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Gujarat

PUBLISHED FROM:

LUCKNOW

BHOPAL

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CHANDIGARH

DEHRADUN

HYDERABAD

VIJAYAWADA



Vacant benches at the partially-deserted GPO during a 24-hour nationwide strike called by trade unions against new labour codes and privatisation, in Mumbai, Maharashtra, Wednesday

Workers protest disrupts India

coordinated nationwide strike by over 10 Central trade unions supported by rural worker organisations and farmer groups, disrupted parts of India on Wednesday, with banking, insurance, postal, and transport services affected in several States. While essential services remained mostly functional, the strike highlighted growing unrest over the Centre's labour reforms and economic policies.

The one-day strike — termed a Bharat Bandh by organisers was called in protest against the new labour codes, privatisation of public sector units, outsourcing, and job insecurity. The protesting unions claimed the

The ByStander

PIONEER IN

SHORT

Amarnath ice melts

as temperatures soar

The naturally formed ice lingam at the

Amarnath cave shrine in Jammu and

melted due to an intense heatwave

Since the yatra began on July 3, over

1.2 lakh pilgrims have visited the shrine. However, rising temperatures

Although most protests were peaceful, police clashed with demonstrators in parts of West Bengal and **Tamil Nadu**

mobilisation of nearly 25 crore workers across sectors, demanding the repeal of the four new labour codes and implementation of measures including a minimum monthly wage of ₹26,000 and equal pay for equal work.

Although most protests were peaceful, police clashed with demonstrators in parts of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. In various pockets of West Bengal, Left-wing activists clashed with the police and Trinamool

mid the opposition

parties' "Maya Mahal"

(Palace of Illusion) and "Rang Mahal" (Palace of

Colours" jibe at the BJP

Government, the Delhi

Government has scrapped

the tender renovation of chief

minister Rekha Gupta's offi-

cial residence at Civil Lines

Bungalow, owing to admin-

istrative reasons. The move is

being viewed in the political

circles as an attempt by the

BJP Government to avoid

"Sheesh Mahal" type contro-

versy which became a major

factor in the last Assembly

Lines bungalow, former chief

minister Arvind Kejriwal had

turned it into a "Sheesh

Mahal" by spending a huge

amount of money into its

renovation from the public

exchequer. Now the Public

Works Department has

informed the Delhi

Government that it has final-

After moving into the Civil

polls in Delhi.

RAJESH KUMAR

Congress (TMC) supporters in multiple districts, even as additional security forces were deployed to ensure normal life.

Reinforcing its stand of zerotolerance towards bandhs, the State came down heavily on strike supporters, forcefully removing them from spaces where they attempted disruption of public life. The police detained some strike supporters, including SFI leader Srijan Bhattacharya, who alleged that police used force to remove them when they were holding peaceful protests

At the College Street crossing in the northern part of the city, SFI supporters clashed with police after the men in uniform tried to remove a road block and detain some protestors.

Delhi CM home tender dropped

ly cancelled the tender for the

renovation of the CM's offi-

The PWD notification was

issued three days after ten-

ders were to be opened. The

scrapped tender worth

₹59.40 lakh was related to

proposed installations at her

residence including 14 air

conditioners, televisions and

electrical fixtures. She had

been allotted two bungalows

on Raj Niwas Marg by PWD

— one for her residence and

As per the original plan

which included installing 14

split air conditioners worth

one for a camp office.

cial bungalow

Continued on » P4

Bridge collapse in Gujarat claims nine lives

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Vadodra

en people, including two siblings, were killed and nine others rescued, some of them with injuries, after multiple vehicles plunged into the Mahisagar river when a portion of a four-decade-old bridge collapsed in Vadodara district on Wednesday morning, officials said. The nearly 900-metre-long Gambhira bridge has 23 piers and connects Vadodara and Anand districts of Gujarat.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel expressed grief over the tragedy and announced ex gratia of ₹2 lakh and ₹4 lakh, respectively, to the next of the kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 as compensation to the injured.

"The loss of lives due to the collapse of a bridge in Vadodara district, Gujarat, is deeply saddening. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. An ex-gratia of



bridge in Mujpur near Vadodara in the Indian State of Gujarat, Wednesday

₹2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000: PM," Minister's Prime Office(PMO0said in a social

President Droupadi Murmu condoled the loss of lives and

expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families. She also prayed for the quick recovery of those injured.

The news of the death of several people in a bridge accident in Gujarat's Vadodara district is extremely tragic. I to the bereaved families. My prayers are that all those injured in this accident recover quickly," President Murmu said in a social media post in Hindi.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel called the tragedy "extremely distressing," and said the State Government will

provide financial assistance of ₹4 lakh to the kin of each person who lost their lives and ₹50,000 to each of the injured. He said an order has been given to the State's roads and buildings department to conduct a probe into the collapse and submit a report.

In a social media post, the Chief Minister said teams of the State roads and buildings department and private engineers have been instructed to conduct a preliminary investigation into the causes of the collapse, and submit a report.

ED raids Punjab dunki networks

MONIKA MALIK

Chandigarh

sprawling network of illegal immigration agents, exploiting the

ED CRACKDOWN ON DUNK! ROUTE RACKET Raids conducted at 11 locations across Punjab and Haryana,

- including Amritsar, Sangrur, Patiala, Moga, Ambala, Kurukshetra,
- Documents, electronic devices, and unaccounted cash seized from Probe initiated under PMLA based on 17 FIRs registered in Punjab
- Statements of several US-deported migrants recorded to trace
- racket's operations
- Key agents and middlemen identified, many linked to transnational smuggling networks
- Evidence collected of agents charging ₹45-₹50 lakh per person for illegal migration

Patiala, Moga, Ambala, Kurukshetra, and Karnal unearthing critical evidence linked to human trafficking, money laundering, and transnational criminal net-

The raids follow the deportation of hundreds of Indian nationals from the United States earlier this year, many of whom returned home in handcuffs after a harrowing journey that spanned continents and involved life-threatening risks. Continued on » P4

Trainer crash claims two **IAF officers**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi/Jaipur

wo pilots of the Indian Air Force (IAF) were killed on Wednesday morning in a crash of a Jaguar trainer aircraft near Churu in Rajasthan. The IAF said a court of inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident.

"An IAF Jaguar Trainer aircraft met with an accident during a routine training mission and crashed near Churu in Rajasthan, today," it said in a brief statement. "Both pilots sustained fatal injuries in the accident. No damage to any civil property has been reported," it said.

The IAF said it "deeply regrets" the loss of lives and stands firmly with the bereaved families in this time of grief. "A court of inquiry has been constituted to ascertain the cause of the accident," it said. As per reports, the mishap took place at around 1.25 pm and the fighter jet crashed in an agricultural field in Bhanoda village. Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade and Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma expressed grief over the incident. "Sad news of the crash of posted on social media and prayed for the peace of the

over ₹7.7 lakh, six geysers

costing nearly ₹92,000 and a

fully automatic 10 kg wash-

ing machine priced at

₹77,750. The ceilings were to

feature chandeliers valued at

over ₹90,000 while ceiling

fans- each priced at

₹8,000— would have brought

the total cost for fans alone to

₹1.81 lakh. The kitchen, too,

was designed for high-end

functionality to include a

wall-mounted 90 cm electric

chimney with auto-clean fea-

tures, touch control and a

motion sensor- priced at

Continued on » P4

dreams of rural Indians yearning for a better life abroad, has come under the scanner of the Enforcement Directorate (ED). In a major crackdown on the infamous Dunki route racket. ED sleuths on Wednesday raided 11 locations across Punjab and Haryana including Amritsar, Sangrur,

Delhi pushes English in city schools

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

and Harvana

mid ongoing language war in several States, the Delhi Government's Directorate of Education has directed all its schools to ensure at least one English medium section is available in each class, starting from the current academic session.

According to a circular issued by the DoE, admission to the English Medium section may be done as per the willingness and aptitude of the students. All subjects, except for regional languages, will be taught in English in the designated section. In a circular released on Tuesday, it asked heads of all Government schools to implement the directive in continuation of instructions issued in 2014 and 2018.

The circular stated that at least one section in every class should function as an English medium section.

Continued on » P4

SC case against ED for calling lawyers PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **Bar Council and**

■ New Delhi/Jaipur

◄he Supreme Court has initiated a suo motu case over the issue of Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoning lawyers who offer opinion or represent parties in cases to examine if they can be put to notice. The action comes in the wake of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) summoning a couple of senior lawyers -Arvind Datar and Pratap Venugopal. A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and NV Anjaria will hear the matter on July 14.

ED in January summoned lawyers Arvind Datar and Pratap Venugopal for giving legal opinion and representing Religare's former chairperson Rashmi Saluja, who was raided by ED for controversial share allotment of more than Rs.200 crore to herself under ESOP scheme. The advocates had given legal advice and bodies protested on summoning lawyers of accused persons

many Advocate

represented Religare Enterprise and sister concern Care Health Insurance Limited.

Bar Council and many Advocate bodies protested on summoning lawyers of the accused persons and after controversies erupted the ED on June 20 directed its investigating officers not to issue summons to any advocate in a money laundering investigation being carried out against their client, adding that exception to this rule can only be made after "approval" by the agency's Director. "Further, if any summons needs to be issued under the exceptions carved out in proviso to Section 132 of the BSA, 2023," the cir-

Continued on » P4

an Indian Air Force plane in Ratangarh area of Churu district has been received. Immediately after the incident, the administration is in alert mode and instructions have been given to the officials for relief and rescue work," Sharma

departed souls. This was the third Jaguar crash this year since March.

Vande Bharat takes spotlight at World Expo

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

→ande Bharat and Chenab Bridge have emerged as a star attraction at the ongoing World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, drawing enthusiastic crowds and high praise from Japanese visitors for its remarkable journey of modernisation and technological innovation. Held at Yumeshima, an arti-

ficial island on Osaka's waterfront, the World Expo 2025 opened its doors on April 13 and will continue till October 13, welcoming millions of visitors from across the globe. Amid the vibrant international exhibits, the Indian Pavilion, particularly the section dedicated to Indian Railways, has become a focal point of admiration.

According to a PIB Press release, in the showcase, the magnificent Chenab Bridge, the world's highest Railway bridge soaring across the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir; the iconic Anji Khad



Bridge, India's first cable-stayed rail bridge in the challenging Himalayan terrain; the stateof-the-art Vande Bharat Express trains, known for their speed and passenger comfort; and many more latest advance-

underscore India's commitment to sustainable mobility. Several Japanese visitors

athered around the Indian

Railways exhibit, keenly listen- tainable technology left ing to presentations about the many in awe.

genesis of one of the world's largest Rail networks and its incredible transformation over the decades. The blend of engineering marvels and sus-

MLA assaults canteen staffer, faces flak from CM, Opposition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

n MLA of the ruling A alliance III Iviaina.

on Wednesday faced flak from those in the Government and the Opposition alike after a video of him slapping and punching an employee at the MLAs' hostel canteen for being served 'stale' food went viral.

The video showed Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad, wearing a vest and a towel wrapped around his waist, confronting the canteen contractor and forcing him to smell the packet containing dal, before slapping and punching him. The impact is so hard that the contractor falls on the floor. As he tries to get up, the MLA is seen continuing the assault.

Gaikwad's party chief and Deputy CM Eknath Shinde told reporters that while he does not support violence, individuals have the right to



ances. "Although I don't support violence, if there is any problem, we have the right to take legal action, but beating someone is not right," Shinde said. He termed the MLA's act as inappropriate. Talking to reporters, Gaikwad, an MLA from

Buldhana district, defended his conduct, saying he was compelled to go in for the "Shiv Sena style" of response as his earlier complaints about the food quality were not addressed, and asserted he

Gaikwad ordered dinner from the canteen on Tuesday night. He found the dal and rice delivered in his room to be stale and foul-smelling. Asked why he hit the canteen staffer, Gaikwad said, "I am an MLA and a warrior. I lost control after my complaints remained unheard. Despite several complaints if nobody pays attention, what should one do? Should I die? I have no regret about my actions." The issue was raised in the

legislative council by opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) legislator Anil Parab, who accused Gaikwad of being high on power, and said such incidents also damage the image of CM Fadnavis. Fadnavis said, "Such a conduct does not behove anyone. It impacts the image of the State legislature and as an MLA. A wrong message goes among people about all MLAs that there is misuse of

Continued on » P4

3 to 4°C above normal and peaking to vanish unusually early. This marks the first such occurrence in recent history. A devotee confirmed its absence on July 8. Despite the melting, the yatra continues, with ahead of its scheduled conclusion on August 9, coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan

FULL REPORT ON P4

India extradites fugitive from US The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has

successfully extradited fugitive economic offender Monika

Kapoor from the United States after over 25 years. Kapoor, wanted for a 1998 export fraud involving forged documents and duty-free gold imports causing a ₹1.44 crore loss to the exchequer, was apprehended in the US following an Interpol Red Notice. She is being brought to India on American Airlines flight AA 292, expected to land Wednesday night. Kapoor, owner of Monika Overseas, conspired with her brothers Rajan and Rajiv Khanna-both convicted in 2017to illegally obtain and sell replenishment licences. Declared a proclaimed offender in 2006, Kapoor fled to the US in 1999 and overstayed her visa. Her extradition marks the CBI's second recent success after Nehal Modi's arrest, reinforcing India's international crackdown on economic fugitives. Kapoor will now face trial in India. The CBI has secured the return of over 100 fugitives in recent years through global cooperation.

GUEST COLUMN

11 Years of Modi Government known for Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Prayas



Trivendra Singh Rawat

¬he eleven-year journey from May 2014 to 2025, after the Narendra Modi government came to power has written a new chapter in India's development history. The governance model was based on Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Prayas (Collective Effort, Inclusive Growth and Everyone's Support), as a result of which more than 270 million people across the

SRHU & IIPSRT sign MoU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Speaker, Ritu

In the presence of the Vidhan Sabha Speaker, Ritu

Bhushan Khanduri, a memo-

randum of understanding

(MoU) was signed between

Swami Rama Himalayan Uni-

versity (SRHU) based in Jolly

Grant, Dehradun, and Inter-

national Institute of Parlia-

mentary Studies, Research, and Training (IIPSRT) based

in Bharadisain-Gairsain. The

primary objective of this MoU

is to promote institutional col-

laboration and participatory

strategies in areas such as the

environment, climate change,

drinking water, water source

management, health, sanitation, women's empowerment,

rural innovation and commu-

nity governance. The MoU

was signed by the registrar of

SRHU, Commander (Retd)

Challa Venkateshwar and sec-

retary, IIPSRT, Hem Chandra

Addressing the programme,

Khanduri said that the agree-

ment represents not just a col-

laboration between two

institutions but a decisive step

Doon University is poised to declare the merit list

for students enrolling in un-

dergraduate and postgraduate

programmes this year in a day

or two on the official website

of the university. Informing

this, the university registrar,

Durgesh Dimri said that the

entrance examination had

taken place on June 22 to se-

lect candidates for these pro-

grammes. "Following this, the

university's administration up-

loaded the exam scores of stu-

dents on its official website.

The merit list for both UG and

PG courses is being prepared

now. It will be made available

on our official website in a day

seats for a specific course re-

main vacant after the initial

merit list is published, one or

two additional lists would be

released. "As per our anticipa-

tion, this year's merit list will

feature higher rankings as

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

He further said that if any

or two," he said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Doon University to declare first

merit list 2025 in a day or two

for developing Bharadisain

country were successfully nomic foundation but also has led to maintainbrought out of poverty as per the latest report of International Labour Organisation (ILO). The extreme poverty rate has dropped from 27.1 per cent in 2011-12 to just 5.3 per cent in 2022-23. This achievement is a major milestone toward making India a poverty-free nation. According to a recent report released by the World Bank, there has been significant improvement in both rural and urban areas along with an increase in employment across the country. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has also made tremendous progress in reducing multidimensional poverty and has strengthened its position on the Global Economic map. Initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-Reliant India), Digital India, Make in India, Startup India and PM Garib Kalyan Yojana have not only reinforced the country's eco

toward shaping the future of Uttarakhand. "Our dream is to

transform Bharadisain from

being simply an administrative

capital to a centre where pol-

icy, science, research and tra-

dition converge to address the challenges facing Uttarakhand," she said.

The SRHU vice-chancellor,

Rajendra Dobhal said that the

university's mission goes be-yond education and health-

care. "It seeks to bridge the gap

between science, service and

society. Under this agreement,

both institutions will initiate joint projects focusing on the

environment, spring-shed management (revival of water

sources), rainwater harvesting, women's leadership, tradi-

tional knowledge-based solu-

tions and holistic health in

climate-sensitive regions. The

collaboration will also include

training programmes, expo-

sure visits, policy dialogues

and the development of digital

platforms for legislators,

among other initiatives," he

compared to previous year," he

said. This year, a total of 3,327

students have been registered

for the entrance examination

out of whom 2,792 actually

participated, marking an at-

tendance rate of 84 per cent.

Notably, the entrance exam

designed to shortlist candi-

dates for undergraduate and

postgraduate programmes,

was held at seven designated

centres. Four of these centres

were located in Dehradun

while the remaining three were situated in Delhi, Luc-

Further, the entrance exam-

ination for PG was conducted

for only three postgraduate

courses. There are 910 seats

available for undergraduate

programmes and 650 for post-

graduate programmes. This

year also marks the introduc-

tion of a Master of Arts in

Hindu Studies programme

which offers 20 seats for inter-

ested students.

know and Haldwani.

set new benchmarks in inclusive growth.

1. Accelerating Economy India has risen from the tenth position to become the fifth-largest economy in the world, and is now ranked fourth. Despite global pandemic COVID-19, India maintained stable GDP growth. In 2023-24, India's GDP growth rate was recorded at over 6.5 per cent, the fastest in the world. According to estimates from almost all global rating agencies, India's growth rate is expected to surpass that of other nations.

2. Digital Revolution The Digital India campaign has made India a leader in digital payments, online services and e-governance. UPI (Unified Payment Interface) has bridged the gap between rural and urban economies, connecting millions of Indians to the

formal financial system. This

ing transparency in transactions.

Infrastructure

Development The world's highest railway bridge built over the Chenab River to connect the Kashmir Valley with the railway network stands as a testament to India's unmatched engineering excel-lence. With initiatives Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Bullet Train project, and schemes promoting road, rail and air

transport, along with the Prime Minister's Rural Road Scheme, the country's logistics efficiency has increased significantly. The length of national highways has doubled in comparison to 2014 and continues to grow. Today, infrastructure devel-

opment is generating new

employment opportunities

and accelerating commercial

activities. 4. Boost to Manufacturing Under the 'Make in India initiative, domestic and foreign investments are increasing and significant progress has been made in sectors like defence manufacturing, semiconductor production and mobile phone assembly. India is now among the top countries in mobile manufacturing. The export of these domestically produced goods to other countries is

August 2025.

QW. 4./ File No. IT-CR/1/2024-IT/1229

Viksit Bharat ka Amrit Kaal

SAAL

Seva, Sushasan, Garib Kalyan ke

also increasing.Agriculture and

Rural Development Under the PM Samman

Nidhi Yojana, mil-

lions of marginal farmers receive financial assistance annually while rural development, schemes like Swachh Bharat (Clean India), Ujjwala Yojana, and Har Ghar Jal are being implemented to improve the living standards in villages and free them from debt trap.

6. Poverty Eradication and Social Secu-

With the launch of Jan Dhan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana and PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, a large section of society—especially the millions living in

CBC 09101/11/0010/2526

(ततित कुमार)/(Lait Kumar)

सहायक निर्देशक (प्र. एवं वित्त एवं अनुबंध:V Assistant Director (A&F&C)

Ministry of Culture

Notice Inviting Tender

Request for Proposal for Selection of Design

Consultant for Comprehensive Museum Design

(Architectural and Exhibition Design) Services for Yuge

Yugeen Bharat Museum, New Delhi has been floated

on 09 July 2025 by Ministry of Culture, Government of

India. Interested bidders may see details on

eprocure.gov.in Last date for bid submission is 01

भांडागारण विकास और विनियामक प्राधिकरण

भारत सरकार

पर मीर अर्थ अपन, केरी बीता, s. की हंडीहुआ शील, अर्था अर्थीत कर्त, हीत कर, नहींहती - Innius, हात्वर - कात्रकात, स्वाहतका Journing Development and Regulatory Au

WDRA on contractual basis initially for a period of one year. The period of engagement of the

3. Eligibility criteria, Terms and Conditions etc. for engagement of 01 Junior Consultant (Information Technology) is available on the website of the WDRA 'www.wdra.gov.in'. Interested applicants, who fulfill the eligibility criteria, may submit their applications in the prescribed proforma in a sealed cover superscripted 'Engagement of 01 Junior Consultant (Information Technology) in WDRA on contractual basis' within 30 days from the date of advertisement on WDRA website. The applications may be sent to the Assistant Director (HR) Warehousing, Development and Regulatory Authority, NCUs Building, 4th, floor, 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Haut Khas, New Delhi - 110016. A copy of the advertisement shall also be published in the Newspapers / Employment News.

poverty—has been provided access to nutritious food and economic security.

The past 11 years of the Modi government have been a remarkable example of economic reforms, structural changes and inclusive development. During these years, India has not only reached new heights of economic progress but taken powerful strides toward self-reliance

and global leadership. (The author is Member of Parliament, Haridwar Lok Sabha and former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. Views expressed are personal)

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS **PUBLIC NOTICE**

General public is informed that I have changed my son's name from Prithvi Singh Rajput to Pranav Singh Rajput, Birthday certificate number B2022-5-90170003347. In future he shall be known and recognised as PRANAV SINGH RAJPUT. Viditi W/o Gaurav singh Rajput, House No. 36, Housing Board Colony, Devi Nagar, Himachal Pradesh.

I, Sapre Anil Govardhan father of No.22059238Y SEP/ NUR ASST Sapre Shreyash Anil presently residing at MH Dehradun have changed my name from Sapre Anil Govardhan to Anil Govardhan Sapre vide affidavit dated 08 July 2025 before notary Birendra Singh at Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

I, Sudama Devi, W/o Vijay Singh R/o Nageshwar Temple, Upper Nakraunda, District Dehradun, Uttarakhand, hereby declare that my correct name is Sudama Devi. as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card/PAN Card and husband's service record. I have a savings account in SBI Harrawala branch in the name of my family name Pushpa Devi in which my correct name should be recorded. Both names Sudama Devi and Pushpa Devi belong to me.

Singh to Trilok Singh Bisht. In future, I should be known and called as Trilok Singh Bisht son of Shri Khim Singh Bisht, Trilok Singh (old name) resident of village and PO Choting Tehsil-Tharali District Chamoli Garhwal Uttarakhand.

I,RUPALI W/o JC-461746A GAIKWAD DNYANESHWAR SARJERAO, Vill- Wather (Kiroli). Post- Wather(Kiroli). Teh-Koregaon, Dist-Satara, Maharashtra-415116. I have changed my incorrect name to RUPALI DNYANESHWAR GAIKWAD (correct) as per Aadhar No.395519033438 vide affidavit before Notary and Advocate Sanjeev Kumar dt. 09.07.2025

It is informed to the general public that I have changed my name from Sanjeev Kumar to Sanjeev Kandwal. In future I should be known and identified as Sanieev Kandwal S/o Sohan Lal Kandwal. Sanjeev Kandwal R/o Burans Kunj, Tunwala Road, Mianwala, P.O. Harrawala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand 248001.

मेरे पति के सैन्य अभिलेखों अनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम कविता एन दर्ज किया गया है, सही नाम कविता आधार नं. 591628237407 W/o JC-314812X नायब सुबेदार राजेश एम, राजीव नगरा, पोस्ट–हलेसोराबा, तालुक– सोरबा, जिला- शिवमोग्गा, कर्नाटक – 577429 है।

NOTICE

I, DHANESHWARI RAWAT, wife of Sh. M.S. Rawat, residing at Ajabpur Kalan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248121, state that my name was wrongly printed as "DHANESHAWARI RAWAT" in my Indian Passport. My correct name is "DHANESHWARI RAWAT". I am applying for correction and shall henceforth be known as "DHANESHWARI RAWAT" for all official purposes.

Disclaimer

The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the content for the advertisement (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.

For advertisement bookin 9045057787, 8909212518 Email: pioneerdoon@gmail.com

DGP reviews investigation standards amid manpower and duty pressure

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

 \mathbf{M} aintaining the quality of police investigations remains a major challenge amid limited manpower, law and order duties and ongoing disaster relief responsibilities. Emphasising the need for time management and consistent supervision, the director general of police Deepam Seth chaired a high-level review meeting through video conferencing with senior police officials across Garhwal and Kumaon ranges on Wednesday. The DGP stated that quality, timeliness and transparency are essential in crimes. He directed senior officers to personally supervise charge sheets, final reports and other investigation-related documents. Officials were instructed to ensure that

standard operating procedures, based on categories of crime, are updated in accordance with the new criminal laws. He briefed officers about court expectations concerning the investigation process and stressed the importance of including investigation plans, scientific evidence, videography and electronic data to ensure fair and thorough investigation. He also advised investigators to coordinate with prosecution officers in advance to enable effective court presentation. District-level officers were instructed to supervise police station investigations, identify gaps and ensure timely corrections. Accountability will be fixed not only on investigators but also on SHOs, COs and ASPs in case of negli-

while plotting major crime in Haridwar

with headquarters directives Seth said that scientific methods and videography should be integrated mandatorily into every investigation, he said. Any court instructions on individual cases must be shared in district crime meetings. He also informed that a new training module will be rolled out in phases for 3,000 investigators, covering the updated laws, eviprosecution coordination, NDPS Act and crimes related to women and children. The DGP stated that policing remains a continuous challenge and urged officers to work with professional responsibility and establish a

model of fair investigation supported by clear strategy 2 gangsters nabbed with illegal arms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

▲ Chinu Pandit gang were arrested late on Tuesday from the Premnagar area in Dehradun with illegal weapons, while allegedly preparing to carry out a major criminal act in Haridwar. The Special Task Force (STF) recovered three pistols with eight live cartridges, one country-made firearm with four cartridges, a Thar vehicle and a motorcycle during the operation, the senior superintendent of police of STF Navneet Singh Bhullar said. He informed that the STF has been closely monitoring individuals linked to organised and violent crimes, including those operating networks from inside prison. Among them is Vinay Sharma alias Chinu Pandit, currently lodged in Roorkee Sub-Jail, who has over 30 cases of murder, attempted murder and abduction registered against him. Despite

his gang's activities. The SSP said, "In 2014, three of Pandit's associates were killed in a gang war outside Roorkee jail. Intelligence inputs recently indicated that Pandit, expected to be released on parole, was planning to retaliate through his gang. STF sources received information about an attempt to arrange weapons and shooters for a potential attack in Haridwar. Acting on these inputs, the STF arrested two individuals suspected to be part of the plot." The accused have been identified as Samarth Panwar alias Sagar, originally from Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh and Sanjay Negi, a resident of Tehri district. Both were taken into custody along with the recovered arms and vehicles. Bhullar stated that based on the initial interrogation, STF has obtained leads on other associates of the gang. Further action is

3 Covid and 4 dengue cases reported in Dehradun in 24 hours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

being in jail for several years,

Dehradun district reported three new cases of Covid-19 and four new cases of dengue on Wednesday. The chief medical officer (CMO), Dehradun, Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma informed that three locals had tested positive on Wednesday. This brings the cumulative number of confirmed Covid-19 cases in the district to 94, consisting of 79 locals and 15 migrants. Currently, there are five active Covid-19 cases: four are receiving treatment at home, while one is being treated at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rishikesh. Dr Sharma also informed that in addition to the Covid-19 cases, four new

positive cases of dengue had been reported on Wednesday. Of them, one patient each is being treated at Shri Mahant Indiresh Hospital and Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) while two are recuperating at Himalayan Hospital. This takes the cumulative total of confirmed dengue cases in the district to 168 with 87 cases originating from Dehradun and 81 from other districts or states. Currently, there are 15 active dengue patients receiving treatment: nine at Shri Mahant Indiresh Hospital, three at Himalayan Hospital, two at GDMC and one at Graphic Era Hospital.

Two members of the he is believed to be managing being taken as per standard procedure, he added.

CBC 08109/12/0005/2526 भारतीय संसद





राज्य सभा सचिवालय **RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT**

DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME **AFFAIRS**

EXAMINATION OF "CYBER CRIME — RAMIFICATIONS, PROTECTION AND PREVENTION" The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs headed by **Dr. Radha**

Mohan Das Agrawal, M.P., Rajya Sabha is currently examining the subject "Cyber Crime Ramifications, Protection and Prevention" focusing on various aspects such as legal frameworks to counter cyber crime; emerging cyber security threats; issues faced by individual victims and the redressal mechanisms for cyber crime; awareness and training for cyber crime prevention; preventive mechanisms against cyber financial frauds; prevalent globally accepted best practices to address the issue of cyber crime; amendment to the cyber related laws; and the necessary measures for overall prevention and protection from cyber crime.

2. The Committee solicits views/suggestions on the said subject in writing in Hindi and English only from individuals/organizations/institutions/experts which may be sent to Smt. Neelam Bhatt, Deputy Secretary, Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Room No. 409, B-Block, Parliament House Annexe Extension, New Delhi- 110 001 (Tel. No. 011-23035783), (email: rsc-ha@sansad.nic.in) within 15 days of publication of this advertisement. Those who are willing to appear before the Committee for oral evidence may indicate so in their Memorandum. However, the Committee's decision in this regard shall be final. The Memorandum submitted to the Committee will form part of the records of the Committee and would be treated as strictly confidential and may not be made public, as such an act would constitute breach of privilege of the Committee. CBC 31202/11/0002/2526

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

PICICI Bank | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the belowmentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with

the	the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.								
Sr No	. Name of the . Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch					
1.		Plot No.39, Khasra No.778kh, Situated At Village- Salempur, Mehdood-I, Surya Nagar, Pargana- Rookee, Tehsil & District-Haridwar, Uttarakhand 249401/ July 07, 2025	March 29, 2025 Rs. 14,79,773.00 /-	Haridwar					

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/quarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: July 10, 2025, Place: Haridwar Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

functioning of unions.
Among the senior union of Central Government Employees and Workers, New Delhi- regarding their pendmembers who participated in the strike in Dehradun ing demands. The demands include formation of a comwere its president, Yatendra

The members of Income amendment in the new re-**▲** Tax Employees Federacruitment rules, restoration tion, Dehradun joined the of inter-charge transfer, regone-day nationwide strikeularisation of casual labour called by the Confederation and ensuring democratic mittee for the 8th Pay Com-Singh and secretary, Rakesh mission, restoration of OPS,

I-Tax employees join all-India strike in Doon

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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Dhami Cabinet approves U'khand CM orders DMs to solve Geothermal Policy -2025

In a major initiative to tap geothermal energy of the tectonically active Himalayan belt of the State, the Uttarakhand government has formulated the Uttarakhand Geothermal Policy-2025. The policy was endorsed by the State cabinet in its meeting held on

Wednesday.
The objective of the policy is to encourage scientific and technological research for identifying geothermal resources which are economically and environmentally viable. It also envisages development and usage of the geothermal spots and their use in power generation, heating and cooling systems, water purification and community development. The officials claim that the policy will also help in reducing carbon emission and will strengthen the energy security of the State.

It is pertinent to mention here that the Geological Survey of India and the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun have identified about 40 sites in Uttarakhand, where geothermal energy can be har-nessed. Initial studies show that such areas in the State are concentrated in Badrinath and Tapowan region of Chamoli district.

In January this year, the Uttarakhand government had inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for exploration of geothermal energy with Verkis Consultancy Engineers, a company based in Iceland.

The new policy will cover all the geothermal projects which will be allotted for a period of 30 years. The implementation of the policy will be done by the department of Power with the help of Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Authority (UREDA) and UJVN

In an important decision, the cabinet gave its nod for the proposal for continued disbursal of widow and old age pensions to such beneficiaries whose children have attained the age of 18 years.

In another decision the cabinet approved the plan for setting up a project management unit (PMÚ) for increasing the capacity of the bridges under the Public Works Department. A decision to create 20 new posts in the vigilance department was also taken in the meet-

The cabinet approved the proposal to enlist seven companies for supply of services and material for information technology in the State. The cabinet also approved the proposals regarding setting up Uttarakhand State Mineral Exploration Trust regulation 2025 and Uttarakhand District Mineral Foundation Trust regulation 2025. A proposal for

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Uttarakhand govern-I ment has decided to appoint district magistrates (DM) as presiding officers of the district level appellate tribunal set up to resolve the problems of tĥe senior citizens.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that the government is committed to en-



sure dignity and protection to senior citizens and in this regards the DMs have been made the presiding officers of the tribunals and they have been directed to quickly dispose of the related complaints.

setting up a digital forensic laboratory under the State Taxes department was also approved by the cabinet.

Telated complaints.

Directing the officers of the Social Welfare department, the CM said that the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and

Senior Citizens Act 2007 (MWPSC Act)' for protecting the rights of senior citizens, should be implemented effectively. The Act provides a legal system of maintenance of senior citizens and parents from their children, adult grandchildren or heirs of property. The CM said that a total of 13 Ap-

> functioning at the dis-trict level while 69 Maintenance bunals are functional at the sub-division level in the state. These tribunals have an authority to fix a maximum maintenance amount of Rs 10,000 per month. The CM said that the

pellate Tribunals are

DMs have the responsibility to provide justice to senior citizens by strictly implementing

Dhami appealed to the senior citizens to contact the nearest Maintenance Tribunal or District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) if they feel neglected or get harassed by their chil- with rural tourism while the

5 new models introduced in problems of senior citizens Uttarakhand's Cooperative sector

The Uttarakhand govern-I ment is planning to introduce five new innovative models in the cooperative sector of the State. These models are Medical Cooperative, Youth Cooperative, Forest Cooperative, Tourism Cooperative and Multinational Fisheries Cooperative.

An announcement regarding this was made by the Cooperatives minister Dhan Singh Rawat on the closing day of the Sahakar Manthan workshop at Forest Research Institute (FRI) on Wednesday. He said that the objective of

the Medical Cooperative is to provide cheap and accessible medical services in rural and urban areas and will include hospitals, pharmacy and insurance. Similarly the purpose of Youth Cooperative is to link youth with startups and that of Forest Cooperative is to provide benefits of forest products to forest dwellers. He said that the aim of the Tourism Cooppurpose of the Multinational

Fisheries Cooperative is to create a competitive cooperative model in fisheries.

The minister said that in order to introduce comprehensive reforms in the sector changes will be made in the cooperative act and regulations. The purpose is to make the cooperative system forward looking and transparent. Rawar

preparations for the Cooperative Fairs In the last session of the workshop, in -depth discussions were held on digital transformation of Cooperatives, role in green develop-ment, State Cooperative enhancement, consumer-centric banking, Cooperative education and training and rural innovation. The programme



said that soon one day Sahakar Manthan programmes will be held with the chairpersons of district cooperative committees and others. The minister directed the officers to make

was attended by former president of district cooperative bank Subash Ramola, registrar cooperatives Meherban Singh Bisht and others.

Cloudburst triggers flash floods in Pithoragarh, affects over 50 Families

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Pithoragarh

Acloudburst and heavy rainfall late on Tuesday near Teejam village of Pithoragarh's Dharchula led to a sudden rise in the water level of the Nehal stream, causing significant destruction. Acinformed that floodwaters swept away a 36 metres long motor bridge constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) at a cost of Rs 2.13 crore as well as a wooden bridge maintained



cording to officials, more than 50 families have been affected by the incident. They

heavy rain

Ain Mussoorie near the

Tehri bus stand early on

Wednesday. A parked car

and a scooter were crushed

under it but no injuries were

reported. The tree fell shortly

before a group of school chil-

dren passed through the

area, narrowly avoiding a more serious incident. The

police, Fire services and for-

est officials responded and

used machines to remove the

tree from the road. The offi-

cials said that the tree had

weakened due to continuous

rainfall and wind. They are

now inspecting other trees in

the surrounding areas to

identify and remove those

that may pose similar risks. It

appears that rainfall in

Dehradun district is weaken-

ing tree roots and causing

frequent tree falls in both

urban and hilly areas. Water-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

and Dehradun due to

by the Public Works Department that connected Teejam and Vatan Tok. The collapse

of these bridges has completely disrupted movement in the area. Residents of the area reportedly spent the night outside their homes, many taking shelter at a local school and a post of the Gorkha Regiment, fearing further danger. Villagers Anil Bisht and Laxmi Gwal said that they left their homes along with several others when the water level of the stream began to rise rapidly late at night. The destroyed motor bridge, weighing around 47 tonnes and the wooden bridge have been swept downstream. Residents said that the bridge remains nearly a kilometre away and no base now remains at the site for reconstruction. Many villages on the far side of the river have lost all contact with the tehsil headquarters. They claimed that due to the

damage, immediate relief and rescue efforts are required. They have requested helicopter assistance from the ad ministration if necessary. Teejam is located around 40 kilometres from Dharchula tehsil and approximately 150 kilometres from Pithoragarh district headquarters. Multiple routes to the area are blocked, as per the sources. The village has also lost electricity supply after power poles were washed away. The sub divisional magistrate Ji-tendra Verma said that the district administration received information about the incident and a team from the revenue department was sent neer of the Seed Bomb the incident site to take further action accordingly.

Trees fall in Mussoorie | BKTC approves Rs 127

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

large oak tree collapsed logged ground and strong winds have led to several incidents where large, old trees have collapsed, disrupting traffic and posing safety risks. A century-old tree fell inside the Tapkeshwar Mahadev Temple complex after days of persistent rain and strong winds late on Tuesday. The tree crashed down on part of the temple premises, damaging a shop and the police post located within the complex. One person got minor injuries and was taken to a hospital for treatment. Police and Fire services teams reached the site and cleared the tree from the sented the annual budget road. Local shopkeepers pointed out that the incident | and approved by the board. could have been far more serious if it had occurred on a budget Rs 64.22 crore Monday, when the temple sees a large crowd of devo-

The Badrinath Kedar- for Kedarnath Dham. nath Temple Commit- Against this revenue, pro-Rs 56.86 crore for Badrinath and Rs 40.93 crore for Kedarnath. It was reported in the meeting that as of July 8, 2025, a total of 24,78,963 pilgrims have visited the shrines. Of these, 11,37,628 visited Badrinath Dham and 13,41,335 visited Kedarnath Dham. The total number of registrations so far includes 14,32,983 for Badrinath and 15,49,930 for Kedarnath. They said that the Yatra is continuing during the monsoon season

> observed a two-minute silence in memory of temple committee staff member Vikram Rawat, who died in the recent Kedarnath helicopter accident and other pilgrims who lost their lives during the pilgrimage.

to assess the damage. The PMGSY executive engineer Kishan Singh stated that an inspection team will inspect

crore budget for 2025-26

tee (BKTC) approved a jected expenditure stands at budget of Rs 127.09 crore for the financial year 2025-26 during its board meeting held at the committee's Canal Road office in Dehradun on Wednesday. The meeting was chaired by BKTC president Hemant Dwiwedi and began with prayers offered to Lord Badrinath and Kedarnath. BKTC chief executive officer Vijay Prasad Thapliyal welcomed all officials and members in the first meeting of the reconstituted committee. Finance officer Manish Kumar Upreti prewhich was then discussed The board allocated the under the proposed revenue head for Badrinath Dham and Rs 62.87 crore

without disruption. The board members also

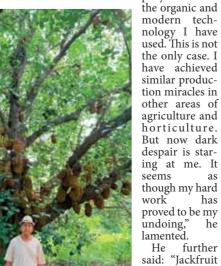
Jackfruit abundance & low market price: Organic farmers stare at loss

ood production coupled Gwith low market demand have landed the progressive farmers, who have been farming with organic technology, in a bind from which they find no way out. Such a farmer from Gaulapar, Haldwani, Narendra Singh Mehra has recounted his plight. "Thanks to the organic farming and other modern methods I have applied, a 40year- old jackfruit tree planted by my father is now laden with over 100 quintals of the fruits. This abundance has, however, put me in trouble. As I am not getting the right price for them in the market, the fruits are left to rot on the trees," he said gloomily.

Adding more, he said that the price he was getting in the market was not even equivalent to the cost of having them plucked and taken to markets. The price I am getting is not more than Rs 400 a quintal," he

Asked to explain things further, he said that 200 to 500 fruits grow in a mature tree per

year. "But this tree has produced more than 100 quintals of jackfruit this time principally because of



the only case. I have achieved similar production miracles in other areas of agriculture and horticulture. But now dark despair is staring at me. It though my hard proved to be my

He further aid: "Jackfruit farming is considered quite profitable for the growers. But this year, not just me but others who have grown it organically have been facing the same quandary. Last year, I sold jackfruit worth Rs 45, 000 from this tree and this year too, I hoped to earn even more than last year," he said.

Asked to explain the speciality of organic farming, Mehra said that there was no need for maintenance and medicines. "Besides, the vagaries of climate like cold, heat and even hailstorms have no effect on their growth. This accounts for the abundance of the produce," he added.

Finally, he urged the State government to fix prices for jackfruits to keep organic farmers like them out of the low market price trouble. "This is demoralising for us as we are staring at a stark loss. We hope that the State government which encourages organic farming will step in for us," he said.

Minister orders seed bomb campaign's incorporation in Forest plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The State Forest and Environment minister vironment minister, Subodh Uniyal said that the seed bomb campaign is a positive effort aimed at reducing conflicts between wildlife and humans while inaugurating the campaign organised by the Himalaya Paryavaran Jadibooti Agro Sansthan which is celebrated annually. The campaign commenced on July 9 and will conclude on July

"Since the origin of the Earth, forests have served as our protectors. However, human greed has created a crisis for these vital ecosystems. Now it is time when we must come forward to preserve forests through collective participation," he said and added that the pio-

Campaign, Dwarika Prasad Semwal and the institute he leads should be lauded for initiating this well-timed campaign. He further directed officials to take the seed bomb campaign seriously by incorporating it into the annual action plan of the Forest department. Speaking on the occasion,

the principal chief conservator of forest, Sameer Sinha said that preparations are underway to produce seed bombs at the local level across the State. Semwal, in his address, noted that the journey,

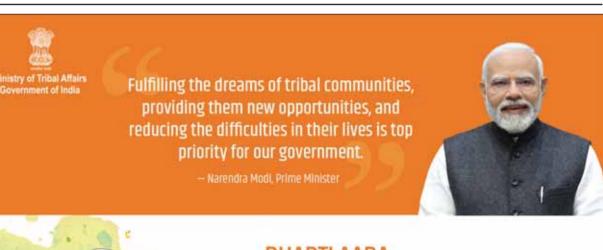
was progressing steadily. "This is a budget-free initiative, inspiring people to create seed bombs and conserve seeds," he added.

which had begun in 2017

that while the world faces a race for destructive bombs, social workers in Uttarakhand have been contribut-Padma Shri recipient, ing to the country with a

Kalyan Singh Rawat said

bomb of prosperity. warned that until the importance of trees is understood natural disasters would haunt humankind.



Birth Anniversary

Year of Bhagwan Birsa Munda

Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh

DHARTI AABA JANBHAGIDARI ABHIYAN

15th June - 15th July 2025

India's Largest Tribal Empowerment Campaign

The month-long nationwide campaign is bringing enrollment services for Aadhaar, Ayushman Bharat, PM Jan Dhan bank accounts, PM-Kisan, and all major government schemes directly to tribal communities.

More than 1.15 Cr + tribal brothers and sisters across 517+ districts in 31 States/UTs have already participated in 48,000+ camps to avail benefits, including:



9.33 lakh+ Aadhaar Enrolments



9.19 lakh+ Ayushman Cards Issued



3.51 lakh+ PM-Kisan Registrations



3.12 lakh+ Jan Dhan **Accounts Opened** CBC 43101/13/0015/2526



1.71 lakh+ Ujjwala Beneficiaries

AADI KARMAYOGI ABHIYAN

EMPOWERING TRIBALS FOR VIKSIT BHARAT

#EmpoweringTribalsViksItBharat | #janjatiyaGauravVarsh | #DhartlAabaAbhiyan #PMJANMAN



HC directs Prajwal Revanna to seek bail from sessions court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

he Karnataka High Court (HC) on Wednesday directed suspended JD(S) leader Prajwal Revanna to approach the sessions court for bail in the high-profile rape case filed against him. The court clarified that Revanna could return to the HC if necessary, after the lower court considers his plea.

Justice SR Krishna Kumar, who presided over the matter, observed that it would be more appropriate for Revanna to exhaust all remedies before the trial court before seeking intervention from the HC.

This marks the second attempt by Revanna to secure bail in the case.

Senior Advocate Prabhuling Navadgi, who appeared for Revanna, argued that the court was well within its powers to hear the bail application



However, the bench maintained that the correct legal course would be to first move the sessions court.

Following Navadgi's request, the HC directed the trial court to decide on the fresh bail application within 10 days from the date of its filing.

Revanna is the primary accused in four separate FIRs involving allegations of sexual assault, voyeurism, and circulation of obscene material.

The cases emerged after over

2,900 video clips allegedly depicting sexual violence were widely shared online and via social media platforms. The first FIR was filed in April 2023

She accused him of repeatedly raping her and threatening to leak footage of the abuse if she spoke out.

by a domestic worker employed

at Revanna's family-owned

According to her complaint, the assaults began in 2021.

The Bengaluru trial court

has already framed several charges against Revanna, including rape, criminal intimidation, voyeurism and distribution of private images without consent. Revanna's earlier plea for bail was dismissed by the HC in October 2023.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court also declined to grant him relief. In March 2024, he filed a fresh bail application in the HC, citing a "change in circumstances".

His legal team argued that the prolonged delay in commencing the trial had resulted in a violation of his fundamental rights under Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to life and personal liberty.

Opposing the bail plea, the state — represented by Special Public Prosecutors Senior Advocate Prof Ravi Varma Kumar and B N Jagadeesha argued that any delay in the trial was attributable to Revanna and his family, not the

Delhi HC reserves order on bail pleas in UAPA cases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

◀he Delhi High Court Wednesday reserved its verdict on bail pleas of activists Sharjeel Imam, Umar Khalid and others facing prosecution in a UAPA case related to the alleged conspiracy behind the February 2020 riots.

A bench of Justices Navin

reserved its order after hearing cution, contended that it was a the arguments on behalf of the prosecution and various accused.

The prosecution vehemently opposed the bail plea, saying was not a case of spontaneous riots but a case where riots were planned well in advance with a sinister motive and well thought out conspiracy.

Chawla and Shalinder Kaur Mehta, representing the prose- and WhatsApp chats never

conspiracy to defame India on a global level and mere long incarceration is no ground for

"If you do anything against your nation, you better be in jail till you are acquitted," he argued. Imam's counsel argued earlier that he was "completely disconnected" with the place, time and co-accused persons, including Solicitor General Tushar Umar Khalid. Imam's speeches

called for any unrest, he argued Umar Khalid, Imam and several others have been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and provisions of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly being the

dead and over 700 injured. The violence erupted during protests against the CAA and the NRC. Imam was arrested in the case on August 25, 2020.

"masterminds" of the February

2020 riots, which left 53 people

MLA assaults canteen staffer, faces flak...

Continued from » P1 A m o l Mitkari, MLC of Shiv Sena's ally NCP, said he does not endorse Gaikwad's action but the issues he raised were valid. "The food quality at the canteen is poor. There should be some improvements," he said. Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi also criticised Gaikwad for his

behaviour. "Meet Shah Sena's MLA Sanjay Gaikwad. Last year he had threatened and announced 11 lakh rupees to anyone who cuts off Sh Rahul Gandhi's tongue. Now the man is seen beating up a poor helpless canteen worker. But wait no news TV outrage here since it's a BJP ally," Chaturvedi post-

This is not the first time that Gaikwad has been embroiled in a controversy.

In September 2024, Gaikwad said he will give ₹11 lakh to anyone chopping off Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's tongue for his remarks on scrapping the reservation system. The Buldhana police later registered a case against him. In April 2025, Gaikwad made some objectionable remarks on police, but expressed regret after being rebuked by Fadnavis. Earlier, a video of Gaikwad thrashing a youth with a stick went viral in March last year. Gaikwad later said he beat up the youth as he was part of an anti-social gang and had hit a policeman.

Delhi CM home tender dropped

0-litre microwave worth ₹32,579 and a 71-litre oventoaster-grill costing ₹85,828.

The PWD had earlier allotted two bungalows to Gupta on Raj Niwas Marg, one for her residence and the other as her official camp office. She inaugurated the camp office just last

Continued from » P1 A five- week. Rekha Gupta - a first- Minister. burner gas hob with auto-ignitime MLA and surprise chief election - waited nearly a 100 days before being allotted a bungalow as her official residence. The allotment was finally made in early June; adjacent properties on Raj Niwas Marg in Delhi's Civil Lines area were given to Ms Gupta for the dura-

She had chosen not to occution was estimated at over minister pick after the BJP's py the bungalow occupied by ₹63,000. Plans also included a thumping win in February's ex-Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal – - also in Civil Lines - after it became the focal point of the BJP's attack on the Aam Aadmi Party boss. The BJP had dubbed the house a 'sheeshmahal' and accused Kejriwal of spending crores of taxpayers' money on lavish

day. Venkatachalam criticised

the push for longer working

Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Gupta interacted with people and listened to their grievances at 'Jansunwai' at her camp office on Wednesday This was the first 'Jansunwai' at her camp office on Raj Niwas Marg, which was inaugurated by her on Friday. During the inauguration, the Chief Minister emphasised that public service is the "supreme duty" of her Government.

Workers protest disrupts India

tion of her term as Chief

fle turned nasty during attempts made by the bandh supporters to forcefully snatch the detainees from prison vans and escort them out of police grips. "The Mamata Banerjee police has sold itself to the TMC which, in turn, has sold its soul to the BIP. This strike was called against BJP's policies and look how the TMC government launched its crackdown on us. They won't even allow us to hold a peaceful rally in support of the strike," Bhattacharva alleged.

In Kolkata's Jadavpur and Lake Town areas, protestors also burnt tyres and blocked roads. Similar rail and road disruptions were reported in Durgapur, Lalgola, Bandel, and Domjur. In poll-bound Bihar, the Opposition protested against both the new labour laws and alleged irregularities in the special intensive revision (SIR) of voter rolls. Members of Biju Janata Dal's (RJD) students' wing blocked the train tracks at Jehanabad railway station in the state.

The INDIA bloc, of which the Mahagathbandhan is a part, had called in protest against the four labour codes, but the opposition coalition had chosen to also highlight its reservations against the SIR, which allegedly threatens to "disenfranchise a substantial number of voters." Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, RJD's Tejashwi Yadav besides D Raja, MA Baby and Dipankar Bhattacharya, general secretaries of CPI, CPI(M) and grids would be delayed by a CPI(ML) respectively, also participated in a major procession that commenced at the Income

Tax crossing. In Kerala, a state governed by the Left, the strike saw neartotal compliance. Shops, government offices, markets, and schools remained shut. Buses operated by the Kerala state road transport corporation stayed off the roads despite an appeal by the transport minister. At some depots, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions affiliated workers blocked vehicles. Tamil Nadu witnessed rail blockade attempts in Chennai's Korukkupet area, where about 50 activists were detained. Protests were also reported from Guindy and Anna Salai. Banking operations were also affected as employees and officers from key unions including All India Bank Employees Association, All Bank Officers Association, and Bank Employees Federation of India joined the strike. AIBEA general secretary C Venkatachalam said that banking transactions were severely

routine operations. "Receipts and payments of cash, cheque clearance, and other customer services were halted. Even some ATMs ran dry," Venkatachalam said, noting that clearance of about four crore cheques worth ₹20 lakh crore through national

disrupted, with many branch-

es unable to open or carry out

hours under the guise of improving the 'ease of doing business', referencing controversial suggestions from industry leaders promoting 70 to 90hour work weeks. He highlighted rising inequality, stating that the top five per cent of India's population now controls 70 per cent of the country's wealth, while the bottom 50 percent is left with just three per cent. The All India Power Engineers Federation claimed that over 27 lakh power sector workers hit the road across the country. About one lakh power staff, contract workers, junior engineers and engineers of Uttar Pradesh came out of their work sites and staged a widespread protest against the privatisation of two UP DIS-COMS, an AIPEF statement said. The bandh, however, had no impact on Delhi's commercial activity with all markets functioning as usual. "All 700 markets and 56 industrial areas in Delhi functioned as usual," Confederation of All India Traders chairman Brijesh Goyal said. But in neighbouring Rajasthan, a wide coalition of workers — ranging from state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd and insurance

employees to Anganwadi and

mid-day meal staff — partici-

pated in the strike. Medical rep-

resentatives and farm labourers

also joined, highlighting rural

worker distress. Punjab also

witnessed a three-day strike beginning Wednesday by contract workers from Puniab Roadways, PUNBUS (Punjab Roadways) and PRTC (PEPSU Road Transport Corporation), who protested outside bus depots including in Pathankot, demanding redressal of longpending grievances.

Odisha experienced a compounded impact, as a separate strike by the bus and truck drivers' association coincided with the union-led bandh. Transport services were paralysed, with no resolution in sight despite government negotiations. The country wide strike was

jointly organised by major unions including the All India Continued from » P1 T h e Trade Union Congress (AITUC), Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), CITU, Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), and Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA), among others. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha and federations from public sectors like railways, NMDC Ltd, and steel also participated. This was the latest in a series of mass worker mobilisations following nationwide protests in 2020, 2022, and 2024. While the government has defended the new labour codes as measures to streamline outdated laws and boost employment flexibility, unions say the reforms weaken worker protections, restrict the right to strike, and increase working hours without proportional the desperation of jobless youth from rural belts.

Amarnath ice lingam melts almost completely

MOHIT KANDHARI Jammu

¬he naturally formed ice lingam in the Amarnath cave shrine has melted almost completely due to the soaring mercury in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Since the beginning of the yatra on July 3, more than 1.20 lakh pilgrims have already performed darshan inside the holy cave till late Wednesday evening. Each day, a large number of pilgrims are reaching different base camps in the



Jammu and Kashmir valley to undertake the vatra.

According to ground reports, it is the first time in recent history that a naturally formed ice lingam has melted away in such a short period. The yatra is scheduled to culminate on August 9, coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan. A devotee from Jammu who performed darshan inside the cave shrine on July 8 reported that when he arrived there for darshan, he could not locate the 'Ice Lingam' inside the cave shrine.

Bridge collapse in Gujarat claims nine...

Continued from » P1 A slab of the entire chunk of the slab of the Gambhira bridge, which connects central Gujarat to the Saurashtra region and is located near Padra town, caved in, killing ten persons, Superintendent of Police (Vadodara rural) Rohan

Anand said. "A fire brigade team of the local municipality and the Municipal Vadodara Corporation are working with boats and swimmers at the accident site as part of rescue and relief operations. A NDRF team has also reached the scene and joined the rescue operation," Patel informed.

Visuals from the site showed

the bridge between two piers has collapsed. The slab collapse caused the vehicles, which were passing through the bridge, to plunge into the

Five out of nine persons who were rescued were getting treated at state-run SSG Hospital in Vadodara city, Anand said, adding none of them is in a critical condition. The SP said the 10 to 15 metres long slab of the bridge came crashing down at around 7.30 am.

The rescue operation, involving fire brigade personnel, local residents as well as a team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), was still underway at the site, officials said.

At least half a dozen vehicles — two trucks, two vans, an autorickshaw and a twowheeler — fell into the river after the bridge collapsed, Vadodara Collector Anil Dhameliya said. Two other vehicles that came dangerously close to falling in the river were dragged away to a safer location, the collector said. Three persons on a twowheeler, which fell into the river, managed to swim to safety, he added. According to the police, two out of ten persons

who lost their lives were siblings — a two-year-old boy and his four-year-old sister. Most of the deceased were residents of Vadodara and Anand districts, and all except a child were male. Out of five persons undergoing treatment at SSG Hospital, four were men and one woman. One of the injured is from Udaipur district in adjoining Rajasthan, police said.

Gujarat minister Rushikesh Patel said the bridge was constructed in 1985, and its maintenance was carried out as and when required. "The exact reason behind the incident will be probed," he said.

Delhi pushes English in city schools

ther stated that all subjects except regional languages must be taught in English in these designated sections. Schools have been asked to ensure the availability of adequate teaching and learning materials in English. Additionally, the change must be updated in all official school records, including the UDISE portal.

Officials said all district

and zonal authorities have been instructed to monitor the implementation of this initiative and extend necessary support to schools.

According to the circular, the initiative aims to create a strong academic foundation for students aspiring to pursue higher education in science, technology, and research. The English medium sections will be introduced up to Class 12 in a phased manner.

where no English Medium Section is functional for Class VI. This anomaly is causing unnecessary problem to the parents and many of them are requesting transfer of their wards to Schools with English

Officials said that it has

been observed that still there

are some Govt. Schools of

Directorate of Education

"It will create a base for those students who aspire to

medium sections.

opt for higher education in the field of Science, Technology and Research," it said.

English medium education is important in Delhi government schools because it provides students with enhanced career opportunities, access to higher education, and increased global opportunities. It also addresses the growing demand for English proficiency in a globalized world and can lead to social mobility.

Trainer crash claims two IAF

March 7, a Jaguar fighter jet went down near Ambala during a routine sortie. The pilot was able to eject safely.

A month later on April 3, another Jaguar jet crashed in Gujarat's Jamnagar. The pilot died in the crash.

The Jaguar jets were inducted into the IAF in 1979. The twin-engine fighter air-

n craft forms an important part of India's nuclear triad, but the Indian Air Force is the only operator of these low-flying fighter bombers — the majority of which were licence-built by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under a transfer of technology from SEPECAT, a joint venture between France's Breguet and British Aircraft the

Corporation. The IAF currently operates six squadrons of Jaguar deep-penetration strike fighters. So far this year, the IAF has witnessed five crashes. The first was on February

6, when a Mirage 2000 crashed near Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh after taking off from Gwalior.

Both pilots ejected safely.

On March 7, the same day as the Ambala Jaguar crash, an AN-32 cargo aircraft met with an accident at Bagdogra Air Base in the eastern sector, though no injuries were reported.

April 2 Jamnagar Jaguar crash was followed by the July 9 Churu incident, taking the tally of accidents to five in

seven months.

SC case against ED for calling lawyers "direct threat" to the indepenarise and require addressal on a the same shall be issued only dence of justice administracomprehensive basis for "what tion. The bench had framed a is at stake is the efficacy of the couple of questions in the matadministration of justice and the

with the prior approval of the director, ED," said the ED circular. The summons were condemned by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAO-RA), calling it a "disturbing trend" that struck at the very foundations of the legal profession. The bar bodies had urged the chief justice of India to take suo motu cognisance of the matter. On June 25, a bench of Justices KV Viswanathan and N Kotiswar Singh observed the legal profession was an integral component of the process of administration of justice and allowing police or probe agencies to directly summon lawyers for advising clients would seriously undermine the autonomy of legal profession and was a

"Some of the questions which arise for consideration are: (1) when an individual has an association with a case only as a lawyer advising the party, could the investigating agency/prosecuting agency/police directly summon the lawyer for questioning?" the bench asked. The other question read, "Assuming that the investigating agency or prosecuting agency or police have a case that the role of the individual is not merely as a lawyer but something more, even then, should they be directly permitted to summon or should a judicial oversight be prescribed for those exceptional criteria?" Both points aside from other

issues, the top court said, could

capacity of the lawyers to conscientiously, and more importantly, fearlessly discharge their professional duties".

The bench said since it was a matter directly impinging on the administration of justice, "to subject a professional... When he is a counsel in the matter... Prima facie appears to be untenable, subject to further consideration by the court". The order came when the top court was hearing a plea of a Gujaratbased advocate, challenging an order of the High Court passed on June 12. The high court in March 2025 refused to quash a notice summoning the lawyer before the police in a case against his client. The top court, however, directed the State not to summon him till further orders and stayed the operation of the police's notice issued to him. It said the lawyers engaged in legal practice, apart from their fundamental right under Article 19 (1)(g) of the Constitution, had certain rights and privileges guaranteed being legal professionals and further as a result of

statutory provisions. Article 19 (1)(g) of the Constitution deals with the right to practise any profession or to carry on any occupation, trade or business. Underlining the issue as important, the bench called for assistance of the attorney general, the solicitor general, chairperson of the Bar Council of India, and the presidents of the SCBA and SCAO RA. The top court had asked the apex court registry to place the case files before the CJI for passing appropriate directions.

ED raids Punjab dunki networks

ongoing investigation is being spearheaded by the ED's Jalandhar Zonal Office under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), based on 17 First Information Reports (FIRs) registered by police authorities in Punjab and Haryana. These complaints, filed by duped migrants or their families, exposed how unsuspecting individuals were lured by promises of legal migration to the US and other Western nations, only to be smuggled via dangerous, illegal thirdcountry routes involving forests, deserts, and sea crossings. In many cases, agents reportedly charged Rs 45 to Rs 50 lakh per person, exploiting

The ED said that the raids were aimed at collecting evidence against key players in this racket - travel agents, visa consultants, and middlemen who allegedly acted in collusion with international human smuggling syndicates, often referred to as "Donkers" or mafia handlers. During the searches, investigators seized incriminating documents, digital devices, and unaccounted cash. Sources indicated that the agents were operating sophisticated networks with contacts across Central America, Mexico, and Europe - key waypoints in the 'Dunki route' chain.

Crucially, the probe was triggered after detailed testimonies were recorded from several Indian nationals deported from the United

States in February 2025. Their statements helped ED piece together how the agents orchestrated these illegal journeys, funneling people across multiple countries without proper documentation. The accounts also revealed how families were coerced into making additional payments mid-route, often under threats of violence or abandonment in remote terrains. Officials said that many of

these agents targeted the economically vulnerable in Punjab and Haryana's hinterlands, where aspirations to migrate are often fueled by stories of success abroad. "They sell a dream - of comfort, pros perity, and a secure future. What these people get instead is trauma, danger, and exploitation," an official

The ED believed that a significant portion of the payments made to agents was routed through hawala channels, and efforts are underway to trace the laundering of these illicit funds. This is not the first instance of ED probing the 'Dunki

involved in the probe stated

route' network. Previous raids in Punjab and other states have unearthed massive volumes of forged documents and travel records. However, the current crackdown is being seen as a major step forward, given the scale and coordination of the operation and its direct link to mass deportations from the US. ED officials confirmed that more suspects are being identified as analysis of seized digital data and documents

TMC alleges illegal detention of Bengalispeaking migrant workers in Odisha

Wednesday alleged that the BJP-ruled Odisha Governmenthas illegally detained Bengali-speaking migrant workers on the pretext of identifying unauthorised immigrants, despite the labourers possessing valid documents.

The party demanded their immediate release and warned of a larger political movement such "targeted harassment"continues. The allegations followed a statement by TMC MP Mahua Moitra and Rajya Sabha MP Samirul Islam, who also serves as Chairman of the Migrant Workers' Welfare Board, on social media, in which they condemned the incident.

"23 workers from Nadia are being held in illegal detention in Jharsuguda. I urge @SecyChief @DGPOdisha to release them immediately,"Moitra said in a

post on X. Claiming that such incidents never happened during

administrative

he corridors of power in

abuzz with speculation as

the state prepares for a change

in its top administrative leader-

ship. Dr Rajesh Rajora and

Alka Upadhyay have emerged as

the leading contenders for the

crucial post of Chief Secretary,

following the impending retire-

ment of the incumbent Chief

Secretary Anurag Jain and

Additional Chief Secretary

(ACS) JN Kansotia in August.

Anurag Jain, a 1989-batch IAS

officer, is set to turn 60 on

August 11, while his batch-

mate JN Kansotia will attain 60

Both officers, who com-

menced their IAS careers simul-

taneously on August 21, 1989,

are scheduled to officially retire

on August 31, marking the end

of a significant chapter in the state's bureaucracy. If Chief Secretary Jain does not receive

an extension, Dr Rajesh Rajora,

a 1990-batch IAS officer, is

widely considered the most senior and prominent claimant

for the Chief Secretary role.

Rajora currently serves as

the ACS and Vice President of

the Narmada Valley Develo-

pment Department. Also in

strong contention is Alka

Upadhyay, a distinguished

female IAS officer from the

same 1990 batch as Rajora.

Upadhyay, who is presently

serving as Secretary in the

Animal Husbandry Depar-

tment at the Centre, has report-

edly expressed interest in

administrative engagements

within Madhya Pradesh.

Furthermore, Pankaj Agarwal,

a 1992-batch IAS officer cur-

rently on central deputation,

could see his prospects bright-

en if the central Government

actively participates in the selec-

tion process, given its track

record of making "surprising

decisions" for Chief Secretary

and Director General of Police

appointments in other states.

years of age on August 12.

Madhya Pradesh are

MP set for

change in

leadership

GIRISH SHARMA Bhopal

its top



REPRESENTATIVE PHOTO

the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD's 24-year rule in Odisha, she said, "Do not think there is no

one to fight for these workers." In another post, Moitra said those 23 workers are from Mirzapur village under Panighata Gram Panchayat in her constituency, and they "are being illegally detained with 421 other Bengali workers at interrogation centre by Orient Police Station in Jharsuguda,

Odisha, despite full documen-

tation." She tagged Naveen Patnaik along with the DGP and the chief secretary of the neighbouring state.

According to TMC leaders. over 200 migrant workers from districts such as Nadia,

Birbhum, Purba Bardhaman and South 24 Parganas have been picked up in recent weeks by Odisha police and kept at interrogation centres in Jharsuguda district on suspicion of being Bangladeshis.

TMC Rajya Sabha MP Samirul Islam alleged that these detentions were part of a "deliberate pattern of harassment"based solely on the workers' language and origin.

"Once again, atrocities against Bengali-speaking migrant workers continue in Odisha's Jharsuguda district. The BJP-ruled Odisha Governmentrecently detained over 200 migrant workers from Bengal districts on suspicion of being Bangladeshi nationals. This is a fresh round of detentions following the earlier confinement of hundreds,"

"What is their fault? That they speak Bengali? What grudge do @narendramodi and @AmitShah hold against these poor Bengalis?" he asked. The top BJP leadership seems least bothered to address the plight of these Bengali-speaking individuals, Islam claimed in the post.

"Will they at least consult with @Odisha_CMO to understand their situation? We have already moved the court. If this barbaric attitude continues, we will launch a larger movement. Our Chief Secretary has already written to the Odisha Chief Secretary. Our Chief Minister @MamataOfficial has made it clear: Bengal will not tolerate any move that causes suffering to our people working in other states,"Islam added.

Last week, West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant wrote to his Odisha counterpart, urging him to intervene and stop the alleged "harassment"of Bengali-speaking migrant workers in the state.

In his letter, Pant said the detained workers, many of whom are daily-wage earners, rickshaw pullers and domestic workers, are being "unjustly labelled as Bangladeshis" merely because they speak Bengali, their mother tongue. There was no immediate response from the Odisha Governmentor its police department to the

protest amid 'Bihar bandh' called by the INDIA bloc against Special Intensive Revision in the state in Patna on Wednesday

Maharashtra polls were rigged: Rahul Gandhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Patna

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday ✓alleged that the 2024 Maharashtra assembly elections were "rigged" to favour the BJP and claimed that the NDA Government at the Centre wants to repeat it in the Bihar polls due later this year.

Addressing INDIA bloc workers during a protest march to the Election Commission's office in Patna against the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, Gandhi said, "Maharashtra assembly elections were rigged to favour the BJP and the NDA. They want to repeat it in Bihar, which we will not allow."

He alleged that the special intensive revision was an extension of the 'Maharashtra model' of fudging electoral rolls and would "steal not just people's right to vote but their entire future". "The Election Commission must protect the Constitution, it is working on instructions from the BJP. These Election Commissioners have been nominated by the BJP. The special intensive revision of the electoral rolls is an attempt to steal an election. We will not allow the EC to steal the (voting) rights of the electorate, especially the youth,"he said.

The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, who arrived in the state capital in the morning, was accompanied by leaders of alliance partners such as Tejashwi Yadav of RJD, besides D Raja, MA Baby and Dipankar Bhattacharya, general secretaries of CPI, CPI(M) and CPI(ML), respectively.

He alleged that the Election Commission comprised persons "nominated by the BIP" and the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar was aimed at "serving" the party in power. Gandhi had flown down which are a part of the nation-wide 'chakka jam' called by trade unions against the four new labour codes, to which in Bihar has been added the issue of the electoral roll revision. Waving a red copy of the Constitution, that has become his style, he said, "The EC has, of late, been speaking the language of the BJP-RSS. Earlier, EC members' selection involved the Chief Justice of India and the LoP. But now, we are virtually kept out of the process and handed over a piece of paper containing names of Election Commissioners nominated by

"We have already exposed the Maharashtra model,"Gandhi said, alluding to alleged addition of 'bogus voters' in electoral rolls of the western state where the BJP-led coalition achieved a landslide victory in assembly polls last year, months after being drubbed in the Lok Sabha elections. "Glaring anomalies were found in the electoral rolls of Maharashtra where thousands of electors were shown to be residents of one house. The EC refused to share with us details when we flagged the discrepancies and kept speaking the language of BJP-RSS. They must remember they are here to serve the people and not for serving the BJP," the former Congress president said.

Gandhi added, "They want to replicate the Maharashtra model elsewhere. This time they may try to delete the names of many voters. But they must know this is Bihar. The people here can see through the designs."

Addressing the gathering, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav alleged that the Election Commission has become a part of a political party. "First, names will be removed, then your pension, ration will be snatched away. They will snatch people's right to vote. We will not allow

Explainer: Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

he Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has triggered a major political controversy in Bihar, where assembly polls are due later this year, with the opposition INDIA bloc alleging that it was designed to "benefit the ruling NDA", a charge denied by the EC that is carrying out the massive exercise

The issue has also reached the Supreme Court, which will hear petitions on July 10 challenging the Election Commission's decision to carry out the exercise in Bihar. Here is the explainer on

the issue: What is the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The Election Commission (EC) on June 24 issued a notification to begin a door-todoor verification of Bihar's eight crore voters.

According to the process, all voters in the state are required to sign enumeration forms, in duplicates, that

addresses and photographs printed, and return these with fresh photographs along with a valid proof of residence.

However, those whose names were not in the electoral rolls of 2003, will have to provide additional documents, a feature of the SIR that has been the main bone of contention. The objective of SIR is to

ensure that the names of all eligible citizens are included in the electoral rolls so as to enable them to exercise their franchise. The last intensive revision for Bihar was conducted by the poll panel in

The exercise is being executed by 1 lakh booth-level officers (BLOs), aided by 4 lakh volunteers and thousands of booth-level agents (BLAs) nominated by politi-

Why the political uproar? The SIR has been under attack from the opposition INDIA bloc, which has alleged that it was designed to "benefit the ruling NDA", and that the poll panel which had

coalition in Maharashtra by "adding fake voters", was now trying to "wrongfully delete"the names of many such people in Bihar who were unlikely to vote for the

The objective of SIR is to ensure that the names of all eligible citizens are included in the electoral rolls so as to enable them to exercise their franchise

ruling dispensation.

The opposition INDIA bloc, led by Tejashwi Yadav and supported by CPI(ML) leader Dipankar Bhattacharya, has moved the Supreme Court against the

A protest march to the EC office in Patna was led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday.

Concerns are also being voiced over a clause that states EROs "will refer cases of suspected foreign nationity under the Citizenship Act, 1955", which, it is feared, could be used against a large number of "unwanted"voters in the Seemanchal region bordering Nepal.

What are their key concerns: **Targeted timing:** Why is this being done only in Bihar

and right before elections? ■ Exclusion fears: They allege that the EC aims to delete voters unlikely to support the

■ **Document burden:** Over 3 crore people who weren't in the 2003 rolls face a heavier documentation process.

Youth scrutiny: Voters born after 1987 must now also furnish their parents' date and place of birth — if their parents weren't listed in

Unacceptable exclusions: Common documents like Aadhaar and MNREGA cards are not accepted as valid ID. ■ Fears over disenfranchise-

ment and misuse: The clause empowering Electoral Registration Officers to decide on "claims and objecwith opposition leaders fearing misuse. What is EC's response?

The poll panel has main-

tained that the revision is lawful and constitutional. So far, the door-to-door process has covered 2.88 crore voters (approximately 36.5 per cent).

Ground realities: Citizens are flagging serious issues in the implementation of SIR.

"I was aghast to see that my son's address was listed as a cremation ('shamshaan ghat'). My daughter-in-law's address was left blank,"said a resident of Muzaffarpur, who requested

What opposition leaders say: "Why has this exercise been ordered only in Bihar when in 2003 a similar revision of electoral rolls was undertaken for the entire country? And why just before the assembly polls? If it was so urgent, why was the work not started immediately after last year's Lok Sabha elections." RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, who leads the INDIA bloc charge in the upcoming

General strike evokes partial response in Bengal

HC admits CBI plea for increasing Lalu's sentence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

n a setback to RJD president and former Chief Minister of Bihar Lalu Prasad Yadav, the Jharkhand High Court on Tuesday admiteded a petition filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) seeking an enhancement of his sentence in the fodder scam case.

The High Court has accepted the petition filed by CBI for increasing the sentence of Lalu Prasad Yadav, former Chief Minister of Bihar, IAS officer Beck Julius and Treasury officer Suvir Bhattacharya all convicted in Deoghar fodder scam. The division bench of Justice Rangan Mukhopadhyay and Justice Ambuj Nath has accepted the appeal petition of CBI for hearing. Now there co-accused to 7 years.

will be a detailed hearing of this case. In the RC 64 A/96 case filed by CBI in Deoghar Treasury scam case, former Public Accounts Committee Chairman Jagdish Sharma was sentenced to seven years in this case and fined ₹10 lakh each by the CBI special court under various sections, but Lalu Prasad Yadav and other accused were sentenced to three and a half years each and fined ₹5 lakh each.

Advocate Deepak Kumar Bharti, while presenting his case on behalf of CBI, told the bench that the CBI special court had given lesser punishment to Lalu Prasad Yadav, Beck Julius and Subir Bhattacharya because Lalu Prasad Yadav was the mastermind of this case, but the special court sentenced the



⊣he general strike called by the 10 central trade unions evoked partial response in Bengal with all establishments except a large portion of the banking sector and some industrial belts reporting near-normal business, sources said.

The Mamata Banerjee Government which had opposed the strike however claimed that the bandh call had failed to evoke any response in the State.

The supporters of Left trade unions like CITU and AITUC as also the students' and youth wings of CPI(M) - and in some cases members of the Congress backed Indian Trade Union Congress — came face to face with the police even as they went about blocking roads and railway traffic in



Members of AIUTUC take part in a rally as part of a 24-hour nationwide general strike called by trade unions in Kolkata on Wednesday

various parts of the State from Durgapur in West Burdwan, Lalgola in Murshidabad, Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas and Diamond Harbour in South 24 Parganas, Haldia in East Midnapore besides Konnagar in Hooghly

and Domjur in Howrah

The police and members of the Railway Protection Force had a trying time to clear the Railway tracks, sources said. Though the Left claimed that the banks were completely

closed in many places the employees worked inside by keeping the main gates locked, sources said. Supporters of CPI(M) students' arm Students Federation of India (SFI) held protests outside the Calcutta University where students' attendance was thin though teachers and other staff attended in full strength apparently following a previous order from the State Government asking all employees to report for work or face disciplinary action. "We have reported for work as we were forced to come by the State Government which had warned breakage in service," said a section officer at State secretariat Nabanna, adding "despite near-full attendance very few files moved."

Back in North Bengal CPI(M) supporters blocked traffic at various places from Malda in the north Dinajpur

and Alipurduar and were prevented by the police from doing so. A number of agitators were arrested and later released police said. Government transport services, particularly in South Bengal were largely affected, sources said adding in many cases the staff would not turn up for work. The strike evoked a good response in the tea gardens as also the industrial belts and coal mines around Asansol and Durgapur region,

Back in Kolkata CPI(M) supporters burnt tyres in support of the strike at Jadavpur. . While attendance in Jadavpur University was thin the members of SFI engaged in a scuffle with the police outside the Calcutta University in their bid to close the campus. Some SFI members were arrested in the act" sources said.

Students must be updated to contribute to nation: Himanta

TONY DAS
Guwahati

ssam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Astressed the need for students to stay updated with the latest technology and empower themselves so that they can contribute meaningfully to the nation. He also underscored the role of educational institutions not just as academic centres, but also as a driving force for socio-economic empowerment of the local area, an official release

The Chief Minister said this while he was speaking at the closing ceremony of Goreswar College's Golden Jubilee celebrations in Tamulpur on



College has transformed itself into a front-running educational institution in the state. Emphasising that educational institutions in an area are responsible not only for acadsocio-economic empowerment, he said Goreswar College

emic development but also has carried out this mandate over the years. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, Sarma said that in this 'Amrit Yatra', youth have to take a decisive role as 'Amrit Santan'. He maintained that the conventional mode of education has undergone a sea change and students need to empower themselves with the emerging subjects. Subjects like AI, quantum

Physics, machine learning, Internet of Things (IoT), augmented reality and data analytics have expedited the pace of change and development, he

The Chief Minister said that in this competitive world, to derive the full value of the knowledge gained in educational institutions, one needs to be aware of market demands. Sarma also stressed updating the curricula to keep up with emerging trends so that students could benefit.



Students Union (ABSU) Dipen Boro, MP Rajya Sabha Rwngwra Narzary called on Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Wednesday





BRICS takes on an aging empire

BRICS nations have unanimously challenged US hegemony, while Trump is retaliating with more tariffs

paradigm shift is visible for all to see. The world order dominated by the Western Bloc, led by the US, is crumbling, and the unease is visible. While the BRICS nations — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - may not have challenged the old world order directly, they have taken the first step in defiance at the BRICS Summit in Rio. Of late, the US President has taken the world by storm - recklessly announcing unilateral trade policies and acting on its own - without even caring for the United Nations, while taking action to maintain global power matrix. It struck Iran, though retracted later, but the message it sent to all was clear: while US power is waning, it would not mind playing power games to restore its hegemony. Indeed, a new global power contest is unfolding not through conventional warfare or old Cold War rhetoric, but through trade, currency realignment and strategic alliances.

At the centre of this confrontation is BRICS - a bloc once seen as a loose grouping of emerging economies, now maturing into a potent geopolitical force — and the Western world led by a combative and unpredictable Donald Trump. The recent Brazil summit marked a turning point. The leaders of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and new BRICS+ members issued a joint statement condemning the rise of unilateral tariffs and protectionism. Not to be outdone, President Trump's announcement of a blanket 10 per cent tariff on countries aligning with "anti-American" BRICS policies further inflamed tensions. While he failed to define these policies, it was clear the threat was retaliation against BRICS's growing push to de-dollarise global trade. This move by Trump appears more than economic posturing. It reflects a deeper anxiety in Washington — the fear of losing grip over a global order long shaped by the dominance of the dollar and Western-led institutions like IMF and World Bank. From setting up alternative payment systems to questioning the legitimacy of dollar hegemony, BRICS has begun to redefine the rules of the global economic game. India which would assume its Chair next year would have a significant role to play.

Indeed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's voice in Brazil carried weight. India walked a diplomatic tightrope - aligning with calls against tariff wars and unilateralism, while also maintaining strategic autonomy. Its silence on Trump's tariff threat, however, sparked debate about whether New Delhi is hesitating to fully commit to the emerging anti-West consensus within BRICS. With countries like Iran and Indonesia joining, and others like Saudi Arabia and Nigeria knocking on the door, BRICS is no longer just an economic club - it's a political entity which has its own engine and momentum; something the US-led Western bloc would never like to see. The bloc's condemnation of US strikes on Iran and its sympathy for the Palestinian cause show that BRICS is no longer afraid of taking on the US. Trump may try to intimidate this emerging order with tariffs and threats, but the response from BRICS leaders held their ground.

Interestingly, Lula da Silva said, "The world has changed. We don't want an emperor. We are sovereign countries." In this contest between an ageing empire and a coalition of awakening powers, the stakes are not just about tariffs or currency - they are about the shape of the world to

Power tussle in Karnataka Congress

Despite public denials, speculation is rife that the high command may be forced to honour a rotational chief ministerial agreement by November — triggering what could become a political flashpoint for the ruling party

→ he Karnataka Congress is facing challenges due to a power struggle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar.

Many in the party predict a potential change of guard. The growing speculation about Shivakumar replacing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has created an atmosphere of uncertainty. The ruling Congress is struggling with internal conflicts, a lack of discipline, and factionalism among its members, adding to the intrigue.

Rumours are gaining momentum, primarily as senior leaders, such as G Parameshwara, have publicly acknowledged significant discontent within the party. While Siddaramaiah attempts to do some damage control, the Shivakumar camp is openly lobbying for a leadership change, claiming it could occur within the next three months. The reason for the next three-month time limit is intriguing.

Insiders claim that the power struggle is now in the open. Additionally, Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain, a staunch supporter of DK, has claimed that around 100 MLAs are in favour of a leadership change. DK, as the state party president, has issued disciplinary action against him.

The Congress had deputed and said there was no change in leadership last week. Although a temporary ceasefire may be in place, the potential for change remains. The Congress came to power in the 2023 Assembly polls.

There was a buzz that both leaders were contenders for the top post.
The High Command floated a two-and-

a-half-year rotational formula, which acceptable. Accordingly, Siddaramaiah will complete two and a half years as Chief Minister of Karnataka by November this year. He will also celebrate his 25 years of leadership. Siddaramaiah is recognised for his extensive experience in administration and his strong support from the OBC community.

With the Bihar elections approaching at the end of the year, the Congress leadership is keen to maintain stability by not disturbing Siddaramaiah, an important OBC leader. His administration is known for offering freebies, appeasing Muslims, and dividing the Hindu community. On the other hand, Shivakumar is known as 'Mr

DK is the 'go-to' man, and the Congress leadership has used him in dealing with dissidents in other Congress-ruled states as well. DK is valued for his able leadership and organisational skills, as well as his financial resources and ability to manage

internal dissent. Both leaders have their contributions to the Congress. The party needs them in times of crisis.

Besides DK, other candidates are also vying for the post. The Lingayat community's minister, MB Patil, also aspires for the top job. Shivakumar represents the Vokkaliga commu-Siddaramaiah, from the Kuruba community, is a significant OBC figure.

Alarmed at the dissident activity, Chief

Minister Siddaramaiah has warned his ministers to maintain confidentiality regarding internal party matters in a recent cabinet meeting, warning of stern action. Shivakumar, resigned to his fate, publicly said, "Whatever the party and High Command want will happen," adding, What option do I have? I have to stand by him and support him." However, his camp continues to chant "D K for CM".

KALYANI

SHANKAR

Meanwhile, the BJP, eyeing an opportunity to come back to power, is predicting mid-term poll, asserting that the Congress Government is likely to collapse soon. Siddaramaiah has dismissed any suggestions of a leadership change, and the Congress High Command has also ruled out such a possibility.

A day after Congress leader Randeep Surjewala stated that there would be no moves for leadership change following meetings with legislators and leaders, the Chief Minister asserted, "There will be no change in the Chief Minister in Karnataka." Currently, Siddaramaiah remains confident that he will serve the full five-year term. His strong declaration and warning were intended not only to silence dissent but also to convey a message of stability to the public, party workers, and the Congress

Replacing Siddaramaiah is not easy for the Congress leadership, as he could split the party. The Congress leadership must be careful in handling the situation in Karnataka. If Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi had promised D K a rotational Chief Minister role, it would be hard to

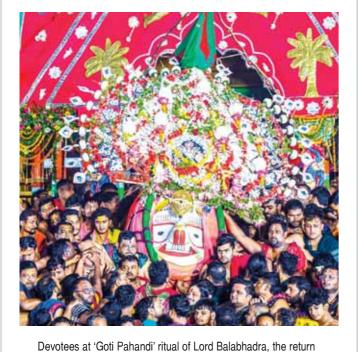
refuse him now. The High Command must fulfil the promises made after the elections to resolve the Chief Minister issue. If they don't, Karnataka could face the same problems as Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. In both states, the claim was between two influential state leaders, and the High Command had promised a rotational Chief Minister; however, when the time came, they were unable to fulfil this promise. Shivakumar, a major candidate for the Chief Minister position, agreed to serve as Deputy Chief Minister under Mr Siddaramaiah in 2023.

He was also appointed the head of the party's state unit to calm him down, a post he does not want to relinquish. Indiscipline, factionalism, and revolts have been ongoing challenges in Karnataka, and the Congress party has consistently sought viable solutions to address these issues. The party is unable to decide on aspirants from various castes. The party's leadership faces a dilemma in effectively tackling the recurring political crises that often emerge.

> (The writer is a popular columnist, The views expressed are personal)







procession of the deities in Puri. PTI

What we don't see behind 'service with a smile'

leadership.



like to tell real-life stories, even in columns that address universal themes, because that's where the true pulse of human experience lies. That's where we find meaning — and, more often than not, a mirror. The resonance of my encounters, and those of people I meet along the way, is what keeps my writing rooted in authentici-

Perhaps it helps readers navigate the maze of my reflections and opinions, too. So here's a tiny but poignant tale from my travel diary, penned during recent wanderings. It was the morning after we checked into a snazzy hotel in Chicago for a family weekend getaway. The room bell buzzed, and I opened the door to be greeted by Elsa (name changed), her smile, warm but weighed down by the burden of a baby soon to be born.

I glanced at the badge pinned to her apron and asked, "How's the baby, Elsa?" "Making me very, very tired," she said, gently cradling her bump. In her third trimester, Elsa, a housekeeping staff member, was a living embodiment of "service

Her job demanded it. She had no choice but to set aside her discomfort and ask each guest, "Do you those cheerful overtures lie waves of woes, quietly brimneed anything?" Elsa might have longed for a break that ming, carefully concealed. It's a pattern that repeats itself

that same question — "Do you need anything?" But life's actors, singers, dancers, on land, at sea, and in the sky. intransigence doesn't offer her that luxury. She had to Men and women whose job it is to make others feel cared carry on with the weariness she bore, because anything for, indulged, and entertained must present their best less might reflect poorly in her work report. She had a job to do, and she must do it — with a smile. Always. I wanted to hug her, just to let her know I saw her, that I

But I stepped back. There are protocols, unspoken boundaries about how much one can reach out. It's hard to know what's okay and not okay in the context of etiquette - both in personal and professional spaces. Cut to a cruise ship a few days later.

A world unto itself — a floating paradise turning the mundane into the sublime for the guests onboard. Surrounded by men and women waiting to tend to your every whim, you begin to wonder: where do they summon these smiles from? How do they keep their courtesies crisp through endless hours of duty?

Pressed by long shifts and the demand to deliver faultless service — because even a minor guest complaint could spiral into a workplace disaster — they were, each of them, Elsa's photocopies.

Scratch the surface, and you'll see: beneath

morning; she might have wished someone would ask her across the hospitality and entertainment industries selves — even when they're quietly aching inside. Their pains don't get time off. Their worries don't come with mute buttons. Yet they show up smiling, bowing, anticipating our needs, and never letting the mask slip.

Because in these industries, emotional neutrality — or rather, perpetual pleasantness — is part of the job description. Not only are they required to serve, but they must also do so with joy. As if the theatre of happiness must never be interrupted by the ordinary struggles of being human.

I leave you with two lingering allusions that echo the heart of this reflection." Kehta hai joker saara zamaana" where the world laughs, while the joker bleeds behind his painted grin. And "Tum itna jo muskura rahe ho" a line that questions the smile worn to hide what trem-

bles beneath. Not every smile is a sign of happiness. Sometimes, it's a mask worn out of duty. Sometimes, it's a quiet plea not to be seen too closely. And so, the next time someone serves you with a smile, remember — it may be their job, but it might also be their armour.

(The author is a columnist and independent journalist based in Dubai. The views expressed are personal)

Letters to the Editor

A nationwide strike: A costly standoff!

The nationwide strike led by over 25 crore workers across sectors such as banks, postal services, coal mining, and public corporations is expected to result in substantial economic losses. While striking employees may face salary cuts and other deductions, the disruption will also severely impact common citizens and essential services.

The Central and State Governments should have proactively engaged with trade unions to prevent such widespread inconvenience. The Modi Government has implemented several labour and farmer-friendly initiatives aimed at public welfare, but the strike — termed "Bharat Bandh" by the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) - appears to have political undercurrents, reportedly backed by opposition parties.

Such actions, at a time when the country is already facing economic challenges, could further strain national resources. It is crucial for leaders across the political spectrum, as well as economists and policymakers, to assess the actual impact of such shutdowns — both in terms of immediate economic losses and long-term damage to investor and public confidence.

The people, largely uninvolved in the political motivations behind the strike, are left to bear the brunt. Their concerns and the strike's consequences deserve

serious introspection.

YUGAL KISHORE SHARMA | FARIDABAD

Assam floods: A crisis of neglect, not nature

The report "Three Assam Rivers Flowing Above Danger Level, Severely Hit" (8 July) once again highlights the annual tragedy that Assam endures. As a native of the region, I write with deep anguish that between 2019 and 2023, more than 880 lives have been lost and lakhs displaced, yet the Centre continues to evade declaring Assam's floods a 'national calamity', despite repeated pleas from successive State Governments.

While agencies like the Central Water Commission and India Meteorological Department issue data and alerts, the ground-level response remains woefully bureaucratic and inadequate.

If such devastation occurred in a metropolitan city, it would dominate headlines and parliamentary sessions. Assam, however, suffers in silence — its pain buried under

This neglect has delayed critical investments in floodresilient infrastructure and stalled long-term plans like the North East Water Resources Authority.

We must stop treating Assam's annual floods as divine inevitability and start recognising them as a failure of governance. A State that enriches India with tea, oil, and unmatched biodiversity deserves more than tokenism. It deserves urgency, respect, and meaningful action.

SAGARTIRTHA CHAKRABORTY | GUWAHATI

The price of progress

Nature humbles us in ways nothing else can. All our technology, infrastructure, and human pride stand powerless when nature decides to unleash her fury. Yet, it is we who push her to the brink — forcing her to erupt in rage. The recent rains in Texas are a stark reminder of this truth. Normally, Texas receives heavy rainfall in spring (March-May) and occasionally in early autumn

KUMAR

September-October), with short, intense showers But this year, the rain fury has unusually extended into June, bringing floods, storm warnings, and widespread disruption. Central Texas is under storm impact, North Texas is under flood watch, and yet, paradoxically, much of the state continues to reel under drought. This bizarre contradiction reflects the imbalance we have caused. Where there has been more development and human interference, the suffering has been deeper. To protect ourselves, we must first protect Mother Nature. Let these rains be more than a passing headline. Let them be a wake-up call. Because if we don't act now, nature will continue to remind us — louder and harsher each time — that we are not in control. Every tree we cut, every wetland we reclaim is a warning we ignore. Every concrete jungle replaces a breathing forest we once had. We are not outside nature — we are part of it, and so is our fate. In saving her, we are, in truth, saving ourselves.

JAYANTHI SUBRAMANIAM | MUMBAI

TRUMP'S TARIFF THREATS SHAKE **BRICS, INDIA MAINTAINS SILENCE**

The global power dynamics are shifting, and at the centre of this storm is US President Donald Trump, whose aggressive posturing has once again

stirred controversy. By threatening an additional 10 per cent tariff on what he called "anti-American" BRICS nations - including India — Trump appeared to treat diplomacy like a monarchy, wielding punitive measures as royal decrees.

What's more concerning, however, is India's silence. While Russia, China, and Iran swiftly condemned Trump's threats.

India's conspicuous lack of response has raised eyebrows globally.

Prime Minister Modi, who was present at the BRICS summit, along with the Ministry of External Affairs, chose not to comment. This silence has fuelled perceptions of India being a passive player or worse, a 'Trojan horse'- within the BRICS alliance.

BRICS originally emerged as a counterweight to Western-dominated financial systems, with Brazil, Russia. and China at the helm, later joined by South Africa and Iran.

These countries have vocally pushed for de-dollarisation and stronger local currency trade. India, however, has taken a more cautious approach - one driven by its geopolitical concerns about China and a desire to maintain strong ties with the United States.

This balancing act has begun to erode India's credibility within BRICS. At a time when the bloc seeks unity and strength in numbers. India's ambiguous stance undermines the collective spirit and long-term goals of the alliance.

As global alignments shift, India must decide whether to lead with conviction or continue to straddle both sides - risking its influence in both.

BHAGWAN THADANI, MUMBAI

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words.

Regenerative agriculture: A path to resilience, equity and hope

A quiet, restorative revolution is taking root across farmlands: regenerative agriculture. More than just a method of cultivation, it is a philosophy that rebuilds soil health, empowers farmers and reimagines our relationship with the land

Column

he world today is confronting an unprecedented climate crisis, and at the centre of this challenge lies carbon. Carbon, the building block of life, has become a critical marker of our environmental health and our failure to safeguard it

Excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, primarily from burning fossil fuels and large-scale industrial agriculture, is driving global warming, extreme weather, and biodiversity loss. Yet the story of carbon need not be only one of crisis — it can also be one of hope. Regenerative agriculture offers a powerful, practical, and inclusive pathway to manage carbon sustainably while building climate resilience, economic equity, and social well-being.

What Is Regenerative Agriculture?

Regenerative agriculture is not merely a set of farming techniques; it is a holistic philosophy rooted in restoring the natural balance between soil, water, plants, animals, and people.

At its core, it seeks to rebuild and maintain soil health. Healthy soils are teeming with life — bacteria, fungi, insects, and plant roots work together to cycle nutrients and store carbon in organic matter. This process, known as soil carbon sequestration, is one of our most effective natural strategies to draw carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and lock it safely underground.

The Cost of Industrial Agriculture

Industrial agriculture, with its reliance on intensive tillage, monocultures, synthetic fertilisers, and pesticides, has contributed significantly to the climate crisis by degrading soils and releasing vast stores of carbon.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)

estimates that agriculture, forestry, and other land use changes contribute about a third of global greenhouse gas emissions. This damage is not theoretical: vast areas of fertile land have been stripped of organic matter, leading to erosion, desertification, and falling yields. In many regions, farmers are caught in a cycle of declining soil fertility and rising input costs, pushing them further into poverty.



How Regenerative Practices Work

In contrast, regenerative farming practices aim to heal the soil and break this destructive cycle. Techniques include cover cropping, no-till or reduced-till farming, composting, crop rotation, agroforestry, and managed grazing.

Each of these methods is designed to increase organic matter in the soil, boost biodiversity,

improve water retention, and strengthen the resilience of farms to droughts and floods. For example, cover crops prevent erosion and add biomass to the soil, while agroforestry integrates trees into farmland, providing shade, windbreaks, and

additional income sources. A Lifeline for Small Farmers

Beyond its environmental benefits, regenerative agriculture is vital for social and economic reasons. Smallholder farmers, who produce a large share of the world's food, are on the frontlines of climate change. They face increasing uncertainty due to erratic rainfall, shifting growing seasons, and extreme weather events.

Regenerative practices can help these farmers build resilience by reducing dependence on expensive inputs and by improving yields over time.

Healthier soils retain more water and nutrients, offering protection against both drought and flooding.



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Empowerment Through the Soil
Equity is at the heart of regenerative agriculture's promise. By valuing local knowledge and traditional practices, it empowers farming communities-especially women and indigenous people — who often play central roles in land stewardship but are marginalised in decision-making and markets. Restoring degraded lands can create opportunities for local employment, support food security, and enhance

The shift to regenerative models also recognises the need for fair access to land, finance, and markets so that all farmers, not just large corporate operations, can participate in the transition to a more sustainable food system.

A Global Climate Imperative

There is also an urgent global imperative to scale up regenerative practices. According to the InterGovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), land-based solutions, including soil carbon sequestration, could sequester up to 23 gigatons of CO2 by

2050

This is not a silver bullet that replaces cutting fossil fuel emissions, but it is an essential part of a comprehensive climate strategy. The world cannot meet the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C without transforming agriculture and land use.

Momentum and the Risk of Co-option

Many Governments, businesses, and civil society groups are recognising this potential. Large companies in the food and beverage industry have begun investing in regenerative supply chains. Initiatives such as the OP2B coalition have mobilised billions of dollars to promote regenerative practices among farmers. Monitoring and verification technologies are improving, enabling better measurement of carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services on farms. Financial incentives, certification schemes, and policy support can help make regenerative farming economically viable at scale.

Yet these efforts must be carefully designed to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past. A just transition to regenerative agriculture must prioritise the needs and rights of farmers, especially smallholders. Solutions must be adapted to local contexts rather than imposed from above.

Land rights, tenure security, and inclusive decisionmaking are essential to ensure that the benefits of regenerative agriculture are widely shared. Without this focus on equity, the promise of regenerative agriculture risks being co-opted or limited to wealthy markets.

India's Regenerative Opportunity

India, with its vast and diverse agricultural landscape, is particularly well placed to champion regenerative agriculture. Many traditional farming systems in India already embody regenerative principles, such as mixed cropping, composting, and agroforestry.

Revitalising and modernising these practices can help address soil degradation, water scarcity, and rural poverty while contributing to India's climate goals. Government support, research institutions, civil society, and farmer producer organisations can all play critical roles in scaling these solutions.

A New Carbon Story

Ultimately, regenerative agriculture offers not only a response to the carbon and climate crisis but a vision for a healthier, fairer, and more resilient world. It reframes carbon from a pollutant to be feared into a vital building block to be stewarded with care. By working with nature rather than against it, we can repair broken ecosystems, secure livelihoods, and leave a more hopeful legacy for future generations. In a time when climate news often feels overwhelming and despairing, regenerative agriculture stands out as a genuine source of optimismapractical, science-backed pathway to resilience, equity, and hope.

(The writer is well-known agriculture expert and Genera Manager at Solidaridad. Views are personal)

The enduring legacy of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Patriot, reformer and nation-builder

r Syama Prasad Mookerjee was born on uly 6, 1901, in Calcutta to Sir. Ashutosh Mukherjee and Mrs Jogmaya Devi. He was the second of their seven children. Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee had a sharp mind and was a brilliant scholar. After receiving his higher education, he became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University and served in that capacity twice. As Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University, he brought about many fundamental reforms in education. At that time, India was under British rule. He connected education with selfrespect, changing the symbol of British subjugation at Calcutta University to "Shri" written in the middle of a fully-bloomed lotus, a symbol of Indian culture. The university's convocation was then conducted in English. He invited Guruvar Rabindranath Tagore to the 1937 convocation, initiating a new tradition where Tagore delivered his speech in Bengali.

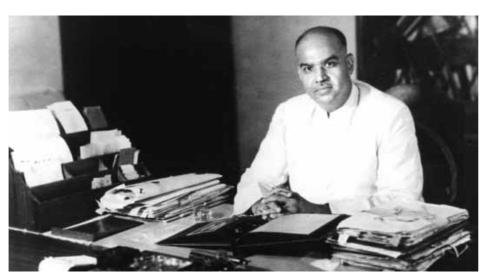
His educational initiatives included increasing women's education, creating opportunities for Indian scholars, and incorporating Indian culture. In 1929, he entered the Bengal Legislative Council from the Calcutta University constituency. He entered politics to protest the oppression of Hindu society by the coalition Government of the Muslim League and Krishak Praja Party in Bengal. He continued to protect Hindu society until his death. Later, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee joined the Hindu Mahasabha and became its

national president. The then Chief Minister, Dr Suhrawardy, was promoting the slogan of United Bengal in the name of language. His plan was for Bengal to remain undivided and join Pakistan.

Some Congress leaders, due to a lack of understanding, were also supporting this. Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee understood this conspiracy and declared, "Neither will we live in Pakistan, nor in United Bengal. We are a part of India and will live with India." He launched a strong movement for this cause. He successfully convinced Congress leaders and Lord Mountbatten,

through letters and dialogue, that if the division of Punjab was possible, so too was Bengal's. Today, we can proudly recognise the fact that had Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee not been there, Bengal would not have been a part of India.

We can feel this crisis even more when we compare it with the events happening in Bangladesh today, where neither Hindus nor Maa Kali and her temples are safe. Even the statue of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, who gave Bangladesh its national anthem, is being destroyed. If they don't even accept their founding father, Bangabandhu Mujibur Rahman, how will they accept Hindu society? Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee had recognised this with his farsightedness. If Bengal were not with us today, the North-Eastern part of India would also not be. Today, we all understand the



strategic importance of the Chicken Neck that connects India. From an economic point of view, the importance of the Bay of Bengal can only be seen by connecting it with Calcutta. The danger that Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee anticipated with his farsightedness and his efforts to keep Bengal with India, that crisis is now before us all in Bengal.Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee was the Minister of Industry in the Nehru Government.

At the time of India's partition, he was deeply saddened by the conversion, atrocities, and neglect of Hindu refugees living in Pakistan. The Nehru-Liaqat Pact, aimed at resolving the problem, was also biased. He resigned due to the Nehru-Government's neglectful behaviour towards Hindus and returned to Calcutta to serve the refugee Hindu community. While serving as Industry Minister, he formulat-

ed the Indian Industrial Policy in

1948 and played a leading role in

the establishment of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India 1948. He introduced an industrial policy with the mantra of self-reliance.

PRAKASH

His focus areas were four sectors: defence, atomic energy, railways, and air services. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Hindustan Aircraft Factory, Sindri Fertilisers Plant, Dhanbad, Damodar Valley Project, Hirakud Dam, and Bhilai Steel Plant are famous industries established by him, which are still contributing to the country's development.

Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee was not only a visionary but also a sensitive and service-minded leader. In 1943, Bengal faced its worst famine. It was estimated that around 30 lakh people died in this famine.

This famine was not just a natural calamity but was caused by the failures of British rule. Instead

of providing food relief, the administration behaved in a biased manner and left the common man to the mercy of God. At this time, he vehemently opposed the failed policies of the British Government and the then-Chief Minister. He collected relief material from society and led the service and relief work. He was so engrossed in serving the famine-stricken that he could not even be present for the "Sampradana" ritual performed by the father at his daughter's marriage.

After independence, he founded Bharatiya Jana Sangh to protect the nationalist policies and democracy of the country. At its foundation, he said, "We need a nationalist alternative to the Congress." In the first Parliament, he formed a joint coalition, called the National Democratic Party (NDP), to oppose Nehruji's dictatorial mentality. This party comprised 34 MPs from the Lok Sabha and 20 MPs from the Rajya Sabha. At that time, Nehruji had said, "I will crush the Jana Sangh." To this, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee firmly replied, "I will crush this crushing mentality."

This demonstrates his faith in democracy and his courage. Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee was the President of the Mahabodhi Society from 1942 to 1953. He was instrumental in getting the sacred bone relics of Sariputra and Mahamogallan installed at Sanchi during the International Buddhist Conference of 1952. He travelled to Myanmar (Burma), Vietnam, and Thailand for Buddhism. He was an ardent devotee of national unity who advocated for the abolition of Article 370, declaring that "two flags, two heads, two constitutions" would not work within one country. He sacrificed his life on June 23, 1953, to fulfil this resolution and left us. Today, the nation is fulfilling its resolution and paying humble tribute to him on his birth anniversary.

(The writer is National Joint General Secretary of BJP. Views are personal)

Where cinema begins again: The quiet power of restored classics

CHAITANYA K PRASAD

In an era where everything is fleeting, stories on Instagram vanish in 24 hours, TikTok trends expire before they even form memories, and the next viral reel is always a scroll away, something beautiful, almost radical, is happening in the world of cinema. Across theatres in India and on global platforms, films like *Umrao Jaan* (1981), *Sholay* (1975), *Guide* (1965), *Pyaasa* (1957), *Charulata* (1964), *Kaagaz Ke Phool* (1959), *Chaudhvin Ka Chand* (1960), and *Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam* (1962) are returning, not as grainy YouTube memories, but as fully restored cinematic experiences, screened as they were meant to be seen: on the big screen, in their full visual and emotional glory. It's not just nostalgia that's drawing people in.

It's reverence. And perhaps, quiet rebellion. To restore a classic isn't just to repair scratches on celluloid or enhance the sound. It's an act of cultural conservation, a painstaking effort to retrieve the filmmaker's original vision, frame by frame, colour by colour, note by note. It's about respecting intention. And it's about time. When *Umrao Jaan* returned to theatres this June in a breathtaking 4K

restoration, complete with a re-release campaign and special screenings, it wasn't just a throwback. It was a reintroduction of elegance. The visuals, the poetry, the music, everything suddenly felt alive again, even to first-time Gen Z viewers who've never experienced a Rekha film in the theatre. Similarly, Sholay, India's most iconic masala epic, was restored and screened at the prestigious Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival in Bologna in June 2025. Not just the usual version either, but the uncut original where Thakur finishes Gabbar himself, restored in full colour, with the lost climax, for the first time in decades. It

marked 50 years of *Sholay* not with fanfare, but with dignity. Meanwhile, *Guide* made its grand restored return at IFFI Goa in 2023, while Charulata had already been honoured in Cannes Classics back in 2013. Guru Dutt's masterpieces: *Pyaasa*, *Kaagaz Ke Phool*, and *Chaudhvin Ka Chand*, received full 4K restorations and were showcased at Cannes 2025. In a landscape dominated by "content", not cinema, not stories, just content, the return of these films isn't just welcome. It's essential.

When social media teaches us to forget fast, film restoration urges us to remember slow. It is the antithesis of the algorithm. It is memory, effort, and depth. These restored classics are not just filling a programming gap in theatres. They're making a statement. A statement that storytelling is not dead. A film doesn't have to scream or trend to be unforgettable. There is still an audience that craves weight, rhythm, and beauty in its cinema. Think about it: a 22-year-old watching *Pyaasa* for the first time in Dolby surround, in a packed theatre, is not going for nostalgia. They're going because, perhaps for the

first time, they've heard that cinema can feel like poetry. Those stories can linger. That art can age, and still speak louder than ever. This isn't just a comeback of films, it's a comeback of ideas. A comeback of deliberate dialogue, of characters with complexity, of storytelling that trusts its audience to think,

These films had time. And they gave us time. Restoration, then, is not just about past preservation. It is a mirror to the present. It asks: What are we creating today that will deserve restoration tomorrow? And more crucially: Are we even building with longevity in mind anymore? There's something quietly subversive about screening Charulata today, in the same world where 10-second dance clips loop endlessly. Satyajit Ray's camera lingers on a woman peeking through lace curtains. There is silence. There is stillness. And yet, everything is happening. How

rare is that kind of narrative patience now?

There's also a larger truth here. As India positions itself as a cultural and creative powerhouse, our cinematic legacy becomes a form of soft power.

Restoring Guide, screening Mughal-e-Azam, reintroducing Anand or Do Bigha Zamin,

these aren't just acts of reverence. They are global conversations. Statements of aesthetic confidence. When a classic Indian film gets a standing ovation at Cannes or Bologna, it's not just a win for the past. It's a reminder to the world: We've always told good stories. Maybe we just stopped listening to them. What restoration has done is more than just technical; it's emotional, philosophical, and even political. It's brought back the soul of cinema, in an age that desperately needs it. It's reminded us that stories are not disposable.

able.

That memory matters. That beauty has its own pace. The fact that younger generations are discovering these classics, and not as dated relics, but as living, breathing cinema, proves something profound: True stories don't age. They wait. And when they return, they don't scream for attention. They simply begin again. So the next time you see a poster for a restored black-and-white film in your local theatre, don't walk past it. Walk into it. Sit down. And let it remind you what it means to truly watch a film. Not for a quick dopamine hit, but for something quieter, deeper, something that lingers long after the screen goes dark. Let it teach you to wait again.

To listen again. To feel again. In that dark theatre, far from the noise of trends and hashtags, you might just find something that no algorithm can serve you, a story that becomes part of your soul. And that, perhaps, is where cinema begins again.

(The writer is former civil servant and commentator on cinema and strategic communication. With inputs from Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavie Srinivasan. Views are personal)

WORLD 08

EU court: Russia violated rights, downed flight MH17

ASSOCIATED PRESS

urope's top human rights court delivered two rulings against ⊿Russia Wednesday, stating in the first ruling that Russia violated international law during the conflict in Ukraine, the first time an international court has found Moscow responsible for human rights abuses since the

The court also ruled Russia was behind the downing of Flight MH17, the first time Moscow was named by an international court as being responsible for the 2014 tragedy that claimed 298 lives.

full-scale invasion in 2022.

Judges at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg are ruling on four

the Netherlands against Russia, encompassing a wide range of alleged human rights violations during the full-scale invasion since the start of the war, including the downing of the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 and kidnapping Ukrainian children.

Any decision will be largely symbolic. The complaints were brought before the court's governing body expelled Moscow in 2022, following the full-scale invasion.

Families of the victims of the MH17 disaster see the decision as an important milestone in their 11-year quest for justice.

"It's a real step in understanding who was really Thomas responsible," Schansman, who lost his 18year-old son Quinn in the



tragedy, told The Associated

The Boeing 777 flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was shot down on July 17, 2014, using a Russian-made Buk missile fired from territory in eastern Ukraine controlled by separatist rebels. All 298 passengers and crew were killed, including 196 Dutch

In May, the UN's aviation agency found Russia responsible for the disaster.

The ECHR is an important part of the Council of Europe, which is the continent's foremost human rights institution. Russia was expelled from the council over Moscow's invasion and war in Ukraine. However, the court can still deal with cases against Russia dating from before its expul-

with Ukraine and the Netherlands in a challenge over jurisdiction, finding there was sufficient evidence to show areas in eastern Ukraine controlled by separatist rebels were "under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation," including providing weapons, and giving political and economic support.

Wednesday's rulings won't be the last from the EHCR dealing with the war. Kyiv has other cases pending against Russia and there are nearly 10,000 cases brought by individuals against the Kremlin.

The decisions in Strasbourg are separate from a criminal prosecution Netherlands in which two Russians and a Ukrainian rebel

multiple murders for their roles in the downing of Flight In 2022, the United Nations'

top court ordered Russia to stop military operations in Ukraine while a case is heard, a process that takes years. Russia has flouted the order by the International Court of Justice. Last month, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy formally approved plans to set up a new international court to prosecute senior Russian officials for the full-

Schansman, who has also brought an individual case to the ECHR, has no plans to stop pursuing justice, more than a decade after his son's death. "The worst thing we could to is stop

scale invasion of Ukraine.



Mexican Court jails 10 in Cartel case

ASSOCIATED PRESS Mexico City

Mexican court on Tuesday sentenced 10 men to 141-year prison terms each for their involvement in a ranch in the western Mexican state of Ialisco that was used by a feared cartel to recruit members, kill and disappear victims.

The discovery earlier this year of the Izaguirre ranch, used by the Jalisco New Generation Cartel for recruitment and training since 2021, had sparked alarm and fear across the region.

The 10 men were arrested in September 2024 during an initial raid on the property. They were convicted on Monday in the disappearance and murder of three victims. On Tuesday, each was sentenced to 141 years and three months in prison, and ordered to pay 1.3 million pesos (about USD 65,000) in restitution to the

victims' families, the local prosecutor's office said.

Five other suspects detained in the case are still awaiting trial, including three municipal police officers, a CJNG operative who allegedly recruited new members, and José Murguía Santiago, the mayor of Teuchitlan, the municipality where the ranch is located. Murguía Santiago was arrested just days after Mexico's Attorney General Alejandro Gertz Manero revealed that since 2021, the Jalisco state Human Rights Commission had alerted Teuchitlan authorities about the ranch being operated by CJNG, but the warning was

ignored for years. The case had sparked a major controversy after Guerrero Buscadores de Jalisco - a group that searches for missing persons - reported in March 5 the discovery of numerous charred human bones and hundreds of cloth-

ing items and shoes at the site.

The shock brought back into the spotlight stark violence and rampant impunity in cartel-plagued parts of the Latin American nation and the tragedy of the investigations into Mexico's 130,000 missing

Following that report, it emerged that Jalisco's state prosecutors had not moved forward with the investigation for several months after the initial raid on the ranch, when the National Guard intervened and arrested the 10 men. During that operation, one body and two of the men later detained were found on the ranch.

Due to missteps and omissions by state authorities, the federal Attorney General's Office took over the case - but criticism persisted. At the end of April, Gertz Manero dismissed claims that cremation sites existed at "Rancho Izaguirre," fueling backlash

Trump appointees have ties to companies that stand to benefit from privatising weather forecasts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

s commerce secretary, Howard Lutnick oversees the US government's vast efforts to monitor and predict the weather.

The billionaire also ran a financial firm, which he recently left in the control of his adult sons, that stands to benefit if President Donald Trump's administration follows through on a decade-long Republican effort to privatise government weather forecast-

ing.
Deadly weekend flooding in central Texas has drawn a spotlight to budget cuts and staff reductions at the National Weather Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, two agencies housed within the Commerce Department that provide the public with free climate and weather data that can be crucial during natural disasters.

What's drawn less attention is how the downsizing appears to be part of an effort to privatise the work of such agencies. In several instances, the companies poised to step into the void have deep ties to people tapped by Trump to run weather-related agencies.

Privatisation would diminish a central role the federal government has played in weather forecasting since the 1800s, which experts say poses



US President Donald Trump

a particular harm for those facing financial strain who may not be able to afford commercial weather data.

The effort also reveals the difficulty that uber wealthy members of Trump's Cabinet have in freeing themselves from conflicts, even if they have met the letter of federal

"It's the most insidious aspect of this: Are we really

talking about making weather products available only to those who can afford it?" said Rick Spinrad, who served as NOAA administrator under President Joe Biden, a Democrat. "Basically turning the weather service into a subscription streaming service? As a taxpayer, I don't want to be in the position of saying, I get

a better weather forecast

because I'm willing to pay for

The White House referred requests for comment to the Commerce Department, which said in a statement that Lutnick has "fully complied with the terms of his ethics agreement with respect to divesture and recusals and will continue to do so."

Privatising weather agencies has long been an aim of Republicans. During Trump's first presidency, he signed a bill that utilised more private weather data. And Project 2025, a proposed blueprint for Trump's second presidency that was co-authored by his budget director, calls for the NOAA to be broken up and for the weather service to "fully commercialise its forecasting operations."

Lutnick is not the only one Trump nominated for a key post with close relationships to companies involved in the gathering of vital weather data.

Trump's pick to lead the NOAA, Neil Jacobs, was chief atmospheric scientist for Panasonic Weather Solutions and has been a vocal proponent of privatisation. The president's nominee for another top NOAA post, Taylor Jordan, is a lobbyist with a roster of weather-related clients.

"If confirmed, Dr. Jacobs and Mr. Jordan will follow the law and rely on the advice of the Department's ethics counsel in addressing matters involving former clients," the

Commerce Department said in its statement.

Elon Musk, the world's richest man, who spent more than USD 250 million to help elect Trump, owns a controlling interest in SpaceX and its satellite subsidiary Starlink. Both are regulated by the NOAA's Office of Space Commerce, which lost about one-third of its staff in February layoffs facilitated by Department Government Efficiency, which Musk helped create.

SpaceX also stands to gain through a new generation of private and federally funded weather satellites that would be carried into orbit on its rock-

Though Musk has now departed Washington and had a very public falling out with Trump, the DOGE staffers he hired and the cuts he pushed for have largely remained in

Emails seeking comment sent to a lawyer who has represented Musk, as well as to media contacts at his companies X and SpaceX, received no

While Musk is focusing on his companies, others with potential conflicts remain immersed in government work. Lutnick resigned as CEO of Cantor Fitzgerald, an investing behemoth, upon taking office and began the arduous task of divesting his interests, as required by law.

UK's ex-PM Rishi Sunak rejoins banking world, to donate salary

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA London

ritain's former prime Bminister Rishi Sunak has rejoined the banking world as he took charge of a new role as Senior Adviser at the Goldman Sachs Group, with plans to donate his earnings to the education charity he recently set up with his wife Akshata Murty.

The US-headquartered multinational investment bank where Sunak worked prior to entering politics made the announcement on Tuesday after the requisite 12-month period lapsed since the British Indian leader's ministerial office term concluded, following a defeat in the general election on July 4 last year.

Committee on Business Appointments, which is required to sign off on jobs taken on by former ministers for at least two years after they leave office, gave its nod with a series of conditions "to mitigate the potential risks to the government" over the access of privileged information Sunak would have as a former PM. It also noted that the salary

from his new job would go towards the Richmond Project, a charity announced earlier this year as a joint initiative with Murty focussed on improving the mathematics and numeracy skills among children and young people in England.

"Goldman Sachs has a significant interest in UK government policy. As the former



sonable concern that your ence within the UK governappointment could be seen to ment," reads the advice of the

Prime Minister, there is a rea- offer unfair access and influ-

committee published this week.

"You and Goldman Sachs have confirmed to the committee that the role will not involve lobbying the government, which all former ministers are prevented from doing for two years on leaving office. The committee considered that it would be difficult to mitigate the risk of perceived lobbying if you initiated engagement of any kind with the UK government in this role, noting this is not your stated intention," it

Under the stipulations, Sunak is required not to draw on any privileged information available to him from his time in ministerial office.

"For two years from your last day in ministerial office, your role with the Goldman Sachs

Group Inc should be limited to providing advice on strategy, macroeconomic and geopolitical matters that do not conflict with your time as Prime Minister (including where you are working with parent companies, subsidiaries, partners and clients of Goldman Sachs)," the committee adds.

It highlights that the advice was not an "endorsement" of Sunak's new role but is aimed at protecting the integrity of the government.

The publication of the committee's decision coincided with Goldman Sachs issuing a statement to welcome the British Indian politician, who continues in his role as a backbench Conservative Party MP for Richmond and Northallerton.



Spain's PM Sanchez refuses to step down

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Madrid

nanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said he would not step down from office despite mounting corruption cases involving his Socialist Party, and instead, presented anti-corruption measures that immediately received a lukewarm response even from some left-wing allies. Speaking in parliament Wednesday at an extraordinary session about a corruption case involving a former Socialist official, the Spanish leader took responsibility for his poor judgement but repeatedly said he would not step down, calling himself "an honest politician" with "the pride of leading an exemplary party."

"I will not throw in the towel," Sanchez repeated. The left-wing Spanish leader spoke about a week after a Supreme Court judge ordered the pretrial detention of Santos Cerdan, a former aide to the prime minister and previously the third-most senior mem-

ber of the Socialist Party, over

allegations that he received

kickbacks for public works

all of whom have denied wrongdoing. Sanchez himself has not been accused in any of the cases. Over the weekend, an offi-

A former Sanchez minister

is also ensnared in the corrup-

tion investigation involving

Cerdan, who has denied the

or misconduct probes are the

prime minister's former attorney general, brother and wife,

Facing separate corruption

allegations.

cial that Sanchez had just promoted as part of his Socialist Party's shake-up resigned over sexual misconduct allegations. On Wednesday, Sanchez

presented 15 anti-corruption measures, which included bringing more transparency to political and public financing and working with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development to crack down on graft.

The move immediately drew ridicule from opposition leader Alberto Nunez Feijoo, leader of the conservative People's Party, who urged Sanchez to take responsibility for his party's actions, report what he knew and call early elections.

European intelligence officials warn Russian sabotage campaign escalating

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ London

t was almost midnight when a truck driver resting in his cab heard the crackling of flames at a warehouse in east London storing equipment for Ukraine. He grabbed a fire extinguisher and leapt out - but realised the blaze was too big and

When police arrived, they banged on the doors of a nearby apartment building, shouting at residents to evacuate. Parents grabbed children and ran into the street.

About 30 minutes after the fire started, Dylan Earl, a British man who admitted to organising the arson, received a message from a man UK authorities say was his Russian handler. "Excellent," it read in Russian.

On Tuesday, a British court found three men guilty of arson in the March 2024 plot that prosecutors said was masterminded by Russia's intelligence services - part of a cam-

paign of disruption across Europe that Western officials blame on Moscow and its proxies. Two other men, including Earl, previously pleaded guilty to organising the

The fire is one of more than 70 incidents linked to Russia that The Associated Press has documented since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Four European intelligence officials told AP they're worried the risk of serious injury or even death is rising as untrained saboteurs set fires near homes and businesses, plant explosives or build bombs. AP's tracking shows 12 incidents of arson or serious sabotage last year compared with two in 2023 and none in

"When you start a campaign, it creates its own dynamic and gets more and more violent over time," said one of the officials, who holds a senior position at a European intelligence agency. The official, like



A warehouse in east London storing goods for Ukraine set on fire

two others, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss security mat-The Kremlin did not reply to a

case. Spokesperson Dmitry Peskov previously said the Kremlin has never been shown "any proofs" supporting accusations Russia is runrequest for comment on the British ning a sabotage campaign and said

"certainly we definitely reject any allegations."

Most of the saboteurs accused of working on behalf of Russia are foreign, including Ukrainians. They include young people with no criminal records who are frequently hired for a few thousand dollars, the intelligence officials said.

The senior official said Russia has been forced to rely increasingly on such amateurs since hundreds of Moscow's spies were expelled from Western countries following an operation to poison former Russian intelligence officer Sergey Skripal in the UK in 2018. That led to the death of a British woman - and a major response from the West.

Russia "had to change the modus operandi, from using cadre officers to using proxies, making a more flexible, deniable system," the official said. Documents shared during the London warehouse trial offered a rare glimpse into how young men are No. 3-Block, Krishna Apartment, Devil Road Khanpur, Tehsill Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110062 from MRS. NAYAN TARA DEVI earlier MRS NAYAN TARA DEVI earlier MRS NAYAN TARA DEVI had owned the subject property vide Notarized General Power of Attorney Agreement to sell and Will dated 28.03.201; executed by Ms. Srishty, Now, HIMANSHU NEG

xecuted by Ms. Srismy, 1999, 1999, 1999, and to purchase and mortgage the same agains inancial assistance from ADITYA BIRL, 4OUSING FINANCE LIMITED. To ensure a clear different compily with the requirements of the Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Naresh Saini is in process to take LAP against his First Floor (Rear Left Side Portion) without roof rights built on property bearing no. 39 area measuring 50 sq.vds., i.e. 41.81 sq.yds., out of Khasra no. 123, situated in the revenue estate of village Bindapur, in the labadi known as Colony 0-Block extension, Vani Wihar, (by availing loan from Suryoday Small finance 11d.) having agrouized the said property vide Sale.

Ltd) having acquired the said property vide Sale dated 7/6/2024 (Doc no. 2024/25/1/ 15527) executed by Indu Sharma. He Informed us that

below mentioned Document is not available with him pertaining to the property in Question, FIR has already been lodged in lieu of that on dated 8/7/2025

. Original GPA, ATS and Will executed by Pawan Aggarwal and Puneet Aggarwal in favour of Indu Sharma

Snarma
Original Sale Deed dated 27.04.2018 executed by Pawan Aggarwal and Puneet Aggarwal through attorney holder Indu Sharma in favour of Indu Sharma (Doc no. 10657)

Indu Sharma (Doc no. 10657)
All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)

Baba Farid

University of

Health Sciences

Sadig Road, Faridkot -151203

Ph: 01639-256232, 256236

tender are invited for the

procurements of following items

Supply, installation Testing

Commissioning of 160 Numbers Sola

Street 50 watt LED light along with 75 watt 12 volt Solar PV Module Mono

panel on same pole in different site

2) Supply and installation of Shar

Note:- Tender Document can

Disposable Destroyer System.

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upto 31-07-25

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under BFUHS, Faridkot

Notice is hereby given on behalf of RISHABH NAGARKOTI, PARUL & KAJAL BISHT who is purchasing PROPERTY:-Entire Second Floor With Roof Right of Built up Property Bearing No.T-113, Area 100 Sq. Yards, out of Khasra No.12, Situated in the revenue estate of Village Bindapur, Delhi State Delhi, Colony Known as T-Block, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 with two wheeler parking from Smt. Anita W/o Sh. Ambrish Gupta earlier Smt. Alia and owned the subject property vide Notarized General Power of Attorney, Agreement to sell and Will dated 20.11.2024 which were executed by Mr. Karan Mendiratta & Mr. Tarun Mehdiratta, Now, RISHABH NAGARKOTI, PARUL & KAJAL BISHT Intend to purchase and morting age the same against financial assistance from ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE tgage the same against financial assistance

ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCI

HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. To ensure a clear title and comply with the requirements of the Bank/ NBFC, this public notice is hereby issued. If any person has any claim, right, title, or interest in the said property, they should submit their objections in writing to the address below within 7 days from the date of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316 rom ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. To ensure a clear title and comply with he requirements of the Bank/NBFC, this public notice is hereby issued. If any person has any laim, right, lite, or interest in the said property hey should submit their objections in writing to the address below within 10 days from the date of this notice. falling which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of accumbrances lien etc. BEFORE THE MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES, FACILITATION COUNCIL, MEERUT (UTTAR PRADESH)

REFRENCE/ PETITION NO._254_OF 2024 MG ROAD UPSIDC, Industrial Area, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh- 201302CLAIMANT

VERSUS M/S. MITTAL TRADING CO Narela Road, Near Wate Tank, Bawana, North West Delhi, Delhi-110039 ...RESPONDEN Notice to: M/S. MITTAL TRADING CO as the above-mentioned matter has been no

Whereas the above-mentioned matter has been reterred Conciliation before the Micro and Small Enterprise That on several occasions you have failed to appeal before the MSEFC, Meerut, despite issuances of notices by the Council as well as the Claimant. Thereby to which the council vide order dated 23.05.2025 has directed for

TAKE NOTICE that the above mentioned matter was earlier listed on 23.05.2025. You may either appear in person or through your Authorized Representative of contact the MSEFC within 15 days from the date of thi publication. Further you may note that in default of your appearance before the council, the aforementione matter shall be proceeded ex-parte and be heard an

BEFORE THE MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES, FACILITATION COUNCIL, MEERUT (UTTAR PRADESH) REFRENCE/ PETITION NO. 252 OF 2024 In the matter of Conciliation between: M/S. TARUN PAINT PVT. LTD., F 527/528, Phase 2nd

MG ROAD UPSIDC, Industrial Area, Ghaziabad, Utta

Notice to: M/S. SHIV TRADING CO Whereas the above-mentioned matter has been refer to Conciliation before the Micro and Small Enterpris Facilitation Council, Meerut (MSEFC)

That on several occasions you have failed to appea before the MSEFC, Meerut, despite issuances of notice by the Council as well as the Claimant. Thereby to which the council vide order dated 23.05.2025 has directed for substituted service by way of publication, hereby issuing a last opportunity vide present publication, to appea before the MSEFC

TAKE NOTICE that the above mentioned matter w person or through your Authorized Representative contact the MSEFC within 15 days from the date of the publication. Further you may note that in default of yo appearance before the council, the aforementions matter shall be proceeded ex-parte and be heard at decided invent sheeper.

Gursat Singh Vachher Advocate for Claimant 9811105891

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY MARINE DEPARTMENT

> Name of the Work: Supply of 01 no. 25 Knots Speed Petrol-cum-Chase Boat along with Manning Crew on hire for a period of 05 (five) years. Estimated cost put to tender: Total Estimated cost including Hire Charges & Fuel Rs.7,49,26,258/- excluding GST. Estimated cost put to Tender towards Hire Charges only Rs. 5,05,69,244/- excluding GST. Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 15:00 Hours on 18/08/2025. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid is 15:30 hours on dt.19/08/2025. For further details, please log on to the Website: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.

> Sd/- Deputy Conservator, Paradip Port Authority PPA/PR/25/2025-2026 dtd.08.07.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Pinki is in process to take LAP against her Residential Plot of Land area measuring 60sq vds. out of Khasrai/Khet no.360m. Situated at village Kasana, Pargana Dankor, Tehsil and District Gautam Budh Nagar, LP, (by availing loan from Piramal finance Ltd having acquired the said property vide Sale dated 16/11/2022 (Doc no.25433) executed by Mr. Mohis Sharma as (59 AP of (1) Mr. Mahashchand Sharma, (2) Mr. Akhilesh Sharma, (3) Mr. Mukul sharmaan (4) Mrs. Sunita. All person's having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mort gage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, ternarcy, license, lien, charge, jedege, easement or otherwise howspeer, are

NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITATION OF TENDERS

THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM Date: 09.07.2025

ender Notice No. 30/2025-2026

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

1	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date		
01	19250975A	COUPLER SOCKET OUTER CASING	500 NOS	30.07.25		
02	19250537	MICROPROCESSOR BASED ENERGY	30 NOS	31.07.25		
03	12251386	FRLT COTTON INSULATION	805118 MTR	04.08.25		
04	12255003A	DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY	46 NOS	04.08.25		
05	02251929	DISCONNECTING AND EARTHING DEVICE	111 NOS	11.08.25		
06	09252551	POLY RING FOR CCPU	7736 NOS	01.09.25		
NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.						
2	072/25	SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SM	/ILE	回数排降		

Form no INC-26

[Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014] Advertisement to be published in the newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another Before the Central Government Northern Region

n the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act

2013 and Rule 30(6) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND

In the matter of RPC Engineering Private Limited having its registered office at 19A, SKYLARK APARTMENTS SITE-II, GAZIPUR, DELHI- 110096 Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make

application to the Central Government under section 13 of the Companies Act 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary genera meeting held on 13/06/2025 to enable the company to change its Registerer office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Uttar Pradesh".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director Northern Region within Fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address

For and on behalf of the Applicant For RPC Engineering Private Limited

Sd/-Mamta Singh Director Date: July 5, 2025

Place: Delh

19A, SKYLARK APARTMENTS SITE-II, GAZIPUR, DELHI-110096

IMPORTANT NOITCE

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR KANWAR MELA-2025 (FROM 11.07.2025 TO 23.07.2025)

For the convenience of Kanwariyas during Kanwar Mela-2025, Northern Railway has decided to run Kanwar Special Trains, extend the nominated train services upto Haridwar and to provide temporary stoppages to some of existing services, The details are as under.

Extension of Train No. 74023/74022 Delhi-Shamli-Delhi DEMU upto Haridwar							
Train N	lo.: 74023		Train No.: 74022				
ARR.	DEP.	₩ STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.			
	20:00	Delhi	09:25				
22:50	22:55	Shamli	06:25	06:30			
23:20	23:22	Thana Bhawan	05:25	05:27			
23:44	23:46	Rampur Maniharan	05:02	05:04			
00:15	00:17	Tapri	04:46	04:48			
00:56	00:58	Roorkee	04:17	04:19			
01:38	01:40	Jwalapur	03:15	03:17			
01:55		Haridwar		03:05			
DAYS OF RUN: 74023 Ex Delhi from 11.07.2025 to 24.07.2025							

and 74022 Ex Haridwar from 12.07.2025 to 25.07.2025. ACCOMMODATION: General

ACCOMMODATION CONTRA								
Extension of Train No. 64557/64558 Delhi-Saharanpur-Delhi MEMU upto Haridwar								
Train N	lo.: 64557		Train No	.: 64558				
ARR.	DEP.	▼ STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.				
	16:25	Delhi	08:45					
20:50	21:10	Saharanpur	03:40	04:20				
21:48	21:50	Roorkee	02:53	02:55				
22:25	22:27	Jwalapur	02:10	02:12				
22:50		Haridwar		02:00				
DAYS OF RUN: 64557 Ex Delhi from 11.07.2025 to 24.07.2025								

and 64558 Ex Haridwar from 12.07.2025 to 25.07.2025. ACCOMMODATION: General.

Run of Mela Special Trains as per Time-Table give below:

Train No. 04311/04312 Moradabad - Laksar - Moradabad unreserved Mela Special Train								
Train No.: 04311		A	♦ STATIONS I		Train No.: 04312			
ARR.	DEP.		SIATIONS	*	ARR.	DEP.		
07:15			Laksar			12:00		
	04:15		Moradabad		15:15			
DAVC	DAVO OF BUILD 04244 For Marradahad & 04242 For Labour from							

DAYS OF RUN: 04311 Ex Moradabad & 04312 Ex Laksar fron 11.07.2025 to 25.07.2025.

STOPPAGES: Balawali, Muzzampur Narayan, Najibabad, Nagina Dhampur, Seohara & Kanth stations

ACCOMMODATION: General

unreserved Mela Special Train								
Train No.: 04314		I STATIONS ♠		Train No.: 04313				
ARR.	DEP.	♦	STATIONS	- 1	ARR.	DEP.		
	15:30		Haridwar		04:25			
20:30 Delhi Shahdara 22:25								
DAYS OF RUN: 04314 Ex Haridwar & 04313 Ex Delhi Shahdara from								

11.07.2025 to 24.07.2025. STOPPAGES: Jwalapur, Roorkee, Tapri, Muzaffarnagar, Meerut City &

Ghaziabad stations ACCOMMODATION: General

Train No. 04316/04315 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Delhi Shahdara - Yog Nagari Rishikesh unreserved Mela Special Train							
Train No.: 04316		⊥ stations ↑	▲ Train No.: 04				
ARR.	DEP.	♦ STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.			
	20:35	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	11:00				
03:50		Delhi Shahdara		04:20			
DAYS OF RUN: 04316 Ex Yog Nagari Rishikesh from 11.07.2025 to							
24.07.2025 & 04315 Ex Delhi Shahdara from 12.07.2025 to 25.07.2025.							

STOPPAGES: Raiwala, Motichur, Haridwar, Jwalapur, Roorkee, Tapr

ACCOMMODATION: General

Train No. 04318/04317 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Alamnagar Train No.: 04318 Train No.: 04317 **STATIONS** DEP. DEP. ARR. Yog Nagari Rishikesh 10:45

DAYS OF RUN: 04318 Ex Yog Nagari Rishikesh from 11.07.2025 to 09.08.2025 & 04317 Ex Alamnagar from 12.07.2025 to 10.08.2025. STOPPAGES: Raiwala, Motichur, Haridwar, Jwalapur, Laksar Balawali Muzzampur Narayan, Najibabad, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly & Shahiahanpur stations

Temporary Stoppages of Trains From 11.07.2025 to 24.07.2025

l	Train No. & Name	Frequency	Temporary	Timings	
l	Traili No. & Name	Frequency	Stoppages	ARR.	Dep.
l			Jwalapur	10:43	10:45
l	14113 Subedarganj- Dehradun Express	Daily	Motichur	11:04	11:06
l	Deliladuli Express		Raiwala	11:14	11:16
l			Raiwala	14:15	14:17
l	14114 Dehradun- Subedarganj Express	Daily	Motichur	14:34	14:36
l	Subedargarij Express		Jwalapur	15:15	15:17
l	44000 LIII - L. D. L L	ъ.	Jwalapur	15:53	15:55
l	14309 Ujjain-Dehradun Express	Bi- Weekly	Motichur	17:00	17:02
	Lxpress	vveekiy	Raiwala	17:35	17:37
			Raiwala	07:08	07:10
l	14310 Dehradun-Ujjain Express	Bi- Weekly	Motichur	07:24	07:26
	Express	vveekiy	Jwalapur	07:52	07:54
	440471 1 5 : :	F:	Jwalapur	15:53	15:55
	14317 Indore-Dehradun Express	Bi- Weekly	Motichur	17:00	17:02
	Express	vveekiy	Raiwala	17:35	17:37
		Bi- Weekly	Raiwala	07:08	07:10
	14318 Dehradun-Indore Express		Motichur	07:24	07:26
	Express	vveekiy	Jwalapur	07:52	07:54
	10505 011 0 1	Weekly	Jwalapur	15:53	15:55
	19565 Okha-Dehradun Express		Motichur	17:00	17:02
	Express		Raiwala	17:35	17:37
		Weekly	Raiwala	07:08	07:10
	19566 Dehradun-Okha Express		Motichur	07:24	07:26
	Lxpress		Jwalapur	07:52	07:54
	000501/ 1 111/ 11		Jwalapur	12:08	12:10
	22659 Kochuveli-Yog Nagari Rishikesh Superfast Express	Weekly	Motichur	12:45	12:47
l	Mishikesh Superiast Express		Raiwala	13:00	13:02
			Raiwala	07:08	07:10
	22660 Yog Nagari Rishikesh- Kochuveli Superfast Express	Weekly	Motichur	07:24	07:26
	Rodiuveli Superiast Express		Jwalapur	07:52	07:54
	14610 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi		Jwalapur	06:48	06:50
	Katra-Yog Nagari Rishikesh Hemkund Express	Daily	Motichur	07:20	07:22
	14609 Yog Nagari Rishikesh- Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Hemkund Express	Daily	Jwalapur	18:31	18:33
	54075 Bareilly-Delhi Special Express	Daily	Kankather	23:36	23:38
	54076 Delhi-Bareilly Special Express	Daily	Kankather	02:40	02:42

or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in IMadad Website :- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad a



For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Nine killed, 20 missing after floods on Nepal-China border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

t least nine people were killed and 20 A were Killeu and I others were missing after monsoon rains flooded a river in Nepal's Rasuwa district, sweeping away the "Friendship Bridge" that links the country to China.

The continuous monsoon rainfall in China on Monday night triggered a flood in the Bhotekoshi River in Nepal.

The flooded river carried away at least nine people. Their bodies were recovered downstream, miles away from Dhading and Chitwan districts, the Republica newspaper reported. The Miteri Bridge in

Rasuwa district, 120 km northeast of Kathmandu, was swept away by flooding at around 3:15 am on Tuesday.

Of the 20 individuals



tricity to the national power

abuse of power, falsifying offi-

cial documents and obstruct-

Cho's team said they view

Yoon as a potential threat to

destroy evidence. They ques-

tioned him twice before sub-

mitting a request for his arrest

warrant to the court on

Sunday. The former conserv-

ative leader described his mar-

tial law imposition on

December 3 as a necessary step

to quash his "anti-state" liber-

al opponents, accusing them of

using their legislative majori-

But Yoon's decree lasted

only hours, after a quorum of

lawmakers broke through a

blockade of heavily armed

soldiers at the National

Assembly and voted to lift

ty to obstruct his agenda.

ing official duties.

Nepal floods striking Nepal-China border

reported missing, three are security personnel and six are Chinese nationals.

Dozens of rescuers were already in the area.

The flood damaged four hydropower projects in the district, affecting the supply of at least 211 MW of elec-

Japan

deploys

Ospreys

⊣he Japanese army on

deploying its fleet of V-

22 Ospreys on a newly-

opened, permanent base in

southwestern Japan, the coun-

Wednesday began

ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ Hiroshima

The flooded river swept away 23 cargo containers, six freight trucks, and 35 electric

South Korea's ex-president Yoon attends Seoul court for hearing

with his lawyers, Yoon did

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Seoul

outh Korea's disgraced Somer president Yoon Suk Yeol appeared in court Wednesday for a hearing to review a special prosecutor's request for his arrest on charges related to his imposition of martial law in December.

Yoon, who was ousted in April after the Constitutional Court upheld his impeachment, was released from prison in March after the Seoul Central District Court overturned his January arrest, allowing him to stand trial for rebellion without being detained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

not respond to questions before entering the court in Seoul. After a hearing lasting about seven hours, Yoon was taken to a detention centre near Seoul to await the court's decision on the warrant, which was expected by late Wednesday or early Thursday. Yoon's lawyers issued a

statement denouncing the arrest request as excessive and unsubstantiated. His criminal case is being handled by a team of investigators, under special prosecutor Cho Eunsuk, who are pursuing additional charges over Yoon's

PUBLIC NOTICE

I. Mrs. Lakshmi Sailaja Timmaraju, heret declare that I have severed all ties with musband, Mr. Amit Sahgal, due treconcilable and repeated marital issues. Hs no longer authorised to act on my behalf any manner. Anyone dealing with him in mame shall do so at their own risk, and I shall to be liable for his acts or representations. Manit is not a nominee or beneficiary in any ny bank accounts, deposits, lockers, cinancial instruments, and alm notresponsiblor any liabilities incurred by him. This notice rany liabilities incurred by him. This notice i sued to protect my legal and financia terests. This notice is issued to safeguard m for any acts. nancial and legal interests and to prevent ar

client Smt. Naresh Devi W/o Sri Om and Sh.

Rinku S/o Sri Om R/o 133A, Jharoda Kalan. South West, Delhi-110072, All their family members and relatives have severed their relations with Sh. Rohit S/o Sri Om. Now my Clients have no relation, whatsoever with the above-said Sh. Rohit. Smt. Naresh Devi and Sh. Rinku disown him from all their movable and immovable properties. Any person dealing with him in any manner shall be doing so at his or her own risk and consequences My clients shall not be responsible in any

manner whatsoever for the acts and deed: done by Sh. Rohit. Prashant Yaday (Advocate) Office: 169 New Delhi-110075, M.No.: 9999981708

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Ra Kumar to inform to the public at large that Mr Vinesh is purchasing the Flat No.101 located Tower C Block 3 on the First Floor having super area of 2250 square feet in the GROU HOUSING COMPLEX 'FREEDOM PARK LIF situated in Sector 57 in revenue estate d'illages Samaspur, Gurgaon, Haryana fro Mrs. Kushal Chadha who became owner vi Mrs. Kushal Chadha who became owner vide Relinquishment Deed Dated 27,06,2025 (Document No. 6903) and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Financet Ldt., Noida. That, Original Conveyance Deed dated 03.07.2015 executed by M/s. Matrix Buildwell Private Limited in favour of Mrs. Kushal Chadha & Mr. S.K. Chadha in respect of the said property, vide Doc. No 8153, Book No.1, dated 03.07.2015, SR-Gurgaon has lost insteaded So. to comply the genityments of insplaced. So, to comply the requirements insplaced. So, to comply the requirements iANIX/NBFC, we give this public notice that if a ferson having any type of claim/right interest/creating mortgage over the said proper nay inform in writing, at the address ment new interest in writing, at the address ment below, about his objections, within 10 days from the control of th aid property is free from all type cumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank tor 2,Noida,UP-201301Contact#0120-4269379

My client Santargal S/O Sh. Prakash and

his wife Bina both R/O F-26, Garima Garden, Pasonda Sahibabad, Gaziabad, U.P. -201005 has severed all relations from Their son Sandeep Kumar and his wife Tinu and also Granddaughter Shrishti And also debarred/disowned from all moveablemmoveable properties due to their bad-

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Lalit Khari acquired Property Bearing No. 234-A, area 90 sq. y Khasra No. 52/30, situated in the revenue estate of Vibakurpur abadi Rampura (Rumal Wali Gali), Indiana Charles wide Religious beand Daed dt. 20,05,7

Any person / firm / institution / company having any clail or right in respect of the said Property by way inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gif possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrant howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date upublication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, arry, with all supporting documents at below mentions address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, arry, of such person shall be treated null and void and als eated as waived and not binding on our client. Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161, Basement

Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi -110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client Mr. Karan Sharma S/o Tulsi Ram Sharma R/o B-112 Gali No.4 Ganga Vihar, Karawal Nagar Sokul Puri, North East Delhi 110094, is owner of roperty of area measuring 60.27 Sq. yards par of Kh no.507/177 bearing part of Property No.385 Situated at village Maujpur, illaga Shahdara Delhi 110053 Delhi with Vasika No. 2830 of dated 15/04/2025, Vasika no.2829 Dated 15/04/2025 hereinafter referred to as the "said property". The said property is free from all sorts of encumbrance, lien, charges, mortgages etc. and he have clear and marketable title and possession of the property. He Lost GPA bearing Doc no.879 of dated 26/06/2014 and other perior chain of the said property at Avanagar on dated 03/01/2025 and complaint/ FIR for the same is also done vide Application LR No. 2025/23/I/2829. He is Taking Loan against the above mentioned said property from AU Small Finance Bank Ltd. if anybody having any objection and found above mentioned deed kindly contact on 9650981490 Himanshu Gaur Advocate within 7 days.

I, Anil Kumar Jha, Advocate, on behalf of Mr

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Ref: Tender Notice No. 23/2025-2026 dated 18.06.2025 S. No. 03 Tender Number 10250037 Opening date 09.07.2025

In reference to above opening date of tender has been extended from 09.07.2025 to 21.07.2025. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in. Note: This is the First Corrigendum in above referred tender SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Stressed Assets Management Vertical अपने ऑफ़ बड़ीदा Bank of Baroda, Baroda Corporate Center Ref: BOB:SAMV:117:1434

01

02

03

04

Bank of Baroda C-26, G-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai-400051, Email: wfd.bcc@bankofbaroda.co.in

OPPORTUNITY TO PERSONAL HEARING BEFORE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Please refer to the Show Cause Notice dated 03.02.2025 sent to you. Further, the Identification Committee on Wilful Defaulters has recommended to the Review Committee for your

classification as Wilful Defaulter and the communication sent to you vide letter dated 17.05.2025 Now, you are advised to avail opportunity to appear before the Review committee for Personal Hearing on 18.07.2025. Please confirm your appearance before 14.07.2025 through email or letter. In case of non-appearance, the Review Committee shall have the discretion for your classification as Wilful Defaulter. The details of venue and time as under: -S Name of the Name of the Person Date, Time ,Venue & Mode of Hearing No.

Account		<u> </u>
obal lucation nited	Mr. Neeraj Kaushik	Date of Hearing:- 18.07.2025
	Mr. Indrajeet Goyal	Time: 12.00 Noon (Appear prior to 15 minutes)
	Mr. Kanhaiya Tripathi	Venue:- Bank of Baroda, Regional
	Mr. Piyus Gupta	Office, Greater Kolkata, Bidhan Nagar, 24 Paraganas North, Kolkata Mode :- Video Conference
		INIOGE VIGEO COINEIENCE

(General Manager)

the measure. PUBLIC NOTICE Known to all that my client 1]Sh. Mahendet Kumar & 2]Sh.Tarun Kumar owner of the PROPERTY NO. RZ-31-A & 29-B, AREA 40 SQ. YDS.KHASRA NO. 275,281 & 283,WEST SAGAR PUR, NEW DELHI-110046 and 1]Sh.Mahendet Kumar & 2]Sh.Tarun Kumar Purchase property

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION

(h. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka Nava Dalkin. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delh Mobile :- 9899013918

nown to all that my client Smt. Khus wner of the UPPER GROUND FLOOR D.28,KHASRA NO.16/4,BAJAJ ENCI WARKA KAKROLA, NEW DELHI-11007: DWARKA KAKROLA, NEW DELHI-110078 and Sh. Shubham Kapoor & Smt.Harneet Kaupurchase plot form Amit Talreja and Yoges Wehndiratta viden otarized GPA, ATS and Widated 11.12.024 thereafter he gifted plot to Smt. Khushboo, Now Smt. Khushboo want sell aforesaid property. And It is informed thany deal with said documents by any persoexcept my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed a null and void. If any person having any claim right in said property then he may contact an handover the same and apprise his claim to independent within 15 days of this publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pawan Ahlawat S/o Sh. Jasbir Singh and (ii Mrs. Chnmon Wife Mr. Pawan Ahlawat, stat that Original Sale deed dated 21.05.2014 executed by Smt. Kamla Banerjee in favour o Smt. Prerna Seemar Kalra, vide Registration No. 4907 in Book No.1 Vol.13,323 on pg. 41 to 53, with the Office of Sub Registrar V, New Delhi, towards the Entire Ground floor of the Property bearing no. H-1478, Chittaranjan Park. New Delhi-110019, has been lost/misplaced. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry outany transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing sale deed document. If anyon has already carried out or being carried our kindly inform the under signed on the below mentioned mobile number and email. ANIL KUMAR JHA, (Advocate), M. No. 99685490 E-mail: advocateanilkiha5@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

& Mrs. Harpreet Kaur. With respect to Built-Up Property Bearing no. CR-207, area measuring 62.1/2 Sq. Yds, out of Entire area166.1/2 Sq. Yds, out of Entire area166.1/2 Sq. Yds, out of Khasra no. 266/16, situated at Abadi of CR-Road, Lalita Park, LaxmiNagar, in the area of Village ShakarPur Khas, Illaqa Shahdara Delhi-92. The foresaid property previously owned by Mr. Adesh Kumar & Mr. Lalji through Regd GPA, Notarized ATS & Regd. WILL dated 09.08.2000 which was executed by Mrs. Hansa Devi. Now, they are intend to gift their respective 50% undivided share each to Mrs. Neelam & Mrs. Harpreet Kaur. Now, Mrs. Neelam & Mrs. Harpreet Kaur. Now, Mrs. Neelam & Mrs. Harpreet Kaur. Caur. Now, Mrs. Neelam & Mrs. Harpreet Kau satisfies for mind and a comply with the equirements of the Bank/NBFC, this public lotice is hereby issued. If any person has any aim, right, title, or interest in the said property, ley should submit their objections in writing to be address below within 7 days from the date of is notice. failing which it shall be presumed that he said property is free from all thee of

the said property is free from all type Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal Lt Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Par New Delhi-110049,Contact # 011-400463

try's latest move to beef up its defence amid growing tension in the region. The first of the fleet of 17 Ospreys safely arrived at its

new home base of Camp Saga, Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force said Wednesday. The move is part of Japan's accelerating military buildup, especially in the southwest in recent years, as a deterrence to China's increasingly assertive mar-

PUBLIC NOTICE

itime actions in the area.

It is for general information that Manisha Arora alias Manisha Mahaiar D/o Pitanjali Muni Mahajan Ex. Wife o Gaurav Arora R/o H.No. 5, Road No. 48 First Floor, West Punjabi Bagh, Punjab Bagh, Delhi-110026 declares that i got divorce from my husband vide cour decree HMA NO. 1753/2023 dated 02.06.2023. Further I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as

Manisha Mahaian.

PUBLIC NOTICE THE PIONEER () **CHANGE OF NAME**

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75

Mobile :- 9899013918

I, Durgesh W/o No.14850063W Hav Chandra Shekhar Kumar Vill- Aurangabad

Chandok, PO- Chaundauk, Dist- Bulandshahr, U.P.-202394, have changed my name from Durgesh Sharma to Durgesh, vide affidavit dtd. 09/07/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2421)C I, No.2899151M UDC Kavita R/o- Flat No. 302, Plot No. 237, Gyan Khand- I, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.- 201014, have changed my daughter's name from Prisha to Prisha Bisht, vide affidavit dated 09/07/2025

before Notary Public Delhi. PD(2422)C JC-473234A Nb/Sub Shahamat Khan R/o- Vill-Bajhot, Post- Ismailpur, Teh-Kishangarh Bass, Dist- Alwar, Rajasthan- 301404, have changed my son's name from Akib Hussain to Aakib Husain, vide affidavit dated 09/07/2025

R/o H.No. E-141/3, Block-E Shaheen Bagh, Abul Fazal Enclave Part-II, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 declare that In my 10th & 12th Class Marksheet my mother's name is wrongly mentined as Shahnaz Rajpur & Shaheen Rajpur but her correct name is Shahnaz Rajput for all future purpose.

PD(2424)C **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

CORRIGENDUM Ref: Tender Notice No. 23/2025-2026 dated 18.06.2025 S. No. 04

In reference to above opening date of tender has been extended from 09.07.2025 to

before Notary Public Delhi. PD(2423)C I, Ana Rajput D/o Late Farooq

Tender Number 10250052 Opening date 09.07.2025

21.07.2025. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in. Note: This is the First Corrigendum in above referred tende Date: 09.07.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

India and Brazil aim to double trade in five years



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during a meeting in Brasilia on Tuesday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Brasilia

ndia and Brazil on Tuesday set a target of nearly doubling the bilateral annual trade to \$20 billion in the next five years and inked six agreements to expand cooperation in a range of sectors including energy and agriculture following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da

The two leaders also deliberated on combating terrorism, with Modi saying both sides were clear that there is no place for double standards on

"We have a similar thinking on the fight against terrorism - zero tolerance and zero double standards. We are clear that there is no place for dou-

We will make efforts to facilitate peopleto-people contacts between the two countries, especially students, sportspersons and businessmen - PM NARENDRA MODI

ble standards on terrorism," the prime minister said in his media statement.

"We strongly oppose terrorism and those who support terrorism," he added.

The two sides inked six agreements, including a pact on combating international terrorism and transnational organised crime and another on the exchange and mutual protection of classified information. They also signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on cooperation in renewable energy,

sharing large-scale solutions both sides are unanimous that for digital transformation, intellectual property, and agricultural research.

Modi travelled to Brasilia on Monday evening after attending the two-day BRICS summit in this seaside Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro.

"We want India-Brazil relations to be as colourful as carnival, as passionate as football, and as connecting hearts as samba, without long lines at the visa counter! In this spirit," Modi said.

"We will make efforts to facilitate people-to-people contacts between the two countries, especially tourists, students, sportspersons and businessmen," he said.

On various geopolitical developments, the prime minister said India-Brazil partnership is an important pillar of stability and balance and that all disputes should be resolved through dialogue and diplo-

Modi said both sides discussed ways to enhance trade. "In today's discussions, we

talked about strengthening cooperation in every field. We have set a target to take bilateral trade to \$20 billion in the coming five years," he

The current annual bilateral trade is around \$13 billion. "Our cooperation in the field of energy is constantly growing. Environment and clean energy are the main priorities of both the countries," the prime minister said.

'The agreement that has been made today to increase cooperation in this area will give new direction and momentum to our green goals," the PM said.

US short seller calls Vedanta financial unsustainable; group refutes allegations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi

S short seller Viceroy Research Wednesday released a report charging billionaire Anil Agarwal's mining conglomerate to be "financially unsustainable" and posing a severe risk to creditors, allegations which the group called "selective misinformation and baseless" aimed at discrediting the group.

Viceroy said it was shorting the debt stack of Vedanta Resources, the parent company and majority owner of Mumbai-listed Vedanta Ltd, as it released the 85-page report.

Shorting debt, also known as short selling of bonds, is a trading strategy where an investor looks to profit from a decline in the price of bonds or other debt instruments. It involves borrowing the bond, selling it at the current market price, and then buying it back later at a potentially lower price to return to the lender, pocketing the difference as profit.

Vedanta stocks fell as much as six per cent following the report release but recovered some losses. It was trading at ₹440.05 on the BSE at 1400 hours, down 3.54 per cent over the previous close.

Calling Vedanta Resources Ltd (VRL) a "heavily indebted parent", Viceroy said, "The entire group structure is financially unsustainable, operationally compromised and poses a severe, under-appreciated risk to creditors".

"VRL is a 'parasite' holding company with no significant operations of its own, propped up entirely by cash extracted from its dying 'host: Vedanta Ltd (VEDL)," it said.

To service its own debt burden, VRL is "systematically draining" VEDL, forcing the operating company to take on ever-increasing leverage and deplete its cash reserves. "This looting erodes the fundamental value of VEDL, which constitutes the primary collateral for VRL's own creditors," the report added.

Responding to the report, Vedanta in a statement said, "The report is a malicious combination of selective misinformation and baseless allegations to discredit the Group".

"It has been issued without making any attempt to contact us with the sole objective of creating false propaganda. It only

VEDANTA SHARES END 3% LOWER AFTER US SHORT SELLER REPORT New Delhi: Shares of Vedanta Ltd ended over three

per cent lower on Wednesday after US short seller Viceroy Research released a report charging billionaire Anil Agarwal's mining conglomerate to be "financially unsustainable" and posing a severe risk

The stock tanked 7.71 per cent to ₹421 in intra-day trade on the BSE. Later, it recovered most of the lost ground and ended at ₹440.80, down 3.38 per cent. On the NSE, the stock ended 3.28 per cent down at Rs 441.30 after dropping 7.81 per cent to ₹420.65 in intra-day.

The company's market valuation eroded by ₹6,021.99 crore to ₹1,72,369.91 crore.

Viceroy said it was shorting the debt stack of Vedanta Resources, the parent company and majority owner of Mumbai-listed Vedanta Ltd, as it released the 85page report.

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instruments. It involves borrowing the bond, selling it at the current market price, and then buying it back later at a potentially lower price to return to the lender, pocketing the difference as profit. Calling Vedanta Resources Ltd (VRL) a "heavily indebted parent", Viceroy said.

"The entire group structure is financially unsustainable, operationally compromised, and poses a severe, under-appreciated risk to creditors,"he added.

Responding to the report, Vedanta, in a statement, said, "The report is a malicious combination of selective misinformation and baseless allegations to discredit the Group."

"It has been issued without making any attempt to contact us with the sole objective of creating false propaganda.

"It only contains a compilation of various information, which is already in the public domain, but the authors have tried to sensationalise the context to profiteer from market reaction," it said,

contains a compilation of various information, which is already in the public domain. but the authors have tried to sensationalise the context to profiteer from market reaction," it said.

Alleging that some of the 'material quantitative and qualitative discrepancies" in Vedanta group could "tantamount to fraud", Viceroy highlighted what it called the 'Bait and Switch Funding Model' where VEDL promotes ludicrous capital-intensive projects that it cannot afford in order to raise fresh capital. This capital is then paid out to the PropCo (parent company) to service its

Among others, it called out Vedanta's interest expenses vastly exceeding its reported note rates, evidence of inflated asset values, expenses across operating subsidiaries being systematically capitalised to artificially inflate profits and asset values and billions of dollars of disputed expenses kept off-balance sheet and undisclosed in financial reports. "Vedanta presents systematic governance failures across management and auditors, including inappropriate auditor choices," it alleged.

"To cure its maladies, VRL has proposed a demerger of the entities it has rolled up through its decades-long acquisition strategy, which it now claims are more valuable individually. This fails to address the fundamental cash crunch and will saddle the resultant companies with unsustainable debts from their inception."

It goes on to term VRL "a financial zombie" that is being it from a declining stock

kept alive by transfusions of cash from its subsidiary VEDL. The report came on a day before Agarwal, chairman of Vedanta Ľtd, is to address the company's shareholders at the

annual general meeting. "The timing of the Report is suspect and could be to undermine the forthcoming corporate initiatives. Our stakeholders are discerning enough to understand such tactics," Vedanta said

The report came on a day before Anil Agarwal, chairman of **Vedanta Ltd. is to** address the company shareholders at the AGM

"In fact, to avoid any responsibility, authors of the report have added various disclaimers that the Report has been prepared for educational purposes only and expresses their opinions and are not statements Vedanta said it remains

focused on the business and growth, and requested everyone to avoid speculation and unsubstantiated allegations.

In response, the Viceroy Group wrote on "X" that Vedanta has dismissed its 85page 'thoroughly referenced' report without any attempt to disapprove their work. "This is likely because they

cannot refute our findings. We stand behind our work and are happy to take questions," Vicerov said.

The strategy to make a prof-

deployed by Viceroy is the same as that used by another US short seller Hindenburg Research in January 2023 against the Adani group. Hindenburg, which has since shut down, had called the alleged "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud by the Adani Group.

While Adani group refuted the allegations, calling them "baseless" and "malicious", the Hindenburg report led to group stocks losing as much as \$150 billion in value at their lowest point. Viceroy Research described

Vedanta Resources Ltd as a holding company with no major operations of its own, dependent on extracting cash from Vedanta Ltd to meet its obligations. 'Consequently, VRL's actions

to meet its short-term obligations directly impair its creditors' long-term ability to recover their principal, a situation that resembles a Ponzi scheme where VEDL stakeholders, which include VRL creditors, are the 'suckers," it said.

This arrangement, the short seller claimed, has pushed "the entire group to the brink of insolvency, propped up only by a continuous cycle of new debt, accounting tricks, and the deferral of massive, undisclosed liabilities".

"New credit lines serve only to destroy the PropCo's only collateral, staving immediate insolvency at the expense of any chance of creditors recovering principal. The mechanisms used to maintain the illusion of stability are failing, and a

group-wide insolvency event is no longer a distant risk," it said.

TATA, Skoda enter JV for rail component manufacturing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

uto components maker TATA AutoComp and 🖊 🖢 Skoda Group on Wednesday announced the formation of a joint venture to manufacture railway propulsion systems and components in India envisaging "multimillion euro investment" in the country.

This partnership is aimed at supporting the growing Indian railway and mobility markets, TATA AutoComp said in a statement.

Skoda Group is a leading European manufacturer of components and vehicles for public transport.

On the other hand TATA AutoComp has a significant market position in providing systems and components for electric vehicles.

"This partnership will diversify TATA AutoComp's portfolio and strengthen its capability in railway and metro segment," the company said. TATA AutoComp further said it "aims to bring sustainable innovations in mobility solutions at an affordable cost specifically catering to rolling stock in India".

The new company, jointly owned by the two partners, will focus on manufacturing converters, drives and auxiliary converters for medium high-speed and regional trains, metros and light rail vehicles, the statement said.

"Manufacturing operations will be based in India. The joint venture involves a multimillion-euro investment and is expected to bring economic and technological benefits to the region," it added.

Tata AutoComp Vice-Chairman Arvind Ĝoel said, "Our collaboration with Skoda Group is set to enhance our footprint in the Indian Railway and Metro sector by enabling the introduction of state-of-the-art electrical propulsion systems and com-

Markets close low, late selling drags

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

tock markets closed lower on Wednesday due to Selling in IT and oil & gas shares as investors turned cautious ahead of the start of earnings season and mixed global trends.

Dragged by late selling, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 176.43 points or 0.21 per cent to settle at 83,536.08. During the day, it lost 330.23 points or 0.39 per cent to 83,382.28. The 50-share NSE Nifty

declined 46.40 points or 0.18 per cent to end at 25,476.10. From the Sensex firms. HCL Tech, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Reliance Industries, Bharat Electronics and

laggards. Bajaj Finance, Hindustan Unilever, UltraTech Cement and Power Grid were among

ICICI Bank were among the

the gainers. ʻIndian key indices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

rustard crop, an indigenous oilseed

indigenous onsecu grown in Rabi sea-

son, can play an important

role in achieving self-suffi-

ciency in domestic output of

edible oils and there is a need

to increase acreage, promote

use of high-yielding seed

varieties and provide assured

prices to farmers to boost

yield and production, accord-

government data, India's

rapeseed and mustard pro-

duction stood at 126.06 lakh

tonnes in 2024-25 crop year

(July-June) with acreage of

86.29 lakh hectares and an

average yield of 1,461 kg per

have declined from 2023-24

when acreage was 91.83 lakh

hectares while output was

Puri Oil Mills Ltd

Managing Director Vivek Puri said, "The idea that

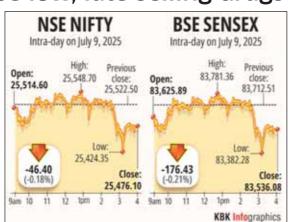
132.59 lakh tonnes.

The area and production

According to the latest

ing to industry experts.

New Delh



remained largely range-bound, while domestic consumption themes continued to anchor investor sentiment. Despite global trade tensions and commodity tariffs, investor focus is increasingly shifting toward domestic earnings and structural growth drivers, including a likely sequential recovery in urban demand and a pickup in infrastructure-led spending,"

'Need to use high-yielding seeds

Puri asserted that any

serious solution to

bridge the demand-

supply gap must be

built around mustard

oil, which leads India

mustard oil should play a

vital role in bridging the edi-

ble oil demand-supply gap

and in reducing import

dependency is an integral

part of our company's vision."

huge scope to expand mus-

tard cultivation as well as

vield per hectare to enhance

Puri asserted that any seri-

ous solution to bridge the

demand-supply gap must be

built around mustard oil,

which holds the potential to

Atmanirbharta in edible oil.

the mustard oil industry for

more than nine decades and

are the promoter of P Mark

Puri Oil Mills has been in

India

lead

toward

mustard oil production.

He noted that there is a

to self sufficiency

to boost mustard production'

Vinod Nair, Head of Research Geoiit Investments Limited,

The US has extended the suspension of its April 2 reciprocal tariffs until August 1.

Shares of mining giant Vedanta dropped 3.38 per cent to end at ₹440.80 on the BSE after US short seller Viceroy Research released a

renewable target by year-end, says **Manohar Lal** PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

May meet

¬he share of renewable energy in India's total installed power capacity has reached nearly half and by the end of the year, the country is expected to meet the 50 per cent target, Union Power Minister Manohar Lal said on Wednesday. India has set the target to achieve 50 per cent of its total power generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030. "We have reached almost 50 per cent (share of renewable capacity) of the 472 GW total generation capacity, and by the end of the year, we will achieve it also," Lal said at an event.

Sabih Khan appointed Apple COO New Delh

oradabad-born Sabih Khan has joined an Lelite league of Indiaborn C-suite executives at global giants after being elevated to the position of chief operating officer of iPhone maker Apple,

following the path laid by the

likes of Indra Nooyi, Satya

Nadella and Sundar Pichai. Khan, who will still have Apple CEO Tim Cook as his leader, will take over his new role from Jeff Williams later this month, rising through the ranks after being at Apple for 30 years and joining the executive team as senior vice president of operations in 2019.

Satya Nadella is the Chairman and CEO of Microsoft, while Sundar Pichai is the CEO of both Google and its holding company Alphabet. Nadella became CEO in



February 2014 after succeeding Steve Ballmer. Pichai became search engine giant Google's CEO in August 2015 and joined the Board of Directors of Alphabet in July 2017.

The club of Indian origin CEOs of multinational giants in diverse fields, although elite, has a fairly large membership. Shantanu Narayen, Chair

and Chief Executive Officer of Adobe, one of the largest software companies in the world and Arvind Krishna, Chairman, President and CEO

al integration, and reduce strate-

gic dependencies on external

of IBM, are among those active pole bearers.

Joining them are Vasant Narasimhan, the CEO of global pharma major Novartis, and Reshma Kewalramani, CEO and President of global biotech major Vertex.

Similarly, Sanjay Mehrotra, Chairman, President and CEO Micron Technology; Anirudh Devgan, President and CEO of Cadence and Leena Nair, Global CEO of Chanel, are among the other significant active members.

Sanjiv Kataria, the ex-CEO of Bata, held the distinction of being the first Indian global CEO of the footwear major. He had resigned from the post last month.

Likewise, Laxman Narasimhan, who parted ways with Starbucks last year after serving as its CEO, had also led another multinational giant Reckitt Benckiser as CEO.

Trade war not passing storm: Malaysian PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS

-alaysian Minister Anwar **IV** Ibrahim warned Wednesday that global trade is being weaponised as Southeast Asia's foreign ministers held annual talks ahead of the looming threat of US trade tariffs.

Concerns about US tariffs have jolted the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a 10member bloc that includes some of the world's most trade-dependent economies.

Six ASEAN members are among the 14 countries that could see duties on their exports to the US skyrocket on August 1. Launching the group's foreign ministers' meeting, Anwar said the world is now witnessing an ASEAN trade, invest in region-

Many ASEAN members have launched bilateral talks with the US, but officials have said they plan to hold an **ASEAN-US summit** later this year

era where "power unsettles principle" and "tools once used to generate growth are now wielded to pressure, isolate and

Without mentioning the US by name, he again urged ASEAN to work together to respond to trade threats.

"Our cohesion must not end at declarations," he said, calling for members to increase intra-

powers. "This is no passing storm," he said. "It is the new weather of our time." Trump first announced tariffs in April, but then delayed them

for 90 days to allow for deals to be negotiated. On Tuesday, he announced new tariffs with rates of between 25 per cent-40 per cent on 14 countries, which will go into effect August 1 unless new deals are struck. He also threatened to increase tariffs if any countries retaliate.

Many ASEAN members have launched bilateral talks with the US, but officials have said they plan to hold an ASEAN-US summit later this year to seek a common position.

So far, only Vietnam has secured a deal, bringing down its tariffs from 46 per cent to 20 per The list threatens 36 per cent

tariffs for Thailand and Cambodia, 32 per cent for Indonesia, 25 per cent for Malaysia and 40 per cent for Laos and war-torn Myanmar.

Reacting to the economic headwinds, Malaysia's central bank on Wednesday cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time in five years. Separately, Trade Minister

Zafrul Aziz said Malaysia will continue tariff talks with the US but won't compromise on issues impacting national interest and sovereignty. He referred to US requests on policy and laws in areas such as Government procurement, halal certification, medical standards and digital tax, without giving details.

Mother Dairy that sells edible oils under Dhara brand, said, "Mustard oil remains a vital category in the nonrefined edible oils segment,

Echoing similar views

Manish Bandlish, MD of

commanding nearly 30 per

cent. As consumers increas-

ingly turn to indigenous oils

for its varied benefits and greater awareness, mustard oil consumption is poised for steady growth, with a projected CAGR of over 4 per cent." Bandlish felt that initiatives, such as enhanced min-

imum price support and the promotion of high-yielding mustard seed varieties, alongwith the consistent policy support through National Mission on Edible Oils-Oilseeds by the government, are set to further drive this momentum.

"These efforts will not only strengthen domestic production but also enhance food security and reduce dependency on imports, contributing to overall economic resilience," he said.

Chelsea beats Fluminense to reach Club World Cup final

ASSOCIATED PRESS

East Rutherford (US)

oao Pedro scored twice against his boyhood team in his first start for Chelsea, leading the Blues over Fluminense 2-0 to assure an all-European Club World

A 23-year-old who had been at Fluminense from about age 10 until leaving for Watford in 2020, Joao Pedro scored in the 18th and 56th minutes on Tuesday and refused to celebrate either goal in a sign of respect for his former club. He joined Chelsea from Brighton

championship, Chelsea advanced to Sunday's title match against the winner of Wednesday's game between European champion Paris Saint-Germain and Real

European teams will win their 12th straight Club World Cup title and 17th in 18 tries, the lone exception a 2012 victory by Brazil's Corinthians over Chelsea, which won in Fluminense was initially

awarded a first-half penalty kick but it was taken away in



Chelsea's Moisés Caicedo Joao Pedro shines as Chelsea beat Fluminense to reach Club World Cup final

injured his left ankle in secondhalf stoppage time.

A crowd of 70,556 was 10-15% short of capacity at MetLife Stadium, where it was 93 degrees (34 Celsius) at kickoff with humidity that made it feel like 104 (40). FIFA cut ticket prices from \$473.90 to \$13.40 last week.

Chelsea went ahead after German Cano lost the ball to João Pedro, and he poked it to Pedro Neto, who dribbled down a flank and crossed. An attempted clearance went to João Pedro, who curled a 20yard shot inside the far post.

João Pedro took two steps to start to celebrate, then stopped

Chelsea doubled the lead after Facundo Bernal lost the ball just outside the Blues' penalty area to Pedro Neto, who poked the ball to Cole Palmer.

He beat three challenges and dished off to Enzo Fernández, who side-footed a pass to João Pedro.

He cut around Ignácio and scored off the underside of the

Marc Cucurella cleared Hércules' shot off the line in the 27th and French referee François Letexier awarded a penalty kick in the 35th minute when René's free kick struck Chalobah.

Letexier reversed his decision in a video review, concluding Chalobah's arm was in

a natural position. Letexier reversing his PK decision at the recommendation of Colombian video assistant ref-

eree Nicolas Gallo. Chelsea has \$88,435,000 to \$103,815,000 for reaching the final, the amount depending on a participation fee FIFA has not dis-

"When I was young, I didn't have nothing, They gave everything to me." - João

Fabio Fognini announces retirement from tennis

London

ormer top-10 player Fognini announced his retirement from professional tennis on Wednesday at Wimbledon, where he lost to Carlos Alcaraz in a five-setter on Day 1 of the tournament last week.

The 38-year-old Italian pushed two-time defending champion Alcaraz for more than 4 1/2 hours before coming out on the wrong end of the 7-5 6-7(5) 7-5 2-6 6-1 score in the fortnight's first match at Centre Court.

That extended Fognini's losing streak to 10 consecutive tour-level matches, including an 0-7 record in 2025. He previously had said he would finish his career at the end of this season, but held a news conference at the All England Club on Wednesday to say he won't compete again.

"It's hard to say what I will do now. I want to enjoy the summer with my family. That's what I want more than anything right now. And then, what happens, happens," Fognini said.

"I'm happy. I lived some indescribable moments. Tennis gave me a lot. It gave me everything?

Fognini is the husband of 2015 US Open champion Flavia Pennetta. She famously won that title at age 33, by



beating childhood friend

Roberta Vinci, then surprised everyone watching by saying on court that her retirement would happen later that year.

After the match against Alcaraz, Fognini asked for one of the Spaniard's shirts as a gift for the oldest of his and Pennetta's three children. When he got to the locker room afterward, Fognini said, he got a standing ovation from other players.

"There are things that mean more than a victory or a defeat," he said. "And (exiting) at that court,

in front of my family, is worth more than any title. A self-described hothead,

Fognini was well-known for some outlandish on-court behaviour that repeatedly resulted in fines.

He was docked USD 3,000 at Wimbledon in 2019 for saying during a match that he wished "a bomb would explode at the club" and a then-record USD 27,500 in 2014 for a series of outbursts. He was put on a two-year probation by the Grand Slam

Board in 2017 after insulting

a female chair umpire at the

US Open and getting kicked

out of that tournament's dou-

bles event. During the Italian-language portion of Wednesday's news conference, Fognini told reporters from his country he wished he hadn't clashed with

them so often over the years. This was the 63rd Grand Slam event for Fognini, whose best result was getting to the quarterfinals at the 2011 French Open, although he didn't play in that round there because of an injured thigh, allowing his opponent, Novak

Semenya case could reignite issue of sex eligibility in sports

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ruling expected this week by the highest chamber of the European Court of Human Rights could reignite champion runner Caster Semenya's yearslong legal battle against sports authorities over sex eligibility rules that banned her and other women from top events including the Olympics and world championships.

If a panel of judges upholds a 2023 decision by the same court in Semenya's favor, it would put renewed scrutiny on track and field's rules requiring some female athletes to suppress their natural testosterone levels in order to compete - and open a legal avenue for the regulations to be struck down.

That would have implications across sports and further inflame a larger issue that has been politicised by US President Donald Trump and others with claims that the future of women's competition is at stake.

Track's regulations have become a blueprint for other sports when dealing with athletes like two-time Olympic champion Semenya, who present the most complex dilemma for sports administrators when determining sex eligibility. The case is about whether athletes like Semenya, who have specific medical conditions, a typical male chromosome pattern and naturally high testosterone levels, should



be allowed to compete freely in profession by the regulations. women's sports.

Track authorities say the rules are necessary to maintain fairness because Semenya has an unfair, male-like athletic advantage from her higher testosterone. Semenya argues her testosterone is a genetic gift. The European court's Grand Chamber — where 17 judges rule on the most important and difficult cases — said it will on Thursday deliver a verdict that's been deliberated on for nearly two years.

The judges will decide whether to uphold a ruling from two years ago that the South African may have been discriminated against and pre-

Semenya refused to take medication to lower her natural testosterone level, and the regulations effectively ended her career. Another victory for

Semenya at the human rights court would not immediately result in the rules being removed, but would keep her legal challenge alive. If the Grand Chamber rules against Semenya, it would most likely be the end of her case as its decisions cannot be appealed. Semenya's career has been a

firestorm of controversy since she arrived in international track as an unknown teenager in 2009 and won the world title in the 800 meters. She was vented from practicing her immediately subjected to sex

tests. Semenva is not transgender and her case has often been misconstrued. She was assigned female at birth, raised as a girl and has always identified as female. But she has one

of conditions which are

of a number

known as differences of sex development, or DSDs, and which lead to testosterone levels that are higher than the typical female range. An assertion by track's governing body, World Athletics, that Semenya is "biologically male" enraged her. World Athletics drew up rules in 2018 forcing Semenya and other female athletes with DSDs to suppress their testosterone to be eligible for inter-

Semenya refused to take medication to lower her natural testosterone level, and the regulations effectively ended her career

Semenya challenged the rules in court and lost at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland in 2019. Ŝhe also lost an appeal against that decision at the Swiss supreme court in 2020. Her 2023 appeal to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France was her first major legal victory. It found that the regulations did - on the face of it - violate her rights and "serious questions" over the rules hadn't been dealt with, like what effects using birth control medication to suppress hormone levels had on athletes.

Should the panel of top judges agree on Thursday, Semenya's case would go back to the Swiss supreme court and possibly all the way back to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, though that would still likely take years.

Implications for sports

The direction of Semenya's case could ultimately have repercussions for other highprofile Olympic sports such as swimming, which also has rules barring female athletes with high natural testosterone.

Those rules were introduced in the wake of the World

Sweden beats Poland 3-0 in Euro 2025

ASSUCIATED PRESS Lucerne (Switzerland)

weden advanced to the quarterfinals at the Women's European Championship by beating Poland 3-0, a result that also sent Germany through to the knockout rounds from their group. A hat trick of headed goals by three different players was fair reward for relentless attacking down Sweden's right flank that left the overmatched Poland defense exposed on Tuesday.

Sweden had already struck the crossbar with two headers before center forward Stina Blackstenius opened the scoring in the 28th.

Captain Kosovare Asllani padded the lead in the 52nd and substitute Lina Hurtig got a key third in the 77th. That goal sent Sweden top of the standings on goal difference ahead of Germany, ensuring it



Sweden's Emma Blackstenius, left, celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the Euro 2025, group C, soccer match between Sweden and Poland in Switzerland

group when the teams meet Saturday. Germany also got its second win earlier, beating Denmark 2-1 after trailing at

"A great performance," Sweden coach said Peter

only needs a draw to win the Gerhardsson said in comments reported by UEFA.

'Our defense was really good. We scored some great goals, and we created a lot of chances." Poland almost scored a consolation goal in stoppage time that would have dropped

Sweden below Germany, but Milena Kokosz's long-range shot struck the inside of the post and went to safety.

The winner of Group C will likely avoid Euro 2025 favorite Spain's half of the knockout

Wimbledon win sends him to semifinal who was the runner-up at last

ASSOCIATED PRESS London

organ knows best, apparently. Taylor Fritz thought the motivational note he wrote to himself after losing at Wimbledon four years ago would stay private. His girlfriend, influencer Morgan Riddle, later shared it on social

media. "That note was never supposed to be public," a smiling Fritz said after his 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (4) win over Karen Khachanov set up a semifinal meeting with two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz. Fritz had written to himself in the note that "nobody in the whole world is underachieving harder than you" and urged himself to get his act together. Not only does

ALCARAZ: GOLF FIRST, THEN FRITZ

Taylor Fritz credits girlfriend Morgan after

The second-seeded Alcaraz is within sight of a Wimbledon three-peat. He extended his winning streak to 23 matches this season by beating Cameron Norrie 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 on Centre Court. Alcaraz, who has beaten Novak Djokovic in the past two finals at the All England Club, faced only five break points and saved all of them. He wants to hit some other greens, though, before he faces Fritz. "For sure I'm going to play some golf, just to switch up my mind a little bit," Alcaraz said. The 22-year-old Spaniard has been playing golf with Andy Murray during his Wimbledon run. This time, his opponent could be actor Tom Holland, whom he had run into earlier. "I would love to play against him in the golf course. For me it would be such an honor. I will try to set it up in these two days that I will have much time to do it.

Fritz forgive Riddle, he also credits her for having such a big impact on him rising to No. 5 in the world rankings in pursuit of his first Grand Slam title. "There's been a pretty constant results-and-ranking rise since we've been together," Fritz said.

"I think I would have to say she's been a big help to me just kind of keeping me focused,

having someone who cares and just pushes you to just do better and do the right things, be healthier. "Almost like kind of just mother me in a way," he added, chuckling to himself, with like, the diet and going to sleep on time."

A smiling Fritz later added: 'Yeah, that maybe wasn't the best choice of words."

The 27-year-old American,

against No. 17 Khachanov, who rebounded in the third set. It was 4-all in the fourthset tiebreaker before Fritz claimed the final three points on Court No. 1. It's the first time Fritz has reached the last four at

year's U.S. Open, didn't face a

break point in the first two sets

Wimbledon. He's won two grass-court titles this season -Stuttgart and Eastbourne and was happy he wouldn't be facing Alcaraz on clay, which would be "an absolute nightmare." "Grass is very much so an equalizer.

It can be an equalizer. So trust in how I'm playing," he said. "I truly know the way that I played the first two sets today, there's not much any opponent on the other side

Iga Swiatek reaches Wimbledon semifinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ga Swiatek reached the Wimbledon semifinals for **⊥** the first time with a 6-2, 7-5 victory over 19th-seeded Liudmila Samsonova that went from a stroll to a bit of a struggle in the late stages

Wednesday. Swiatek is a five-time Grand Slam champion, with four of those titles on the red clay of the French Open, and the other on the hard courts of the U.S. Open. She's also twice been a semifinalist at the hard-court Australian

The grass courts of the All England Club always had given her the most trouble as a pro, even though she did claim a junior championship

there in 2018. In her five appearances in Wimbledon's women's bracket before this year, she had made it as far as the quarterfinals just once, exiting in that round in 2023.

But the 24-year-old from Poland is enjoying a careerbest run on the slick surface, thanks in part to being more comfortable with the footing required.

Before the start of Wimbledon, Swiatek was the runner-up in Bad Homburg, Germany, her first final at a tournament played on grass — and her first final at any event in more than a year.

That included a semifinal loss against Aryna Sabalenka at Roland-Garros last month, putting an end to Swiatek's 26match French Open winning PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

ndia's under-fire chief coach Harendra Singh on Wednesday blamed absence of senior players for women's hockey team's horrendous performance at the FIH Pro League and said the young players need to get better at decision-making to develop into world beaters.

The Indian team was relegated to the FIH Nation's Cup after losing seven of the eight games in the European leg of the Pro League as it finished at the bot-

"It's a new team. Several experienced players were missing due to injuries, defence in particular. What we need to work on is time management and game management," Harendra said during a virtual interaction.

"To work on that area we need to create scenarios and read the game. Like fielding inexperienced players in the defence and then observe where they stand. If they fail we will have to depend on seniors,"

"The other point is decision making. When you are inside the opposition circle, we expect maximum shots on the goal. That will increase the chances of goal."

The coach said India were badly hurt by the absence of experienced players
"Sushila had ACL tear just

one week before Pro League. She is one the fittest defenders. She is not available for the Asia Cup also. Nikki Pradhan and Udita have some hamstring problems, so we had to drop



India women's hockey head coach Harendra Singh with the players

"Promising striker Sangita Kumari was also inured. She is a young player so I didn't want to take a chance," Harendra said. Harendra said they are focussing on the mental aspect working with RCB. of the players.

Young players need to get better at decision-making: Coach Harendra

"We have hired a company called Behaviour Insight. There is a guy named Mohan, who is based in Israel. He has worked with lot of cricketers. He is

"After Olympics I got in the area. It's not mental, its all

touch with him and decided to hire this company. They are working with players individually as well as a team. Before the Asia Cup in a six-week camp we are going to work on anxiety and they are working in these areas," he said. Harendra said the Indians

about decision making and

also need to work on their penalty corner defence.

"PC (penalty corner) defending is an area which we need to work more. We didn't have experienced players like Udita and Nikki Pradhan in defence in the European leg. We need

"We are disheartened that we

to work on our defence."

are out of the Pro League but I am not in pain, the reason being if you look at the Pro League matches we have made the gap pretty close with the top teams," Harendra said. "But three major identifica-

tions that I have done is that we conceded soft penalty corners. 52 PCs is very high. We also conceded penalty corner goals around 35 per cent."

The Pioneer DEHRADUN | THURSDAY | JULY 10, 2025

India to pose tougher test to unsettled England

he in-form Indian batters will back themselves to succeed on a potentially challenging surface while the bowling attack, which did not inspire confidence in the first game, will pose a tougher test to an unsettled England with the return of Jasprit Bumrah at the Lord's Test beginning on Thursday.

With the series nicely poised at 1-1 going into the third Test, the narrative built around both the teams has changed significantly following India's 336-run routing of England at Edgbaston. If it wasn't for the dropped catches and lowerorder collapses at Leeds, India



England's Joe Root, Ben Duckett, Jamie Smith and others during a practice session ahead of the third test cricket match between India and England, at the Lord's Cricket Ground, in London

ARCHER SET FOR FIRST TEST SINCE 2021 AS ENGLAND ANNOUNCE PLAYING XI FOR LORD'S

London: Star pacer Jofra Archer is set to feature in his first Test since 2021 as England included him in their playing XI for the third match against India on a spicy surface at Lord's. The five-match series is locked 1-1 at the moment and heading into the third Test, England are hoping to add some spark to their bowling attack with the long-awaited comeback of Archer, who had been laid low by multiple injuries in recent years. Archer comes in

"England Men have made one change to their XI for the Rothesay Third Test against India at Lord's, starting on Thursday. "Sussex fast bowler Jofra Archer replaces Nottinghamshire's Josh Tongue. It will be Archer's first Test appearance since February 2021, also against India, in Ahmedabad," the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement on Wednesday. Archer has only played white-ball cricket for England since 2021 after elbow and back injuries.

five-match series.

Considering the inexperience of the Indian squad under new captain Shubman Gill, the team has not only

would have been 2-0 up in the competed but has won major ity of the sessions over the course of the two Tests. England, on the other hand, were expected to steamroll the opposition following the and Virat Kohli but India's performance thus far has been a testament to their depth and rich talent.

The mountains of runs scored by Gill and Co. Have forced Ben Stokes to depart from their original template: prepare flat tracks and bat the opposition out of the game.

The roaring success of the Indian batters on flat tracks has proved counter productive for the hosts who are now expected to dish out a surface offering a fair amount of seam movement. Add to that a rather unique challenge of a slope - that runs up and down — at the iconic Lord's.

The return of Bumrah and Jofra Archer, who will play his first Test for England in four ters' task tougher.

The tourists have little to worry about in the batting department barring the form of Karun Nair, who has looked a tad uncomfortable against the ball that jumps from length. Trust England to pepper Yashasvi Jaiswal with short stuff into the body but like he often does, the Indian opener will find a way to score runs.

The only expected change in India's playing eleven will be Bumrah coming in place of Prasidh Krishna.

Serious question marks were raised over the efficacy of the Indian pacers after Leeds but the trio of Akash Deep, Mohammed Siraj and Bumrah gives a potent look to the

Phil Salt's bat used in IPL cleared by authorities

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ngland white-ball opener Phil Salt's bat, which he used in the last two years including in the Indian Premier League, was initially deemed "to have failed an on-field gauge test" but later cleared after further examination, his club said. The 28-year-old Salt currently plays for Lancashire.

He played a major role in Royal Challenger Bengaluru's maiden IPL title win earlier in the year, scoring 403 runs from 13 matches, the second highest for his team after Virat Kohli (657 from 15

Lancashire Cricket in a statement said that the bat used by Salt during Friday's Vitality Blast T20 match against Northants Steelbacks has been cleared by the Cricket Regulator's Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU).

"Salt was alleged to have breached ECB Directives 3.2 and 3.3, after his bat failed an on-field bat-gauge test during the Vitality Blast fixture. It is a bat that he has used for the last two years for England, Lancashire and in the IPL with no issue," the club said in the statement.

During the first over of Lancashire Lightning's run chase, an umpire conducted an on-field bat gauge test, as part of an assurance process undertaken to check the sizes of a bat being used. To pass the test, the bat must fit through a gauge of the specified size.

"Salt's bat did not pass through the gauge on the field and was therefore deemed to have failed the test, and in further tests carried out after the match, it was deemed inconclusive despite the bat fitting through the gauge on several occasions. The Club and player felt this should have been the end of the matter, but the officials felt it necessary for the bat to be taken away for further testing," the

"Following this evidential testing process undertaken by the Cricket Regulator, the bat was found to be compliant with the Regulations - and the Club and player have been informed that no further action will be taken."

The club said the "whole process could have been avoided with improved processes on and off the field, whether that be through better equipment and/or additional training".

"Following the incident there have been inappropriate comments made by match commentators, inaccurate articles written in the media and some unsavoury social media posts towards the player, that could

Gill storms into top-10 of ICC men's Test batting rankings



India's captain Shubman Gill waves to the fans after their win against England on day five of the second cricket test match at Edgbaston in Birmingham, England PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Dubai

ndia captain Shubman Gill on Wednesday broke into the top-10 of the ICC men's Test batting rankings for the first time in his career after a record-breaking performance against England at Edgbaston.

Gill smashed 269 and 161 in the game -- becoming only the

second player in history to score more than 150 in both innings of a Test -- as India thrashed England by 336 runs to level the five-match series 1-1. This was also his first win as Test captain. The 24-year-old, who was ranked 23rd before the series, has jumped 15 places to a career-best No.6 in the world, as per the latest ICC Test batters' rankings released on

took his tally in the series to 585 with three Tests still to play. Gill's previous career-best rank was 14th, which he had achieved in September 2023. In ODIs, Gill continues to lead

the batting chart, while Sri Lanka's Charith Asalanka (up to sixth) and Kusal Mendis (up 10 spots to 10th) made strides after their 2-1 series win over Bangladesh. Wanindu Hasaranga jumped 11 places to eighth in the ODI bowling rankings after taking nine wickets in the series.

Among bowlers, Jasprit Bumrah remains the top-ranked player in Test cricket despite missing the Edgbaston game to manage his workload.

Mohammed Siraj moved up six spots to 22nd after a good outing, while West Indies quicks Shamar Joseph and Alzarri Joseph also made gains. Meanwhile, England's Harry Brook has reclaimed the number 1 spot in the Test batters' rankings after scoring 158 in the first innings at

SA20's fourth season to start from December 26



MI Cape Town won the third season of SA20 earlier this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Johannesburg

he fourth season of SA20 league will begin with a Boxing Day opener between defending champions MI Cape Town and Durban's Super Giants at Newlands on December 26 with the final scheduled for January 25, the event's organisers said on Wednesday.

The following day, December 27, will mark the season's first double-header with Centurion hosting a special derby between Pretoria Capitals and Joburg Super Kings while Paarl Royals and Sunrisers Eastern Cape clash at Boland Park in Paarl.

Kingsmead, the home of Durban's Super Giants, will be buzzing with activity in the week leading up to the New Year with the east coast venue welcoming both MI Cape Town (December 28) and Joburg Super Kings (30 December) within the space of

a couple of days. "Fans will have the opportunity to toast in the New Year in style with another cracking double-header set for Gqeberha and Cape Town on December 31," the organisers said. Two-time champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape will welcome the Paarl Royals at St. George's Park, with MI Cape Town and Pretoria Capitals clashing at Newlands later in the day. The matches will con-

tinue on New Year's Day when Joburg Super Kings and Durban's Super Giants will face off at the Wanderers. "Announcing the fixtures is always a major milestone for

us and signals that we are well on our way to another incredible season. Season 4 of the SA20 will be unique. We have carefully

planned the fixtures to make the most of the festive season and school holidays. "We want SA20 to be a part of the holiday season festivities

in our once-off window for this year. We're also excited to host New Year's Eve and New Year's Day fixtures for the first time, we can't wait to be a part of the New Year's celebrations with the fans," League Commissioner Graeme

Elaborating on the reception SA20 has received in India, he said, "It's been phenomenal to witness how SA20 has struck a chord with fans in a vibrant cricket market like India.

What's truly heart-warming is seeing Indian fans follow emerging SA20 talents like Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Wiaan Mulder, and many others who've honed their skills in the competition.

India remains a key market for SA20, and we'd love to see more fans travel to South Africa for the matches. They certainly won't be disappointed." The auction is scheduled for September 9.

Young players capable of taking Indian cricket forward: Dilip 974 runs in the 1930 Ashes.

t was crucial for "worldclass" Shubman Gill to **▲** score truckload of runs to "call the shots" as skipper, former India batter Dilip Vengsarkar said here on Wednesday, adding that young players showed that they are capable of taking Indian cricket forward. India bounced back to pum-

mel England by 336 runs in the second Test to level the five-Test series 1-1, after starting the tour with a disappointing five-wicket loss in Leeds. Gill has been at the forefront

of India's attack, amassing a mind-boggling 585 runs in only four innings with three centuries, the highest score being a stunning 269. "He did very well as a cap-

tain, as a batsman, it was very important that he scored runs so that he can call the shots and he can lead from the front.



Indian cricket team players at Edgbaston in Birmingham, England

which is very important and he has done that," Vengsarkar told the media.

"He is an experienced player. He is a world-class batsman and he that showed in England. Because of the English conditions, everybody

was thinking what will happen to the Indian team in the absence of Rohit Sharma and

Virat Kohli. "But these young players have shown that they are capable of doing it and I am very proud of them," he said during

the launch of Mumbai's Cricketing season 2025-26.

Gill's tally of 585 runs in four innings puts him on track to do the unthinkable — to break the record for all-time highest run-tally by any batter in Test history — set by Sir Donald

"Well, he is in great form

the record.

and he is an outstanding batsman. I hope he does that. I don't know whether he will do it, but I am sure that he has got an opportunity. He is in great form and he should do it, that's what I feel."

By his lofty standards, Gill is

390 runs behind and

Vengsarkar said it is possible

for the 25-year-old to rewrite

"But then, what is important is not (get into chasing) personal milestone. Because we are obsessed with personal milestone, which is wrong. The important (point) is to win matches for our country. That is what matters. And the impact of innings or a spell is what matters in the ultimate

analysis," he said. Without taking any names, Vengsarkar said India have done well in the first two Tests without some of the key play-

very well and if they win at Lord's it will make a lot of difference. I expect them to win at Lord's and go 2-1," he said. "You should not pay much

heed to the slope, rather you should play every ball on its merit. Our players are in good form. Akash (Deep) has done a very good job (in the second

"We all say that this player was not there or that player was not there, what will happen now? The other players can also deliver and the other players should also get a chance and that chance is in their hands and they will do it," he added. During his speech to players across age groups and genders, Vengsarkar underlined the importance of fitness, discipline, doing well in knockout clashes such as semifinals and finals to "grab the opportunities with both hands" and taking pride in playing for

Akash Deep was absolutely special, says Arun Lal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi

ormer India cricketer Arun Lal was in awe of Akash Deep's performance in the second Test against England Birmingham, saying he was "absolutely special".

Akash Deep shone bright with a 10-wicket haul in India's series levelling 336-run win over England at Edgbaston.

He picked up 4/88 in the first innings and then followed it up with a splendid 6/99 in the second essay to return with impressive match figures of 10/187. The 28-year-old pacer's effort helped India draw level the fivematch series after losing the opener by five wickets at Leeds. "He was absolutely special," Lal said. "There was never a question about his abilities. He was strong, hard-working...The only thing missing was selfbelief. He's more confident now, bowling smarter and with patience. He doesn't go searching for a wicket every ball.



India's Akash Deep celebrates the dismissal of England's Harry Brook on day five of the second cricket test match between England and India at Edgbaston in Birmingham, England

"And the more belief he gains, the faster and better he'll get. He can clock 145 kph and has that rare ability to break partnerships," he noted. Coming from a humble background, Akash Deep initially didn't expect to don the national colours, Lal said. "He didn't really understand how good he was, and he didn't think that he could play for India," said Lal.

"I just wanted him to understand that this is just the beginning. 'Ranji jeetna hai, India khelna hai, aur lamba India khelna hai." While Akash Deep grabbed headlines, young India skipper Shubman Gill showed his prowess, scoring 269 and 161 at Birmingham and took his match aggregate to 430, the second-highest ever in Test

Red Bull fires F1 team principal Christian Horner

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Milton Keynes (England)

ongtime Red Bull team principal Christian Horner was fired on Wednesday ✓after a 20-year stint that included eight Formula 1 drivers' titles and a rise to celebrity status. Red Bull did not give a reason for the decision in a statement on Wednesday, but thanked Horner for his work and said he will "forever remain an important part of our team history." Laurent Mekies of sister team Racing Bulls will replace Horner in his role as chief executive of the Red Bull team.

Horner had been Red Bull team principal since it entered F1 as a full constructor in 2005. He had performed his team and media duties as normal throughout the British Grand Prix last week. His wife is Geri Halliwell — Ginger Spice of the Spice Girls — and Horner himself became a celebrity figure through his prominence on Netflix's F1 docuseries "Drive To Survive," where his bitter rivalry with Mercedes' Toto Wolff was a key plot point.

Horner oversaw eight F1 drivers' titles four for Sebastian Vettel and four for Max Verstappen — and six constructors' titles dur-

ing his time with the team. But McLaren has dominated this season in F1, while Red Bull's performance has dipped, though defending champion Verstappen remains third in the standings and the team

is fourth. Uncertainty for the future

Horner spent much of last week fielding questions over Verstappen's future at the team after the Dutch driver declined to commit to stay with Red Bull for 2026. Zak Brown, boss of rival McLaren, told The Associated Press last week it would be a "disaster" for Red Bull if Verstappen were to leave. Horner is the latest in a series of high-profile executives to leave the team over the last year and a half. Car design great Adrian Newey joined Aston Martin and sporting director Jonathan Wheatley departed for Sauber, which is soon to become the Audi works team. All of these changes have followed the 2022 death of Dietrich Mateschitz, the billionaire co-founder of Red Bull who created its F1 project.

The team also shuffled drivers, dropping Sergio Perez at the end of last season before a brief failed experiment with Liam Lawson as Verstappen's teammate. He was in turn replaced by Yuki Tsunoda, who hasn't scored a point in five races.

'We would like to thank Christian Horner for his exceptional work over the last 20 years," Oliver Mintzlaff, Red Bull's chief executive for corporate projects and investments said in a statement. "With his tireless commitment, experience, expertise and innovative thinking, he has been instrumental in establishing Red Bull Racing as one of the most successful and attractive teams in Formula 1.

Tender Notice

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Sr. DEN/HQ/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following tender Nos. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like (www.ireps.gov.in) net banking debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed. 89-DRM-MB-25-26 dt. 08.07.2025 Tender No. Date

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Name of work	Through fitting renewal of track under Al	DEN/HQ/MB		
Tender Closing Date / Time	04.08.2025			
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Rs. 84,27,220.32			
Earnest Money (Rs.)	Rs. 1,68,600.00			
Tender Cost (Rs.)	00			
Bidding Start Date	21.07.2025			
Period of Completion	06 Month			
No.: 75-W/2/3/WA/Publication Dated.: 09.07.2025 2070/202				
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E-Tender Notice he Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Const/Northern Railway, Moradabad for and on

noted work:-	, and the specific territory (engles a state of state) and the state of sta
e-Tender NIT No	17-Elect/C/TRD/MB/139-B
of 25 kV AC single phase ROB in lieu of Level Cr Station Yard on Lucknow 'SPL' Class at Km 78/130	ocation: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning OHE for the electrification work of crossover shifting at Rosa, ossing No.352 'C' Class at Km 1288/17-19 in Pitamberpur w-Moradabad section, ROB in lieu of Level Crossing No.51 0.201 in Sitapur City Station Yard, Bridge No.13 DN Main Line on Sarda Canal and Switching Post (SP) at Sitapur City on nof Moradabad Division.

Approximate Cost of work					₹ 1,87,73,215.60				
Bid Security (in terms of Clause 3.0 of tender document)				₹ 2	2,43,9	00.0	0		
Date & Time for	Tenders	may	be	uploaded	upto	11.30	hrs	on	date
Date & Time for Submission of E-tender	31.07.20	25 on	IRE	PS web site	e i.e. w	ww.ire	ps.g	ov.ir	1 The

Completion period of the work

submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 17.07.2025 to 31.07.2025. The bidders who desires to participate against e-tenders, are advised to electronically register themselves on website

and opening of tender bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 31.07.2025 The detailed e-tender and tender document is available or www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be available for

12 (Twelve) Months

www.ireps.gov.in for which they would require to obtain Class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tender are given in the tender document. Only e-tenders will be accepted and tenders submitted n any other form will be summarily rejected.

No. 17-Elect/C/TRD/MB/139-B Dated: 09.07.2025 Serving Customers With A Smile