BHUBANESWAR

**Army Chief** calls Operation Sindoor an 88-hour trailer

SC terms liquor tetra packs dangerous and deceptive

LUCKNOW

**BHOPAL** 

**Jobs cause** a possible stock effect



RANCHI

German Goverment lifts arms ban on Israel

HYDERABAD

DEHRADUN

the use of deadly force

against unarmed protest-

ers, making inflammatory

statements and authorising

operations that led to

the killing of several stu-

dents in Dhaka and sur-

trials conducted by the so-

called International Crimes

Tribunal (ICT) were never

intended to achieve justice

or provide any genuine

insight into the events of

July and August 2025,"

to "scapegoat" the Awami

League and to "distract the

world's attention" from the

failings of Yunus and his

"Under his aegis, public

services have fallen apart.

Police have retreated from

the country's crime-ridden

streets and judicial fairness

has been subverted, with

attacks on Awami League

adherents going unpun-

ished," she alleged.

ministers, she charged.

Rather, their purpose was

"They can see that the

rounding areas.

Hasina said.

**India** needs good coaches of football: Lothar



# PIONEER IN SHORT

#### **MURUGAPPA GROUP EX-CHAIRMAN DIES**

Arunachalam Vellayan, former chairman of the Murugappa Group and chairman emeritus of Coromandel International passed away at the age of 72 after a prolonged illness. He is survived by his wife, Lalitha Vellayan, sons Arun and Narayanan Vellayan and grandchildren. Over several decades, Vellayan played a pivotal role in guiding the Murugappa Group's diversified businesses. contributing significantly to its growth and establishing it as one of India's most respected conglomerates. He served on the boards of several group companies, including Coromandel International and EID Parry, as well as other firms such as Kanoria Chemicals, EXIM Bank and Indian Overseas Bank. Beyond corporate leadership, he led multiple industry and trade organisations, including the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Fertiliser Association of India and Indian Sugar Mills

# Hasina sentenced to death in Dhaka

DELHI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Dhaka

PUBLISHED FROM:

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

In its verdict that followed a months-long trial, the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) described the 78-year-old Awami League leader as the "mastermind and principal architect" of the violent repression that killed hundreds of protesters. It also handed the death sentence to former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on similar charges.

Hasina has been living in India since she fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year in the face of the massive protests. She was earlier declared a fugitive by the court.

In her reaction, Hasina said the judgement has been made by a "rigged tribunal established and presided over by an unelected Government with no democratic mandate."



distasteful call for the death penalty, they reveal the Bangladesh's last elected

"They are biased and intent of extremist figures politically motivated. In their within the interim Government to remove brazen and murderous prime minister, and to

In their distasteful call for the death penalty, they reveal the brazen and murderous intent of extremist figures within the interim Government - SHEIKH HASINA, FORMER PM OF BANGLADESH

CHANDIGARH

nullify the Awami League as death penalty for ordering a political force," she said in

Hasina said she was not afraid to face her "accusers" in a proper tribunal where the evidence can be weighed and tested fairly.

'That is why I have repeatedly challenged the interim Government to bring these charges before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the Hague."

The verdict comes months before parliamentary elections in Bangladesh. Hasina's Awami League party has been barred from contesting the elections scheduled to be held in February

Reading out the judgment before a heavily guarded courtroom in Dhaka, the ICT said the prosecution proved beyond a reasonable doubt that Hasina was behind the deadly crackdown on studentled protests in July-August last year.

Hasina was handed the

### 45 Indians feared dead in Saudi accident PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi

At least 45 Indian pilgrims lost their lives when a bus transporting them between the holy cities of Mecca and Medina caught fire in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, according to Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC

Sajjanar. The vehicle was carrying 46 passengers at the time of the incident. The lone survivor, a man from Hyderabad, has been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of a local hospital, officials said.

Most of those on board were from Hyderabad in Telangana and on their way for Umrah, a pilgrimage performed by Muslims throughout the year and considered shorter than the annual Hajj. The tragedy occurred as

the group was travelling from Mecca to Medina. While the exact cause of the accident unclear, Commissioner Sajjanar confirmed that an oil tanker collided with the bus. triggering the fire.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences on X, calling the incident "deeply distressing"



AIMIM Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin meets family members of those who lost their lives

and assuring that Indian authorities were coordinating closely with officials. The Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate in Jeddah are "providing all necessary assistance," he said.

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju also expressed their heartfelt condolences to the affected families.

#### The ByStander

Governors of IIM Kozhikode.

Association. He also

chaired the Board of



#### **DELHI-SHANGHAI AI** FLIGHTS TO RESUME

Air India will resume direct flights between Delhi and Shanghai from February 1, 2026, marking its return to mainland China after nearly six years. The airline had suspended Shanghai services in early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic while still Government-owned. Now under the Tata Group, Air India plans to also launch non-stop flights between Mumbai and Shanghai in 2026, pending regulatory approvals. Delhi-Shanghai flights will operate four times weekly using Boeing 787-8 aircraft with 18 business and 238 economy seats. Shanghai will become Air India's 48th international destination.

#### **SR TO BEGIN IN** ASSAM

The Election Commission of

India has ordered a Special Revision (SR) of electoral rolls in Assam, with January 1, 2026, set as the qualifying date. Positioned between the annual special summary revision and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), the SR aims to ensure clean, updated and accurate voter lists. Doorto-door verification will be conducted from November 22 to December 20. followed by publication of the integrated draft electoral roll on December 27 and the final roll on February 10, 2026. Assam Chief Minister welcomed the decision, pledging full State cooperation for a transparent, timely process.

#### **Power talks** begin in Bihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Patna/New Delhi

Hectic lobbying began on Monday among NDA allies to finalise cabinet positions ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of the new Bihar Government on Thursday.

While major stakeholders, the BJP and the JD(U), are engaging directly, smaller allies — like the LJP, led by Chirag Paswan, Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) of Jitan Ram Manjhi and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) led by Upendra Kushwaha — held separate meetings with Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in the national Capital.

"Met Union Minister and in-charge Dharmendra Pradhan and BIP general secretary Vinod Tawde, who worked tirelessly to ensure a massive victory of the NDA in the Bihar Assembly elections, 2025, and congratulated them," Manjhi, posted on social media post following his meeting.

Although newly elected MLAs of the JD(U) met on Monday evening, a source said the party will elect Nitish Kumar as the legislature party leader on Wednesday, after which he will tender his resignation as incumbent CM.

Meanwhile, BJP chief Dilip laiswal informed that the party legislators will meet on Tuesday. The last Cabinet meeting of the outgoing NDA Government in Bihar on Monday authorised CM Kumar to dissolve the Assembly.

# Delhi notes Hasina verdict

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

India on Monday acknowledged a tribunal ruling on a former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the neighbouring nation's peace, democracy, inclusion and constructive dialogue.

"India has taken note of the verdict on former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced by the International Crimes Tribunal (Bangladesh). As a close neighbour, India remains committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including peace, democracy, inclusion, and stability. The country has reiterated its intent to engage constructively with all stakeholders in Bangladesh to that end," read a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs.

Hasina has been sentenced to death in absentia by the ICT for "crimes against" unarmed protesters.

humanity" linked to her Government's violent crackdown on student-led protests last year. The tribunal described the 78year-old Awami League leader as the 'mastermind and principal architect" of the brutal suppression, which reportedly left hundreds of protesters dead.

Hasina has been living in India since fleeing Bangladesh on August 5, 2024, and was previously declared a fugitive by the court. In a statement from exile, she rejected the verdict, calling the tribunal biased and politically motivated.

She described the death sentence as part of a broader attempt by the interim Government to eliminate the Awami League, and challenged the Government to bring her case before the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague.

The tribunal found Hasina guilty of ordering the use of deadly force, including helicopters and firearms, against

### Bangladesh seeks ex-PM extradition PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka

Bangladesh on Monday urged India to extradite Sheikh Hasina and her former aide Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal. hours after a special tribunal sentenced them to death in absentia for "crimes against humanity".

"We urge the Indian Government to immediately hand over these two convicted individuals to the Bangladeshi authorities," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement, according to the State-run BSS news agency.

It said the existing bilateral extradition agreement between Bangladesh and India marks the transfer of the



Bangladeshi Army soldiers stand guard outside the Supreme Court in Dhaka ahead of the verdict against ex-PM Sheikh Hasina

two convicts as a "compulso-victed of crimes against ry responsibility" for New humanity would be consid-Delhi. It also said that grant- ered an "unfriendly act" and

ing shelter to individuals con- a disregard for justice.

# Technical aide linked to Delhi blast arrested

MOHIT KANDHARI/RAJESH KUMAR Jammu/New Delhi

Agency (NIA) has arrested another suspect in the Delhi blast case, while Amir Rashid Ali, arrested on Sunday, was remanded to the agency's custody for 10 days. The NIA arrested Jasir Bilal

The National Investigation

Wani, son of a dry fruit seller, in Srinagar in connection with the blast which claimed 13 lives in the national Capital.

A resident of Anantnag, Wani allegedly provided technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and

"If the CAQM's suggestions



Security at Patiala House Court Complex as the NIA produces Amir Rashid Ali in court in New Delhi

NIA said in a statement.

Qazigund in Anantnag Umar un Nabi, to plan the district of Jammu and terror carnage," the NIA

attempting to make rockets Kashmir, was an active coahead of the deadly blast, the conspirator behind the attack and had worked "The accused, a resident of closely with the terrorist,

statement read. This is the second major arrest by the NIA in the case. On Sunday, the agency had arrested Ali. The car involved in the attack was registered in his name the agency has claimed.

Jasir lived in the neighbourhood of Dr Muzaafar Rather, brother of Dr Adeel Ahmad Rather. Dr Adeel was arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir police from Saharanpur on November 6, after which the terror module was unearthed during a joint operation by the Delhi, the Haryana, the Uttar Pradesh police teams led by the Jammu and Kashmir police.

### Police issue summons to Al Falah's founder

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi/Indore

The Delhi Police Crime Branch has summoned the chairman and founder of Al Falah University over alleged irregularities and forgery flagged by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Meanwhile, the MP police arrested his brother from Hyderabad in 25-yearold fraud cases.

Javed Ahmed Siddiqui has been asked to appear before ed with the institution.

the Crime Branch with documents related to accreditation and funding of the Al Falah Charitable Trust, which operates nine organisations including the Al Falah Medical Research Foundation, where blast accused Umar Nabi and Muzammil Ganai were employed.

The summons was sent after investigative agencies found that Siddiqui's statement was crucial for clarifying several inconsistencies linked to the functioning of the university and the activities of individuals associat-

# As Delhi chokes, Supreme Court calls for long term fixes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

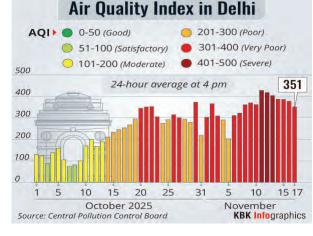
Batting for a long-term solution for air pollution in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court on Monday refused to impose year-round restrictions on all activities prohibited under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) a set of emergency measures

to control pollution. The court asked the Punjab and Haryana Governments to strictly follow the directions of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on the

issue of stubble burning.

to Punjab and Haryana are implemented, then stubble burning can be adequately tackled. Thus, we direct both States to have a combined meeting and ensure that the CAQM's suggestions are scrupulously implemented," a bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and N V Anjaria said. "It is also stated that the

Union environment minister held a meeting on November 11 and that within a day, appropriate instructions could be



taken to find out appropriate amicus (curiae) and the ASG, steps to be taken to deal with the menace of pollution," it

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aishwarya Bhati was asked to apprise the court of the complete plan of action on November 19, the next date of hearing, when the court will also issue directions.

At the outset, the bench said that from time to time, several orders have been passed to deal with the high level of air pollution.

"However, we are of the view, which is agreed by

that the issue cannot be looked at with a temporary solution and a long-drawn solution needs to be looked at," it said.

Senior advocate and amicus curiae Aprajita Singh said that though Puniab's affidavit said that stubble burning incidents have gone down, there is no reduction in pollution levels.

Noting the submissions of senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan, appearing for one of the parties, the bench said he stated that Delhi has become a gas prohibited from GRAP 1 onwards should be prohibited for the entire year. "The restriction to be

chamber and that all activities

imposed on activities in Delhi in (a) graded manner taking into consideration AQI standards has been finalised by the expert(s) in the field on scientific data. We do not possess expertise to deal with the same. We are therefore not inclined to act on the submission of Mr Sankarnarayanan that all activities (prohibited from GRAP 1 onwards) be stopped in Delhi," the CJI said.

# NMCG approves research projects for Yamuna River

Executive Committee (EC) meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) on Monday discussed rejuvenation of the Yamuna in Delhi through tapping of untreated sewage from the Jahangirpuri drain. The meeting, chaired by Director General Rajeev Kumar Mital, approved the conveyance of treated

sewage from Coronation

Pillar STP to the Yamuna.

The Mission, which comes under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, is the nodal body responsible for the abatement of pollution in the Ganga and its tributaries. The experts also considered safe and efficient convevance of treated sewage to the river and educational public outreach to school children, the official said.

The proposal aims to ensure the safe and efficient conveyance of treated sewage from the Coronation Pillar STP to the Yamuna, thereby improving the river's water quality and supporting



the ongoing efforts of the Yamuna Action Plan, said the statement.

The project includes kev components such as tapping of untreated sewage from the Jahangirpuri drain, construction of new pumping stations, laying of rising mains and RCC channels, creation of truss bridges for drain crossings, and conveyance infrastructure for treated effluent.

The EC approved the 'Youth for Ganga, Youth for Yamuna' initiative amounting to ₹39.37 lakh, aiming to across at least 200 schools in

Delhi-NCR fostering aware-

ness and responsibility

towards river conservation. The programme envisions the formation of River Youth Clubs, encourages positive behavioural changes among youth regarding water usage, and enhances Namami Gange outreach. Appraised by IIPA, the project will be completed in

Cleaning the polluted Yamuna is a key election promise of the BJP

issue that was even highlighted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while campaigning for the Assembly election in February.

The river, Delhi's lifeline, flows for 22 km through the urban areas of Delhi, from the Wazirabad Barrage to the Okhla Barrage. The total length of the river within the National Capital Territory of Delhi is about 52 km from its entry at Palla to its exit at Jaitpur. Last month, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched 18 projects worth ₹1,816 crore, including projects for sewage treatment to prevent pollution.

HM Shah announced that PM Modi has given top priority to cleaning the Yamuna, and within seven months of the BJP coming to power in Delhi plan to clean the Yamuna from Yamunotri to Prayagraj has been prepared.

Through these approvals, the EC has paved the way for improved water management, strengthened monitoring systems, and enhanced scientific capabilities crucial for the rejuvenation of the Ganga.

## Delhi to get cleaner: MCD identifies 431 waste collection points for night shifts

**ABHINAV KUMAR JHA** 

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has identified 431 secondary waste collection points across its 12 zones to shift a major part of the garbage movement to night hours. Officials said the move aims to cut daytime congestion, reduce public inconveniences, streamline the flow of solid waste from neighbourhoods to processing sites.

The corporation said primary waste collection is done during the day. Workers gather waste from households, markets, and bulk generators. This waste is then dropped at secondary points. From there, trucks lift it at night when traffic is thin.

Senior officials said the new list will help standardise the system. "Night movement of waste reduces delays. It also prevents traffic build-up caused by slow-moving garbage trucks," an MCD official said.

Data shared by the MCD shows that the Central Zone has the highest number of secondary collection points at 101. This is followed by

DATA SHARED BY THE MCD SHOWS THAT THE CENTRAL ZONE HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF SECONDARY COLLECTION POINTS AT 101

South Shahdara with 54 points and South Zone with 50. Narela has 44 points, Rohini has 32, and City SP has 35. Civil Lines and Keshav Puram have 24 each. while Najafgarh has 23, Karol Bagh has 17, West Zone has 21, and North Shahdara has the lowest with just 6.

Officials said the spread reflects both population density and lane patterns. Areas with heavy commercial activity, old city layouts, and mixed land use tend to need more secondary points.

The MCD said the shift to night movement is also aimed at improving hygiene. During the day, secondary points often attract stray animals and create foul odours. Night clearing solves the issue of waste spreading by stray animals. The corporation

said it expects visible improvement in cleanliness around these locations. Officials said ward-level teams will monitor whether waste is being dropped and lifted on schedule.

Many sanitation workers said the system will work only if primary collection remains consistent. They said the late movement of waste from households results in pile-ups. Market areas also generate large volumes late in the evening. MCD officials said they are planning to adjust timings in such areas.

Residents welcomed the move but said enforcement is key. Some RWAs said secondary points near residential lanes often overflow because of irregular lifting. They said night collection should be strict and time-bound.

With 431 points now mapped zone-wise, officials said the aim is to reduce human contact with waste improve route planning, and ensure smoother transport to waste-to-energy plants and dumping sites. The corporation plans to add more mechanical sweepers and compactors.

#### 3 held in forex trading scam with Dubai link

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Police has arrested three people, including a sales manager of a private bank, over alleged links with an interstate syndicate involved in a large-scale forex trading scam operated by Dubai-based handlers.

The accused have been identified as Anurag Kumar, a muleaccount provider; Zeeshan Syed, sales manager at a private Bank; and Himanshu Gupta, a key handler with past involvement in cheating and forgery, police said.

They were allegedly part of a network that created shell companies and opened multiple mule current accounts to layer and launder the proceeds of investment frauds, the police said. The gang lured victims through social media groups, using manipulated dashboards to display fictitious forex trading profits, the senior officer said.

The syndicate allegedly cheated a victim of nearly Rs 40 lakh, and investigators believe several more people may have been targeted. Further investigation is underway to identify additional members and trace the international flow of funds, police added. 

### Woman arrested for duping elderly with fake gold earrings

Delhi Police have arrested a allegedly cheated an 80-yearold resident of Chandni Mahal by swapping her gold earring with a fake one. The arrest came after officers tracked the suspect across several lanes of Old Delhi through her gait and eyes, which were visible in CCTV footage.

The case was registered on October 30 after the complainant called the police to report the theft. She said an unknown woman had visited visitor claimed to know the complainant's late daughter, spoke warmly, and gained her trust before leaving. The visitor also promised to return the next day

On October 28, the woman returned. She kept the conversation friendly. She then informed the complainant that one of her earrings had become loose. She asked to take a look. The complainant agreed. The suspect used the moment to replace the gold earring with an artificial one of the same size and design. She then left quietly. "This was a sensitive case. The victim was elderly and had poor eyesight. The team used every tool available and showed strong commitment." Central District DCP confirm one identity. 

Nidhin Valsan said. Police registered an FIR under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and began work. Officers said the complainant has low vision due to an eye ailment, which made the crime easier for the accused. A special team was

formed at the Chandni Mahal police station. The team started with manual checks. They spoke to locals and shopkeepers and moved through crowded stretches of Kala Mahal, Matia Mahal, and nearby lanes. Many people were reluctant to share information. Officers said they still stayed on the ground for long hours. Technical surveillance was the next step. The team scanned CCTV feeds from many cameras. Much of the footage was unclear. The suspect kept her hijab on, and only parts of her face were visible. But investigators found one pattern. Her gait stood out. Her eyes and a sliver of her forehead also matched the complainant's description.

Police compared clips from multiple spots and followed the movement across lanes and junctions. Each clip gave a small clue. The team pieced these clues together and narrowed the search to Kala Mahal. Local inquiries there helped them

#### Govt to repair 500-km-long stretches of roads by March: Verma

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Delhi Government will repair 500-km-long stretches of roads across the national Capital by March 2026, PWD Minister Parvesh Verma said on Monday. The Minister made an inspection visit in South Delhi's Lajpat Nagar and Amar Colony areas along with local MLAs and PWD officials.

"By March, the Delhi Government will repair 500 kilometres of major road stretches across the national Capital, and tenders are being floated. The broken roads, slip roads, footpaths and Foot Overbridges (FOBs) are also being repaired," Verma said while talking to reporters.

Government sources said that every year the city suffers from air pollution during winter, and one of the factors contributing to the pollution is the dust generated on roads by moving vehicles. Considering this a serious concern, the PWD and other agencies have been ensuring the repair of existing roads, besides constructing new ones.

Earlier this year, under the road dust mitigation plan, Verma held a meeting with PWD officials, where the status of 153 ongoing road repair projects was reviewed. ......

# PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha

Gupta on Monday called for stronger coordination between Delhi, neighbouring States and the Centre to tackle shared regional challenges. Speaking at the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Faridabad, she said issues such as air pollution, water security and regional transport cannot be solved in isolation and require long-term joint action.

The Chief Minister said air quality in Delhi is deeply shaped by regional activity, especially stubble burning. She acknowledged progress made by Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in manag-

a major concern. She urged Puniab and Harvana to strengthen cooperation, saying cleaner air for Delhi depends on collective responsibility across the region.

The Chief Minister said Delhi is pushing for a full shift to an electric public transport fleet and asked NCR cities to quicken their move toward electric buses, taxis and autos. On cleaning the Yamuna,

the CM said Delhi and Harvana have taken important steps in recent years and thanked Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini for continued cooperation. She stressed the need to trap all drains that empty into the river, complete ing crop residue but said sewer line and desilting needs. Delhi currently receives



treated water passes through modern STPs before entering the Yamuna.

The CM also raised the issue of Delhi's drinking water supply. She said that the 1994 water-sharing agreement needs urgent revision to reflect the city's growing but has asked for 1,250 MGD. She said the Renukaji.

Lakhwar and Kishau dam proiects must be fast-tracked so that States benefit from both water supply and expected power generation. Turning to regional connectivity, the Chief Minister informed the Council that Delhi's pending attended the meeting.

Rapid Transit System and other joint projects are being cleared. Earlier, addressing the meeting, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that all States should work in mutual coordination to resolve water resource management and water-related problems. Chief Ministers Nayab Singh

Saini (Haryana), Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu (Himachal Pradesh), Bhagwant Mann (Punjab), Bhajan Lal Sharma (Rajasthan), Rekha Gupta (Delhi), Omar Abdullah (J&K), Puniab Governor and Administrator of Chandigarh Gulab Chand Kataria, Lieutenant Governors Manoj Sinha (J&K), VK Saxena (Delhi) and Kavinder Gupta (Ladakh)

## Ministers take to streets to boost sanitation drive



Delhi ministers fanned out across the city on Monday to review sanitation work, interact with residents, and issue fresh directions to officials as the Government pushed to speed up its cleanliness drive. The inspections came amid complaints from several wards about overflowing dumps, broken toilets, and traffic disruption caused by roadside waste.

Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood visited Ward 92 and inspected

Camp on the main road near the CNG pump. Health and Transport Minister Dr Pankaj Kumar Singh reviewed san itation work in New Ashok Nagar in the Trilokpuri Assembly constituency. Culture Minister Kapil Mishra led a public rally in Timarpur to promote waste segregation and discourage singleuse plastic.

Sood said sanitation has been placed at the top of the government's priority list. He said the Chief Minister

Animal Hospital, R Block out field inspections to jhuggis, and Rajiv Gandhi ensure real progress. He added that the goal is to make Delhi one of the clean-

est cities in the country. During his visit, Sood reviewed waste collection points, drains, toilets, and narrow lanes choked with garbage. He was accompanied by area MLA Kailash Gangwal and officials from the MCD, PWD, Delhi Jal Board, and DUSIB. He spoke with residents and noted their concerns about irregular waste lifting and the lack of basic facilities.

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APPENDIX IV (Refer Rule - 8(1))POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. 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 9 of the Security Interest Conferency (2002) issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Mortgagor(s) Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Axis Bank Ltd. The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attentions is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name Of Borrower / Co-Borrower 1 Mrs. Babita Mishra and Mr. Shabeeb Anwar Zaidi 09-Jun-2025 13-Nov-2025 Rs. 6,89,469/ Description Of Immovable Property:- Free Hold LiG Flat No-158, 3rd Flizor, Pocket-7, Sector-2 Rohini, New Delhi-110085 And Bounded As Follows.- East – As Per Site Plan West – As Per Site Plan North – As Per Site Plan, South – As Per Site Plan

2 Mr. Ram Kishore Meena & Mrs. Chota Devi 26-Jun-2025 | 13-Nov-2025 | Rs. 7,09,863/ Description Of Immovable Property:- DDA Buil Flat No. 818 Under Lig Category On Fourth Floo Pocket Gh-1 Sector 28 Situated At Rohini Residential Scheme Delhi And Bounded As Under - Eas As Per Title Deed, West : As Per Title Deed, North : As Per Title Deed, South : As Per Title Deed As Per Time Deed, west - As Per Time Deed, word - As Total Bed Services - As Per Time Deed, west - As Per Time Deed, west

4 Mrs. Bhavana Kapoor & Prashant Kapoor | 06-08-2025 | 13-Nov-2025 | Rs. 12.11,188/ 4 Mrs. Bhavana Kapoor & Prashant Kapoor | 16-08-2025 | 13-Nov-2025 | Rs. 12.11,188/Description Of Immovable Property:- Flat No. 125-C, At Second Floor, LIG Category, In The Layout Plan Of Housing Estate Dwarka, Pocket-B, Sector-26, Phase-II, Dwarka, New Delhi, Bounded:- North – As Site Plan, West – As Site Plan, South – As Site Plan, East – As Site Plan | 5 Mr. Ranjeeta Singh & Kamia Devi | 07-08-2025 | 13-Nov-2025 | Rs. 11,74,915/Description Of Immovable Property:- Flat No. 65, 13 Floor Pocket 1A, Block A- 13, Sector A1-4 Narela, New Delhi And Bounded As Under - Bounded:- North – As Site Plan, West – As Site Plan, Sender A1-4 Narela, New Delhi And Bounded As Under - Bounded:- North – As Site Plan, West – As Site Plan, Sector A1-4 Narela, New Delhi And Bounded As Under - Bounded:- North – As Site Plan, West – As Site Plan, Set Plan, East – As Site Plan, Please Note That As Mention in Sub Section 13 Of Section 13 Of The Aforesaid Act, You Shall Not Transfer By Way Of Sale, Lease Or Otherwise Any Of The Assets Stated Under Security Refered To in This Notice Without Priorwritten Consent Of Our Bank, 6 Mr. Sunil Dutt, Archana, & Ram Singh | 06-08-2025 | 13-Nov-2025 | Rs. 44,30,245/- Besprintion Of Immovable Property:- Residential House Bearing Plot No. 160 | Land/Piot Area Description Of Immovable Property:- Residential House Bearing Plot No-160, Land/Plot Area Admeasuring 292.6 Sq. Mrs./349.95 Sq. Yrs. Hawing Covered Area 583 Sq. Mrs./6275 Sq. Mrs./449.95 Sq. Yrs. Hawing Covered Area 583 Sq. Mrs./6275 Sq. Mrs./449.95 Sq. Yrs. Hawing Covered Area 583 Sq. Mrs./6275 Sq. Mrs./6276 Sq. Mrs./449.95 Sq. Yrs. Hawing Covered Area 583 Sq. Mrs./6275 Sq. Mrs./6276 Sq. Wrs./6276 Sq. Wr

Mr. Suprovath Mukhopadhyay 8 Mrs. Tanima Mukhopadhyay 11-Aug-2025 13-Nov-2025 Rs. 4,57,020/-

Description Of Immovable Property: Flat Bearing No. 5009, On 5th Floor, in Tower B2 in The Project Called "Krishna Housing Scheme" Located At Sector-14, Sohna, Haryana, And Bounded As Under - East: As Per Title Deed, West: As Per Title Deed, North: As Per Title Deed, South: As

Sd/-, Authorized Officer, Axis Bank Ltd. Dated: 18.11.2025, Place:- Delhi & NCR

**LOST AND FOUND** Some of my original registry documents

bearing Certificate No. IN-UP14549625897892S related to the property (Registry) with Khasra Village Loni, Chakbandi Area, Loni, Ghaziabad have been lost somewhere in Vikas Puri, West documents will be considered illegal. Anyone who finds them is requested to inform at the address given below: Rekha Verma W/o Arvind Kumar Verma Add: C-35, Gali No. 7, Nangloi. New Delhi, Outer District, Delhi - 110041 M.No-9953605744

This is to inform to all that I, **PUSHPLATA SETH** W/O LT. SH. PREMPAL SETH R/O 1/6116, FLAT NO. 6M, GALI NO. 1, NEAR MANDIR, EAST ROHTASH NAGAR, SHAHDARA, NOTH EAST DELHI-110032, transferring **RESIDENTIAL** PROPERTY SHIVALIK HOUSE NO. 15. BLOCK-E-NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH, measuring area 304 sq. mtrs. related to Housing Department of Noida Authority, Administrative Building, Sector-6,

Noida, in the name of VANDANA AGRAWAL W/O

/O SH. ALOK KUMAR AGRAWAL R/O FLAT NO

100, SIDDHARTHA ENCLAVE, ASHRAM METRO

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATION GATE NO. 2, OPPOSITE MAHARAN BAGH, DISTT. SOUTH DELHI-110014. f any person has any kind of objection in this regard, please file your objection with all the vidence within 15 days from the date of publication of this information in the Housing department of Noida Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida **PUSHPLATA SETH** 

Ms. Tanya Arora Singh & Singh Law Firm LLP

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5 Rule 20 of the Code of Civil

Procedure) IN THE COURT OF SH NARESH KUMAR LAKA DISTRICT JUDGE-07, CENTRAL, ROOM NO. 308, TIS HAZARI

COURTS, DELHI CS NO. 56/2023 (CS DJ NO. 476/2023) SUNIL KUMAR GOYAL

**KISHAN GUPTA & ORS** Defendant No. 1 (ii)

MRS, MANJU BANSAL W/O SH, ANIL MOHAN BANSAL R/O NOT KNOWN Whereas you are intentionally evading

service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 2nd Day of DECEMBER 2025 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the

District Judge 07 (Central District)

Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to notify the general public that Mr. Ashok Khanna, S/o. Late Shri P.D. Khanna. has voluntarily retired from the Partnership Firm namely, M/s, A.R. Enginnering Works having it's address at 22, Okhla Industrial Estate, Phase-III, New Delhi-110020 effective from 19th September 2025. Mr. Ashok Khanna is therefore, not responsible or liable for any transactions

commitments, dealings, or obligations undertaken/being undertaken by M/s. A.R Enginnering Works. All clients, associates, and parties concerned are hereby informed accordingly Through Attorney

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform all that I, Smt. PUNEET KAUR, W/o Sh. Sanjit Pal Singh R/o C 71, 2nd Floor, Greater Kailash-1, New Delhi-48 have retired from the partnership of M/s Graft Designs having it's registered office at Shop No. 55A,55B M2K Corporate Park, Sector-51, Mayfield Garden, Gurugram, Haryana 122003 with affect from 15-11-2025 Any individual or establishment that may have concerns of any kind with regard to the said partnership firm may contact it's existing partners Smt. Privanka Khubchandani or Ms.Meesha Khubchandani for the

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Sub: Transfer of ownership for Plot No. 890, Sector 23A Urban Estate, Gurugram, Consequent upon the death of Allottee /Owner Late Smt. Sushila Rathore, who was the prininal allottee of subject cited property as per the records re-allotment letter dated 15.06.1995. She had died on 20.07.2025, leaving behind a unregistered will, thereby bequeathing the plot exclusively in favour of her Daughter, Smt Shushila Rathore left behind llowing legal heirs' her husband Sh. Sarang Dhar Singh Rathore and her daughter Uma Rathore (unmarried), Now Ms. Uma Rathore unmarried Daughter R/o C-39, Duggal Colony Devli Road, Khanpur, South Delhi-110062 intends to apply for transfer of the said property in her favour being the legal heirs and equest for re-allotment in the name of Uma Rathore. If any person is having objection to the above transfer of the said property, he/she can submit objections to the estate officer-1 HSVP sector 14 Gurugram Haryana along with supporting documents within 30 days of blication of this notice, otherwise the estate officer -1 HSVP, Gurugram may accord in property as per HSVP, policy and may not ertain subsequent claim if any. Legal Heir

Ms. UMA Rathore, (Daughter) On behalf of: Estate Office-I, HSVP. Sector-14. Gurugram

PUBLIC NUTICE
Those is frencity given to the Central galactic or behalf of one client.
ICE Bank Ltd. that Mr. Anii Kant Singh and Mrs. Manua Singh into owners or Plat No. 231, or hand floor, (1687,12 or, ban, in 80 into owners or Plat No. 231, or hand floor, (1687,12 or, ban, in 80 into owners or Plat No. 231, or hand floor, (1687,12 or, ban).
Into owners of the said property, by what or Conveyance in at all, (2012,12 Registation No. 1927,9, insis isolation stated 16.12, 2012,12, Registation No. 1927,9, insis isolation of original alleities related 02.02, 2002,000, allegenous are hereby informed and to 4 is carry out any transaction with anyone of the Datas of the admitted property of the control of the place of the control of the

### PUBLIC NOTICE I, Gainda Singh S/o Late Sh. Girdhari Lal R/o B-482, Azadpur Village, Delhi-110033

has debarred my Son Sh. Tushar Pal S/o sinda Singh aged 24 Years from all my moveable & immovable properties & have severed all relation with him for forever. Anybody dealing with him is/are doing that own his / her / their risk. I shall not be responsible for any kind of his acts & deeds done by him, whatsoeve Gainda Singh

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Be it notified that Sh. Sanjeev Aggarwal S/o Sh. N.M. Aggarwal is the absolute owner of the entire Ground Floor (without roof rights) of Property No. 24, Block-H, measuring 298.66 sq yards, situated in the Wazirpur Residentia Scheme, Ashok Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi-110052 ourchased through Sale Deed Doc. No. 179 Book I, Vol. 11414, Pages 68–85, dated 04.01.2023.

The Original Relinquishment Deed (Doc. No. 13469, Book I, Vol. 11048, Pages 109–113, dated 18.08.2022) and photocopy of Will (Doc. No. 6187, Addl. Book III, Vol. 857, Pages 88–90, dated 02.11.1999) have been misplaced. A missing complaint has been lodged with PS Ashok Vihar, Delhi Police on 17.11.2025, LR No. 3357476/2025 Anyone having any claim, objection, or interes

the above-mentioned property is required to notify the undersigned in writing with supporting documents within 10 days of publication of this notice. If no claim is received within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that there are no objections, and my client shall proceed with the sale. Any subsequent claims shall be treated as waived and not binding on Sh MANOJ GUPTA (ADVOCATE)

# O SIGICIZO GUERRI

#### CHANGE OF NAME L Khushbu Dhiman W/o Sonu

Saini R/o H. No.-191, Shiv Puri, Gali No.-5, Sector-9, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad (U.P) 201009 after marriage have changed my name from Khushbu Dhiman to Khushbu Saini for all future purposes. PD(3469)A

I, Khem Chand, Father No.2896681W Hav Joginder Singh, R/O- Vill- Munimpur, PO- Bamnola, Teh- Badli, Dist-Jhajjar, Haryana- 124105, have changed my name from Khem Chand to Khim Chand, vide affidavit dated 17/11/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(3470)C

I, Dhotre Ashok Rangnath, F/o-No.8432350L Hav(Clk) Dhotre Santosh Ashok, R/o- VPO-Kolandar, Pimpri Shrigonda, Dist- Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra- 413702, have changed my name from Dhotre Ashok Rangnath to Ashok Ranganath Dhotre, vide Ranganath Dhotre, vide affidavit dated 17/11/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(3471)C

I, Mohd Ali alias Mohd Umar Ali S/o- Abdul Kudus, R/o- RZ -58, SF, Gali No. 2, Main Sagarpur, South West Delhi, Delhi- 110046, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mohd Umar Ali for all purposes.

PD(3472)C

I, Dhotre Sarswati Ashok, M/o- No.8432350L Hav(Clk) Dhotre Santosh Ashok. R/o- VPO- Pimpri Kolandar, Teh- Shrigonda, Dist-Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra-413702, have changed my name from Dhotre Sarswati Ashok to Saraswati Ashok Dhotre, vide affidavit dated 17/11/2025 before Notary

PD(3473)C

Public Delhi.

Army No.15421433L Hav/AA Jagtap Ashok Sambhaji, R/o-At VPO-Takalsing, Teh- Ashti, Dist-Beed, Maharashtra- 414203, I want to change my Mother's name from Ranjana Sambhaji Jagtap to Jagtap Ranjana Sambhaji for all future purposes & my service document, vide affidavit dated 17/11/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(3474)C

I. Abdul Khaddas alias Abdul Kudus S/o- Md Esmail, R/o-RZ-58, SF, Gali No. 2, Main Sagarpur, South West Delhi, Delhi- 110046, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Abdul Kudus for all PD(3475)C









# दिल्ली सरकार

द्वारा

दिल्ली सिक्ख गुरुद्वारा प्रबंधक कमेटी के सहयोग से आयोजित

# श्री गुरु तेग बहादर साहिब जी

और उनके साथ शहीद हुए अनिन गुरुसि<mark>क्खों भाई मती दास जी, भाई सती दास जी एवं भाई दयाला जी की</mark> पवित्र शहादत के 350वें वर्ष की स्मृति में

# विशेष गुरमत समागम

23 से 25 नवम्बर 2025 लाल किला मैदान दिल्ली

समागम के मुख्य बिंदु

->: विशाल कीर्तन दरबार ->: श्री गुरु तेग बहादर जी की जीवनी पर लाइट एंड साउंड शो ->: श्री गुरु तेग बहादर जी संग्रहालय ->: संगतों के लिए टेंट सिटी एवं लंगर सेवा ->:



**नरेंद्र मोदी** माननीय प्रधानमंत्री

गुरु घर के सेवक

रेखा गुप्ता

कपिल मिश्रा

माननीय कैबिनेट मंत्री टिल्ली सरकार

**हरमीत सिंह कालका** अध्यक्ष, DSGMC मनजिंदर सिंह सिरसा

माननीय कैविनेट संवी टिल्ली सरकार

जगदीप सिंह काहलों महासचिव, DSGMC



**रेखा गुप्ता** माननीया मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

DIP/Shabdarth/Disp

रविवार, २३ नवम्बर २०२५

सोमवार, २४ नवम्बर २०२५

JURUUMAR STONE SAHIB SELF

मंगलवार, २५ नवम्बर २०२५

### कार्यक्रम (शाम)

5:45 से 6:25 बजे	पाठ	श्री रहरासि साहिब
6:25 से 7:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई कुलविंदर सिंह जी <sub>खरड़</sub>
7:30 से 8:00 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई परमिंदर सिंह जी ऑस्ट्रेलिया
8:00 से 8:45 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई चमनजीत सिंह जी <sub>दिल्ली</sub>
8:45 से 9:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई शुभदीप सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
9:30 से १०:30 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई कारज सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
१०:३० से ११:३० बजे	कीर्तन	भाई अनंतवीर सिंह जी यू.एस.ए

उपरांत अरदास एवं समापन

#### कार्यक्रम (शाम)

5:45 से 6:25 बजे	पाठ	श्री रहरासि साहिब
6:25 से 7:00 बजे	कीर्तन	३५० विद्यार्थी समस्त गुरु हरिकृष्ण पब्लिक स्कूल
७:०० से ७:४० बजे	कीर्तन	भाई कारज सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
7:40 से 8:20 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई तरनवीर सिंह जी रब्ब
8:20 से 9:00 बजे	कीर्तन	<b>भाई ओंकार सिंह जी</b> हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
9:00 से 9:40 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई सरबजीत सिंह जी परना साहिब
9:40 से १०:१० बजे		पंथक विचारां
10:10 से 10:50 बजे	कीर्तन	भाई हरजिंदर सिंह जी श्रीनगर
१०:५० से ११:३० बजे	कीर्तन	भाई अनंतवीर सिंह जी यू.एस.ए.

### कार्यक्रम (शाम)

	iser (ener)
कथा	भाई सुखजीत सिंह जी कन्हैया
संपूर्णता	सहज पाठ साहिब
पाठ	श्री रहरासि साहिब
कीर्तन	३५० बीबीयां समस्त सत्री सतिसंग सभा
कीर्तन	भाई गुरमीत सिंह जी शांत हजूरी कीर्तीनए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
कीर्तन	भाई शुभदीप सिंह जी हजूरी कीतींनए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
कीर्तन	भाई मनिंदर सिंह जी हजूरी कीर्तनिए, श्री हरिमंदिर साहिब
	पंथक विचारां
कीर्तन	भाई हरजिंदर सिंह जी श्रीनगर
कीर्तन	भाई सरबजीत सिंह जी पटना साहिब
	कथा संपूर्णता पाठ कीर्तन कीर्तन कीर्तन

उपरांत अरदास एवं समापन

उपरांत अरदास एवं समापन

विशेष आभार - संस्कृति मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार े

# **Ex-Murugappa Group Chairman passes away**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi

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

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

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

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



Arunachalam Vellayan

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

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

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

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

#### Karnataka to unveil IT, startup, space policies at BTS 2025 PIONEER NEWS SERVICE year, the government has organised 'The Future Makers Conclave' at BTS, a

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

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

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

Priyank added that this

high-energy gathering of nearly 10,000 founders. investors, and innovators aimed at shaping the next wave of entrepreneurship.

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

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

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



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

10,000 from clusters outside Bengaluru.

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

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

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

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

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

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

# NMCG clears research, pollution-control projects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi

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

the 67th executive committee (EC) meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) chaired by its Director General Rajeev Kumar Mital with a strong focus on datadriven planning, climate resilience and rejuvenation of both the Ganga and Yamuna

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It also approved a high-

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

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

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

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

### Women only form 12 per cent of Bihar Assembly

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

The results of the election to the 18th Bihar Legislative Assembly, declared on November 14, have not only set the stage for another term of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) but have also revealed a distinct shift in the social and demographic profile of the State's lawmakers, according to a fresh analysis by PRS Legislative Research.

The NDA returned to power with a sweeping majority, strengthening its position across the State. But beyond the electoral outcome, the newly elected Assembly tells a deeper story about representation, experience, and evolving political trends in Bihar. Only 12 per cent of the new lawmakers are women. reflecting a persistent gender imbalance even as parties fielded a higher number of female candidates compared to previous elections.

The age composition of

the Assembly continues to shift upward, with the proportion of MLAs aged 55 or above rising from 34 per cent in 2015 to 40 per cent in 2020 and reaching 46 per cent in 2025. Analysts note that this trend underscores increasing voter preference for senior leaders or those perceived to have administrative experience.

**Educational qualifications** among MLAs have also risen, with a greater number of legislators holding postgraduate degrees compared to those elected in 2020. While this marks a positive development for legislative capacity, PRS noted that nearly half of the women MLAs do not possess a college degree, highlighting a contrasting divide that persists within the Assembly. Incumbency played a sig-

nificant role in shaping the new House. Among MLAs who re-contested their seats, 58 per cent succeeded in returning. Experience appears

higher than in 2020 (26) ¥16% ₩14% 2% 10% 8% 6% 4% Year of the election to Assembly

29 women elected in 2025.

to have been a major factor administrative credentials for voters, as reflected in the performance of those who held ministerial portfolios during the previous term. Of the 68 MLAs and MLCs who and agriculture as their served as ministers in the primary occupations, reflect-17th Assembly, 49 chose to ing broader socio-economic contest in 2025, and 39 of victorious. This strong return rate underscores the electoral advantage of

Professionally, Assembly continues to be dominated by individuals who list politics, social work,

patterns in the State. The 2025 election witnessed robust public engagement, contributing to one of

Bihar's highest voter turnouts in decades.

# Amir arranged safe house, logistical support for Dr Nabi: NIA to court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The National Investigating Agency (NIA) in its remand paper told the court that Ali, a key accused in the Red Fort area car bomb blast case, allegedly arranged a safe house and provided logistical support to Dr Umar Nabi, the "suicide bomber" who was driving the explosive-laden car that detonated outside the Red Fort on November 10, killing 15 people.

Ali, a resident of Pampore in South Kashmir, was brought to the court of Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna at the Patiala House

barred from entering the court premises, which virtually turned the proceedings 'incamera'. According to NIA's remand paper, Ali's custodial interrogation was required to uncover the entire conspiracy.

It said that Ali, the registered owner of the vehicle used in the incident, allegedly provided logistical support to Umar. The remand paper also claimed that Amir had arranged a safe house for Umar in the days leading up to the blast.

It said that the blast's precision and intensity had been deliberately designed to instil with anti-riot gear on

courts complex amid tight fear in the minds of the public, security Medianersons were besides causing alarm and panic. Underscoring the seriousness of the alleged plot, it said that the act was intended to threaten and destabilise the nation's sovereignty and unity. The agency also told the court that Ali would be taken to Kashmir for further investigation.

> The judge then allowed the NIA plea seeking custodial interrogation of the accused for 10 days.

A heavy deployment of Delhi Police and the Rapid Action Force (RAF) was seen outside the court premises, besides personnel equipped



standby to maintain order. terror module that was Falah University in Harvana's Ali was likely the last person recently busted following the Faridabad and the seizure of to have been in contact with Dr Umar Nabi. The remand comes a day after the NIA announced Ali's arrest for allegedly conspiring with 'suicide bomber" Nabi to execute the terror attack.

The NIA investigation showed that the vehicle used in the blast was registered in Ali's name, who had travelled to Delhi specifically to facilitate the purchase of the car.

The vehicle was subsequently used as a "Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED)" to carry out the attack. Nabi had known links with a "white-collar"

recovery of explosives, primarily from Faridabad in Haryana on November 10.

ministerial visibility and

Earlier, Nabi, a 28-year-old doctor from Pulwama, emerged as the most radicalised and key operative in the network spanning Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. Officials believe he was planning a powerful VBIED blast timed around the Babri Masjid demolition anniversary on December 6.

The plot, however, fell apart when a meticulous investigation by Srinagar police resulted in the arrest of Dr Muzammil Ganaie from Al

a huge cache of explosives. The NIA has so far examined 73 witnesses, including injured survivors, and continues to coordinate with Delhi Police, J&K Police, Haryana Police, UP Police and other central agencies as it works to trace the wider network behind the attack. At the blast site, investigators recovered three 9mm cartridges - two live, one empty — a troubling detail since such ammunition is prohibited for civilian use. Officials are probing how the rounds reached the site and whether they indicate an

# Police intensify tenant verification drive

**ABHINAV KUMAR JHA** New Delhi

Central Delhi Police have intensified tenant verification across all police stations in the district, completing checks on 331 tenants in the latest round of the exercise. The move comes days after the blast near Red Fort, prompting the district to speed up background screening activity.

According to data shared by the district, police stations across Central Delhi completed the following verifications: Daryaganj (30), Jama Masjid (13), Chandni Mahal (40), Kamla Market (30), IP Estate (10), Paharganj (13), Nabi Karim (10), DBG Road (5), Karol Bagh (23), Rajender Nagar (35), Prasad Nagar (42) and Hauz Qazi (23). Officials said the remaining verifications were completed across other police stations as well. Central District DCP Nidhin Valsan said tenant verification is a routine process, but has been accelerated in view of the recent security incident. "We are fast-tracking the process. Safety is our prime concern," he said.

Under the verification procedure, police collect copies of identification documents from each tenant. The information is then matched with the central crime database to check for any past criminal record. Officers also seek a report from the police station of the tenant's permanent residence. Clearance is issued only after the local police of the home State or district respond. DCP Valsan said coordination with other districts and States is essential. "We physically collect documents, run criminal background checks and wait for the report from the tenant's native place. Based on that,

clearance is given," he said. Police stations across the district have been asked to complete verification of all new tenants and re-check older entries that have not been updated recently. Officers said the process is also important for mapping high-density areas such as Pahar Ganj, Nabi Karim and parts of the Walled City, where frequent movement of tenants, labourers and

short-term renters is

According to police, the stepped-up verification drive aims to reduce blind spots in rental information, especially in neighbourhoods with a high turnover of occupants. Officials said landlords have been told to report tenant details promptly and ensure documentation is completed before possession is given. Police teams have also

been visiting residential pockets to remind owners of their responsibility to register tenant details at the local police station. Officers said non-compliance may lead to action under relevant sections. The district has been carrying out night and day checks to ensure information is up to date. Senior officers said the exercise will continue until every police station completes its pending verification.

Officials said the strengthened drive is part of a wider security review after the Red Fort incident, with additional focus on monitoring suspicious movement, improving intelligence collection and coordinating with local com-

# Ban on power connections for 'booked properties' lifted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

In a major relief to the citizens who were deprived of electricity connections, the Delhi Government has lifted the restriction on providing electricity connections in 'booked properties'. This decision will immediately benefit more than 1.25 lakh families in the Capital.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Monday approved a major policy change that will allow electricity connections in properties marked as "booked" for unauthorised construction by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. The Government issued formal orders soon after the Chief Minister cleared the proposal.

Calling the decision a step taken "in public interest", the Chief Minister said the aim is to restore access to essential services and uphold citizens' fundamental rights. She said thousands of residents had been denied connections for years only because their buildings were listed as booked, even though no demolition or sealing had

Following her directions,

the Special Secretary of the Power Department issued an order that bars DISCOMs from refusing electricity connections solely based on a property's booked status. The department has been receiving a steady flow of complaints from citizens who said power companies had either denied or disconnected their supply,

citing MCD records. Officials said many of these cases have lingered for years. Demolition orders were issued but not carried out for various administrative and legal reasons. Residents continued to live in these structures, but without a legal electricity connection. The Chief Minister said the absence of regular supply pushed many to rely on illegal hookups, which increased theft and created safety

She said the earlier system placed an unfair burden on citizens who had little control over delays by civic bodies. "Depriving ments, and the companies

people of basic facilities is will be required to process not justified under any circumstances," she said. She added that the new order aims to bring transparency and a fair process to situations where residents face

long-pending MCD actions.

Under the revised rules,

power companies can deny a connection only if the Municipal Corporation issues a formal notice stating that a property is under active demolition or sealing. In all other cases, the booked label will not be grounds for refusal. The Government has asked MCD and DISCOMs to establish stronger coordination so that there is no mismatch between records and on-

ground action. Officials said the decision will also help reduce unauthorised electricity use. Regularising connections, they said, will improve safety and allow for proper billing. The government has asked DISCOMs to set up helplines to assist people who were earlier denied connections.

Residents will be able to

apply with basic docu-

requests without delay.

The Chief Minister said the Law Department was consulted before the final order was issued. She said the aim was to ensure that the decision met legal requirements while protecting citizens' rights. The Government, she said, wants transparent governance and guaranteed access to essential services

She also noted that lakhs of residents across the city have been waiting for years for a valid utility connection. Many of the properties are fully inhabited and unlikely to see immediate demolition. The new order, she said, provides clarity for both residents and power companies.

Reaffirming her commitment, the Chief Minister said the Government will continue to act in the interest of citizens' rights and daily needs. She added that essential services must remain accessible, and administrative delays cannot come in the way of people's basic entitle-

### **DUSU JS** suspended for assaulting professor

armed backup plan.

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** New Delhi

The Delhi University administration has suspended Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) Joint Secretary Deepika Iha from the students' union for two months after an internal inquiry found her guilty of physically assaulting a professor inside the Dr BR Ambedkar College last month. However, Iha can attend her classes and appear for examinations, according to an official order. The order said the incident

amounted to a serious breach of discipline and constituted "gross indiscipline" under the University Ordinance XV-B.

Jha has been barred from entering any DU college premises during the suspension period. She has also been directed to submit a written apology and an undertaking of good conduct.

#### **Commitment to development** helps us win elections: PM



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

#### 1.36 lakh devotees visit Sabarimala as season opens

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



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



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

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

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



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



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

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Faridabad

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said the Modi Government's goal is very clear — regional strength along with national progress and India's global leadership in every field.

Addressing the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council here, Shah also said that all states should work in mutual coordination to resolve water resource management and waterrelated problems.

al strength along with national progress and India's global leadership in every field, which will lead us towards the creation of a great India,"

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

'Our goal is clear — region-

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

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

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

#### PUNJAB CM REITERATES CLAIM ON CHANDIGARH, PU

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

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

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

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

tive sector holds immense potential for employment.

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

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

He said the Ministry of Cooperation has initiated 57 measures across the country to strengthen the sector. These include computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), establishment of three new national-level cooperative societies, and the setting up of Tribhuvan Sahkari University, he said.

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

with a neighbour.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

The Army chief stressed on integration among the forces, "because today's battles are multi-domain".

"Just the army cannot fight a battle, everyone has to fight together," he said, mentioning the air force and navy.

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

Talking about how India has "set a new normal" after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, he said, "When a country encourages statesponsored terrorism, it becomes a matter of concern for India. India talks about progress. If someone creates obstacles in our course, then we will have to take some action against them. When we talk about

the new normal, we have

said that talks and terror

can't go together.' General Dwivedi added "All we are asking is to adopt a peaceful process, which we will cooperate with. Until then, we will treat terrorists and their sponsors alike." He further highlighted the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that there has been a decline in terrorist incidents in the area following the abrogation of Article 370. "After this, political clarity

# MP expands dog vaccination to protect tigers

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

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

that the drive has already begun in multiple districts and will continue in phases across buffers and wildlife corridors. The initiative covers villages

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

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



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

Officials said this year's drive is the most comprehensive yet. Unlike previous rounds, which largely focused on CDV and rabies, the current campaign covers eight diseases including distemper, parvovirus, adenovirus, leptospirosis and rabies - offering broader protection to both domestic animals and wildlife. The vaccination strategy uses a mix of parenteral injections for community dogs and baitbased delivery for freeroaming strays. During earlier efforts, more than 1,200 vaccine baits were deployed in buffer areas; the new campaign is expected to exceed that number substantially.

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

Canine distemper is a highly contagious viral infection that affects the respiratory, gastrointestinal and neurological systems of dogs, foxes, jackals and large felids. While it poses no danger to humans, it spreads quickly through direct contact, contaminated food or water and aerosol droplets. When contracted by tigers or leopards, CDV can cause fatal damage, neurological impaired hunting ability and rapid population decline particularly in small or reintro-For Madhya Pradesh, where

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

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

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

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

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

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

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

asked to live the campus. At the end of the twohour search operation the Governor said "the honourable MP (Kalyan Banerjee) had alleged that I harbor criminals and supply them with guns and bombs... this was



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

required since I want to establish that the accusation made against me is baseless and false. I will certainly take legal action against (Banerjee)," even as sources in his office said Bose was contemplating legal steps besides writing a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Banerjee poked fun at the entire incident calling it a "childish affair," wondering whether anyone would keep the bombs while conducting the

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

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

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

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

like a sidekick of the BJP."

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

### Protest erupts in Kolkata over teachers' job scam

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

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

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

These teachers were appointed in the now-cancelled 2016 panel where genuine and tainted candidates could not be separated by the SSC despite repeated Court orders. About 26,000 teachers lost their jobs and had to sit for a new recruitment examination - following the Supreme Court order along with the new candi-

dates. However, in the new scheme of things the SSC allowed additional ten marks to the dismissed teachers for experience. Even as thousands of examinees descended on the streets jamming the SSC building some said, "this is a strange scheme that the Government has designed, while full marks is 70 of which 10 is given for academics and 60 for MCQ tests, many of us have scored 70 out of 70 but strangely the candidates from the previous panel are getting 75 out of total 70 marks on account of the 10 marks they have been pre-allotted for 'experience' ... this is a complete anomaly.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Rampur (UP)

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

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

After the sentencing, Khan was taken from the Rampur court to the district jail under heavy security. While being taken to prison, he said, "What is there to say now? It is the court's decision.'

Asked about the court awarding a seven-year sentence each to him and his son, the 77-year-old leader replied, "It is fine. If they have considered me guilty, they have given the punishment."

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

Officer Rakesh Kumar

Maurya, who represented

the prosecution along with advocate Swadesh Sharma, told reporters. The veteran SP leader was

Azam Khan son, Abdullah convicted in dual PAN card case

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

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

Maurya also said the prosecution would review the judgment and may consider

filing an appeal if it feels the punishment is inadequate. Asked whether Azam Khan and Abdullah would be taken into custody following the conviction, Maurya responded, "Yes, absolutely".

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

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

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

Abdullah had procured the forged PAN card "in conspiracy with his father" and submitted it in official records. Maurya said the court

awarded varying prison terms under different sections of the IPC. For cheating under Section

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

## **States Focus**



#### HARYANA BOOSTS ANTI-TERROR GRID AFTER MODULE BUST

Haryana DGP OP Singh on Monday said the anti-terrorism apparatus in the state's National Capital Region has been further strengthened, a week after a "white collar" terror module was busted with the recovery of explosives mainly from Faridabad.

He underlined that alert citizens can play an important role in the fight against terrorism by becoming the eyes and ears of the police.

The director general of police (DGP) said central intelligence agencies, Delhi Police, and police officers from Uttar Pradesh engaged in anti-terrorism operations attended a meeting held in Faridabad on Sunday.



#### **DEFENCE SECRETARY VISITS** CENTRAL SECTOR POSTS

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

# Quarry collapse death count climbs to six in UP

Five more bodies have been recovered from the rubble of a stone quarry that collapsed in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district, taking the death toll to six, an official said on Monday.

District Magistrate, Sonbhadra, BN Singh said the bodies were recovered on the intervening night of Sunday and Monday.

"One body was recovered in the night. The deceased was identified as Indrajit (30), a resident of Panari, Obra. The other deceased persons have been identified as Santosh Yadav (30), brother of Indrajit, Ravindra Nanak Ramkhelavan (32) and Kripashankar."

The body of Raju Singh (30) was recovered on



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

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

General of Police (ADG), Varanasi Zone, Piyush Mordia on Sunday said clearing the rubble is taking Additional Director time due to presence of

Sonbhadra Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhishek Verma had said that they were informed about the incident around 4.30 pm on Saturday at Obra police station.

The caller said several workers were buried under debris after a portion of a stone quarry operated by Krishna Mining Works collapsed. The police have booked

the owner of Krishna Mining Works and his business partners, Madhusudan Singh and Dilip Keshari, both residents of Obra, on the complaint of Chhotu Yadav — a resident of Parsoi Tola who said his two brothers were trapped under the rubble, the SP said.

The three accused are yet to be arrested. Party's Samaiwadi

Robertsganj MP, Chotelal Kharwar, alleged that the mafia in collusion with local police.

"There is a possibility that 12 to 15 people are trapped under the stones. Tribals are being killed in many ways, and large-scale illegal mining is being carried out in this area. One or two such incidents occur every month in this region, but how the mining mafia manages everything

remains unknown," he said. Illegal mining is being carried out in collusion with the police and administrative officials, the MP alleged.

Kharwar claimed he was stopped by the police from meeting the kin of the trapped mine workers.

He also demanded ₹50 lakh in compensation for the victim's family and a Government job for each family.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Election Commission of India on Monday ordered 'Special Revision' of electoral rolls in Assam and the final voter list will be published on

February 10, 2026. According to instructions issued by the poll panel for the Chief Electoral Officer of Assam, January 1, 2026 will be the qualifying date for the state to carry out the Special

According to officials, the Special Revision stands somewhere between the annual special summary revision and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. "It is in a way an upgrade of special summary revision... Instead of enumeration forms, Booth-Level Officers will verify electors on a pre-filled register," a senior functionary explained.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma welthe Election

undertake Special Revision of the electoral rolls in the state and assured the Government s full cooperation.

"The Govt of Assam wel-Election comes the Commission of India's decision to undertake a Special Revision of the electoral rolls with 01.01.2026 as the qualifying date," the Chief Minister posted on X.

"This will help ensure clean, updated and accurate electoral rolls for all eligible citizens. Assam will extend full cooperation to the @ECISVEEP to complete

and time-bound manner," he added.

According to the schedule, the door-to-door verification will take place from November 22 to December 20. The integrated draft electoral roll will be published on December 27 and the final roll on February 10 next year.

For field verification, the booth level officers (BLOs) will be given a pre-filled BLO register containing the details of existing electors in their respective part for a house-tohouse field visit.

The household is the basic

house-to-house survey and to get the said details verified or corrected from the elector or the head of the household.

It said the details of D-Voters (doubtful voters) will not be included in the register, as no verification is required in their case.

D-Voters are a category of voters in Assam who are dis-enfranchised by the Government on account of their alleged lack of proper citizenship credentials. D-Voters are determined by special tribunals under the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the person declared as a D-Voter is not given a voter card.

All related particulars, such as name, age and photograph, of the D-Voters will be carried forward to the draft electoral roll without any change.

Any modification, including removal or deletion, will be done "upon receipt of an order from the competent Foreigners' Tribunal or an appropriate court of law", it

time when the local body

election had already been

Joseph said the party

would approach the Supreme

Court against the SIR process.

By considering the 2002

voters' list, even I don't have

voting rights. Several political

leaders will not figure in the

voters' list. The Government

announced," he said.

#### SIR, alleges BLO-BDO nexus PRESS TRUST OF INDIA was "misleading BLOs regarding dead and shifted voters", and that in

Suvendu slams TMC over

Kolkata

Senior BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari on Monday criticised the TMC Government over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging a "deep nexus involving a section of BLOs and BDOs" aimed at helping the Trinamool Congress "sabotage" the Election Commission's efforts to weed out "fake voters, illegal migrants".

Addressing a press conference at the state BIP headquarters, Adhikari said the SIR exercise had triggered "panic" within the TMC, prompting "abusive comments and open threats", and accused the administration of resisting the EC's scrutiny.

Keeping the focus on Bengal, he alleged that the revision process had been met with hostility ever since enumeration began.. The Chief Minister and

her party colleagues "began hurling abuses", including remarks such as "we will tie them up to a tree", and Mamata Banerjee publicly objected to 1,000 Booth Level Officers being trained by the Election Commission 'without her consent", he

The Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly alleged systematic attempts to derail the process on the ground. claiming a "close nexus between I-PAC, some BLOs

and certain BDOs". He said the Tamluk BDO North 24 Parganas district, the SIR in-charge was "forcing BLOs to distribute forms even at vacated addresses". He urged the West Bengal Chief Electoral

Officer (CEO) to open a helpline as "many BLOs are not providing enumeration forms for political reasons". BLOs must report death

and shifted voters as 'unaccounted" on the BLO app, he insisted, demanding that all withheld forms be delivered within 48 hours "so that not a single legal voter is left out".

He claimed the BJP had submitted a list of 13.25 lakh "fake voters" and alleged that in 20 Assembly constituencies, 50 to 150 "death voters" were found in each booth. Reiterating the party's position on citizenship, he said: "Legal refugees will be given CAA citizenship. Infiltrators will

have their names deleted" He claimed falsification of birth certificates was being facilitated by "some BMOHs and pradhans" and urged the poll panel

to act. The EC, he said, should cross-check burial ground records, data from the 'Samabyathi' app and pension rolls to determine the "actual number of

death voters". "A fair voter list must come out. Free and fair elections are what the people of Bengal demand,"

#### BLOs boycott SIR work across Kerala after officer's suicide dures be stopped to prevent PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Election Commission to open ■ Thiruvananthapuram its eyes. Despite our repeat-Meanwhile, the body of ed requests, the Commission decided to conduct SIR at a

The Special Intensive Revision George was handed over to (SIR) exercise in Kerala was affected across the state on Monday as Booth-Level Officers (BLOs) boycotted work following the suicide of an officer allegedly due to work strain.

Aneesh George (44), a BLO in Payyannur, Kannur, was found hanging at his house on Sunday. Family members and residents alleged that he took the extreme step because of work-related pressure linked to the SIR exer-

Various trade unions of

State Government employ-

ees, including the Action Council of State Government **Employees and Teachers and** the Joint Committee of Teacher Service Organisations, held protests at the Chief Electoral Officer's office in Thiruvanathapuram and district collectorates, demanding that authorities refrain from exerting excessive pressure on BLOs and

consider postponing the SIR. Kerala NGO Association also staged protests across the state, demanding that SIR procehis relatives after the postmortem on Monday. George's family reiterated that he had been under severe work pressure related to the SIR. "He did not even get time to have food and sleep properly. He was under severe strain to complete work assigned as part of the SIR exercise," Saiju, George's brother-inlaw, told reporters.

Saiju added that George was frequently contacted by senior officers for updates. "Seeing the severe workload. George's father told him not to worry even if he loses his

Leader of Opposition VD Satheesan said that a preliminary probe indicated that the role of CPI(M) workers in George's suicide should also be examined.

'We came to know that George was threatened after a Congress booth-level agent accompanied him for enumeration," he alleged. He also alleged that both the BJP and CPI(M) were attempting to keep traditional Congress voters off the rolls. "While the BJP is implementing SIR with



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

forward in Kerala. We will oppose it strongly, legally and politically," he said.

Satheesan urged the state Government and the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure the safety of BLOs and conduct a thorough investigation.

"A majority of BLOs are women. There are around 700–1,200 voters in a booth,

ill intent, CPI(M) is carrying it and BLOs have to visit each house multiple times to meet targets in a short period," he

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president Sunny Joseph said a telephonic conversation by George revealed that he was threatened by CPI(M) workers for accompanying Congress booth-level agents during enumeration.

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

"We hope that the protest by BLOs will compel the

of India and the Election Commission are eliminating the basic democratic rights of citizens," he alleged. The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) has also

IUML leader PK Kunhalikutty said the SIR was being carried out in haste, which raised

in Bihar. Why this rush?" he asked.

CPI(M) leader EP Jayarajan denied the allegation that party workers had threatened George.



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Jagdalpur (Chhattisgarh)

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

social healing, officials said. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Monday inaugurated the Pandum Café at the

Poona Margham Complex in Police Lines, set up by the police and district administration under the state Government 's Surrender and Rehabilitation Policy, an official statement said.

Sai said the café symbolises the positive socio-economic transformation underway in Bastar and aims to provide a dignified and sustainable livelihood to those who have renounced violence.

'Pandum Café reflects hope, progress and peace. Those working here, victims as well as surrendered cadres, are now moving forward on the path of peace," he said.

The staff have been trained

in hospitality, café operations, hygiene, food safety and entrepreneurship. As per the statement, Sai

interacted with the café team members, including Fagni from Narayanpur, Pushpa Thakur and Birendra Thakur from Sukma, and Ashmati and Premila Baghel from Bastar, and wished them success. Several workers shared emotional accounts of rebuilding their lives.

"We lived in darkness in the past. Today, serving society through this café feels like being reborn. Replacing explosives with coffee and earning through honest work has given us dignity," the release working at the café as saying. Another staff member said

quoted a former Maoist cadre

the initiative has enabled them to support their families and "dream of a respectful "We thought returning to the mainstream would be dif-

ficult, but the training and trust shown to us changed everything. Working alongside victims of violence has given us a chance to correct our past and contribute to peace," another colleague said. Officials said the café is

being developed as a sustainable socio-economic model and may pave the way for similar rehabilitation initiaplant at the Rotary Blood

decided to approach the Supreme Court seeking a postponement of the Social Impact Register (SIR) process.

doubts about the exercise. "The procedures that must be conducted with care are being rushed. Even Rahul Gandhi had raised suspicion

# Haryana to begin work on 400-bed hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Gurugram

Haryana Health Minister Kumari Aarti Singh Rao on Monday announced that the construction of a state-ofthe-art 400-bed hospital in Gurugram will begin soon.

The state Government is preparing to invite tenders for the project. She added that provisions for an additional 200 beds will also be incorporated during

allow future expansion. The minister was speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a solar power

the construction phase to

Bank Centre located on Sector-10 Kadipur Road.

During her visit, she inspected the facility, reviewed its services, and interacted with children suffering from thalassemia. She also announced financial assistance of ₹11 lakh for the Rotary Club.

Addressing the gathering, the Health Minister said that the Government is committed to strengthening Gurugram's

healthcare infrastructure. As part of this initiative, 30 new Urban Arogya Centres will be established across the district. She added that the state recently recruited

1,100 doctors to improve

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

healthcare services, and more appointments will follow in the coming months.

Highlighting progress in social indicators, she noted that Haryana's sex ratio has shown significant improvement in recent years and expressed gratitude to the public for their support in

Earlier in the day, the minister also inaugurated an ultrasound machine at Sohna Civil Hospital and a digital X-ray machine at Farrukhnagar Civil Hospital. Speaking at the event,

achieving this milestone.

Gurugram MLA Mukesh Sharma praised the Health Minister, calling her a sensitive and decisive leader who prioritises the concerns of citizens and ensures timely

He said the steps being taken by the minister are directly benefiting lakhs of people across the state by strengthening healthcare



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



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

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

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

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

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





# SC terms liquor tetra packs dangerous and deceptive

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

kinds of packets. If someone public interest litigation, we would like to examine.'

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

Justice Bagchi said the Governments are trading on

the health of the people. "Just understand how process at the earliest.

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

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

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

The plea claimed that all private airlines have, without any credible justification, reduced the free check-in baggage allowance for economy class passengers from 25 kg to 15 kg, "thereby converting what was earlier part of the ticketed service into a new revenue stream". It said the "new policy of permitting only a single piece for checkin and the absence of any rebate, compensation or benefit to passengers who do not avail themselves of check-in baggage demonstrates the arbitrary and discriminatory nature of the measure". The petition said that currently, no authority has the power to review or cap airfares or ancillary fees, allowing airlines to exploit consumers through hidden charges and unpredictable pricing.

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

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

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

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

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



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

The plea states that a forensic audit commissioned by SBI allegedly revealed substantial diversion of funds, including thousands of crores used to repay unrelated loans, transfers to related parties, investments in mutual funds and fixed deposits that were immediately liquidated and complex spread fraud, it states.

The petition filed though noted lawyer Prashant

Circular routing of money to ing. A central grievance raised in the petition is the nearly loans. The audit also noted lawyer Prashant

Circular routing of money to ing. A central grievance raised in the petition is the nearly devalued securities worth and five-year delay by SBI in acting over ₹4,000 crore without

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

₹1,800 crore. The petitioner asserts that these findings demonstrate a deliberate, systematic effort to disguise losses, conceal diversion of public funds and manipulate financial report-Bhushan says that the transactions recorded from upon the forensic audit adequate basis.

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

The petition also places reliance on subsequent forensic audits and investigations involving other Ambani-led entities. It refers to findings relating to Reliance Capital, which allegedly advanced nearly ₹16,000 crore in inter-corporate deposits to subsidiaries

# Lexster Lead Dialogue on Global Arbitration Ecosystem in Dubai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ New Delhi/Dubai

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

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

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

#### **Conceptual Clarity in Contractual Structures**

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

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



Soraya Corm-Barkhos, Former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, Mahesh Agarwal, Saurabh Seth

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

#### **India-UAE Relations and Legal Institutional Development**

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

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

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

#### **India's Evolving Arbitration** Jurisprudence

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

The economic liberalisation of 1993 catalysed a marked shift, introducing complex contractual ecosystems where disputes frequently fragment across multiple arbitral seats and parallel proceedings. Rohatgi highlighted the practical impediments arising from this fragmentation: non-signatory parties typically resist consolidation, preferring parallel arbitrations under distinct contractual arrangements.

(L-R) Saurabh Seth, His Excellency Essam Al Tamimi, Shantanu Agarwal

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

#### **Procedural Coordination and** Award Consistency

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

selection, appointing institution and tri-

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

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

#### **Dispute Resolution Architecture** in Mega Projects

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

arbitral procedures before arbitration

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

#### **Contract Design as the Foundation of Dispute** Prevention

tlement prospects.

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

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

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

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







# Gen Z rage ignites Mexico's streets

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

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

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

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

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

# Constitutionalised coup d'état in Pakistan

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

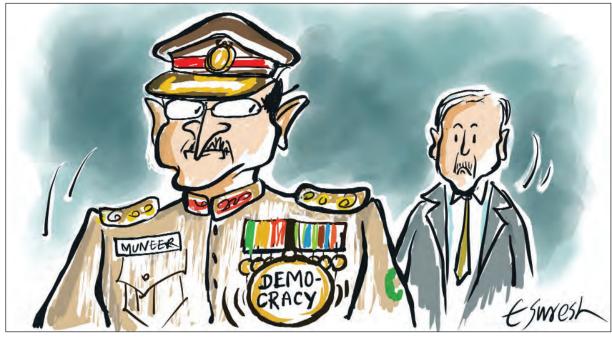


#### **BHOPINDER SINGH**

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

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

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



TODAY, PAKISTAN IS YET AGAIN CAUGHT IN A VORTEX OF **MILITARISTIC MANIPULATION THAT** TANTAMOUNT TO

The writer, a military

veteran, is a former

Andaman and Nicobar

Islands and Puducherry

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@LtRajputs

hopinder-singh

lishment"). Therefore, the courts could be expected to be populated by "friendly judges" who will do the bidding of the government, **USURPATION OF** thereby curbing independent and unbiased COMPLETE POWER, decisions. With all such suppres-ALBEIT, UNDER THE sion of the institutions of checks **COVER OF** and balances, and the concurrent

valorisation of the Pakistani CONSTITUTIONAL 'establishment", the Field Marshal RATIFICATION will have the final say on all SINCE 1865 matters of governance.

Already, the Field Marshal is making surreal dashes from Washington DC to Riyadh to Ankara, making some extraconstitutional pitches — for example, the images of the Field Marshal brandishing and pitching rare metals in a suitcase to a clearly excited Donald Trump. This led Asim Munir to earn the dubious honour of Donald Trump calling him 'my favourite Field Marshal." This further signals the approval of the Pakistani constitutional coup d'état by the United States of America, and the obliging sheikhdoms will merrily toe the same line. The only other key player in the Pakistani calculus, ie, the Chinese, would also be more than happy to let the Field

cal purposes, the well-established principle in

a participative democracy — that the military

is subservient to the civilian government-

The remit of the 27th Amendment also simul-

taneously destroys the powers of other insti-

tutions of authority, ie, the Supreme Court, the

last remaining vestige of checks and balances,

as that too would be brought under the will

of the executive powers (which in any case will

always remain beholden to the military "estab-

remains a farcical pipedream.

Marshal run the show, as he would remain their most effective bet to protect the Chinese investments in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

The unnatural and unhappy alliance between the two erstwhile political rivals, ie, Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz faction (PML-N) and Pakistan People's Party (PPP), would meekly continue with the current coalition arrangement, as their own disrepute in the eyes of the masses, and the parallel popularity of the incarcerated leadership of Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI), will be an existential fear.

It is a fact that, should the Pakistani military pull the rug from the current coalition government and allow free and fair elections, Imran The Pioneer Khan would romp home-thus

the current coalition would remain pliant, beholden, and subservient to the will of Field Marshal Asim Munir.

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

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

# PIC TALK



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

#### DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

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# The silent paycheque cage we choose daily



**SAKSHI SETHI** 

#### ND OPINION THE PIONEER

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

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

In the 1990s, thousands of children in Bihar were sent

to distant boarding schools simply to escape the con-

merely to secure routine clerical posts through bribes,

while millions studied under lanterns and petromax

lamps, desperately trying to break free from the suffo-

cation of the so-called jungle raj. Corruption, favouritism,

contractor mafias, and the collapse of institutional

authority dragged the state backwards by decades.

Ordinary citizens lived with fear, helplessness, and

uncertainty, forcing an entire generation to migrate in

stable, successful lives across India and abroad. As they

look at their screens and witness these election

of a political family or an entrenched legacy. It signi-

results, a quiet, meaningful smile emerges.

Today, many of those who once fled Bihar have built

This moment represents far more than the defeat

Families were compelled to part with ancestral land

Bihar's people claim their victory

stant fear of kidnapping.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is an educator and a councillor

#### **RTI SAFEGUARDS DIMINISH UNDER NEW DPDP RULES**

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

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

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

and access information is

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

R SIVAKUMAR | CHENNAI

Please send your letter to the info@dailypioneer.com.

fies the triumph of the ordinary Bihari who suffered injustice, endured humiliation, and persevered with unbroken hope. This is genuine victory — the victory of people who refused to allow despair to dictate their future.

search of dignity and opportunity.

AYUSHMAN PANDEY | LUCKNOW

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

### **Geopolitics drives tariff reversal**

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

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

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

A MYILSAMI | COIMBATORE

#### India's defeat demands serious reflection





# Pakistan: The making of a new military state

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





**NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA** 

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

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



ISLAMABAD'S PORTRAYAL OF AN INDIAN-**BACKED** INSURGENCY IN ITS WESTERN PROVINCES. **ALONG WITH** EFFORTS TO FOSTER A **BANGLADESH-**PAKISTAN AXIS, RISKS **TRIGGERING** UNPRECEDENTED ideological warfare **CRISES IN** 

The writer is a columnist

**SOUTH ASIA** 

Pakistani defence establishment under Munir has institutionalised terms like Fitna al-Khawarij and Fitna al-Hindustan, branding insurgents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan as heretical or Indian proxies. In Munir's own words, the military must confront these "internal threats" through a religious lens, positioning Pakistan as the protector of the Muslim Ummah while simultaneously framing domestic conflicts as extensions of historic Islamic struggles. By co-opting centuries-old concepts from early Islamic history, Munir projects an image of Pakistan as a state under siege from both heretical internal actors and a hostile external India. While the rhetorical appeal resonates with sections of the Pakistani populace, it dangerously blurs the line between counter-insurgency and may have dreamt of, and what General

rise extend far beyond domes-The implications of Munir's tic politics. Pakistan's foreign SINCE 1865 policy, historically fixated on

efforts to construct regional alliances that challenge New Delhi's influence. Reports suggest that Islamabad is exploring deeper cooperation with Dhaka under the interim government, ostensibly to counterbalance Indian ambitions. The Financial Times noted that Munir, along with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, has been actively courting powers such as China, Saudi Arabia and even the United

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

The Pakistani military's Islamisation under Munir recalls the ambitions of General Zia-ul-Haq, whose coup in 1977 dismantled democratic institutions and laid the foundations for a deeply Islamist state. Analysts such as Makhdoom Ali Khan have remarked: "What General Zia-ul-Haq

Pervez Musharraf could not achieve, will soon be an accomplished fact." Munir, a Hafiz-e-Quran, has emphasised the religious legitimacy of mil-

India, is increasingly intertwined with itary campaigns, framing them as moral and ideological imperatives. The creation of a constitutional backdoor through the 27th Amendment formalises his authority, grants him lifetime protection and the Field Marshal rank, and establishes the Chief of Defence Forces as the paramount military authority, effectively sidelining civilian oversight.

> The judiciary, meanwhile, is being systematically curtailed. The Federal

Constitutional Court (FCC) assumes constitutional primacy over the Supreme Court, while the Supreme Court is relegated to civil and criminal appellate functions. Senior counsel have observed that the SC is now left "with a limited jurisdiction of deciding ordinary civil, criminal, and statutory appeals", effectively reducing it to a "Supreme District Court". Tariq Mehmood Khokhar warned that the FCC is "empowered by disempowering the Supreme Court", consolidating both military and executive control over constitutional interpretation. Dawn reported that these reforms have been lauded by supporters as a forward-looking model, yet for sceptics, they represent an erosion of checks and balances that has long been the only bulwark against authoritarian overreach.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's economy remains precarious. According to the Financial Times, despite claims of investment inflows and resource wealth, the country continues to struggle with a poverty rate above 25 per cent, low capital formation, and a foreign investor climate undermined by historical instability.

The military's deepening involvement in business, combined with ideological militarisation, may further deter meaningful economic reform. Muhammad Aurangzeb, Pakistan's finance minister, has acknowledged the "existential issue" of growth that barely matches population increase, raising questions about the sus-

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

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

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

However, one cannot disregard that India's hegemonic ambitions, regional arrogance, and strategic failures further complicate the equation. New Delhi's insistence on projecting influence over Bangladesh and Nepal, combined with its self-assured posturing vis-à-vis Pakistan, contributes to an environment in which Islamabad is incentivised to consolidate internal authority and project power externally. Yet history demonstrates that attempting to create strategic depth through ideological militarisation or cross-border alliances often backfires. As TS Eliot's words might suggest, this transformation is not occurring "with a bang but with a whimper", yet the consequences are likely to reverberate loudly across the subcontinent for decades.

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



**ANIL ANAND** 

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

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

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

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

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



The Pioneer

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

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

Lesson one that the government should draw from the Lal Qila blast is that the ruling dispensation must function on a real-time basis to tackle

serious issues. Transparency is the key word in adopting such an approach, accompanied by taking the nation into confidence to prevent speculation and kite-flying. The problem becomes even more complicated, as

in the government seek refuge in leaking "sourcebased" stories.

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

The same spirit prevailed when the Narendra Modi government hurriedly brought the State Reorganisation Bill to Parliament in 2019 to change the constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir. In a first-of-its-kind development in independent India, a state was demoted to a Union Territory, and all democratic rights, including the people's right to elect their own local government, were curtailed. Be it Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, or Ladakh, public sentiment should remain at the centre of any policy formulation. Ignoring or suppressing this sentiment is always fraught with dangerous consequences. This has been witnessed in the past, and the Delhi blast of 2025 is a warning in that direction.

Lesson three — and nothing new about it-is that in situations like Jammu and Kashmir, the external and internal dimensions of the issue, though intertwined, have to be viewed through different prisms on a real-time basis. Otherwise,

there is a danger of falling into the trap of external forces inimical to India's interests.

Lastly, lesson four is that no act of terrorism should be viewed through the prism of religion. Doing so will

is the case presently, when the higher quarters onto only undermine the country's multi-cultural and multi-religious harmony, which is already under severe strain, but will also provide a platform for anti-India forces. A democratically elected government has no option but to avoid sitting on self-professed laurels if these are not in consonance with the ground realities. A realtime-based assessment-accepting both success and failure-and avoiding a "might is right" approach should be the positive way forward. The answer does not always lie in the jugglery of statistics, which the current ruling dispensation excels at, but in accepting the ground reality and reshaping strategies accordingly. The disturbance of urban calm in multi-cultural Delhi should act as an immediate eye-opener. Transparency-to substantiate the claims of busting terror networks and recovering a huge quantity of explosivesshould be the buzzword to avoid speculation and

> The writer is a political and national affairs analyst



# A new age of global warfare

The Pioneer



**BALRAJ MEHTA** 

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

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

An RMA marks a fundamental transformation in the way wars are conceived and executed. It is driven by

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

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

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

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

Even targeted assassinations, social disruptions, and the exploitation of Gen Z vulnerabilities may become instruments of statecraft. For India, achieving mastery across these domains is not optional — it is imperative. Safeguarding national and civilisational interests at this critical stage of our developmental journey demands massive investments in technology, manufactur-

ing, research, and human capital. We will need thousands of bright professionals across R&D, testing, production, and deployment. Encouragingly, many national initia-

tives are already underway. In this context, the new Trump tariffs — seen by some purely as a challenge — could actually be a blessing in disguise. They offer India an opportunity to strengthen domestic ecosystems, retain skilled talent, attract the diaspora, and channel national energy into long-term capability-building. Such moments of recalibration seldom come twice.

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

The writer is a Major General



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#### E-GOLD WORLD



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

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

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

or e-gold." These are products that can leave the investors out in the cold.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Jobs cause a possible stock effect

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

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

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

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

However, the individual who traced the original graphs on a single chart, gave it a technological twist. According to him or her, the breaking point, or the catalyst point, when the two graphs begin to diverge from each other, is 2022-23, or the introduction of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in

workplaces. This logic puts the onus on the launch of ChatGPT, which became a routine tool for managers, and executives. Al increased productivity through

tech shifts, made many workers redundant, and enabled firms to sack them. This is why stocks flew, as productivity gains earned more profits, but there was a contraction in the creation of new jobs. Technology trumped manual work, firms opted for the former in several jobs, and employees were the ones who buckled under the disruption.

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

2026.

No one can deny that AI, and ChatGPT, or its competing tools, as is evident from recent workplace experiences, will reduce the need for workers. It will replace several forms of jobs that are routine and repetitive, especially among the entry-level workers. Various estimates contend that globally 300 million jobs will vanish because of the new technology. Yet, there are some who feel that AI will create new jobs, which will require new skills or re-skilling, whose number will be higher than the job losses. Hence, the S&P index, and new job data will

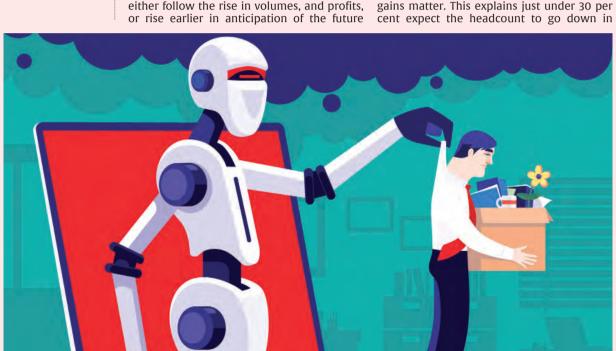
index, and new job data will converge in the future. The current trend is a short-term one, and an interim phenomenon. There will be no Al apocalypse at the workplaces, but sections of the

society will get hurt.

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

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

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



A Contrarian Investor

#### Suddenly, the tide has turned against IPOs (Initial Public Offerings). From excited and exulted news about the issues, and how their oversubscriptions reached dizzying heights, which were followed by massive listing gains, the headlines are sober, even depressing. We find events about low subscriptions, as one of the recent IPO was subscribed less than two times. Listing gains have vanished, with premiums in single digits. Many past IPOs that managed great listing gains are being quoted at huge discounts, including prices that are way lower than the offer prices. Now comes another suggestion of a panicinduced future. A new headline screamed that the past five booms in IPOs were followed by stock market busts. Ergo, be prepared for the great global correction in

Remember 1987, just to give an example from a not-so-distant period. While the US was awash with mergers, and acquisitions, most of which were leveraged buyouts by managements and hostile predators, India saw a spate of public issues, and rights issues. There was mania among investors to get new shares, whatever may be the company, and whatever may be the valuation. Indian firms changed names, and launched new issues, and investors gobbled them up. Companies raised money through rights issues for no rhyme or reason. Stock manipulations were the key during the rights issues, as promoters surrendered their rights in favour of new and other investors at huge premiums. As the indices go up, as do specific stocks, Grey market ruled as new issues were desired for the potential listing gains, as is

Within no time, the market crashed in 1987. Leveraged buyouts were washed out, and the rights issues went horribly wrong. During the early 1990s, India witnessed a demonic situation of vanishing promoters. Most of them raised money during the late 1980s, and siphoned it off. After a few years, their offices were empty, watched by a lone guard, there were no plants or factories, and the promoters were nowhere to be found. Investigations ensued, some of the founders were traced, and there were indictments, or convictions. A similar thing happened with the tech and IT firms in India in 2000 during the Ketan Parekh scam, as also in the US, when valuations, IPOs, and public issues ruled. This too was followed by the dotcom con.

One can possibly establish the links between the IPOs and market crashes. Public issues invariably lag stock price rises. Valuations stretched, and waiting for a pinprick. It is now a matter of a whiff of bad news. Until now, for months, even years,

# Is this the Initial Panic Omen?



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

gangs and queues. The IPO madness is in full flow, as the indices jump further. Obviously, a bubble forms, expands, and reaches its stretched shape.

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

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

Do not think for a moment that this is unexpected. A few critical voices warn of the impending doom. No one wants to hear them. Although publicly,

the experts goad investors, and scream that everything is fine, they are scared. So are the investors, but do not back away because of the FOMO factor. No one wants to miss out on the fun unless and until they are scarred. The promoters want their IPOs before the crash. Investors want to get in, and get out to benefit from the listing gains. Merchant bankers, investment bankers,

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

This writer saw this bizarre phenomenon from close quarters in the late 1999, and early 2000 during the dotcom boom in the US. The valuations were as weird as they are now. IPOs were dime-a-day, as startups, and their founders dreamt of racking up valuations of billions of dollars, and becoming billionaires. The discussions at the social gathering, including the New Year's party, was about the hundreds of millions that one made, or will make, and the real estate purchased at ridiculous prices. Yet, every angel investor, venture capitalist, private equity player, founder, and pundit I met spoke about the crash. For the dozens of people interviewed, it was not a matter of if, but when. It will happen, they said, but they did not know when, so they went ahead with what they did. An introduction to one of the post-2008

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

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



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



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

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

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

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

Automakers have already recorded a surge in bookings, with the small car **AUTOMAKERS HAVE** ALREADY RECORDED A SURGE IN BOOKINGS, WITH THE SMALL CAR SEGMENT REPORTING NEARLY 50 PER CENT GROWTH. THE UNION **BUDGET 2025** 

COMPLEMENTED GST CHANGES WITH SUPPLY-CHAIN MEASURES, INCLUDING CUSTOMS DUTY EXEMPTIONS ON LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SCRAP AND CRITICAL MINERALS LIKE LEAD AND COPPER.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

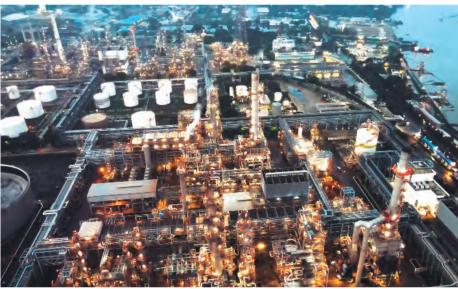
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

imports in a short span. The US, however, last month imposed sanctions on Russian oil producers Rosneft and Lukoil, who



continue to sell.

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

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

accounted for 75 per cent of barrels. Refiners still processoil sold to India. Indian refining Russian crude could ers have stopped buying oil benefit from deeper disfrom them but others can still counts. Abundant spare global crude capacity should also keep a lid on oil prices; Fitch forecasts Brent at USD 65 per cent in 2026, down from USD 70 in 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

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

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



State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) will import about 48

very-large gas carriers of LPG in 2026. The supplies will be made by super majors Chevron, Phillips and TotalEnergies Trading SA. India has offered to raise

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

of US crude, up 51 per cent from 180,000 bpd in H1 2024. Scope for raising crude

imports from the US is

In the first half of 2025, India imported about 271,000 barrels per day (bpd)

period during which ships can make six sorties from the Middle East. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh

take 45 days sea voyage to

reach Indian shores — a

Puri took to X to announce the LPG deal. "A historic first! One of the

largest and the world's fastest growing LPG markets opens up to the United States," he said.

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

es, he said adding a team from the three PSUs had visited the US and engaged in discussions with major US

LPG for the Indian market,"

benchmark for LPG purchas-

This purchase is based on using Mount Belvieu as the

producers over the last few months, which have been concluded now. He touted poor Ujjwala consumers — who make up cooking gas cylinders at just ₹500-550 while the actual

for a third of all LPG users in the country - receiving cost was over ₹1,100. "Government of India incurred the cost of over ₹40,000 crore last year in order to ensure our mothers and sisters did not feel the burden of rising international LPG prices'

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

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

from global price spikes. "The Minister emphasised that this new sourcing arrangement for 2026 is another step in strengthening India's energy security while ensuring affordable access to clean cooking fuel for millions of households," the statement added.

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

New Delhi

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

August, 5.2 per cent in July

and 5.6 per cent in May and

June, as per the Periodic

Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

released by the Ministry of

Statistics and Programme with a moderate rise in urban Implementation (MoSPI).

The UR was 5.1 per cent in April as per the first PLFS bulletin released in May 2025. The UR among persons of

age 15 years and above

remained unchanged at 5.2

per cent between September,

cent in October 2025 from 5.5 September 2025.

mainly contributed towards the decline in overall female joblessness rate.

unemployment remained stable at 5.1 per cent in October 2025 as compared to previous month.

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



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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India's exports contracted 11.8 per cent to USD 34.38 billion in October, showed government data released on Monday. Imports jumped 16.63 per cent to USD 76.06 billion.

The country's trade deficit stood at USD 41.68 billion during the reporting month. Imports surged due to increased shipments of gold and silver. Gold imports jumped to USD 14.72 bn in the last month

against USD 4.92 bn recorded in the same month last year. The country's exports to the United States declined to USD 6.3 bn in October as against USD 6.9 bn registered in the year-ago month, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal told reporters here.

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

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

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

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

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

"...25 per cent of busi-

nesses say their most dam- than 10 per cent—a slight aging data breach in the past three years cost their organisation at least USD 1 million, with exposure highest among enterprises generating USD 5 billion or

more in revenue (45 per

dip from last year's 93 per cent, yet a strong signal of sustained investment. Notably, just over one-third (38 per cent) of these said their budgets would likely increase 6-10 per cent," the



report noted.

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

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

The unemployment rate 2025 and October, 2025," an (UR) was 5.2 per cent in official statement said. September, 5.1 per cent in

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

UR from 6.8 per cent to 7.0 per cent, resulted in overall stability in the pace of joblessness among persons aged 15 years and above. It stated that UR among females aged 15 years and above declined to 5.4 per

per cent observed during The drop in UR among rural female, from 4.3 per cent in September 2025 to 4.0 per cent in October 2025.

Among males, the rate of

# FROM THE

#### **Jaffar Express** targeted again

The frequently-targeted Jaffar Express passenger train narrowly escaped an explosion in Pakistan's Balochistan province, a day after it resumed operations following nearly a week of suspension due to security concerns. Insurgents targeted the train in the Nasirabad area of the province on Sunday, months after it came under a deadly

Suspected insurgents detonated explosives planted on the railway track on the route taken by the Jaffar Express from Quetta to Peshawar. officials said. The explosion caused damage to a portion of the track, but the train escaped without any damage Nasirabad Senior SP Ghulam Sarwar said in a telephonic conversation that security forces reached the area and launched a search for the insurgents.

#### USA Trump to meet

**Mayor Mamdani** President Donald Trump indicated on Sunday that he plans to meet with New York City's mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani and said they'll "work something out," in what could be a detente for the Republican president and Democratic political star who have cast each other as political foils. Trump has for months slammed Mamdani, falsely labeling him as a communist. He also threatened to deport Mamdani, who was born in Uganda and became a naturalised American citizen and to pull federal money from the city. Mamdani rose from an obscure State lawmaker to become a social media star and symbol of the resistance against Trump during his campaign. He campaigned on an array of progressive policies and a message that was stark in



insurgent attack that left

26 people dead.

its opposition to the aggressive, anti-immigrant



# **Ukraine to buy 100 Rafales from France**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** ■ Paris

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

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

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

On Monday morning, Macron and Zelenskyy visited an air base in the Paris outskirts, before heading to the headquarters of a multinational force, dubbed the "coalition of the willing," that France and Britain have been preparing with more than 30 other nations to police an eventual ceasefire in Ukraine.

French officials say the force could be deployed immediately after a ceasefire and would be stationed Sunday that he looked Ukraine and Sweden signed defense assistance to plus missiles.



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

away from the front lines in forward to a "historic deal an effort to help dissuade renewed Russian attacks. Russian President Vladimir Putin has so far rejected troops make creeping gains on the battlefield.

with France in Paris to strengthen our combat aviation and air defense." He made a stop in Greece on his calls for a ceasefire as his way to France to sign an agreement to supply Ukraine with US liquefied Zelenskyy wrote on X on natural gas. Last month,

an agreement exploring the possibility of Ukraine buying up to 150 Swedish-made Gripen fighter jets over the next decade or more. Ukraine has already received American-made F-16s and French Mirages. France is among major suppliers of

Ukraine, including air defense systems and fighter jets. According to Mandon, Ukraine needs immediate additional air defenses to fend off attacks by Russia, which on average targets the country with about 1,700 drones per week

### **German Goverment** lifts Israel arms ban



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Berlin

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

That was a response to a

decision by the Israeli

take over

Cabinet to

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

"We expect everyone to keep to the agreements that were reached - that includes the ceasefire holding, that includes humanitarian aid being provided on a large scale and the process continuing to run in an orderly way, as agreed," he added.

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

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

# Gunmen abduct 25 girls from school in Nigeria

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Abuja

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

One staffer at the school was killed and another was wounded in what was the latest incident of school abductions in Nigeria's northern region. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the abductions from the boarding school in Kebbi State.

incident took place at 4.00 am and the girls were abducted from their dorms. The boarding school is in Maga, in the State's Danko-Wasagu area, police spokesperson Nafi'u Abubakar Kotarkoshi said.

According to police, the

The assailants were armed "sophisticated weapons" and exchanged fire with guards before abducting the girls,

"A combined team is currently combing suspected escape routes and surrounding forests in a coordinated search and rescue operation aimed at recovering the abducted students and armed groups take advanarresting the perpetrators,"



in Nigeria's northern region, major roads. where armed groups have targeted school children since 2014, when the militant Boko Haram group abducted 276 students from Chibok in Borno state.

Kidnappings have become common in parts of northern Nigeria, where dozens of tage of a limited security

Most victims are released only after the payment of ransoms that sometimes run into the thousands of dollars. In March 2024, more than 130 schoolchildren were rescued after spending more than two weeks in captivity in the Nigerian state of Kaduna.

The mass abduction of 276

new era of fear — with nearly 100 of the girls still in captiv ity in 2024.

Since the Chibok abductions, at least 1,500 students have been kidnapped, as armed groups increasingly find in abductions a lucrative way to fund other crimes and control villages in the nation's mineral-rich but poorly policed region.

### Landslide kills 6, injures 19 in Vietnam

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Hanoi

A landslide buried a passenger bus on a treacherous mountain pass in Vietnam, killing six people and injuring 19 others, as more heavy rain was forecast into the week. The earth and rocks collapsed onto the bus late Sunday as it was travelling through the Khanh Le pass in the central highlands, State media reported.

The winding, 33-kilometre stretch carved into steep mountainsides is scenic and popular with tourists but prone to landslides in the rainy season.

The landslide crushed the front of the bus, trapping many passengers. Rescuers struggled for hours to reach the scene as heavy rain had also caused landslides on both sides of the pass, cutting off access. Rescue teams were only

able to reach the bus after midnight, state media said. central Vietnam, which The bus was carrying 32 people from Vietnam's financial capital, Ho Chi through Wednesday is Minh City and was expected to reach 30–60 travelling from Da Lat in centimeters in parts of Vietnam's central highlands central Vietnam, with some high-risk areas.



to the coastal city of Nha Trang.

were taken to a nearby hospital. State media said were still trapped under the debris as the treacherthe work.

areas likely to exceed 85

The injured passengers two of the dead bodies ous terrain hindered

Heavy rain is pounding earlier was hit hard by Typhoon Kalmaegi. Rainfall

centimeters. Heavy rain caused flood-

ing and landslides in mountainous areas of Hue city on Sunday, blocking a major highway that runs from northern to southern Vietnam and cutting off several villages. The former imperial capital has already endured historic floods

> Vietnam is among the world's most flood-prone countries, with nearly half its population living in

#### भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान दिल्ली **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi** Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110 016. Website: www.iitd.ac.in

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CBC 21253/12/0007/2526

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का का के निविदा सूचना / TENDER NOTICE

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CBC 21299/12/0008/2526

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03	77256553	CUTTING CHAIN SET FOR BCM RM-80	16 SET	15-12-25
04	77256427	TUNGSTEN CARBIDE TAMPING TOOL FOR-09-3X/DTE MACHINE	36 SET	22-12-25
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following legal heir(s):					
S. No.	Name	Aadhar No.	Relationship with deceased	Address	
1-	Champa Gulati	547334368070	Mother	C-37 Rajan Babu Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi- 110033	
2-	Pankaj Gulati	917695820843	Wife	C-37 Rajan Babu Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi- 110033	
3-	Vrinda Gulati	522583838950	Daughter	C-37 Rajan Babu Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi- 110033	
4-	Vallabha Gulati	795060725226	Daughter	C-37 Rajan Babu Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-	

ate Shri Vikas Gulati (deceased name) passed away on 12th August 2025, leaving behind th

Following the demise of the Late Shri Vikas Gulati (deceased name) the above-mentioned lega eir(s) has/have requested M3M India Pvt. Ltd. for the transfer of the deceased's rights and intere n the said Unit in favour of Ms. Vrinda Gulati.

Any person(s) having any claim, objection or right in respect of the said Unit/Flat may submit their objections in writing along with supporting documents to M3M India Pvt. Ltd. at 7th floor. Urbana usiness park, Sector-67, Gurugram, Haryana, India and Ms. Vrinda Gulati (customer name), at the pelow-mentioned coordinates, within 21 (twenty one) days from the date of publication of this notice n the absence of any objections within the stipulated period, Ms. Vrinda Gulati (customer name) proceed with the transfer of the said Unit no. C 605c, C 605D & C 605E in project M3M Broadwa her favour, and no claims shall be entertained thereafter.

For any queries, kindly contact: Customer name Ms. Vrinda Gula Email Id: thegulatizone@gmail.com, Phone no. 9818217111

# **US absence threatens South** Africa's G20 legacy: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Johannesburg

Although South Africa has

said the G20 Leaders' Summit Johannesburg this weekend will continue despite the absence of the US, there may be longer-term consequences for the host nation, experts have cautioned.

**US President Donald Trump** 

PUBLIC NOTICE andrabali Maurya and his wife Sm Devi R/o Rz-A2 / 30 B, Gali No.24 Pushpa Devi Rio Rz-AZ / 30 B. Gall No.2A Durga Park, Delhi- 110045 have served all thei relation with their son Sh. Amif Kumar Maurya and his wife Smt. Sonam Kushwaha and due their ill treatment and bad habits and hereby disown them from their all moveable and immovable properties. Hence, they shall have no right or claim qua the same and anybod dealing with them will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities and my client will not be responsible for any act. deed and dealing done by them. My client is also having the apprehension that the above named persons may implicate them and their family members in any wrong and false legal case like dows sexual harassment, domestic violence do. MUNEET BEDI, ADVOCATE

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tion at the Summit, citing allegations of white farmer genocide and illegal expropriation of land from them by the Government.

Both the South African Government and white leaders have rejected these allegations as being false. President Cyril

Ramaphosa confirmed on Friday that the G20 Leaders' Summit will proceed as planned on November 22-23, despite the US absence. "President Trump has decided not to come, and he's pulled out all the US representatives. But we have

announced earlier that there would be no US participanever work," Ramaphosa said on the sidelines of an event here. "The summit will go on. We are not going to stop because they are not here. We will continue and we will take fundamental decisions on matters that affect the people of the world," Ramaphosa said, adding that nearly 40 other Heads of State and Government will be at the

> Summit. However, analysts and researchers believe that the US absence may have a broader impact on South Africa, especially relating to finance and development.

#### ICC prosecutors seek life sentence for Janjaweed leader

Prosecutors at the International Criminal Court(ICC) on

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** ■ The Hague

Monday asked for a life sentence for a leader of the feared Janjaweed militia convicted of playing a major role in a campaign of atrocities committed in the Sudanese region of Darfur more than 20 years ago – including ordering mass executions and bludgeoning two prisoners to death with an ax. "You literally have an axe murderer before you," prosecutor Julian Nicholls told judges in The Hague as Ali Muhammad Ali Abd-Al-Rahman, also known as Ali Kushayb, looked on. Last month, Abd-Al-Rahman was convicted of 27 counts, including mass murders and rapes, for leading Janjaweed militia forces that went on a campaign of killing and destruction in 2003-2004. It was the first time the court had convicted a suspect of crimes in Darfur.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Hasina's political destiny hardened after the August 1975 military coup, in which her father, mother, three brothers, and several other family members were assassinated. She and her vounger sister Rehana survived only because they were abroad. India, under then Prime fought electoral and ideo-

Minister Indira Gandhi, granted her asylum. After six years, in May 1981, Hasina returned to Bangladesh, where she was elected in absentia as the general secretary of the Awami League.

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

The 'Battling Begums', as they came to be known,

logical wars that defined Bangladesh's politics for more than three decades.

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

Under her leadership, the Awami League swept the 2008 general election; the 2014 election, which was boycotted by Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP); and the 2018 election, giving Hasina one of the world's longest tenures for a female leader. During her premiership. Bangladesh saw rapid economic growth, major infrastructure achievements like the Padma Bridge, and advances in poverty

reduction. The country

also became a global

garment powerhouse under

her watch. But the accolades came alongside accusations of Hasina from power and

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

The crackdown that followed unleashed spirals of violence, ultimately ousting

### PROTESTERS NEAR MUJIBUR RAHMAN'S HOUSE

**Dhaka:** Security agencies used batons and fired tear gas on Monday to disperse protesters who tried to demolish the house of deposed premier Sheikh Hasina's father and Bangladesh's founder Sheikh Muiibur Rahman in the capital. "Several stun grenades were used to disperse the protesters,' Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division Police, was quoted as saying by the Daily Star newspaper. The paper reported that several protesters and security personnel were injured during the baton-charge and brick-hurling clashes.

Muiibur Rahman, fondly called Bangabandhu, was killed in a military coup on August 15, 1975, along with most of his family members including his 10-year-old voungest son, Sheikh Russell, A large part of Rahman's private residence, which was

forcing her to flee to India.

the interim Government led

charges of crimes against

humanity related to the 2024

A UN rights office report

estimated that up to 1,400

people were killed during

last year's student protest

between July 15 and August 15

during what came to be

known as the July Uprising, as

her Government ordered a

death sentence against

Kamal, the tribunal ordered the confiscation of all his

crackdown against her.

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

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

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

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

sweeping security crack Following Hasina's ouster, down. On Monday, after months of proceedings she never attended, the tribunal by Muhammad Yunus reconstituted the ICT, once her handed down the unthinkinstrument for prosecuting able: Hasina, four-time Prime war criminals, to bring Minister and political heir of

Bangladesh's founding leader,

was sentenced to death. Now, in exile in India, Hasina, often dubbed the 'Iron Lady' of Bangladesh, watches from across the border as the nation she helped build, and often ruled with a firm hand, grapples with the legacy her rise and fall has left behind.

YUNUS HAILS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**AGAINST SHEIKH** 

Bangladesh's Chief Adviser

Muhammad Yunus Monday

hailed a special tribunal's

verdict against deposed

prime minister Sheikh

Hasina and her aide, saying

the ruling affirmed a fundamental principle — "no

one, regardless of power, is

The International Crimes

Tribunal-Bangladesh (ICT-BD)

sentenced 78-year-old

above the law.'

**VERDICT** 

**HASINA** 

Dhaka

## Outrage in Israel: Netanyahu to oversee October 7 probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

After repeated delays, Israel's Government has agreed to launch an investigation into the Government failures that led to the Hamas-led attack on October 7, 2023, that triggered the war in Gaza.

But questions about the investigation's independence drew accusations Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to evade personal responsibility in the worst attack in Israel's history.

Israel has traditionally appointed an independent state commission of inquiry, led by a retired judge, following major Governmental failures. Netanyahu has resisted calls for such an investigation into the October 7 failures, saving only that he would answer all questions when the war is over. In Sunday's decision, he said the ceasefire that went into effect on October 10 allows the Government to start the investigation.

His Cabinet approved the formation of a watereddown "Government committee." Netanyahu will oversee the makeup of the team governing the inquiry, in effect putting him in charge of the probe. More details about the inquiry are to be announced in 45 days.

#### Public criticism

Yair Lapid, called the decision insulting to the victims of October 7 and to the hundreds of soldiers who have died in the war. "The Government is doing everything it can to run from the



truth and evade responsibility," Lapid said.

The Government is "establishing a commission that will investigate itself," noted the Movement for Quality Government in Israel, which is critical of Netanyahu. "This is not an investigative commission, this is a cover-up commission." In the October 7 attack, Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people and took over 250 others hostage. Nearly 500 soldiers have been killed in fighting since then, while Palestinian health officials say over 69.000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's retaliatory offensive against Hamas. According to a poll by the Jerusalem-based think tank Israel Democracy Institute last month, nearly three-quarters of the public support a fully independent

Even among Netanyahu's right-wing base, 68 per cent favoured an independent commission. The survey questioned 1,000 people and had a margin of error of

commission of inquiry.

unrelated to the war, says Israel's judiciary has too much power and has asserted that an independent inquiry would not have "the broadest possible public support." "The only way to ensure public trust in the work of the commission is broad agreement regarding the composition of the commission," he said.

The Israeli military and other security bodies have conducted a number of investigations into their failures on October 7. But the new investigation also will look at Governmental decision-making and assumptions that created the conditions for the attack to occur.

Many security figures have said that Netanyahu's attempt to overhaul the country's judicial system, which triggered mass demonstrations and public divisions before the war, sent a message of weakness that encouraged Israel's enemies to attack.

Netanyahu rejects the accusations. Many Israelis believe

# Bangladesh's tribunal sentences ex-home minister Kamal to death for crimes against humanity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Deposed Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's aide, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, was on Monday sentenced to death in absentia by a tribunal for crimes against humanity during last year's student uprising.

The International Crimes Tribunal-Bangladesh also sentenced former inspector general of police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who turned state witness, to five years of imprisonment in the same case. Delivering the Former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal



movable and immovable properties in favour of the State. Kamal, who is believed to be living in exile in India, was tried in absentia. The prosecution said the former home minister "played a central role" in coordinating the 2024 crackdown. Mamun, who is in custody, pleaded guilty during the proceedings and became a State witness. His cooperation, the tribunal noted, "substantially aided" the prosecution in establishing the chain of

FILE PHOTO command and responsibility

#### Hasina and her former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal to death in absentia for "crimes against humanity" during last year's

student uprising. Hasina has been living in India since she fled Bangladesh on August 5 last year in the face of the massive protests. She was earlier declared a fugitive by the court. Kamal is also

believed to be in India. "Today, the courts of Bangladesh have spoken with a clarity that resonates across the nation and

beyond.

WEBSITE OF THE

The conviction and sentencing affirm a fundamental principle: no one, regardless of power, is above the law," Yunus said in a statement.

OFFICER/CONTACT

RO 40389-I-27-7

## Ethiopia confirms 3 Marburg virus deaths

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** Addis Ababa

South Sudan.

Ethiopia on Monday confirmed three deaths from the Marburg hemorrhagic virus that has been detected in an area neighbouring

Health Minister Mekdes Daba said Ethiopia's Government, which declared a Marburg outbreak on Friday, had conducted tests in 17 suspected cases in the country's south. The outbreak was reported in the

Omo region. The minister said there were no active cases but the Government was taking preventive measures.

A team from the World Health Organisation and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention has been dispatched to support with testing and outbreak control.

South Sudan's health ministry on Sunday issued a public health advisory to residents of four counties to wash their hands frequent-

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA** 

NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER



**OPENING DATE** 

ly and avoid contact with bodily fluids to prevent the spread of the virus. Africa CDC Director-General Jean

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT www.etenders.hry.nic.in

Kaseya last week called the outbreak a concern because South Sudan has a "fragile

health system.

(APPROX.) IN

#### NAME OF DEPARTMENT NO. **CLOSING DATE** DEPARTMENT Israel's opposition leader, 3.1 percentage points. the mistakes of October 7 SPECIAL REPAIR OF ROAD FROM HANSI AGRICULTURE FARM ROAD (DHAN) Thousands of people extend beyond the military. PAL ROAD) BY PROVIDING WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF ROAD IN 14.11.2025 01662225651 PWD B&R, HISAR https://etenders.hry.nic.in KM 0.00 TO 3.25 (ROAD ID 5306) IN HISAR DISTRICT. (PDG. SHIFTING OF demonstrated on Saturday and they blame Netanyahu 19.11.2025 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in night in Tel Aviv, many HT/LT LINES ONLY) + 5 WORKS for what they view as a failed DEVELOPMENT WORK IN BALMIKI CHOUPAL AT VILLAGE SHAHZADPUR + 3 CLOSING DATE 9268376188 calling for an independent strategy of deterrence and PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONIPAT 9.37 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in 21.11.2025 ohansdo@gmail.com containment in the years probe. Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption charges PANCHAYATI RAJ, KARNAL CONST. OF GRAM SACHIVALAYA AT VILLAGE MUNAK + 3 WORKS 144.87 LACS before the attack. https://etenders.hry.nic.in rexeeng.krl@hry.nic.in ROUGH COST ESTIMATE FOR CONST. OF INDOOR GYM HALL AT VILLAGE 9896634422 PANCHAYATI RAJ, KARNAL 20.26 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in 03.12.2025 prexeeng.krl@hry.nic.in CHULI KHURD, ADAMPUR, CONST. OF ROOM FOR LIBRARY (VANGY) + 20 14.11.2025 5 8397953040 PANCHAYATI RAJ, HISAR 253.97 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in PPP lawmaker elected 20.11.2025 prexeeng.hsr@hry.nic.in DANGRA, CONST. OF ENTRY GATE OF COMMUNITY CENTER AND IRON PANCHAYATI RAJ, 14.11.2025 01667230855 new PoK premier 34.87 LACS SHEDD ON STAGE AND LUNGER HALL NEAR COMMUNITY CENTER AND https://etenders.hry.nic.in 20.11.2025 prexeeng.ftb@hry.nic.in LIBRARY HALL OVER SHOPS BLOCK- TOHANA 5023 MPLADS PANCHAYATI RAJ, BLOCK CONSTRUCTION OF TIN SHED(100\*20)FT IN SHAMSHAN GHAT AT VILLAGE 14.11.2025 8168502876 PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Islamabad 65.07 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in ACHINA + 4 WORKS enprcharkhidadri@gmail.com 14.11.2025 HRDF CONST. OF PHIRNI AT VILL. RASOOLPUR (GP UDAYPUR) BLOCK 0171-2551368 PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA A Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) lawmaker was 40.16 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in AMBALA-1 (RE-TENDER) + 1 WORKS on Monday elected as the "prime minister" of (I) BORA- CONST. OF TOILET IN KABRISTAN (II) BORA- CONST. OF TOILET PANCHAYATI RAJ, 12.11.2025 01667230855 78.24 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir after the regional FATEHABAD IN PRIMARY SCHOOL VANGY + 12 WORKS 19.11.2025 eeng.ftb@hry.nic.in assembly adopted a no-confidence motion DHANI MEHANDA :- CONST. OF INDEPENDENT CANAL BASED WATER WORKS against incumbent Chaudhry Anwarul Haq of FOR VILLAGE DHANI MEHANDA DISTT. HISAR. " 'SUPPLYING AND 14.11.2025 21.11.2025 01663256145 PUBLIC HEALTH Tehreek-i-Insaf. Raja Faisal Mumtaz Rathore is 10 ERECTION PUMPING MACHINERY, ELECTRICAL PANEL, CI DF/PE SPECIALS. 36.20 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in ENGINEERING, HANSI eehansi@gmail.com AT WATER WORKS GHIRAI AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT the fourth premier in the sitting assembly since THERETO." + 3 WORKS its installation in 2021. He received the support **IRRIGATION & WATER** of 36 lawmakers, including 27 from PPP and 9 RESTORATION OF RURAL POND 'SARSODI POND' IN VILLAGE SIMLI, BLOCK CLOSING DATE 9034106126 11 118.07 LACS RESOURCES DEPARTMENT https://etenders.hry.nic.in from Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz. The ROHTAK, DISTRICT ROHTAK + 1 WORKS 20,11,2025 xenconst21@gmail.com assembly has 52 members, and a simple RECLAMATION OF WATER -LOGGED AND SALINE SOIL THROUGH VERTICAL 11.11.2025 9466723261 majority of 27 lawmakers is needed to elect a 12 WELFARE DEPARTMENT, DRAINAGE TECHNOLOGY IN THE VILLAGE- MAINA, BLOCK & DISTRICT -109.02 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in asco.rtk2015@gmail.com new leader. The no-trust motion was tabled on ROHTAK Monday by PPP lawmaker Qasim Majeed.

'Exempt life insurance

### **▼ PROSPECT**



Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma inaugurates the new Jengia Police Station building in West Garo Hills

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

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

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

Personalised guidance, cutting-edge technology and a focus on conceptual clarity are at the core of our educational model, driven by our motto, 'Baccha Seekha

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

### NHAI publishes updates on bidding for 55 projects

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

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

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

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



translational healthcare innovation. "Our collaboration with IRFC marks an important milestone in accelerating India's journey in drug discov-

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

care innovation," IIT Madras Director V Kamakoti said.

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

"The support extended through IRFC's CSR funding

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

together for larger national goals. I am hopeful that the facility will contribute to knowledge, innovation and better health outcomes in the years ahead," Venugopal said.

This collaboration shows how institutions can work

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

from GST to enable insurers claim ITC' premium of over ₹5 lakh.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Mumbai

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

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

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

"Is it time to upgrade or revise upwards to up to Rs 10 lakh, the maturity pro-

ceeds should be tax free, so that we can get some good policies and mop up good funds," he said. He affirmed LIC's support

for investing in developmental purposes for the country through investments in corporate bonds and government securities. Meanwhile, speaking at

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

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

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

"Once we have the right statistics, we will have the right policy coming out,"



LIC managing director Ratnakar Patnaik

# The British Museum Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma at London's British Museum on Monday to sign an Letter of Intent to enable bringing Mahapursh Srimanta Sankardey's iconic Vrindayani Vastra to Assam **REC Shines at**

03 Years

50 No's

Annual/ Contract for 3MT, 6MT, 9MT, 12MT, 16 MT,20 MT and 25 MT capacity

for various stations

1200 MT

Annual

#### 7th edition of **Future of Legal and Compliance Summit** and Awards 2025

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICER** New Delhi

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

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



 Best Legal Technology Implementation of the Year. · Compliance Innovation of

• Compliance Team of the Year.

The accolades were received by REC's representatives, Dinesh Kaushik (GM), Rajeshwar Valaboju (DGM) and Chander Mohan Sharma (DGM), who accepted the awards on behalf of the organisation.

These recognitions further strengthen REC's position as a thought leader in the legal and compliance domain, as the organisation continues to set new industry benchmarks through technology integration, strategic innovation and robust Governance frameworks.

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



HIMADREE CHUTIA

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

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

#### A Cultural Wave That Continues

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

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

#### **Tributes and Blood-Donation** Drive

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



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

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

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

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

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

Families are urged to watch for signs of distress and seek professional help if needed.

#### A Promise from the State

In the aftermath, the Chief Minister announced measures balancing tribute and accountability. Assam observed three days of mourning and Zubeen Da's mortal remains were placed at Arjun Bhogeswar Baruah Sports Complex for public homage. A second autopsy was ordered, a Special Investigation Team formed and a judicial commission set up. The Government declared a holiday in Kamrup (Metro) and blacklisted the festival organiser linked to events preceding his final days. A permanent memorial, Zubeen Kshetra, is being developed on a 10-bigha plot in Sonapur with guidance from his family and cultural representatives.

The state has pledged its GST share from Roi RoiBinale to the Kalaguru Artiste Foundation to help flood victims, support medical treatment of artistes and assist needy students. Through tribute, transparency, and community care, Assam honours Zubeen Da while supporting healing, ensuring his legacy inspires generations to come. The music may have paused, but Assam's collective responsibility to care, remember and celebrate the life of a cultural icon has only just begun.

Writer is J.I.O., Directorate of Information and attached as PRO to the Chief Secretary

ingredients.
c) Operation, repair & maintenance of pouch packing machines (milk, lass), dahi and ghee) online coding machines, photo cellsensors and crate washers.
For Cattle Feed Plant, Ghania-Ke-Banger
Hiring of five Seater AC passenger car for the area of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Chandigarh and Haryana. Annual For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
 Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only. 1018/12/2025-26/5055 General Manager (Purchase)

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

e tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following Sr. Name of Work/Item

For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh
Selection of System Integrator (SI) for implementation of SAP S/4
HANA in Depots, Sale Offices and implementation of DMS &
Integration with SAP S/4 HANA and Banks at Plant level, Depots and
Sales Offices.
For Verka Mohali Dairy

a) Cow lifting loader/sling.
 b) Providing Un-skilled, Skilled, Semi-skilled and High-skilled labour

For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy
Hiring of transport vehicle for supply of panjiri, WMP, SMP, Ghee and other Milk products for various stations.

Supply of Rice Husk.

For Verka Amritsar Dairy

3) Hiring of Godown for storage of skimmed milk powder.

b) Engaging labour contractor for outsourced jobs of packing, filling of milk and milk products i.e. SFM, Pio, WMP, SMP, Ghee, White Butter, Dahi, Lassi, Kheer, Paneer, Milk Cake, Panjiri and Shifting, Inadian & unlocation of milk products packing and trials.

Shifting, loading & unloading of milk products, packing material &

For Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy

verka

Notice Inviting Tender



### **BRIEFLY**

#### INDIA NEEDS GOOD COACHES OF FOOTBALL: LOTHAR



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

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

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

"For example Cape Verde, which has a population of just half a million people, is going to the World Cup. You have the highest population in the world and you don't go to the World Cup? This cannot be," Matthaus said.

"You have to find a system which will involve the football federation, the Government, the clubs and the academies to work for a common goal like you have in cricket, hockey or chess where you have produced world champions," said Matthaus, the brand ambassador of the Bengal Super League.

Matthaus admitted that Germany has lacked passion and camaraderie for a while now, given that the former World Cup winners were eliminated from the group stages in the last two editions of the competition.

# Lad, Thakur shines as Mumbai dominate in Ranji

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

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

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

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

Pondicherry attack. Akash Anand (107 not out) notched up his third FC ton in nine matches, but India batter Sarfaraz Khan missed out, falling for a 113-ball 67 (6x4s, 1x6s). Thakur smacked a characteristic 32-ball 56 with four sixes and three fours before retiring hurt. While putting on 160 runs for the fourth wicket with Sarfaraz, Lad was in his elements, scoring runs on both sides of the wickets. Hitting two sixes each over long-on and long-off, he also pierced gaps at will to carve out a flawless innings.

Lad consolidated Mumbai's hold on the game as he added another 110 runs for the fifth wicket with Anand against an exhausted Pondicherry attack, who had



each of their five bowlers including skipper Sagar Udeshi giving away more

than 100 runs. Sarfaraz took off his helmet and celebrated crossing the fifty-run mark like batters do after making tons, but poked on one outside off to be caught behind, having batted well for his maiden halfcentury of the season.

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

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

Anand said there is enough in the Wankhede track for the bowlers provided they were able to make the effort, while praising Pondicherry spinners for their efforts. "There is enough help for

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

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

[&K were 275 for four when Delhi. Delhi were 8 for no Pondicherry 43/4 in 12 overs

stumps were drawn with opener Qamran Iqbal (50), Abdul Samad (77 not out) and Kanhaiya Wadhwan (82 not out) hitting their halfcenturies. Having taken 49run lead on the first day where 16 wickets fell, J&K produced a tidy effort with the bat to gain complete control of the game against Hyderabad who have not

lost a game so far this season. Hosts Rajasthan were bolstered by centuries from Mahipal Lomror (128 not out) and Kartik Sharma (120) on the second day after Sachin Yadav (130) and Kunal Singh Rathore (102) hit triple figure scores on Day One, to reach 570/7 declared against Chadha 2/146) lead

loss when stumps were drawn, trailing by a massive 562 runs.

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

#### **Brief Scores:**

At Mumbai: 630/5 in 147 overs (Musheer Khan 84, Akhil Herwadkar 86, Siddhesh Lad 170, Sarfaraz Khan 67, Akash Anand 107 not out, Shardul Thakur 56 retd hurt; Sabhay (Mohit Kale 13 not out; Shardul Thakur 3/17, Tushar Deshpande 1/7) by 587 runs.

At Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir 170 & 275/4 in 71 overs (Qamran Iqbal 50, Abdul Samad Samad 77 not out, Kanhaiya Wadhawan 82 not out; Rakshan Readdi 2/56) lead Hyderabad 121 by

At Rajsamand: Rajasthan 570/7d in 161 overs (Sachin Yadav 130, Kunal Singh Rathore 102, Mahipal Lomror , Kartik Sharma 120; Simarjeet Singh 3/81) lead Delhi 8/0 in 4 overs by 562 runs.

At Nadaun: Chhattisgarh 585/6d in 158 overs (Ayush Pandey 59, Anuj Tiwary 162, Sanjeet Desai 84, Mayank



# प्रवण के खिलाफ

दिल्ली सरकार की निर्णायक पहल हवा होगी साफ़, दिल्ली होगी स्वच्छ

सिर्फ़ ८ महीने में दिल्ली की सडकों पर उतरीं 1.350 इलेक्टिक बसें

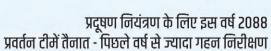


तेहखंड और नंद नगरी में Automated Testing Station से कम समय में वाहनों की फिटनेस जांच

२७१ स्प्रिंकलर लगातार सड़कों पर धूल को नियंत्रित कर रहे हैं।



निर्माण स्थलों और १३ प्रदूषण हॉटस्पॉट पर धूल नियंत्रण पर सख़्ने कार्रवाई



ग्रीन कवर विस्तार- प्रदूषण से लड़ने के लिए 'एक पेड़ माँ के नाम 2.0' अभियान





दिल्ली के तीनों लैंडफिल साइट पर रोज़ाना ३०,०००+ मीट्रिक टन कचरे की बायो-माइनिंग जारी

3,000 से अधिक RWAs, फॉरेस्ट गार्ड्स और असंगठित उद्योग कर्मियों को खुले में आग जलाने से रोकने के लिए इलेक्ट्रिक हीटर दिए जाएंगे



उज्ज्वला योजना विस्तार- २,५९,२१३ घरों तक स्वच्छ ऊर्जा पहुँचाने की दिशा में बडा कदम



७६ स्वीपर मशीनों से अब धूल पर प्रभावी नियंत्रण



386 एंटी-स्मॉग गन से हवा में प्रदूषण पर लगाम लगाई जा रही है





# **Eden turner highlights Gill-Gambhir disconnect**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The pitch row triggered by India's embarrassing 30-run loss to South Africa while chasing a modest 124 has also opened up a larger question — are young

skipper Shubman Gill and coach Gautam Gambhir on the same page on what construes ideal home conditions? The collapse, India's lowest failed chase at home, has left behind deeper fault lines than a dry Eden Gardens wicket can conceal. lust a month ago, on the

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

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

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

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



Shubman Gill and coach Gautam Gambhir

team management wanted. "If you don't play well this is what happens. There were no demons in the

wicket," he asserted. Ask Aiden Markram, who was undone by a ball from Jasprit Bumrah that leapt from the off-stump line in the first hour of the opening day, or KL Rahul, who was bamboozled by a Marco Jansen delivery that reared up sharply in the fourth innings — and they would disagree.

Gambhir insisted seamers were the ones doing the

"Ultimately, if we had ary off Simon Harmer. In his

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

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

Gill took no part beyond day 1 owing to the neck spasm sustained while playing a slog-sweep boundabsence, Indian batting displayed neither discipline nor adaptability.

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

Under Gambhir, India have eight wins from 18 Tests — four of them have come against lowly Bangladesh and West Indies.

The script here resembled India's 0-3 humiliation against New Zealand at home last year, a series in which Ajaz Patel (11 in Mumbai), Mitchell Santner quent. Historically rich in the WTC campaign now.

(13 in Pune) exposed the side's frailties on turning tracks. That series derailed World Test Championship run, and the Eden defeat now sits in the same bracket. This loss also flipped India's WTC standings. South Africa climbed to third with two wins in three; India dropped to fourth with

in the new cycle. From the moment India landed in Kolkata on Tuesday, the focus was obsessively on the pitch. Meetings with curator Sujan Mukherjee became fre-

just two wins in eight Tests

ing the iconic 2001 Laxman-Dravid miracle - Eden hosted a surface that drew even Harbhajan Singh's ire.

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

Cheteshwar Pujara dismissed talk of transition as excuse-making.

"Losing at home cannot be accepted, transition or not," he said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Split captaincy wise amid pressure on Gill: Mukund



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi

Former India opener Abhinav Mukund believes the pressure on Shubman Gill has reached a critical point as he called for split captaincy in the wake of India's opening Test defeat to South Africa.

With Gill absent in the second innings due to neck spasm. India were bowled out for 93 in their chase of 124. South Africa sealed a 30run win inside three days for their first Test victory in India in 15 years.

"At home, everyone expects India to win - no questions asked," Mukund said on The Great Indian Show Cricket Doordarshan.

Gill suffered the spasm during a slog sweep in the first innings and retired hurt on four as his absence compounded India's batting woes. Gill's workload has also become a topic of

Immediately after leading India to a 2-0 Test series sweep over West Indies at home, Gill flew to Australia to captain the ODI side, also featuring in the T20Is before returning to lead India in the opening Test just four days

after the Brisbane T201. He has been playing nonstop cricket across formats since the IPL and then he was made the Test skipper and led India to a remarkable 2-2 draw in England in a five-match gruelling series.

"I think Shubman has it in him to become an all-format captain, but I don't think India should have an allformat captain anymore," said Mukund, who has played seven Tests.

"Split captaincy is a smart move. Shubman Gill has been given the responsibility to take on the mantle in Tests and he will be under big pressure."

'This is a crucial series," he noted, "and the England series was a big confidence

ANUYA PRASAD, PRANJALI SEAL

AIR PISTOL GOLD

AND SILVER AT

**DEAFLYMPICS** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Young Anuya Prasad gave herself a birthday present

while Pranjali Prashant Dhumal added to India's joy

as the duo completed a 1-2

finish in the women's 10m

air pistol event at the

Deaflympics, in Tokyo on

Anuya clinched the gold

medal in style, breaking the

Deaf Final World Record

(DFWR) enroute to winning

the top-podium spot, while

Qualification World Record

(QWR) on way to securing a

place in the finals. In men's

10m air pistol, Abhinav

Deshwal, who equalled the

Qualification World Record,

won silver to take India's

medal tally in shooting to

seven after two days of com-

On Sunday, 23-year-old

New Delhi

Monday.

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi

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

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

such as Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Washington Sundar and Shubman Gill as evidence of India's depth and potential in the longer

"I don't agree with the view that India's defeat at home can be attributed to a transitional phase. While it's understandable to face setbacks abroad during a transition period, the current Indian side pos-



sesses ample talent and strong first-class records -- players like Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Washington Sundar, and Shubman Gill have all proven themselves," Pujara told Jio Hotstar.

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

While India head coach

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

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

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

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

The reigning World Test Championship winners completed a 30-run win inside three days over India in the opening Test here defending a modest 123 on Sunday. The win, which was their first on Indian soil in 15 vears, gave them an unassailable 1-0 lead in the twomatch series. "No matter who sits out,

we can still find a way to win. (Skipper) Temba (Bavuma) has been crucial for us, but he hasn't played every game. I haven't played this game," Rabada said in a video shared by Cricket South Africa.

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

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

hosts on a dry wicket here

with variable bounce and turn. Rabada hailed South Africa's individual performances, including skipper Bavuma's match-winning 55 in the second innings that gave the travelling bowlers something to fight for. "We had a good start in the first innings with Aiden (Markram) and (Ryan)

Rickelton. They set the tone. Marco (Jansen) stood up, Boschi (Corbin Bosch) stood up at crucial times. Everyone chipped in and really, that's the hallmark of what this team is made of," Rabada said. It remains to be seen if Rabada, who had to

undergo multiple scans in the lead-up to the first Test, would be available for the second Test to be played in Guwahati from November Rabada said the victory in

a low-scoring thriller at Kolkata would rank among just the ebbs and flows of



the top three wins for South Africa this season.

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

"(The victory is) definitely

'That was typical Test cricket (contest)... I mean, the game. We found our selves on the back foot, and then somehow managed to finish on the front foot.

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

Dhanush Srikanth, who trains at Olympian Gagan Narang's shooting academy in Hyderabad, had won the 10m air rifle gold.

petition.

Anuya shot 564 in the qualification round to enter the eight-shooter placed final third, while Pranjali broke the QWR with a brilliant score of 572 to top the preliminary round. The 19-yearold Anuya was on song in the final as she amassed 241.1 and in the process set a DFWR on way to gold.

This is her second major international medal after winning gold at the Deaf World Championships in Hanover last year.

# Pat to captain SRH for third straight IPL season



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Hvderabad

Australia's premier fast bowler Pat Cummins was on Monday appointed as captain of Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) for third consecutive IPL season.

SRH confirmed Cummins role as leader on its 'X' handle with his pictures without divulging details.

Cummins has officially been ruled out of the first Ashes Test in Perth due to his back injury but he is expected to be ready for the

Steven Smith will captain Australia in the opening Test against England which begins on November 21. The second Test in Brisbane begins on December 4.

Cummins took over SRH's captaincy from South African Aiden Markram in 2024 after he was bought by the franchise for a whopping ₹20.50 crore in the 2024 IPL players auction following Australia's success in the World Test Championship and the 2023 50-over World Cup.

Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.

## FIDE World Cup: Arjun draws easy with black pieces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Panaji (Goa)

Seeking to qualify for the Candidates' event, India's top-rated Arjun Erigaisi walked off with an easy draw with his Chinese counterpart Wei Yi in the first game of the quarterfinals on

On what turned out to be an easy day for Arjun, Alexander Donchenko finally realised about things being

rosy everyday. The

German had been on a dream run which is likely to end now as Nodirbek Yakubboev won an exciting game one with white pieces. If Yakubboev is able to hold the German in the next game to a draw he will be through to the semifinal.

For Arjun the opening was important and it did not pose any issues. The young Indian generation is re-writing the theoretical aspects of the

IN THE ONLY OTHER REMAINING MATCH SAMUEL SHANKLAND OF UNITED STATES ALSO PLAYED OUT A DRAW WITH RUSSIAN ANDREY ESIPENKO

game and Arjun is no exception. As it turned out of a routine Ruy Lopez theory, Arjun equalised with a thematic pawn sacrifice earlier

in the middle game. When Wei Yi returned the

favour the position was already dead-equal and the players shook hands to split the point in a mere 31 moves. lavokhir Sindarov of Uzbekistan played out a draw

with Iose Eduaordo Martinez Alcantara of Mexico in a well contested game. The Uzbek was never under real threat and could be seen as a potential semifinalist out of this contest. In the only other

remaining match Samuel Shankland of United States also played out a draw with Russian Andrey Esipenko.

Complete results quarterfinals game 1: Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) drew with Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara (Mex); Wei Yi (Chn) drew with Arjun Erigaisi (Ind); Sam Shankland (Usa) drew with Andrey Esipenko (Fid); Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb) beat Alexander Donchenko (Ger).

# India pins hopes on Satwik, Chirag as Lakshya, Prannoy seek form

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Sydney

With India's singles stars still searching for rhythm, the spotlight will once again be on Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty as the topseeded men's doubles pair eyes its first title of the season at the Australian Open Super 500 starting here on Tuesday.



ons have been the bright spots in an otherwise troubled season for Indian badminton, weaving together a second World Championships bronze and back-to-back runner-up finishes at the Hong Kong Super 500 and China Masters Super 750. The two, who spent 18 weeks as world No. 1, had slipped to No.

The Asian Games champi- 27 in May but fought their way back to No. 3. They will be eager to put together another strong run ahead of the World Tour Finals. The Commonwealth Games champions will open against Chinese Taipei's Chang Ko-Chi and Po Li-Wei.

> Bruised by injuries and lean patches but intermittently shining with flashes of brilliance, India's top singles

stars, including Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy, will hope to find the consistent rhythm that has eluded them for much of the year.

Lakshya seemed to have rediscovered his form with a final appearance at the Hong Kong Open after enduring a run of poor results since his heartbreaking fourth-place finish at the Paris Olympics.

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