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Nation First The Core Policy

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Vishwas ke, Vikas ke, Jan-Kalyan ke



Dream of a Naxal-free India becomes a reality, with a strong crackdown on terrorism

Freedom from the colonial mindset – Rajpath becomes Kartavya Path, and a new Naval Ensign in honour of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

AHEAD OF SEPTEMBER SUMMIT China, Russia, Iran in Delhi next week for huddle of BRICS NSAs

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, June 18

CHINESE FOREIGN Minister Wang Yi, Russian NSA Sergei Shoigu and Iranian Supreme National Security Council Deputy Secretary Nezamipour will be in New Delhi for the meeting of the BRICS NSAs on June 22-23, which will set the stage for the summit of BRICS leaders in India in September.

India holds the rotating presidency of the BRICS bloc this year. Its members include Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates.

Wang, who is also Beijing's Special Representative on the India-China boundary issue, is expected to hold bilateral talks



Doval and Wang are also India and China's representatives for boundary talks. PTI FILE

with NSA Ajit Doval during the visit. Doval will host the meeting of the NSAs.

Wang was unable to attend the meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers last month because he had to be in Beijing for the visit of US President Donald Trump.

Sources said Wang's visit is

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INTERIM PACT REOPENS HORMUZ, ENDS BLOCKADE Deal ending war gives Iran critical economic lifeline

Tehran can sell oil freely, will get rich incentives if it agrees to new nuclear pact

Lee Keath
Cairo, June 18

THE INTERIM deal reached by the US and Iran to end their war will reopen the Strait of Hormuz and bring the two adversaries back to the negotiating table over Tehran's nuclear programme, according to details released by both countries.

It will also give Iran an immediate benefit, allowing it to



US President Donald Trump in Versailles and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Tehran sign the agreement to end the war. PTI, ANI

sell its oil freely again.


Besides the new oil revenue for Iran, the two sides are more or less back where they were three-and-a-half months ago — before Israel and the US launched their war, which has

left thousands dead across the region, triggered a global energy crisis and shaken the American economy.

Iran and the US will enter a 60-day period of negotiations,

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ECONOMY PAGE 17
EMERGENCY FUEL SUPPLY TO BE ROLLED BACK ONCE WEST ASIA SITUATION STABILISES



Amul Scores everytime

Uddhav Sena all but splits: Six of nine MPs skip key meeting, party issues notice

Will urge Speaker Birla to disqualify absentee members, says Sanjay Raut

Vikas Pathak, Deeptiman Tiwary & Vallabh Ozarkar
New Delhi, Mumbai, June 18

Business as Usual
By EP UNNY

THE SPLIT in Shiv Sena (UBT) became virtually official on Thursday after six of the party's nine Lok Sabha MPs skipped a parliamentary party meeting, prompting the leadership to issue show-cause notices to the rebels.

"We have issued show-cause notices to the MPs who did not attend; they have been given seven days to respond. The process has been initiated, and we will seek their disqualification. If the Speaker acts according to the law and rules, they will be disqualified. The fight will continue in Parliament, in court, and on the streets. The fight on the streets has already begun. The security of these traitors has been

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POLITICS
AS EKNATH SHINDE STRIKES ONE MORE TIME, WILL NDA EQUATIONS SHIFT AGAIN? PAGE 8

ENGINEERING EDUCATION

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Happening today

● **KERALA CM V D** Sathesnan will present the first Budget of the UDF government.

● **PM NARENDRA** Modi will disburse Rs 2,400 crore under PM Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana.

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Rs 600-cr as of last yr: War within, TMC leader seeks account freeze

Sweetie Kumari & Damini Nath
Kolkata, New Delhi, June 18

WITH TRINAMOOL Congress (TMC) leader Aroop Biswas asking a private bank to freeze the party's accounts amid a "serious dispute" going on within the organisation, the party on Thursday claimed he had been removed as its treasurer on June 5. The party's latest disclosures to the Election Commission (EC) show it had over Rs 676.11 crore in cash, bank balance, and cheques-in-hand.

In a letter to the branch manager of a leading private bank in Kolkata, dated June 12, Biswas requested immediate suspension of transactions and expressed the apprehension of



Aroop Biswas is no longer the treasurer, says Trinamool

misuse of the signed cheques kept at the party office.

"At present, rival groups are claiming to be the legitimate representatives and office bearers of the TMC, resulting in uncertainty regarding the authority of persons who may seek to operate the bank accounts maintained in the name

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EXPRESS investigation Private schools, pricey coaching, family business, MNC jobs: They also cracked EWS list in UPSC exam

Daughter of railway porter to son of security guard to IIT graduate, MNC employee: Rs 8-lakh income bar raises questions of fairness in eligibility

Shyamal Yadav
New Delhi, June 18

FOR EVERY candidate who cracked India's civil services this year under the Economically Weaker Section quota, the son of a security guard or the daughter of a railway porter, there are many others on the same quota list whose backgrounds tell a different story: sons and daughters of businessmen, IIT graduates, alumni of private schools in the city charging over a lakh a year in fees.

There were 104 candidates selected in the Civil Services Examination 2025 under the 10 per cent quota for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) — those from general category families with an annual income of less than Rs 8 lakh. An investigation by The Indian Express has found a gap between the scheme's stated purpose and the profiles of many it has come to benefit.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



The UPSC office on Delhi's Shahjahan Road. TASHI TOBGYAL

• The Quota Data

- 104** EWS candidates selected in 2025 civil services exam.
- 67** attended well-known coaching institutes, annual fees up to Rs 2.65 lakh.
- 28** candidates' parents have businesses — shops and trading in steel fabrication, cloth and confectionery.
- 10** candidates held private jobs, including in MNCs.
- 14** graduates or postgraduates from IITs, and at least three from NITs.

Why top court had questioned Rs 8-lakh limit

Who qualifies under EWS? The Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota, notified in 2019, grants 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions to persons from the general category not covered under SC, ST or OBC reservations. It covers applicants and their families.

A 2019 office memorandum of the Centre's Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions clarifies, "The term 'Family' for this purpose will include the person who seeks benefit of reservation, his/her parents and siblings below the age of 18 years as also his/her spouse and children below the age of 18 years."

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35 donation boxes, 2 shifts: As SIT probes Ram Mandir 'fund theft', how count is kept

Shyamal Yadav
Ayodhya, June 18

AN INNOCUOUSLY named 'Pilgrim Facilitation Centre' is at the heart of the row brewing over Ram Temple donation funds in Ayodhya. Located 200 metres from the main temple, and bearing its architectural imprint, the building holds a counting room in the basement. It is to this room that



The building which houses the counting centre. SHYAMLAL YADAV

RELATED REPORT, PAGE 8

INSIDE



PM: IN AN ERA OF DISRUPTION, TECH MUST DELIVER FOR ALL PAGE 8

FINMIN RATIFIES EPF RATE AT 8.25%; UPI WITHDRAWAL BY MONTH-END PAGE 17

JUSTICE GAUTAM PATEL, RETIRED BOMBAY HIGH COURT JUDGE, SPEAKS TO THE INDIAN EXPRESS ON FACING THREATS OVER JUDGMENT, ATTACK ON DAUGHTER IN UK 'Will not succumb to threats... bad guys are not allowed to win'

Aamir Khan
New Delhi, June 18

DAYS BEFORE he retired from the Bombay High Court in April 2024, Justice Gautam Patel delivered a judgment on the Dawoodi Bohra succession dispute, upholding Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin as the community's rightful spiritual head.

That judgment is at the centre of threats being faced by the retired judge and his family for nearly 10 months now — from Mumbai to London, where his daughter, Aditi, was

assaulted on April 22. The anonymous letters warned Justice Patel to leave India and to publicly recant his judgment in a YouTube video.

Edited excerpts from an interview with Justice Patel:

You were doubtful about returning from the UK to India. How is the family coping with the threats?

I am back in Mumbai. No question about that. We have to get on with our lives. We are taking the necessary precautions and being careful. But we are ab-



EXPRESS interview JUSTICE GAUTAM PATEL
RETIRED BOMBAY HIGH COURT JUDGE

solutely not going to allow them to alter the tempo or tenor of our lives, or to dictate to us what we can and can't do, where we should work, how we should live, and where we should travel. That's not happening. We will continue, and we will not succumb to these threats. The family and I are together on this.

One of the threatening letters demanded that you leave India and record a YouTube video recanting your 2024 judgment. Have you ever encountered a

campaign of this sort? Never heard of it, and it is absolutely unthinkable. It is something unknown to law. It's entirely outside the realm of law. In fact, the demand is to commit an illegality. Let's be very clear about it. Not only is the demand in itself illegal, but it asks that I make a false allegation against one of the parties to the dispute.

I am essentially being asked to fabricate a statement, which I refuse to do. And I will look at it a different way. They have an allegation against me. They don't want to prove it. Talk is

cheap. Instead of proving it, they are trying to browbeat me just me, but browbeat me by browbeating my family and actually attacking my family, which has nothing to do with any of this, into committing a rank illegality.

How can that be contemplated? There's the judgment. I rendered it after thought and due deliberation. The appeal court will decide whether I was right or wrong. It's really that simple. Whatever has to be argued has to be argued in appeal.

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Congress left red-faced

Left party denied the accusation and asked it to "look within".

JMM candidate Baidyanath Ram won while the second seat went to NDA-backed Independent Parimal Nathwani, who is the Director of Corporate Affairs for Reliance Industries. He defeated the Congress's Pranav Jha, who is AICC secretary attached to party president Mallikarjun Kharge's office.

In the 81-member Jharkhand Assembly, a candidate required 28 first-preference votes to win. The JMM-led alliance has a total of 56 MLAs and without cross-voting, both of its candidates would have sailed through. Sources said Ram received 30 votes while Nathwani also got 30, but two votes were declared invalid. Jha could manage only 21 votes, with one vote deemed invalid.

The four RJD MLAs and two legislators of the CPI(M-L) Liberation did not vote for Jha, the Congress alleged. The AICC's Jharkhand in-charge, K Raju, claimed that 16 MLAs of the party and the four additional JMM votes went to Jha. He alleged that the RJD and CPI(M-L) Liberation had "betrayed the alliance", accusing the BJP of engineering the outcome through "horse-trading".

Denying the allegation, CPI(M-L) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya posted on X, "As for speculations over Jharkhand RS voting, we can tell with full responsibility our two MLAs voted for Congress candidate as planned. Two of our senior leaders PBM Halhar Mahato and CCM Geeta Mandal duly verified the votes cast by @cpimliberation MLAs."

Dismissing the allegations, CPI(M-L) MLA Arup Chatterjee said, "It is very easy to point fingers at small parties. If the Congress claims it had 20 votes, how can it be assumed that only the RJD or the CPI (M-L) votes were responsible? Why can't the discrepancy be from elsewhere? No one should comment without knowing all the facts."

Chatterjee said even if his party's two votes had gone elsewhere, the result would not necessarily have changed. "If two votes were not cast as claimed, that alone would not have ensured victory," he said.

Targeting the Congress, the Left party posted on X, "Jharkhand

hand Rajya Sabha voting outcome makes it clear that Congress failed to secure the support of all its own MLAs. Before pointing fingers at others, larger parties should first look within. Those making such statements to protect their party or leadership are damaging the credibility of CPI(ML) and all those legislators who voted in good faith for the Congress candidate. This is not merely an attempt to malign CPI(ML), but an effort that harms the image of the entire INDIA alliance."

"The INDIA bloc has successfully won one of the two seats with a resounding victory for JMM candidate Baidyanath Ram. Our alliance remains a dominant force in Jharkhand. As for the second seat. We fielded Pranav Jha ji to give the state a strong democratic choice, and while the outcome isn't what we hoped, our core alliance identity remains intact. We are looking at the circumstances," said RJD national spokesperson Subodh Kumar Mehta.

Following his election to the Rajya Sabha for the fourth time, Nathwani posted on X, "This moment is filled with profound emotion as this will be my third term from Jharkhand, the very soil from where my Parliamentary journey began in 2008. It is a matter of immense pride and humility to return once again to my karmabhoomi."

The businessman thanked the MLAs who voted for him. "With renewed commitment and sincerity, every effort will continue to advance the interests and aspirations of Jharkhand and its people. Johar Jharkhand!" he added.

Nathwani, a Reliance executive from Gujarat, represented Jharkhand in the Rajya Sabha for two consecutive terms between 2008 and 2020, both times as an Independent. In the last tenure in the Upper House, he represented the YSR Congress Party as an MP from Andhra Pradesh.

Over the years, Nathwani has built relationships across party lines in Jharkhand, leading to speculation that he could attract support beyond the NDA's official numbers. Before this election, his meeting with CM Hemant Soren sparked speculation, before he secured the NDA's backing. WITH INPUTS FROM SANTOSH SINGH IN PATNA

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Iran

and hanging over them will be the question of whether US President Donald Trump can wrest a better deal than the 2015 nuclear accord he scuttled eight years ago.

Trump signed a physical copy of the deal Wednesday while dining with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Palace of Versailles.

In Tehran, President Masoud Pezeshkian signed the document, according to the state-run IRNA news agency, which posted an image of him holding up the deal with his signature and Trump's.

Under the agreement, the Strait of Hormuz will reopen, and the US will lift its blockade of Iranian ports — both of which should push gas prices down. Passage through the waterway will be toll-free for 60 days, and the deal doesn't preclude fees after that, according to US officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Iran's closure of the strait, through which around a fifth of the world's traded oil supplies passed before the war, proved perhaps its strongest weapon. It drove up global fuel prices, made food and other products like fertilizer more expensive, and helped push US inflation to 4% ahead of this fall's midterm congressional elections.

With the deal in place, the Islamic Republic has survived the most serious attempt ever by Israel and the United States to topple its government, despite the thundering opening volleys of the war that killed Iran's supreme leader and other top officials. The deal immediately waives, but doesn't eliminate, sanctions that Trump imposed on Iran's oil exports, allowing it once again to sell its crude on the world market and restoring a revenue stream worth billions.

Last year, Iran earned an estimated \$45 billion from oil sales. But it had only one major buyer, China, and had to ship its crude through a shadow fleet of tankers to elude sanctions, eating into its profits. Under the blockade since April, its exports have nearly ground to a halt.

With the waiver, Iran will likely be able to find more customers and sell its oil for higher prices. The draft agreement calls for Iran's highly enriched uranium to be "downblended" — or diluted — under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The two sides will work out the details during their negotiations as well as generally discuss Iran's enrichment

programme, which it says it has a right to continue.

Iran developed the material in response to Trump's scuttling of Tehran's 2015 nuclear accord with world powers that prevented it from enriching uranium to high levels. He criticized the deal for giving Iran a huge windfall.

But the interim deal outlines even more lucrative incentives if Iran reaches a new nuclear agreement.

One is the eventual lifting of all international sanctions, which would seem to go further than the 2015 accord. That agreement lifted sanctions related to Iran's nuclear programme but kept others in place over what the US alleged were Tehran's support for terrorism and rights abuses.

The interim pact also promises a \$300 billion fund for post-war reconstruction. It's not clear where that money will come from — but Trump said the US would not contribute.

The deal also promises to unfreeze billions of dollars worth of Iranian assets held abroad under a procedure the two sides will work out, according to the text provided by US officials.

The Trump administration said its war aims were to "obliterate" Iran's missile arsenal, "sever its support" for armed

honest and traitors).

Meanwhile, the rebel MPs are learnt to have passed a resolution stating that they were leaving because the party had strayed from Balasaheb Thackeray's principles and because of concerns that it could eventually merge with the Congress.

Sawant, meanwhile, told *The Indian Express* that voters "will teach the rebelling MPs a lesson for going against Balasaheb Thackeray's party".

Raut also questioned the legitimacy claims of the Eknath Shinde-led faction and asked when Shinde's Sena had become the original Shiv Sena. Referring to the pending Supreme Court proceedings on the party split, he said: "Jahan Thackeray, wahan Shiv Sena (Shiv Sena is where Thackeray is)". He also accused the ruling establishment of engineering defections. "How many will you break? These ED and CBI threats — whom are you threatening? We have already gone to jail and come back."

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proxies in the region, "annihilate its navy," and ensure it never acquires a nuclear weapon.

The seven weeks of US-Israeli bombardment are believed to have heavily damaged Iran's missile arsenal and production facilities as well as other parts of its military. How heavily isn't known, though, and Iran continued to fire on Israel as recently as last week.

Meanwhile, Iran's ties with its militant proxies — Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen and Shiite militias in Iraq — appear as strong as ever.

Neither the missile arsenal nor Iran's support for its allies appears to be on the table in the upcoming negotiations.

The deal calls for an end to the war in Lebanon, where Israel has been fighting Hezbollah. However, Israel and Hezbollah aren't parties to the agreement. Iran insists Israel must withdraw from the large swath of southern Lebanon it is occupying, but the interim deal doesn't explicitly require that and only ensures Lebanon's "territorial integrity."

Israel has vowed to keep troops in Lebanon, while Hezbollah says it is committed to resisting Israel "until full withdrawal is achieved." Fighting between the two could derail the deal unless the US and Iran can rein in their respective allies. AP

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Raut also questioned the legitimacy claims of the Eknath Shinde-led faction and asked when Shinde's Sena had become the original Shiv Sena. Referring to the pending Supreme Court proceedings on the party split, he said: "Jahan Thackeray, wahan Shiv Sena (Shiv Sena is where Thackeray is)". He also accused the ruling establishment of engineering defections. "How many will you break? These ED and CBI threats — whom are you threatening? We have already gone to jail and come back."

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UPSC

The successful candidates include those whose presence affirms the scheme's effectiveness as a stepping stone for the poor — from the son of a security guard to the daughter of a railway porter and the son of a bus conductor.

However, there are also those on the list whose presence raises questions on their eligibility and has prompted a debate within sections of the Union Public Service Commission on the need to tighten the rules or ensure more robust due diligence.

The investigation reveals that a significant number of successful EWS candidates in 2025 attended well-known civil services coaching institutes (64.4 per cent); underwent private schooling (44.4 per cent); had parents who ran businesses (26.9 per cent); and held jobs in the corporate sector (9.6 per cent).

The EWS quota, introduced in 2019, reserves 10 per cent of seats for candidates from general-category families with a gross annual income below Rs 8 lakh, subject to asset-ownership conditions.

This newspaper investigated the social media profiles, coaching institute records, and school and college details, of all the 104 candidates who qualified under the EWS quota this time from the list of 958 selected in 2025 — the latest completed cycle of the examination for which the results were declared in March this year.

Consider the key findings: ● At least 67 candidates attended well-known coaching institutes in Delhi and other cities, including Vajiram & Ravi, Vajirao & Reddy and Drishti IAS, where annual fees can reach up to Rs 2.65 lakh.

Overall, at least 84 of the 104 candidates availed formal civil services coaching, with many attending multiple institutes such as ForumIAS, NextIAS, KingMakers IAS and UPSC Wallah. This count excludes those who attended government-sponsored or university-run programmes.

Some institutes do offer scholarships but these are restricted.

● At least 46 candidates completed their schooling at private schools in the National Capital Region and state capitals such as Lucknow, Raipur and Jaipur. *The Indian Express* found that these schools' fees range from Rs 45,000 to Rs 1.5 lakh annually.

● Parents of at least 28 candidates own businesses — from shops and trading to steel fabrication, cloth and confectionery. At least five of these families are based in the NCR,

one in a state capital, and eight others at various district headquarters.

● At least 10 candidates were employed in the private sector, including some multi-nationals and large software and construction firms, before beginning their UPSC preparation, some of them on substantial salaries.

● At least 14 of the 104 candidates are graduates or post-graduates from IITs, and at least three from National Institutes of Technology (NITs). At least 27 studied at Delhi University and at least three at JNU in Delhi.

'Purpose will be defeated'

The same list also includes candidates who fit the scheme's purpose — *The Indian Express* is not publishing the names of the candidates to protect their identities.

● One is the son of a retired army man who now works as a security guard. Another is the son of a school bus conductor. A woman candidate is the daughter of a former railway porter. Others come from families of daily-wage labourers and unemployed parents.

● At least seven studied at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, which are residential government schools primarily for rural children. Several are Hindi-medium students from rural backgrounds with farmer fathers.

● The parents of 29 candidates are farmers, including seven from UP, four each from Bihar, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, and two from the same family in a southern state.

Records show that the 104 candidates hail from across the country, including UP (25), Bihar (17), MP (14), Haryana (9), Rajasthan (8), Gujarat (5), Uttarakhand (4), Karnataka (4) and Kerala (3).

Former and current civil services officers said the ability of many EWS candidates to sustain multi-year preparations and premium coaching, especially in the national capital, and afford private schooling reinforces questions about whether the quota is being accessed by those with relatively "better financial and educational backgrounds".

"EWS relies on income and asset criteria. Issuing authorities must exercise rigorous due diligence, going beyond self-declarations and Income Tax returns, when verifying claims. If well-to-do individuals corner this benefit, the entire purpose of EWS reservation will be defeated," Satyananda Mishra, former Chief Information Commissioner and ex-Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), told *The Indian Express*.

Rs 8-lakh limit

The key eligibility criteria are: gross annual income must be below Rs 8 lakh; the family must not own 5 acres of agricultural land or more; must not own a residential flat of 1,000 sq ft or more; must not own a residential plot of 100 sq yards or more in a notified municipality; and must not own a residential plot of 200 sq yards or more in areas outside notified municipalities.

Why were questions raised over the income mark?

According to experts, a credible determination of economic backwardness has been a challenge.

On October 21, 2021, while hearing a petition on NEET-PG admissions, a Supreme Court bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud asked the Government to explain how it had fixed Rs 8 lakh per annum as the income eligibility limit for

EWS reservation. "You can't just pull out Rs 8 lakh from anywhere. There must be some data — sociological, demographic," the court said. The court also pointed out that Rs 8 lakh was also the cut-off for the OBC creamy layer, and observed that while OBCs suffer from social and educational backwardness, EWS candidates are not socially or educationally backward.

In January 2022, the Centre submitted in the court that while income from salaries and agricultural land is excluded while computing income for the OBC creamy layer, income from all sources is included for EWS. It cited a report by a three-member review committee it had set up, which determined that "threshold of Rs 8 lakh of annual family income, in the current situation, seems reasonable for determining EWS".

'Won't succumb to threats'

The physical violence against your daughter took place in the UK.

That is the diabolical part. That's the level of, I don't know what the word for it is... The level of cowardice perhaps, because a year-and-a-half on, nobody dares attack me. Instead, they go after my children, they go after my daughter who is overseas. What does that tell you about the people who are behind this?

What happened on April 22, 2026?

Aditi did her school run, and she was on her way back. I think she was texting on her phone or whatever, and this man yanked her hair from behind, and when she turned around, he punched her repeatedly in the face, resulting ultimately in a fractured nose.

He was wearing a body cam, obviously, so when she fell to the ground and was screaming, and he kicked her, and by then the neighbours came, and he hesitated a little longer just to get more footage, and then ran away.

Of course, he carefully chose the spot because it is in one of those few blind spots in that Greater London area. That was a carefully premeditated and orchestrated attack.

How is your daughter coping with the trauma?

With remarkable strength. She is an astonishingly brave young lady. She is not going to give in to this either. She sees the injustice in it, and she has always been willing to fight and speak up against injustice. I am very proud of her. She doesn't belong to the legal world. She's completely out of it. She hadn't even read the judgment or all this stuff. And why should she?

As a father and husband, how do you cope with the psychological burden of knowing that a decision you penned in a courtroom has translated into a direct physical threat to your children and grandchildren?

It is very difficult. I wouldn't wish it on anyone. I wouldn't wish it on any father anywhere. But my wife and I have been able to derive strength from our children's strength. When they say, 'we are not going to stand for this', it gives us courage as well. And they have stood firm right through it, but it has been horrendous.

DEPARTMENTS GIVEN A DEADLINE OF JUNE 30 LG: Finalise process for 20% quota for ex-Agniveers in police, DFS posts

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 18



LG Taranjit Singh Sandhu and other officers during a review meeting on Thursday. X/@LTGOVDELHI

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Thursday directed all departments concerned to complete the process of implementation of 20% reservation for former Agniveers in Group 'C' posts by month-end, including necessary amendments to the Recruitment Rules.

Chairing a review meeting with the Chief Secretary, Police Commissioner and other senior officials, the LG said the reservation policy should be implemented in the Delhi Police, Fire Services, Prisons, and Forest and Wildlife departments in line with the Centre's vision for rehabilitation and employment of former Agniveers.

Sandhu had earlier proposed recruitments of the former Agniveers to the Delhi Fire Services in a meeting held on June 8.

"To optimally harness the discipline and military training of these youths, the LG directed the execution of a 20% reservation in direct recruitment to vacant Group 'C' posts," the LG office said in a statement.

Officials said that this quota will be applicable across key operational departments, specifically covering the recruitment of police constables, fire officials, jail warders, forest guards and wildlife guards.

Sandhu said the depart-

ments should finalise the procedures and bring necessary amendments to their respective Recruitment Rules by June 30, the statement said.

Officials said that the LG also noted that by seamlessly integrating these dedicated individuals into the civic framework, the government will significantly augment the Capital's institutional resilience and drive forward the collective vision of a progressive 'Viksit Dilli'.

B&B fire: Rs 5 lakh to man who saved lives

New Delhi: The Delhi government on Thursday provided financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh to a man who saved lives in the recent Malviya Nagar fire and announced that it will bear the entire cost of his treatment. In the incident earlier this month, 23 people died while over two dozen were injured.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta

sent a letter to Rohit Mukhiya, appreciating his sense of duty and compassion in the face of danger, said a CMO statement. Gupta, in the letter, saluted the courage and humanity of Mukhiya, a resident of Khidki Extension, who risked his life to save many, it said.

A cheque was handed over to his family by the district magis-

trate, who visited their residence. Rohit displayed "exceptional courage and humanity" during the fire that broke out at a building, where a restaurant and a bed and breakfast unit ran. He was on duty in the restaurant's kitchen when the fire started. While ensuring safety of others, he also sustained serious injuries, the statement added. PTI

Missed your physical share transfer deadline?

Good news!

SEBI is giving investors a special one-year window

from

FEB 05 2026

—

FEB 04 2027

To submit transfer requests for previously rejected physical share certificates, as well as for fresh lodgement, in cases where the transfer deed was executed prior to April 1, 2019.

Key points

Transfer requests lodged before April 1, 2019 & rejected for any reason, as well as fresh lodgement where the transfer deed was executed prior to April 1, 2019.

Shares transferred will now be issued in Demat form only.

Companies and registrars will help you with this process.

Check Your Eligibility

Execution Date of Transfer Deed	Lodged for transfer before April 01, 2019?	Original Security Certificate Available?	Eligible to lodge in the current window?
Before April 01, 2019	NO (It is fresh lodgement)	YES	✓
Before April 01, 2019	YES (It was rejected/ returned earlier)	YES	✓
Before April 01, 2019	YES	NO	✗
Before April 01, 2019	NO	NO	✗

Scan to get the official circular.

राष्ट्रीय बौद्धिक दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण संस्थान (दिव्यांगजन)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN), SECUNDERABAD

दिव्यांगजन सशक्तिकरण विभाग, सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India

मनोविकास नगर, सिकंदराबाद / Manovikas Nagar, Secunderabad - 500 009

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE NO.03/2026

The Institute invites applications from eligible candidates for regular faculty and non teaching faculty post which is as under:

S.No.	Name of the post	No. of posts	Category
1.	Lecturer in Rehabilitation Psychology (Level-10)	02	UR-01 EWS-01
2.	Stenographer (Level-4)	01	OBC
3.	LDC/Typist (Level-2)	02	UR-01 EWS-01
4.	Physiotherapy Assistant (Level-2)	01	UR

Further, this institute also invites various faculty and Non-Faculty on contractual basis including posts to be filled on contractual basis for Cross Disability Early Intervention Centre (CDEIC) at NIEPID, Secunderabad its Regional Centres located at Noida and its Composite Regional Centres at Davangere- Karnataka, Nellore- Andhra Pradesh and Rajnandgaon - Chhattisgarh.

For complete details regarding Category of the regular posts and Contractual posts (including CDEIC), educational qualifications, experience, age prescribed for the posts, terms and conditions and to download application forms, please visit Institute's website www.niepid.nic.in. Last date for submission of applications is 01.08.2026. Any modifications/corrigendum in the above notification will be given in Institute's website only.

WALK-IN-INTERVIEWS FOR EMPANELMENT OF GUEST FACULTY/ STAFF POSITIONS

Also, this Institute is conducting Walk-in-interviews/screening for empanelment of professionals/personnel to work as guest faculty/staff for NIEPID Secunderabad its Regional Centres located at Noida, Navi Mumbai, Kolkata & MSEC, Noida and its Composite Regional Centre, Rajnandgaon, Davangere and Nellore and positions for various schemes and courses will be held from 23rd June, 2026 to 06th July, 2026 at their respective centres. For complete details about the posts please visit Institute's website www.niepid.nic.in. For any other information, please contact at Ph.No.040-27751741-45 Extn. 209.

DIRECTOR, NIEPID

NABARD NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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ISSUE OF DUPLICATE BOND CERTIFICATE

Notice is hereby given that the following Bhavishya Nirman Bond Certificates have been reported lost/misplaced/ not traceable by the bondholders, and NABARD intends to make payment/ issue duplicate certificates in lieu thereof, in due course.

Any person who has a valid claim on the said bond certificate should lodge such claim with NABARD at its Head Office address given above within 21 days here from:

Sr. No.	Name of The Investor	Allotment Date	Maturity Date	Folio no/ Investor ID.	No. of Bonds	Original Certificate No
1	Manjulaben Kashirambhai Patel	01-Sep-2007	01-Sep-2017	310328014	3	20070900000559
2	Vikaskumar Sharma	01-Nov-2007	01-Nov-2017	310590100	2	20071100000450
3	Ram Krishan Sharma	01-Sep-2007	01-Sep-2017	310622575	2	20070900001249

Place : Mumbai
Date : June 19, 2026
www.nabard.org | Taking Rural India Forward | Dy. General Manager

IN THE COURT OF IN THE COURT OF

Ms. NEHA PALIWAL SHARMA, SPECIAL JUDGE (PC Act) CBI-12, ROUSE AVENUE DISTRICT COURT, NEW DELHI.

Date of order :- 29.04.2026 Date of Issue :- 06.05.2026
Next Date of hearing :- 04.07.2026 Time :- 10:00 a.m.

Complaint Case No. 52/2025
ECIR/ DLZO-I/ 03/2020
CNR No. DLCT-001204-2025
PS-Directorate of Enforcement

DIRECTORATE OF ENFORCEMENT

Vs.

M/S RADIKAL FOODS LTD. & ORS.

To,

Ashwini Kumar, Proprietor of M/s Jagdamba Overseas, r/o 629, Juggies, Kishan Gang, Delhi

NOTICE

You are hereby directed to appear before this court on the next date of hearing 04.07.2026 at 10:00 AM in the above-mentioned case.

Sd/-
Neha Paliwal Sharma
Special Judge (PC Act) CBI-12 Room No. 805,
Fifth Floor Rouse Avenue District Court Complex,
New Delhi

GHAZIABAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(ISO 9001:2015 & ISO 14001:2015 Certified Organisation)

VIKAS PATH, GHAZIABAD

पत्र संख्या/14/नियोजन अनुभाग/2026 Date: 16.06.2026

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) invites proposals under two-bid system (Technical and Financial) from experienced and eligible prospective bidder firms for the following Request for Proposals (RFPs) for:-

- Appointment of Consultant for the Zonal Development Plan for Urban Land Use (excluding Agricultural Land Use) in Zone Zone L-1, L-2 & L-3 along with the Road Circulation Plan of the remaining (Agricultural Land Use) as per Ghaziabad, Modinagar and Loni Master Plan-2031.

Details of RFP can be downloaded from the <https://etender.up.nic.in> from 22-06-2026

Last date of uploading of e-Bid - 06-07-2026 (5:00 PM)
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting - 29-06-2026 at 1:00 PM (Venue-GDA Meeting Hall)

Date of Opening of Technical Bid - 09-07-2026 (11:00 AM)
Date of Opening of Financial Bid - to be informed later

Further enquiry can be made from Assistant Town Planner on Mobile no. 7290017553 during office hours (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM)

Additional Secretary, GDA
E-mail: secgda@gmail.com

E-mail: helplinegda@gmail.com, @gdagzb, @gdagzb
Helpline: 0120-3342433 / Whatsapp No.: 9818988807, Website: www.gdaghaziabad.in

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'SHE BROUGHT BAD ENERGY TO THE HOUSE,' HE TOLD POLICE; VICTIM HAD BEEN WORKING AT KAILASH HILLS HOME FOR 10 YRS

Dermatologist beats house help to death

Pragnesh
New Delhi, June 18

A DERMATOLOGIST allegedly killed his 45-year-old house help by battering her with a bat and then stabbing her with a knife in the upscale Kailash Hills area in South Delhi on Thursday morning, police said.

Police said the accused, Dr Manish Gupta (54), has been arrested. He runs his own clinic near his house in Mount Kailash. Officers said that during questioning, the accused told them that the victim, Meena, "brought bad energy" to the house. They added that the accused has been on antidepressant medication for years now, and that he thought that his family "valued" the victim more than him.

"He felt that Meena was bringing in 'bad energy', which was impacting the career of his son. His son is 19-20 years old, but did not continue his studies after Class 12," said a police officer.

The accused asked his wife Tina, who is a Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS), to fire the help, but she refused, an officer said.

Police said initial questioning revealed that Meena had been working at the house for the past 10 years.

Agitated, he followed Meena to the rooftop of his

What happened

- Manish asks his wife to fire Meena. Wife Tina refuses to fire the help
- On Tuesday, at 10:30 am, Tina leaves home
- At about 11:30 am, police calls Tina, saying Meena has been killed



Manish Gupta, the accused



The building where the incident happened.

third-floor house on Thursday morning while she was going to hang washed clothes for sun-drying. "In a room adjacent to the rooftop, there was a bat and a knife. He first hit her with the bat, after which she fell to the ground. He then stabbed her multiple times," said an officer.

Police said the incident came to light when a call was received at 11.30 am from a neighbour at the Amar Colony police station about a body

being found. "At 11.36 am, information regarding the murder of a woman near Dr Manish Gupta's house, Mount Kailash, was received at Amar Colony police station.

The caller said the body of a woman was lying, soaked in blood, on the rooftop of an adjacent building," said DCP (Southeast) Hemant Tiwari.

When police reached the spot, they found the accused squatting near the body. He allegedly told police that he had hit her with a bat and then stabbed with a knife.

"The accused was beside the body. He admitted to hitting the victim with a bat and later stabbing her with a knife. Gupta has been apprehended and he is being questioned further regarding the motive," said DCP Tiwari.

"The doctor's statements are being verified and the motive is being ascertained," a police source said.

'She always praised the family, can't believe this...': Woman's son

Pragnesh
New Delhi, June 18

KAILASH HILLS in South East Delhi is an idyllic neighbourhood by all means: a slope going downwards from the main road turns into small lanes, which mostly have brutalist grey residential buildings. A few of them, however, have picturesque three-floor white DDA houses, surrounded by greens. Block A is one such lane. On the rooftop of one of these buildings, a woman's body was found in a pool of blood on Thursday morning — her head battered allegedly with a bat by her employer.

The woman was Meena, a house help, and a few meters away from her — on the stairs that lead to the rooftop — sat her employer and alleged killer Dr Manish Gupta: a geeky looking dermatologist who had stints with skincare giants like Kaya. On Thursday morning, he had allegedly stabbed Meena after beating her with a bat.

About four hours after police reached the spot, and drove the accused away to the police station. Amit Vohra, a local, was standing outside the building,

looking towards the third floor of the building where a blue board mentioning the accused's qualification hangs.

He recalls a phone conversation with the accused who he has known for about a decade. "I heard that a murder happened near his house. I called to check if he was fine, if his son and wife were fine. But his phone was switched off. I then called a police officer. They said he is the one who is the murderer," said Vohra, shocked at the actions of his "reticent" and "kind" neighbour.

"Last I spoke to him was a couple of months back. I remember during Covid, we had arranged for some oxygen cylinders together. Some were left, and after some months Manish helped us donate it," said Vohra.

Vohra, who lives a block away, also claimed that the accused held private consultations as a philanthropic gesture. But his private clients mostly came to his house. Dinesh Verma, who lives on the ground floor of the same building as the accused, said that he never had a proper conversation with him, despite being in close proximity to him for over a decade. "We ex-

changed greetings while crossing each other sometimes. Today morning, I was in my physiotherapy class. When I came back, there were police personnel all around," he recalled.

Meena had been working at the house for the last 10 years. She lived in a colony nearby, about a 10 minute walk, which mostly has residents of domestic helps.

A native of West Bengal, she lived with her son Robin Halder, and his wife Saptami. "She always praised Tina ma'am and the family," said Saptami, who said that Tina used to be generous with bonuses, gifts and working hours. She always used to praise the family," said Saptami, who fainted when she was taken to the rooftop to identify her mother-in-law's body.

Robin, who works at a store in Nehru Place, was working when he got a call from his wife. "She only worked three-four hours. She was so happy with how they treated her. I can't believe this happened," he adds.

Police said that they are questioning Manish, and trying to get to the bottom of his triggers. Further probe is on.

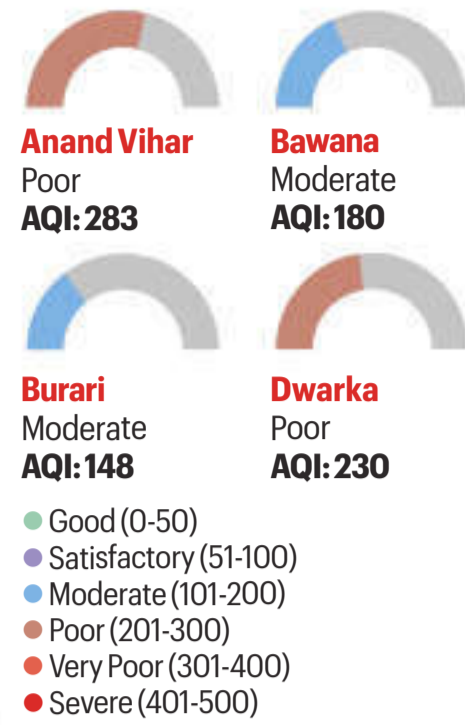
Skywatch

Forecast: June 19, 2026
Partly cloudy sky. Light rain, thunderstorm, lightning.
MAX: 40-42
3.2°C above normal

MIN: 27-29
1.5°C above normal

- Sunrise: 5:24 AM (June 20)
- Sunset: 7:22 PM (June 19)
- Moonrise: 10:50 AM (June 20)
- Moonset: 11:08 PM (June 19)

AQI Tracker



Shikanji, 'cooling centres': Govt outreach for NEET re-test

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 18

AFTER ANNOUNCING free DTC bus rides to examination centres for students taking the NEET-UG 2026 re-test on Sunday, the Delhi government has now made arrangements for "cooling zones" for those who accompany candidates — complete with seating arrangements, shikanji, and even ORS. This is the first time that the Delhi government is offering such a range of facilities to aspirants in a competitive examination.

It reflects the concern shown by several state governments to appear responsive to the disquiet among students over the ongoing chaos in the

conduct of exams. The NEET-UG held on May 3 for admission to undergraduate medical courses was cancelled after question papers were leaked.

On Thursday, CM Rekha Gupta posted on X that the Delhi government would create "Cooling Zones for parents and family members at all 97 examination centres for the NEET exam scheduled on June 21".

Facilities for "seating, clean drinking water, shikanji, ORS, tea, first aid, and other essential amenities will be available", the CM said. ORS refers to Oral Rehydration Solution, a specialised mix of water, salts and sugar, designed to address dehydration brought on by heat, humidity, or diarrhoea.

2 more bridges to come up on Yamuna as Ring Road corridor Phase 1 cleared

Gayathri Mani
New Delhi, June 18

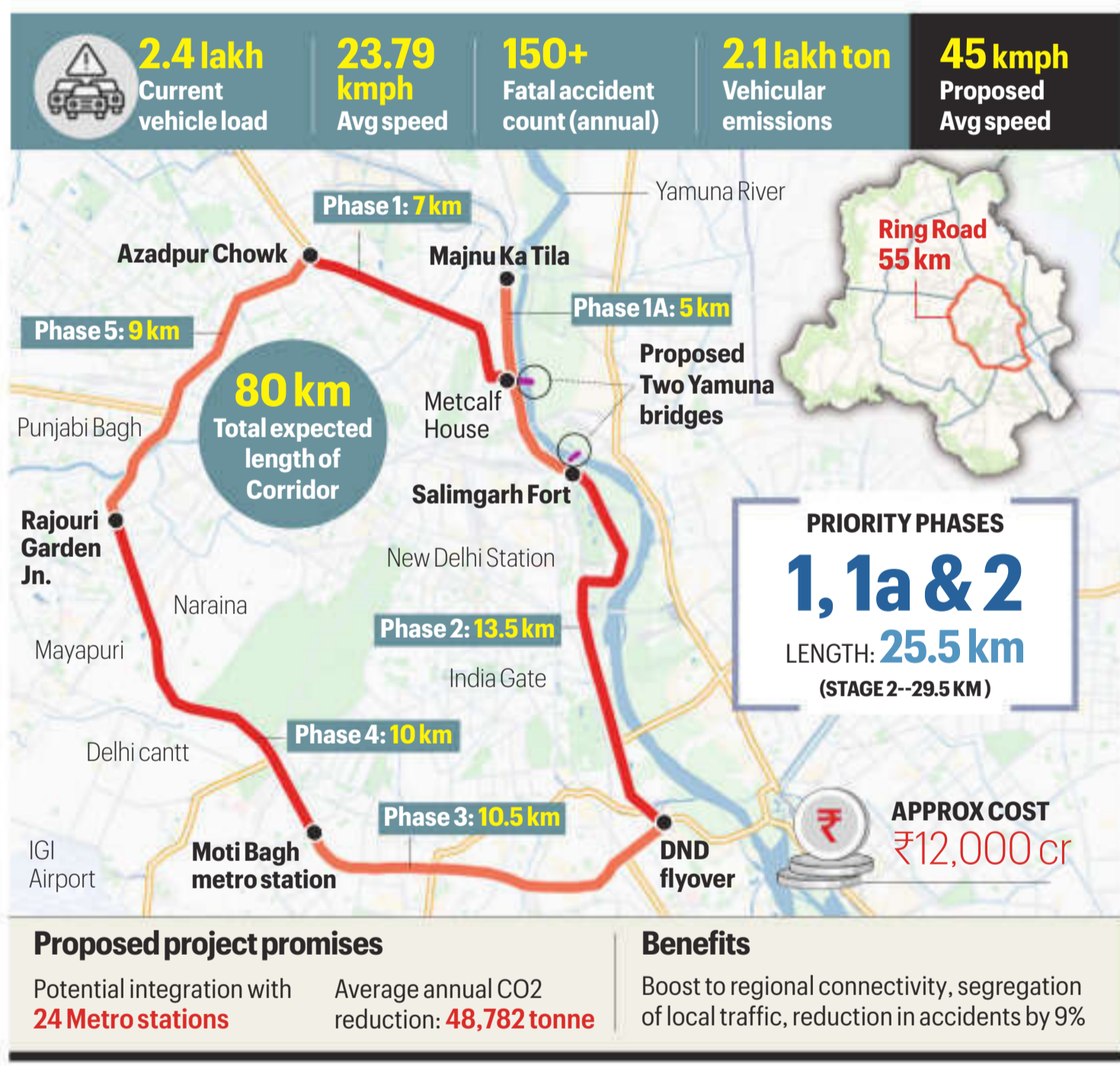
THE CAPITAL is set to get two more bridges on the Yamuna river with the government approving the first phase of a Rs 12,000 crore elevated Ring Road corridor project from Metcalf House in the city's Civil Lines area to DND flyover near Ashram. Aimed at ensuring signal-free movement while reducing congestion, the project — which is part of the Delhi government's mega decongestion plan — will help boost connectivity between North, North East and South East Delhi, said officials. It is also expected to reduce vehicular pollution and road accidents on key arterial roads.

Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh told *The Indian Express* on Thursday that the proposed elevated corridor above the 55-km Ring Road — which is considered the lifeline of the Capital's road infrastructure — will be constructed in six sections in two phases. "The first three sections under Phase 1 have been approved. The feasibility and detailed project report (DPR) has been prepared and is being reviewed. It will soon be sent to the Unified Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning & Engineering) Centre or UTTIPEC for further approval..." he said.

In the first phase, about 25-km long corridor will be developed under three priority sections — 7-km Azadpur Chowk to Metcalf House junction, 5-km long Majnu Ka Tila to Salimgarh Fort and DND flyover section.

Officials said the total length of the corridor — when ramps, loops, and additional connecting roads are included — is expected to be around 80 km. Also

ALLEVIATING TRAFFIC WOES



known as Mahatma Gandhi Marg, the Ring Road — which has 11 junctions sees a vehicle load of 5 lakh vehicles daily. The average speed during peak hours is 23.79 kmph. The project promises to increase this average speed to 45 kmph.

At present, the Capital has more than 20 bridges over Yamuna. The two new bridges, said officials, will come up between Metcalf Junction and Salimgarh Fort. One of the bridges is planned to come up near Old Iron Bridge (Lohe ka Pul) as its replacement. It will

help in reducing the traffic jams on the existing ITO bridge and Yudhister Setu (also known as the Kashmir Gate Flyover). "This bridge will connect North East, East and South East Delhi linking directly with the DND Flyway near Ashram," explained a PWD official.

The other bridge will come up at Chandgiram Akhara near Metcalf House, which will cross the Yamuna providing connectivity to North East Delhi, ITO, Mayur Vihar side.

The stretch will also provide interchange to Delhi-Dehradun

Expressway, creating a seamless high-speed connection between North Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad and will boost regional NCR connectivity. This will enhance regional mobility, improve accessibility and support the movement of both local and inter-city traffic across the eastern side of Delhi, said officials.

Singh said that the construction for the Phase I of the corridor is expected to begin soon as it does not have as many challenges in comparison to subsequent phases, like land acquisition.

FARIDABAD BIKER DEATH REMINDER OF SIMILAR INCIDENT IN DELHI

THE DELAY

Police say the 45-year-old hospital manager was travelling at a high speed and his bike fell into a ditch at the end of an incomplete approach road after the Manjhawali bridge

The accident happened around 11pm on June 14, and villagers, who do not use that portion of the road, spotted him only at 7.30am the next day.

THE LAPSES

At the spot, as of Thursday, there were no crash barriers, reflective light, barricades or street lights



The accident took place near Yamuna Bridge Manjhawali. Haryana and UP PWDs differ over who has to put in place the "missing" safety features



At the site of the incident. TASHI TOBGYAL

Civic concerns, blame game after biker falls into ditch; dies after waiting for help

Abhimanyu Hazarika
Faridabad, June 18

DAYS AFTER the death of a 45-year-old hospital manager from Faridabad, which has been blamed on alleged civic apathy, broken bottles and empty packets of chips line the mounds of soil and ditches at the site of the incident near the Manjhawali Bridge that links Faridabad and Greater Noida (Dankaur).

A resident of Faridabad, Atul Joshi died on the intervening night of June 14 and 15 allegedly after his motorcycle plunged into a ditch on the unbaricaded, incomplete stretch of the approach road — where the construction is said to have been halted due to land acquisition delays — to the bridge over Yamuna at the border of the Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

Police said the victim survived the initial crash that took place around 11 pm on June 14. But he succumbed to his injuries after waiting for more than eight hours for help in the

secluded area; he was spotted by locals next day at 7.30 am.

The death was a reminder of a similar incident in West Delhi's Janakpuri in February, which sparked massive outrage, when a 25-year-old call centre employee, Kamal Dhyani, fell into a pit on a stretch where construction work was being undertaken by the Delhi Jal Board (DJB).

In the latest incident, according to a senior Faridabad Police officer, Joshi was riding from his residence in Faridabad to Noida on Sunday night at a high speed. Unable to see the dead end in the dark, Joshi rode his motorcycle off the paved surface and into a ditch — his helmet suffered damage, which led to injuries.

When *The Indian Express* visited the site on Thursday, no barricades or barriers could be seen, which could have possibly prevented the fall. Vehicles were seen navigating their way from and towards Noida through unpaved kutcha roads at the immediate end of the

bridge. The site of the incident is surrounded by empty fields. Labourers and others working in the fields nearby said that part of the unpaved road is only used to take a U-Turn towards the bridge. Cabs and other vehicles heading towards Noida had to cover the site of the incident — many drivers were seen asking for directions, indicating that Google Maps could not guide them properly.

Joshi's death seems to have triggered a blame game between the authorities of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Dankaur (UP) Station House Officer Manoj Kumar Singh said both the police case and land (the accident spot) are under Haryana authorities. "We only arranged for the postmortem... our role ends there," he said.

When asked if they have had discussions with their counterparts in Haryana to install barricades at the site after the incident, he said such discussions are ongoing and the decision has to be taken by the author-

ities in Haryana.

Gautam Buddha Nagar PWD Executive Engineer Kanchan Singh said the land and accident spot is in Haryana. "We have received sanction for the (approach road) work recently and are conducting the pending land acquisition proceedings that is time taking. We are confident of completing it within a month, and the road within a year. We have told Haryana authorities to do the needful in terms of barriers."

Meanwhile, Haryana authorities insist their share of work is done. Ballabhgarh SDM Mayank Bhardwaj said. "We have had discussions after the incident with the UP Police and PWD to get the pending safety work done." Haryana PWD Executive Engineer Ram Parkash said the state's work in the stretch was complete. On the other hand, Tigaon Police's SHO Inspector Ranbir Kumar, who received the information about the body, said they have conveyed to the UP police to have barricades installed there.

INSTITUTE CLIMBS FIVE PLACES TO 118 GLOBALLY IN QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS, BEATS IIT BOMBAY FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

Research impact & sustainability, but focus on students: IIT-D formula for QS success

Vidheesha Kuntamalla
New Delhi, June 18

FOR THE second year running, IIT Delhi has emerged as India's highest-ranked institution in the QS World University Rankings, having climbed five places over last year to 118 rank globally, and widening its lead over IIT Bombay, which has slipped to rank 134.

The 2027 rank for IIT Delhi is the highest ever achieved by an Indian university, bettering the performance of IIT Bombay in 2025, and caps a remarkable four-year climb of 79 places from 197th in the QS 2024 rankings.

According to QS, the rise of IIT Delhi has been driven by

significant gains in employer reputation, research impact and graduate employability. The institute has climbed to 39th place globally in Employer Reputation, 60th in Citations per Faculty, and jumped 60 places to rank 280 in Employment Outcomes," QS Senior Vice President Ben Sowter said. "These two areas are key to IIT-D achieving such an outstanding rank in 2027," Sowter said.

IIT Bombay declined 25 places in Citations per Faculty, even though it continued to score strongly on employer reputation and academic reputation. Weaker performance on international engagement indicators weighed down its

overall ranking.

Overall, "Global peers are gaining momentum while institutions across India are improving at a comparatively slower pace," Sowter said.

Administrators at IIT Delhi attributed the improved rank to the fulfilment of broader institutional goals. "Whatever goes on inside the QS algorithm, our job is different," Somnath Baidya Roy, Dean of Planning at IIT Delhi, told *The Indian Express*. "We want to be a leader in providing technological education at affordable rates to all our students." He said the institute remains focused on attracting talent, improving infrastructure, and strengthening re-



The 2027 rank for the institute is the highest ever achieved by an Indian university. FILE

search rather than on ranking indicators. "One of the reasons for our success is that we have continued to attract the best students and faculty. We are a preferred destination for students across India," he said.

In the QS World University Rankings by Subject announced earlier this year, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Chemical Engineering and Civil Engineering at IIT Delhi featured among the world's top 50 programmes. IIT Delhi also retained its position as India's highest-ranked institution in Engineering and Technology with a global rank of 36.

Sustainability, an area in which IIT Delhi remains the highest ranked institution in India, has played a key role over the last two years.

"A couple of years back, we decided that IIT Delhi was already doing a lot of activities re-

lated to sustainability and we needed to emphasise them. At the time, it was not because sustainability was a metric in rankings," Roy said.

Sustainability efforts emerged from a combination of student demands, institutional priorities, and government regulations, Roy said. "We came up with our sustainability policy and we are acting on our sustainability action plan," he said. He pointed to green building initiatives, environmental programs and academic units such as Atmospheric Sciences and Civil and Environmental Engineering as examples of the way sustainability had become embedded

across the institute. "Most importantly, sustainability is an integral part of our curriculum," he said.

IIT Delhi is also betting on a broader transformation for the coming decade, having begun to implement a revamped curriculum aimed at making education more interdisciplinary while giving students greater flexibility in designing their academic pathways. "We are looking at interdisciplinarity and also giving students more flexibility in terms of designing their own education," Roy said.

The revised framework expands opportunities for minors and specialisations and places greater emphasis on intern-

ships and engagement with industry and society. "We are now encouraging M-Tech students to take up internships under the new curriculum," he said.

The institute's Vision 2035 roadmap will guide infrastructure development, laboratory upgrades and internationalisation efforts. "We are also emphasising globalisation," Roy said. "More international students are coming as exchange students."

At the end though, IIT Delhi remains about its students, Roy said. "Our students are getting top jobs in academia, research, and industry. Our alumni are doing extremely well. Our product is our students. That's the story here."

Internet fraudsters get to son of former PM I K Gujral using his DP & WhatsApp

Pragnesh
New Delhi, June 18



Former MP Naresh Gujral

LATE LAST week, a senior official at the financial division of a textile company owned by Naresh Gujral, a former MP and the son of former Prime Minister I K Gujral, received a WhatsApp message from an unknown number. The display picture was that of his boss Naresh.

"He (the official) was asked to transfer around Rs 1.5 crore through RTGS to an account whose details were given to him," a police officer said. Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) is a way to urgently make high-value transactions between bank accounts.

But the sender of the message was not Naresh.

"My employee tried calling the number. But the fraudster disconnected," said Naresh. He said the alleged scammer, posing as Naresh, said he could not answer since he was in a meeting. It was someone who had used Naresh's profile picture, and made an effort to sound like him over WhatsApp, the police officer said. However, this thought apparently never crossed the mind of the company official.

"He could have contacted my secretary... But he got trapped in the 'boss scam,'" said Naresh.

So over the next four days, three more transactions were requested by the alleged fraudster, and the company official complied each time. In the end, a total of Rs 7.8 crore had been transferred to the account of the alleged fraudster, police officers said.

"The last transaction happened on Tuesday, and I filed a complaint just four-five hours later. I guess that helped," said Naresh. This was unusual because the pattern in Internet financial fraud has been that the cheated money disappears quickly, often within minutes.

"Rs 4 crore was traced and frozen. Usually by this point, the money is either cashed out or is converted to crypto" said the source.

the instructions were from Mr Naresh, allowed the RTGS transfers from the company's account," a source said.

It was only on June 16 that the official contacted Diksha, the daughter of the 78-year-old former MP, and told her about the money that "her father" had been instructing him to transfer. "Diksha, who was alarmed to know that her father was suddenly in need of so much money, asked him about the transactions. Naresh told her that he had never contacted the official or asked for these transfers to be made," the source said.

It was then that the family suspected a fraud and contacted the police. An e-FIR was registered on Tuesday.

The specialised Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations unit of the Delhi Police took up the case and tracked down multiple accounts. Surprisingly, they found that the bulk of the transferred money was still sitting in those accounts, police said.

"The last transaction happened on Tuesday, and I filed a complaint just four-five hours later. I guess that helped," said Naresh. This was unusual because the pattern in Internet financial fraud has been that the cheated money disappears quickly, often within minutes.

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Govt initiates eviction proceedings against Sujan Singh Park North

Damini Nath
New Delhi, June 18



The upscale colonial-era building complex next to Khan Market in New Delhi includes the iconic Ambassador Hotel. FILE

THE UNION government has initiated eviction proceedings against Sujan Singh Park North, the upscale colonial-era building complex next to Khan Market in New Delhi that includes the iconic Ambassador Hotel, saying the lease ended in 1960 due to the failure to address breaches of the conditions.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Land and Development Office (L&DO) on June 11 issued an eviction notice to Sir Sobha Singh and Sons, the real estate company that built, and still runs the complex after it was given the land on lease to develop Sujan Singh Park in 1945.

The firm was asked to respond to the notice by Friday as to why an eviction order should not be passed.

The 1945 lease, the L&DO said, for the land had been re-entered on August 5, 1960 due to the company's failure to rectify breaches of two clauses of the lease. Re-entry refers to the termination of the lease in

event of a breach of the lease.

No renewal, fresh allotment or fresh lease had been executed or granted since 1960, and the continued occupation of the property was without authority of law, the L&DO said.

The L&DO initiated the proceedings under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, and asked the firm to recover possession from "sub-tenants".

Shaunak Kashyap, the advocate for Sir Sobha Singh & Sons

Pvt. Ltd, said the company had got "substantive relief" from the Delhi High Court on Wednesday when it moved the court against the June 11 notice.

While the court did not stay the notice, Kashyap said it was not necessary. He said the notice rested on a June 9 judgment of the Tis Hazari court, in which the court struck down a decree in favour of the government.

The court's judgment would have led to the company's eviction, however, Kashyap said the

government told the High Court it would not rely on the Tis Hazari court judgment.

"At the hearing in the High Court on Wednesday, we argued that the notice was illegal in so far as it rested on that judgment. This forced the government's counsel to withdraw the operative portion of the notice that threatened eventual eviction, thereby granting us substantial relief...A formal stay was thus unnecessary precisely because the government itself gave up the operative basis of the threatened eviction, based on our arguments before the vacation bench — and that, in the circumstances, is substantive relief," he said.

Kashyap added that the company had challenged the L&DO's jurisdiction. "Any eviction must now begin afresh, on a fresh notice, with the government first proving that its 1960 're-entry' was valid — something it failed to establish in 49 years of trial — through a full inquiry with evidence and cross-examination, in which the residents, Hotel Ambassador, the Traders' Association and the RWA are each

entitled to be heard before the Director of Estates."

He said the firm would place its position on record before the Estate Officer on Friday.

On April 22, the Supreme Court had given its judgment on one of the fundamental disputes between the government and the firm, saying the property was a "government grant". After that, the L&DO had on April 30 issued a demand notice to the company for payment of Rs.940 crore for breaching lease conditions of Sujan Singh Park.

The government had given the 7.58 acre property — Sujan Singh Park North and South — to the company on perpetual lease on April 26, 1945.

The company was to construct 100 flats that would be used by the government to house officers during World War II, after which 50% of the flats would be given to the company, with the government keeping 50% for use of its own officials, as per the lease. Over the years, however, the units in possession of the government fell to 14 flats, 39 servant quarters and 25 garages.

'Took 12 hours to douse the flame': Massive fire at Faridabad shoe unit, no casualty



At the unit on Thursday.

Abhimanyu Hazarika
Gurgaon, June 18

A SUSPECTED short circuit at a shoe manufacturing factory on Thursday morning in Faridabad led to a massive fire, officials said, adding that they managed to completely douse it after 12 hours.

No casualty was reported as workers were not at the unit at the time of the incident, but the fire spread to buildings outside the premises, leading to evacuation.

Officials said that they were informed about the incident — which took place at Guru Kripa Lifestyle at Sector 32 near the Mewala Maharaipur Metro station — around 7.30 am on Thursday. Fire tenders and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) officials from across Haryana reached the spot.

"As many as 21 fire tenders were pressed into service. The flames were put out around 7.30 pm. The firm will now assess the damage in their report," Fire Safety Officer Rakesh Yadav said at the site.

Fire Safety Officer (Faridabad NIT) Sukhbir Yadav said the tenders has to be refilled at least 10 times till afternoon.

Company officials present at the site said they were yet to ascertain the damage, but termed it "substantial".

"We think a short circuit triggered it," a worker said.

"We had to break a brick wall with an excavator so that the hose could reach some of the rooms. Three fire engines will remain here tonight," fire officials said.

Faridabad police spokesperson Yashpal Yadav said an investigation has been launched.

Firm that built, runs building complex moves High Court

Sohini Ghosh
New Delhi, June 18

SIR SOBHA Singh and Sons, the real estate company that built and runs the Sujan Singh Park complex has moved Delhi High Court against a district court's judgment that ruled that the northern part of the complex has been in breach of conditions of the lease agreement.

Urging for an immediate stay on the district court's verdict, the company on Wednesday cited the latest eviction notice issued by the government on June 11.

Part of the complex under the government takeover bid also includes the hotel, Ambassador, which is at the heart of the dispute. The government has termed the hotel as a breach of the lease conditions, thus making termination of the

lease, or a 're-entry' by the government over the property, valid.

Sir Sobha Singh and Sons, in their petition, has flagged the June 11 eviction notice under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971, terming the company as 'unauthorised occupant' and seeking possession of the land, only two days after the trial court's verdict, "troubling post-judgment chronology".

"The operative order was pronounced on 09.06.2026 (by the district court). The reasons were signed and uploaded only on 12.06.2026 at 17:53 hours. Yet a notice under the Public Premises Act, dated 11.06.2026, had already reproduced the judgment's reasoning. The reasons were thus known to the government before they reached (Sir Sobha Singh and Sons), who

had to apply to the court on 12.06.2026 for a copy. This itself is very serious and requires intervention," their petition said.

Heard by Justice Tejas Karia on Wednesday, the Centre, through its standing counsel Ashish Dixit, assured the court that "the proceedings under the PP Act shall be conducted without reference to or being influenced by the (district court's judgment) and all the rights and contentions of the parties are reserved in that respect."

Justice Karia, recording the statement in its order, directed the Centre that it is bound by its own statement, and also observed that no further direction of interim relief in favour of the petitioner, staying the district court's judgment, is required. The court, which is working with vacation benches at present, also noted that there was no

immediate urgency in the matter and posted it for hearing next on July 23, while issuing notice to the respondents.

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

According to the real estate firm, the northern block of Sujan Singh Park was built under a registered Agreement to Lease of October 8, 1945, with one of the clauses being the government will execute a perpetual lease with Sir Sobha Singh and Sons once the buildings were complete. Under the terms of the deed, the lessee, Sir Sobha Singh and Sons, was obligated to construct residential blocks, including three "for officials and non-officials of good standing".

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

The real estate company has maintained that the government reneged on its promise of executing the perpetual lease deed despite completion of the buildings. A status quo was ordered by the civil court and the government was restrained from re-entry, while the case dragged on till 2009. In August 2009, the civil court ruled that the building was constructed as per government's instructions and that there was no misuse. The government had then challenged this verdict before a district court, which on July 11, set aside the civil court's order.

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Engineering Education

Engineering Education 4.0: Building India's Innovation Talent



INDIA stands at a defining moment in its development journey. As the country aspires to become a global hub for technology, manufacturing, digital innovation, and sustainable growth, engineering talent will play a pivotal role in shaping its future. Engineering education today is not merely about imparting technical knowledge; it is about developing innovators, problem-solvers, entrepreneurs, and leaders who can thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Over the past two decades, India has built one of the world's largest engineering education ecosystems, producing a substantial pool of engineering graduates every year. However, the expectations from engineers are changing. Emerging technologies, evolving business models, and global competition are compelling institutions to rethink how engineers are prepared for the future.

Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Big Data Analytics, Robotics, Automation, the Internet of Things (IoT), and Cybersecurity are transforming industries across sectors, including healthcare, finance, manufacturing, and transportation. Traditional engineering disciplines are increasingly intersecting with these technologies, creating opportunities for students to develop expertise in emerging domains.

Industries continue to report a shortage of job-ready professionals. The challenge is not the availability of graduates but the alignment of academic learning with industry requirements. To address this gap, engineering education is shifting towards outcome-based and skill-oriented learning, emphasizing practical competencies, innovation, critical thinking, and problem-solving rather than relying solely on theoretical instruction.

Experiential learning has emerged as a cornerstone of this transformation. Internships, industry projects, laboratory-based learning, hackathons, innovation challenges, and real-world problem-solving opportunities are becoming integral parts of engineering curricula. These experiences help students develop both technical and interpersonal skills while preparing them for industry expectations.

Industry-academia collaboration is equally critical. Partnerships between institutions and industry facilitate curriculum development, research initiatives, internships, faculty training, and skill

enhancement programmes. Such collaborations ensure that students gain exposure to current technologies and workplace practices, effectively bridging the gap between education and employment.

Another important trend is the growing emphasis on multidisciplinary learning. Contemporary engineering challenges in areas such as sustainable infrastructure, renewable energy, intelligent transportation, healthcare technologies, and smart cities require expertise spanning engineering, data science, management, design, and social sciences.

Research, innovation, and entrepreneurship have also become central to modern engineering education. Academic institutions are increasingly establishing incubation centres, innovation hubs, and startup support programmes that provide mentorship, resources, and opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs. These ecosystems encourage students not only to seek employment but also to create solutions, enterprises, and jobs.

The future engineering workforce must also embrace lifelong learning. Educational institutions are promoting flexible learning pathways, industry certifications, online learning platforms, and hybrid learning models that support continuous professional development throughout an engineer's career.

While technical expertise remains fundamental, employers increasingly value communication skills, teamwork, leadership, adaptability, creativity, and emotional intelligence. Engineering education must therefore balance technical excellence with holistic skill development.

Sustainability has emerged as another key priority. As industries focus on environmental responsibility and climate resilience, engineers are expected to develop solutions that support sustainable development through renewable energy, green manufacturing, sustainable infrastructure, and environmental technologies.

As India strengthens its position as a global technology and manufacturing hub, the quality of engineering talent will be a decisive factor in its long-term growth. Tomorrow's engineers must combine technical expertise with innovation, adaptability, collaboration, and a commitment to continuous learning. By embracing interdisciplinary education, industry engagement, research, entrepreneurship, and sustainability, engineering institutions can serve as powerful catalysts for innovation, economic progress, and national development.

India's next phase of growth will depend on how effectively it develops talent capable of creating, adapting, and leading in a knowledge-driven world. Engineering education will remain at the centre of this journey, preparing a generation equipped to build industries, solve complex challenges, and shape the nation's future.

By Prof. (Dr.) Senthil Vadivel T., Research Director & Head, Civil Engineering, Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS), Faridabad.

Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies-Technical Campus

VSET: Shaping Future-Ready Innovators

IN a country where engineering colleges are commonplace, the Vivekananda School of Engineering and Technology (VSET), VIPS-TC, Pitampura, stands apart through its commitment to excellence, innovation, and future-focused education. Affiliated with Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU), approved by AICTE, and accredited by NAAC with an A++ Grade (CGPA 3.58),

VSET aligns its academic vision with the goals of the National Education Policy 2020 and the vision of a Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat. The institution has made significant investments in cutting-edge infrastructure, including an AICTE-approved IDEA Lab, an NVIDIA H100 Super Computer Data Lab, a Quantum Technology Laboratory, a Semiconductor Design Laboratory, and a Drone Lab. These facilities enable students to gain hands-on experience in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Semiconductor Technology, Cybersecurity, Data Science, Quantum Computing, and Microchip Design.

Backed by distinguished faculty from premier institutions, VSET combines academic rigour with industry relevance. Students actively participate in research projects, hackathons, internships, ideathons, and industry-led initiatives, supported by collaborations with leading organisations including NVIDIA, NASSCOM, Red Hat, UiPath, IITs, NITs, and AICTE.

The institution's Career Development Centre works with over 200 corporate partners to provide training, internships, and placement opportunities. The results speak for themselves: students from the first graduating batch achieved a 95% placement record, with salary packages reaching Rs.18 lakh per annum and several securing University Gold Medals.



Dr. Ravi Prakash Iyer
Director General, VSET; VIPS-TC

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Engineering Education



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university examinations and winning the Chancellor's Medal for best overall performance in B.Tech for five consecutive years. AKGEC has also received several prestigious honours, including the Academic Excellence Award for Best Engineering College and the Best Indus-

try-Institute Interface Award from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Royal Academy of Engineering.

A distinguishing feature of AKGEC is its forward-looking integration of Artificial Intelligence across academics, research, and campus operations. The college has developed an AI-enabled ecosystem that promotes intelligent learning, data-driven decision-making, innovation, and interdisciplinary research. To support this vision, AKGEC has established specialised R&D centres such as the Idea Lab, Cloud Computing Cell, Big Data Centre of Excellence, Metaverse Lab, Blockchain Research Lab, Machine Learning Centre of Excellence, and several other advanced technology laboratories, enabling students to work on real-world



Dr. Amita Dev
Advisor, AKGEC

challenges using emerging technologies.

The college further strengthens industry readiness through its 14 Centres of Excellence, established in collaboration with leading global technology and industrial partners, including Siemens, KUKA, and Bosch Rexroth. These centres provide hands-on exposure to advanced manufacturing, automation, robotics, and other cutting-edge technologies, effectively bridging the gap between academic learning and professional practice.

Artificial Intelligence - Disrupting Job Roles

More than 40% of job roles will be automated by AI in large corporations worldwide. This rapid transformation is needed to stay ahead of the competition. Adoption of AI in organisational management provides graduates entering the workplace with both challenges and opportunities. The job roles that are repetitive and routine are impacted most by AI automation. Administrative tasks, scheduling, fundamental customer support, and data entry are largely handled by intelligent systems and AI automation. This indicates that graduates cannot rely upon traditional technical competence. The key question is: what type of competencies are expected from graduates?

Roles such as AI Analyst, Prompt

Engineer, Machine Learning Specialist, Data Scientist, AI Consultant, and Automation Manager are some of the emerging career opportunities of the future. These areas are rapidly growing and are required in the corporate world across industries. Further, AI is reshaping existing job roles and human involvement rather than completely wiping them out. For instance, AI is useful for financial analysts in predictive modelling; marketers use customer insights for strategy and planning; HR professionals use AI tools for recruitment and workforce planning; and operations professionals use AI for shipment automation.

Critical thinking, AI amalgamation, creativity, innovation, ethical decision-making, communication, and problem-solving are some of the skills that are becoming highly valuable. These skills cannot be easily replaced or replicated by AI. These skills



Mr. Swadesh Kumar Singh
CEO- GNIOT

matter a lot in organisational growth. Higher educational institutes shall, therefore, develop their curriculum in alignment with the emerging career tracks mentioned above. The teaching pedagogy to be adopted by higher education institutions for honing these skills shall ensure sustainability as well. Experiential learning shall be included more in the teaching-learning process. Higher education institutes shall also develop a lifelong learner attitude among students. The learner's attitude is needed to keep up with the highly dynamic environment.

Hence, a collective effort is needed by all stakeholders to develop an ecosystem where graduates can grow their competence in the right direction. AI is here to stay, and graduates shall embrace and involve it in their career progression. Higher education institutes shall also make AI an integral part of their curriculum at all levels and across all courses.

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United College of Engineering and Research (UCER), Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, is approved by AICTE and affiliated with Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU), Lucknow. Established in 1997, the college offers B.Tech, M.Tech, B.Pharm, BBA, BCA, and MBA programmes across various disciplines.

The college has consistently delivered excellent academic outcomes, with students securing top ranks in AKTU merit lists and winning gold, silver, and bronze medals. Several students have received the AKTU Chancellor's Medal for outstanding performance over the past five years. UGI students have also been honoured with the AKTU Distinguished Alumni Award for two consecutive years since its inception in 2020.

UCER has been recognised with the Academic Excellence Award for Best Engineering College and honoured for two successive years by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh for its contribution to engineering education. The institution has also received the Best Industry-Institute Interface Award from the Ministry of Science & Technology, Govern-



Girdhar Gopal Gulati
Chairman, UGI

ment of Uttar Pradesh.

To bridge the gap between academics and industry, the United Group of Institutions has established Centres of Excellence in partnership with leading companies such as Siemens, Bosch Rexroth, Mitsubishi Electric, KUKA Robotics, and Festo. These centres provide hands-on training in emerging technologies, making students industry-ready and globally employable.

Beyond the classroom, students benefit from innovation and research labs, industry collaborations, hackathons, technical clubs, soft-skills training, career development programmes, and incubation support, fostering innovation, critical thinking, and entrepreneurial excellence.

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The university offers B.Tech programs in Computer Science & Engineering (CSE), including specializations in AI & ML, Data Science & Cloud Computing, and Cyber Security. These programs equip students with in-demand skills in machine learning, big data analytics, cloud technologies, ethical hacking, and intelligent systems. A unique B.Tech CSE program in collaboration with IBM and IIT Ropar further enhances learning through advanced curriculum, expert mentorship, research exposure, and industry-oriented projects, along with opportunities for credit transfer and academic recognition.

Beyond computer science, HRIT University offers programs in Mechanical Engineering, Automobile Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE), Electrical & Electronics Engineering (EEE), and Civil Engineering. These are strengthened with specializations in EVs, IoT, Embedded Systems, Automation, and Smart Manufacturing, ensuring students are industry-ready through practical training, labs, internships, and project-based learning.

The university also emphasizes the growing importance of AI and Data Science across sectors such as healthcare, finance, manufacturing, transportation, and smart infrastructure, ensuring students are trained in data-driven decision-making and real-world applications.

For higher studies and research, HRIT University offers M.Tech programs in advanced domains such as AI & ML, Data Science & Cloud Computing, VLSI & Embedded Systems, and more. Ph.D. opportunities are also available for research-focused scholars.

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Dr Prahlad Singh
Director, DPG Degree College

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but live deployments reshaping global connectivity today. Our Cyber Physical Systems programme, offered jointly across Mechanical Engineering and ECE, goes a step further: it bridges the digital and physical worlds entirely, producing engineers ready to design smart cities, autonomous transport networks, and responsive healthcare infrastructure.

In Mechanical Engineering - long regarded as the backbone of industrial development - the transformation brought by AI is perhaps the most profound of all. Our Smart Manufacturing specialization introduces students to the defining concepts of Industry 4.0: digital twins that mirror physical assets in real time, predictive maintenance systems that detect failure before it happens, collaborative robotics that work alongside human operators, and automated quality control that surpasses what any manual inspection process can achieve. These are not future scenarios. They are operational realities in manufacturing plants across India and the world, and our graduates will be equipped and confident to lead within them.

Yet technical excellence alone is not enough. The engineers who will shape this century must be curious enough to question the assumptions embedded in the systems they design, creative enough to imagine solutions that have never been tried, and ethically grounded enough to ask not only whether something can be built, but whether it should be. AI amplifies human agency at an unprecedented scale - an algorithm in a healthcare system affects millions of lives; a model in a financial platform shapes economic opportunity for entire communities. Our students must understand that weight, and carry it with care. At DPG Degree College, ethical reasoning and social responsibility are core commitments woven into our programmes, not optional electives. We are firmly convinced that the most globally competitive engineer is also the most conscientious one.

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Strong partnerships with leading organizations such as Microsoft, Kalvium, Xebia, Truechip, WissenHive, and FutureWiz provide students with

opportunities for industry-led projects, internships, certifications, workshops, hackathons, and experiential learning.

These efforts are reflected in outstanding student achievements. Students have secured placements and internships with leading organizations including Microsoft, Google, Adobe, Amazon, Flipkart, TCS, Cognizant, and Wipro, with placement packages reaching up to Rs.42 LPA.

Innovation is deeply embedded in the university culture. With 54+ student startups, 150+ funded projects, 100+ patents, technical clubs, hackathons, scholarships, and the fully funded SYNERGY Innovation Programme, students are encouraged to transform ideas into impactful solutions.

At SGT University, every engineering discipline is being reimaged through AI, automation, sustainability, and innovation - ensuring graduates are not only prepared for the future but skilled to transform it for the better tomorrow.

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Reaching Out

DELHI BJP president and MoS Harsh Malhotra on Thursday oversaw the enrolment of a roadside shoe repairer in the PM SVANidhi scheme, as part of a three-day outreach to celebrate 12 years of NDA rule under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. While launching the event from East Delhi's Farsh Bazaar, Malhotra interacted with a man who earns his livelihood by repairing shoes. When the man showed interest in the scheme, Malhotra assigned his staff to help him enrol and also explain the benefits.

'Weaving' a Fight

WHILE THE dust may have settled on the row over the rejection of Meenakshi Natarajan's nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha elections, a group of Congress workers is not ready to give up the fight. The group is sitting on 'satyagraha' at the Indian Youth Congress office on Raisina Road for three days. Demanding 'free and fair' elections, the youth leaders are using 'charkha', symbolic of Mahatma Gandhi's 'Satyagrah', at the protest site under a tent. Seven 'charkhas' are being used by the protesters, and some of them are still learning how to spin.

Clear Answer

AT A recent event celebrating 12 years of the Modi government, when Union Science Minister Jitendra Singh was asked what is the one thing that he regretted not being able to do, he said the space sector should have been opened to private players much earlier. When pressed for a clear answer, the Minister said: "I regret not being able to give you a satisfactory answer."

Kerala: Yoga Day prep leads to Cong govt's latest run-in with Gov

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram, June 18

THE CONGRESS-LED government in Kerala on Thursday expressed displeasure over Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar convening a meeting of various department heads and vice-chancellors of universities to review preparations ahead of International Day of Yoga (IDY).

In a letter to Lok Bhavan, the government said such meetings fall within the responsibilities of the elected government. On Wednesday, Arlekar had chaired a meeting of VCs, senior bureaucrats and heads of departments to discuss observing IDY.

The CM's Office said it had got in touch with the Governor's office with regard to the meeting. The CMO said the Governor's secretary officially informed the Chief Secretary that the officials had not been invited for a separate review meeting, but that it was only an interaction related to the International Day of Yoga. "The Chief Secretary has also sent a letter to Lok Bhavan, recording the government's dissatisfaction over holding such a meeting. Meetings and review sessions involving government officials fall within the executive responsibilities of the government. The Chief Secretary's letter to Lok Bhavan had urged that caution should be exercised to ensure that such incidents do not take place..." the CMO said in a statement.

AT VIVATECH, PM BATS FOR SIMPLIFYING REGULATIONS, EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

In era of disruption, technology must deliver for all: Modi in Paris

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, June 18

UNVEILING THE country's technology vision for the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Thursday that India believes that "in this era of disruption, technology must deliver for all".

Addressing the Paris VivaTech event which he attended with French President Emmanuel Macron, Modi said, "Our approach is clear. Our government will enable and industry will innovate. Startups will disrupt and global partners will scale with us. Together, we will move faster than ever. I call upon everyone in this room to take the lead. Work with India and deliver for all."

"When it comes to technology, along with innovation, what matters is access. Technology can lead to progress, only when it is democratized.

India believes that in this era of disruption, technology must deliver for all," he said.

Citing the example of AI, he said, "AI must improve lives, widen access, drive growth and also help us sustain a healthy planet. Our participation as the AI Country Partner at VivaTech 2026 reflects this very vision. For India, AI means 'All Inclusive'."

VivaTech Summit, Europe's largest technology and startup event, is hosting an Indian pavilion, the largest there this year.

Modi's participation in both Bharat Innovates and VivaTech Summit spotlights India as a global hub for innovation, digital transformation and entrepreneurship, and is expected to catalyse new partnerships between Indian and European technology ecosystems.

Recalling that 2026 is a special year for India and Eu-



PM Narendra Modi at VivaTech 2026 Summit in Paris. PTI

rope, with the historic India-EU Free Trade Agreement and the India-France Year of Innovation, he said France is an important bridge that is bringing the tech ecosystems of India and Europe closer.

"Our technology solutions are delivering prosperity at the grassroots level... From space technologies to nuclear energy, we are expanding the frontiers of human capability. With over

200,000 start-ups, India is one of the most vibrant ecosystems in the world," he said.

Underlining that India is an open society and the world's largest talent pool, he said, "We are simplifying regulations and ensuring ease of doing business. From innovation to commercialisation, we are supporting private enterprise through targeted incentives of over 50 billion dollars."

Earlier in the day, Modi met leading business executives in Paris and held discussions on investment opportunities and expansion plans in India.

The discussions with the CEOs of the French companies focused on strengthening cooperation across sectors ranging from shipping and logistics to railways, construction and artificial intelligence, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Modi is currently in France,

where he participated in the G7 Summit and held talks with several world leaders including US President Donald Trump.

Among those who met Modi in Paris Thursday was Rodolphe Saade, Chairman and CEO of CMA CGM, the container shipping and logistics major. The discussions focused on maritime shipping, logistics and global supply chains.

Modi also met Benoit Bazin, Chairman and CEO of Saint-Gobain, and discussed opportunities in the materials and construction sector, with a particular emphasis on sustainability.

He separately met Martin Sion, CEO of Alstom, and discussed opportunities in mobility and railway modernisation. He also met Arthur Mensch, co-founder and CEO of Mistral AI, and highlighted opportunities in India's "growing AI ecosystem".



PM Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron visit the exhibition area at VivaTech 2026, in Paris on Thursday. ANI

Bharat is now a trusted global partner for world, PM tells diaspora

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 18

UNDERLINING THE uncertainty and disruptions that defined prevailing geopolitical conditions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday sought to stress on the trust between nations and equal partnership with the Global South for the larger benefit of mankind - adding that Bharat had emerged as a trusted global partner.

Addressing the Indian diaspora, which he defined as the bridge between India and Europe, at an event in Paris, PM Modi also sought to underline that while India's status as a trusted partner had led to the invigoration of its business relationships with several nations, the aspirations and ambitions of 140 crore Indians were the fuel for its continuing journey towards development back home.

"There was (a) time when relations between nations were defined by business. Today, along with business, trust has become as important. Every nation wants a reliable supply chain, stable partnership... every nation is looking for a partner in whom trust can be reposed for the long term. And in this era, India is emerging as a trusted partner in the world," he said.

"Today, the world is going through an era of uncertainty and disruptions. In such a time, India and France's partnership is becoming a strong pillar of trust, stability and cooperation," he added.

The last 12 years, he said, were an era underlined by the capability, dreams and aspirations of 140 crore Indians and had witnessed India's GDP, the number of its airports and universities double even as its highway construction speed has gone up three times, and metro network four times.

"Exports have increased 35

times... mobile manufacturing units have seen an increase of 100 times. Bharat is now the world's second largest mobile phone manufacturer. This speed and progress have resulted in India becoming the world's fastest growing major economy," he said.

During the G7 Summit in Evian, PM Modi said that he had stressed on making trust-based partnerships, urging that it was required to move forward with nations of the Global South as equal partners.

India's message at the Summit, he said, was that global governance will only be effective when it is inclusive; global growth will only be sustainable when it is shared and global technology will only be beneficial for mankind when it is trusted.

"New energy is visible in business relations between India and the rest of the world. India's trade with France is increasing continuously; in the last few years, India has signed free trade agreements with several nations. Whether it is the European Union, United Kingdom - India is signing agreements with each nation and region," he said.

Underlining the strengthening bond between India and France, he said, "From defence to space and nuclear, AI and critical minerals to high-speed railways, we will move forward together in every field. Whether it is solar energy or cooperation in the field of AI, India and France, together, are developing solutions which are for the benefit of all mankind."

After co-chairing the Global AI Summit, both nations were, next year, scheduled to launch the Trishna satellite. "Trishna satellite will contribute towards ensuring global food and water security... your contribution in all these government-to-government initiatives is very significant," he told the audience.

SIX REBEL SENA (UBT) MPs TRYING TO CONVINCE SEVENTH TO JOIN THEM

As Eknath Shinde strikes one more time, will NDA equations shift again?

Liz Mathew
New Delhi, June 18

WITH SIX Shiv Sena (UBT) MPs being a no-show at the parliamentary party meeting in New Delhi on Thursday and getting served with a show-cause notice, the Uddhav Thackeray-led party is heading towards a split.

The MPs who skipped the meeting of the parliamentary party are Sanjay Jadhav, Sanjay Deshmukh, Nagesh Patil Ashtikar, Bhausaheb Wakchaure, Sanjay Dina Patil, and Omraje Nimbalkar. They are likely to approach Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and make a formal claim for a merger with the Shiv Sena on June 21 or June 22, *The Indian Express* has learnt. In the Lok Sabha, Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's son Shrikant is the leader.

Sources said the rebel MPs were trying to convince Rajabhai Waje, the Nashik MP, to join them. "We are optimistic about him joining the rebels," said a source, though Waje, during the day, attended the parliamentary party meeting along with Arvind Sawant, Anil Desai, and Sanjay Raut on Wednesday.

Sources said another reason for the delay was that Nimbalkar had sought more time to join them for the formal meeting as he is awaiting the verdict in the murder case of his father, Pawan Rajee Nimbalkar, which is expected on June 20. He is expected to return to Delhi only after the special CBI court pronounces its verdict.

The rebel MPs are learnt to have drafted the letter they will submit to Birla. In the letter, they have cited the simmering anger about the way the Sena (UBT) leadership has been functioning for their decision to break away,



Shiv Sena (UBT) activists protest outside the residence of MP Sanjay Patil, accusing him of betraying the party, in Mumbai. EXPRESS

sources said. They have pointed to instances in which senior leaders had to quit the party over their differences with the leadership. Under Uddhav Thackeray as working president, the Shiv Sena saw prominent leader Narayan Rane leave the party in 2005, Raj Thackeray walk out in 2006, and Eknath Shinde rebel in 2022 with a large group of MLAs and MPs.

If Waje — who on Wednesday said he was still with Uddhav — also joins them, the rebel group will have seven MPs, one more than the required two-thirds of the nine-member parliamentary party, before they make the formal claim. Under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, two-thirds of the legislature party needs to merge with another party to avoid disqualification.

If the merger is formalised, the Shiv Sena will have 13-14 MPs, making it the largest NDA constituent after the TDP (16 MPs) and the JD-U (12 MPs). If the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCP), the outfit that Tri-

namool Congress's (TMC) 20 rebel MPs have joined, is also recognised, that will become the largest NDA constituent.

The development assumes significance in the backdrop of the intensifying speculation about a possible Cabinet reshuffle after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from the G-7 Summit in France on Friday.

With the Sena managing to increase the NDA tally, which is 293 at the moment, the ruling alliance will move closer to the two-thirds majority mark of 362. Once the 20-member TMC rebels are recognised, the NDA tally is up to 313. Several leaders in the Sena said the developments in Delhi show Shinde remains the NDA's key strategist despite the BJP's growing dominance. This will provide him with the much-needed leverage he seems to have lost after the BJP's dominant show in the Assembly elections in which it won 132 seats in the 288-member House.

BJP leaders have maintained that the party's resolve to in-

crease its parliamentary strength became important after the legislative embarrassment in April, when the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, failed to clear the Lok Sabha. To push this Bill, which is linked to delimitation and operationalising the Women's Reservation Act, in the coming Parliament session, the government wants to get to two-thirds strength in the House.

A strengthened Sena may also shift the dynamics in the Mahayuti alliance in the state. A senior Sena leader said many people had begun writing off Shinde after the Assembly elections in which the BJP emerged as the bigger force in Maharashtra. "But Shinde has once again shown that he knows how to change the game when people think the battle is over. Shinde hit a masterstroke."

Though the Sena (UBT) on Thursday tried to push back, saying the six would be asked to explain their absence despite a whip being issued, the rebel said a whip is applicable only for proceedings in the House and not internal party meetings because of how the Supreme Court has interpreted "voting" and "abstaining from voting" in the Tenth Schedule.

The apex court in its judgment in the Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu case in 1992 upheld the constitutional validity of the Tenth Schedule, but clarified that disqualification under it applies specifically to a member's conduct in the House. "The whip is relevant only in legislative proceedings, not party forums. A party meeting, internal consultation or an organisational gathering is not 'the House'," said a source. — WITH VALLABH OZARKAR IN MUMBAI

Delhi HC questions Centre's ban on Telegram; verdict today

Sohini Ghosh
New Delhi, June 18

THE DELHI High Court on Thursday concluded arguments and will pronounce the judgment today in Telegram's plea challenging the government's order temporarily blocking the messaging platform across India until June 22, even as the government termed the platform as a "Frankenstein".

The government expressed apprehension that if permitted to operate before the NEET (UG) retest, scheduled on June 21, students may come out on the streets and indulge in prohibited activities, in case something goes wrong.

A question repeatedly posed by Justice Tejas Karia through the nearly two-hour hearing was whether the temporary blocking order is proportional given that the order is issued by exercising powers under IT Act Section 69A, which are emergency powers.

Justice Karia further orally said, "You're concerned with a sweeping order banning the app... today there are certain concerns or complaints that it is not conducive to certain exams which are to be conducted. We are all alive to the situation of what happened... without that one particular instance, can you block the entire app? To what extent can IT Act section 69A be exercised?... Has it been exercised in the circumstances which warranted that exercise?... The question here is, can you block someone else's right (Telegram) to protect someone else's right (students)?"

Notably, while the blocking order had cited that the action is necessitated "in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India" and "public order", the government at the outset on Thursday gave up on the aspect of "sovereignty and integrity".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said, "Sovereignty and integrity would be an overambitious argument, I would confine it to public order and preventing incitement to commission of cognisable offence."

Justifying that the action taken is proportional, Mehta relied on the Anuradha Bhasin judgment of SC, which dealt with blanket internet suspension in J&K in the aftermath of abrogation of Article 370, to assert that such temporary blocking is permissible.

Additionally, Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the government, also submitted, "...somebody who can't take accountability or responsibility, cannot plead proportionality. It is a unique and peculiar situation and therefore to apply proportionality indiscriminately in every specific context like this would be completely misconceived."

A pointed and oft repeated argument by the government was Telegram's distinct architecture which makes it the "real problem".

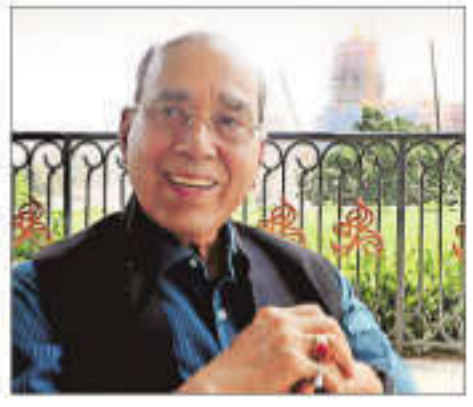
Ram temple needs CEO, operations are of the scale of small district: Nripendra Misra

Maulshree Seth
Lucknow, June 18

RAM TEMPLE Construction Committee Chairman Nripendra Misra has suggested the expeditious appointment of a full-time Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or administrator for the management of the Ram Temple complex in Ayodhya, saying the operations at the shrine now resemble the administration of a small district and require dedicated professional oversight.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Misra said the proposed CEO should function under the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust while enjoying sufficient operational autonomy in day-to-day management of the temple premises and associated activities.

Misra's suggestion comes at a time when the Ram Temple administration is facing allega-



Ram Temple Construction Committee Chairman Nripendra Misra. EXPRESS ARCHIVE

tions of misappropriation of donation funds and valuables offered by devotees. A three-member Special Investigation Team, headed by senior IAS officer Vijay Vishwas Pant, is currently probing the allegations and examining the systems governing the receipt, storage and management of donations at the temple.

Underlining the scale of the temple operations, Misra said

nearly one lakh devotees visit the shrine every day: "*Chhote janpad ke barabar is 71 acre mein gatividhiyan hain* (Activities on these 71 acres are comparable to those in a small district)." He drew a comparison with the Tirupati temple operations, which are overseen by a CEO appointed under an Act of the state government, but said the Ayodhya model would have to be different as the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust is an autonomous body. "A model will have to be worked out without compromising the autonomy of the trust."

However, he qualified, it was up to the trust to decide if a CEO was needed. His own appointment as Chairman of the Ram Temple Construction Committee was also made on the recommendation of the trust and fell within its ambit, Misra said.

In his personal view, a serving official may not have the

bandwidth for the time required for the job, Misra, a former principal secretary to PM Modi, added. "Serving officials also face cadre- and transfer-related issues. A CEO should ideally continue for five to seven years... *Yeh aisa pad hai jahan chaubis ghante dhyan dene ki zaroorat hai* (This is a position that requires attention round the clock)."

The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust was constituted by the Centre, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing its formation, for the construction and management of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. As per its website, the trust has 15 members, 12 of them nominated by the Centre, and three selected at the trust's first meeting. A representative each of the government of India and Uttar Pradesh and the Ayodhya District Magistrate are ex-officio members of the trust.

Shah meets US envoy; terrorism, narcotics & security discussed

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 18

A DAY after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met US President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Evian, France, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday held talks with US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, with both sides focusing on strengthening security cooperation between the two countries.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the discussions covered a range of issues of mutual interest, including counter-terrorism, narcotics control, border security and law-enforcement cooperation.

"Met US Ambassador to India, Mr Sergio Gor in New Delhi today. Had a detailed discussion on further strengthening cooperation between India and the US in the area of security, particularly in counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics," Shah said in a statement on Friday.

"Under the leadership of PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji, India is



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with US Ambassador Sergio Gor, in New Delhi. PTI

firmly committed to advancing the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and ensuring that the people of both nations benefit from the bilateral relationship," he added.

Gor also issued a statement after the meeting. "Had an excellent meeting with Honorable Home Minister Amit Shah. We had a fruitful discussion on enhancing collaboration to combat terrorism, shield our people from narcotics and illicit drugs, secure our borders, and jointly bring criminals to justice in both nations," he said.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLLS

Cross-voting from JDS, BJP helps Congress win five of seven seats

Express News Service Bengaluru, June 18

ALONG EXPECTED lines, Congress won five of the seven seats in the biennial polls held for the Legislative Council on Thursday. The party benefitted from alleged cross-voting by BJP and JD(S) legislators.

The JD(S), which had nominated Govindaraju as candidate at the last minute, suffered from cross-voting as he secured only 14 first preference votes. This was fewer than the 18 first preference votes JD(S) had by virtue of its strength in the Legislative Assembly revealing that some of its MLAs had voted for the Congress candidate.

Due to this, Congress's fifth candidate Vinay Karthik secured an easy win. Karthik is an aide of Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

"I received more votes than expected. I was expecting 28, including second preference votes. I got 32," he told reporters following the polls. Each candidate had to secure a minimum of 27.63 first preference votes from MLAs to win the polls. In case of a tie, second preference votes are counted.

The winning candidates include Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president BK Hariprasad, who returned



Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar congratulates Congress candidates who emerged victorious in Legislative Council polls. PTI

to the Karnataka Legislative Council for a second term with 30 first preference votes. Tippannappa Kamaknoor, who is also elected for a second term with 30 votes; P V Mohan with 29 and Shivanna Malavalli with 30 votes are the other winning candidates from Congress.

JD(S) expectations of getting excess votes from BJP had fallen flat, as BJP decided to cast 30 first preference votes for each of its candidates — two more than the minimum threshold. However, a few BJP MLAs appear to have also cross-voted as one of its candidates Lingaraj Patil secured only 27 first preference

votes. However, was declared winner in the elimination round.

Patil said that he had not expected cross-voting during the polls. "Party leaders will take note of it and take a call. We will know who cross-voted," he said.

BJP candidate Raghu Kautilya got 29 first preference votes, one less than expected fuelling concerns over cross-voting in the saffron party. According to him, one vote cast to him was invalidated. AICC general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, told a news conference that all five Congress candidates won in the first round.

Kerala organ trafficking: ED conducts searches

Express News Service New Delhi, June 18

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Thursday conducted searches at 10 locations in Kochi and nearby areas as part of a money laundering investigation linked to an alleged human organ trafficking racket, official sources said.

The searches were carried out under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) at suspects' premises and hospitals in Kochi. The case stems from FIRs registered in connection with an alleged organ trafficking network that is suspected to have facilitated through forged documents and middlemen. Investigators are examining the money trail generated by the al-

leged racket. The police investigation had identified a network allegedly involved in arranging illegal organ transplantation for monetary consideration. The probe had led to the arrest of several accused, including alleged kingpin Mohammed Najeeb. The racket involved preparation of forged documents to portray unrelated donors as relatives of recipients, enabling organ transplants that would not have received statutory approval said officials. They allegedly targeted financially distressed persons, paying donors Rs 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh while charging recipients up to Rs 25 lakh. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been constituted to investigate criminal conspiracy and human trafficking charges.

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai. INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR GA/FBO CONCESSION AT CSMI AIRPORT. Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") invites reputed parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for undertaking General Aviation/Fixed Base Operations Concession at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ("CSMIA"), Mumbai.

HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED (A Maharashtra Company). NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS TRANSFER OF EQUITY SHARES TO INVESTOR EDUCATION & PROTECTION FUND. Notice is given pursuant to the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (Accounting, Audit, Transfer and Refund) Rules, 2016 ("the Rules") as notified and amended by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi.

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED NAVRATNA COMPANY (A Govt. of India Undertaking). e-Tender Notice. e-Tender No: IRCON/SID/COE/16/0001/Elect/J&K/Package - Outdoor Electrical Works Khunmoh54, Dt. 13.06.2026

UJVNL LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006. Tender Cancellation Notice. The invited e-Tender No. 19/ EE(Civil) / MB-II / Chinyalisaur / 2025-26 invited by Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil), Maneri Bhali Stage-II, Chinyalisaur, Uttarkashi is hereby cancelled due to inevitable reason.

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना. वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक (स्वास्थ्य), ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नोएडा की ओर से ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-स्वा.वि./2026/1167, दिनांक 18.06.2026 के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम सं. 01 में अंकित कार्य की ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

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समाचार पत्र में विज्ञापन द्वारा तामील के लिए सम्मन/नोटिस न्यायालय नायब तहसीलदार (मु०) गाजियाबाद. पत्रांक- /पेशा०-ना०तह०(मु०) गा०बाद/2026 दिनांक- ओ०के० संख्या- 632/2014 अन्तर्गत धारा 34 एल०आर०एक्ट

श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय भारत सरकार MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA. ROZGAR YA KAROBAAR SAATH HAI BHARAT SARKAR. Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Disburse Incentive of ₹2,400 Crore Employment to 15 Lakh Beneficiaries

Incentive of up to ₹15,000 for First Time Employees. Incentive of up to ₹3,000 for Employers on each additional hiring. Supporting Employment Generation. Enhancing Employability. Incentivizing Formal Employment. Expansion of Social Security. In the august presence of Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya Hon'ble Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. Sushri Shobha Karandlaje Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour & Employment and Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India. 19th June, 2026 | 05:00 PM | Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. For more information visit: www.pmvbry.epfindia.gov.in Watch live telecast on DD News

Chhattisgarh BJP leader, 2 kin die in burning car; 4 of rival family arrested

Jayprakash S Naidu
Raipur, June 18

A BJP leader died after being trapped in a burning car that police suspect was deliberately set ablaze over a long-standing sand mining rivalry in Chhattisgarh's Korea district Tuesday evening. Two of his relatives also died in the alleged attack.

"Prima facie, forensic experts said the accused poured fuel to burn the victims alive but have not yet submitted their report," asenior police officer said. Four men from the same family have been arrested -- Vishal, Satyakumar, Akshay and Mahendar.

The incident took place in Katgodi village under Sonhat tehsil Tuesday evening when the deceased, Bharat Singh, 53, was travelling with some of his relatives. The suspects allegedly arrived in a light tipper truck and rammed into their car. While police initially said the car had caught fire in the collision, they now suspect it was set ablaze using fuel.

According to police, the crash caused the car doors to jam, trapping the occupants. While Bharat Singh died, his brother, Nagendra Singh, suffered nearly 80 percent burn injuries and succumbed to the injuries at the hospital.



BJP leader Bharat Singh

Another relative survived and is being treated for injuries. Meanwhile, a fourth relative, Viendra Pratap Singh, 32, an occupant of the second car, was allegedly assaulted by the gang and succumbed to his injuries. Bharat Singh is believed to have been elected to the local panchayat with BJP support in 1995 but, "due to health issues and his business commitments, he has not held any post", a BJP source said.

Police suspect the attack stemmed from an old business rivalry related to sand mining. A day before the killings, a verbal altercation had reportedly taken place between the two families.

On Tuesday, Bharat Singh and his associates allegedly went to meet members of the rival group after a phone conversation, following which the confrontation turned violent.

'TRIAL COURT VIRTUALLY SET GUIDELINES FOR VICTIM'S RESPONSE'

'Perturbing': Goa govt moves HC against Tejpal acquittal

Pavneet Singh Chadha
Panaji, June 18

WHILE CHALLENGING the acquittal of Tarun Tejpal, the former editor-in-chief of Tehelka who was charged with sexually assaulting his then colleague in a Goa hotel in 2013, the Goa government Thursday argued before the High Court of Bombay at Goa the manner in which trial court dealt with the sensitive case was "perturbing".

The state government submitted that the trial court had done everything "which it could not have done and ought not to have done" in the case. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, told a Bench of the High Court of Bombay at Goa: "The offence itself is very serious in nature, but what is perturbing is the manner in which the trial court dealt with such a sensitive issue. While the trial court is dealing with an NDPS case or a riot case or a murder case, a different level of sensitivity is required...while dealing with an offence where a girl, who treats someone as her father, and admittedly the girl's friend is the daughter of the accused".

"...that something which is [a] sexual offence, the law



Tarun Tejpal

requires...it to be dealt with differently, because of the very sensitivity involved in this case. Here, if I may say, the trial court has done everything which it could not have done and ought not to have done in a matter of this offence. The trial court virtually lays down guidelines as to how the victim should respond in such circumstances," he said.

The woman had complained that Tejpal had sexually assaulted her in the hotel elevator on November 7, 2013, and November 8, 2013.

In 2021, a sessions court in Goa acquitted Tejpal of all charges, observing that the complainant "did not demonstrate any kind of normative behaviour" that a victim of sexual assault "might plausibly show". Ruling there was no medical evidence, the court said the

woman's messages to the accused clearly establish that she was neither "traumatised nor terrified" and this "completely belies" the prosecution's case.

Tejpal was acquitted of all charges, including under IPC Sections 341 (wrongful restraint); 342 (wrongful confinement); 354 (assault or criminal force with intent to outrage modesty); 354A (sexual harassment); 354B (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe); 376 (2)(f) (person in position of authority over women, committing rape); and 376(2)(k) (rape by person in position of control). The Goa government had subsequently filed an appeal in the High Court of Bombay at Goa challenging the acquittal.

In its judgment in 2021, the trial court had said there was no corroborative evidence supporting the allegations made by the complainant. "It is extremely revealing that the prosecutrix's account neither demonstrates any kind of normative behaviour on her own part - that a prosecutrix of sexual assault on consecutive two nights might plausibly show nor does it show any such behaviour on the part of the accused".

The trial court had said it was unnatural on the part of the

woman to message Tejpal about her location in the hotel where she was chaperoning a prominent US actor. "If the prosecutrix had been recently again been sexually assaulted by the accused and was terrified of him and not in a proper state of mind, why would she report to the accused and disclose her location, when she could have reported to (three women)," the court had noted in the judgment.

"The unnatural conduct of the prosecutrix is again relevant under Section 8 of the Evidence Act. The prosecutrix had admitted that there are two SMSes sent from her phone to the accused on 8/11/2013...and that these messages were not sent by her in response to any messages...The prosecutrix sending the above message to the accused proactively without any attempt by him to ask her where she was, and her sending the same message thrice in the span of a few minutes, clearly establishes that the prosecutrix was not traumatised nor terrified of being located or found by the accused and completely belies the prosecution case that immediately before the said messages, the accused had sexually assaulted the prosecutrix again," the court had added.

• BRIEFLY



The mangled remains of an SUV that plunged into gorge. PTI

HIMACHAL PRADESH

7 killed as SUV falls into Chamba gorge, police suspect driver fatigue

SEVEN PEOPLE including six from a family, were killed after their SUV veered off the road and plunged nearly 500 metres into a deep gorge near Chhatrunda on the Chamba-Masrood road in Himachal Pradesh's Chamba district Wednesday night. According to the police, the victims were returning to their homes after attending a mundan (tonsure) ceremony in Kakroda village when the accident occurred late at night. Vijay Kumar Saklani, Superintendent of Police, Chamba, said all seven occupants of the Mahindra Bolero died on the spot. Saklani said, "The preliminary probe suggests the driver lost control...The area where the vehicle veered off is secluded. Chamba-Masrood road is a link road where the incident took place." Police has initiated further investigation. ENS

3 bank staff held for missing gold from lockers

THREE EMPLOYEES of the Firozabad branch of Bank of India were arrested on Thursday for allegedly embezzling 96 packets containing gold ornaments kept in customer lockers, police said. The accused are Dilip Kumar, credit officer; Naresh Kumar, officer; and Sandeep Yadav, the branch manager. Police said a gold waist ornament (kardhani) and a pair of bracelets were recovered and are suspected to be part of the missing property. The accused have been booked under BNS sections of criminal breach of trust and criminal conspiracy, among others. PTI

Man dies after falling into valley at Lohagad Fort

A MAN, 24, died after he fell into a 350-foot-deep valley while visiting Lohagad Fort near Lonavala in Maharashtra on Thursday. According to the police, Ketan Vishal Agarwal went to Lohagad Fort for a trek. Around 10 am, he slipped into a valley. He was declared dead at the hospital, Lonavala Rural police said. "The incident took place around 10 am. The victim had gone to Lohagad Fort with some of his friends and relatives. Further probe is on," police inspector Dinesh Tayade said. Police sources said that Ketan was about to get married later this year. ENS

Indian teen dies in horse carriage accident during his first trip to NY

Press Trust of India
New York, June 18

AN INDIAN teenager died while trying to save his mother, who was thrown from a horse-drawn carriage after the horse suddenly bolted at the famous Central Park in New York City.

Romanch Mahajan, 18, was on his first trip to New York with his family when the incident took place on Wednesday. The New York Times reported.

The driver stopped to take a family picture, and in an instant, the horse bolted. It tore up onto the sidewalk and bumped onto the grass, accelerating crazily, the driver racing behind, the report added. "We were yelling, 'Help me, help me!' Deepak Mahajan, Romanch's father, said.

The family clung desperately to one another, but when Deepak's wife, Priya, fell out of the carriage, Romanch jumped down to try to help her, he said.

"My son, just to save his mother, he fell off," said Deepak. "He was screaming, 'Momi!'"

"The horse got scared and ran super fast," Tatianna Bresler, who works at the Tavern on the Green, told *The New York Post*. Bresler, who called 911 as soon as she saw the crash and heard screaming, said a witness was able to slow down the runaway horse before the carriage flipped.

Errors galore in Odisha textbooks: Officials say concerns ignored, gross negligence

Sujit Bisoyi
Bhubaneswar, June 18

THE ERRORS in textbooks prepared by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Odisha, were blamed by officials who spoke to *The Indian Express* on a reduced publishing turnaround, copying content from NCERT textbooks, inadequate proofreading and negligence.

Odisha's Niyamgiri Hills are stated to be in Jharkhand, and the Karnataka Assembly building is identified as Odisha Vidhan Sabha in the Class 8 social science book. Sir Isaac Newton is described as the "greatest pilot" in the Class 8 science book, and Hampi in Karnataka is identified as the Konark Sun Temple in another Class 8 book entitled Jasmine. As many as 1,678 errors were detected across 55 new SCERT textbooks for students in classes 1 to 8, including factual inaccuracies, grammatical errors, spelling mistakes and wrong references. At 705, the Class 8 textbooks have the highest errors.

"It took at least three years for the NCERT to prepare textbooks, whereas the SCERT set a deadline of just six months. Concerns raised over inadequate timing to develop content before final publication were ignored," said an official, requesting anonymity.

• SOME MISTAKES IN CLASS 8 BOOKS

- Odisha's Niyamgiri Hills are stated to be in Jharkhand
- Karnataka Assembly building is identified as Odisha Vidhan Sabha
- Sir Isaac Newton is described as the "greatest pilot"
- Hampi in Karnataka is identified as the Konark Sun Temple

What happens now

The SCERT said students would continue with the same books throughout the academic year, with corrections to be made only in books published for the next academic year.

Speaking about Odisha Vidhan Sabha identified as the Karnataka Assembly, another official said that it probably happened due to over-reliance on the NCERT textbook -- which carries a photo of the Karnataka Assembly -- during desktop publishing.

The books have been distributed in many districts, and the SCERT clarified Thursday that students would continue with the same books throughout the academic year, with corrections to be made only in books published for the next academic year.

SCERT director Madhusmita Sahoo told reporters that books under the new curriculum had already been distributed among students for the current 2026-27 academic year. "We have detected the errors... instructions have been issued to

the teachers to point out the errors in classrooms while teaching the subjects. The teachers will rectify the errors for the students in some cases, while for upper classes, the students will rectify the errors on the instructions of the teachers," added Sahoo.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Odisha school and mass education secretary N Thirumala Naik said he will not comment anything on the matter as a committee headed by development commissioner will find out what went wrong.

With the BJP government deciding to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) in Odisha, it had also decided to overhaul the school curriculum, aligning it with the NCERT curriculum.

Officials familiar with the matter said the textbooks were

prepared in just six months.

Under the SCERT procedure, once a textbook manuscript is prepared in line with prescribed guidelines, it's submitted to a review committee for scrutiny and approval, following which it is sent for desktop publishing (DTP).

Once the DTP is completed, the manuscript undergoes at least two rounds of corrections and proofreading before being sent to the subject experts for further review.

"...a six-month timeframe is not at all adequate to complete the process following all the procedures," said a teacher, part of a committee which was formed for the preparation of the new textbooks.

A day after Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi expressed displeasure over the mistakes and ordered a probe, a committee headed by development commissioner DK Singh was formed Thursday. The committee is expected to question SCERT officials and members of the textbook preparation committees and submit a report within seven days.

"While this government fails to provide textbooks to children on time, the textbooks that have been provided are also riddled with numerous errors, shattering children's hopes for education," wrote ex-CM Naveen Patnaik on X.

Chandigarh cashier killing was a planned hit, say police

Jagpreet Singh Sandhu
Chandigarh, June 18

THE MURDER of a cashier at a Sector 11 chemist shop in Chandigarh last week was allegedly a planned hit and not a case of mistaken identity, with police sources claiming that the victim had been identified beforehand and surveilled before the attack.

Police sources told *The Indian Express* the suspected kingpin, Amit Kumar, the latest among those arrested by Jammu and Kashmir Police, allegedly spent around Rs 25,000 on each of the two arrested accused -- Sunny Mehra and Aryan Sharma -- before the shooting, arranging clothes, shoes and other logistics.

Police suspect the duo were recruited to execute the killing and had been promised additional payment after the job was completed.

The fresh details emerged hours after Sunny and Aryan were injured in a police encounter on Thursday morning when they allegedly attempted to escape custody and opened fire at a police team while being brought to Chandigarh from Jammu, where they had been arrested a day earlier in connection with the June 13 murder of Janki Das, 45, a cashier at Shri Kumar Medicos in Sector 11.

Ram Mandir

FROM PAGE 1

collections from the 35-odd donation boxes fixed across the shrine premises are brought and counted.

With around one lakh devotees visiting the temple daily, the counting is done in two shifts -- roughly 8 am to 2 pm, and 2 pm to 8 pm -- by about 20 tellers each.

Daily donations are estimated to be Rs 8 to Rs 13 lakh. But, as per an employee of the Ram Janmabhoomi Kshetra Teerth Trust, deployed in the counting room, "There are days when it reaches Rs 50 to Rs 60 lakh."

The employee is among those who has been questioned by a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) appointed by the Uttar Pradesh government to probe allegations that gold, silver and diamond ornaments donated by devotees have been replaced with fake items, besides money being stolen, from the temple's collection.

The SIT is stationed at

'Green House', also located a stone's throw from the shrine, and is examining records, and the process of counting, book-keeping and deposit of funds, as well as talking to officials involved in managing donations and maintaining accounts.

Sources said the SIT's preliminary report is expected in a day or two, and the final report next week. Police have received no formal complaints so far.

Amid the ongoing row, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be visiting Ayodhya on Friday noon, and is scheduled to visit the temple apart from inaugurating a Ramayan Wax Museum and a municipal zonal office.

The counting

At the top of the pyramid is key Ram Janmabhoomi Kshetra Teerth Trust member Anil Mishra, who is in-charge of the entire donation process from storage to counting to use of the funds -- and operates from an office adjoining the counting hall.

The official directly overseeing the counting is Subhash

Srivastava, a retired bank official who works under Mishra. Each shift has different shift in-charges, who work under Srivastava. And finally, for every five tellers, there is a supervisor.

All the employees who are part of this exercise are either staffers of State Bank of India (SBI) -- who have been outsourced by the bank and often chosen by trust officials -- or members of the trust and local RSS leaders.

The donation boxes are emptied as and when they fill up. At least four people are required to be present when this is done, including trust staff and a SBI employee. The money is transferred to iron box containers, locked, and driven in carts to the counting room, with CCTV tracking their movement.

At the counting centre, the currency notes, coins and other offerings such as pieces of jewellery are segregated, before being assigned to the tellers, who do the counting stationed at different counters across the hall. The staff can leave the counting room only for toilet breaks and food, available just outside the hall. No one can leave the building during their

shift.

Once counting is completed, the cash is again packed into bank containers or boxes, and sealed under supervision before being transported to the SBI branch every morning. The cash is then deposited into the trust's designated donation account, after the bank has done its own verification. SBI also informs the trust about the amount credited and updates the account records.

A senior official said the account is a "no-cheque book" account. "For any expenditure, bills or payments, such as to vendors, contractors or service providers, the money is transferred digitally from account to account."

Nripendra Mishra, Chairman of the Construction Committee of the Ram Temple, said the fundraising that was done for the building of the shrine was a completely separate exercise, with the approximately Rs 3,500 crore raised at the time deposited and accounted for independently.

Apart from the counting centre staff, the Ram Janmabhoomi Kshetra Teerth Trust also employs thousands, including security guards, cooks,

cleaners. Nearly 40 ex-Army men are among the staff members.

The Sangh worry

RSS sources admitted that there was concern in the ranks about the damaging accusations, with the role of VHP vice-president and Ram Janmabhoomi Kshetra Teerth Trust general secretary Champat Rai, and former RSS pracharak Gopal Rao, who was brought in incidentally after controversies related to land deals of the trust, and is in-charge of daily activities such as darshan, coming under a cloud.

Anil Mishra and Subhash Srivastava, who are directly involved with the funds -- and, in Mishra's case, also of hiring employees -- have RSS links too. While Mishra, a homoeopathic doctor, has been the RSS's pracharak for Awadh for years, Srivastava is a veteran RSS sanghachalak of Acharya Nagar area in Ayodhya.

As the overall in-charge of running of the shrine, Rai is among the most powerful people associated with the temple, with a say in most appointments. While other RSS leaders such as sahsarkarya-

wah Krishna Gopal and former sarkaryawah Bhayajji Joshi visit and coordinate, their role is largely advisory.

A local RSS office-bearer said: "Several employees have been selected without proper scrutiny, just based on being relatives of someone. That is the root cause of the present problem."

A source in the Sangh said: "Champat ji manages trust affairs like an RSS office, and that doesn't help."

The Indian Express reached out to Rai, Mishra and Srivastava, but they were unavailable or declined to speak. Rao said, "Now that the SIT is conducting a probe, let's wait for its outcome before reaching any conclusions."

Another trustee, Dinendra Das of the Nirmohi Akhara, said: "I am sure that whoever has committed any wrong will be punished. I can't say anything more at this stage."

A source who works with the trust office said that a few weeks before the controversy broke, Rai was involved in a heated exchange with senior Sangh leaders such as Bajrang Dal founder Vinay Katiyar. In the wake of the row, Katiyar blamed

trust officials, saying: "Such people have no place in the trust and should be removed... Sab ke sab chor hain (All of them are thieves)."

A national-level pracharak who has been involved with the Ram Temple since the 1980s said the allegations have "tarnished the Sangh image". "Ashok Singhal ji and Moropant Pingle ji, both prime architects of the temple movement, never wanted the temple that was built to be managed by a trust. They would have never allowed it."

With elections ahead, the Opposition believes it has an issue to put the Adityanath government on the mat, particularly as it is linked to a project championed by the BJP. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav has called the charges of misappropriation of Ram Temple funds "extremely shameful" and called out "government silence" as "suspicious".

Congress state chief Ajay Rai, who visited Ayodhya Thursday, accused the BJP of "selling faith". "Those who came in the name of religion have bartered it... There is organised robbery," he said, ad-

ding that culpability went right to the top.

Examples from other temples

A trustee at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple said he did not remember any incident of the kind being alleged at Ayodhya. "We have around 50 donation boxes and they are opened every Friday and Tuesday, with counting done in a verandah of the temple by women devotees working for free, in the presence of two government nominees and bank officials (at present HDFC bank)... Everything is transparent and on camera, in the open."

At Vindhyaachal Temple, another prominent UP temple, donations are collected by pandas who operate in shifts. Money in donation boxes is then counted in the presence of government officials. A leader of the pandas at Vindhyaachal said: "The only controversy related to counting in my memory is that of January 2016, when a person was caught stealing currency on camera and an FIR was immediately filed against him." WITH INPUTS BY MAULSHREE SETH, LUCKNOW

Andhra Pradesh opens doors to doctors nationwide, scraps state registration requirement

Nikhila Henry
Hyderabad, June 18

IN A first in the country, doctors from across India will be allowed to practice in Andhra Pradesh without them registering independently with Andhra Pradesh Medical Council. Doctors from other states will also be exempted from taking a No Objection Certificate from the state or union territory they are registered with before practicing in Andhra Pradesh.

With this, Andhra Pradesh becomes the first state to remove registration barriers for doctors from across India.

An order to this effect was issued on June 11 by the department of health and family welfare in AP. The order read: "In pursuance of the policy decision of the Government under PA-19 (Priority Area-19) and in order to facilitate ease of practice for qualified medical practitioners, the Government of Andhra Pradesh hereby notifies that any person possessing a recognized medical qualification and holding a valid registration with any State Medical Council or Union Territory Medical Council in India shall be permitted to practice in the State of Andhra Pradesh".

The current law requires doctors registered under a

Doctors will also be exempted from taking a NOC from the state or UT they are registered with before practising in Andhra Pradesh

state medical council to de-register from their state of practice and secure a No Objection Certificate to re-register and practice in another state. This is the norm that the new order seeks to change.

It states that the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council "may obtain such particulars, declarations and information through its online portal as may be required for verification and maintenance of records".

This, however, does not mean that the state will exempt "any medical practitioner from compliance with the provisions of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, applicable regulations, professional ethics, disciplinary proceedings or any other law for the time being in force".

The new rules, according to experts, will help open Andhra's doors to doctors across India and make the

state a destination for medical tourism.

"The process of taking No Objection Certificate from one state and reapplying for registration in the state where one would like to serve, is a cumbersome process," Dr Babu KV, who is a registered medical practitioner in Kerala and central working committee member of Indian Medical Association.

Dr Babu has written to the Medical Council of India to take Andhra Pradesh as an example and exempt doctors from taking medical registration in different states.

He said: "As such there is no necessity of registration in more than one State Medical Council because any doctor, who has registered with any State Medical Council is automatically registered in the Indian Medical Register and also by virtue of Section 27 of the IMC Act, 1956, a person, whose name is included in the IMR, can practise anywhere in India".

The separate registration processes in each of the states makes practice difficult for doctors, Dr Babu said. He added: "I sincerely hope that the NMC will take this seriously and allow doctors to freely practice in any state of India once any state has granted a registration."

IAS officer arrested in Rs 79 cr IDFC Bank scam

Express News Service
Chandigarh, June 18

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested senior IAS officer Ram Kumar Singh, former Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation (MC), Panchkula, in connection with the alleged misappropriation of government funds worth Rs 79.46 crore from the civic body's account maintained at the Sector 32 branch of IDFC First Bank in Chandigarh. Singh was placed under suspension on April 9.

The arrest is a significant development in the investigation into what has emerged as one of Haryana's biggest financial frauds, involving the alleged siphoning of more than Rs 504 crore belonging to multiple government departments through forged and non-existent fixed deposits.

According to the CBI, the Municipal Corporation Panchkula account was opened in vi-

olation of Haryana Finance Department guidelines and allegedly facilitated fraudulent transactions. The agency alleged that Singh, while serving as MC Commissioner, entered into a criminal conspiracy with officials of IDFC First Bank and handed over multiple signed cheques through intermediaries on the pretext of creating fixed deposits which weren't created. Instead, the funds were allegedly withdrawn and diverted to shell companies controlled by the accused bank officials.

Searches were conducted at Singh's residences in Chandigarh and Karnal, and several incriminating documents were recovered. The CBI took over the investigation from the Haryana State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau. The agency has chargesheeted 17 accused in the Haryana-linked scam, including six officials of IDFC First Bank and AU Small Finance Bank, three Haryana government officials and others.

Bihar woman abducted from home, gangraped by 5 men

Himanshu Harsh
Patna, June 18

A WOMAN in Bihar's Begusarai district was allegedly gangraped and then severely assaulted by five men on June 11, with police saying efforts are still underway to arrest the accused.

Later, doctors removed a live bullet, a stone and a piece of wood that had allegedly been inserted into the survivor's body by the perpetrators.

The woman told police that the incident occurred around 11.30 pm, when she had gone to the bathroom at her home. The five men allegedly locked her husband in another room, overpowered her when she came out of the bathroom, gagged her with her sari, tied up her hands and forcibly took her out of the house.

She said in the complaint that the men then raped her, and when she tried to raise the alarm, they struck her and assaulted her with a blade. The men later took her to her house and fled.

The husband, unable to open the door of the room that had been locked from the outside, was freed after the survivor called her younger sister-in-law. Subsequently, the family informed police. Meanwhile, the woman was taken to hospital.

She was discharged on the evening of June 12 and went home, but returned the next day due to persistent pain. During examination, doctors recovered a bullet, a stone and a piece of wood from her body. She said that she had lost consciousness during the assault and believes the objects were inserted by the accused after the gang rape.

She also alleged that three months ago, three men had entered her house, stripped her and attempted to rape her, assaulted the family and looted cash and jewellery. She said the family had reported the matter to police, but alleged that no action was taken.

DSP Anand Kumar Pandey said the matter is being investigated. "The accused involved in the incident will be arrested, and a speedy trial will be ensured," Pandey said, adding, "If any negligence on the part of the police comes to light, action will be taken against the concerned personnel."

Senior officers, including the DSP, reached the hospital. Police have described the matter as extremely serious and said that a thorough probe is underway to apprehend the culprits.

Chandigarh transport dept suspends aggregator licence of Ola

Hina Rohtaki
Chandigarh, June 18

THE CHANDIGARH Transport Department has suspended the aggregator licence of ANI Technologies Private Limited, which operates the ride-hailing platform OLA, for a period of six months with immediate effect from Wednesday.

A public notice issued by the department, said that the company would no longer be permitted to operate cab or biketaxi services in the Union Territory during the suspension period. The suspension order, stated that the Transport Authority received multiple complaints alleging that the company was not complying with provisions of the Chandigarh Administration Motor Vehicles Aggregators Rules, 2025, including those related to driver health and term insurance, training requirements, and fare structure.

The order has been issued by Nitish Singla, PCS, Secretary, State Transport Authority. The order noted that despite repeated notices, meetings, and opportunities to furnish compliance reports, the company allegedly failed to submit the required responses and reports within the stipulated timelines. It also cited allegations regarding non-compliance with notified fare rates and a subscription model under which drivers were allegedly required to make pre-paid recharges. The panel held that such a model was not in conformity with the Aggregator Rules notified by the Chandigarh Administration.

Following the order, The Indian Express sent multiple emails to ANI Technologies Private Limited, all of which did not elicit any response. The department has directed owners of cabs and bike taxis attached to OLA to not ply their vehicles under the platform or accept ride bookings through the OLA application in Chandigarh. Officials warned that any violation of the order would invite strict legal action. "The vehicles will be challaned (fined) and impounded in case of violation," the notice stated, adding that enforcement action would be taken against erring drivers found continuing operations through the platform despite the suspension. The Transport Department has also advised commuters to not book rides through cabs operating on the OLA application in order to avoid inconvenience. Residents have been requested to use alternative aggregator applications registered with the department for their transportation needs. Officials said the suspension is effective immediately and will remain for six months unless modified by the competent authority.

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Procedure for re-lodgement	Submit original transfer documents, along with corrected or missing details to the RTA
Documents to be sent to	MUFG Intime India Private Limited Unit: The Tata Power Company Limited C-101, 1 st Floor, 247 Park, Lal Bahadur Shastri Marg, Vikhroli West, Mumbai - 400 083
For any queries	• Helpline no: +91 810 811 8484; • Website: www.tatapower.com ; • Email address: investorcomplaints@tatapower.com ; • Raise service request on: https://web.in.mfms.mufg.com/helpdesk/Service_Request.html

Place: Mumbai
Dated: June 18, 2026

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Look beyond winners & losers in US, Iran

THE ISLAMABAD Memorandum of Understanding, signed remotely on Wednesday by US President Donald Trump and his Iranian counterpart, Masoud Pezeshkian, has triggered astonishment across the world. Critics in Washington argue that the agreement offers substantial upfront concessions to Tehran while leaving Iran's most consequential commitments to future implementation. The contrast between Trump's earlier rhetoric of "unconditional surrender" and the eventual outcome has fuelled criticism within his own political coalition. The backlash is not confined to the US. In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who had nudged Washington into the war, confronts a major political setback. Less discussed are the implications for America's Arab partners in the Gulf, caught in the crossfire. If the MoU evolves into a broader rapprochement between Washington and Tehran, its long-term consequences for the Gulf could be positive and profound. The agreement reflects a recognition in Washington that a prolonged confrontation with Iran carries high costs. Energy uncertainty, pressures on the global economy, and concerns about domestic political consequences appear to have reinforced the case for diplomacy in Washington. Whatever the criticisms of the deal, Trump has demonstrated the will to step back from escalation. Whether he has the political wits to manage the domestic and international consequences of this shift remains to be seen.

In India, the debate should move beyond questions of winners and losers. That Iran successfully leveraged its strategic position around the Strait of Hormuz does not mean the broader balance of power has shifted decisively against the US. More significant is the possibility that Washington and Tehran may be exploring a new grand bargain after nearly five decades of hostility. Trump has spoken in unusually conciliatory terms about Iran's future place in the global economy if it abandons the pursuit of nuclear weapons. Important voices in Tehran are also signalling the need for a new direction. Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Ghalibaf has argued that Iran must focus more on national economic development and less on perpetual regional confrontation. If such sentiments gain traction, they could create the foundations for a broader accommodation between Iran, the US, and Tehran's Arab neighbours.

Peace between Washington and Tehran, and a reduction of tensions between Iran and the Arab states, would help stabilise India's western neighbourhood, strengthen energy security, improve regional connectivity, and expand opportunities for trade and investment across the Gulf. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was right to welcome Trump's efforts to end the crisis. A more stable Gulf could become the foundation for greater cooperation between South Asia and the wider Middle East — a strategic outcome that would serve India's long-term interests.

In West Bengal, vendetta politics must end

IN THE months since the BJP's historic victory in West Bengal, an unsettling spectacle has become a recurring feature of public life. Arrested TMC leaders, including local strongmen such as Akash Singh and Jahangir Khan — the latter known for his proximity to senior TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee — have been marched through their former strongholds by police and paramilitary forces in restraints and made to perform public acts of penance. While the Calcutta High Court has expressed concern and sought a report from the government on the short shrift given to due process, investigating agencies have defended them as necessary for the reconstruction of alleged crimes. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has called it a return to the "rule of law"; a BJP MLA has described it as an expression of "true Ram Rajya". The allegations against Khan and others are serious and deserve rigorous investigation and, where evidence permits, prosecution. But the strength of the rule of law lies not just in holding the guilty to account, but in doing so in a manner that preserves the distinction between justice and retribution.

This is particularly important in Bengal, where political violence has long survived changes of government. But the task of democratic governance is not merely to punish wrongdoing but to elevate public life above this instinct of retribution. There is a categorical difference between accountability delivered through institutions — the police, the courts and independent investigations, following due procedure — and accountability performed on the streets. The latter risks weakening the very legitimacy it claims to uphold, while allowing those accused of serious misconduct to recast themselves as the aggrieved.

The BJP's mandate in the Assembly elections rested on a promise of change. Its victory reflected growing public fatigue with a political culture in which power too often travelled through muscle, patronage and impunity. But a secure government has no need to turn public humiliation into an instrument of punishment. It has the authority of a constitutional institution to undertake the patient task of rebuilding trust and confidence in governance. To squander that opportunity would be to dishonour its promise to the people.

Historian who read silences of the past

THRASHED BY the sea, the world curdled like cheese, from which multitudes of worms were born. These became men, of whom the most powerful and wisest was God." This statement of the 16th-century Italian miller Menocchio would land him in prison. Four centuries later, Carlo Ginzburg tapped into Menocchio's often contradictory claims about Christ and the Church to reveal a European world outside the Renaissance. First published in Italian in 1976, *Cheese and the Worms* established Ginzburg, who died on Wednesday, as one of the pioneers of microhistory, whose practitioners would study a small unit, an event, an individual or a village.

In his celebrated essay, 'Clues, Roots of an Evidential Paradigm', Ginzburg compared the historian's craft to that of detectives. Judicial records, though created by the elite, preserve the sentiments of the socially excluded. By reading their silences, historians could show how the lives of millers, witches, farmers carry insights into power, knowledge and social change.

Ginzburg's methods often exasperated his more traditionally inclined peers. JH Plumb is reported to have said that "the life of Isaac Newton is more important than witch trials". But microhistory would leave its imprint, influencing scholars from members of the Subaltern school to writers of broad sweep accounts like Pulitzer prize winner Jill Lepore. That's because its greatest contribution was to seek meaning in the smallest traces of the past.

Washington-Tehran MoU is a relief, but flashpoints remain

THE 14-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), digitally signed last Sunday on US President Donald Trump's 80th birthday, was again signed by him early Thursday morning our time at a Versailles dinner hosted by French President Emmanuel Macron. Though Iran was not represented in Versailles, it also released the text around the same time. This official release came after global media outlets leaked the full text yesterday morning.

According to the MoU, a final agreement is to be negotiated within 60 days, extendable by mutual consent. The MoU includes a commitment by Iran that it will never produce nuclear weapons. It also says the US will lift its naval blockade of Iran fully within 30 days (which it has already done), that the movement of ships through the Strait of Hormuz will be restored to full capacity within 30 days, and that the US will issue waivers for exports of Iranian crude oil and other products and services.

In addition, Iran and the US, together with their allies (read Israel, though it is not a party to the deal), will permanently and immediately end the war on all fronts, including Lebanon, and cease all hostile action or threats of force against each other. The MoU also specifies that both sides will address the fate of enriched material, including Iran's nuclear needs. The final agreement will be approved through a binding resolution of the UN Security Council.

Notably, the MoU does not include specific provisions to discuss the curtailment of Iran's ballistic missile capabilities or its support for regional proxies. However, these is-

suers could still be raised during the negotiations due to pressure from Republicans, Israel, and the Gulf countries.

The MoU primarily restores the status quo ante. Before the commencement of Operation Epic Fury on February 28, the Strait of Hormuz was open for free passage with no US blockade. The US and Iran had just completed the third round of their discussions on nuclear and other issues on February 26, with a tentative fourth round being considered for March 2. The outcome of the war is that nuclear negotiations have essentially returned to the starting point, with one key difference: The US is now waiving sanctions on the export of Iranian oil and allied products, while offering assurances of relief on frozen Iranian assets.

Further, during the discussions preceding the war, the US insisted on zero uranium enrichment, while Iran maintained that it had an inherent right to enrich. However, Iran showed a willingness to compromise by offering to transfer its 60 per cent enriched uranium to a third country and suspend enrichment for several years. In the forthcoming 60-day negotiations, Iran is likely to agree to its pre-war concessions, with a significant condition of its own: It will now reject transferring the enriched material abroad, opting instead to down-blend it below 5 per cent while eventually agreeing to a 10-to-15-year enrichment suspension.

The key new element is Iran's explicit declaration that it will never produce nuclear weapons. While this commitment is already implicit in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty



R SWAMINATHAN

Notably, the MoU does not include specific provisions to discuss the curtailment of Iran's ballistic missile capabilities or its support for regional proxies

(NPT), to which Iran has been a party since 1970, and has been repeatedly reaffirmed by Tehran — including through an oral fatwa attributed to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in 2003 — the difference now is that Iran is effectively waiving the NPT's standard withdrawal clause. Tehran has never given notice to withdraw from the treaty despite major conflicts in June 2025 and this year.

A major concession that Iran has secured upfront is a ceasefire in Lebanon, where it suffered immense strategic damage following Israel's killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah in 2024 and the near-decimation of the group's military capabilities.

While the MoU could be seen as "Advantage Iran", its conclusion has already brought significant domestic and economic benefits for Trump. Oil prices, which skyrocketed to \$126 per barrel during the conflict, have plunged below \$80, triggering a major stock market rally. Further, the US secured a binding commitment from Iran never to produce nuclear weapons. This comes after a military campaign in which the US inflicted massive damage on Iran's military infrastructure, eliminated key leadership figures, and enforced a sustained blockade that caused severe hardship in Iran.

Trump's announcement last Sunday that the MoU had been concluded sparked widely varying reactions across the US. While the MAGA base backed the deal as a triumphant validation of Trump's "maximum pressure" strategy, traditional Republicans remained conflicted — mirroring warnings from the CIA director that Tehran might use the 60-day pause as

a strategic stalling tactic.

Concurrently, Democrats blasted the framework as flimsy and dangerously vague. Meanwhile, the broader American public responded with a mix of relief over the end of the conflict and scepticism regarding Iran's willingness to comply with its nuclear concessions.

However, the official release of the MoU's terms has already sharpened domestic reactions within the US, where critics have termed it a "jaw-dropping humiliation" and a "surrender". This severe criticism, combined with fierce opposition from an Israel that feels it stands to lose the most, has significant potential to derail the upcoming 60-day negotiations.

A major flashpoint will be Lebanon, as Iran is expected to insist on a complete Israeli withdrawal during the talks. While Trump took a position in the recent past that Israel would have the right to retaliate in the event of attacks by Hezbollah, he is now proposing to attack Syria to handle the militant group — a strategy that seeks to exploit the deep animosity between the current Syrian leadership and Hezbollah. Another issue of friction will be Iran's assertion that the Strait of Hormuz will operate under joint Iranian-Omani sovereignty — a geopolitical stance completely unacceptable to Washington.

Thus, while much of the world is cheering the MoU in hopes of a lasting peace, significant hurdles remain in achieving it.

The writer is former governor of India to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Vienna, former ambassador to Egypt and former permanent representative to the Arab League

A decade of empowerment, from reform to rozgar



MANSUKH MANDAVIYA

OVER THE past 12 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has undergone a remarkable transformation driven by empowerment, good governance, and inclusive development. From being counted among the Fragile Five economies in 2013, it has emerged as the fastest-growing major economy, built one of the largest start-up ecosystems, become a leader in digital public infrastructure, and strengthened its standing on the global stage.

At the heart of this transformation is India's *yuva shakti*. Recognising the potential of the demographic dividend, the government has launched transformative initiatives like Make in India, Digital India, Startup India, Skill India, PM Mudra Yojana, and the National Career Service portal. Combined with investments in infrastructure, innovation, and technology, these have expanded opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and skill development.

India's growth story is also a story of rising employment. Research shows that between 2017-18 and 2023-24, India's employment elasticity stood at 1.11, meaning that every 1 per cent increase in Gross Value Added was accompanied by a 1.11 per cent rise in employment. This marks a sharp improvement over the employment elasticity of 0.008 between 2011-12 and 2017-18.

According to RBI KLEMS data, more than 17 crore jobs were created between 2014 and 2024, compared to 2.9 crore during 2004-14. The employment rate increased from 46.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 57.4 per cent in 2025, while unemployment declined to around 3.1 per cent, below the global average of 4.8 per cent. EPFO payroll data further indicate that more than 8 crore formal-sector jobs were added between 2017 and 2025.

The story of New India is equally about ensuring people are protected through a robust social-security system. Social-security coverage increased from 25 crore people (19 per cent of the population) in 2015 to more than 94 crore (64.3 per cent) in 2025. In recognition of this achievement, India received the International Social Security Association's Award

for Outstanding Achievement in Social Security in 2025.

The Modi government, in the first budget of its third term, introduced the most ambitious employment initiative in independent India's history: The Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PMVBRY). With an outlay of nearly Rs 1 lakh crore, PMVBRY aims to support the creation of more than 3.5 crore employment opportunities over two years. Under Part A of the scheme, first-time employees receive financial assistance of up to Rs 15,000 in two instalments. Under Part B, employers receive incentives of up to Rs 3,000 per employee per month for every additional worker employed. It provides incentives for up to four years to eligible manufacturing employers and for up to two years in other sectors. By putting money directly into workers' pockets, PMVBRY rewards work, makes jobs more attractive, and helps families remain financially secure. Financial incentives for employers can generate positive cyclical impacts on industrial growth.

PMVBRY's success is now being marked through a nationwide event. Today, Prime Minister Modi will disburse incentives worth Rs 2,400 crore to 15 lakh beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer. Simultaneously, events across 200 major industrial clusters will see appointment letters distributed to beneficiaries, and employers felicitated for creating opportunities.

As India moves towards the centenary of Independence, it is sending a clear message to the world: Its greatest strength is its young population. Twelve years of reforms have been driven by a strong partnership between employees and employers. The Modi government has recognised both as equal partners in nation-building, ensuring workers are protected, enterprises are empowered, and the benefits of growth are widely shared.

As India advances towards Viksit Bharat, employees and employers will continue to serve as the twin engines of growth, prosperity, and opportunity. "Rozgar ho ya karobaar, saath hai Bharat sarkar."

The writer is Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports

For teachers, the last period never arrives



ROOPALI SINHA

SCHOOLS ARE shut for the summer holidays. Yet for the past few years, a sword has hung over these vacations. There is always the uncertainty that they may be cut short, teachers may be called back, or assigned some new duty. Earlier, summer holidays were one of the incentives of the teaching profession, especially for women balancing home and work. Today, teaching may still be described as a part-time job, but it takes up more time than many full-time ones.

Teachers in both private and government schools return home much like their students, carrying bags full of "homework" — preparing assignments, checking notebooks, filling out report cards, and completing administrative tasks. Work spills into the little "free time" that belongs to their personal lives and families.

The Covid years accelerated this process. Online teaching ensured continuity in children's education. But that connectivity has since become a tool for exploitation. Teachers can be asked at any hour to submit reports, data, or documents, and are expected to comply immediately. The boundaries between the professional and the personal have all but disappeared. Perhaps that is why the old reverence embodied in "Guru Brahma, Guru Vishnu..." now survives largely as a ritual saved for Teachers' Day. In reality, teachers are now marionettes, expected to obey instructions and whims without question.

This becomes particularly visible in the endless non-academic duties assigned to them. Recently, news emerged from Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly that teachers had been assigned the task of collecting fodder. The order was later modified following protests. Such examples are not unusual. Teachers are routinely assigned election duties, Census work, surveys, data-entry campaigns, mid-day meal management, and other such duties. Time that could be spent improving classroom practice or developing professional expertise is consumed by tasks far removed from teaching. In the process, the profession loses its intellectual freedom.

The problem with this epidemic of perpetual busyness is that teachers are left with no free time to read, think, create, or explore new things. Leisure is the condition that makes intellectual life possible. Yet this space for reflection is steadily being taken away from us. I am often reminded of Rabindranath Tagore's poem "Lost Time", though in a context quite different from his spiritual one. Who knows, even Jawaharlal Nehru's "Aaram Haram Hai" slogan may soon be evoked to justify our predicament. That slogan belonged to the years immediately after Independence, when a newly independent nation had to be built. Today, the corporate world's many Narayana Murthys have appropriated it to celebrate endless toil that inflates corporate wealth. It feels almost dystopian to argue for the importance of rest, but that is where we have arrived as a society. People are being reduced to cogs in the machine, valued only for their revenue-generating potential.

Teachers once shaped future citizens by nurturing curiosity, sensitivity, and a sense of responsibility. The work of nation-building may no longer be the urgent task it once was, but in the disappearance of free time, something equally important is ebbing away: The space for reflection, and intellectual and emotional growth. That is an immeasurable loss.

The writer is a Delhi-based teacher

The problem with this epidemic of perpetual busyness is that teachers are left with no free time to read, think, create, or explore new things. Leisure is the condition that makes intellectual life possible

40 YEARS AGO

June 19, 1986



Three killed in Allahabad

THREE MORE persons were shot dead and several injured in the curfew-bound areas of Allahabad where communal violence erupted again. Six deaths had been admitted officially since the violence started. However, unofficial sources put the death toll at 10 and charged the authorities with minimising casualty figures.

Chandigarh standoff continues

THE HOME minister, Buta Singh, and the Congress(I) vice-president, Arjun Singh, flew to Chandigarh in a BSF plane to make a last-minute bid to persuade the Punjab Chief Minister, Surjit Singh Barnala, to

agree to the Venkataramiah Commission's recommendations and create conditions for the transfer of territories on June 21. As things stand, the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab and Hindi-speaking areas to Haryana on June 21 looks unlikely and now dates may have to be fixed in view of the latest stand taken by the Punjab government.

Confusion over transfer

IN WHAT form the Punjab Vidhan Sabha will discuss the proposal for transfer of territories and the allied matters at its sitting is not certain. The Punjab cabinet, which discussed a draft of the central ordinance at its meeting, failed to decide the issue. The Chief Minister, Surjit Singh

Barnala, told newsmen after the cabinet meeting that the draft did not contain details of boundaries after the contemplated territorial transfer. "It was a tentative draft", he added.

Cong-I likely to win 30 RS seats

THE CONGRESS(I) is poised to win 30 of the 45 seats as nominations closed in the Rajya Sabha biennial poll in eight states. Basing its nominations on the strength of the party, the Congress(I) has fielded five candidates from Bihar, three from Rajasthan, eight from Uttar Pradesh, four from Maharashtra, three from Orissa, two from Tamil Nadu, five from Madhya Pradesh and one from Punjab.



DIS/AGREE

THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A weekly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate



ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

Court may have set a figure, but what's the value of unpaid domestic work?

SC verdict first step but has class blinkers



NEETHA N

THE RECENT Supreme Court ruling acknowledging the contribution of women "homemakers" is definitely a significant step in recognising the invisible and unpaid work of women in the country. Valuation of women's contribution to unpaid housework and care work is riddled with issues, as it is always entangled with familial relations. The compensation of Rs 30,000, as the ruling mentions, is a notional figure and thus can be seen as an acknowledgement of the priceless value of the labour of women that is otherwise largely underestimated. This large-scale underestimation of women's contribution to housework is evident in the cash transfer schemes that various political parties and state governments have offered or are offering to women in multiple states, which mostly range between Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,500 per month. The poor honoraria paid to community workers, be they Anganwadi workers, ASHAs or others, is another example. It is critical to flag this ongoing undervaluation of women's work while they are actively contributing to nation-building, whether as homemakers or as care workers.

While the judgment has surely opened up the way for a discussion on women's unpaid and undervalued work and their contribution to the economy, it raises multiple concerns. The first is the anxiety that many scholars of women's studies have raised, ever since the campaign on Wages for Housework in the 1970s, of a possible reiteration of gendered roles. The discussions around cash transfer schemes recognising women's housework in various states also highlighted the possible adverse effect of such schemes on women's economic status, given the poor participation of women in employment. At a time when women's share in higher education has surpassed male shares, equipping women to break gendered norms, the terminology of "homemakers" may end up in deceleration or reversal of such positive changes.

The judgment acknowledging women's unequal housework and care-work burden highlights it as a reason for the low female labour force participation. However, it does not delve much into this aspect, but goes on reiterating women's contribution in building, nurturing and maintaining human capital and thus being

nation-builders. The lack of choice for women, whether to shoulder gendered roles or not, does not find any mention amidst this glorification of their contribution to families and the economy. Women's labour force participation in urban areas is very low, lower than that of their counterparts in rural areas, and much below male rates. In 2024-25, as per the PLFS data, the urban workforce participation rate of women (ages 15 plus) was only about 26 per cent, as against 45 per cent for rural women. Notably, the male-female difference was about 47 percentage points, with male participation rates at 73 per cent.

In rural areas, agriculture, the most important sector of women's employment, allows for intermittent paid and unpaid housework and care work, while in urban areas, such possibilities are few and conditional. The poor presence of married women and women with young children in jobs that are better paid is an issue that also needs attention. Studies in the context of flexible employment have also shown how women's choices are determined by gendered social and familial expectations around housework and care work. Without adequate policies that could help in the reduction and redistribution of housework and care work, women's employment outcomes will continue to be compromised.

The judgment is significant when read with the dismissal of the public interest petition *Penn Thozhilalargal Sangam Versus Union of India*, filed by 10 trade unions of domestic workers on the issue of minimum wages. This petition was disposed of by the Supreme Court this year, directing the unions to appeal to the state government. What seems contradictory to the current progressive position of the Court is the view that it held on the matter of minimum wages for domestic workers. The observation that minimum-wage regulation for domestic work can trigger an increase in litigation with unintended consequences, including the possibility of domestic workers losing their jobs, seems to contradict the current valuation argument. Or, is it that housework and care work performed by women in their own homes are worthier than the work carried out by poor women who are hired for such services? By entertaining the domestic workers' petition, the Court, alongside this landmark judgment, could have set the floor towards the valuation of housework and care work for different segments of women, whether part of the family or otherwise.

The writer is professor, Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi

Give her rights in her lifetime



PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

THEY SAY it is love. We say it is unwaged work." Thus begins Silvia Federici's foundational 1975 essay, "Wages Against Housework". Federici's Marxist-feminist argument was made in the context of Western industrial capitalism. Half a century later, and half a world away, the demand has shifted from wages to worth, from recognition to right.

The move from housewife (interchangeable for large periods of the 20th century, in thought if not in words, with house help/house elf) to homemaker has had a long, arduous journey. The marginal elevation has not altered much for the woman at the centre, still counted as the primary caregiver, still responsible, notionally at least, for the task of "housekeeping", still with very little to show for herself in terms of actual economic heft.

Last week, while hearing the case of a woman killed in a road accident in 2001, the Supreme Court took a decisive step towards addressing this anomaly. It held that the loss of domestic care provided by a homemaker constitutes a distinct category of compensation in motor-accident claims. The Court also arrived at a minimum figure of Rs 30,000 per month, a floor to be revised upward by 10 per cent every three years. The bench observed that care-giving work — mostly by women — is estimated to contribute about 15 to 17 per cent of the country's GDP, that in nurturing homes, values, and generations, homemakers perform the enduring work of nation-building. It is a landmark ruling that deserves to be celebrated. It also demands introspection.

For the purpose of the latter, let us turn to some basic accounting: Tally your monthly expenses for a cook, a part-time cleaner, a care provider for the elderly, and if you have young children, a nanny — more or less all the things a homemaker is, all at once, all day, every day. The figure, at least in Delhi, is likely to far exceed Rs 30,000. Now consider what the Court did not address, given that it falls outside the remit of the case. A woman who spends her lifetime managing a household, raising children, and enabling her spouse's career is worth Rs 30,000 a month only after she has been killed by a negligent driver. In her lifetime, she is worth nothing in terms of asset entitlement or wealth accumulation, at least

not in any enforceable, quantifiable way.

This is an injustice with compounding consequences. When a woman steps out of the workforce — to follow a spouse to a new city, to raise children, to care for ageing parents — she exits a system that measures contribution in salaries and provident-fund deposits. Every year outside the formal economy widens the gap and reduces them to what economist Devaki Jain called "virtual non-entities in economic transactions". The apex court's ruling compensates for the absence of a homemaker's labour after death. It does nothing for the woman who is still alive, still holding up the home, still accruing none of the financial security that formal employment provides.

None of this is to suggest that the home be recast as a workplace or the spouse as a quasi-employer. It is an argument for rights and recognition, of the kind the Court itself offered: "It is ironic to describe a homemaker as dependent on earning members, when, in reality the household's functioning depends substantially on the homemaker." The homemaker, in other words, is the co-author of everything the household builds and everything it becomes.

To be fair, the judiciary has been pulling in the right direction. In February, the Delhi High Court observed that a wife's non-employment cannot be equated with indolence or deliberate dependence, that the assumption reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of marriage as a partnership: "Where one spouse earns income in the marketplace, and the other sustains the domestic sphere, the economic stability of the household is the result of combined, though differently manifested, contributions." In September 2025, a Delhi woman approached the High Court seeking a 50 per cent share in the matrimonial flat that her care had sustained for years. The division bench was candid about the bind it found itself in: It acknowledged that a homemaker's contributions "remain hidden and downplayed", called on the legislature to act, and then — because existing maintenance provisions lack the reach to cover asset-sharing — ruled against her.

Homemakers need more than a better payout at the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal that they themselves cannot enjoy. They need social infrastructure that eases the burden of care work, shares it more equitably, and values it more fully. They need community property laws that give them a share in liquid or income-generating marital assets; maintenance laws with teeth. And they need all of these in their lifetime.

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75 years on, the First Amendment still casts a long shadow



TRIPURDAMAN SINGH

JUNE 18, 2026 will mark 75 years since Rajendra Prasad gave his reluctant assent to the First Amendment — a "seismic shift" in India's constitutional architecture, the aftermath of which the country's pre-eminent legal scholar Upendra Baxi labelled the "Second Constitution". Few seem to have recalled the grim events of 1951, but it was a moment that continues to course through the nation's body politic, and one that has had profound and deleterious effects on its democracy and constitutional order.

On January 26, 1950, the Republic of India, described by the Oxford don Kenneth Wheare as the world's greatest experiment in democratic government, was inaugurated to great acclaim. Many had considered it an impossibility: Clement Attlee had even cautioned Jawaharlal Nehru against it, calling republicanism of the kind India was contemplating an alien import from Europe. At the heart of this transition lay the country's new constitution, containing what *The New York Times* approvingly termed "the most detailed document of fundamental rights found anywhere", widely seen to reflect India turning the page on its colonial past and taking a giant step towards a liberal new future.

It was a future that failed to materialise as imagined. By early 1951, the Nehru government had pronounced the Constitution to be the chief impediment in the way of its social policy and a stumbling block on the way to progress. The "magnificent Constitution" had, as he declared, been "kidnapped and purloined by lawyers". How had such a situation arisen? Three key legal battles fought around three key fundamental rights — the right to freedom of speech, the right to freedom from discrimination, and the right to property — shaped Nehru's assessment.

Government attempts to censor the *Organiser* (a scathing critic of its purported indifference towards the plight of refugees from East Bengal) and *Cross Roads* (a left-leaning weekly harshly criticising the brutal treatment of communist detainees) had been countermanded by the Supreme Court, which had also found the underlying legislation to be unconstitutional, knocking, to quote Sardar Patel, the bottom out of the laws used to control the press. In Madras, where a woman named Champakam Dorairajan had challenged the existing policy of strict caste- and community-based quotas, the High Court had found that religion, race, and caste could not be a basis for admissions to educational institutions and that reservation beyond that provided to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes was thus violative of the right to freedom from discrimination. The Patna High Court had struck the final blow in March 1951 when it held the Bihar Land Reform Act to be unconstitutional. Interestingly, rather than the right to property (as many had feared), it was the right to equality that proved to be the Act's undoing: The slid-

ing scale of compensation it prescribed, where the rate went down as the size of the land parcel went up, was the culprit.

Collectively, the three judicial pronouncements had taken a sledgehammer to the government's ability to censor and regulate the dissemination of opinion, eroded its credibility, and thrown its social agenda into disarray. For Nehru, the very fact that the courts were willing to adjudicate on such matters was a step too far. It was his government, he argued, that represented the will of the people — and the Constitution was in the way. The result was the First Amendment.

It kneecapped the right to property and allowed the government to circumvent the right to freedom from discrimination in pursuit of social upliftment for "backward classes". Under the guise of protecting land reform legislation, it created the Ninth Schedule, a repository where laws could be placed to make them immune to judicial review even if they violated fundamental rights — described by the jurist A G Noorani as an "obscurity created by wilful resolve". More importantly, it introduced new grounds for restricting freedom of speech, including public order, incitement to offences, relations with foreign states, and the security interests of the state.

The consequences of the First Amendment have been far from benign. It dealt a crushing blow to the nascent forces of Indian liberalism, creating the constitutional plumbing for a vast armoury of repressive and coercive laws, including sedition. Moreover, it established the terrible precedent of retrospectively amending the Constitution to overcome adverse

judicial pronouncements. The cavalier disregard for democratic propriety established a pattern for future egregiousness. Political power triumphed over constitutional order, eroding democratic norms even before the ink had dried on the original Constitution.

Disdain for civil liberties; prioritising the needs of the state; an aversion to public criticism cloaked in the language of "fake news" and "subversive activities"; a brute parliamentary majority riding roughshod over the protestations of the Opposition and civil society; a government agenda and party ideology elevated above fundamental rights; the claim that the wishes of the legislature should enjoy primacy over constitutional principles: The resonances with the contemporary world are more than semantic. Yet, there seems to be little inclination to register its 75th anniversary or revisit the long shadow it has cast on Indian democracy. Neither by its original supporters, now on the receiving end of the legal architecture it helped create, nor its original opponents, its prime targets now encoined in the ruling establishment.

What we do well to remember, however, is the prescient warning by Yashwantrao Chavan, the man who led the opposition to the amendment and who could see that an uncontrollable weapon was being bequeathed to the future, issued to the government: "Maybe you will continue for eternity, in the next generation, for generations unborn; that is quite possible. But supposing some other party comes into authority. What is the precedent you are laying down?"

The writer is Ambizione Fellow, Graduate Institute, Geneva



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Talking past each other

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN Iran and the US have been impeded by several contradictions arising from explicit and implicit threats and expressions of disrespect ("For lasting peace, US & Iran have to look beyond their philosophies of negotiation", *IE*, June 18). The US's zeal to garner greater international support by exerting pressure through unilateral sanctions has demonstrated a disregard for Iran's interests, which, rather than bringing it to the negotiating table, made it more unified and resolute. Dialogue should be based on goodwill, mutual trust, and respect to foster a meaningful understanding of each other's motivations and objectives.

Vaibhav Goyal, Chandigarh

Baffling ban

ONE TENDS to endorse the views expressed in the editorial, which averred that by picking on Telegram, the government appears to be lapsing into a familiar failing by not treating the NEET cancellation as a symptom

of a broken system ("Exam failures run deeper than Telegram", *IE*, June 18). Why single out one platform when the actual fault lines may lie within the four walls of the NTA? There is a pressing need to introspect rather than seek convenient shelter behind such alibis. Mind you, the NEET re-examination scheduled for June 21 is going to be a litmus test not only for the NTA but also for the Union education minister.

SK Gupta, via email

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to temporarily ban Telegram ahead of the NEET re-examination is baffling ("Exam failures run deeper than Telegram", *IE*, June 18). While ensuring fair exams is essential, banning an entire communication platform raises concerns. Millions of students, teachers, professionals, and businesses use Telegram for legitimate purposes such as sharing study materials and conducting discussions. A blanket ban may inconvenience innocent users while doing little to address the root causes of paper leaks.

Bal Govind, Noida



SHOBHIT MAHAJAN

GOING ON the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, one frequently witnesses a strange scene. The toll plaza was removed a few years ago but there are still some toll booths remaining. Just after the toll barriers, the road curves, the traffic comes to a grinding halt and there is total commotion, with cars moving in and out of lanes. As one drives through the curve, there are several lanes being blocked by five to six mean-looking built-like-bouncers-in-a-pub men. Each of them has a baton, hockey stick or *lathi* in his hand and they are stopping the Uber and Ola cab drivers to ask for the toll tax, which the drivers have tried to avoid. Most drivers usually pay up the Rs 100 tax plus Rs 500 fine quietly while others

Privatisation lesson: Pigs & bouncers

try to wriggle out of it by arguing. This causes the traffic to stop or inch forward for a while.

The bouncers are employed by the private agency that has won the contract to collect toll tax. The cab drivers obviously avoid paying and make the extra Rs 100 since that is included in the Ola/Uber fare. Apart from the risk-averse types, they take their chances with not paying or paying Rs 600. The drivers are perfect examples of the beloved *Homo economicus* of the neoclassical economists. They behave in a totally rational way since they make several trips between the two cities. What is bizarre about the whole setup is the brazenness shown by the bouncers. They are there, right in the middle of an expressway meant for high-speed transit, stopping traffic without the cops even taking notice of this patently illegal action.

This business of private companies or individuals taking over the functions of admin-

istration is not unique to these bouncers. They might be operating independently, although with the connivance of the authorities. In some cases, the authorities themselves hire private agencies to undertake what would be their work. My favourite case in point: Stray pigs are a nuisance in several parts of my city, close to villages or slum clusters, and the municipal corporation doesn't have enough pig-catchers, or whatever they are called. So pigs roam around freely, creating a health hazard. A few years ago, a bright young bureaucrat, appointed as the administrator of the municipal corporation, came up with what seemed like a brilliant solution. He ordered that, in public interest, anyone capturing a stray pig could keep it and the administration would not take any action. The owner, if he complains, would instead be fined for letting his animals roam around and be a health hazard.

Soon, most of the pigs vanished. The pig vigilantes caught a large number of pigs while some owners started tying them outside their homes or *jhuggis*. However, in a few weeks, the pigs returned to the streets. Those who had captured the pigs sold some back to their owners. For the rest, they had no place to keep them or the means to feed them. The net result of the scheme was only a temporary change in ownership of the pigs.

Subcontracting governance to private citizens and agencies is now all the rage. But then, privatisation of governance is a natural corollary in these days of cow vigilantes, Valentine vigilantes, love jihad vigilantes, anti-Romeo squads etc. The only difference is that one has official sanction, the other only benign neglect by the powers that be.

The writer is a professor of Physics and Astrophysics, University of Delhi

RANCHI RSS OFFICE ATTACK

Police suggest possible link to 'international module', arrest three

Shubham Tigga
Ranchi, June 18

THREE PEOPLE were arrested in connection with the petrol bomb attack on RSS's Jharkhand state office in Ranchi, with police saying on Thursday that the probe has been handed over to the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and that the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) has been invoked.

The development comes after two men allegedly hurled petrol bombs at the RSS state office in Ranchi shortly after midnight on June 17.

According to Ranchi police, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted under the joint supervision of city and rural police officers analysed CCTV footage and used technical surveillance to identify the suspects.

Police said two accused, Saif Ansari and Aman Ansari alias Golu, were arrested near Gajhandi railway station in

Koderma while allegedly attempting to flee to another state. Based on their statements, a third accused, Sayam Sujan (21), was also arrested from Ranchi.

Police officials said clothes allegedly worn by the accused during the attack were recovered from a drain under the Lower Bazar police station area. Four mobile phones and a car allegedly used in the incident have also been seized.

The case has been registered under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Explosive Substances Act, and the UAPA.

Ranchi police officers said preliminary inquiry and interrogation had not ruled out the possibility of the accused being linked to an "international module".

Citing the seriousness of the case, Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police sought the transfer of the investigation to the ATS, which has now taken over further investigation.

NHAI GOES AI WAY

In-house system to flag faults in highway project reports

Dheeraj Mishra
New Delhi, June 18

OFFICIALS WORKING with NHAI projects will now be able to identify defects in highways and get swift answers on ways to rectify them -- all with the click of a mouse.

In a move to check deficiencies in Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of new highways, get faster analysis on road defects, identify faulty signages and to synthesise learnings from previous arbitration and project delays, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has developed its own AI system. The system, deployed recently, works on the basis of NHAI's voluminous repository of documents such as circulars, act, Indian Roads Congress (IRC) codes and monthly reports.

It acts as an assistance tool by reducing the burden to go through multiple circulars, SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) or IRC codes,

which run into hundreds of pages, said officials. As of now, only NHAI officials have been given access to this system.

NHAI Chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav said that the access will also be granted to consultants and contractors soon after ensuring that there are no loopholes that could lead to misuse of the Authority's information.

"This system was needed because when we carried out the workflow study of Project Directors and regional officers of NHAI last year, we found that they have to be unnecessarily involved in a number of work, which can be easily done through AI tools. With this system in place, any official can check the defect of a highway by just uploading a photo. The system will quickly run through hundreds of guidelines, codes, notification, specifications and give the result," said Yadav.

He said that NHAI's AI system also addresses the problem

of faulty DPRs, which become the foundation of any highways project. This problem has been repeatedly flagged by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Nitin Gadkari who said that road accidents and fatalities in India are increasing because of poor civil engineers, consultants, concessionaires and substandard DPRs.

"Our biggest problem is DPRs. For instance, in a Rs 2,000 crore project, there will always be a variation of Rs 200-300 crore. Besides, additional work has to be taken up. Now, we have to just upload the DPR of any project and the AI system will find the errors against IRC codes, MoRTH and standard policy circulars. Thus, these problems can be fixed in advance," said Yadav.

The NHAI's AI team has also developed a Technical Schedule Analyzer tool, which reviews DPR's schedule B and C documents and flags findings by severity and scoring com-

pletteness. Schedule B and Schedule C are core technical annexures that define the exact physical scope of the highway project.

Apart from this, NHAI also has an in-house chat-based AI agent, Margsarathi, where officials can place their queries. For instance, a field engineer can photograph a problem-hit site and ask Margsarathi what to do next as per the guidelines. The AI tool, connected to NHAI's data lake, went live on April 18. It has received over 50,000 queries from around 1,100 users so far. Over 40% of the questions were on circulars and documents.

The other tools are Kick-Off and MPR insights, which track every issues raised in kick off meetings and monthly project reports, flags critical issues and bottlenecks with a direct link back to the original minutes, and surfaces high-priority and overdue issues, each with a recommended action and a citation to the source page.



Skill Show

Commandos of Bihar Home Guard demonstrate their skills at their Passing Out Parade ceremony, in Patna on Thursday. ANI

EBOLA SCARE IN KERALA

52-yr-old woman who travelled from South Sudan hospitalised with symptoms

India has not reported any confirmed Ebola case since the virus outbreak in parts of Africa

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram,
June 18

A 52-year-old woman from Kerala, who recently travelled from South Sudan, has been admitted to the Medical College Hospital in Kottayam with suspected symptoms of Ebola.

Officials at the medical college said the patient displayed symptoms of Ebola and had a travel history that included Sudan. "Samples have been collected and dispatched for laboratory investigation. We are awaiting the test reports for final confirmation," an official said.

The woman, who was first treated at a private hospital in Kottayam district's Pala, was moved to the government medical college on Wednesday night. She had developed a fever, headache, muscle pain and a sore throat.

Health Minister K Muralidharan said the woman had travelled alone from Sudan to India via Uganda. Her family is in Pala in Kottayam district. "We have made all arrangements to meet any eventuality.

However, there is no ground for panic at this stage. The woman has been admitted to an isolation room in the medical college," he said.

India has so far not reported any confirmed cases of Ebola. Last month, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda reviewed preparedness and surveillance measures for Ebola disease in view of the recent outbreak in some parts of Africa.

At the outset, the Union Health Minister said, "India has not reported any case of Bundibugyo Ebola disease to date." However, following the declaration of Ebola as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS) by the Africa CDC, the Government of India is closely monitoring the Ebola situation in Africa and has proactively intensified surveillance and preparedness measures across the country as an abundant precaution to safeguard public health, authorities have said.

Subsequently, the Health Ministry has issued a special health alert across the country in response to the Ebola situation in the African nations of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and South Sudan. Travellers arriving from these countries were advised to strictly follow the prescribed health and safety guidelines.

Madras High Court halts church construction near Coimbatore temple citing public order, disputed land

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, June 18

THE MADRAS High Court has temporarily halted the construction of a church near a century-old Hindu temple in Coimbatore, citing disputed ownership of the proposed site, its classification in revenue records as a public road, and concerns that the project could disturb religious harmony in a city with a history of communal violence.

The interim injunction was issued on May 29 by a Division Bench comprising Justices G R Swaminathan and V Lakshminarayanan.

The case was brought by N Balasubramaniam, a resident of Kalapatti, who challenged communications issued by the Coimbatore District Collector and the revenue divisional officer providing police protection for the construction of the CSI Christ King Church.

The court said the proposed building would stand close to an existing Mariyamman temple and recorded the petitioner's claim that only a small number of Christian families lived in the locality. "Coimbatore is a communally sensitive city. It witnessed bomb blasts and bloody religious riots. The proposed church would come up within a stone's throw from the existing Mariyamman Temple. There are only a handful of Christian families. If a large church is proposed to be constructed in the vicinity of the Mariyamman Temple, mala fide intentions cannot be ruled out."

The Bench also recorded an allegation by the petitioner's lawyer that the proposed building could be used for religious conversion, without making a

finding that such activity had occurred.

"The counsel for the petitioner hints at the possibility of the new building being a centre of conversion activity. We are a secular nation. We are a pluralist society. Religious amity has to be preserved. If a religious right is established, then it is the duty of the State to aid in its enforcement," the court observed.

At the centre of the dispute is land identified as Old Survey No. 155/2. The court said revenue records described it as a tar road, while the material placed before it was insufficient to establish that the church was being built on privately owned patta land.

"The material on record is utterly insufficient to conclude that the church is to come up on a patta land. Title cannot vest in a private body when the revenue record indicates that it is a public road. In that event, title has to be established by filing a suit. As on date there is no declaration in favour of the Church," it observed.

The Bench referred to the Supreme Court's directions prohibiting religious structures on roads and road margins. It also noted that a civil suit filed in 2011 by worshippers of the Mariyamman temple, challenging the original permission granted for the church, remained pending before the District Munsif Court in Coimbatore.

The District Collector had granted permission for the construction in January 2010. But the project did not proceed for more than a decade amid local opposition, litigation, law-and-order concerns and peace meetings. The collector later appears to have directed the private respondents to stop the work.

After tariff shock, Andhra's shrimp farmers face a new crisis as feed prices surge

Sreenivas Janyala
Hyderabad, June 18

MONTHS AFTER the US tariff shock, shrimp farmers in Andhra Pradesh are facing renewed financial pressure from a hike in aqua feed prices, significantly increasing production costs and prompting threats of protests.

According to industry estimates, feed maker companies have increased prices by Rs 12-16 per kg with effect from June 13. The hike comes at a time when shrimp farmers are still recovering from the disruptions and losses caused by the US tariffs.

Farmers operating aqua ponds, which require thousands of kilograms of feed every week, are now feeling the pinch.

"The cost of feed is up by at least Rs 12,000-Rs 14,000 per tonne of feed. Feed is 50 percent of the expenditure in a shrimp pond. From Rs 2-3 lakh, the investment has now risen to over Rs 4 lakh. How can farmers afford to pay such steep prices? They are already reeling from the US tariffs row a few months back," said Duggineni Gopinath, a leader of a shrimp farmers' association.

For their part, aqua feed companies cite rising fuel and transportation costs. "Price rise was inevitable because prices of raw materials, fuel, and transportation have gone up. Some increased prices in February. Small companies cannot sustain without this price hike," said Alluri Krishna, owner of a Kakinada-based aqua feed company.

Shrimp farmers' leader Gopinath said about 2.5 lakh aqua farmers were reeling under the impact of the price rise. Last year, as US tariffs touched nearly 60

The state has 2.5 lakh aqua farmer families, of which 2 lakh are small and medium farmers. Another 30 lakh people depend on allied sectors

per cent, shrimp farmers either halted or scaled down production. The Andhra Pradesh government had estimated losses of about Rs 25,000 crore. While the withdrawal of the tariffs eased pressure on the sector, many farmers say they are yet to fully recover from the losses incurred during that period.

Shrimp economy

India exports approximately 8 lakh tonnes of shrimp a year, with Andhra Pradesh accounting for over 60 per cent of production. The state accounts for 80 per cent of the country's shrimp exports and 34 per cent of marine exports, valued at around Rs 21,246 crore annually.

The state has 2.5 lakh aqua farmer families, of which 2 lakh are small and medium farmers. Another 30 lakh people depend on allied sectors. According to the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India exported a record 17,81,602 MT of seafood worth US\$ 7.38 billion (Rs 60,523.89 crore) in 2023-24, of which frozen shrimp alone accounted for 92 per cent — a significant share from AP.

Even before the latest hike, per-acre investment in shrimp farming had already risen, driven by fears of diseases and viral infections in ponds, forcing farmers to spend more on medicines, disease prevention and pond management. The latest

increase is now compounding that strain.

Farmers say they did not see the hike coming.

"Investments almost doubled due to the feed price hike but there is no corresponding rise in prices of shrimp so we have to absorb the losses. Small and medium farmers, who comprise the majority of the shrimp farmers, are the worst affected. Many of them have taken loans, and if profits are less, they will find it difficult to repay. Feed companies also broke the rule of always informing the farmers before increasing the prices," said B Balaram, who has two one-acre ponds in Palacole.

Y Satyam, another small shrimp farmer from Bhimavaram, said aqua feed prices have increased by nearly Rs 16 per kilogram between February and June, while shrimp market prices have fallen below production costs, causing heavy losses to farmers.

As prices continue to climb, the Andhra Pradesh government has sought to intervene, announcing a 15-member AP Shrimp Feed Ingredients Price Monitoring Committee with representatives from the State Institute of Fisheries Technology (SIFT), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (CIBA), A.P. State Aquaculture Development Authority (AP-SADA) and aqua farmers' associations.

"The committee will regulate the feed prices, put a check on unnecessary price hikes and bring transparency into pricing policies," Agriculture and Fisheries Minister K Atchannaaidu said.

Odisha suspends senior IPS officer

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government Thursday suspended senior IPS officer Dayal Gangwar following an inquiry into allegations that a 32-year-old constable who was lynched at Baliaata last month had been illegally engaged in domestic work while serving under him. Officials said the CM approved Gangwar's suspension. ENS

28-yr-old man livestreams 'encounter' with Bihar Police, dies of bullet injuries

Himanshu Harsh
Patna, June 18

A 28-YEAR-old man who had been at the centre of a two-day standoff with police in Bihar's Bhojpur district died this week after being injured in a police encounter, hours after saying in a Facebook Live broadcast that he was willing to lay down his weapon if his demands were met.

Bharat Bhushan Tiwari died Wednesday at the Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) hours after sustaining two gunshot injuries in the encounter. The confrontation -- also live streamed -- came less than a day after Bhojpur Police said the 28-year-old Bilauti village resident was mentally unwell and efforts were underway to take him into safe custody and arrange treatment at a mental health facility.

In press releases issued Tuesday and Wednesday, Bhojpur Superintendent of Police Raj claimed that at 9 am, Shahpur police station received information about a man moving

around waving a pistol and firing in the air. Local police and Bhojpur STF personnel repeatedly asked him to surrender, but he continued firing intermittently at police, creating a serious threat to officers and local residents, the statement said.

"When officers visited his residence, they found that the individual seen in widely circulated videos was 'mentally unsound,'" a press release said, adding that the process of sending him to a mental hospital had been initiated and asking the public not to circulate "misleading" videos related to the case.

A second press release Wednesday: "STF personnel wearing bulletproof jackets attempted a close cordon. As they moved towards him, Tiwari shot at them, following which the police 'retaliated'. He sustained bullet injuries to his legs'.

In his videos, Tiwari referred to himself as a "krantikari (revolutionary)", writing in a Facebook post that figures like him had often been mislabelled "mad" and "anti-national". In another post a day before his

death, Tiwari, whose father is said to be a retired police driver, accused the Bihar administration of wanting to eliminate him and claimed specialised teams could be deployed against him in a "battle for society and the country".

Tuesday had already seen a tense standoff between Tiwari and police. Videos from that day show him lying on a cot with a pistol in hand as police personnel and family members attempted to calm him. He is then seen pointing the pistol at police as a woman, stated to be his mother, tries to pacify him. Efforts to take him into custody failed Tuesday, sources said.

The situation intensified Wednesday morning as local police and STF personnel surrounded the area while Tiwari continued to livestream the events.

These people want to prove me mad. When Bhagat Singh was fighting for society and the country, he too was declared mad," he is heard saying in one video. Police said an inquiry is underway.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER ANGUL
IRRIGATION CIRCLE, ANGUL, ODISHA, PIN - 759143
email : aceangulirrigationcircle@gmail.com

Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No. ACEAIC-02/2026-27

1	Nature of Works	: Road & Canal Works
2	Total No. of Works	: 07 (seven)
3	Cost of work put to tender	: Approximately Rs.206.05 Lakh to Rs.268.61 Lakh
4	Earnest Money Deposit	: @1% of estimated cost put to tender, refer DTGN
5	Tender Paper Cost	: Rs.10,000/- (Non Refundable)
6	Class of Contractor	: 'A' & 'B' equivalent Grade
7	Period of Completion	: 8(Eight) calendar months including rainy season
8	Availability of Tender for Online Bidding	: From 10.00 A.M of 23.06.2026 to 5.30 P.M of 07.07.2026 in the website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
9	Date, time & place for opening of Technical Bid	: 08.07.2026 at 11.30 A.M and onwards in the o/o the ACE, Angul Irrigation Circle, Angul.
10	Name and Address of Officer Inviting Bid	: Additional Chief Engineer, Angul Irrigation Circle, Angul, Odisha-759143, email: aceangulirrigationcircle@gmail.com

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal <http://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any corrigendum/addendum/cancellation will be displayed in the Govt. Website only.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer,
Angul Irrigation Circle, Angul.

OIPR - 32001/32081/1/26-27/0002

از عدالت ایڈیشنل سپیشل موبائل مجسٹریٹ گاندربل
با اجلاس مس ماہور

پارک احمد اولہ حبیب اللہ دار
ساکندہ کدل ال بازار سرنگر
(نزدیک بالیہ تھیم فرسٹ)

VS
U/S 138 NI Act

پارک احمد اولہ حبیب اللہ دار ساکنہ کدل ال بازار سرنگر (نزدیک بالیہ تھیم فرسٹ)

تھیم ہاؤسنگ ایڈیشنل سپیشل موبائل مجسٹریٹ گاندربل

معاہدہ مندرجہ ذیل کے مطابق زمین خریدنے کے لیے نیٹی

ہوتی ہے۔ اور وارنٹ ڈیا ریجنل ہے کہ زمین دینے والے دستوں پر کھریے فراہم ہو کر پش ہو گیا ہے۔ جس سے زمین کی دیتا بی طریق

نہا ملازم کے خلاف کارروائی زیر دفعہ 512 ض ف ض یل لائی کا کرنا ملک بھارت کی پولیس ہندی و شیمیر کو بڑی وارنٹ ہذا گھر و

افتخار دیا جاتا ہے کہ زمین دیکر وہاں جہاں گنیں گنیں انہر عدد ہوئی ہو تو اس کو کھرا کر کے عدالت ڈیا میں پیش کریں۔ وارنٹ

ڈیا اتا دیتا بی طریق ہے کہ زمین دیکر وہاں جہاں گنیں گنیں انہر عدد ہوئی ہو تو اس کو کھرا کر کے عدالت ڈیا میں پیش کریں۔ وارنٹ

1 وارنٹ ڈیا ریجنل ہے کہ زمین دینے والے دستوں پر کھریے فراہم ہو کر پش ہو گیا ہے۔ جس سے زمین کی دیتا بی طریق

2 وارنٹ ڈیا ریجنل ہے کہ زمین دینے والے دستوں پر کھریے فراہم ہو کر پش ہو گیا ہے۔ جس سے زمین کی دیتا بی طریق

3 وارنٹ ڈیا ریجنل ہے کہ زمین دینے والے دستوں پر کھریے فراہم ہو کر پش ہو گیا ہے۔ جس سے زمین کی دیتا بی طریق

4 وارنٹ ڈیا ریجنل ہے کہ زمین دینے والے دستوں پر کھریے فراہم ہو کر پش ہو گیا ہے۔ جس سے زمین کی دیتا بی طریق

اڈیشنل سپیشل موبائل مجسٹریٹ گاندربل
DIPK No: 2296/26 Dated: 17.06.2026

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA		TENDER NOTICE	
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP/ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)
1	HARYANA POLICE HOUSING CORPORATION, PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF GALVANIZED STEEL SHEET SHED/STABLE FOR MAP GUARD TEAM IN PTC SUNARIA ROHTAK. + 10 WORKS	16.06.2026 23.06.2026
			AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES
			58,17,05,180/-
			WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/ AUTH
			https://tenders.hry.nic.in & www.hphc.org.in
			NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
			946320487 dhpanchkula@yahoo.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocmement.gov.in or www.tenders.hry.nic.in No- 46340/HR/

Municipal Corporation Jodhpur

Near Polytechnic College Residency Road Jodhpur
email:- "ceo_nnj@rediffmail.com" Phone:-02912651464, FAX:-02912651464
S.No : 4608 Date:- 15.06.2026

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

(UBN Number DLB2627SL0807652)

Online bids are invited electronically on behalf of the Municipal Corporation Jodhpur for the work "PROCUREMENT OF SERVICE FOR OPERATION OF DOOR TO DOOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION, SEGREGATION AND TRANSPORTATION OF COLLECTED HOUSEHOLD WASTE UPTO TRANSFER STATION THROUGH REAL TIME MONITORING USING GEO-FENCING, VTS BASED MONITORING SYSTEM IN VARIOUS WARD OF ZONE NO.4 (WARD NO. 51,76,79) OF NAGAR NIGAM JODHPUR) Of Nagar Nigam Jodhpur", from enlisted / eligible bidders of appropriate class of the department/ organization, latest up to 3 PM on

The complete Bidding Document may be seen or downloaded from the website of State Public Procurement Portal <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> or e-procurement portal <http://leproc.rajasthan.gov.in>
Commissioner
Raj.Samwadi/26/5103
Municipal Corporation Jodhpur

M.P. POWER GENERATING COMPANY LIMITED

Office of The Addl. C.E. (P&W), Shree Singaji Thermal Power Project
Dongalia, Distt. Khandwa (M.P.), E-mail ID : sepnw.sstpp1@gmail.com
No. : 515-1700/SSTPP/MPPGCL/P&W/2170
Date : 18.06.2026

Tender Particulars/Tender Number	Estimated Cost (Rs.) (Including GST)	Tender Cost & EMD in Rs.	Last Date and Time for Closing of Online Submission
WC for repairing of damaged flat return rollers SDR-1600 of 1600 mm wide conveyor and Repairing/Refurbishment of damaged conveyor counter shaft, damaged drive shaft along with replacement of damaged sprocket, deck/return roller of apron feeder, Fabrication and supply of special type track bolt of apron feeder and damaged arm of side arm charger of CHP Ph-I, SSTPP, MPPGCL, Dongalia. (T-2026 MPPGC 507560_1)	Rs. 84,68,526/- (including G.S.T.)	1,69,400/- & 2000/-	22.06.2026 Up to 15:30 hrs.

For extension & other details, the bidders are requested to please visit e-portal of GoMP at www.mptenders.gov.in

M.P. Madhyam/126464/2026 // SAVE ELECTRICITY //

SE (P&W)

#ExpressExplained

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

• US-IRAN INTERIM AGREEMENT

Iran gets 'understanding', world gets Hormuz, Trump gets his exit

Nuclear issue, Strait of Hormuz, sanctions: A point-by-point look at a pact that sets broader terms for US-Iran ties



EXPERT EXPLAINS
BASHIR ALI ABBAS

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, COUNCIL FOR STRATEGIC AND DEFENSE RESEARCH, NEW DELHI



US President Donald Trump signs the Iran MoU at the Palace of Versailles. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and France President Emmanuel Macron are also seen. PTI

MoU a setback; the options now for Israel, its PM



YASHEE

WITH THE US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed, President Donald Trump has posted on Truth Social that the "fools" who think he hasn't been tough enough on Iran "are either jealous, bad people, or stupid". This is unfortunate for his ally Israel, where a large section does believe that the MoU is very generous to Tehran.

"The mood in Israel is a mixture of anger, suspicion, and humiliation right now. The hawks in the ruling coalition are denouncing the deal as bad or non-binding, with some on the right wing accusing Trump of abandoning Israel. The Opposition calls it a strategic failure. The deeper mood is that Israel fought hard, but Washington and Tehran may now be defining the exit," Yonatan Touval, an analyst with the Israeli thinktank Mitvim, told *The Indian Express*.

Israel has insisted that despite what the MoU says, it won't stop its Lebanon campaign, where it is fighting the armed wing of the Hezbollah, a Shia group supported by Iran.

What is the road ahead for Israel?

The MoU says that Iran and US will negotiate a final deal within 60 days. For Israel, the immediate job will be to use these 60 days to secure more favourable terms, while maintaining cautious freedom of action in Lebanon.

"There is almost zero chance that Israel just stops everything in Lebanon tomorrow. Even if there is a ceasefire, it will take time to negotiate and implement. In the 60 days, Israel would try to press the US for better terms, regarding Iran's enriched uranium, enrichment facilities and centrifuges for example, in any final deal," Dahlia Scheindlin, a Tel Aviv-based political analyst, told *The Indian Express*.

Israel and Lebanon are holding parallel negotiations for peace, mediated by the US, but have not made substantial progress. "Israel now faces a real dilemma: whether to insist on preserving unilateral freedom of action, at the risk of friction with Washington, or to accept the MoU's de-escalatory logic and try to convert military gains into an enforceable Lebanese-state framework. The sensible course is not endless attrition, but a harder version of diplomacy: codified red lines, rapid response to immediate threats, US-backed enforcement, Lebanese Army responsibility, and no return to a Hezbollah military presence along the border," Touval said.

Israel has attacked Lebanon multiple times, each time aiming to defeat the Hezbollah, which manages to survive. What are its goals in Lebanon now?

Touval said this would involve Hezbollah "pushed away from the Israel-Lebanon border, stripped of open military freedom in the south, unable to fire rockets/drones at Israel, and reduced from a forward-deployed border army into a hostile Lebanese political actor, still dangerous inside Lebanon but no longer positioned to threaten Israel directly from the border."

What does the MoU mean for Netanyahu?

The MoU chips away at two of Netanyahu's core strengths — his 'tough on security' posturing, and his friendship with Trump. His actions in Gaza and Lebanon have dented Israel's image, without delivering on the promises of a defanged Iran and a defeated Hezbollah. And the timing couldn't have been worse, with elections around three months away.

Scheindlin said it was high time for Netanyahu to learn how to convert military gains into diplomatic ones. "This government has little trust in political processes. Even in Lebanon, they believe force is the only way," she said. But elections are due in a few months, could policy change if the prime minister changes? "So far, the Opposition has been claiming that it would have fought the same wars, but better. If there is a new government, it would need a new, bold vision for peace. However, there is indeed an expectation that a government not headed by Netanyahu would be more restrained," Scheindlin said.

And what do the voters of Israel want? "A large section of Israelis has become conditioned to want complete military victory. After October 7, people think such an attack could happen any day, there is this life and death attitude to everything. But it is inexcusable for a government to think like that. The government's job is to take a long-term, strategic view," she said.

• MODI-TRUMP G7 MEETING

Conciliatory signs from Trump, but unpredictability frames challenge



SHUBHAJIT ROY

WHEN PRIME Minister Narendra Modi last met US President Donald Trump — at the White House in February last year — both sides discussed a trade deal aimed at lowering tariffs and set a bilateral trade target of \$500 billion.

The months that followed saw bilateral relations plumbing new depths, largely driven by steep US tariffs and Trump's claims of brokering a ceasefire during Operation Sindoor.

Sixteen months after that White House meeting, Modi and Trump met for the first time at the French resort town of Evian Wednesday, on the sidelines of the G7 leaders' summit. After months of strained ties, the meeting projected a positive path ahead.

How the ties plummeted

The first flashpoint was Operation Sindoor. Trump claimed he had brokered the ceasefire between India and Pakistan. In a tough phone call with Trump, Modi rejected the US President's claims of any role. Pakistan, meanwhile, stepped up efforts to woo Trump. It thanked him for the ceasefire and cut cryptocurrency and critical mineral deals with his family members.

The lowest point, arguably, came when the US imposed 50% tariffs on India in August — 25% were in response to Indian tariffs and the rest was for buying Russian oil. This forced India to cut energy imports from Russia, though the US later issued a sanctions waiver.

In September, Trump raised the annual fee for H1-B visas to \$100,000 — making it prohibitively expensive for tech companies to hire Indian professionals in the US. This month, a US judge struck down the fee, though the administration may appeal in the Supreme Court.



PM Modi during the G7 summit on Wednesday. AP

India's efforts

Though the Trump administration used economic leverage as a punitive measure against India, New Delhi kept working the phones.

By February, India and the US arrived at a framework that would lead to a trade deal. By then, India's imports from Russia had also dipped. In the meantime, Delhi started engaging with Trump. Modi welcomed the US President's efforts to bring in a ceasefire in the war in Gaza, and his efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

By the end of February, however, another war broke out — one started by the US and Israel against Iran. The attack prompted Iran to effectively close the Strait of Hormuz, setting off a global energy shock.

In May, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in Delhi in an attempt to repair bilateral relations.

But the recent killing of three Indian seafarers in the Gulf by the US navy created more tensions, exacerbated by Rubio's response.

The Modi-Trump meeting

Keeping in mind this volatile context, the Trump-Modi bilateral meeting marked a significant moment. These are some takeaways from India's engagement with the US over these months and the latest meeting:

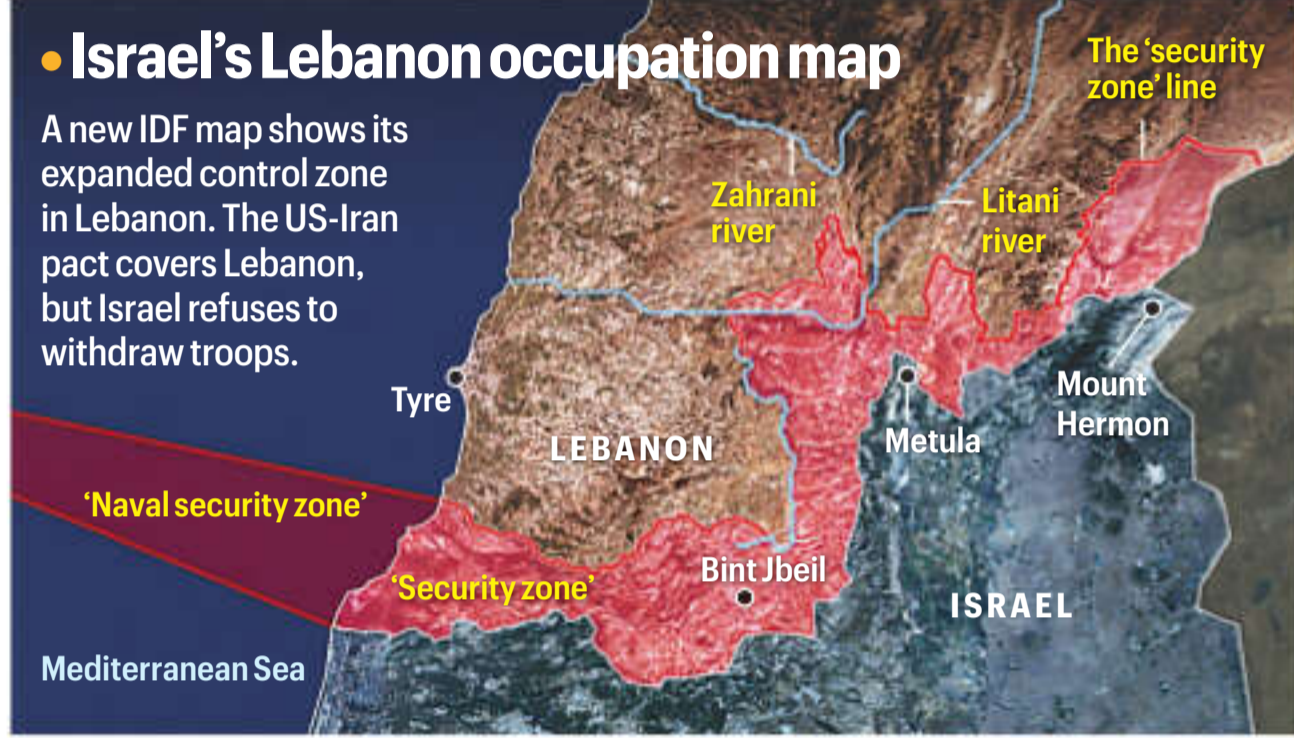
FIRST, Trump has ripped up the international system, and New Delhi is not immune to any actions he undertakes — either in his neighbourhood (Venezuela or Cuba) or far away (Iran). The war in West Asia has disrupted the Indian economy. But Trump's actions in Venezuela have allowed India to import oil from the South American country after a hiatus.

SECOND, Trump may be mercurial and unpredictable, but understands the sensitivities of Indian government and its politics. So he was effusive about Modi, did not push back on the issue of seafarers' deaths due to the US navy — as was done by Rubio — maintained his welcoming posture for skilled Indian professionals, and vowed security support for India in the face of threats.

THIRD, New Delhi's assessment is that Trump is willing to manage China on his own, and doesn't need any allies or like-minded partners like the Quad. The US President has reached out to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, has promoted the concept of G2 (US and China), and is aware of Beijing's through critical mineral leverage, AI progress and manufacturing prowess. So, India needs to engage with China as well as assert its redlines, with help from like-minded partners.

FOURTH, India also understands that Trump needs to be managed for the next three years, and an openly confrontational approach or submissive behaviour doesn't work. Modi's approach — crediting him for peace efforts while working on a trade deal to limit tariffs — is the best possible strategy.

FIFTH, as the US limits its access, New Delhi wants to keep its choices open — with Europe, Australia, Japan, Singapore, Gulf monarchies and other like-minded partners for capital, technology and destination for Indian students, workers and professionals.



Oman and Iran can reach a joint framework that can potentially mimic Turkish fee arrangements for the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits under the Montreux Convention. Since about 20-25% of oil and 20% of gas shipping globally relies on the Strait of Hormuz, estimated annual revenue could exceed \$11-13 billion.

• Israel's Lebanon occupation map

A new IDF map shows its expanded control zone in Lebanon. The US-Iran pact covers Lebanon, but Israel refuses to withdraw troops.

The reconstruction initiative, to be developed by the US and its regional partners, is significant and a key distinguishing element from past negotiations for the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) for limiting Iran's nuclear programme. The \$300-billion fund will act as Iran's avenue to re-access the international economy. It also contains incentives for businesses linked to both Trump and Steve Witkoff, the investor and US Special Envoy to the Middle East.

• CLIMATE

Why the monsoon's progress has stalled over Maharashtra

Anjali Marar
Bengaluru, June 18

IT HAS been a fortnight since the official commencement of the southwest monsoon season, but its performance has largely been sub-nominal so far. All-India rain was 38% below average between June 1 and 17.

The June-September southwest monsoon brings more than 70% of India's annual rainfall. The monsoon arrives over the Andaman Sea in the third week of May and advances into the mainland through Kerala, generally by June 1. It then advances in surges and reaches north Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and its neighbouring areas by the end of June, and covers the entire country by July 15. But an early or timely onset of the monsoon does not guarantee good rainfall or its distribution, or vice versa.

How has the monsoon progressed?

After onset over Kerala on June 4, the southwest monsoon progressed for four consecutive days. It advanced early into parts of the west coast, including Karnataka and Goa, but marked a delayed onset over

most regions in northeast India. The rainfall intensity over Kerala, southern Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep, and the whole of northeast India picked up in early June, but did not sustain for long. Upto June 10, the southwest India region recorded a 8% rain surplus.

Maharashtra's wait for the monsoon has now gotten longer, and there are no clear indications of possible onset yet. The latest monsoonal advance was on June 8, over parts of south Konkan and adjoining areas of south Madhya Maharashtra.

Overall, the Arabian Sea branch of the monsoon appears to be making slower progress this year compared to the Bay of Bengal branch.

After June 8, the monsoon advance continued mainly along eastern India regions. On June 15, the monsoon advanced into the remaining parts of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand and Bihar.

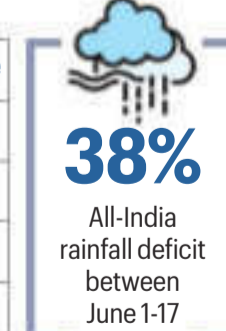
Why has it slowed over Maharashtra?

FIRST, monsoonal winds from the Arabian Sea since the onset period have

• Rain shortfall in the West

Subdivision	Rainfall	Rainfall departure
Konkan and Goa	56.8 mm	-81%
Madhya Maharashtra	15.8 mm	-80%
Marathwada	26.9 mm	-62%
Vidarbha	19.2 mm	-72%

SOURCE: INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT; DURATION: JUNE 1-17



weakened. Instead, stronger northerly or northwesterly dry winds are dominating the region and acting as barriers for the incoming, weak monsoonal winds. Moreover, these weak monsoon wind flows lack a strong surge from the Arabian Sea. It is these monsoon pulses that drive moisture and cause widespread rainfall while also helping the monsoon advance.

SECOND, cross-equatorial wind flow over the western Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea has weakened. These winds pump in moisture, aiding the monsoon's advance.

THIRD, the monsoon requires the sup-

port of other weather systems. These can be in the form of low-pressure areas or cyclonic circulations, either present over the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal or an offshore trough (low-pressure belt) parallel to the west coast. All of these are now absent.

FOURTH, the southwest monsoon also requires favourable global weather factors. One such system is the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), an eastward propagating wind and cloud band originating in the Mediterranean Sea. When MJO is in the favourable phase, it causes rainfall over India. However, that is not the case now.

How will the monsoon advance now?

Since June 16, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has not released any updates on monsoon advancement over Maharashtra. This not only indicates a delayed monsoon onset but also greater uncertainty over its likelihood.

The monsoon is most likely to advance next over Telangana, Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, and some parts of Chhattisgarh sometime during the next four to five days, the IMD said Thursday.

SHIPS WHICH ONCE CONCEALED THEIR POSITIONS BY SWITCHING OFF TRANSPONDERS ARE NOW BROADCASTING

Oil now flowing through Hormuz, but Israeli strikes in Lebanon raise doubts

Vance: Iran won't have missiles that can threaten the 'entire world'

Reuters
Beirut, Jerusalem, Qaliliyah, June 17

Some 12.5 MILLION barrels of crude sailed through the Strait of Hormuz overnight, US Vice President JD Vance said on Thursday, hours after President Donald Trump signed a deal with Iran to end the war that has disrupted global energy supplies.

But in Lebanon Israeli forces launched fresh airstrikes early on Thursday, raising doubt about how far Trump will go to force his wartime allies to halt an offensive he has now pledged to end.

The US President put his signature on Wednesday on the "memorandum of understanding" to end the war, as did Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian, bringing it into effect two days earlier than previously expected. It calls for immediate opening of the Strait of Hormuz and lifting of a US blockade of Iran's ports.

Vance, who is slated to be at the formal ceremony in Switzerland on Friday to confirm the interim accord, said the US expected Tehran would not have missiles that can "broadly threaten the entire world."

He said Thursday marked the start of the 60-day negoti-



US President Donald Trump gets a tour of the Chateau de Versailles from President of France Emmanuel Macron ahead of a dinner on Wednesday. REUTERS

"Today, US forces lifted the blockade on all maritime traffic entering and exiting Iranian ports and coastal areas... American forces are not impeding the transit of vessels to or from Iranian ports. All US military blockade enforcement efforts have ceased. Our great Naval Ships will remain in the general area to make sure that all aspects of the agreement are adhered to."

US CENTRAL COMMAND @CENTCOM ON X

ation period to reach a final settlement to the war, which Trump launched in February alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Though shippers say it will still take time for transit across the Strait to reach pre-war levels,

with a need yet to ensure safe access and clear mines, there were immediate signs of an impact.

Ships which once might have concealed their positions by switching off their transponders were now broadcasting their locations, poised to transit Strait.

But Israel, which launched an invasion of Lebanon in March and has since seized a large swathe of the south, was excluded from the negotiations.

Iran has always said any peace deal must also cover Lebanon. In an apparent major concession to Iran, the memorandum signed by Trump explicitly calls for the "permanent termination" of the war in Lebanon and for its "territorial integrity and sovereignty" to be ensured.

Vance said one goal of the deal with Iran was to allow Lebanese authorities to police the south of the country. "What we want to see is the Lebanese government... able to police southern Lebanon, so that Hezbollah has not taken over the country, the Israelis are not threatened..."

Israel issues new Lebanon 'occupation' map, in talks with US over deployment

Jerusalem: Israel's military published a map on Thursday showing an expanded zone of control for its troops in southern Lebanon, as Israeli officials told Reuters Israel was holding talks with the US over continuing its deployment.

An interim pact signed on Wednesday to end the US-Israeli war with Iran calls for an end to fighting on all fronts, including in Lebanon, and for parties to ensure "the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Lebanon."

Israel has rejected calls to withdraw troops from southern Lebanon, which it invaded in March in response to rocket fire by the Iran-backed Hezbollah

milizia. Israeli attacks and the destruction of villages have killed thousands and set off a displacement crisis.

Hezbollah has continued to launch attacks on Israeli positions in the south this week, including with explosive drones that have killed and injured troops.

The military, which in April published a map marking its so-called buffer zone in southern Lebanon, released a new map that shows its troops are operating several kilometres deeper into the country, including near the Hezbollah stronghold of Nabatieh north of the Litani River. REUTERS

Mojtaba Khamenei: Approved MoU after assurances on Iran's rights

Reuters
Tehran, June 18

IRAN'S SUPREME Leader Mojtaba Khamenei said on Thursday he had authorised a memorandum of understanding signed by the Iranian and US presidents, despite holding a different view, after receiving assurances from President Masoud Pezeshkian and other senior officials that Iran's rights and the interests of the "Resistance Front" would be safeguarded.

In a written message to the Iranian nation, Khamenei said Pezeshkian, in his capacity as head of the Supreme National Security Council, had accepted responsibility for ensuring the agreement protected Iran's interests and pledged not to yield if Washington made what he described as excessive demands.

Khamenei added that future face-to-face negotiations with the US would not mean accepting "the enemy's position."

'You can't just kill your way out': Vance criticises Israel 'freakout' over deal

Reuters
Washington, June 18

US VICE President JD Vance criticized Israel for a "weird panic" and "freakout" over the agreement struck between the US and Iran, in an interview released on Thursday as the Trump administration sought to tamp down criticism of the deal.

Israeli officials across the political spectrum, including some of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's allies, have criticized the agreement,

saying it did not address their concerns over Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs and would tie down Israel's military operations against Iran-backed Hezbollah militia in Lebanon.

"There is this weird panic almost in the Israeli system that I've picked up on where they assume that everything that is contemplated that is good for Iran will happen — but that will happen without the Iranians changing any behavior," Vance said in an interview with *The New York Times*. "That's not how



US Vice President JD Vance. FILE

the deal is written." The US would not remove sanctions on Iran if it were still funding a terrorist organization, he said, in an apparent reference

to Hezbollah, which Washington has long labeled a foreign terrorist organization.

Vance accused Israel of a lack of trust in its strongest ally.

"I find this whole freakout in Israel a little bit odd because I think that it comes from a place of mistrust, and I think America has earned trust of that region of the world," Vance said.

"We've done a very good job by that particular country and that particular government," he said of Israel. "And I think that the idea that we've made a ter-

rrible deal is not supported by the facts, but just doesn't make any sense if you consider the broad length of the relationship."

President Donald Trump tried to play down Israel's concerns during closing remarks on Wednesday at the Group of Seven summit in France.

Netanyahu could use a "softer touch" in the fight against Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, Trump said, in his latest public rebuke of the US partner in the war against Iran. Trump and Iranian leaders approved a memoran-

dum of understanding this week that deferred the hardest issues to the next phase of negotiations, with no guarantee they will ever be resolved.

Citing specific critics of the deal — far-right Israeli cabinet ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich — Vance said: "I guess my response to them would be: What is your exact proposal? You're a country of 9 million people. You can't just kill your way out of solving every single national security problem that you have."

India-origin cargo ship chief engineer charged over 2024 Baltimore bridge collapse

Associated Press
Baltimore, June 18

PROSECUTORS HAVE filed a criminal charge against the chief engineer of a cargo ship involved in the deadly 2024 collapse of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge, accusing him of failing to notify the US Coast Guard of hazardous conditions on the ship.

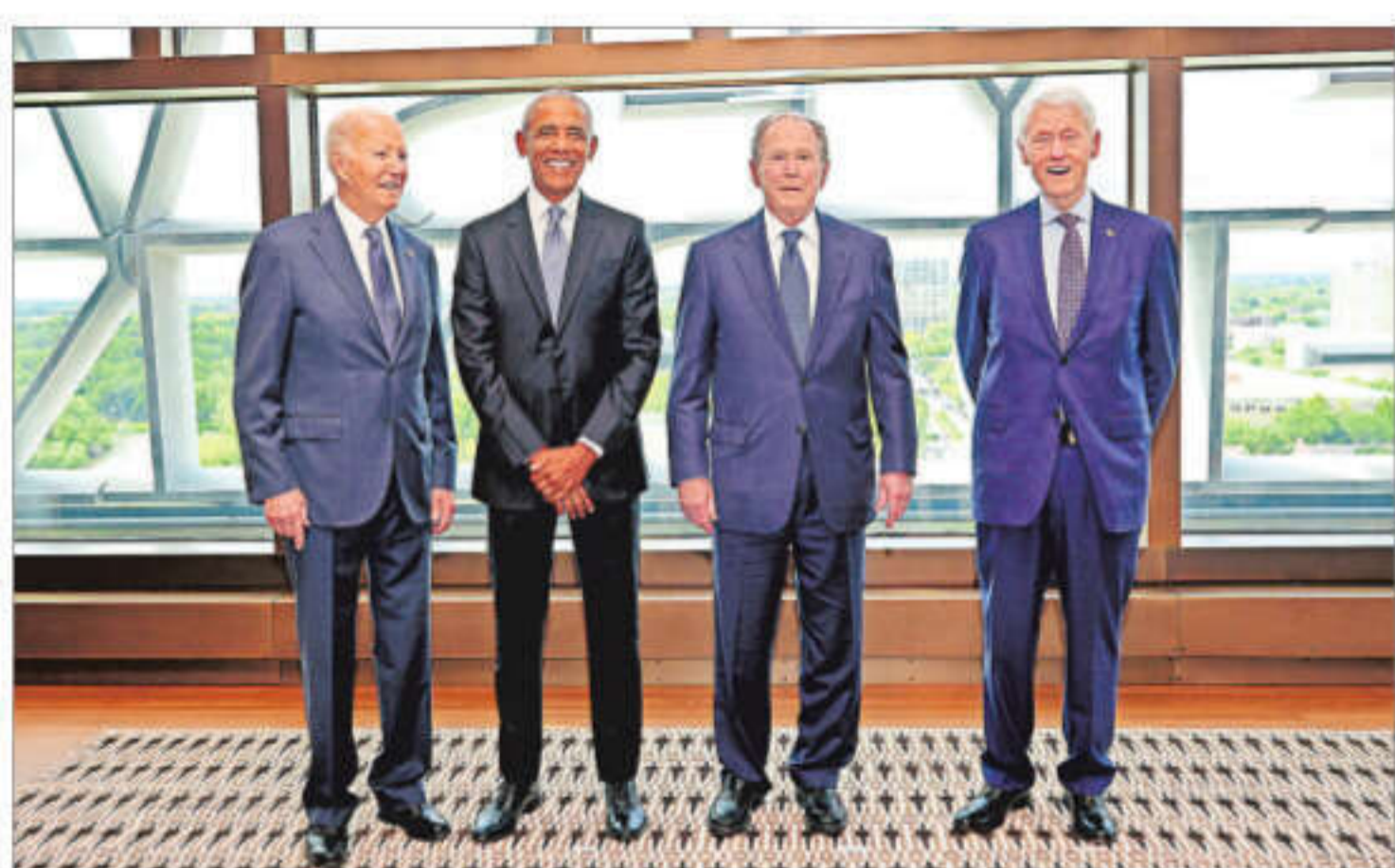
Karthikeyan Deenadayalan was charged in US District Court in Maryland on Monday with one count of violating the federal Port and Waterways Safety Act. Deenadayalan's attorneys did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.

Prosecutors also filed notice of a "deferred prosecution agreement" with the court, but

did not provide details about the terms of that deal.

Deferred prosecution agreements are typically used when a defendant has agreed to meet certain conditions — such as providing testimony, or paying restitution — in exchange for the charges against them being dropped.

Prosecutors say in court documents that Deenadayalan was the chief engineer of the container ship when it was in the Port of Baltimore in the days before the deadly bridge collision, and that Deenadayalan willfully failed to notify the US Coast Guard that an improper fuel pump without a backup system was being used to power two of the ship's generators.



Honouring Obama

From left: Former President Joe Biden, former President Barack Obama, former President George W. Bush and former President Bill Clinton pose for a photo ahead of the dedication ceremony at the Obama Presidential Center, Thursday in Chicago. AP

Buzz in China as Cai Qi takes helm of party school

Reuters
Beijing, June 18

CHINA HAS officially appointed its fifth-ranked leader, Cai Qi, as head of Communist Party's central ideology school, cementing his position as one of President Xi Jinping's closest confidants.

Cai joined the party's seven-member Politburo Standing Committee, China's top decision-making body, in 2022. He also serves as director of the party's General Office, making him Xi's de facto chief of staff.

China's two previous leaders, Xi and Hu Jintao, both headed elite Central Party School before rising to top leadership post. CAI QI

Thailand revives \$30bn coast-to-coast corridor

Ranong: Chaiyaporn Arunrasamee hunched over his fishing nets, overlooking the waters of the Andaman Sea, where Thailand's government is proposing an ambitious "Land Bridge" that will ferry goods between ports on opposite sides of the peninsula.

"Personally, I don't want it to happen at all," Chaiyaporn said of the project, which Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul has resuscitated after the war in Iran and the closure of the Hormuz Strait highlighted countries' reliance on strategic maritime chokepoints.

Plans envision a trillion baht (\$30.45 billion) logistics corridor to offer an alternative route to the

congested Strait of Malacca by connecting two new deep-sea ports: Chumphon, on the Gulf of Thailand to the east, and Ranong, along the western Andaman coast, where Chaiyaporn, 50, has fished for his entire life.

"This thing will be located in the area where we make our living," he said last month in the small fishing hamlet of Baan Hat Sai Dam on an island ringed by mangrove forests.

Analysts say the project currently appears economically ambitious and is unlikely to compete with Malacca as a global transit route, but it could prove viable as a smaller-scale strategic corridor for Thailand.

• THE 1,200-YEAR-OLD MAJOR OAK IN SHERWOOD FOREST IS BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED AFTER IT FAILED TO SPROUT LEAVES THIS SPRING

Ancient oak tree that once 'sheltered Robin Hood' has died

Associated Press
London, June 18

A MASSIVE ancient oak tree linked to the legend of Robin Hood may have been loved to death. The 1,200-year-old Major Oak in Sherwood Forest is believed to have died after it didn't sprout leaves this spring, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said Thursday.

Visitors over the past two centuries who viewed the tree's gnarled limbs and sprawling canopy in Nottingham compressed the soil, making it difficult for rain to reach its roots, the conservation

group said.

The forest has been under threat for years and the tree had been rumored to have died in the past — only to have the group confirm it was still alive.

That is no longer the case. "The tree's failure to produce leaves this year is heartbreaking for everyone," Hollie Drake of the RSPB said in a statement announcing the death.

The tree is said to have sheltered Robin Hood, the legendary 13th-century bandit who stole from the rich and gave to the poor and took refuge in the forest when being pursued by the sheriff of Nottingham.



The 1200-year-old oak tree in Sherwood Forest, England. AP

It got its name after being mentioned in a book on oaks by Major Hayman Rooke in

1790 that led to the first wave of fans who flocked to the forest. It's impossible to say what



Thick plumes of smoke rise from an oil refinery after a Ukrainian drone attack in Moscow on Wednesday. REUTERS

Ukraine brings war to Moscow as huge blasts shatter refinery

Reuters
Moscow, June 18

THE BLAST was so powerful that the huge disc-shaped lid of an oil storage tank was launched into the sky over Moscow like a frisbee.

Evading Russian air defences, Ukrainian drones struck an oil refinery in southeast Moscow on Thursday for the second time in three days, igniting a fierce blaze that spewed out clouds of black smoke. The attacks are part of a wider Ukrainian campaign to cripple the oil industry whose revenues finance Russia's war effort.

But by striking with apparent impunity at a piece of critical infrastructure located inside Moscow's ring road, just 16 km from the Kremlin, Ukraine is also sending a message to ordinary Russians.

"One of the most popular questions asked by Muscovites this morning is 'What is going on?' I can answer. Your country started a war of aggression against ours. For years, it has been killing our people. Now that you know what's going on,

ask Putin when he is planning to end it," Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybaha posted on X.

Kyiv says its strikes deep inside Russia are evidence that it is turning the tide of the war — a message that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy took this week to US President Donald Trump and other G7 leaders at a summit in France.

A Kremlin aide denied on Thursday that the battlefield situation was shifting in Ukraine's favour and said Trump had been "pumped up" with harmful ideas at the meeting. There was no immediate comment from President Vladimir Putin, who was hosting leaders from Southeast Asia at a summit in the city of Kazan.

Throughout more than four years of war, political analysts and opinion pollsters say many Russians have sought to shut out the reality of the conflict — still described by the Kremlin as a "special military operation" — and get on with their lives. Moscow has been periodically hit by drones since as far back as May 2023, when two of them reached the Kremlin itself.

• BRIEFLY

UNITED KINGDOM

Archbishop apologises for Church's role in forced adoptions



Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally. FILE

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, apologised on Thursday for Church of England's role in forcibly separating 185,000 children from unmarried mothers and putting them up for adoption in the decades after World War Two. "We are profoundly sorry for the pain, trauma and stigma experienced... by many people because of historical adoption practices..." Mullally said.

SOUTH KOREA

Parliament launches probe into ballot paper shortages

SOUTH KOREA'S parliament on Thursday launched a 45-day parliamentary investigation into the National Election Commission after ballot-paper shortages disrupted voting in the June 3 local elections, approving the plan at a plenary session. The ballot paper fiasco led to resignation of the NEC chief and calls from President Lee Jae Myung for a probe. REUTERS

MARITIME TRAFFIC VIA STRAIT OF HORMUZ EXPECTED TO PICK UP AFTER US-IRAN INITIAL PEACE DEAL

Govt may roll back emergency fuel measures if tensions ease

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, June 18

WITH THE US-Iran MoU raising hopes of normalisation of energy flows through the Strait of Hormuz, emergency measures taken since early March to ensure adequate fuel supply security to the most critical sectors and consumer segments are now likely to be reviewed and rolled back once the government feels the situation is stable and nearing normalcy, according to a senior government official.

The West Asia war, which broke out on February 28 with the US and Israel striking Iran, led to an effective halt in vessel movements through the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz, which accounted for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flows.

The strait is a narrow waterway that connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, and is the primary route to evacuate energy supplies from the broader Gulf region.

Given the supply squeeze, the government announced

several measures, which included prioritising natural gas supply to some priority sectors while reducing it for others, reducing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) allocation for commercial and industrial consumers to ensure cooking gas availability to households, increasing mandatory waiting periods of LPG refills by households, and measures to prevent hoarding of petrol and diesel.

"We have been reviewing the situation on a daily basis... all the measures we took during this crisis period will be reviewed and once we feel confident that the situation has normalised, we will start rolling those back," the government official said.

"To ensure supplies to some priority segments, we were forced to curtail supply to some other sectors. We want to resume supplies at regular levels to those sectors as well, and it will be done once things normalise," the official added.

Around 40% of India's crude oil imports, 60% of its LNG imports, and a whopping 90% of its LPG imports regularly came from West Asia

● FUEL RESET

GIVEN THE supply squeeze, the Centre announced measures, which included prioritising natural gas supply to priority sectors while reducing it for others

IT REDUCED LPG allocation for commercial and industrial consumers to ensure cooking gas availability to households

IT INCREASED mandatory waiting periods of LPG refills by households, and measures to prevent hoarding of petrol and diesel

SURGE IN international prices



forced India to import oil and gas at extremely high rates, as the country had to prioritise supply security over price considerations

through the strait.

The country's dependence on imports stands at over 88% for oil, 60% for LPG, and about 50% for natural gas, which is imported as LNG. India is among the top importers of crude oil, LNG, and LPG.

While highly diversified crude sourcing helped ensure adequate oil, petrol, diesel, and jet fuel availability, the government was forced to

ration gas supplies to certain industries and commercial consumers.

Moreover, the surge in international prices forced India to import oil and gas at extremely high rates, as it had to prioritise supply security over price considerations.

With maritime traffic through the strait expected to pick up following the US-Iran initial peace agreement, huge

volumes of oil and gas stranded in the Persian Gulf could hit the international market in the coming months, which is likely to cover the shortfall in global supply and lead to a glut a few months if regular oil and gas exports from the region resume.

Since supplies are likely to be more than adequate in the coming months, unless the peace agreement fails, there will be no reason for the government to continue with the emergency measures, industry sources said.

"A reopening of the Strait of Hormuz would represent a major milestone for global energy markets, but the impact on India is likely to vary significantly across commodities. While India remains one of the largest importers of Middle Eastern hydrocarbons, crude and LNG imports have proven relatively resilient throughout the disruption, unlike LPG... As a result, the recovery is likely to be sequential, with LPG flows normalising first, followed by LNG and crude," said Sumit Ritolia, manager, modelling & refining at commodity market analytics firm Kpler.

NSE IPO: Can the bourse rank among India's top 10 most valuable firms?

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, June 18

AFTER NEARLY a decade of delays caused by regulatory hurdles, the National Stock Exchange (NSE), India's largest stock exchange, finally submitted its IPO (initial public offering) documents late on Wednesday. Market estimates suggest the offering could raise around Rs 20,000 crore through an offer for sale (OFS), although some participants believe the issue could be significantly larger at Rs 25,000 crore-Rs 30,000 crore.

An OFS is a type of IPO where a company's promoters or early investors sell their existing shares on the primary market, rather than issuing new shares to raise fresh capital. For instance, India's largest IPO, by Hyundai Motor, was a pure OFS issue.

If the NSE offering is priced at the upper end of these projections, it could become the largest public offering in the country's history, surpassing Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870 crore IPO launched in 2024. NSE shares are trading at around Rs 2,035 in the unofficial private market, implying a potential IPO size of around Rs 30,000 crore. But there is no certainty that the issue will be priced at those levels.

Biggest IPOs so far

Hyundai Motor India, which raised Rs 27,870 crore through the IPO, debuted with a valuation of around Rs 1.59 lakh crore during its IPO. LIC, currently the country's second-largest IPO, raised Rs 21,008 crore in 2022 through the sale of a 3.5% stake, valuing the insurer at Rs 6 lakh crore.

Paytm, Tata Capital and Coal India complete the list of the five largest IPOs in the country, having raised between Rs 15,000 crore and Rs 18,000 crore each. The remaining spots in the top 10 are occupied by HDB Financial Services, LG Electronics India, Swiggy, General Insurance Corporation and NTPC Green Energy, all of which raised between Rs 10,000 crore and Rs 12,500 crore through their public

● Biggest IPOs in India

Company	Year	Amount raised (in Rs crore)
Hyundai Motor	2024	27,870
LIC	2022	21,008
Paytm	2021	18,300
Tata Capital	2025	15,512
Coal India	2010	15,199
HDB Financial Services	2025	12,500
LG Electronics India	2025	11,607
General Insurance	2017	11,372
Swiggy	2024	11,327
NTPC Green	2024	10,000

SOURCE: EXCHANGES, OFFER DOCUMENTS

offerings. NSE's rival, BSE, raised Rs 1,243.43 crore through its 2017 IPO at a valuation of roughly Rs 4,400 crore. Today, BSE commands a market capitalization of more than Rs 1.65 lakh crore.

NSE's valuation could exceed Rs 5 lakh crore

The NSE has filed draft papers to sell up to 14.89 crore shares, representing nearly a 6% stake in the company. If the IPO for the 6% stake raises around Rs 30,000 crore, it would imply a valuation of more than Rs 5 lakh crore for the entire company. "At roughly 40x FY26 projected PAT (profit after tax), a Rs 5 lakh crore valuation may appear expensive at first glance. However, it is broadly in line with several global exchange peers. In fact, there could still be upside left on the table, and I believe the stock has the potential to double within 2-3 years of listing," said the head of research at a domestic brokerage firm. "This view is based on NSE's ability to sustain its current profitability levels and maintain its dominant position across both cash and derivatives markets. Additionally, the steady expansion of India's retail investor base, reflected in strong growth in demat accounts, provides a powerful structural tailwind. Taken together, these factors could make NSE an attractive long-term investment opportunity," he said.

Such a valuation would place the NSE among the 10 most valuable listed companies in India, surpassing Infosys, whose current market capital-

isation stands at around Rs 4.6 lakh crore. At present, Reliance Industries is India's most valuable listed firm with a market capitalisation of approximately Rs 18 lakh crore, followed by HDFC Bank at about Rs 12.26 lakh crore and Bharti Airtel at more than Rs 11.41 lakh crore.

Other members of the top tier include SBI, ICICI Bank, TCS, Bajaj Finance, LIC, L&T and Hindustan Unilever, each with market capitalisations ranging between Rs 5 lakh crore and Rs 10 lakh crore.

Why is NSE valuation so high?

NSE commands a substantially higher valuation than its peers, driven by its significantly larger revenue base and dominant position across both cash and derivatives trading segments. In FY26, NSE reported consolidated revenue of Rs 16,601 crore, compared with approximately Rs 4,834 crore reported by BSE. This revenue advantage stems from NSE's leadership across multiple market segments. As per IDBI Capital, as of FY26, NSE held a 92.99% market share in cash equities (based on total turnover), 99.79% in equity futures, 74.71% in equity options (based on premium turnover), 99.48% in exchange-traded currency futures, and 100% in exchange-traded currency options (based on total industry premium turnover). Further, NSE has ranked as the world's largest exchange for equity derivatives contracts traded for seven consecutive years.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Finance ministry ratifies EPF rate of 8.25% for FY26

ENS Economic Bureau
New Delhi, June 18

THE FINANCE ministry has ratified 8.25% interest rate for 2025-26 for over 7.8 crore contributing subscribers of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPF), maintaining it at the same level as recommended by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) in March, a government official said on Thursday.

CBT, the top decision-making body of EPFO, typically recommends the rates annually around February-March, after which the recommendations are sent to the finance ministry for approval.

The official said a notification by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on the interest rate is expected later this month. The labour ministry is also expected to launch EPFO 2.0, a revamped digital ecosystem, by the end of June, which will allow its subscribers to withdraw 75% of their EPF corpus to their bank account via UPI or ATM.

Every EPFO member will be able to avail the UPI facility through the BHIM app, with the

existing guardrails for UPI transactions to apply as they are. The facility is expected to help blue-collar workers in the EPFO ambit who may not otherwise be able to avail the withdrawal process through the online portal.

The proposed rollout of the new facility comes after the EPFO announced liberalisation of its withdrawal norms after its Board meeting in October last year, streamlining the withdrawal categories from 13 to three: essential needs (illness, education, marriage), housing needs, and special circumstances.

The *Indian Express* had reported in March that EPFO's CBT, headed by Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, had recommended an interest rate of 8.25% to its over 7.8 crore contributing subscribers for the third straight year in 2025-26. The 8.25% recommendation by the board came despite EPFO's own investment sub-committee and the Ministry of Finance suggesting that the interest rate be cut to 8.10% for 2025-26.

(With inputs from PTI)

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

● Domestic airlines' bottomline to take a hit in FY27

Domestic airlines' operating profit is estimated to decline this fiscal in the backdrop of elevated aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, airspace restrictions and rupee depreciation amid the West Asia conflict, according to a report by CRISIL.

10-15%

Decline estimated in operating profit of domestic airlines in FY27

OPERATING PROFIT OUTLOOK

● Combined impact of higher costs, constrained pricing power and capacity rationalisation is expected to reduce aggregate operating profit to ₹16,000-17,000 cr in FY27 from around ₹19,000 cr in preceding year

● Any respite from lower ATF prices, driven by a potential resolution of the conflict, could contain further escalation in fuel costs for airlines

LEASE AND COST PRESSURES

● Ongoing fleet expansion is expected to push up lease rentals, which, along with moderating operating profits, could weaken lease serviceability through internal accruals

● The report estimates around a 15% increase in rental costs to ₹27,000-28,000 cr this fiscal



FUEL COST STRUCTURE

● Jet fuel accounts for nearly 40% of an airline's operating costs under normal conditions

● It can rise up to 60% in periods

of extreme fuel price volatility

● The crisis led to a sharp average increase of over 50% in global ATF prices vs the pre-conflict levels

"The surge in global fuel prices following the onset of the conflict has increased the operating cost of airlines significantly. Even with the expected moderation in fuel prices, they will remain above the levels of last fiscal"

MANISH GUPTA, DEPUTY CHIEF RATINGS OFFICER AT CRISIL RATINGS

SOURCE: CRISIL/PTI

Direct tax mop-up grows 15% to over Rs 5.21 lakh cr

New Delhi: Net direct tax collection grew 14.64% to over Rs 5.21 lakh crore till June 17 this fiscal year on higher advance tax mop-up from corporates, government data showed Thursday.

Net corporate tax collection rose 22% to Rs 2.08 lakh crore, and mop-up from net non-corporate tax (NCT), which includes taxes paid by individuals, HUFs, firms, grew 8% to about Rs 2.94 lakh crore till June 17. Mop-up from Securities Transaction Tax grew 45% to Rs 18,856 crore.

Advance tax collection grew 15.30% to over Rs 1.78 lakh crore.

This includes 16% growth in mop-up from corporates at over Rs 1.40 lakh crore, and 13% increase in NCT at Rs 37,620 crore. PTI

● BRIEFLY

Tata Motors to hike CV prices by up to 2.5%

Bengaluru: Tata Motors said on Thursday it would increase prices across its commercial vehicle (CV) range by up to 2.5%, effective July 1, its second hike in 3 months as auto-makers grapple with rising costs from West Asia war. The hike is aimed at partially offsetting the impact of rising commodity prices and other input costs, it said. REUTERS

Indian money in Swiss banks dips to CHF 3.25 bn

New Delhi/Zurich: Indian money parked in Swiss banks fell by over 8% in 2025 to 3.25 billion Swiss franc (nearly Rs 36,793 crore) due to a fall in funds held through local branches and other financial institutions, annual data released by Switzerland's central bank showed Thursday. However, money in customer accounts of individual and institutional clients rose sharply by over 50% in the year to 524 million Swiss franc (nearly

Rs 6,000 crore), though it accounted for just about 16% of overall funds. PTI

L'Oreal to acquire stake in Indian startup Innovist

Paris: L'Oreal will acquire a majority stake in India's Innovist, it said Thursday, as it looks to step up its share of one of the world's fastest-growing markets. The deal, which includes rights to buy out minority shareholders in full, adds local brands, including haircare range Bare Anatomy and Chemist at Play skincare, to its portfolio. REUTERS

Social security pact with UK to benefit Indians

New Delhi: About 90-95% of Indian professionals employed by Indian firms operating in the UK would benefit from the social security agreement between the two countries, a move that will reduce costs for firms and enhance the competitiveness of Indian service providers in the British market, an official said. PTI

Mistry gets three-month extension as HDFC Bank chairman

George Mathew
Mumbai, June 18

HDFC BANK on Thursday said that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a three-month extension of Keki Mistry's tenure as interim part-time chairman, putting to rest market speculation about the appointment of a new chairman for the time being.

"We wish to inform you that pursuant to an application

made by the bank to the RBI, the RBI vide its communication dated June 18, 2026, has granted approval for the extension of tenure of Keki Mistry as an interim part-time chairman of the bank for a further period of three months until September 18, 2026 or till appointment of a regular part-time chairman, whichever is earlier," the bank said in an exchange filing.

Earlier, there were reports that the RBI was considering the

names of five persons, including a former RBI deputy governor, for the chairman post.

The exchange filing did not mention about the independent legal review commissioned by the bank following the abrupt resignation of former chairman Atanu Chakraborty which was expected to be submitted this week. The report is expected to remove uncertainties surrounding the re-appointment of Managing

Director and CEO Sashidhar Jagdishan whose second tenure ends in October.

The findings, prepared by law firms Trilegal and Wadia Ghandy & Co, along with an international law firm, were expected to be submitted to the board after nearly three months of review into concerns flagged by Chakraborty in his resignation letter.

On March 18, HDFC Bank part-time chairman and Inde-

pendent Director Atanu Chakraborty resigned with immediate effect, saying that "certain happenings and practices within the bank are not in congruence with my personal values and ethics".

The RBI then had okayed the appointment of Keki Mistry as interim part-time chairman of the bank with effect from March 19, 2026, for a period of three months. FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Uzbekistan courts global investors with AI tax breaks, duty-free zones

Harikishan Sharma
Tashkent, June 18

THE PRESIDENT of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev Wednesday, while announcing the launch of tax free zones for artificial intelligence projects and data centres, said that the doors of "New Uzbekistan" will always remain open to foreign investors who come to "our country with trust and ideas."

Addressing the Opening ceremony of the Fifth Tashkent International Investment Forum, Mirziyoyev also announced that his country will create an open digital geological database of all minerals including rare minerals and in-

crease by four times the number of deposits put up for auction and will "extensively" attract foreign investment into the 'Metals of the Future' technoparks, which are being established in Tashkent and Samarkand regions.

Welcoming the heads of state and government, representatives of international financial institutions, major companies and investment funds and business leaders, Mirziyoyev said, "We are always open to investors interested in cooperation with Uzbekistan and ready to build equal and mutually beneficial partnership. The participation of nearly 4,000 foreign guests from more than 100 countries in this



Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev addressing at the Fifth Tashkent International Investment Forum. EXPRESS PHOTO

year's forum is a clear indication of the growing international recognition and prestige of the Tashkent International Investment Forum." Promising more

reforms to attract foreign investors, Mirziyoyev announced tax free zones for the investors.

"We have created a special zone for AI projects and data

centres in Karakalpakstan. In this territory, until 2040, investors will be exempt from all types of taxes and duties; road, electricity, and water infrastructure will be financed by the state; a preferential electricity tariff of 5 cents per kilowatt-hour will be applied," he said.

He also announced that his country will attract foreign investment in rare mineral mining through its new initiative — 'Metals of the Future' technoparks. "As you are well aware, Uzbekistan is rich in natural resources, including gold, copper, uranium, tungsten, natural gas, and other rare minerals. The total value of our subsoil wealth, strategic raw materials,

is estimated at \$3 trillion," Mirziyoyev said.

"In order to provide opportunities in this sector to foreign investors we will create an open digital database of geological data and increase by four times the number of deposits put up for auction. To implement projects from "mining to finished products," we will extensively attract foreign investment into the 'Metals of the Future' technoparks, which are being established in Tashkent and Samarkand regions," he said.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM
The writer is in Tashkent at the invitation of the government of Uzbekistan.

● MARKETS

Sensex 77,409.98	NIFTY 24,168.00	Gold ▼ ₹1,48,093	US Dollar ▼ ₹94.34
254.36	82.30	Silver ▼ ₹2,40,191	Oil ▼ \$78.48
0.33%	0.34%		

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BILLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 10G; SILVER PER KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF JUNE 17, 2026

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,VIKAS S/O JASPAL SINGH,R/O-HNO.220V,ILLAGE BHAROLA-AZADPUR DELHI-110033.HAVE DECIDED TO CHANGE MY NAME, FROM VIKAS TO VIKAS SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I,SANTOSH TUTEJA,W/O-MAHENDER KUMAR,HNO-56,GALI NO-1, SHYAM-NAGAR,KRISHNA-NAGAR,SHAHADARA,DELHI-110051.have changed my name to POONAM RANI,for all,future purposes.

I,SALAH UDDIN alias SALAHUDDIN,S/o-Noor Uddin, R/o-1556 Pahari bhojla,bazar chitli qabar,Jama Masjid,Delhi 110006 Have changed my name to SALAUDDIN permanently

I,SAJID ALI KHAN,S/O-SABIR KHAN,residing at,D-85/2,S/F, STREET,NO-2,NEW-GOVIND PURA,KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051, have changed my name to SAJID KHAN,for all,future purposes.

I,Ruchi Chawla D/o-late-Ram Kishan Chawla W/O-Nitin Arora R/O-D-11/222, Sector-7,Rohini Delhi-110085,herby declare that my father Names Late RAM KISHAN CHAWLA and RAMKISHAN GIRDHARILAL CHAWLA,as mention in Death Certificate,belongs to ONE and the SAME PERSON, i.e.myfather.

I,Reena,W/o-Hitender Verma,R/o-House No.BK-1,99B,Shalimar-Bagh, North-West Delhi,Delhi-110088,have changed my name to Reena Verma,for all,future purposes.

I,Ram Das Pal,S/o-Chhangu Ram,R/O-S-187/A Kh.No-22/5/2 &-22/6 Block-D,Qutub Vihar Phase-I,Qutab Pur Chhawla. Delhi-110071, changed my name to Ram Das,for all purposes.

I,RANJANA DEVI, W/O Sh. UMA SHANKAR PANDEY R/O-H.NO.2547,6,3RD FLOOR,BEADON PURA,KAROL BAGH,NEW DELHI-110005.I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM RANJANA TO RANJANA DEVI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

I,RAKRAM W/o Daya Kishan Goel R/O 208/12, Anaj Mandi, Ganaur, Sonipat, Haryana-131101, have changed my name from RAKRAM to RAJ RANI permanently.

I,RAJESH,S/O OM PRAKASH R/O-A-45,NEAR WATER TANK VIJAY VIHAR PHASE-2, AVANTIKA, ROHINI,DELHI-110085,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJESH KUMAR.

I,Pradeep S/o Chandan Singh R/o 388,Type-1,DDA Flats,Gulabi Bagh,Malka-Ganj, P.O,Malka Ganj, Dist. North Delhi,Delhi-110007,have changed my name from Pradeep to Pradeep Singh Kharkwal,for all future purposes.

I,POOJA ARORA,W/O-AGEXAN ARORA,R/O-R-1204 A-PAD-D RIO MOHIUDDINPUR KANAWANI INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD,U.P.201014,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PUJA ARORA.

I,PETER DOMINIC CHOU,S/O-G.F.CHOU,residing at,J-4/75-B, KHIRKI-EXTN,NEW DELHI-110016.Declare that my name as CHOU JUNG PEN mentioned in my Birth-Certificate and my name as PETER DOMINIC CHOU JUNG PEN mentioned in my Baptism-Certificate and my name as PETER CHOU mentioned in my Some Documents but my actual correct name as PETER DOMINIC CHOU mentioned in my Aadhar Card that CHOU JUNG PEN/PETER DOMINIC CHOU JUNG PEN/PETER CHOU and PETER DOMINIC CHOU names are one and same person.

I,Prajapati Anjana Harihbhai,W/o-Kalpesh Madhavil Gurjar,R/O-Flat.no.1171,Tower-1,7th Avenue,Gaur-City,1, Greater Noida-West,G B Nagar,U.P-201306,have changed my name from Prajapati Anjana Harihbhai to Anjana Kalpesh Gurjar.

I,SAMEER SAXENA,S/O-SUDHEER KUMAR SAXENA,R/O-A-406 AMRAPALI GREEN VAIBHAV KHAND INDIRAPURAM GHAZIABAD U.P.201014.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAMEER KUMAR SAXENA.

I,Nitin Agrawal,S/o-Mukesh Kumar Agarwal,R/o-C-1404, Tower-C, Civitech-Stadia, Sec-79,Noida,UP-201305,have wrongly-mentioned name of my father as Mukesh Agarwal in my 10th Marksheet and Old Passport. Actual and correct name of my father is Mukesh Kumar Agarwal.

I,Nidhi Gupta,W/o-Mohit Aggarwal R/o Plot No.34,Road No.61,West Punjabi Bagh,New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Nidhi Aggarwal

I, KM TANZEELA ARIF W/o Mohammed Nasir Ali, 1114, GF back side, Zakir Nagar, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-25, have changed my name to TANZILA NASIR.

I,KISHAN LAL S/O SANWER MAL JANGID R/O 1491/105, GANESH PURA, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KISHAN LAL JANGID FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, KM TANZEELA ARIF W/o Mohammed Nasir Ali, 1114, GF back side, Zakir Nagar, Jamia Nagar, Delhi-25, have changed my name to TANZILA NASIR.

I,Divya Mahajan W/O Prashant Kapila R/o-N-28 Panchsheel Park, New Delhi, have changed my name to Divya Kapila.

I,ASHISH KUMAR MUNDHARA, S/O-Bijay Kumar Mundhara, R/o-Huda Plot-146,1st Floor, Near Karam Dharam Society, Sector-55,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001,have changed my name from ASHISH MUNDHARA.

I,NISSHI KANT VARMA,S/O KAMESH KARUN,R/O A-192/193 GROUND-FLOOR,GANDHI-VIHAR GTB NAGAR DELHI-110009.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO NISHI VERMA.

I,Mohd Jamal S/o Abdul Khalique R/O S-265/116 Indira Gandhi Camp,Taimoor Nagar Delhi-110025 Have Changed My Name From To Jamal.

I,Minimol Nadukudiyil Divakaran (Minimol N D) W/O-V Santhosh Add-9/203,NRC, Srinivasपुरi, Delhi 110065, Have Changed My Name To Mini Santhosh

I,Manju,W/o-Mahesh Chandra,R/O-F3-1102,Block-F,Kingsbury Flats,TDI Mall,TDI City,Sector-58,Kundli,Sonapat (Haryana)-131023,have changed my name Manju Garg for all Purposes.

I,MUKESH KUMAR GOEL,S/O-RAMESHWAR DASS GOYAL,R/O- PLOT NO-98 PARTAP,NAGAR JAIL-ROAD HARI NAGAR DELHI-110064, have changed my name to MUKESH KUMAR GOYAL,for all,future purposes.

I,MAHENDER KUMAR TUTEJA, S/O-BALDEV RAJ,H.NO-56,GALI NO-1,SHYAM NAGAR,KRISHNA-NAGAR, SHAHDARA,DELHI-110051,have changed my name to MAHENDER KUMAR,for all future,purposes.

I,Mukesh W/o Muni Lal,R/O- B-3/419,Sultan Puri,Delhi-110086, have changed my name to Madhupa for All Purposes.

I,KM POOJA,W/O VINOD KUMAR R/O Z-55 PREM NAGAR-2 GALI NO.3 KIRARI SULEMAN-NAGAR DELHI-110086.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO POOJA DEVI.

I,JAIPAL SINGH,R/O-HNO.220 VILLAGE BHAROLA AZADPUR DELHI-110033. HAVE DECIDED TO CHANGE MY NAME, FROM JAIPAL SINGH TO JASPAL SINGH,FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I,JAGVIRI,wife of,Ashok Kumar,Presently,residing at,Village-Mulla Ki Pyau,P.O. Dhanauli,Distt.Agra,Uttar Pradesh-282001,have changed my name from JAGVIRI to JUGVIRI,vide-Affidavit date-17.06.2026.

I,Hitender Verma,S/o-Ramjit Verma,R/o-House.No.BK-1,99B, Shalimar-Bagh,North West Delhi,Delhi-110088,have changed my name to Hitender Verma,for all,future purposes.

I,Hemant Sharma,S/o Haridutt Sharma, R/o B-83, Sector-53, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my name to Haymatn Sharma, for all future purposes.

I,Himanshu S/o SH Sharanbir R/o H.No.- C-88,East Gokh Pur, Amar Colony,Delhi-110094,in my office records my son's name has wrongly mentioned as AVANTIKA instead of ARYAVEER CHAUDHARY.

I,HARISH KUMAR S/O SHIV DAYAL,R/O 1530,2ND FLOOR OUTRAM LINES GTB NAGAR DELHI-110009,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARISH BATRA.

I,Geetanjali Anuj James,W/o Shri Anuj James,R/o-H.No-358, Surya Nagar,Phase-2, Sector-91,Faridabad, Haryana.I,inform that Geetanjali James and Geetanjali Anuj James both are the names of the same Person.The correct name is Geetanjali Anuj James,for all future purposes.

I,DIPEN KUMAR CHAKRABORTY S/O NIROJ KUMAR CHAKRABORTY R/O 19222, ATS ADVANTAGE, AHINSA KHAND-1, INDIRAPURAM, GHAZIABAD, UP 201014 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DIPEN CHAKRABORTY.

I,DEEPAK KUMAR VERMA,S/O SH.BHARAT JI VERMA,R/O-YARPUR BEDUA BANDH KE NICHE,JAPLINGANJ,BALLIA CITY,BALLIA,UP-277001,have changed my,son's name from AYANSH VERMA TO ABHIRAJ VERMA in his birth certificate,for all,future purposes.

I,DAYAKRISHAN S/o Laxmi Narayan R/O 208/12, Anaj Mandi, Ganaur, Sonipat, Haryana-131101,have changed my name from DAYAKRISHAN TO DAYA KISHAN GOEL permanently.

I,Arun Kumar Bhatnagar S/o Avadh Kishor Bhatnagar R/O C-12, Keshav Puram-2, New Bheema Market Accheja Gautam Buddha Nagar(U.P) inform that name of my father wrongly written as Avodh Kishor in my 10th Class Certificate, the correct name is Avadh Kishor Bhatnagar for all purposes.

I,ATIF ANSARI S/O-MOHD ASIF,R/O-H.NO-103,STREET.NO-4,Near-Panduk Shila Mandir-Gautampuri New-Seelampur P.O.BHAJAN PURA,North EAST-DELHI-110053, have changed my name to MOHD ATIF, permanently

I,ASIF ANSARI,S/O-MASIULLAH H.No-103,STREET.No-4,Near-Panduk Shila Mandir Gautampuri New Seelam pur. P.O-BHAJAN Pura North-EAST DELHI-110053,have changed my name to MOHD ATIF, permanently.

I,Divya Mahajan W/O Prashant Kapila R/o-N-28 Panchsheel Park, New Delhi, have changed my name to Divya Kapila.

I,ASHISH KUMAR MUNDHARA, S/O-Bijay Kumar Mundhara, R/o-Huda Plot-146,1st Floor, Near Karam Dharam Society, Sector-55,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001,have changed my name from ASHISH MUNDHARA.

I,ASHISH KUMAR MUNDHARA, S/O-Bijay Kumar Mundhara, R/o-Huda Plot-146,1st Floor, Near Karam Dharam Society, Sector-55,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001,have changed my name from ASHISH MUNDHARA.

I,ASHISH KUMAR MUNDHARA, S/O-Bijay Kumar Mundhara, R/o-Huda Plot-146,1st Floor, Near Karam Dharam Society, Sector-55,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001,have changed my name from ASHISH MUNDHARA.

I,ASHISH KUMAR MUNDHARA, S/O-Bijay Kumar Mundhara, R/o-Huda Plot-146,1st Floor, Near Karam Dharam Society, Sector-55,Gurgaon (Haryana)-122001,have changed my name from ASHISH MUNDHARA.

I,AISHWARYA RAMWAL W/O LOVELEEN SINGH R/O-L-392 RISHI NAGAR RANI BAGH DELHI-110034.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AISHWARYA KAUR.

I,Seema Verma W/o Mukesh Kumar R/o Plot No. B-90, G/F,Near Road No. 2,B-Block, Khalsa No. 1934, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070,have change my minor daughter's name from GUNJAN to JHARNA KUMARI for all future purpose.

I, Vishnu Agrawal S/O Late Shri Mahesh Chandra Agrawal, R/o B-85, First Floor, Sector-22, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have changed my name to Vishnu Agrawal for all future purposes.

I, SUNNI C PHILIP C/O CC Philip, 66-C, Pocket-A-3, Mayur Vihar-3, Delhi-96, have changed my name to SUNNICHEN C PHILIP.

I, Vedpal S/o Ramkesh R/o D-190, J.J. Colony, Sector-24, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Vedpal Arya permanently.

I, Vandna Kumari W/O Atul Tiikaan, R/o V.P.O. Jhakando, Sub Tehsil Ronhat, Jhakando (182), Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh -173027, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vandna Tiikaan

I, Shafaen Ali S/o Sheikh Sajid Ali R/o J-403, Jaipuria Sunrise Greens, Plot No. 12A, Ahinsa Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201012, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Sheikh Shafaen Ali for all purposes.

I, Sanjeev Tiwari, s/o Shri Nand Lal Tiwari, resident of Tower-O, Flat-401, Pan Oasis, Plot No. GH-01, Sector-70, Noida, UP-201301, have changed my name from Sanjeev Tiwari to Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari.

I, SANTOSH KUMARI W/o Jitendra, 7080, Gali No-8, Mata Rameshwari, Nehru Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-05 have changed my name to SANTOSH.

I, Raj Narain S/O Shiv Naan R/O E/840, Block-B Extra, Trilok Puri, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Rajnarayan Yadav for all future purposes

I, Puneet Kumar Srivastava S/O Shri Ram Samuj R/O Flat.No.201, Tower No.17, Unitech Horizon, Sector Pi-2, Greater Noida, Distt. G.B. Nagar, U.P., have changed my name to Puneet Kumar Shrivastava vide affidavit dated 11.06.2026 at Greater Noida for all future purposes.

I, Praveen Kumar S/O Charan Singh, R/O East Sangam Vihar Loni Dehat PO- Loni Ghaziabad UP-201102, have changed my name from Dharmendra Kumar to Praveen Kumar for all future purposes. Mobile number- 8800787835

I, Nighat Azeem, Daughter of Azeem Ahmed, Resident of 90/52, Block A, Dilshad Colony, Delhi-110095, have changed my name from Nighat Parveen to Nighat Azeem. Henceforth, I shall be known as Nighat Azeem for all purposes.

I, Mukesh Chand S/O Shri Lal R/O A-332 Raja Vihar, Badli, Delhi-42, declare Mukesh & Mukesh Chand are one same person. Vide affidavit 17-06-2026 before Notary Amar Kumar, Delhi.

I, Moutusi Nandy, D/o Shibo Narayan Nandy and W/o Sabyasachi Paldas, R/O E- 142, Pocket E, Sarita Vihar, South Delhi, New Delhi 110076 declare that I shall now be known as Moutushi Paldas for all purposes Vide affidavit dated 16-06-2026 sworn before notary Ramzan Ahmad Ansari.

I, Mohammad Iqbal S/o Mohd Umar R/o-30A, Patel Nagar, Meerut have changed my name to Mohd Iqbal.

I, Mahender Aggarwal S/o Hira Lal R/o 470 Second Floor, Kohat Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Mahender Kumar Aggarwal permanently.

I, MOHIT KUMAR JANGIR S/O KISHAN LAL JANGID R/O 1491/105, GANESH PURA, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHIT KUMAR JANGID FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

I, AASHUTOSH SHARMA S/O SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA, R/O GA-31, GROUND FLOOR, NEAR MOTHER DAIRY BOUTH, PUL PRAHLADPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI -110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHUTOSH SHARMA, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, AASHUTOSH SHARMA S/O SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA, R/O GA-31, GROUND FLOOR, NEAR MOTHER DAIRY BOUTH, PUL PRAHLADPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI -110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHUTOSH SHARMA, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, AASHUTOSH SHARMA S/O SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA, R/O GA-31, GROUND FLOOR, NEAR MOTHER DAIRY BOUTH, PUL PRAHLADPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI -110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHUTOSH SHARMA, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, AASHUTOSH SHARMA S/O SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA, R/O GA-31, GROUND FLOOR, NEAR MOTHER DAIRY BOUTH, PUL PRAHLADPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI -110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHUTOSH SHARMA, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, AASHUTOSH SHARMA S/O SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA, R/O GA-31, GROUND FLOOR, NEAR MOTHER DAIRY BOUTH, PUL PRAHLADPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI -110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHUTOSH SHARMA, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, AASHUTOSH SHARMA S/O SATISH CHANDRA SHARMA, R/O GA-31, GROUND FLOOR, NEAR MOTHER DAIRY BOUTH, PUL PRAHLADPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI -110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHUTOSH SHARMA, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

I, Dinesh Kumar S/o Kamlesh Kumar R/O 437/A, Ward No.18, Batra Colony, Fatehabad, Haryana-125050, name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as Dinesh Garg and Deepshikha Garg in my minor son Kavish Garg Birth Certificate No. 919, actual name of mine and my wife are Dinesh Kumar and Deepshikha.

I, ANUSHKA C/o Naresh Garg R/O-513, Sector-22, Faridabad, Haryana-121005, have changed my name to ANUSHKA GARG.

I SAKUNTALA JAIN W/O NEM CHAND JAIN R/O-H-32/80 PKT-H-32 SEC-3 ROHINI DELHI-110085 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAKUNTALA JAIN

I Parmod Jain S/o-Mahabir Prasad R/O-Flat No.39, Plot No.19, Kadambari Apartments, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Parmod Kumar Jain for all purposes.

I Nemin Devi W/o Sh. Gautam Rai R/O 124, Basant Nagar, Vasant Vihar, South-West Delhi, Delhi-110057 have changed my name to Manisha for all purposes.

I Meenakshi w/o Jagannath R/O House No-134, Nai Basti College Road, Khurja, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh-203131 have changed my name from Meenakshi to Minakshi Dung. Henceforth I would be known by the name of Minakshi Dung for all future purposes.

I Chhoo S/O Thuru R/O 70/K, Ward No-17, Junapara, Baikunthpur, Dist: Koriya, Chhattisgarh-497335, have changed my name to Rupnarayan

Gajender S/O Hari Singh R/O 185 baighera gurugram carterpuri haryana 122017. Have changed my name to gajender singh

I Anil Kumar S/o Hanuman Prasad Sharma R/O A-668 Avantika Sector -2 Rohini Delhi -110085 have changed my name to Anil Kumar Sharma.

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PUBLIC NOTICE General Public is hereby informed that my client VARISH SAKHUA S/o Late Shri Veer Prakash Sakhua R/o of 22/38, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 is filing an application in NDMC for Mutation of the Property i.e. S/Plot No. 52, New Central Market, also known as Shankar Market, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001, registered in the name of Leasee Late Shri Darshan Lal Sakhua on the grounds of Sale Deed. If there are any objections or claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to NDMC with Supporting documents through registered Post or by visiting NDMC through an email at e.so.estate@nmc.in within 30 days of publication of this notice.

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SALUTE THE SOLDIER BORDER SECURITY FORCE Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Rajbir Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries during a counter terror operation in Nowgaon area, Kashmir Valley and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE Veer Balidani Constable Munshi Lal Verma 46 Bn 12-01-1960 To 19-06-1990

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to two valiant troopers of 46 Bn, made the supreme sacrifice in a cowardly attack my militants during area domination patrol in Srinagar on 19 June 1990. #CRPF salutes the bravehearts and pledges never to let their sacrifice go in vain.

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to two valiant troopers of 205 CoBRA, who made the supreme sacrifice after being seriously injured in a fierce encounter with Maoists in Aurangabad district, Bihar on 19 June 2016. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल संशोधित ईपीसी बिड सूचना संख्या: 09/2025-26 दिनांक: 18/06/2026 इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी ईपीसी बिड सूचना संख्या 09/2025-26 में संशोधन उपरान्त बिड प्रश्न डाउनलोड व अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि 30.07.2026 सय 6.00 बजे तक, मूल प्रश्न कार्यालय में जमा कराने की तिथि 03.08.2026 सय 4.00 बजे तक, तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि 05.08.2026 अपरान्त 3.00 बजे एवं वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि 11.08.2026 सय 11.00 बजे रहेगी। अन्य शर्तों मूल बिड अनुसार ध्यान रहेगी। अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता-तृतीय, जयपुर राज.संवाद/सी/26/5142

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY JKRRDA JAMMU Phone No.: 0191-2470284, Fax No.: 0191-2479335 Sub:- Change of critical dates of bids / extension of Notice Inviting Tenders Ref:- This office e-NIT No. CEJ/PMGSY/819 of 2026-27 dated 25-05-2026 issued vide endorsement No.- CEJ/PMGSY/4258-4332 dated 25-05-2026.

CORRIGENDUM I Due to poor response of the work at Serial No. 10 & 12 of the above mentioned NIT, the critical dates for these works have been changed as per details given below:

Table with 4 columns: S.No, Particular, Original date, Revised date. Row 1: Closing date of down loading bidding documents. Row 2: Dead line for submission of bids in electronic format on the web site.

Rest all other terms and conditions will remain same as already advertised. Sd/- Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu Dated:-17/06-2026 For and on behalf of The Government of Jammu and Kashmir

REWA ULTRA MEGA SOLAR LTD. Urja Bhawan, Shivaji Nagar, Link Road No. 2, Bhopal-462016, Website : www.rums1.mp.gov.in Phone No. 91-(0755)-5310945 E-mail : rumsinfo@mpnred.in, CIN : U40102MP2015PLC034450 F/RUM/REP/2026/21-004/279 Date : 19.06.2026

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS RUMSL is issuing the Request for Proposal (RFP) to select RE Power Developers for 3 (three) units, each with a capacity of 50 (fifty) MW (aggregating to 150 (one hundred fifty) MW, for the supply of round-the-clock power under tariff-based competitive bidding.

RUMSL, as an authorised representative, is inviting online bids from eligible bidders on a Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding basis (Envelope-I : Technical Bid & Envelope- II : Financial Bid), followed by an online Reverse Auction. Interested bidders may register on the portal https://www.bharat-electronic-tender.com and download the RFP and other related documents.

In relation to the above RFP, other related documents may be downloaded from 17:00 Hrs (IST) on 19 June 2026 till Proposal Due Date (as specified in the RFP). For any other queries, write to rumsinfo@mpnred.in. M.P. Madhyam/126470/2026 CHAIRPERSON, RUMSL

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

SALUTE THE SOLDIER BORDER SECURITY FORCE Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Rajbir Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries during a counter terror operation in Nowgaon area, Kashmir Valley and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE Veer Balidani Constable Veer Balidani Constable Puran Ballabh 46 Bn 04-02-1963 To 19-06-1990

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to two valiant troopers of 205 CoBRA, who made the supreme sacrifice after being seriously injured in a fierce encounter with Maoists in Aurangabad district, Bihar on 19 June 2016. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to two valiant troopers of 205 CoBRA, who made the supreme sacrifice after being seriously injured in a fierce encounter with Maoists in Aurangabad district, Bihar on 19 June 2016. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

राजस्थान आवासन मण्डल संशोधित ईपीसी बिड सूचना संख्या: 09/2025-26 दिनांक: 18/06/2026 इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी ईपीसी बिड सूचना संख्या 09/2025-26 में संशोधन उपरान्त बिड प्रश्न डाउनलोड व अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि 30.07.2026 सय 6.00 बजे तक, मूल प्रश्न कार्यालय में जमा कराने की तिथि 03.08.2026 सय 4.00 बजे तक, तकनीकी बिड खोलने की तिथि 05.08.2026 अपरान्त 3.00 बजे एवं वित्तीय बिड खोलने की तिथि 11.08.2026 सय 11.00 बजे रहेगी। अन्य शर्तों मूल बिड अनुसार ध

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Office of the Principal Chief Materials Manager
Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001
Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com

E-AUCTION NOTICE No. 'August-2026'

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and Other Scrap P.Way material etc. Used Lead Acid Batteries/Used Oil/Refused Oil etc. will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board.

E-AUCTION DATES FOR 'AUGUST-2026'

Table with 6 columns: S. No., Depot/Division Auction Conducting Unit, Auction Starting Time, 1st round date, 2nd round date, 3rd round date, 4th round date, 5th round date.

1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in 2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations.

No.: 117-S/Sale/Auction Programme/2026-27 Date: 16.06.2026 Dy. Chief Material Manager/S&P

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative Department
(O Co-Operative Division)

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES JHARKHAND, RANCHI
INTEGRATED CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (I.C.D.P.) CELL, RANCHI

Short e-Tender Notice

DATE:- 17.06.2026

Table with 7 columns: Sl. No., Tender Notice Number, Name of work, No of Unit, Estimated Value of Work (in Rs), Cost of BoQ (in Rs), Earnest Money (in Rs), Time of Completion of Work.

PR 382648 Co-opretive (26-27)_D

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE

Table with 7 columns: SR. No., NAME OF BOARD/CORP/ AUTH, NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER, OPENING DATE (TIME), AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES, WEBSITE OF THE BOARD/CORP/ AUTH, NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in No- 4636/RHY

NORTHERN RAILWAY

e -AUCTION NOTICE No. 'September-2026'

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other Scrap P.Way material etc., Used Lead Acid Batteries/Used Oil/Refused Oil etc. will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board.

e -AUCTION date for 'September-2026'

Table with 6 columns: S N, Depot/Division Auction Conducting Unit, Auction Starting Time, 1st round date, 2nd round date, 3rd round date, 4th round date, 5th round date.

1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in. 2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working hours at nominated locations.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2060/26

CENTRAL RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

Tender No.: CR-BB-TELE-2026-27, Corrigendum No. 1 & 2 is being issued for Tender No.: CR-BB-TELE-2026-27.

UNAUTHORIZED CROSSING OF RAILWAY LINE IS A PUNISHABLE OFFENSE

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE

INVITING ONLINE E-TENDER TENDER Notice No. EL-50-DNR-Open-09-2026-27 Danapur

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/PTRU East Central Railway, Patratu on behalf of the president of India invites 'Open' E-tender from the eligible and experienced agencies or contractors for E-tender No. GEM/2026/B/7644866.

PR/0413/Loco Shed/PTRU/IMECH/T/26-27/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Auction Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Railway, Dhanbad on behalf of President of India invites open e-Auction through IREPS portal vide website www.ireps.gov.in for awarding the contract.

All prospective bidder are advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for full details and participate against the above-mentioned e-Auction as per schedule given vide column No. iv. Railway Administration reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning reasons what so ever.

Divisional Railway Manager (Comml.) ECR/Dhanbad

PR/0414/DHN/Comml./EAN/26-27/31

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/PTRU East Central Railway, Patratu on behalf of the president of India invites 'Open' E-tender from the eligible and experienced agencies or contractors for E-tender No. GEM/2026/B/7644866.

Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer/ ECR/Patratu

PR/0413/Loco Shed/PTRU/IMECH/T/26-27/40

POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) and rule 8(2) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002) Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002...

Table with 5 columns: Sr No, Loan Account No./ Name Of The Borrower(S)/ Co-Borrower(S), Description of secured assets (Immovable property), Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.), Possession Taken Date.

Date : 19.06.2026 / Place : Uttar Pradesh Sd/-, Authorised Officer, For Centrum Housing Finance Ltd

"IMPORTANT"

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कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मंडल, बिलासपुर

ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना

Portal: http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिलासपुर मण्डल, बिलासपुर में निम्नलिखित कार्य नवीन ई-पंजीयन में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार हेतु सरल क्र. 1 से 5 हेतु दिनांक 24.06.2026, सरल क्र. 6 से 13 हेतु दिनांक 30.06.2026 एवं सरल क्र. 14 से 17 हेतु दिनांक 06.07.2026 तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है-

Table with 4 columns: क्र. नि.आ. सू. क्र. / दिनांक, कार्य का नाम, लागत (लाख मे), and other details.

निविदा में भाग लेने की प्रक्रिया एवं निविदा के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी विभाग के उपरोक्त वेबसाईट में देखें जा सकते हैं।

हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियंता

RO NO : 262701470-1

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR QUALITY CONTROL ENGINEER BIHAR RAJYA PUL NIRMAN NIGAM LIMITED

7, SARDAR PATEL MARG, PATNA-800015

Doc. No. - BRPNL/QCC/C024/396

SHORT NOTICE INVITING FOR RFP

(Only through e-tendering system on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Invitation of proposals for Selection of a Consulting Firm for providing consultancy services for preparation of Road User Fee Framework, Networking / bundling for Road User Fee Collection Contracts / TOT Projects and other related works including providing transaction advisory services for selection of User Fee Collector & PMU on State owned roads, bridges & other structures, Government of Bihar.

The Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Limited (BRPNL) invites proposals from eligible consultants for providing consultancy services for the assignment as detailed below:-

Table with 4 columns: S no, Assignment Name, EMD (in Rs. Lakh), Cost of RFP, Bid Processing Fee.

The Eligibility Criteria, detailed Scope of work etc. can be download from website:- www.brpnln.bihar.gov.in & www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

Senior Quality Control Engineer Quality Control Division B.R.P.N.Ltd, Patna

PR- 005971 (B & C) 2026-27

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE FOR TENDER AT GeM PORTAL

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter no. 2025/TC(FM)/1120 dated 17.11.2025, invites bids through tender at GeM Portal (https://gem.gov.in) for the work of outsourcing of handling of booked parcels and luggage packages along with other activities in terms of FM Circular 26 of 2025 dated 17.11.2025 for Delhi Sarai Rohilla (DSE) station for a period of 03 years with BID No. GEM/2026/B/7657541 as per detail and schedule given below:-

Table with 7 columns: S. No., Bid Date and Time, Bid Opening Date and Time, Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time, Approximate Cost (inclusive of all taxes), Earnest Money Deposit, Period of Contract, Name of Work and completion period.

Important notes: 1. For more information, requirement and various aspects of the tender including registration on GeM portal, how to participate in tenders at gem portal, interested bidders are advised to visit https://gem.gov.in. 2. Tender document can be downloaded from https://bidplus.gem.gov.in/all-bids by entering bid no. GEM/2026/B/7657541 in the search option.

No.: NR-DL0COMM(PARC)/31/2026-Freight Cell 2094/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) MECHANICAL DIVISION CENTRAL KASHMIR

e-NIT No.- R&B/MDCK/NIT/02 of 2026-27 Dated: 17-06-2026

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two-cover system (Technical and Financial) on item rate basis from experienced contractors/firms/companies/JV partners registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways or other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work :-

Table with 7 columns: S. No, Name of work, Cost of Tender Document (inRs.), Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs), Estimated cost (Rs.), Time of Completion (in months), Tender Opening Authority, Position of Funds.

Position of AAA: Administrative Approval accorded by Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs vide no. 3456-JK (LD) of 2021. Dated: - 04.05.2021 for an amount of Rs 908.20 crores

Position of TS: Accorded by Chief Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Engineering Department, Kashmir vide order no. MHED/K/TS/109. Dt:-15.09.2025 Pre-bid meeting shall be held in the office of Chief Engineer, R&B CENTRAL KASHMIR on 27-06-2026 (12:00) hrs.

Table with 3 columns: S. No, Particulars, Dated.

Executive Engineer R&B Mechanical Division Central Kashmir

DIPK-2317/26 - DATE 18 JUNE 2026

POSSESSION NOTICE

(For immovable property) (Under Rule 8 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

WHEREAS Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation is a Banking Company having its office at 25 Barakhamba Road New Delhi and branch office at K-14-18, Sector 18 NOIDA U. P. under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002), and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices dated 30.01.2026 under Section 13(2) of the said Act calling upon the borrowers Ms. Priya Darshini Arora to repay the amount mentioned in the said notices being Rs 77,42,174.92/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakh Forty Two Thousand One Hundred Seventy Four and Ninety-Two Paise Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notices.

The borrower mentioned herein above having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers mentioned hereinabove and to the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below.

The borrowers mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the Charge of The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited for an amount of Rs. 80,13,425.58 (Rupees Eighty Lakh Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Five and Fifty Eight Paise Only) due as on 13th June 2026 and interest thereon.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

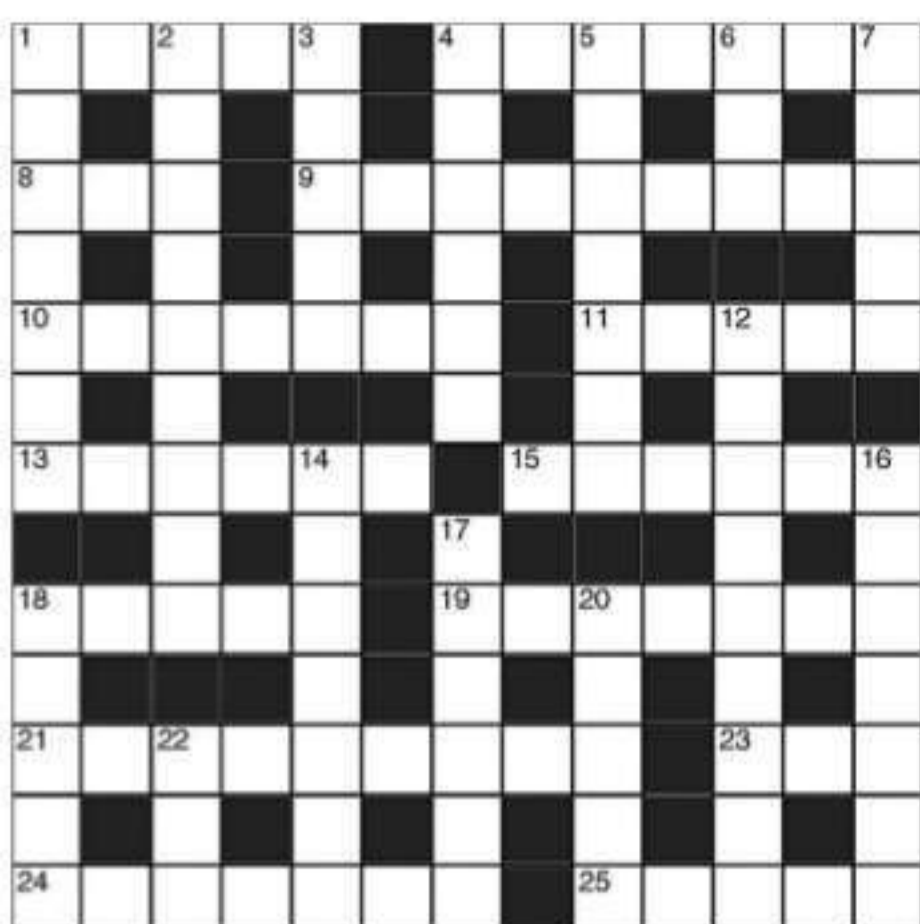
"Apartment No. 2715, 27th Floor, Tower Block-Utermia, Mahagun Mezzaria, Plot No. GH-01/A, Sector-78, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh -201301 (Admeasuring 4150 sq. ft.)"

Dated: 15th June 2026 Place: Noida

Authorized Officer (The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited)

CROSSWORD

6019



ACROSS
1 New parts silvery and gleaming (5)
4 I got set out continually in his conversation (7)
8 It could be spare for diners (3)
9 A willing disposition? (9)
10 Laundry worker - one who ruins the clothes? (7)
11 One result of a marriage publication (5)
13 Jars of wine on board (6)
15 Stable and attics for renovation (6)
18 It's moved by chairmen (5)
19 Describe wine and fish (7)
21 Peer drops out though he did well (9)
23 Girl who could have a lead in opera (3)
24 Notice showing slowdown could be at an end (7)
25 Opponent put out from the Yemen (5)
DOWN
1 Ten-foot midgets! (7)
2 Bandleader pursued by the sheriff (5,4)
3 Gross figure? (5)
4 Possibly run and see to make certain (6)
5 Even trying to lose weight I'd eat no other way (2,1,4)
6 One note produces anger (3)
7 Just right for a champion (5)
12 Go to bed in a rough sea gloomy (9)
14 The boss orders pink gin (7)
16 A schoolboy howler? (7)
17 Short of spares (6)
18 A pie's turning brown (5)
20 Saddle and take horse about midnight (5)
22 This hat is out of date (3)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6018 ACROSS: 1 Orange peel, 8 Exile, 9 Two-time, 10 Chime in, 11 Ingot, 12 Legacy, 14 Enable, 17 Elsie, 19 Airmail, 21 Chained, 22 Osier, 23 Derogatory DOWN: 2 Railing, 3 Niece, 4 Extant, 5 Erosion, 6 Lying, 7 Best seller, 8 Excellence, 13 Cleaner, 15 Brazier, 16 Lap dog, 18 Staid, 20 Roost

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.

... may be the closest thing to Heaven or Hell any of us will know on this earth. - Edwin Louis Cole (8)

HRZAE, ADNWIR, INYAR, EEERGM. Includes circles for letter selection and a jumbled word 'ANSWER: Marriage'.

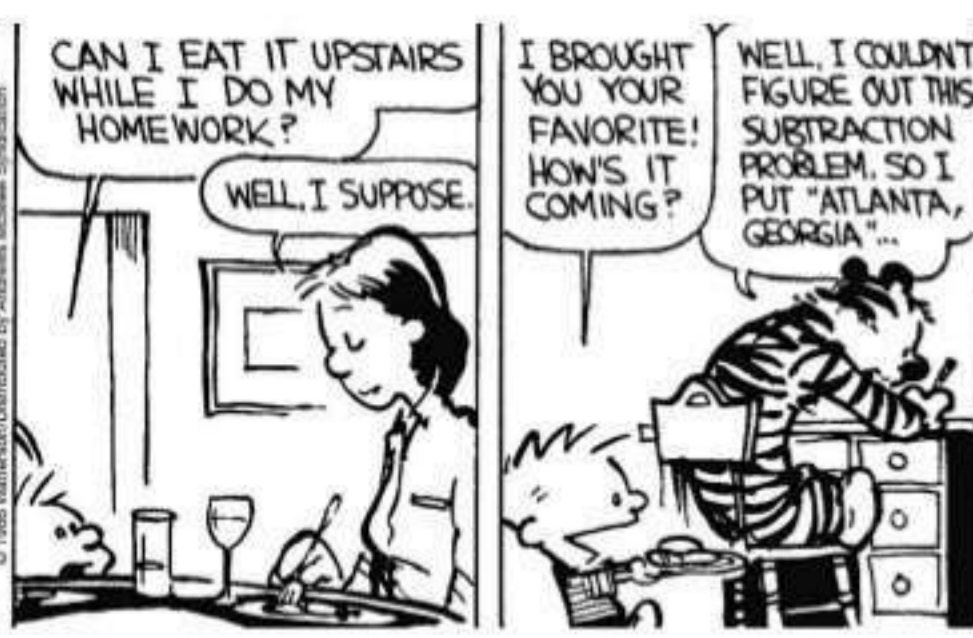
OVER THE HEDGE



CALVIN & HOBBS



BILL WATTERSON



MARVIN



TOM ARMSTRONG



DIFFICULTY LEVEL 3S 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.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6353. A 9x9 grid with numbers 1-9 placed in some cells to solve the puzzle.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. Tender No.: AGCTRD7202616. Date: 17.06.2026. Name of Work: Dismantling of Rail Crane No. WMC-101 from existing BFR No. BRN 555079360500 and remounting to fresh BFR including repairing the rail crane.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. Tender Notice No.: ELG-06-J06-2026-27. Date: 16.06.2026. Name of work with its location & Completion Period: Electrification work in connection with Augmentation of sub-station of Dholpur Station of Agra Division.

UJVN LIMITED Tender Notice. H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006. Date: 18/06/2026. Office of the Executive Engineer, Maintenance Chilla (Pauri- Garhwal), invites sealed tenders from experienced firms for following works/supply for Chilla Power House.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE. Tender Notice No.: ELG-29R-J06-2026-27. Date: 16.06.2026. Name of work with its location & Completion Period: Electrification work in connection with Provision of bore well and HS tank of 50kL for PFs water taps & pipeline at VRBD, BTSR, in Mathura-Palwal section BSA and PRK stations.

Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) Request for Proposal (RFP). Plot No. R-7, Market Yard, Gultekadi, Pune - 411037. MSAMB, with support from the MAGNET Project, has developed the following facilities in Maharashtra:

OFFICE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, BHARATPUR Bharatpur, Rajasthan. Ref. No.5610. Date: 18-06-2026. Expression of Interest (EOI) SCOPE OF WORK (SOW) For Solid Waste User Charge Collection, and User Charge Collection Services, along with other charges and demand services with the Integrated Software Platform.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82(2) (ii) Cr.P.C./84 BNSS). Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) DINESH S/o Satbir R/o Village Rohna, Distt. Sonipat, Haryana has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Case FIR No. 1165/2016, U/s 33/58 Delhi Excise Act, PS Aman Vihar, Distt. Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) DINESH can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) DINESH has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Mojam @ Nazir S/o Babu Khan, R/o H.No. 1305, Gali No.-08, E-Block, Shri Ram Colony, Khajuri Khas, Delhi, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 208/2016, U/S 25/54/59 A. Act, PS Khajuri Khas, North East Distt., Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Mojam @ Nazir cannot be found, and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Mojam @ Nazir has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 84 Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita-2023/82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Rohit Saini, S/o Sh. Ajay Singh @ Ajab Singh, R/o H.No. 101, VPO Kureni, Narela, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 183/2022, U/s 25/27 Arms Act, P.S. Special Cell, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Rohit Saini cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Rohit Saini has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 84 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Akbar, S/o.: Kamruddin, R/o. H.No. G-4/71, Near Najrw Kabadi, Sunder Nagri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide FIR No. 479/2022 U/S 379/511 IPC, registered at P.S Khajuri Khas, North East District, Delhi and it has been returned on a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said Akbar could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that accused Akbar is absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON See Section 82 Cr.P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that the accused person Namely Pulkit Sharma S/o Satish Sharma R/o H. No. 54 Near G.T. Road Delhi Gate Ghaziabad U.P. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 13/2011 U/s 498A/406/34 IPC PS: Keshav Puram, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Pulkit Sharma cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Pulkit Sharma has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): Pet owners should be extra vigilant today because something unexpected could happen, and it might possibly be an accident. Meanwhile, today your work routine will likely be interrupted. Give yourself extra time so you have wiggle room to deal with the unexpected. TONIGHT: Get organised.
TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): Parents should keep an eye on their kids today because this is an accident-prone day. Social plans might be cancelled. Alternatively, a surprise invitation might come your way. TONIGHT: Socialise.
GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): Your home routine might be interrupted today. Small appliances might break down or a minor breakage could occur. Someone unexpected might knock at your door. Stock the fridge so you're ready for anything. TONIGHT: Relax at home.
CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): Pay attention to everything you say and do because this is a mildly accident-prone day for you. If you jog or you're out walking, be alert. On the upside, you might dream up genius-like ideas. TONIGHT: Conversations.
LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): Keep an eye on your money and your possessions today to protect yourself from loss, theft or damage. Meanwhile, a friend or a member of a group might surprise you. TONIGHT: Maintain your possessions.
VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): Today the Moon is in your sign; however, it is at odds with unpredictable Uranus, which means you might be hasty to jump to conclusions. You also might choose to do the opposite of what anyone suggests because you feel rebellious. TONIGHT: You win.
LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): Today you might feel unsettled or restless in a strange way because the Moon is hiding in your chart, and is challenged by Uranus. This combo will trigger an emotional unrest within you. Don't worry, because it's a fleeting influence. TONIGHT: Enjoy privacy.
SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): A friend or a member of a group might do something that catches you off guard today. Be aware that a disruptive influence exists today, but it's brief and then it's gone. Don't take things personally. TONIGHT: Be friendly.
SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): This is not the day to cross swords with authority figures. You might attempt to do so because you want to feel liberated. Channel your rebellious independence elsewhere so you'll have no regrets. TONIGHT: You're admired.
CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): Travel plans might suddenly change today. Likewise, news in the media might surprise you. School schedules also might change or confuse you for some reason. TONIGHT: Explore and learn.
AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): Double-check banking details because something related to your financial assets might have a glitch today. Stay on top of things so you don't overlook anything. TONIGHT: Check your finances.
PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): Relations with friends and partners might hold a few surprises today because people are unpredictable. Everyone is impatient with restraints, duties and responsibilities. TONIGHT: Cooperate.

Cricket finds new purpose inside Mexican prisons

The National Commission for Physical Culture and Sport's initiative sees game being played in 4 prisons to instil discipline among inmates



Sandip G
New Jersey, June 18

A SPORT that left with the last batch of British settlers after the First World War, cricket has found a new address in Mexico. It is in its prisons.

In an initiative by Mexico's National Commission for Physical Culture and Sport, the game is now being played in four low-to-medium security prisons. The commission's reasoning was straightforward: cricket, they believed, would instil discipline in the inmates. They had only heard of the

sport two years earlier. Mexico City hosted the ICC Americas Women's T20 regional qualifiers in 2021, and the sports ministry was invited to watch. A few months later, Craig White, secretary of the Mexican Cricket Association, found himself in a presentation with Eduardo Acevedo, chief of the National Commission. Acevedo proposed cricket as part of the prisons' physical activity programme on the spot. Within a week, MCA volunteers were inside the prison compounds — explaining rules, teaching technique, telling inmates to respect the umpire "like their warden." Basketball courts became makeshift pitches. Barren land was turned into small grounds. Inmates began looking forward to breaks when they could play.

"It was a great experience for all of us," White told *The Indian Express*. "Not only spreading the game but hearing that it was making a difference in their lives. Just talking to them, understanding their lives and realities — it was a big experience." One detail caught the commission's attention early. In cricket, the umpire's decision is final and is never questioned. "They liked that discipline element," says White. In a



A basketball court being used as a makeshift pitch. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

country where football referees once went on strike over player behaviour, the appeal of a sport built on unquestioned authority made a certain kind of sense. "Cricket is teaching prisoners how to relate to each other, be respectful and disciplined, as well as allowing them to exercise," says Acevedo. "It's not like other sports which provoke rivalry and violence."

In one prison, inmates have started making their own bats.

white photograph of Emperor Maximilian, the Austrian archduke who ruled Mexico for three years, playing a Sunday game. Two years later, he was captured and shot by the republican forces of President Benito Juárez. The photograph remains. The empire did not.

Acevedo hopes to extend the programme into high-security prisons, where cartel bosses and their lieutenants are held.

A sport long forgotten

The improbability of all this makes more sense once you know the history. Cricket arrived in Mexico with British settlers in the 19th century, not as a working man's game but as a marker of class and empire. Like football, it was introduced by Cornish miners from Scotland. But where football became the sport of the masses, cricket remained the preserve of the elite.

There are records of it being played as early as 1827 — before football, before baseball, before boxing had taken root. In the archives of the Biblioteca Vasconcelos, there is a black and

white photograph of Emperor Maximilian, the Austrian archduke who ruled Mexico for three years, playing a Sunday game. Two years later, he was captured and shot by the republican forces of President Benito Juárez. The photograph remains. The empire did not.

Cricket's golden era came in the late 19th century, when Mexico's trade ties with Britain deepened. Luis Amor, educated in British schools, established the Mexico Cricket Club in 1896. But then came the revolution. Stirred by Pancho Villa — hero to some, villain to others, larger than life to all — it set off an exodus of British residents. "This and the first World War practically saw the end of cricket," says White, who is writing a book on the sport's history in Mexico. "Most of them returned home, never to come back."

Some of them returned after the Second World War. But by then, football had become the opium of the masses. It never gave it back.

Outside the prison walls, cricket survives in Naulcapan, in the northwest of Mexico City,

played on a ground squeezed between two football pitches. The MCA has one turf wicket and two nets. Everything has to be imported — bats, pads, balls. "There are no sports shops that sell cricket gear here. It's expensive, and ours is a volunteer-run organisation," White says. The players are mostly South Asians and British expats. White himself is one: a Yorkshireman who fell in love with the game watching the 2005 Ashes, came to Mexico for the British embassy, stayed for an NGO, and never quite left. One local Mexican junior has caught his eye. White does not say much about him, but the way he mentions it suggests he has been waiting for exactly this.

Cricket came to Mexico with the British, left with them, and survived only in archives and memory for the better part of a century. That it has come back at all is strange enough. That it has come back in prison yards, with inmates learning to bat and build bats in the same lesson, is the kind of detail that the sport's long, wandering history somehow makes feel inevitable.

FADING HERO

Ball doesn't love Ronaldo anymore

He came to America chasing the one trophy that has eluded him but looked like a man the game had left behind

Sandip G
New Jersey, June 18

THE WORST feeling for Cristiano Ronaldo was not that he didn't score against a team that last played the World Cup before he was born; or that his two attempts were weak and wayward; or that he looked a burden for the team; or that he disrupted the system or barely contributed to the defensive rigours.

It was just that the ball had fallen out of love with him. Like a jilted lover, it shirked away from him, turned away his glances, turned back unreciprocated. Certainly, Ronaldo can still win his love back — the tournament is long and arduous, it could have been just a one-evening falling out.

Portugal drew 1-1 with DR Congo in Houston on Wednesday, a result that felt as flat as Ronaldo's performance.

But at 41, in a squad bursting with attacking gifts, every bad outing evokes scrutiny. With every bad day, he seems to be moving closer to the horizon.

Despite the age, the waning explosiveness, Ronaldo still has the bearings to sweet-spot the ball, fetch it where he wants. Against Congo, he simply couldn't.

Missed chances

In the 68th minute Francisco Conceicao stabbed a cutback to Ronaldo, a little behind him. It was maybe a yard away from his liking, but in his prime he would contort his body suitably and find the best position. Even if not, he al-

ways found a chunk of his glittering boot. Here, he flayed the shot wide off the near post. He sneered and gritted his teeth, wondering how the touch had forsaken him.

The worst part was not that his attempt was horrible, but that he had stolen it off Bruno Fernandes' toes. The Manchester United midfielder was beside him, with more space and a better angle. But Ronaldo's instinct is not to facilitate goals but to score them.

When the touch leaves, the instincts betray. It was not the first time he had infringed on Fernandes' space. The coaching staff has to find a solution for the continued disruption.

Six minutes later came more concerted proof of his diminishing touch. Conceicao produced another, better cutback, but Ronaldo shanked it away. The shot was hurried and without power, bothered perhaps by Axel Tuanzebe's challenge.

But those were moments that barely troubled him once. He could find the target through a maze of legs, unfazed by shirt-pullers and pickpockets, outmuscling and outwitting them. Here, he was vexed, riddled with doubt.

Cruel paradox

There is a cruel paradox. A man whose career was built on smouldering self-belief has begun to doubt himself. Perhaps that is at the heart of his malaise — the absolute faith in himself blinding him to the reality of his tottering prowess. Ronaldo is no longer who he thinks he is.



Cristiano Ronaldo has now failed to score for Portugal at major tournaments in 10 consecutive games. AP

He is still supernaturally fit, with the vaulting ambition to win the only crown his head has not worn, that of a world champion. But he is making a parody of the great player he once was. He is the aged leading vocalist of a heavy metal band living in the guttural grandeur of his past, unaware that his voice box has only been creaking.

When he cannot score, he becomes a liability — he is not involved in creative or defensive duties, his real estate of influence limited. Some numbers capture his horrid game. He made only 20 passes in 90 minutes, the thirteenth best in the game.

His defensive contribution was one. His progressive actions merely two. He occasionally dropped deep to facilitate link-up play but could not match his colleagues' pace. His immobility is slow-

ing the whole team down, a blend of supreme attackers and midfield conductors.

Otherwise he lurked ahead of Congo's high line, then retreated to gather the ball inside, waiting for crosses played behind the line. Try as his colleagues did, none could establish a working relationship with him. He was like a vintage Morris Minor caught amongst Ferraris.

The Messi comparison

Parallels with Lionel Messi will inevitably spring. Messi is slower than Ronaldo, but he creates more — his spatial awareness is superior, his passes defence-piercing, his movement still pulling defenders out of shape even when his legs have nothing left.

Messi has runners around him who compensate for what age has taken. Ronaldo has superior technicians around him

who cannot compensate for what he no longer provides. That is Portugal's great dilemma. Certainly Ronaldo was not the only Portuguese footballer who endured a horrid day, but he was central to their afflictions.

For Portugal to mount a serious title challenge, the Ronaldo riddle has to be solved. Hard decisions have to be made — whether to use him as a substitute, or replace him earlier than Roberto Martinez did on Wednesday.

The manager defended him, as he has throughout his tenure. "We don't treat Cristiano for his age, we treat him according to his symptoms and how he feels," he said. The diagnosis, though, reads differently.

The ball has fallen out of love with him. Portugal should find a solution before football does the same.

Kane proves why he is England's MVP

Shashank Nair
New Delhi, June 18

HARRY KANE'S career has been defined by its late-stage urgency. At Bayern Munich, he has been a revelation: dropping deep into the midfield, being an elite ball distributor, while maintaining an intelligent press. And it has not come at the cost of goals, nearly one a game. He was already England's greatest striker before the move but has become a complete version of himself.

That finished product turned up against Croatia on Thursday. The striker, in England's first 2026 World Cup game, and perhaps in his last tournament as the force that he is, displayed a masterful performance against a seasoned, veteran opponent.

Ten minutes in, Noni Madueke was carelessly brought down by Luka Modric in the Croatia box. Kane, whose last major act for England at a World Cup was to miss a penalty against France, went through that nightmare again when Dominik Livakovic dived to his right and denied a goal. But after English protests, VAR declared that the keeper had moved out of his line early and the penalty would need to be retaken. Kane went again, and this time sent Livakovic the wrong way to open England's account.

Croatia came right back with a goal from Martin Baturina. Kane's response: deploy John Stones ahead of him during a corner as a blocker and guide a header into goal. In a half where England were struggling to create control, Kane's unerring efficiency brought back the lead against a wise opponent.

But that control England lacked reared its head again. Virtually the last move of the half, Mario Pašalić dropped a



Harry Kane scored twice in England's win over Croatia. AP

lob to Perišić deep in Jordan Pickford's territory. The winger, who has tormented the English across the last decade, at Euro 2020, in Qatar, dragged four of them with him, sold the dummy with a headed ball back into the path of Petar Musa, who took the opportunity with both hands.

England ended the half with their lead lost twice but crucially with an unexplainable brittleness. It was banished moments later.

In the second half, an expansive, faster England came out of the gates. Bellingham quickly restored the lead as the half began, taking a Reece James pass on the right wing and going all the way through to the finish. The midfield trio of Premier League winner Declan Rice, Elliot Anderson and Champions League winner Bellingham followed Kane into a methodical midfield press. They finally had the control they wanted. A fourth goal came from Marcus Rashford towards the end, who had come on as a substitute.

Kane even had time for a near-goal line block towards the end of the 4-2 victory. An imperious performance delivered by England's one true all-weather world class player.

UNIFYING FORCE

World Cup of many homelands blurs the borders created by politics

Murari Tripathi
New Delhi, June 18

THE LOUDEST cheers, from the packed stadiums of North America, are going to footballers whose families once faced walls and suspicion.

Kylian Mbappé carries Cameroonian-Algerian heritage, and has just scored twice against Senegal. Jamal Musiala, with a Nigerian-British father and German mother, is among the most gifted players at the tournament.

Breel Embolo left Cameroon to become a Swiss striker. Lamine Yamal, 17, of Moroccan and Equatoguinean descent, is already the most exciting player Spain has produced in a generation. Bukayo Saka, of Nigerian roots, is as beloved in England as he is targeted when things go wrong. Folarin Balogun, born in New York to Ni-

gerian parents, is providing the United States with goals and urgency.

And then there is Yasin Ayari. Born in Sweden to a Tunisian father and a Moroccan mother, he scored the opening goal against Tunisia in the seventh minute of his World Cup debut. He did not celebrate. He raised both hands in apology and went down in sajdah on the Monterrey grass. His father, Azouz, when asked this year whether he wished his son had played for Tunisia instead, said: "I wanted him to play for Sweden. He must feel like he's giving back to the country that took care of him." The son scored against the father's homeland and apologised. The father had already given him permission.

None of these players are exceptions. They are the texture of the tournament. The politics outside the stadium is contrary to the words inside it. US visa denials have kept Senegalese fans away. Iranian supporters watched their team cross the Mexican border each matchday and return the same night.

Cape Verde's goalkeeper after heroics against Spain, because his mother couldn't afford the visa bond to enter the country hosting the World Cup. The tournament is global. Getting here is not. This is the contradiction the 2026 World Cup keeps staging. Eric Hobsbawm once wrote that nations feel most real when millions project themselves onto 11 players with names and faces. What happens, then, when those faces carry the histories of everywhere? Japan's answer is Zion Su-



Both Kylian Mbappé (L) and Lamine Yamal have multiethnic roots. AP

zuki. Born in Newark, New Jersey, to a Ghanaian-American father and a Japanese mother, he could have represented Ghana, the United States, or



Japan. Having grown up in Saitama, he chose Japan. In Japanese, the word haafu marks people of mixed heritage. When Japan lost to Iraq at the

2024 Asian Cup and Suzuki made an error, the abuse on social media was not about the error. It was about his face.

Romelu Lukaku highlighted the double standard in a 2018 essay for the Players' Tribune. When he played well, he was the Belgian striker. When things went wrong, he became the striker of Congolese descent. Suzuki discovered the same equation in a different language, in a different context, with the same logic. Score, and you are ours. Concede, and your ancestry becomes the explanation.

Alexander Isak put it simply: Both countries can be home. That is modern football's answer to a question politics keeps trying to force into one. A player can belong to Sweden and Eritrea, France and Algeria, Germany and England. The shirt is singular. The

story underneath is not.

The squad lists tell a story longer than the scorelines. Switzerland's defence is anchored by Manuel Akanji, of Nigerian descent. Jeremy Doku speaks openly about being Ghanaian while playing for Belgium. France's Rayan Cherki has spoken about exploring his Algerian roots — not as a complication but as a resource. In the US squad, 12 of the 26 players are black, three are Latino. Chris Richards wears Martin Luther King Jr tattoos. The old image of what a national team looks like has already changed.

And it goes further than the famous names. Sarpreet Singh represents New Zealand; his roots are in Punjab. Qatar fields Tahsin Mohammed Jamsheed, whose family is from Kerala. Australia's Nishan Vellupillay carries Sri Lankan

Tamil and Anglo-Indian heritage. DR Congo's Samuel Moutoussamy traces Indo-Guadeloupean ancestry.

The phenomenon is not confined to European football or its diaspora. It is the texture of 48 nations meeting in North America. The welcome, though, is conditional on the scoreline. The stadiums are genuinely moved, genuinely proud. That pride tends to have a shorter memory than the prejudice it briefly displaces.

But there's that uneasy truth you can feel building. After the final, many of these players head back to countries still fighting over who belongs and who doesn't. The tournament proves that multiculturalism can win hearts and standing ovations. Whether it wins a lasting place in society is a much tougher test.

Three options, but no perfect fit to fill the shoes of Shreyanka

Shankar Narayan
Mumbai, June 18

THERE WAS little for Harmanpreet Kaur to complain about after India's commanding 95-run win over the Netherlands. Her side answered her pre-match call to improve in the powerplay with both bat and ball, piled up 209 and then bundled the Dutch out to make it two wins from two at the T20 World Cup.

Yet, as she led her side back towards the dressing room at Headingley on Wednesday, one moment would have lingered longer than the result itself.

Just one delivery into her spell in the sixth over, Shreyanka Patil chased the ball in her follow-through before twisting her right ankle. Unable to put any weight on the leg, she received lengthy treatment before being stretchered off in a buggy. Having only recently returned from a long injury layoff, it was an unsettling sight.

The extent of the injury remains unclear, but it has already complicated India's planning ahead of Sunday's meeting with South Africa at Old Trafford.

Unlike the Netherlands, South Africa possess the batting depth to expose even minor weaknesses in an attack. More importantly, India's lack of genuine pace means replacing Shreyanka is not simply a case of swapping one bowler for another.

Against Pakistan, India had opened with Arundhati Reddy and Shreyanka sharing the new ball. The move did not bring immediate success, but it appeared to be the template Harmanpreet wanted for the tougher games. Shreyanka's willingness to bowl up front allowed India to spread their spin resources through the innings rather than saving them exclusively for the middle overs.

Now that balance is under threat.

WORLD CUP

US vs OZ: The rivalry that was always too big for one sport

Eight months of bad blood, diplomatic friction, one ill-chosen basketball metaphor turned a football match into something far more personal

Mihir Vasavda
Mumbai, June 18

IF YOU want to understand the modern soul of American and Australian sports, do not look to the football pitch. Look to a swimming pool in Sydney, 26 years ago.

It was the 2000 Olympics, and the American men's 4x100m freestyle relay team had spent weeks bragging that they would smash the Austrians "like guitars". Instead, an electric, home-crowd-fuelled Aussie quartet touched the wall first, broke the world record, and stood on the blocks mock-strumming furious air guitars right back at their shell-shocked rivals.

For decades, this has been the operational reality of the USA-Australia sporting relationship. An elite, hyper-athletic feud masked as a sibling rivalry. They have traded body blows on Olympic athletics tracks, fought on basketball courts, and stared each other down from opposite ends of tennis nets. Two nations built on the identical, uncompromising belief that they are, athletically and culturally, the ultimate sporting powerhouse.

Yet for the longest time, football was exempted from this cultural war. It was a secondary sport in both lands. That is now a thing of the past.

When the US and Australia step onto the field at Seattle Stadium on Friday, Group D supremacy will be on the line. The cross-sport animosity is finally

For decades, this has been the operational reality of the USA-Australia sporting relationship. An elite, hyper-athletic feud masked as a sibling rivalry.

spilling onto the football pitch, carrying with it lingering dressing-room anger, geopolitical friction, and a heavy dose of media disrespect.

The tension in Seattle isn't only generated by the athletes. It mirrors an increasingly complex diplomatic relationship at the highest levels of government. The traditional mateship between Washington and Canberra has faced unprecedented public strain this year. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has repeatedly had to establish firm boundaries with US President Donald Trump over the prosecution of geopolitical conflicts.

The most striking flashpoint involved football itself. When the Iranian women's team sought political asylum during the Asian Cup in Australia, Trump took to social media to pressure the Australian government aggressively, declaring that the US would step in if Canberra failed to act.

Albanese bypassed the bluster, executed a rapid protection mission, and drew a rare public concession from Trump: "I just spoke to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese...



Mauricio Pochettino was in the thick of the action when these two sides played last. REUTERS

He's on it." If diplomacy requires a phone call, footballing rivalries require a catalyst on the pitch. For these two teams, that moment arrived on October 14, 2025, in Colorado.

What was supposed to be a standard pre-World Cup preparatory match degenerated fast. The Socceroos, seeking to disrupt the technical superiority of Mauricio Pochettino's side, deployed an unrelenting physical press. They didn't just challenge for the ball; they targeted the ankles and psyches of America's golden generation. By the second half, tactical fouls had become shoving matches. The flashpoint came near the touchline, where American defender Chris Richards had to be physically restrained from charging the Australian bench.

Sports Illustrated later reported that Richards had openly threatened Australian players following what the US camp viewed as a series of danger-

ously cynical challenges.

At halftime, a usually calm Pochettino reportedly delivered a blistering, expletive-laden speech demanding his players stop being kicked around the park.

"Watching that game last year, you could see that they were up for it, putting in challenges," US midfielder Sebastian Berhalter said this week. "That's when Mauricio had the halftime rant, and he said, 'These guys can't kick us around.' And I think he was right." What Pochettino told his players, Berhalter revealed, was simpler than any tactical instruction: "We're American, we don't take s**t."

If Colorado lit the fuse, American television poured fuel on it. Following the official World Cup draw, CBS Sports pundit Mike Grella, a former US international, looked at Group D on national television and casually dismissed the Socceroos as a "layup"

for the US. In basketball, a layup is an uncontested shot. The word was clipped and plastered across sports pages from Sydney to Melbourne. Grella later insisted no disrespect was meant. Australian manager Tony Popovic made sure his players heard it anyway.

On Friday, two teams who have spent months stoking this fire will finally have to face each other. Pochettino's USMNT arrive on the back of a 4-1 dismantling of Paraguay, Folarin Balogun the torchbearer of an attacking side playing with genuine swagger.

Australia arrive with a different kind of confidence: a 2-0 tactical masterclass against a fancied Turkey side in Vancouver, built on defensive discipline and the willingness to make life unpleasant for the opposition.

The Socceroos know exactly how to get under American skin. Colorado was only the dress rehearsal.

Playing World c'ships in Tokyo was not a good idea: Neeraj

Express News Service
New Delhi, June 18

NEERAJ CHOPRA returns to competition at the Doha Diamond League on Friday carrying an admission he has sat with all winter: he should not have competed at the Tokyo World Championships last year. "I don't think it was a good decision to compete in Tokyo knowing that I was already carrying an injury," Neeraj said at the pre-event press conference. "In athletes' lives, if you try to save one injury, there is another one that can come up. But it was the last competition of the year, so I pushed for it."

The back injury, sustained during training before the World Championships, kept him out for nine months. It is his longest absence from competition since he announced himself to the world with Olympic gold in Tokyo in 2021.

Doha, at least, is familiar territory. It is where Neeraj crossed the 90m mark for the first time last year — a barrier that had defined and eluded him for years. "I have that memory of the 90m throw. That is why it is one of my favourite venues. Although Julian Weber immediately threw bigger than me that night," he said.

He is characteristically unsatisfied with how it was done. "I don't think the 90m throw was technically good. It came out fast from my arm but if I could do better with my lower body, I'll improve 2-3m more," he said.

Formidable field

The field he returns to is formidable. Sri Lanka's Ramesh Pathirage, the current world leader, heads the lineup alongside former world champions Anderson Peters and Keshorn Walcott, Tokyo Olympic silver medalist Jakub Vadlejch and Kenyan veteran Julius Yego.



Neeraj Chopra is making his return to competition after a long injury layoff. .jsw

Neeraj was measured about Pathirage. "I'm happy for Ramesh. He is a good thrower and it is good to see someone from Sri Lanka throwing that well."

The comeback also marks his first competition under a new coaching setup.

After the Tokyo World Championships, Neeraj parted ways with Jan Zelenky, the Czech javelin legend and three-time world champion who had been working with him. He now trains with Jay Chaudhary, a coach who has known him since the early days of his career.

"Jay has seen my whole journey. He understands my technique better," Neeraj said. "I wanted to focus on my technique and implement my ideas. I have got a good team with me."

The AFI has provisionally included him in the Commonwealth Games 2026 squad, with a qualification mark of 82.61m to breach. At Doha, with nine months off his back and a point to prove, that should be the least of his concerns.

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