressing a protest over the Cauvery dispute, he criticised the government for failing to secure Tamil Nadu's share of water. Then came the interruption from the crowd shouting the name of an actress widely associated in public conversation with Vijay.

Udhayanidhi smiled, and then allegedly passed a sexually suggestive remark. He quickly issued a clarification, but it only amplified the laughter.

The protest had assembled around farmers, water and one of Tamil Nadu's oldest interstate disputes. Within seconds, the conversation had shifted from the Cauvery to innuendo.

Political wit is a dangerous instrument. When it succeeds, it punctures power. When it fails, it punctures the seriousness of the issue it seeks to defend. The Dravidian movement has never been uncomfortable with earthy political language. For decades, its public meetings were animated by platform speakers who mixed ideology with theatre, scholarship with satire, and politics with the idioms of everyday life. They were not merely politicians but performers, translating constitutional questions into the language of tea shops and village squares.

But Udhayanidhi cannot occupy that role. He is not a travelling platform speaker warming up a crowd before the principal leader arrives. He is the Leader of the Opposition and the principal political heir of the Dravidian movement itself. When he borrowed the language of a platform performer, the joke ceased to be merely a joke; it became the defining image of a protest that was meant to be about the Cauvery.

The criticism that followed came not merely from rivals but also from political voices outside the government. Even some who strongly opposed the arrest questioned whether the remark itself had diminished the dignity expected of the office he now holds.

For years, Udhayanidhi's critics argued that his political life had been too protected. That criticism may no longer hold.

For Tamil Nadu, that may be the larger story. Not that the former deputy CM was arrested. But that the heir has finally begun the slower, lonelier education called Opposition.

WHILE NRI INTEREST IN FCNR(B) DEPOSITS IS SKY-HIGH, RUPEE'S TRAJECTORY IS LIKELY TO BE MORE SEDATE

Inflows of $49 billion in 2 months, but no 2013-like boost for rupee

Siddharth Upasani
New Delhi, August 4

OVER JUNE and July, India has received $49 billion in the form of Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) deposits, two types of foreign loans, and net investment in government bonds. But the rupee has hardly budged: on Tuesday, it closed at 95.38 per dollar, just 0.4% stronger than where it stood on June 4, the day before the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced a raft of measures to boost foreign inflows.

Contrast this with 2013, when a similar concessional swap window for FCNR(B) deposits was announced. From 67.6-per-dollar on September 3, 2014 — the day before the incoming governor, Raghuram Rajan made the announcement — the rupee rose almost 10% to 61.7-per-dollar in the first 42 days of the scheme. "Such schemes work best when they are aimed at addressing local imbalances and adverse country-specific perceptions, not global risks," ANZ economists Sanjay Mathur and Dhiraj Nim said in a note on Friday, pointing to the re-escalation of the West Asia conflict and the consequent rise in oil prices and the dollar's strength.

Mismatch in numbers

The swap window for FCNR(B) deposits works like this: banks get dollar deposits and send them directly to the RBI in exchange for rupees. As such, these dollars don't enter the open market for foreign currencies and don't help in meeting the demand for them.

And the exchange rate is determined by the supply of and demand for dollars in the open market.

If the supply of dollars increases, that would reduce its price and strengthen the rupee, just like any item whose supply increases. Think of farmers dumping tomatoes or other farm produce by the truckload when a good harvest leads to a jump in supply and a price crash.

But if the dollars from the swap windows are going directly to the RBI, why is it not leading to a matching increase in the central bank's holdings of foreign currency assets (FCA)?

Between June 8 and July 17, Indian banks raised $17 billion of FCNR(B) deposits. Meanwhile, the central bank's holdings of FCA only rose by $7 billion or so.

Delays, forwards, hedges

One reason why the RBI's FCA did not rise at the same pace as inflows under the swap scheme is the operational delay. "In principle, while RBI provides weekly change in FCA every Friday, every bank has a designated time during the week to swap these FCNR(B) deposits with RBI and get equivalent rupee resources. Thus, it is entirely possible that FCNR(B) deposit numbers are being captured by RBI and become a part of FCA with a clear lag," said Soumya Kanti Ghosh, State Bank of India's Group Chief Economic Advisor. Then there are other routes where the dollars may be going. The reemergence of tensions between US and Iran over the second half of July weakened the rupee; this was countered by the RBI's dollar sales, which in turn would have offset some of the inflows.

This is called spot market intervention by the central bank. There is also the forward market. Selling dollars in this market allows the RBI to stop the rupee from falling without having to sell dollars immediately. And the RBI has been very active in this segment.

At the end of June, it had sold $103 billion on a net basis in the forward market. This means it must provide $103 billion in the future. Data shows $9 billion of this needs to be given in July itself. Maybe that's where some of the new inflows have gone. Banks, too, are playing a role in the reduced visible impact of FCNR(B) deposit inflows.

With the RBI only bearing the exchanging rate risk for the principal amount of these deposits, banks must protect their dollar interest payments from any currency risk. So, banks are hedging their interest payment-related exchange rate risk, which raises demand for dollars in the future — and puts pressure on the rupee.

Future of FCNR(B), rupee

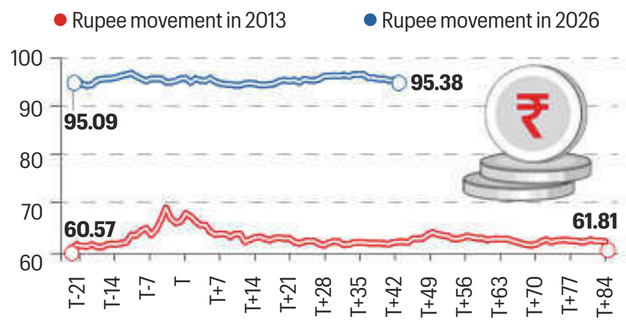
Non-residents' interest in FCNR(B) deposits cannot be understated. If the current pace holds and no new problems crop up, bankers expect NRIs to keep taking advantage of the 19x leverage they are being offered and potentially pour in as much as $75 billion by September 30, when the window ends.

According to an official at a private bank, NRIs are literally lining up to make these deposits. "For banks who are sporadically taking minimum deposits of $50,000, they will see people queue up. I heard this happened in SBI's GIFT City branch — people were actually standing in lines because it's such a good investment," an official at a bank who did not wish to be named, said. Many banks have a minimum deposit threshold of around $500,000.

While interest in FCNR(B) deposits is sky-high, the rupee's trajectory is likely to be more sedate. According to Tanvee Gupta Jain, UBS' Chief India Economist, shifting external conditions mean the rupee could end 2026-27 largely unchanged at around 96-per-dollar. This would reflect the balance between a "modestly improved near-term external outlook and persistent medium-term structural headwinds" such as the need to attract higher net Foreign Direct Investment, risks to IT services exports from AI-driven disruption, and a stronger dollar should the US Federal Reserve increase interest rates.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• 10% GAIN IN 2013 VS 0.4% NOW: FCNR(B) INFLOWS NOT STRENGTHENING RUPEE



Note: T refers to the day FCNR(B) swap window was announced in 2013 (September 4) and 2026 (June 5) **Source:** Investing.com

Why are indices diverging under new auction system?

Akash Mandal & George Mathew
Mumbai, August 4

The Closing Auction Session (CAS), introduced by stock exchanges on Monday for cash market stocks with derivatives, got off to an unexpected start. In its first two days, the NSE Nifty, the BSE Sensex and several stocks ended with divergent closing prices.

Instead of determining the closing price based on the volume-weighted average price (VWAP) of trades during the last 30 minutes of trading, the closing price is now discovered through a 20-minute auction held between 3:15PM and 3:35 PM. The move aims to improve transparency, strengthen price discovery and reduce the scope for price manipulation at the close. For stocks without derivatives, the existing volume-weighted average price mechanism continues.

After its introduction, Nifty showed a rise of 1.60% on Monday while the Sensex gained only 0.70%, showing a big gap in closing levels. This divergence was much more than the normal 5-10% difference previously.

On Tuesday, the difference narrowed — while NSE Nifty closed with a loss of 0.64%, the BSE Sensex showed a loss of 0.27%.

Why benchmarks diverged

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) shares closed lower by 1.22% on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) while it showed a loss of 2.13% on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Tuesday. ICICI Bank closed with a loss of 0.37% on the NSE while the private lander's stock was marginally up by 0.06% on the BSE. Infosys was down by 0.43% on the BSE but lower by 1.06% on the NSE.

The Sensex comprises 30 stocks, while the Nifty includes 50. The additional 20 stocks in the Nifty can have a meaningful impact on the index, particularly when they witness sharp price movements during the closing auction, an analyst said. Even among the stocks common to both indices, weightages differ.

Heavyweights such as Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank carry different weights in the Sensex and the Nifty. As a result, sharp gains in a few heavily weighted Sensex constituents can keep the index in positive territory even as the broader Nifty declines.

The difference is expected to narrow further in the coming days. "Both the exchanges have separate order books for CAS similar to the continuous trading session and hence, the prices of the individual stocks are also different. As the index is calculated based on the prices determined of the individual stocks, the index values can also be different," NSE said in an official note.

Old closing price system

The new CAS system fundamentally changes how the official closing prices of stocks with derivative contracts are determined. Until last week, the closing price — which serves as the benchmark for calculating the closing value of stock indices, valuing mutual fund portfolios, marking institutional holdings to market and settling derivatives contracts — was based on the volume-weighted average price (VWAP) of all trades executed during the final 30 minutes of the normal trading session. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) formally directed stock exchanges to introduce the CAS system through a circular issued on January 16, 2026.

The circular mandated exchanges to implement the new mechanism from August 3, 2026.

How does the auction work?

The CAS runs for 20 minutes, from 3:15PM to 3:35PM.

- 3:15PM to 3:20PM: The system calculates the reference price and shifts from normal trading to the auction session.
- 3:20PM to 3:25PM: Investors can place both market and limit orders.
- 3:25PM to 3:30PM: Only limited orders can be placed. Market orders cannot be modified or cancelled. The system closes order entry at a random time during the last two minutes (3:28 PM to 3:30PM) to prevent manipulation.
- After order entry closes: The exchange matches buy and sell orders to determine the final closing price.

The closing price is determined using an equilibrium price mechanism — the price at which the maximum number of shares can be traded, with market orders getting priority over limit orders. The reference price is based on the VWAP of trades between 3PM and 3:15PM, while a price band of ±3% applies during the auction. Unexecuted limit orders from the continuous trading session are carried forward, subject to specified conditions.

Why does the index appear frozen?

During the auction period, there is no continuous matching of trades between 3:15PM and 3:30PM, so the live index graph appears unchanged even though orders continue to be collected. However, exchanges display indicative prices and index values based on continuously updated equilibrium prices. On the first day of implementation, 515 trading members participated, placing orders on behalf of 56,773 unique PAN holders — higher than participation in the pre-open auction session — indicating strong initial acceptance of the new closing auction mechanism.

ED cases under PMLA rose to a four-year high in FY26

Aanchal Magazine
New Delhi, August 4

THE CASES registered by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the country's anti-money laundering law increased to a four-year high of 1,080 in the financial year 2025-26, taking the total cases to 4,622 in the last five years.

The conviction rate, however, remained low with the agency securing conviction only in 0.93% or 43 cases during 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The agency had seen a decline in the number of cases registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) from 2021-22 to 2023-24, before picking up again in 2024-25 and 2025-26, data presented by the government in Parliament on Tuesday showed.

In response to a written question by CPI(M)'s V Sivadasan in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said the ED has filed prosecution complaints in 2,444 cases under the PMLA provisions before the Special Courts, PMLA as on June 30 this year.

"These cases are at various stages of trial. The ED has arrested 1,243 accused under the provisions of the PMLA," the minister said. The agency had registered 1,116 cases in 2021-22, which then declined to 953 in 2022-23, and then to 698 cases in 2023-24, before picking up again to 775 cases in 2024-25 and 1,080 in 2025-26. In total, the ED has registered 4,622 cases under PMLA in the last five years, the data showed.

The rate of convictions was slow, with the agency securing convictions only in 43 cases in the last five years. Of the total 43 cases which saw convictions between FY22-FY26, the number of persons accused convicted in these cases stood at 104.

Income tax cases

A total of 2,127 prosecution cases were filed by the Income Tax Department over the last five years (2021-22 to 2025-26).

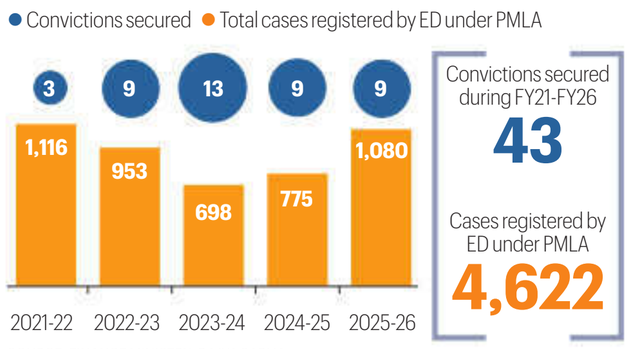
The number of prosecution cases were the lowest in three years at 432 in 2025-26 as against 611 in 2024-25, 502 in 2023-24 and 387 in 2022-23.

In income tax matters, prosecution complaints are filed only after obtaining sanction from the competent authority under section 279(1) of the Income-tax Act, upon completion of investigation and recording of facts, the minister said.

Detailed breakup showed that the Income Tax Department was able to secure conviction in just 233 cases over the last five years, with the convictions being the lowest in two years at 47 in 2025-26. The rate of acquittals was high, with a total of 854 cases seeing acquittals over the last five years, with the acquittals in 2025-26 rising to a four-year high of 293. The finance ministry, however, said the number of prosecution cases filed and the figures relating to conviction or acquittal are not directly correlated, as convictions or acquittals may pertain to cases filed in different years.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

• Convictions secured by ED under PMLA



SOURCE: FINANCE MINISTRY, RAJYA SABHA

Challenges won't alter IndiGo's long-term direction, says new CEO

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, August 4

THE OPERATING environment for the aviation sector has become dynamic and is currently replete with challenges, but it won't alter the long-term direction that India's largest airline IndiGo has decided to take, the carrier's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Willie Walsh said in an address to employees on Tuesday.

He also called upon employees to be agile, disciplined, and resilient in the face of the challenging operating environment. After dominating the Indian skies with a domestic market share of a staggering 66%, IndiGo has now set its eyes on ramping up its international operations and even serving long-haul routes.

Walsh, an international aviation industry veteran who until recently was the director general of the global airline trade grouping International Air Transport Association (IATA), took charge as IndiGo CEO on Monday. His appointment follows the abrupt exit of former CEO Pieter Elbers in March. Elbers's resignation followed the network-wide disruption that IndiGo faced in early December, leading to thousands of flights getting cancelled.

"The environment in which we operate today is becoming increasingly dynamic. Aviation today faces evolving airspace challenges, supply chain constraints, and changing global conditions. And these realities require us to remain agile, disciplined, and resilient. Yet they do not change our direction. If anything, they reinforce the qualities that have always defined IndiGo, our unwavering commitment to safety, operational excellence, and delivering consistency to our customers," Walsh said on the occasion of IndiGo's 20th anniversary.

Indian carriers were already facing headwinds due to Pakistan closing its airspace to them since late April of last year. The operating environment got worse due to the West Asia war, which led to more airspace restrictions in the Gulf region and significantly pushed up jet fuel costs. Moreover, supply chain issues have plagued the global aviation industry by slowing down aircraft and engine deliveries for a few years now.

While IndiGo has also been impacted, which is evident from its recent decision to exit its damp-leased wide-body operations till it gets its own twin-aisle jets starting next year, the airline is betting big on long-range routes as its next growth frontier. IndiGo has 60 wide-body Airbus A350 aircraft on order.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Taxation laws (Amendment) Bill tabled in Lok Sabha by FM

New Delhi: A new set of tax reliefs placed for Parliament's consideration on Tuesday could make India a more attractive and predictable place for global capital, manufacturing and business to come and stay, a finance ministry source said.

"India wants global investment funds, cloud businesses, and infrastructure investors to route more of their activity through the country," the source said. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, proposing a slew of tax concessions aimed at attracting foreign investment, supporting domestic manufacturing, and improving ease of doing business in the country.

"Overseas players are often unsure whether operating in or through India will create an unexpected tax exposure. These proposals provide clear, stable and predictable tax treatment as well as the process to get the desired tax treatment," the source added. FE

• BRIEFLY

LIC OFS gets highest-ever bid

New Delhi: The government's 6.5% stake sale in LIC saw massive interest from institutional investors who put in a whopping Rs 36,400 crore worth bids — the highest-ever for any offer for sale (OFS). Four years after its IPO, which had fetched Rs 21,000 crore for a 3.5% stake, the government is now selling a further 6.5% stake in LIC via an OFS whose size compares with the upcoming mega IPO offerings of the NSE and Reliance Jio Platforms. PTI

Bharti Airtel net rises 37%, ARPU jumps 5.6% in Q1

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel reported a 37.3% rise in profit after tax to Rs 8,167 crore in the June quarter, driven by strong growth across India and Africa operations, the company said on Tuesday. Revenue from operations during the quarter rose 18.3% to Rs 58,539 crore. Airtel India's average revenue per user (ARPU) increased by 5.6% to Rs 264 during the reported quarter compared to Rs 250 a year ago. PTI

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▲	US Dollar ▲
78,428.95	24,614.90	₹1,42,866	₹95.38
-210.08	-159.40		
-0.27	-0.64%		
		Silver ▲	**Oil ▼**
		₹2,18,635	$88.12

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF AUGUST 3, 2026

• ODYSSEY STILL RESONATES EVEN AFTER 3,000 YEARS AS KEY THEMES CONCERN THE TIMELESS HUMAN EXPERIENCE, SAYS YALE UNIVERSITY'S ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CLASSICS BENEDEK KRUCHIÓ

Yale to Cambridge, how *The Odyssey* is reviving academic, cultural interest in epic poem

Aanchal Magazine
New Delhi, August 4

HOW DOES Homer's glory-seeking hero, Odysseus, resist the urge to tell the cyclops Polyphemus his real name in the screen version? Why is he portrayed as more of a guilt-ridden war veteran than the complicated trickster that he was? And why is he shown patting his loyal dog Argus after his return when he doesn't do so in the poem?

Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* has sparked plenty of online debate over how it interprets and diverges from Homer's 3,000-year-old Greek epic. The film, however, has sparked such a renewed interest in the epic that many researchers are viewing it as a cultural renaissance.

The Homeric homecoming is paving way for a different kind of homecoming — tailored courses, screenings of adaptations, free access to ancient literature and Greek research — in leading universities across the world.

Academic interest

The University of Cambridge in the UK has opened up its research collection on *The Odyssey* till September 30. It had also scheduled a webinar this month, 'Cambridge Classicists React to Nolan's Odyssey'.

The interest in Nolan's adaptation even preceded its release. Last spring, Yale University's Assistant Professor of Classics Benedek Kruchió taught a course called 'Odyssean Receptions: A Journey Through the History of Literature and Film', wherein he traced Odyssean influences through the history of literature and film — from ancient epics and poetry to modern film adaptations such as the Coen Brothers' *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* Kruchió will teach this course again in a year. "It's going to be accompanied by a series of film screenings that are open to the public. And I'm developing another course that brings together ancient literature and film, which will investigate the relationship between Hollywood storytelling and ancient literary genres," he told *The Indian Express*.

Nolan's adaptation is his favourite apart from films that engage more loosely with Homer, such as Jean-Luc Godard's *Contempt* (1963) and *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2001). "Other exciting examples are Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968) and Mario Camerini's *Ulysses* (1954). But it's also worth branching out into contemporary literature and reading Alice Oswald's magnificent poem Nobody and László Krasznahorkai's novella Chasing Homer (both 2019)," Kruchió said in an e-mail.

Meanwhile, the University of Manchester partnered with Universal Pictures to showcase a rare 1,700-year-old parchment of the poem, one of the earliest surviving versions, and also threw it open for public display two days before the movie's release.

The University of Cincinnati in Ohio, US, in a recent article highlighted the role of its archaeologist, Carl Blegen, who had helped unearth the city of Troy — a central location in Homer's works — during excavations he led between 1932 and 1938. Some of the most trenchant criticism has come from Emily Wilson — the University of Pennsylvania professor known for her celebrated and simple translation of The Odyssey which Nolan took inspiration from. Kruchió said many key episodes and characters are missing from the film.

"But I don't think this is a bad thing at all: adaptations that take creative liberties can be exciting, and in my view, Nolan has given us a thought-provoking Odyssey that grapples with big topics such as the rupture of cultural memory and a civilisation in crisis," he said.

So, why does Odyssey still resonate even after 3,000 years? Kruchió said many of the Odyssey's key themes concern the timeless human experience — war, love, revenge, travel, and curiosity, going out and mapping the world. "And then, what it means to be civilized and mortal. As a cunning and ingenuous hero, Odysseus is a really compelling character. And let's not forget that Homer is a masterful narrator. The Odyssey is a compelling read, full of plot twists and suspense."

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

The University of Cambridge in the UK has opened up its research collection on The Odyssey till September 30. @ODYSSEYMOVIE/X

CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS CAST DOUBT ON SWIFT DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION; ANOTHER SHIP COMES UNDER ATTACK IN STRAIT

Once open waterway, deal could cement Iran's control over Hormuz

New York Times
August 4

IRAN AND Oman are closing in on an agreement to reopen shipping traffic in the Strait of Hormuz, according to Iranian and American officials, but if the accord goes into effect it could come at a high price — ratifying Tehran's control over what, before the war, was an open, international waterway.

As described by officials familiar with the emerging accord, vessels heading into the Persian Gulf will transit a channel controlled by Iran, and close to its coast. Ships leaving the Gulf will travel on a channel near Oman.

Iranian officials say that while there will be no tolls charged, the agreement includes a "service fee" to cover the environmental impact of the shipping, security for the cargo ships and tankers and staffing. Revenues would be divided equally between Iran and Oman, two Iranian officials said.

A US official familiar with the negotiations said Monday that the Iranian account was "not accurate," and said that any "temporary" routes established through the strait would not involve approvals or permissions by Iran, and would involve no tolls.

For US President Donald Trump, the deal, if it happened, could address his most urgent political problem allowing ships to flow again. For their part, Iranian officials said the strait would remain closed, despite any agreement, until the US lifts its naval blockade against Iranian ports in the Persian Gulf and both countries return to the 14-point plan laid out in the Islamabad MoU.

The US could ease the market pressure even further, some officials said, if it decided to issue exemptions on sanctions against Iran so it could legally sell and deliver oil.

But if, ultimately, Iran asserts continued control over the passageway, the opening might come with a geopolitical cost. Iranian officials say they are designing the accord to ratify their capacity to control the strait and therefore retain strategic leverage that they did not employ before the war.

Such restrictions would directly violate the goal set by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who said repeatedly in recent months that the strait must return to the kind of open waterway that it was before the war.

Getting the strait reopened is vital for Trump politically. And so despite Rubio's statements, the administration appears to be preparing the world for a reopening in which Iran exerts daily control over traffic.

Qatar says progress made toward US-Iran peace talks

Qatar, Pakistan and Oman are working closely for a truce

Reuters
Dubai, Washington, August 4

QATAR SAID mediators were making progress in efforts to end the US-Iran war on Tuesday, driving oil prices lower, although Tehran has denied President Donald Trump's assertion that talks are already under way.

Benchmark Brent crude fell more than 4% after the comments from Qatar, extending Monday's steep losses on hopes that an arrangement could soon be reached to restore traffic through the blockaded Strait of Hormuz.

But for now, the strait remained virtually shut, with another ship reportedly coming under attack while trying to cross it.

Trump said on Monday that talks with Tehran had started and Iran faced a "last chance" to reach a deal. Iranian officials insisted no negotiations with the United States were taking place. Iran says its only talks are with Oman about the strait, and that no major meetings were planned this week.

But senior US officials struck an optimistic tone on Tuesday, with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Secretary of State Marco Rubio both pointing to progress in discussions aimed at reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a corridor that normally carries about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments.

"There's been progress made in those talks, but not finality yet. We're hoping that will happen very shortly," Rubio told reporters at the State Department. Bessent said a deal with Iran on the reopening of Hormuz could be reached by Tuesday or Wednesday. Qatar's foreign ministry spokesperson Majed al-Ansari said diplomatic contacts had reached "very progressive stages".

A woman holds a mock-up of a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) next to a Hezbollah flag during the Arbaeen rally in Tehran on Tuesday. REUTERS

He said mediators including Qatar, Pakistan and Oman were coordinating closely to facilitate negotiations and exchange draft proposals between Washington and Tehran.

A senior Pakistani security official said: "A lot is happening in the background ... We are talking to both sides. Our sole goal at this moment is to make both parties at least agree to start talking."

Trump's comments followed his weekend decision to cancel what he described as "massive attacks" on Iran, extending a pattern in which he has threatened major military action before later backing off and pointing to diplomatic contacts.

Iran has halted most traffic through Hormuz while Washington maintains a blockade of Iran-related shipping and ports. Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis have also imposed a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea, further restricting oil export routes. A cargo vessel reported being struck by an unidentified projectile near the Strait of Hormuz off Oman's coast, according to the UKMTO maritime security agency. Maritime sources told Reuters on Tuesday that the vessel was a dry bulk ship. Its crew had to abandon the vessel and one seafarer was missing.

Iran has long demanded control over the strait, which it says it should share with Oman, which controls the opposite shore. Tehran rejected an Omani proposal last week that would have allowed shared oversight of the strait and the collection of voluntary fees from ships. A senior Iranian source said Iran is seeking full control over inbound shipping through the strait, and visibility over outbound traffic, with the ability to intervene if necessary.

Giving Iran such control would be a major shift in the regional balance of power and make it more difficult for Washington to argue that "Operation Epic Fury", which Trump launched alongside Israel in February, had weakened Washington's longstanding foe.

• BRIEFLY

UNITED KINGDOM

Ariana Grande withdraws from London musical, will take a break

American Singer Ariana Grande. AP

ARIANA GRANDE has pulled out of an upcoming stage musical in London, producers said, and plans to withdraw from the public eye for a break from the intense scrutiny she faces. Grande had been due to star alongside her "Wicked" co-star Jonathan Bailey in a production of Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday in the Park With George" at the Barbican theater in 2027. Empire Street Productions said Sunday that Grande will no longer be part of the London production. A representative for Grande told People magazine that the 33-year-old singer "will be taking a step back from visibility after she completes the Eternal Sunshine Tour." AP

LIBYA

Inmates stage mass escape amid clashes

LIBYAN POLICE said inmates staged a mass escape from a jail on Tuesday while armed clashes erupted nearby in two cities west of the capital Tripoli. Police said in a statement that the mass escape happened at Surman jail and that it had launched a probe. Police did not reveal the exact number of inmates who escaped from the jail, adding that it formed a committee to "identify them and take necessary legal action against them." AP

FRANCE

Coastguards rescue 157 from burning boat

FRENCH COASTGUARDS rescued 157 people from a boat carrying migrants that caught fire in the English Channel on Tuesday near the port of Boulogne-sur-Mer, the local administration said in a statement. Three coastguard ships rescued those on board, the local French administration said. Migration has been one of Europe's most divisive political issues since a crisis in 2015-16, when more than a million refugees arrived in Europe. REUTERS

Sanchez fends off blistering criticism within the EU over Ceuta crisis

Spanish PM Pedro Sanchez

Associated Press
Brussels, August 4

SPANISH PRIME Minister Pedro Sanchez's migration policies have weathered withering criticism as leaders from across the European Union met Tuesday following last week's rush of migrants to the Spanish territory of Ceuta in North Africa.

The sudden arrival of 72,000 migrants on Thursday and Friday sparked a humanitarian crisis in Ceuta and reignited the immigration debate in the 27-nation bloc, though most of the migrants soon went back. More than 80 migrants died, including some who drowned or were trampled in a stampede to cross a breakwater barrier, according to Spanish and Moroccan authorities.

Open letters from 22 EU leaders, and a quick retort from Sanchez, have exposed a roiling debate inside the EU pitting migration hawks against the progressive Spanish leader who has challenged consensus within the bloc on migration as well as NATO spending, Gaza and Israel.

Gaza in Mourning

Palestinians attend the funeral of 112 members of the Hassayna and Abu Sharia clan, who were killed in an Israeli strike in 2023 and whose remains were recovered from beneath the rubble, according to Gaza's Civil Defence on Tuesday. REUTERS

South Korean students detained for breaking into US military base

Associated Press
Seoul, August 4

A GROUP of eight South Korean students were detained Tuesday for allegedly breaking into a United States air base while shouting anti-US slogans, South Korean authorities said.

US military personnel detained the four male and four female students after they allegedly entered Osan Air Base near the capital Seoul. They were later transferred to the custody of South Korean authorities, police said.

The students were being investigated under a law protecting military installations in South Korea, according to police, who said they all had invoked their right to remain silent during questioning.

Police said the students shouted slogans at the site including, "Let's smash US 7th Air Force." A US military statement said the group attempted to unlawfully enter the base through the main gate and that "unauthorized attempts to access a US military installation are taken extremely seriously."

Italy puts major cities on highest alert as heatwave intensifies again

Rome: Italy is placing all its 27 major cities under its highest heat alert on Thursday, as the country's fourth heatwave of the summer intensifies, the health ministry said on Tuesday.

25 cities were put on red alert on Tuesday and Wednesday, with the only two currently on a lesser amber alert, Messina and Reggio Calabria in the far south of the country, moving up to the maximum level on Thursday.

A red alert indicates a potential health emergency with high temperatures posing a serious health risk. REUTERS

Ukraine accuses Russia of war crime after video footage shows drone hitting market vendor

Reuters
Kyiv, August 4

UKRAINE ON Tuesday accused Russia of committing a war crime after a video was released showing a drone chasing down and wounding a street vendor in the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson.

Footage released by Ukrainian police shows the drone pursuing an unidentified man around a van being used as a street stand before exploding after he dives for cover behind the vehicle. Police said the vendor, a man in his 50s, survived but suffered shock and shrapnel injuries.

"Today, many were shocked by yet another video of the drone 'safari' Russians are carrying out against civilians in Kherson," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on X, issuing a fresh call for more pressure on Russia and strong security guarantees for Ukraine.

"We must act and support life in ways that force Russia to think seriously about peace rather than expanding the range of its drones."

Reuters verified the location using buildings, the road layout and vegetation that matched satellite and archive imagery. The date could not be independently confirmed, but Ukraine's police and Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said the incident happened on Tuesday.

Sybiha said the attack formed part of a deliberate Russian campaign to intimidate civilians. "This barbaric Russian war crime in Kherson demands international condemnation and justice, but thousands of similar crimes never come to the public eye," he wrote on Telegram.

A resident walks at the site of a Russian missile strike in Odesa on Tuesday. REUTERS

The minister said the pilot of the Russian drone would have been aware they were targeting a civilian, branding them a "sadist". Two children and an elderly woman were also killed in overnight Russian guided bomb strikes on Ukraine's northern city of Sumy, regional governor Oleh Hryhorov said on Telegram.

In July, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine said it had documented 1,396 civilian deaths and 7,978 injuries in the first six months of 2026, marking a 37% increase from 2025 and more than double the figures from 2024.

• NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

PAKISTAN

Sindh bans screening of film on 'ghost schools'

PAKISTAN'S SINDH province has refused to clear for screening an international award-winning documentary film based on the problem of 'ghost schools'.
The issue of ghost schools is well known in Sindh, where thousands of schools exist only on paper, but regular salaries are issued for the teaching staff of the schools. Seemab Gul, who financed, produced and directed the documentary, said on Tuesday that the Sindh Board of Film Censors had not cleared the film without giving any plausible explanation. PTI

SRI LANKA

Heavy rain leads to landslides and floods, 6 killed

AT LEAST six persons were killed and three others injured as heavy rain, landslides and flash floods battered parts of Sri Lanka over the past two days, officials said Tuesday. The adverse weather has affected five districts, with incessant downpours triggering landslides, flooding and strong winds, disrupting normal life and forcing nearly 1,900 people into relief centres. Police said three women, aged 83, 58 and 47, and a 22-year-old man were killed when a mound of earth collapsed onto a house in the Polpitiya-Morahenagama area. PTI

Ebola kills 1,700 in eastern Congo as fastest-growing outbreak surges

Associated Press
Bunia, August 4

EBOLA HAS killed more than 1,700 people in eastern Congo in the fastest-growing outbreak of the disease, data showed.

As of Tuesday, 3,802 cases had been recorded, with 1,707 deaths, according to the latest government update.

It is not clear when the outbreak will reach its peak, Africa CDC Director-General Jean Kaseya said during his second visit to the town of Bunia near the outbreak's epicenter on Tuesday. Kaseya cautioned that nearly 80% of new cases are not coming from contact tracing but instead from community spread.

The Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, will arrive in the Congolese capital, Kinshasa, today and is expected to visit Bunia later this week.

The outbreak, declared on May 15, has been linked to the Bundibugyo virus for which there are no approved vaccines or treatments. Delays in contact tracing, difficulties accessing affected areas, mistrust from communities, and violence by armed groups and some residents have hampered the response, the Africa CDC has said.

Two clinical trials for post-exposure prophylaxis drugs are ongoing in Ituri province as well as two separate vaccine trials in the UK and Canada.

Neighboring Uganda declared itself free of Ebola

The outbreak is mostly concentrated in eastern Congo's remote Ituri province, which accounts for nearly 90% of cases, but cases have also been confirmed in five other provinces, including in one of the country's largest cities, Kisangani.

Neighboring Uganda declared itself free of Ebola following the discharge of the country's last patient in mid-June.

A key challenge is that patient zero has yet to be identified in the outbreak while displacement from armed conflict and illegal mining in the region have made it difficult to trace thousands who have come in contact with infected individuals. The WHO said Tuesday that it was monitoring over 17,000 potential contacts with nearly 80% of them being seen daily.

• PHOENIX SPECIES PROJECT LARGEST SINGLE FUND IN HISTORY DEDICATED EXCLUSIVELY TO RECOVERING CRITICALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES

DiCaprio, Bezos lead $200m project to save 100 threatened species

Associated Press
Los Angeles, August 4

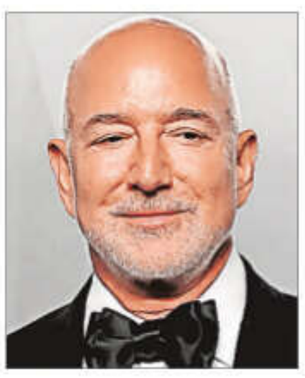
FOUNDATIONS FUNDED and co-founded by Leonardo DiCaprio and Jeff Bezos have launched an initiative committing USD 200 million to revive 100 of Earth's most threatened species, including endangered lemurs, salamanders, pangolins, pigs and echidnas.

DiCaprio's Re:wild and the Bezos Earth Fund are leading the Phoenix Species Project, the groups announced Tuesday. They call it the largest single fund in history dedicated exclusively to recovering critically endangered species.

DiCaprio has for years been developing the idea of a major concerted effort to help species whose habitats and future existence are threatened by climate change.

In 2021, he and Re:wild co-founder Wes Sechrest, a biologist who serves as the organisation's CEO, met with the Amazon-founding mega billionaire Bezos and his wife, former TV news reporter and host Lauren Sanchez Bezos. He serves as chair and she as vice chair of the Bezos Earth Fund.

The meeting led to a series of conversations with local governments, environmental groups and Indigenous people on how best to reverse the decline of their most vulnerable species. Those conversations eventually led to the Phoenix Species Project.



Amazon founder Bezos and actor Leonardo DiCaprio have funded and co-founded the foundation. AP

Animals the initiative is seeking to sustain include: - The golden-crowned sifaka, a lemur from Madagascar - The Hickory Nut Gorge green salamander, a lungless tree-dweller that lives only in a small canyon in North Carolina.

- The Visayan warty pig, endemic to islands in the Philippines.
- Mexico's Cozumel harvest mouse, which lives only on an island off the Yucatan Peninsula.
- The pink land iguana, found only on Wolf Volcano in the Galapagos Islands.
- The Malayan pangolin, also known as the Sunda pangolin, native to Southeast Asia.
- Tanzania's pancake tortoise, named for its flat, flexible shell.
- The starry night harlequin toad, known and named for its black-and-white evening sky appearance, found only in the mountains of Colombia.
- Attenborough's long-beaked echidna, a monotreme, or mammal that lays eggs, from New Guinea named in honour of the 100-year-old naturalist and narrator-of-nature David Attenborough.

The project's goals include giving long-term sustenance to successful but fleeting smaller efforts. "We've protected the golden-crowned sifaka for years on a budget that would never match what this species deserves, but letting it go extinct was never an option," Tiana Andriamanana, executive director of Association Fanamby, one of the groups getting a grant from the initiative, said in a statement.

"This funding, this global platform and technical support change what is possible."

JAPAN'S CALL FOR CAREGIVERS

India to Japan, via Northeast

As a rapidly ageing Japan looks overseas to plug a growing labour shortage, youngsters in small towns across the Northeast are learning Japanese, clearing skill tests and preparing to leave home for caregiving, agriculture jobs. SUKRITA BARUAH follows their journey

AFTER HER long days working as a salesperson at a store in Aizawl, managing her small online business, and helping her mother around the house, Janet Lalnungsangi often curls up with her phone on a couch in their living room, watching a Chinese movie on YouTube. But instead of subtitles, she watches them dubbed in Japanese.

"I should be watching Japanese films really, but they are too 'real life' for me. I like watching movies with drama and romance. My favourite storylines are where characters are reborn," she says, laughing.

Janet does this not just to unwind, but also as preparation for the next phase of her life. In March this year, the 33-year-old, who has a BA degree in Home Science, cleared her language and skill exams to qualify to work as a caregiver at an institution in the Japanese city of Fukuoka. She is now waiting for her Certificate of Eligibility, a document required for long-term residence in Japan, and hopes to be able to join the institution by October. While she waits, she continues to work full-time to be able to afford the costs of documentation and relocation, while also squeezing in the time to practise her primary-school-level Japanese by watching movies and having conversations with ChatGPT.

Faced with a rapidly ageing population, Japan has turned to foreign workers to make up for severe labour shortages in 16 fields, including nursing care, manufacturing of industrial products, and food & beverages. In 2019, the country introduced a new status of residence, 'Specified Skill Worker', that allows blue-collar foreign workers to get a working visa in the country for up to five years. For this, they have to pass a Japanese language test and a specified skills exam in the chosen domain.

'I missed chilli in my food'

Janet is among a growing number of people from Mizoram and other Northeast Indian states who are hoping to qualify as caregivers in Japan under the programme. Like her, many of them are young women who aim to support their families and younger siblings by moving out of home and starting afresh in a "dream country".

Japan and Japanese culture, from anime to cosplay festivals, where youngsters dress up as their favourite anime characters, are a big draw among the young in the Northeast. Janet, too, loves films made by Studio Ghibli, the Japanese animation studio, and names *My Neighbour Totoro* as one of her favourites.

Janet's family of four lives in a rented apartment in a buzzing Aizawl neighbourhood. Her father, who worked as a driver and a carpenter, passed away a few years ago, and one of her younger brothers works as a driver while the other is still in school. She describes her mother C Lalrinmawii, 61, as her "close friend".

"It is very common for people to earn something like Rs 10,000 a month from a job here, so I also run a business selling induction stoves, steamers and mosquito nets over WhatsApp and Facebook. But with the new job in Japan, hopefully, in about three months, I should be able to send a good amount of money home," she says. Janet hopes her move to Japan will help her work towards her "biggest dream" — a home for the family.

More than 4,000 kilometres away, 27-year-old Serene Malswami is living that dream. Now in her third year of working as a caregiver in an old-age home in Kanazawa, the capital city of Ishikawa Prefecture in central Japan, Serene, a nursing graduate, moved there as an SSW or 'Specified Skill Worker' when she was 24.

Much before she landed in Japan, Serene had set her heart on the country. She had grown up watching anime on the channel Animax, with Attack on Titan her favourite series. "Our local cable channel aired Studio Ghibli dubbed in Mizo language and I watched all of them," she says, speaking on the phone from Kanazawa.

Yet, when she landed, Japan felt very different from home. Having grown up with close community bonds — "In Lunglei, I knew everyone" — in Kanazawa, she didn't see even her neighbours for the first six months. Thankfully, she says, she had for company her cousin who works in the same senior living home and shares the apartment with her. "Work's good... we do a lot of talking, but when we get home, it's lonely because no one's coming around," she says.

She also took her time adjusting to food. "Everything is so sweet! I really missed some chilli in my food." But the toughest was her struggle with the language.

"We studied and learned Japanese back in India, but that was basic school-textbook level. To actually speak on a daily basis with people in Japan was a completely different thing. At first, we couldn't actually understand what they were saying and would simply smile most of the time. But people at the workplace were good to us. They would speak slowly and in simple Japanese so that we could follow them," she says.

By her third month in Japan, Serene had settled down. She now buys *dal* from an Indian store that she chanced upon, has travelled to Tokya, Osaka and other parts of the country, and goes on hikes in the countryside around Kanazawa on her days off. After a few months on the job, her Japanese too improved considerably.

The work, she says, is not easy and the shifts can be long, including 17-hour night shifts on some days. But it all felt worthwhile when she started sending money home to her parents and younger siblings.

As a trained nurse working in Lunglei, Serene says she earned Rs 15,000 a month. "Now I am able to send Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 every month, which is a lot for us. Here, I manage to live a comfortable life. I buy things I like, and travel when I have time off from work," she says.

In March, when she visited her family in Mizoram's Lunglei town for the first time since she left, everything felt different. "The food we had, the social gatherings, it all felt so different already," she says.

A door opens into Japan

As Japan confronts low birth rates and an ageing society, it grapples with crippling labour shortages in several sectors.

In a 2016 research paper on demographic change, policy researchers Akim Enomoto and Hannes Bublitz wrote, "...For every Japanese teenager under 15, there will be three seniors aged 65 years-plus in 2040."

Referring to the "2040 problem", economist Oguro Kazumasa wrote that population projections indicate "that the working population (aged 20 to 64) will decrease from 66.34 million in 2025 to 55.42 million in 2040... This projection indicates that the Japanese economy could face serious labour shortages unless Japan proactively accepts immigrants."

It's this population pressure that saw Japan introducing the SSW residence status in 2019, opening an organised pathway for blue-collar foreign workers to get a working visa in the country.

In March this year, Japan's Immigration Services Agency and Ministry of Health, Labour & Welfare stated that the country expected to accept 8.05 lakh Specified Skill Workers by the end of March 2029. The highest demand for workers under the SSW programme is in industrial product manufacturing (1.99 lakh), manufacture of food & beverages (1.33 lakh) and nursing care (1.26 lakh). By March 2029, Japan is also expected to accept another 4.26 lakh foreign workers under the training-based Employment for Skill Development (ESD) programme to be launched next year, replacing an earlier Technical Intern Training Program (TITP). At the end of 2025, there were 3.9 lakh with SSW status in Japan and 4.56 lakh with TITP status.

India accounts for a small slice of this foreign worker pie, and the Northeast even smaller. According to data from Japan's Immigrant Services Agency, China was the foreign country with the most number of residents, across different categories, in Japan at the end of 2025 (9.3 lakh), followed by Vietnam, South Korea, the Philippines and Nepal. As of December 2024, there were 53,974 Indian nationals residing in Japan and in August 2025, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs announced a joint "aspirational target of the exchange of more than 5,00,000 personnel in both directions in the next five years, including 50,000 skilled personnel and potential talents from India to Japan".

As SSW and other programmes open a door, young people in small towns in the Northeast are starting to fill up classrooms to learn Japanese and prepare for the tests that promise a pathway into Japan. The opportunity comes knocking either through placement agencies that come to colleges or when they hear from friends who are already working in Japan.

Over the last few years, state governments in the Northeast and government universities in the region have backed this employment pathway. In October last year, the Assam government announced a programme subsidising SSW training fees for an initial batch of 180 students, as well as their relocation if they get placed. A Japanese Language Centre was started at Manipur University this year for language and skills training for the SSW pathway, with an initial capacity of 250 students. Mizoram University and the state's Labour, Employment, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship department have signed MoUs with training centres to facilitate this pathway.

Mizoram Minister of Labour, Employment, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Pu Lalnghinglova Hmar says that the state government sees the SSW as a "good opportunity" for the youth. "Since this is about migrating for work, we make sure they are going through proper, legal channels, with proper documentation. Japan is a good place to go for our young people," he says. He calls it a "win-win situation". "Japan has a demand with its ageing population. India, and Mizoram, with its young population is able to deliver the services they are looking for."

Life in 'dream country'

At a training centre tucked behind a café in Aizawl, two batches of students turn up five days a week for four-hour classes. The centre, run by Japan Centre of Excellence (Jaceex), a private organisation that provides training and facilitates placements in Japan, offers classes for the Japanese language test and the skills test.

Since last year, when the centre was set up, 14 students have been placed as SSW in Japan — 10 of them as caregivers.

Rajeev Gupta, the founder of Jaceex that also has centres in Manipur and Assam, says they have facilitated the movement of 52 youngsters — 45 women and seven men — to Japan since 2023, most of them from Manipur and Mizoram. Another 75, he says, are currently in training across Jaceex's centres.

The fee for the training course is Rs 75,000. Once students clear the SSW exam, there are additional charges for placements and getting the documentation done.

The 43 students at the Aizawl centre range from fresh college graduates to people with some years of experience working outside Mizoram.

At 21, Mawi, who is from the Indo-Myanmar border town of Moreh in Manipur, has already accumulated a world of experiences. She was an undergraduate student in Moreh College when the conflict between Manipur's Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities began in 2023.

"It was my grandfather's dream for me to become a graduate but the college stopped functioning properly in 2023. When that happened, I started working as an assistant teacher in schools, but they paid very little, just a few thousand rupees. In normal times, the most obvious place to go looking for work would have been Imphal, but that was not possible because I'm Kuki. I'm the eldest of four siblings and need to support my family, so I left Moreh last year," says Mawi.

An employment agency placed her as a live-in domestic worker with a family in Hong Kong, but she returned to India less than six months later because things didn't go as expected.

She briefly worked as a domestic worker in Noida, then in a guest house in Guwahati. After these experiences, Mawi — lively, well-spoken, and affectionately teased by her language class batchmates as the "brightest" among them — says she is clear that she wants to work and grow in "a professional environment".

While the numbers headed to Japan are still nascent, Gupta of Jaceex believes that the demand for workers, especially in caregiving, "where the work is person to person and cannot easily be automated", far exceeds the number of students who are training and moving.

Vanlalruata Ralte, who runs the Aizawl centre, says, "There is a lot of demand for girls in caregiving jobs, but many families here are hesitant to send their daughters away. But the interest is slowly growing. It helps that it is easier for people from here to assimilate in Japan because of our physical characteristics."

David, 40, is among those training at the Aizawl centre. After years of trying to land on his feet, the MBA degree holder from a private institute in Sikkim is now hoping to work as an agriculture worker in Japan.

Having grown up on a diet of Japanese media and 'samurai culture', David says he has always longed to visit Japan. But if he is leaving home, it's only because of the lack of employment opportunities in Mizoram.

"Everyone aims for government jobs. I have written all kinds of exams, from the Mizoram Civil Service to Group B officer roles, but I haven't cracked any. I've done administrative work under government projects on a contract basis. But none of those got regularised, so I now run a small laundry business here," he says.

'Planning a family vacation'

With her daughter preparing to leave in a couple of months, Janet's mother Lalrinmawii calls parting with her a "sacrifice". What gives her comfort is the belief that Japan is a safe place. Besides, she says, "Caring for the elderly is very good work. It is like a missionary job, helping people."

The mother and daughter are already discussing the possibility of the family visiting Janet after three years. "We are thinking of a family vacation. It's very exciting. We sit together and talk about it every evening. It's something to look forward to."

@SERENE_MALSAWMI/INSTAGRAM

SUKRITA BARUAH

(Top to bottom) Serene Malswami poses in front of the Tsūtenkaku tower in Osaka, Japan; at the centre in Aizawl, Mizoram, where students are training for an exam that will qualify them for jobs in Japan; Janet Lalnungsangi (centre) and her friends Zuali (on the left) and Zaui (right) are set to move to Japan in October

• Japan in the Northeast

Besides opening employment doors to people from the Northeast to meet Japan's labour shortage, the country has also been active in investing in the geographically strategic region in recent years. Many of the investments have been financed through Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

ROADS: Highway infrastructure, in the form of the 'North East Road Network Connectivity Improvement Project', is a key area. In June 2026, JICA announced an investment of Rs 1,592 crore in three major corridors in Meghalaya — Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge to Selsella Simbukolgre; Selsella Simbukolgre to Goeragre, and Shillong-Dawki Road.

SEMICONDUCTORS: JICA is set to be involved in Assam's semiconductor ambitions with Tata Electric's semiconductor assembly and testing facility in the state expected to commence production this year. Finance Minister Jayanta Mallabaruah announced in the Budget that the state government would launch an 'Assam Semiconductor Ecosystem on Manufacturing and Innovation' (A-SEMI) project in partnership with JICA. Last month, Japanese firm Toho Koku Seisakusho Co. signed an MoU with IIT Guwahati for collaborative research and academic exchange, especially in semiconductor manufacturing.

HEALTHCARE: JICA has extended loans for the development of a Super-Specialty Cancer and Research Centre in Mizoram, a Medical College Hospital in Nagaland, and a comprehensive 'Assam Health System Strengthening Project.'

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• GLOBAL

To become next UN chief, getting 'P5' onboard is key

EXPERT EXPLAINS

MANJEEV SINGH PURI
FORMER AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO THE EU AND NEPAL

THE UNITED Nations Security Council (UNSC) held its first "straw poll" on Thursday for choosing the next Secretary-General of the UN (UNSG), whose five-year term would start on January 1, 2027.

Although the poll's results weren't announced, three candidates from Latin America are believed to have scored well: Costa Rica's Rebeca Grynspan, an economist who heads UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD); Carolyn Birkett, Guyana's Permanent Representative to the UN; and Rafael Grossi from Argentina, who is director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Appointment process

The UNSC consists of 15 members: five permanent members (P5) — China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US — and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the UN General Assembly.

Straw polls is a UNSC process which doesn't disclose the name of the voting member-state. The slips carry the name of the candidate and UNSC members note "encourage", "discourage", or leave them blank. While this round didn't distinctly mark the slips as belonging to the P5 or non-permanent members, the slips of the P5 will be coloured in the upcoming rounds. Drawing a "discourage" coloured slip indicates a likely P5 veto.

Of course, views of countries can change, as repeated straw polls are conducted until there is a clear candidate with nine encourage slips and no coloured "discourage" slip, that is, support of the majority in the 15-member UNSC and no veto.

The appointment of the UNSG is governed by Article 97 of the UN charter: that "the Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council". The primacy of the UNSC in this process is clear: it forwards just one name to the General Assembly for endorsement.

Candidates in the fray

Considering the current UNSG, Antonio Guterres, is from Portugal and his immediate two predecessors were from Asia (Ban Ki-moon of South Korea) and Africa (Kofi Annan of Ghana) respectively, the expectation is that this time, the choice will fall on someone from Latin America and perhaps a woman, as none have held the position.

Other candidates include Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile; Maria Espinoza, former Foreign Minister of Ecuador; Macky Sall, former President of Senegal; and Olara Otunnu, a former UN official from Uganda. Candidates need to be endorsed by at least one member-state, though not necessarily by their own country.

The three candidates who are said to have done well in the first straw poll are from countries with good relations with the Donald Trump administration in the US. This is particularly important but the others in the P5, particularly China and Russia, may have their own views.

For instance, Grossi has had to deal with sensitive nuclear issues at the IAEA. As head of UNCTAD, Grynspan appears to have been able to positively leverage developing countries on the UNSC, while Birkett would have benefited from a certain camaraderie from fellow Ambassadors as a Permanent Representative.

Considering there's no bar on the entry of more candidates as the process unfolds, success in the end may not be with the strongest candidate in terms of multilateral and diplomatic qualifications, but one who can surmount the biggest hurdle — a certain acceptability with all of the P5.

THE U.N. CHARTER

- The UNSG's appointment is governed by Article 97 of the UN charter: 'the Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council'.
- The Security Council's primacy in this process is clear. It forwards one name to the General Assembly for endorsement.

• ECONOMY

Cut, hike, hold: How RBI decides monetary policy

Most economists expect a 'status quo' on interest rates this time. But even when RBI chooses to hold the course, it does so after weighing several factors

UDIT MISRA

THE MONETARY policy committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will unveil its next policy statement today.

Once every two months, the RBI's MPC sits down to take stock of India's economy and decide whether it wants to change the interest rates prevailing in the country.

Most economists and observers expect the RBI to "maintain a status quo" on interest rates. The lack of any change in the rates, however, should not detract from the fact that economies around the world are facing a fairly unprecedented level of uncertainty. Even when a central bank decides to do nothing, as it were, it bases its decision after considering several factors.

What's the point of RBI monetary policy reviews?

Like all central banks, the RBI too is charged with the responsibility of maintaining stable prices in the economy. It does this by targeting the retail inflation rate at 4% (with a comfort band of two percentage points on either side).

The RBI's research has shown that this is the ideal rate of inflation that promotes sustained economic growth. If the inflation rate remains persistently higher than 4%, it erodes the purchasing power of consumers. If it stays persistently below 4%, it weakens the profit incentive of producers.

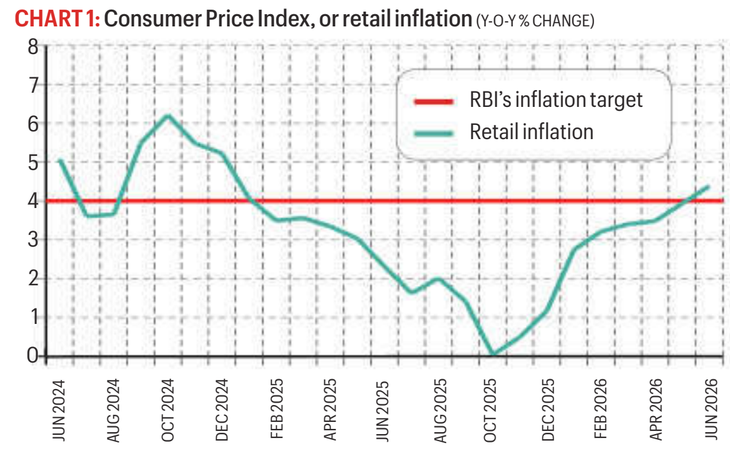
The main tool with which the RBI tries to achieve this 4% inflation target is by tweaking the interest rate it charges when it lends money to India's commercial banks to meet their short-term needs. This interest rate is called the "repo rate".

When the RBI evaluates that economic growth is weak and inflation rate is falling below its target, it reduces the repo rate — making it cheaper for commercial banks to borrow. When the cost of their own borrowing falls, commercial banks cut the rate at which they lend to the rest of the economy — be it a consumer seeking to buy a car or a businesswoman looking to start a firm. This is how the RBI incentivises economic growth while maintaining price stability.

When the RBI sees inflation rate going up too high — either because there is too much demand for goods and services or because there is too little supply — it raises the repo rate to dampen demand. A repo rate increase triggers banks to raise interest rates, thus forcing many to give up their demand for a new car or a new business.

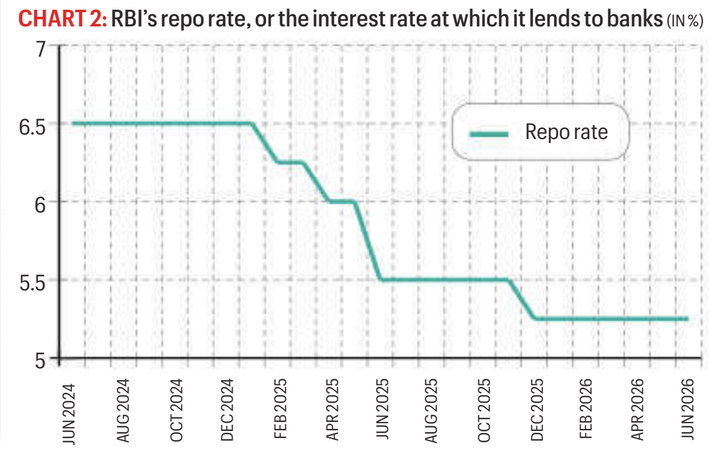
• Retail inflation creeping up

CHART 1: Consumer Price Index, or retail inflation (Y-O-Y % CHANGE)



• Repo rate steadily coming down

CHART 2: RBI's repo rate, or the interest rate at which it lends to banks (IN %)



SOURCE: CENTRE FOR MONITORING INDIAN ECONOMY PVT. LTD.

What are the factors it has to consider?

In any meeting, the RBI has three choices: hike interest rates, cut interest rates or maintain status quo.

On the face of it, the RBI targets the retail inflation rate. That, of course, is the main variable on which it bases its decision.

Chart 2 shows retail inflation has risen through 2026 and is now just above the 4% target, even though it is still within the RBI comfort zone of 2% to 6%. *Chart 1* shows the movement of the repo rate over the same period. But looking at just headline inflation is not enough. As things stand, one can argue for a rate cut: after all, inflation is close to the target level and well within the comfort zone even as economic growth is expected to slow down. Or, for a rate hike, since inflation is steadily rising up over the past few months. But since the effect of a repo rate tweak takes time to percolate through the economy (often several months), a central bank has to consider many other factors.

In many ways, the RBI has to continuously assess not just where growth and inflation are at present but where they will be in a few months. Here is a list of some of the other key factors that RBI is likely to take into account in its deliberations.

1. CRUDE OIL PRICES: Higher crude prices don't just raise domestic inflation but also worsen India's trade deficit, hit exchange rate, increase government debt and bring down economic growth. Thanks to the shaky ceasefire between the US and Iran, crude oil prices continue to swing wildly from one week to another. But, crucially, since the middle of June when the peace deal was signed, crude oil prices have gone up by around 11%. If the RBI expects crude oil prices to remain high or possibly even go higher, it may consider raising rates or, at the very least, keep rates higher for longer.

2. US-IRAN HOSTILITIES: The same argument applies here as well. If the war continues, supply of energy will remain constrained and prices will continue to remain elevated. This is more so because apart from the Strait of Hormuz, now even shipping through the Red Sea has come under threat. Such an assessment will likely singe any plans within the RBI to cut interest rates.

3. MONSOON, EL NIÑO, INFLATION: Regardless of what happens to crude oil prices, there is another big threat to domestic inflation in the form of El Niño. El Niño conditions are likely to intensify in the coming months. As of end-July, rainfall is 13% below average and more than 40% of area in the country remains in the deficient category. Water reservoir levels are considerably lower than what they were at the same stage last year. These can affect rabi sowing.

Food inflation was already well above 5% in June and these developments may tilt the RBI towards either raising rates or keeping them at the same level.

4. QUALITY OF GROWTH MOMENTUM: All central banks have to balance between controlling inflation and promoting economic growth. Further, while deciding on its rate policy, the RBI concerns itself not just with the level of growth but also assesses the quality of growth momentum. It is entirely possible that the growth rate in the past year or the last quarter was strong enough but there are emerging signs of weakness.

To assess this, the RBI looks at the picture painted by a whole host of high frequency indicators. For instance, as a recent report from Bank of Baroda notes, "high frequency data for quarter ending June 2026 indicates that airline passenger traffic (including domestic travel), rail freight traffic, diesel consumption, GST e-way bill generation growth, all slowed compared with June 2025". On the other hand, "port cargo traffic, telecom subscribers, vehicle registrations and GST collections have maintained upward momentum" in the same quarter (April, May and June).

Clearly, the high frequency indicators are painting a mixed picture of the economy.

A mixed picture suggests that the underlying growth momentum is uneven — that is, it is not the case that every sector is looking up. This, in turn, has a key policy implication: The RBI will have to be cautious about raising interest rates.

If all sectors were doing well, the RBI could be tempted to raise rates in the hope that the underlying growth momentum is robust enough to take an interest rate hike in its stride. But if growth is not broad-based, a rate hike can also hurt several sectors that were in any case not doing as well.

5. ACTION OF OTHER CENTRAL BANKS: Typically, interest rates in India are higher than the interest rates in the developed countries such as the US and euro area because the inflation rate is also higher. This gap between the two interest rates often plays a big role in attracting global investors to invest in India via the bond market (a market when money is lent and borrowed), thus providing money that is borrowed by Indian companies as well as the government.

As such, if other central banks raise interest rates, there is pressure on the RBI to follow suit and protect India's attractiveness as an investment destination for debt funds.

But there is a flip side too. Higher interest rates also raise the cost of borrowing for everyone in the economy, especially the government. An increase in interest rates can hurt the government's debt calculations.

Rate actions by key central banks

As of July, US Fed, European Central Bank, Bank of Japan, and Bank of England all maintained status quo on the rates in their economies.

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This brings down the pressure on the RBI to hike rates.

• AVIATION

Air India mishap: To avoid turbulence injuries, stay strapped in

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, August 4

AN AIR India aircraft encountered severe mid-flight turbulence Tuesday while flying from Thailand's Phuket to New Delhi, experiencing a sudden drop of about 300 feet and resulting in injuries to some of the passengers and cabin crew members.

According to the airline, 17 people – 13 passengers and four crew members – were taken to the hospital for medical evaluation, though the injuries didn't appear to be too serious. The incident is being investigated by India's aviation safety regulator.

A routine occurrence

Turbulence is an irregular motion of the air resulting from circular whirls of air, or eddies, and vertical air currents — updrafts and downdrafts. Its severity can range from a few minor bumps during the flight to the aircraft tossing around with rapid and harsh changes in altitude, which can lead to injuries to those on board and also result in structural damage to the plane in rare cases.

Turbulence is a routine occurrence worldwide with scores of flights encountering it to varying degrees on a daily basis. Some of it may be near the ground, when strong winds around the airport can cause turbulence as aircraft take off or land, or at higher altitudes, where an updraft or downward flow of air in storm clouds can trigger some turbulence as planes fly through or near them. Turbulence also occurs on the edges of jet streams — strong, fast, and narrow air currents that circle the globe.

While turbulence is common, serious injuries caused by it are rare, and fatalities even more so. But there have been exceptions: for instance, one passenger died while several flyers and crew members sustained injuries when a Singapore Airlines jet was hit by sudden and severe turbulence over Myanmar in May 2024.

With the explosive growth in air traffic over the past few decades, along with the impact of global warming and climate change, the incidence of severe turbulence — particularly the difficult-to-predict clear air turbulence (CAT) — has grown, studies show. CAT occurs outside of clouds and usually above the altitude of 15,000 feet.

More frequent and severe

The worrying aspect is that climate change could make turbulence more frequent and severe. A 2023 study by researchers from the University of Reading (UK) and the UK Meteorological Office, found large increases in CAT between 1979 and 2020 around mid-altitudes and aircraft cruising altitudes. Over the North Atlantic, severe-or-greater CAT duration rose over 55 per cent in the four-decade period.

Reporting similar increases in turbulence all over the world, the study said the increase is almost certainly the result of climate change. The researchers also estimated that severe turbulence would increase in frequency more than light or moderate levels of turbulence.

Safety protocol

Even when severe turbulence is the primary trigger for an accident, there could be multiple contributory factors, including poor training of crew and inadequate dissemination of weather or wind related information. The US Federal Aviation Administration suggests using operating procedures and training to prevent injuries, promote communication and coordination, and gather data and review the carrier's history of turbulence encounters and injuries.

As a passenger, it is best to keep the seatbelt fastened at all times, unless unavoidable, like when using the lavatory. Most serious injuries are caused when turbulence dislodges the passengers from their seats, and the only way to prevent it is to be strapped in.

Altitude and attitude

- Light turbulence could see slight erratic changes in the plane's altitude and attitude — orientation as per the horizon. Moderate turbulence may trigger more notable changes.
- Severe turbulence could see the aircraft momentarily going out of control. In extreme turbulence, the plane is 'practically impossible to control'.

• LEGAL

Why SC expanded scope of domestic cruelty law to women in live-in relationships

Vineet Bhalla
New Delhi, August 4

EXPANDING THE protection against domestic cruelty under criminal law, the Supreme Court has ruled that such protection, ordinarily given to married women under Section 498A of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code (IPC), extends to women in live-in relationships as well, provided the couple shares an "intent to marry".

Since the IPC has now been replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the judgment will likely apply to the corresponding BNS provision: Section 85. The judgment, delivered on Monday by a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh, recognises that women facing cruelty in domestic settings cannot be denied the protection of criminal law merely because they have not undergone a formal marriage.

The legal position until now

Section 498A of the IPC penalises a husband or his relatives for subjecting a woman to cruelty. Because the provision explicitly uses the word "husband", its application was traditionally restricted to legally valid marriages.

Over the years, the Supreme Court expanded this definition to cover such men who induced a woman into a marriage that is legally void or voidable — for instance, by hiding a previous subsisting marriage — holding that such men cannot claim that they were not a "husband" to escape prosecution for cruelty.

This was what had transpired in the present case as well. The accused man approached the courts to quash a Section 498A case filed by his partner, arguing that since he was already married to someone else, his relationship with the complainant was not a valid marriage. The Karnataka High Court rejected this argument, ruling that when "a man induces a woman to believe that she is lawfully married to him, and thereafter subjects her to cruelty, [he] cannot be permitted to evade criminal responsibility on the plea that no valid marriage existed in law." This led him to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Beyond void marriages

The Supreme Court could have dismissed the appeal by relying on the established precedent regarding void marriages, but the bench took up the broader question of whether a man in a live-in relationship can be prosecuted under Section 498A.

The judgment, written by Justice Karol, adopted a "purposive interpretation" of the law, noting that since the original objective of Section 498A was to deter domestic cruelty, the law must adapt to changing social realities, observing that "cruelty, any which way, does not check at the door, whether the house it enters is that of a married woman or not". The court reasoned that if a woman faces cruelty from her partner, it makes no logical sense to offer her the protection of criminal law if she is married, but deny it if she is cohabiting before marriage. This distinction, it said, "has no rational nexus with the object of preventing domestic violence and is as such offensive to Article 14 of the Constitution of India", which guarantees the fundamental right to equality.

Why the DV Act is not enough

During the hearings, both the petitioner and the Union government argued against expanding Section 498A, pointing out that unmarried women are already protected under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence (DV) Act, 2005, since the Act expressly covers not just married persons but also those "related...through a relationship in the nature of marriage".

The Supreme Court rejected this argument on the basis of the fundamental difference between the two laws. The DV Act, it pointed out, is primarily a piece of civil legislation providing remedies like maintenance and protection orders. The court said that equating it with Section 498A would be a "misstatement of law" because "the import of civil and criminal law is different" since "[o]ne has almost singularly civil and monetary consequences, whereas the other is backed by the force of criminal deterrence".

'Intent to marry' is crucial

To determine which live-in couples get this protection of criminal law, the Supreme Court borrowed the concept of a "relationship in the nature of marriage" from the DV Act. The court clarified that a "relationship in the nature of marriage" is a narrower legal subset of a general "live-in relationship". Relying on a 2013 judgment by it, the court reiterated the features of such a relationship, which include pooling financial resources, sharing domestic arrangements, having a sexual relationship, and holding themselves out to society as being akin to spouses.

Monday's judgment, however, added a caveat for the application of Section 498A: The couple must, in addition to the above, also have the "intent to marry".

This is because, according to the court, while many relationships "may meet all the requirements to be a 'relationship in the nature of marriage'", the partners might choose never to enter matrimony. When this intent is absent, the court held, the relationship should not be equated with marriage for the purpose of invoking a penal provision and its "long list of adverse consequences".

"Those relationships that are in the nature of marriage and also have the requisite intent to marry are the closest to marriage itself, and it is those relationships that shall be entitled to the protection of [Section 498A]," the court ruled.

The judgment noted that the initial burden of proof to establish this intent will lie on the female partner seeking the law's protection. But it did not lay down specific parameters for how this internal "intent" is to be legally recognised.

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, लातेहार।

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना।

संख्या – EE/RDSD/LATEHAR/28/2026-27

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	लातेहार जिला के प्रखण्ड चंदवा अन्तर्गत लाधुप पंचायत के ग्राम आरा में चिलदिरी नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	3,59,53,700	7,19,500	10,000	18 माह

2. निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 05.08.2026
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 17.08.2026 से दिनांक 08.09.2026 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, लातेहार।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –10.09.2026 अपराह्न 1:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, लातेहार।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 06565796434
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
11. बिना कारण बताये किसी एक या सभी कार्य की निविदा को रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित होगा।
12. कार्य हेतु आवश्यक लघु खनिजों का क्रय खनन विभाग द्वारा अनुज्ञा प्राप्त पट्टेदारों से ई–परिवहन चालान के माध्यम से करना होगा तथा संबंधित खनन पदाधिकारी द्वारा सत्यापन के उपरान्त ही विपत्रों का भुगतान किया जायेगा। अन्यथा चालान के बिना संवेदको को भुगतान नहीं किया जायेगा।
13. विभाग द्वारा आवंटन प्राप्त नहीं होने की स्थिति में भी संवेदको द्वारा निर्माण कार्य को अवरूद्ध नही किया जायेगा, आवंटन प्राप्त होने पर ही संवेदको को भुगतान किया जायेगा।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
लातेहार।

PR 386631 Rural Development(26-27)D

Advt.No. NAM/PWL/2026/1770 Dated :- 03.08.2026

DISTRICT AYUSH SOCIETY, PALWAL

Advertisement

District AYUSH Society, District Palwal invites applications from the eligible candidates for filling up of the following post in the District Palwal, Haryana under National AYUSH Mission which is temporarily and purely on contract basis initially up to 31-03-2027 with details as mentioned below: -

Sr. No.	Name of Post	Category	Total vacancy
1	Yoga Instructor (Part Time) under Ayushman Aarogya Mandir	Gen	2
		BC-A	1
		SC	1
	Total		4

- The interested candidates are advised to click on the link https://palwal.gov.in for complete details of this post.
- Last date for submission of duly filled application from the date of publication of advertisement up to 15 days (i.e 19-08-2026.....) to 5 P.M. in the office of DISTRICT AYUSH OFFICER, GNM Nursing College, Civil Hospital, PALWAL Pin Code 121102 by hand or by post or by Email- daspalwal1275@gmail.com.
- Reservation for Yoga Instructor (Part Time) posts will be as per Govt. of Haryana reservation Policy.
- Details of candidates qualifying for the post of Yoga Instructor will be intimated to the concerned candidate on their mobile no./Email-Id from time to time.
- Therefore, candidates are requested to produce a valid Email-Id and Mobile No. in the application from.
- Qualified candidates are instructed to bring their original documents for verification.
- For any Query applicants can contact District AYUSH Office, Palwal on Phone No. – 01275-298064.
- Detailed advertisement and application form can be downloaded from the Link https://palwal.gov.in
- Date of documents verification will be uploaded on https://palwal.gov.in

District Ayush Officer Cum Member Secretary
District Ayush Society Palwal

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

GORKHA RIFLES

Indian Army and 11 Gorkha Rifles Salutes its brave heart, Late TJ – 3791 Sub Awadesh Thakur of 107 Inf Bn (TA) 11 GR, who had made supreme sacrifice during OP Hifazat on 05 Aug 1999.

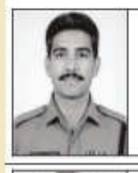
Late L/NK Bom Bahadur Limbu

Rfn Parsu Ram Rai

Indian Army and 11 Gorkha Rifles Salutes its brave heart, Late L/NK Bom Bahadur Limbu and Late Rfn Parsu Ram Rai of 1/11 GR (Batalik), whom made the supreme sacrifice in 1969 at Naga Hills on 05 Aug 1969 in a true act of valour.

Colonel 11 GR & Sikkim Scouts and All Ranks

BORDER SECURITY FORCE



CONSTABLE KRISHAN KUMAR 194 BN BSF 10.11.1964 – 05.08.1995

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Krishan Kumar on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injury while fighting militants in Lal Chowk area, Srinagar (J&K) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

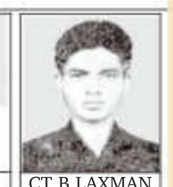
SUB INSPECTOR RAJENDRA SINGH 91 BN BSF 04.04.1961 – 05.08.2013

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Subordinate officer Sub Inspector Rajendra Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On 22 nd July 2013, he sustained fatal injuries while fighting with armed miscreants in area of BOP Jhorpara, Krishnanagar (West Bengal) and later succumbed to his injuries at NRSMCH, Kolkata on 05 Aug 2013.

HC PRITHVI SINGH 89 BN BSF 14.08.1948 – 05.08.1992

L/NK BLACIES TIRKEY 89 BN BSF 15.07.1961 – 05.08.1992

CT AMRAPPA 89 BN BSF 01.06.1970 – 05.08.1992



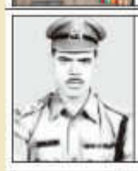
CT B LAXMAN BHAI 89 BN BSF 04.07.1969 – 05.08.1992

CT JAGDISH 89 BN BSF 01.08.1965 – 05.08.1992

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawans Head Constable Prithvi Singh, Lance Naik Blacies Tirkey and Constables Amrappa, B Laxman Bhai & Jagdish on their Balidan Diwas. On this day, they sustained fatal bullet injuries in a fierce encounter with militants in area of Mahur, Dima Hasao (Assam) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

CONSTABLE M SENTHIL KUMARAN 142 BN BSF 01.06.1983 – 05.08.2022

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable M Senthil Kumaran on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he made ultimate sacrifice while on operational duty in Bengaluru (Karnataka).



SH AMALESH CHAND ROY, ASSISTANT COMMANDANT 133 BN BSF 01.01.1952 – 05.08.1992

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant officer Amalesh Chand Roy, Assistant Commandant on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he made ultimate sacrifice while on operational duty in Tista Range, West Bengal.

CONSTABLE SUBHENDU ROY, PPMG 02 BN BSF 06.02.1977 - 05.08.2015

CONSTABLE ROCKY, SHAURYA CHAKRA 59 BN BSF 05.09.1990 - 05.08.2015

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawans Constables Subhendu Roy and Rocky on their Balidan Diwas. On this day, they sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting militants, who opened indiscriminate firing on a BSF Bus carrying troops from Jammu to Srinagar in area of Simrauli, Udhampur (J&K). Both Jawans put up a tough fight to militants and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Their sacrifice and gallant action have been aptly recognized by GOI by awarding them with PPMG and Shaurya Chakra respectively.

CONSTABLE IRSHAD AD WAGEY 18 BN BSF 01.04.1973 – 05.08.2001

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Irshad Ad Wagey on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, militants fired upon him while he was availing journey period at his home town Arahabad area, Anantnag (J&K) and later succumbed to his injuries.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE

Veer Balidani Constable Hari Singh 10 Bn 20-10-1938 To 5-8-1964

Veer Balidani Constable Nafe Singh 10 Bn 18-5-1940 To 5-8-1964

Constable Hari Singh and Constable Nafe Singh were posted in 10 Bn deployed in Srinagar. While deployed for Naka duties, the party tried to stop an approaching vehicle travelling at great speed. The vehicle instead of stopping, ploughed into the posse of jawans manning the naka killing them. They laid down their lives in keeping with the highest traditions of the Force.

Veer Balidani Inspector Mahesh Chand Sharma 01 BN 30-6-1952 To 5-8-2001

Veer Balidani Constable Ramji Mishra 01 BN 10-8-1974 To 5-8-2001

Veer Balidani Constable Kailash Yadav 01 BN 6-5-1972 To 5-8-2001

Veer Balidani Constable Jagdish Prasad Sharma 01 BN 1-10-1974 To 5-8-2001

Veer Balidani Constable Dharam Pal Singh 01 BN 1-4-1971 To 5-8-2001

Veer Balidani Constable Bhagwan Singh 01 BN 5-1-1971 To 5-8-2001

Veer Balidani Constable Sunit Kumar 01 BN 4-6-1969 To 5-8-2001

Veer Balidani Head Constable /Armourer T.C.N. Sonawane AWS Guwahati

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to the eight bravehearts of 1 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice in an IED blast by NDFB militants in Bongaigaon district, Assam on 5 August 2001. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION R.S.PURA

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DRSP/59 of 2026-27 Dated 01-08-2026

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (in Lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for complete -on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Tile work of CFC near Dev sthan Data Ranpat Dev at Bishnah, Ward No.-11 AC Bishnah (Under CDF for the year 2026-27)	PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura	10.00	600	2% of the Advertised Cost	02 Months	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2026	"A","B", "C" & "D" Class
2	Construction of synthetic Volley ball Court at Govt. HSS Chakroi (Under UT Capex Budget 2026-27)	PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura	12.00	600	2% of the Advertised Cost	03 Months	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2026	"A","B", "C" & "D" Class
3	Repair/Modification of old Building of HWC Laswara (Under Distt. Capex budget for the year 2026-27)	PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura	12.83	600	2% of the Advertised Cost	03 Months	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2026	"A","B", "C" & "D" Class
4	Repair/ Modification of old building of HWC Pindi Charkan (Under Distt. Capex budget for the year 2026-27).	PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura	14.99	600	2% of the Advertised Cost	03 Months	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2026	"A","B", "C" & "D" Class
5	Development of Shamshan Ghat at Ward no. 13 Bishnah (Under Capex Budget 2026-27 New Works) URIF.	PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura	19.78	600	2% of the Advertised Cost	06 Months	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2026	"A","B", "C" Class
6	Construction of Cremation Shed and Waiting Shed at Kundeshwar Dham Ward No.-06 Bishnah (Under Capex Budget 2026-27 New Work) UDS	PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura	97.50	1500	2% of the Advertised Cost	09 Months	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2026	"A" Class

Position of AAA :- **S.No. 1 Accorded by District Development Commissioner, Jammu vide order No: 226-DDCJ of 2026 Dated: 14/05/2026, S.No. 2 Accorded by Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, Jammu vide order No: 107-DYSS of 2026 Dated: 27/07/2026, S.No. 3, 4 Accorded by District Development Commissioner, Jammu vide order No: 313-DDCJ of 2026 Dated: 11/07/2026 & S.No. 5, 6 Accorded by Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Jammu vide order No: 99-DULBJ of 2026 Dated: 02/07/2026.**

Position of TS :- **S.No. 1 Accorded by Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division R.S.Pura vide order No: 28 of July 2026 Dated: 30 of July 2026, S.No. 2 Accorded by Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division R.S.Pura vide order No: 27 of July 2026 Dated: 30 of July 2026, S.No. 3,4 Accorded by Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division R.S.Pura vide order No: 26 of July 2026 Dated: 30 of July 2026, S.No. 5 Accorded by Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division R.S.Pura vide order No: 19 of July 2026 Dated: 16 of July 2026 & S.No. 6 Accorded by Superintending Engineer PWD(R&B) Circle South, Jammu vide order No: 60 of July 2026.**

Project Authority :- **S.No. 1,3,4(District Development Commisioner, Jammu), S.No. 2(Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, Jammu),S.No. 5,6 (Directorate of Urban Local Bodies, Jammu)**

Major Head of Account :- **S.No. 1(Under CDF for the year 2026-27),S.No.2(Under UT Capex Budget 2026-27), S.No. 3,4 (Under District Capex Budget 2026-27(Health)) & S.No. 5,6(Under Capex Budget 2026-27(New Work)(UDS)(URIF))**

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	01-08-2026
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 01-08-2026 to 11-08-2026
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	04-08-2026 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura
4	Bid submission Start Date	01-08-2026
5	Bid Submission End Date	11-08-2026 upto 1600 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12-08-2026 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura. In case mentioned bid opening date happens to be a holiday then Bid shall be opened at the same time on the next working day.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **Treasury Receipt/e-challan in favour of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division R S Pura through Treasury, indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and Date and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) and** Earnest money/Bid security in shape of **CDR/FDR/BG** pledged to **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura**. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of **L1** be submitted to the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura** at the time of allotment.
2. **The date of Treasury Challan, Earnest Money/Bid Security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End Date. However, if the tender for the same work has been re-invited after 1st or More calls, the bidders who have already bidded for that work can re-use the same Treasury Challan/Earnest Money/Bid Security** in the successive calls for the said work **provided there should not be any overwriting or forging on the previously uploaded documents.**
3. The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidders needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender documents. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential-submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
4. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division R.S. Pura**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
5. The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.**
6. **The earnest money shall be forfeited, If :-**

a) Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
b) Failure of Successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period after issuance of letter of acceptance.
c) Failure of successful bidder to execute the agreement on same day of allotment of work contract as per Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department Jammu's Circular No. CEJ/G/12660-87 dated 07-10-2021.

7. **Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
   - 7.1 Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the **"Downloads"** option as well as from **"Bidders Manual Kit"** on website www.jktenders.gov.in to acquaint bid submission process.
   - 7.2 To participate in bidding process, bidders have to get 'Digital Signature Certificate (DSC)' as per Information Technology Act-2000. Bidders can get digital certificate from any approved vendors
   - 7.3 The bidders have to submit their bids online in electronic format with digital Signature. No financial bid will be accepted in physical form.
   - 7.4 Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
   - 7.5 Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copy of all necessary documents mentioned in NIT and SBD with technical bid online.

Note: - Scan all the documents on 100 dpi with black and white option.

8. The department will not be responsible for any delay in online submission due to any reasons.

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division, R.S. Pura

DIP/J-7293-Date-04-Aug-2026

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA, HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT)

MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD

Indian Mercantile Chambers, 2nd Floor, Ramjibhai Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400 001. **Tel.:** 022-69041777 **Fax :** 022-69041740
Web site : https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in
Email : ceo.mmb@maharashtra.gov.in / ceommb@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice - (Year 2026-27)/R3/27to29,33

Main Portal : https://mahatenders.gov.in

Digitally signed E-Tender for following work is invited by Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai, from Registered with Government of Maharashtra and having experience in execution of Marine related civil works, for following work in B1 Tender Form.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approximately Tender Cost in Rs.	Blank Tender form amount in Rs.	Earnest Money Amount in Rs.	Time limit for Completion of work
1.	Extension of Existing Passenger Jettys and Providing basic facilities at Madh, Varsova, District, Mumbai Suburban	3,12,99,068.00	2,360.00	1,58,500.00	18 Months (Including Monsoon)
2	Construction of Pathway and landscaping works along the seashore at vacate place within 130M from Bandra Fort, Bandra (W) Bandra, Dist. Mumbai Suburban	2,05,56,065.00	2,360.00	1,50,000.00	12 Months (Including Monsoon)
3	Ailled Faxilities at Marve & Manori Terminal, Mumbai Suburban.	1,17,66,412.00	1,180.00	1,18,000.00	12 Months (Including Monsoon)
4	Providing Water Connecting, Ercting eather shed and other basic facilities at Gorai Passenger Jetty, Tal. Borivali, Dist. Mumbai Suburban.	80,33,959.00	1,180.00	80,500.00	12 Months (Including Monsoon)

The details can be viewed online and downloaded directly from the Government of Maharashtra E-Tendering Portal **https://mahatenders.gov.in 11.08.2026*** at **12:00 to 18.08.2026* at 17:00** hours (IST).*

The right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai

DGIPR-2026-27/2100

HARYANA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION BAY NO. 15-18, SECTOR 2, PANCHKULA (HARYANA) OFFERS E-AUCTION OF AGRI-COMMODITIES : BAJRA

E-Auction Notice

The Haryana State Warehousing Corporation intends to e-auction of Bajra KMS-2023-24 and 2025-26 stored in State Warehouses on "as is where is" basis at locations across Haryana mentioned below:

Sr. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of District	Name of the Warehouse	Quantity (in Qtl.)	
				Crop Year 2023-24	Crop Year 2025-26
1	Fatehbad	Fatehbad	Fatehabad	24.5	-
2	Palwal	Nuh	Palwal-III (Rattipur)	-	656
3	Rewari	Gurugram	Sewari	-	753
4		Gurugram	F. Nagar	-	823

Interested parties are requested to see the detailed terms & conditions/instructions to participate in bid for one or more locations by visiting the Star Agri (Agribazaar) Portal URL (https://www.agribazaar.com), *The e-Auction will commence on daily basis during the m/o July, 2026 as per following schedule:*

Bajra	**06.08.2026 to 15.08.2026**	**10:00 to 11:00 AM 01:00 to 02:00 PM 03:00 to 04:00 PM**

Haryana State Warehousing Corporation reserves the right to accept /reject/increase/decrease/alter the auction date & quantity without assigning any reason/notice.

Managing Director

For any query:-
Whatsapp Link: https://wa.me/+918360417650
Whatsapp QR Code:

For any query:-
Telegram Link: https://t.me/m/ybvfKSu6OGQ9
Telegram QR Code:

No. 47781/HRY

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 dated 13.06.2022 and Railway Board's letter No. 2024/RS(G)/779/7(E3471089) dated 13.08.2024, invites bids through **e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in)** for leasing of parcel space of **SLR compartments and VPs** (on round trip basis) for a period of **Three Years** as per detail and schedule given below:-

S.No.	Date & Time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1	12.08.2026 at 10:30 A.M.	12156 (R1) (Wed, Fri), 12191(R1), 12270 (R1), 12630(R1), 12722(R1) (Wed, Fri), 12780(R1) (Wed, Fri,) 12804(R1), 12824(R1), 12916(R1) (Wed, Fri), 15484(R1) (Wed, Fri), 22182 (R1).
2	13.08.2026 at 10:30 A.M.	01 LVPH (24 tonnes) on round trip basis in each train - 14012/14011, 14050/14049.
3	17.08.2026 at 10:30 A.M.	12005 (F1), 12011 (F1), 12013 (F1), 12015 (F1), 12034 (F1) (Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat), 12034 (F1) (Tue), 12045(F1), 12270 (F1), 12304(F1), 12428(F1), 12438(F1), 12481(F1, R1) 14152 (F1), 14208(F1), 14212 (F1), 15530(F1), 15622(F1), 22168(F1), 22210(F1).
4	18.08.2026 at 10:30 A.M.	12017 (F1), 12040(F1), 12055(F1), 12057(F1), 12282(F1), 12350(F1), 12382(F1), 12444(F1), 12448(F1), 12455(F1), 12528(F1, R1), 13066 (F1), 13252 (F1), 20452 (F1), 22406 (F1, R1), 22428(F1), 22542 (F1, R1).
5	19.08.2026 at 10:30 A.M.	12060(F1), 12265(F1), 12452(F1), 12596(F1), 12918(F1), 14014(F1), 14056(R1), 14164(F1), 14341(F1), 14679(F1), 14681(F1, R1), 15035(F1, F2, R1), 15280(F1), 19404(F1, R1), 22404(F1), 22950(F1).
6	20.08.2026 at 10:30 A.M.	12212(R1), 12226(F1), 12457(F1, F2, R1), 12963(F1), 14303(F1, F2, R1), 15134(F1), 15304(F1, F2, R1), 20473(F1), 22429(F1), 22438(F1, R1), 22472(F1).
7	21.08.2026 at 10:30 A.M.	12274(F1), 12436(F1), 12986(F1), 14331(F1, F2, R1), 14507 (F1, F2, R1), 14731 (F1, R1), 15116 (F1), 22410(F1), 22421(F1, F2, R1), 22454(F1, F2, R1).

Important notes: 1. For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit **https://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html. (E-Auction leasing section). 2.** Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/additional terms and conditions depending upon the continuation/ discontinuation of these trains or commencement of new train services.

2690/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

उद्यान निदेशालय, झारखण्ड, राँची
कृषि भवन, काँके रोड़, राँची–834008
(कृषि पशुपालन एवं सहकारिता विभाग)
Email ID-ddhranchi@rediffmail.com

CORRIGENDUM

E-Tender/Horti/01/26-27 (PR 385990 (Agriculture) 26-27 (D)) for "Supply and installation of Post Harvest components under Agri export & Agri marketing-cum-post harvest infrastructure development scheme of Directorate of Horticulture, Jharkhand"

1.Pre Bid Meeting हेतु निर्धारित तिथि को 03.08.2026 के स्थान पर 14.08.2026 पढ़ा जाय।
2.Technical Bid Opening हेतु निर्धारित तिथि को 18.08.2026 के स्थान पर 19.08.2026 पढ़ा जाय।
3.Financial Bid Opening हेतु निर्धारित तिथि को 21.08.2026 के स्थान पर 22.08.2026 पढ़ा जाय।
4.प्रकाशित E-Tender की अन्य कंडिकाएँ यथावत समझी जाय।

ह0/–
निदेशकउद्यान,झारखण्ड, राँची

PR 386575 (Agriculture)26-27*D

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,GUNGUN KUMARI,D/o-Gyan Prakash,R/o-H.No.324,Gali-Old Saini Chopal Shalimar-Village Shalimar-Bagh,Delhi-110088,inform that my name GUNGUN KUMARI and GUNGUN is same person. 0040869941-6

I, Chander Bhushan Arora S/O Late Shri Udho Dass Arora R/O 27, 2nd Floor, Samrat Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, inform that Chander Bhushan Arora and Chander Bhushan both the names are one and the same person. 0040869948-2

I R D SAMPLAY S/O GANGU R/O 57, SECOND FLOOR, DWARIKA ENCLAVE, SECTOR-5, RAJENDER NAGAR,SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UP-201005 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAM DHAN SAMPLAY FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0130067612-1

I,SURINDER KUMAR S/o Sh. Kali Ram R/o 152-A,D-Block, Patel Garden,Kakraula Village,New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to SURENDER KUMAR CHANDEL. 0040869960-3

I,No-9102337K,Ex NK/TS Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, R/O- Paniwah, Tehsil/District-Kulgam. In my service records the names and D o B of my wards has been wrongly mentioned son as Fazal Gulzar instead of Fazil Gulzar Bhat,daughter as Sayra Gulzar,06-04-2006 instead of Saira Gulzar, 04-06-2009 as mentioned in education certificates. It needs corrections. Objections be filed to Unit 05 JAKLI within seven days.

0020517697-1

I,NAYANA KUMARY W/O SANTOSH PANDEY R/O House no-17,Block R3A3,Gandhi Chowk,Mohan Garden Delhi-110059,have changed my name to NAYANA PANDEY.

0040869933-9

I, Rina Kumari Gupta W/o Samir Kumar Gupta R/o-A506, Vaibhav Heritage Heights, Noida Ext. G.Noida have changed my name to Rina Kumari. 0071051928-1

I,Bipul Kumar,S/o-Ashok Kumar Sharma,R/o Anand Garden,Uphaar Homes-3, 3rd Floor,Flat No-302,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001,have changed my name to Bipul Kumar Sharma. 0040869943-6

I, Gourav Kumar S/o Tikam Kumar R/o-179, Masjid, Sec-101, Salarpur, GB.Nagar have changed my name to Gaurav Kumar. 0071051934-1

I,Hemlata Malhotra,w/o Vikram Kalra R/o RZ-50-51,First Floor,Back Side,Mahindra Park,New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Hemlata permanently 0040869954-9

I,Tajender Yadav,S/O-Mahavir Prasad Yadav,R/o-H.No.B-751,Sushant-Lok Phase-1,Sikanderpur Ghosi(68) DLF-QE,Gurugram-122002,Have Changed my name to Tejinder Kumar 0040869933-2

I,V Ponnambalam,S/o R Venkatesan,R/o C-62, Soochana Apartment, Vasundhara Enclave,East Delhi,Delhi-110096,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ponnambalam Venkatesan

0040869941-10

I, Ijlal S/o Irshad Ahmad R/o Syala, Bhawanpur, Meerut, UP have changed my name to Mohd Ijlal. 0071051929-1

I,GULISTAN FURKAN W/O FURQAN AHMED R/O 36 J-EXTN LAXMI NAGAR DELHI-110092,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GULISTAN,FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040869954-2

I,Mahendar Prakash s/o-Chetan Ram, R/o-E-10, Nav Bharat Appartment, A-4-Blk, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-63, have changed my name to Mahender Prakash

0040869864-1

I, MO Fazeel S/o Alla Razi R/o Ward-19, Nai Abadi, Dadri, GB Nagar have changed my name to Fazeel Ahamad.

0071051956-1

I,Manoj Kumar Joshi S/o Dev Parkash Joshi,R/o H.No-191A, Anukampa Apartment,Abhay Khand-4,Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Manoj Joshi.

0040869960-5

I,NATASHA NAND CHAHAL,W/O NIRMAL SINGH RALHI R/0-78-C, Panditwari Uttarakhand-248006,Phase-2 Dehradun have changed my name to NATASHA RALHI. 0040869941-1

I,KUMARI SWATI DAUGHTER OF,RAJBIR SINGH ADDRESS VILLAGE- GUBHANA,POST-GUBHANA, THANA-BAHADURGARH,DIST- JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124507 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM KUMARI SWATI TO SWATI,VIde AFFIDAVIT-03/08/2026.

0040869943-8

'I, Jagan Singh S/o Mangu R/o Ruchhli, Faliya, Mathana, PO-Mathna, Dist- Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh- 457882, have changed my minor son's name from Ajesh Aged 15 Years to Aaju Chouhan forever

0071051939-1

I,Swarup Kanwar,mother of,Veerendra Singh Dheerawat,residing at,Village: Bhalpur,Post:Mohcha, Dist-Sawai Madhopur,Rajasthan-322205,have changed my name from Swarup Kanwar to Swaroop Kanwar vide-affidavit dated-03-Aug-26

0040869943-11

I,Rahul Saxena,S/o-Dilip Saxena,R/o-A-1/83,S-1,Pooja-Apartment,DLF Dilshad Ext-2,Bhopura,Ghaziabad,Uttar Pradesh-201001,have changed the name of my-minor son,from Hetansh Saxena to Hanish Saxena,for all the,future pusposes.

0040869954-11

I, Pooja Jain W/o Amit Jain R/o A-3/6, Block-A, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi-110051, have changed my name to Pooja Choudhary Jain 0071051964-1

I RANJU RAMPAL,W/O VIJYANT SHARMA,H.NO.A-1/31, SECTOR-18, ROHINI, DELHI-110089,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RANJU SHARMA 0040869943-1

I, MOHENDER SINGH, S/O SUCHA SINGH, R/O B-30, Kewal Park, Azad Pur N.S Mandi, Delhi-110033,have changed my name to MAHENDER SINGH.

0040869764-7

I, SAJJO W/O Mohd Aris,R/O W-167/326, Block-W-167,Indra Camp No. 4, Vikas Puri, Delhi-110018,have changed my name to SAMIMA 0040869954-4

I, Sajal Arora, son of Mr. Radhey Shyam, residing at H. No. 5471, Near Police Chowki, Sector 3, 36 Gaj, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, have changed my name from Sajal Jhamb to Sajal Arora. Henceforth, I shall be known by my new name, Sajal Arora, in all records. 0040869893-1

I,HASIM MALIK,S/O-JAFAR,R/O RC-445,DEEPAK VIHAR,KHODA COLONY, DISTRICT:GHAZIABAD,UTTAR PRADESH-201309,have changed my name to MD HASIM MALIK for all future purposes. 0040869960-7

I,Kiran,W/o Ranjit Singh Bisht,701 Tower-Quiet,Paramount Emotions, Sector-1,Bishrakh,Gautam Buddha Nagar,Uttar Pradesh-201306,Have Changed My Name to Kiran Bisht,for All Future Purposes. 0040869941-3

I Muntaha W/o Hammad Kamaal, D/o Mohammad Mazhar, R/o N-5/A, First Floor, Sailing Club Road, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110025 have changed my name to Muntaha Mazhar for all purposes. 0040869835-1

I,Kalawati Devi,mother of,Manjeet Kumar,residing at,Vill-Lakhnaura, post-kishunpura,Dist-Siwan,State-Bihar,Pin-841416,I have changed my name from Kalawati Devi to Kalawati Gupta,vide-affidavit date-03/08/2026. 0040869943-10

I Hasmat Ali Alias Hasmat Ali Khan Alias Hashmat Ali Alias Hashmat Ali Khan S/o Bundu Khan R/o C-13/674, Surender Colony Part-1, Jharoda Mazra, Burari, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Hashmat Ali Khan 0071051942-1

I,NAMRATA,W/O-ARVIND KUMAR DHAUNDIYAL R/O RZI-117, MAHAVIR ENCLAVE PALAM NEW DELHI 110045 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO NAMRATA DHAUNDIYAL.

0040869933-4

I, Bhoomee Asthana D/o Amit Asthana R/o Flat. 56-101, Emaar Palm Hills, Residential Apartment Sector-77, Shikohpur (160), Gurgaon, Haryana-122004, have changed my name to Arunita Asthana.

0071051977-1

I,SURENDER KUMAR BHARTIA,S/o Shri Kishan Lal,R/o 27/5/17,Gali Hari Mandir,Jwala-Nagar, Shahdara,Delhi-110032,have changed the name of my minor son RUDRA aged about 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as RUDARRAKSH ARORA.

0040869954-13

I,Satish Kumar Goyal S/o Ram Kishan,R/o C-27,Swarn Nagri,Sector-31,Greater Noida,Uttar Pradesh-201310. have changed my name to Satish Kumar 0040869933-6

I Ravinder Singh Tanwar s/o Sh. Daryav Singh Tanwar R/o B-70, Third Floor, Naraina Vihar, New Delhi-110028, declare Ravinder Singh Tanwar & Ravinder Singh is one and same person

0040864196-1

I,Jai Verma,Father of Shaurya Chhawdi,R/o-H.No-11, Molarband-village, badarpur,new delhi-110044,have changed my minor son name Shaurya Chhawdi to Ram Chhawdi,for all purposes.

0040869943-3

I, SAYED RAHAT ALI, S/o SAYED HAMID ALI, R/o H. No. 1026, Gali Rajan, Farash Khana, Delhi-110006, hereby declare that "RAHAT ALI" is my alias/nickname and "SAYED RAHAT ALI" and "RAHAT ALI" are one and the same person. Henceforth, both names may be treated as belonging to me for all legal and official purposes. 0071051898-2

I,MD ARIS S/O Mohd Salim R/O W-167/326, Block-W-167,Indra Camp No.4, Vikas Puri,Delhi-110018,have changed my name to MOHD ARIS

0040869954-6

I,VIRENDER KUMAR, S/o.KHEM CHAND SAPRA, R/o.A-59,Priyadarshini Vihar,Laxmi Nagar,Delhi-110092, has changed my name to VIRENDER KUMAR SAPRA, for all purposes.

0040869960-10

I, PRAVEEN KUMAR MITTAL, S/o OM PRAKASH MITTAL, resident of Flat No. B, Ground Floor, Plot No.1/8, Sector-2, Rajendra Nagar, Near V Care Hospital, Ghaziabad, Sahibabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005, have changed my name from PRAVEEN MITTAL to PRAVEEN KUMAR MITTAL for all purposes.

0040869835-2

I,Rahul Bharat Mehta,S/o-Bharat Hiralal Mehta,resident of,Unit.No.2002, Tower-34,Nirala-Estate Phase-05,Techzone-4,Greater-Noida West,Uttar Pradesh-201306,have changed my name from Rahul Bharat Mehta to Rahul Mehta,for all future purpose. 0040869941-5

I, Munish Kumar S/O Daya Nand R/O C-9/75, Ground Floor, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my minor son name from Ragvinder to Ragvinder Kaushik.

0040869948-1

I, Tsering Dorjey S/O Tsering Paldan residing at Saboo, Leh, Ladakh have changed my name to Chhering Dorje vide affidavit dated 30/07/2026 at Leh. 0050294379-1

I,Preeti W/o Pankaj Sharma R/o B-2/578, Fourth Floor, J J Colony, Raghubir Nagar,Delhi-110027,have changed my name to Preeti Sharma. 0040869960-2

I, Shabnam Khan W/O, Abdul Qadir Shah Chaudhary R/o 5157 3rd Floor Ballimaran have changed my name to SHABNAM CHAUDHARY after marriage. 0040869939-1

I,SUNIL KUMAR,S/O-Sh.Ram Kumar,R/O-530/20, P.P.Colony,Baprola, Najafgarh,Baprola,South-West Delhi,Delhi-110043,have changed the name of my-minor daughter SHIKHA aged-14-years and she shall hereafter be known as SHIKHA VASHIST.

0040869933-8

I, SAYED RAHAT ALI alias RAHAT ALI S/o SAYED HAMID ALI, R/o-H.No 1026 GALI RAJAN, FARASH KHANA, DELHI-110006, have change my name to SAYED RAHAT ALI for all purposes.

0071051898-1

I,Rajveer S/o Badlay Ram,R/o-Village Bhanguri,Near-Shiv Mandir,Post & Tehsil:Hathin, Bhanguri(228),Palwal Faridabad (Haryana)-121103,have changed my name to Rajveer Singh. 0040869943-5

I,NIRMALA YADAV W/o NO.621269L RANK EX SGT (LATE) JAGDISH CHANDER R/o H.NO.500 , NEAR KRISHAN MANDIR NANGLOI DELHI - 110041 have changed my name to NIRMALA DEVI vide affidavit date 3-8-2026 before Delhi.

0071051927-1

I,MOHAN BANSAL,S/O-OM PRAKASH BANSAL,R/O-F-205,JAIPURIA SUNRISE GREENS,12-A AHINSA-KHAND,INDIRAPURAM,SHIPRA SUNCITY,GHAZIABAD,UTTAR PRADESH-201014,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAN LAL BANSAL

0040869954-8

I, MOHAMMAD UROOJ KAIFI R/O H-86, Second Floor, Near Shahab Masjid, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, South Delhi - 110025 have changed My Minor Son's Name From ALI KAIFI to Mohammad Ali Kaifi.

0130067622-1

I,Ishwar Dutt Kaushik,S/O-Mauji Ram,R/O-B-6/44-45,GF/F.F,Sector-8,Rohini Delhi-110085,Decalare That Name Of Mine Has Been Written As Ishwar Dutt In My Son,S Namely Kuldeep In His 10th Class Educational Documents,But My Actual Name Is ISHWAR DUTT KAUSHIK. 0040869941-7

I, Meena W/O Late SH. Raju R/o H.No. 127, Harijan Basti west, Sultanpuri, Delhi- 110086, declares that Meena and Joyti both are the name of same person 0040869853-1

I,MOHD FURKAN,S/O-ABDUL SALAM,R/O-36 J-EXTN LAXMI-NAGAR,DELHI-110092,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO FURQAN AHMED FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0040869954-1

I ALKA W/O HITESH KUMAR R/O 57, SECOND FLOOR, DWARIKA ENCLAVE, SECTOR-5, RAJENDER NAGAR,SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UP-201005 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ALKA SHARMA FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0130067616-1

I,Kaveeta W/o-Gurvinder Kumar,R/o W Z -80,Near L S Play School, South EXTN.,Uttam Nagar,New Delhi-110059,have changed my name to Kavita. 0040869960-4

I,Shalini Yadav,wife of,Tejinder Kumar,R/o H No.B-751,Sushant-Lok Phase-1, Sikanderpur-Ghosi (68)DLF QE,Gurugram-122002,Have Changed my name to Shalini Singh

0040869933-1

I,ARVIN KUMAR DUBEY,S/O CHANDRA DEEP PANDEY,R/O Village Bhuawal, Post Chilharuwa, Dinara, Bhuawal, Rohtas,Bihar-802213,have changed my name to ARVIND KUMAR DUBEY.

0040869933-10

I,OMPATI MOTHER OF,RAJBIR SINGH ADDRESS VILLAGE-GUBHANA,POST-GUBHANA, THANA-BAHADURGARH, DIST-JHAJJAR,HARYANA-124507, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM OMPATI TO OM PATI ,VIDE-AFFIDAVIT-03/08/2026.

0040869943-7

I, HASINA BEGUM, W/o SAYED RAHAT ALI, D/o ZAFAR AHMED SIDDIQUI, R/o H. No. 1026, Gali Rajan, Farash Khana, Delhi-110006, hereby declare that "HASEENA FATMA" and "HASEEN FATMA" are my alias/nicknames and "HASINA BEGUM", alias "HASEENA FATMA", alias "HASEEN FATMA" refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, all these names shall be treated as belonging to me for all legal and official purposes.

0071051899-2

I,Maksud Ali,S/o-Sahid Ali,R/o C-144,Mulla-Colony,Gharoli-Extension, Vasundhara Enclave,Delhi-110096,have changed my name from Maksud Ali to Maksood Ali for all future purposes.

0040869954-10

I, MO.Khalid S/o Fazeel Ahamad R/o Ward-19, Nai Abadi, Dadri, GB Nagar have changed my name to Khalid. 0071051957-1

I,MOHAMMED RIZWAN ALVI/MOHD RIZWAN ALVI,S/O-MOHAMMED ILYAS ALVI,R/O-782,STREET.NO-21,ZAKIR NAGAR OKHLA,SOUTH-EAST, DELHI 110025,HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD RIZWAN ALVI,for all future purposes. 0040869933-3

I,Seema Rajawat,mother of,Atul Singh,residing at,Shiv Niwara Colony,Maharajpur, Gwalior-474020,M.P.,have changed my name from Seema Rajawat to Seema Devi,vide-affidavit dated 03-Aug-2026.

0040869941-11

I, Sheela Devi W/o Dharmveer Singh R/o 476, Kanya Pathshala, Razapur, Ghaziabad, Kavi Nagar, UP-201002, have changed my name from Sheela Devi to Sheela Singh. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Sheela Singh for all future purposes.

0071051930-1

I,YOGITA ARORA W/o-Kula Pradeep Hazarika, R/o-235, New Layal Pur Colony, Krishna Nagar, New Delhi-51, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as YOGITA HAZARIKA in my minor daughter's namely ANIKA HAZARIKA, aged 15yrs in her school records. The actual name of mine is YOGITA ARORA, which may be amended accordingly.

0040869864-2

I,Mohd Javed S/o Abdul Aziz R/o H.No-9, 1st Floor, Sabir Apartment, South Delhi, have changed name Mohd Javed Qureshi. 0040869960-6

I,VIJAY LAXMI,W/o SUNIL Besoya.,R/o 81-A, Kallu Mohalla. Garhi EAST OF KAILASH South-DELHI-110065,have changed my name to Pooja Besoya 0040869941-2

I, Chitra w/o Sukhdeep Singh R/o A-45, Fateh Nagar, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to CHITRA KAUR 0040869840-1

I,SHAMIM BEGUM,W/O-ILYAS AHMAD R/O-H NO-782, STREET. NO-21,ZAKIR-NAGAR OKHLA, SOUTH EAST DELHI-110025, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO SHAMIMA BEGUM for all future purposes. 0040869943-9

I Dally Salwan D/o Ashwani Kumar Sharma and W/o Balraj Salwan R/o Saket Callipolis B604 Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560035, have changed my name to Dolly SalwanN 0071051941-1

I,Anush Ramakrishnarao Kuchipudi,S/o-Shri Ramakrishnarao Subbarao Kuchipudi,R/o H/UC-802,8th Floor H,Adiya-Urban Casa Sector-78,Noida,Gautam Buddha Nagar,Uttar-Pradesh-201301,have changed my name to Anush Ramakrishna Kuchipudi. 0040869954-12

I, Plabita Chutia D/o Achinta Chutia W/o Himanshu Pipil R/o H-3A Mangal Bazar Road, Laxmi Nagar Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Plabita Pipil. 0071051972-1

I,VANDANA GUPTA W/o Praveen Gupta,R/o 2095 Gali Mahabir Bahadur Garh Road Sadar Bazar Delhi-110006, have changed my name to VANDANA

0040869933-5

I,PRAMOD BHARTI S/O RAM JANAM BHARTI R/o 100-C,Kamna,Sector-1,Vaishali, Ghaziabad,U.P.have changed my name to PRAMOD KUMAR BHARTI. 0040869943-2

I, Priyanshu Kumar S/o Bijender R/o House No.20/21, Gali No.4, Balaji Chowk, Panchsheel Enclave, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, East Delhi-110059. That I hereby declare that Bijendra Kumar Thakur & Bijender is the name of same and one person i.e. my father. 0040869860-1

I,CHANDANI RAI D/o - AVADHESH RAI R/o-C-11/157,3RD FLOOR, SECTOR-5, ROHINI, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to CHADANI RAI. 0040869954-5

I, VIRENDER PAL MEHTA S/O LATE KEWAL KRISHAN, HOUSE NO.57 BLOCK-A, SECTOR 61, NOIDA, UTTAR PRADESH 201301 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIRENDER MEHTA FOR ALL PURPOSE 0040869896-1

I,MD JAFAR S/O MOHAMMAD,R/O RC 445 DEEPAK VIHAR,KHODA COLONY, DISTRICT:GHAZIABAD,UTTAR PRADESH 201309,have changed my name to JAFAR,for all future purposes. 0040869960-8

I,Anuj Kumar,S/o-Mahesh Singh,R/o-Sikandarpur, Patara Karhal,Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh-205268,have changed my name,from Anuj Kumar to Anuj Singh Chauhan,for all future purposes. 0040869941-4

I Kurshida Begam Alias Khurshid Begam Alias Khurshida Begam Alias Khurshidan D/o Masiudden Khan and W/o Hashmat Ali Khan R/o C-13/674, Surender Colony Part-1, Jharoda Mazra, Burari, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Khurshidan

0071051944-1

I,INDIRA w/o Vinod Kumar,R/O Flat.no O-33,senior citizen home complex sector -P-4,Greater Noida (u.p.)201310,have changed my name to INDIRA SINGH

0040869960-1

I Nitika Rani W/O, Manish Aggarwal R/o Gh-14 Flat No-279 Paschim Vihar Sunder Vihar Delhi 110087 have changed my name to Nikita Aggarwal.

0040869937-1

I,RAJESH VISHKARMA,S/o-Gomti Prasad,R/o B1/27,Sewak Park,Uttam Nagar,Dist.West Delhi,Delhi-110059,have changed the name of my minor daughter KRISHIKA VISHKARMA aged 13-years and she shall hereafter be known as PREETIKA VISHKARMA.

0040869933-7

I, SAEED KHAN S/O ABDUL SATTAR R/O 2683 STREET TASH WALI CHHOTI BARADARI BALLIMARAN DELHI 110006 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD SAEED PERMANENTLY. 0071051894-1

I,Harneet Kaur Talwar,D/o Gurinderpal Singh Talwar,W/o Harpreet Singh R/o 35-36,Block-6,Subhash Nagar,Tagore Garden,West Delhi-110027,have changed my name to Harneet Kaur.

0040869943-4

'I, Dharmvir Singh S/o Kanhaiya Lal R/o 476, Razapur, Ghaziabad, Kavi Nagar, UP-201002, have changed my name from Dharmvir Singh to Dharmveer Singh. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Dharmveer Singh for all future purposes. 0071051932-1

I,MAHAENDRA YADAV,F/o JC-331894F,Rank-SUB Name-RANJEET KUMAR,R/o-VPO-EKANGAR DIH,TEHSIL-HILSA, DIST-NALANDA, BIHAR-801301,have changed my,name from MAHAENDRA YADAV to MAHENDRA YADAV and correct Date-of-Birth-03-MAY 1956,for all,future purposes.

0040869954-7

I VIVEK KUMAR S/O KRISHAN PAL R/O H.NO.-178/A R.M. 2ND, RAJENDER NAGAR,SAHIBABAD, GHAZIABAD, UP-201005 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO VIVEK KUMAR DUHOON FOR ALL PURPOSES. 0130067621-1

I,Radhika W/o Surender Saini R/o A-5B/56A, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Rekha for all purposes. 0040869954-3

LOST & FOUND

I Shri Vineet Yadav S/o Shri Bindeshwari Prasad Yadav Director of Ramiya Constructions Pvt Ltd have lost my Original Relinquishment Deed dated 02.02.2010 vide document No 1291 and Mutation Letter dated 30.03.2012 in respect of Property No. C-668, Block-C, situated in the layout plan of The New Friends Cooperative House Building Society Limited now known as New Friends Colony, New Delhi. Finder may contact at 9910937921

0040869835-3

Lost Original Documents i.e. DDA Site Possession-Slip, NOC for Electric,and Water-Connection of Flat-No.C1A/19A, Janakpuri,New Delhi-110058, Varun Dhawan, S/o Sh.M.L. Dhawan an FIR Lodge-Vide.LR.NO.484508/2026, Founder inform at above address.

0040869836-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेरे मुव्वकिल श्री अरविंद कुमार पुत्र श्री राम अजोर निवासी 239 D ब्लॉक बेगमपुर दिल्ली-110086 ने अपनी पुत्री अंजली उम्र 21 साल और उसके पति संदीप कुमार को उनके गलत आचरण और दुर्व्यवहार के कारण अपनी समस्त चल अचल संपत्ति से बेदखल कर अपने सारे पारिवारिक संबंध विच्छेद कर लिए है। भविष्य में यदि कोई इससे किसी भी प्रकार का लेन देन आदि कुछ भी करता है। तो उसका जिम्मेदार वह खुद होगा। मेरे मुव्वकिल एवं उसके परिवार की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी ।

KAMAL SINGH
(Advocate)
Enri.No.D/748/2014

DISOWNMENT NOTICE

It is for information of general public that my client Shri Satendra Kumar S/o Shri Raj Singh R/o B-21/1, Acharya Niketan, 3rd Floor, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110091, has disowned/debar his son Shri Shashank Ujjwal, aged 31 years and his wife Smt. Sakshi alias Neha, aged 28 years, both R/o B-21/1, 3rd Floor, Acharya Niketan, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110091, from all his moveable and immoveable properties, as they are disobedience, misbehaving, having immoral attitude and out of control of my client, if anybody deals with him/her/ them, shall do at his own risk and responsibility. My client and/or his family members shall not be held responsible for his acts, deeds, things, liabalities etc. Parmanand (Advocate)
Enrolment No.D-1729/2001
Ch. No.F-621, 6th Floor, F-Block, Karkardooma Courts Complex, Delhi-110092

Call or WhatsApp 9717006820 to advertise on classified page
The Indian EXPRESS JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC AT LARGE IS HEREBY INFORMED that my clients, **Sh. Rajesh Mishra**, S/o Sh. Ram Prasad Mishra & **Girisha Mishra** W/o Rajesh Mishra, both resident of 225-A, Pocket J&K, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095, has severed all relations with their daughter-in-law, **Mrs. Nikita Mishra**, D/o Sh. Jay Prakash Mishra.
My clients have disowned and disinherited her from all of their present and future movable and immovable properties, and she shall have no right, title, interest, claim or concern whatsoever in the same.
Any person, institution, bank, company or authority dealing with **Mrs. Nikita Mishra** in respect of my client's properties or representing her as having any authority, right or interest therein shall be doing so entirely at his/her/its own cost, risk, peril and consequences. My clients shall not be responsible or liable for any act, transaction, representation or obligation undertaken by her.

Sd/-
HINU MAHAJAN
Advocate
Ch. No. 276, Lawyer's Chamber Block-II
Delhi High Court, New Delhi-110003

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **Smt. Renuka Jain** W/o **Late Anil Kumar Jain**, Registrant/ Allottee/Mutatee of Application No. **52258** under Rohini Residential Scheme, 1981, had submitted FDR No. **19377**, Rohini Registration Receipt No. **15/577** dated **22/4/1981** amounting to **Rs. 5000**
It is hereby informed that the aforesaid original FDR has been lost/misplaced.
In this regard:-
1. NCR/FIR/Lost Report No. **930806/2018** dated **27/03/2018** has been lodged at Police Station Crime Branch, Delhi
2. An Indemnity Bond has also been executed regarding loss of the said FDR.

If anybody has any objection/ claim regarding the aforesaid FDR or finds the same, he/she may contact the undersigned within 15 days from publication of this notice.
Address: **Apartment No. 1004, Block - 10, 10th Floor, My Home Mangala, Kondapur, K. V. Rangareddy, Telangana - 500084**, Mobile No.: **7579193512**
Signature of Applicant

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Plot No. 2571 (Old No. U-71) in Sector-A, measuring 436.33 sq. yds in our Greenfields Colony, stood allotted in the joint names of Smt. Santosh Nayyer W/o Late Shri Satpal Nayyer and Sri Vinod Kumar Nayyer S/o Late Shri Satpal Nayyer R/o BB-5, Greater Kailash Enclave-2, New Delhi since 1/12/1993. The Company received an email dated 19/1/2023 from Shri Vijay Nayyer informing the Company about the sad demise of his brother Shri Vinod Kumar Nayyer and his mother Smt. Santosh Nayyer, allotees of above plot, on 8/10/2022 and 1/11/2022 respectively and further requested the Company to inform the procedure for substitution of the allotment of above plot in favour of the legal heirs. The Company vide letter dated Feb 20, 2023 informed the legal heirs of above deceased allottees that the allotment of 50% share of Late Shri Vinod Nayyer will devolve amongst his legal heirs and 50% share of Late Smt. Santosh Nayyer will devolved amongst her legal heirs. On 15/6/2025 and 7/7/2025 Company received emails from Shri Vijay Nayyer regarding substitution of 50% share of Late Shri Vinod Nayyer in favour of his wife Smt. Kiran Nayyer on the basis of Will left behind by Late Shri Vinod Kumar Nayyer and enclosed a copy of Will dated 5/4/2015.
Anyone having any objection to the substitution of above plot in favour of 1) Smt Kiran Nayyer (66.66% share), 2) Shri Vijay Nayyer (16.67% share) and 3) Shri Ajay Nayyar (16.67% share), submit their objection within 30 days to (Rajeev Tyagi) Assistant Financial Controller, Urban Improvement Co. (P) Ltd, F-32, Connaught Place, New Delhi- 110001.
Anand Garg (Advocate)
Chamber No. 51 & 216
Enrolment No. P/1339/06
Distt. Courts, Kurukshetra
Mobile 94679-00002

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 27/GCD/LDH/TS/PSPCL/2026 Dated: 05.08.2026

ASE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No.1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites Snort Term e-Tender for Outsourcing of 2 no. Augmentation of PTF (including matching work) related works on partial turnkey mode under RDSS scheme under Grid Construction Division, Ludhiana under Grid Construction Circle, Ludhiana.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 05.08.2026 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

No. 13941/PB C 764/26

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
(Contact No. 96461-22185)

Tender Enquiry No. 384/SS(D)-403/Spares Dated: 03.08.2026

Dy.CE/ Substation Design/ TS Organization, PSPCL, C-1,, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Manufacture, Testing and Supply Of Armoured ISI Marked Single Core 11KV 300mm2 Size Stranded Aluminum Conductor, XLPE Insulated, PVC Sheathed, Screened Cable (32.50Kms) In Accordance With IS: 7098 (Part-2) With Latest Amendments Manufactured With CCV/Sioplas Technology. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 05.08.2026 (11:00 AM onwards).

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

No. 13937/PB C 762/26

PUBLIC NOTICE
GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA
EXCISE & TAXATION DEPARTMENT

NOTICE FOR INVITING e-TENDERS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC FOR RE-ALLOTMENT OF TWO ZONES OF RETAIL LIQUOR VENDS OF DISTRICT GURUGRAM (EAST) AND GURUGRAM (WEST) IN THE STATE OF HARYANA FOR THE REMAINING PERIOD OF THE EXCISE POLICY YEAR 2025-2027.

1. It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that e-tenders are invited for the re-allotment of Zone No. ZGRE13 and Zone No. ZGRW04 comprising of retail liquor vends of Country Liquor (CL) and Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) (L-2/L-14A) in District Gurugram (East) and District Gurugram (West), respectively, in the State of Haryana, for the remaining period of the Excise Policy Year 2025-2027.
2. The schedule for submission of e-bids for the above said zones and evaluation thereof shall be as under:-

Sterting date and time for placing e-tenders	From 5 August, 2026 (9.00 AM)
Closing date and time for placing e-tenders	Till 5th August, 2026 (04:00 PM)
Evaluation of extenders	5th, August,2026 (5.00 PM)

3. The reserve price of these zones for the purpose of e-tendering has been decided as per the provisions of clause 2.17 and other relevant provisions of the Haryana Excise Policy 2025-27.
   The reserve price and quota of these zones shall be displayed in the excise arrangement.
4. The e-tenders for these zones can be submitted online through the official website of the department i.e. **www.haryanatax.gov.in.** The remaining terms and conditions of e-tenders and allotment of zones shall be same, as informed vide the Public Notice, published in leading newspapers on 21st May, 2025, for inviting e-tenders for allotment of retail liquor zones of all districts in the State of Haryana. The copy of Public Notice dated 21 May, 2025 is also available on the official website of department i.e. **www.haryanatax.gov.in.** The detailed procedure of registration for participation in the allotment process and submission of e-tenders is also available on the official website.
5. The excise arrangements of these zones containing number of vends, liquor quota. location of vends, command area as applicable and reserve price thereof, as well as the venue for evaluation of e-tenders shall be conspicuously displayed in the office of DETCs (Excise) and DETCs (ST) of the district concerned. These details shall also be available on the official website i.e. **www.haryanatax.gov.in.**
6. The re-allotment of these zones shall be done at the risk and cost of original allottee. The original allottee shall be liable to make up any deficiency incurred by the State as a result of the re-allotment of these zones.
7. The allotment and grant of licence shall be subject to the provisions of the Haryana Excise Act, 1914, the rules framed thereunder, orders/instructions issued by the competent authority and the Excise Policy for the year 2025-27. Any clarification regarding the procedure may be obtained from the office of DETCs (Excise) in any of the districts. The copy of Haryana Excise Policy for the year 2025-27 is available on official website of the department.
8. The allotment shall be subject to the approval of the Excise and Taxation Commissioner (FC), Haryana. He may reject, without assigning any reason, any allotment in public interest as the case may be, within 10 days of the date of allotment.

VINAY PRATAP SINGH, IAS
Excise and Taxation Commissioner,
Haryana, Panchkula.
No. 47844/HRY

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

UTTARI BHARAT SABHA'S (Regd.)
RAMANAND ARYA D.A.V. COLLEGE, (AUTONOMOUS)
Station Road, Datar Colony, Bhandup (E), Mumbai – 400 042.
MINORITY
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027.
(AIDED)

Sr. No.	Cadre	Subject	Total No. of Posts	Category
1.	Assistant Professor	Accountancy	02	02- OPEN
2.	Assistant Professor	Commerce	01	01 - OPEN
3.	Assistant Professor	Business Economics	01	01 - OPEN
4.	Assistant Professor	Mathematics	01	01 – OPEN
5.	Assistant Professor	English	01	01 – OPEN

The above posts are open to all, however candidates from any category can apply for the post.
Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.
"Qualification, Pay Scales and other requirement are as prescribed by the UGC Notification dated 18th July, 2018, Government of Maharashtra Resolution No. Misc-2018/C.R.56/18/UNI-1,

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
नलकूप निर्माण खण्ड, मुजफ्फरनगर

ऑनलाईन निविदा सूचना संख्या-02/अधि०अभि० ननिखमु०/2026-27/ दिनांक-29.07.2026

महामहिम राज्यपाल उ०प्र० की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें (http://etender.up.nic.in) सिंचाई एवं जलसंसाधन विभाग उत्तर प्रदेश में वर्गीकृत श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारो से दिनांक-10.08.2026 की प्रातः 11.00 बजे से दिनॉक-17.08.2026 की सॉय 05.00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है, जो कि दिनांक 18.08.2026 की प्रातः 11.00 बजे अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय कक्ष में उपस्थित ठेकेदारो के समक्ष मुख्य अभियन्ता, नलकूप पश्चिम, सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग, उ०प्र०, मेरठ द्वारा गठित समिति द्वारा ऑनलाईन खोली जायेगी। इच्छुक ठेकेदार अथवा उनके प्रतिनिधि निविदा खोलने की प्रक्रिया के समय उपस्थित रह सकते है। कार्यालय बन्द होने, छुट्टी होने अथवा अन्य तकनीकी खराबी की दशा में यह बिड अगले कार्य दिवस में उसी समय खोली जायेगी।

ऑनलाईन निविदा के साथ सिंचाई विभाग की निर्धारित श्रेणी में पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र, जिलाधिकारी द्वारा निर्धारित चरित्र प्रमाण-पत्र (IDT-1), हैसियत प्रमाण-पत्र (IDT-2) तथा स्वःघोषणा शपथ-पत्र (IDT-3), रू0 100.00 मात्र के स्टाम्प पेपर पर नोटरी द्वारा सत्यापित कराकर एवं अन्य आवश्यक प्रपत्रों की स्कैन्ड प्रतियाँ, धरोहर धनराशि प्रति ऑनलाईन निविदा के साथ अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा अन्यथा निविदा स्वीकार नही की जायेगी। एक या समस्त निविदाओ को बिना कारण बताये निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी का होगा।

क्र० सं०	कार्य का विवरण	मात्रा	यूनिट	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (रू० में)	धरोहर राशि (रू० में)	कार्य को पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रू० में)	न्यूनतम पंजीकृत श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	पी-ग्रेविल 2.00 से 3.50 एम०एम० साईज की (as per IS Code 4097-1967 reaffirmed 1999) सड़क मार्ग द्वारा लाल कुआ उत्तराखण्ड वचेरी से नलकूप निर्माण खण्ड, मुजफ्फरनगर स्टोर, निकट सुजड़ू चुँगी, मुजफ्फरनगर स्थल पर आपूर्ति।	400	घन मी०	16,87,600.00	34000	90 दिन	360 जी०एस०टी० सहित	"सी" सिविल / "ए" यान्त्रिक
2	पी-ग्रेविल 2.00 से 3.50 एम०एम० साईज की (as per IS Code 4097-1967 reaffirmed 1999) सड़क मार्ग द्वारा लाल कुआ उत्तराखण्ड वचेरी से नलकूप स्टोर, बुलन्दशहर स्थल पर आपूर्ति।	200	घन मी०	08,01,600.00	16100	90 दिन	270 जी०एस०टी० सहित	"सी" सिविल / "ए" यान्त्रिक

नोट- यह बिड सूचना एवं शेष शर्ते उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की वेबसाईट (http://etender.up.nic.in) तथा सिंचाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग उत्तर प्रदेश की वेबसाईट (http://idup.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध होगी।

UPID-254410 Date: 03/08/2026
www.upidadv.gov.in

अधिशासी अभियन्ता
नलकूप निर्माण खण्ड, मुजफ्फरनगर

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता,
निर्माण खण्ड, लो०नि०वि०, रामपुर

पत्रांक :-1148/ई० निविदा/26-27 **दिनांकः- 20.07.2026**

ई-निविदा सूचना

1-महामहिम, राज्यपाल उ०प्र० की ओर से अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण खण्ड, लो०नि०वि०, रामपुर द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदायें कॉलम 7 में अंकित श्रेणी में पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से दिनांक 14.08.2026 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 21.08.2026 अपरान्ह 12.00 बजे तक आंमन्त्रित की जाती है, जिनकी तकनीकी बिड दिनांक 21.08.2026 को अपरान्ह 12.30 बजे निविदा समिति के समक्ष ऑनलाइन खोली जायेगीं।

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क्रम सं०	कार्य का नाम	आंकलित धनराशि (रू० लाख में) (Ex. GST)	धरोहर धनराशि (रू० लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रू० में (स्टेशनरी व जी.एस.टी. सहित)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (पर्याप्तकाल सहित)	कार्य हेतु ठेकेदार की कक्षीयता की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	किशन सभा बिलासपुर कार्यक्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत विभागीय हॉट मिक्स प्लाण्ट से प्राप्त मिक्स को बिछाने हेतु लेबर का कार्य।	8.00	0.80	766.00	12 माह	मार्ग कार्य ए,बी,सी,डी
2	किशन सभा रामपुर/चमरौआ कार्यक्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत विभागीय हॉट मिक्स प्लाण्ट से प्राप्त मिक्स को बिछाने हेतु लेबर का कार्य।	8.00	0.80	766.00	12 माह	मार्ग कार्य ए,बी,सी,डी
3	किशन सभा मिलक कार्यक्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत विभागीय हॉट मिक्स प्लाण्ट से प्राप्त मिक्स को बिछाने हेतु लेबर का कार्य।	8.00	0.80	766.00	12 माह	मार्ग कार्य ए,बी,सी,डी
4	खण्ड के अन्तर्गत विभागीय हॉट मिक्स प्लाट से विशेष मरम्मत/नवीनीकरण/पैच मरम्मत हेतु लेबर सप्लाई का कार्य।	25.00	2.50	854.00	12 माह	मार्ग कार्य ए,बी,सी,डी
5	सहायक अभियन्ता चतुर्थ के कार्यक्षेत्र के अधीन ग्रामीण मार्गों की पैच मरम्मत का कार्य।	10.00	1.00	766.00	12 माह	मार्ग कार्य ए,बी,सी,डी
6	सहायक अभियन्ता चतुर्थ के कार्यक्षेत्र के अधीन राज्य मार्ग/प्रमुख जिला मार्ग/अन्य जिला मार्गों की पैच मरम्मत का कार्य।	10.00	1.00	766.00	12 माह	मार्ग कार्य ए,बी,सी,डी
7	किशन सभा मिलक कार्यक्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत समस्त मार्गों की पैच मरम्मत का कार्य।	32.00	3.20	854.00	12 माह	मार्ग कार्य ए,बी,सी,डी
8	किशन सभा बिलासपुर कार्यक्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत समस्त मार्गों की पैच मरम्मत का कार्य।	25.00	2.50	854.00	12 माह	मार्ग कार्य ए,बी,सी,डी

3. बिल ऑफ क्वान्टिटी की समस्त दरों में जी०एस०टी० को छोड़कर समस्त प्रकार के कर रॉयल्टी, लेबर सेस एवं लाभांश सम्मिलित है।
4. धरोहर धनराशि एवं निविदा शुल्क टेबिल के कॉलम 4 एवं 5 के अनुसार ऑन लाईन बैंकिंग द्वारा जमा करनी होगी।
5. निविदा से सम्बन्धित नियम / शर्ते तथा विवरण वेबसाइट http://etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है। शासनादेश सं० 879 (1)/23. 7.20 दिनांक 25-08-2020 एवं प्रमुख अभियन्ता (विकास) एवं विभागाध्यक्ष के पत्रांक 4859/4 एम-एल.सी./2020 दि० 27.08.2020 के अनुरूप निविदादाता को प्रहरी यू.आर.एल http://wms.uppwd.gov.in/prahari/ पर लॉग इन कर आवश्यक अभिलेख अपलोड करने होंगे।
6. अतिरिक्त धरोहर धनराशि शासनादेश संख्या 86/2026/649/2026/23-7099/106/2025 लोक निर्माण अनुभाग-7 दिनांक 23-05-2026 के अनुसार (नियमानुसार अनुबन्ध गठन के समय) ही ली जायेगी।

निविदादाता सम्बन्धी शेष सभी शर्ते http//etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

UPID-254409 Date 03/08/2026
www.upidadv.gov.in

सहायक अभियन्ता, नि०ख०,
लो०नि०वि०, रामपुर

(गौरव सिंह)
अधिशासी अभियन्ता नि०ख०,
लो०नि०वि०, रामपुर

Government of Uttar Pradesh
Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow-226007

No : 447 /Pur.Cell/ e-Tender/Mineralised cattle lick/ 2026-27/II, Dated: 30-07-2026

NOTICE FOR OF E-TENDER

Online tenders through e-procurement system are invited for rate approval of Mineralised Cattle Lick ISI (01 kg pack as brick) marked (As per Schedules of requirement mentioned in table below) under the Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. (for 02 years from the date of issue of rate contract in the financial year 2026-27) from (1) Sole manufacturers, (2) Repacking license holders, (3) such Third party manufacturers (who are producing for Tenderer), (4) loan licensee and (5) bearer of import license; who have minimum 05 years manufacturing experience for the quoted Mineralised Cattle Lick ISI marked. Tenderer should not be blacklisted or debarred in any state/department/ government institution in the country for last 02 years and quoted products are not found Not of Standard Quality by the Competent Authority for last 3 years. If the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or any other investigating agency recommends the existing rate contract of the concerned firms for staying or cancellation, the action shall be taken accordingly as per U.P. Procurement Manual 2016. Tenderer should have valid Manufacturing License, Non-Conviction Certificate, Performance Certificate, Market Standing Certificate, Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and ISO certificates and other eligibility as per detailed tender documents. The Tenderer should have BIS/ISI Certificate for the items for which BIS/ISI mark is required. Only those tenderer will be eligible to participate in tender whose turnover for last 03 years is not less than Rs. 10.00 crore each year MSME/SSI units of U.P. are exempted from Turnover condition & MSME/ SSI units of U.P. & Government of India Undertakings (C.P.S.E.) will be given purchase preference as per government policy. It is also to inform that only those tenderers who are registered for e-tendering and having digital signatures in reference to this office memorandum No-3157/Pur.Cell/Kra,Ni./E-pro/2016-17 dated 15-03-2017, shall be eligible to participate in e-tendering in Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. Detailed terms and conditions and other details along with proforma for Tender Documents would be available on the departmental website http://animalhusb.up.nic.in and U.P.Govt. e-tender portal http://etender.up.nic.in within the stipulated period.

Particulars	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs.	Tender Documents Rs.
Tender for approval of rate of Mineralised Cattle Lick ISI (for 02 years from the date of issue of rate contract in the financial year 2026-27) as per schedule of requirement given below- 1. Mineralised Cattle Lick ISI Marked (IS- 920 : 1972) (1 kg pack as brick)	As per schedule of requirement Section III(B) of tender documents, for estimated value of the goods upto Rs. 1.00 lakh (one lakh) Rs. 1500.00 and for each additional Rs. 1.00 lakh and part there of Rs. 1000.00 as bid security.	Rs. 15,000+GST

Cost of Tender Form (Non-refundable) in shape of Demand Draft of any nationalized/scheduled bank in the name of Director, Administration & Development, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow and amount of Earnest Money in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) of any nationalized/scheduled bank pledged in favour of Director, Disease Control & Farms, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow should compulsorily be deposited in the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Badshahbag, Lucknow on or before the date and time scheduled for submission of e-tender. Online e-bid should be submitted through U.P. Govt. e-tender website **http://etender.up.nic.in**.

The Scheduled dates and time for the Tender are:-

1- Availability of Online Tender Forms: Date 07.08.2026 from 05:00 PM
2- Submission of Online Tender Forms start date: Date 07.08.2026 from 07:00 PM
3- Pre Bid Meeting Date 14.08.2026 at 03.30 PM
4- Last Date for online submission of tender form: Date 28.08.2026 upto 12.00 PM
5- Opening of Online Tender Forms (Technical bids): Date 28.08.2026 at 03:30 PM

(Dr. Sangeeta Tiwari)
Director,
Disease Control & Farms,
Animal Husbandry,
U.P., Lucknow.

UPID-254401 Dt. 03/08/2026
www.upidadv.gov.in

TRACO CABLE COMPANY LIMITED
(A KERALA GOVERNMENT COMPANY)
Kochi, Kerala State
Tel: 9495256896/9496292907
unithead.irumpanam@tracocable.com

SALE MACHINERY

Tenders are invited for sale of the used cable manufacturing machinery from our Irimpanam unit, Kochi-682309
Etender ID: 2026_TRACO_863643_1
For details visit our website:
www.tracocable.com
E tender site: **etenders.kerala.gov.in**
E-mail: **head.purchase@tracocable.com**
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

उ०प्र० पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लि० विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मथुरा निविदा सूचना निविदा संख्या एवं कार्य का संक्षिप्त विवरण 01 ई-निविदा संख्या 26/ वि०पा० मं० (म०)/2026-27 विद्युत 400 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र खण्ड आगरा दक्षिण के अन्तर्गत 400 के०वी० विद्युत उपकेन्द्र आगरा साउथ पर सीमेन्स मेक बे कन्ट्रोल यूनिट (बी०सी०यू०) की मरम्मत संबंधी कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रू0 590.00 एवं धरोहर धनराशि रू0 24000.00 मात्र। ई-निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि-24.08.2026 समय 13:00 बजे। 02 ई-निविदा संख्या- 27/ वि०पा०म० (म०)/2026-27 विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, मथुरा के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र छाता पर स्थापित 02 अद्द 40 एम०वी०ए० परिवर्तक प्रथम एवं द्वितीय का आर०एल०ए० टैस्ट करने संबंधी कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रू0 590.00 एवं धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2000.00 मात्र। ई-निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि-24.08.2026 समय 13:00 बजे। 03 ई-निविदा संख्या 28/ वि०पा०मं० (म०)/2026-27 विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, हाथरस एव मथुरा के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न 40 एन०बी०ए० परिवर्तकों का आर०एल०ए० टैस्ट सब्धी कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रू0 590.00 एवं धरोहर धनराशि रू0 4,000.00 मात्र। ई-निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि-24.08.2026 समय 13:00 बजे। 04 ई-निविदा संख्या- 29/ वि०पा०म० (म०)/ 2026-27 विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, मथुरा के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० छाता-मथुरा-द्वितीय लाइन के टॉवर सख्या-39-40 के मध्य ई०आर०एस० टॉवर स्थापित करने सम्बन्धित ढुलाई, इरैक्शन, कमीशनिंग, डिस्मेन्टलिंग इत्यादि कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रू0 1770.00 एवं धरोहर धनराशि रू० 26,000.00 मात्र। ई-निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि-24.08.2026 समय 13:00 बजे। 05 ई-निविदा संख्या-30/ वि०पा०मं० (म०)/ 2026-27 विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, मथुरा के अन्तर्गत 132 के०वी० किरावली (220)-मथुरा लाइन के टॉवर सख्या 22 (A+0) पर रिविटमेन्ट सबधी कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रू0 590.00 एवं धरोहर धनराशि रू0 12,000.00 मात्र। ई-निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि-24.08.2026 समय 13:00 बजे। 06 ई-निविदा संख्या-31/ वि०पा० मं० (म०) / 2026-27 विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, मथुरा के अन्तर्गत 132 के0वी0 छत्ता-कोसी सर्किट-I लाइन के सस्पेशन / टेशन टॉवरों की अर्थिग सबंधी कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रू0 590.00 एवं धरोहर धनराशि रू० 3,000.00 मात्र। ई-निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि-24.08.2026 समय 13:00 बजे। 07 ई-निविदा संख्या- 32/वि०पा०मं०(म०)/ 2026-27 विद्युत 400 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र खण्ड मांट के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 मांट (220 के0वी0)-माट (400 के0वी0) लाइन के डिफरेन्सियल लाइन प्रोटेक्शन रिले की आपूर्ति एवं स्थापन संबंधी कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रू0 590.00 एवं धरोहर धनराशि रु० 13,000.00 मात्र। ई-निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि-24.08.2026 समय 13.00 बजे। 08 ई-निविदा संख्या-33/ वि०पा०मं० (म०)/ 2026-27 विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, मथुरा के अन्तर्गत 220 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र मांट पर स्थापित मल्सीफायर की मरम्मत सबंधी कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रू0 590.00 एवं धरोहर धनराशि रु० 5,000.00 मात्र। ई-निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि-24.08.2026 समय 13:00 बजे। 09 ई-निविदा संख्या-34/ वि०पा० मं० (म०)/2026-27- विद्युत 400 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र खण्ड, मांट के अन्तर्गत 400 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र मांट पर स्थापित विभिन्न उपकरणों की टेस्टिंग संबंधी कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रू० 590.00 एवं धरोहर धनराशि रू० 9,000.00 मात्र। निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि-24.08.2026 समय 14:00 बजे। 10 ई-निविदा संख्या-35 / वि०पा०मं० (म०) /2026-27 विद्युत 400 के०वी० उपकेन्द्र माट, मथुरा पर **SF-6 Gas** रिफिलिंग संबंधी कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रू0 590.00 एवं धरोहर धनराशि रू0 2,000.00 मात्र। निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि- 24.08.2026 समय 14:00 बजे। विस्तृत जानकारी एवं प्रपत्र वेबसाइट **http://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। अग्रेतर समस्त सूचनाएँ वेबसाइट पर ही प्रदर्शित की जायेंगी। **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, मथुरा**
'राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाऐ" संख्याः 708/ वि०पा०मं(म) दिनांकः 4/08/2026

कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य, महर्षि देवरहा बाबा स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, देवरिया, उ०प्र० 274001
Principal Office, Maharshi Devarha Baba Autonomous State Medical College, Deoria, UP-274001
Website: mdbmc.ac.in Tel. No-05568297433
email: mdbmc2021@gmail.com

पत्रांक-मे०का०दे०/कार्यालय ज्ञाप/2026-27/1891 दिनांक-01/08/2026

कार्यालय ज्ञाप

महर्षि देवरहा बाबा स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, देवरिया में रिक्त पदों के सापेक्ष नियमित चिकित्सा शिक्षको का चयन करने हेतु अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय के पत्रांक संख्या-मे०कादे०/विज्ञप्ति/फैकल्टी / नियमित/2026-27/1554 दिनांक 30.06.2026 को विज्ञापन दी गयी थी। उक्त विज्ञापन में आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक-31.07.2026 तक निर्धारित की गयी थी जिसे बढाकर अब नवीन तिथि दिनांक 30.08.2026 तक आवेदन करने हेतु निर्धारित की जाती है। विज्ञापन के पदों की संख्या एवं शर्ते पूर्व में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन के अनुसार ही मान्य होगा।

नोटः-पूर्व में उक्त विज्ञापन के अन्तर्गत आवेदन कर चुके अभ्यर्थियों को पुनः आवेदन करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। उनके द्वारा पूर्व में उक्त विज्ञापन हेतु प्रस्तुत आवेदन पत्र ही मान्य होगा।

हस्ता./-
प्रधानाचार्या,
महर्षि देवरहा बाबा स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, देवरिया।
तद्दिनांकित

UJVN Limited
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

पत्र सं0: 651 दिनांकः 04/08/2026

e-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (Test) Vidyut Bhawan, Dakpathar, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below :
Tender No. 05/EE(Test)/DKP/2026-27
Work Name: "Procurement of consumable and Stock items for Test Unit Chibro Power House for F.Y. 2026-27."
Estimated cost: ₹9,14,900 + GST Extra.
Date of Availability of bid document on e-portal: 04.08.2026 from 17:30 Hrs.
Last date for submission of bids on e-portal: 25-08-2026 up to 13:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "http://uktenders.gov.in"

E.E (Test), Dakpathar

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
(SEE SECTION 82(2) (i) Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Sourabh Kumar S/o Pawan Kumar R/o B-26 Street No. 3, South Ganesh Nagar, Mandawali, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 537/2021, U/s 186/353/332/34 IPC, PS Mandawali, Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Sourabh Kumar** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Sourabh Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Sourabh Kumar** of case **FIR No. 537/2021, U/s 186/353/332/34 IPC, PS Mandawali, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **25.09.2026.**

By Order
Sachin Kumar
Judicial Magistrate First Class-03
East Dist., Court No. 16
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

DP/10519/ED/2026
(Court Matter)

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009.
Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in e-Mail: cdoce1@kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-Rent-Service-01/2448/2026-27 Date: 04.08.2026

SHORT-TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GoK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement for renting Plug & Play building on monthly basis under one cover system for the following:
(1) Allotment of Plug & Play Building in Plot No. AM-02, Apparel Park Industrial Area Phase-1, Mini Textile Park, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District on monthly rental basis **(2nd Call).**
(2) Allotment of Plug & Play Building in Plot No. AM-03-P4, Apparel Park Industrial Area Phase-1, Mini Textile Park, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru Rural District on monthly rental basis **(2nd Call)**
Applicants may download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders: **21.08.2026 up to 4:00 P.M.**

Sd/- Engineer-in-Chief, K.I.A.D.B

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	HVPNL	REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF PLINTH PROTECTION OF CONTROL ROOM BUILDING AT 220 KV SUB STATION FAZILPUR SONIPAT.(CIVIL WORK)	30.07.2026 17.08.2026	3,09,879/-	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN
2	HVPNL	CREATION OF ONE NO. 33KV LINE BAY AT 132KV SUB-STATION PTPS, PANIPAT FOR FEEDING OF PROPOSED 33KV SUB-STATION ASAN KALAN (25 MVA).	30.07.2026 14.08.2026	3,28,571/-	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 PRO@HVPN.ORG.IN

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **No.** 47816/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BAHADURGARH	CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS CC STREET IN WARD NO 9, MC BAHADURGARH + 1 WORKS	CLOSING DATE 06.08.2026	38,79,083/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416188946 eo-bahadurgarh@urbanyojna.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **No.** 47818/HRY

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	THE BALLABGARH COOP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LIMITED	DAILY CLEANING OF DRAIN	04.08.2026 24.08.2026	RS.20,000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in www.vitaindia.org.in	9968804717 vitaibb@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **No.** 47796/HRY

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	PT. B.D. SHARMA PGIMS ROHTAK	UPLOAD E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF CONSUMABLE ITEMS, MACHINERY & EQUIPMENTS AND OTHER ITEMS, AT PGIMS, ROHTAK	04.08.2026 08.09.2026	-	www.uhsr.ac.in	9813030027 purchase.pgims@uhsr.ac.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in **No.** 47835/HRY

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA, HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT)
MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD
Indian Mercantile Chambers, 2nd Floor, Ramjibhai Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400 001. **Tel.:** 022-69041777 **Fax :** 022-69041740
Web site : https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in
Email : ceo.mmb@maharashtra.gov.in / ceommb@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice - (Year 2026-27)/Reg no.3/37
Main Portal : https://mahatenders.gov.in

Digitally signed E-Tender for following work is invited by Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai, from Registered with Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class and having experience in execution of Marine related civil works, for following work in B1 Tender Form.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approximately Tender Cost in Rs.	Earnest Money Amount in Rs.	Blank Tender form amount in Rs.	Time limit for Completion of work
1.	Removing, Installation and repair of pontoons (5 Nos.) at Mandwa passenger jetty Tal. Alibag, Dist. Raigad	2,30,31,024/-	1,50,000/-	2,360/-	12 Months (Including Monsoon)

The details can be viewed online and downloaded directly from the Government of Maharashtra E-Tendering Portal **https://mahatenders.gov.in** from **06.08.2026** at **15:00 hrs.** up to **13.08.2026** at 17:00 hours (IST).

The right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai

DGIPR-2026-27/2104

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Traffic (Com) Department, 2nd Floor, Shanthinagar TTMC, K.H. Road, Bengaluru-560027. Telephone No: 080-22537575
Website : **www.mybmtc.com** e-mail : **ctmc@mybmtc.com**
No.BMTC/CO/TR/COM/1936/1448/2026-27 Dated: 01.08.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO:12/2026-27 (e-Procurement Platform)

Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation invites bids from eligible persons/agencies for the **Audio Advertisements inside 300 Non-AC Buses** through the e-procurement platform.

Date of Pre-Bid meeting	**10.08.2026 at 11:00hrs**	**Place: CTM(C)'s Chamber, 2nd Floor, Central Office, BMTC, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru**
Last date & time for submission of bids is on	**31.08.2026 up to17:00hrs**	
Opening of Technical bids is on	**02.09.2026 at 11:00hrs**	
Opening of Financial bids is on	**To be Intimated later**	

Further details in this regard can be obtained in the e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or by Contacting: 09240214000; 09240214001; 080-22483777 or 7760997519 & 7760991222. E-mail: **ctmc@mybmtc.com.**

Sd/- Chief Traffic Manager (Com) (Tender inviting Authority)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C./84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person, namely, **Chaman Raghav, S/o** Girish Raghav, **R/o:** J-H-A/145, B.S. Derawal Nagar, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **E-FIR No.: 032484/2020, U/s:379/411 IPC,** registered at **P.S.: Burari, Delhi,** and the warrant has been returned writing upon that the said accused person, **Chaman Raghav,** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person, **Chaman Raghav,** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said, accused person, **Chaman Raghav, E-FIR No.: 032484/2020, U/s:379/411 IPC,** registered at **P.S.: Burari, Delhi,** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before **16.09.2026.**

By Order
Ms. Payal Singal
Judicial Magistrate First Class-09
Room No. 286, Central Distt.
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/10793/N/2026
(Court Matter)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON
See Section 82 Cr.P.C./84 BNSS

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Nishant Yadav, S/o Rajender Yadav, R/o B-250, Gali No. 17, Khajoori Khas, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 358/2025, U/s 20/25/29 NDPS Act, PS Mahendra Park, Delhi.** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Nishant Yadav** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Nishant Yadav** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Nishant Yadav** accused of **FIR No. 358/2025, U/s 20/25/29 NDPS Act PS Mahendra Park, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **09.09.2026.**

By Order- Sh. Harvinder Singh Johal
ASJ SPL. Judge NDPS, North Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/10692/NW/2026

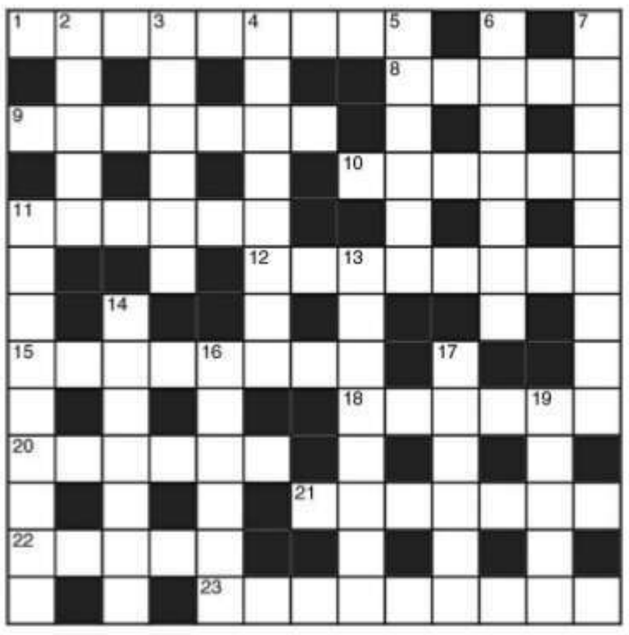
NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT
TO SHOW CAUSE
(SCR, ORDER XXII)
In THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION
PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL)
NO.8482-8484 OF 2019
L.A NO. 3418/2024- Application For Substituted Service

Kamalpret Singh Samra ....Petitioner/Applicant
Versus
Mohd. Safi Hasan Chauhan Haji and Ors ....Respondents

To,
Sameer Mohd. Safi Chauhan
S/o Mohd. Safi Hasan Chauhan Hajji, Court Area at Una, District - Junagadh, Gujarat
Partner of Sabnia Exports

Whereas the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) above-mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Mr. G. BALAJI, advocate on-record, on behalf of the Petitioner(s) above named was listed for hearing before the Cour on 13th September, 2019 and the Court was pleased to pass the following order.-
" Delay condoned, Issue notice returnable on 21.10.2019"
AND WHEREAS, the service of show cause notice could not be effected on unserved Respondent No.3 and the matter above-mentioned was listed before Hon'ble Court (In Chambers) on 03rd April, 2024, When the following order was passed:-
"1. The application (IA No. 34118/2024) for substituted service of respondent No.3 is allowed.
2 The notice of service upon the said respondent be published in three regional news papers and two national newspapers as set out in the paragraph 3 of the application.
3. Learned counsel for the State is also at liberty to file counter affidavit.
4. Office to proceed accordingly. "
NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above matters) will be posted for hearing before the Court in due course when you may appear before this Court either in person or through an advocate-on-record of this Court duly appointed by you in that bebalf within thirty days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why special leave and interim relief, as pr

• CROSSWORD 6059



ACROSS

1 Contract debts without interest (9)
8 Potentially earn a place in the sporting world (5)
9 Sound reasonable (7)
10 Maintain there's some body in the beer (6)
11 Sort of butter made from vegetable and fruit (6)
12 I am conclusively shown to be better (8)
15 I plan too casually but it's a matter of choice (8)
18 Cathy's rocking the boats (6)
20 Stays will alter a waist (6)
21 Red wines turn scarlet (7)
22 Bones placed in a circle (5)
23 Tasty fruit centre in a new assortment (9)

DOWN

2 Ring in the nose as a halter (5)
3 Workers' associations in unison perhaps (6)
4 Idleness in battle (8)
5 Some canvas or tar (6)
6 Book expresses some limitation (7)
7 New Year gifts whose days are numbered (9)
11 Play recorded music to make a show (3,2,4)
13 Versatile languages master? (8)
14 Leaves high and dry on the beaches (7)
16 Get on a bit maybe (6)
17 He puts up the points or puts them down (6)
19 A small bird and an enormous one (5)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6058 ACROSS: 1 Wedding, 4 Plain, 7 Ohms, 8 Foregone, 10 Pinpointed, 12 Breech, 13 Issued, 15 Out of order, 18 Fallible, 19 Dolt, 20 Demon, 21 Elapsed DOWN: 1 Whoop, 2 Dominoes, 3 Ground, 4 Pretension, 5 Agog, 6 Needled, 9 Conclusion, 11 Outdoors, 12 Briefed, 14 Collie, 16 Rated, 17 Plum

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.

Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's ____, give him ___. (9,..,5)

IRAEE

HLUCCT

ZAORR

EENHPW

SOLUTIONS: Aerie, Razor, Clutch, Nephew
ANSWER: Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.

• OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS

• CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON

• MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

SUDOKU 6401

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		5				8		4
		3				6		
	2		6		9		5	
6			4	3	2			1
4			9	5	1			6
	9		8		5		7	
		6				9		
8		1				4		5

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6400

6	5	1	3	9	8	2	7	4
8	2	7	1	6	4	5	3	9
9	3	4	2	5	7	6	1	8
7	6	8	9	1	3	4	2	5
2	4	9	7	8	5	1	6	3
5	1	3	6	4	2	8	9	7
3	9	5	4	2	6	7	8	1
1	8	6	5	7	9	3	4	2
4	7	2	8	3	1	9	5	6

• ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): Resist the urge to get tangled up in financial disagreements with your kids, a friend, a group or a romantic partner. Focus on social outings today. Keep things light. Tonight: Be patient.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): Today the Moon is in your sign. However, it's at odds with two other planets, which can encourage power struggles and disputes, especially with authority figures. Therefore, keep your head down. Tonight: You're strong.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): This is the classic day for an argument with relatives, siblings, neighbours or daily contacts. Or it might be road rage. Save your energy. The only thing anger does is make everyone miserable. Patience is your best friend today. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): You're never casual about money, which is why you might end up in a dispute with a friend, group or financial institution. You might even argue about an inheritance or your fair share of something. This tension will quickly blow over. Tonight: Friendships.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): This is a tricky day because you are noticed. But you might find yourself at odds with authority figures, partners or close friends. Think of the impression you create on your audience. Tonight: Be modest.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): Steer clear of controversial subjects today. Very likely, they will escalate into a nasty confrontation. You can never change someone else's point of view. Stay calm. Tonight: Explore.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): Parents might find themselves at odds with their kids today. Likewise, romantic partners also might be angered. And some of you might be disappointed in a friend or a group. Cope as best you can with courtesy and patience. Tonight: Check your finances.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): Steer clear of confrontations with partners, spouses, family members and bosses today, because it could escalate quickly into something nasty. Tonight: Cooperate.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): Interactions at work, politics, religion, plus appointments and errands that you're juggling today are all reasons you might be at odds with someone. But this doesn't have to happen, optimism is a survival issue for you. Tonight: Work.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): Avoid money squabbles if you can, because this will only ruin your day. Instead, buckle down, work hard and get stuff done. Tonight: Share time with someone.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): Partners, spouses, close friends and family members might be at odds with you today. If you enter the fray, there's no winning. Instead, take a breath. Sit this one out. Tomorrow is a delightful, practical and productive day. Tonight: Relax at home.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): Although you will be tempted to respond in kind if you are attacked by others today, especially work colleagues or even an enemy, think of your own peace of mind. You matter. Don't let what others say get under your skin. Tonight: Discussions.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

RECPDCL REC Power Development and Consultancy Ltd, handed over two project-specific SPVs for inter-state transmission projects to the respective successful bidders. The SPVs handed over were Bhadla Ramgarh Power Transmission Ltd to M/s Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd & Shongtong Power Transmission Ltd to M/s Terralight Solar Energy Tinwari Private Ltd. The SPV was handed over by Ratnesh Kumar, GM (Engg.), RECPDCL, to Arup Samanta, CS, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd in the presence of Rajkumar Sonkar, HoD (CS), RECPDCL, & other senior officials. The project is scheduled for implementation by 20 January 2029 at an estimated cost of Rs 1,035 crore.

CWC To strengthen India's export logistics ecosystem, the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), in partnership with the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), hosted an Export Facilitation Meet in New Delhi on July 31, 2026, bringing together Customs, DGFT, NICDC, FIEO and MSME exporters. Chief Guest Sh. Rajeev Yadav, IRS, Principal Commissioner, ICD Patparganj, highlighted the Government's focus on "facilitation over enforcement" to boost trade competitiveness, reaffirming Customs' commitment to seamless 24x7 cargo clearance and support for exporters through CWC's technology-driven logistics solutions.

SAIL delivered a strong Q1 FY27 performance, driven by financial discipline and operational efficiency despite global uncertainties. Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda said the company strengthened cash flow management, reduced borrowing costs, and improved liquidity, resulting in better debt-equity and net debt-EBITDA ratios. SAIL also enhanced its product mix, with finished steel accounting for 89% of saleable steel and value-added steel dispatches rising 7.5% year-on-year. The company exceeded its capital expenditure target, investing Rs 2,575 crore against the planned Rs 2,306 crore, reinforcing its focus on modernization and capacity expansion.

GNN Ghaziabad Municipal Commissioner Vikramaditya Singh Malik held a meeting with department officials to expedite house tax-related work. Zonal in-charges from all zones were present. The Municipal Commissioner primarily discussed increasing house tax collections and raising awareness among taxpayers. Chief Tax Assessment Officer Anirudh Singh, who was present at the meeting, was asked to prepare a roster and set up camps in all wards. Instructions were given for camps to begin at 7:00 am and to promote the benefits of the ongoing discounts to taxpayers. The technical team overseeing the meeting also provided detailed information about the house tax software, online payment, and online billing To increase house tax collection, the Ghaziabad Municipal Corporation has decided to increase the number of e-POS machines in all wards. The number of e-POS machines is being increased from 30 to 100.

RADICO KHAITAN reported its strongest-ever quarterly performance for the quarter ended June 30, 2026, driven by sustained premiumisation and strong profitability. Revenue from operations rose 11.8% year-on-year to Rs 1,683.7 crore, while EBITDA surged 50.9% to a record Rs 348.1 crore, with the EBITDA margin expanding to an all-time high of 20.7%. Total comprehensive income increased 70.5% to Rs 225.4 crore. The company's prestige & above portfolio remained the key growth driver, with volumes rising 35.8% and contributing over 53% of IMFL volumes and nearly 77% of sales value. Managing Director Abhishek Khaitan highlighted the rapid growth of the vodka category, led by Magic Moments, which recorded 43% volume growth. The company has upgraded its FY27 Prestige & Above volume growth guidance to over 25% and expects EBITDA margins to remain around 20% for the year.

LIC R. Doraiswamy, CEO & MD, LIC of India, recently presented the dividend cheque of Rs 12,207.25 Crore to Hon. Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, as the GOI's share of dividend, approved by the shareholders in the Annual General Meeting. Sanjay Lohiya, Secretary, Dept. of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India was present along with the officials from Life Insurance Corporation of India, Ratnakar Patnaik, MD, R. Chander, MD & N.S. Raghava, ZM (I/C), Northern Zone. Besides, LIC as a company is completing 70 glorious years since its inception with an asset base of Rs 59.03 Lakh Crore.

GAIL GAIL India Ltd & RCF have recently signed an MoU to jointly establish a gas-based fertilizer project in the state of Maharashtra through a SPV. The proposed urea production facility, with a planned capacity of 1.27 MMTPA, is envisaged to be established in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra along GAIL's MNJPL. The MoU was signed by Sanjay Agrawal, ED of GAIL & Jyoti Patil, ED of RCF in the presence of Deepak Gupta, CMD GAIL and S. Shivakumar, CMD, RCF Senior management from both the companies along with other officials.

CONCOR The first Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) station in NCR set up by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL), was inaugurated at CONCOR MMLP, Dadri, District Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh by Shri Sanjay Swaroop, Chairman & Managing Director, CONCOR, in the gracious presence of Shri Vijay Kumar Singh, Director (International Marketing and Operations), CONCOR, Shri Kumar Shanker, Managing Director, IGL, Shri Mohit Bhatia, Director (Commercial), IGL and senior officials of CONCOR and IGL.

INDIAN RAILWAYS The review committees of the railway committee have recommended premature retirement of two SAG officers of IRHS, one JAG officer of IRSE in Northern Railway, one officer of IRSEE in Northern Railway, and one JAG officer of IRTS in Western Railway. The Review Committees carried out a detailed assessment of the officer's service records in accordance with the prescribed procedure. The review included examination of APARs, integrity records, vigilance inputs, disciplinary history & other relevant service records. Actions taken under the relevant provisions of the Indian Railway Establishment Code are aimed at upholding these core values.

HURL launched two significant CSR initiatives - Project Arogya Mitra & Project Sehat Sathi - Nayi Drishti & Swastha Matritva, in Gorakhpur. The initiatives were inaugurated by Dr. Siba Prasad Mohanty, MD HURL in the presence of the Business Unit Head, Gorakhpur, VP - CSR, HURL the Dean of BRD Medical College & Hospital along with other senior officials. Under the project Arogya Mitra, HURL installed six Health ATMs at SSB Composite Hospital. BRD Medical College & Hospital & Lalit Narayan Mishra Railway Hospital with an investment of Rs 52 lakh. These advanced digital healthcare kiosks can perform over 50 diagnostic tests, including Blood Sugar, HbA1c, ECG, Eye Screening, Audiometry, and Cholesterol, providing comprehensive health reports within 15–20 minutes and promoting preventive healthcare.

BHEL Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd has secured a major international order from Nigeria's Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals Free Zone Enterprise for the supply and supervision of erection and commissioning of eight Gas Turbine Generator packages. The equipment will be manufactured at BHEL's Hyderabad and Bengaluru facilities. Won amid intense global competition, this is BHEL's largest-ever single Supply & Supervision order for Gas Turbine Generator packages, reinforcing its global engineering capabilities and strengthening its international presence.

REC REC Ltd & PFC Ltd have signed a Common Loan Agreement with Meja Urja Nigam Private Limited. This is a 50: 50 Joint Venture between NTPC Ltd & UPRVUNL for a total loan amount of Rs. 26,850 Crore for the establishment of 2400 MW Meja TPP Stage-II Ultra-Super Critical units of 800 MW under Stage-II (3x800 MW) with ACC system at Meja Tehsil, Prayagraj District, UP with an estimated project completion cost of Rs. 38,357.81 crore. The Loan Documents were signed at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh by Srinivasa Rao Gaddamanugu, CEO, MUNPL , Shambhu Shankar Gupta, CGM, REC Regional Office Lucknow & Shelly Gupta, GM, PFC, in the presence of Angshu Barua, CFO, MUNPL & other officials. The project will strengthen Uttar Pradesh's energy security, ensure reliable supply for homes, farms, and industries and support the state's ambitious growth targets.

NHPC Paresh Ranpara has assumed charge as Director of NHPC Ltd . Prior to his appointment, Ranpara was serving as Director (Human Resources) at Grid-India responsible for providing strategic leadership in the areas of human resource management, talent development, organizational capability building and workforce planning. As a certified Assessor from XLRI, Jamshedpur, he placed strategic emphasis on Learning & Development by building partnerships with reputed institutions and strengthening capability frameworks. Moreover, to ensure long term leadership continuity, Ranpara successfully implemented succession planning initiatives anchored in competency frameworks.

UMC Ahmed Rais Nizami, (PRO, Ujjain Municipal Corporation) the first and only international poet from Ujjain division, was honored with an award at a grand international mushaira held in Hyderabad recently. Organized under the leadership of Convener Mohammad Irfan Al Qureshi, President of the Overseas Telangana Association, this grand award ceremony and mushaira also honored Shazia Qidwai from Dubai and Shabina Adeeb from Kanpur for their remarkable literary contributions. Nizami was presented with the Hyderabad-based senior poet Makhdoom Mohiuddin International Award.

SHIVTEK SPECHEMI Shivtek Spechemi Ltd, has acquired approximately 21 acres of industrial land in Pungam (Ankleshwar), Gujarat. The company will invest over RS 150 crore to construct a state-of-the-art greenfield integrated manufacturing complex designed to meet surging domestic and global demand for specialty chemicals and clean fuel technologies. The strategic expansion builds on Shivtek's existing multi - hub footprint across Kurnool, Rajpura, and Dahej. Speaking about the acquisition, Mr. Amitt Nenwani, MD, Shivtek Spechemi Industries Ltd, said "The milestone is a step towards supporting the GOI vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 & Atmanirbhar Bharat. This new facility will allow us to pilot next-generation Methanol -to-Gas & Hydrogen Fuel technology for the shipping industry, reinforcing our commitment to innovation & cleaner energy".

GULVEER SINGH

NEERAJ CHOPRA

Silver lining for Asiad, and beyond

Fifteen second-place finishes at Glasgow may be the first step towards greater laurels at Asian Games and other big events. PRITISH RAJ, MIHIR VASAVDA and SHIVANI NAIK analyse

SARVESH KUSHARE

INDIA'S PERFORMANCE at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games would largely focus on the haul of 39 medals, including 13 gold. But the 15 silver medals tell a story of their own. Some of them are a case study of 'what could have been', some others a gold lost, while some others broke new ground.

A look at the events where Indians finished second-best:

ATHLETICS

Indian track and field athletes won a total of 10 medals, surpassing the mark of eight medals in the 2022 edition. There was no gold this time, and the haul included five silver and five bronze medals.

BREAKING NEW GROUND
GULVEER SINGH, 10,000M
Gulveer Singh outpacing Africans and holding his nerve in the last 200m of a long-distance event is arguably one of the best moments for Indian athletics in recent times. The 27-year-old from Uttar Pradesh won a silver in the 10,000m and a bronze in 5,000m stamping his claim as a genuine medal contender at the global level. Gulveer's performance comes on the back of his consistent participation in several elite-level races over the past two years. While the upcoming Asian Games may be an easier proposition for Gulveer given the relative lack of top-level competition, he needs to participate in events like the Diamond League and Gold Continental tour events.

CONSISTENCY PERSONIFIED
NEERAJ CHOPRA, JAVELIN THROW
Returning after a long injury layoff, Neeraj Chopra was competing in a stacked field with the likes of Rumesh Pathirage, Arshad Nadeem, Keshorn Walcott and Anderson Peters. Neeraj produced a season-best throw of 85.83m in his second attempt only to be upstaged by world leader Pathirage, who threw 89.75m. There is nothing to analyse in Neeraj's medal apart from the fact that he still has got the big-event temperament to win medals. The silver reaffirms the fact that he remains one of the most consistent throwers in the world. He will have a chance to get the better of Pathirage at the Asian Games, where Nadeem will also be present.

JUST THE BEGINNING
SARVESH KUSHARE, HIGH JUMP
Sarvesh Anil Kushare is one of the most improved Indian athletes at the global level. In Glasgow, he jumped 2.25m to win the silver medal as Jamaican Romaine Beckford took the gold on countback. It may be seen as a gold medal lost as Sarvesh had cleared 2.31m to break the national record at the Inter-State National Championships in June. However, given this is his first major medal, he is likely to improve further and has the Asian Games to look forward to.

NEED HIS BEST AT BIG EVENTS
SREESHANKAR MURALI, LONG JUMP
One of the most consistent Indian athletes over the last one year, Sreeshankar was disappointed after his last jump despite winning his second Commonwealth Games silver medal. He jumped 8.09m to finish behind Jamaica's Tajay Gayle (8.15m). Sreeshankar had recorded a leap of 8.38m at the Inter-State National Championships but couldn't repeat that performance in Glasgow. He now needs to figure out how to get bigger jumps at major events and will now target the Asian Games, where he won a silver in 2023.

NEED TO REPLICATE HIS BEST
PRAVEEN CHITHRAVEL, TRIPLE JUMP
It was redemption for the triple jumper from Tamil Nadu, who had finished agonisingly close to the podium in the 2022 edition. In Glasgow, he jumped 16.58m to finish behind Jordan Scott of Jamaica. While it was a monkey off Chithravel's back, his effort was nowhere close to what he is capable of. Chithravel failed to replicate his domestic form at global events, with his personal best being 17.37m. He won the bronze at the 2023 Asian Games. If he wants to change the colour of the medal, he will have to cross 17m.

JUDO

RAPID IMPROVEMENT
YAMINI MOURYA, 57 KG
It was a historic campaign for India, winning two gold medals for the first time. But the silver for Yamini is also a big achievement. With this medal, she has built a strong resume of international medals. She built on her success at the World University Games, where her bronze was the first medal won by an Indian judoka. While the Asian Games would be tougher, she will draw confidence from her performance at the Asian Championships, where she lost in the bronze medal match.

BOXING

GAMBLE SUCCESSFUL
JADUMANI SINGH - 55KG
His performance deserves more appreciation than the medal itself. Having moved up from 50kg to 55kg this year with the 2028 Olympics cycle in mind, the Manipuri overcame doubts over his size to reach the CWG final. He strung together four victories, beating boxers from Scotland, Pakistan, Zambia and Namibia before losing to Australia's Jye Dixon in the gold-medal bout. The weight transition had already yielded a national title and international medals, but Glasgow validated the gamble.

JADUMANI SINGH

GYANESHWARI YADAV

NOTHING NEW TO LEARN
LOVLINA BORGOHAIN - 75KG
Lovlina Borgohain was assured of a medal even before she entered the ring. Her category had just five boxers, and the Indian got a first-round bye, which meant a direct entry into the semifinals. Facing a boxer from Tuvalu can hardly qualify as a proper test. The Olympic bronze medallist, as expected, reached the final, where - in her only challenge of the competition - she lost to two-time Worlds medallist Australia's Emma-Sue Greentree. We didn't learn anything new about Lovlina at Glasgow 2026. The Asian Games will provide a more accurate reflection of where she stands.

TOUGH TASK
NARENDER BERWAL - 90KG
The heavyweight divisions have rarely been India's strongest suit internationally, and Narender Berwal's silver reinforces this point. At the CWG level, Indians seem good enough to reach the super heavyweight division final but not strong enough to clinch gold. This was the third consecutive instance of an Indian boxer reaching the final of this category, only to lose there. Before Berwal, it was Satish Kumar in 2018 and Sagar Ahlawat in 2022. This trend will be tough to change at the Asiad and world tournaments, where the Indians often fall short against physically-imposing heavyweights.

WEIGHTLIFTING

Mirabai Chanu got a good workout ahead of her pursuit of an elusive Asian Games medal with a CWG gold. But the silvers hold long-term potential, after changes in weight categories and plenty of hard work.

LONG WAY TO GO
RISHIKANTA SINGH CHANAMBAM, 60KG
Manipur's first male lifter to medal at CWG, his 121kg Snatch was a Games record. But the good news ends there. He missed gold (won by Malaysia's Aniq Kasdan - 121 S + 152 C&J = 273kg), after a knee problem flared up. Coach Vijay Sharma says he was capable of 155 in clean & jerk. The North Korean winner at the last Asian meet lifted 304 total, 3kg short of the world record.

But 60kg is not even an Olympic category, so 65kg is the target where the last Asian gold was won with 329kg. Rishikanta will need to go 135+ in Snatch and 175+ in C&J at least, to get into that bracket (He Yeuji WR - 150+183).

FULL OF POTENTIAL
GYANESHWARI YADAV, 53KG
Her total lift of 199kg (88 S + 111 C&J) was 7kg short of the gold. Impressively, she had 6/6 good lifts. So, her prospects are good. At the Asiad, she will be challenged by Chinese Zhao Jinlan (most recent: 95+121) and Vietnamese Hoai Huong (87+108). At the Olympics, it's the lowest category for women. So once Mirabai moves up from 49, Gyaneshwari will need to step up to 61kg.

CARRYING FAMILY TRADITION
AJAY BABU VALLURI, 79KG
149+181 for a total of 330kg was a good start for the 21-year-old from north Andhra, whose father won bronze at Delhi 2010. He missed gold by just 1 kg after setting a snatch record. However, the North Koreans and Chinese are in the range of 345 to 364kg, going by the Asian Championships. Their Snatch scores are at least 8kg over Ajay's, while Ri Rong-hyon regularly lifts 25kg more in C&J. The Indian will need to move up to 85kg, or drop to 75, the former more likely.

CHANCE MISSED
LOVEPREET SINGH, 110+ KG
No Indian had ever lifted 176kg in Snatch, so Lovepreet's silver at 388kg (212 C&J) is outstanding, even if he missed gold by a mere 1kg. He has gone up 33kg in total since Birmingham, and is a pathbreaker in super heavyweights where India has traditionally been weak. His duel with Kiwi David Liti was one of the entertainment highlights of the Games. Iran's Alireza Yousefi, though, has the world standard at 477kg (218+261) set at Gandhinagar's Asian Championships in May, and will show up at Aichi Nagoya, a full 89kg ahead.

INJURY TROUBLE
RAJA MUTHUPANDI, 65KG
Won silver at 286kg (126+160) despite a persistent shoulder problem. But the Asian mark is at 150+183, so an Asiad medal looks tough in Aichi-Nagoya.

ASIAD, A BRIDGE TOO FAR
HARJINDER KAUR, 69KG
Her silver at 227kg (101+126) was an improvement on her bronze from Birmingham. At age 29, she did well but was 8kg off the pace for gold. North Korean Song Kuk Hyang lifted 263kg (112+151) at the Asian meet in Gandhinagar, a 11+25kg deficit that's hard to overcome in two months.

Stokes rules out Ashes return, hopes to turn coach in future

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

FORMER ENGLAND captain Ben Stokes has ruled out any possibility of making an international comeback but has expressed a strong desire to coach the national team in the future.

"I'm doing my level three coaching now while I'm still playing, because I want, when the day comes that I'm not playing any more, I'd love to be able to have all that stuff signed off and done," Stokes said on the *For the Love of Cricket* podcast, speaking alongside his former teammates Jos Buttler and Stuart Broad.

"I know what I want to do in terms of staying within the game, which is to be a coach. And would I love to be coach of England one day? Absolutely. I just really like the idea of being, again, like, in some form of leadership away from playing," he added.

The 35-year-old shocked the cricketing world when he announced his retirement from international cricket in June, during the home series against New Zealand. He had earlier rejected suggestions he could return for the Ashes, telling BBC Test Match Special: "I am incredibly content with everything right now. It is a decision I don't take lightly. It has taken a lot of time. I am done. I am very happy."

● RISING STAR

Yash Vir's journey: Mentored by athlete dad, inspired by Chopra's world Under-20 gold

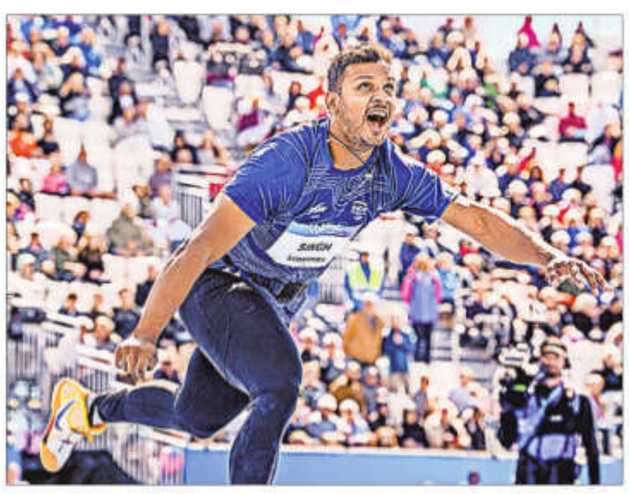
Nihal Koshie
New Delhi, August 4

ON RETURNING home from the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, men's javelin bronze medalist Yash Vir Singh is on a break. He will spend the next few days at his paternal grandmother's home in Devsar in Bhiwani district, a boxing hub. "Being with my family is the best way to wind down and relax. I love it here... spending time with my uncles and grandmother," Singh said on Tuesday. Yash Vir lives in Jaipur, but he often makes a trip to his happy place.

He, however, never took a fancy to boxing. His father, Rai Singh, a Railways javelin champion and now coach, had a big influence on him. "I remember watching my father on television when he participated in national competitions. Back then I didn't know what javelin was, but I recall seeing him return home with medals. My grandfather Bhanwar Singh was also a Services champion in the 400-metre hurdles. Though boxer Manish Kaushik (world championship medalist) is from Devsar and so is Jitender (Olympian), it was only natural that I took up the javelin because of my father," Yash Vir said.

When in Class 8, Yash Vir started basic drills, learning to throw with javelin-shaped wooden sticks and then moving to the aluminium version. The journey, which began nearly a decade ago, culminated in him winning the bronze medal at the Games on Friday. "My father was overjoyed. He was sitting close to the throwing area, giving me instructions. I am happy also because I could give my father something in return for all the years he coached me and believed in me. This is the biggest medal I have won to date. The bonus was about crossing 85 metres for the first time," Yash Vir said.

The conditions for the men's javelin final at the Scotstoun Stadium were tough, with athletes having to deal with a headwind. Nine of the 12 finalists couldn't throw over 84 metres. Yash Vir struggled too. 78.55 metres, 81.33m and 76.95m were his three legal throws before the sixth and last round. Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage became the runway leader when he registered 89.75 metres in the second round, his only legal throw. Neeraj Chopra's 85.83m put him in second place. Yash Vir, who was placed sixth before the start of the final round, didn't seem like he would finish on the podium. Confident about bettering his personal best of 83.72 metres, Yash Vir didn't lose hope.



Yash Vir Singh won bronze in the CWG men's javelin throw. PTI

Neeraj's advice

He sought advice from one of the best in the business. "I asked Neeraj about what to do about the headwind. He told me not to release the javelin too high and to try and keep it flatter and the trajectory as straight as possible. My dad also told me the same thing. But to execute it in a final is not easy. Not just the headwind; it was pretty cold too. In my fifth throw, I didn't get a good distance (76.95m) because of the headwind. I had thrown 82 metres in training, so I knew if I got the trajectory right, I could win a medal. When I released the javelin for the final time, I knew I would cross 82-83 metres from the feel of it," Yash Vir said. That he won the bronze medal after two injury scares — shoulder surgery in 2022 and a complication because of weak shoulder muscles in 2024 — made the success even sweeter. "The second time I felt discomfort in my shoulder, my initial worry was whether I had to have another surgery. Thankfully, physios at the Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance centre in Jaipur helped me.

"Injuries happen, but what you do after that is important. Winning a CWG medal has given me immense belief that I can compete against the best in the world." Chopra's Under-20 World Championship gold had inspired a young Yash Vir during a time when his father was coaching him. "I felt if Neeraj could do it, even I could. I just needed the belief in my early years."

> **"Injuries happen, but what you do after that is important. Winning a CWG medal has given me immense belief that I can compete against the best in the world"**
> **YASH VIR SINGH,** ON COMING BACK AFTER INJURIES

Yash Vir believes he needs to make changes to his technique to improve his throwing distance and not hit a plateau. "I am still not able to release my arm fully when I throw the javelin. I fall towards the left side when I throw. It is about constantly improving because javelin in India is highly competitive. I want to win more medals for India."

Next stop for Neeraj: Lausanne DL on Aug 21

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

DOUBLE OLYMPIC medallist Neeraj Chopra is set to participate in the Lausanne Diamond League, popularly known as Athletissima, on August 21.

Neeraj will be competing in a stacked field similar to Commonwealth Games 2026 along with European stars.

The field has Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan, reigning World Champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago, freshly crowned Commonwealth Games champion and World leader Rumesh Pathirage of Sri Lanka, and former World and Olympics champions Anderson Peters of Grenada and Thomas Rohler of Germany.

Along with these athletes, Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch, German Julian Weber and World Championship Curtis Thompson, the world number two this year, will be there. Five of these throwers, Neeraj, Arshad, Pathirage, Peters, and Walcott competed in the Commonwealth Games Javeliin final four days back with Pathirage winning the title with a monster throw of 89.75m. The Sri Lankan has been in impeccable form with world lead and top five throws of the season. He is also the only thrower to cross the 90m mark this season with 92.67m throw at the Rome Diamond League.

Pathirage's exploits earned him praise from Neeraj. "He's a good boy. He's a friend of mine. This year he really threw well. It's good he's doing something great for Sri Lanka," said Neeraj about Pathirage. Neeraj, who won silver medal at the Commonwealth Games, produced a season best throw of 85.83m to finish second. This was the second major competition Neeraj participated in after an injury layoff after the Tokyo World Championships 2025 where he had finished eighth.

Shirse out for Asiad

PTI adds: India's 110m hurdles star Tejas Shirse on Tuesday revealed that he will not be able to compete in the upcoming Asian Games in Japan as he participated in the recently-concluded Commonwealth Games with "two stress fractures" on his left foot. Shirse became the first Indian to reach the 110m hurdles finals in the Glasgow CWG, with a time of 13.76 seconds. But running with a heavily taped foot, Shirse finished last in an eight-men field, clocking 15.39 seconds while grimacing in pain.

"This isn't the post I dreamed of writing. I thought I'd be holding a medal. This was the time I was prepared to win. Instead, I'm holding MRI reports," he wrote on Instagram. "Two stress fractures in my left foot. A dream paused. A season over," he added. In the post, Shirse conceded that his Asiad dreams are over.

PERSONNEL PROBLEMS

India's injury crisis exposes deeper workload concerns

From Bumrah to Washington to Nitish, fitness woes bring rehab under scanner as Gill & Co reach Sri Lankan shores

Venkata Krishna B
Chennai, August 4

A left knee injury has ruled Jasprit Bumrah out of the two-Test series in Sri Lanka. CREIMAS

AS CAPTAIN Shubman Gill landed with his team in Colombo on Tuesday for a crucial two-Test series against Sri Lanka, he arrived with a familiar problem that confronted him in the recent ODIs in England – missing key players due to injuries. Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out of the series, and there is no guarantee Washington Sundar would join the team for the second Test.

Sai Sudharsan is racing against time to be fit and is continuing his rehabilitation at the Centre of Excellence – whose role has once again come under the scanner.

A deeper look points to a more fundamental issue.

"First, there is no off-season for players like before," Ramji Srinivasan, who was India's strength & conditioning coach before 2008-2013, told *The Indian Express*. "Second, there is a missing link between the workload and the recovery protocols and the training protocols. There is not much of a sync between these three. So, that is when most of the injuries can happen," he said.

Workload trap

Take Bumrah for example. After playing the T20 World Cup with a niggle in his knee, Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene revealed he had to build his workload gradually, which saw a dip in his pace. Then, after the IPL, despite being rested for the Afghanistan series and T20Is against Ireland and England, the knee injury resurfaced following an impact injury in Cardiff.

Washington raced against time to regain fitness clearance and, in England, suffered a hamstring injury. Nitish Kumar Reddy broke down again with a quadriceps injury after he worked and increased his bowling pace by 10 yards. Whether he consulted anyone before taking the step is not known yet. And then there is Harshit Rana, who missed the T20 World Cup with a knee injury and ended up with a hamstring issue in England.

This isn't the first instance of players suffering breakdowns after an IPL.

And Ramji felt there was a reason for it.

"In those two months of IPL, players are only in recovery mode. There is not much work that happens with regards to improving fitness in that period. This workload management, they may not be working more. They may be working less. And suddenly, you come into the Indian team, your workload increases. So during the IPL, if you don't prepare ahead for your red ball cricket or 50 overs, there is no workload management there," he added.

The cramped schedule has also prevented India from having pre-season camps. In 2024, prior to the two-Test series against Bangladesh at home, they camped in Chennai. They have planned a camp in Colombo before the upcoming series, starting on August 15.

India's switch from T20 mode to Tests after the IPL also did not help. A few contracted players told The Indian Express that they did not get sufficient recovery time between series to work harder on aspects as advised by trainers.

Ramji agreed. "One has to train according to the format which one transitions to. For example, somebody is training for T20. The transition should happen for them to play 50-over or Test cricket. Whether the transition is happening or not is a big question. There is a huge shift from one format to the other.

"And they (players) know the calendar in advance. They are not randomly put in a situation. So they need to plan their training better. They cannot blame the support staff always or the coaches always," Ramji says.

Rushed returns

In the BCCI circles, there are concerns that players are rushed back from injuries. In Bumrah and Washington's case, the management needed them in the T20 World Cup squad. In more recent times, players have been named in squads before clearing fitness tests. Bumrah was part of the list to go to Sri Lanka, with an asterisk beside his name, but was withdrawn on Monday.

"When a player is named in the squad, immediately he prefers to get the fitness test. He may pass the test, which is basic match fitness, but whether his fitness has improved or not is often overlooked. That should not happen. The RTP (return to play) parameters should not be compromised," a source who is familiar with the developments said.

There was a time when players could make a comeback only after proving their fitness by playing practice matches. That yardstick has not been applied in all cases. With another gruelling schedule ahead, Ramji said, a robust system has to be put in place.

"You can have a camp for all the red-ball players well ahead. Put them in a robust place so that they peak at the right time. Before you move to red-ball cricket, you need a format-specific camp. For the last six months, you have been playing a high-intensity, power game here. And suddenly, you get into endurance mode. Imagine Usain Bolt suddenly running like (Eliud) Kipchoge. Can you do that or vice versa?"

Jordan FA president accuses FIFA boss Infantino of 'blackmail'

Reuters
Paris, August 4

Influential FIFA executives have distanced themselves from Infantino's sale plan. REUTERS

THE CRISIS triggered by FIFA chief Gianni Infantino's abandoned proposal to sell a stake in the World Cup deepened on Tuesday with influential executives distancing themselves from the project while Jordan's FA president accused him of blackmail.

After three days of unprecedented civil war in the world of soccer administration last week, the 56-year-old Swiss-Italian Infantino backed away from his plan to raise $4.2 billion from a new commercial rights body late on Friday night.

Infantino apologised for how the proposal, which would have brought private investment into the World Cup for the first time, had divided the game, but his once unassailable bastion of power at the top of the global governing body was shattered. FIFA Secretary General Mattias Grafstrom sent an internal message to staff lamenting the "sad and reproachable series of events" that led to the project being "permanently abandoned", two sources said.

"We have all been thrown into the middle of a turmoil, which is difficult to comprehend and accept," Grafstrom wrote in the letter without mentioning Infantino by name. "But, as Secretary General, I urge you to remain focused on what has always united us: serving football and serving our 211 Member Associations, hand in hand with all relevant stakeholders and in full compliance with the FIFA Statutes and FIFA Regulations.

Arsene Wenger, the Chief of Global Football Development at FIFA and technical adviser to soccer's rule-making body IFAB, said he was not involved in the proposal and only learned about it through media reports. "The decision to withdraw the project was absolutely necessary and beyond question, because I firmly believe in an independent FIFA that serves our game with commitment, transparency, and integrity," Wenger said in a statement.

Carlos Cordeiro, senior advisor to Infantino, resigned last week after "unequivocally" opposing the proposal.

'We refuse to give in'

Jordan FA president Ali bin Hussein accused FIFA of "blackmail", claiming it offered to help solve many of the kingdom's problems in exchange for endorsing Infantino.

"We pride ourselves in Jordan in upholding ethical values. We did not endorse him (Infantino) before and certainly will not now," Bin Hussein wrote on X.

"But the whole situation amounts to blackmail and we refuse to give in to that." The German FA said it was not endorsing Infantino, while the Dutch FA said it would not vote for him in the next elections.

Sindhu seeded 9th, Sat-Chi 5th at Badminton World C'ships

Express News Service
New Delhi, August 4

DOUBLE OLYMPIC medallist PV Sindhu will be seeded ninth while 2022 Asian Games champion men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have been handed the fifth seeding for the upcoming BWF World Championships scheduled from August 17-23 at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi.

India has two more seeded entries with former world championships bronze medallist Lakshya Sen seeded 14th in men's singles and the mixed doubles pairing of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto are seeded 15th.

India has two entries each in all the five categories of the championships with at least one seeded entry in four of the five categories.

The Indians will be playing in front of the home crowd as the marquee event has returned to the country after 17 years with the 2009 edition being held in Hyderabad.

While the players qualified for the prestigious championships based on their world rankings of April 28, 2026, the seedings were decided on the basis of world ranking on July 28, 2026.

In men's singles, Shi Yuqi of China is the top seed while South Korea's women's singles star An Se Young is the top seed in her category. Women's singles world champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan is seeded second while the third and fourth spots have gone to Wang Zhi Yi and Chen Yufei of China.

South Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae are top seeds in men's doubles with China's Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning getting the top billing in women's doubles. The draw for the championships will take place in New Delhi on Wednesday.

● BATTLE OF SURVIVAL

Jamshedpur's exit lays bare the financial crisis facing Indian clubs

Shuvaditya Bose
New Delhi, August 4

Jamshedpur FC's ISL pullout has sent shockwaves. X

●'Long-planned strategic move'

Jamshedpur FC's withdrawal from the upcoming ISL season was a long-planned strategic decision to return to grassroots football development and had "nothing to do" with the uncertainty surrounding the league's commercial future, Tata Steel Vice President (Corporate Services) DB Sundara Raman said. "The current decision has nothing to do with whatever changes have happened in the last one year. Our decision has been independent of that," he said. **PTI**

> **"It came as a surprise to everyone involved in Indian football. You don't expect a corporate house like the Tata Group to step away"**
> **MANDAR TAMHANE,** NORTHEAST UNITED FC CEO

> **"At the moment, club football in India is still being funded largely from the owners' pockets. Broadcast revenue has effectively fallen to zero"**
> **EKANSH GUPTA,** CHENNAIYIN FC CEO

FINANCIAL BLEED and mounting losses are not new terms in the Indian football ecosystem. Neither is the resultant fate — the folding up of a football club. Yet, Jamshedpur FC's decision to withdraw from the Indian Super League has sent shockwaves. That is less due to the club's footballing stature than to who owns it— the Tata group — which has been closely tied to Indian football for nearly four decades and is currently in a Rs 2,500-crore, five-year partnership with the Indian Premier League.

FC Goa CEO Ravi Puskur admitted his astonishment. "It's deeply unfortunate. The Tata Group has been one of Indian football's strongest pillars for decades. Nobody could ever imagine a day a Tata-owned club would cease to exist. We did not see this coming at all," he told The Indian Express.

Neither did Mandar Tamhane, the CEO of NorthEast United. "It came as a surprise to everyone involved in Indian football. You don't expect a corporate house like the Tata Group to step away. If it were an organisation that had been involved in the sport for just two or three years, you could perhaps understand it. But this is a group that has been part of Indian football for over three decades. That's why I think the decision caught all of us off guard," he said.

Chennaiyin FC CEO Ekansh Gupta shared the sentiment, even as he understood the rationale. "We're deeply disheartened to see such a major name leaving the Indian football ecosystem. Like everyone else, we'd urge the Tatas to reconsider. At the same time, we also understand that the concerns they've raised, particularly around finances, are genuine."

Industry estimates suggest that the ISL clubs are facing approximately Rs 25-30 crore losses every season. A major blow, as per CEOs, is the expiry of FSDL's commercial agreement with the AIFF. Under that deal, Reliance's subsidiary paid the federation Rs 50 crore annually. Broadcast revenues have since collapsed, with the per-match valuation reportedly falling from approximately Rs 1.68 crore during 2024-25 to about Rs 9.5 lakh last season.

"At the moment, club football in India is still being funded largely from the owners' pockets. Broadcast revenue has effectively fallen to zero," informed Gupta.

Mounting losses

If shrinking revenues are one side of the equation, soaring wage bills are the other, and perhaps, the bigger factor. Hyderabad FC, unable to sustain its losses, was sold to the BC Jindal Group last year and rebranded as SC Delhi. CEO Dhruv Sood said the club consciously resisted entering the salary spiral.

"We've always maintained one principle: if we can't afford a player, we won't sign him and put the club's future at risk. We haven't received a single rupee in central revenues yet, so we're still absorbing losses. But we're working towards breaking even. The biggest cost, that is the player wages, is still in our control," he said.

Tamhane said, "Every club is facing losses. No club can say they are in profit. That makes it even more important to be smart with every rupee that's spent. Financial prudence has become absolutely essential. I believe clubs should invest more in youth development, because if you develop your own players, it reduces costs considerably."

At Chennaiyin FC, Gupta believed course correction was a solution.

"The biggest challenge today is player salaries. There has to be a market correction. Clubs have to accept responsibility too—it wasn't just agents or players driving salaries up. We, as clubs, also contributed to that inflation. That correction won't happen overnight because many players are on long-term contracts. As those deals expire over the next year or two, salaries will gradually reset to more sustainable levels."

Broadcast battle

As clubs grapple with rising costs, they also face another pressing challenge: securing a broadcaster. Commercial rights for the league were handed over to the clubs last month, leaving them responsible for negotiating the next media deal.

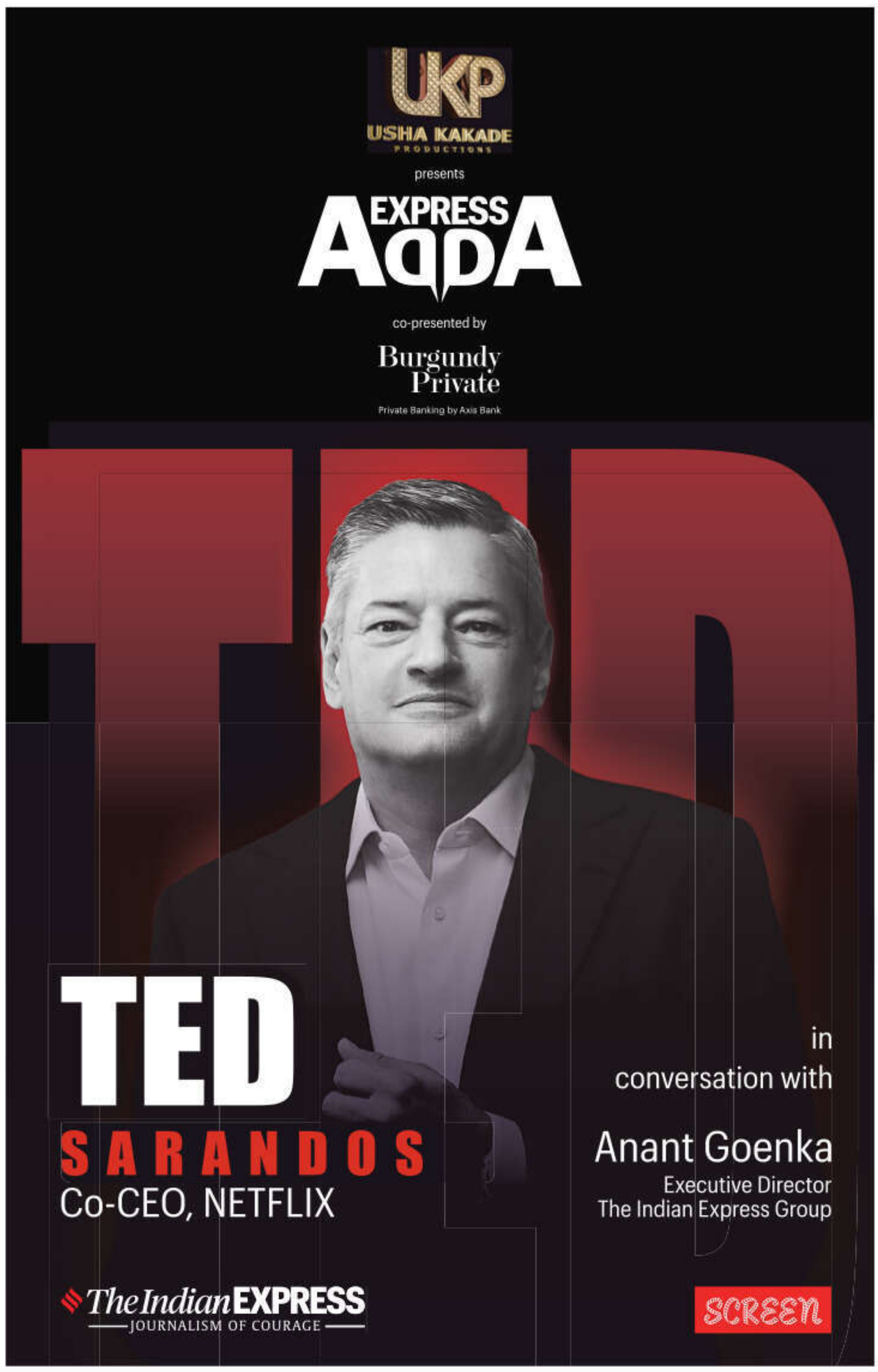
Puskur remained optimistic. "A lot of work is happening behind the scenes right now. Indian football is not just about doom and gloom. Yes, Jamshedpur stepping away is a setback. But if the rest of the ecosystem remains strong, Indian football can move forward. A broadcast partner is currently being finalised through a live tender, and we will have the league in a full home-and-away format that the fans will enjoy."

"Once the broadcast tender is completed, there's a partner in place for the next two to four years," said Gupta.

Sood, too, argued against writing the league's obituary.

"If we keep telling people that Indian football is collapsing, then no one will invest. The league model is in place. There are still commercial discussions happening, and people are out in the market speaking to potential partners."

The deadline for ISL's media rights bids is understood to be August 8, with the new season scheduled to begin in October. What remains uncertain is how many clubs will line up. *The Indian Express* has learned that at least two clubs are currently facing an uncertain future.



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