

UPNL workers continue protest at Parade Ground

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Workers of the Uttarakhand Purva Sainik Kalyan Nigam Limited (UPNL) continued their protest on the second day at Parade Ground here on Tuesday, expressing their frustration over unresolved long-standing demands. They have warned that failure to address their concerns promptly will lead to an escalation of their protests. The workers have been advocating for the regularisation of their employment and equal pay for equal work for an extended period. However, the State government has not yet acted on these issues, raising significant concerns among the workers. In response, UPNL workers from across the State have gathered at the Parade Ground to voice their grievances.



Talking to The Pioneer, the officiating president of the UPNL federation of employees Mahesh Bhatt said that workers throughout the State employed through UPNL began protesting at Parade Ground on Monday. He said that the demonstration continued on Tuesday. Bhatt said that the employees have long been advocating for the regularisation of their services along with equal pay for equal work. He also pointed out that in 2018, the court issued a directive emphasising the principle of "equal pay for equal work". The chief minister had earlier assured UPNL workers that their demands would be addressed. However, Bhatt said that no action has been taken on this matter thus far. He said that on Tuesday, ap-

proximately 2,500 to 3,000 UPNL workers participated in a protest, urging the authorities to meet their demands. He emphasised that the government should promptly act on their requests, recognising that the workers' ongoing boycott has resulted in a lack of productivity in their respective

District hospital workers skip protest due to communication gap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

A lack of communication prevented employees of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya District Hospital, who are employed under the Uttarakhand Purva Sainik Kalyan Nigam Limited (UPNL), from joining the strike of UPNL workers on Tuesday. Nonetheless, the district hospital officials state that they are prepared to manage any potential disruptions should the UPNL workers decide to boycott work in the future. UPNL employees began their protests on Monday, halting work in response to longstanding demands that have yet to be addressed, and this protest continued into Tuesday. Many workers at the district hospital are employed under UPNL; however, they did not participate in the boycott.

Officials informed that workers across the State employed by UPNL began protesting at Parade Ground on Monday. However, the workers at the district hospital did not participate in

the strike on Monday or Tuesday. This absence from the demonstration has been attributed to a lack of communication; the said employees at the hospital were not informed about the protest activity. Office bearers of the UPNL workers federation said that they have now received information that they will be getting a letter regarding the protest, after which the UPNL workers at the district hospital will join the protest.

In this regard, the officiating president of the UPNL federation of employees, Mahesh Bhatt said that the district hospital workers were not informed about the ongoing protest at Parade Ground. He stated that they instructed their representatives to in-

form all departments about the protest before it commenced. However, it seems that the district hospital workers did not receive this information, which led to their absence from the protests on Monday and Tuesday. Now that the information has been officially communicated, these workers are expected to participate in the protests soon.

District hospital PRO Pramod Panwar said that the hospital's functioning will not be hindered if the UPNL employees at the district hospital go on strike in the future. They have made all necessary arrangements, and the hospital has enough staff to manage any absences of the protesting workers.

Neelam's Homestay: A path to self-reliance with government support

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Neelam's homestay, a case of self-reliance shows how the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Homestay Scheme helped Neelam Chauhan from Chakrata in Dehradun district begin a new journey. Neelam earns about Rs 25-30 lakh every year through her homestay business. The Dehradun district tourism officer Vrijendra Pandey said that Chauhan, a resident of Gram Paati in Chakrata block, started her homestay in 2022-23 after receiving Rs 15 lakh assistance under the Tourism department's Pandit

Deendayal Upadhyay Homestay Scheme. She developed Harul-E-Boutique Homestay, built in traditional mountain style, which has been drawing tourists and increasing local tourism. Pandey said that the property has six buildings and a dining hall, giving visitors access to views of Chakrata's hills, including Tiger Falls, Deoban and the Bandarpunch peaks. Guests also get local meals such as mandua roti, gahat soup and jhangora kheer. She runs the homestay while offering em-

ployment to seven residents of the village. According to her, government schemes have created an opportunity for women to engage in self-employment and the recognition recently given to her by chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami as the best homestay operator during the State's silver jubilee year boosted her confidence, Pandey said. Pandey said that Chauhan's work reflects growing participation from rural households in tourism and inspires others to follow a similar path.

Mahapanchayat urges government to promote winter pilgrimage, improve facilities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Uttarakhand Char Dham Teerth Purohit Mahapanchayat has asked the State government to promote the winter pilgrimage and develop basic facilities at winter worship sites, along with publicity for nearby pilgrimage locations. The Mahapanchayat also urged the government to separate pilgrimage activities from tourism. The Mahapanchayat also demanded the removal of liquor and meat shops along the Char Dham route. A delegation led by Mahapanchayat chairperson Suresh Senwal met the Tourism secretary Dhiraaj Singh Garbaly at the secretariat on Tuesday and proposed measures to increase visitor numbers at winter pilgrimage sites. They submitted an eight-point memorandum which included a proposal for live broadcast of evening Arti from winter pilgrimage sites. The memorandum also called for organising festivals at all four Dham and promoting nearby religious sites during winter. The delegation also demanded restrictions on pilgrims trekking to Chandrashila from Tungnath. The Mahapanchayat sought adequate snow cutter machines to ensure uninterrupted movement on routes during

snowfall. It further recommended encouraging local villagers to run homestays and extend the benefits of government schemes to them. The Mahapanchayat general secretary Brijesh Sati said that the memorandum was sent to the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. He stated that the State government's efforts to promote winter worship sites are welcome and assured support from local residents.

It is pertinent to mention here that the State government has been talking about working to increase the number of pilgrims during the winter Char Dham since last year. However, Mahapanchayat wants the government to promote winter Char Dham extensively across the country and provide required facilities at the pilgrimages to ensure pilgrims face minimum inconvenience during their journey.

UPES Energy Summit 2025 charts the course towards decarbonised future

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The fourth edition of the UPES Energy Summit commenced on Tuesday at UPES Dehradun campus, launching a two-day programme that hosts the International Conference on Sustainable and Affordable Energy (ICSAE 2025) in hybrid mode, sponsored by the

shaping the future of nations, the summit has evolved into a platform for energy experts, researchers, policymakers and innovators to deliberate on global energy challenges and explore sustainable pathways forward, they further said.

Across the inaugural sessions, delegates set the agenda for evidence-led action on reliability, affordability and decarbonisation, with nearly 200 research papers presented across the conference, covering energy generation, storage, transportation and utilisation.

The deputy director-general, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), Abu Dhabi, UAE, Gauri Singh was present as the chief guest.

Underlining the summit's commitment to nurturing future talent, more than 100 school students are participating through model and poster presentations on Sustainable

and Affordable Energy, engaging directly with scientists, industry leaders and policymakers to translate ideas into impact. Commenting on the opening day, the vice-chancellor, UPES, Ram Sharma said that with energy security being a defining pillar of India's progress in this decisive decade, UPES was bringing research, policy, and industry into the same room so young people can learn directly from practitioners and shape what comes next. "We want to support responsible growth that strikes the right balance between infrastructural development and the environment," he added. With Uttarakhand's abundant sunshine and rich forest biomass providing distinctive regional advantages, Energy Summit 2025 is spotlighting responsible, locally-anchored solutions that can strengthen national energy security, while ensuring affordability and environmental balance for generations to come, the organisers said.



Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF). Curated by the UPES Energy Cluster since 2022, the summit has become a leading arena for experts, researchers, policymakers and innovators to confront pressing energy issues and advance workable, sustainable solutions, senior officials of the university said. With energy security standing second only to food security in

OMS scheme reintroduced for price stabilisation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Government of India has reintroduced the Open Market Sales scheme (Domestic) from the month of November this year. The sale under this scheme is being implemented to intervene in the market for price stabilisation of wheat/Ata. The FCI, Uttarakhand region, in its e-auction dated November 7, 2025, has offered 3500 MT of wheat (of all crop year) under OMS (from seven centres)/OMS

tions spread across the State. Under the scheme, Wheat would be sold @ Rs 2550 per quintal for wheat of all crop years (plus transportation charges and applicable taxes). The e-auction would be conducted on the m-junction platform weekly. Officials said that the intent of the scheme is that the benefit of open sale in terms of assured supply of wheat at a reasonable price to the processors of wheat /flour

millers/ manufacturers of wheat products should be passed on to the consumers. For detailed information, MTF for the OMS is available at M-Junction Website https://www.valuejunction.in/fci under the tab "Present Auctions". Interested buyers are requested to empanel themselves by visiting M-junction website or get in touch with the help desk at 1800 102 7136.

SGRR University off-campus to start soon in Kotdwar: Speaker

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Vidhan Sabha speaker Ritu Khanduri Bhushan announced on Tuesday that Shri Guru Ram Rai University off-campus is going to start soon in Kotdwar. Earlier, she met the president of Shri Guru Ram Rai University, Mahant Devendra Das. He mentioned the fact that the university had already established a Paramedical and Nursing College in Kotdwar, providing opportunities for higher studies to students from Kotdwar and nearby areas at her initiative.

She expressed gratitude to Das for opening these institu-

tions in Kotdwar dedicated to higher studies in nursing and paramedical sciences. During the meeting, both discussed various contemporary issues related to Uttarakhand in detail. It was also shared that considering the number of mentally challenged children in and around Kotdwar, a special medical campaign would be launched by the joint team of the Psychiatry and Community Medicine Departments of Shri Guru Ram Rai University. In the first phase, data collection, analysis of causes and diagnosis of mental disorders will be car-

ried out while in the second phase, specialist psychiatrists will provide treatment to these children. Besides, in the near future, with the support of Shri Guru Ram Rai University, Shri Mahant Indresh Hospital will organise a cancer awareness and free health screening camp in Kotdwar region. Das apprised the speaker of the public welfare activities being carried out by SGRR University, Shri Guru Ram Rai Institute of Medical and Health Sciences, Shri Mahant Indresh Hospital and Shri Guru Ram Rai Education Mission.

Doon boy wins gold in Karate championship

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Dehradun resident 10-year-old Kriyaansh Kaushik won a gold medal in the sub-junior category at the fifth North India Zone Karate Championship held recently at Talka-

tora Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. Earlier this year, Kaushik also clinched gold at the Uttarakhand State Karate Championship and went on to represent the State at the fourth

KIO National Karate Championship. Additionally, he represented India at the South Asian Karate Championship 2025 held in Sri Lanka, where he secured a bronze medal.

SVU organises seminar on 'Developed India through Educated India'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

A seminar was organised on the topic 'Educated India a harbinger of a Developed India' to mark the National Education Day-2025 at Shri Venkateshwara University on Tuesday. Notably, the birth anniversary of India's first Education Min-

ister and freedom fighter, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is observed as the National Education Day. The speakers spoke volume of his contribution to reforming the country's education system, post-independence.



Addressing the gathering, the chairman of the Venkateshwara group of institutions, Sudhir Giri said that education is not just

added. Litterateur and educationist Madhu Chaturvedi said in her address that the vision of a developed India could only be realised through an educated India. Noted litterateur, poet and educationist from Bareilly, Rahul Awasthi said that education, devoid of the values, traditions and patriotism, is meaningless.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
ANSARI NAGAR NEW DELHI- 110029
EXAMINATION SECTION
ADMISSION NOTICE NO.329/2025
F.No./AIIMS/E.S./34-95/25/DHR-SRET 2025 30.10.2025
DHR-Biomedical Research Eligibility Test (DHR-BRET-2025)
The DHR Biomedical Research Eligibility Test (DHR-BRET-2025) will be conducted by the Examination Section, AIIMS New Delhi. The online application for DHR-BRET-2025 will be started from 01st November 2025 to 21st November 2025 (upto 05:00PM). Detailed Schedule is as follows
Online Registration of applications Start Date Closing Date
Online Registration of applications 01.11.2025 21.11.2025 (by 5:00pm)
Status of Registration and last date of correction of rejected Images/Incorrect registration details 24.11.2025 26.11.2025 (by 5:00pm)
uploading of admit card on AIIMS website 01st December, 2025 (Monday)
Date of Examination 07th December, 2025 (Sunday)
Please visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in regularly for all the latest updates and detailed information
CBC 17112/12/0049/2526 ASSTT. CONTROLLER (EXAMS)

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पत्रांक-823 / सागनियोज / नगनियोज / देहरादून / 2025-26 दिनांक 11.11.2025
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नगर निगम देहरादून क्षेत्रान्तर्गत निर्मित निम्न पार्कों के रख-रखाव व संचालन हेतु दक्ष अनुभवी फर्मी / ठेकेदारों (राज्य अथवा केन्द्र सरकार के शासकीय / अर्द्धशासकीय विभाग में पंजीकृत / एन०जी०ओ० व अन्य संस्था जिनको होटैरिक्लवर व पार्क रख रखाव व संचालन का देहरादून व राज्य अंतर्गत अन्य स्थानों का अनुभव हो, की अभिय्यक्ति की अभिरुचि EOI दि० 24.11.2025 को अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है :-
1) यमुना कालोनी में स्थित पार्क (सामुदायिक केन्द्र के सामने), 2) केदारपुरम योगा पार्क, 3) रजत जयंती पार्क, निकट आई०टी० पार्क पॉलीटेक्निक रोड, 4) इंदिरा नगर पार्क (निकट श्री चौतन्य पब्लिक स्कूल), 5) राजीव पार्क, ए-क्लाक नेहरू कालोनी।
सम्बन्धित कार्य में दक्ष फर्मी को इस हेतु प्राथमिकता दी जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अन्य शर्तों की जानकारी नगर निगम की वेबसाईट www.nagamrigamdehradun.com से डाउनलोड कर सकते है। अभिय्यक्ति की अभिरुचि EOI आमन्त्रण की तिथि पर अवकाश होने पर अगली तिथि पर निविदा की जायेगी। निविदा शुल्क एवं घोरेहर धनराशि वरिष्ठ वित्त अधिकारी, नगर निगम देहरादून के नाम प्लेज करना होगा। निविदा निर्माण अनुभाग में स्वयं अथवा डाक / स्पीड पोस्ट से भेजी जा सकती है। डाक व्यवस्था से हुए विलम्ब हेतु नगर निगम उत्तरदायी नहीं होगा।
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भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण
(सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय)
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National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) invites applications for following positions on contract basis:-
Name of the post No. of posts
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Advisor (Technical) - Design Cell
संयुक्त सलाहकार (तकनीकी) - डिजाइन सेल 01
Joint Advisor (Technical) - Design Cell
सलाहकार (आरक्षकी) 01
Advisor (ROB)
संयुक्त सलाहकार (आरक्षकी) 03
Joint Advisor (ROB)
2. पात्रता मानदंड और अन्य शर्तें भा.रा.रा.प्र. की वेबसाइट www.nhai.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
Eligibility criteria and other conditions may be seen on NHAI's website www.nhai.gov.in
3. आवेदन जमा करना: इच्छुक और पात्र उम्मीदवार अपने आवेदन 11.12.2025 (साय 06:00 बजे तक) भा.रा.रा.प्र. की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध लिंक के माध्यम से केवल ऑनलाइन जमा करें।
Submission of Applications: Application are to be submitted online only. Eligible candidates may apply online on the link provided on the website of NHAI by 11.12.2025 (upto 06:00 PM).
4. इस विज्ञापन के संबंध में शुद्धिपत्र / अनुरोध / निरस्तीकरण, यदि कोई होगा तो, उसे केवल भा.रा.रा.प्र. की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।
Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation to this advertisement, if any, shall be published on NHAI website only.
सड़कें ही नहीं, राष्ट्र का निर्माण भी

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In my Army Record my daughter name mistakenly recorded as Vrinda whereas her correct name is Vrinda Thapa as mentioned in other all documents. I, Army No. 5453750H, Name- Yam Bahadur, Rank EX L/NK, R/o- FRI, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. I want to changed my daughter correct name in my Army Record vide affidavit dated 11.11.2025 before Dehradun Court.
In my Husband army record my name mistakenly recorded as MAMTA DEVI where as my correct name is MAMTA DEVI MANNASE as mentioned in other all documents. Army no 14445740L Rank HAV (DRESSER) Name SANTOSH, UNI 23(1) R&O - C/o 56 APO R/o 277, PH.No. 2 JEEN, JEEN GRAM, PO JEEN DIST-BETUL, MADHYA PRADESH. I have changed my correct name in my husband army record vide IN-UK31151633313805x Affidavit 05.11.2025 before Dehradun.

In my service record my mother's name by mistake recorded as Sardha Bai correct name is Shradha Bai Lodhi it should be updated Army No 18001320W Rank Hav Durgesh kumar Records BEG Roorkee.
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U'khand steps up surveillance following blast in Delhi

Election Commission starts preparation for SIR in U'khand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

All wings of Uttarakhand Police are active in all districts and border areas after the blast near Red Fort in Delhi late on Monday. The additional director general of police (law and order) V Murugesan said that since the director general of police Deepam Seth announced a high alert on Monday night,

ing searches at international and inter-district borders, airports, airstrips, Air Force stations, helipads, aviation training institutes, hotels, dharamshalas, railway stations, bus stands, markets and other crowded locations with the help of bomb disposal squads and dog squads. He said that the respective police wings are

ures are precautionary and that people do not need to panic. Besides this, the ADG held a meeting with senior police officers of Uttarakhand on Tuesday through video conferencing to review crime and law and order across Garhwal and Kumaon ranges. During the review, officers assessed ongoing actions to maintain law

blast, he ordered intensive checking in all districts as per instructions from the Union government and police headquarters. He instructed district police heads to personally review pending investigations and ensure timely disposal. Officers were told to achieve full detection and recovery in theft and robbery cases. Police must review vehicle theft and snatching incidents received through Dial112 and take action. The ADG said that the superintendent of police (telecommunications) will collect and submit monthly district-wise reports on street crime. Districts with higher Dial-112 response time will re-organise resources to bring response time to the State average. Murugesan also said that officers must inspect serious crime and property-related crime scenes using the all-purpose crime scene investigation kit with drug detection kit and review such inspections regularly. He directed officials to ensure effective use of the central government portals to support scientific investigation and to update investigating officers. Nodal officers will review progress from time to time, he added.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Election Commission has started the preparations for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Uttarakhand. The State's chief electoral officer (CEO) BVRC Purushottam held a virtual meeting with the district magistrates of Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar and Nainital on Tuesday. In the meeting discussions on preparations for SIR and appointment of booth level agents (BLA) were held. The CEO directed all the districts to start a special campaign to match the names of the voters in the voter list of 2003 with the present voter list for preparations for the SIR. He said that the BLOs should personally contact the voters who have shifted to other places and do their category mapping. The CEO averred that the objective of the preparations is ensure that the voters do not face any inconvenience during the SIR.

In the meeting, the CEO directed the DMs to convene another meeting with the representatives of the political parties for 100 per cent appointment of BLAs.

He said that the Election Commission of India has given a facility 'Book a call with BLO' in the ECI-Net App for the voters with the help of which they can book a call with the BLO concerned.

The meeting was also attended by joint CEO Prakash Chandra, deputy DEO Dehradun, Abhinav Shah, deputy DEO Haridwar Fincharam, deputy CEO Kishan Singh Negi, assistant CEO Mastu Das and others. The DMs of Haridwar, Dehradun, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar at-



tended the meeting in a virtual mode.



police in all districts are doing random spot checking at vulnerable places like railway stations, bus stations and border locations. Police are conduct-

coordinating with police and agencies concerned of neighbouring states to ensure safety and security near borders. Murugesan said that these meas-

and order and strengthen crime control. Murugesan directed officers to work in a coordinated and sensitive manner. Following the Delhi

Special security drive conducted in Badrinath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jyotirmath

A joint security drive was conducted in Badrinath as part of the high alert issued in the State following the blast in Delhi. The 7th Assam Regiment, Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee, Police and State Disaster Response Force conducted the security checks jointly in the pilgrimage township on Tuesday. The authorities conducted checks in the Badrinath temple compound, Taptkund, Ghats and other public places. According to officials, special focus was laid on tackling any possible emergency situation, ensuring the safety of pilgrims and strengthening the quick response system. Chamoli superintendent of police Surjit Singh Panwar informed that the police is con-



ducting a special checking and security drill with the purpose of further strengthening the security arrangements in the district.

SEC issues notification for by-election for vacant Panchayat posts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The State Election Commission (SEC) issued the notification for the by-election to fill the vacant seats in the three tier Panchayati Raj bodies in 12 districts of the State on Tuesday. The candidates can submit their nomination papers for the vacant posts of member village Panchayats, Pradhan village Panchayats and member block Panchayats at the respective office of the block Panchayat while that of member district Panchayats at district headquarters concerned. The by-election is being necessitated to fill the vacant posts in the three tier Panchayati Raj bodies in 12 districts of the State- all the districts barring Haridwar. The elections for these bod-

ies were held in July this year. The data of the SEC shows that 33,468 posts of Gram Panchayat member are still vacant due to which 4,772 duly elected Pradhans of the village Panchayats have failed to take oath of office and secrecy. As per the law, these Pradhans will be able to take oath only when the vacant posts of the Gram Panchayat members are filled. The voting to elect 55,587 Gram Panchayat members, 7,499 Gram Pradhans, 2,974 members of block Panchayat and 358 members of the district Panchayat in 12 districts of the State was held in two phases on July 24 and 28 in the 12 districts of the State.

CM directs officers to act promptly to solve public complaints

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami listened to the public grievances at a Janata Milan programme organised at his camp office on Tuesday. Large number of

apart from taking action, the officers should take regular feedback on the public complaints. The CM said that such programmes help in bringing administration close to the

adopt an active and sensitive behaviour as per the aspirations of the general public. The CM directed the officers that they should dispose of the public grievances promptly and the process of grievance redressal should be made easy, transparent and accessible. Dhami said that the silver jubilee year of the foundation of the State is an opportunity for public participation and dialogue. He averred that the public demands and their suggestions will be made part of the policy planning process in the State. He said that the government intends to ensure that every citizen of the State receives direct benefit of the development schemes. The CM exhorted the general public to provide constructive suggestions and take part in the efforts of the government in service of the people. The objective of every policy and decision of the government is the public interest and all round development of the State, he said.



people from different parts of the State attended the programme.

After hearing the grievances, the CM directed the officers to act promptly on the public grievances. He said that

general public. Dhami said that the objective of the government is time-bound and satisfactory disposal of the problems of the people. He said that every department should work responsibly and

UP man found dead in rented room in Mussoorie

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

A man was found dead in his rented room at Mussoorie in Dehradun district on Tuesday. The 36-year-old, originally from Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh, had reportedly not stepped out of his room for two days. The officials informed that neighbours grew concerned when they did not see him outside and informed the landlord. When the room was opened, the man was found lying dead on his bed. Locals then informed the police. The officials stated that a police team reached the spot after getting information, took the body into custody and sent it to the sub-district hospital for post-mortem. They said that the police

did not recover any note or suspicious material from the room. They stated that the room was sealed immediately after police reached the spot and a forensic team was called for examination. They claimed that the cause of death is not yet known and the police are investigating the case. The officials informed that the man reportedly worked as a daily wageer as per the locals. Police are trying to get more information about the deceased like his proper name and address to contact the man's family for further details, they added. They said that the police will be able to shed some light on how he died after the post mortem report.

CS directs departments to prepare agenda for Central Zonal Council meeting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Chief secretary Anand Bardhan chaired a review meeting held at the State secretariat to prepare the agenda of the State for the upcoming meeting of Central Zonal Council (CZC). The CS directed all such departments which have not yet sent the agenda of the cases to be presented to the standing committee of the CZC to immediately prepare and submit their agenda. The agenda in the meeting will be presented by the departments on behalf of the State in the next meeting of the CZC. He directed that the agenda should contain a clear and concise description of all aspects including the level of cooperation or amendments required from

the government of India. Bardhan directed the Social Welfare department to prepare a request for correction of the spelling of the word Jaunsari/ Jansari in the portal of the Ministry of Scheduled Tribes. He also directed that legal assistance should be sought if legislative amendment is needed in the case. He also directed the Social Welfare department to prepare an agenda for the establishment of an Eklavya Model school for the Bhotia and Raji tribes in Pithoragarh district and an increase in the pensions under the social security schemes. In the meeting, the CS directed the Rural Development department to pre-



pare a request to consider creating an alternative for the socio economic and caste census (SECC) so that action can be taken easily regarding social security schemes.

He directed the Disaster Management, Power, Peyjal and Irrigation departments to prepare an agenda for increasing the compensation amount for the assets damaged by the disaster. The CS

said that the Transport department should prepare a request for the extension Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) from Modinagar in Meerut (Uttar Pradesh) to Haridwar and also to prepare an agenda mentioning the provision for road construction in the Tanakpur-Bageshwar and Rishikesh-Uttarkashi rail projects. He asked the Agriculture department to prepare an agenda regarding the matter related to Mandi fee. Secretaries Sachin Kurve, Vinod Kumar Suman, BVRC Purushottam, Brijesh Sant and other officers attended the meeting.

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, Ashirwad Tower, Model Colony, Near Ranipur Mor, Haridwar-249407, Branch Office: 1st Floor, B-20, Awas vikas,Delhi road,Saharanpur- 247001, Branch Office: 3rd Floor, Shop no. 21/42, Rajpur Road-2, Near Cross Road Mall, Dehradun UK- 248001, Branch Office: 66/1, Opposite Shikha Petrol Pump, Purvawali, Dehradun Road, Roorkee, Uttarakhand- 247667, Branch Office: First Floor, Khasra No. 110/1 & 110/2 Mauza Kanwali, R.D Tower, GMS Road, Pargana Central Doon, Dehradun- 248001, Branch Office: Plot No. 16/1 & 17/1, Ward No. 13, Shop No. 9, 2nd Floor, SGAD Complex, Nainital Road, Rudrapur-263153.				
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.	Ankur Singhal (Borrower), Sharad Kumar (Co-Borrower), Sulekha Singhal (Co-Borrower), LHSAH00001597004.	- A Residential House On Mpl No.986 Situated At Moh Choudhariyan Kasba Jhabareda Ander Hadud Nagar Panchayat Jhabareda Pargana Manglar Tehsil Roorkee Distt Haridwar Haridwar- Haridwar Uttarakhand- 249403. Bounded By- North: House of Naresh Chand, South: 15' Wd Road, East: House of Byer, West: House of Naresh Chand./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 34,16,782.11/-	Saharanpur
2.	Pravesh. (Borrower), Manoj Kumar (Co-Borrower), LHCTD00001612562.	6 Khasra No. 6 Min Cha Mauza Badrish Puram Colony Gram Jmalpur Khurd Pargana Jwalapur Teh & Dist Haridwar Teh & Dist Haridwar 1 Haridwar Uttarakhand- 249403. Bounded By- North :20ft Wide Road/ 40ft. South: Land of Other /ft. East: Plot No 9/41 Ft, West: Plot No 11/41 Ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 37,09,730/-	Central Dehradun
3.	Ikram Tyagi (Borrower), Nargis Khan (Co-Borrower), LHHWR00001602920	Free Hold Plot No.145,146 Part of Plot No. 147 Kh 714 Mshivam Vihar Gram Salempur Mahdood I Prg Roorkee Haridwar- Haridwar Uttarakhand- 249402. Bounded By- North: Land of Other/ 51.6ft. South :20 Ft Wide Road/ 21.6ft., East: Part of Plot No.147/ 51.6ft. West :20 Ft Wide Road/ 51.6ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 24,39,691/-	Haridwar
4.	Ikram Tyagi (Borrower), Nargis Khan (Co-Borrower), LHHWR00001602921	Free Hold Plot No.145,146 Part of Plot No. 147 Kh 714 Mshivam Vihar Gram Salempur Mahdood I Prg Roorkee Haridwar- Haridwar Uttarakhand 249402. Bounded By- North: Land of Other/ 51.6ft. South :20 Ft Wide Road/ 21.6ft. East: Part of Plot No.147 / 51.6ft. West :20 Ft Wide Road/ 51.6ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 96,231/-	Haridwar
5.	Ikram Tyagi (Borrower), NARGIS KHAN(Co-Borrower), LHHWR00001609636	Free Hold Plot No.145,146 Part of Plot No. 147 Kh 714 Mshivam Vihar Gram Salempur Mahdood I Prg Roorkee Haridwar- Haridwar Uttarakhand 249402. Bounded By- North: Land of Other/ 51.6ft. South :20 Ft Wide Road/ 21.6ft. East: Part of Plot No.147 / 51.6ft. West:20 Ft Wide Road/ 51.6ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 16,95,315/-	Haridwar
6.	Ikram Tyagi (Borrower), Nargis Khan (Co-Borrower), LHHWR00001609638	Freehold Plot No.145,146 Part of Plot No. 147 Kh 714 Mshivam Vihar Gram Salempur Mahdood I Prg Roorkee Haridwar- Haridwar Uttarakhand 249402. Bounded By- North: Land of Other/ 51.6ft. South :20 Ft Wide Road / 21.6ft. East: Part of Plot No.147/ 51.6ft. West :20 Ft Wide Road/ 51.6ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 74,532/-	Haridwar
7.	Pramod Kumar Joshi (Borrower), Kavita Joshi (Co-Borrower), LHRUD00001556889.	Khet No. 132min Vill Jainagar Plot No 23 Golden Gate Rudrapur Udhom Singh Nagar 263153 Jainagar Rudrapur- Rudrapur Uttarakhand 263153. Bounded By- North: House Of Lokesh Pandey, South: House of Jyoti Singh, East: Land of Other, West:9.09 Meter Wide Road./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 11,93,833.82/-	Rudrapur
8.	Pramod Kumar Joshi (Borrower), Kavita Joshi (Co-Borrower), LHRUD00001556890.	Khet No. 132min Vill Jainagar Plot No 23 Golden Gate Rudrapur Udhom Singh Nagar- 263153 Jainagar Rudrapur- Rudrapur Uttarakhand- 263153. Bounded By- North: House of Lokesh Pandey, South: House of Jyoti Singh, East: Land of Other, West:9.09 Meter Wide Road./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 61,213/-	Rudrapur
9.	Pramod Kumar Joshi (Borrower), Kavita Joshi (Co-Borrower), LHRUD00001568321.	Khet No 132min Vill Jainagar Plot No. 23 Golden Gate Rudrapur Udhom Singh Nagar 263153 Jainagar Rudrapur- Rudrapur Uttarakhand- 263153. Bounded By- North: House of Lokesh Pandey, South: House of Jyoti Singh, East: Land Of Other, West:9.09 Meter Wide Road./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 8,25,851/-	Rudrapur
10.	Jasvant. (Borrower), Sushila (Co-Borrower), LHHWR00001585855	Free Hold Plot No.149 Kh No. 1566 Gram Salempur Mahdood Second Prg Roorkee Tehdist Haridwar Na Haridwar Uttarakhand- 249402. Bounded By- North :22 Ft Wide Road/ 50 Ft. South: Plot No.148/50ft, East :25 Ft Wide Road / 35 Ft. West: plot No.182/35ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 73,16,646/-	Haridwar
11.	Jasvant. (Borrower), Sushila (Co-Borrower), LHHWR00001585857	Free Hold Plot No.149 Kh No. 1566gram Salempur Mahdood Second Prg Roorkee Tehdist Haridwar Na Haridwar Uttarakhand- 249402. Bounded By- North :22 Ft Wide Road / 50 Ft. South: Plot No.148/50ft, East :25 Ft Wide Road/ 35 Ft. West: Plot No.182/35ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 2,50,985/-	Haridwar
12.	Jasvant. (Borrower), Sushila (Co-Borrower), LHHWR00001591493	Free Hold Plot No.149 Kh No. 1566 Gram Salempur Mahdood Second Prg Roorkee Tehdist Haridwar Na Haridwar Uttarakhand 249402. Bounded By- North :22 Ft Wide Road/ 50 Ft. South: Plot No.148/50ft, East :25 Ft Wide Road/ 35 Ft. West: Plot No.182/35ft. / Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 1,56,0604/-	Haridwar
13.	Mahi Pal Singh (Borrower), Dolly (Co-Borrower), LHROK00001599268.	Gram Salempur Rajputan Pargana Bhagwanpur Tehsil Roorkee District Haridwar Uttarakhand 247667. Bounded By- North: Property of Narendra Kumar./ South:16 Ft Wide Road /25ft, East: Property of Smt Sheela/ 50ft. West:12 Ft Wide Road/ 50ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 10,20,302/-	Roorkee
14.	Mahipal Singh (Borrower), Dolly. (Co-Borrower), LHHWR00001486511	1103 A Commercial Property Bearing its Khasra No 1103M Situated At Village Salempur Rajputan Pargana Bhagwanpur Roorkee District Haridwar 1103 Haridwar Uttarakhand- 249132. Bounded By- North: Property of Narendra Kumar, South :16 Ft Wide Road/25ft, East: Property of Smt Sheela/ 50ft, West :12 Ft Wide Road/ 50ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 22,76,959.04/-	Haridwar
15.	Mahipal Singh (Borrower), Dolly. (Co-Borrower), LHHWR00001486512	1103 A Commercial Property Bearing its Khasra No. 1103M Situated At Village Salempur Rajputan Pargana Bhagwanpur Roorkee District Haridwar 1103 Haridwar Uttarakhand- 249132. Bounded By- North: Property of Narendra Kumar, South :16 Ft Wide Road /25ft, East: Property of Smt Sheela/ 50ft, West:12 Ft Wide Road/ 50ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 89,602.38/-	Haridwar
16.	Shaheed. (Borrower), Salama. (Co-Borrower), LHDEH00001531476.	Land Bearing Khata Khatouni No 403 Khasra No 987 Situated At Mauja Shishambada Pargana Pachwadon Vikasnagar Dehradun Dehradun- 247656. Bounded By- North :13 Ft Wide Road/ 35 Ft. South land Of Seller/ 35 Ft, East: Land Of Rizwan/ 57.86ft, West:13 Ft Wide Road / 57.86ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 19,12,022/-	Dehradun
17.	Shaheed. (Borrower), Salama. (Co-Borrower), LHDEH00001531485.	Land Bearing Khata Khatouni No. 403 Khasra No. 987 Situated At Mauja Shishambada Pargana Pachwadon Vikasnagar Dehradun Dehradun- 247656. Bounded By- North :13 Ft Wide Road/ 35 Ft. South: Land of Seller/ 35 Ft, East: Land of Rizwan/ 57.86ft, West:13 Ft Wide Road / 57.86ft./ Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 73,577.52/-	Dehradun
18.	Shivam. (Borrower), Nagina. (Co-Borrower), LHRUD00001551235.	Fazalpur Mahraula Ward No. 25 Khasra No 136/2/1 Min House No 83 A Rudrapur U.S. Nagar. Bounded By - North: House No.82 (30ft), South: House No. 83B (30 Ft), East: House No. 86 (15 Ft), West: Road 18 Ft Wide (15 Ft) / Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 9,54,676.32/-	Rudrapur
19.	Shivam. (Borrower), Nagina. (Co-Borrower), LHRUD00001551236.	Fazalpur Mahraula Ward No. 25 Khasra No 136/2/1 Min House No 83 A Rudrapur U.S. Nagar. Bounded By - North: House No.82 (30ft), South: House No. 83B (30 Ft), East: House No. 86 (15 Ft), West: Road 18 Ft Wide (15 Ft) / Date of Possession- 07-Nov-2025	26-08-2025 Rs. 30,100.18/-	Rudrapur
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 12, 2025			Authorized Office	
Place: Haridwar, Rudrapur, Dehradun			ICICI Home Finance Company Limited	

IN FOCUS



A first-time voter shows her ink-marked finger after casting a vote during the second and final phase of the Bihar Assembly elections in Jehanabad

HC dismisses plea against MERC recording halt

TN RAGHUNATHA
■ Mumbai

The Bombay High Court (HC) on Tuesday dismissed a petition filed by a Mumbai activist challenging a decision of the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC) to discontinue audio/video recordings of the proceedings, after holding that such recordings of the proceedings cannot be used as ‘evidence’ in any court of law.

While rejecting a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Mumbai resident Kamlakar Ratnakar Shenoy, an HC division bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Ashvin Akhand noted that the PIL lacked ‘public interest’ and was instead ‘motivated by personal grievances’.

In its ruling, the HC bench noted the Supreme Court

had already observed that public trial in open courts was essential for healthy and objective administration of justice and that it is necessary to instil public confidence in the administration of justice and therefore the judicial tribunals, courts etc must hear cases in the open and admit the public to the courtroom.

“These observations by the top court seem to have been misconstrued by the petitioner, who takes the position that the impugned resolution shall not be in public interest... A litigant is not permitted to use the true record of the court proceedings and use the same as evidence. There is, in fact, a prohibition not to record the court proceedings, much less to use them as evidence in a court of law,” Chief Justice Chandrashekhar noted in



his dictated order.

The petitioner, who appeared in person, submitted that he had appeared before the MERC in a matter wherein, according to him, the MERC did not hear him properly and further submitted that “there are a lot of wrongdoings in the MERC, and there are serious lacunae in the way hearing is conducted by the commission and it is not trans-

parent.” The petitioner told the high court that by a resolution dated 4/9/2018, MERC “has discontinued the practice of the recording of the proceedings in audio/video form, which is directly opposite to the direction issued by the Supreme Court in Swapnil Tripathi versus Supreme Court of India”.

Opposing the petition, Advocate Ratnakar Singh —

who appeared for the MERC — told the high court the MERC had this arrangement of audio/video recording of the proceedings for its internal purposes and there is no provision in the Electricity Act 2003 to have mandatory recording of the proceedings.

“However, there is a regulation in place for the conduct of day-to-day business of the Commission with live streaming of the

hearing available to the public at large and conduct of hearing before the Commission is totally transparent,” Singh said.

After giving a hearing to both sides, Chief Justice Chandrashekhar and Justice Ankhad held that the PIL was not in genuine public interest but rather stemmed from a private dispute, and the petitioner was hankering for ‘cheap publicity’ under the guise of a PIL.

“The petitioner is asking for audio/video recordings to use as evidence. No court proceedings can be permitted to be used as evidence and the same can never be provided to any person or litigant. The petitioner by the present petition is seeking to gain cheap publicity. Such practice of filing frivolous petitions should be deprecated,” the court noted.

Delhi blast: Grief pours in from across the world

ASHOKE RAJ
■ New Delhi

A powerful car explosion near Delhi’s iconic Red Fort on Monday evening killed at least ten people and injured over 20 others, sending shockwaves through the nation and prompting global condolences.

The blast, which occurred near Gate No 1 of the Red Fort metro station, caused a massive fire that engulfed several vehicles. Investigators have said preliminary evidence suggests a terror attack.

Messages of sympathy and solidarity poured in from across the world as foreign governments, diplomats, and global leaders condemned the attack and expressed support for India.

The United States Embassy in New Delhi said it was “deeply saddened by the terrible explosion in New Delhi,” offering condolences to the victims and their families. The embassy also issued a security alert advising American citizens in India to avoid

crowded areas, especially around the Red Fort and Chandni Chowk, and to remain alert.

British High Commissioner Lindy Cameron said her thoughts were with those affected by the tragedy and urged UK nationals in India to follow the guidance of local authorities. The British Government also updated its travel advisory for India in light of the incident.

Argentina’s Ambassador to India, Mariano Caucino, extended condolences on behalf of his government and people, wishing a speedy recovery to the injured. French Ambassador Thierry Mathou also expressed grief, saying France stood in solidarity with India during this difficult time.

The Sri Lankan High Commission in New Delhi expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives, conveying condolences to the families of the victims and praying for the recovery of those injured.

The Bangladesh High Commissioner to India also expressed solidarity and con-

dolences. In a post on X, the envoy said, “I & Bangladesh High Commission colleagues deeply condole death of at least 10 Indians and many injured in this evening’s car blast in Red Fort, Delhi. Our thoughts and prayers remain with all those impacted, including their families. Bangladesh stands by India at this distressful hour.” He tagged the Ministry of External Affairs.

Sri Lanka’s Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa also reacted to the incident, saying, “Shocked to hear about the terror attack in New Delhi. All should unite to eradicate the scourge of terrorism. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who were impacted by this dastardly attack.”

The Embassy of Morocco, the Australian High Commission, and the Iranian Embassy joined other nations in expressing condolences and solidarity with India.

Home Minister Amit Shah confirmed that the explosion took place inside a Hyundai i20 car parked near a traffic

signal close to the Red Fort. He said CCTV footage and forensic evidence are being examined as part of a comprehensive investigation. “We are exploring all angles and will ensure that the findings are made public,” he said.

Emergency services responded swiftly to the blast, and the fire was brought under control after several hours of effort. Images from the scene showed charred vehicles, shattered windows, and thick smoke rising from the area, one of Delhi’s most popular tourist destinations.

Security has been stepped up across the national capital, with additional personnel deployed at metro stations, airports, and key government buildings. Delhi Police and central agencies remain on high alert as investigations continue.

As Delhi mourns the victims of one of the deadliest attacks in recent years, leaders and citizens worldwide continue to express solidarity, emphasizing the need for global unity against terrorism.

Muslim bodies flag concern over blast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Prominent Muslim bodies voiced concern on Tuesday over a blast near the iconic Red Fort in Delhi, flagging security lapses, and urged the Government to conduct a comprehensive, unbiased and multi-dimensional investigation into the incident.

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board expressed profound grief and sorrow over the blast that occurred on Monday evening. The board conveyed heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and prayed for a swift recovery of the injured, according to a statement issued by it.

Board president Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani expressed serious concern over the explosion that occurred in close proximity to the historic Red Fort in the national capital.

He urged the government to conduct a comprehen-

sive, unbiased and multi-dimensional investigation into the incident.

Rahmani said if the incident was accidental, it was extremely unfortunate, resulting in the loss of many innocent lives and injuries to a large number of people.

“But if it was an act of terrorism, it is deeply alarming, raising serious questions about the effectiveness of the country’s security apparatus, especially if even the most sensitive areas of the national capital are not secure,” Rahmani said. He further said the All India Muslim Personal Law Board stands in solidarity with the bereaved families and prays for an early recovery of all those injured.

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) president Syed Sadatullah Husaini expressed profound grief over the blast that has killed at least 12 people and demanded a transparent and high-level investigation. He also demanded immediate accountability for security lapses and ade-

quate compensation for the victims and their families. “We are deeply saddened by the deadly blast near Red Fort in Delhi on Monday evening that claimed precious lives and left many injured. We express our deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones and stand in solidarity with the injured, praying for their swift and complete recovery. We stand with the people of Delhi in this hour of grief and anguish,” Husaini said in a statement.

“Preliminary media reports suggest this may have been an act of terror. If confirmed by investigat-

ing agencies, we unequivocally condemn this heinous act and demand that the culprits be brought to justice at the earliest. Such an incident in the heart of the national capital represents a grave lapse in security,” he said.

There must be immediate accountability from those in power, who are responsible for public safety, he said.

The lives and security of citizens are paramount, and the government must fulfil its constitutional duty to protect them, Husaini said.

He also criticised the irresponsible behaviour of certain sections of the media and social media users for spreading misinformation and communal narratives regarding the incident.

“In hours of crisis, we need unity and solidarity among citizens more than ever. Those who use such despicable incidents for their ideological or political gains must be called out and punished as per the law,” he said.

CM Rekha announces plan to make Delhi clean, beautiful

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday announced a comprehensive plan to make Delhi clean, well-maintained, and beautiful. Key measures include installing modern waste compactors, deploying machines for green waste processing, and requiring officials to conduct daily field visits to monitor sanitation.

Chairing a high-level meeting at the Delhi Secretariat, the Chief Minister reviewed the status of sanitation and cleanliness in the city. The meeting was attended by Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood, Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma, MCD Commissioner Ashwini Kumar, and senior officials from DDA, PWD, DSIIDC, and other departments.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said her government



is “highly sensitive” towards sanitation issues. “The dream of a developed Delhi can only be achieved when the city remains clean and tidy,” she said. She also announced that a special committee of officials from all departments related to road construction will be formed to coordinate the planning and execution of road projects.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta criticised the previous

government’s “lack of seriousness” on cleanliness, urging Delhi to improve faster. She emphasised that funds are available and called on officials to propose practical, innovative sanitation measures, promising swift approvals. She instructed departments to promptly install and replace dustbins citywide.

According to officials, several key decisions were taken in the meeting. High-

capacity compactors will be installed in various areas, with land to be provided by DDA and DUSIB. In view of Delhi’s green cover, modern machines will be introduced to manage green waste, first at the Assembly constituency level, and later in each ward.

The Chief Minister said field visits by officers would help ensure accountability and motivate sanitation workers. “Visible presence of officers will send a strong message,” she said. Departments were also advised to set both short-term and long-term goals for cleanliness. The Chief Minister directed officials to use social media to post “before and after” photos of cleaned areas to raise awareness and encourage citizen participation.

Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood raised concerns over poor road design and repeated road-cutting across the city. “The

problem persists because of a lack of coordination,” he said. Sood suggested forming a comprehensive policy and involving architects to ensure roads are designed efficiently.

Responding to the issue, the Chief Minister directed the Chief Secretary to set up a special committee with representatives from departments involved in road construction. The committee will finalise designs, ducting, and utility planning before any work begins.

“This integrated approach will minimise the problem of repeated road-cutting and ensure high-quality infrastructure,” the Chief Minister said. Officials said the government’s focus now is on visible improvement, cleaner streets, faster waste collection, and stricter accountability. The Chief Minister said the goal is clear: a cleaner, greener, and better Delhi.

Nagrota, Budgam record impressive voter turnout in J&K bypolls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jammu

Two Assembly constituencies of Nagrota and Budgam recorded an impressive voter turnout on Tuesday to elect their new public representatives during bypolls in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Nagrota Assembly recorded over 75 per cent voter turnout, while the politically significant Budgam segment witnessed a healthy voter turnout of over 50 per cent amid tight security arrangements.

According to the Election Commission of India, Nagrota Assembly Constituency (AC-77) registered a final turnout of over 75.08%, indicating robust participation from voters throughout the day.

In Budgam Assembly Constituency (AC-27), the final voter turnout crossed 50%,

with officials noting a steady inflow of voters despite cold weather conditions in several areas.

A total of 10 candidates were in the fray in the Nagrota Assembly constituency. The bypoll was necessitated following the demise of former MLA Devender Singh Rana on October 31, 2024.

His 30-year-old daughter, Devyani Rana, riding on public sympathy and goodwill, is contesting on a BJP ticket.

She faces NC’s 37-year-old nominee Shamim Begum, a postgraduate in Urdu and a sitting District Development Council (DDC) member, and JKNPP president Harsh Dev Singh, a senior advocate and former education minister.

On the other hand, as many as 17 candidates were in the fray for the Budgam

seat, where a bypoll was necessitated after Omar Abdullah vacated the seat, retaining Ganderbal after winning both the constituencies in the 2024 Assembly elections.

Budgam has been a bastion of the National Conference (NC), with its candidates securing victory from the constituency since 1962, barring once in 1972 when the Congress candidate won from the seat. NC Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, Aga Rullah Mehdi, won from the Budgam seat in the 2002, 2008 and 2014 Assembly polls, before Abdullah emerged victorious from here in 2024.

National Conference candidate Agha Syed Mehmood is locked in a straight contest with the PDP’s (People’s Democratic Party) Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi.

FROM PAGE - 1

CCTV, clues and a burnt car: Inside the Red Fort blast trail

Even as the case has been transferred to NIA, Delhi Police’s Special Cell along with intelligence agencies, unraveled the 11-hour route map of the Hyundai i20 that exploded. The vehicle entered Delhi via the Badarpur border from Faridabad. At 8:13 am, the car crossed the Badarpur toll plaza and entered Delhi; it was spotted near a petrol pump close to the Okhla Industrial Area at 8:20 am. The car entered the parking area near the Red Fort complex at 3:19 pm, where it remained parked for around three hours. The car left the parking area at 6:22 pm and moved toward the Red Fort. Just 24 minutes after its exit, at 6:52 pm, a powerful explosion occurred inside the car. Police said the car was parked in the parking area of the Sunehri Masjid near the Red Fort for nearly three hours, and during this time, Umar did not leave the car. Apparently, he was either waiting for someone or for further instructions. However, he did not meet anyone in the parking lot. “The target could have been

“The white Hyundai i20 car-borne IED was meant for a much bigger attack. The man behind the wheel of the car is suspected to be Dr. Umar Mohammad Nabi, who was part of a radicalised group of doctors - a ‘white-

collar’ terror module - and was in touch with members of JeM in Kashmir, like other members of his group, who had planned a massive strike in Delhi,” investigators said.

Security agencies said they are analysing CCTV footage collected from across Delhi and adjoining National Capital Region (NCR) areas to track the car’s every movement and identify anyone who may have been in contact with it during the day.

Doctors, explosives, dark designs

According to police, Dr Umar, who was in touch with the two arrested doctors, went missing after their detention. According to investigating agencies, the hot case led them to his native village of Pulwama.

Dr Umar recently got engaged, and his family was looking forward to solemnising his marriage at the earliest. He briefly spoke to his family last Friday and assured them that he would be visiting home in a couple of days. On Tuesday, J&K Police detained his ailing father, Ghulam Nabi Bhat, for questioning and his mother was asked to undergo DNA testing to confirm whether the charred remains found at the blast site belonged to him. The police teams have also rounded up several doctors who were working with blast suspect Umar Nabi in Faridabad.

Chhattisgarh: Six Naxalites killed in encounter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Bijapur

Six Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh’s Bijapur district on Tuesday, police said.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai lauded the operation, describing it as another step towards eradication of the Maoist menace.

The gunfight broke out at around 10 am in the Indravati National Park area when a joint team of security personnel was out on anti-Naxalite operation based on inputs about the presence of senior Maoist cadres in the region, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav said.

Personnel belonging to police’s District Reserve Guard (DRG) from Bijapur and Dantewada districts and Special Task Force (STF) were involved in the operation, he said. Intermittent exchange of fire continued



for several hours, the SP said, adding that during the search of the encounter site, the bodies of six Maoists with automatic weapons, including an INSAS rifle, sten guns, a .303 rifle and explosives, were found, the official said.

Additional teams of DRG, STF, Bastar Fighters, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF) were rushed to cordon off the area and nab fleeing Maoist cadres, he added.

The operation was still underway, said SP Yadav.

In a post on X, CM Sai said, “The campaign against the Maoist insurgency continues, and Naxalism is coming to an end. Today, during an ongoing encounter between a joint team of DRG and STF of Chhattisgarh police, and Naxalites in Bijapur, six Naxalites have been neutralised so far. “This is a major success for the securi-

ty forces in the direction of completely eradicating the Maoist menace, and I salute their courage. It is the resolve of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji and Union Home Minister Amit Shah ji to end Naxalism from the country and the state by March 31, 2026. We are achieving success in fulfilling this resolve,” he added.

Meanwhile, in a separate operation, an injured Naxalite was apprehended following

an encounter between security forces and Maoists in the forest of Annaram village in Tarlaguda area of Bijapur, police said. The injured Maoist was subsequently hospitalised, they said.

With the latest action, 259 Naxalites have been killed in encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year. Of them, 230 were eliminated in the Bastar division, comprising seven districts including Bijapur, while 27 others were gunned down in Gariaband district which falls in Raipur division.

Two Naxalites were killed in Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district in Durg division. On September 22, two senior Naxalites, Raju Dada alias Katta Ramachandra Reddy (63) and Kosa Dada alias Kadari Satyanarayana Reddy (67), both Central Committee members of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), were killed in an encounter in the state’s Narayanpur district.

Congress asks Govt to provide clarity on Delhi blast



The Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera on Tuesday urged the Government to provide clarity on the blast near the Red Fort saying there is fear and concern among the people that such a thing happened in the Delhi.

Ganesh Godiyal appointed Uttarakhand Congress chief

The Congress on Tuesday appointed Ganesh Godiyal as the president of its Uttarakhand unit with immediate effect, replacing Karan Mahara. Mahara was appointed as a special invitee to the Congress Working Committee. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge also appointed chairpersons for the campaign committee and the election management committee of the party's Uttarakhand unit.



Ex-TDB president N Vasu held in Sabarimala gold case



The SIT probing the missing gold from the Sabarimala temple arrested former TDB president N Vasu on Tuesday, sources said. Vasu, who had also served twice as Commissioner of the Travancore Devaswom Board before being appointed its president in November 2019, was arrested following his questioning, they said.

BJP govt in Rajasthan has lost public trust, says Sachin Pilot

Congress general secretary Sachin Pilot on Tuesday said that the BJP Government in Rajasthan has lost public trust in two years of its rule. He said that there are multiple power centres in the party and the Government, and it was not clear who was running the Government. "There is an internal conflict between the Government and the party. It is not clear who is running the Government," he said.



Bihar needs result, respect, not hollow rhetoric: Tejashwi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Patna

RJD leader and INDIA bloc's chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav on Tuesday said that through the "record voting" in the first phase of Bihar elections, people have given a direct message that they want "result" and not *jumla* (hollow rhetoric).

Claiming that the administration may slow down the pace of the polls at several places, he urged people not to step back from voting queues without exercising their franchise.

The second and last phase of polling is underway in the state on Tuesday, and it will end at 5 pm.

The RJD leader, in a long social media post on the day of the second phase of voting, said, "All that the people have got from the NDA government is assurances, slogans, rhetoric, and empty promises. People of Bihar can no longer stand



these, not even for a second." He claimed that the INDIA bloc has, over the past few years, worked hard to design a development policy for Bihar, which is "inclusive in nature and caters to every class, caste, religion, and community". Yadav, the INDIA bloc's chief ministerial face, said that the people have "annulled the dirty tricks of the NDA" meant to mislead them. "My dream is the

same as yours. Your pain is the same as mine. Our goals are the same, which no outsider to Bihar can truly understand," he said. He claimed that it is already too late as, in the last 20 years, the authorities have failed to achieve real development.

"The Government could not provide jobs for the youth, reduce crimes, ensure quality education, or build good hospitals for effective healthcare. Farmers remain

stricken with floods, traders are facing losses, and people are still in the grip of inflation," he added. The RJD leader asserted that true freedom lies in liberation from issues like unemployment, bribery, corruption, inflation, oppression, injustice, exploitation and inequality.

"Our vision is to make every Bihari self-reliant and aware! The rise of the village will bring the rise of the nation, and we're committed to that spirit in empowering Bihar's villages," Yadav said. In another post, Yadav also urged people who had gone to vote not to return home exercising their franchise.

"It is possible that the administration will slow down the polls at several places but you don't need to fall for their conspiracy. If you find any irregularities, send a recorded video to the WhatsApp numbers 9905953451 and 9334469007," the RJD leader said.



Nitish turns up at JD(U) war room

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Patna

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday demonstrated that he was neither tired nor in a mood to retire as he turned up at the JD(U)'s war room in Patna to take stock of the final phase of the Assembly polls that were underway.

The JD(U) president, who has been in the seat of power longer than any of his predecessors, reached a party office shortly after a meeting with Union minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', one of his most trusted aides.

The 75-year-old is understood to have been buoyed by reports that his party, which had suffered a setback in the 2020 assembly polls, was poised for a better-than-expected performance this time.

In the last elections, the JD(U)'s tally had crashed to 43, a drop of more than 25 seats compared with the previous assembly polls, which was primarily blamed on the revolt of Lok Janshakti Party headed by Chirag Paswan. Paswan had fielded candidates in all seats contested by the JD(U), many of them BJP rebels.

This time, though, Paswan, whose party is now known as Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), is contesting as a junior NDA constituent. The BJP, which had outperformed the JD(U) in 2020, also did not insist on the lion's share in the seat-sharing deal.

Apparently, belying rumours of his indifferent health, Kumar walked briskly, accompanied by his close cabinet colleague Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, who struggled to keep pace.



Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi

Jan Suraj leader Prashant Kishor

Top leaders cast votes in second phase

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Patna

From JD(U)'s acting president Sanjay Jha and Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi to Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor and state Congress chief Rajesh Ram — leaders from both sides of the political divide cast their votes in the second phase of the Bihar elections on Tuesday.

State Industries Minister Nitish Mishra, Purnea MP Pappu Yadav, BJP's Jamui candidate Shreyashi Singh and Independent nominee Jyoti Singh, who is the wife of Bhojpuri singer Pawan Singh, also cast their votes.

BJP leader Shahnwaz Hussain and Congress MLA Ajeet Sharma, too, voted in this phase. Ram claimed that a large number of people are voting in favour of the INDIA

bloc in this phase. "The body language of voters, candidates, and the INDIA bloc leaders is indicative of a clear victory for the alliance," he said. JD(U)'s Jha, on the other hand, claimed that the NDA was heading to a "record-breaking majority".

"There is no anti-incumbency against CM Nitish Kumar despite him staying in power for 20 years. There is pro-incumbency and a strong undercurrent in favour of the Government among people," he claimed.

Jha alleged that RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav was doing politics of desperation as he has "already accepted his defeat". After casting his vote in Kargahar in Rohtas district, Kishor urged the people to judiciously exercise their right to franchise.

"I would urge the people of Bihar not to waste time

inside their homes or with their neighbourhoods. They must venture out, reach their polling booths and vote for a change, for their own betterment," he said.

"The elections are an opportunity to choose good candidates and ensure that there is an improvement in education and job creation. If this opportunity is missed, the state shall have to put up with another five years of rampant corruption, unemployment and forced migration," he added. Manjhi claimed that the work done by him at the Centre has greater resonance in regions going to the polls in the second phase.

"In the second phase, voter turnout will be greater than in the first phase. Women and Dalit voters will particularly vote in large numbers in favour of the NDA," he claimed.

Congress leader, ex-MoS Shakeel Ahmad resigns from party

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Shakeel Ahmad on Tuesday announced his resignation from the party citing differences with local leadership in Bihar, where the second and last phase of polling concluded earlier in the day.

Ahmad, who hails from Bihar, is a former Union minister of State for home, communications and IT and a former AICC general secretary. He was the president of Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee from 2000 to 2003.

Ahmad has been a three-time MLA, 1985-90, 1990-95 and 2000-2004, and twice MP, 1998 and 2004, from

Bihar. He also served as a minister in the Bihar cabinet and held the health portfolio. Ahmad, a doctor by profession and a third generation politician, sent his resignation to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

In his letter, he said he continues to believe in the Congress ideology, and would not be joining any party. "With a heavy heart, I have decided to resign from the membership of the Congress party. My resignation does not mean that I will join another party. Indeed, I have no intention of doing so. Like my forefathers, I have complete faith in the ideology and principles of the Congress

party, and I will forever remain a supporter of these ideologies and principles. I can assure you, the last vote of my life will also go to the Congress," he wrote to Kharge. Ahmad said his grandfather, Ahmad Ghafoor, was elected as a member of the legislative Assembly in 1937. After his death, his father, Shakoor Ahmad, was elected MLA five times between 1952 and 1977 and served in various posts.

"Though I had made the decision to leave the party earlier, I am announcing it today and polling has ended. I did not want any wrong message to be sent before the vote, and cause the party to lose even five votes.

High to moderate voting in Assembly bypolls, Anta in Rajasthan clocks over 77 per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

High to moderate voting was recorded in the bypolls to eight Assembly constituencies spread across six States. The seats that went to polls are Anta in Rajasthan, Dampa in Mizoram, Ghatshila in Jharkhand, Jubilee Hills in Telangana, Nuapada in Odisha, Budgam and Nagrota in Jammu and Kashmir, and Tarn Taran in Punjab.

While Anta saw a high turnout of 77.17 per cent (till 5 pm), it was 75.92 per cent in Dampa till the close of polling, 75.37 per cent (till 5 pm) in Nuapada, 74.63 per cent (till 5 pm) in Nagrota, 73.88 per cent (till 5 pm) in Ghatshila, 59.21 per cent (till 5 pm) in Tarn Taran, 49.92 per cent in Budgam at the end of the polling and 47.16 (till 5 pm) in Jubilee Hills.

The figures, however, are likely to increase as a number of voters were in queue even after the official voting hours. Votes will be counted on November 14. The results aren't likely to have any

impact on the respective governments even though the contests have become a prestige issue for the parties.

Voting passed off peacefully in all the seats. In Odisha, two poll officials were suspended for failing to maintain voting secrecy.

The Anta bypoll, which was necessitated after BJP MLA Kanwar Lal Meena was disqualified following his conviction in a criminal case, saw 15 candidates in the fray, with the contest primarily between BJP's Mormal Suman and Congress candidate and former minister Pramod Jain Bhaya.

A voter turnout of 75.92 per cent was recorded provisionally at the close of polling in the Dampa assembly by-election in Mizoram, seen as a key test for the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) ahead of next year's civic polls.

The bypoll was necessitated following the death of incumbent MNF legislator Lalrinthuanga Sailo in July. In Nuapada seat, polling parties, along with EVMs,

were airlifted by two IAF helicopters from the Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary area, identified as highly sensitive due to Maoist activity, to the district headquarters after voting ended.

There was a temporary disruption in voting at Mongarapali polling station on Khariar Road due to a technical glitch in the EVM, though it was rectified, an official said, adding three ballot units, three control units and one VVPAT were replaced.

The bypoll was necessitated following the death of sitting BJD MLA Rajendra Dholakia on September 8.

In Nagrota, BJP's Devyani Rana, daughter of former MLA Devender Singh Rana whose death necessitated the bypoll, is pitted against NC nominee and sitting District Development Council (DDC) member Shamim Begum and JKNPP president Harsh Dev Singh.

Nagrota has alternated between the BJP and the NC over the last five assembly elections since 1996.

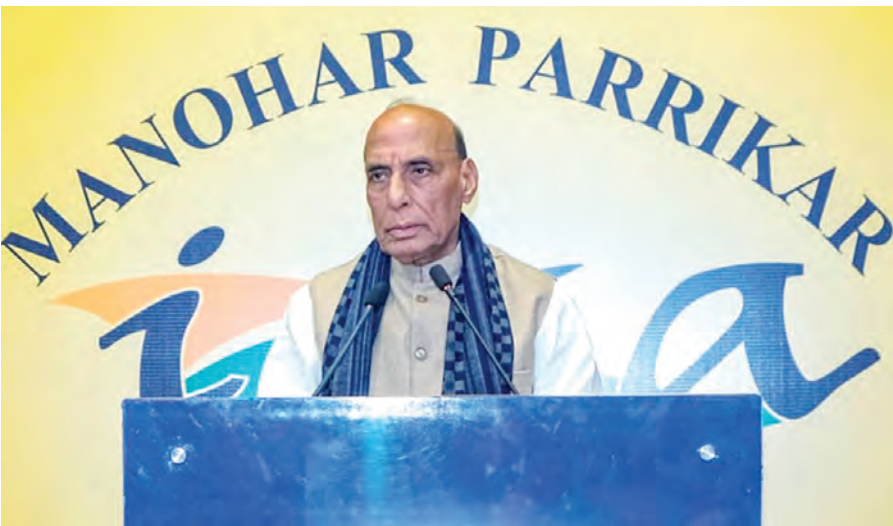
Rajnath Singh pitches for 'digital sovereignty'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday called upon the military to extend its approach of self-reliance to the digital domain for control over algorithms, data architectures and encrypted networks.

"True strategic autonomy will come only when our code is as indigenous as our hardware," he said in an address at a defence conclave. Singh underlined the need to not only acquire new innovations, but create the conditions where niche products thrive through sound processes, agile institutions, and a spirit of collaboration. He pitched for an approach that unites soldiers, the scientists, the startups and the strategists.

The defence minister underscored the need to extend *Aatmanirbharta* (self-reliance) beyond manufacturing indigenous systems to "digital sovereignty" saying control over the algorithms, data, and chips that power platforms was crucial. "We are encouraging secure,



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the Delhi Defence Dialogue 2025 in New Delhi

PTI

indigenous software stacks, trusted semiconductor supply chains, and home-grown AI models trained on Indian data."

"Amidst all the excitement about machines and algorithms, we must remember that technology is not meant to replace human judgement, but to amplify it," he said. "We must also invest in the ethical, psychological, and legal dimensions of

these emerging technologies. India, as a civilisational power, can and must lead the conversation on responsible and humane use of military technology," he said. Singh pressed on the fact that technology must be seen not only as a force multiplier, but also as a resource optimiser.

He supported leveraging technology and data analytics in the capital procure-

ment process to improve decision-making and ensure optimal use of every resource.

"In many advanced nations, the concept of life-cycle cost is deeply woven into their procurement frameworks. Recently, I have directed that we too must begin to assess these sustenance costs right at the inception stage of every procurement proposal," he said. "This will help us see the full

picture, not only what we invest today, but what we must sustain tomorrow," he said. The Defence Minister also called for building systems and ecosystems that make the creation as well as adoption of new technology natural, swift and self-sustaining.

"If our foundations are strong, our institutions agile, our minds open, and our collaboration seamless, then every new technological wave will not overwhelm us. It will propel us," he said.

"We will not merely adapt to revolutions made elsewhere, but become the architects of revolutions born here." While Singh stressed on absorbing and adapting to disruptive technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning and quantum computing he said the true test of advancement lies in how the apparatus functions.

"The power of technology is not limited to devices or algorithms; it lies in its all-encompassing nature — the way it redefines every process, system, and decision that contributes to national security."

States Focus



BRING PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE: SHIVAKUMAR URGES CENTRE

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday urged the Central Government to ensure that the perpetrators behind the blast, near the Red Fort in Delhi that left 12 people dead, are brought to justice.

He also asserted that the country needs to be “careful” about terror activities. Not willing to indulge in any political blame game in connection with the blast, for now, he said, this is not the time for it and pitched for measures across the country to ensure peace and that the lives of people are protected. Speaking to reporters, he said the Congress party condemns the incident and urged the Central Government to investigate and arrest those behind it.



MP CM PAYS TRIBUTES TO DELHI BLAST VICTIMS

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday directed officials to maintain strict vigil in the State in the wake of the blast in Delhi that killed at least 12 persons.

Yadav visited the “situation room” at Mantralaya (State Secretariat) and reviewed the law and order situation virtually by interacting with the district collectors.

Later, Yadav paid tributes to the persons killed in the Delhi blast by observing a two-minute silence at the Panch Sarpanch Mahasammelan. “We have faith in our PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, and culprits (of Delhi blast) won’t be spared”, the CM said.

Mamata flags off 110 ‘mobile medical units’ to cater patients in remote corners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday flagged off 110 ‘mobile medical units’, which would cater to patients in remote rural areas of the State.

Banerjee, who is also the State’s health minister, launched the units at a programme organised by the health department at the ‘Swasthya Bhawan’, after returning from a north Bengal visit. Describing it as a milestone in the State’s efforts to expand medical access, she said the move reflects her government’s commitment to ensuring that *Maa, Mati, Manush* receive quality healthcare regardless of geographical or socio-economic barriers.

“A total of 210 mobile medical units have been readied. Today, I’m flagging off 110. These units have facilities for blood test, chest X-ray apart from 35 other clinical examinations free of cost. There are over 29 equipment inside these units. This is like *duare swasthya* (healthcare services at doorstep)”, the CM said.

Each MMU functions as a self-sufficient health clinic on the wheels, staffed with doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and technicians, she said.

“These vehicles are designed to reach the most remote corners of the state, including hilly terrains, tribal areas, and backward regions, offering maternal and child care, general consultations, and a wide range of diagnostic tests,” Banerjee said.

Several MMUs deployed in regions like the Sundarbans will also have ultrasonography machines to provide prenatal care and other diagnostic services, she said.

The West Bengal Government has spent ₹84 crore on procuring these vehicles, with around ₹2.5 crore per month required for operational expenses, the Chief Minister said.

Delhi blast: TMC slams Shah for security lapse

SAUGAR SENGUPTA
■ Kolkata

The top Trinamool Congress leadership hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday for what they called a “severe (security) lapse” that led to 12 deaths in Monday’s terror attack in Delhi.

“My heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved families, and my prayers are with those recovering from their injuries. It is extremely distressing that such an incident has taken place in the heart of our national capital, Delhi,” TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said, holding the Union Home Ministry responsible for the tragic deaths.

The Diamond Harbour MP, who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, said that, as the Delhi Police, which functioned under the Union Home Ministry, was primarily responsible for maintaining law and order of the Capital, it was the Home



Minister to should explain the lapses in security.

“How then, are such grave lapses in security being allowed to occur?” he asked, referring also to the seizure of huge quantity of explosives from Faridabad in Haryana earlier on Monday raising, “alarming questions about internal security and the evident decline in vigilance,” and demanding “an impartial, time-bound investigation,” into the Delhi blast to fix accountability.

Demanding Shah’s resignation, another senior MP,

Kalyan Banerjee, said, “What is going on in the name of security management? Who is handling the security system, and what does Amit Shah have to say about the duty he was entrusted and the duty that he failed to perform? He should accept responsibility for the security lapses and resign.”

Party MP from Krishnagar, Mahua Moitra, too attacked Shah, saying the Delhi blast itself proved that India needed a capable Home Minister. Moitra wrote on social media, “India needs a

capable Home Minister, not a full-time Hate Campaign Minister. Isn’t it... Amit Shah’s duty to protect both our borders as well as our cities? Why is he failing so spectacularly on all counts?”

Meanwhile, Kolkata was on high alert ahead of the India-South Africa test match, which would begin on Friday, with security agencies conducting random Naka checks around the city. This was in response to the Cricket Association of Bengal’s request to the Kolkata Police for additional forces to be deployed in and around Eden Gardens, where the match would be held.

Kolkata Commissioner of Police Manoj Verma, who took stock of the security system at the venue on Tuesday, said that “things are fine and all appropriate steps have been taken to ensure a foolproof security and nothing will be compromised, rampant checking is being conducted everywhere.”

Andhra CM urges release of ₹695 crore under PM-RKVY

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jammu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday urged Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to release additional funds of ₹695 crore under the PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

According to its website, the scheme was launched in 2007 as an umbrella programme to ensure the holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors by allowing States to choose their development activities based on district and State agriculture plans.

Chouhan called on the chief minister at his camp office, accompanied by Minister of State for Rural Development P Chandrasekhar.

“CM Chandrababu Naidu requested ₹695 crore for fiscal 2024-25 and 2025-26,” said a press release.

Naidu also sought the release of the Centre’s share of ₹100 crore under

the market intervention scheme extended for Totapuri (called ‘Bengalura’) mango farmers.

The chief minister discussed agriculture and minor irrigation in the state and briefed Chouhan on the devastation caused by cyclone ‘Montha’.

Earlier in the day, Chouhan and Chandrasekhar participated in the launch of ‘Watershed Mahotsav’ in Guntur, marking the national celebration of community-led water rejuvenation, soil health enhancement and sustainable rural development.

The union minister lauded Andhra Pradesh’s active participation in watershed initiatives and expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of the Vengalayaapalem project.

He also announced that the Centre has sanctioned ₹380 crore for road construction works in the State.

Actor Dharmendra stable, under observation; family requests privacy

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

Amid false rumours about his deteriorating health spread across Mumbai and elsewhere in the country in the early part of the day, the family members of veteran actor Dharmendra — who has been admitted to Mumbai’s Breach Candy hospital — said on Tuesday that he was “stable and under observation” at the hospital.

On a day when the country’s commercial capital woke up to strong rumours about the 89-year-old actor, Dharmendra’s wife and senior actress Hema Malini took to micro-blogging site “X” slammed the “respon-

ble” television channels for putting out “false news about a person who is responding to treatment and is recovering”.

“What is happening is unforgivable! How can responsible channels spread false news about a person who is responding to treatment and is recovering? This is being extremely disrespectful and irresponsible. Please give due respect to the family and its need for privacy,” Hema Malini wrote on “X”.

Her daughter and actress Esha Deol also rubbished the news circulating in a section of the media and also the social media about Dharmendra. “The media seems to be in overdrive and spreading

false news. My father is stable and recovering. We request everyone to give our family privacy. Thank you for the prayers for papa’s speedy recovery,” Esha Deol wrote on “Instagram”.

“Mr Dharmendra is stable and under observation. Further comments and updates will be shared as available. Kindly don’t indulge in spreading false rumours regarding his health. Request everyone to pray for his speedy recovery and respect the family’s right to privacy,” a PR team of the Deol family said.

On October 31, Dharmendra was hospitalised for his routine check-up. He has been undergoing treatment at the Breach



Candy Hospital since then.

On Sunday night, Sunny Deol was seen arriving at Breach Candy Hospital to check on his father. The who’s who of Bollywood, including wife Hema Malini, Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Ameesha Patel, among others, visited the hospital on Monday.

In his six-decade-long career, Dharmendra has acted in more than 300 films. He is known for his memorable performances in films such as Aayee Milan Ki Bela, Phool Aur Patthar, Aaye Din Bahar Ke, Seeta Aur Geeta, Raja Jani, Jugnu, Yaadon Ki Baaraat, Dost, Sholay, Pratiggya, Charas, Dharam Veer, among others.

Karnataka to set up five aerospace, defence parks: CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday announced that the state Government is developing five world-class aerospace and defence parks in strategic locations across Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Chamaraajanagar.

He said the parks will offer “plug-and-play” facilities to drastically reduce setup time for industries.

“We are developing five world-class Aerospace & Defence Parks in strategic locations — Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Chamaraajanagar. These parks will offer ‘plug-and-play’ facilities to drastically reduce setup time for industries,” Siddaramaiah said.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Collins India Operations Centre developed by Collins Aerospace at the KIADB Aerospace Park in Devanahalli. The Chief



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing a press conference in Mysuru. Karnataka

Minister said the new 26-acre facility marks a major milestone in Karnataka’s journey as a global hub for advanced aerospace manufacturing.

“The decision by Collins Aerospace, a global major with over a century of aviation legacy, to establish this comprehensive centre in Bengaluru is a powerful

endorsement of Karnataka’s robust industrial ecosystem and its future potential,” he said. “Collins Aerospace is investing \$25 million in Karnataka. This new facility will create over 2,000 skilled jobs in research, development and advanced manufacturing. Karnataka contributes nearly 65 per

cent to India’s aerospace and defence sector,” Siddaramaiah was quoted as saying in a statement.

He described the centre as a “shining example” of a successful public-private partnership that aligns with the state’s goals and the national ‘Make in India’ mission. Siddaramaiah said more than 2,000 small and medium enterprises are engaged in the aerospace and defence sectors across the State.

“Companies such as Mahindra Aerospace and Rangsons have made substantial investments, and 48 agreements have been signed in this sector. Rangsons, in partnership with Boeing, is investing ₹2,915 crore. The state aims to attract ₹45,000 crore in investments and create 60,000 jobs over the next five years,” he said.

Inviting global aerospace leaders to invest in Karnataka, the Chief Minister added, “Our policies, our people and our proven track

record make us the ideal partner for your success.”

Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil, who also attended the event, said this is Collins Aerospace’s first facility in India under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. “The unit will cater to leading global aviation majors such as Boeing and Airbus,” he said, adding that KIADB and Karnataka Udyog Mitra provided all necessary approvals, infrastructure and support to operationalise the facility.

Patil said Karnataka’s new industrial policy places strong emphasis on high-tech sectors such as aerospace, defence and electronics. “The investment by Collins Aerospace is a historic milestone and aligns with the State Government’s long-term vision. This manufacturing facility stands as a fine example of ‘Ease of Doing Business’ and demonstrates Karnataka’s industry-friendly ecosystem,” he added.

Gehlot calls for deep probe into Delhi blast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jaipur

Former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday called for a thorough investigation into the Delhi Red Fort blast and alleged large-scale cash distribution in the Bihar election.

Speaking to reporters at his residence in Jaipur, Gehlot, about the blast, said any such incident, regardless of location, was “tragic and deeply disturbing.”

“As I said yesterday, the Delhi incident must be investigated thoroughly. It is important that the truth comes out before the country. Many such incidents have taken place in the past where inquiries were announced but never completed,” he said.

The Congress leader also alleged that money was openly distributed to influence voters in Bihar.

“We are hearing that

₹10,000 were distributed to women. This has never happened before. The Election Commission of India is sitting with its eyes closed while money is being transferred even as the polling happened,” Ashok Gehlot said.

He claimed that despite such tactics, people, especially women voters, were wise and would vote independently. “Women are smart; they will not be influenced by money. Bihar is a politically aware State, and we hope voters will make a fair choice.”

Gehlot criticised the EC for “failing to act” despite clear violations of the Model Code of Conduct.

“When Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s government was in power, even signboards on national highways were removed after the code of conduct was enforced. But now, despite cash being distributed, no one is taking action,” he said.

HC takes serious note of deteriorating condition of roads in Madhya Pradesh

GIRISH SHARMA
■ Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has taken serious note of the deteriorating condition of roads and the alarming rise in fatal accidents across the State, issued notices to the Central and State Governments as well as major road agencies. The court’s intervention follows a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) alleging gross negligence and administrative apathy in maintaining road infrastructure, which has resulted in thousands of preventable deaths.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva and Justice Vinay Saraf has directed the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation (MPRDC), and

the Madhya Pradesh Rural Road Development Authority (MPRRDA) to submit detailed reports within two weeks. The reports must outline measures taken to repair critical road stretches, fill potholes, and strengthen road safety mechanisms.

The PIL, filed by retired Indore banker Rajendra Singh and argued by advocate Abhinav Malhotra, paints a grim picture of the state’s road safety record. Citing official data, the petitioner stated that Madhya Pradesh reported 5,840 road accidents in 2023, resulting in 2,161 deaths—a sharp 31.4 per cent increase over the previous year.

The petition described the state’s highways and district roads as “death traps,” where poor maintenance, lack of signage, and unregulated construction have turned commuting into a daily gamble with life.

During the hearing, the High Court expressed deep concern over the systemic neglect and observed that the “poor condition of roads is not merely an inconvenience but a serious public safety hazard.” The bench questioned how such widespread deterioration could occur while toll collection and maintenance contracts continue unabated. “The State cannot abdicate its constitutional responsibility to protect lives,” the court observed, adding that recurring accidents reflect both governance failure and administrative indifference.

The court’s directive mandates a status report identifying accident-prone stretches, ongoing repairs, and accountability for lapses in supervision. The bench has fixed December 15, 2025, as the next date of hearing.

The PIL also highlighted

multiple instances where newly constructed roads developed cracks and potholes within months, indicating substandard material use and weak quality control. It sought judicial intervention to ensure that officials and contractors responsible for such lapses face penalties under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and related provisions.

Officials from the PWD and MPRDC have claimed that inadequate budget allocations and delays in contract renewals have hampered timely repairs. However, the court’s tough stand is expected to trigger stronger accountability and tighter monitoring mechanisms across departments.

For citizens across the State—from Bhopal to Betul and Gwalior to Guna—the court’s notice has come as a step toward safer travel.

Ensure timely implementation of solar programme: Andhra chief secretary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Tirupati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary K Vijayanand on Tuesday directed the distribution companies to ensure timely and effective implementation of the NABARD-ADB backed solar rooftop investment programme.

The chief secretary reaffirmed that the State Government is committed to accelerating the rollout of rooftop solar systems to promote clean, affordable, and sustainable energy with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

“Ensure timely and effective implementation of the NABARD-ADB supported Solar Rooftop Investment Programme (SRIP) across Andhra Pradesh,” said

Vijayanand in an official release. While reviewing the power distribution companies (DISCOMS) along with the representatives of ADB and NABARD, he checked the progress of SRIP under Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGBY) through the Utility-Led Aggregator (ULA) model.

NABARD has been onboarded as the financial intermediary to provide concessional financing to the state DISCOMS. According to the chief secretary, Andhra Pradesh has accorded high priority to rooftop solar power adoption as part of its broader commitment to clean and sustainable energy.

He said the State has been actively promoting solar energy deployment across residential, institutional, and Government sectors to ensure affordable and reliable power for all.

Emphasising that rooftop solar power is a key pillar in achieving the state’s renewable energy targets and reducing dependence on conventional power, Vijayanand said it contributes to empowering consumers through decentralised power generation.

“The State Government remains fully committed to supporting DISCOMS and collaborating with development partners like ADB and NABARD to make Andhra Pradesh a leader in rooftop solar (power) implementation in the country,” he said.

Delving on the Government’s special focus on solarisation of the Kuppam constituency, represented by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Vijayanand stated that the southern state aims to make it a 100 per cent solar and net zero constituency.



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Delhi court rejects plea by Lalu, Rabri Devi for daily trial in IRCTC scam case



A Delhi court on Tuesday rejected the plea by former Bihar Chief Minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) President Lalu Prasad Yadav and his wife Rabri Devi's against holding day-to-day trial in the IRCTC scam case in which they have been charged with criminal offences. Special Judge (PC Act) Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Courts said that their prayer was not maintainable, practicable or justified.

The fast track court said that the Constitutional courts have asked trial courts to expedite cases against Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs), avoid adjournments and record evidence on a day-to-day basis. "The court is therefore disinclined to bind and restrict its future daily orders by introducing a negative direction inter alia "not listing the matter before one week after each hearing", as prayed by the applicants," Judge Gogne said.

The CBI charge is that Yadav and his family accepted prime land and shares as bribe for awarding contracts to a private firm when he was the Union Railway Minister.

Former TDB president N Vasu arrested in Sabarimala gold case



The SIT probing the missing gold from the Sabarimala temple arrested former Travancore Devaswom Board president N Vasu on Tuesday, sources said here. Vasu, who had also served twice as Commissioner of the TDB before being appointed its president, was arrested following his interrogation, they said. The arrest of Vasu, who is reportedly close to the top leadership of the State Government, is one of the high-profile arrests in the case. The Kerala High Court is monitoring the SIT probe.

He is an accused in the case relating to the disappearance of gold from the door frames of the sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) of the hill shrine, sources said.

R Venkataramani: India's Attorney General for tumultuous times

J GOPIKRISHNAN
■ New Delhi

When the President of India issued a notification on 26 September 2025 extending Ramaswamy Venkataramani's term as the Attorney General for India for another two years, it was more than a bureaucratic decision: it was a reaffirmation of trust in a man known for his quiet competence, sharp intellect and unimpeachable integrity. The extension, valid until 30 September 2027, signals the Government's faith in his ability to steer the nation through an increasingly complex and politically charged legal environment.

R Venkataramani's journey to the highest law office of the land is a story of perseverance, scholarship and deep respect for the rule of law. Enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in 1977, he began his career with humility and hard work, soon moving to New Delhi to practice in the Supreme Court of India in 1979. His early years were shaped by his apprenticeship under the eminent constitutional expert, late PP Rao, Senior Advocate, whose influence left a lasting imprint on his legal philosophy. By March 1982, Venkataramani qualified as an Advocate-on-Record at the Supreme Court and in 1997, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the legal profession, he was designated a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court.

Appointed as Attorney General for India on 28 September 2022, Venkataramani brought with him decades of experience, deep constitutional insight and a reputation for restraint and clarity. His reappointment in 2025 comes at a time when the legal challenges facing the Government are multifaceted, spanning constitutional disputes, international arbitration,



Attorney General of India, R. Venkataramani

political litigation, and the fast-evolving interface between law, technology and governance.

Today's legal landscape is no longer confined to conventional courtroom arguments. It extends into the realm of governance, diplomacy and public perception. The Attorney General's office, as the principal legal advisor to the Government of India, stands at the intersection of law and politics.

Every legal opinion or court submission has the potential to shape not only judicial outcomes but also political narratives. Venkataramani's modesty and meticulous approach make him ideally suited for this high-stakes environment. His style, measured, reasoned and devoid of spectacle, has earned him both respect and trust in equal measure.

The coming years will test his ability to navigate the complex and often turbulent waters of Indian politics and governance. The Modi administration, though led by one of the strongest polit-

ical personalities in recent memory, currently operates as a minority Government. This makes the role of the Attorney General especially critical, as he must delicately balance legal propriety with political pragmatism. In such circumstances, the Attorney General becomes more than just a lawyer, he becomes the moral compass of the administration's legal strategy, ensuring that the pursuit of political objectives remains within the bounds of constitutional discipline.

Venkataramani's challenge extends beyond domestic politics. On the international front, India faces increasing scrutiny over its compliance with trade pacts, investment treaties and environmental and human rights obligations. As global corporations and international bodies become more litigious, the Attorney General must not only defend India's interests in global forums but also ensure that its legal positions align with the principles of fairness and justice that



SC seeks EC response to pleas challenging SIR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday sought separate responses of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on pleas filed by DMK, CPI(M), West Bengal Congress and Trinamool Congress leaders challenging the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal respectively.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked the poll panel to respond to the fresh petitions in two weeks.

The Supreme Court asked the Madras and Calcutta High Courts to keep in abeyance any proceedings on petitions challenging the SIR exercise in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

It also allowed the listing of an intervention application filed by the AIADMK in support of the SIR in Tamil Nadu.

During a brief hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing in the court for the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, said the exercise is being done hurriedly, without following the due process, and different sets of documents are being sought from voters.

He said the northeast monsoon in Tamil Nadu is always heavy during November-December and the coastal districts experience heavy to very heavy rains during this season.

"According to the meteorological department, this year, heavier rain than usual is predicted. Because of this, the common people will be preparing for the same and the revenue officials who are enlisted as BLOs, EROs, AEROS



will have to manage the flood relief as well. Hence, practically, this is not a conducive time for conducting the above exercises," Sibal said.

Justice Kant said in a country as big as India, some states will always face natural calamities. Sibal said there is very poor connectivity in certain areas of the southern state and there will be difficulties in uploading documents.

"Similarly, in West Bengal also, rural connectivity is very poor and much bad with regard to Tamil Nadu," he said. The bench said, "It appears that the case being projected before us is that for the first time, electoral rolls are being prepared. We also know the ground realities. There is a constitutional authority which is doing the

exercise and it is mandated to do it. Earlier also, it has been done."

Justice Kant said the problem is that everybody wants "status quo". Sibal said the petitioners want the EC to do its work but not in this fashion and hurriedly. The bench said political parties should not be apprehensive of the exercise and the EC will give all details related to it.

"If we are satisfied that there is something wrong, we will annul the entire exercise," the court said.

On the argument that different modalities are being adopted in Tamil Nadu, compared to what was followed in Bihar during the SIR exercise, the bench said it means that the EC has rectified its mistakes. Sibal said the Bihar SIR has nothing to do with the



exercise in Tamil Nadu and the situation and conditions are different in the two states.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing in the court for the EC, sought to file replies to the fresh petitions.

Senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee, appearing for Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Dola Sen, said they too have filed the petition challenging the SIR in West Bengal.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing in the matter for NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, questioned various "procedural irregularities" on the EC's part like issuing a machine-readable voter list in Bihar.

The bench said notices are being issued to the EC on all the fresh petitions and the

court will look into the pleas after the poll panel's response. It told the EC, "You should adopt the best practice and experience of the Bihar SIR in exercises which are to be conducted in other states. However, you should always keep in mind the local conditions."

The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 26 and 27, and said it will hear the arguments on the interim relief sought by different political leaders, such as a stay on the SIR.

Besides Sen, West Bengal Congress leader Shubhankar Sarkar, DMK's RS Bharathi, CPI-M's P Shanmugam and other leaders have filed separate petitions challenging the SIR in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry.

In his plea filed through advocate Vivek Singh, Bharathi has claimed that the exercise is violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21 (rights to equality, freedom of speech and life) and other provisions of the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act and the Registration of Electors Rules of 1960.

The CPI(M) has challenged the constitutional validity of the EC's directive to conduct the SIR in Tamil Nadu, terming the process "arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional".

Meanwhile, the AIADMK has supported the poll panel's decision to conduct the SIR in the southern State, calling it a "legitimate and necessary" exercise to uphold the sanctity of elections and prevent voter fraud. On October 27, the EC announced the conduct of the second phase of the SIR in 12 States and Union territories between November and February next year. These states and Union territories are — the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal are scheduled to go to polls in 2026. The EC has said for Assam, where polls are also due in 2026, the revision of the electoral rolls will be announced separately.

The second phase of the SIR exercise began on November 4 and will continue till December 4. The EC will release the draft electoral rolls on December 9 and the final electoral rolls on February 7.

Stubble burning worsening Delhi-NCR air quality levels, SC told

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Stubble burning has commenced in a big way with impunity in Punjab and Haryana leading to further worsening of air quality levels in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court was told on Tuesday.

A bench headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai, which is scheduled to hear the air pollution case on Wednesday, was urged by senior advocate Aprajita Singh, who is assisting the bench as an amicus curiae, that a response be sought from the Governments of Punjab and Haryana.

Singh referred to NASA satellite images to buttress her point that stubble burning in these two states has commenced and it is contributing to already severe air pollution levels in Delhi-NCR. "The Supreme Court orders are being flouted with



Stubble burning in Amritsar

impunity," she said, adding that these states should respond to the present situation. "We will pass some orders on Wednesday," the CJ said. Earlier on November 3, the Supreme Court directed the Commission for Air Quality

Management (CAQM) to file an affidavit detailing the steps it has taken so far to prevent air pollution in Delhi-NCR from peaking further. The bench, also comprising Justice K Vinod Chandran, was hearing the MC Mehta case and had said that the

authorities must act proactively and not wait for pollution levels to reach a "severe" stage.

Amicus curiae Singh had flagged media reports indicating that several air quality monitoring stations in Delhi were not functioning during the Diwali period. "There are newspapers after newspapers saying that monitoring stations are non-functional. If the monitoring stations are not even functioning, we don't even know when to implement GRAP (graded response action plan)... Out of 37 monitoring stations, only nine were functioning continuously on the day of Diwali," she said.

The amicus urged the bench to ensure that CAQM submits clear data and an action plan. She said the earlier orders mandated pre-emptive measures, rather than reactive steps, once pollution worsened. "The CAQM is required to place on record an affidavit as to

what steps are proposed to be taken to prevent the pollution from turning severe," the bench said in its order. The counsel for the CAQM said that the Central Pollution Control Board is responsible for monitoring data. However, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati assured the bench that the agencies concerned will file the required report.

On October 15, the CJ-led bench permitted the sale and bursting of green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR during Diwali with conditions aimed at balancing tradition with environmental and health concerns. The court had made it clear that use of green crackers will be confined to specific hours on Diwali and a day before. The sale of green crackers was permitted from October 18 to 20.

It had also made clear that the relaxation was only on a "test case basis and it shall be only for the period specified".

have long defined its constitutional ethos. Acting as both lawyer and diplomat, he must maintain India's credibility abroad while safeguarding its sovereignty.

Within India, a surge of politically sensitive cases has blurred the line between law and ideology. The courts have become arenas where political battles are fought by other means. From electoral disputes and constitutional amendments to the validity of administrative actions, the Government faces legal challenges that can have profound implications for its longevity and legitimacy. Venkataramani's calm temperament and deep constitutional grounding will be indispensable in such moments.

Many in the legal community had anticipated a change of guard at the top law office earlier this year. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, known for his aggressive courtroom style and articulate advocacy, was widely seen as the front-runner for the post.

However, sources reveal that when the decision reached the Prime Minister's desk, Narendra Modi preferred continuity and composure over confrontation. The choice of R Venkataramani over a more flamboyant alternative reflects Modi's instinct to rely on steady, unassuming competence, particularly crucial in a phase when legal stability underpins political survival.

Behind Venkataramani's quiet demeanor lies a formidable intellect and an unwavering commitment to the institution of justice. Those who have worked with him describe him as a "lawyer's lawyer", deeply committed to the purity of legal reasoning, yet pragmatic enough to appreciate the compulsions of governance. His professional conduct, coupled with his personal simplicity, has earned him the confidence of both the judiciary and the exec-

utive. Venkatramani, since his student days, has held a reflective admiration for American legal institutions, attorneys and jurists who shaped them. Names such as John Marshall, Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr, Hugo Black, Earl Warren, Louis Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, William Storey, Thurgood Marshall, William Brennan, and, more recently Antonin Scalia, represent for him a wide philosophical spectrum where judicial reasoning is not merely technical but rooted in social conscience, moral clarity and constitutional faith.

He regards Attorney Generals like Robert F Kennedy, Elliot Richardson and Edward Levi as figures who demonstrated how law, when anchored in democratic values, can remain both principled and transformative.

For Venkatramani, the appeal of the American legal traditions lies not in replication but in the seriousness with which it attempts to balance liberty, accountability and judicial independence through interpretative discipline and institutional design. India, with its civilisational depth, constitutional vision, and the responsibility of delivering justice to over a billion people, requires legal systems that are transparent, humane and responsive to social complexity.

He has often emphasised that legal thinking must remain compassionate, historically aware, and connected to the lived experiences of ordinary citizens, rather than confined to academic abstraction. This belief continues to guide his intellectual and institutional engagements.

His aspiration is to foster thoughtful dialogue between legal cultures through comparative research programs, shared judicial training, and collaborative professional networks. Such engagement, in his view, does not weaken India's

legal identity; rather, it strengthens it by encouraging clarity, public trust and ethical responsibility.

Thus, his admiration for American juristic traditions is part of a broader commitment to renew and reinforce India's constitutional order, ensuring it remains resilient, purposeful and deeply anchored in the rights and aspirations of its people.

In an era when the credibility of the legal profession is under strain, amid allegations of politicisation, judicial activism, and media trials: the Attorney General's role assumes symbolic importance.

He is the guardian of the Government's legal conscience, the voice that must uphold reason even in the heat of political rhetoric. For Venkataramani, this means ensuring that the Government's actions are not merely defensible in court but also justifiable in principle.

An insider in the Government recently remarked that it is Venkataramani's quiet professionalism and unassuming personality that have inspired the Prime Minister's confidence. In times when the country's legal institutions are often pulled between competing pressures from within and outside its borders, his steady hand offers reassurance.

R Venkataramani's reappointment, therefore, represents more than administrative continuity: it symbolises the Government's faith in sobriety over showmanship, diligence over drama, and principle over personality. As India's foremost law officer embarks on his extended tenure, the nation will look to him not only for legal guidance but also for moral steadiness amid the clamour of courtroom and political battles.

The next two years will not just define his legacy but may also shape the very contours of India's constitutional resilience.

Editor's
TAKE

Delhi bears the brunt of an explosion once again

The explosion is a grim echo of Delhi's violent past. It is a moment not for panic, but for resolve – to ensure such tragedies never repeat

Delhi is in a state of shock. Just when the people thought that Delhi was safe from explosions, a powerful blast near the Red Fort shattered that sense of security. Whether it was a terror attack or a technical glitch that caused the CNG tank in the car to explode, the effect was horrendous. In either case, complacency in governance cannot be ruled out.

For Delhi, it was a heartbreakingly familiar scene – one that revived the discomforting memories of past terror attacks that once shook the national capital. Preliminary reports suggest the blast originated from within the car, though at this point it is not clear what exactly caused the explosion – a bomb or a cylinder blast. Whether it was a mechanical failure, an accidental CNG explosion, or a deliberate act of terror remains unclear. Yet, the timing and intensity of the explosion – coming just hours after the recovery of nearly 2,900 kilograms of explosives in neighbouring Haryana – point towards the possibility of sabotage. Investigative agencies have not ruled out the involvement of a terror module. For Delhiites, this tragedy reopens old wounds. Delhi has endured a long and painful history of bombings – from the serial blasts of 2005 to the 2011 High Court explosion that claimed dozens of lives. Those incidents briefly united the city in grief and outrage, only to give way to complacency, allowing the lessons learned to blur. The capital remains vulnerable to old methods of destruction. If it was an act of terror, it was meticulously planned. The location of the blast - near the Red Fort – a site symbolic of India's independence and national pride, makes the act even more devastating, striking not just at human lives but at the country's collective sense of security. Beyond grief and anger, this moment demands action. The first step must be a transparent, meticulous investigation. Every piece of evidence – from the vehicle's remnants to surrounding CCTV footage – must be examined with scientific precision. The people of Delhi have a right to know – regular, credible updates, not speculation or secrecy. This is essential not only for justice but for restoring confidence in the state's ability to protect its people.

Equally important is a re-evaluation of urban security. High-density zones like Old Delhi, with their narrow lanes and chaotic traffic, require tailored strategies – stricter parking norms, periodic scrutiny of vehicles, and stronger inter-state coordination in monitoring suspicious movements. Public awareness campaigns, emergency drills, and citizen participation can make a significant difference. Finally, there is a need for emotional and civic healing. As Delhi mourns the dead, it must also reaffirm its spirit – the unbreakable resolve of a city that has seen empires rise and fall, yet never surrendered to fear. The explosion near the Red Fort must not become another entry in the long list of tragedies that fade with time. It must become an incident where the city's vigilance was restored and people feel safe once again.

Faith, power, and nationhood in conflict

From British colonial manipulation to Partition, the story of India has been shaped by cycles of conquest, accommodation, and awakening. The roots of today's anxieties lie deep in this complex past



Questions such as whether our Constitution is secular or whether “Vande Bharat” is a patriotic or political slogan are not merely contemporary concerns; they are rooted in centuries of Indian history. To understand current controversies, one must go back to AD 1194, when Mohammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the Second Battle of Tarain. Some trace the origins even further. Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah once claimed that Pakistan was born the day the first Hindu converted to Islam in the subcontinent. Muslims came to India as conquerors, guests, or converts-few could claim native descent. Among the rulers, some were benevolent, others harsh, and a few destructive. The brightest phase came under Emperor Akbar, whose long and liberal reign brought a rare harmony to India. In contrast, Aurangzeb's intolerance marked the darkest chapter of Mughal rule.

A puzzling feature of Indian history is the absence of a united Hindu resistance to the Sultans and Badshahs of Delhi. Shivaji stands out for his courage and statecraft, yet his influence remained confined to the Deccan. Maharana Pratap, too, fought heroically against Akbar, but his struggle was limited to Mewar. A pan-Indian uprising never materialised. By the mid-18th century, the declining Mughal order gave way to new powers. The reckless Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah, alienated his own officers and merchants, pushing them into alliance with the East India Company. Their support ensured Robert Clive's victory at Plassey in 1757, which opened the gates of Bengal to British domination. Subsequent British victories-over Tipu Sultan in 1799 and the annexation of Awadh under Dalhousie-completed the dismantling of Muslim authority.

The Revolt of 1857 briefly shook British confidence. For a year, large parts of North India were aflame, but the uprising ended in defeat. In 1858, Queen Victoria assumed direct control, and two decades later, in 1877, she was proclaimed Empress of India. The British concluded that Muslims had been the principal instigators and punished them more severely than Hindus.

This perception deepened Muslim resentment and nostalgia for lost power. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, founder of the Aligarh Movement, even argued that when the British eventually left, they should return India to the Muslims from whom they had taken it. Whether this was foresight or delusion remains debatable. Ironically, the Indian National Congress-often branded a “Hindu party” – was not formed by Hindus at all. It was founded in 1885 by a retired English



“VANDE MATARAM” SHOULD NOT DIVIDE INDIANS; IT SHOULD REMIND THEM OF THEIR SHARED SOIL AND DESTINY. HISTORY MAY BE SCARRED BY CONQUEST AND DIVISION, BUT THE FUTURE MUST REST ON REASON AND RECONCILIATION

The writer is a well-known columnist, author, and former member of the Rajya Sabha

 Prafull Goradia
 @prafullgoradia
 The Pioneer

civil servant, Allan Octavian Hume. Yet, by 1906, Muslims had established their own political platform-the All-India Muslim League-reinforcing the belief that while Hindus were traders and cultivators, Muslims were natural rulers. This sentiment persisted even after Mahatma Gandhi entered the scene in 1915.

Gandhi's early political strategy was curious. To bridge Hindu-Muslim divides, he supported the Khilafat Movement, launched by the Ali brothers – Mohammad and Shaukat – to restore the Ottoman Caliphate after World War I. Astonishingly, Gandhi even became President of the Khilafat Committee, formed to defend a Turkish sultan thousands of miles away. Many observers saw this as proof that political power in India still revolved around Muslim leadership. Gandhi's satyagraha, though morally compelling, appeared to many as nothing more than a moral appeal, not really a political challenge to imperial rule.

In 1940, at Lahore, Jinnah declared that Hindus and Muslims were “two distinct nations.” No strong Indian voice publicly disputed this claim. When the premiers of Punjab and Bengal initially opposed Partition, Congress leaders quietly welcomed their stance, believing Jinnah's plan would fail. Yet, by May 1947, Mountbatten announced the Partition, confirming that Jinnah's vision had prevailed. Once again, Muslim political will had triumphed. Partition's aftermath was tragic and uneven. In Pakistan's western wing, Hindus and Sikhs were virtually wiped out by 1948. The eastern wing (now Bangladesh) saw its Hindu population fall from 33 per cent to barely 8 per

cent. Migration was overwhelmingly one-sided-millions of Hindus fled Pakistan, but few Muslims left India. The imbalance revealed the persistent perception that power and initiative in the subcontinent lay largely with Muslims, not Hindus.

This historical backdrop helps explain why, even today, debates such as the one surrounding “Vande Mataram” evoke old anxieties. Some Muslim leaders continue to act as if their community still sets the terms of national discourse. Such illusions are not merely harmless-they perpetuate misunderstanding and hinder social harmony.

India's past is too complex to be reduced to communal binaries. Both Hindus and Muslims have shaped its destiny, for better and for worse. Yet, national progress demands a sober recognition of facts, not romanticised memories of lost empires or imagined privileges. True secularism lies not in appeasement but in equal accountability. The maturity of a nation is measured not by the volume of its grievances but by its capacity to face history without distortion.

In the final analysis, “Vande Mataram” should not divide Indians; it should remind them of their shared soil and destiny. History may be scarred by conquest and division, but the future must rest on reason and reconciliation. Every citizen-Hindu, Muslim, or otherwise-must realise that the power to shape India's tomorrow lies not in nostalgia for the past, but in unity of purpose and respect for truth. Only then can the spirit of Vedanta-of oneness and universality – truly prevail.

The Pioneer
SINCE 1865

The Ostrich Effect cripples classroom progress



2ND OPINION
THE PIONEER

In classrooms across the country-urban or rural, elite or modest – there exists a peculiar breed of educators who have perfected the art of selective blindness. These are the practitioners of what might be called the Ostrich Effect: the time – honoured skill of ignoring inconvenient truths while claiming to see everything else with hawk-like precision. They can catch a whispered secret from the last bench with uncanny accuracy, yet fail to notice that half the class has mentally checked out. They spot a passing chit instantly but seem blissfully unaware that their lesson plan, crafted in the pre-smartphone era, now holds the relevance of a typewriter at a coding boot camp.

The Ostrich Effect isn't just a teaching quirk – it's a full-

blown lifestyle choice. For some, every issue in the classroom is blamed on a supposed “decline in student discipline.” When test results disappoint, the stars are at fault-Mercury's retrograde, Jupiter's misalignment, or, of course, the mythical “loss of moral values.” Anything but the possibility that their own approach might need an update. Why explore creative methods or technology-enhanced learning when one can cling to the comforting familiarity of dictation drills and the age-old threat of “I'll call your parents”? The phenomenon shines brightest during classroom observations. Where reflective educators see feedback as a ladder for growth, the ostrich-style teacher perceives it as a personal attack. Suggest a more student-led activity, and the reaction is pure drama: “But this is how I've always taught!” they protest, mistaking longevity for excellence. It's the educational equivalent of bragging about 25 years of driving experience while routinely ignoring traffic lights. Experience, after all, means little without evolution.

Parent-teacher meetings provide yet another stage for this performance. These sessions-ideally moments for collaboration-often turn into exercises in intellectual gymnastics. Faced with poor test scores or unfinished work, some teachers twist and turn until blame lands squarely on the parents. “Your child lacks discipline at home,” they declare, conveniently forgetting their own ungraded assignments or absence of meaningful feedback. The

student sits there silently, still unsure about integers, hoping someone notices. But that would mean lifting one's head out of the sand, and we can't have that, can we? Even professional development workshops-those rare chances to refresh and reimagine teaching-are treated by some with theatrical disinterest. Arms crossed, faces blank, they endure new ideas as if attending a lecture on the history of paper-clips. Student engagement strategies? Emotional intelligence? Digital tools? Surely, they must be fads. After all, if chalk-and-talk worked forty years ago, why change now?

Yet, beneath the stubbornness lies something human: comfort. Familiar methods feel safe. Reflection feels risky. Acknowledging blind spots takes humility and humility is rarely comfortable. But education cannot thrive in comfort zones. Today's learners think, question, and process information differently. They need classrooms that evolve as quickly as the world around them.

If teaching is truly about preparing students for the future, then teachers must model adaptability, curiosity, and courage. The classroom is not a museum of traditions but a living ecosystem. It needs gardeners, not ostriches-educators who nurture growth, tend to changing needs, and take responsibility for what they cultivate. And, unlike ostriches, gardeners keep their heads up.

The writer is an educator and councillor

NATION GRIEVES AFTER RED FORT TERROR EXPLOSION

India is in mourning following the horrific car explosion near the Red Fort Metro Station in Delhi, which claimed over ten lives and left several injured. The powerful blast tore through a Haryana-registered vehicle parked near Gate No 1, leaving behind a trail of devastation. Flames engulfed nearby cars, shattered streetlights, and sent waves of panic through one of the capital's busiest heritage zones.

Emergency services responded swiftly, rushing the injured to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital, with several victims in critical condition. Authorities have since declared a high alert across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Mumbai, tightening security at metro stations, markets, and religious sites. The attack serves

as a grim reminder of the continuing threat posed by terrorism and the fragile calm that often follows such violence.

This tragedy must not be politicized. It's imperative that all parties rise above partisan divisions and stand united in confronting those who seek to spread fear and destruction. Only through solidarity, vigilance, and decisive action can the nation uphold peace and safeguard its citizens. In times of grief, unity must prevail over division, for national resilience is the greatest answer to terror.

May the victims find peace, and may the nation stand stronger in the face of adversity. Together, we must remain vigilant and committed to protecting the safety and harmony of our communities.

BHAGWAN THANDI | MUMABI

Please send your letter to the info@dailypioneer.com. In not more than 250 words. We appreciate your feedback.

PRASUN KUMAR DUTTA | WEST BENGAL

MANI RAMANI JAYANTHI | UTTAR PRADESH

YASH PAL | DELHI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COP30: Turning promises into action

The 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), being hosted in the Amazonian city of Belém, is expected to deliberate on critical issues such as climate financing, the transition to green fuels, and the escalating global warming crisis. From catastrophic wildfires in California to recurring disasters across the Himalayan ecosystem, the spiralling effects of climate change have become deeply alarming. In this context, host nation Brazil's call to prioritise the implementation of earlier commitments-such as COP28's pledge to phase out fossil fuels-rather than introducing new targets-appears both timely and pragmatic.

Key initiatives like the “New Collective Quantified Goal” (NCQG) and the “Loss and Damage Fund,” launched in previous summits, remain severely underfunded and largely non-binding. Furthermore, the earlier withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, with former President Trump dismissing climate change as a “hoax,” continues to cast a shadow over global unity.

A sharper focus on mitigation strategies, carbon trading mechanisms, and the timely achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be essential to respond meaningfully to the urgent appeals of climate activists like Greta Thunberg.

A grim reminder of terror's state links

The primary question was answered in the affirmative-if this was someone else's operation executed using Pakistani nationals, then who was the real mastermind behind this terror attack? The truth soon came into the open. The moot point remains that terrorism is not merely religious; it often functions as an instrument of state policy, forming an integral part of statecraft and diplomacy between nations.

Pakistan-based co-conspirators, long involved in orchestrating devastating terror strikes such as the 2008 Mumbai attacks, now appear to have turned their focus elsewhere after Operation Sindhoor. Around 6:52 pm, a slow-moving car halted at a red light outside the Red Fort and exploded moments later. The powerful blast damaged nearby vehicles and triggered a fire that engulfed several others, causing casualties and chaos in the bustling area. Emergency services, including the Forensic Sciences team and the National Investigation Agency, rushed to the site, with the situation closely monitored. Fortunately, the Red Fort's light and sound show, *Jai Hind*, which dramatises India's journey from the 17th century to the present day, was closed for its weekly off. Had it been operational, the toll in human lives could have been far higher.

Chronic kidney disease threatens India

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is rising rapidly across India, yet reliable national data remain unavailable. Experts are calling for a National Mission for Prevention and Early Detection to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment. Recent data from South Asia reveal that nearly 16 per cent of the population is affected-a grave public health concern.

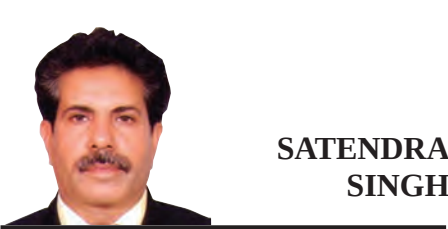
India, now home to over 1.4 billion people, faces multiple health challenges, with CKD emerging as a major threat. Contributing factors include the high prevalence of diabetes and hypertension, pollution, toxic chemicals, and the country's hot climate.

Modern lifestyles have worsened the problem-diets high in sugar and salt, sedentary routines, and poor sleep due to work pressure and constant digital exposure all increase the risk. In some cases, genetic factors also play a role.

Currently, dialysis and kidney transplantation remain the only treatments for kidney failure. Dialysis facilities are limited and costly, while organ shortages make transplants difficult. Although understanding of CKD is improving and modern medicines can slow its progression, many doctors are still unclear about when transplantation should be done.

Sustainable future through knowledge and innovation

The future will be shaped not just by what we know, but by how we choose to use that knowledge. Science gives us the tools; wisdom determines their purpose. When guided by ethics and inclusivity, science becomes a bridge between human aspiration and planetary well-being



Science has always been the light that guides humankind through the darkness of the unknown. It is far more than a collection of data, laboratories, and formulae — it is a mindset, a way of looking at the world with curiosity, logic, and creativity. As the world celebrated ‘World Science Day for Peace and Development’ on November 10, 2025, under the theme “The Role of Science in Sustainable Societies,” we are reminded that science shapes not just our technologies but our destiny — a destiny rooted in peace, equity, and sustainability.

Science as the Foundation of Human Advancement

From the moment humans discovered fire to the decoding of the human genome, the story of civilisation has been powered by science. It has been the engine behind every leap in understanding and innovation, but at its core, science is not merely about invention — it is about improving lives and ensuring that progress does not rob future generations of their right to thrive.

The United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a blueprint for global well-being, from eradicating poverty to ensuring clean energy and combating climate change. Every one of these 17 goals depends on science. Whether it is increasing agricultural productivity through biotechnology, designing vaccines that save millions, or creating cleaner energy systems, science provides the evidence-based tools needed to turn vision into reality. A truly sustainable society is one that listens to scientific insight and applies it wisely — growing food without degrading the soil, building cities without choking the air, and meeting human needs without harming the planet.

Science as the Key to a Sustainable World

Science allows humanity to understand how the Earth’s systems — air, water, forests, and biodiversity-interconnect. It gives us the means to predict weather, conserve resources, and prepare for natural disasters. India stands as a powerful example. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)



THE THEME OF WORLD SCIENCE DAY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT 2025 — “THE ROLE OF SCIENCE IN SUSTAINABLE SOCIETIES” — REMINDS US THAT THE FUTURE WILL BE SHAPED NOT ONLY BY WHAT WE KNOW, BUT BY HOW WE CHOOSE TO USE THAT KNOWLEDGE

The writer is a former Executive Director of the National Institute of Disaster Management

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has launched satellites that monitor monsoons, cyclones, and forest fires, while the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has significantly improved forecasting accuracy-saving countless lives.

Agricultural science, too, has evolved through innovations like climate-resilient crops and efficient irrigation systems. Initiatives like NICRA (National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture) by ICAR are helping millions of farmers adapt to extreme climate changes and secure food for future generations. Renewable energy offers another shining example. India’s transformation from a fossil-fuel-dependent economy to a renewable energy leader-through solar, wind, and green hydrogen-demonstrates how science and policy can together turn environmental challenges into opportunities.

Blending Traditional Wisdom with Modern Science

The path to sustainability is not limited to high-tech laboratories. It also runs through the fields, forests, and villages where generations have practised indigenous science.

Traditional knowledge systems-such as organic farming, rainwater harvesting, and herbal medicine-have long sustained communities in harmony with nature. Today, modern science is rediscovering

and validating this wisdom. Farmers combine traditional practices with digital weather forecasts and satellite-based advisories. Ayurveda and modern biomedicine are being integrated to offer holistic health solutions. When traditional knowledge and modern science work together, they create ecosystems that are both resilient and deeply rooted in culture.

Science and Climate Action: A Global Responsibility

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time — and science is our most powerful ally. From uncovering the human causes of global warming to developing mitigation and adaptation strategies, scientific research has guided international action. Global collaboration has strengthened this effort. Nations share satellite data, co-develop early warning systems, and exchange knowledge about disaster preparedness. This is

science diplomacy — where cooperation replaces conflict and shared understanding becomes the foundation for peace. India has been an active player in this movement. Initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and partnerships under SAARC and BIMSTEC showcase how scientific collaboration can build regional resilience. When nations connect through science, they build trust-and trust builds peace.

Science as a Bridge for Peace and Diplomacy

“Science for Peace” is not just a slogan; it is a philosophy. Scientific collaboration transcends political boundaries because the problems humanity faces — climate change, pandemics, natural disasters-do not recognise borders.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stands as a symbol of this cooperation. Thousands of scientists across the world contribute to its reports, enabling leaders to make informed decisions for the planet’s collective good. The COVID-19 pandemic further reminded the world that when scientists unite across continents, they can save lives faster than any army or treaty.

Innovation, Industry, and the Path to Sustainability

Science fuels innovation-and innovation drives progress. Across India, young entrepreneurs and start-ups are using science to solve local problems: from recycling waste to developing renewable energy solutions and improving healthcare access. Programmes such as Start-up India and Atal Innovation Mission have nurtured a generation of innovators who view sustainability not as a constraint but as a catalyst for growth. The use of AI in flood prediction, drones in agriculture, and 3D printing in affordable housing are transforming communities. The future will belong to those who innovate responsibly — balancing economic ambition with ecological care.

Science Education and Public Awareness

For science to truly serve humanity, it must move beyond laboratories and reach every citizen.

Science education must be strengthened-particularly in rural and underserved areas — so that children grow up with curiosity and critical thinking. Promoting STEM education (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and encouraging more girls and women to pursue scientific careers will unlock vast reservoirs of talent.

However, beyond education, public engagement is essential. Citizen science projects, environmental clubs, and science fairs can help communities link their everyday actions — such as water conservation and waste segregation-to the broader global goals of sustainability. A scientifically literate society makes better

decisions, demands accountability, and fosters an environment of rational problem-solving.

Science in Policy and Governance

Effective governance must rest on evidence. From urban development to agriculture, policymaking informed by scientific data ensures efficiency and long-term impact. India’s national institutions — such as NITI Aayog and the NDMA — already integrate research into public policy. Geospatial data, satellite imagery, and climate models are increasingly employed to design infrastructure that anticipates future risks. Strengthening the science-policy interface, where scientists and policymakers collaborate directly, is essential for creating adaptive and resilient systems of governance.

The Ethical Compass of Science

As we celebrate the power of science, we must also recognise its ethical boundaries. The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, and nuclear research poses profound moral questions.

Science must always serve humanity, never threaten it. A sustainable society advances knowledge with humility and compassion, using discovery as a means to protect life, preserve dignity, and promote equality. Responsibility must guide every breakthrough.

A Common Vision for the Future

The theme of World Science Day for Peace and Development 2025-“*The Role of Science in Sustainable Societies*” — reminds us that the future will be shaped not only by what we know, but by how we choose to use that knowledge.

Science provides us with the tools; wisdom determines their purpose. When guided by ethics and inclusivity, science becomes a bridge between human aspiration and planetary well-being.

It teaches us humility — for every answer leads to new questions, and every discovery to new responsibilities. Let us, therefore, commit to a culture that values inquiry, respects innovation, and ensures that science always serves peace and sustainability.

As Albert Einstein wisely said, “Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding.” And understanding — the true essence of science — remains humanity’s greatest hope for a peaceful and sustainable future.

The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses at 60: The making of strategic thought



When India faced its defining strategic crisis in the early 1960s, it was compelled to rethink what security truly meant. The 1962 War with China exposed not only military shortfalls but also an absence of intellectual preparedness. The young republic, still discovering the grammar of power, realised that ideas could be as critical to defence as armies or arsenals. From that period of national introspection emerged an institution that would shape India’s strategic imagination - the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, now the Manohar Parrikar IDSA. Its establishment in 1965 marked India’s decision to think systematically about power in a turbulent world.

The Institute’s origins lie in a series of encounters abroad. In May 1964, Defence Minister YB Chavan and Defence Secretary PVR Rao travelled to Washington, DC, seeking ideas to modernise India’s defence planning. There, they encountered the RAND Corporation — an institution that applied mathematical precision to questions of war and strategy. RAND’s systems-analysis methods, championed by Robert McNamara’s “whiz kid” Alain Enthoven, demonstrated how data and models could inform complex military decisions. Soon after, Enthoven was invited to New Delhi, where he proposed that India should establish its own RAND. Almost simultaneously, Alastair Buchan, the founding director of London’s Institute for Strategic Studies (now IISS), arrived with a very different idea. Buchan viewed strategy as conversation — an exercise in context, interpretation, and policy dialogue rather than equations. Between these two approaches, India chose the latter. Lacking the resources for RAND’s computational rigour but drawn to the British tradition of policy debate, it adopted the IISS model. That decision gave the Institute its defining temperament — conceptually rich and intellectually vibrant, yet marked by a persistent absence of quantitative rigour that continues to shape its analyses even today.

The mid-1960s were a charged moment in Indian politics. With Nehru gone and Lal Bahadur Shastri navigating post-war anxieties, national confidence required renewal. The 1965 War with Pakistan revived military

morale but also exposed the need for coherent strategic planning. It was in this environment — uncertain yet purposeful — that the idea of an autonomous research body took form: one that could advise, critique, and think alongside the state while remaining independent of it.

On November 11, 1965, IDSA was formally registered as a society, with Major General Som Dutt — fresh from a fellowship at the IISS and formerly Commandant of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington — as its first Director. During his London tenure, he authored two notable Adelphi Papers: The Defence of India’s Northern Borders and India and the Bomb. In the latter, written soon after China’s detonation of three atomic devices in 1966, he argued that India might one day need its own nuclear capability to maintain Asia’s strategic balance.

Within three years, the Institute launched its first publication — the IDSA Journal. In his foreword, Home Minister YB Chavan captured the spirit of a changing era: “In this nuclear age, traditional principles of military operations begin to be in doubt... previous tenets of national security have to be re-examined and fresh ones evolved.”

It was a declaration of intellectual independence - questioning, analytical, and unafraid. The inaugural issue featured PVR Rao’s essay on “National Defence Policy and the Higher Direction of War” and Lieutenant General GG Bewoor’s study on “High Altitude Mountain Warfare,” laying the groundwork for India’s emerging defence discourse. Bewoor would later become the Army’s eighth Chief of Staff.

Under K Subrahmanyam, IDSA began to forge a distinct intellectual identity within India’s strategic community. A civil servant, Subrahmanyam returned in 1968 after a stint at the London School of Economics and a study tour of US institutions — joining first as Director (Programme) and soon after as Director.

At a time when open debate on national security was rare, he transformed IDSA into a forum of rigorous inquiry, insisting that it hold no official line but embrace diverse viewpoints. He often remarked that the Institute’s true strength lay in its ability to sustain disagreement with dignity.

That ethos was tested almost immediately. In 1968, as the world’s major powers - the United States, Soviet Union, and United Kingdom — advanced the draft of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), India faced a critical policy dilemma. At IDSA, the debate was both intense and illuminating. Some argued that accession to the NPT would com-

promise India’s sovereignty and erode its strategic autonomy, while others viewed participation as a constructive step towards reinforcing global norms of nuclear restraint. The Institute, true to its founding ethos, refrained from adopting an institutional position, allowing individual scholars to articulate their analyses independently. This pluralism of thought not only enriched the discourse but also underscored IDSA’s enduring commitment to intellectual freedom and analytical integrity.

Among those who advanced this legacy were PR Chari and Jasjit Singh, who deepened IDSA’s analytical influence through their scholarship and policy engagement. Later, K Santhanam brought a markedly different sensibility to the Institute. A nuclear scientist by training, Santy, as he was fondly known, had been part of the quartet that orchestrated India’s 1998 nuclear tests alongside R Chidambaram, Anil Kakodkar, and APJ Abdul Kalam. When he took over as Director from 2001 to 2004, he infused into IDSA a scientist’s discipline — rooted in modelling, systems thinking, and quantitative analysis — dimensions the Institute had long underplayed. If Subrahmanyam, the civil servant-scholar, had endowed IDSA with conceptual depth and a culture of debate, Santy sought to complement it with empirical precision. Both exemplified a shared conviction that India’s strategic thought must remain informed, autonomous, and unswayed by political expediency.

This intellectual autonomy yielded a substantial corpus of scholarship. In 1977, Strategic Analysis was launched as a monthly journal, later transitioning into a peer-reviewed quarterly in 2002 and, in partnership with Routledge, into a bi-monthly publication in 2007. Over the decades, it has become a principal forum for India’s security discourse, publishing influential analyses on nuclear policy, regional strategy, intelligence reform, and military modernisation.

Sixty years on, the Institute’s founding purpose endures. Yet, despite its considerable contributions, IDSA has been slower to integrate quantitative and interdisciplinary methodologies into its research framework. This methodological gap continues to constrain the infusion of empirical rigour and analytical precision into India’s strategic studies — a limitation that future scholarship must consciously address.

The author is a Senior Fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi

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Twin glitches in India’s sky



Two breakdowns in aviation rarely occur together by chance; it’s like lightning striking the same place twice. When Delhi’s Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS) failed recently, slowing air traffic operations to a crawl, several pilots also reported GPS anomalies over northern India-signals suggesting possible spoofing of satellite navigation data. Though officially unconnected, the two events are uncomfortably close in time. In a world where both digital and satellite networks can be disrupted-intentionally or indirectly-this coincidence warrants deeper investigation rather than a quick technical explanation.

The AMSS is the nerve centre of air traffic communication, routing flight plans and operational messages between control towers, airlines, and radar units. It functions much like the WhatsApp of aviation, instantly linking every element of the airspace network. When it fails, controllers revert to manual procedures-typing and reading flight data line by line-slowing traffic and increasing workload. Around the same time, aircraft over India and nearby regions reported intermittent GPS errors and position shifts, classic signs of spoofing. Reports of GPS interference near the India-Pakistan border further strengthened the possibility of deliberate interference by state or non-state actors. Pilots flying along certain northern corridors have noted erratic readings, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has reinstated traditional Instrument Landing Systems at Delhi to ensure redundancy when satellite signals are unreliable. In this context, the overlap of a major ground-system failure and a navigation disturbance cannot be dismissed as mere coincidence. The geopolitical proximity to conflict-sensitive regions makes the possibility of spill-over interference entirely plausible. Spoofing, unlike simple jamming, does not block a signal but imitates it. Fake satellite transmissions trick onboard computers into accepting false coordinates, distorting position data. For pilots, this may cause the aircraft symbol to drift on the navigation display, the map to jump, or warnings of “position disagree” to appear.

Such interference has become a global hazard. Data compiled by the international pilot and controller forum OPSGROUP shows a dramatic rise in spoofing incidents-from roughly 300 daily flight disruptions in early 2024 to about 1,500 per day by mid-year. Over one month last summer, more than 41,000 flights worldwide were affected by navigation deception or signal loss. Independent

analytics by Aireon and WTW also confirm that cases of jamming and spoofing have risen by more than 60 per cent since 2021. The surge aligns closely with regions under military tension-particularly the Middle East, the Black Sea, and parts of Eastern Europe-where electronic warfare systems are routinely deployed to mislead drones or missiles, with civil aircraft becoming collateral victims. International regulators have long warned of this trend. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has documented the spread of GNSS interference and urged a unified European response. Its 2024 advisory called for centralised monitoring networks and pilot training in recognising spoofing symptoms.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) recently highlighted GNSS disruption as a rising “safety-of-flight risk” and urged continuous reporting by air navigation service providers. OPSGROUP identified multiple safety concerns and operational risks, noting that spoofing is now common and often impacts several aircraft simultaneously. The Delhi incident reveals broader systemic vulnerabilities, as increased automation in aviation, while efficient, creates dangerous dependence on complex technology. A simultaneous failure of ground networks and satellite links greatly reduces the chances for human intervention. The way forward globally is being defined: ICAO, EASA, and IATA advocate creating real-time GNSS interference monitoring cells-akin to weather centres-to issue alerts swiftly. Airlines are advised to train crews to cross-check navigation sources, maintain proficiency in radio-based navigation, and log interference systematically. Airports are reinforcing conventional aids (VOR, DME, ILS) for non-satellite redundancy.

Crucially, regulators must treat simultaneous system failures as credible scenarios, not hypotheticals. With dense airspace, overlapping

civil-military operations, and proximity to high-tension borders, India cannot afford to treat GNSS disruptions as distant or occasional events. A joint civil-military monitoring cell under the DGCA and the Airports Authority of India should integrate pilot reports, satellite analytics, and ground data into a real-time alert network. Strengthening indigenous navigation systems such as NavIC and the GAGAN satellite-based augmentation system will also reduce dependence on foreign GPS signals, enhancing both safety and self-reliance. Delhi’s recent turbulence may be a temporary hiccup, but the lesson endures. “Coincidence” isn’t an adequate explanation for the simultaneous failure of two critical aviation systems in an era of hybrid warfare. The silence carries an urgent question: what truly happened when India’s messages stopped and its satellites started lying?

The writer is an aviation expert

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 @Jasra_G

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BLASÉ CAPITAL

WHIRLING POOL

Private-equity firm Advent International is reportedly interested in buying a 31 per cent stake in Whirlpool of India, and take over the company. If a deal is clicked, it may mark a pivotal shift in the large-appliances segment. The billion-dollar purchase may trigger an open offer to the existing shareholders, and make Advent a majority owner. Whirlpool of India will undergo a strategic reset, as the global parent moves away from operational control to focus on licensing arrangement, brand management, and technology agreement.

The new majority owner, if it achieves this objective, will bring higher capital, hopefully sharper focus on India-specific products, closer alignment with local consumers, and faster-paced innovation. But a private equity player will need to access technology, and product lines from the parent, or through partnerships with competitors. There is a signal that the global Whirlpool may be interested in the Indian market, but does not want a solid footing.

An important emerging and crucial factor in the appliances segment is the acceleration of the upgrade cycle. Valued at more than \$75 billion, the business is likely to grow at a compounded annual rate of more than seven per cent. As the Indian consumers move from basic models to inverter-compressor refrigerators, fully-automatic smart washing machines, larger capacity units, and connected appliances brands need to refresh line-ups, launch India-specific models, and introduce new features regularly and quickly.

A change in Whirlpool of India's ownership may set the stage for faster product roster, which will perhaps include shifting from global templates to local-market priority models. The new products may emphasise features such as Wi-Fi connectivity, energy-efficiency, smart-diagnostics, and penetration into smaller cities and towns. The deal can open new doors of manufacturing and localisation. In India, appliances remain in a phase of structural opportunity with rising urbanisation, increasing electricity access, e-commerce channel growth, and policy support for local manufacturing.

Whirlpool has an existing manufacturing footprint, which may expend under the new ownership. There can be efforts to drive cost efficiencies, reduce import dependence, and speed up time-to-market. This is critical as competitors are doing the same. Haier Appliances India, for example, recorded revenues of ₹8,900 crore in 2024, and hopes to add another ₹2,500 crore in 2025. It plans to have a new manufacturing facility in the south India.

The Whirlpool deal, therefore, may enhance these broader shifts in the segment, with global players willing to either step up local manufacturing, or step back a bit, and hand over control to either capital-specific, product-specific, or tech-specific players. For the consumers, these moves may translate into faster introduction of premium models, stronger service networks, even in the smaller cities, and improved spare-parts and maintenance support.

Private equity players have shown considerable in select Indian sectors in the recent past. They bring in capital, but have the ability and flexibility to forge constructive partnerships with existing businesses. The opportunities exist as the appliance market is under-penetrated in many categories such as large-capacity fridges, and smart washers, and is ready-and-steady for heady growth. The entry of structured investments suggests that the capital-focused players believe that there is an intrinsic value to unlock.

The strategies can be varied or multi-disciplinary, and include operational improvement, product differentiation, and distribution expansion. For instance, Reliance Retail acquired the Kelvinator brand from Sweden's Electrolux as part of its push into consumer durable. Reliance and other Indian firms wish to buy a slice of the Haier India, which may be valued at two billion dollars, or more. The market is in a phase of consolidation, global-local re-balancing, and feature-led competition, rather than volume-led growth.

On the demand side, consumers are ready for the next wave of technology-led home appliances. The urge to upgrade, higher disposable incomes, faster replacement cycles, and expansion in smaller cities create a favourable backdrop. But there are likely to be execution risks for the companies. Hence, new owners need to deliver on manufacturing, product roll-outs, service networks, pricing discipline, and consumer trust. In markets like India, this is not easy. The practicality of the potential is invariably a question-mark.

Powerful brands like LG and Samsung lead in the premium segments, and advertise AI features, smart-home integration, and large-door configurations. Whirlpool of India's financials are not-so-good, as indicated by its second quarter results in this fiscal year. Revenues from operations were down almost four per cent, net profits declined by more than 20 per cent, and EBIDTA margins squeezed from over five per cent to 3.5 per cent. The last suggests "challenges in maintaining its operational efficiency during the quarter."

The stock price of the company indicates pressures, and decline in investors' interest. Although the returns over the past one month were over seven per cent, the figure for six-month returns was a negative two per cent, more than 30 per cent year-to-date, more than 35 per cent in the past 12 months, and more than 40 per cent in the past five years. The 52-week high and low has wildly fluctuated between ₹900 and more than ₹2,000. On November 11, 2025, the share price slipped from ₹1,290 to ₹1,248. For investors, the question is whether the financial and stock fortunes will change with the change in ownership. If yes, the Advent-Whirlpool deal can spur the launch of next-generation appliances in India.

The Pioneer



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BUSINESS

10

Expectation, solution, governance

The numbers are a revelation. A recent McKinsey study on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) finds that such corporate concerns are on the rise. Among 89 large firms in the survey, the ESG-related KPIS (Key Performance Indicators) have increased to 100, a 30 per cent rise in seven years. Media mentions of ESG have soared more than 50 times in a decade (2014-24), even as venture capital and private equity investments in ESG measurement businesses took off by 37 times. "Yet, the rapid proliferation of ESG checklists has crowded out CEO agendas, leading to ESG fatigue," states the survey. Firms are being pulled in opposing directions.

One of the major problems that the global firms face is to find opportunities that align with solutions to local-social issues. Some of the them overstretch, and take on too many issues, which is visible among Indian firms CSR (Corporate Social responsibilities) activities, which may be distinct from, but related to, ESG. Finding solutions require specific tailor-made partnerships that are hard to find, difficult to execute, or tough to sustain. Expectations are generally short-term among the firms, which limit the options. Returns on ESG investments materialise over a long period.

Criteria related to capabilities, and incentives determine the role played by a specific firm. Hence, the ESG fit includes alignment with products, services, and supply lines. Viability is crucial, and in cases where the end users cannot pay directly, there is a need for third-party support. The regulatory and policy environment can impact the environment and ecosystem of a company. Such issues require clarity, streamlined permitting, or cross-sector coordination. In most instances, among the three factors stated, there is a mismatch. Companies that meet the first (capabilities) but not the second (viability) need narrower focus, better collaborations, and long-term outlook. "Conversely,

when all three factors align, business-led solutions flourish rapidly," states the report.

This three-cornered adjustment is dubbed by McKinsey as "horses for courses." The horses are, of course, the companies that can enhance their innovating and scalability only if matched to the right issue, or course. The survey concludes that large companies account for 30 per cent of the value at stake in accelerating progress across 18 issues, and this roughly equal to their share of the global GDP. This is dependent on the share of value-added that provides more of the goods and services. The same is true of negative externalities like emissions, which too is measured in terms of the share of the total.

In 10 out of the 69 industries analysed, there were capabilities to make them the leading candidates to progress on four or more of the 18 issues, and 41 industries had the skills to address merely 1-3 issues. This forces firms to focus narrowly on some issues, which impact the industry in a distorted manner compared to its size. This is the need of the day. "For example, healthcare providers generate just four per cent of revenues across large companies overall, but they could account for 35 per cent of the progress to improve maternal and neonatal health, 25 per cent to reduce non-communicable diseases, 25 per cent to improve mental health, and eight per cent to reduce communicable diseases," states the report.

Such effects can be large relative to the industry's size in dollar terms. In non-communicable diseases, the intervention investments can be \$1 trillion over and above the recent historical rate, of which roughly two-thirds is linked to pharma efforts. This represents a business opportunity that is 40 per cent of the current revenues of large pharma companies. In transportation infrastructure, the additional money required is \$70 billion, of which a quarter goes

to the construction and engineering firms. This is one per cent of current revenues for the large firms in these two segments. The figure is modest but represents significant opportunities.

Obviously, the main hurdle to find the investment sources. McKinsey finds that to enhance progress on the 18 issues to the levels in nations that made the most progress requires \$6 trillion, which is three times the profits earned by Fortune Global 500 companies in 2024. This is an "insurmountable hurdle," unless the society and nations decide to allocate massive public funds, and other resources. Governments need to intervene actively,

as do state-owned entities, as the benefits far outweigh the costs in the long run. In essence, the efforts do pay off admirably, but "often only over decades."

Thus, the think tank pinpoints nations where an issue of the 18 is most prevalent, and clustered them around the prevailing economic contexts such as nations being exiting poor, accelerating empowerment, and transforming mature systems. However, the benefit-to-cost ratios can vary widely between the different contexts, with the issues with the highest annual costs being most prevalent in the high-income nations. Such ratios can help guide the policy-makers, and the firms. The metrics cannot capture everything, especially non-economic factors, and discount rates used. A five per cent rate can be ideal, though it is high for social investments, and low for corporate money. But no standards exist.

"A capabilities-based, horses-for-courses approach requires identifying where and how companies are best suited to address social issues. History is chockablock with examples of the many ways in which companies find business opportunities, all of which have structural similarities when it comes to advancing innovation, and scaling or making business models work in the interests of the societal needs, to help society under many different circumstances. In some cases, companies can act immediately. In others, policy interventions and collaborations are required to adjust the conditions, and enable private-sector participation. Whether to do so is a societal choice about funding, regulation, and coordination," the study concludes, and leaves the crucial questions open.

One of the successes cited in the study is that of Reliance Jio, which began the 4G rollout in 2013. Within two years, India launched the Digital India initiative, which aimed to connect 250,000 villages. The next year, Jio went live nationwide, and offered six months of free 4G data and voice services. In 2017, the Government reduced inter-company charges, which lowered mobile plans. JioPhone was priced at \$20, and 80 million units were sold. By 2021, interconnection charges were abolished. In 2023, JioPhone Next, built with Google, and costing less than \$50, was targeted at 500 million users. There was an additional \$12 version of the model for the poor. Thus, "expanding Internet access rapidly... was spurred by a dynamic iteration of improved technology... and government policy, resulting in low-cost option that delivered access to hundreds of millions."

Most people say that Belem, which hosts COP30 multilateral meet, is a spectacularly beautiful place in Brazil. The event marks the 30th edition of a global alliance, which wants to mitigate the effects of Climate Change, and tackle the looming crisis. Predictably, soon after he was elected for a second term, the US President Donald Trump withdrew his country from the 2015 Paris Agreement. He did the same during his first tenure. Nevertheless, the Brazilian event will continue, even as it struggles to find solutions.

Like most institutions, which are either governed directly or indirectly by the United Nations, its future faces challenges. For India, events like COP30 are of extreme importance for various factors. One, they trigger old and haggard arguments about the double standards, and hypocrisy of the West in Climate Change issues. Two, there is the growing pressure from global activists, actively aided and abetted by what I would call the brown sepoys. Three, although India is successful, particularly since the signing of the Paris Agreement, to grow its share of renewable production, and consumption increases rapidly, it faces stark choices.

Sutanu Guru
Author, Journalist and Academician

Despite the successes, the pressures are mounting. In an article, Anurabha Ghosh, a leading activist, wrote, "The time for promises is now over. COP30 must mark the shift from a bank of promises to a bank of actions where delivery not declarations mark progress. Nowhere is this more important than in South Asia, a region on the front lines of clear climate crisis.... For India, climate action is both a necessity and an opportunity.... But for it to succeed, the world must come together through smarter, more inclusive multilateralism."

Of course, as is the case with global activists, the voice is eloquent, articulate, and passionate. But India's choices cannot be dictated only by the western or global concerns. For example, take the case of the increasing pressure to reduce the use of thermal energy, or of electricity generated by coal. In contrast, the European nations, which are not openly hostile to the Paris Agreement like the US, adopt a peculiar stance on energy sources. As far as they are concerned, natural gas is

Should India cope or cop-out?

good, but coal is dirty, old, and polluting.

It is ironic that gas, like coal, is a fossil fuel, and no matter how one spins it, or liquefies it, gas remains a polluting fuel. One cannot condone the use of one, and condemn the other. Obviously, everyone does not buy the argument. An environmentalist, Sunita Narain of the Center for Science and Environment, pertinently asks: "Why single out coal? Why not natural gas, which is also a fossil fuel, and emits gases that contribute to global warming? I know, I am asking an inconvenient question. But bear with me. I do so, knowing that we need to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions, and fast. But we need clarity on what we are doing and why?"

Now, Narain is not a fan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, or the ruling regime. She is not a fan of coal, or Trump. When the US president says that Climate Change is a hoax, and a fraud, Narain asks the reasons to single out coal vis-à-vis gas. She is merely harping on the

fact that it is unjust, and cruel to impose restrictions on energy use on the third world countries.

Narain has pointed that the average electricity consumption of an American is 36 times that of an average Indian household. Hence, as the Indian economy grows rapidly, emerges as the fastest-growing major economy in the world, millions will walk out of a life of poverty and destitution, and become part of the new aspirational Indian middle-class generation. These are families that have never used a refrigerator, mixer, or microwave oven, forget about a washing machine, dishwasher, or other gadgets. They need electricity, whatever may be the source, and coal is most obvious one in India.

But the brown sepoy of the global activists have other arguments. They want India to give up coal, adopt gas in the interim period, and accelerate the production and use of renewables, and green energy. While this may be

The Pioneer

SINCE 1865

The author has worked for leading media houses, authored two books, and is now Executive Director, C Voter Foundation



Addressing the Urban Waste Crisis in India



Unfortunately, one of the most prominent features of our urban landscape is overfilled landfills and garbage strewn everywhere. Every single day Indian cities produce 1.6 – 1.7 lakh tonnes of waste of which only half is processed. Treating just 50 per cent of this organic fraction through



decentralised biogas plants could produce more than 15 million tonnes of CBG annually. Yet cities still rely on open dumping and low-grade composting. The volume of waste is going to dramatically rise in the coming years with growing urbanisation. It is estimated that India may need over 60,000ha of new landfill space which itself is going to be almost impossible to find. Meanwhile, this continues to emit deadly methane which is more than 25 times more potent than the CO₂ and poisonous leachate trickles to pollute ground water. We are witnessing a literally rising crisis which threatens to reach monumental proportions. There have been some attempts to collect and process this waste over the years. Many have projects have failed, initially due to technology issues but also due to lack of support from the concerned

urban bodies and lack of a workable financial model. India's waste is a category by itself and collecting and desegregating it is a challenge. Urban local bodies must institutionalise waste segregation, including waste from temples, cattle yards, vegetable markets, ensure that non-organic waste, goes for energy recovery or recycling and channel wet organic waste towards biogas generation. In fact, we need a mission for all components of waste including plastic, bio medical, industrial, e-waste, paper/cardboard/glass etc. This is essentially a management problem. Tipping/transport fee payment to

With the volume of waste rising dramatically, the writers pitch for a National Biogas Mission to tackle all types of waste



essential service. Incentives across *Swachh Bharat*, *GOBARDHAN*, *AMRUT* and fertiliser subsidy pro-

grams should be aligned to reward them and cities that produce and use both biogas and bio-slurry. In urban India, over 1,250 sewage

a waste in waste. If anaerobic digestion is optimised, sewage can produce 5-10 million tonnes of CBG while recycling over 80 per cent of wastewater, which itself is of great value because of the water crisis which is beginning to overwhelm urban India. The Liquid Waste Management Rules must go beyond drainage and septage to mandate biogas recovery from sewage and organic waste. All STPs above 10 MLD capacity should include anaerobic digesters and plans for gas utilisation which should get suitable incentives. This gas can also be injected into the city gas distribution system. There is a great opportunity waiting to be realised. It requires a bold approach and a clear declaration that we will clean our cities.

Mr Deepak Gupta, IAS (Retd), Ex Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Ex-Chairman, UPSC, and Dr D.K. Khare, Ex-Advisor (Bioenergy), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt of India and Incharge of India chapter of World Biogas Association, UK

@deepakguptaias
deepak-gupta-ias-retd-3aa589339
dilipkhare

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treatment plants (STPs) are in operation, with hundreds more under construction under flagship missions like *Namami Gange* and *AMRUT*. Unfortunately, most large STPs lack anaerobic digesters for sludge treatment. The biogas cannot be taken out. Where there are digesters most either flare the gas or leave the units under-utilised since there is no mandate to recover and use biogas or CBG in new STPs. This is

Tech-led smart agriculture key for building *Viksit Bharat*: Niti Aayog member

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

Technology-led smart agriculture holds the key to building a *Viksit Bharat*, Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand said on Tuesday. "The agri-tech landscape is evolving rapidly, from genetic modification and precision farming to data science and ICT-based advisory systems," Chand said, while addressing an Assocham event here. He said farmers today must have access to capital, knowledge and partnerships that enable them to adapt to this transformation, according to a statement. "Every technology brings both a solution and a challenge; we must ensure innovation also respects sustainability and environmental balance," Chand said, adding that India is not just a food-secure nation, but one moving towards value addition and climate-smart agriculture. The *Niti Aayog* member said 46 per cent of the country's population is employed in the agricultural sector, making it the largest contributor to the *Viksit*

Bharat mission, with significant growth observed in tier-II regions such as Assam and Madhya Pradesh. Agriculture Commissioner Praveen Kumar Singh said the focus must be on making agriculture both productive and sustainable. Platforms like upag.gov.in are integrating agri statistics, Fasal Bima, crop yield and Kisan Credit Card data should be used to ensure informed decision-making, he said. Waste-to-wealth initiatives, such as converting crop residues into CBG and schemes like *KUSUM*, are linking energy efficiency with crop cultivation. "With digital agriculture and real-time intelligence, we are working to make data available in farmers' local languages, enabling every farmer to benefit from technology — driven solutions," he added. UPL Ltd Global Corporate and Industry Affairs Sagar Kaushik said global initiatives like COP30 and the United Nations' climate agenda remind us that agriculture must be part of the climate solution, not the cause.



Net equity flows in MF schemes drop by 19% in October

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai

Net inflows into mutual funds' equity schemes dropped by nearly 19 per cent to ₹24,690 crore in October, making it the third consecutive month of a decline in the number, an industry body said on Tuesday. On the systematic investment plans (SIPs), the preferred vehicle of retail investors, the overall inflows grew to ₹29,529 crore from September's record high of ₹29,631 crore. Amid the rally in gold prices, gold exchange traded funds saw net inflows at ₹7,743 crore during the month taking the overall assets under management (AUM) in the category to above ₹1 lakh crore, as per data disclosed by the Association of Mutual Funds of India (Amfi). The net flows into equity MFs

long-term value creation and hence tracked closely, stood at ₹35.16 lakh crore as on October 31 as against ₹33.68 lakh crore in the month-ago period. As per previous experience, the beginning of a new quarter saw higher interest in the debt schemes, with net inflows of ₹1.59 lakh crore in October as against an outflow of ₹1.01 lakh crore in September, Chalasani said. The overall MF industry's AUM rose by over 5 per cent to ₹79.88 lakh crore on the back of the positive activity in the debt segment. On the gold ETFs front, the net inflows reduced to ₹7,743 crore in October from ₹8,363 crore in September, and the AUM stood at ₹1.02 lakh crore. Chalasani attributed the continued investor interest in the precious metal to the price increase in the spot prices and also



had declined 9 per cent on-month to ₹30,421 crore in September, after August's 22 per cent decline to ₹33,430 crore, amid corrections in the equity benchmarks. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Amfi's chief executive V N Chalasani asserted that there is no pattern in the investor interest and attributed the fall to higher redemptions because of the profit-booking amid surge in markets. The overall redemptions stood at ₹38,920 crore in October as against ₹35,982 crore in September. However, the funds mobilised by equity schemes declined in October to ₹63,611 crore from ₹66,404 crore in September. The AUM for the equity schemes, which are looked as the favoured vehicle for

its value as a safe haven asset. He said the silver ETFs also saw an inflow of ₹3,000 crore and the category AUM now stands at over ₹42,000 crore, he said. Chalasani said the SIP AUM grew to ₹16.25 lakh crore and now contributes over a fifth of the overall industry's AUM. The total number of active SIP accounts rose to 9.45 crore from 9.25 crore in the month-ago period, he added. The total number of SIP accounts stands at 9.73 crore, he said, pointing out that there were additions of 60 lakh accounts and 45 lakh account closures as well during the month. On the micro SIPs or *chhota* SIPs front, where the regulator Sebi has voiced concerns on the low traction.

Indigenous apps and platforms add to the definition of *swadeshi*



These days, the entire leadership of the country, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is constantly urging citizens to adopt *Swadeshi*. The Prime Minister says that no country can develop as long as it remains dependent on other countries. To reduce this dependence, citizens must use indigenous products. However, we know that the general public uses not only indigenous products but also a variety of services. In recent years, due to new technologies, the use of various foreign apps has increased. WhatsApp for messaging, general calling and video calls; Facebook and Instagram for social networking; Google's Gmail for email; Google Maps for navigation; Amazon, Flipkart-Walmart for shopping and a variety of other apps have seen a tremendous growth in usage. Google charges hefty fees for downloading many apps, while Facebook and many other platforms also offer advertising services and enjoys near monopoly. The surprising thing is that the providers of these services are making huge profits, yet they are not even ready to pay taxes in India.

Advent of *Swadeshi* apps with huge support from the people, is fast changing the digital space in the country. Every country and its citizens have the right to choose what to use and what not to use. The call for *Swadeshi* can truly be seen as a means to increase employment within the country, reduce dependence on foreign countries, and keep the country's wealth within the boundaries of the country. It is not just a slogan, but a life vision that centers self-reliance, self-respect and national interest. Today, when the Indian economy has become heavily dependent on foreign countries, the consequences of which are being borne by the country's economy and the common man, the call for *Swadeshi* has once again become important. It is noteworthy that in the era of globalisation, it had been argued that to provide affordable goods to consumers worldwide, it is essential to eliminate barriers to the global value chain. Components for production can be efficiently manufactured and shipped to different locations in different countries, allowing for higher-quality products to be produced at lower costs. A similar argument was made regarding the movement of



goods; that consumers can access the cheapest goods, only through free trade. Goods that can efficiently be produced in our country and then be sold in global markets through free trade.

The logic of globalisation has totally collapsed
The logic of the global value chain was shattered when some countries, especially China, began weaponising their monopoly in global value chains. We haven't yet forgotten the US ban on vaccine supplies during COVID-19, when global production of many goods, including automobiles, came to a standstill due to China's deliberate blockade of semiconductor supplies. Similarly, recently, China began blackmailing other countries, including India, by disrupting the supply of products made from rare earths. For more than seven months, the US President has imposed tariffs on almost all of its trading partners, flouting global agreements. The truth of globalisation has been fully exposed. Consequently, not only India but other countries around the world are now talking about self-reliance.

includes services; in this digital world, digital services in the form of apps, platforms and e-products,



among other services, have become increasingly important. Zoho Corporation, an Indian software product company, has developed numerous products, including the messaging app Arattai, ZohoMail for emailing and numerous other e-products developed by several Indian start-ups and companies, which are becoming increasingly popular among our citizens. India and its leadership have now fully realised that if India's industries are to be revived and the Indian economy is to be put on fast growth trajectory, we must minimise our dependence on foreign countries, including China and the United States. Therefore, the age-old concept of *Swadeshi* is being promoted by everyone in the Government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and this is encouraging people to adopt indigenous products. We need to understand that India is heavily dependent not only on foreign products, but also on digital services, platforms and

other e-products. Therefore, when we talk about *swadeshi*, we should not limit ourselves to indigenous products; it also includes electronic services, both social media and e-commerce platforms and other services related to intellectual property rights (IPR). Therefore, the scope of *swadeshi* is expanding. In this context, two new products have gained the most momentum: Arattai (a messaging app developed by India's Zoho Corporation, which is an alternative to WhatsApp) and ZohoMail, an alternative to Gmail. In addition to individuals and businesses, the Indian Government is also rapidly shifting to ZohoMail for its email. Leading Indian apps, platforms, and e-products in the digital sector, such as social media, messaging, e-commerce and other technological solutions, offer numerous advantages — especially in the context of *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and *Swadeshi* thought process. Indian apps often prioritise regional languages (over 15-20 Indian languages). User data is stored in India, ensuring privacy and compliance with Indian data laws. Indian apps also offer customised monetisation options for Indian customers and small creators. Indigenous social media apps help build a self-reliant digital ecosystem instead of relying on global giants like Meta or Twitter. Zoho's "Made-in-India" messaging app, Arattai, has several advan-

tages over WhatsApp. First, Arattai, being an Indian app, stores user data on servers in India, and being developed by Zoho (an Indian company), it aligns with the Government's "*Atmanirbhar Bharat*" goals. While foreign companies are subject to data being captured by companies under foreign jurisdiction, indigenous apps offer data security. They offer a unique ad-free experience, with the promise that user data will not be used for targeted advertising. Indian platforms have been developed for Indian conditions. For example, Arattai is optimised for low-end devices and poor networks. Furthermore, Arattai includes several features that other apps don't have. Arattai is gaining local support and endorsement being Indian, and is gaining visibility and endorsements from some public figures and celebrities, which helps drive trust and adoption. We must not forget that by adopting these apps and platforms, we will not only save significant amounts of foreign exchange, but also benefit from better security features and the guarantee that user data will be stored in their respective regions and not sold for profit.

Author is a national co-convenor *Swadeshi Jagran Manch* and former professor, PGDAV College, Delhi University

FROM THE WORLD

TAIWAN

Evacuation ahead of storm

Taiwan evacuated more than 3,000 people from vulnerable areas and closed schools and offices on Tuesday ahead of the arrival of tropical storm Fung-wong, which killed at least 18 people and displaced more than 1.4 million in the Philippines after making landfall.

Fung-wong was classified as a typhoon but is losing intensity while approaching Taiwan and is expected to make landfall Wednesday afternoon or evening near the southwestern port city of Kaohsiung. On Tuesday morning, the storm had maximum sustained winds of up to 108 kph and gusts of 137 kph and is expected to sweep across the island and exit from its northeastern side Wednesday evening or early Thursday, Taiwan's weather agency said.

BOTSWANA

Murmu ends 4-day visit

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday left for Botswana on the second leg of her two-nation State Visit after concluding her trip to Angola, where she held discussions on expanding the economic ties beyond the traditional energy business. On the last day of her four-day State Visit to Angola, President Murmu attended the country's 50th Independence Day celebrations before moving to the Angola International Airport, where she was given a ceremonial farewell. Giving details of the visit, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Sudhakar Dalela, said Angola has come forward to partner with India in some "very critical" areas like renewable energy, wildlife conservation and management, and biofuels, which are "very significant" outcomes of the president's visit to the African nation.

Senate approves Bill to end shutdown

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Washington

The Senate passed legislation on Monday to reopen the Government, bringing the longest shutdown in history closer to an end as a small group of Democrats ratified a deal with Republicans despite searing criticism from within their party.

The 41-day shutdown could last a few more days as members of the House, which has been on recess since mid-September, return to Washington to vote on the legislation. President Donald Trump has signalled support for the bill, saying on Monday that "we're going to be opening up our country very quickly."

The final Senate vote, 60-40, broke a gruelling stalemate that lasted more than six weeks as Democrats demanded that Republicans negotiate with them to extend health care tax credits that expire January 1.

The Republicans never did, and five moderate Democrats eventually switched their votes as federal food aid was delayed, airport delays worsened and hundreds of thousands of federal workers continued to go unpaid.

House Speaker Mike Johnson urged lawmakers to start returning to Washington "right now" given shutdown-related travel delays, but an official notice issued after the Senate vote said the earliest the House will vote is



Senate Majority Leader John Thune speaking to reporters after final Senate passage of the stopgap funding bill

AP

Wednesday afternoon.

"It appears our long national nightmare is finally coming to an end," said Johnson, who has kept the House out of session since mid-September, when the House passed a bill to continue Government funding.

After weeks of negotiations, A group of three former governors — New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine — agreed to vote to advance three bipartisan annual spending bills and extend the rest of Government funding until late January. Republicans promised to hold a vote to

extend the health care subsidies by mid-December, but there was no guarantee of success.

Shaheen said Monday that "this was the option on the table" after Republicans had refused to budge.

"We had reached a point where I think a number of us believed that the shutdown had been very effective in raising the concern about health care," she said, and the promise for a future vote "gives us an opportunity to continue to address that going forward."

The legislation includes a reversal of the mass firings of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began on

October 1. It also protects federal workers against further layoffs through January and guarantees they are paid once the shutdown is over.

Tim Kaine of Virginia, home to tens of thousands of federal workers, also voted Sunday in favor of moving forward on the agreement. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the Number 2 Democrat, Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman and Nevada Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen also voted yes. All other Democrats, including Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, voted against it. The moderates had expected a larger number of Democrats to vote with them

as 10 to 12 Democratic senators had been part of the negotiations. But in the end, only five switched their votes — the exact number that Republicans needed. King, Cortez Masto and Fetterman had already been voting to open the Government since October 1.

Schumer, who received blowback from his party in March when he voted to keep the Government open, said he could not "in good faith" support it after meeting with his caucus for more than two hours on Sunday. "We will not give up the fight," Schumer said, adding that Democrats have now "sounded the alarm" on health care" Chris Murphy.

12 killed, 36 injured in suicide attack outside Islamabad court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Islamabad

A suicide bomber on Tuesday detonated his explosives near a police vehicle outside a court in Pakistan's capital, killing at least 12 people and wounding 36 others, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said.

Naqvi, who visited the site of the blast, said the attacker wanted to enter the court complex, but on failure, he detonated his explosives near a police vehicle at the gate of the building in the G-11 area of the capital at 12.39 pm.

The minister said that 12 people were killed and 27 others injured, including security personnel and a



lawyer, in the blast near the Islamabad District Judicial Complex. No group or individual claimed responsibility for the attack, but such strikes are usually carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistani

(TTP). "Our first priority is to identify the attacker. Whenever the attacker is identified, we will share with the media," Naqvi said as he vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice. Naqvi said

that the process of identifying the victims has been going on. He said that those sponsoring militants in Pakistan had increased their funding by threefold.

"We are linking today's blast with many factors. Things will be clear in the coming hours. There are several messages of it," he said. "I don't want to say anything at this point, as often the Indians do (start blaming soon after such incidents). We will come with full evidence and details."

Naqvi said Pakistan is clear that Afghanistan should stop terrorism coming from their soil, "otherwise we will have to take action against them."

Both President Asif Ali Zardari and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif termed the attack a "suicide blast".

Defence Minister Asif said the Afghan Taliban has sent a message through the bombing. "The rulers of Kabul can stop terrorism in Pakistan, but bringing this war all the way to Islamabad is a message from Kabul, to which - praise be to God - Pakistan has the full strength to respond," he said in a message on X to express his reaction to the attack in Islamabad.

"In this environment, it would be futile to hold out greater hope for successful negotiations with the rulers

of Kabul," he said. The minister warned that Pakistan was in a state of war.

"Anyone who thinks that the Pakistan Army is fighting this war in the Afghan-Pakistan border region and the remote areas of Balochistan should take today's suicide attack at the Islamabad district courts as a wake-up call: this is a war for all of Pakistan, in which the Pakistan Army is giving daily sacrifices and making the people feel secure."

President Zardari strongly condemned the suicide blast and expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families. He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured.

Earlier, State-run Pakistan Television (PTV) reported that the rescue authorities retrieved 12 bodies from the site of the blast and transferred them to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital. It added that 20 injured individuals have been shifted to the emergency department of the PIMS Hospital. "The suicide bomber's head was found lying on the road," it reported.

The attack came days after the third round of talks between Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban failed to reach any agreement to tackle the issue of terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

Iraqis vote in parliamentary election marked by tight security and major political boycott

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Baghdad

Iraqis headed to the polls on Tuesday to vote in a parliamentary election marked by tight security and a boycott by a major political bloc.

A total of 8,703 polling stations were open across the country for the general election. Members of the security forces and displaced people living in camps cast their ballots in early voting on Sunday.

Turnout was sparse in the early hours of Tuesday at polling stations visited by Associated Press journalists. Initial results were expected on Wednesday.

Only 21.4 million out of a total of 32 million eligible voters updated their information and obtained voter cards ahead of the



polling, a decrease from the last parliamentary election in 2021, when about 24 million voters registered.

The election is taking place against the backdrop of major shifts in the region over the past two years — including the wars in Gaza and Lebanon after the

October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel, the Israel-Iran war in June, and the fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad last December. These developments come as US pressure intensifies on the Iraqi Government to curb the influence of Iran-aligned

armed factions, some of which have candidates participating in Tuesday's vote. Prime Minister Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, who is running for a second term, arrived at a polling station in Baghdad to cast his vote, along with his mother.

Bangladesh Islamists demand charter referendum

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Dhaka

Islamists in Bangladesh rallied on Tuesday to demand the interim Government legalise a national charter proposed after the ouster of the previous regime, saying that there is no possibility of holding a general election without a legally binding roadmap for political reforms.

Thousands of supporters of the largest Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami and seven other political parties who gathered in the capital, Dhaka, also demanded that the next election — expected to be held in early 2026 — be held under a proportional representation system.

The key demand is for a referendum on the "July National Charter", which is named after the national uprising that began in July 2024 and led to the fall of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina following a 15-year



rule that critics said had become increasingly autocratic. But the charter is currently non-binding, and the parties say a referendum is needed to make it legally binding and a part of the constitution. Only a Parliament can bring changes to the constitution in Bangladesh, a parliamentary democracy of 170 million people.

The roadmap for political reform was proposed by the

interim Government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus who took over three days after Hasina's ouster in a mass uprising on Aug 5 last year.

Its provisions would include bringing more checks and balances to the country's political system to avoid authoritarian administrations, including by giving the presidency more authority to balance what had been a powerful prime minister

position. It also proposes term limits for legislators, and measures to prevent conflicts of interest, money laundering and corruption.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party, headed by former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, signed the charter on Oct 17 along with 24 other parties. The country has 52 registered political parties. Other than Zia's party, Hasina's Awami League party is another major party. Its activities have been banned by the Yunus-led Government and Hasina is facing trial for the deaths of hundreds of people during last year's uprising.

The Jamaat-e-Islami party, which has a dark history involving Bangladesh's independence war, has signed the charter and is forging a bigger political platform to contest in the next election in the absence of the Awami League.



Africans returned home via EU programme

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Conakry (Guinea)

When Oumar Bella Diallo boarded a plane home to the West African nation of Guinea in July, the weary 24-year-old thought his migration ordeal was over.

He had spent almost a year trying to reach Europe. He said he was attacked by police and scammed for money as he crossed Mali, Algeria and Niger, at one point limping past corpses in the desert. After seeing fellow migrants die from hunger and exhaustion, he gave up.

He is among tens of thousands of Africans returning home with the help of the International Organisation for Migration, as Europe spends millions of dollars to deter migrants before they reach its shores. The European Union-funded IOM program pays for return flights and promises follow-up assistance.



German politician attack caller arrested in Berlin

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Berlin

A man accused of calling for attacks on German politicians and officials, seeking cryptocurrency donations to be used as a reward for their killing and publishing instructions on how to build explosives has been arrested, prosecutors said Tuesday. The suspect, a German-Polish dual citizen identified only as Martin S. In line with German privacy rules, was arrested in Dortmund on Monday evening, federal prosecutors said in a statement. He is suspected of terror financing, giving instructions on carrying out a serious act of violence and dangerous dissemination of personal data. Prosecutors allege that the man had been calling for attacks on politicians, officials and other figures in German public life on the darknet since at least June.

Call for Taiwan’s substantive participation in INTERPOL



CHOU YEW-WOEI

Founded in 1923, INTERPOL currently has 196 member states, making it the world’s second-largest international organisation after the United Nations. INTERPOL is an essential platform for global law enforcement cooperation. It closely monitors transnational criminal activity including terrorism, cybercrime and organised crime, and conducts exchanges with law enforcement agencies worldwide through its network of National Central Bureaus.

INTERPOL’s mandate is to ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities. Yet, for more than four decades, Taiwan has been unjustly excluded from the organisation for political reasons.

Taiwan’s law enforcement authorities have extensive experience and expertise in crime prevention, public safety and international cooperation. They have achieved significant success in areas such as combating drug smuggling and cyberfraud, earning Taiwan a strong reputation in the international community. However, Taiwan

is unable to access INTERPOL’s databases, participate in its events, and share information with other countries in real time. This hampers Taiwan’s ability to counter transnational crime, encourages criminals to expand cross-border activities and undermines the security of Taiwan, the Indo-Pacific and the rest of the world.

Globalisation has accelerated the transnational development of crime. Criminals and illicit assets can move swiftly across borders, meaning that drug smuggling, human trafficking, cybercrime, and other illegal activities are not confined to individual countries or regions, but are challenges facing the whole international community. At a time when crime is becoming increasingly globalised and sophisticated, it is imperative for the world’s police to work together to build a seamless and inclusive global security network. Enhanced international cooperation is needed to effectively combat cross — border illegal activity and safeguard global stability.

Taiwan’s participation in INTERPOL would enable countries to coordinate their efforts in an unimpeded manner, confront common threats and uphold public safety and order.

Taiwan’s strong capabilities in combating crime

According to the Numbeo global data-

base, Taiwan ranks fourth in safety among 147 countries worldwide. Taiwan’s high placement is due to its low crime rate, strong sense of community, effective law enforcement and close civic cooperation with the police. Taiwan’s crime rate is just over 1,200 reported incidents per 100,000 people, with homicide at only 2.3 per 100,000 far below the global average.

This internationally recognised public safety record sets an important benchmark for law enforcement policymakers around the world, and makes Taiwan an attractive destination for international travelers.

As a responsible member of the international community, Taiwan is ready to play a full part in fighting transnational crime, contributing to criminal investigations, and working with partner countries to protect the safety and property of people around the world.

Supporting Taiwan to close the gap in the global security network

Taiwan has had success in combating telecom fraud, drug trafficking, and other cross-border crimes. In the fisheries sector, it has long-term experience in identifying vessels involved in human trafficking; forced labor; and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

But without access to INTERPOL’s I-24/7 global police communications system, Taiwan cannot share urgent

information and join coordinated enforcement efforts in real time.

Delays in reporting can lead to loss of evidence, failure to apprehend suspects, and unnecessary suffering of victims. Taiwan’s absence undermines the international law enforcement framework and creates a significant gap in global security. This should be recognized as a matter of serious concern.

Taiwan is a reliable law enforcement partner for countries worldwide

In recent years, fraud and other financial crimes have become increasingly transnational. Scam syndicates have shifted operations to such countries as Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos. Victims from around the world have been lured to the region through false promises of travel and employment, only to be trapped in scam centers where they are forced to carry out financial crimes.

Some are even sexually exploited, sold to other criminal groups, or trafficked for organ harvesting. A crime trend update published by INTERPOL on June 30 warned of the globalization of human trafficking-fueled scam centers.

The report noted that as of March, people from 66 countries across all five continents had been trafficked into such operations, with the estimated

number of victims running into the hundreds of thousands.

Taiwan’s police have the experience, expertise, and capacity to assist in combating and preventing such crimes. In 2024, Taiwan broke up an online forum for large-scale distribution of child sexual exploitation materials called the Creative Private Room.

The message board, which had over 5,000 members, enabled the easy exchange of child sexual exploitation content, using cryptocurrency payments to evade detection by law enforcement agencies. The platform’s mastermind, known online as Lao Ma, was based in China.

The case involved encrypted communications, anonymous networks, cryptocurrency laundering, and cross-border coordination—all key challenges that the international community faces in combating online abuse of children.

The investigation highlighted Taiwan’s determination and capacity to tackle cybercrime as well as underscoring its commitment and readiness to cooperate with the international community to protect children and combat transnational sexual exploitation.

Global call for Taiwan’s substantive participation in INTERPOL

In an article published on September 5, titled “Taiwan’s INTERPOL Exclusion

Undermines Global Policing Efforts,” Dr. John Coyne of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute argued that Taiwan was an important and capable partner in the Indo-Pacific region.

He pointed out that its ports, airlines, and banking system were prime targets for transnational criminals. Dr Coyne stated that Taiwan’s exclusion led to delays in intelligence sharing and apprehension efforts, limiting the effectiveness of international joint action.

Faced with a growing epidemic in transnational crime, the international community must strengthen intelligence exchange and deepen partnerships to improve cross-border law enforcement.

We urge all countries to support Taiwan’s bid to participate as an observer in the INTERPOL General Assembly and to meaningfully engage in INTERPOL meetings, mechanisms, and activities, so that Taiwan and INTERPOL’s member states can engage in unhindered interactions.

Taiwan remains committed to strengthening communications and cooperation with countries worldwide and working with the international community to combat transnational crime.

Author is a Commissioner
Criminal Investigation Bureau

PM Modi’s Bhutan visit focuses on connectivity, border infrastructure and clean energy cooperation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Thimphu/New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reaffirmed India’s commitment to deepening its partnership with Bhutan through improved connectivity, enhanced border infrastructure, and expanded clean energy collaboration.

His two-day visit to Thimphu highlights the growing synergy between the two Himalayan neighbours, particularly in the fields of transport, trade, and renewable energy. During the visit, Prime Minister Modi, welcomed by Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, attended a special event commemorating the 70th birth anniversary of former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

Modi praised the former monarch for his vision in promoting democracy, peace, and sustainable development in Bhutan, and for laying the foundation of the two nations’ enduring friendship.

A key highlight of the visit is the inauguration of a 1,020-megawatt hydroelectric power plant, a major milestone expected to boost Bhutan’s hydropower capacity by about 40 per cent.

The project is part of the broader Indo-Bhutan energy partnership that has made Bhutan a leader in renewable energy and the world’s first carbon-negative country. Modi also confirmed that work would soon resume on



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck offer prayers at the holy relics of Lord Buddha, at the Grand Kuenrey Hall in Tashichhodzong, Thimphu, Bhutan

another long-pending hydro project and announced new joint efforts in solar energy. Emphasizing the role of connectivity in economic growth, Modi said the new rail links between Gelephu and Samtse in Bhutan and India’s rail network would open new trade opportunities for Bhutanese industries and farmers. “Improved connectivity creates new pathways for prosperity,” he noted. India will also assist in developing infrastructure for Bhutan’s ambitious Gelephu Mindfulness City, an economic and cultural hub envisioned by King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

To facilitate smoother cross-border travel and

investment, Modi announced that India would set up an immigration checkpoint near Gelephu. New Delhi has allocated ₹10,000 crore for Bhutan’s current five-year development plan, supporting initiatives in roads, health-care, agriculture, and financial services.

Modi reiterated that the prosperity of Bhutan and India is “intertwined through geography, culture, and shared progress.” Digital and youth collaboration also featured prominently in the discussions. The two sides are expanding India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services in Bhutan, while young innovators from both countries continue to collaborate

in space technology, education, and entrepreneurship—including the development of a joint satellite. Modi also underscored the importance of cultural bonds, citing the opening of the Royal Bhutanese Temple in Rajgir, India, and announcing that land has been provided in Varanasi for a Bhutanese temple and guesthouse.

Closing his address, Modi lauded Bhutan’s guiding philosophy of Gross National Happiness, saying it continues to inspire nations worldwide to measure progress through well-being, not just wealth. “Our friendship stands on the solid foundation of trust, respect, and shared values,” he said.

Ukraine detains 5 in energy sector graft investigation

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ KYIV

A Ukrainian anti-corruption agency said on Tuesday it has detained five people and identified seven other suspects in a major graft investigation that centres on alleged kickbacks worth some \$100 million in the country’s energy sector.

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau did not name the suspects in its statement but said they included a businessman believed to be the scheme’s mastermind; a former advisor

to the country’s energy minister; and an executive of the national atomic energy company Energoatom.

The statement came a day after the agency revealed some details of a 15-month investigation into suspected energy sector corruption, including at Energoatom.

Large amounts of Ukrainian and foreign funds have flowed into the energy sector as infrastructure is repeatedly repaired following relentless Russian aerial attacks. Ukraine’s Energy

Ministry said Tuesday that Russia attacked energy infrastructure in the Kharkiv, Odesa and Donetsk regions overnight and that scheduled power outages were in place in most regions of Ukraine.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau is tasked with rooting out entrenched corruption, which is widely regarded as an impediment to Kyiv’s efforts to obtain membership in the European Union. It targets high-level corruption, particularly cases involving senior officials and state-

owned enterprises. It has previously been reported that uncovered a major graft scheme involving inflated military procurement contracts and the embezzlement of millions of dollars’ worth of funds earmarked to buy mortar shells for Ukraine’s efforts to foil Russia’s all-out invasion. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed the latest probe.

“Any effective action against corruption is an urgent need,” he said in his Monday night address to the nation”.

US close to seal trade deal with India: Trump

PRESS TRUS OF INDIA
■ New York/Washington

The US is “pretty close” to reaching a “fair trade deal” with India, President Donald Trump has said, adding that he will lower the tariffs imposed on Indian goods at “some point”.

This is the second time in less than two weeks that the US president held out hope to seal the proposed bilateral trade deal with India. It is not immediately clear whether it was Trump’s usual hyperbole or there was some progress in the negotiations for the much-awaited deal between the two sides.

“We’re making a deal with India, a much different deal than we had in the past. So right now, they don’t love me, but they’ll love us again,” Trump said on Monday without elaborating. He made the remarks during a ceremony in the Oval Office where Sergio Gor was sworn in as the US Ambassador to India by Vice President J D Vance. “We’re getting a fair deal, just a fair trade deal. We had pretty unfair trade deals. They’re very good negotiators, Sergio, so you have to take a look at that, if you would please,” Trump said. “But we’re getting close. Scott, I think we’re pretty



Donald Trump shaking hands with US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor in the Oval Office in Washington

close to doing a deal that’s good for everybody,” Trump said to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who was present at the ceremony. “That’s right,” Bessent responded to Trump. “In the old days, do you think (former US President Joe) Biden would ask that question? I don’t think so. ‘How are we doing with India?’ He didn’t know about India. He didn’t know a damn thing. That’s okay,” Trump said.

Trump was asked about the trade deal with India and whether he is willing to consider lowering the current tariff rate imposed on India. “Well, right now the tariffs are

very high on India because of the Russian oil, and they’ve stopped doing the Russian oil. It’s been reduced very substantially. Yeah, we’re going to be bringing the tariffs down,” Trump said. “At some point, no, at some point, we’re going to be bringing them down. Without tariffs, this country would be in such trouble as they were for many years.”

Relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe stress after Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, including 25 per cent for New Delhi’s procurement of Russian oil.

India had described the US action as “unfair, unjustified and unreasonable” while maintaining that its energy policy is guided by its own national interest.

Five rounds of talks have been completed so far for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement between the US and India. Last month, an official had said in New Delhi that the two countries are “very near” to concluding the proposed bilateral trade agreement, as both sides are converging on most of the issues. The official had said that the two countries are sorting out the language of the agreement.”

Pak PM Sharif calls upon world to stand united in promoting peace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Islamabad

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called upon the world to stand united in promoting peace, advancing sustainable development and strengthening collective security. “Pakistan has always advocated for peace through dialogue and diplomacy. We firmly believe that peace and security form the foundation of sustainable national and regional development,” Shehbaz said while addressing the Inter-parliamentary Speakers’ Conference here.

He noted that the true value of peace is most pro-



foundly understood when “we are confronted with the conflicts that continue to plague our world,” according to state-run Radio Pakistan. He mentioned that Pakistan, too, has faced this turbulence both directly and indirectly. “However, we have remained steadfast in our

commitment to maintaining peace and tranquility,” he said. Pakistan believes in a peaceful neighbourhood and has been striving hard for this purpose, but militant groups continue to imperil peace not only within Afghanistan but also beyond its borders, he said.

Subianto to visit Australia

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Melbourne

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will visit Australia on Wednesday for the first time since taking office last year.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the visit Tuesday, but provided few details.

Prabowo most recently visited Australia as minister of defence and president-elect in August last year.

He was inaugurated that October. Albanese met Prabowo in Jakarta in May this year for the Australia-Indonesia annual leaders’ meeting during the prime minister’s first overseas trip following his reelection that month.



Marionette festival defies militants threats

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Bamako

In a residential neighbourhood in Mali’s capital, a parade of giant marionettes marched through the streets as motorcycles and taxis squeezed through the busy road, stopping at intervals to give way to the puppets. Rendez-Vous Chez Nous, which translates to “come to us” or “meet at our place” in French, was a three-day festival organised by the Nama marionette and dance group. The ninth annual edition of the event, held in Bamako Nov. 6-8, featured dance performances, concerts and plays. But the spectacle of colours, raucous music and merriment belied the fear that Bamako residents have lived with in recent weeks. The city of more than 3 million people is being squeezed by al-Qaida-backed jihadi militants who have imposed a months-long blockade on fuel imports.



Thailand demands apology from Cambodia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bangkok

Thailand said it has indefinitely paused implementation of a US-brokered ceasefire until Cambodia apologises for a land mine explosion on Monday that injured four Thai soldiers at their border. Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul visited the injured troops at the border on Tuesday as the Thai army accused Cambodia of laying new mines in violation of the truce agreement Thailand and Cambodia signed last month. Territorial disputes between the Southeast Asian neighbours led to five days of combat in late July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians. Others have been injured by land mine explosions before and after July’s combat, and tensions have simmered despite the truce. The Thai army said one soldier lost his right foot after stepping on a land mine.

PROSPECT



Meghalaya Bharat Scouts and Guides celebrated the 75th Foundation Day and the Rajya Puraskar Rally at the Iarvn of the Raj Bhavan, Shillong. On this auspicious occasion, the Governor of Meghalaya CH Vijayashankar handed over the Rajya Puraskar (Governor's Award) Certificates, the highest State award for Scouts and Guides. A total of 305 recipients (80 Scouts and 225 Guides) from various schools around the State received the meritorious award for their dedication and perseverance

SPIL maintains solid Q2 FY26 results

Shakti Pumps India Limited (SPIL) reported a robust performance for Q2 and H1 FY26, delivering one of the highest quarterly revenues in its history despite operational challenges posed by an extended monsoon and raw material cost increases. The company posted consolidated revenue of ₹666.4 Crores in Q2 FY26, a 5 per cent YoY growth, taking H1 FY26 revenue to ₹1288.9 Crores, up 7.2 per cent YoY. EBITDA stood at ₹136 Crores for the quarter with margins at 20.4 per cent, impacted by a 3-4 per cent rise in prices of copper, steel and solar panels. PAT came in at ₹90.7 crores in Q2 and ₹187.5 crores for H1 FY26. Dinesh Patidar, Chairman & Managing Director, said, "Despite prolonged monsoon conditions and raw material inflation, we delivered one of the highest quarterly revenues in our history. Maharashtra has led strongly in order inflows and our pipeline across states remains robust. Our solar rooftop business is scaling rapidly and emerging segments are showing encouraging growth. With strong execution capabilities, a diversified order pipeline and strategic investments, we remain confident of delivering our FY26 guidance and sustaining long-term growth."

Awfis Q2 profit down 59% to ₹16 cr on high base effect

Realty firm Awfis Space Solutions Ltd on Tuesday reported a 59 per cent decline in its consolidated profit to ₹15.97 crore in the latest September quarter on a high base effect. Its net profit stood at ₹38.67 crore in the year-ago period, helped by an exceptional gain of ₹24 crore. Total income, however, grew to ₹392.97 crore in the July-September quarter of this fiscal from ₹301.95 crore in the corresponding period of the preceding year, according to a regulatory filing. Awfis, which has recently been listed on stock exchanges, provides flexible managed office spaces to corporates of all sizes. It takes office space from property owners to establish centres and then sub-lease the workspaces to enterprises.

GOC Spear Corps visits forward areas of Dibang Valley

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Itanagar

General Officer Commanding, Spear Corps, visited Anini and forward air-maintained posts of Dao Division in the Dibang Valley to review operational preparedness, logistics sustenance and troop morale in the challenging high-altitude terrain of Eastern Arunachal Pradesh. During the visit, the Corps Commander witnessed the on-ground validation of the Kill Box and Ashni Platoon—specialised combat teams demonstrating integrated hard kill and soft kill responses against hostile

drone threats. The exercise showcased the Indian Army's growing capability in counter-drone warfare, blending technology with tactical acumen to enhance battlefield resilience. GOC interacted with the troops, commended their professionalism and dedication in extreme climatic and terrain conditions and emphasised the importance of technological adaptation in modern warfare. He reiterated the Indian Army's commitment to operational readiness and the continual evolution of combat tactics to meet emerging security challenges along the Eastern frontier.



World Bank debarred Transformers and Rectifiers shares tanks 28%

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The World Bank's debarring has seriously affected Transformers and Rectifiers (India) Ltd (TARIL). 'The Pioneer' reported on Sunday that the Indian company was debarred by World Bank for fraudulent corruption practices in Nigerian powergrid supply. The company's shares were ₹396 on Friday tanked to ₹313 on Monday after the report and on Tuesday further collapsed to ₹282 in Stock Exchanges.

Interestingly, TARIL shares were only priced ₹7.40 only in January 1, 2020 and in January 2025, the company shares shot up to ₹650. 'The Pioneer' reported that more than 50 Indian companies and individuals were debarred by the World Bank for corruption, bribery and fraudulent practices.

The company CFO Chanchal S Rajora on Tuesday told media that the firm was caught in Nigerian politics. Explaining the issues in supply of equipments in the Nigerian projects, he said that the issues will be sort out in six months.

The World Bank has banned the company for four years till June 2029. Gujarat based TARIL was debarred by the World Bank on November 4 for 486 Million Dollars contract in Nigerian power sector.

Share price of Transformers and Rectifiers (India) Ltd (TARIL) extended their sharp fall on Tuesday, slipping 10 per cent to a one-year low of ₹282.80 on BSE. With this, the stock has lost nearly 28 per



The Pioneer exclusive report on November 09, 2025 on World Bank debarring of Indian companies and individuals

PIONEER PHOTO

cent over the last two trading sessions, following a World Bank debarment notice.

The company issued a clarification stating, "We wish to inform that Transformers and Rectifiers (India) Ltd has received a Notice of Uncontested Sanctions Proceedings dated November 4, 2025, from the World Bank in connection with Sanctions Case No. 788 relating to the Nigeria Electricity Transmission Project (IDA Credit Nos. 6185-NG and 6186-NG)."

TARIL said the communication referred to an earlier Notice of Sanctions Proceedings dated July 30, 2025, which the company had not received. "Accordingly, the Company has initiated steps to contest the matter and will submit

its reply to the World Bank, seeking an opportunity to review and address the allegations in detail," it added. The proceedings have been initiated under the Sanctions Proceedings and Settlements in Bank-Financed Projects, issued by the World Bank on November 30, 2023.

Providing background, TARIL said it had received an order worth \$24.74 million in FY20 for the supply of 70 transformers on a CFR basis to Nigeria. The order was executed in FY22 and as per the terms, 90 per cent payment was received under a letter of credit during the same year.

"During shipment of last consignment, while it was being transported from Nigerian Port to its Storage,

3 Nos transformers got damage due to accident. Claim filed by TCN and Insurance was passed during FY22, but payment was received under the insurance during FY24 in staggered manner, due to shortage of USD in Nigeria. We manufactured new Transformers against the previous 3 Nos damaged and supplied them during FY25 end, against which balance payment of 10 per cent was released by World Bank and received during Q1 FY26."

The company clarified that the debarment relates to "certain alleged irregularities concerning a past supply order executed under a World Bank-funded project for Transmission Company of Nigeria Plc (TCN), Abuja."

It further noted that all required

Dish TV partners with Amazon Prime

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Dish TV, one of India's leading content distribution companies, has partnered with Amazon Prime to offer Prime Lite benefits to its customers, reinforcing its commitment to innovation, convenience and customer value.

The collaboration spans the Dish Group's entire ecosystem — including its DTH services, Watcho streaming platform, VZY Smart TVs and extensive ISP partner network. Eligible Dish customers will gain seamless access to Prime Video's premium entertainment library, featuring award-winning Indian and international Originals, blockbuster films and more, all on a single device of their choice in HD quality.

In addition to unlimited entertainment, Prime members will also enjoy shopping benefits such as free unlimited Same-Day and Next-Day delivery on eligible products, as well as early access to major sales events like Prime Day. This partnership marks another milestone in Dish TV's journey to



transform home entertainment through technology, content and convenience. With a strong presence across both DTH and OTT, Dish TV's ecosystem includes its pioneering DTH brands — Dish TV and D2H — the Watcho OTT Super App and the creator-driven FLIQS platform.

The recent launch of VZY Smart TVs has further expanded its footprint into connected entertainment devices, offering viewers a complete and integrated experience. By integrating Prime Lite, Dish TV continues

to uphold its commitment to delivering unmatched value, innovation and entertainment to millions of Indian households, blending its DTH legacy with next-generation streaming technology to create a truly seamless and immersive viewing experience. Prime Video offers consumers access to one of the largest selections of the latest and exclusive Indian and international movies and TV shows, award-winning Amazon Original series, stand-up comedy, popular kids' shows and more.

Speaking about the collab-

oration, Manoj Dobhal, CEO and Executive Director of Dish TV India Limited, said, "Entertainment today is all about accessibility, simplicity and personalisation. Dish TV has always believed in empowering viewers with the freedom to choose how and where they watch content. Partnering with Amazon Prime, renowned for its vast library of movies, series and acclaimed Originals worldwide, further strengthens our commitment to delivering world-class entertainment experiences across every screen."

DGCA asks pilots, air traffic controllers to report GPS spoofing within 10 mins of occurrence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Aviation watchdog DGCA has asked airlines, pilots and air traffic controllers to report GPS spoofing incidents within 10 minutes of the occurrences, amid recent such incidents at the Delhi airport.

In recent days, incidents of GPS spoofing and interference has been reported in and around the national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), the country's busiest airport that handles over 1,500 flight movements daily.

Against this backdrop, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has decided to put in a place system to ensure real time reporting of GPS interference and spoofing incidents.

Global Positioning System (GPS)/ Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) spoofing and jamming refers to attempts to manipulate a user's navigation system by giving false signals.

"Any pilot, ATC controller, or technical unit detecting abnormal GPS behaviour (eg. Position anomalies, navigation errors, loss of GNSS signal integrity, or spoofed location data) shall initiate real time reporting (within 10 minutes of occurrence)," the regulator said in a three-page circular issued on November 10.

The initial report should compulsorily have details such as date and time of occurrence, aircraft type and registration, airline name, flight route and coordinates of occurrence or area affected.

Also, the watchdog has said the entities should mention about the type of interference as to whether it was "jamming / spoofing / signal loss / integrity error" as well as aircraft equipment affected by the interference.

According to the DGCA, airline operators, pilots and ATS units may include further supporting details such as preservation of system logs, screenshots or

images of the Flight Management System (FMS) and records of effects on connected systems and platforms.

ATS refers to Air Traffic Services. All aircraft operators, flight crew and Airports Authority of India (AAI), including Air Traffic Control (ATC) and Communication, Navigation, Surveillance (CNS) units, operating in and around the Delhi airport have been asked to follow the instructions in the circular.

The CNS is the main function of Air Navigation Services (ANS) and Air Traffic Management (ATM). These critical functions are provided by the AAI.

"In view of the recent occurrences of GPS spoofing and GNSS interference reported in and around IGI Airport, New Delhi, it is imperative that all aviation stakeholders ensure prompt detection and real-time reporting (within 10 minutes of occurrence) of such events to maintain flight

safety and operational integrity," the circular said.

The DGCA is probing the incidents of GPS spoofing at the Delhi airport and is also collecting such occurrences to have a better understanding of the situation.

In India, as many as 465 GPS interference and spoofing incidents were reported in the border region, mostly in the Amritsar and Jammu areas, between November 2023 and February 2025.

Several airlines had reported that aircraft operating in and around Amritsar have experienced GPS/GNSS interference.

Airlines have been reporting GPS interference with their flights in different parts of the world, especially while flying near or over conflict zones.

Both the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) have been looking at the issue of GPS spoofing and jamming and looking at ways to deal with them.

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, कुरुक्षेत्र

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KURUKSHETRA

(Under the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

KURUKSHETRA-136119

Advt. No.26/2025

Admission to Ph.D. Program in Even Semester of Academic Year 2025-26

National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra invites online applications via Google Form from Indian and Foreign nationals for admission to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree Programmes on Full Time (Institute/CSIR-UGC-NET-JRF, Project), Visvesvaraya Fellowship Scheme, Full-Time (Self-Financed), and Part-Time seats for Academic Year 2025-26.

Number of Seats, Online Application Form Link, and other relevant details along with Ph.D. Ordinance & Regulations are available on the Institute website: www.nitkkr.ac.in under Admission 2025-> Ph.D. tab.

All interested candidates may fill the Google Form latest by November 24, 2025, 05:00 p.m. If the application is incomplete or any information is found misleading/false at any point during or after the admission process, the candidate's candidature/admission will be cancelled and the application fee will not be refunded in any case.

Please visit Institute website regularly for any announcement or updates in this regard.

Registrar /lc

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Engineering Department

Tender Notice

Tender Reference No. GNDU/ENGG/2025/11/09-16

The Engineering Department of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar invites online bids for:-(i) Renovate the existing allocated space for centre to make state and art lab facility to conduct research work of centre for basic and translational research in health Science (ii) Providing and Placing Lab Furniture for Modernization of Various Computer and Science Labs (iii) SITC of Modernization/Work of Science and Computer Labs in various Department (iv) Purchase of Public Health Material CP 5Braz Fitting Material, Chinaware Material, PTMT Fitting Material Required for Upgradation of Various Toilets (v) Purchase of Civil and Public Health Material for Modernization of Labs Science and Computer in Various Department (vi) Purchase of Civil Work Material Building Material, Wooden Material, Tiles, Adhesive, Granite, Paint Material, Hardware Material, Frosted Glass for Renovation and Upgradation of various Toilets (vii) Upgradation of automatic RF Access Management System for Barrier Gates (viii) Electrical Work of renovation of bathrooms at various departments (Labour Rates basis)

Closing date & time: 02-12-2025 for sr. no. 1 and 27-11-2025 for sr. no. 2 to 8 upto 04:00 pm

For details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

Note: Any Corrigendum/Addendum to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

2426/12/2025-26/4853 Dated GND :- 11/11/2025

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the Chaparmukh Railway Overbridge- Linking Raha to Chaparmukh Railway Junction and West Karbi Anglong

PIONEER PHOTO

BRIEFLY

SHUBHANKAR TIED 6TH AT DP WORLD QUALIFYING SCHOOL



Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma was placed tied sixth after the fourth round of the DP World Tour Final Stage Qualifying School at Infinitem's Lakes and Hills courses. With rounds of 70-69-66-67 he was 14-under but eight shots behind the leader, Zander Lombard. There are two more rounds left in the six round final stage of the Q-School.

Australian Connor McKinney (67) is solo second at 16-under, while the trio of Quentin Debove, Benjamin Follett-Smith and Matthew Baldwin are tied third at 15-under.

Sharma, who has had a difficult 2025 season in the DP World Tour this year has previously been ranked as high as 64th on OWGR. This year he missed 17 consecutive cuts after the Hero Indian Open held in March. The season saw him lose his tour card and return to the Q School in a bid to retain playing privileges.

The 29-year-old who has previously won two titles on the DP World Tour stated during the DP World India Championships that he has struggled with equipment changes through the year and has yet to find a combination that works for him.

Things have looked better this week, though 36 holes remain to be played.

DEEPIKA, DHIRAJ LEAD INDIA AT ASIAN ARCHERY



Star archers Deepika Kumari and Dhiraj Bommadevara were back to their best after missing out on the team berths, as India secured at least three individual medals in recurve events of the Asian Archery Championships here on Tuesday.

Top-ranked Indians Deepika and Dhiraj, who had failed to make the team events after finishing last among their compatriots in qualification round on the opening day, bounced back strongly when the individual eliminations got underway.

Deepika stunned Shanghai World Cup gold medallist Lee Gahyun of Korea 7-3 to storm into the women's recurve semifinals, where she will face compatriot Ankita Bhakat. Ankita, meanwhile, produced one of the biggest upsets of the day, toppling top seed and former world champion Jang Minhee of Korea 6-4.

Sangeeta too joined the party, defeating Iran's Zare Reyhane 7-1 to enter the last-four, where she will meet Korea's Nam Suhyeon. With Deepika, Ankita and Sangeeta all in the semifinals, India stand a strong chance of completing a clean sweep in the women's recurve individual category.

Vihaan to captain India U19 A in triangular series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Rising talent Vihaan Malhotra was on Tuesday named captain of the India U19 A squad for an upcoming triangular series also featuring India B and Afghanistan's U19 teams.

Hyderabad's Aaron George will lead the India B U19 side in the competition that will be held at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence, Bengaluru, from November 17 to 30. Malhotra was handed captaincy, even as his two superstar teammates Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre remain occupied with other engagements.

Wicketkeeper



Abhigyan Kundu will be Malhotra's deputy in the three-nation tournament, while Vedant Trivedi has been named vice captain of the India U19 B squad.

Delhi lose to J&K in Ranji for the first time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Delhi cricket hit a new low on Tuesday after a spirited Jammu and Kashmir thrashed them by seven wickets for their first-ever Ranji Trophy victory over the formidable opposition that was powered by opener Qamran Iqbal's superb hundred.

After four games, Delhi coached by Sarandeep Singh, are sixth among eight teams in Group D with seven points and it will take a miracle to qualify for the knockouts with only four points from three home games.

Questionable selections, poor strategies, absence of smart captaincy and a state unit in which teams have suffered due to factionalism and infighting has brought about the team's downfall.

Since 1960, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir have met 43 times and 37 of those games have ended in outright wins for the seven-time champions.

Chasing a target of 179 for victory, J&K needed 124 runs on the final day with opener Iqbal (133 not out off 147 balls) at the crease with night-watchman Vanshaj Sharma (8 off 55 balls).

What looked like a difficult pitch suddenly became placid as Iqbal took it upon himself to use his long levers and big stride to negate any turn off the surface.

The roughs and indents were created on both sides of the track and Delhi's spin-



Players of Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi greet each other at the end of their Ranji Trophy 2025-26 cricket match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi PTI

ners Mannan Bhardwaj and Hrithik Shokeen didn't attack the stumps as much, trying to bowl too fast which also didn't get them any purchase.

Towards the end, Iqbal was hitting one-handed slog swept sixes and lofted boundaries. Even 40-year-old skipper Paras Dogra, the former doyen of Himachal Pradesh cricket, played his part with a first innings hundred.

In his 22nd first class

season, Dogra only second to Mumbai stalwart Wasim Jaffer in terms of runs in Ranji Trophy, scored tons against both Mumbai and Delhi this season.

For Delhi, retaining Sarandeep as the head coach after a disastrous last season due to alleged pressures from a strong DDCA lobby has only ensured that there was no consistency in selection. Skipper Ayush Badoni is scoring some attractive half-centuries but no team in

domestic cricket is in awe of him. Arpit Rana, a top scorer in DPL, has been found wanting against quality seam bowling as Auqib Nabi with his seaming deliveries exposed his poor technique.

A positive opening batter like Priyansh Arya was benched in first two games only to be played out of position at number 4.

Worse, with two good keeper batters in Tejasvi Dahiya and Pranav Raghuvanshi on the bench,

Anuj Rawat, a player with less than 30 average across eight seasons keeps on playing.

After this defeat, DDCA president Rohan Jaitley is expected to crack the whip.

In the last group match to finish on Tuesday, Hyderabad earned three points for taking a first-innings lead after the contest against Rajasthan ended in a draw on the fourth and final day in Hyderabad.

Hyderabad, who had put 364 on board batting first,

Rekhade seals Vidarbha's 100-run win; Jharkhand-Baroda draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Nagpur

Left-arm spinner Parth Rekhade returned with a five-wicket haul as Vidarbha registered a 100-run win over Odisha to move to the top of Group A in the Ranji Trophy on Tuesday.

Chasing 345 for victory, Odisha were bowled out for 244 in 84 overs after a promising 100-run opening stand between Swastik Samal (65) and Gourav Choudhury (47). Vidarbha now lead the table with 19 points, while Odisha remain second from bottom with just one point.

Resuming at 44 for no loss, Samal and Choudhury added 56 more runs before Rekhade provided the breakthrough in the 24th over, trapping the latter leg before wicket.

Samal too became his victim soon after, while Sandeep Pattnaik's painstaking 27 off 105 balls ended



when he was trapped in front by Praful Hinge in the 38th over. Skipper Subhanshu Senapati (28) and Govinda Poddar (46) tried to steady the chase but failed to convert their starts, as Odisha kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Rekhade (5/80) led the bowling effort with Hinge (3/41) providing able support, while Nachiket Bhute (1/50) also chipped in.

In Vadodara, opener Shikhar Mohan struck an unbeaten 102 as Jharkhand reached 226 for four in their second innings before agreeing to a draw with Baroda.

Jharkhand, who bagged three points for their first-innings lead, are placed second in the group with 18 points. Baroda settled for one to be at fifth spot with a total of 9 points.

Denish, Sibsankar salvage draw against Tripura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Agartala

Skipper Denish Das and senior batter Sibsankar Roy struck defiant centuries to help Assam salvage a draw against Tripura on the fourth and final day of their Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Tuesday.

Resuming on overnight 78 for 3 in their second innings and facing a huge deficit, Assam showed remarkable grit to bat through the day, ending at 367 for 7 when the teams agreed to call off play in the final session.

Captain Denish Das (103 off 197 balls) anchored the innings with a composed century, guiding Assam out of trouble after a shaky start.

He found solid support from wicketkeeper Sumit Ghadigaonkar (54 off 161) as the duo steadied the innings with a 150-run partnership for the fourth wicket.



Assam's Denish Das celebrates his century during Ranji trophy cricket match between Tripura and Assam in Agartala, Tripura PTI

After Denish's dismissal, Roy took charge, batting fluently for an unbeaten 101 off 141 balls, which was decorated with 17 fours and two sixes. His counterattacking approach ensured Assam not only avoided an innings defeat but also batted Tripura out of the contest.

Lower down, Ayushman Malakar (21 not out) provid-

ed valuable resistance as the visitors stretched their lead past 100 before stumps were drawn.

For Tripura, Ajay Sarkar was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3 for 70, while Swapnil Singh (2/88) and Rana Dutta (2/34) also chipped in with wickets but couldn't bowl out Assam as the pitch eased out.

India adds two silver through Aishwary, Esha and Rana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Cairo

Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar equalled the qualification world record and then won his first-ever individual World Championship medal by settling for silver in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final on Tuesday.

Newly-crowned air pistol world champion Samrat Rana and defending champion Esha Singh also ended with a silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team competition, after they went down 10-16 in the gold



medal match to China's Kai Hu and Qianxun Yao. Before that Aishwary, the two-time Olympian, managed 466.9 in the 45-shot final to finish behind China's reigning Olympic champion Liu

Yukun, who ended 0.2 ahead with 467.1. India continued to hold the second position in the medal tally behind China with three gold, five silver and three bronze in their kitty.

Germany seeks compensation for players switching national teams

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Berlin

The German soccer federation (DFB) wants compensation when players opt to represent other countries after representing Germany at youth levels.

"It simply makes no sense to me why a player who has been coached primarily at his club for five years but also by the federation as a junior partner should be able to switch national associations for free," DFB managing director Andreas Rettig told news

agency dpa on Tuesday.

German-born Juventus star Kenan Yildiz is a Turkish international, having played for Turkey's youth teams. Eintracht Frankfurt forward Can Uzun also turned down Germany in favor of Turkey.

Former Hertha Berlin forward Ibrahim Maza, now playing for Bayer Leverkusen, plays for Algeria after appearing for Germany at youth levels. German youth internationals Muhammed Damar and Nicolò Tresoldi are reportedly being courted by Turkey and Italy, respective-

ly, and the Frankfurter Rundschau daily newspaper reported on Sunday that Nuremberg defender Fabio Gruber has chosen to represent Peru. "We're currently checking whether there's a possibility of coaching compensation when players switch national associations," Rettig said. "This issue has not yet been addressed extensively. But coaching must be worthwhile for both sides, the player and the coach."

Germany has long seen players with one or two parents born abroad opt to

represent their country of their roots, while the country has also benefited from immigration as players such as Ilkay Gundogan, Mesut Ozil, Sami Khedira and Gerald Asamoah have contributed to the national team's success.

Cologne teenager Said El Mala was last week called up for Germany's World Cup qualifiers this week and at least 12 players in the latest squad could have chosen to represent other countries. The injured Jamal Musiala chose Germany after playing for England youth teams.



"In Germany 43% of children under five years of age hold dual citizenship. When they're 10 or 12 years older they can decide, do I prefer the (German) eagle or, for example, the (Turkish) crescent moon?" Rettig said.

"We analyzed the squad lists from the under-15s to the under-21s within the federation. The percentage there is significantly higher than the aforementioned 43%. There are age groups in which seven or eight players in the starting 11 have dual nationality.

MP BEAT GOA BY THREE WICKETS IN TENSE RUN CHASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Porvorum (Goa)

Middle-order batter Saransh Jain held firm with a solid 82 not out to help Madhya Pradesh beat Goa by three wickets after a tense run chase on the final day of their Ranji Trophy Group B match here Tuesday.

Madhya Pradesh, who had conceded a 97-run first innings lead to Goa, started the final day at 21 for 1 in pursuit of 328, and wickets fell at regular intervals.

Arriving at 176 for 4, Jain anchored the MP run chase with some support from the lower order.

His unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 65 with Arshad Khan (25) turned it around for MP.

Jain hit nine fours in his 132-ball unbeaten innings. Captain Shubham Sharma got 72 off 134 balls, while Harsh Gawli contributed 54.

The other two matches of Group B — Kerala vs Saurashtra, and Karnataka vs Maharashtra — ended in draws. In Pune, Karnataka took three points and Maharashtra one after the drawn match.



यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया



Union Bank of India

SALE NOTICE

भारत सरकार का उद्यम A Government of India undertaking

Asset Recovery Branch, D-26/28, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 (Working at M-35, First Floor, Outer Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001), Email ID – ubin0554723@unionbankofindia.bank

For sale of movable / Immovable Properties

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of movable / Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8 / 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable / immovable property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (secured creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder :

Sr. No.	Name & address of Borrower & Guarantor	Description of the movable / Immovable property put for auction	Dues to be recovered from Borrower/ Guarantor (Rs.)	Reserve Price (Rs.)
				EMD
				BID Increment Amt
1	Borrower : M/s Manu Concast Pvt Ltd, A 23A, Block-A, Hari Nagar Extension, New Delhi-110044 Also at: D-67, Sidcul, Sitargunj, Uttarakhand-262450 Guarantors: M/s Manu Auto Components Pvt Ltd, A 23A, Block-A, Hari Nagar Extension, New Delhi-110044, Mr. C P Sharma, S/O-R L Sharma, Flat No 802, Pragati Hills, CGHS, Sector-47, Gurgaon, Haryana Mrs. Sri Devi, W/O- Mr. C P Sharma, Flat No 802, Pragati Hills, CGHS, Sector-47, Gurgaon, Haryana Mr. Aditya Pratap Singh, S/o- PRABHAT SINGH, House No-B1-17, 1st Floor, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058	Factory Land at D-67, Phase -II, Sidcul, Sitarganj in the name of M/s Manu Concast Pvt. Ltd (plot size 4382.25 Sq Mtrs) along with superstructure (3220.97 Sq Mtrs constructed area) Physical Possession	Rs 10,92,48,627/-as on 31.03.2025 + interest and other expenses thereon	Rs.1,71,00,000/- Rs.1,71,0000/- Rs.1,71,000/-

Details of incumbrance over the above property as known to the bank - not known

Date and Time of Auction : 28.11.2025 12:00 Noon to 05:00 PM (with unlimited extension of 10 minutes each)

For registration, login and bidding rules visit **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. (<https://banknet.com>)**. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in <https://www.unionbankofindia.co.in/auction-property/view-auction-property.aspx>

EMD shall be deposited and Linked/Mapped with the Property ID before the expiry of auction time prior to placing the bid. It is advisable to deposit and Link / Map the EMD amount with the property ID well in advance to avoid any technical glitch.

Authorized Officer:- Mrs. Mineendra S R, Chief Manager, Mobile No. – 9967887077

Date : 11.11.2025. Place : New Delhi

Authorized Officer: Union Bank of India