

The 2025 election witnessed robust public engagement, contributing to one of Bihar's highest voter turnout rates in decades. While the political outcome signals continuity, the demographic and educational shifts within the Assembly point to a gradual but meaningful evolution in the composition of Bihar's elected representatives.



## CM fast-tracks summit investment rollout

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Dr Mohan Yadav on Monday ordered mass ground-breakings by the end of November to speed up implementation of investment proposals made at the Global Investors Summit-2025. He said the push aims to bring Rs 2-2.5 lakh crore worth of projects to the ground ahead of his government completing two years in December.

Dr Yadav said the summit, held in Bhopal in February, drew proposals worth Rs 30.77 lakh crore. He directed departments to stay in constant touch with investors, resolve queries quickly and ensure that proposals move steadily toward execution. Officials told the chief minister that work is under way on projects valued at more than Rs 8.57 lakh crore. They briefed him on the status of land allotments, letters of interest and follow-up

interactions with companies across multiple sectors. The industrial policy and investment promotion department reported receiving 889 proposals worth Rs 12.70 lakh crore. Of these, 397 projects have been allotted land and issued letters of interest. Another 190 proposals worth more than Rs 5.13 lakh crore have completed site visits, indicating readiness for the next stage of approval.

Officials said processes for proposals valued at around Rs 2.48 lakh crore - including land allocation and investment applications - have been completed. These projects are expected to generate more than 2.85 lakh jobs once operations begin.

Additional chief secretaries Neeraj Mandloi, Manu Srivastava, Sanjay Dubey and Shivshekar Shukla attended the review, along with principal secretaries Sandeep Yadav and Manish Singh. Departments han-

dling renewable energy, minerals, urban development, housing, power, public works, tourism, science and technology, technical and higher education, skill development, MSMEs, public health, medical education, aviation and cooperatives also shared updates on proposals received during the summit. Dr Yadav said tourism has become a strong brand for Madhya Pradesh and asked officials to move toward granting full industry status to the sector so major investors can access incentives available to manufacturing units.

He also directed departments to organise state and divisional conventions at the end of the year highlighting people who gained employment or self-employment through government schemes. He said more than 7.85 lakh people have benefited and that the government's achievements should be widely publicised before 2025 ends.

## Nine officials face action as SIR drive tightens in Bhopal

**Bhopal:** District authorities escalated enforcement of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) on Monday, suspending two officials and initiating suspension proceedings against seven others for failing to carry out mandated voter-list duties.

Collector Kaushalendra Vikram Singh ordered immediate suspension of BLO Anantlal Mishra of Assembly Segment 150 and supervisor Shubham Pratap Singh of Segment 154 after both failed to digitise even a single enumeration form despite repeated directions. The orders cited clear negligence during the revision exercise.

In a separate report, the Electoral Registration Officer for Assembly Segment 152 Bhopal South West proposed suspension proceedings against seven more officials who neither reported for SIR duty nor replied to show-cause

notices issued on November 3 and November 13. The ERO said the officials had been deployed under multiple orders between September and November but did not attend office or perform any assigned work.

Officials named in the proposal are Zuber Ashraf, Nikhil Rayakwar, Suresh Dehriya, Udit Pathak, Ram Lakhna Dadoria, Pushpendra Gupta and Yashwant Kumar Saryam. Action has been sought under Section 32 of the Representation of the People Act 1950. At the weekly review meeting, Singh directed all Electoral Registration Officers to enforce a daily target of collecting and digitising at least 10 per cent of forms and to increase field inspections to ensure compliance. He said the revision cannot be allowed to slow down and warned that further negligence would draw strict action.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav flags off buses carrying girls to India's western international border under the Maa Tujhe Pranam scheme, at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

## Indore Collector warns schools against lapses in student safety

PNS ■ Indore

Collector Shivam Verma on Monday warned school operators that the district administration will not tolerate any compromise on student safety, health or academic welfare, directing institutions to ensure full compliance with all norms governing fees, materials and transport.

Chairing a meeting of government and private school administrators at the collectorate, Verma reviewed key issues including scholarships, transport arrangements, books, learning materials, uniforms, fee structures and fire safety. District CEO Siddharth Jain, Additional Collector Roshan Rai, RTO Pradeep Sharma and officials from multiple departments were present.

Verma said action would be



taken against institutions that jeopardise the life, health or safety of children, or interfere with their studies. He instructed schools to follow notified rules on fee hikes, avoid unnecessary charges and refrain from forcing students to buy books or stationery from a particular shop.

Emphasising transport safety, Verma said every school vehicle must have functional safety equipment, trained staff and valid fitness certification. All vehicles must run within speed limits, and fire-safety

measures must be in place. The administration also made fire audits compulsory in all schools and directed that staff receive training in operating firefighting equipment. Regular mock drills for students and employees will also be required.

On scholarships, Verma directed departments to ensure timely disposal of pending cases. He said no student should be denied classes, exams or transfer certificates for non-payment of fees. He added that children admitted under the Right to Education Act must be treated on par with other students and receive free education up to Class 8.

The collector instructed all institutions to prioritise transparency, safety and quality in school operations and strictly follow every stipulated standard.

## Youth dies after iron rod hits live wire while chasing monkeys

PNS ■ Jabalpur

A youth in Jabalpur died on Sunday night after an iron rod he raised to chase away monkeys came into contact with an overhead high-tension power line, electrocuting him and triggering a blast that left him severely burnt.

The incident occurred at a three-storey building in Gokalpur, where Shiv Prasad Patel runs a lohar-making unit. Sanjay Yadav, a resident of Kajarwara and an employee at the factory, had gone to the terrace late at night for some work when he noticed monkeys near the parapet.

Police said Sanjay lifted an iron rod to scare them off, unaware of how close it was to the high-tension cable passing over the building. The rod

made contact with the live wire, and he was electrocuted instantly. The resulting explosion set his clothes on fire, alarming residents in the neighbourhood.

Ranjhi CSP Satish Sahu and a police team reached the spot soon after receiving information. The electricity department was alerted immediately, and the line was switched off before rescuers brought Sanjay down. Police said he had already died by then.

Officials from the electricity department inspected the condition of the overhead line during the night. CSP Sahu said a case had been registered and an investigation had begun. The victim's family was informed later, and a post-mortem will be conducted today at the Medical College.

## Patwari slams BJP of mishandling SIR process, failing farmers

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari stepped up political pressure on the state government, accusing the BJP administration of mishandling the SIR process, failing to resolve the fertiliser shortage, and normalising increasingly abrasive political conduct.

While addressing mediapersons here on Monday, Patwari said these issues reflect deeper governance gaps and a growing disconnect between the ruling party and citizens on the ground.

Patwari said the Congress has activated a full-scale organisational architecture to manage the SIR process. He said the party has deployed Assembly in-charges, appointed Booth Level Agents across all polling stations, and created a monitoring mechanism routed through district presidents and district coordi-

nators.

According to him, BLAs have been trained in more than 100 seats. The entire state structure will be fully trained within five days. He positioned this as a strategic safeguard to protect voter rights and ensure process-level integrity.

Patwari accused the BJP of lacking genuine commitment to democratic norms. He said the Modi-era political narrative has normalised election manipulation, forcing the opposition to operate with greater vigilance. Congress has divided Madhya Pradesh into 1,047 blocks, assigning a senior leader to each to ensure accountability and real-time escalation. Patwari said every leader - including himself - has been assigned block-level responsibilities to protect every voter's franchise. On the fertiliser shortage, Patwari criticised the government's messaging strategy, call-

ing it disconnected from on-ground reality. He said farmers were beaten and jailed on the same days when BJP leaders were claiming there was no shortage. The Chief Minister's recent promise of home-delivered fertiliser, Patwari said, is meaningless when supply pipelines are already broken. He called the announcement a branding exercise aimed at optics rather than delivery.

Patwari also targeted senior BJP figures for what he described as a steady decline in political culture. He cited remarks by Inder Singh Parmar and recent comments by Faggan Kulaste, arguing that dismissing serious incidents as "small events" reveals a leadership mindset detached from public sentiment. Patwari also criticised Dr Yadav's remarks toward state employees, calling them evidence of a leadership style driven by aggression rather than accountability.



Muslim devotees offer Dua on the last day of four-day world's largest Muslim congregation Alami Tabligi Ijtema at Ghasipura, Eintkhedi, near Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

## Millions with tearful eyes mark conclusion of Ijtema

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

The four-day 78th Aalmi Tablighi Ijtema at Eintkhedi concluded peacefully early Monday as more than a million worshippers gathered for an emotional 30-minute Dua-e-Khas led by Maulana Saad Kandhalvi, bringing the vast congregation to tears and closing one of the world's largest Muslim gatherings in complete calm.

Maulana Saad's voice carried across the 600-acre grounds as he sought mercy, forgiveness and guidance in a deeply moving supplication. He prayed for a spirit of compassion to flourish, for people to value humanity, live with love and brotherhood, remain steadfast on the path of truth and follow the Prophet's teachings with patience, sincerity and gentleness. He also asked for protection for madrasas, healing for the sick and relief for those he said were facing false accusations. The vast gathering fell silent except for waves of

"Ameen" rising from the crowd. Organisers estimated that 1 million to 1.2 million people attended this year's congregation. Worshippers began arriving from Sunday night, turning approach roads into slow-moving rivers of white caps. By dawn, the venue was packed to its edges.

After the concluding prayer, hundreds pledged to undertake 40-day and four-month tablighi journeys to spread Islamic teachings. Senior scholars reiterated the six principles of the Tablighi Jamaat, emphasising righteous conduct, humility and maintaining harmonious relations with all communities.

Dispersal began soon after and proceeded with remarkable order. Volunteers formed lanes to guide foot movement, while police and district staff managed traffic. Local residents along key roads also stepped in, helping elderly worshippers navigate congested stretches.

Given the massive turnout, the administration had put extensive security and traffic plans in

place. Police, Home Guards and traffic personnel were deployed along major routes with diversions, additional parking and pedestrian corridors. Railway stations and bus stands added ticket counters, ATVM machines and security staff to handle returning crowds. Officials had warned of heavy congestion around Mubarakpur, Patel Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Karond, Peer Gate, Royal Market, Lalghati and Nadra Bus Stand. Buses from neighbouring districts were routed through bypasses, and airport- and railway-bound passengers were advised alternate corridors.

To prevent delays, the Ijtema committee deployed mechanics and puncture-repair workers along arterial routes to assist any participant facing vehicle trouble.

Volunteers later cleaned the grounds, restoring the venue within hours. Organisers thanked the district administration, police and thousands of volunteers for ensuring a smooth and peaceful close.

## DNLU hosts first corporate law summit

**Jabalpur:** Dharmashastra National Law University concluded its first Corporate Law Summit 2025 on November 15-16, held entirely in virtual mode. Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Manoj Kumar Sinha opened the event, underscoring the rising importance of ESG standards, sustainability, and ethical practices in corporate governance.

The summit featured two marquee panel discussions with experts from leading universities and major law firms, including partners from Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas and Khaitan & Co. More than 80 research papers were presented across nine technical sessions by scholars and practitioners from institutions nationwide.

Speakers examined emerging issues such as greenwashing, cross-border insolvency, white-collar crime, digital accountability, and AI governance. The event was organised under the guidance of Dr Shruti Nandwana, Director of the Centre for Corporate Laws and Governance.

## Singhar flags inclusion gaps, corners government over civil judge results

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Leader of the Opposition in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, Umang Singhar, has alleged that the latest Civil Judge exam results expose a serious breakdown in the state's commitment to equal opportunity. Singhar said the outcome, where only 47 candidates qualified out of 191 posts and all 121 ST-reserved seats remained vacant, reflects a systemic failure rather than an isolated lapse.

Singhar argued that the numbers point to chronic gaps in access to preparation resources for marginalised groups, calling the empty ST quota a "critical red flag" for a state that claims to prioritise inclusion. He said the results reveal a structural bottleneck that prevents SC-ST candidates from even entering the talent pipeline.

According to him, this is not about disputing the judiciary's integrity; it is about acknowledging that real merit cannot surface when whole sections of society lack coaching support, learning tools and competitive readiness. Singhar said the outcome makes it clear that the state's training ecosystem is not delivering for disadvantaged



communities. He maintained that justice is not only about court decisions - it begins with equitable access to judicial careers. A system where an entire reserved category fails to secure even one seat, he said, signals a governance failure that demands immediate corrective action.

Singhar pushed for a strategic overhaul of the state's preparation infrastructure, including targeted training programmes and stronger institutional support for rural and tribal aspirants. He said the results should trigger urgent policy reform rather than defensive explanations. He framed the issue as a high-stakes governance challenge, arguing that a justice system disconnected from the society it serves risks losing public trust.

## Bhopal breaks 87-year record as MP hit by season's harshest cold

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh continued to reel under an intense cold wave on Monday, with Bhopal logging its lowest November night temperature in 87 years at 5.2°C on Sunday night, breaking the previous mark of 5.4°C set in 1938.

The mercury dropped a sharp 1.2 degrees in a single night, pushing the state into severe winter conditions much earlier than usual. Rajgarh recorded the lowest minimum at 5°C, while Indore dipped to 7.2°C - its coldest November night in 25 years. At least 11 districts saw readings below 10°C, including Gwalior (9.8°C), Ujjain (9.6°C) and Jabalpur (9.3°C). Despite the harsh early-morning chill, school timings remain unchanged in most districts, including Bhopal and Ujjain, forcing thousands of children to step out as early as 6:30 am in near-freezing conditions. Parents have voiced serious concern over a rise in cold-related illnesses among students. The district education department has also advised all government, private and CBSE schools in Bhopal to begin classes for nursery to Class 8 no earlier than 8:30

### Bhopal shivers at 5.2°C

am. While districts like Indore (schools to start at 9 am from November 18), Dewas (10 am), Jhabua (9 am for nursery to Class 3; 8 am for higher classes) and Chhindwara (8:30 am) have revised timings, several other major cities are yet to announce similar measures, leaving children bundled in woollens to brave the biting cold each morning.

The India Meteorological Department on Monday issued a fresh warning for the next 24 hours, forecasting severe cold wave conditions in Bhopal and Rajgarh, while Indore is likely to experience both a cold day and a severe cold wave. As many as 25 districts across Madhya Pradesh have been placed under cold wave and cold day alerts.

A senior Met official clarified that although nights are extremely cold - sub-6°C in several places - citizens are not feeling the full intensity during the day because bright sunshine is pushing daytime temperatures above 25°C in most cities.

The cold wave is expected to persist for at least the next two to three days, with little respite in sight.

## Schools told to start after 8:30 am

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Authorities in Bhopal on Monday directed all schools to begin classes no earlier than 8:30 am, extending start times across the city as a sharp dip in temperatures prompted fresh concerns over student safety in the early-morning chill.

In a circular issued by the District Education Officer, government, private, aided and unaided institutions - including primary, middle, high and higher secondary schools, as well as CBSE, ICSE and centrally run campuses - were told to revise their schedules with immediate effect.

Officials said the decision, approved by the district collector, aims to protect students from the biting cold that has set in over recent days. The order has been sent to the municipal commissioner, district panchayat CEO, Additional Director of Public Instruction, Divisional Joint Director of Education and other administrative offices for enforcement.

Schools have been instructed to adhere to the timing change until further notice.



Students from Narmadapuram division perform during 29th state level Youth Festival, organised by Madhya Pradesh Sports and Youth Welfare department, at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

## Attackers chase father-son into hospital for second assault

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Shore police are searching for three men after a tent house owner and his father were attacked twice on Sunday night, including inside the district hospital where the trio also scuffled with police personnel. Police said Pravesh Parihar, a resident of Ambedkar Nagar Ganj, was first assaulted around 10 pm in the Bhopal Naka area. Parihar told officers he was slapped after he stopped his vehicle, and that Deepak

Parmar and his associates then arrived and abused him. He returned home without responding. After reaching home, Parihar informed his father, Hari Singh, and the two went back to Bhopal Naka. There, they again encountered Parmar and his group, who allegedly assaulted both men. Hari Singh suffered head injuries. The father and son went to Sehore District Hospital for treatment. Police said Parmar, Bhanu Rathore and Naveen

Rathore followed them into the hospital and attacked them again. In the scuffle, police personnel who attempted to intervene were pushed around. Hari Singh was struck on the head with a rod. Pravesh sustained injuries to his fingers, waist and knee. A youth named Akash, who tried to intervene, was also injured. The accused allegedly issued death threats before fleeing. Police have registered a case and launched a search for the suspects.



## Al Falah rector's kin arrested in Al Fahad case

PNS ■ Indore

Indore police have arrested Hamood Siddiqui, brother of Al Falah University chancellor Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui, in a 25-year-old chit fund case, adding new attention to a family already under scrutiny after the recent Delhi car blast. Hamood, a resident of Mhow, was detained in Hyderabad and sent to jail on November 16. Police said he and Jawad opened a chit fund company in 2000, promised to double investors' returns and fled with the money. Three fraud cases were registered that year at Mhow police station. Hamood also faces older cases of assault and attempted murder from 1988. Investigators estimate the fraud amount at about Rs 35 lakh. Police said Hamood later operated an investment firm in Hyderabad under the name Richcom Private Limited. Before leaving Mhow, the brother



ers and their wives had also floated Al Fahad Fincom in 1995 and 1996. The names of the firms have reopened old wounds in Bhopal, where two companies - Al Fahad and Al Falah - marketed Shariah-compliant investment schemes and collected crores from residents in the 1990s and early 2000s. Many investors had put in compensation received after the 1984 gas disaster. The promoters allegedly disappeared overnight, and victims recalled being misled with claims that their deposits would be repaid through company shares. Several depositors

stayed silent at the time for fear of income-tax scrutiny. A 2006 petition filed by the Reserve Bank of India before the Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court listed cases registered against Hamood Siddiqui and retired Army colonel M M Zena in Bhopal. So far, no link has been established between the Bhopal firms and the Siddiqui family. Only the names match, but police officials say they will examine past records to ascertain any connection. The November 10 blast near the Red Fort, which killed 13 people, has brought further attention to Jawad, founder of Al Falah University and head of the Al Falah Charitable Trust. The main accused, Dr Umar Nabi, previously taught at the university. An NIA team visited Burhanpur on November 15 as part of the investigation. Jawad's family lived in Kayasth Mohalla, Mhow, where his father served as Shahr Qazi.

## Simhashta 2028 land pooling scrapped after farmer concerns

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav on Monday cancelled the proposed land pooling for Simhashta 2028 in Ujjain after a meeting with Kisan Sangh representatives, senior BJP leaders and district officials, saying farmers' concerns must guide preparations for the massive religious gathering. Dr Yadav chaired the discussions at his residence, where participants agreed that Simhashta 2028 should be organised as a "divine, grand and world-class" event without compromising the interests of farmers or saints. He directed the Urban Administration and Development Department and the Ujjain district administration to issue immediate orders withdrawing the land pooling scheme, which had caused unease among farm-

ing communities around Ujjain. Senior MLA and state BJP president Hemant Khandelwal, MLA Anil Jain Kalukhedra and a Kisan Sangh delegation attended the meeting. The farmer representatives included Mahesh Choudhary, Kamal Singh Anjana, Atul Maheshwari, Lakshmi Narayan Patel, Bharat Bais and Ramesh Dangli. Kisan Sangh leaders welcomed the announcement, calling it a "reassuring" step that recognised the emotional and economic stakes farmers hold in lands around Ujjain. They said the decision would ease tensions and help rebuild trust ahead of the state's largest religious congregation, which draws millions every 12 years. Officials said the withdrawal order will be issued shortly and that alternative plans for Simhashta infrastructure will be discussed with all stakeholders.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav visits the science exhibition based on models prepared by the youth of the state at the 29th State Level Youth Festival program at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo



Commissioner Directorate Public Instruction Shilpa Gupta talking to media persons ahead of 52nd Rashtriya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani-2025, in Bhopal on Monday. Pioneer photo

## Record four-and-a-half hour clean-up transforms Ijtema site

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

In a herculean post-event effort on Monday, Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) workers cleared the 600-acre Ijtema site at Eintkhedi in a record four-and-a-half hours, drawing praise from civic leaders and the event committee. The massive clean-up followed the conclusion of the four-day Tablighi Ijtema, which drew lakhs of participants from India and abroad from November 14 to November 17. Soon after the concluding prayers, around 650 sanitation workers fanned out across the sprawling venue, including the 120-acre pandal zone and the 350-acre parking area, lifting 30 tonnes of dry waste and 10 tonnes of wet waste before transporting it to

designated garbage stations. Officials said the drive was undertaken on the instructions of Mayor Malti Rai and Commissioner Sanskriti Jain, who had directed all health department zones to complete the clean-up swiftly while maintaining full segregation of waste. Teams also swept all approach roads leading to Eintkhedi, leaving the entire corridor spotless by early evening. The civic force began work at 2 pm and wrapped it up by 6.30 pm, covering the control room, office blocks, food zone, multiple pandals and every auxiliary space across the site. Over the four days of the congregation, the corporation had deployed 650 sanitation staff and drivers across three shifts, supported by 45 vehicles, 20 containers, eight sewage-

cleaning machines, a JCB, foggers, a fogging machine and fire brigade and water supply personnel. Across the duration of the event, 155 tonnes of waste - 120 tonnes dry and 35 tonnes wet - were collected and sent for disposal. To improve air quality, four foggers continuously sprayed water across the venue. Ijtema committee media coordinator Omar Hafeez was all praise for the civic staff, saying the team's speed and coordination with Ijtema volunteers ensured the grounds were restored in unprecedented time. Civic officials said the performance adds another milestone to the corporation's growing record of rapid restoration after major public events.

## Aggressive monkey tranquillised in Garhi village near Indore

PNS ■ Indore

An aggressive monkey that injured three farmers in Garhi village near Indore was tranquillised by forest authorities and released into the forest after a week of attacks. Villagers said the animal had been terrorising the area, biting and scratching farmers without provocation. Farmer Sohan Darbar suffered the worst injuries, requiring 27 stitches on his face. Another victim, elderly farmer Babu Patel, was also hurt, along with a visiting guest. A Ralamandal rescue team captured the monkey after the Divisional Forest Officer was alerted. Indore's Hukumchand Hospital has recorded 470 monkey-attack cases from the region in recent months, officials said.

## Youth power sets pace for Madhya Pradesh's leap toward Vision 2047

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav on Monday said youth from Madhya Pradesh would be the driving force of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Vision 2047, using the opening of the 29th State-Level Youth Festival to underline how rising skills, confidence and ambition among the state's young population were shaping the country's next phase of growth. Addressing participants at Ravindra Bhawan, Dr Yadav said the government had marked 2025 as a turning point for expanding opportunities in employment, investment and skilling. More than 11,000 young people have received appointment letters this year, he said, while recruitment for nearly 100,000 posts was advancing through the Staff Selection

## CM links state recruitment and training efforts to PM Modi's Vision 2047 development roadmap

Commission and Madhya Pradesh Public Service Commission. The state aims to cross 2.5 lakh total appointments in the near future. The Chief Minister inaugurated the two-day festival with a lamp-lighting ceremony as youth from all divisions presented science exhibits. The event concludes on November 18. Dr Yadav presented financial incentives to standout performers, awarding Rs 51,000 to Padmashri Ramlal Bareth, Rs 2

lakhs to shooter Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar and Rs 1 lakh to athlete Ranjana Yadav. He also flagged off three buses under the 'Maa Tujhe Pranam' scheme, sending 144 young women to tour India's western international borders. He said young achievers from Madhya Pradesh, particularly women, were setting fresh benchmarks across fields under PM Modi's guidance. He cited the example of ICC Women's Cricket World Cup winner Kranti Gaud and said the Sports and Youth Welfare Department was helping athletes from the state deliver consistently strong performances. Reiterating the Vision 2047 roadmap, Dr Yadav said India's rise to the position of the world's fourth-largest economy reflected its momentum. Madhya Pradesh, he said, was strengthening education, job creation

and avenues for self-reliance to ensure youth remained central to this progress. Loans worth Rs 5,000 crores have been extended to 7 lakh youths for self-employment, while 20,000 have received stipends under the Learn-Earn scheme. More than 61,000 have secured private-sector placements through job fairs. Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Vishwas Kailash Sarang urged young people to commit themselves to building a prosperous Madhya Pradesh and a globally influential India by 2047, invoking the transformative contributions of Mahatma Gandhi and Bhagat Singh. The festival's opening featured Bundelkhand folk performances depicting Krishna leelas and a jugabandi between tabla player Samarth Sharma and sitar. Over 300 athletes from all 10 divisions are participating.

## Depressed over mother's death, 32-year-old man ends life in Chandbad

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

A 32-year-old man in Chandbad died early Monday after jumping from the roof of his house, Bajaria police said, citing an initial assessment that he had been struggling with his mental health. Police identified him as Akash, who had reportedly been under psychiatric treatment since his mother's death three years ago. Family members told investigators he often spoke about ending his life and expressed a wish to "join his mother." His father found him severely injured in the courtyard around 3 am and rushed him to hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. Akash, the third of four brothers, worked as a secu-

rity guard in the city's industrial area. Police have opened a case of suicide. In a separate case, a 42-year-old man from Bareilly in Raisen district died late on November 16 after falling from the fourth-floor terrace of People's Hospital in Nishatpura. Police identified him as Randhir Dhakad, who had been admitted for an eye operation successfully performed on November 14. Nishatpura station in-charge Manoj Patwa said Randhir left his bed on his own, reached the terrace and fell under circumstances that remain unclear. He had no attendant with him at the time. He died during treatment later that night. An FSL team examined the site, and police are probing whether the fall was accidental or a suicide.

## Family stages sit-in at hospital after newborn's death

**Indore:** A family is staging a sit-in at Indore's Coral Hospital after their newborn died, alleging doctors misled them about the child's condition, overcharged them and referred the baby to MY Hospital only after death. The protest began on Monday afternoon when relatives returned to the hospital demanding to meet the treating doctor, a fair inquiry and a refund of fees. The baby's father, Monu Kaushal, alleged negligence, claiming doctors gave contradictory information about the newborn's organ development and referred him only to avoid responsibility. Police attempted to mediate, but no dialogue was established. The newborn, delivered prematurely in Mhow on October 23 and admitted to Coral's NICU, died on Saturday. Police have sent the body for post-mortem.

## Ahilya Ghat youth meet rallies children for climate awareness

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

A youth gathering on the banks of the Narmada at Ahilya Ghat on Sunday evening brought children and adolescents together to discuss environmental conservation and child rights in the run-up to World Children's Day. The event, jointly organised by the Khargone district administration, UNICEF Madhya Pradesh and Youth for Children, featured an interactive "play and learn" session aimed at building climate awareness among young participants. UNICEF Chief of Field Office and Communication Specialist Anil Gulati told the gathering that young people have the potential to become frontline change-makers on climate issues. "Action is now, and we need to learn and act on it now," he said, urging participants

to think creatively about spreading information on climate change. "And what better place to talk about it than the ghats of Narmada." Recreational and awareness activities were conducted by Anaadi Tiwari from Bhopal and Ritesh Chauhan and Jaya Chopra from the Mother organisation, encouraging participants to reflect on environmental sensitivity, climate challenges and the protection of child rights. Nearly 80 children and young people from nearby areas took part. Organisers said the initiative aimed to boost community-level climate awareness under the theme "My Day, My Right," ahead of World Children's Day on November 20. Participants pledged to act for the environment, conserve natural resources and work to strengthen child rights in their communities.

## Woman's screams lead to arrest of husband's friend in Gwalior rape case

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

A 30-year-old woman in Gwalior's Motijheel area was allegedly raped and assaulted by her husband's friend early Sunday, moments after her two sons stepped out for a morning walk. The accused, identified as Sunil Kushwaha, was caught by family members after the woman's cries for help rang out from her room. Police said the woman, who hails from Morena, lives in Motijheel with her husband,

children and brother-in-law. Her husband had left for his village a few days earlier, and Sunil, a long-time acquaintance who often visited the family, stayed over at the house on Saturday night. Around 5 am, Sunil allegedly entered her room, overpowered her when she resisted, he threatened and raped her. Her brother-in-law and son rushed in after hearing her screams, caught the accused at the spot, assaulted him, and handed him over to police. A medical examination and further procedures are under way.

## Passengers escape as bus wheels roll off on Hoshangabad Road

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

With passengers on board, a long-distance bus lost both its rear wheels while moving along Hoshangabad Road early Monday morning, prompting fresh questions over the rigour of roadworthiness checks for commercial vehicles. The incident occurred around 4:30 am near the Bawadia Kalan bridge, when the Balaghat-Indore service-nearing ISBT after travelling about 450 kilometres suddenly shed its rear tyres. By chance, none of the passengers was injured. Traffic was sparse at that hour, and the bus was not

travelling at high speed, allowing the wheels to roll across the carriageway and strike only the divider of the service road. The bus halted in the middle of the road and remained there for hours. A crane was called to shift it, but by noon the vehicle was still at the spot, leaving one lane of the busy corridor blocked and forcing commuters to weave around it. Witnesses said the consequences could have been far more serious had the front wheels detached. "The wheels came off on the way from Balaghat to Indore. No one was hurt," the bus helper, Ravi, said. Attempts to reach the operator's Bhopal office went unanswered.

The near-miss has renewed scrutiny of routine fitness inspections conducted by the Regional Transport Office, particularly for buses running long overnight routes. Safety experts say wheel detachment during motion often indicates significant maintenance lapses-ranging from loose nuts to hub and axle defects-that should be caught during mandatory checks. Transport officials have not clarified whether the bus had a valid fitness certificate or when it was last inspected. Monday's failure has heightened commuter concerns over the reliability of private operators relying major routes across the state.

## Living together, standing alone: The quiet battle of Bhopal's live-in couples

KISHAN SINGH RANA ■ Bhopal

Adults in Bhopal who choose to live together with consent continue to fear for their future, even though Article 21 of the Constitution protects their liberty to cohabit. The law may recognise their right, but daily life still unfolds under the weight of social judgement that follows them from their homes to the streets. In Rachna Nagar, Kaustubh Dixit says he cannot disclose his partner's name because openness attracts trouble. "It is difficult for couples like us to find a house. We cannot live in closed societies where most residents are over fifty, or in areas with high unemployment. Retired or idle people focus only on live-in couples, criticising us as if we are their favourite topic." His partner says the scrutiny is constant. "Life is always a battle for a woman. If she walks alone, people comment. If she walks with her partner, they

still comment. Even though our landlord knows about us, residents avoid involving us in any function, as if we are untouchables." At Gulmohar Colony, Satendra and Bina-both in their mid-twenties and working in finance-are unsure about their future. Satendra, from a General-category, middle-class family, fears marrying Bina, who belongs to the OBC category and comes from a wealthier background. "We are still unsure," he says. Bina adds, "If we marry, Satendra may lose his share in his ancestral property, and I may lose mine. No one will support us." In Saket Nagar, Amit Raghuvanshi and his partner Vyasa describe their relationship as "running on the edge 24/7". For them, cohabitation means staying alert to gossiping neighbours, family disapproval and the possibility of moral policing. "Love marriages are for the rich, but stigma is for the poor and mid-



dle class," Amit says. "Wealthy and influential people live together without marriage, yet no political leader dares comment on them. But if someone lives in their neighbourhood does the same, they immediately start spreading poison." For Vyasa, the emotional strain is overwhelming. "I love and respect my parents, but I feel trapped. I cannot imagine marrying anyone other than Amit. These thoughts disturb us constantly." Advocate Arun Goswami, who practises in the district court, says the law is unambiguous. "Article 21 gives adult citizens the liberty to cohabit. No one has the right to interfere in

their privacy. A landlord may deny accommodation, but cannot defame them or intrude into their personal life." But legal rights do little to soften the daily hostility. Rajat, a BPO manager, says going out together draws attention they never asked for. "People stare at us as if we have done something wrong, regardless of their age. This is the problem in places with a backward mindset-not backward in education or income, but in mentality. I know lawyers who fight divorce cases but won't allow their own children to have a relationship." For interfaith couples, risks multiply. A woman who lives with her partner says political polarisation has made them more cautious. "We belong to different religions and we like each other, but our privacy and future feel threatened. You may remember the case where a couple tried to marry legally and the boy was beaten by so-called protectors of the Constitution."

Even among live-in couples, views on whether they would allow their own sisters or daughters to make similar choices remain conflicted. Some say no because they do not want their families to face the same hostility; others say yes, but only if there is a promise of marriage. Religious leaders openly reject the idea. "Live-in relationships are not allowed in Hindu society," says Chandra Shekhar Tiwari, chief of the Hindu Utsav Samiti. "The Constitution may permit it, but according to Sanatan Dharma it is wrong." Absar Ahmad, an Imam, echoes this view. "They may have constitutional rights, but society will not accept them. Marriage unites two families, who provide support." Between the freedoms guaranteed by law and the biases enforced by society, Bhopal's live-in couples continue to search for safety, acceptance and dignity-living together, but still standing alone.

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As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the public in general that the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.					
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1.	Amit Mehta (Borrower), Asha Mehta (Co-Borrower), LHIND00001352637.	4 Nagar Parisdad Akodiya Mahalaxmi Bai Ward Sujapur Na Akodiya-465223, Bounded By- North: House of Mr. Chandabai, South: Road, East: House of Mr. Chaturbhuj Choursia, West: House of Mr. Chandabai./ Date of Possession- 12-Nov-25	15-12-2022 Rs. 74,72,141/-	Indore-Navlakha	
2.	Amit Mehta (Borrower), Asha Mehta (Co-Borrower), LHIND00001352994.	4 Nagar Parisdad Akodiya Mahalaxmi Bai Ward Sujapur Na Akodiya-465223, Bounded By- North: House of Mr. Chandabai, South: Road, East: House Of Mr. Chaturbhuj Choursia, West: House of Mr. Chandabai./ Date of Possession- 12-Nov-25	15-12-2022 Rs. 3,20,643/-	Indore-Navlakha	
3.	Jitendra Ahuja (Borrower), Anil Ahuja (Co-Borrower), LHIND00001587799.	Prakoshtha No. 310 and 318, Sir Kashirao Dada Saheb Market (South Wing), Municipal House No. 12, Adga Bazar, Holkar Bada, Indore, Madhya Pradesh- 452001, Bounded By- North: (Unit 310) Common Passage, (Unit 318) Common Passage, South: (Unit 310) Prakashtha 318, (Unit 318) Common Passage, East: (Unit 318) Prakashtha No. 311, (Unit 318) Prakashtha No. 309, West: (Unit 310) Prakashtha No. 309, (Unit 318) Prakashtha No. 310./ Date of Possession- 13-nov-25	23-08-2025 Rs. 33,36,048.99/-	Indore-Navlakha	
The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.					
Date: November 18, 2025 Place: Akodiya, Indore					
Authorized Office ICICI Home Finance Company Limited					



# Ex-Murugappa Group Chairman passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

Arunachalam Vellayan, former Chairman of the Murugappa Group and Chairman Emeritus of Coromandel International, died on Monday after a prolonged illness.

Vellayan (72) passed earlier today after a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife Lalitha Vellayan, his sons Arun Vellayan and Narayanan Vellayan, and grandchildren, the Murugappa Group said in a statement.

For several decades, he provided strategic direction across diversified businesses of the group, helping expand and enhance its reputation as one of India's most respected conglomerates.

He served on the boards of various companies in the Murugappa Group, including as chairman of Coromandel International Ltd and EID Parry Ltd.



Arunachalam Vellayan

He also served on the boards of companies, such as Kanoria Chemicals & Industries Ltd, EXIM Bank and Indian Overseas Bank, the statement said.

Vellayan also led various industry and trade organisations, including Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Fertiliser Association of India, Indian Sugar Mills Association, and All India Cycle Manufacturers Association.

He was the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode (IIM-Kozhikode).

An alumnus of The Doon School, Shriram College of Commerce, Aston University, UK, and University of Warwick Business School, UK, Vellayan was also honoured with Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) by the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and Aston University, UK.

# Karnataka to unveil IT, startup, space policies at BTS 2025

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Bengaluru

The Karnataka Government will unveil three policies—IT policy, startup policy, and space technology policy—at the upcoming Bengaluru Tech Summit (BTS) 2025, officials said on Monday.

The 28th edition of BTS, organised by the Department of Electronics, IT and BT and Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on November 18.

Speaking at the curtain-raiser, which was held on Monday, Minister for Electronics, IT/BT and Rural Development Priyank Kharge said, "We are glad to reaffirm that the Bengaluru Tech Summit has grown into a truly global innovation platform, fostering discovery and development across the entire technology spectrum—from information technology and biotechnology to deep tech, space, and sustainability."

Priyank added that this

year, the government has organised 'The Future Makers Conclave' at BTS, a high-energy gathering of nearly 10,000 founders, investors, and innovators aimed at shaping the next wave of entrepreneurship.

"The conclave is a flagship meet designed to deliver tangible value for all participants in the startup ecosystem—from budding entrepreneurs and early-stage founders to seasoned entrepreneurs looking to scale up," he said.

"Every attendee will leave with concrete takeaways, whether in capital access, pilot projects, business tools, mentoring, visibility, or networks," he added.

N Manjula, Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT & BT, said, "We will be unveiling three policies, reaffirming Karnataka's deep tech commitment. The space technology policy will be launched during BTS, along with the third version of the IT policy and the second version of the startup policy."

The Karnataka cabinet



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

recently approved the Karnataka Space Technology Policy and the Information Technology Policy for 2025-30, offering extensive financial and non-financial incentives to accelerate investments, strengthen innovation, and expand the state's tech footprint beyond Bengaluru. On November 6, the cabinet approved the Karnataka Startup Policy 2025-30, with a total outlay of Rs 518.27 crore over five years, aiming to establish up to 25,000 startups, including

10,000 from clusters outside Bengaluru.

According to a statement, BTS 2025 will feature 10 focused conference tracks, including IT and DeepTech, Electro-Semicon, Digi Health & Biotech, India-USA Tech Conclave, and Global Collaboration and Startup Ecosystem. Sub-tracks include AI Universe, Defence & SpaceTech, Finverse, and Women in Leadership.

"The summit will bring together over 50,000 visitors, including more than

1,000 investors, 15,000 attendees, 500 speakers, and 1,000 exhibitors," the statement said.

"It will host over 80 knowledge sessions, more than 5,000 curated meetings, and welcome participants from 60 countries and all 30 states and Union Territories of India," it added. Themed 'Futurise', the three-day summit will bring together notable speakers, including ISRO Chairman V Narayanan, Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary of DPIIT, and Abhishek Singh, Additional Secretary of MeitY.

BTS 2025 will also feature specialised platforms such as Investor Connect, allowing startups to engage directly with leading investors and industry leaders, and Mentor Connect, which provides one-on-one mentorship with experienced domain experts.

"These platforms aim to catalyse meaningful connections, capital access, and strategic guidance for the next generation of innovators," the statement said.

# NMCG clears research, pollution-control projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) said on Monday that it has approved a series of major research and infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening scientific river management and accelerating pollution abatement efforts across the Ganga basin.

The decisions were taken at the 67th executive committee (EC) meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) chaired by its Director General Rajeev Kumar Mital, with a strong focus on data-driven planning, climate resilience and rejuvenation of both the Ganga and Yamuna rivers.

Senior officials from the Department of Water Resources and states participating in the mission attended the meeting, which placed emphasis on research-led interventions.

The EC cleared several

studies that will deepen scientific understanding of the Ganga basin, from monitoring Himalayan glaciers and creating a digital twin of the Ganga to SONAR-based riverbed surveys, managed aquifer recharge through paleochannels, and digitisation of historic geospatial maps, an official statement said.

Officials said the projects mark a shift toward integrating advanced modelling, artificial intelligence (AI) tools and high-resolution datasets into long-term river restoration. As part of the major pollution-abatement measures, the committee approved a ₹361.86 crore project to intercept and divert drains and construct new sewage treatment plants (STPs) for cleaning the Mahananda River in Siliguri, West Bengal.

The project, which includes 25 interception and diversion (I and D) structures, two STPs with capacities of 27 MLD and 22 MLD, and an extensive

network of rising mains and pumping stations, will be implemented under a hybrid annuity-based public-private partnership (PPP) model.

To support Yamuna rejuvenation in Delhi, the EC also cleared the conveyance of treated sewage from the coronation pillar STP to the river.

The plan involves tapping untreated flows from the Jahangirpuri drain, building new pumping stations, laying rising mains and RCC channels, and installing truss bridges for drain crossings to ensure safe discharge of treated effluent, the statement said.

Among the key research approvals, the EC sanctioned a ₹3.98 crore study by the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, on glacier retreat and melt-runoff changes in the Upper Ganga Basin, including risks linked to flash floods and glacial lake outburst floods.

It also approved a high-

resolution SONAR-based bathymetric survey covering 1,100 km of the Ganga from Bijnor to Ballia, aimed at improving sediment management and environmental-flow assessments.

A ₹242.56 lakh project on managed aquifer recharge along paleochannels in the Ganga-Yamuna Doab region was cleared to enhance groundwater security between Kaushambi and Kanpur.

The committee additionally approved ₹3.31 crore for developing a Digital Twin and Water Cycle Atlas for the Ganga basin, and ₹2.62 crore for creating a geospatial database of historical maps to track long-term changes in river morphology and floodplains.

Looking to expand public outreach, the EC sanctioned the 'Youth for Ganga, Youth for Yamuna' initiative to engage over 2.5 lakh students across 200 Delhi-NCR schools.

# NCW flags lapses in RG Kar probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Kolkata

The parents of the raped-murdered RG Kar Medical College trainee doctor were among 43 complainants who appeared before the National Commission for Women (NCW) during a mass hearing, 'Maha Jansunwai', held here on Monday to address cases of atrocities against women.

On the sidelines of the first day of the two-day session, NCW member and eminent doctor Archana Majumdar said that the commission would continue to stand by survivors and their families as they "keep knocking on every door for justice" and wait for months or years for redress.

"Everyone knows what happened to the woman in the RG Kar case. Her helpless parents are being treated like shuttlecocks by the state authorities. They pleaded

Everyone knows what happened to the woman in the RG Kar case. Her helpless parents are being treated like shuttlecocks by the state authorities. They pleaded before the NCW, and we believe it is our responsibility to ensure they get real justice

— ARCHANA MAJUMDAR, NCW MEMBER

before the NCW, and we believe it is our responsibility to ensure they get real justice. We had sent our members for inspection to visit the place of occurrence. As only one person has been arrested, there is merit in their argument," she said.

Majumdar added that the parents were unhappy with the pace of the investigation. Expressing dissatisfaction over the state police's communication with the NCW, she said, "They (police) never upload this case on the portal. I had two virtual hearings with two Deputy Commissioner-rank officials two-three months ago, but

they could not give any substantial update."

"At an earlier virtual hearing on the RG Kar case, seven points were asked and recorded and police promised to look into these points. However, no action taken report (ATR) has been initiated based on the flagging of these points and they are not providing us documents requested by me stating the case is sub-judice," the NCW member said.

"Police should not be to harass people and make them move from one place to another. I am not generalising, but this has been the

attitude of police in many instances. Even the mother of the deceased woman was beaten during a march to Nabanna a year after the incident. That complaint has also been lodged with us, but there has been no action by police so far," she said.

Majumdar said the NCW has scheduled another hearing on the RG Kar case in 15 days, involving the parents, police and investigating agencies. "The issues should not be skipped. We are very serious. Even if the matter is sub-judice before the Calcutta High Court, what can be done within the parameters of law must be done," she said.

The father of the victim medic, after meeting Majumdar, said, "We are yet to get any satisfactory reply from police related to several issues. The CBI has also let us down. Let's see what reply Kolkata Police furnishes after 15 days."

# Congress slams BJP, MNS for hate-filled politics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Mumbai

The Congress on Monday said it will not compromise on its ideology and warned that the "divisive and hate-filled politics" of the BJP and MNS are harmful to Mumbai's social harmony and development.

The party announced it will contest the upcoming BMC elections independently while seeking support from like-minded groups.

"The Congress will not compromise on its ideology; the divisive and hate-driven politics of the BJP and MNS are harmful for Mumbai," party spokesperson Sachin Sawant said at a press conference.

"To focus on Mumbai's real issues, it is essential for Congress to contest inde-



Sachin Sawant

pendently. Congress is committed to development with a human face," he added. Sawant said the party remains firmly committed to constitutional values such as democracy, justice, equality and secularism, adding the Congress' ideology

stands in sharp contrast to what he described as the attempt by the BJP-RSS to divide people on the basis of religion, caste and language.

"The BJP is trying to polarise Mumbai by raising issues such as the possibility of a Muslim mayor and

illegal infiltration, instead of addressing core civic concerns like roads, water, healthcare, education, housing and pollution. Such rhetoric disturbs the social atmosphere and affects the city's long-term growth," Sawant said. Slamming the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), Sawant said the Raj Thackeray-led party's politics in the name of Marathi pride has created fear and hostility in the past.

Sawant pointed to incidents of violence against taxi drivers, hawkers and job seekers from other states, and said statements by MNS chief Raj Thackeray on loudspeakers and aggressive slogans threaten Mumbai's multicultural fabric.

"Mumbai continues to face basic civic challenges

and seeks pothole-free roads, clean drinking water, waste management, better public toilets, quality schools, affordable housing and a corruption-free administration. Parties focused on religion, caste or language have failed to address these issues," he said. He added that Mumbai has always welcomed people from across Maharashtra and the rest of the country, and targeting "outsiders" often ends up hurting locals as well.

"The Congress is contesting independently to provide clean, transparent and equitable governance. The current system is handing over the city's land and resources to a select few. The Congress' aim is to ensure development that is inclusive and humane," Sawant asserted.

# BJP's Nuapada bypoll victory due to workers' effort, says CM Majhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Bhubaneswar

Rejecting BJD and Congress' allegations of "vote chori", manipulation and booth rigging, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday said the BJP registered a "historic" victory in the Nuapada bypoll due to the tireless efforts of party workers, unity among leaders and a flawless strategy.

Addressing a meeting, Majhi thanked party workers and leaders for playing a crucial role in ensuring the victory of BJP candidate Jay Dholakia by a margin of over 83,000 votes.

"We are thankful to the people of Nuapada. I will

soon visit the district and personally convey my gratitude," he said.

Recalling earlier years when, according to him, the BJP did not even have polling booth agents in several areas, the chief minister said, "We learned from defeats and reviewed our mistakes. That is why the BJP is successful today."

Accusing the Opposition of spreading misinformation, Majhi said, "Both the BJD and Congress attacked us with lies, fearing defeat. They used abusive words like 'vote chori' and 'beiman' (traitor). But their lies did not work, and the people of Nuapada gave them a befitting reply."

He claimed that an action

like 'Operation Sindoor' was executed in Nuapada, which, he said, "gave rich dividends".

Majhi asserted that the bypoll results had "changed the political landscape" of Odisha. Now Congress says it lost because of a 'Bibhishan' (one who helps the enemy) and that action will be taken against him. If they do so, the party—which has 70 per cent 'Bibhishan'—will be completely destroyed," he remarked.

The chief minister said BJP workers, leaders, MLAs, MPs and ministers worked in coordination throughout the campaign. "The ministers, MLAs and MPs deployed in the area will now prepare a list of local problems. All issues will be resolved," he added.

# J&K Deputy CM claims PDP contested Budgam bypoll with BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Baghpat

Jammu and Kashmir Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary on Monday attacked PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, alleging that her party contested the Budgam assembly bypoll with the BJP.

Choudhary's remarks came days after opposition PDP candidate Aga Syed Muntazir won the bypoll on November 14, defeating ruling National Conference candidate Aga Syed Mehmood.

Speaking to reporters here, he said, "One day, Mehbooba ji speaks in the favour of the BJP, and another day she speaks against it. First, Mehbooba ji should decide whether she is with the BJP or against it."

Referring to the recent bypoll in Budgam, Choudhary said that Mehbooba-led PDP contest-



J&K Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary

ed the election with the BJP. The J&K deputy CM also claimed that the PDP is in a dilemma and is unable to draw the line.

He also said that attempts were made to misguide the voters. "At times, the voters get misguided."

"But the voters never cast votes on the basis of violence in the country or the situation which Pakistan wants to create in India. People are intelligent, and

they know about their voting rights," he said.

Choudhary also said that a promise was made by the Centre that the statehood of J&K will be restored soon.

"The people of Jammu and Kashmir are hoping that the prime minister and the home minister will fulfil their promises. Jammu and Kashmir, which was divided and made a Union Territory, will get back its lost status of a state," he said.

# Punjab must remember sacred traditions of Gurus: CM Saini

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Chandigarh

Punjab must remember the sacred traditions of the Gurus while addressing water disputes, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday said, pointing out that the state is not receiving its full share of water from the neighbouring state due to the non-construction of the SYL canal.

Saini was speaking at the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Faridabad's Surajkund which was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. During the meeting, Saini said that sustained cooperation between states is extremely important for the progress of the nation.

By pooling our resources, sharing knowledge and adopting each other's best practices, we can turn the vision of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' into reality, he said.

Saini said Haryana has made several successful efforts in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

resolve of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

According to a Haryana government statement, Saini said while discussing key agenda items that proper arrangements must be ensured for supplying each state its rightful share of water.

Haryana has consistently been giving Delhi more water than its own share. However, due to the non-construction of the SYL canal, Haryana is not receiving its full share of water from Punjab. Once Haryana receives its rightful share of water through SYL, Rajasthan will also get its due share, he said.

Saini said that Punjab is the land of Gurus, the sacred soil where Bhai Kanahaiya served even enemy soldiers on the battlefield by giving them water. Through the Council, he urged Punjab to remember the great traditions of the Gurus while addressing the water dispute.

Notably, Bhai Kanahaiya, who was a disciple of Guru Teg Bahadur, carried a



Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini

'mashk' (leather pouch filled with water) on his shoulder in a battle in Anandpur Sahib and served water to the wounded without any discrimination.

Saini also said that water is a shared resource and keeping it clean is the collective responsibility of all states. Recalling that rivers are revered as mothers in Indian culture, he specifically mentioned the Yamuna and assured that Haryana is making every effort to keep the river clean.

Notably, the SYL canal issue

has been a bone of contention between the two states for the past several years. The canal was conceptualised for the effective sharing of water between the two states from the Ravi and Beas rivers.

The project envisages a 214-kilometre canal, of which a 122-kilometre stretch was to be constructed in Punjab and the remaining 92 kilometres in Haryana.

Haryana has completed the project in its territory but Punjab, which launched the work in 1982, shelved it.

Haryana was carved out of Punjab on November 1, 1966.

Referring to Panjab University, Chandigarh, Saini said that the Haryana government wishes to contribute to it. If some colleges of Haryana get affiliated to the Panjab University, it will benefit both the university and the students of Haryana, he said.

Notably, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had recently recalled that over two years back, he took a stand against a proposal of affiliation of Haryana colleges with Panjab University, saying the Chandigarh-based university has always been connected with Punjab's legacy and heritage.

Saini, while touching upon other issues at the meeting, said that ensuring the safety of children is everyone's responsibility.

With the implementation of the three new criminal laws in Haryana, cases under the POC SO Act are being disposed of more swiftly, he said.



## Commitment to development helps us win elections: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Bihar election results have sent a clear message to all state Governments that their development policies will determine the future of their parties, whether they belong to “left, right or centre”.

## 1.36 lakh devotees visit Sabarimala as season opens

Over 1.36 lakh devotees have completed darshan at the Lord Ayyappa Temple since the hill shrine opened on Sunday evening for the ‘mandala-makaravilakku’ pilgrimage season. The auspicious first day of the Malayalam month of ‘Vrischikam’ marks the start of the annual season. Nearly 55,000 pilgrims arrived for darshan on the opening day alone, ADGP S Sreejith said on Monday.



## Statue of former six-time CM Virbhadra unveiled in Shimla



Public Works Minister Vikramaditya Singh on Monday unveiled the statue of former six-time CM of Himachal Pradesh Virbhadra Singh in Shimla district's Rohru. The minister said that it were the efforts of Virbhadra that shaped the development of Rohru as well as the entire state.

## Congress stands united, would not split: Robert Vadra

Robert Vadra, the businessman husband of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi on Monday ruled out any potential split in the Congress in the wake of the drubbing received in the Bihar assembly elections, and asserted unity among party leaders and the Opposition bloc. “Whatever the PM says...There will be no split in the Congress. Everyone in the Congress and the Opposition alliance is united,” Vadra.



# Regional strength along with national progress is Govt’s clear goal: Amit Shah



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Haryana CM Nayab Saini during the 32nd Northern Zonal Council meeting in Faridabad on Monday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Faridabad

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the Modi Government's goal is very clear — regional strength along with national progress and India's global leadership in every field, which will lead us towards the creation of a great India,” he said.

Chief Ministers Nayab Singh Saini (Haryana), Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh), Bhagwant Mann (Punjab), Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan), Rekha Gupta (Delhi), Omar Abdullah (Jammu and Kashmir), Punjab Governor and Administrator

related problems.

“Our goal is clear — regional strength along with national progress and India's global leadership in every field, which will lead us towards the creation of a great India,” he said.

Chief Ministers Nayab Singh Saini (Haryana), Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh), Bhagwant Mann (Punjab), Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan), Rekha Gupta (Delhi), Omar Abdullah (Jammu and Kashmir), Punjab Governor and Administrator

of Chandigarh Gulab Chand Kataria, Lieutenant Governors Manoj Sinha (Jammu and Kashmir), V K Saxena (Delhi) and Kavinder Gupta (Ladakh) attended the meeting, officials said.

The Home Minister said poverty is being eradicated and employment is increasing through cooperation, agriculture and fisheries.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's *mantra of Sahkar Se Samriddhi* (Prosperity through Cooperation), he said the coopera-

### PUNJAB CM REITERATES CLAIM ON CHANDIGARH, PU

**Faridabad:** Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday reiterated state's claim over Chandigarh, Panjab University and river waters before Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council here. Mann also advocated genuine federal structure in the country at the meeting chaired by Shah.

Flagging the issues, the Chief Minister said the Constitution clearly demarcates areas in which the Union and the states have to function to exercise their respective authority. Unfortunately, there has been a trend towards centralisation of authority in the past 75 years, he said.

Pleading for handing over Chandigarh to the state of Punjab, Mann said that the Rajiv-Longowal Accord, signed on July 24, 1985, between then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, reaffirmed that Chandigarh will be transferred to Punjab.

However, Mann bemoaned that despite all promises, Chandigarh was not transferred to Punjab, which has “bruised the psyche of every Punjabi”. He said that the Centre's recent attempts to restructure the Panjab University's governance have been seen as interference in Punjab's rights and to its state identity and autonomy.

tive sector holds immense potential for employment.

He said that only through growth in employment — especially self-employment — along with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) can the country realise the dream of a developed India.

Shah said the GDP alone is not an indicator of a country's prosperity; true prosperity is achieved only when every individual rises above the poverty line.

He said the Ministry of Cooperation has initiated 57

measures across the country to strengthen the sector. These include computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), establishment of three new national-level cooperative societies, and the setting up of Tribhuvan Sahkari University, he said.

The Home Minister said the original spirit and the role of zonal councils is advisory, but in the last decade, they have been accepted as action-oriented platforms and have delivered results.

## Army Chief warns Pakistan, calls Operation Sindoor an 88-hour trailer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday warned Pakistan, saying Operation Sindoor was an ‘88-hour trailer’ and next time it will be taught to behave responsibly with a neighbour.

Giving this stern message, he also said the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved significantly since the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019.

Making these assertions in his address at the Chanakya Dialogue, the Army chief listed the lessons learnt from Operation Sindoor and highlighted how the action and capabilities of the armed forces gave a reality check to the hostile neighbour.

“Operation Sindoor was just a trailer which ended in 88 hours. We are prepared for any circumstances in future. If Pakistan gives a chance, we will teach it how to behave responsibly with a neighbouring nation,” he said.

On lessons learnt from the operation, General Dwivedi underlined three main points — integration between forces, ensuring proper supplies for a drawn-out battle, and ensuring decisions are taken at every level of the command chain.

“Whenever some operation happened we learn from it, this time too we



Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi speaks during the Chanakya Defence Dialogue in New Delhi on Monday

learned things. One of the things we learned was that the decision we have very less time to take any decision, and take a decision at every level on time,” he said.

The Army chief stressed on integration among the forces, “because today's battles are multi-domain”. “Just the army cannot fight a battle, everyone has to fight together,” he said, mentioning the air force and navy.

“We also cannot say how long a battle will last even today. This time we fought for 88 hours; next time it could be four months too or even four years. Looking at that, do we have enough supplies and weapons to fight that? If we do not have, then we need to prepare for that,” he added.

Talking about how India has “set a new normal” after

the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, he said, “When a country encourages state-sponsored terrorism, it becomes a matter of concern for India. India talks about progress. If someone creates obstacles in our course, then we will have to take some action against them. When we talk about the new normal, we have said that talks and terror can't go together.”

General Dwivedi added, “All we are asking is to adopt a peaceful process, which we will cooperate with. Until then, we will treat terrorists and their sponsors alike.” He further highlighted the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that there has been a decline in terrorist incidents in the area following the abrogation of Article 370. “After this, political clarity has come,” he said.

## MP expands dog vaccination to protect tigers

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh has intensified disease-prevention measures around its flagship tiger landscapes, launching an expanded vaccination campaign for stray and community dogs to curb the spread of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) and seven other infectious diseases that pose a direct threat to big cats.

Forest officials confirmed that the drive has already begun in multiple districts and will continue in phases across buffers and wildlife corridors.

The initiative covers villages and settlement zones around Panna Tiger Reserve (PTR), Kuno National Park and other sensitive habitats where domestic and wild carnivores frequently interact. The objective is clear: reduce the reservoir of canine infections that can spill over into tiger and leopard populations, undermining conservation gains achieved over two decades.

The forest department's renewed urgency stems from a history of CDV-linked incidents. In 2015, the Indian Veterinary Research Institute in Bareilly confirmed CDV in tissue samples from a deceased big cat in Panna. Subsequent years brought new warnings. In 2024, a tiger



and a leopard in Chhatrapur exhibited symptoms consistent with CDV. Surveillance teams also detected viral signatures among stray canids and small wild carnivores in adjoining landscapes, highlighting a dangerous disease pathway connecting villages, buffer zones and protected forests.

Officials said this year's drive is the most comprehensive yet. Unlike previous rounds, which largely focused on CDV and rabies, the current campaign covers eight diseases — including distemper, parvovirus, adenovirus, leptospirosis and rabies — offering broader protection to both domestic animals and wildlife. The vaccination strategy uses a mix of parenteral injections for community dogs and bait-based delivery for free-roaming strays. During earlier efforts, more than 1,200

vaccine baits were deployed in buffer areas; the new campaign is expected to exceed that number substantially.

Deputy Director of Panna Tiger Reserve Mohit Sood told The Pioneer that the initiative is central to safeguarding the State's big cat populations. “Domestic dogs are the primary disease reservoir in landscapes where villages and forests overlap. If we want to protect tigers, we must first secure the health of dogs living around them,” Sood said, adding, “Even a single CDV outbreak in a tiger corridor can undo years of conservation work. This campaign gives us a critical shield against that risk.”

Canine distemper is a highly contagious viral infection that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal and neurological systems of dogs, foxes, jackals and large felids. While it poses

no danger to humans, it spreads quickly through direct contact, contaminated food or water and aerosol droplets. When contracted by tigers or leopards, CDV can cause fatal neurological damage, impaired hunting ability and rapid population decline — particularly in small or reintroduced groups.

For Madhya Pradesh, where tiger numbers are stabilising and new populations are being nurtured in Panna, Satpura and Kuno landscapes, disease pressure remains a critical management concern. Officials emphasise that vaccination is only one component of a wider biosecurity strategy. Continuous surveillance, community awareness, reporting networks and regular sampling of wild carnivores are all part of the department's integrated approach.

Sood said the PTR has already mapped out high-risk corridors, including areas where domestic dogs follow villagers into forest edges or scavenge near water sources used by wildlife. “We are prioritising zones where interaction is highest. The success of this programme depends not just on vaccination numbers but on closing transmission loops between villages and the forest,” he said.

## Bengal Governor Bose leads bomb squad to search at Raj Bhavan

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

In a daylong drama hitherto unheard off in Bengal, State and central security forces including bomb disposal squads on Monday conducted a thorough search operation inside the Governor's House in Kolkata following orders from Governor CV Ananda Bose.

Bose's order came after Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee accused him of harbouring criminal elements from the BJP and supplying them with arms and ammunition to commit violence in the State.

The Governor personally led the live-broadcast search operations inside the colonial Raj Bhavan his official residence after all the staff of the Governor's House were asked to live the campus.

At the end of the two-hour search operation the Governor said “the honourable MP (Kalyan Banerjee) had alleged that I harbor criminals and supply them with guns and bombs... this was



A security officer conducting searches at Raj Bhavan in the presence of West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose in Kolkata on Monday

required since I want to establish that the accusation made against me is baseless and false. I will certainly take legal action against (Banerjee),” even as sources in his office said Bose was contemplating legal steps besides writing a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. Banerjee poked fun at the entire incident calling it a “childish affair,” wondering whether anyone would keep the bombs while conducting the search.

“This is a childish affair ... Will anyone keep bombs in his house when he calling the police to search one's house?... He is doing all this to draw the attention of (Home Minister) Amit Shah... his marks have gone down before Amit Shah... he wants them to increase them... He could even have called the American President or even the FBI,” Banerjee said.

When told that the Governor was planning to write to Speaker Om Birla

Banerjee welcomed the move saying, “a Governor's affairs cannot be discussed inside the House ... but let him do that ... if he does so then it will give us an opportunity to have a debate on the Governor ... all the political parties will leap up this opportunity ...I am ready to go to jail 50 times for speaking against someone like him... because he always acts like a sidekick of the BJP.”

In a previous transaction Bose said in reference to Bihar elections that elections should be based in Bengal, “on the ballot, not the bullet... a transition which is required urgently in the state,” leading Banerjee to advise the Governor to first stop providing shelter and arms to the BJP's criminals.

“First, tell the governor not to shelter the BJP's criminals in Raj Bhavan. He is keeping offenders there, giving them guns and bombs, and telling them to attack Trinamool workers. Let him stop this first,” the MP said calling Bose an “incompetent Governor” who was acting like a “servant of the BJP.”

## Protest erupts in Kolkata over teachers’ job scam

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

With the State elections barely six months away there was more trouble for the Mamata Banerjee Government with a new ‘variety’ of recruitment scam exploding in its face.

Thousands of school job seekers on Monday descended on the streets demanding cancellation of just conducted school services examinations where additional ten marks were allotted for experience to the candidates who had lost their jobs after serving for about ten years following a SC order in the cash-for-job case.

These teachers were appointed in the now-can-

celled 2016 panel where genuine and tainted candidates could not be separated by the SSC despite repeated Court orders. About 26,000 teachers lost their jobs and had to sit for a new recruitment examination — following the Supreme Court order — along with the new candidates. However, in the new scheme of things the SSC allowed additional ten marks to the dismissed teachers for experience. Even as thousands of examinees descended on the streets jamming the SSC building some said, “this is a strange scheme that the Government has designed, while full marks is 70 of which

10 is given for academics and 60 for MCQ tests, many of us have scored 70 out of 70 but strangely the candidates from the previous panel are getting 75 out of total 70 marks on account of the 10 marks they have been pre-allotted for ‘experience’ ... this is a complete anomaly.

The BJP and the Left promptly lapped up the issue saying they would back the job seekers as “this is a new scam this Government has started to hoodwink the SC many tainted teachers have found their way in the new merit list despite the Court order that no tainted person should be allowed to appear in the exams.”

## Azam Khan son, Abdullah convicted in dual PAN card case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Rampur (UP)

Less than two months after he was released from Sitapur jail, SP leader Mohammed Azam Khan went back behind bars on Monday when a court convicted and sentenced him to seven years' imprisonment in a 2019 case related to obtaining two PAN cards using different dates of birth.

The special MP-MLA court here also sentenced Azam Khan's son Abdullah Azam to seven years' imprisonment in the same case.

After the sentencing, Khan was taken from the Rampur

court to the district jail under heavy security. While being taken to prison, he said, “What is there to say now? It is the court's decision.” Asked about the court awarding a seven-year sentence each to him and his son, the 77-year-old leader replied, “It is fine. If they have considered me guilty, they have given the punishment.”

Delivering the verdict, Special Magistrate (MP/MLA Court) Shobhit Bansal held both father and son guilty after examining documentary evidence and witness testimonies, Prosecution Officer Rakesh Kumar Maurya, who represented

the prosecution along with advocate Swadesh Sharma, told reporters.

The veteran SP leader was released from the Sitapur jail on September 23 after 23 months. Before this, he was in jail for 27 months.

According to the prosecution, Khan's seven-year jail term has been decreased by the number of days already spent in judicial custody in this case.

Maurya also said the prosecution would review the judgment and may consider filing an appeal if it feels the punishment is inadequate.

Asked whether Azam Khan and Abdullah would be taken

into custody following the conviction, Maurya responded, “Yes, absolutely”.

The case was lodged in 2019 at Rampur's Civil Lines police station by BJP leader Akash Saxena under IPC sections 420 (cheating), 467 (forgery of valuable security), 468 (forgery for cheating), 471 (using forged document) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy).

According to the prosecution, Abdullah obtained a PAN card from the Income Tax Department mentioning January 1, 1993 as his date of birth, which matched the date in his school and High School certificates.

The same date was also used in the records of his State Bank of India account operated by him.

The court held that Abdullah had procured the forged PAN card “in conspiracy with his father” and submitted it in official records.

Maurya said the court awarded varying prison terms under different sections of the IPC.

For cheating under Section 420, the court sentenced both accused to three years' simple imprisonment along with a fine of ₹10,000, with an additional three months' imprisonment in case of non-payment.



■ States Focus ■



## HARYANA BOOSTS ANTI-TERROR GRID AFTER MODULE BUST

Haryana DGP OP Singh on Monday said the anti-terrorism apparatus in the state's National Capital Region has been further strengthened, a week after a "white collar" terror module was busted with the recovery of explosives mainly from Faridabad. He underlined that alert citizens can play an important role in the fight against terrorism by becoming the eyes and ears of the police. The director general of police (DGP) said central intelligence agencies, Delhi Police, and police officers from Uttar Pradesh engaged in anti-terrorism operations attended a meeting held in Faridabad on Sunday.



## DEFENCE SECRETARY VISITS CENTRAL SECTOR POSTS

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, undertook a comprehensive visit to forward locations in the Central Sector from November 15 to 17, defence ministry said. At Pithoragarh, the Defence Secretary was briefed on major operational matters by the General Officer Commanding, Uttar Bharat Area and Commander 119 (I) Infantry Brigade Group on operational aspects. During his visit to Navidang, he interacted with the concerned Battalion Commanders and Chief Engineer Project Hirak of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). They apprised him on operational aspects and the progress of critical border infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing strategic mobility and strengthening National security. During the visit, the Defence Secretary was accompanied by Director General Border Roads (DGBR).

# Quarry collapse death count climbs to six in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Sonbhadra (UP)

Five more bodies have been recovered from the rubble of a stone quarry that collapsed in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district, taking the death toll to six, an official said on Monday. District Magistrate, Sonbhadra, BN Singh said the bodies were recovered on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday. "One body was recovered in the night. The deceased was identified as Indrajit (30), a resident of Panari, Obra. The other deceased persons have been identified as Santosh Yadav (30), brother of Indrajit, Ravindra alias Nanak (18), Ramkhelavan (32) and Kripashankar." The body of Raju Singh (30) was recovered on Sunday.



NDRF personnel conduct a rescue operation after a portion of a stone quarry collapsed in Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh on Monday

Uttar Pradesh minister and local MLA Sanjeev Kumar Gond, who visited the spot in the Billi Markundi mining area after the col-

lapse on Saturday evening, said, "Around a dozen labourers might be trapped under the debris". Additional Director

## ECI orders special revision of Assam voter list, final roll on February 10, 2026

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

The Election Commission of India on Monday ordered 'Special Revision' of electoral rolls in Assam and the final voter list will be published on February 10, 2026. According to instructions issued by the poll panel for the Chief Electoral Officer of Assam, January 1, 2026 will be the qualifying date for the state to carry out the Special Revision. According to officials, the Special Revision stands somewhere between the annual special summary revision and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. "It is in a way an upgrade of special summary revision... Instead of enumeration forms, Booth-Level Officers will verify electors on a pre-filled register," a senior functionary explained. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma welcomed the Election Commission's decision to



undertake Special Revision of the electoral rolls in the state and assured the Government 's full cooperation. "The Govt of Assam welcomes the Election Commission of India's decision to undertake a Special Revision of the electoral rolls with 01.01.2026 as the qualifying date," the Chief Minister posted on X. "This will help ensure clean, updated and accurate electoral rolls for all eligible citizens. Assam will extend full cooperation to the @ECISVEEP to complete the revision in a transparent and time-bound manner," he added. According to the schedule, the door-to-door verification will take place from November 22 to December 20. The integrated draft electoral roll will be published on December 27 and the final roll on February 10 next year. For field verification, the booth level officers (BLOs) will be given a pre-filled BLO register containing the details of existing electors in their respective part for a house-to-house field visit. The household is the basic unit for conducting the

house-to-house survey and to get the said details verified or corrected from the elector or the head of the household. It said the details of D-Voters (doubtful voters) will not be included in the register, as no verification is required in their case. D-Voters are a category of voters in Assam who are disenfranchised by the Government on account of their alleged lack of proper citizenship credentials. D-Voters are determined by special tribunals under the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the person declared as a D-Voter is not given a voter card. All related particulars, such as name, age and photograph, of the D-Voters will be carried forward to the draft electoral roll without any change. Any modification, including removal or deletion, will be done "upon receipt of an order from the competent Foreigners' Tribunal or an appropriate court of law", it underlined.

# BLOs boycott SIR work across Kerala after officer's suicide

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Thiruvananthapuram

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in Kerala was affected across the state on Monday as Booth-Level Officers (BLOs) boycotted work following the suicide of an officer allegedly due to work strain. Aneesh George (44), a BLO in Pappanamkulam, Kannur, was found hanging at his house on Sunday. Family members and residents alleged that he took the extreme step because of work-related pressure linked to the SIR exercise. Various trade unions of State Government employees, including the Action Council of State Government Employees and Teachers and the Joint Committee of Teacher Service Organisations, held protests at the Chief Electoral Officer's office in Thiruvananthapuram and district collectorates, demanding that authorities refrain from exerting excessive pressure on BLOs and consider postponing the SIR. The Kerala NGO Association also staged protests across the state, demanding that SIR proce-

dures be stopped to prevent further suicides. Meanwhile, the body of George was handed over to his relatives after the post-mortem on Monday. George's family reiterated that he had been under severe work pressure related to the SIR. "He did not even get time to have food and sleep properly. He was under severe strain to complete work assigned as part of the SIR exercise," Saiju, George's brother-in-law, told reporters. Saiju added that George was frequently contacted by senior officers for updates. "Seeing the severe workload, George's father told him not to worry even if he loses his job," he said. Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan said that a preliminary probe indicated that the role of CPI(M) workers in George's suicide should also be examined. "We came to know that George was threatened after a Congress booth-level agent accompanied him for enumeration," he alleged. He also alleged that both the BJP and CPI(M) were attempting to keep traditional Congress voters off the rolls. "While the BJP is implementing SIR with



Kerala Government employees stage a protest outside the ECI office over the alleged stress-induced suicide of a Booth Level Officer involved in the Special Intensive Revision in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on Monday

ill intent, CPI(M) is carrying it forward in Kerala. We will oppose it strongly, legally and politically," he said. Satheesan urged the state Government and the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure the safety of BLOs and conduct a thorough investigation. "A majority of BLOs are women. There are around 700-1,200 voters in a booth,

and BLOs have to visit each house multiple times to meet targets in a short period," he added. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president Sunny Joseph said a telephonic conversation by George revealed that he was threatened by CPI(M) workers for accompanying Congress booth-level agents during enumeration.

"The conversation revealed that CPI(M) threatened to file a false complaint against George, accusing him of distributing Congress pamphlets at houses. Apart from work strain, this political threat led to his suicide," Joseph said. He added that the Congress party fully supports the protesting BLOs. "We hope that the protest by BLOs will compel the

Election Commission to open its eyes. Despite our repeated requests, the Commission decided to conduct SIR at a time when the local body election had already been announced," he said. Joseph said the party would approach the Supreme Court against the SIR process. "By considering the 2002 voters' list, even I don't have voting rights. Several political leaders will not figure in the voters' list. The Government of India and the Election Commission are eliminating the basic democratic rights of citizens," he alleged. The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) has also decided to approach the Supreme Court seeking a postponement of the Social Impact Register (SIR) process. IUML leader PK Kunhalikutty said the SIR was being carried out in haste, which raised doubts about the exercise. "The procedures that must be conducted with care are being rushed. Even Rahul Gandhi had raised suspicion in Bihar. Why this rush?" he asked. CPI(M) leader EP Jayarajan denied the allegation that party workers had threatened George.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Kolkata

Senior BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari on Monday criticised the TMC Government over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging a "deep nexus involving a section of BLOs and BDOs" aimed at helping the Trinamool Congress "sabotage" the Election Commission's efforts to weed out "fake voters, illegal migrants". Addressing a press conference at the state BJP headquarters, Adhikari said the SIR exercise had triggered "panic" within the TMC, prompting "abusive comments and open threats", and accused the administration of resisting the EC's scrutiny. Keeping the focus on Bengal, he alleged that the revision process had been met with hostility ever since enumeration began. The Chief Minister and her party colleagues "began hurling abuses", including remarks such as "we will tie them up to a tree", and Mamata Banerjee publicly objected to 1,000 Booth Level Officers being trained by the Election Commission "without her consent", he alleged. The Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly alleged systematic attempts to derail the process on the ground, claiming a "close nexus between I-PAC, some BLOs and certain BDOs". He said the Tamluk BDO

was "misleading BLOs regarding dead and shifted voters", and that in North 24 Parganas district, the SIR in-charge was "forcing BLOs to distribute forms even at vacated addresses". He urged the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to open a helpline as "many BLOs are not providing enumeration forms for political reasons". BLOs must report death and shifted voters as "unaccounted" on the BLO app, he insisted, demanding that all withheld forms be delivered within 48 hours "so that not a single legal voter is left out". He claimed the BJP had submitted a list of 13.25 lakh "fake voters" and alleged that in 20 Assembly constituencies, 50 to 150 "death voters" were found in each booth. Reiterating the party's position on citizenship, he said: "Legal refugees will be given CAA citizenship. Infiltrators will have their names deleted". He claimed falsification of birth certificates was being facilitated by "some BMOHs and pradhans" and urged the poll panel to act. The EC, he said, should cross-check burial ground records, data from the 'Samabyathi' app and pension rolls to determine the "actual number of death voters". "A fair voter list must come out. Free and fair elections are what the people of Bengal demand," he added.



# Ex-maoists, victims unite to run café in Bastar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh)

Men and women, who once lived through conflict, either as victims of Naxal violence or as former members of the banned Maoist movement, have come together to run a café in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district. Surrendered cadres who have returned to the mainstream and victims of Naxal violence are employed at the 'Pandum Café' in Jagdalpur, in a joint effort towards reintegration and social healing, officials said. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Monday inaugurated the Pandum Café at the

Poona Margham Complex in Police Lines, set up by the police and district administration under the state Government's Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy, an official statement said. Sai said the café symbolises the positive socio-economic transformation underway in Bastar and aims to provide a dignified and sustainable livelihood to those who have renounced violence. "Pandum Café reflects hope, progress and peace. Those working here, victims as well as surrendered cadres, are now moving forward on the path of peace," he said. The staff have been trained

in hospitality, café operations, hygiene, food safety and entrepreneurship. As per the statement, Sai interacted with the café team members, including Fagnri from Narayanpur, Pushpa Thakur and Birendra Thakur from Sukma, and Ashmati and Premila Baghel from Bastar, and wished them success. Several workers shared emotional accounts of rebuilding their lives. "We lived in darkness in the past. Today, serving society through this café feels like being reborn. Replacing explosives with coffee and earning through honest work has given us dignity," the release

quoted a former Maoist cadre working at the café as saying. Another staff member said the initiative has enabled them to support their families and "dream of a respectful life". "We thought returning to the mainstream would be difficult, but the training and trust shown to us changed everything. Working alongside victims of violence has given us a chance to correct our past and contribute to peace," another colleague said. Officials said the café is being developed as a sustainable socio-economic model and may pave the way for similar rehabilitation initia-

# Haryana to begin work on 400-bed hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Gurugram

Haryana Health Minister Kumari Aarti Singh Rao on Monday announced that the construction of a state-of-the-art 400-bed hospital in Gurugram will begin soon. The state Government is preparing to invite tenders for the project. She added that provisions for an additional 200 beds will also be incorporated during the construction phase to allow future expansion. The minister was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a solar power plant at the Rotary Blood

Bank Centre located on Sector-10 Kadipur Road. During her visit, she inspected the facility, reviewed its services, and interacted with children suffering from thalassemia. She also announced financial assistance of ₹11 lakh for the Rotary Club. Addressing the gathering, the Health Minister said that the Government is committed to strengthening Gurugram's healthcare infrastructure. As part of this initiative, 30 new Urban Arogya Centres will be established across the district. She added that the state recently recruited 1,100 doctors to improve

HARYANA HEALTH MINISTER VISITED THE FACILITY, MET THALASSEMIA PATIENTS, ANNOUNCED ₹11 LAKH AID FOR ROTARY CLUB

healthcare services, and more appointments will follow in the coming months. Highlighting progress in social indicators, she noted that Haryana's sex ratio has shown significant improvement in recent years and expressed gratitude to the public for their support in

achieving this milestone. Earlier in the day, the minister also inaugurated an ultrasound machine at Sohna Civil Hospital and a digital X-ray machine at Farrukhnagar Civil Hospital. Speaking at the event, Gurugram MLA Mukesh Sharma praised the Health Minister, calling her a sensitive and decisive leader who prioritises the concerns of citizens and ensures timely solutions. He said the steps being taken by the minister are directly benefiting lakhs of people across the state by strengthening healthcare services.



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## Order Order

## SC orders status quo on CPI’s flagpoles on Tamil Nadu public land



The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday agreed to hear a plea filed by the Communist Party of India challenging a Madras High Court order for the removal of permanent flagpoles of political parties from public places in Tamil Nadu. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notices to the Tamil Nadu Government and others, seeking their responses on the plea and directed that status quo be maintained. The Madras High Court had upheld the order passed by its single judge directing all political parties and community and religious organisations to remove within 12 weeks permanent flagpoles erected by them at public places across Tamil Nadu.

The CPI has approached the Court against the High Court’s Full Bench order of August 13. CPI submitted that the sweeping directions issued by the High Court amounted to “impermissible judicial legislation” and violated Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(c). The CPI has further said that the High Court issued its directions without hearing political parties.

## Karisma Kapoor shifts stand on Sunjay Kapur’s will, alleges forged signatures

The legal battle over late industrialist Sunjay Kapur’s will took a dramatic turn as the complainant’s counsel, representing Karisma Kapoor and her children, abruptly shifted their stance in court. After Senior Advocate Rajiv Nayar, appearing for Priya Kapur, described their claims as “bogus and baseless,” the plaintiffs have now pivoted from saying “there was no Will” to alleging “forged signatures.”

Delhi High Court has sought the response of Priya Kapur, the wife of late Sunjay Kapur, on a plea by the children of actor Karisma Kapoor, seeking inspection of the original of the alleged will of their father. Joint Registrar (Judicial) Gagandeep Jindal issued notices to Priya Kapur and Shradha Suri Marwah, the executor of the alleged will, on the plea and asked them to file their replies within three weeks. The matter has now been listed for December 16. In the earlier hearing, Nayar had stated clearly: “A Will cannot be called fake because of spelling errors and they haven’t even disputed Sunjay Kapur’s signature.”



# SC terms liquor tetra packs dangerous and deceptive

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

What is this — a juice packet? Should liquor in tetra packs be permitted at all? the Supreme Court wondered on Monday, noting that such packaging was “dangerous” and deceiving, as it heard a trademark dispute between two liquor giants of the country.

After a counsel produced the tetra packs of both companies, pointing out the similarities in branding of their products, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi expressed surprise that the Government had allowed liquor to be sold in such packets and said it was a “serious issue”.

The bench was hearing a trademark dispute between John Distilleries Pvt Ltd, which sells the product ‘Original Choice’ whisky and Allied Blenders and Distilleries Pvt Ltd, which produces product ‘Officers Choice’ whisky.

The Supreme Court appointed former Supreme Court judge J Nageswara Rao as mediator to settle the dispute amicably between both the liquor firms, which command a major share in the country’s whisky market.

When senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for John Distilleries Pvt Ltd, pro-



duced the tetra packs of both the companies to the bench, Justice Kant said, “What is this packet? Juice.” Rohatgi said that these are tetra packs of whisky, which are one of the highest-selling products in Karnataka.

The bench said, “Should this at all be permitted. We think this is very dangerous. It can be taken to schools or colleges by the students in their bags. Parents can be easily deceived.”

Justice Kant said this was the first time in his life he was seeing liquor in tetra packs and remarked, “How did the

Governments permit these kinds of packets. If someone files public interest litigation, we would like to examine.”

Rohatgi and senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Allied Blenders and Distilleries Pvt Ltd, said that there are other brands also in the market and Governments are only interested in earning revenue from the sale of these products.

Justice Bagchi said the Governments are trading on the health of the people. “Just understand how

much tons are wasted on health because of earning revenue... Trading on the health of the people,” Justice Bagchi said.

Rohatgi said, “This is how it is. Your lordships may look at this issue later, I have no difficulty.”

The bench, while requesting Justice (retd) Rao to act as mediator, said that having regard to the nature of urgency involved, the mediator may take up the matter on a priority basis and make an endeavour to conclude a settlement process at the earliest.

# Former Govt secretary seeks SC-monitored probe into Anil Ambani-RCOM bank frauds

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored investigation alleging a massive banking fraud involving Reliance Communications (RCOM), its group entities and its founder Anil Ambani. The petition is filed by EAS Sarma, former Secretary to the Government of India. The petitioner said that that the CBI FIR and ED’s case cover only a fraction of the wrongdoing. The agencies are not investigating the roles of bank officials and regulators despite detailed forensic audits and independent reports pointing to widespread fraud, it states.

The petition filed though noted lawyer Prashant Bhushan says that the

findings of systematic fraud and diversion of funds has been judicially affirmed by a decision of the Bombay High Court. According to the petition, RCOM and its subsidiaries — Reliance Infratel and Reliance Telecom - received loans amounting to ₹31,580 crore between 2013 and 2017 from a consortium of banks led by State Bank of India (SBI).

The plea states that a forensic audit commissioned by SBI allegedly revealed substantial diversion of funds, including thousands of crores used to repay unrelated loans, transfers to related parties, investments in mutual funds and fixed deposits that were immediately liquidated and complex circular routing of money to disguise evergreening of loans. The audit also noted transactions recorded from

bank accounts that had been confirmed as closed, raising concerns of fabrication of financial statements, said the PIL. It is claimed that several shell entities and dubious corporate structures — such as Netizen Engineering and Kunj Bihari Developers — were allegedly used to siphon and launder loan funds. It highlights instances where subsidiaries were used to write off large liabilities through sham preference-share arrangements, allegedly causing losses of over ₹1,800 crore.

The petitioner asserts that these findings demonstrate a deliberate, systematic effort to disguise losses, conceal diversion of public funds and manipulate financial reporting. A central grievance raised in the petition is the nearly five-year delay by SBI in acting upon the forensic audit

report it received in October 2020. The bank filed its complaint only in August 2025, which the petitioner claims gives rise to a prima facie inference of “institutional complicity.” As officers of nationalised banks are treated as public servants under the Prevention of Corruption Act, the petitioner argues that their conduct must be examined as part of the investigation.

The petition also places reliance on subsequent forensic audits and investigations involving other Anil Ambani-led entities. It refers to findings relating to Reliance Capital, which allegedly advanced nearly ₹16,000 crore in inter-corporate deposits to subsidiaries with negative net worth and devalued securities worth over ₹4,000 crore without adequate basis.

## SC seeks replies from Centre, others on plea to check airfares

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court (SC) on Monday sought responses from the Centre and others on a plea seeking binding regulatory guidelines to control the “unpredictable fluctuations” in airfare and ancillary charges imposed by private airlines in India. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the petition filed by social activist S Laxminarayanan, who has sought to establish a robust, independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notices to the Centre, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India seeking their responses on the plea and posted the matter for hearing after four weeks. Senior advocate Ravindra Srivastava and advocates Charu Mathur and Abhinav Verma appeared for the petitioner in the matter.

The plea claimed that all private airlines have, without any credible justification, reduced the free check-in baggage allowance for economy class passengers from 25 kg to 15 kg, “thereby converting what was earlier part of the ticketed service into a new revenue stream”. It said the “new policy of permitting only a single piece for check-in and the absence of any rebate, compensation or benefit to passengers who do not avail themselves of check-in baggage demonstrates the arbitrary and discriminatory nature of the measure”.

The petition said that currently, no authority has the power to review or cap airfares or ancillary fees, allowing airlines to exploit consumers through hidden charges and unpredictable pricing.



The plea said the “unregulated, opaque and exploitative conduct of airlines manifesting in arbitrary fare hikes, unilateral reduction of services, absence of on-ground grievance redressal and unjustified dynamic pricing algorithms directly infringes upon citizens’ fundamental rights to equality, freedom of movement and life with dignity”.

It said the absence of regulatory safeguards results in arbitrary fare hikes, especially during festivals or weather disruptions, which disproportionately harm poor and last-minute travellers. The plea said the wealthier few can plan and book in advance, while economically weaker citizens are forced to buy tickets at the peak of surge pricing. “This inequality in access and opportunity strikes at the heart of Article 14 and Article 21,” it said.

While Article 14 of the Constitution deals with equality before law, Article 21 pertains to the protection of life and personal liberty.

It said the State must ensure fare regulation and implement price-capping mechanisms to protect this constitutional guarantee, while claiming that ticket prices for air travel can double or even triple within hours due to opaque, algorithm-driven dynamic pricing mechanisms adopted by the airlines.

The plea cited reports about fare surge during the Maha Kumbh pilgrimage or in the aftermath of a crisis such as the Pahalgam terror incident and sought a direction to the concerned authorities to forth with enforce the provisions of the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024, the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and the civil aviation requirements to ensure fair, transparent and non-exploitative domestic air passenger services.

# Lexster Lead Dialogue on Global Arbitration Ecosystem in Dubai

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES**  
■ New Delhi/Dubai

A substantive panel discussion examining the complexities of multi-party and cross-border disputes in mega project arbitration took place on November 14, 2025, during the recently concluded Dubai Arbitration Week 2025 organised by the Dubai International Arbitration Centre. The event, co-hosted by Lexster Law LLP and Agrawal Law Associates, drew together leading legal practitioners and adjudicators from across the globe. Lexster Law LLP also served as a Gold Sponsor of Dubai Arbitration Week 2025.

The distinguished panelists included Justice Sanjiv Khanna (Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India), HE Essam Al Tamimi (Chairman, Al Tamimi and Company), Mukul Rohatgi (Former Attorney General of India), Anne K Hoffmann (International Arbitrator, Hoffmann Arbitration), Soraya Corm-Bakhos (International Arbitrator, Corm-Bakhos Arbitration) and Mahesh Agarwal (Managing Partner, Agarwal Law Associates).

The discussion was moderated by Shantanu Agarwal (Managing Partner, Lexster Law LLP) and Saurabh Seth (Counsel, Delhi High Court).

### Conceptual Clarity in Contractual Structures

Justice Khanna opened the discussion by addressing a fundamental challenge in contemporary mega project disputes: the need for precise conceptual frameworks when analysing interconnected contractual arrangements. He underscored the necessity of distinguishing among a group of contracts, a composite contract and a group of companies — distinctions that remain critical to resolving jurisdictional and substantive disputes.

Justice Khanna further identified multi-party issues such as consolidation joinder, parallel proceedings and non-signatory participation as requiring



(L-R) Shantanu Agarwal, Mukul Rohatgi, Anne Hoffmann, His Excellency Essam Al Tamimi, Soraya Corm-Barkhos, Former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, Mahesh Agarwal, Saurabh Seth

principled and coherent judicial approaches. He attributed a significant proportion of contemporary disputes to inadequate contractual drafting, emphasising that careful anticipation of inter-contractual dependencies at the drafting stage remains the most effective preventive mechanism.

### India-UAE Relations and Legal Institutional Development

HE Essam Al Tamimi addressed the historical and ongoing partnership between India and the United Arab Emirates, acknowledging the substantial contributions of Indian legal professionals to the UAE’s institutional and economic development.

He characterised this relationship as foundational to the nation’s progress over several decades. Highlighting recent legal reforms, Al Tamimi identified the establishment of common law courts within DIFC and ADGM as exemplary institutional innovations that have enhanced investor confidence by incorporating international adjudicatory standards and robust enforcement

mechanisms. He noted that the UAE’s evolution from a non-signatory to the New York Convention in 2006 to a host jurisdiction for approximately 82 international law firms demonstrates how institutional modernisation attracts global legal talent without diminishing the competitive position of domestic practitioners.

### India’s Evolving Arbitration Jurisprudence

Mukul Rohatgi reflected on the transformation of India’s arbitration landscape over recent decades. Under the 1940 Arbitration Act, he observed, disputes were comparatively straightforward, lacking the multi-party contractual structures and multi-seated proceedings characteristic of contemporary projects.

The economic liberalisation of 1993 catalysed a marked shift, introducing complex contractual ecosystems where disputes frequently fragment across multiple arbitral seats and parallel proceedings. Rohatgi highlighted the practical impediments arising from this

fragmentation: non-signatory parties typically resist consolidation, preferring parallel arbitrations under distinct contractual arrangements.

This fragmentation often results in protracted litigation through successive court levels before substantive arbitration can commence — a process consuming several years. Rohatgi advocated for unified adjudication mechanisms, proposing that a single composite tribunal could provide the holistic oversight necessary for coherent resolution in complex infrastructure projects involving several parties.

### Procedural Coordination and Award Consistency

International Arbitrator Anne K Hoffmann examined the escalating frequency of multi-party arbitrations and the procedural challenges they present. She identified numerous complications that emerge prior to tribunal formation, emphasising that uniform arbitration clauses — particularly regarding seat selection, appointing institution and tri-

bunal composition — are instrumental in facilitating consolidation. Hoffmann cautioned that divergent arbitration provisions across related contracts create substantial coordination difficulties and heighten the risk of inconsistent awards.

She advised counsel to coordinate evidence and submissions comprehensively across related proceedings to mitigate award discrepancies, noting that evidentiary support for claims remains critical regardless of whether full consolidation has been achieved.

### Dispute Resolution Architecture in Mega Projects

Soraya Corm-Bakhos provided a systematic analysis of the multi-tiered dispute resolution frameworks typical of large infrastructure projects. She identified the structural complexity introduced by numerous underlying contracts — including construction agreements, joint venture arrangements and layered dispute resolution protocols — which frequently require exhaustion of pre-arbitral procedures before arbitration

commences. Corm-Bakhos noted that the enforceability of such preliminary steps as mandatory conditions precedent often remains contested, generating jurisdictional disputes. She observed that mediation, though frequently positioned as an initial step, proves substantially more effective once parties have exchanged pleadings and expert evidence, at which point they gain realistic perspectives on case viability and settlement prospects.

### Contract Design as the Foundation of Dispute Prevention

Mahesh Agarwal emphasised how contractual interdependencies generate cascading disputes across jurisdictions. He identified a fundamental tension between party autonomy — a cornerstone of arbitration — and the procedural coordination necessary for coherent dispute resolution.

While major arbitral institutions have increasingly developed consolidation mechanisms, Agarwal noted that Indian arbitration law currently lacks equivalent statutory provisions, although Indian courts have demonstrated progressive jurisprudential development in related areas.

He concluded by emphasising that strategic contract formulation — particularly standardisation of arbitration clauses, seat, governing law, arbitral language and procedural choices — remains the most effective preventive approach, with the drafting stage determining success or failure in achieving coordinated resolution frameworks.

Drawing a diverse audience of over 120 in-person attendees and more than 500 virtual participants, the session reflected India’s growing engagement with international arbitration networks. The event is an important step towards deepening collaboration between Indian firms like Lexster Law and Agarwal Law Associates and global law firms and advancing India’s ambition to become a global arbitration hub.





Editor's  
TAKE

## Gen Z rage ignites Mexico's streets

Mexico's future stability hinges on rebuilding trust and enforcing accountability; without this, Gen Z will refuse to accept the status quo

Gen Z's rage knows no bounds. It is spreading across the world like wildfire, and the latest country to witness their fury is Mexico. Protests are not new to Mexico, but this time they are being led by Gen Z. The country is seeing serious demonstrations directed against those in power. Pirate-skull flags, meme-driven mobilisation, and the hallmarks of Gen Z-led protests are now ubiquitous.

The outrage is directed at President Claudia Sheinbaum. Issues of misgovernance and high-handedness have made young people restless, driving them onto the streets. The situation is volatile, and the country is in turmoil, with tensions growing by the day. What sparked these protests was the assassination of Carlos Manzo, the reformist mayor of Uruapan in Michoacán, who was fighting organised crime and was gunned down at a public Day of the Dead event on November 1. Manzo had dared to challenge entrenched cartels, sending security forces deep into their mountain strongholds. His killing proved that even the most determined public servants can be silenced with impunity. The outrage surrounding Manzo's murder quickly crystallised into a larger revolt against a state seen as weakening under the weight of corruption, violence, and institutional fatigue.

While the protests began under the banner of "Generation Z Mexico" – a group claiming to be non-partisan and independent – the demonstrations soon drew people from all walks of life. What unified them was a shared exasperation with a country where the Government bows to powerful cartels. Scenes from Mexico City mirrored those observed in neighbouring countries – Nepal and Bangladesh – with protesters storming palaces and official buildings. Riot police responded with tear gas. Stones flew across Zócalo's historic square. The state's display of force only deepened public anger, as reports emerged of police chasing and beating young demonstrators. For her part, President Sheinbaum has accused right-wing parties of infiltrating and amplifying the unrest, using social media bots to inflate turnout.

Some Gen Z influencers, wary of political co-option, withdrew their support. Meanwhile, voices like former President Vicente Fox and billionaire Ricardo Salinas Pliego openly endorsed the protests, further complicating the question: is this truly a youth-led uprising, or an opposition-engineered storm riding on public frustration? These protests bring Mexico's dilemma to the fore. While the outrage is real and the corruption systemic, the political narratives surrounding the demonstrations risk overshadowing the core issue: Mexico's persistent failure to protect its citizens from criminal violence. If the unrest fizzles out, the underlying issues will continue to simmer – until the next tragedy triggers yet another eruption. But if it evolves into a sustained nationwide movement, as seen in Nepal or Bangladesh, Sheinbaum's Government could face significant pressure to resign, followed by a period of anarchy and chaos that Mexico can ill afford – much like what unfolded in Bangladesh.

# Constitutionalised coup d'état in Pakistan

Under the cloak of constitutional legitimacy, Munir has consolidated absolute, lifelong control over the armed forces, nuclear command, and the country's institutional architecture, while civilian leaders remain nominal figureheads

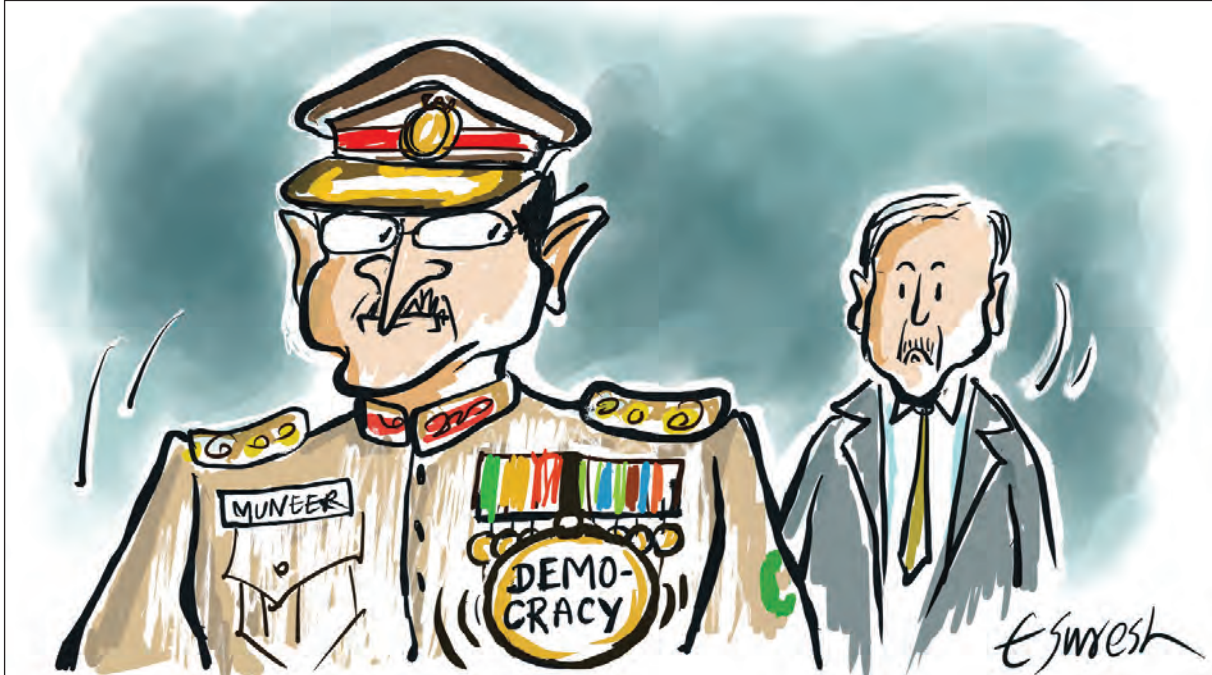


BHOPINDER SINGH

While taking over Pakistan through Martial Law in 1958, Field Marshal Ayub Khan proclaimed, "I have no intention of perpetuating martial law. As soon as conditions permit, a democratic system suited to the genius of our people will be introduced." However, he did not restore the pre-1958 parliamentary democracy. Instead, he prolonged his stay for as long as he could physically sustain (11 years), and then handed over to yet another military general, Yahya Khan. Later, General Zia-ul-Haq also claimed after his military takeover in 1977, "I have no intention of staying in power a day longer than is necessary. Elections will be held in October 1977." He too suffered convenient amnesia and continued for over 11 years before dying mysteriously in an air crash. Later, General Pervez Musharraf was to make a similar promise in his inaugural address following a coup: "I have no political ambitions. I will restore true democracy in this country." He too ruled for nine years until he was forcibly removed.

Today, Pakistan is yet again caught in a vortex of militaristic manipulation that amounts to the usurpation of complete power, albeit under the cover of constitutional ratification. Following the footsteps of militaristic overreach as initiated by the first self-appointed Field Marshal, Ayub Khan, the current, similarly self-appointed Field Marshal, Asim Munir, has tightened his vicelike grip over the Pakistani narrative via the infamous 27th Amendment to the Pakistani Constitution. Herein, besides doing away with the post of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJSC), and instead anointing himself also as the Chief of Defence Forces (CDF)-thereby controlling even the Navy and the Air Force), the Field Marshal will be granted permanent immunity from prosecution for life and will retain the rank and privileges for life. He also gets to choose the army-based Commander of the National Strategic Command, thereby retaining the vital levers over the critical nuclear wherewithal. Effectively, the Field Marshal has privileged his absolute control over all major elements of governance for life, with no accountability.

But, unlike the ham-handed coup d'états of the past, the five-star Field Marshal Asim Munir has been far more guarded, wily, and surreptitious in his takeover approach. By empowering himself beyond questioning, he has effectively ensured that he and subsequent military chiefs have the protective cover of the Pakistani Constitution to rule de facto, without any official responsibility, as the ceremonially senior-most and highest posts of the executive will ostensibly be held by the civilian President and



TODAY, PAKISTAN IS YET AGAIN CAUGHT IN A VORTEX OF MILITARISTIC MANIPULATION THAT TANTAMOUNT TO USURPATION OF COMPLETE POWER, ALBEIT, UNDER THE COVER OF CONSTITUTIONAL RATIFICATION

The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry

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the Prime Minister, respectively. For all practical purposes, the well-established principle in a participative democracy – that the military is subservient to the civilian government – remains a farcical pipedream.

The remit of the 27th Amendment also simultaneously destroys the powers of other institutions of authority, ie, the Supreme Court, the last remaining vestige of checks and balances, as that too would be brought under the will of the executive powers (which in any case will always remain beholden to the military "establishment"). Therefore, the courts could be expected to be populated by "friendly judges" who will do the bidding of the government, thereby curbing independent and unbiased decisions. With all such suppression of the institutions of checks and balances, and the concurrent valorisation of the Pakistani "establishment", the Field Marshal will have the final say on all matters of governance.

Already, the Field Marshal is making surreal dashes from Washington DC to Riyadh to Ankara, making some extraconstitutional pitches – for example, the images of the Field Marshal brandishing and pitching rare metals in a suitcase to a clearly excited Donald Trump. This led Asim Munir to earn the dubious honour of Donald Trump calling him "my favourite Field Marshal." This further signals the approval of the Pakistani constitutional coup d'état by the United States of America, and the obliging sheikhdoms will merrily toe the same line.

The only other key player in the Pakistani cal-

culus, ie, the Chinese, would also be more than happy to let the Field Marshal run the show, as he would remain their most effective bet to protect the Chinese investments in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The unnatural and unhappy alliance between the two erstwhile political rivals, ie, Pakistan Muslim League – Nawaz faction (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP), would meekly continue with the current coalition arrangement, as their own disrepute in the eyes of the masses, and the parallel popularity of the incarcerated leadership of Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI), will be an existential fear. It is a fact that, should the Pakistani military pull the rug from the current coalition government and allow free and fair elections, Imran Khan would romp home- thus the current coalition would remain pliant, beholden, and subservient to the will of Field Marshal Asim Munir.

Thus, with little or no opposition to their operational mandate, given the constitutional cover, the absence of any political opposition, and the acquiescence of all international stakeholders, Field Marshal Asim Munir will rule with utter immunity and impunity.

With plausible deniability for any wrongdoing (for which the civilian government will bear the blame), the democratic government in Pakistan will run Pakistan in theory, not in practice, as all roadblocks for a coup d'état-like situation favouring the Pakistani military are in place. Democracy in Pakistan will exist only in name.

The Pioneer  
SINCE 1865

## The silent paycheque cage we choose daily



SAKSHI SETHI

2ND OPINION  
THE PIONEER

Modern society has perfected the art of imprisonment – so gracefully, so tastefully – that most people never realise they are trapped. Today's cage does not clang with metal bars. It arrives instead as a gentle digital message: "Your salary has been credited." A monthly lullaby that pacifies ambition far more effectively than any medieval fortress ever could.

Walk into any workplace and you will witness a quiet, universal contradiction. Teachers shaping future citizens, doctors delivering hope, engineers building the digital tomorrow, bankers balancing economies, designers sketching dreams, and service workers handling tempers – all moving in unison towards the same destination: the pay-

cheque. It is a golden leash, polished with benefits, bonuses, and just enough comfort to keep its wearers obediently tethered.

The trap begins innocently. A young graduate steps into the workforce brimming with energy, ready to change the world. Fast-forward a few years, and that same individual now bargains for leave like a petitioner seeking royal mercy and plans life around the date their salary appears in the bank. Passion slowly dissolves between monthly bills, EMIs, and rising expenses. Consider the teacher – once a torch-bearer of imagination – now drowning in paperwork, circulars, and administrative drudgery. They may dream of pursuing research or writing books, but the monthly credit alert leans in and whispers, "Not practical." In corporate corridors, the employee stares at the clock as though it were a countdown to freedom.

Their ergonomic chair becomes a throne of captivity; their KPIs rise as their enthusiasm falls. The doctor, among society's noblest professionals, is caught in the same web. Between legal pressures, night shifts, and hospital targets, the paycheque slowly transforms from a reward into a sedative. Nurses, standing through double shifts, carry identical smiles for comfort and survival. Service industry workers-hotel staff, retail clerks, flight attendants – move through demanding shifts, their uniforms serving as armour against unreasonable customers and shrinking

patience. Even the creative class is not spared. Writers churn out content for algorithms rather than artistry. Designers compress their vision to fit client whims. Musicians teach on weekends to subsidise the passion that cannot reliably pay rent. Sooner or later, every dreamer bows before the billing cycle.

This is capitalism's most refined psychological trick-not coercion, but dependence. A system that persuades individuals that stepping outside is reckless, irresponsible, or foolish. The paycheque does not merely compensate; it conditions. It trains people to accept mediocrity, stomach unfair workloads, and exchange spontaneity for predictability.

Meanwhile, society glorifies this captivity, praising the "stable job" as the pinnacle of adult life. We applaud those who sacrifice weekends and answer emails at midnight, calling it dedication. But exhaustion is not honour, and captivity is not commitment. Almost everyone carries a private dream – a café on a quiet street, an art studio, a research degree, a sabbatical, a life where Monday does not feel like punishment. Yet each time it surfaces, the dutiful paycheque asks, "Who will pay the bills?" And the dream retreats. The modern cage may be invisible, but its bars-routine, fear, and comfort-are not unbreakable. A cage loses its power the moment someone realises the door was open all along.

The writer is an educator and a councillor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Bihar's people claim their victory

In the 1990s, thousands of children in Bihar were sent to distant boarding schools simply to escape the constant fear of kidnapping.

Families were compelled to part with ancestral land merely to secure routine clerical posts through bribes, while millions studied under lanterns and petromax lamps, desperately trying to break free from the suffocation of the so-called jungle raj. Corruption, favouritism, contractor mafias, and the collapse of institutional authority dragged the state backwards by decades. Ordinary citizens lived with fear, helplessness, and uncertainty, forcing an entire generation to migrate in search of dignity and opportunity.

Today, many of those who once fled Bihar have built stable, successful lives across India and abroad. As they look at their screens and witness these election results, a quiet, meaningful smile emerges.

This moment represents far more than the defeat of a political family or an entrenched legacy. It signifies the triumph of the ordinary Bihari who suffered injustice, endured humiliation, and persevered with unbroken hope. This is genuine victory – the victory of people who refused to allow despair to dictate their future.

AYUSHMAN PANDEY | LUCKNOW

### India's defeat demands serious reflection

Apropos the report "India's spin gamble backfires as South Africa wins first Test" (November 17). India's sobering defeat in the opening Test at Eden Gardens demands rigorous introspection. Being bowled out for 93 while chasing a modest 124 is not a routine collapse; it exposes deeper problems regarding selection, application, and temperament. After failing to chase 147 at Wankhede last year, India have again faltered on a surface that required patience rather than misplaced aggression. The absence of accountability is particularly troubling. With Shubman Gill injured, the team effectively fielded only four specialist batters, relying excessively on all-rounders still adapting to Test cricket's mental demands.

Questionable bowling management let South Africa extend their lead, with puzzling choices such as under-bowling Kuldeep Yadav and ignoring Washington Sundar altogether. Bavuma and Bosch showed the value of discipline – something India's middle order sorely lacked. The collapse, marked by loose strokes from Pant, Jurel, and Axar, stood in stark contrast to South Africa's composed approach. Unless India confront these recurring flaws with clarity and resolve, such defeats will continue to overshadow their home dominance.

SANJAY CHOPRA | MOHALI

### Geopolitics drives tariff reversal

Apropos the editorial "Trump's agri tariff rollback signals reset" (November 17). The reversal of United States tariffs on a broad range of Indian agricultural products represents a moment when geopolitical strategy and domestic pressures have intersected. For Indian farmers and exporters, especially those dealing in spices, tea, coffee, and processed foods, the move restores a long-awaited sense of stability and fairness. It also acknowledges India's reputation for reliable, high-quality exports and the extensive networks that sustain them.

However, the timing indicates that Washington's decision is driven not merely by diplomatic goodwill but also by rising food prices, voter discontent, and electoral urgency. In that sense, this softening of tariffs is less a benevolent gesture and more a recognition that punitive measures often damage supply chains and political relationships. The key question now is whether this shift will lead to a more predictable and durable trade environment.

India must seize this opportunity to strengthen quality standards, diversify its agricultural export base, and push for consistent long-term clarity. A thoughtful approach on both sides could convert a short-term tactical move into a genuinely stable partnership.

A MYILSAMI | COIMBATORE

### RTI SAFEGUARDS DIMINISH UNDER NEW DPDP RULES

Although the original provisions of the RTI Act struck a careful balance between privacy and transparency while incorporating essential safeguards, the recent Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) amendment has unfortunately stripped away these protections without addressing the serious shortcomings that remain in the Parent Act.

The notification of the DPDP rules on November 14, 2025 has deepened these concerns. Over time, the RTI framework has been weakened by unwarranted amendments, excessive executive control, and increasingly restrictive judicial interpretations. Since its enactment, repeated efforts seem aimed at diluting its spirit and obstructing meaningful public access to information. In any democracy, the right to seek

and access information is essential to maintaining transparency, openness and accountability. A system of governance cannot endure if citizens are deprived of the power to question those in authority. As Justice V R. Krishna Iyer observed with characteristic clarity: "A government which functions in secrecy not only violates democratic decency, but also buries itself with its own burial." The DPDP amendment's erosion of RTI safeguards is a troubling setback for participatory governance.

By narrowing transparency instead of strengthening it, citizens are left with fewer tools to hold power accountable. Protecting democratic values now requires an urgent restoration of a robust RTI framework.

R SIVAKUMAR | CHENNAI

Please send your letter to the [info@dailypioneer.com](mailto:info@dailypioneer.com). In not more than 250 words. We appreciate your feedback.

### PIC TALK



People take part in a rowing competition on the Hooghly River, in West Bengal. PHOTO: PTI

### DIGITAL EXPERIENCE



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# Pakistan: The making of a new military state

The meteoric rise of Field Marshal Asim Munir — Pakistan’s second-ever field marshal — marks more than another chapter in the country’s long cycle of military dominance. His ascent signals a deeper institutional shift, merging state authority with an overt Islamic ideological framework and reshaping the core architecture of Pakistan’s power structure



NILANTHA  
ILANGAMUWA

While Pakistan and Bangladesh wrestle with their fragile relationship under the interim government led by Yunus, the International Tribunal is set to deliver its verdict on Monday, November 17, formally exposing the alleged “sins” of Sheikh Hasina’s rule. Hasina may face the harshest consequences imaginable, and her potential extradition from India threatens to inflame political passions for years, while social tensions are likely to spiral, carrying dangerous regional implications. Yet, amid this chaos, the most alarming development is the meteoric rise of Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan’s second-ever field marshal, who now operates above the law, consolidating power with an audacity that recalls the darkest chapters of Pakistan’s military past. The country appears to be repeating the cycles of power seen under the late Field Marshal Ayub Khan, with the civilian leadership increasingly marginalised as the military consolidates authority. Munir’s ascent is more than symbolic; it is an institutional shift, codified through the 27th Constitutional Amendment, which enshrines military supremacy in Pakistan’s legal architecture while weakening judicial oversight and eroding democratic norms.

Pakistan’s trajectory under Munir bears echoes of historical precedent. As Ayub Khan recounted in his autobiography, military intervention was repeatedly justified as a stabilising force in times of perceived political chaos. Yet, as history demonstrates, Pakistan’s oscillation between military dictatorship and fragile civilian governance has rarely delivered sustainable reform or economic development. The CIA’s declassified analysis of Pakistan in the 1970s warned that “the military, while professionally competent, is inherently prone to internalising ideological and political objectives beyond its remit,” prescient words that resonate alarmingly today under Munir. Whereas past army chiefs, even Musharraf, attempted to balance professional military traditions with political ambition, Munir is pursuing an explicitly ideological agenda, transforming the Pakistani armed forces into a force fighting for Islam as much as for the nation.

This shift is no longer subtle. The Pakistani



ISLAMABAD’S  
PORTRAYAL OF  
AN INDIAN-  
BACKED  
INSURGENCY IN  
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PROVINCES,  
ALONG WITH  
EFFORTS TO  
FOSTER A  
BANGLADESH-  
PAKISTAN AXIS,  
RISKS  
TRIGGERING  
UNPRECEDENTED  
CRISES IN  
SOUTH ASIA

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The Pioneer  
SINCE 1865

Pakistan’s mineral wealth and strategic ports like Pasni as sites for foreign investment. Yet, beneath this geopolitical manoeuvring lies a darker reality: the potential proliferation of Islamist extremist organisations nurtured under the guise of strategic alignment. Pakistan’s track record demonstrates the inherent danger of weaponising ideology for political leverage, a pattern that has repeatedly generated instability both internally and across the region.

The Pakistani military’s Islamisation under Munir recalls the ambitions of General Zia-ul-Haq, whose coup in 1977 dismantled democratic institutions and laid the foundations for a deeply Islamist state. Analysts such as Makhdoom Ali Khan have remarked: “What General Zia-ul-Haq may have dreamt of, and what General Pervez Musharraf could not achieve, will soon be an accomplished fact.” Munir, a Hafiz-e-Quran, has emphasised the religious legitimacy of military campaigns, framing them as moral and ideological imperatives. The creation of a constitutional backdoor through the 27th Amendment formalises his authority, grants him lifetime protection and the Field Marshal rank, and establishes the Chief of Defence Forces as the paramount military authority, effectively sidelining civilian oversight.

The judiciary, meanwhile, is being systematically curtailed. The Federal Constitutional Court (FCC) assumes con-

ical and domestic projects. The potential consequences for the region are profound. Islamabad’s portrayal of an Indian-backed insurgency in its western provinces, along with efforts to foster a Bangladesh-Pakistan axis, risks triggering unprecedented crises in South Asia. Munir’s rhetorical framing of conflicts as a defence of Islam may embolden extremist organisations, both domestic and transnational, increasing the likelihood of cross-border terrorism. The May 2025 four-day conflict between India and Pakistan, during which Munir publicly credited the ceasefire to Donald Trump and even nominated him for a Nobel Peace Prize, highlights the unpredictable consequences of a military-led foreign policy driven by ideology rather than strategic calculation.

As reports suggest, Munir’s elevation to Field Marshal and Chief of Defence Forces cements his unassailable position, giving him autonomy over the military and, by extension, significant influence over Pakistan’s foreign relations. Critically, Pakistan is not an exception in the history of militarisation.

From Ayub Khan to Musharraf, every military takeover has promised stability, reform or modernisation, yet invariably delivered repression, economic mismanagement and heightened regional tension. Historical lessons prove that the militarisation of state institutions often generates the opposite of the intended outcomes: weakened governance, erosion of civil society and the proliferation of extremism. The current trajectory under Munir suggests a repeat of these patterns, now intensified by the infusion of ideological rigour and constitutional legitimacy.

However, one cannot disregard that India’s hegemonic ambitions, regional arrogance, and strategic failures further complicate the equation. New Delhi’s insistence on projecting influence over Bangladesh and Nepal, combined with its self-assured posturing vis-à-vis Pakistan, contributes to an environment in which Islamabad is incentivised to consolidate internal authority and project power externally.

Yet history demonstrates that attempting to create strategic depth through ideological militarisation or cross-border alliances often backfires. As TS Eliot’s words might suggest, this transformation is not occurring “with a bang but with a whimper”, yet the consequences are likely to reverberate loudly across the sub-continent for decades.

## Red Fort blast in Delhi: A wake-up call to reshape strategies on a real-time basis



ANIL  
ANAND

Transparency is certainly not the hallmark of the Narendra Modi government. This is true in its normal functioning, when there is ample elbow room to take the countrypersons into confidence. And when it comes to crunch situations such as the Delhi blasts at the threshold of Lal Qila—the symbol associated with India’s freedom and the podium for Independence Day celebrations—the word transparency goes for a toss.

The heinous act of blasts that claimed 13 innocent lives has shaken Delhi. Why so? Because it has ruptured the decade-long peace which the national capital had been enjoying.

It has also raised serious questions about the claims made by the authorities concerned, including the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, that terror acts — particularly with focus on Kashmir — had been stubbed out and that terrorism in all its formats was gasping for its last breath. A terror strike in the heart of Delhi, that too near a strong national symbol such as Lal Qila, accompanied by disturbing reports of about 2,000 kilograms of high-grade explosives having been recovered in the National Capital Region (NCR), barely 20 kilometres from the seat of power, certainly worries these authorities and forces them into a real-time-based appraisal of the entire situation, rather than indulging in high-octane claims. The terror attack, which, as per the claims of the competent authorities, has a Kashmir link and has taken place after the restoration — after six years — of the ‘Durbar Move’ (shifting of the capital on a six-month basis from Jammu, the winter capital, to Kashmir, the summer capital, and vice versa) on intense public pressure, particularly from Jammu, the stronghold of the BJP — a development related to the dilution of Article 370 on August 5, 2019 — has put the ruling dispensation’s credibility at stake.

Touted as a panacea for all the ills plaguing Jammu and Kashmir, including the onslaught of terrorism, the government’s claims justifying the constitutional developments in Jammu and Kashmir, including its division and demotion to two Union Territories, have been exposed by the terror attack. It should compel the Modi government to think afresh on the entire gamut of policy governing not only Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh but also national security as a whole.

Notwithstanding the near fool-proof security network, Delhi, being the national capital and power centre, has always been a target for Punjab, Kashmir, or North-East-centric terrorist groups seeking to challenge the powers that be. The latest



act of terrorism — as the Union Cabinet has declared it — is meant to throw a gauntlet and challenge the might of India at its very power centre. There is no doubt that this must have set the political leadership and the security apparatus thinking about its fallout, emerging challenges, and countervailing strategies.

The biggest lesson and in fact the eye-opener for the ruling BJP should be not to mingle its political agenda with issues related to national security. The political agenda or ideological issues are, most of the time, not in consonance with either the ground realities or the situational challenges.

Lesson one that the government should draw from the Lal Qila blast is that the ruling dispensation must function on a real-time basis to tackle serious issues. Transparency is the key word in adopting such an approach, accompanied by taking the nation into confidence to prevent speculation and kite-flying. The problem becomes even more complicated, as is the case presently, when the higher quarters in the government seek refuge in leaking “source-based” stories.

Why not come upfront? That is in the interest of the nation. Otherwise, speculations can lead to complications and provide ample space for anti-India forces to fish in troubled waters. Not only the government but the media should also refrain from running or writing such stories despite professional compulsions and tight timelines to meet. Lesson two is that, as far as possible, the political and ideological agenda should be separated from the national agenda. Issues such as national security and its offshoots—such as Kashmir and the North-East—should not be viewed entirely from a political perspective. A case in point is the fledgling situation prevailing in Manipur and the ruling BJP at the Centre again indulging in political permutations and combinations to reinstall its government in the state despite public opinion to the contrary.

The same spirit prevailed when the Narendra Modi government hurriedly brought the State Reorganisation Bill to Parliament in 2019 to change the constitutional status of Jammu and

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Kashmir. In a first-of-its-kind development in independent India, a state was demoted to a Union Territory, and all democratic rights, including the people’s right to elect their own local government, were curtailed. Be it Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, or Ladakh, public sentiment should remain at the centre of any policy formulation. Ignoring or suppressing this sentiment is always fraught with dangerous consequences. This has been witnessed in the past, and the Delhi blast of 2025 is a warning in that direction.

Lesson three — and nothing new about it-is that in situations like Jammu and Kashmir, the external and internal dimensions of the issue, though intertwined, have to be viewed through different prisms on a real-time basis. Otherwise, there is a danger of falling into the trap of external forces inimical to India’s interests.

Lastly, lesson four is that no act of terrorism should be viewed through the prism of religion. Doing so will not only undermine the country’s multi-cultural and multi-religious harmony, which is already under severe strain, but will also provide a platform for anti-India forces. A democratically elected government has no option but to avoid sitting on self-professed laurels if these are not in consonance with the ground realities. A real-time-based assessment-accepting both success and failure-and avoiding a “might is right” approach should be the positive way forward. The answer does not always lie in the jugglery of statistics, which the current ruling dispensation excels at, but in accepting the ground reality and reshaping strategies accordingly. The disturbance of urban calm in multi-cultural Delhi should act as an immediate eye-opener. Transparency-to substantiate the claims of busting terror networks and recovering a huge quantity of explosives-should be the buzzword to avoid speculation and the resultant confusion.

The writer is a political and  
national affairs analyst

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 The Pioneer

## A new age of global warfare



BALRAJ  
MEHTA

Discussing the Russia-Ukraine war — or even the tragic events in Gaza — has become so routine that the very act of analysing them feels almost mundane. Yet this normalisation of brutality hides a far more disconcerting truth. Beneath the surface of daily headlines and geopolitical commentary lies the unsettling reality that the world, despite the existence of the United Nations and numerous international institutions, remains a jungle where might still prevails over right.

The global order, weakened by the arrogance of a few powerful nations and the passivity of many others, is decaying from within. It now stands in desperate need of a structural reset. The Ukraine conflict, in particular, has rewritten many assumptions about modern warfare. The kinetic dimensions of this war have already reshaped global understandings of how battles will be fought in the years ahead. These tactics and technologies are being studied intensely and will eventually be applied with even greater precision and coordination. In many ways, we are witnessing a new phase of the Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA)—one in which artificial intelligence has just made its formidable entry.

An RMA marks a fundamental transformation in the way wars are conceived and executed. It is driven by advances in science and technology, by organisational restructuring, and by doctrinal changes that reflect new forms of strategy. An RMA does not simply make militaries more efficient; it propels them into an entirely new sphere of warfare defined by speed, surprise, and unprecedented impact. With cutting-edge tools for command, control, communication, intelligence, and real-time precision targeting, militaries become capable of inflicting decisive blows before an adversary even understands what is unfolding. History offers ample examples of such shifts.

The induction of railways, telegraphs, steamships, and rifles transformed conflicts from the Napoleonic era to the American Revolution. World War I saw the rise of aircraft, submarines, and machine guns. World War II brought mechanised warfare guided by radio and radar, culminating in the nuclear strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Until recently, the refinement of nuclear weapons, satellites, missiles, encrypted systems, and stealth platforms continued to redefine military posturing. Then, almost abruptly, came India’s own Operation

Sindoor — a turning point that pushed the country to think beyond conventional paradigms. The operation underscored a timeless military truth: nations must prepare for future wars rather than fight the last one. Its swift suspension after four days — having achieved the intended strategic end state against a declared nuclear power — reflected years of preparation for precisely such an offensive.

It was a signal that India has been quietly building new competencies, and that further refinement of these capabilities is not merely desirable but essential. Going ahead, several trends are likely to dominate the future of warfare. Artificial intelligence will play a central role in data synthesis, surveillance, reconnaissance, and autonomous decision-making. UAVs, drones, directed-energy weapons, loitering munitions, and near-undetectable missiles or underwater vehicles will deliver precise and devastating strikes deep inside enemy territory. Cyber warfare will become a preferred tool for espionage, sabotage, and coercion. Trade wars — through tariffs, asset freezes, and exclusion from global financial networks — will be wielded with scant regard for treaties. Information warfare will intensify, fuelled by deepfakes and sophisticated propaganda machines.

Even targeted assassinations, social disruptions, and the exploitation of Gen Z vulnerabilities may become instruments of statecraft. For India, achieving mastery across these domains is not optional — it is imperative. Safeguarding national and civilisational interests at this critical stage of our developmental journey demands massive investments in technology, manufacturing, research, and human capital. We will need thousands of bright professionals across R&D, testing, production, and deployment. Encouragingly, many national initiatives are already underway. In this context, the new Trump tariffs — seen by some purely as a challenge — could actually be a blessing in disguise. They offer India an opportunity to strengthen domestic ecosystems, retain skilled talent, attract the diaspora, and channel national energy into long-term capability-building. Such moments of recalibration seldom come twice.

Equally important is doctrinal adaptation within the armed forces, coupled with greater alignment among political leadership, bureaucratic machinery, scientific communities, defence establishments, and strategic thinkers. This will require continuous dialogue, deep understanding, and sustained national commitment. An updated and officially declared National Security Strategy — as a single, coherent policy document — would be an important and timely step in that direction.

The writer is a Major General  
and has been decorated with  
Sena Medal

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# Ukraine to buy 100 Rafales from France

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Paris

Ukraine on Monday signed a letter of intent to buy up to 100 Rafale warplanes from France, the Ukrainian Embassy and the French president's office said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and French President Emmanuel Macron signed the document stating that Ukraine is considering the possibility of buying French defense equipment, including Rafale jet fighters, Macron's office said. It did not provide further details.

Zelenskyy was on his ninth visit to Paris since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022. His talks are meant to strengthen Ukraine's defenses as the country enters another winter under Russian bombardment of its energy infrastructure and other targets.

On Monday morning, Macron and Zelenskyy



French President Emmanuel and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hug after signing an agreement AP

visited an air base in the Paris outskirts, before heading to the headquarters of a multinational force,

dubbed the "coalition of the willing," that France and Britain have been preparing with more than 30 other

nations to police an eventual ceasefire in Ukraine.

French officials say the force could be deployed immediately after a ceasefire and would be stationed away from the front lines in an effort to help dissuade renewed Russian attacks.

Russian President Vladimir

Putin has so far rejected calls for a ceasefire as his troops make creeping gains on the battlefield.

Zelenskyy wrote on X on Sunday that he looked forward to a "historic deal with France in Paris to strengthen our combat aviation and air defense." He made a stop in Greece on his way to France to sign an agreement to supply Ukraine with US liquefied natural gas.

Last month, Ukraine and Sweden signed an agreement exploring the possibility of Ukraine buying up to 150 Swedish-made Gripen fighter jets over the next decade or more. Ukraine has already received American-made F-16s and French Mirages. France is among major suppliers of defense assistance to Ukraine, including air defense systems and fighter jets. According to Mandon, Ukraine needs immediate additional air defenses to fend off attacks by Russia, which on average targets the country with about 1,700 drones per week plus missiles.

# German Government lifts Israel arms ban

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Berlin

The German Government said Monday that it's lifting its restrictions on exports of military equipment to Israel, weeks after the ceasefire between Israel and the Hamas militant group. Chancellor Friedrich Merz said in early August that Berlin wouldn't authorize any exports of military equipment to Israel that could be used in Gaza "until further notice." That was a response to a decision by the Israeli Cabinet to take over Gaza City.

A spokesperson for Merz, Sebastian Hille, said that the restrictions will be lifted from Nov. 24. "Since Oct. 10, we have had a ceasefire in Gaza and it has fundamentally stabilized," Hille told reporters at a regular government news conference. "That is the basis for this decision."

"We expect everyone to keep to the agreements that were reached – that includes the ceasefire holding, that includes humanitarian aid being provided on a large scale



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz arriving for the cabinet meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany AP

and the process continuing to run in an orderly way, as agreed," he added.

Once the restrictions are lifted, Germany will examine military exports on a case-by-case basis, as is its standard practice with such exports, he said.

Merz's decision in August was a remarkable move by a country that is a particularly staunch ally of Israel. The Israeli foreign minister welcomed its lifting Monday in a post on social network X.

"I call on other governments to adopt similar decisions, following Germany," Gideon Saar wrote.

# Gunmen abduct 25 girls from school in Nigeria

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Abuja

Gunmen attacked a high school in northwestern Nigeria before dawn on Monday and abducted 25 schoolgirls, police said.

One staffer at the school was killed and another was wounded in what was the latest incident of school abductions in Nigeria's northern region. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the abductions from the boarding school in Kebbi State. According to police, the incident took place at 4.00 am and the girls were abducted from their dorms. The boarding school is in Maga, in the State's Danko-Wasagu area, police spokesperson Nafi'u Abubakar Kotarkoshi said.

The assailants were



armed with "sophisticated weapons" and exchanged fire with guards before abducting the girls, Kotarkoshi said. "A combined team is currently combing suspected escape routes and surrounding forests in a coordinated search and rescue operation aimed at recovering the abducted students and arresting the perpetrators," the spokesperson added.

This is the latest school abduction in Nigeria's northern region, where armed groups have targeted school children since 2014, when the militant Boko Haram group abducted 276 students from Chibok in Borno state. Kidnappings have become common in parts of northern Nigeria, where dozens of armed groups take advantage of a limited security presence to carry out attacks on villages and along major roads. Most victims are released only after the payment of ransoms that sometimes run into the thousands of dollars. In March 2024, more than 130 schoolchildren were rescued after spending more than two weeks in captivity in the Nigerian state of Kaduna.

The mass abduction of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok marked the beginning of a new era of fear – with nearly 100 of the girls still in captivity in 2024. Since the Chibok abductions, at least 1,500 students have been kidnapped, as armed groups increasingly find in abductions a lucrative way to fund other crimes and control villages in the nation's mineral-rich but poorly policed region.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

**ICICI Home Finance**

Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059

Branch Office: Office No -106,1st floor, Pukhrji Corporate, Navlakha Indore- 452001

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited 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 upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (B) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Mohan Bhandari (Borrower), Sangeta Bhandari (Co-Borrower), LHIND00001629581.	North Part Of Plot No 32, Sanskar Corridor, Village Paliya Haider, Tehsil Hatod, District, Indore, Madhya Pradesh- 452001, Bounded By- North: Plot No.31 South: Rest Part Of Same Plot, East: Colony Road, West: Other Land / Date Of Possession- 13/11/2025	21-05-2025 Rs. 19,99,136.58/-	Indore - Navlakha

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : November 18, 2025, Place: Indore

Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

**ICICI Home Finance**

Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059

Branch Office: 1st Floor, The Empire, Office No.-F-05, 33-City Centre, Ward no. 30, Near Income Tax Building, Opposite Madhav Rao Scindia Park, Gwalior (MP) 474011

Whereas

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited 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 upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (B) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Govind Singh (Borrower), Saroj Devi (Co-Borrower), LHGWA00001394157.	Plot No 173, Part of Survey No 228/1, 228/2 and 239 Om Nagar Village Mahorajpura, Tehsil Dist Gwoli, Ward No.18, Madhya Pradesh- 474001 (Ref LAN No. LHGWA00001394157), Bounded By- North: Plot No. 172, South: Plot No.174, East: Road, West: Plot of 148./ Date of Possession- 13-11-2025	12-07-2023 Rs. 10,33,414/-	Gwalior
2.	Govind Singh (Borrower), Saroj Devi (Co-Borrower), LHGWA00001394158.	Plot No 173, Part of Survey No 228/1, 228/2 and 239 Om Nagar Village Mahorajpura, Tehsil Dist Gwoli, Ward No.18, Madhya Pradesh- 474001 (Ref LAN No. LHGWA00001394158), Bounded By- North: Plot No. 172, South: Plot No.174, East: Road, West: Plot of 148./ Date of Possession- 13-11-2025	12-07-2023 Rs. 9,08,280/-	Gwalior
3.	Govind Singh (Borrower), Saroj Devi (Co-Borrower), LHGWA00001394159.	Plot No 173, Part of Survey No 228/1, 228/2 and 239 Om Nagar Village Mahorajpura, Tehsil Dist Gwoli, Ward No.18, Madhya Pradesh- 474001 (Ref LAN No. LHGWA00001394159), Bounded By- North: Plot No. 172, South: Plot No.174, East: Road, West: Plot of 148./ Date of Possession- 13-11-2025	12-07-2023 Rs. 98,783/-	Gwalior

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date : November 18, 2025

Place: Gwalior

Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

**Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.**



Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustumjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069

Vidisha Branch : 1st Floor, Gaurav Business Square, Opposite Adani Wilmar Plant, Sanchi Road, District Vidisha 464001 (MP)

Biaora Branch : Guptaji Building, 1St Floor, Ward No.07, Old AB Road, Near Axis Bank, Vishwanth Colony, Bakhatpura Biaora, Dist Raigarh - 465674 (Madhya Pradesh)

POSSESSION NOTICE Appendix IV (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL)** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within **80 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (B) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

S. N.	Name of the Borrower(s)/Co-Borrower(s) (Name of the Branch)	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Possession
1	(Loan Code No. 07600000171 / Vidisha Branch) Priya Raghuvanshi (Borrower) Sanjeev Singh Raghuvanshi (Co-Borrower)	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, Ward No. 03, Raidas Path, Tehsil Sironji, Dist Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh. <b>Boundaries:-</b> East -House, West -Proposed Way, North - House Of Sapna Bai, South - Remaining Land Of Seller	06-08-2025 & ₹ 10,94,677/-	13-11-2025
2	(Loan Code No. 13610000062 / Biaora Branch) Jagdish Gir (Borrower) Ramkanya Bai (Co-Borrower)	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, House No 39/1 And South Side Half Part Of 39/1, Ward No. 14, Bhagat Singh Ward, Biaora, Dist Raigarh, MP. <b>Boundaries:-</b> East -House Of Amar Singh Yadav & Gopali, Sen, West -House Of Vishnu Prasad Carpenter, North - Bhagat Singh Ward Gali, South - House Of Ramesh Giri Goswami	11-08-2025 & ₹ 8,52,111/-	13-11-2025
3	(Loan Code No. 07610000123 / Vidisha Branch) Israr Khan (Borrower) Rajjo Bee & Imran Khan (Co-Borrowers)	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, Village Pathariya, Tehsil Sironji, Dist Vidisha, MP. <b>Boundaries:-</b> East -Medha, West - Kaccha Way, North - Remaning Part, South - Land of Habib Khan S/o Vaheed Khan	11-08-2025 & ₹ 5,97,993/-	13-11-2025
4	(Loan Code No. 13610000163 / Biaora Branch) Jagdish Tanwar (Borrower) Champalal, Raju Tanwar & Resham Bai (Co-Borrowers)	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, Ward No. 14, Near Hedgewar Colony, Tehsil Raigarh Dist Raigarh. <b>Boundaries:-</b> East -Common Way, West - Land Of Ranawat, North - Rest Land Of Seller, South - Rest Land Of Seller	11-08-2025 & ₹ 10,96,018/-	13-11-2025
5	(Loan Code No. 13610000045 / Biaora Branch) Jitendra Sutar (Borrower) Kiran Carpenter (Co-Borrower)	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, Hathi Khana Road Champalal Ji Ka BaggiCha, Chaturmath Ward Ward No.13 Biaora Raigarh MP-465683. <b>Boundaries:-</b> East- Property of Hemraj Mahavir, West - Property of Ghanshyam Verma, North - Plot of Jaya Upadhaya, South - 20ft Wide Way Through the Previous Seller Land	08-08-2024 & ₹ 6,99,387/-	13-11-2025

Place : Madhya Pradesh

Date : 18.11.2025

Authorised Officer

Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया

Bank of India

BOI

Zonal Office: MIG 15, Rajeshwar Building, Shivnagar, Damoh Road, Jabalpur-482002

Email: [jabalpur.ard@bankofindia.co.in](mailto:jabalpur.ard@bankofindia.co.in)

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers(s) and Guarantors(s) that immovable properties as described in column 3 in table hereunder mortgaged/charged to Bank of India (Secured Creditor), the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the **Authorized Officer of Bank of India, (Secured Creditor)**, will be sold on "As is where is" "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **19.12.2025** for recovery of the amount(s), as stated in column 4 of the table hereunder, due to Bank of India (the secured creditor) from the Borrowers and Guarantors as mentioned in column 2 of the following table. The reserve price and earnest money deposit will also be applicable as stated in the following table in column 6 & 7 respectively.

**Date of E-auction - 19/12/2025, Time : 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM**

Name of Branch (1)	Name of Borrower/ Guarantors (2)	Description of Property & Owner Name (3)	Dates of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) & Amount (4)	Date of Possession/Type of Possession (5)	Reserve Price (6)	Earnest Money Deposit (7)
Deendayal Chowk Jabalpur	Borrower- 1. Mr. Pawan Sharma S/o Mr. Rajesh Sharma & Mrs. Sarla Sharma W/o Mr. Pawan Sharma Guarantor- 2. Mr. Anil Kumar Soni S/o Mr. Narbada Prasad Soni, 145, Sanskar City, Surtalai, Jabalpur	All that part and parcel of the property situated over Plot No. 243, Sanskar City, Phase-1, Kh. No. 28/1, 28/2, 28/3, 23/2, 27, 37, 41, 35/2, 35/3 after mutation Kh. No. 41, NB No. 419, PH No. 75 (old 22), RNM Maharajpur, Tehsil Panagar, Dist. Jabalpur, in the name of <b>Mr. Pawan Sharma and Mrs. Sarla Sharma. Bounded:</b> North- Plot No. 242, South- Side Road, East- Side Road, West- Plot No. 244	20-08-2025 ₹ 8,20,871.12/- Interest + Other Charges	01-11-2025 Symbolic	₹ 19,14,000/-	₹ 1,91,400/-
Maadhav Nagar Katni	Borrower-Mortgagor- 1. Mr. Mohammad Iqbal S/o Mr. Abdul Salam, H.No. 364, Moulanga Athar Gali, Ameer Akada, Katni Murwara, Katni (M.P.)- 483501 Co Borrower-Mortgagor- 2. Abdul Salam, H.No. 364, Moulanga Athar Gali, Ameer Akada, Katni Murwara, Katni (M.P.)- 483501	EQM of all that Land and building situated at Plot No. B-42, Gram Imaliya, RI Circle Pahadi, PC No. 34, Part of Diverted Khazra No. 71/9, Tehsil Katni, District Katni (M.P.), Total Plot Area- 1000 square feet in the name of <b>Mr. Mohammad Iqbal S/o Mr. Abdul Salam. Bounded:</b> East- 20' Feet Road, West- Plot No. B-37, North- 25' Feet Road, South- Plot No. B-41	14-07-2025 ₹ 9,69,658.54 Interest + Other Charges	29-09-2025 Symbolic	₹ 10,79,000/-	₹ 1,07,900/-

**DETAILS OF ENCUMBRANCE KNOWN TO THE SECURED CREDITOR: NOT KNOWN**

**TERMS OF CONDITIONS-** 1. Auction Sale / Bidding would be only through "Online Electronic Bidding Process" through the website <https://baanknet.com>  
2. If required, there shall be unlimited extension of 10 minutes each. Auction would commence on reserve price and bidders shall improve their offers in multiples of **Rs. 10,000/-** for all above property(ies). The sale shall not take place at or below reserve price.  
3. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions.  
4. The intending bidders should get themselves registered on the above mentioned website. The should make their own inquiries regarding any statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc. relating to the above property (ies) before participating in the auction sale process. The properties are being sold along with all existing and future encumbrances, whether known or unknown to the Bank. The Authorized Officer shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights.  
5. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule here in above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.  
6. The Authorized Officer is not bound to accept the highest bid or any bids or any or all bids and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof, and very, modify and waive any condition of sale in his absolute discretion. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to withdraw the above e-Auction without assigning any reason.  
7. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://baanknet.com>, [www.bankofindia.co.in](http://www.bankofindia.co.in) or Contact: **Shri Rajesh Kumar Mourya (Mob. No. 73763 91515)**, Chief Manager ARD, Bank of India, Zonal Office, Jabalpur.  
8. This publication is also a 15/30 days notice to the above mentioned borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s).  
9. It shall be the 3 responsibility of the successful bidder to remit the TDS @ 1% as applicable u/s 194-IA of Income Tax Act if the aggregate of the sums credited or paid for such consideration is Rs. 50 Lakhs or more. TDS should be filed online b filing form 26QB & TDS Certificate to be issued in form 16 B. The purchaser has to produce the proof of having deposited the income tax into the government account.  
10. This publication is also a 15/30 days notice to the above mentioned borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s).  
11. It shall be the 3 responsibility of the successful bidder to remit the TDS @ 1% as applicable u/s 194-IA of Income Tax Act if the aggregate of the sums credited or paid for such consideration is Rs. 50 Lakhs or more. TDS should be filed online b filing form 26QB & TDS Certificate to be issued in form 16 B. The purchaser has to produce the proof of having deposited the income tax into the government account.

Date: 18.11.2025

Authorized Officer, BANK OF INDIA

**Change of Name**

I SHEETAL VERMA D/O SHAYAM KARAN VERMA, Widow OF Army No. 14632054H Rank NAYAK, Name SHAYAM KARAN VERMA, resident 14, GRAM NARELA, POST TEELAKHE-DI, DISTRICT BHOPAL 462030 (M.P.) do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as  
a) That I want to change name from SHITAL VERMA to SHEETAL VERMA.  
b) I am enclosing copy of Aadhar Card and PAN Card self attested as proof.

**Change of Name**

I ARMY Number 2792673L Retd NAIK KAILASH KANADE Resident of House No 21 KISHORE KUMAR Ganguly ward No 05 SHANTI Nagar Colony Civil Line Dist KHANDWA (MP) PIN- 450001 Declared that my SON NAME DIVANSH Recorded my Army service documents is incorrect. As par her Aadhar card and education documents, the correct name is **DIVANSH KANADE**. From now on my son name should be read and written as **DIVANSH KANADE** and the same should recorded in my Army service documents. I declared that as par my Affidavit No DA 743976 Dated 12/11/25 Notary KHANDWA (M.P.)  
Incorrect:- NAME - DIVANSH  
Correct:- NAME DIVANSH KANADE



# Sheikh Hasina: The rise, reign and ruin of Bangladesh’s Iron Lady

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi/Dhaka

For nearly two decades, Sheikh Hasina's name moved with the pulse of Bangladesh, sometimes steady, sometimes storm-tossed.

To her supporters, she is the architect of a modern, developing Bangladesh; to her critics, she was an autocrat whose appetite for power blinded her to the cries of the streets.

Few, however, could have imagined that the very tribunal the 77-year-old deposed Prime Minister once created to try hardened war collaborators would one day place her in the dock.

On Monday, when the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) pronounced the death sentence against Hasina in absentia, it marked the most dramatic turn yet in the story of the world's longest-serving female head of Government.

Hasina was born on September 28, 1947, in Tungipara in the then East Pakistan, into a family that would come to define Bangladesh's identity. Her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, led Bangladesh to independence with India's help in 1971 and became its founding father.

She studied at the University of Dhaka, earning a master's degree in Bengali literature and became deeply engaged in student politics. In 1968, Hasina married nuclear scientist MA Wazed Miah, whose low-profile, scholarly life stood in contrast to the turbulence



Police use stun grenades to disperse protesters gathering outside the demolished residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's former leader and the father of the country's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina following the verdict against her in Dhaka, Bangladesh

of Bangladeshi politics. Wazed remained a steady presence in Hasina's life until he died in 2009 at the age of 67. They have a son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy and a daughter, Saima Wazed Putul.

Hasina's political destiny hardened after the August 1975 military coup, in which her father, mother, three brothers, and several other family members were assassinated. She and her younger sister Rehana survived only

because they were abroad. India, under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, granted her asylum. After six years, in May 1981, Hasina returned to Bangladesh, where she was elected in absentia as the general secretary of the Awami League.

When Hasina returned in 1981 to lead the Awami League, she found her rival already waiting: Khaleda Zia, widow of slain President Ziaur Rahman.

The 'Battling Begums', as they came to be known, fought electoral and ideological wars that defined Bangladesh's politics for more than three decades.

Hasina first became Prime Minister in 1996, defeating Zia in a fiercely contested election. She lost power in 2001 but returned with a landslide in 2008, beginning, what her critics say, a long stretch of

dominance.

Under her leadership, the Awami League swept the 2008 general election; the 2014 election, which was boycotted by Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), and the 2018 election, giving Hasina one of the world's longest tenures for a female leader. During her pre-

## SECURITY PERSONNEL USE TEAR GAS TO DISPERSE PROTESTERS NEAR MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S HOUSE

**Dhaka:** Security agencies used batons and fired tear gas on Monday to disperse protesters who tried to demolish the house of deposed premier Sheikh Hasina's father and Bangladesh's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the capital. "Several stun grenades were used to disperse the protesters," Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division Police, was quoted as saying by the Daily Star newspaper. The paper reported that several protesters and security personnel were injured during the baton-charge and brick-hurling clashes. Mujibur Rahman, fondly called Bangabandhu, was killed in a military coup on August 15, 1975, along with most of his family members, including his 10-year-old youngest son, Sheikh Russell. A large part of Rahman's private residence, which was

turned into a museum, was levelled following the ouster of the Awami League regime of Hasina last year.

On Monday, Hasina was sentenced to death in absentia by a special tribunal for "crimes against humanity" over her Government's brutal crackdown on student-led protests last year.

Even before the verdict was announced, a large group of protesters tried to move two excavators towards Dhanmondi 32, where Rahman's house is located. They were stopped by security personnel, who used batons to disperse protesters, the paper said. Some protesters regrouped near Square Hospital on Panthapath, where law enforcers fired several rounds of tear gas.

Traffic on Mirpur Road in Dhaka and the surrounding areas was suspended, and most shops in the neighbourhood were closed.

the media, arrests of opposition leaders and the expansion of state security powers. In 2024, student-led demonstrations, which initially erupted in protest over quotas in Government jobs for children of independence war veterans, later exploded into a nationwide uprising against Hasina's regime.

## THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

### CHANGE OF NAME

It is for general information that I, Ujjwal Singh S/o Sangram Singh R/o House No 41, Halar, Ward No 3, Gram Barha Tola Halar, Barha, Rewa, Sarui, Madhya Pradesh-486220 declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Shilpi Singh in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my mother is Anusuiya Singh.

PD(3477)C

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the public in general that Property Shop's Situated at Plot no. 85 New (363 Old) Paiki Part having its total area 134 Sq. Ft. and Plot no. 1/2 Paiki Part having its total area 258 Sq. Ft. total area of both Plot's 392 Sq. Ft. (36.43 Sq. Mtr.) the above Properties are situated at "Indira Ekta Nagar", Gram Musakhedi, Ward no. 51 Tehsil & District Indore (M.P.) are in possession and ownership of Shri Rahul Sukhyani S/o Shri Ashok Kumar Sukhyani Residing At :- 24/2, North Musakhedi, Near Hanuman Mandir, Indore (MP). The aforesaid property having now be mortgage in Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. Therefore any person, society, bank etc. have any objection on said transaction then he filed objection within 7 days with legal documents from publication of this notice, otherwise any objection raise by any person, society, bank etc. may not be effected and loan is disburse to the concern person.

**Jagmohan Verma Advocate**  
139, Badi Bhamori, Near Bhamori Plaza, Indore (M.P.). Mo. 8878098000

## FORM NO. 14 [See Regulation 33(2)] By Regd. A/D, Dasti failing which by Publication.

### OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-I/II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL JABALPUR

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sanchar Vikas Bhawan (BSNL Building), Near Head Post Office, Residency Road, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur- 482001 (M.P.)

### DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT 1961.

RC/124/2025

### BANK OF BARODA Versus M/S LABDHI COTTON AGRO PVT. LTD. THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR- SHRI POONAM JAIN AND SHRI MANGILAL JAIN

(CD 1) M/S LABDHI COTTON AGRO PVT. LTD. THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR- SHRI POONAM JAIN AND SHRI MANGILAL JAIN. REGISTERED OFFICE AT: GATE NO.- 58, L AND T SONS GINNING PRESSING FACTORY, MIDC MONDALA ROAD, PACHORA (M.H.)- 424201. BARWANI: MADHYA PRADESH.

Also At: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE AND FACTORY AT: 303/15 P.H. NO.- 4, WARLA ROAD, SENDHWA, BARWANI (M.P.)

(CD 2) POONAM JAIN, JAWAHARGANJ GALI NO. 04, SENDHWA BARWANI, MADHYA PRADESH.

(CD 3) MANGILAL JAIN, JAWAHARGANJ GALI NO. 04, SENDHWA BARWANI, MADHYA PRADESH.

(CD 4) RUCHITA JAIN, JAWAHARGANJ GALI NO. 04, SENDHWA BARWANI, MADHYA PRADESH.

(CD 5) RATNA BAI, JAWAHARGANJ GALI NO. 04, SENDHWA BARWANI, MADHYA PRADESH.

(CD 6) PIYUSH JAIN, JAWAHARGANJ GALI NO. 04, SENDHWA BARWANI, MADHYA PRADESH.

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, JABALPUR in OA/139/2018 an amount of **Rs. 61345062.54 (Rupees Six Crore Thirteen Lakhs Forty Five Thousands Sixty Two And Paise Fifty Four Only)** along with pendentelite and future interest @ 10.75% Simple Interest Yearly w.e.f. 29/01/2018 till realization and costs of **Rs. 150000 (Rupees One Lakh Fifty Thousands Only)** has become due against you (Jointly and severally/Fully/Limited).

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing.

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **29/12/2025** at 10.30 am for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/execution proceedings.

(b) All cost, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date:

**Recovery Officer**  
**Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur**

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**  
**ICI Home Finance**  
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051  
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059  
Branch Office: Hoshangabad Branch

Whereas  
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited 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 upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.  
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.  
The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Kailash Ahirwar (Borrower), Lata Ahirwar (Co-Borrower), LHSG00001390544.	Plot No. 146, Part of Khosra No. 4/3, 4/6, 4/4, 4/5, 4/7, 4/8, and 4/9, Situated At Mouza Kulmadhi, Mangalmay Villas, Old Ward No. 18, New Ward No. 14, Tehsil and District Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh- 461001. Bounded By- North : Plot and House No. 145, South : Plot No. 147, East : Plot No. 131, West : Road./ Date of Possession:- 13-11-2025	21-08-2025 Rs. 11,39,363/-	Hoshangabad

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.  
Date: November 18, 2025  
Place: Hoshangabad

Authorized Office,  
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

**WE WIN LIMITED**  
(CIN: L74999MP2007PLC019623)  
Registered Office: Plot No. C-6, IT Park, Badwai, Bhopal, MP- 462038- India  
Tel No.: +91755 4278897  
E-mail: cs@wewinlimited.com; Website: www.wewinlimited.com

**NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT**  
Members are hereby informed that pursuant to the provisions of Section 110 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the Act") read with Rule 20 and Rule 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 ("the Rules"), Regulation 44 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("**SEBI Listing Regulations**"), Secretarial Standard General Meetings issued by The Institute of Company Secretaries of India ("SS-2"), each as amended, and in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("**MCA**") for holding general meetings/ conducting postal ballot process through e-Voting, vide General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020, 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, 20/2021 dated December 8, 2021, 3/2022 dated May 5, 2022, 11/2022 dated December 28, 2022 and 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023, (collectively the "**MCA Circulars**"), to transact the special business as set out hereunder by passing Ordinary & Special Resolution by way of postal ballot only by voting through electronic means ("**Remote e-Voting**").

Pursuant to Section 110 of the Act read with Rule 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, and MCA Circulars, and in compliance with Regulation 44 of the SEBI Listing Regulations, the Company shall send Postal Ballot Notice by e-mail to all its Members who have registered their e-mail addresses with the Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent ("**RTA**") or Depository/ Depository Participants ("**DPs**") and voting by the Members shall be allowed only through the E-voting system. The Notice along with detailed instructions shall also be available on the Company's website at [www.wewinlimited.com](http://www.wewinlimited.com) and on the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited ("**BSE**") at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("**NSE**") at [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively, and on the website of the Company's RTA-MUFG Intime India Private Limited ("**LIPL**") at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>.

Pursuant to Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules 2014 (as amended), the Company further informs all Members that:

- The Special Business set out in the Notice may be voted electronically
- The date of Completion of sending of Notice is **17th November, 2025**.
- The Voting rights of the Members shall be in proportion to the Equity Shares held by them in the paid up Equity Shares Capital of the Company as on Cut-off date i.e. 14th November, 2025.
- The cut-off date for determining the eligibility to vote by remote e-voting is **14th November, 2025**. A person whose name is recorded in the Depositories as on cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting.
- The remote e-voting period commences on **Thursday, 20th November, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. (IST)** and ends on **Friday, 19th December, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. (IST)**.
- The voting through electronic means shall not be allowed beyond 5:00 p.m. on 19th December, 2025. Once the vote on the Resolution is exercised and confirmed by the members, he or she shall not be allowed to modify it subsequently. Any receipt of the Postal Ballot Notice who was not a Member of the Company as on cut-off date should treat the Postal Ballot Notice for information purpose only.
- The Postal Ballot Notice, together with Explanatory statement, Remote E-voting instructions and the process of e-mail registration of non-registered members to avail Postal Ballot Notice & Procedure for "Remote E-voting" in terms of MCA Circulars is available on the Company Website -[www.wewinlimited.com](http://www.wewinlimited.com) and on LIPL website <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in/>.
- In light of the MCA Circulars, Members who have not registered their email address may get their email address registered by sending an email to the Company's Share Transfer Agent [atenotices@linkintime.co.in](mailto:atenotices@linkintime.co.in), member(s) may also intimate the same to the Company by writing an email at [cs@wewinlimited.com](mailto:cs@wewinlimited.com)
- Post successful registration of the email, the member would get soft copy of the notice and the procedure for e-voting along with the User ID and Password to enable e-voting for this Postal Ballot. In case of any queries, member may write to [enotices@in.mpmis.mufg.com](mailto:enotices@in.mpmis.mufg.com) or [cs@wewinlimited.com](mailto:cs@wewinlimited.com)
- Members are however requested to register their email addresses, in respect of electronic holdings (NSE) their concerned Depository Participants and in respect of physical holdings, with the Company's Share Transfer Agent i.e. MUFG Intime India Private Limited.
- In terms of MCA Circulars, voting can be done only by Remote E-voting. As the Remote E-voting does not require a person to attend to a meeting physically, the members are strongly advised to use the Remote E-voting procedure by themselves and not through any other person/proxies. Further, the Company will send Postal Ballot Notice in electronic form only.
- Members are requested to communicate their assent and dissent through "Remote E-voting" system only.
- The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed Mr. S.M.Ashraf, Proprietor of M/s. ASA & Associates, Practicing Company Secretary, as a Scrutinizer to scrutinize the postal ballot process in a fair and transparent manner.
- The Result of the Postal Ballot shall be announced on or before 23rd December, 2025 at Company's registered office and the resolution will be taken as passed effectively on the last date on which the company received duly completed postal ballot form as per SS-2 issued by ICSI i.e. 19th December, 2025 will be taken to be date of passing the resolution and the same shall be communicated to the stock exchange, RTA, depository of the company and the same shall also display on the website of the company i.e. [www.wewinlimited.com](http://www.wewinlimited.com).
- In case of any queries or grievances regarding e-voting, you may write an email to [atenotices@in.mpmis.mufg.com](mailto:atenotices@in.mpmis.mufg.com). Alternatively, you may also contact by writing an email at [cs@wewinlimited.com](mailto:cs@wewinlimited.com)

For We Win Limited

Sd/-


Ashish Soni

(PAN: HCOPS6623A)

Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: Bhopal

Date: 17th November, 2025

**HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED**  
Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saipet, Chennai - 600015  
Regional Office - 101-B, 1st Floor, NRI Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010 Email - [auction@hindujahousingfinance.com](mailto:auction@hindujahousingfinance.com)

**Appendix IV : Possession NOTICE (for Immovable property)**  
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hinduja Housing Finance Limited (HHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (s) issued by Authorized Officer of the Company to the Borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice here by given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the change of HHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Name of Borrower/ Guarantor / Co-Borrower	Demand Notice Date Amount Due	Description of Secured asset (Immovable Property)	Date & Type of Possession
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002052 Ms. ANNU BAI BAGREE Mr. BADRILAL BAGREE	16/08/2025 Rs 1231958/-	4,Gram Sabukhedi,Tehsil and District Dewas,Hanuman Mandir,Ujjain,Madhya Pradesh,455001	17/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002171 Mr. Almaram S/o Tolaram Mrs. Lita Bai	18/08/2025 Rs 929282/-	Plot No 52, Gram Bagwada, Near By Kakodiya Road Bagwada, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh,456668	13/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002158 Mr.BHAGWAN SINGH GURJAR Mrs. Krishna Bai	18/08/2025 Rs. 832225/-	Gram Pacheti, Near By Badi Mata Road, AGAR, Madhya Pradesh.	14/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000001955 Mr.BHURULAL S/o RAMCHANDAR Mrs. FUL KUNWAR	16/08/2025 Rs. 823646/-	Property Is Situated At , Survey No. 242/2, PH NO 20, Gram Siddhipur Nipaniya, Th. Tarana, Dist. Ujjain MP 456665	12/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002318 Mr. BANE SINGH Mrs. LEELA BAI	18/08/2025 Rs. 961982/-	47 48 49 50 51 52 53, NA, Village Chota Borda, PHN 26,Village Borda gurjar, Aganwadi, Tarana, Madhya Pradesh, 456770	14/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002362 Mr. BANE SINGH Mrs. KAMLA BAI	18/08/2025 Rs. 826119/-	House No. 55 Gram Kareedi Tehsil Makdona District Ujjain - 456770 . House No. 55 Gram Kareedi Tehsil Makdona District Ujjain - 456770	12/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002122 Mr. Babu Lal Mrs. Nanu Bai	18/08/2025 Rs 546408/-	09, Gram Lasudiyahata, Tehsil Jharda, Krishna mandir, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh	17/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000001832 Mr. Deevan Ji Mrs. Sims Ji	16/08/2025 Rs 695521/-	163 and 166, Bordagarjur, P.H.No- 26, Gram Panchayat- Bordagarjur, Ram Mandir, Tarana, Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456770	14/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000000531 Mr. Dhan Singh Mrs. Sanju Bai	11/08/2025 Rs 651912/-	House No 47, Gram- Itawa, Gram Panchayat- Pipiliya Sarang, Tehsil- Nagda, Distt- Ujjain, Ram Mandir, Urban, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456221	17/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000001864 Mr. Dhara Singh Devda Mrs. Maya Kunwar	16/08/2025 Rs 820902/-	Plot/house No. 151, P.H.No. 102, Gram- Pipiliya Nath, Tehsil- Mahidpur, Distt- Ujjain(M.P.), India - 456443	13/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002087 Mr. Dileep Singh Mrs. Sita Bai	18/08/2025 Rs 1186176/-	House 37, Gram- Moyagaon, Panchayat- Pari, Near by Bherumaharaj Mandir, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456770	12/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000000541 Mr. Govardhan Singh Mrs. Roda Bai	11/08/2025 Rs 636881/-	H.No.118 PH.No.04 Bhundkhedi, Badodiya, Makdon, Urban Ujjain M.P., India - 456668	15/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000000687 Mr. Govind singh Rajput Mrs. Lalita Kunwar	11/08/2025 Rs 992359/-	House No. 30, Gram- Palsoda, Tehsil- Badnagar, Distt- Ujjain, M.P., Gram Palsoda, Narsingh Mandir, Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456337	13/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002343 Mr. Gopal Singh Bagdavati Mrs. Krishna Bai Bagdavati Mr. Suresh Singh	18/08/2025 Rs 1078300/-	Survey no 1001 PH.No 52 H.No 9, Gram- Jhalara Tehsil- Agar, Distt- Agar Malwa, Madhya Pradesh, India - 465441,	13/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000000967 Mr. Jagdish S/o Nago Ji Mrs. Lalita Bai	11/08/2025 Rs 853561/-	Gram Panchayat House No. 153/4 Situated at Village- Amlawad Bika (Nayakheda) PH. No. 55, Tehsil- Badnagar, Distt. Ujjain (M.P.) Total Area = 100.3353 Sq.mtr., Gram Amlawadika (Nayakheda) Patwari Haika No. 55, Govt.School Amlawadika, Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456337	15/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000001359 Mr. Jada Singh Mrs. Kala Bai	16/08/2025 Rs 574624/-	235/1, Patwari Haika No. 04, Gram- Chintaman Jawasviya, Mata Ji Mandir, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, Ujjain, India - 456006	12/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002249 Ms. Krishna Bai Mr. Vijendra Singh	18/08/2025 Rs 852630/-	Property Is Situated At , P.H. No. 117, LSN 516, Gran Nainawad, Th. Tarana, Dist. Ujjain, M.P., Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456770	15/10/2025 Symbolic
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MP/IDR/UJJN/A000000553 Mr. Shambhu Singh Mrs. Santosh Kunwar	11-08-2025 Rs. 599517/-	Property Situated At, Bhawan Kramana 26 Gram Bhundkhedi, Tehsil Makdon District Ujjain-456668 M.P.	14/10/2025 Symbolic
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000001466 Mr. Sohan Singh Mrs. Prem Bai	16-08-2025 Rs. 1016494/-	A Plot No. 169, 170, 174, P.H.No. 25, Situated At Gram Kharkhadi Gram Panchayat Kharkhadi Tehsil Tarana District Ujjain M.P., Ram Mandir, Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456770	12/10/2025 Symbolic
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# Eden turner highlights Gill-Gambhir disconnect

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Kolkata

The pitch row triggered by India's embarrassing 30-run loss to South Africa while chasing a modest 124 has also opened up a larger question — are young skipper Shubman Gill and coach Gautam Gambhir on the same page on what construes ideal home conditions? The collapse, India's lowest failed chase at home, has left behind deeper fault lines than a dry Eden Gardens wicket can conceal.

Just a month ago, on the eve of the West Indies Test series in Ahmedabad, Gill had been emphatic that the team has moved away from the philosophy of preferring "rank turners".

"...We would be looking to play on wickets that offer both to the batsmen and to the bowlers," Gill had said, outlining a vision of balanced surfaces.

Yet India walked into the series against the reigning World Test champions on a pitch that was the exact opposite of what their captain advocated.

The Eden strip was left unwatered for more than a week and was kept under cover in the evening. The result was a dry, flaky surface that disintegrated from session one in a match that lasted barely eight sessions, producing 38 wickets, with spinners taking 22 and pacers 16. If the team had moved away from rank turners, Eden suggested the opposite. Gambhir was unapologetic and had no qualms declaring that the pitch was exactly what the team management wanted.

"If you don't play well this is what happens. There were no demons in the wicket," he asserted.

Ask Aiden Markram, who was undone by a ball from Jasprit Bumrah that leapt from the off-stump line in the first hour of the opening day, or KL Rahul, who was bamboozled by a Marco Jansen delivery that reared



Shubman Gill and coach Gautam Gambhir

up sharply in the fourth innings — and they would disagree.

Gambhir insisted seamers were the ones doing the damage.

"Ultimately, if we had won this Test match, you wouldn't even be talking about this pitch," he said in his usual combative style.

The messaging gap, however, is evident. Gill had asked for balance. The coach wanted exactly what transpired. The captain didn't even get to play owing to neck spasms that needed hospitalisation, putting him in doubt for the second Test in Guwahati from November 22.

Gill took no part beyond day 1 owing to the neck spasm sustained while playing a slog-sweep boundary off Simon Harmer. In his absence, Indian batting displayed neither discipline nor adaptability.

India have now lost four of their last six Tests at home — a trend that has shred the aura of invincibility that the team enjoyed in its backyard.

Under Gambhir, India have eight wins from 18 Tests — four of them have come against lowly

Bangladesh and West Indies.

The script here resembled India's 0-3 humiliation against New Zealand at home last year, a series in which Ajaz Patel (11 in Mumbai), Mitchell Santner (13 in Pune) exposed the side's frailties on turning tracks. That series derailed India's World Test Championship run, and the Eden defeat now sits in the same bracket. This loss also flipped India's WTC standings. South Africa climbed to third with two wins in three; India dropped to fourth with just two wins in eight Tests in the new cycle.

From the moment India landed in Kolkata on Tuesday, the focus was obsessively on the pitch. Meetings with curator Sujan Mukherjee became frequent. Historically rich in memorable Tests — including the iconic 2001 Laxman-Dravid miracle — Eden hosted a surface that drew even Harbhajan Singh's ire.

"They have completely destroyed Test cricket. RIP Test cricket," Harbhajan said.

Cheteshwar Pujara dismissed talk of transition as excuse-making.

"Losing at home cannot

be accepted, transition or not," he said.

India had the Test in their pocket at stumps on day two. South Africa were 93/7, effectively 63 ahead, with Temba Bavuma on 29 (78 balls) and debutant Corbin Bosch on 1.

Conditions on a Kolkata morning typically favour seam with cool breeze from the Ganges. Common sense demanded that Bumrah start at the Club House End, where he took a first-innings five-for.

Instead, he was introduced as late as the ninth over from the other end and by then Bosch looked settled. Bavuma had grown roots, and the lead stretched past the psychological 100-run mark.

Indian batting implosion. It mirrors tactical confusion, and over-curated pitches, without batting depth to sustain it.

After Guwahati — where they now cannot win the series regardless of result — India will not play at home till the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in January 2027.

Before that, they tour Sri Lanka (August) and New Zealand (October next year) and their task is cut out in the WTC campaign now.

## No matter who sits out, SA still wins: Rabada

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Kolkata

South African pacer Kagiso Rabada, who missed the first Test against India here due to a rib injury, is in awe of his team's ability to rebound from setbacks and "find a way to win" no matter who is left out.

The reigning World Test Championship winners completed a 30-run win inside three days over India in the opening Test here defending a modest 123 on Sunday. The win, which was their first on Indian soil in 15 years, gave them an unsailable 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

"No matter who sits out, we can still find a way to win. (Skipper) Temba (Bavuma) has been crucial for us, but he hasn't played every game. I haven't played this game," Rabada said in a video shared by Cricket South Africa.

Bavuma returned to the playing XI after missing their preceding two Tests in Pakistan, where South Africa bounced back to draw the series 1-1.

"That doesn't matter. Whoever is gonna get out on the field, we believe that they can do the job," Rabada said.

The visitors outplayed the hosts on a dry wicket here with variable bounce and turn. Rabada hailed South Africa's individual performances, including skipper Bavuma's match-winning 55 in the second innings that gave the travelling bowlers something to fight for.

"We had a good start in the first innings with Aiden (Markram) and (Ryan) Rickelton. They set the tone. Marco (Jansen) stood up, Bosch (Corbin Bosch) stood up at crucial times. Everyone chipped in and really, that's the hallmark of what this team is made of," Rabada said.

It remains to be seen if Rabada, who had to undergo multiple scans in the lead-up to the first Test, would be available for the second Test to be played in Guwahati from November 22-26.

Rabada said the victory in a low-scoring thriller at Kolkata would rank among



the top three wins for South Africa this season.

"(The victory is) definitely right up there. With the types of wins that we've had this season, it's hard to say, because we've had some pretty epic wins, but this one is definitely (in the) top three," he said.

"That was typical Test cricket (contest)... I mean, just the ebbs and flows of

the game. We found ourselves on the back foot, and then somehow managed to finish on the front foot.

"It was quite nerve-wracking on the side, and I'm just itching to want to get out. I don't know what to say. It's just. It's just, like, an emotional roller coaster, and I'm glad that we finished on the right side," Rabada added.

## Something is wrong if a strong squad is losing at home: Pujara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

Former India Test batter Cheteshwar Pujara has strongly rejected the notion that India's crushing defeat to South Africa in the first Test at Eden Gardens can be blamed to a transition phase.

Pujara contended that while overseas losses during a rebuilding period can be understood, losing at home — especially with a squad that includes proven first-class performers — is unacceptable.

He pointed to players such as Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Washington Sundar and Shubman Gill as evidence of India's depth and potential in the longer format.

"I don't agree with the view that India's defeat at home can be attributed to a transitional phase. While it's



understandable to face setbacks abroad during a transition period, the current Indian side possesses ample talent and strong first-class records - players like Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL

Rahul, Washington Sundar, and Shubman Gill have all proven themselves," Pujara told Jio Hotstar.

"If the team is losing in home conditions despite this, it suggests that something else is wrong. Had this match been played on a good pitch, India's chances of winning would've been much higher."

While India head coach Gautam Gambhir did not find any fault with the pitch where wickets fell in heap, Pujara said such tracks are not good for India.

"The nature of such wickets reduces our winning percentage and brings the opposition on a level footing. Even an India A team, given the depth of talent, could challenge South Africa at home. So it's not lack of ability. Therefore, blaming transition for this defeat in India isn't justifiable," he said.



डॉ. मोहन यादव का अभ्युदय मध्यप्रदेश



एन सी ई आर टी NCERT



5 RBVP



नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री



डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

बाल वैज्ञानिकों का महाकुंभ

राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान एवं प्रशिक्षण परिषद् तथा स्कूल शिक्षा विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश शासन के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में, युवा वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा सृजित आधुनिक वैज्ञानिक मॉडल, विचार और समाधानों को प्रदर्शित करने वाला राष्ट्रीय उत्सव



52वीं राष्ट्रीय बाल वैज्ञानिक प्रदर्शनी-2025

18 से 23 नवंबर 2025

शुभारंभ मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव द्वारा प्रातः 9:30 बजे क्षेत्रीय शिक्षा संस्थान, श्यामला हिल्स, भोपाल



प्रवेश नि:शुल्क

प्रमुख आकर्षण

900+ बाल वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा सामाजिक समस्याओं पर समाधान आधारित नवाचारी वैज्ञानिक मॉडल

वैज्ञानिक संवाद : MANIT, AISECT और IISER जैसे बड़े संस्थानों के वैज्ञानिकों के साथ

अगली पीढ़ी के वैज्ञानिक विचारों को जानने और प्रोत्साहित करने का अद्वितीय अवसर

अपने बच्चों के साथ आएं और विज्ञान के प्रति उनमें उत्साह और प्रेरणा जगाएं

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E-GOLD WORLD



You may think that it is the best way to hold gold. Unlike the bullion assets in the bank lockers, there are no bulky and physical bars, coins, and jewellery. In contrast to the gold-based Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), and derivatives, there is no paper trail. However, there is an assurance and guarantee that you possess a certain amount of gold, which appears in the form of a digital statement. More importantly, whenever you express the wish, the equivalent physical quantity will appear at your doorstep.

Welcome to the world of e-gold, or digital gold, which is being sold by several online platforms as a substitute for physical and paper metal. However, as the stock market regulator, SEBI, and experts warn, this gold can vanish as instantly as it digitally adds to an individual's portfolio. According to a recent SEBI circular, these offerings are "entirely different from SEBI-regulated gold products, as they are neither notified as securities, nor supervised as commodity derivatives." They remain in the nowhere-land of non-regulation.

This implies that most unregulated products, digital gold products "function completely outside SEBI's regulatory purview and may carry substantial risks, including counterparty and operational vulnerabilities." There are no legal protections against frauds, or illegalities, and the sellers cannot be convicted. In this shadowy world, the onus is on the buyers. As the SEBI circular warns, "none of the investor protection safeguards available in the securities market will apply to investments made in digital gold, or e-gold." These are products that can leave the investors out in the cold.

Instead, the regulator recommends that investors who feel the desire to invest in gold need to explore legal avenues that include ETFs, derivatives, electronic gold receipts and, of course, physical gold. The first three can be purchased and sold on the exchanges, are "accessible through SEBI-registered intermediaries, and operate strictly within SEBI's regulatory framework." The fourth is available through government, and private channels, which are allowed to sell them. There is no need for people to go to unregulated platforms.

SEBI's angst stems from the fact that the digital gold products have gained explosive popularity fuelled by instant UPI-based buying, and low entry barriers. There are other advantages too. For example, they are convenient, and accessible. You can invest anytime via a phone, UPI, or broker apps, with no jeweller visits. Gold is anyway the favourite of the Indian household since it acts as an inflation hedge, and reduces market risks. Digital gold, like other legal products, offers instant liquidity, and one can sell immediately at live market prices without searching for the buyers.

The entry amounts are low, or lower than the ETFs, derivatives, and physical gold, since e-gold can be purchased with tiny sums, and in low quantities. The purity of the digital gold, if delivered physically as per demand, is backed by 24-karat 99.9 per cent purity. As mentioned above, the virtual gold is easily convertible into physical coins, bars, or biscuits, with home delivery. There are no worries related to storage. Insured vaults at the platforms' ends eliminate the security and safety risks of storing physical gold.

Except for one overriding and expansive risk. Digital gold can vanish in a poof, as easily as it arrives in a jiffy through a digital statement. Ajay Menon, MD & CEO (wealth management), Motilal Oswal Financial Services, strongly endorses the regulator's concerns. "It may appear attractive when a digital statement claims that 'you own X grams of gold.' However, SEBI has rightly highlighted the risks associated with digital gold. If something goes wrong, there are no regulatory protections. Should the company shut down tomorrow, your gold could simply vanish," he explains.

Moreover, the so-called convenience, ease, accessibility, and liquidity have another component: It is marketed with embedded and significant hidden costs. "You pay three per cent GST at the time of purchase, a 2-3 per cent spread on buy/sell prices, and capital gains tax when you sell. If you request physical delivery, additional delivery and making charges apply," states Menon. The profit margins, thereby, are reduced for the investors. So, do the calculations carefully before plunging into this virtual world.

"Digital gold-related UPI transactions jumped from 50.9 million in January 2025 to 99.8 million in August 2025, a massive behavioural shift," Menon notes. Obviously, the trend is linked to the overall enthusiasm for gold, and gold products. Sandip Raichura, director, PL Capital, offers a perspective on gold price trajectory. "Gold has recovered from a pullback towards what we believe could be a \$4,800 target in the next few months. Our stop loss remains near \$3,550, giving a 2:1 risk-reward at current levels," he says.

Experts like Raichura add that the weakening US economic data may accelerate the trend. "Job losses in October, and multi-year lows in consumer sentiment suggest deeper weakness than what Mr Powell (head of the US Federal Reserve) expected. If the upcoming data confirms this, it may provide another upward impulse to gold prices," he feels. This may further propel the purchase of digital gold, and e-gold, which may exemplify the risks for the investors. SEBI, which has red-flagged several challenges in other areas, is concerned about the possible implications in the future.

The Pioneer

BHOPAL | TUESDAY | NOVEMBER 18, 2025



BUSINESS13

# Jobs cause a possible stock effect

It is a cause-and-effect that seems quite correlated. Obviously, when you bring two things together, a pattern or trend emerges sometimes because the human mind is wired to find the latter. Thus, often the cause becomes the effect, and vice versa, or correlation is confused with a deeper connect. As the famed Rumi said ages ago, "What you thought was the effect, is but the cause." In a sense, what we consider the end point becomes the beginning for something else. A fruit is the effect of the plant (cause), which is the effect of the roots (cause). More importantly, the gardener tends to the plant (effect) because of the fruit (cause). This can go on and on.

In this context, let us examine the roots of a graph that is viral on social media. A curious and enterprising analyst plotted the rise of the American S&P stock index against new jobs in the US since 2000. He or she found a revealing link. Until 2022-23, the two graphs moved in tandem, like they were conjoined by an umbilical cord. They behave like twins joined at the hips, with each one unable to move out of sync, or get away from each other. When the S&P goes up, so does the creation of new jobs. The opposite happens when the index comes down. Maybe it is the opposite, the rise in jobs is followed by a similar movement in the index, and vice versa.

There can be logical explanations to the trend. For example, one can argue that companies hire more people when the business opportunities are excellent, which leads to higher production, and more profits. In fact, since firms are highly sensitive to costs, they hire only when demand goes up, and benefit from both the shortages, and higher future sales. In both cases, the stock prices either follow the rise in volumes, and profits, or rise earlier in anticipation of the future

positive effects. One can conversely argue that stock valuations go up due to external reasons such as policy changes, lower interest rates, and low inflation, which arms the business owners with money sources (public issues, and loans) that enables them to increase capacities, and hire more people.

However, the individual who traced the original graphs on a single chart, gave it a technological twist. According to him or her, the breaking point, or the catalyst point, when the two graphs begin to diverge from each other, is 2022-23, or the introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in workplaces. This logic puts the onus on the launch of ChatGPT, which became a routine tool for managers, and executives. AI increased productivity through tech shifts, made many workers redundant, and enabled firms to sack them. This is why stocks flew, as productivity gains earned more profits, but there was a contraction in the creation of new jobs. Technology trumped manual work, firms opted for the former in several jobs, and employees were the ones who buckled under the disruption.

A recent flash survey by CNBC finds that nine out of 10 human resource leaders expect AI to reshape jobs next year, and more than two-thirds feel it is "currently having an impact at their firms." More than a sixth contend that half or more than half of the jobs were affected, and half of them think that the impact was less than 50 per cent. In fact, the use and abuse of AI is so rampant that HR leaders plan to reduce workforce just because they "need to cut costs," and the new tech tool is a perfect excuse to do so. Neither inflation, tariffs, reduced demand, or AI's efficiency gains matter. This explains just under 30 per cent expect the headcount to go down in

2026.

No one can deny that AI, and ChatGPT, or its competing tools, as is evident from recent workplace experiences, will reduce the need for workers. It will replace several forms of jobs that are routine and repetitive, especially among the entry-level workers. Various estimates contend that globally 300 million jobs will vanish because of the new technology. Yet, there are some who feel that AI will create new jobs, which will require new skills or re-skilling, whose number will be higher than the job losses. Hence, the S&P index, and new job data will converge in the future. The current trend is a short-term one, and an interim phenomenon. There will be no AI apocalypse at the workplaces, but sections of the society will get hurt.

This column wants to maintain that there are no causes and effects between AI, job losses, and the stock market index. It is a coincidental correlation. Technology is one of the drivers that drove down jobs. In the post-Covid era, hundreds of millions lost jobs, and a similar number, and more, worked from home. When normally returned, firms realised that they could do more with less, more work with less employees. Most of the ones that they had sacked were never recalled. Of the ones who worked from home, many were pressured to work in a hybrid mode, at a lesser salary, and as consultants. Pronto, the workforce was reduced, and the need to hire workers slowed down. Less workers were hired in the next few years.

At the same time, coincidentally, while revenues dipped, profits zoomed during the two Covid years. One of the reasons was the huge reduction in costs, especially manpower, and administrative and other expenses related to the workforce. This jacked up the stock markets, which boomed within weeks and months after the great fall in March 2025 (in India). Expectations in future financials improved, and stock valuations hit the roof, as did the indices. S&P was no exception. The combined effect was that the index skyrocketed, and demand for new jobs tanked. The divergence in the graphs was inevitable, which merely coincided with the launch of ChatGPT. As mentioned earlier, tech did aid the job-cutting process.

One can think of other factors that de-linked the graphs. Firms opted for China+1 strategy to replace China in case of similar disruptions. This implied that unless they were lucky to find locations like India, or the Philippines, which were cheap, they shifted to the expensive Latin America, East Europe, or North Americas. Manpower was more expensive in these regions, and firms chose to spend more on technology, and rely less on labour. Spending on machines was a one-time cost, which gave tax and other breaks. High-cost workers were a regular drain. This contributed to lower hires, even as the stock markets boomed. In fact, such cost controls helped the latter trend.

## A Contrarian Investor

# Is this the Initial Panic Omen?

As the indices go up, as do specific stocks, only the brave and risk-takers enter the fray. As they make money, and stocks continue to go up, others join in. This is around the time when promoters decide that this is the best time to raise money, given the high valuations. The IPO frenzy starts, backed by ever-higher indices, which leads to a herd mentality among investors, who cannot afford the already-listed stocks because of the high prices, and join the IPO gangs and queues. The IPO madness is in full flow, as the indices jump further. Obviously, a bubble forms, expands, and reaches its stretched shape.

It is time for the crash. Although the indices may move up on an average over the next few years, the herd mentality, and madness of the crowd forces an immediate shock. Too much money chasing too few stocks. Prices out of sync with profits. Valuations stretched, and waiting for a pinprick. It is now a matter of a whiff of bad news. Until now, for months, even years,

bad news was discarded, and dumped, and a faint smell of good news was highlighted and celebrated with higher price movements. The opposite happens at the height of the bubble. The moment something seemingly-bad happens, the bottom gives way, floor crashes, and the ceiling dashes into the investors' heads. Only a few escape. The majority is pinned to the ground, buried under the debris of dead hopes, dreams, and desires.

Do not think for a moment that this is unexpected. A few critical voices warn of the impending doom. No one wants to hear them. Although publicly, the experts goad investors, and scream that everything is fine, they are scared. So are the investors, but do not back away because of the FOMO factor. No one wants to miss out on the fun unless and until they are scared. The promoters want their IPOs before the crash. Investors want to get in, and get out to benefit from the listing gains. Merchant bankers, investment bankers,

and institutional bankers want to have stakes in the next Google, or Microsoft. Policy-makers do not want to rock the status quo. Economists are oblivious to the crazed environment.

This writer saw this bizarre phenomenon from close quarters in the late 1999, and early 2000 during the dotcom boom in the US. The valuations were as weird as they are now. IPOs were dime-a-day, as start-ups, and their founders dreamt of racking up valuations of billions of dollars, and becoming billionaires. The discussions at the social gathering, including the New Year's party, was about the hundreds of millions that one made, or will make, and the real estate purchased at ridiculous prices. Yet, every angel investor, venture capitalist, private equity player, founder, and pundit I met spoke about the crash. For the dozens of people interviewed, it was not a matter of if, but when. It will happen, they said, but they did not know when, so they went ahead with what they did.

An introduction to one of the post-2008 editions of 'The Great Crash,' a seminal book of John Kenneth Galbraith, explains, "But there is here a basic and recurrent process. It comes with rising prices, whether of stocks, real estate, works of art or anything else. This increase attracts attention and buyers, which produces the further effect of even higher prices. Expectations are thus justified by the very action that sends prices up. The process continues; optimism with its market effect is the order of the day. Prices go up even more. Then, for reasons that will be endlessly debated, comes the end. The descent is always more sudden than the increase; a balloon that has been punctured does not deflate in an orderly way."

The initial air of the balloon is filled with facts, data, and realistic assumptions. Later, hot air creeps in, as desires, hopes, and optimism engulfs the investors. This turns into smoke, smog, and fog as the herd gathers pace, and runs blindly towards the edge of the mountain, ready to fall off the cliff. At the stages of the hot air, and the great run one witnesses the hundreds of IPOs, with the founders aiming to be the next dollar-billionaires. Everything is crazy, and hazy, and those who can intervene seem to be in a daze.





Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman sat down with The Pioneer’s Printer and Publisher Kushan Mitra, Chief Executive Officer Prakash V and J Gopikrishnan and to understand the current business activities and growth plans of The Pioneer media group. She was also invited to be the Chief Guest of The Pioneer India Finance and Innovation Forum (India FIF) that will be hosted in Mumbai from February 25-27, 2026. The event will focus on the core sectors of the economy and will be a space where finance, policy and innovation converge.



# Fitch: Sanctions on Russian oil unlikely to hit Indian oil marketing companies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, along with the EU’s ban on refined products derived from Russian crude, are unlikely to materially dent the margins or credit profiles of India’s state-run oil marketing companies, Fitch Ratings said.

The ratings agency warned, however, that the eventual impact will hinge on how long the sanctions last and how strictly they are enforced. Russian crude made up about a third of India’s oil imports between January and August 2025, and its discounted rates have been a key boost to OMC profitability. Fitch expects the companies to adhere to sanctions, though some refiners may continue sourcing unsanctioned Russian barrels.

Traditionally reliant on Middle Eastern oil, India significantly increased its imports from Russia following the February 2022 Ukraine invasion. Western sanctions and reduced European demand made Russian oil available at steep discounts. As a result, India’s Russian crude imports surged from under 1 per cent to nearly 40 per cent of its total crude oil imports in a short span.

The US, however, last month imposed sanctions on Russian oil producers Rosneft and Lukoil, who



accounted for 75 per cent of oil sold to India. Indian refiners have stopped buying oil from them but others can still continue to sell.

“Fitch Ratings believes US sanctions on two of Russia’s largest crude oil producers, Rosneft and Lukoil, and the EU’s ban on refined imports derived from Russian crude, are unlikely to have a significant effect on the refining margins or credit profiles of our rated Indian oil marketing companies (OMCs),” the rating agency said in a note.

Fitch said sanctions-related disruptions should suppress global demand for products linked to affected crude, widening refined product spreads and helping offset the loss of discounted Russian

barrels. Refiners still processing Russian crude could benefit from deeper discounts. Abundant spare global crude capacity should also keep a lid on oil prices; Fitch forecasts Brent at USD 65 per cent in 2026, down from USD 70 in 2025.

Private refiners with significant EU exposure may face greater compliance risks, as tracing crude origins becomes more complex once grades are blended. Such firms may shift exports to alternative markets, adjust crude slates or invest in tighter traceability systems.

Indian OMCs posted EBITDA broadly in line with or slightly above expectations in H1 FY26, supported by softer crude and strong gasoil

spreads. Gross refining margins averaged USD 6–7 per barrel, compared with USD 4.5–7 per barrel in FY25.

Fitch expects GRMs to hold near mid-cycle levels of around USD 6 per barrel in FY27, aided by firm domestic fuel demand and high utilisation rates.

A government-approved Rs 30,000 crore support package for Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum in 2Q FY26 will help offset losses from selling subsidised LPG below cost and strengthen liquidity.

Fitch said the Issuer Default Ratings of all three OMCs remain anchored by strong state linkages and a high likelihood of sovereign support if required.

# Unemployment rate remains steady at 5.2 pc in October: Govt survey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

The rate of unemployment for those aged 15 and above remained steady at 5.2 per cent in October, according to a government survey released on Monday.

Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The UR was 5.1 per cent in April as per the first PLFS bulletin released in May 2025.

“The UR among persons of age 15 years and above remained unchanged at 5.2 per cent between September,

with a moderate rise in urban UR from 6.8 per cent to 7.0 per cent, resulted in overall stability in the pace of joblessness among persons aged 15 years and above.

It stated that UR among females aged 15 years and above declined to 5.4 per cent in October 2025 from 5.5 per cent observed during September 2025.

The drop in UR among rural female, from 4.3 per cent in September 2025 to 4.0 per cent in October 2025, mainly contributed towards the decline in overall female joblessness rate.

Among males, the rate of unemployment remained stable at 5.1 per cent in October 2025 as compared to previous month.

A minor decrease in rural male UR, from 4.7 per cent in September 2025 to 4.6 per cent in October 2025, was offset by a slight uptick in urban male UR from 6.0 per cent to 6.1 per cent during the same period, which contributed to overall stability.

2025 and October, 2025,” an official statement said.

According to the statement, a marginal decline in the rural unemployment rate, from 4.6 per cent in September 2025 to 4.4 per cent in October 2025, coupled



The unemployment rate (UR) was 5.2 per cent in September, 5.1 per cent in August, 5.2 per cent in July and 5.6 per cent in May and June, as per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Ministry of

# GST 2.0, Indo-Japan partnership redraw India’s auto industry map

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

India’s automotive industry, which contributes 7.1% to the country’s GDP and nearly half of its manufacturing output, is entering a new growth phase backed by regulatory reform and strong foreign collaboration. The sector produced 28 million vehicles in 2024, up 8 per cent year-on-year, while exports surpassed 4.5 million units, according to a whitepaper by Grant Thornton Bharat and the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IJCCI).

Titled “Navigating Change: GST 2.0, Customs, and FTA Impacts on the India-Japan Auto Sector,” the report outlines how taxation reform, customs changes, and trade partnerships are reshaping the industry’s competitiveness. With USD 43.3 billion in cumulative investments, Japan remains India’s fifth-largest foreign investor and a key force in the automotive ecosystem.

The rollout of GST 2.0 in September 2025 has streamlined tax structures and boosted affordability across vehicle categories. Under the revised regime, small cars and motorcycles under 350cc attract 18 per cent GST, down from 28 per cent plus cess, trimming prices by up to ₹1 lakh for select models. Premium vehicles now face a 40 per cent flat rate, while electric vehicles continue at 5 per cent, reaffirming policy support for clean mobility.

Automakers have already recorded a surge in bookings, with the small car

AUTOMAKERS HAVE ALREADY RECORDED A SURGE IN BOOKINGS, WITH THE SMALL CAR SEGMENT REPORTING NEARLY 50 PER CENT GROWTH. THE UNION BUDGET 2025 COMPLEMENTED GST CHANGES WITH SUPPLY-CHAIN MEASURES, INCLUDING CUSTOMS DUTY EXEMPTIONS ON LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SCRAP AND CRITICAL MINERALS LIKE LEAD AND COPPER.

segment reporting nearly 50 per cent growth. The Union Budget 2025 complemented GST changes with supply-chain measures, including customs duty exemptions on lithium-ion battery scrap and critical minerals like lead and copper. These steps aim to strengthen domestic manufacturing, secure raw materials, and expand employment in the EV value chain.

“The convergence of GST 2.0 and targeted customs incentives marks a defining moment for India’s automotive sector,” said Sohrab Bararia, Partner, India Investment Advisory, Grant Thornton Bharat. He noted that the reforms enhance cost competitiveness and reinforce India’s position as a manufacturing and export hub for Japanese

automakers. The India-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the India-Japan Digital Partnership (IJDP) are also driving collaboration in electric and connected vehicles, as well as AI-led manufacturing. Skill programmes such as the Japan-India Institute for Manufacturing (JIM) and Japanese Endowed Courses (JEC) have trained over 30,000 Indian engineers to Japanese manufacturing standards, creating a talent base for advanced production.

Trade schemes like MOOWR, EPCG, Advance Authorisation, and RoDTEP continue to underpin export competitiveness by supporting duty-free or concessional imports of capital goods and components.

“There is strong synergy between India and Japan in hybrid and electric vehicles and precision components,” said Suguna Ramamoorthy, Secretary General, IJCCI. “Reforms under GST 2.0 and CEPA strengthen R&D and joint production while advancing the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.”

During the first nine months of FY2025, India’s car exports to Japan reached USD 616.45 million, while auto component exports stood at USD 171.72 million. Industry observers believe sustained policy alignment and India-Japan collaboration will define the next phase of growth, driving competitiveness, technology transfer, and a more sustainable mobility future.

# India signs 1-year deal to import 2.2m tonnes of LPG from US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

Indian state-run oil companies have signed a one-year deal to import cooking gas LPG from the United States in 2026, marking a push by New Delhi to expand energy purchases from Washington.

The move is seen as an attempt to narrow India’s trade surplus with the US - a sticking point for President Donald Trump, who has slapped a 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods entering America.

“Indian PSU oil companies have successfully concluded a one-year structured contract to import around 2.2 million tonnes of LPG from the US Gulf Coast for the contract year 2026,” an official statement said on Monday.

The quantity contracted is close to 10 per cent of India’s annual LPG imports and marks the first such structured US LPG contract for the Indian market.

While India is either self-sufficient or has surplus production in most fuels like petrol, diesel and jet fuel, it imports about 65 per cent of its LPG consumption of 31 million tonnes. In 2024, about 90 per cent of the 20.4 million tonnes of LPG imports came from UAE, Qatar, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

It sporadically imported cargoes from the US but this is the first time it has entered



into a structured contract.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will import about 48 very-large gas carriers of LPG in 2026. The supplies will be made by super majors Chevron, Phillips and TotalEnergies Trading SA.

India has offered to raise energy imports from the US as part of the bilateral trade deal that has been under discussions for the past couple of months. New Delhi buys about 8 per cent of its crude oil - the raw material for making petrol and diesel - from the US.

In the first half of 2025, India imported about 271,000 barrels per day (bpd) of US crude, up 51 per cent from 180,000 bpd in H1 2024.

Scope for raising crude imports from the US is

limited given that shipments take 45 days sea voyage to reach Indian shores - a period during which ships can make six sorties from the Middle East.

Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri took to X to announce the LPG deal.

“A historic first! One of the largest and the world’s fastest growing LPG markets opens up to the United States,” he said.

“In our endeavour to provide secure affordable supplies of LPG to the people of India, we have been diversifying our LPG sourcing. In a significant development, Indian PSU oil companies have successfully concluded a 1 year deal for imports of around 2.2 MTPA LPG, close to 10 per cent of our annual imports - for the contract year 2026, to be sourced from the US Gulf Coast - the first structured contract of US

LPG for the Indian market,” he said.

This purchase is based on using Mount Belvieu as the benchmark for LPG purchases, he said adding a team from the three PSUs had visited the US and engaged in discussions with major US producers over the last few months, which have been concluded now.

He touted poor Ujjwala consumers - who make up for a third of all LPG users in the country - receiving cooking gas cylinders at just ₹500-550 while the actual cost was over ₹1,100. “Government of India incurred the cost of over ₹40,000 crore last year in order to ensure our mothers and sisters did not feel the burden of rising international LPG prices”

The price of LPG for non-Ujjwala users currently is ₹853 per 14.2-kg cylinder.

For the US contract, the pricing shift - using Mount Belvieu as a benchmark - brings greater transparency and global linkage into India’s procurement model. For consumers, this diversification strengthens the ability to shield households from global price spikes.

“The Minister emphasised that this new sourcing arrangement for 2026 is another step in strengthening India’s energy security while ensuring affordable access to clean cooking fuel for millions of households,” the statement added.

# One-in-four Indian firm surveyed report cyber losses: PwC report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

Nearly a quarter of Indian enterprises surveyed reported losses exceeding USD 1 million (about ₹8.8 crore) from cyber breaches over the past three years, with the risk particularly high among companies earning USD 5 billion or more in annual revenue.

Cyber budgets are rising, albeit at a cautious pace, with 87 per cent of organisations in India planning to increase their cybersecurity spending over the next 12 months, according to a PwC report.

The PwC 2026 Global Digital Trust Insights survey, based on responses from 138 Indian business and technology executives, found that investment in AI tops budget priorities at 46 per cent, followed by cloud security at 33 per cent.

“...25 per cent of busi-



nesses say their most dam-

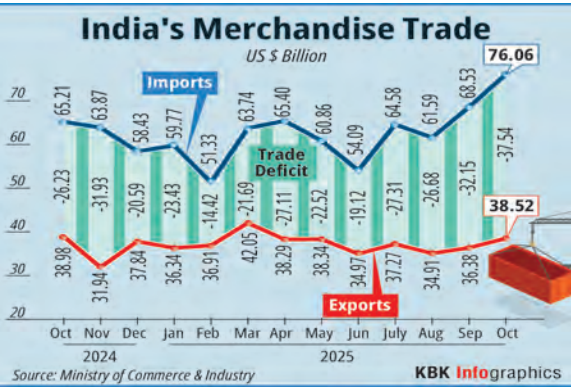
aging data breach in the past three years cost their organisation at least USD 1 million, with exposure highest among enterprises generating USD 5 billion or more in revenue (45 per

cent).

“This year, 87 per cent of leaders of Indian organisations expect their cyber budgets to grow in the coming year, and nearly one-third of them plan to boost spending by more

report noted.

More than half (60 per cent) of security leaders are prioritising AI threat-hunting capabilities, while nearly 47 per cent are focusing on other AI-driven functions such as agentic AI.



## India’s exports drop 11.8 pc to USD 34.38 bn in Oct

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India’s exports contracted 11.8 per cent to USD 34.38 billion in October, showed government data released on Monday.

Imports jumped 16.63 per cent to USD 76.06 billion.

The country’s trade deficit stood at USD 41.68 billion during the reporting month. Imports surged due to increased shipments of gold and silver.

Gold imports jumped to USD 14.72 bn in the last month against USD 4.92 bn recorded in the same month last year.

The country’s exports to the United States declined to USD 6.3 bn in October as against USD 6.9 bn registered in the year-ago month, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal told reporters here.

During April-October this fiscal, exports increased marginally by 0.63 per cent to USD 254.25 billion. At the same time, imports rose 6.37 per cent to USD 451.08 billion, the commerce ministry data showed.





### Sri Chaitanya Academy marks 51st test prep centre

Sri Chaitanya Academy – an Infinity Learn initiative, focussed on delivering outcome-based learning at scale, has proudly announced the launch of its 51st Test Prep Centre, marking its 1st Centre in the city of Noida.

With this expansion, the Institution brings its proven academic model, experienced faculty and integrated test-preparation approach to students in the NCR region. Ujjwal Singh, Founding CEO of Infinity Learn by Chaitanya, added, “We are excited to bring Chaitanya’s proven pedagogy to learners in Noida.

Personalised guidance, cutting-edge technology and a focus on conceptual clarity are at the core of our educational model, driven by our motto, ‘Baccha Seekha Ki Nah!’.

Establishing our first Academy in Noida represents an important step in our mission of shaping future-ready learners across the country.

### NHAI publishes updates on bidding for 55 projects

State-owned NHAI published details of 55 National Highways projects, spanning around 2,269 km with a combined capital cost of ₹1,19,359 crore for which bids have been invited on its website, an official statement said on Monday. The statement further said by proactively disclosing this information on the public platform to bidders and other stakeholders, NHAI aims to promote transparency in its project award process that will include public disclosure of approval and clearance related details. This initiative will ensure a level-playing field for all bidders and will help to enhance public private partnerships, more clarity in processes as well as lesser disputes and litigation, it added.

According to the statement, the project information will be updated every two weeks on the NHAI website, sharing approval and clearance details publicly. The information will help establish clear status of the project, leading to a realistic bidding and timely awarding of the projects, the statement said. It will also provide real-time access to upcoming opportunities and information on projects where bids have been invited, encouraging broader participation from the contractors and developers.



Assembly Speaker Thomas A. Sangma Inaugurates Meghalaya Pavilion at IITF 2025 in New Delhi

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e tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Selection of System Integrator (SI) for implementation of SAP S/4 HANA in Depots, Sale Offices and implementation of DMS & Integration with SAP S/4 HANA and Banks at Plant level, Depots and Sales Offices.	03 Years
2.	For Verka Mohali Dairy a) Cow lifting loader/sling. b) Providing Un-skilled, Skilled, Semi-skilled and High-skilled labour etc.	50 No's Annual
3.	For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy Hiring of transport vehicle for supply of panjiri, WMP, SMP, Ghee and other Milk products for various stations.	Annual/ Contract for 3MT, 6MT, 9MT, 12MT, 16 MT, 20 MT and 25 MT capacity for various stations
4.	For Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy Supply of Rice Husk	1200 MT
5.	For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) Hiring of Godown for storage of skimmed milk powder. b) Engaging labour contractor for outsourced jobs of packing, filling of milk and milk products i.e. SFM, Pio, WMP, SMP, Ghee, White Butter, Dahi, Lassi, Kheer, Paneer, Milk Cake, Panjiri and Shifting, loading & unloading of milk products, packing material & ingredients. c) Operation, repair & maintenance of pouch packing machines (milk, lassi, dahi and ghee) online coding machines, photo cell sensors and crate washers.	Annual Annual Annual
6.	For Cattle Feed Plant, Ghania-Ke-Banger Hiring of five Seater AC passenger car for the area of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Chandigarh and Haryana.	Annual/ 01 No.

**NOTE:**  
1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.  
2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

1018/12/2025-26/5055

General Manager (Purchase)

## IRFC to set up India’s first SCOT lab with precision healthcare

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

Indian Institute of Technology, Madras and Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC) have set up country's first Single Cell Omics Translational (SCOT) research laboratory, officials said on Monday.

Equipped with state-of-the-art instrumentation, the SCOT lab will facilitate early diagnosis, disease prognosis, biomarker discovery and drug screening across a spectrum of diseases — including cancer, cardiovascular, infectious, inflammatory, metabolic and other non-communicable diseases, they said.

IRFC is providing a CSR grant of ₹10.83 crore to establish this lab, which will be located in the Department of Medical Sciences and Technology (DMST) at IIT Madras. The facility is designed to accelerate research in single-cell biology, drug discovery, biomarker identification and



translational healthcare innovation. “Our collaboration with IRFC marks an important milestone in accelerating India’s journey in drug discovery and precision medicine.

The state-of-the-art SCOT Research Laboratory will greatly enhance our ability to develop solutions for India’s capabilities in early diagnostics, targeted therapeutics and next-generation health-

care innovation,” IIT Madras Director V Kamakoti said.

Looking forward to high-impact outcomes from the lab, Usha Venugopal, Member (Finance), Ministry of Railways, said the inauguration of the SCOT Research Lab is a welcome step towards building stronger capabilities in medical research.

“The support extended through IRFC’s CSR funding

will aid studies that have the potential to improve early diagnosis and develop better therapies.

This collaboration shows how institutions can work together for larger national goals. I am hopeful that the facility will contribute to knowledge, innovation and better health outcomes in the years ahead,” Venugopal said.



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at London's British Museum on Monday to sign a Letter of Intent to enable bringing Mahapursh Srimanta Sankardev's iconic Vrindavani Vastra to Assam.

### REC Shines at 7th edition of Future of Legal and Compliance Summit and Awards 2025

PIONEER NEWS SERVICER  
■ New Delhi

REC Limited, a Maharatna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, proudly emerged as a front-runner in legal and compliance excellence at the prestigious 7th Edition of the Future of Legal and Compliance Summit and Awards 2025, held on November 14, 2025.

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence in a progressive, tech-driven environment, REC secured top honours in three distinguished categories:



- Best Legal Technology Implementation of the Year.
  - Compliance Innovation of the Year.
  - Compliance Team of the Year.
- The accolades were received by REC's representatives, Dinesh Kaushik (GM), Rajeshwar Valaboju (DGM) and Chander Mohan Sharma (DGM), who accepted the awards on behalf of the organisation.
- These recognitions further strengthen REC's position as a thought leader in the legal and compliance domain, as the organisation continues to set new industry benchmarks through technology integration, strategic innovation and robust Governance frameworks.

## Assam’s promise: Government tribute and healing efforts for Zubeen Da



HIMADREE CHUTIA

My musical journey across genres continues every day, but today the melody carries a quieter note. Life after Zubeen Da, a man far more than a pop star to Assam, feels different and many of us are still learning to navigate that silence. His songs lived in weddings, protests, Bihu nights, heartbreaks and moments of healing, even in the familiar crackle of an old family radio.

His passing has touched people of all ages: children sensing the change, teenagers sharing memories online, adults revisiting the comfort his music once brought, and elders mourning a cultural anchor.

### A Cultural Wave That Continues

Zubeen Da's passing abroad triggered a landslide of emotion at home: thousands on the streets, candlelit vigils, playlists on loop and heartfelt tributes. For many, his music wasn't just something to listen to; it was something to live with. Losing him feels like losing a part of ourselves. The release of Roï Binalé, his final movie, on October 31 added another layer of emotion. The film broke box office records, with pre-dawn screenings from 4:25 am in Guwahati. Theatres became spaces of reflection and mourning, where audiences, family, friends and colleagues watched him alive, expressive and effortless on screen.

Grief and celebration intertwined as people wept, laughed and at times shouted “Joi Zubeen Da!”, a tribute to the joy and talent he shared with generations. I have yet to watch it myself; it seems it will take courage, knowing how my loved ones and colleagues have flocked to theatres every day since its release.

### Tributes and Blood-Donation Drive

Preparations for what would have been his 53rd birthday on November 18 have further united Assam. The



Chief Minister, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma announced a large-scale blood-donation drive, with camps at 53 locations across the state to symbolise Zubeen Garg's age.

Members of the BJP, AGP, BPF and UPPL will participate, alongside ministers joining in their districts. These initiatives, along with tribute programmes and memorial events, aspire to celebrate his life while bringing communities together.

### From Sorrow to Alarm: Mental-Health Concerns

Since Zubeen Da's passing, worrying patterns have emerged: extreme reactions among devoted fans, at least one attempted suicide, rumours and a fake post-mortem report circulating widely, which was immediately fact-checked by Assam Police and nonstop news cycles reopening emotional wounds. Experts warn that sudden loss can trigger anxiety, depressive symptoms, panic attacks, insomnia and unhealthy grief.

Children, teens and adults are vulnerable: children sense tension without fully understanding it; teens and young adults, tied emotionally to icons, are overwhelmed by heavy online mourning; adults and older listeners relive personal losses Zubeen Da's music once soothed. Those already struggling with mental-health vulnerabilities are at particular risk. Schools, colleges, local authorities and community groups are encouraged to provide safe spaces, structured gatherings and music-sharing circles.

## ‘Exempt life insurance from GST to enable insurers claim ITC’

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Mumbai

LIC Managing Director Ratnakar Patnaik on Monday pitched for exempting life insurance sector from Goods and Services Tax as it would help insurers claim input tax credit.

Patnaik also welcomed the Government's decision to eliminate the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on all individual life and health insurance premiums, effective September 22, 2025. “My small request will be...it is zero taxation. Can it be GST exempt? That will help us to have some input tax credit (ITC) in place,” Patnaik said, while speaking at CII Financing Summit here. In August, the GST Council resolved to cut GST to zero without putting it under the GST exempt category. Under the latter, companies like LIC can benefit by way of saving on operational costs through benefits on the ITC front.

Patnaik also appealed policymakers to consider excess holdings of Government securities and state development loans as infrastructure and housing investments, pointing out that Governments deploy the funds for the same purpose. At present, insurance companies have been able to take their investments in housing and infrastructure to just over 9 per cent as against the 15 per cent mandate, he said.

He also appealed to the Government for a review into the three-year-old policy of taxing maturity proceeds for policies with

premium of over ₹5 lakh. “It is time to upgrade or revise upwards to up to Rs 10 lakh, the maturity proceeds should be tax free, so that we can get some good policies and mop up good funds,” he said.

He affirmed LIC's support for investing in developmental purposes for the country through investments in corporate bonds and government securities.

Meanwhile, speaking at the same event, NSE's managing director and chief executive Ashishkumar Chauhan said the rules Governing foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have become too tough over the years and India is making such investors uncomfortable with the amount of information being sought.

“The amount of information we ask for is very very intrusive. Many of them do not want to give that information. And so, they are staying away,” Chauhan said. He also said that “we need to standardise the way to look at market volumes and shirk the tendency to present data in such a way that India is seen as the largest or biggest.”

“We think we are the largest market in derivatives, (but) we are by far not,” he said, adding that on premium terms, trading on stock options in the US alone is five-times more than India every month and sometimes the single scrip of Tesla does more.

“Once we have the right statistics, we will have the right policy coming out,” he said.



LIC managing director Ratnakar Patnaik



BRIEFLY

INDIA NEEDS GOOD COACHES OF FOOTBALL: LOTHAR



Only best coaches can produce good football players and India will need to bring in legends and former players of the game to train their coaches, says German football legend Lothar Matthaus.

Matthaus said India, the world's most populated country, cannot be in a situation where it does not play in the football World Cup while smaller countries like Cape Verde make it to the global event.

"You get good footballers only when they learn from the best coaches. India needs good coaches to produce better footballers," Matthaus, a member of Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning team, told the media here on Sunday. "A good teacher makes a good student. And when you have a bad teacher, or a bad professor, you don't get good students. To start, you bring the legends, ex-players and reputed coaches to India to teach your coaches. Then these coaches can help the new generation of players. You have to start this at the school level." Matthaus cited the example of Cape Verde, which will play in next year's World Cup despite having only a million people as their population.

PAIGE GRECO, PARALYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST, DIES AT 28



Australian cyclist Paige Greco, a Paralympic gold medalist, has died. She was 28.

A joint statement by the Australian Paralympic Committee and Australian cycling federation said that Greco "passed away in her Adelaide home after experiencing a sudden medical episode" on Sunday. "Paige meant everything to us," her mother Natalie Greco said. "Her kindness, her determination and her warmth touched our family every single day. She brought so much joy and pride into our lives, and the pain of her passing is something we will carry forever. "While we are devastated by her loss, we are incredibly proud of the person she was and the way she represented Australia."

Former Chelsea player Oscar discharged from hospital after heart scare

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Sao Paulo

Former Chelsea midfielder Oscar has been released from hospital, five days after being admitted with a heart issue.

Oscar's current club, Sao Paulo said in a statement that the player had been discharged on Sunday.

It added that extensive tests had revealed Oscar had "experienced an episode of vasovagal syncope," a common cause in fainting after a sudden drop in blood pressure or heart rate.

"Stable and clinically well throughout his hospital stay, the athlete will now follow a medical program of rest for the next few days," the statement continued.

Oscar was taken by ambulance to Einstein Hospital Israelita on Tuesday after collapsing during pre-season testing. He was reportedly unconscious for about two minutes and his club said at the time that he "presented a complication with cardiac changes."

The 34-year-old has a contract with Sao Paulo until 2027. He returned to his boyhood club on a free transfer last December after a long spell in China.

Lad, Thakur shines as Mumbai dominate in Ranji

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Mumbai

Siddhesh Lad's career-best 170 and skipper Shardul Thakur's three-wicket burst underlined Mumbai's domination as the hosts reduced Pondicherry to 43 for 4 after piling up 630/5 declared on Day Two of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D clash on Monday.

Thakur struck twice in first three balls and returned 3/17, following up on a minute-a-mile fifty earlier in the day as his side left Pondicherry staring at a mountain to climb. The visitors are trailing by 587 runs in the first innings.

Thakur cleaned up Neyan Kangayan (0) in the first ball of the innings and trapped Paras Ratnaparkhe (0) in the third, while having Anand Singh Bais (5) caught behind in a fiery spell with the new ball on a flat wicket here at the Wankhede Stadium.

Earlier, Lad struck his 13th first-class hundred, his third of the season and second on the trot to make 170 off 285 balls with 19 fours and four sixes as Mumbai made merry on a batting-friendly pitch against an insipid Pondicherry attack.

Akash Anand (107 not out) notched up his third FC ton in nine matches, but India batter Sarfaraz Khan missed out, falling for a 113-ball 67 (6x4s, 1x6s). Thakur smacked a characteristic 32-ball 56 with four sixes and three fours before retiring hurt. While putting on 160 runs for the fourth wicket with



Sarfaraz, Lad was in his elements, scoring runs on both sides of the wickets. Hitting two sixes each over long-on and long-off, he also pierced gaps at will to carve out a flawless innings.

Lad consolidated Mumbai's hold on the game as he added another 110 runs for the fifth wicket with Anand against an exhausted Pondicherry attack, who had each of their five bowlers including skipper Sagar Udeshi giving away more than 100 runs.

Sarfaraz took off his helmet and celebrated crossing the fifty-run mark like batters do

after making tons, but poked on one outside off to be caught behind, having batted well for his maiden half-century of the season.

Mumbai did not take the foot off the pedal as Anand and Thakur then tore apart a tiring Pondicherry attack, adding 100 runs off only 68 balls in their bid to bat out the rivals.

Thakur was severe on anything short and wide while smacking powerful sixes on the leg side. Anand cracked eight fours to make 107 not out off 122 balls.

Anand said there is enough in the Wankhede track for the

bowlers provided they were able to make the effort, while praising Pondicherry spinners for their efforts.

"There is enough help for everyone, for pacers and even for spinners. If you bat well, you have value for strokes also. It's a wicket where if you bend your back as a bowler, you have help throughout the day. That is what we aim to do," he told media.

In Jammu, hosts Jammu and Kashmir took complete control of the clash against Hyderabad by extending their overall lead to 324 runs.

J&K were 275 for four when stumps were drawn with

opener Qamran Iqbal (50), Abdul Samad (77 not out) and Kanhaiya Wadhwan (82 not out) hitting their half-centuries.

Having taken 49-run lead on the first day where 16 wickets fell, J&K produced a tidy effort with the bat to gain complete control of the game against Hyderabad who have not lost a game so far this season.

Hosts Rajasthan were bolstered by centuries from Mahipal Lomror (128 not out) and Kartik Sharma (120) on the second day after Sachin Yadav (130) and Kunal Singh Rathore (102) hit triple figure

scores on Day One, to reach 570/7 declared against Delhi. Delhi were 8 for no loss when stumps were drawn, trailing by a massive 562 runs.

At the Amtar Cricket Ground in Nadaun, Himachal Pradesh were 37/1 after Chhattisgarh declared their first innings at a massive score of 585 for six, following centuries from Anuj Tiwary (162), Amandeep Khare (101 not out), Mayank Verma (112) and Sanjeet Desai's 84.

**Brief Scores:**

**At Mumbai:** 630/5 in 147 overs (Musheer Khan 84, Akhil Herwadkar 86, Siddhesh Lad 170, Sarfaraz Khan 67, Akash Anand 107 not out, Shardul Thakur 56 ret'd hurt; Sabhay Chadha 2/146) lead Pondicherry 43/4 in 12 overs (Mohit Kale 13 not out; Shardul Thakur 3/17, Tushar Deshpande 1/7) by 587 runs.

**At Jammu:** Jammu and Kashmir 170 & 275/4 in 71 overs (Qamran Iqbal 50, Abdul Samad Samad 77 not out, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 82 not out; Rakshan Readdi 2/56) lead Hyderabad 121 by 324 runs.

**At Rajasamand:** Rajasthan 570/7d in 161 overs (Sachin Yadav 130, Kunal Singh Rathore 102, Mahipal Lomror, Kartik Sharma 120; Simarjeet Singh 3/81) lead Delhi 8/0 in 4 overs by 562 runs.

**At Nadaun:** Chhattisgarh 585/6d in 158 overs (Ayush Pandey 59, Anuj Tiwary 162, Sanjeet Desai 84, Mayank Verma 112; Mayank Dagar 2/124) lead Himachal Pradesh 37/1 in 11 overs by 548 runs.

Reddy's maiden ton boosts Andhra against Jharkhand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Jamshedpur

Opener Abhishek Reddy weathered a potent Jharkhand bowling attack by scoring a timely unbeaten century as Andhra made a strong bid to overhaul the hosts' first-innings total on day two of the Ranji Trophy Group A match on Monday.

Jharkhand, whose innings folded up at 328 in 112.3 overs early during the day, saw themselves sweating and grimacing at stumps after 31-year-old Reddy struck his maiden century (103 not out off 156 balls) to guide Andhra to 224 for 2.

Andhra need just 104 runs to take the first-innings lead with eight wickets still intact.

Reddy, who has struck back-to-back half-centuries against Odisha and Tamil Nadu this season, came up with a valuable century



knock just when his team needed stability at the top against a side that has emerged triumphant on the back of some brilliant bowling from Sahil Raj and Rishi Raj.

Reddy, who started his domestic career with Karnataka way back in 2015, took almost a decade to

score his maiden century.

He shared a 94-run stand for the opening wicket with India Test keeper-batter Srikar Bharat (51) before batting stoutly with Shaik Rasheed (58) for a 122-run stand for the second wicket to put Andhra in a strong position.

Relying heavily on his

ground strokes, Reddy struck 11 boundaries and just one maximum as Andhra made a strong bid to dislodge Jharkhand from the No.2 spot on the points table.

While Jharkhand are on 16 points after four games, Andhra are third with 14 points.

At stumps, young spin all-rounder Tripurana Vijay (6 not out) was giving Reddy company.

The morning session didn't bring huge cheers for Jharkhand with their last-four wickets falling for the addition of just 69 runs. Overnight batter Sahil Raj laboured to 50 (86 balls) as he added 43 runs on the second day before he was the last player to be dismissed.

Andhra's veteran pacer KV Sasikanth (4/67) and left-arm spinner Saurab Kumar (4/77) did well to restrict their opponents.

India finishes third in shooting championships



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Cairo

Olympian Gurpreet Singh came agonisingly close to becoming the world champion in men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol event but eventually got a silver after losing on inner 10s to Ukraine's Pavlo Korostylov at the Olympic Shooting Range here.

This was Gurpreet's second individual medal in the World Championships, the first also being a silver won back in 2018 at Changwon in the 25m Standard Pistol event. Yann Pierre Louis Fridrici of France won the bronze here.

India thus ended their World Championship campaign in third place with a total of 13 medals, including three gold, six silver and two bronze behind China. The Chinese team mustered 12 gold, seven silver and two bronze.

South Korea secured seven gold, three silver and four bronze medals to end third in

the overall standings.

Gurpreet shot a total of 584-18x over two days of competition in the precision and rapid stages, while Korostylov shot 29 inner 10s and a perfect score of 100 in the final rapid round to edge away with the gold medal.

The Indian shooter, who was placed ninth after the precision stage with a score of 288-8x (95.97.96), bounced back on the second day to shoot a brilliant score of 296-10x (98.99.99) in the rapid stage to clinch the silver medal.

The Ukrainian, who was leading after the precision stage with a score of 291-14x, shot 293-15x in the rapid stage to level Gurpreet's score and win the gold on inner 10s.

Harpreet Singh, who was in contention for a medal after the precision stage with a score of 291-10x that placed him second, could only manage 286-6x in the rapid stage which saw him eventually finish in ninth place.

Smaran hits double ton to put Karnataka in driver's seat

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Hubli (Karnataka)

Promising Ravichandran Smaran hit an unbeaten 227 and was being supported well by the lower-order to put Karnataka in the driver's seat on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Group B match against Chandigarh on Monday.

Resuming at the overnight personal score of 110 with Karnataka at 298 for 5, Smaran stitched crucial partnerships with Shreyas Gopal (62), Vidyadhar Patel (30) and Shikahr Shetty



(59) as Karnataka declared at a mammoth 547 for 8 in 160 overs.

Smaran first stitched 141 runs for the sixth wicket Gopal and then shared unconquered 120 with Patel to take Karnataka to the imposing total.

Smaran decorated his 362-ball knock with 16 boundaries and two hits over the fence.

For Chandigarh, medium pacer Jagjit Singh (2/70), off-spinner Vishu Kashyap (2/141) and left-arm spinner Nishunk Birla (2/159) shared six wickets between them.

At stumps on the second day, Chandigarh were struggling at 72 for 4 in reply to Karnataka's mammoth score.

Opener Arjun Azad made 32. At the close of play, skipper Manan Vohra was batting on 14.

Leg-spinner Gopal was the pick of the bowlers for Karnataka with figures of 3 for 18. Maharashtra enjoy slight upperhand over Punjab

In Chandigarh, Punjab finished the second day at 125 for 4 in reply to Maharashtra's 350 all out.

Sinner beats Alcaraz to retain ATP Finals title before his home fans

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Turin

The final installment of the "Sincaraz" rivalry for 2025 went to Jannik Sinner.

The second-ranked Sinner beat top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz 7-6 (4), 7-5 for the ATP Finals trophy on Sunday in the sixth meeting this year between the two players who are dominating men's tennis.

Sinner defended the title before his home Italian fans for only his second victory over Alcaraz this year after also beating the Spaniard in the Wimbledon final.

"It was an incredible season," Sinner said. "To finish it this way, before my Italian fans, is very special for me."

Alcaraz had already

secured the year-ending No. 1 ranking and was contesting his first final at the event for the year's top eight players.

Alcaraz still leads his career meetings with Sinner, 10-6.

Sinner and Alcaraz have met in the last three Grand Slam finals. Alcaraz beat Sinner in a fifth-set tiebreaker to win the French Open; Sinner gained a measure of revenge at Wimbledon; then Alcaraz again came out on top at the U.S. Open.

They also clashed this year in the Italian Open final (won by Alcaraz) and the Cincinnati Open final (won by Alcaraz when Sinner retired due to illness).

"I hope you are going to be ready for next year because I will be ready to hopefully play more finals against you,"

Alcaraz said during the trophy ceremony.

To which Sinner added that he hopes they have "great, great battles ahead of us."

Sinner also won the Australian Open — beating Alexander Zverev in the final — so he and Alcaraz each won two majors this year.

In all, Alcaraz has won six majors and Sinner has won four.

St. SinnerAlready early in the first set, the pro-Sinner crowd chanted its customary "Ole, Ole, Ole, Ole; Sin-ner, Sin-ner."

One fan even held up an image of Sinner depicted as a saint.

Sinner saved a set point at 5-6 in the tight first set with a big second serve that Alcaraz couldn't return. Then



the Italian took control of the tiebreaker by running down a drop shot and responding with a lob that led to an over-head put away.

"I'm extremely happy with how I handled the situation," Sinner said of saving the set point.

Added Alcaraz, "He came

up with a second serve 185-190 kph (115-118 mph) that surprised me."

Alcaraz's thighAlcaraz had his right thigh treated by a

trainer on two occasions — and got it wrapped after the first set.

"Didn't affect me too much, to be honest, because I could run well," Alcaraz said. Alcaraz broke Sinner's serve in the opening game of the second set but Sinner then evened it at 3-3.

Sinner then got the crowd going again in the next game when he won a long rally and held his finger to his ear — signaling for more noise inside the Inalpi Arena.

Sinner broke Alcaraz again to close it out when the Spaniard missed a backhand wide — then fell down to the court on his back in relief.

"It was a huge emotion," said Sinner, who was banned for three months earlier in the year after settling a doping case.