



Historic Diwali Gift for the Nation

NEXT-GEN GST REFORM

for Ease of Living & to build *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*

From farmers to enterprises, from households to businesses, the Next-Gen GST brings happiness for all!

Save Big on Daily Essentials

Items	From	To
Hair Oil, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toilet Soap Bar, Tooth Brushes, Shaving Cream	18%	5%
Butter, Ghee, Cheese & Dairy Spreads	12%	5%
Pre-packaged Namkeens, Bhujia & Mixtures	12%	5%
Utensils	12%	5%
Feeding Bottles, Napkins for Babies & Clinical Diapers	12%	5%
Sewing Machines & Parts	12%	5%

Uplifting Farmers & Agriculture

Items	From	To
Tractor Tyres & Parts	18%	5%
Tractors	12%	5%
Specified Bio-Pesticides, Micro-Nutrients	12%	5%
Drip Irrigation System & Sprinklers	12%	5%
Agricultural, Horticultural or Forestry Machines for Soil Preparation, Cultivation, Harvesting & Threshing	12%	5%

Relief in Healthcare Sector

Items	From	To
Individual Health & Life Insurance	18%	Nil
Thermometer	18%	5%
Medical Grade Oxygen	12%	5%
All Diagnostic Kits & Reagents	12%	5%
Glucometer & Test Strips	12%	5%
Corrective Spectacles	12%	5%

Automobiles made affordable

Items	From	To
Petrol & Petrol Hybrid, LPG, CNG Cars (not exceeding - 1200 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
Diesel & Diesel Hybrid Cars (not exceeding - 1500 cc & 4000mm)	28%	18%
3 Wheeled Vehicles	28%	18%
Motor Cycles (350 cc & below)	28%	18%
Motor Vehicles for transport of goods	28%	18%

Affordable Education

Items	From	To
Maps, Charts & Globes	12%	Nil
Pencils, Sharpeners, Crayons & Pastels	12%	Nil
Exercise Books & Notebooks	12%	Nil
Eraser	5%	Nil

Save on Electronic Appliances

Items	From	To
Air Conditioners	28%	18%
Television (above 32") (including LED & LCD TVs)	28%	18%
Monitors & Projectors	28%	18%
Dish Washing Machines	28%	18%

PROCESS REFORMS

Registration

- Automatic registration within 3 working days for applicants:
- Identified by the system based on data analysis
 - Who determines that he would not pass Input Tax Credit exceeding ₹2.5 Lakh per month and opts for the Scheme

Refund

- Sanction of Provisional Refunds by proper officer, through system based risk evaluation for:
- Zero Rated Supplies
 - Supplies with Inverted Duty Structure



“The next generation of GST reforms are a gift for every Indian this Diwali. Taxes for the general public will be reduced substantially. Our MSMEs & small entrepreneurs will get huge benefit. Everyday items will become cheaper and this will also give a new boost to the economy.”

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Next-Gen GST - Better & Simpler!

Please visit CBIC website 'www.cbic.gov.in' for detailed information

IN BRIEF

Sood lays foundation stones for key works in Janakpuri

Delhi's Minister for Education, Home and Power Ashish Sood on Wednesday laid the foundation stone for several key infrastructure projects in his Janakpuri constituency, aiming to address long-standing issues of sanitation and utilities. The projects, launched under the "Rekha Sarkar Aapke Dwar" campaign, will introduce new sewer, water and PNG gas pipelines in various parts of the area.

Sood highlighted that residents of multiple blocks in Janakpuri have faced problems for years due to non-existent or dilapidated sewer and water lines. He said, many places still lacked adequate water supply lines or PNG gas connections.

Therefore, with these projects, Janakpuri will get better civic facilities. He stated that the new projects, including new sewer lines in areas like A5 A White Flat, Valmiki Marg, CD Block and Uttam Nagar, will improve civic facilities and prevent contamination of drinking water. The initiative also includes laying new water pipelines in localities such as Shiv Nagar and Hari Nagar, along with a PNG gas pipeline in Posangi Pur village. The Minister said the projects are scheduled for completion within three months.

He added that modern Trenchless Technology will be used to install pipelines without major road digging, saving time and preventing damage. He said the current Government is committed to providing immediate solutions to people's problems under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

CM holds public hearing amid tight security

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Amid tight security, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday held *Jan Sunwai* programme at her official residence for the first time after she was attacked last month. People from different parts of the city raised their grievances and sought help from the CM during the programme, which began at 8 am.

The Chief Minister was seated on a chair while people came up before her one by one, submitting their applications and interacting with her through a microphone set up across her table.

The *Jan Sunwai* was held amid tight security. In a video shared on social media, female security personnel was seen standing right beside the Chief Minister as she heard grievances of the people. Another security personnel was positioned next to the visitor approaching her. Several others were also



Chief Minister Rekha Gupta (left) held a public hearing (Jan Sunwai) with citizens at her residence on Wednesday. She was flanked by security personnel. A banner in the background reads 'सेवा ही संकल्प न सुनवाई' (Service is the resolve, no listening to complaints).

Jan Sunwai on August 20 at her camp office, the Mukhya Mantri Jan Sewa Sadan on Raj Niwas Marg.

In a post on X, the Delhi Chief Minister said she met citizens from across the city and directed officers for immediate redressal of their grievances. "The interaction with the public always fills me with a new energy and deepens the commitment towards service. *Jan Sunwai* is a new tradition," she said.

"Every citizen is heard during *Jan Sunwai* and each suggestion becomes a beacon of Delhi's development," she said and added that topmost priority to public service and redressal of each grievance was a resolve of the Delhi Government.

A large number of men and women gathered at the Chief Minister's residence on Raj Niwas, hoping for a solution to their problems and also seeking help from the Government. Some people later spoke to the media and shared about what help they sought and the assurances they got from the Chief Minister. "I requested the Chief Minister for clearing my name on the waiting list for Haj. Madam said it will be done," said Fauzia, a resident of Maujpur.

One person who attended the *Jan Sunwai* said that he has appealed for a Government job. "I approached the Chief Minister with my concern. I am physically disabled — one of my arms and a leg is affected. I appealed for a Government job, as it would greatly help improve my situation," he said.

A senior citizen claimed that he participates in the freedom struggle in 1947 but he has not received any benefits. I am not even getting pension, he said.

Around 165 persons submitted their grievances and suggestions to the Chief Minister, who directed necessary action on them, officials said. Many people also greeted Gupta with bouquets on the occasion.

DOZENS OF DOGS RESCUED FROM FLOOD-HIT AREAS IN DELHI

New Delhi: Several dogs, many of them injured, even pregnant, were rescued from flooded areas near the Yamuna by animal lovers and activists.

Animal activist Fateh, who has been leading the rescue efforts with his wife, said they have saved around 16 dogs in just two days from areas such as Yamuna Bazaar and Majnu ka Tila.

"We are working in coordination with an NGO called Maa ka Aanchal. Most of the dogs we rescued were pregnant, lactating, or very young puppies. Many of them were injured because they had been stuck in flooded lanes for hours without food or shelter. We are shifting them to the NGO so they can get proper care," he said. Fateh said that he has shared his contact details with animal lovers across localities.

"Whenever we get a call from any flood-affected area, we immediately rush there to rescue the animals. People have been very supportive, but the situation is still difficult because the water level is high in several pockets," he added.

AUTHORITIES CLOSE 13 REGULATOR DRAINS CONNECTED TO YAMUNA

New Delhi: In a precautionary move to combat potential flooding, the authorities have closed all 13 regulator drains connected to the Yamuna River. To prevent backflow of river water into the city's low-lying areas, bell mouths of stormwater drains from Vasudev Ghat up to the Yamuna bank have been stuffed with sandbags.

"All the regulator drains have been closed to avoid any backflow of water, as they have overflow into the Yamuna. The water level in the river itself is high and reaching a critical point," a Government official said. The city has 13 regulators which include Magazine Road Drain, Old Chandrawal drain, Khyber Pass drain, Metcalf house drain, Qudsia ghat drain, Vijay Ghat drain, Tonga stand drain, Civil Military drain, Delhi Gate drain, Sen Nursing Home drain, Drain No 12 A, Drain No 14 and Regulator number 2800.

2,000 people relocated to safer places: CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Children clung onto the shoulders of policemen who waded through neck-deep water to take them to safety as authorities persuaded people to evacuate from Jharoda Kalan and some areas of Najafgarh after a 50-foot embankment of Mungeshpur drain was breached, inundating many low-lying areas overnight in south-west Delhi. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said more than 2,000 people have been relocated to safer places.

The breach, which occurred on Tuesday night amid incessant rains lashing Haryana, Delhi and other northern States led to nearly five feet of water entering Geetanjali Enclave and adjoining pockets of Jharoda Kalan village near Baba Haridas Nagar in Delhi's Dwarka, officials said.

The Chief Minister said that the repair work is underway and she has discussed the situation with Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. Senior Government officials informed the Chief Minister of the breach, after which she immediately spoke to Saini.

"I discussed over the phone at midnight with the Chief Minister of Haryana, @NayabSainiBJPji, regarding



Flooded area near Yamuna river. Children were seen wading through the water. Pankaj Kumar

DELHI TRAFFIC DIVERTED ON OUTER RING ROAD DUE TO RISING YAMUNA WATER LEVEL

New Delhi: The Delhi Traffic Police on Wednesday announced traffic diversions in view of the rising water levels in Yamuna river at Vasudev Ghat, which has affected vehicular movement on the Outer Ring Road stretch from Majnu Ka Tila to Salimgarh bypass.

Police said, traffic will be diverted at Wazirabad-Signature Bridge and Chandgi Ram Akhada-IP College red light through alternate routes as heavy congestion is expected on the Outer Ring Road and adjoining stretches.

Commuters have been advised to avoid the impacted routes and plan their journeys in advance. Police have also urged motorists to avoid roadside parking as it obstructs the traffic flow. "Emergency vehicles will be given free passage at all times," the advisory stated, adding that commuters should follow the instructions of traffic personnel deployed on the ground.

The disaster caused by heavy rainfall and overflow leading to the erosion of the embankment near Jhajjar, Haryana, and approximately one kilometre beyond the Delhi border at the Mungeshpur Drain. Officials from both Delhi and Haryana states are continuously coordinating to evacuate local people from the affected areas to safe locations and are engaged in relief operations," she said in

a post on X in Hindi. The CM issued urgent instructions to Divisional Commissioner Neeraj Semwal, who promptly arranged the evacuation of around 2,000 people from the affected areas. They were transported by DTC buses to temporary shelters at Baba Haridas Temple and the MCD School in Jharoda, where food and other provisions were arranged.

According to police, water gushed into residential areas within minutes, prompting an immediate rescue operation. Teams from the police, along with NDRF officials, worked through the night to shift residents to safer locations.

Dramatic scenes unfolded through the night as police personnel held ropes to balance themselves in the neck-deep water. In some areas of Najafgarh, people were not ready to leave their homes in the hope that the water will recede. They were eventually persuaded to leave.

"It was like wading through a river in the middle of the night," said a senior police officer, recalling the chaos after the embankment of Mungeshpur Drain gave way. "The water rose quickly, more than five feet deep in some places. Families were shouting, children were crying, and people were trapped in their homes," he said.

DERC member accused of harassment by woman officer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

A junior woman law officer of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) has leveled serious allegations of harassment and misuse of authority against Commission member Surender Babbar.

The law officer, who has been working in the legal division for the past 13 years, submitted a written complaint to another member of the Commission, Ram Naresh Singh, stating that she has been facing constant threats and discriminatory behaviour.

In the complaint, dated July 18, 2025, the junior law officer stated that Babbar called her on Wednesday on her mobile phone and asked her to come to his chamber. He then threatened her that he will remove her from the job and will ruin her career. The law officer in her letter claimed that this was done in retaliation for the legal opinion she had submitted before the Commission.

She alleged that such behaviour not only violates the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, but also

amounts to abuse of power and breach of service conduct rules.

In the letter, she demanded an impartial investigation, disciplinary action and assurance of her safety. She further warned that if timely action is not taken, she will escalate the matter to the National Commission for Women, the National Commission for Minorities and other concerned Government departments.

It is noteworthy that at present, the post of Chairperson in DERC is vacant, and only two temporary members, Surender Babbar and Ram Naresh Singh, are functioning. However, during a recent hearing, the Delhi Government assured the Supreme Court that the process of appointing a Chairperson and members in DERC will be completed soon.

THE PIONEER'S CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Balbir Singh, Father of JC-473029Y Sub Brahma Prakash, R/o- Ward No.10, Beelaheri, Alwar, Rajasthan - 301702, have changed my name from Balbir Singh to Balbeer Singh, vide affidavit dated 03/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2891)C

I, Vidhya Devi, Mother of JC-473029Y Sub Brahma Prakash, R/o- Ward No.10, Beelaheri, Alwar, Rajasthan - 301702, have changed my name from Vidhya Devi to Bidya, vide affidavit dated 03/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2892)C

I, Mithlesh Devi, W/o- JC-473029Y Sub Brahma Prakash, R/o- Ward No.10, Beelaheri, Alwar, Rajasthan - 301702, have changed my name from Mithlesh Devi to Mithalesh, vide affidavit dated 03/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2893)C

I, Reena, W/o- JC-474030A N/ Sub Ajay Singh, R/o- B Block-12, Samarth Nagar, Bhind Road, Pinto Park, Dist-Gwalior, M.P. have changed my name from Reena to Reena Devi, vide affidavit dated 03/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2894)C

I, Amrit Pal Kaur W/o- Late Sarabjeet Singh, R/o- WZ-61A/18, Gali No. 11, Vashist Park, Nangal Raya, South West Delhi, Delhi- 110046, declare that in my Passport (No. M8045535), my husband's name has been written as Sarvejit Singh, whereas my husband's correct name is Sarabjeet Singh, which may be amended accordingly for all purposes.

PD(2895)C

I, No.15446878H Nk Pandya Rahul Kumar Arvindbhai, Unit- Army Hospital R&R Delhi Cantt-110010, have changed my Daughter's name in my Army service record from Pandya Prisha to Pandya Prisha Rahul Kumar, vide affidavit dt. 03/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2896)C

I, hitherto known as Vinod Gupta S/o- Lahauri Lal, R/o - D-2, Sector - 56, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201301, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vinod Kumar for all purposes.

PD(2897)C

I, Rajender Prasad, S/o LATE Balwant Singh, R/O A- 49, Gali No.- 25, Mahendra Park, Near Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033. My name wrongly written as Rajender Prasad in my 10th class marksheet. My correct name is Rajender Prasad.

PD(2898)C

I, Md. Ashraf S/o Abdul Kadir R/o 726 P-1 Gali No-20, Sultanpuri New Delhi - 110086 have changed my name to Taslim for all purposes.

PD(2899)C

I, Chandni D/o Abdul Kadir R/o 726 P-1 Gali No-20, Sultanpuri New Delhi - 110086 have changed my name to Shahna for all purposes.

PD(2900)C

I, Rhuksana D/o Abdul Kadir R/o 1-89 D, Krishan Vihar, Pooth Kalan, Sultanpuri C-Block Delhi -110086 have changed my name to Seema for all purposes.

PD(2901)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Sh. Rajgeet d/o Sh. Chandni has acquired House bearing No. 152 in Block-KU, land area measuring 84 Sq. Mtrs situated at Pitambara residential scheme, Delhi-110034, through Sale Deed dated: 27.07.2019 as docn. 11327 executed by (1) Mrs. Anil Bansal (2) Mrs. Late Bansal in favour of Mr. Devender Kumar Rathore & Mr. Narender Rathore in respect of property bearing no. 152 in Block-KU, land area measuring 84 Sq. Mtrs. thereat. Partition Deed dated: 13.08.2025 executed by Mr. Devender Kumar Rathore (first party) & Mr. Narender Rathore (second party) in respect of said property. All the details of the said property are available in the said Sale Deed and Partition Deed. Any objections or concerns regarding the said transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property of the interests of our client.

If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting: Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201381. Landline: +9112-44499711, e-mail: accounts@lvtv.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the public at large Mr. Aditya Kumar Singh had acquired Plot measuring 100 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 49, at Village Chopur, Pargana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. vide Gift Deed dt. 3.10.2024 executed by Mrs. Vibha in favour of Mr. Aditya Kumar Singh to be read with Correction Deed dt.17.05.2025. Now Mr. Aditya Kumar Singh is the undisputed owner of the said property.

OR

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. **Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi - 110024**

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

S.No.	Job No./Work Name	Amount (Rs. in Lacs)
1.	25/D(H)/DD(H)/2025-26, M/o green Belt/Green Belt (Annual Civil Maintenance work in all parks and green belt of sector-17, 18 and 19) Noida.	38.46

Which can be uploaded by date **17.09.2025 upto 5.00 PM**. Pre-Qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **18.09.2025 at 11.00 AM**.

Office Sector-39 Director (Hort.), Noida
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

NDMC clears slew of civic projects, including night bazaar at Connaught Place and India Gate

ABHINAV KUMAR JHA
New Delhi

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has approved a series of major civic and welfare initiatives in its latest council meeting, ranging from a night food *bazaar* at Connaught Place and India Gate, smart metering under the Centre's power-reforms scheme, redevelopment of schools, upgrading the drainage system and housing-improvement projects, in a comprehensive push to strengthen civic amenities and public services in the heart of the Capital.

A meeting of the council, chaired by Delhi Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, was attended by New Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Chairperson Keshav Chandra, Vice-Chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal, MLA Virender Singh Kadian and other members.

A highlight of the meeting was the in-principle approval for a night food *bazaar* at Connaught Place and India Gate. The plan proposes to station 50 to 60 food trucks between 10:30 pm and 1 am every day, offering citizens and tourists safe and vibrant spaces to enjoy food late into the night.

Chahal said the concept has been inspired by popular night markets like Indore's Sarafa Bazaar and Ahmedabad's Manek Chowk, where bustling food hubs operate after sunset. Chahal, stated that a detailed plan would be prepared for the next council meeting. This initiative seeks to boost the city's nightlife and provide diverse food options for residents and tourists.

The meeting also decided that the NDMC will observe the *Seva Parv* from September 17 to October 2 to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 75th birthday. Chahal said the programmes during this period will reflect the prime minister's lifelong commitment to service and devotion to the nation.

Addressing a press conference, Chahal said the decisions are aimed at improving the quality of life for resi-



dents, providing modern facilities to employees and enriching the visitor experience in the NDMC area.

Equally significant was the council's approval for the introduction of smart metering through an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) service provider on a design-build-finance-operate-transfer basis under the Ministry of Power's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), according to a statement issued by the civic body.

The ₹25.69 crore project will cover distribution transformers and feeder metering in the NDMC area, enabling real-time monitoring, better load management, reduced outages and improved consumer services, the statement said. On the education front, the council cleared a proposal for the redevelopment of the Navyug School at Pandara Park, including a multipurpose hall and additional classrooms, at a cost of ₹11.29 crore.

It also approved the creation of 346 smart classrooms across 45 primary NDMC and Navyug schools at a cost of ₹7.83 crore, along with the reintroduction of structured sports coaching in schools and sports grounds through the public-private partnership model.

Several major infrastructure proposals were also given a go-ahead. These include the resurfacing of more than 80 roads across divisions, including Connaught Place Inner, Middle and Outer Circles, at a cost of more than ₹85 crore, with technical guidance from the CSIR-CRRI. The council also approved the construction of a new foot overbridge at Gate Number 5 of the Delhi High Court with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) as the project manager, improvement of drainage through the desilting of the Kushak and Ring Road nullahs at a cost of ₹13.1 crore and the installation of mist-spray systems on 24 key roads to control dust and pollution at a cost of ₹15.29 crore.

In the electricity sector, the NDMC cleared a proposal to replace faulty 33-KV power transformers at several substations for ₹13.2 crore and sanctioned ₹9.29 crore for laying new LT and 11-KV cables with smart feeder pillars at Lodhi Colony to address frequent outages.

Employee welfare also figured on the agenda, with the approval of ₹7.77 crore for upgrading the Balmiki Sadan housing complex at Mandir Marg. The council further sanctioned ₹7 crore for the procurement of allopathic medicines for free distribution through NDMC hospitals and ₹31.08 crore for hiring sewer-cleaning machines with water-recycling technology.

Govt will eliminate Naxalism from India: Shah
5

LAW & JUSTICE
Amarinder case: ED to access information shared by France with IT Department
7

Forget rates, GST needs a new gait
11

Xi declares China's rejuvenation unstoppable at parade
13

Cummins vows to do 'whatever it takes' for Ashes return
15

PIONEER IN SHORT

KAVITHA QUILTS BRS, BLAMES COUSIN
 A day after her suspension from the BRS, K Kavitha resigned from the party and as MLC, accusing cousin Harish Rao of conspiring against her and the KCR family. She alleged that Harish had a secret pact with CM Revanth Reddy and funded MLAs with corrupt money from the Kaleshwaram project. Drawing a "Bahubali" analogy, she questioned Harish's loyalty. Kavitha claimed her father KCR is under pressure and warned brother KTR of betrayal. Denying plans to join another party, she said conspiracies are aimed to divide the family and damage KCR's legacy. BRS dismissed her claims as internal matters.

MP MLA ACCUSED OF BRIBERY, THREATS
 Balaghat Congress MLA Anubha Munjare has been accused by District Forest Officer Neha Srivastava of demanding bribes, issuing threats and using abusive language during a meeting on August 16, 2025. In a formal complaint, Srivastava alleged that Munjare sought "2-3 pet" (boxes) of money and threatened to have her removed from her post when she refused. The MLA also allegedly targeted other forest officers and made defamatory remarks about the IFS cadre. The Forest Department has set up a two-member inquiry panel. Munjare's aide denied the charges and accused Srivastava of misconduct. Munjare has declined to comment.

FULL REPORT ON P5

GUV CAN'T STALL PEOPLE'S WILL: SC
 In the Supreme Court hearing on the Presidential Reference regarding delays by Governors and the President in assenting to state bills, the West Bengal Government argued that the will of the legislature must not be obstructed by the executive's "whims and fancies." Senior advocate Kapil Sibal asserted that the Constitution bars Governors from acting as parallel adjudicators and emphasised urgency under Article 200. Advocates for Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh echoed this, calling indefinite delays undemocratic and unconstitutional. They insisted that Governors are bound by ministerial advice and cannot override legislative sovereignty, warning that misuse undermines federalism and representative democracy.

LYER EYES GLORY IN DULEEP TROPHY
 West Zone, led by Shardul Thakur, will face Central Zone in the Duleep Trophy semifinal with several players aiming to make a mark. Shreyas Iyer, overlooked for the Asia Cup despite strong IPL stats, will seek redemption. Yashasvi Jaiswal wants to maintain red-ball rhythm, while Thakur eyes a comeback after a dip in form.



GST reset to Good and Simple Tax

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 ■ New Delhi

The GST Council on Wednesday approved a two-tier rate structure of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, which will be implemented from September 22.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who holds the finance portfolio, said that all states were on board for the rate rationalisation, and it was a consensus-based decision.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that wide-ranging reforms approved by the GST Council will improve lives of citizens and ensure ease of doing business for all, especially small traders and businesses.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, MoS Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and Revenue Secretary Arvind Shrivastava during the 56th GST Council meeting on Wednesday

In a post on X, he said the Union government had prepared a detailed proposal for broad-based GST rate rationalisation and process reforms, aimed at ease of living for the common man and strengthening the economy.

He added, "Glad to state that the GST Council, comprising the Union and the States, has collectively agreed to the proposals submitted by the Union

Government on GST rate cuts & reforms, which will benefit the common man, farmers, MSMEs, middle-class, women and youth."

GST tax rates on common use items ranging from hair oil to corn flakes, TVs, and personal health and life insurance policies were slashed after the all-power-

ful GST Council approved a complete overhaul of the tangled goods and services tax regime.

Almost all personal use items will see rate cuts as the government looks to boost domestic spending and cushion the economic blow of the US tariffs.

Briefing reporters after a

- ROTI, INSURANCE GO TAX-FREE**
- GST Council approves GST rate overhaul, slabs cut to two: 5 per cent and 18 per cent
 - Tobacco products and cigarettes will continue to attract 28 per cent GST, plus compensation cess
 - New GST rates, except for tobacco products and cigarettes, to be effective from September 22
 - Individual life insurance, health policies to be exempt from GST
 - Motorcycles exceeding 350 cc, aircraft for personal use will attract 40 per cent GST rate
 - Special GST rate of 40 per cent to be levied on pan masala, tobacco products, cigarettes; aerated drinks containing added sugar
 - GST on all auto parts to be 18 per cent
 - GST rate on cement to come down to 18 per cent from 28 per cent; tax on three-wheelers down to 18 per cent from 28 per cent
 - GST on handicrafts, marbles, granite blocks to be 5 pc
 - GST on all TV sets at 18 pc; small cars, motorcycles up to 350 cc will be charged 18 pc
 - GST on roti, paratha will be charged nil; zero tax on life-saving drugs

and 28 per cent — to a two-rate structure — 5 and 18 per cent. A special 40 per cent slab is also proposed for a select few items such as high-end cars, tobacco and cigarettes.

The new rates for all products, except gutkha, tobacco and tobacco products and cigarettes, will be effective September 22 —

US-India trade one-sided, claims Trump

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
 ■ New Delhi

President Donald Trump has once again criticised India's trade practices, claiming the longstanding US-India economic relationship was "one-sided" for years due to "tremendous" tariffs imposed by New Delhi. Trump also defended his administration's aggressive tariff strategy, calling it necessary to level the playing field.

"We get along with India very well," Trump said, responding to a question about recent tensions. "But for many years, they were charging us some of the highest tariffs in the world. We were doing nothing in return. It was completely one-sided."

Trump pointed to the example of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, which reportedly faced import duties of up to 200 per cent in India. "They couldn't sell into India. So, what did they do? They built a plant over there. That's the only way to compete," he said. "Meanwhile, India was pouring its products into the US duty-free. That doesn't work."

Pakistan refugees get document relief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
 ■ New Delhi

In a major relief to members of minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who came to India till December 31, 2024 to escape religious persecution, will not need passport or other travel documents.

Issuing this order, Ministry of Home Affairs said, members of minority communities including Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, will be allowed to stay in the country.

According to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), which came into force last year, members of these persecuted minorities, who came to India on or before December 31, 2014, will be granted Indian citizenship.

The significant order, issued under the just-implemented Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, will come as a relief to a large number of people, especially Hindus from Pakistan, who crossed over to India after 2014 and were worried about their fate.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

Yamuna floods homes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
 ■ New Delhi

Waters from a raging Yamuna submerged homes, destroyed shop goods and disrupted traffic in several areas, throwing life out of gear for thousands of people in the national capital which affected both residential and commercial areas, as the river reached the third highest ever recorded at 207.41 meter mark on Wednesday for the fifth time since 1963.

The river earlier breached the 207-metre mark in 2023 (208.66m), 2013 (207.32m), 2010 (207.11m), and 1978 (207.49m). Incessant rainfall over the past few days has brought life to a standstill in Delhi-NCR, triggering widespread waterlogging and traffic jams.

The water from the flooded river also entered the Nigambodh Ghat, Delhi's oldest and busiest cremation ground, forcing it to halt operations and cremation bodies scheduled there are being redirected to the Panchkuian crematorium. The Geeta Colony crematorium and Wazirabad crematorium was also flooded, forcing the staff to look for dry places to carry out cremations.

Areas including Yamuna

Germany pushes trade, backs India-EU FTA

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

Signaling deepening strategic and economic ties, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl has called India a "rising economic powerhouse" and reaffirmed Germany's full support for finalising the long-delayed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union (EU).

Speaking during his official visit to Delhi in a joint press conference with EAM S Jaishankar, Wadepuhl underscored India's growing global importance as the world's most populous country, the largest democracy, and a leading technology and innovation hub.

"India has special importance in a region that is strategically crucial. Our economies have a lot to gain from expanding cooperation," Wadepuhl said. "I was in Bengaluru yesterday, and I saw firsthand what an innovative powerhouse India has become."

His remarks come amid growing global interest in India's economic rise and stand in contrast to recent comments by US President Donald Trump, who controversially referred to India as a "dead economy" while defending his decision to impose 50 per cent tariffs on



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with his German counterpart Johann Wadepuhl during a meeting, in New Delhi

INDIA SEEKS RETURN OF ARIHA

New Delhi: India on Wednesday called upon Germany to ensure early return of Indian baby girl Ariha Shah who has been living in a foster care in Berlin for nearly four years. The issue was raised by EAM Jaishankar during talks with his German counterpart Johann Wadepuhl. The German authorities had taken custody of Ariha Shah on September 23, 2021, when she was seven months old, alleging that the parents harassed her. India has been urging Germany to ensure Ariha's early return.

Indian imports. New Delhi strongly criticised those tariffs as "unjustified and unreasonable."

In contrast, Germany is pushing for greater trade

trade nation, and the EU is working hard on this. You can be assured we will push with all our arguments to make it happen."

EAM Jaishankar emphasised that the economic partnership with Germany is ready for expansion. "Three, our two-way trade last year was almost \$50 billion. Minister Wadepuhl is on record — I saw one of his interviews — where he said he was very confident we will be doubling our trade," Jaishankar noted. "Let me assure him that India fully reciprocates that sentiment and looks forward to working closely with the German Government."

Jaishankar also highlighted India's commitment to improving the ease of doing business for foreign investors. "Last year, we hosted a very successful conference in Delhi with APK — the German Industry Association. I reiterated to the Minister today that any concerns German companies may have — in entering, establishing, or operating in India — will be given special attention," he said.

Both ministers also discussed expanding cooperation in defence and security, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

Rare Odia dessert heads from jungle to Dubai

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 ■ Sambalpur

A 160-year-old sweet shop in Sambalpur, Odisha, is seeking Geographical Indication (GI) tag protection for 'Sarsatia', a rare dessert made from 'Ganjer' tree resin that the owner Prabhu Lal claims is available nowhere else in the country.

Prabhu Lal (65), known locally as Minchu kaka, represents the third generation running this legacy business established by his grandfather Beni Madhav in 1866. The unique sweet, crafted from Ganjer tree resin, raw rice powder and sugar, is fried into odd-shaped vermicelli with a distinctive crispy texture.

"The government should



Prabhu Lal preparing Sarsatia at his sweet shop in Sambalpur

give GI tag for this because you will never find this sweet anywhere except this shop," Prabhu Lal, who has received 8-9 awards for his traditional craft and has been demanding GI tag recognition for many years, told PTI.

Climate change is pushing snakes to India's north

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
 ■ New Delhi

Climate change could be creating conditions conducive for venomous snakes to shift and spread into India's north and northeast, potentially increasing risks of snakebites in regions so far considered unsuitable for the species, a study has found.

The Big Four refers to the four species of venomous snakes — common krait, Russell's viper, echis carinatus and Indian cobra — that are known to be responsible for the majority of snakebite cases among humans on the

Climate change is pushing snakes to India's north

RESEARCHERS CLAIM THAT RAJASTHAN, HARYANA AND ASSAM MIGHT SEE AN EXPANSION IN HABITAT SUITABLE FOR THE BIG FOUR SNAKES

subcontinent. Researchers from Dibru-Saikhowa Conservation Society and Assam Agricultural University, and Pukyong National University in South Korea, projected that Haryana, Rajasthan and Assam might see an expansion in habitat suitable for the Big Four snakes, due to

conditions driven by climate change — rising heat and humidity.

Increasing human-snake interactions across rural and urban areas could present new challenges for public health and medical management, the team said.

Further, under continued warming, northeast states, such as Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh — considered to currently lack a habitat conducive for snakes — also may see notable increases of over 100 per cent, the findings published in the journal PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases reveal.

CONTINUED ON >> P4



J&K residents face daunting challenge of rebuilding lives

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

After days of relentless torrential rains that battered Jammu and Kashmir, the deluge finally came to a halt late Wednesday evening, leaving behind a trail of destruction and a daunting challenge for the residents to rebuild their lives.

Amid news of death and despair, good news arrived when a 21-year-old woman gave birth to a baby boy on board the Sangaldan-Baramulla train on Wednesday, with help from railway staff and railway police. Both mother and child are safe and under medical care at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Banihal.

On the other hand, the situation is turning grim in the neighbouring State of Himachal Pradesh. Rescue teams recovered four more bodies from the debris of a landslide in Mandi district, while two persons, including an NDRF jawan, were feared dead as two houses collapsed in Kullu district,

officials said on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, another spell of heavy rain has compounded the flood situation in Punjab, which is battling its worst deluge since 1988, as all 23 districts of the state have been hit and 30 lives lost so far. 1.48 lakh hectares of land have perished in the floods.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is set to visit the flood-hit areas in the state on Thursday. The Minister will visit villages in the Amritsar, Gurdaspur, and Kapurthala districts, and interact with the affected farmers, sources said.

In Punjab, Army teams remain engaged in strengthening bunds at vulnerable locations, transporting food and fodder to isolated villages and clearing key water channels to prevent further flooding.

In the Jammu region, the Tawi and Chenab rivers, in particular, went on a rampage, flooding low-lying areas after a fresh spell of rain during the night.



Damaged remains of the 4th Tawi Bridge after rain continues to lash parts of the city in Jammu

PTI

In Jammu city, the Tawi River's fury led to the erosion of a portion of the approach road to the fourth Tawi bridge on August 26, exacerbating connectivity issues. A multi-agency effort, involving the Indian Army, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), and

local administration, was launched to reinforce embankments near the damaged bridge to prevent further flooding in vulnerable low-lying areas.

The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), a critical lifeline connecting the region to the rest of India, was blocked at multi-

ple points due to landslides triggered by the heavy rainfall. In the Kashmir division, a flood alert was issued after the Jhelum river crossed the danger mark at Sangam in Anantnag and Pampore, following two days of incessant rainfall that left at least two people dead, dozens stranded, and major highways

closed. Officials said the water level at Sangam breached the critical threshold of 25 feet, while at Pampore the river flowed above the danger mark, raising fears of flooding in several low-lying areas.

In Srinagar city, the river level at Ram Munshibagh was nearing the alert mark of 18 feet. Heavy rains have triggered flooding in the south Kashmir districts, including Pulwama, Shopian, and Kulgam. In Rajouri's Sunderbani, a woman and her daughter were killed when their house collapsed after heavy downpour.

An official said that Sita Devi, wife of Rattan Lal, and her daughter Sonia Rattan Lal were inside the house when the wall suddenly collapsed.

In a daring operation, the Border Security Force (BSF) pressed its helicopter to evacuate 45 civilians, including women and children who were trapped in their flooded village in the Akhnoor sector.

The rescue mission by the

BSF was launched after police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams failed to shift the marooned population of Fathu Kotli village in Garkhal area owing to the continuous rise in the Chenab river, which is presently flowing several feet above its evacuation level of 42 feet, the officials said. In another incident, an old house in Kali Jhani Mohalla of Pacca Danga area collapse, with three persons trapped inside the house being evacuated.

The pilgrimage remained suspended for the ninth day on Wednesday, leaving the Katra base camp deserted in the absence of devotees.

A fresh incident of a landslide was also reported en route to the 12 km-long Mata Vaishno Devi trek.

Following the incident, the accommodation of officials was also vacated as a precautionary measure in the wake of heavy rainfall and the threat of landslides.

Cabinet approves ₹1,500 crore scheme to boost critical mineral recycling

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Cabinet on Wednesday gave its go-ahead to a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme to promote recycling of critical minerals in the country.

The decision was taken during the cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The scheme aims at developing recycling capacity in the country for the separation and production of critical minerals from secondary sources.

These include e-waste, Lithium Ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and scrap other than e-waste & LIB scrap, such as catalytic converters in end-of-life vehicles. "The Union Cabinet...today approved a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme," the mines ministry said in a statement.

This scheme is part of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), which is aimed at building the domestic capacity and supply chain resilience in critical minerals.

Earlier, the Government approved a ₹16,300 crore National Critical Mineral Mission, with a total outlay of ₹34,300 crore spread over seven years, aiming to achieve self-reliance and accelerate India's journey towards green energy transition. Public sector enterprises are expected to contribute ₹18,000 crore to the mission.

Critical minerals such as copper, lithium, nickel, cobalt and rare earth elements are essential raw materials required to fuel the growth of rapidly growing clean energy technologies.

The major objectives of this mission are to increase exploration, reduce import dependence, acquire mineral blocks overseas, develop technologies for processing of critical minerals and recycle minerals.

Delhi Govt enhances financial powers of top bureaucrats for official works

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Delhi Government has revised the financial powers delegated to the Heads of Departments (HoDs) and administrative secretaries, with the authority to sanction larger sums on office equipment, refreshments and food served at official programmes, hire vehicles and for other official purposes.

The financial powers of the Delhi Government's top bureaucrats were last revised in 2019. According to a finance department memorandum, under the revised financial powers, the HoDs and administrative secretaries have also been authorised to directly procure IT-related items, carry out repairs of office buildings, maintenance and rentals, purchase equipment, hire

human resources, appoint consultants and even replace condemned official vehicles.

The financial powers of the HoDs and administrative secretaries for sanctioning various works, projects and schemes of the government remain unchanged at ₹10 crore and ₹50 crore, as were fixed in the 2019 revision, respectively.

The administrative secretaries will now have full financial powers regarding contingent expenditure, while the HoDs will have limits of ₹15 lakh (recurring) and ₹5 lakh (non-recurring expenditures).

For the purposes of hiring any kind of vehicles, the administrative secretaries will have full powers, while the HoDs will be authorised to sanction ₹5 lakh per month as well as reimburse ₹4,000 per person per month as conveyance charge.

According to the 2019 revision, the finance department's permission was needed for vehicles to be hired by the departments.

The bureaucrats will also have enhanced financial powers in the payment of legal charges. The administrative secretaries will have full powers in these matters subject to the law department's rules and rates.

The administrative secretaries have been given full financial powers for the purchase, repair, hire and condemnation of furniture and fixtures in offices, while a limit of ₹10 lakh per annum has been put in case of the HoDs.

Although the bureaucrats cannot purchase new official vehicles, the administrative secretaries have been delegated the financial power for the replacement of vehicles against condemna-

tion, according to the net dealer price prescribed by the Staff Car rules, the memorandum said.

For the purposes of minor repairs and day-to-day maintenance of Government buildings, the administrative secretaries have been empowered with sanctioning ₹20 lakh and the HoDs ₹10 lakh per annum.

The administrative secretaries will also be able to hire consultants, consultancy services and professionals now.

For the purchase of stationary stores, the administrative secretaries will have full financial powers, whereas the HoDs will have a cap of Rs 50 lakh per year.

Both the administrative secretaries and HoDs will have full financial powers in the purchase of all office equipment and other services, including IT-related goods and services.

Youths must protect India's cultural values, says CM Rekha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday urged the youth to play a proactive role in safeguarding India's cultural values, calling them the 'warriors of nation and culture.'

Speaking at the Content Creators' Summit organised by ISKCON, Gupta said it was the duty of every young citizen to raise their voice whenever civilisational or cultural values were being undermined, a statement from her office said.

"As followers of Lord Krishna, we must show the courage to call out wrongs, no matter how powerful the wrongdoer may be. If each of us contributes, even in small ways, change is inevitable," she said.

The summit focused on Indian culture, tourism, and



wellness, and was attended by Union Environment Minister Bhopender Yadav as the chief guest. Delhi's Tourism and Culture Minister Kapil Mishra also addressed the gathering.

Gupta said, "It is not acceptable that someone points fingers at our country and we remain silent. The time has come to respond."

She said even battles fought on mobile phones and computers were as important as those fought on borders.

Mishra said bringing together influential youth voices that resonate across the world is the need of the hour.

ISKCON said it will hold a youth event in Delhi on October 12.

Delhi Police bust interstate, cross-border syndicate trafficking stolen mobile phones

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Delhi Police has busted an organised syndicate engaged in the trafficking of stolen and snatched mobile phones to neighbouring countries and arrested three of its active members, including the alleged kingpin.

Police have arrested Motaahar Shekh (33), his brother Abdul Shamim (22), natives of Malda in West Bengal, and their associate Mohammad Gulu Shekh (33).

"Acting on a tip-off on Tuesday evening, a team of Special Task Force laid a trap

near Waste to Wonder Park at Sarai Kale Khan and intercepted the trio around 7.15 pm when they were moving suspiciously," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Hemant Tiwari said.

The officer further said that on searching them, the police recovered three country-made pistols with six live cartridges and three bags containing 228 expensive mobile phones.

Preliminary interrogation revealed that Motaahar was the main handler and kingpin of the racket. He, along with his associates,

procured stolen and snatched mobile phones from street criminals across Delhi at throwaway prices. The gang then routed the devices through carriers and middlemen to Nepal and Bangladesh, where they fetched high profits.

"This syndicate was fuelling street crime in the city by creating demand for stolen phones and simultaneously running an illegal cross-border trade. With their arrest, a major interstate and international racket has been unearthed," the DCP said. Police said the accused are natives of Malda

in West Bengal, which has emerged as a hub for smuggling of stolen devices to neighbouring countries.

Their network spanned across multiple states, and further investigation is underway to trace local suppliers and international receivers of the consignment. The recovery of arms and ammunition also indicates that the group was operating with a high level of preparedness to resist police action.

A senior police officer said the stolen mobile phone racket has taken a sharp

THEIR NETWORK SPANNED ACROSS MULTIPLE STATES, AND INVESTIGATION IS UNDERWAY TO TRACE LOCAL SUPPLIERS AND INTERNATIONAL RECEIVERS OF THE CONSIGNMENT

cross-border turn due to a government tool meant to protect consumers — the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) — which is inadvertently fuelling a

smuggling pipeline that dispatches thousands of snatched handsets to Nepal and Bangladesh.

Delhi Police have recorded over 20 arrests in 2025 so far, unearthing networks that collect stolen phones from across the capital and ship them through couriers, buses, and border routes in Bihar and West Bengal.

"The surge is directly tied to CEIR, which makes handsets unusable on Indian telecom networks once blocked. The system leaves thieves with no viable resale market inside the country and pushes them into cross-

border smuggling syndicates," said a police officer, who requested anonymity.

The officer said that while CEIR has significantly reduced street-level resale of stolen devices in Delhi, it has unintentionally created strong incentives for organised gangs to look abroad.

"Earlier, a stolen phone would circulate in grey markets of Gaffar or Nehru Place. Now, once the IMEI is blocked, it is nothing but dead weight here. The only way to monetise it is to move it to a jurisdiction where India's blacklist does not apply. Our teams are also

working round the clock to trace such smugglers and to arrest them," the officer explained. Recently, the Delhi Police had arrested eight men linked to a south Delhi module accused of

smuggling phones into Bangladesh. Investigators said the syndicate operated like a supply chain: thieves handed over devices to local receivers, who consolidated consignments within hours, and couriers then rushed them to border states. Police seized 294 handsets worth nearly ₹50 lakh, describing it as one of the largest hauls this year.

FROM PAGE - 1

Rare Odia dessert heads from jungle to Dubai

The stems are cleaned and soaked for 12-15 hours to extract juice, which is then mixed with rice flour and sugar.

The family has deliberately maintained exclusivity over the recipe, refusing to share knowledge with outsiders. "We don't want to teach others because the more it is prepared by others, its taste will get impacted and demand also. Sarsatiya's name will be spoiled," explains Prabhu Lal.

This protective approach reflects broader concerns about traditional knowledge preservation in India's artisanal food sector. The use of Ganjer tree resin, referenced in Ayurvedic texts, adds medicinal properties to the dessert, positioning it as both an indulgence and a wellness product.

Despite losing three of his four brothers, Prabhu Lal remains optimistic about business continuity. His son and grandson are prepared to continue the tradition, ensuring fourth-generation succession.

"Our family members have continued with this traditional sweet-making and will do so in future," he says, emphasising long-term sustainability of the craft.

The GI tag demand has caught political attention. Sambalpur MP and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has said that he will look into the demand and asked the local collector to examine the matter, signaling potential government support for the initiative.

The GI tag demand comes at a time when traditional food businesses across India are seeking official recognition to protect against imitation and preserve cultural heritage.

If successful, Sarsatiya will join other Odisha specialities that have received geo-

graphical indication status, potentially boosting tourism and economic value for the Sambalpur region.

Pakistan refugees get document relief

"A person belonging to a minority community in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan — Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians — who were compelled to seek shelter in India due to religious persecution or fear of religious persecution and entered the country on or before December 31, 2024 without valid documents, including a passport or other travel documents, or with valid documents, including a passport or other travel documents, and the validity of such documents have expired" will be exempted from the rule of possessing a valid passport and visa, according to an order issued by the Home Ministry.

The move aims to uphold India's humanitarian tradition of sheltering persecuted minorities and reflects the government's view that these individuals should not be punished for their inability to secure formal papers in hostile environments.

This exemption ensures that those fleeing religious violence are offered safety and dignity without the bureaucratic hurdles of documentation that they could never acquire, sources said.

GST reset to Good and Simple Tax

While daily use food items will continue to attract nil tax rate, common use food and beverages ranging from butter and ghee to dry nuts, condensed milk, sausages and meat, sugar boiled confectionery, jam and fruit jellies, tender

coconut water, namkeen, drinking water packed in 20-litre bottles, fruit pulp or fruit juice, beverages containing milk, ice cream, pastry and biscuits, corn flakes and cereals, and sugar confectionery are likely to see a cut in tax rate to 5 per cent from the current 18 per cent.

Consumer goods such as tooth powder, feeding bottles, tableware, kitchenware, umbrellas, utensils, bicycles, bamboo furniture and combs will see rate cut from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. The rates on shampoo, talcum powder, toothpaste, toothbrushes, face powder, soap and hair oil has been cut down to 5 per cent from 18 per cent.

Cement will cost less with the tax rate coming down from 28 per cent to 18 per cent. Petrol, LPG and CNG vehicles of less than 1,200 cc and not more than 4,000 mm length and diesel vehicles of up to 1,500 cc and 4,000 mm length, too, would move to 18 per cent rate from 28 per cent.

All cars larger than 1,200 cc for petrol and 1,500 cc for diesel will be charged at 40 pc, she said. Motorcycles up to 350 cc, consumer electronics like air-conditioners, dishwashers, and TVs, too, will be taxed at lower GST of 18 per cent as against 28 per cent currently.

All automobiles above 1,200 cc and longer than 4,000 mm as well as motorcycles above 350 cc, yachts and aircrafts for personal use, and racing cars will be attract a 40 per cent levy.

EVs will continue to be charged at 5 per cent GST. The move to simplify the tax regime — first announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech — comes as India's exports to the US face a 50 per cent tariff — the highest in the world.

The Indian economy is heavily reliant on consumption with private consumption accounting for 61.4 per cent of the nominal GDP last fiscal.

second year of its implementation, effectively neutralising the full impact of the US tariff, economists said.

Tobacco, gutkha, tobacco products and cigarettes will continue to be charged at current 28 per cent plus a compensation cess till such time that loans taken to pay states for revenue loss is fully paid back, Sitharaman added.

Modi noted that he had spoken about his government's intention to bring the next-generation reforms in GST during his Independence Day speech.

The rationalisation is expected to bring relief to people, with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying that individual life insurance and health policies will be exempt from GST.

Climate change is pushing snakes...

Cases in India are among the highest in the world. Snakebite is among other neglected tropical diseases, such as dengue and malaria, which are expanding in geographic reach due to climate change, breaching regions traditionally seen to register low cases of the diseases.

The researchers used models depicting the current and future geographic reach of the Big Four snakes under varied climate scenarios in the future. Regional socioeconomic and public health data were also used to develop a snakebite risk index for Indian districts and states over the next 50 years.

"The risk index identified several southern Indian states and districts, such as Karnataka (including Chikkaballapura, Haveri, and Chitradurga) and Gujarat (Devbhumi Dwarka and Jamnagar), as having high vulnerability to snakebite," the authors wrote.

"Additionally, under climate change scenar-

ios, many northern and northeastern states and districts, including Assam (Nagaon, Morigaon, and Golaghat), Manipur (Tengnoupal), and Rajasthan (Pratapgarh), have experienced an increased risk of snakebite, presenting a significant public health concern in these regions," they said.

The study is the first to combine climate patterns and geographic spread of species with socioeconomic vulnerability and healthcare capacity, with results showing that "climate change is not just an environmental crisis but it is also a looming public health crisis," the team said.

Local governments and international communities must intensify efforts to counter climate change and protect vulnerable regions from Big Four envenomation, the authors said.

Germany pushes trade, backs India-EU FTA

Both ministers also discussed expanding cooperation in defence and security, particularly in the Indo-Pacific region.

With rising concerns over China's assertive behaviour, Wadepul stressed the importance of preserving a rules-based order and maritime freedom — goals both countries are aligned on.

As global economic and geopolitical dynamics continue to shift, India and Germany appear poised to elevate their partnership — with trade, innovation, and strategic alignment at the heart of their renewed engagement.

India and Germany recently celebrated 50 years of scientific collaboration. Building on this milestone, both countries are now focused on deepening that partnership and forging stronger links between science and industry. Our ongoing dialogues in cyber and digital domains are also key areas of strategic importance.

Chandigarh extends closure of schools due to heavy rain



Chandigarh authorities on Wednesday extended the closure of all schools till September 7 due to incessant rain. "In view of the prevailing inclement weather condition in the region, all schools in UT Chandigarh shall remain closed till September 7," an official statement said.

Mizoram Governor flags off Bharat Darshan tour for Students

Mizoram Governor Vijay Kumar Singh on Wednesday flagged off 100 students to embark on Bharat Darshan tour to national capital New Delhi, Raj Bhavan sources said. The event is organised under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and facilitated by the Border Security Force (BSF). Speaking on the occasion, Singh expressed gratitude to the Central Government, the MHA and the BSF for initiating the tour programme to educate the students.



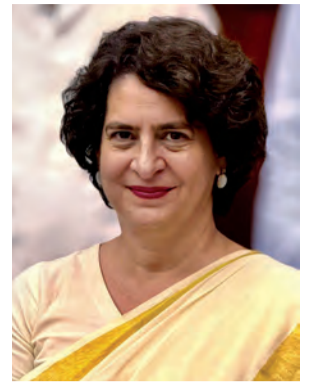
CM Fadnavis to meet OBC protesters in Nagpur



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will on Thursday meet the protesters in Nagpur taking part in a chain hunger strike over the apprehension that Marathas would be given reservation under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category, a local BJP leader said.

Wayanad to get Govt medical college; Priyanka welcomes move

Congress leader and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday welcomed the approval for a Government medical college in Wayanad, calling it a long-cherished dream that has come true. The National Medical Commission (NMC) granted clearance on Tuesday for two new government medical colleges in Kerala, located in the Wayanad and Kasaragod districts.



Govt will eliminate Naxalism from India: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the Modi Government will not rest until all Naxals either surrender, are caught, or are eliminated.

Felicitating the CRPF, Chhattisgarh Police, District Reserve Guard (DRG), and CoBRA jawans who successfully carried out 'Operation Black Forest' on Karregutta hill in Chhattisgarh, Shah said the Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is committed to making India Naxal-free.

"The Modi Government will not rest until all the Naxalites either surrender, are caught or eliminated," he said. Shah said the bravery and valour displayed by the jawans during Operation Black Forest will be remembered as a golden chapter in the history of anti-Naxal operations.

Despite the heat, altitude, and threat of IEDs at every step, security forces carried out the operation with high



Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a felicitation ceremony for CRPF, Chhattisgarh Police, DRG and Cobra personnel following Operation Black Forest in New Delhi

morale and successfully destroyed a major Naxal base camp, he said.

The material dump and supply chain of the Naxals established on Karregutta hill were valorously destroyed by personnel from the Chhattisgarh Police, CRPF, DRG and CoBRA, he added.

The Home Minister said Naxals have inflicted severe

damage on some of the country's least developed regions, disrupting schools, hospitals, and obstructing Government welfare schemes.

Due to continued anti-Naxal operations, there has been a "new sunrise" in the lives of 6.5 crore people across the region stretching from Pashupatinath to

Tirupati, he said. Shah also said the Modi Government is taking all necessary steps to support security personnel who have suffered serious injuries during anti-Naxal operations, ensuring their lives are made easier.

The Government is committed to eliminating Naxalism from the country by March 31, 2026, he added.

20 NAXALITES SURRENDER IN CHHATTISGARH

Sukma: As many as 20 Naxalites, 11 of them carrying a collective bounty of ₹33 lakh, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Wednesday, police said. Out of the 20 Naxalites, nine are women, including a hardcore cadre of the Peoples' Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) battalion number 1, which was considered as the strongest military formation of Maoists, an official said.

They turned themselves in before senior police and CRPF officials here citing disappointment with "hollow" Maoist ideology, atrocities committed by cadres on innocent tribals and growing internal differences within the banned outfit, Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan said. Those who surrendered were also impressed by the 'Niyad Nellanar' (your good village) scheme of the state government, aimed at facilitating development works in remote villages and the new surrender and rehabilitation policy, he said. Sharmila alias Uika Bhime (25), member of the PLGA battalion number 1 of Maoists, and Tati Kosi alias Parmila (20), member under west Bastar division of Maoists, carried a reward of ₹8 lakh each, the official said. Another cadre Muchaki Hidma (54), an area committee member, carried a reward of ₹5 lakh. Four other cadres carried a bounty of ₹4 lakh each and as many other carried a reward of ₹1 lakh each, he said.

All Naxalites who surrendered were provided an assistance of ₹50,000 each and will be further rehabilitated as per the Government's policy, he added.

Chavan appealed to all those associated with the outlawed Maoist organisation to give up violence, assuring them security and a respectable life.

They will be provided education, employment, a self-reliant life and facilities under the rehabilitation plan, he said. "Give up arms and embrace happiness of the society and family. Your step today will create a new path for the coming generations," the SP added.

BSF launches drone warfare school to train troops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

The BSF, which guards India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh, is training special units of "drone commandos" and "drone warriors" for modern warfare involving remote-controlled aerial platforms, with plans to deploy them in missions such as Operation Sindoor.

A 'School of Drone Warfare' was inaugurated by Border Security Force (BSF) director general Daljit Singh Chawdhary at the officers' training academy of the force in Tekanpur, Madhya Pradesh, on Tuesday.

PTI had reported in July that the about 2.65 lakh personnel strong force was raising its maiden "drone squadron" following the lessons learnt after Operation Sindoor.

"The School of Drone Warfare will provide special training to the border guarding troops of the force in combating modern strategic challenges," a force

spokesperson said.

"The institute will prepare drone commandos and drone warriors through five special courses that include unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) operations, anti-drone warfare and surveillance and intelligence gathering," he said.

The school has simulators and live drone flying zones, facilities for payload integration in the UAVs and night operations, tools for radio frequency (RF) jammers and kinetic interceptors, apart from linked hardware and Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools.

The BSF DG, after the inauguration of the school, addressed the trainee officers and spoke about the ongoing three-year-long Russia-Ukraine war, where drones have played an important role apart from some other battles and the strategic takeaways from Operation Sindoor conducted by India against Pakistan in response to the Pahalgal terrorist attack, a senior officer said.

Centre tightens rules on scribes for PwDs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

The Centre has tightened the rules on the use of scribes in competitive examinations for persons with disabilities (PwDs), making it mandatory for examining bodies to prepare their own vetted scribe pools within two years and phasing out the widely used "own scribe" system flagged for malpractice.

The revised guidelines, issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, aim to ensure fairness, transparency, and integrity in exams while aligning them with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, and the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

The comprehensive framework is applicable to all competitive written public examinations linked to jobs and admissions in professional and technical courses. It incorporates directives of the Supreme Court and aligns with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.

The guidelines emphasise that candidates should be encouraged to attempt exams independently with the help of assistive technologies such as software-enabled laptops, Braille, large print, recording devices, screen readers like JAWS and NVDA, or speech-to-text software. The ministry said this approach will reduce reliance on scribes while preparing candidates for independent functioning in workplaces and professional courses.

One of the most notable changes is the phasing out of privately arranged scribes, which examining bodies flagged as a source of malpractice in the past.

"Significant inputs have been received from responsible bodies like UPSC, DoPT, NRA, etc, expressing concern over the credibility and transparency of the exams being undertaken by the PwDs by using a scribe, in general. In particular, the provision of 'Own Scribe' has been identified as a significant vulnerability in maintaining the integrity and fairness of the

THE REVISED GUIDELINES, ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT, AIM TO ENSURE FAIRNESS, TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY IN EXAMS

examination process," the guidelines said.

Instances of malpractice, including collusion between candidates and their privately arranged scribes, have been observed by various examining bodies, where scribes wrote answers independently without adequate dictation, thereby undermining the examination's credibility, it said.

All agencies, including UPSC, SSC, and the National Testing Agency, must create their own pools of trained and supervised scribes within two years. Candidates will be allowed to bring their own scribes only in exceptional cases until then.

"The 'own scribe' provision may be allowed, as a last resort, until the 'pool of scribes' is ready for applicants who do not opt for the use of technology, or until the lapse of two years, as specified above, whichever is earlier," the guidelines said.

The eligibility of scribes has also been tightened. Their qualification must typically be two to three academic years below the minimum required for the exam. They cannot be candidates for the same examination and must not have conflicts of interest.

Candidates with functional limitations in writing will receive compensatory time of at least 20 minutes per hour, regardless of whether they use a scribe.

Exam centres must be fully accessible with ramps, lifts, audio announcements, wide corridors and ground-floor seating.

Special provisions such as quieter rooms will be arranged for neurodiverse candidates and those with chronic health conditions.

The guidelines mandate grievance redressal systems for PwD candidates, training of exam staff in disability etiquette, and annual sensitisation programmes for invigilators.

Rahul urges PM Modi to announce relief package for flood-hit States

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

In the wake of devastation due to floods, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to immediately announce a special relief package for Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, as well as accelerate relief and rescue operations.

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said, "Modiji, floods have caused massive destruction in Punjab. The situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is also extremely worrying."

"In such difficult times, your attention and the active help of the Central Government is extremely necessary. Thousands of families are struggling to save their homes, lives and loved ones," Rahul Gandhi said in a social media post in Hindi.

"I urge that a special relief package be announced immediately for these states, especially for farmers - and relief and rescue operations be accelerated," the former Congress chief said.

He also issued a video statement reiterating his demand of a special package for the flood-affected States.



"It is saddening to see people struggle to save their families. Modi ji it is the responsibility of the government to protect people. Immediately prepare a special relief package for the protection of these people," Gandhi said in his video message.

Unrelenting rains piled misery on north India, reeling under serial cloudbursts and floods for the past few weeks, as swollen rivers inundated the plains, crippled rails and road traffic and forced school closures.

The situation in Punjab, battling its worst floods since 1988, remained precarious as the Sutlej, Beas and Ravi rivers and seasonal rivulets remained swollen due to heavy rains in their upstream. Twelve districts have been hit by the floods that have already claimed 29

lives, besides impacting more than 2.56 lakh people. Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand faced another rainy day on Tuesday with various regions lashed by heavy showers.

Two women died in the hill state of Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday as heavy rains continued to trigger landslides and flash floods, closing over 1,000 roads. An orange alert, warning of heavy rains, has been issued for Kangra, Mandi, Sirmour and Kinnaur districts.

In Shimla, all government and private educational institutes, including coaching centres and nursing institutes, have been ordered to remain shut. The state capital has been experiencing continuous rainfall for the last few days, and there was a high possibility of landslides at several locations.

BOLLYWOOD STARS EXTEND SUPPORT TO PUNJAB

New Delhi: Shah Rukh Khan, Karan Johar, Alia Bhatt and Ranveer Singh have extended their support to the people of flood-hit Punjab, urging fans, followers and others to join relief efforts.

Punjab is witnessing one of the worst floods in decades, caused by the swollen Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers and seasonal rivulets due to heavy rain in their catchment areas in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Many places have been affected by the floods, causing huge devastation in the state.

The deluge has claimed 30 lives and affected more than 3.5 lakh people, as per a bulletin issued by the state authorities on the situation from August 1 to September 2.

In a post on X, Shah Rukh said he was sending prayers and strength to the people of Punjab. "My heart goes out to those in Punjab impacted by these devastating floods. Sending prayers and strength. The spirit of Punjab shall never break. May God bless them all," the 59-year-old actor wrote in the post.

"It's been a tough time



NDRF personnel preparing to patrol a flooded area, at Gaggo Mahal village, near Amritsar

for our friends & family in Punjab with the brutality of the floods. Sending my prayers and strength to overcome this adversity. Please do your part in any way possible and share only verified information," Johar shared in his Instagram stories. Bhatt said her heart goes out to everyone affected by the floods in Punjab. "Sending love, strength, and prayers to all those impacted, and gratitude to the people working tirelessly on ground to help my every family find the support they need to heal and rebuild," she added.

Hooda, who is helping people on ground in

Gurdaspur district, said, "The water had come down and has gone up again today. The damage is heartbreaking. I am here to help on ground, to create more awareness," he told India Today, adding that he has been helping out through the organisation Global Sikhs. The actor said while there is a lot of help on ground more is needed and the real work will begin once the water level goes down as many have lost houses, crops and live stock.

Sonu Sood shared a video on his X handle on Wednesday, assuring people in need can reach out to the actor and he will do his best to provide the support.

Congress MLA accused of intimidation, bribery

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

Balaghat Congress MLA Anubha Munjare has been accused of intimidation, threats and bribery by District Forest Officer (DFO) Neha Srivastava, who in a formal complaint to senior authorities alleged that the legislator demanded illegal gratification and abused her when she refused.

The allegations have stirred controversy in political and administrative circles, prompting the Forest Department to set up a two-member inquiry committee, which has been directed to submit its findings within 15 days.

In her detailed letter dated August 18, 2025, Srivastava wrote that on August 16, a public holiday, she was called to the Forest Rest House in Balaghat at around 4 pm by MLA Munjare. She claimed that in the presence of person-

al staff, security personnel and another woman, the MLA directly demanded "two to three peti" (boxes) of money.

When Srivastava declined, saying such demands were impermissible, the MLA allegedly became hostile, used derogatory language, and threatened to "take care of her" by ensuring her removal from the district.

Srivastava further alleged that the MLA extended these threats to all divisional forest officers of Balaghat district, declaring that none would be allowed to con-

tinue in their postings if they resisted. According to the complaint, Munjare even warned of launching a hunger strike and protest at Bhopal headquarters to force the administration to accept her demands.

The DFO also wrote that her division does not fall under Munjare's constituency, but she attended the meeting out of courtesy, believing it to concern official matters. Instead, she said, her presence was misused for intimidation and coercion.

The letter also alleged that the MLA repeated abusive remarks outside the rest house, in front of departmental staff, and made sweeping defamatory statements against all IFS officers of Balaghat.

Srivastava added that Munjare's personal assistant, who is also her nephew, behaved abusively when she asked him to

maintain decorum. She described the incident as a grave attempt at intimidation, coercion and obstruction of lawful functioning, and requested urgent intervention to safeguard her dignity and security.

Reacting to the charges, the MLA's private assistant, Abu Shah, dismissed them as false.

He accused Srivastava and her husband, also a DFO posted in southern Balaghat, of habitual intoxication and blamed their negligence for a tiger's death in the area, for which junior staff were unfairly targeted. He insisted no demand for money was ever made and said legal action for defamation would follow.

When contacted by the correspondent, MLA Anubha Munjare declined to comment on the allegations.

Bengal BJP happy with Centre extending date of citizenship laws

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

There was celebration in the Bengal BJP camp following reports that the Central Government had eased the stay-norms for the persecuted minority communities — in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh etc — who had crossed over to India to evade religious persecution.

Henceforward, those who came to India on or before December 31, 2024, would be allowed to stay in the country without passport or other travel documents.

Informing about the decision taken by the Home Ministry, Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said that this measure would bring a big relief to thousands of the

persecuted members from the Hindu, Sikh and other communities who had crossed over to India — particularly after the change of power in Bangladesh last year — but were worried about their political fate.

The Centre's decision was an improvement on the provisions mentioned in the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and was more pragmatic and realistic keeping in view the recent political developments in the eastern neighbouring country, Majumdar said.

The CAA, which came into force earlier, stipulated that the persecuted minorities who came to India on or before December 31, 2014, would be granted Indian citizenship.

States Focus



NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO SAVE BJP IN UP IN 2027: AKHILESH

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday accused the BJP of failing to deliver on its election promises and said removing it from power in Uttar Pradesh is essential to end injustice against the people. "The BJP has lost the trust of the people. No one believes them anymore. In 2027, no one will be able to save the BJP Government," the former chief minister said while addressing party leaders and workers from various districts at the SP headquarters. Yadav, according to a party statement, accused the BJP Government of misusing power, suppressing the Constitution and failing on key fronts like employment, education and healthcare. "Under the BJP Government, innocents are being framed in false cases. The Constitution is being toyed with. Inflation, unemployment and corruption are at their peak, and the administration is being misused," he alleged. Akhilesh Yadav claimed that education and health systems have been destroyed.

Developed UP can be achieved through right vision: CM Yogi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday launched the 'Samarth Uttar Pradesh - Viksit Uttar Pradesh at 2047' campaign, urging citizens to shape the State's future through vision, participation and collective resolve. "India and Uttar Pradesh's future will be what we decide today. We need to prepare our youth, because our mindset determines our direction," he said addressing a workshop held in Lok Bhavan auditorium to prepare the 'Vision Document 2047' for the State. According to the statement, Planning Department Principal Secretary Alok Kumar outlined the framework of the campaign is built around three core themes - Arth Shakti (economic power), Srijan Shakti



Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath during the 'SAMANVAY' program organised by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur

(creative power) and Jeevan Shakti (life force). Describing the exercise as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Viksit Bharat" vision, Adityanath said, "We want 25 crore

people of the State to become partners in this effort. Your guidance will inspire our youth." He recalled India's historic economic strength, noting that "In the 16th-17th

century, India held 25 per cent of global GDP and by 1947, it fell to two per cent. In 2014, India was the 11th largest economy and today we are fourth and will become third by 2027."

UPSC proposes to establish centre of excellence

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) proposes to establish a centre of excellence as a repository of best practices of UPSC and various State Public Service Commissions (PSCs), as part of its upcoming centenary year celebrations, its chairman Ajay Kumar said on Wednesday. He said that the idea of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) will serve as a knowledge hub of standard operating procedures (SOPs), innovations and key takeaways from UPSC and State PSCs. Kumar emphasised that while UPSC would take the lead in setting up a CoE, the active contribution of State PSCs in knowledge-sharing and best practices will be crucial. He also invited inputs and suggestions from all the chairpersons of the PSCs for the proposed CoE.

The CoE, Kumar added, will not only benefit UPSC and State PSCs but also assist other national recruitment bodies in strengthening their examination and selection processes. His announcement on the new initiative came while chairing a meeting with chairpersons and members of State PSCs, in the presence of UPSC members Dinesh Das and Anuradha Prasad. The meeting was organised via video conference to seek participation and cooperation of State PSCs for UPSC's centenary year celebrations from October 1, 2025 to October 1, 2026. Highlighting the shared vision of recruiting efficient, impartial and competent civil servants, he recalled the unique robust character of India's recruitment system, under which lakhs of talented youth have been selected over decades to serve the nation through both UPSC and State PSCs.

Kashmir's silence on Geelani's anniversary a rejection of separatist politics



AHMED WANI

On 1st September 2025, during Syed Ali Shah Geelani's fourth death anniversary, Kashmir has spoken in silence. No protests. No shutdowns. No stone pelting. No violence and just a normal life at schools, shops and markets open, public transport bustling and people going about their daily routines. This silence is historic, a stark departure from the decades of unrest that once defined the Valley in response to Geelani's calls for strikes and resistance. Where are those who once congratulated Kashmiris for paralyzing their own homeland with shutdowns?

Where are the voices that glorified chaos as "resistance"? They are silent because their script has ended. The absence of disruption is not emptiness - it is clarity, a resounding rejection of separatist politics that long held Kashmir hostage. For years, separatist leaders, wielding Geelani's image as their banner, built wealth and power while ordinary Kashmiris paid the price in blood, lost opportunities and shattered dreams. Geelani, a towering figure in the Kashmiri separatist movement, was portrayed as the unyielding champion of azadi (freedom), advocating for Kashmir's merger with Pakistan. Yet, his own words tell a different story, revealing contradictions that unravel the myth of his movement. He described Pakistan's role as merely "moral, political, diplomatic," insisted Kashmiris were not enemies of Indians, and dismissed Indo-Pak talks as delaying tactics. Despite these nuanced statements, separatists twisted his image into a

permanent tool of unrest, weaponising his name to fuel a cycle of strikes, violence and boycotts that suffocated the Valley's economy and future. Geelani's legacy is a paradox, a blend of ideological conviction and strategic manipulation. Born in 1929 in Zurimanz, in the Alosa tehsil, in the Bandipora district of North Kashmir to a poor family, he rose from a schoolteacher to a three-time MLA from Sopore, serving over 18 years under India's Constitution - a system he later urged Kashmiris to reject. He thrived in Indian democracy, winning elections in 1972, 1977 and 1987, taking oaths of allegiance to the very Constitution he denounced as a betrayal of Kashmiri aspirations. This double standard - participation for leaders, boycott for the masses - became a hallmark of his movement. While he called for election boycotts, recent polls in Kashmir saw a 65 per cent voter turnout, the highest in 25 years, signaling a growing embrace of

democratic processes over separatist rhetoric. His calls for hartals (strikes) crippled livelihoods, shuttering schools and businesses, yet his own family enjoyed privileges - sons trained as doctors, daughters employed abroad and grandchildren educated in elite Indian schools. This hypocrisy fueled accusations that Geelani and his allies demanded sacrifices from ordinary Kashmiris while securing personal comfort. By 2020, Geelani himself exposed the rot within his own camp. In a dramatic resignation from the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), he accused its leaders of corruption, nepotism and misusing his name for personal gain. The architect of the separatist movement had lost faith in the very "struggle" he had built, revealing its fragility and opportunism. If Geelani himself acknowledged the betrayal within his ranks, what does that say about the so-called fight for azadi? It lays bare a harsh truth: the

movement was less about liberation and more about control, with separatist leaders acting as brokers of instability, exploiting Pakistan's support to serve their own interests while ordinary Kashmiris bore the cost. The narrative of "resistance" peddled by separatists was, in reality, manipulation. Pakistan's role in Kashmir, far from being merely diplomatic, has been linked to funding militancy, with allegations of Geelani receiving ₹7,00,000 monthly from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) via his cousin Ghulam Nabi Fai, a US-based lobbyist convicted in 2011. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) probed Geelani for terror funding, fining him ₹14.4 lakh for foreign exchange violations. His politics, tied to Jamaat-e-Islami and later the APHC, were accused of radicalising youth and fueling violence that claimed over 100,000 lives, including the 1990 Kashmiri Pandit exodus. Critics like Omar Abdullah argue that

Geelani's calls for militancy and strikes led to economic stagnation and eroded the Valley's pluralistic Sufi traditions, replacing them with a rigid Islamist ideology that stifled dissent and women's rights. The stories of ordinary Kashmiris reflect the human toll of this manipulation. Javiad from Central Kashmir recalls the "dark days" of hartals, when he walked from Budgam to Srinagar to buy baby food for his son during a Geelani-led shutdown. The silence on 1 September 2025 is not just an absence of protest - it is a powerful statement. This shift is not imposed by India, as some pro-Geelani voices claim, but embraced by a population weary of being pawns in a geopolitical game. Pakistan's failure to script Kashmir's destiny is evident in this quiet rejection of its proxies. The high voter turnout, the bustling streets and the absence of violence signal a new chapter, one where Kashmiris are reclaiming their agency from the grip of separatist politics.

Tale of two sisters: The fall of Sharmila and Kavitha amid family feud

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Hyderabad

Barely three months after she described her father, BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR), as the "God" surrounded by "demons," the party suspended K Kavitha for alleged anti-party activities, prompting her to quit the organisation. The Telangana women leader's case is com-

parable to that of YS Sharmila, sister of former Andhra Pradesh CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and chief of YSRCP who revolted against her brother following property disputes. She later floated her own party in Telangana (YSRTP), but could not sustain and merged it with the Congress. She went on to become APCC president. Reacting to the Congress



(L-R) K Kavitha and YS Sharmila

Government announcing a CBI probe into the alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram project, built during the previous BRS regime, Kavitha on

September 1 said some who are close to KCR have benefited in many ways by making use of his name and he was getting defamed because of their "misdeeds". She had alleged that cousins Harish Rao and Santosh Kumar were responsible for KCR getting the taint of corruption in the Kaleshwaram irrigation project issue. Through her critical comments about her brother Jagan, Sharmila provided much-needed ammunition to the opposition during last year's general and Assembly polls, which saw the YSRCP suffer a rout. Though Congress under her leadership in AP could not

win any seats, her campaign considerably damaged Reddy's reputation giving an edge to the TDP-led NDA. Though Kavitha did not attack her brother and BRS Working President KT Rama Rao directly, she blamed him for not appropriately responding when a malicious campaign was unleashed against her on social media by some party sympathisers. Though Kavitha did not reveal her plan of action, the focus of her comments was clearly against the BRS and its leaders. Senior journalist and political analyst Telakapalli Ravi said Kavitha's exit from BRS would certainly be an inconvenient and negative factor for the party though she may not be a game changer.



CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated a newly constructed building and also unveiled a bust of Hira Ben, mother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the new building of Geeta Ashram in Hojai, Assam

MY MONEY SECURITIES LIMITED
CIN : L67120DL1992PLC047890
Regd. Office : 10-A, UNDER HILLANE, CIVIL LINES, DELHI-110054
Contact No. : 011-47087455, 011-47087300, E-mail id : mymoneyviews@outlook.com

Information regarding 34th Annual General Meeting of My Money Securities Limited
Notice is hereby given that the 34th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") and/or Audio Visual means ("AVM") on Sunday 28th September, 2025 at 12:00 PM to transact the business set out in the notice convening the said AGM.

The 34th AGM will be held in compliance with the MCA General Circular No. 14/2020 dated 08 April 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated 13 April 2020, Circular No. 20/2020 dated 05 May 2020, Circular No. 02/2021 dated 13 January 2021, Circular No. 19/2021 dated 08 December 2021, Circular No. 21/2021 dated 14 December 2021, Circular No. 02/2022 dated 05 May 2022, Circular No. 10/2022 dated 28 December 2022, 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 and 09/2024 dated September 19, 2024 respectively, relevant provisions of the Companies Act 2013 and the rules made thereunder and SEBI Circulars dated May 12, 2020, January 15, 2021, 13 May 2022, 5 January 2023, 7 October 2023 and 3 October 2024 read along with the applicable provisions of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) 2015 (collectively referred to as "Circulars").

In accordance with the abovesaid Circulars, the Notice of 34th AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2024-25 is being sent only by electronic mode to those Members whose email addresses are registered with the Company's Depository Participant(s).

The Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2024-25 will be available on the website of the Company at www.mymoneyviews.com, the website of the stock exchange BSE Limited www.bseindia.com and the website of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") (agency for providing the Remote e-Voting facility) - www.evoting.nsdl.com in compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Act and Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended and Regulation 44 of the SEBI Listing Regulations, the Company is pleased to provide the facility to cast their votes electronically through Remote E-voting and E-voting during the AGM in respect of all the businesses to be transacted at the AGM. The Company has engaged the services of NSDL to provide E-voting platform. The detailed procedure to cast a vote using the e-voting system of NSDL has been described in the Notice of AGM.

All the Members are informed that;

- The business set out in the Notice calling the AGM may be transacted through voting by electronic means only;
- Remote E-voting facility shall commence from Thursday, 25th September, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. and will end on Saturday, 27th September, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Remote E-voting will not be allowed thereafter. After the time and the Remote E-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL upon expiry of aforesaid period;
- Voting rights shall be reckoned on the paid-up value of shares registered in the name of the Member/ beneficial owner as on the cut-off date i.e. 20th September, 2025;
- Any person who becomes a Member of the Company after dispatch of this Notice and holding shares as on the cut-off date i.e. 20th September, 2025, may obtain their User ID and password for Remote E-voting by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or info@masserv.com;
- Members who have cast their vote by remote E-voting may participate in AGM but shall not be entitled to cast vote again through E-voting during the AGM. Members participating in AGM and had not cast their vote through Remote E-voting can cast their vote through E-voting during the AGM;
- The Members whose names appear in the Register of Members/ list of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. 20th September, 2025, only shall be entitled to avail the facility of Remote E-voting as well as E-voting during AGM;

Since the AGM is being held through VCO/AVM, physical attendance of Members has been dispensed with and accordingly, the facility for appointment of proxies by the Shareholders will not be available for the Meeting. However, Corporate Shareholders can authorize representative(s) to attend the Meeting and are requested to send a certified copy of the Board Resolution authorizing their representative or the authority letter or power of attorney of the Board of directors or other governing body of the corporate authorizing their representative to attend and vote on their behalf at the meeting through email at mymoneyviews@outlook.com and cskdandan.kumar@mishra@gmail.com

In case you have not registered your email ID with the Company's Depository, please follow below instructions to register your email ID for obtaining the annual report for FY 2024-2025 and login details for e-voting:

Physical Holding Send a request to Registrar and Transfer Agents of the Company, MAS Services Limited at info@masserv.com providing Folio number, Name of the shareholder, scanned copy of the share certificate (Front and Back), PAN (Self attested scanned copy of PAN Card), AADHAR (Self attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) for registering email address.

Please send your bank detail with original cancelled cheque to our RTA (i.e. MAS Services Limited, T-34 2nd floor, Okha industrial area Phase-II, New Delhi 110020 alongwith letter mentioning 'Okha' if not registered already).

PLEASE UPDATE THE SAME ON OR BEFORE 20/09/2025

Demat Holding PLEASE CONTACT YOUR DEPOSITORY PARTICIPANT (DP) and register your email address as per the process advised by DP.

PLEASE UPDATE THE SAME ON OR BEFORE 20/09/2025

For Order of the Board
For My Money Securities Limited
Sd/-
Anjali Chopra
Company Secretary
A17495

For and on Behalf of Board of Directors
Rotographics (India) Limited
Sd/-
Divya
Company Secretary
M. No. : A56205

Dated : 03.09.2025
Place : Delhi

Rotographics (India) Limited
CIN : L74899DL1976PLC008036
Regd. Off : Unit No. 8, Ground Floor, Pocket-M, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi 110076.
Phone No. 011-47368600, Email to : info@rotolindia.co.in, Website : www.rotolindia.co.in

INFORMATION REGARDING THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING / ANOTHER AUDIO-VISUAL MEANS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:
Shareholders may note that the 30th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held through VCO/AVM on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 12:00 P.M. IST, in compliance with all the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and Rules issued there under and the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April 08, 2020, Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") followed by Circular No. 20/2020 dated May 05, 2020, Circular No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021 and Circular No. 10/2022 dated December 28, 2022, Circular No. 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023, Circular No. 09/2024 dated September 19, 2024 extension for holding AGM through VC and Master Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFO/POD-2/P/CIR/2023/167 dated October 07, 2023, SEBI/HO/CFD/CFO/POD-2/P/CIR/2024/133 dated October 03, 2024 issued by SEBI, along with other applicable Circulars issued in this regard by the MCA and SEBI, to transact the business that will be set forth in the Notice of the AGM.

In compliance with the above Circulars, the Company will be sending electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2024-25 to all the shareholders whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Registrar and Share Transfer Agent/Depository Participant(s) ("DP"). The Notice of the AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2024-25 will also be made available on the Company's website at <http://rotolindia.co.in>, on the website of Stock Exchanges where the equity shares of the Company are listed, Metropolitan Stock Exchange Limited at www.mse.com and on the website of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") at www.evoting.nsdl.com. Voluntary formation.

The Company is pleased to provide remote e-voting facility to the Members to cast their votes electronically on all the resolutions set forth in the Notice convening the said Meeting. The facility of e-voting will also be made available at the AGM and Members attending the AGM through VCO/AVM, who have not cast their vote by remote e-voting, will be able to vote at the AGM. The Company has engaged the services of NSDL to provide the facility of remote e-voting-voting at the AGM.

The remote e-voting period begins on Saturday, September 27, 2025 (at 9:00 A.M. IST) and ends on Monday, September 29, 2025, (at 05:00 PM IST). During this period shareholders of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date Tuesday, September 23, 2025 may cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting there after. The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to their shares in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date i.e. Tuesday, September 23, 2025.

The Board of Directors of the Company have appointed M/s V. Kumar & Associates, Company Secretaries, as the Scrutinizer for conducting voting process in a fair and transparent manner. Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a Member of the Company after sending of Notice and holding shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in. However, if he/she is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then he/she can use his/her existing User ID and password for casting the vote.

The detailed instructions for joining the AGM through VCO/AVM and casting the vote through remote e-voting / voting at the AGM is provided in the Notice of AGM. Members are requested to carefully go through the same. Members, who need assistance before or during the AGM regarding e-voting facility and/or VCO/AVM facility, can send a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in or call on: 022-48887700.

Payment of Dividend:
Shareholders may note that the company in its Board meeting held on August 26, 2025 has not recommended any payment of Dividend and hence no dividend will be distributed this year. Further, Register of member will be closed from September 20, 2025 till September 29, 2025 (both day inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting.

The shareholders are requested to note that as per the provisions of the SEBI, it is mandatory for all shareholders holding shares in physical form to furnish PAN. Choice of Nomination, Contact details (Postal Address with PIN and Mobile Number), Bank A/c details and Specimen signature for their corresponding folio numbers.

The shareholders may register/update the said details in the prescribed Form ISR-1 and other relevant forms with Skyline Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company. Further, the shareholders can also access the relevant forms on the Company's website at <http://rotolindia.co.in>.

The above information is being issued for the information and benefit of all the shareholders of the Company and is in compliance with the applicable MCA and SEBI Circulars(s). The shareholders may send their Company's Register of Shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in. However, if he/she is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then he/she can use his/her existing User ID and password for casting the vote.

Encumbrances, liens etc. Lucern Legal LLP
Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301, Contact No- 4289373

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given on behalf of RAM KARAN EDUCATIONAL TRUST AND CHANDER BHAN with respect to Middle School constructed to be constructed over an area measuring 5114.54 sq. mtrs. Kharsa no. 102/11/21, 12/1, 12/21, 13/1 in the Revenue Estate of Village Yakubpur, Tehsil Badli, District Jhajjar, Haryana. CHANDER BHAN is the owner of said property vide Transfer Deed dated 26.09.2024. Doc. No. 2971, Exchange Deed dated 03.06.2024, Doc. No. 1209, Release Deed dated 08.06.2021, Doc. No. 391 & Revenue Jamabandi Records that, 1) Original Sale Deed executed by Mr. Satpal and Ram Kishan in favour of Mrs. Mukesh Devi in respect of land measuring 5 Kanal, 11 Marla comprising in Kharsa no. 2199, Khatla no. 2169, Musakli no. 102, Kila no. 112/21min eastern (1-19), 12/1(3-2) vide regd. as Doc. no.2030, dated 12.07.2024 and 2) Original Regd. Release Deed executed by Daya and Kamle D/o late Ram Karan in favour of Mr. Chandar Bhan in respect of (3/7) out of area measuring 3 Kanal 5 Marla comprised in Kharsa no. 102/11/21(1-5) are not available/lost/misplaced an online FIR already lodged for the same. Now, CHANDER BHAN intend to mortgage the same against financial assistance from Protium Finance Ltd. To ensure a clear title and comply with the requirements of the Bank, this public notice is hereby issued. If any person has any claim, right, title, or interest in the said property, they should submit their objections in writing to the address below within 10 days from the date of this notice failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, liens etc. Lucern Legal LLP, Plot No. 136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40846316

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Davinder Singh S/o Sh. Jai Kishan, Flat No.333, Block JG-11, Vikaspuri, New Delhi, 11 have lost original documents of above said flat, Allotment cum Demand Letter, DDA Water Electricity NOC, possession letter, Site Possession letter and GPA of Sh Gurmeet Singh documents No.24806 dated 12/7/2001, The LCR No. is 3, Police Station Sakar Nahar (HP) dated 14/04/08.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Sh. Rakesh Kumar Rajhoo @ Balu S/o Sh. Ram Mohar Rao House No.77, comprising in Kharsa No.43/1/4, Ashok Mohalla, Gali No. 4, Nanglo, NITDA, West Delhi-110041, citizen, disinherited, debar and deprive his son namely Sh. Himanshu Rahe, his daughter in law namely Smt. Meenakshi Gahot and grandson Javarchan Rahe with immediate effect from all his movable and immovable properties/assets situated at Delhi on account of their disrespectful behavior and misconduct with my client. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so of his own risk and my client shall not be responsible for the same in any manner.
Yogender Saini, Advocate

LOST & FOUND NOTICE
I, Shanti Devi own this property Land area measuring 1 Kanal 0 Marla falling in Khawat/Khatla No. 179/208 Mustali No.11 Killa No. 10/11/22/21(1-0), Vaka Moza Pada, Sub-tehsil Badli, District Gurgaon (Haryana) via transfer deed Document No.14387, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 47/959, on pages 112,7591-92, registered on dated 13.02.2022 document related to this property I release deed. The Release Deed executed by Mr. Devender Singh in favour of Mrs. Reena Devi in respect of land situated at Village-110015, dated 06.05.2010 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Gurgaon, has been lost/misplaced and is not traceable despite diligent search. If anyone has any claim/objection regarding the said document, the same may be communicated to the undersigned within 7 days of this publication, failing which the document shall be treated as invalid.
Mr. Sameer Srivastava, Advocate
Office - OC-902 9th Floor Gaur City Centre Sector-4 Greater Noida West-201308 Mobile No- 9999730497

CBI, Haryana Police deport wanted criminal from Cambodia

PARVESH SHARMA
New Delhi/Gurugram

A notorious criminal wanted by Haryana Police, Mainpal Dhillia, was arrested after he was extradited from Cambodia in an operation coordinated by the CBI in collaboration with the State police, Union Home Ministry and External Affairs Ministry, officials said on Wednesday. According to police, Mainpal of Village Badli, District Jhajjar (Haryana), was one of the most wanted fugitives with a ₹Five lakh reward on his head. He was convicted in multiple cases of murder, dacoity and criminal intimidation and had been sentenced to life imprisonment in three separate cases registered in Jhajjar district. Mainpal had been serving his sentence in Hisar Central Jail when he was granted six weeks' parole on July 17, 2018. However, he failed to return, prompting registration of a case under the

Haryana Good Conduct Prisoners Act and subsequent proclamation as an absconder by a Bahadurgarh court in October 2019. Investigations revealed that in 2019, the fugitive managed to fraudulently obtain an Indian passport in the name of "Sonu Kumar" from Gurugram using forged documents. Using this passport, he fled to Bangkok via Kolkata Airport and later moved to Cambodia, where he settled in Siem Reap. Police said Mainpal operated a nightclub there and lived with his Cambodian partner, with whom he fathered three children. He was also reported to have travelled to Mauritius and Indonesia during this period. The Special Task Force (STF) of Haryana Police, in coordination with Interpol, CBI and the Ministry of External Affairs, shared intelligence with Cambodian authorities and established his true identity.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that the partnership firm M/S Sundep Industries, having its office at 17/11 and 17C Rama Road Najafgarh Road Delhi-110015, Firm had been registered (678 Dt. 15-05-2013). With effect from 31-12-2023, Mr. Mandep Singh & Bikram Singh has been admitted as a new partner in the firm. Further, Mr. Sandeep Singh, one of the existing partners, has retired from the firm with mutual consent as of the same date. The remaining partners, along with the newly inducted partner, Mr. Mandep Singh & Bikram Singh will continue the business of the firm under the same name and at the same address. The firm shall not be responsible for any dealings on behalf of the retired partner Mr. Sandeep Singh after the effective date mentioned above. This notice is issued in the interest of the general public and stakeholders.
Date: 03-09-2025 For SUNDEEP INDUSTRIES New Delhi Authorized Signatory

Your Trusted Management Advisory

www.transglobeadvisors.in

Order Order

Pet's custody: Delhi HC asks TMC MP Moitra and Adv. Dehadrai to sort out issue



The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought TMC MP Mahua Moitra's response to a plea filed by advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai against an order restraining him from publicising the issue related to custody battle over a pet dog. Justice Manoj Jain issued notice to Moitra on the appeal and asked the parties why don't they sit together and sort out the issue out of court.

"Why don't you sit together and sort it out? What relief is she seeking in the suit?" Justice Jain asked. The two were reportedly in a relationship but parted ways later. The court was informed that the suit filed before the trial court by Moitra sought joint custody of the pet Rottweiler "Henry".

Dehadrai challenged the trial court's ex-parte order directing to "ensure the present proceedings shall not be publicised in any manner". He called it a "sweeping gag order" and said he was restrained from being able to disclose the existence of Moitra's suit to anyone in public domain.

Delhi HC seeks govt reply on BSF DIG's PIL over 'misutilisation' of CAPF



The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the Centre's response on a plea alleging "rampant misutilisation" of CAPF personnel, including Border Security Force (BSF) for "performing domestic servitude in the private residences of high-ranking police and CAPFs officers". "Our country's soldiers are even deployed specifically to take care of a high-ranking officer's dog," the PIL, filed by BSF DIG Sanjay Yadav, said.

A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela issued notice to the Ministry of Home Affairs on the PIL, which claimed "it is virtually a practice in vogue wherein various personnel of BSF are diverted from performing official duties on the border or on law-and-order duties and are detailed for performing domestic functions in the private houses of high-ranking officers".

The petition claimed "gross misuse of manpower" especially at a time when there were "over 83,000 vacancies in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)". The PIL said the situation posed a serious threat to national security besides law and order while causing an "undue strain on the public exchequer".

Amarinder case: ED to access info shared by France with IT Dept

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Chandigarh

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday allowed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to access information shared by France with Income Tax Department regarding foreign assets of former Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and his son Raninder Singh.

Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya rejected Singh's argument that disclosure of secret information provided by the French Government would circumvent the treaty restrictions between India and France because the information was not meant for the ED. France had shared details with Income Tax in June 2011.

"In the instant case, as discussed hereinbefore, there is no restriction on the ED to access the information/documents placed on record before the Magistrate by the IT Department for the purpose of investigation. Therefore, it cannot be said that the ED is trying to procure the documents by circumventing the Agreement in question," the Court held, adding that "if the disclosure of information causes any violation of the terms of the 1994 Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation with France, it is for the IT Department to oppose it on that ground and not for the Singhs."

The case relates to the complaints filed by the IT Department against Amarinder Singh and his



Amarinder Singh

son under Section 277 of the Income Tax Act and various sections of the Indian Penal Code,

alleging undisclosed foreign assets and accounts linked to entities in Switzerland and Dubai.

The ED, investigating related matters under FEMA, sought access to the documents submitted by the IT Department to the trial court and containing information provided by the French Government. Trial court allowed ED's request. Amarinder Singh and Raninder Singh then moved the Court challenging the trial court orders.

They argued that ED is a stranger to the IT proceedings and disclosing the secret information provided by France violated the Indo-France Double tax avoidance treaty, specifically Article 28 regarding confidentiality of

information received.

The Court rejected the petitions, noting that the information was being shared with the an organ of the State for the purpose of investigation and not for public dissemination.

"The ED is permitted to inspect the record of the complaints before the Magistrate and access the information/documents; however, the same shall not be disseminated publicly unless permitted in accordance with law," the Court ruled. ED and IT Department were represented through Special Counsel Zoheb Hossain. Advocates Gurmohan Singh Bedi, Amandeep S Talwar appeared for Amarinder Singh and Raninder Singh.



'People can't be subject to whims of Governors'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

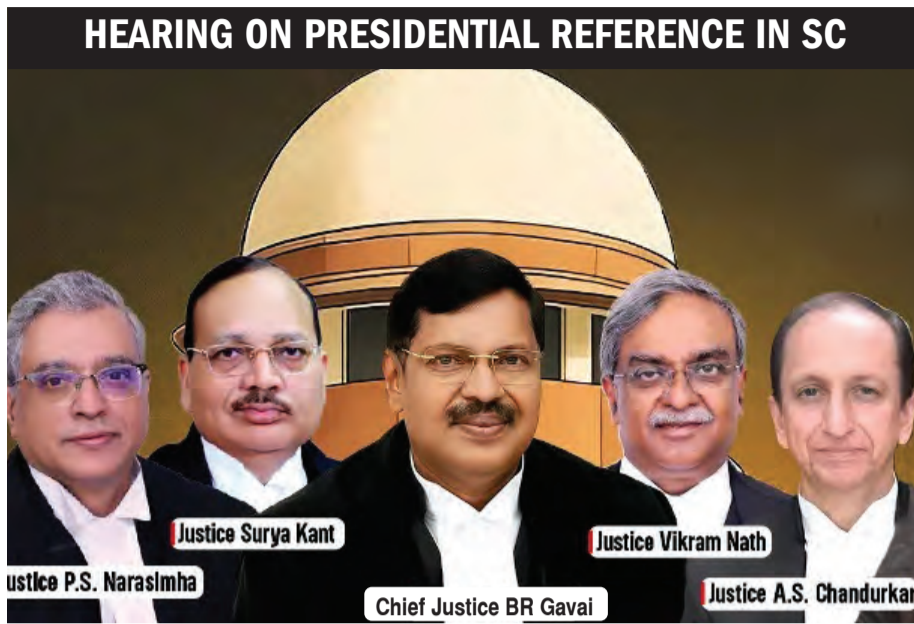
The will of people in the form of a bill cannot be subjected to "whims and fancies" of Governors and President as the executive is barred from interfering with the legislative process, the West Bengal Government argued before the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

The TMC-ruled state Government informed a five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai that Governors cannot question the will of the sovereign and proceed to examine the legislative competence of a bill passed by the assembly, which falls under judiciary's domain.

The bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar, was hearing the Presidential Reference on whether the court could impose timelines for Governors and President to deal with bills passed by state assemblies.

"The will of the people cannot be subject to the whims and fancy of the executive (Governors and the President). The Executive is barred from interfering with the process of legislation. The will of the sovereign is supreme," Sibal argued on the seventh day of the presidential reference hearing.

The bench, however, asked, "In the context of your arguments, is this your submission that bills have to be assented even if they are not in consonance with legislative domain and their validity can be tested in courts?"



Sibal said the executive cannot be an impediment in the will of the sovereign and the constitutionality of a law has to be tested by the courts and not by the executives.

Governors, he said, have to take decisions on the bills forthwith and not in a three or six-month period. Since independence there is hardly any example where President has withheld a bill passed by Parliament because it is the will of the people, Sibal added. "A legislation can be challenged in a court of law by citizens or by somebody else. It's in the rarest and rare case that a Governor says I cannot give assent to the bills and withhold it," he said.

He said once a bill was passed by a legislature, there was a presumption of constitutionality. "The legislature is

not concerned with constitutionality and this is the domain of your lordsships," Sibal said. The senior counsel said that the court couldn't act as parallel adjudicators of legislative competence. The bench asked whether Governor must apply his mind in cases of repugnancy of the bill with central legislation. The bench said then Governor would have to see whether the bill was repugnant or not, though one can argue on the contours but Governor couldn't simply be a postman or a super legislative body. Sibal submitted, "Sovereignty of the state legislature is as important as sovereignty of Parliament. Should Governor be allowed to delay? This is an important question. You cannot create a discord otherwise it will break down. The Constitution

has to be interpreted in such a way that it is workable. It is the will of people." He challenged Centre's submissions that the court couldn't prescribe timelines for granting assent, saying for ensuring efficient functioning of Article 200 it can be done.

Article 200 provides for the powers of Governor regarding bills passed by the state legislature, allowing them to either assent to the bill, withhold assent, return the bill for reconsideration or reserve the bill for the consideration of President. Sibal went on to say even President couldn't hold back a bill and had to send it back forthwith with comments.

The court is examining 14 questions referred by President Droupadi Murmu, including whether constitutional authorities can

indefinitely withhold assent to bills and whether courts can impose mandatory time frames. Sibal underlined indefinite delays by Governors or President in dealing with bills struck at the root of representative democracy and constitutional governance. The top court observed under Article 200, Governor may reserve such bills for President's consideration. Sending a bill back itself amounts to a declaration, but such powers cannot extend to permanently stalling legislation, Sibal said.

The CJ referred to the argument that Governors had the power to indefinitely withhold assent. "If we create an interpretation that allows the Governor to permanently block the will of the legislature, the Constitution becomes unworkable," Sibal said. Emphasising the phrase "as soon as possible" in Article 200, he said Governors and President must act with immediacy. "It was not later than six weeks and it means forthwith, with urgency," he said. Article 200, Sibal said, does not grant Governors any personal discretion to block laws. Sibal concluded while urging the bench to restrict its answers to the specific question of Article 200.

He said several of the 14 questions referred to by Rashtrapati Bhavan were either "hypothetical" or "not rooted in facts". "With greatest respect, many of these questions should not be answered. The only parameter that requires an authoritative ruling is Article 200 in the context of the Governor,"

he said.

Senior advocate Gopal Subramanian also argued against the reference on behalf of Congress-ruled Karnataka. He said that submissions of Union Government seek to indirectly abrogate the fulcrum of Constitution which is cabinet-form of Government and the responsibility to the legislature. He added that the democratic form of Government through cabinet has been held to be part of the basic structure of Constitution. "Theory of implied limitation [on powers of President and Governor was recognized," he added.

Anand Sharma appeared for Himachal Pradesh and opposed the Presidential Reference. He said courts are the final arbiter when it comes to Constitution and that is the strength of the Indian republic. Governors are not viceroys or Governor-Generals, he said, while submitting that they are bound by the aid and advice of the council of ministers. President or Governor has no role to summon the legislature sitting also, he said. "Legislature is supreme. Neither the President nor the Governor have any role in law making. Even when they come to address the sessions [of parliament or legislature, they don't preside, they don't chair. They only address," Sharma said. Sharma said that the Governor's office cannot be used to nullify the will of people. He said the States have their own positions in the country and must be protected and respected.

Delhi HC denies bail to man impersonating as Amit Shah's nephew

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has denied bail to a man, accused of cheating a businessman of ₹3.9 crore by impersonating as the nephew of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Justice Girish Kathpalia dismissed the bail plea of accused Ajay Kumar Nayyar considering the nature of the allegations against him.

"Considering the nature and expanse of the allega-

tions against the accused/applicant (Nayyar) coupled with the pending consideration of amendment in charge to include the offences under Section 467/471/120B IPC, punishable with life imprisonment and also keeping in mind the antecedents, at this stage, I do not find it a fit case to grant bail to the accused," the September 1 order said.

The man allegedly assured the complainant to get a ₹90 crore tender from the central

Government for the supply of leather for renovating the President's estate.

According to the prosecution, the complainant was introduced to the accused through a family friend at Jalandhar Gymkhana Club when Nayyar represented himself Shah's nephew Ajay Shah and assured to get the complainant the tender for the Government contract.

The complainant was subsequently shown a demand

draft of ₹90 crore in favour of his company and asked to pay ₹2.5 crore as processing fees, it alleged.

After several rounds of meetings with the accused, ₹3.90 crore was paid to him by the complainant through cash and RTGS on different occasions towards the tender, the prosecution said, but Nayyar showed a photo of another demand draft of ₹127 crore, stating that the cost of tender had been increased from ₹90 crore to

₹127 crore.

When the complainant sensed being cheated, he got a police complaint filed following which the accused was arrested in December 2021. Nayyar sought bail on the ground that charges were framed in 2022 and the trial would take a long time to conclude.

The prosecutor opposed the bail saying the prosecution was considering to amend the charge and add charges for relevant offences,

including criminal conspiracy and those relating to use of forged cheques by the accused given as security to the complainant and the same being punishable with life imprisonment, the ground of being under detention for four years lost significance.

The prosecutor said the accused was also allegedly involved in a similar cheating case which he settled by paying ₹75 lakh to the complainant.

Jarange tells HC Maratha quota stir ended after issue was resolved

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

Activist Manoj Jarange on Wednesday submitted to the Bombay High Court that the Maratha quota agitation has been called off after the issue was resolved. A bench of acting Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Aarti Sathe accepted the submission but said the activist will have to file his affidavit in response to various other allegations made in the petitions against the five-day protest held by him and his supporters in Mumbai.

"There are some issues. Large-scale damages were caused to public property. Who will pay for that," the bench asked. Advocates Satish Maneshinde and V M Thorat, appearing for Jarange and the organisations that led the agitation, however, asserted that no such damage was caused except for inconvenience to the



Manoj Jarange ending the protest

common man. The bench said Jarange and the organisations must file affidavits clarifying their stand. "The affidavits will have to say that they (Jarange and his team) were not the instigators. There has to be a statement that they were not behind this. There are some serious allegations in the petitions," the court said.

If a statement of denial is not made on affidavit, then Jarange and his team will become instigators, the court said. It added that

once the affidavits are filed, the court would not pass any adverse order but would only dispose of the petitions. The bench granted Jarange and his team four weeks to file their affidavits.

The court had on Tuesday given an ultimatum to Jarange and his supporters to immediately vacate Mumbai's Azad Maidan, where the agitation was being held, saying it was illegal and without permission. The bench later accept-

ed Jarange's request to stay at Azad Maidan till Wednesday morning as a solution was likely to be arrived at. Jarange, who began his hunger strike at the Azad Maidan in south Mumbai on August 29, called off the protest on Tuesday evening after the Government accepted most of his demands, including granting eligible Marathas Kunbi caste certificates, which will make them eligible for reservation benefits available to the Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The activist and his supporters vacated the venue after the Maharashtra Government issued a Government resolution (GR) on forming a committee to issue Kunbi caste certificates to eligible persons from the Maratha community with historical evidence of their Kunbi heritage, a social group classified under the OBC category in the state.

Delhi HC directs Govt to disburse subsidies promised to EV buyers



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday ordered the Delhi Government to take immediate steps to disburse the subsidies promised to customers for buying electric vehicles and said procedural hurdles cannot be used as a pretext to delay payments. A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela noted the Government cannot hide behind the fact that the Delhi Electric Vehicles Policy of 2020 does not prescribe any timeline to disburse the amount.

"The Government is taking shield of the fact that the Delhi Electric Vehicles Policy does not provide any fixed timeline for disbursement of subsidy. Such a ground, in our opinion, is not available for the Government," it said. The

bench noted that the Government had funds but it was delaying disbursement owing to procedural issues. It directed the transport department of the Delhi Government to expeditiously set up a dedicated bank account for the disbursement of the subsidy amount and ensure subsidies were released to eligible beneficiaries without any further delay. The bench was hearing a PIL filed by Jan Seva Welfare Society, which claimed several such customers who bought EVs in Delhi hadn't received subsidies.

The plea claimed the delay in subsidy disbursement was directly affecting thousands of individuals who purchased electric vehicles in Delhi with the assurance of financial support under the 2020 policy. Non-payment, the PIL said, had undermined consumer rights and the broader public interest of promoting clean mobility.



Editor's TAKE

The Great Indian Monsoon Deluge

Every monsoon the cities of India turn into lakes as common people suffer; little is done to find a permanent solution to deal with monsoon rains

This is yet another monsoon season when everybody is cursing the rains, giving little thought to the fact that it is not nature but ourselves to be blamed for our miseries. We lament the rains in rainy season and as soon as monsoon retreat we forget about it. From Delhi to Mumbai, Chennai to Jaipur, the monsoon brings a recurring nightmare of waterlogging, floods, and disease outbreaks.

This year, however, the situation has reached alarming levels. In the capital, the Yamuna has surged past danger levels, displacing over 10,000 people from low-lying areas. The river was recorded at 206.4 metres this week, with forecasts warning it could breach 207 metres. Instead of long-term solutions, Delhi continues to rely on last-minute evacuations and temporary shelters.

In Mumbai, the monsoon is synonymous with chaos. Despite crores being spent on stormwater drainage upgrades after the devastating 2005 deluge, the city still drowns with every heavy downpour. Roads cave in, trains slow down to a crawl, and flights are delayed. Experts blame rampant construction, shrinking wetlands, and inadequate drainage. The Mithi River, once a natural buffer against flooding, has been choked by garbage and encroachments.

One of the most striking ironies of this monsoon is Jaipur, a city better known for its arid climate, facing widespread flooding. Heavy rainfall overwhelmed its fragile drainage infrastructure, turning its heritage streets into streams. Climate change is altering rainfall patterns, making desert cities vulnerable to floods they were never designed to withstand. This year, torrential rains once again submerged vast swathes of Chennai. The infamous 2015 floods, which killed hundreds and displaced thousands, were attributed to poor urban planning and blocked waterways. A decade later, little has changed. The common thread linking Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Chennai, and other cities is not just excessive rain but poor planning. Encroachments on riverbanks, destruction of wetlands, outdated drainage systems, and unregulated construction have turned natural rain into unnatural disasters. Relief camps, evacuations, and emergency advisories dominate the response, while long-term solutions gather dust in government files. To prevent the Great Indian Deluge from becoming an annual tragedy, India must rethink its urban planning and flood management strategies. Rivers, wetlands, and floodplains must be protected and rejuvenated. These natural sponges absorb excess rainwater and mitigate flooding.

Indian cities rely on colonial-era drainage designs that are hopelessly outdated. Stormwater drains need expansion, desilting, and integration with modern urban infrastructure. Construction on floodplains and wetlands must be strictly banned. If Indian cities are to survive the next century, resilience must replace complacency.

Tariffs: A test for Indo-US trade ties

While New Delhi has so far avoided retaliation, the tariffs put Indian exporters at a sharp cost disadvantage against competitors like Bangladesh and Vietnam, raising concerns about job losses and weakened competitiveness



KALYANI SHANKAR

On Wednesday morning last week, India woke up to the news that the US had imposed 50 per cent tariffs on its goods sold to the US. The Trump administration followed through on its threat to double levies from 25 per cent due to India's purchase of Russian oil.

Since his return to the White House this year, President Donald Trump has implemented tariffs. Trump's decision on Indo-US relations is likely to impact the relationship between the two countries. It affects 48.2 billion in exports. This includes clothing and chemicals.

However, the risk of a trade war remains low, as India has not retaliated and is implementing reforms to mitigate the impact of the tariffs. New Delhi is responding to tariffs by proposing a cut in GST and seeking new export opportunities.

High tariffs could harm India's economy, lessen its competitiveness against China, and hinder Prime Minister Modi's goal of making India a manufacturing hub.

The United States was India's largest trading partner, with trade at \$21.2 billion. Let us take a closer look at how the US's hike in tariffs could affect the Indian economy. In 2024, New Delhi was projected to export around \$87 billion, its largest market to date. These tariffs place Indian exporters at a 30-35 per cent disadvantage compared to countries like Bangladesh, which face lower US duties.

Furthermore, India also engages in trade with other nations, including China, the EU, and the UAE. The estimated impact of US exports primarily affects labour-intensive sectors. Lower crude prices give both federal and state Governments the fiscal space to support these industries with targeted incentives. Experts believe this tariff could lead to a stagnant market and limitations. India's GDP growth, projected to be around 7 per cent in 2024, is expected to be reduced to approximately 6.4 per cent.

India's \$179 billion textiles industry, which generates \$37.7 billion in exports to the US, is particularly vulnerable, with nearly \$10.3 billion of its revenue coming from this market. The Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC) has noted that Indian exporters now face a 30 per cent cost disadvantage compared to competitors in Bangladesh, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

Trump's tariffs could have a significant impact on specific sectors and jobs that are linked to US demand. This could lead to job losses and a slowdown in the sector's growth. Rating agency Moody's has indicated that Trump's tariffs on Indian imports could hinder India's economic growth. The agency stated that after 2025, the significantly wider tariff gap compared to other



The Pioneer SINCE 1865

ANALYSTS HAVE WARNED THAT THE 50 PER CENT DUTY THE US HAS IMPOSED ON INDIAN GOODS IS AKIN TO A TRADE EMBARGO

The writer is a popular columnist
 @dailypioneer
 @kalyanishankar
 The Pioneer

Asia-Pacific countries could severely limit India's ambitions to develop its manufacturing sector and might even reverse some of the progress made in recent years in attracting related investments.

Exporter associations estimate that tariffs could impact nearly 55 per cent of India's \$87 billion merchandise exports to the US. This could advantage competitors like Vietnam, Bangladesh, and China, which face lower tariff rates. India is the world's third-largest oil consumer and the biggest buyer of Russian crude oil.

This is crucial for India's energy sector. It could disrupt this crucial energy partnership and force India to seek alternative sources of oil, which may be more expensive and less reliable. As an alternative, the Modi Government is urging people to buy domestically produced goods, urging them to "prioritise products made in India." Major industries, such as the auto components sector, which exports approximately \$7 billion annually to the US, could be affected by tariffs, risking India's investment. Speaking at a construction industry event in New Delhi recently, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said India was "always ready if anyone wants to have a free trade agreement with us." But, he added, India "will neither bow down nor ever appear weak."

The Indian Government is implementing measures to reduce the impact. At the same time, the long-term effects on the economy and stock market remain uncertain. Political and

business leaders in India are calling for quick market diversification to reduce reliance on the United States. Analysts have warned that the 50 per cent duty the US has imposed on Indian goods is akin to a trade embargo. Modi has promised to protect farmers, fishermen, and workers, emphasising national interest and energy security in the country. On Thursday, the Government reassured exporters of its unwavering support, promising to extend comprehensive measures to protect livelihoods amid global headwinds.

This is to reassure the public and the business community. The Government is working on extending support measures for exporters, such as the rollout of an export promotion mission and a moratorium on loans to cushion them from the impact of the US's 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods, an official said. New Delhi is finding broad support from the Western intelligentsia in its struggle to resist the US pressure.

This international support helps India navigate the challenges posed by US tariffs and maintain its position in the global trade arena. For the time being, neither Washington nor New Delhi is itching for a trade war. There is a great potential for diplomatic negotiations, with Modi using the back-channel route to persuade for lower tariffs, and Trump being willing to compromise if he wants to do business with India. This possibility of negotiation brings a sense of hope and optimism for the future of Indo-US trade relations.

PICTALK



An artisan gives the finishing touch to an idol of Goddess Durga ahead of the Durga Puja festival in, West Bengal.

PHOTO: PTI

A longing to belong or an urge to be accepted!



SANJAY CHANDRA

THE PIONEER 2ND OPINION

My daughter has founded a start-up company, a platform for emotional well-being through peer-led meaningful connections. It is important to create spaces where people can slow down and speak honestly without the pressure of performance. We embark upon this journey from the time we are born. We learn to smile and gurgle in our cradle because it makes others happy. In adolescence, we seek approval from our friends and teachers.

As mature adults, we look for appreciation from peers, spouse, family, society — almost everyone. In our twilight years, we look for validation from our children. I am consulting an ophthalmologist for a recently developed squint in one eye. Disturbed, I pestered her with questions. With a twinkle in her eyes, she told me that the

only two women whose concerns should matter to me now are she and my wife. She had made a point: I did not need to conform to physical attributes set by others. My wife, however, may disagree. She does not trust my sartorial sense. She selects matching trousers and shirts for me regardless of whether I am stepping out alone or with her. I can understand her apprehension if we are visiting a relative or a friend, for my sloppy appearance could be seen as a commentary on her sense of style. Her sensitivity on the subject is beyond me when we are visiting the mall, where we are unlikely to encounter acquaintances, or if I am meeting people she neither knows nor is likely to know in future.

Their opinions, expressed behind my back, would not reach her ears. Even my two daughters, I am afraid, pick on me. They are sticklers for perfect etiquette. One afternoon, while out for lunch with the family, I tried catching the waiter's eye with a simple "Hello." The girls were horrified. I should have used the accepted phrase, "Excuse me!" I could not understand their embarrassment. We rarely return to the same restaurant. The waiter, if still there months later, is unlikely to remember us. Nor would his service be less attentive because of my not-so-impeccable manners. This urge for approval from others extends even into old age, when it should not matter. My ninety-five-year-old father gets in a tizzy when an

acquaintance comes to visit. He nervously paces the apartment, checking if the air conditioners work, the cutlery is right, the napkins in place. In our younger days, we admired his refined language and manners. Now, I am disappointed by his use of vernacular swear words.

At a family function, my father was annoyed that I remained closeted in a room for much of the evening to attend a stormy online meeting of the society's governing body. He worried about the reaction of another guest, my close friend and now also a relative. We are social beings. We need to feel we belong — to a family, a community, or a piece of land. Yet our conditioning makes us crave acceptance.

We conform to attributes that may be irrelevant or beyond our control. These superficial factors are set by parents, elders, peers, or society at large. We are unhappy if we have less money than our neighbour. We teach children the importance of complexion, height, or weight. We insist they must top examinations. Such conflicts between imposed norms and reality create stressed, unhappy individuals. We must impart to children the wisdom to discriminate judiciously between a longing to belong and an urge to be accepted.

The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative

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HEALTHY LIVING STARTS WITH DISEASE PREVENTION

In today's world, health is the greatest wealth of any nation. In a country like India, with a population exceeding 1.4 billion, ensuring the well-being of every citizen is a significant challenge. Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, obesity, and lifestyle-related illnesses are rising rapidly.

Surveys reveal that about 63 per cent of all deaths in India are caused by NCDs. For instance, nearly 90 million people suffer from diabetes, a figure expected to rise to 110 million by 2030, with direct and indirect treatment costs reaching approximately ₹1.5 lakh crore annually. Cervical cancer alone claims nearly 75,000 women's lives each year. These statistics highlight that treatment alone is insufficient; prevention is essential. According

to the World Health Organisation, investing just one dollar in preventive healthcare in developing countries can yield nearly seven dollars in economic benefits by reducing treatment costs. Lifestyle modifications, including 45 minutes of daily exercise or walking, avoiding harmful foods, adequate sleep, and abstaining from addictions, can help maintain long-term health.

Healthy citizens form the foundation of a strong nation. Instead of spending billions on treatment, small, consistent changes in daily routines and health awareness can prevent numerous diseases. Prevention, indeed, is far better than cure, ensuring both personal well-being and national prosperity.

JITESH MORI | KUTCH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Can anyone trust Vladimir Putin?

Should anyone trust dictator Vladimir Putin? Is there even two per cent truth in his statements made in China? During a China summit, Putin claimed that in his meeting with Donald Trump in Alaska last month, he had reached an "agreement" with the US President on ending the Ukraine war. But he did not say whether he would agree to peace talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky under Trump's mediation. When Zelensky went to the White House with European leaders after the Alaska meeting, Trump said that Putin had agreed to meet him.

But Putin never disclosed when or where. Once again, he is blaming the Western countries for the war. But why and how? Does a free country not have the right to decide its alliances? Who gave the Kremlin the authority to decide whether Ukraine should join the European Union or NATO? Putin's latest lie is that the crisis began with a coup in Ukraine supported by the West. Yet records show that on April 21, 2019, Zelensky won a clear democratic mandate with 73 per cent votes against Poroshenko's 25 per cent. A 2 per cent truth in Putin's statements is likely an overstatement; his claims often demonstrably contradict established facts and historical records, making it difficult to trust him.

JANG BAHADUR SINGH | JAMSHEDPUR

Exempt healthcare products from GST

The reforms in GST are welcome. The decision to exempt premium paid towards health and life insurance policies is a meaningful one.

But not exempting medicines and medical devices will keep the reforms incomplete, despite long-pending demands in this regard since the inception of GST. Taxing the sick is not only irrational and illogical but also inhuman. Falling ill is neither a matter of comfort nor a luxury to be taxed.

The one who suffers faces mental and physical incapacity besides financial woes. How rational is it to tax such suffering?

The health of the people is directly related to the productivity of the nation. The GST Council and the Government must decide on this meaningful demand to exempt medicines and medical devices. Already, injustice has been done by allowing pharma companies to increase medicine prices by 10 per cent annually under the guise of inflation.

Instead of promoting generics, the Government should bring down prices. Reviving public sector pharma companies is essential to ensure affordable, quality medicines and to compel private players to remain reasonable.

AG RAJMOHAN | ANANTAPUR

Empowering girls through education

Apropos the news item "Indian non-profit working for girls' education among 2025 Magsaysay Award winners" published on September 1, this is my response. Heartiest congratulations to Educate Girls, the non-profit organisation that has won the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2025, becoming the first Indian organisation ever to receive this prestigious honour.

The NGO works extensively to bring education to underprivileged girls in the remotest corners of India, aiming to break cycles of gender inequality and transform communities.

What impresses most is that Educate Girls works across more than 30,000 villages with the support of community volunteers, and has so far brought over two million girls back to school while supporting 2.4 million children with remedial learning. The recognition underscores the power of grassroots innovation in driving long-lasting social change and ensuring educational equity. It is heartening that the NGO aims to reach 10 million learners in the coming years, ensuring last-mile access to education for girls and young women most at risk of being left behind. Such efforts reaffirm faith in people-led initiatives to reshape society and offer hope for a more inclusive future.

RANGANATHAN SIVAKUMAR | CHENNAI

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



India needs a permanent disaster relief law for climate resilience

When nature unleashes its fury, it does not just wash away homes and harvests — it also exposes the cracks in our governance. A legally binding disaster relief law, backed by dormant national resources, could transform the way India responds — from delayed compensation to timely, guaranteed rehabilitation

FIRST Column



DINESH SOOD

When natural disasters strike, they expose not only the vulnerabilities of our terrain but also the inadequacies of our governance. The ongoing devastation in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir, described as one of the most severe in its history, has once again triggered calls for a more structured, legally binding framework to address cloudburst, landslide, and flood relief.

Centre to enact a Disasters Relief Law mandating the use of over ₹2 lakh crore unclaimed money remains in limbo, growing at 15-20 per cent annually across different financial sectors over the decades. This includes ₹78,213 crore in banks and post office deposits, ₹27,000 crore in EPFO accounts, ₹22,000 crore in insurance, ₹90,093 crore in stocks and dividends IEPF (Investor Education and Protection Fund) and ₹2,600 crore in mutual funds. The Supreme Court has recommended the establishment of a Central Unclaimed Property Authority (CUPA). This would be a single Government body to track and manage the unclaimed money centrally. By making a law, this money could be put to good use, as it is now the country's money, which has been lying idle for years. There can be no better place for its good use than in natural disaster relief, which is, therefore, both timely and urgent. If ₹2 lakh crore lies unclaimed and idle with the Centre, could it be unlocked for rebuilding shattered lives, infrastructure, and livelihoods?

The appeal is not just about Himachal and Punjab; it resonates across the entire country. Year after year, states are battered by floods, landslides, cyclones, and earthquakes. The scale of human and economic losses has long outpaced the ad hoc relief packages that the Centre and states announce after every calamity. Between 1980 and 2024, Punjab alone witnessed floods that affected nearly 13 million people, inundated more than 4.64 lakh hectares of fertile farmland, damaged over 8 lakh homes, and caused the deaths of more than 2,500 people along with the loss of nearly 18,000 livestock, and currently the crop area affected in over 95,000 hectares. Himachal Pradesh has already recorded losses worth ₹2,348 crore during the current monsoon season. These are not marginal



WITHOUT A LEGALLY GUARANTEED FRAMEWORK IN PLACE, STATES WILL REMAIN VULNERABLE, CITIZENS WILL REMAIN UNCERTAIN, AND REBUILDING EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE INCOMPLETE

The writer is Co-Founder and MD of Orane International and Network Member of India International Skill Centres (IISCs), an initiative of Gol

dailypioneer
@TheDailyPioneer
dineshsoodfcl

numbers; they reflect a systemic failure to safeguard lives and livelihoods.

Disaster relief efforts in India are currently reactive, with compensation announcements occurring only after significant damage has been done. While the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Funds exist, their allocations are consistently inadequate. More critically, there is no legal obligation for the central Government to release funds promptly or in proportion to the assessed damages. This situation leaves states vulnerable to protracted negotiations and political manoeuvring.

India is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, with over 40 million hectares at risk from floods and a long coastline exposed to cyclones. Climate change has exacerbated these threats, leading to more intense floods and increased landslide incidents. Given this reality, the current relief model, which is designed for repeated disasters, is utterly insufficient. We must confront and resolve the systemic issues that obstruct effective disaster relief.

Establishing a permanent disaster relief law is not optional; it is imperative. This law should mandate pre-allocated funds based on scientific risk assessments rather than on post-disaster bargaining. It must ensure the automatic disbursement

of relief funds within days, instead of dragging on for months, through direct benefit transfers. Furthermore, this law must cover long-term rehabilitation for housing, healthcare, and livelihoods, rather than just emergency provisions. It must also institutionalise accountability for delays and mismanagement.

Lessons from Himalayan States

Recent disasters in Himachal Pradesh and Punjab highlight the compounded risks faced by Himalayan states. These regions contend with fragile ecosystems prone to landslides, heavy rainfall that causes flash floods, and increasing human encroachment that intensifies natural hazards. The situation in Punjab reveals another critical failure of the current system; recurring floods demonstrate the urgent need for investment in long-term flood management solutions.

Despite the millions affected and staggering losses incurred year after year, Punjab has failed to make the necessary long-term investments in flood management that would mitigate damages. We cannot wait any longer; prioritising investment in sustainable flood management measures is non-negotiable. Poor drainage systems, unregulated sand mining, and a lack of preventive planning amplify the impacts of heavy rains.

Both of these cases unequivocally demonstrate that piecemeal relief efforts are inadequate. Without a legally guaranteed framework in place, states will remain vulnerable, citizens will remain uncertain, and rebuilding efforts will continue to be incomplete. We must act decisively to establish a robust disaster relief system that protects our communities and ensures swift recovery.

Ad Hoc Relief Model is Unsustainable

Disaster relief in India is currently tethered to post-disaster announcement packages issued by the central and state Governments only after the full extent of damage is revealed. While the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Funds exist, they are repeatedly underfunded, delayed in disbursement, and woefully inadequate for the large-scale rehabilitation required. Furthermore, the release of these funds is often mired in negotiations, excessive red tape, and political manoeuvring, rather than adhering to a clear, binding framework.

This ad hoc approach must be discarded. Disasters are no longer isolated incidents; they are persistent realities we face. Climate change is worsening rainfall patterns, leading to more severe floods and

increasingly frequent landslides. Relief efforts must not rest on discretionary announcements; they must be guaranteed, timely, and sufficiently robust to meet the challenges we confront.

Why Disaster Relief Law is Imperative

A permanent disaster relief law is essential to transform our crisis response. This law must mandate pre-allocated funds for every state, determined by scientific risk assessments. It is unacceptable that relief should take months; funds must be automatically disbursed through direct transfers to affected families within days. Furthermore, it must encompass long-term recovery efforts, including the rehabilitation of homes, restoration of livelihoods, healthcare provision, and rebuilding of infrastructure. We must hold Governments accountable by requiring them to publish clear timelines and expected outcomes for disaster response.

This issue is non-negotiable and transcends political disputes. Leaders, whether in the ruling party or the opposition, must recognise the indiscriminate nature of disasters; they spare no region or ideology. A law that guarantees automatic fund deployment in times of crisis will significantly bolster India's resilience and reaffirm the state's unyielding commitment to its citizens.

We cannot let the call for such legislation be overshadowed by political noise. Himachal, Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir must demand this vital change. While natural disasters are unavoidable, the suffering that arises from institutional neglect is entirely preventable. The era of ad hoc promises is over; it is time we established a permanent disaster relief law now.

Parliament must take urgent action to enshrine disaster relief in law. Such a framework is essential not just for providing certainty to affected citizens but also for fortifying India's disaster preparedness in the face of climate change. Relief should be established as a legal right, not left to the whims of political generosity.

Natural disasters may be inevitable, but the ongoing suffering caused by financial delays is entirely within our control. India must transcend temporary solutions and implement a permanent safeguard for its citizens. A law that guarantees timely and adequate disaster relief is not merely an administrative reform; it is a moral duty that cannot be ignored.

The world's most sophisticated human-trafficking scam



KUSHAN MITRA

Harjinder Singh, 28, entered the United States from the southern border claiming that he faced persecution in India because he was a follower of the movement for an independent Khalistan. A few weeks ago, he was driving a large truck, what the Americans call a 'Big Rig', and took an illegal U-turn. A vehicle that was following, ironically with three Haitian immigrants in it, crashed into the truck, killing all three individuals.

Since the accident, Harjinder seems to have garnered a huge deal of support including from Gurpatwant Pannun, who visited him in jail and offered \$100,000 to the victims as 'blood money', and even Akali Dal MP, Harsimrat Kaur Badal, who urged the Ministry of External Affairs for a less strict punishment.

Many supporters of Harjinder have also pleaded for no strict implementation of language norms for commercial drivers in the United States. However, at his arraignment it was clear that Harjinder did not speak or understand English. Ergo, it is bizarre that he should have held a job down in a country where all road signs are in English.

Support for Harjinder mounted: some complained of racism, others said he should get a fair trial. He faces a potential 45 years in prison and the argument used is the same as in India, that he made a 'small mistake' but should not suffer for it. But the backlash from the nativist 'Make America Great Again' (MAGA) nationalists has taken the supporters aback. Their simple argument is that actions have consequences, and it is almost certain that Harjinder will face a long prison term in the United States, followed by deportation.

But what this case has also revealed is that the long-haul trucking industry as well as other commercial driving jobs in North America have been taken over by immigrants from Punjab and Haryana, many of whom have gone to Canada and the United States illegally. There are tens of thousands of asylum applications in both countries by young men and women claiming persecution for supporting the Khalistani movement in India.

This has puzzled many in India since that movement, a creation of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), largely died out years ago although some small embers might remain. News stories have emerged in recent



weeks that after failing in their initial applications for asylum, some have claimed that because they voted on a referendum for Khalistan in Canada they could be potentially persecuted in India and have attached 'voter cards' as proof.

While there is no doubt that there are some extremists, it is painfully clear that the 'movement' is nothing but a giant human trafficking scam. Harjinder is just one of thousands of young men pushed into long-haul trucking, being paid below minimum wage. Other young men have been moved into organised crime, transporting drugs for cartels led by second and third generation immigrants, and others into extortion, the attack outside comedian Kapil Sharma's restaurant being a case in point. The stories of young women from North India who moved to Canada and have been pushed into prostitution are all over the local media. These young men and women pay lakhs of rupees to agents who organise the 'Dunki' route through Latin America or admission in hole-in-the-wall 'colleges'. And the great life that they are promised never materialises as, with poor language and work skills, they can only take low-end jobs, usually for those running the entire Khalistani racket.

For those running the racket, the pretence of an active movement is vital to ensure a steady stream of low cost labour and young women coming into their grip. This is why occasional well-funded protests in India, coupled with support from global media organisations always keen to show India in a poor light, take place. This allows for thousands more to claim 'persecution', as many did after the farmers' protests. Capturing some levers of the Canadian state, allegedly including the Prime Minister,

only greased the wheels of the racket.

Which is why there is such fear of the Harjinder case — a case that could potentially blow the wheels off the racket, particularly after Kash Patel, the Director of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), has been acting against some elements. The Khalistani movement is nothing but cover for organised crime both in North America and in India, because the immigration agents taking lakhs of rupees are a tentacle of the crime web.

However, it must be pointed out that successive Governments in Punjab have failed spectacularly in raising the economic prospects of the youth in the state. A broken education system, the lack of a services industry or revival of manufacturing means that jobs are hard to find. Rampant drug abuse and joblessness in what was once North India's industrial heartland has driven thousands to resort to desperate measures. The flooding in the past month of thousands of hectares of farmland will likely make the situation worse, forcing thousands more to put their lives on the line and move to North America, even though the reality of life there is worse than in India.

While Harjinder Singh must bear the brunt of his actions and be punished according to the law in the United States, our Governments, both in New Delhi and in Chandigarh, must not sit idle. A revival of Punjab's economy, growing it beyond remittances, and educating the youth about the exploitation and money-grubbing nature of organised crime is a must.

The writer is a senior journalist

kushanmitra
@kushanmitra
kushanmitra

Trump's Nobel dream meets India's calculated refusal



SANTHOSH MATHEW

"History does not move in straight lines; it bends, twists, and contradicts itself, often leaving us with ironies sharper than truth itself." This has defined leaders, nations, and institutions across time. People are remembered not only for their ideals but also for the paradoxes they embodied. Facts expose these contradictions with brutal clarity, reminding us that ambition — personal or political — feeds on vested interests far more than on moral consistency. Few arenas illustrate this better than the stage of global recognition, where lofty prizes intersect with politics, and where Donald Trump's Nobel aspirations collide with India's choices.

Consider the Pulitzer Prize, the pinnacle of journalism. Its founder, Joseph Pulitzer, was celebrated for championing investigative reporting. Yet he also pioneered sensationalist 'yellow journalism,' filling his papers with scandal-driven headlines. A man hailed for elevating journalism simultaneously corroded it. The Nobel Peace Prize carries the same irony. Alfred Nobel, who endowed the award, made his fortune through dynamite and arms. The 'merchant of death' became the patron saint of peace.

This contradiction plays out in the lives of leaders as well. Ethiopia's Abiy Ahmed won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019 for ending hostilities with Eritrea, only to lead his nation into a bloody civil war months later. Aung San Suu Kyi, once revered as Myanmar's icon of democracy, later defended atrocities against the Rohingya. Muhammad Yunus, celebrated globally for microfinance, faced hostility at home. The Nobel's history is littered with such premature judgments. It is within this backdrop that Donald Trump's Nobel Peace Prize ambitions appear. Trump, flamboyant and unpredictable, repeatedly claimed that no one deserved the Nobel more than himself — citing his talks with North Korea or Middle East initiatives. In a surprising twist, Pakistan nominated him. India, however, did not. Narendra Modi's refusal was less about Trump personally and more about principle: India would not barter long-term interests for short-term theatrics.

On the surface, Pakistan seemed to benefit. Trump offered tariff relaxations, while India endured steep hikes and a falling rupee. But beneath the immediate costs lay a deeper calculation. The Nobel's reputation is checked; figures like Suu Kyi and Abiy show how quickly

laurels can turn into embarrassments. Even Gandhi — arguably history's greatest advocate of peace — was never awarded. If Gandhi could be denied, why should India lobby for Trump, a man defined by "America First" unilateralism?

India's decision was one of foresight. Global politics is not about morality but about enduring interests. As the old dictum says: there are no permanent friends or foes, only permanent interests. India today tilts towards BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, not to reject the West entirely but to assert autonomy and balance. By refusing to nominate Trump, India sent a message: it will not play second fiddle in another leader's performance.

Trump's craving for the Nobel is itself contradictory. Here is a leader who mocked the UN, berated NATO, imposed tariffs on allies, and dismissed multilateralism — yet longed for validation from one of the world's most symbolic multilateral institutions. His quest for peace recognition was less consistency than irony.

India bore the short-term costs of Trump's displeasure but preserved long-term credibility. Pakistan, in seeking favour, indulged in symbolic gestures. India, in contrast, prioritised sovereignty and multipolar balance. Had it supported Trump's nomination, it might have joined the long list of premature endorsements that haunt the Nobel's legacy. Instead, it chose restraint.

The Peace Prize itself has become a mirror of paradox. It has overlooked Gandhi, rewarded leaders too soon, and sometimes crowned peacemakers who later unleashed violence. It embodies the contradictions of human history. In this light, India's refusal to indulge Trump was not weakness but clarity — a decision history may judge as wise. From Pulitzer's journalism to Nobel's dynamite, from Jefferson's liberty to Jinnah's secularism, from Gandhi's peace to Bose's nationalism, history teaches us that leaders are defined less by purity than by paradox. Trump's Nobel quest is one more entry in this book of ironies. By saying no, India affirmed a timeless principle: the courage to resist short-term temptation for the sake of long-term wisdom.

Contradictions are not failures; they are the fingerprints of history. They remind us that the loftiest prizes, the greatest ideals, and even the most powerful leaders are bound by irony. Sometimes, the truest strength lies not in seeking recognition, but in refusing it.

The writer is Professor at the Pondicherry Central University

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santhosh-mathew-8170925a/

LEGAL CHANCES



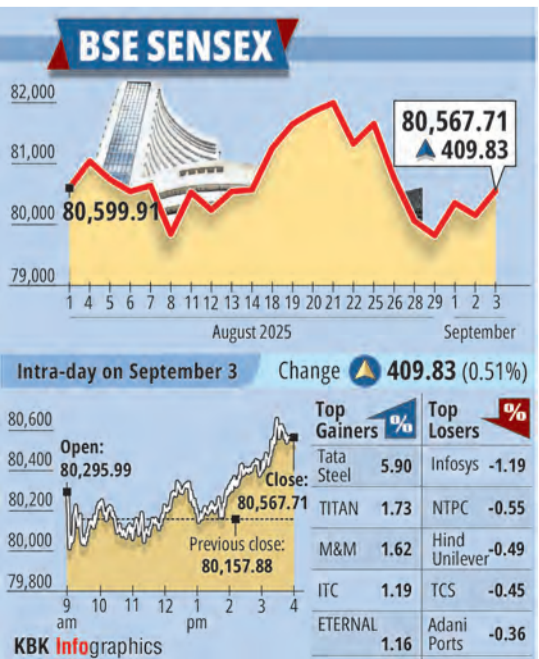
Whatever may be the intentions of the Government, pure, moralistic and ethical, the online gaming law will be debated in the courts of law. Inevitably, the final decision will be the Supreme Court's. As the law legally winds its way upwards, or reaches the apex court straightaway, two points of contention are likely to emerge. Experts contend that these relate to whether the Centre has the powers to enact an omnibus law on the subject, and how the courts will react to a law that negates its earlier rulings and precedents. It will be a clash between the provisions of the Constitution, legal nuances about what constitutes betting and gambling.

According to the Constitution, gambling is a state subject, and the Centre should not interfere in it. Indeed, during the framing of the Constitution, BR Ambedkar took the position that putting it in the Directive principles, in effect, legalises gambling. It allows the States to enact laws to govern and encourage gambling. If it had been left out completely, the onus would logically have been on the Centre to decide what to do with it. In the past, the Supreme Court has created precise and detailed distinction between the central and state subjects, and refused to accept laws that blur it. Unless there were reasonable and exceptional circumstances.

This explains why the Centre took a moral tone to justify the ban on money-based online games. The various ministers and bureaucrats maintained that online gambling and betting impacted the health of the nation and society. Lakhs of people lost their life savings, and many were forced to commit suicides. In one instance, a teenager blew up the money meant for his mother's cancer treatment, and later killed himself when he lost the money. It was in the overall public interest to ban such gambling activities. It is a different matter whether the courts will accept this logic.

Over the past few decades, the lower courts and Supreme Court have set precedents about what constitutes gambling. One of the prime distinctions they fleshed out related to games of chance versus games of skill. The former were clear cases of gambling because winning and losing were random, and based on luck and destiny. Thus, chance played a huge role in card games like *teen patti*. But not in rummy or poker, which were games of skill. The player can influence a win or loss based on her intelligence and thinking. In a seminal case, even horse racing was deemed to be a game of skill because the bettor needs to think of factors like the skills of the horses and jockeys. Over time, even fantasy cricket was deemed to be a game of skill.

The recent online gaming law makes no such distinction. It deems all money-based online games as gambling and, hence, illegal. Obviously, this thinking clashes with the past court rulings. However, the Centre and states have the right to enact laws, which overrule court orders. In fact, many news laws are forced into existence because of the positions taken by the courts. The Centre can argue that the same is true in this case. Since the Supreme Court allowed games of skill, it was the Centre's desire to negate it through a new law, especially given the grave circumstances.



Tariff tangle: MAGA to MAGA

OUR TAKE



Donald Trump is in no mood to relent. Despite several court rulings against his tariff tactics, the US president recently said that he would go to the Supreme Court immediately to get an early decision. "If you took away tariffs, we would end up being a third-world country," he warned. Earlier, he maintained that a no-tariff regime would be a "total disaster," and make America "financially weak." In his mind, the fear is that his grand, sellable and voluble strategy to 'Make America Great Again' may turn into a puny, whimpering and untouchable one, 'Make America Gyrate Again.'

The president is confident about the Supreme Court. The reason is simple. During his first term, Trump transformed the legal system in the country. In a major overhaul he filled the courts with Republican (his party)-appointed judges. In the Supreme Court, the ratio is 6:3, and in favour of the Republicans, who enjoy the conservative majority. It is more likely that the tariff appeal will be heard by a Republican-appointed judge(s), rather than those who were instituted by the Democrats. This is why Trump has predicted a reversal of the adverse orders "with the help of the Supreme Court."

However, things are not as simple as the president makes it sound. Despite the conservative majority, the Supreme Court, states an agency report, "issued a series of rulings favouring Trump's second-term agenda, but has in recent years been hostile to expansive interpretations of old statutes to provide presidents newly-found powers." The genesis of the tariff tangle lies in one of those old laws, which was enacted in 1977. Trump is

the first president to link trade and tariff with the country's emergency-like situation and national security to invoke unprecedented powers under it. He justified the use of the statute due to "trade imbalances, declining US manufacturing power, and the cross-border flow of drugs."

Earlier, President George W Bush used the 1977 law in 2001 to disband the financing networks of global terrorist groups after 9/11. President Barack Obama used it against foreign hackers to stop cyberattacks against America. "Trump himself used it to penalise Venezuela's state-owned oil company, reimpose sanctions on Iran, and target officials at the International Criminal Court," stated a media report. These were clearly issues of national security. Now, the US president has jumped several feet forward, and used the law to link economic security and energy security with national security.

More important, the latest 7-4 majority decision of the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington stated, "The (1977) statute bestows significant authority on the President to undertake a number of decisions in response to a declared national emergency, but none of these actions explicitly include the power to impose tariffs, duties, or the like, or the power to tax." It added, "It seems unlikely that Congress intended... to depart from its past practice and grant the President unlimited authority to impose tariffs."

Further, the Court stated that it is the US Constitution that gives the Congress, not the President, exclusive powers to regulate commerce with other nations. This is not

superseded by the president's remit to safeguard the economy, or US manufacturing. "The core Congressional power to impose taxes such as tariffs is vested exclusively in the legislative branch by the Constitution. Tariffs are a core Congressional power." In essence, Trump exceeded his authority and power, and used an old law to acquire new all-encompassing powers. This is something that the Supreme Court too has noted in its recent rulings that went against Trump.

Hence, the president cannot completely rely on the Supreme Court, although that is his best bet. One needs to remember that in the past neither Republican-appointed judges have always ruled in favour of a Republican president, nor have the Democrat-appointed ones ruled for their presidents. Even in the latest 7-4 Washington court order against the tariffs, two Democratic appointees dissented, and one Republican one assented, and joined the majority group. Judges can, and do, go by legalities, and not just ideologies. There are no Trump judges and Biden ones.

In fact, this was a reason for the fight between the American Chief Justice and Trump in the past. During his first term, the president called a jurist, who ruled against his asylum policy, an "Obama judge." The Chief Justice retorted, "We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges. What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal rights to those appearing before them." Trump did not give up, and responded on Twitter (now X) that there were Obama judges, who "have a much different point of view than the people who are charged with the safety of this country."

Trump, as is well-known, politicises everything. He has done it in the past, and he will do it again. As the tariff case moves to the Supreme Court, the president will pressurise and berate the judges to rule in his favour. He will hustle, bustle and jostle because tariffs are the foundation to his trade-driven global diplomacy. Not to forget that the new tariffs brought in more than \$150 billion of revenues in just the month of July, "more than double the amount collected at the same point the previous year." If tariffs are overturned by the Supreme Court, the US may be forced to refund these billions" to the importers, which will create a risk of "financial ruin."

Members of the Supreme Court, stated an old article on www.bbc.com, "like to think of themselves as above and apart from the tumult of American politics." In these trying times, where everything, the entire society is divided along ideological lines, they may wish to take a more balanced view, rather than be swayed by their own thinking, and who appointed them. Some of the judges may wish to arrive at decisions, not because of what Trump says or feels, but because of what the law says in letter and spirit. Obviously, in such traumatic times, it is almost-impossible to predict.



Sutanu GURU Author, Journalist and Academician



Trump disrupts Jagga's marriage

Jagga Najak is 29 years old, and smiles hesitantly during a video phone call. But behind the smile are deep signs of worry. He has been slogging for seven years, working 12-hour shifts in a power loom in Surat (Gujarat). Jagga is not sure which companies buy the fabric that he, and his colleagues, weave. But he is sure that the product is exported. His earnings gave him the confidence to get married. The marriage was in the works for a year or so. His parents, who live in a village in the Ganjam district of Odisha even found a bride.

He is not so sure anymore. Jagga is caught in a conundrum that has nothing to do with him. The origins of his anxieties, doubts and frustrations are thousands of miles away, in Washington's White House, where an aggressive and ambitious president has decided to punish India for buying crude oil from Russia. Jagga has no idea of the geopolitical equations. His world was restricted to Surat, his village, steady and decent income, and hopes of a marriage, a wife, and a few children (maybe grandchildren) in the future.

At present, Surat is awash with rumours and speculations of export orders being cancelled, and the owners of the power looms and factories struggling with decisions on whether to scale down production or shut down. A mill owner, Rajesh Shah, jokes with a shade of bitter humour: "Who knows. Maybe Donald Trump will increase tariffs to 100 per cent. I am thinking of closing the factory, and taking my family on a six-month vacation. We can travel and discover India." In such dire and mad times, maybe jokes and humour are the only way to retain some sanity.

Shah can afford to lose a few months of income and profits. But

Jagga cannot. The power loom job, which keeps him busy from 8 am to 8 pm is a dream come true. His parents did not have the resources to send him to college. It is another matter that he too was not interested. He started working at an early age as a daily wage labourer in Odisha, and earned ₹8,000 a month. Then, as is usual among families in Odisha and Bihar, and even Uttar Pradesh, Jagga's relatives, who were working in Surat, advised and cajoled him to migrate, and find work in a power loom or a factory. Today, Jagga earns a decent and 'princely' monthly salary of ₹34,000. He saves at least ₹20,000 a month, and has done so for several years. Indians have a knack of paring

down expenses, and saving money, especially when they migrate, either to other parts within India or outside the country.

Now Jagga's concerns are two-folds: What happens to his livelihood if the owner decides to shut down the business, either temporarily or permanently, and how will he get married without a job?

Jagga is not alone in such dilemmas. The teeming and vibrant Surat is now home to close to one million migrants from Odisha who work in the textile industry. Their numbers are so large that you will find Oriya colonies in the city. There are eateries-cum-dhaba-style restaurants that specialise in Oriya cuisine. Most migrants have invited their families

to come and stay with them. Their children go to local schools, where Oriya is taught as a language.

Of course, the migrants are fluent in Gujarati. They mix with the locals. They are grateful to Surat and Gujarat for transforming their lives. The textile mills and power looms have turned a million poverty-stricken individuals and families from Odisha to aspirational middle-class citizens. But they have retained Oriya roots.

Trump's tariffs can demolish the peace and comfortable existence. The lives of the migrants can come down and collapse like a pack of cards. Surat does not deal much in cotton. It specialises in manmade fabrics. There are more than 40,000 small and large power looms and factories that churn out the fabric for both domestic sales and exports. Most focus on exports.

Surat accounts for 40 per cent of

the fabric production in the country. Over the last decade or so, local entrepreneurs faced formidable challenges as the export-oriented textile industries in nations like Bangladesh and Vietnam outfoxed them in terms of cost competitiveness. Some of the smarter entrepreneurs relocated factories to Bangladesh to take advantage of the lower costs.

To understand the context of how the export patterns have changed, and get a perspective, digest this data point. The dollar value of readymade garment exports from Bangladesh in 2024 were double those from India. Now, the cost advantages have become even more lopsided. While the US imposed a 50 per cent punitive tariff on India, the figure on Bangladesh exports is 20 per cent. The same is the case with Vietnam, except for allegedly Chinese goods that are transhipped through the country. The duty structure may prove to be the final and most lethal blow for Surat fabric-makers. And also for the millions of hopeful and optimistic migrants.

Data is agnostic and has no human feelings. But for a million migrants from Odisha who have found a measure of financial security and dignity in Surat, the worry and impending pain is stark. Jagga often fails to sleep even after a gruelling 12-hour shift. He thinks of going back to Odisha, working again as a daily-wage labourer, just to earn a measly ₹10,000 a month. A salary that is a third of his present one. A salary that will not allow him to save anything. A salary that implies that he is back to square one.

If this happens, nothing has changed for Jagga. His life will come full circle. Millions of dreams will be shattered. Millions of hopes down the drain. Most crucially, how will Jagga finance his marriage?



A representative photo of a power loom in West Bengal

Forget rates, GST needs a new gait



regime, the average GST was 11-12 per cent. The two-slab structure, say tax experts, will reduce the average to below 10 per cent. If this is the case, a one-slab GST of 10 per cent will protect Government revenues under the proposed regime, and remove every confusion that exists. It will be simpler and easier. Yes, of course, some sectors will get hit in the medium term. But the same will happen for many sectors that will remain in the 18 per cent slab.

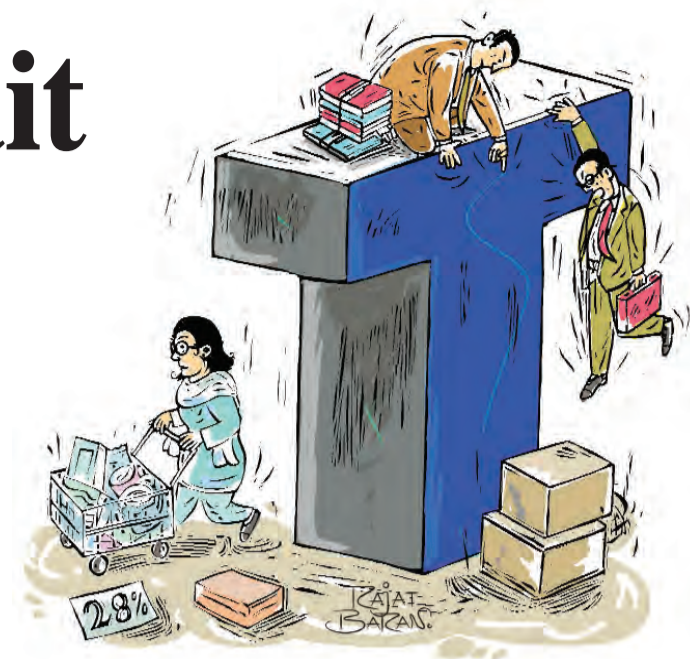
There is now talk that to force sellers to pass on the GST benefits under the new structure to the customers, the Government may invoke anti-profiteering rules. This is a case of going back to the socialist era, which the country left behind more than three decades

ago. It is not a case of GST 2.0, or second-generation reforms, but GST 0.0, or no-generation reforms. It is the ease of not doing business. The Government cannot force companies to lower prices, unless the former can build a case of excessive profiteering. Obviously, in such cases, the punishment for firms needs to be the maximum. More importantly, the two-slab structure will lead to lobbying and corporate pressures. It existed earlier, and is unlikely to vanish.

GST WAS A MEANS TO MAXIMISE REVENUES. BUT IT WAS SHROUDED IN RHETORIC LIKE EASE, MORALITY AND SIMPLICITY

But now, as is evident from media reports, each sector and segment will push the government to put its products in the lower slab. Yet again, the problem is the gap between five per cent and 18 per cent. Recently, the Indian Beverage Association argued that the current tax of 40 per cent (28 per cent GST plus 12 per cent compensation cess) needs to be reduced to 18 per cent. Carbonated beverages cannot be deemed to be 'sin or demerit' goods. Remember, the sin tax under the new structure may be 40 per cent, plus other taxes.

Invariably, there is national interest involved in lowering taxes. The association explained that the industry hopes to create three million new jobs by 2030, and commit an additional invest-



ment of ₹85,000 crore by the same year. This will increase the income and profitability of the neighbourhood traders, "along with the dependent ecosystem and secure their livelihoods so that they are able to survive the onslaught of quick and e-commerce." Some sections have voiced the idea of sugar-based taxation, based on how much sugar the beverages contain, which will provide relief to fruit-based juices.

Now, let us look at the revenue side. Most experts feel that since its genesis, GST was seen in India as a revenue maximisation mechanism, but was shrouded in rhetoric such as simplicity, ease, transparency and morality. The fact that earlier we had so many slabs indicated that revenue was the underlying concern. In fact, many states refused to come on board because they felt that they would lose out in the revenue distribution mechanism. But taxes and GST, apart from special situations, cannot be judged on collections. The collections need to improve over time because of the other factors.

This time too, as we move to a two-slab structure, some states are angry about the possibility of

lower revenues. At present, these include the Congress-ruled ones, since the BJP-ruled ones are in sync with the central regime. One estimate shows that if the items that currently attract 12 per cent move to the five per cent bracket, the annual revenue loss will be ₹80,000 crore. It is a huge amount, but peanuts compared to annual GST collections. In August this year, the GST revenues were ₹1,86,000 crore. This is just in one month. Even meagre increases in volumes will make up for the ₹80,000 crore dent. There is a need to look beyond revenues. The country needs to look at the economy, not just economics.

One year after GST, the then finance minister, Arun Jaitley, who pushed through GST, was harping on revenues. "The system of input tax credit ensures that disclosures are made. The GST has encouraged enormous voluntary tax registration. Detailed calculations... show that... about 1.7 million registrants were those who fell below the GST threshold but nevertheless chose to be part of the GST." He was, of course, talking about the additional people and firms that were likely to pay GST to boost revenues.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

are likely to rise. Misclassification was one of the major problem areas ever since GST was enacted. Lakhs of crores of rupees are caught up in legal cases, with the GST officials claiming illegalities, and the traders justifying it with technicalities.

The confusion and chaos are likely to remain the same, or even go up, as a 13 per cent gap is lucrative enough for businesses. According to experts, this may increase, rather than decrease, the problems related to input tax credit. Input tax is the mechanism to refund manufacturers for taxes paid on inputs, and save them from dual taxation. For example, if one buys five inputs, on which five per cent GST each is paid, the buyer needs to recover the amounts, and pay the requisite GST on the final product. This was one of the most contentious issues in GST. The wide gap will not lead to solutions.

Experts argue that what the country needs is a single slab, a single tax so that there is no room for illegalities and irregularities. In the earlier several-slab



FDI up, target \$100 billion

PTI and PIB
New Delhi

During the April-June quarter in 2025, the inflows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) stood at more than \$16 billion, compared to a lower of \$9 billion in the previous March-ending quarter. Total foreign investment, which includes equity inflows from abroad, reinvested earnings and other capital was over \$25 billion compared to \$22.5 billion in the same period the previous fiscal.

According to an official economic backgrounder that was released on August 30, 2025, "India has rapidly emerged as a top global destination for FDI, powered by a decade of struc-

tural reforms, investor-friendly policy and rising competitiveness. Backed by improvements in global rankings and strategic initiatives, investor confidence has strengthened. India witnessed a historic \$81 billion worth of foreign investments in FY 24-25 alone."

An enthusiastic Government now targets an inflow of \$100 billion annually, up from a five-year average of over \$70 billion, as India positions itself as a global investment hub amid shifting supply chains. According to the backgrounder, cumulative FDI inflows were nearly ₹90 lakh crore between April 2020 and December 2024. Equity inflows from abroad surged by 27 per cent to ₹3.4 lakh crore in April-December 2024, "reflecting robust investor confidence." It was due to reforms in key sectors, GST, and Make in India, which proved to be the main drivers for foreign investors.

As foreigners remained net purchasers for the most of the time on the Indian stock markets, domestic institutions and retail investors joined the party. Between June 16 and July 15, 2025, domestic institutions remained large net buyers, purchasing equity worth ₹44,000 crore. India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$700 billion as on July 18, 2025.

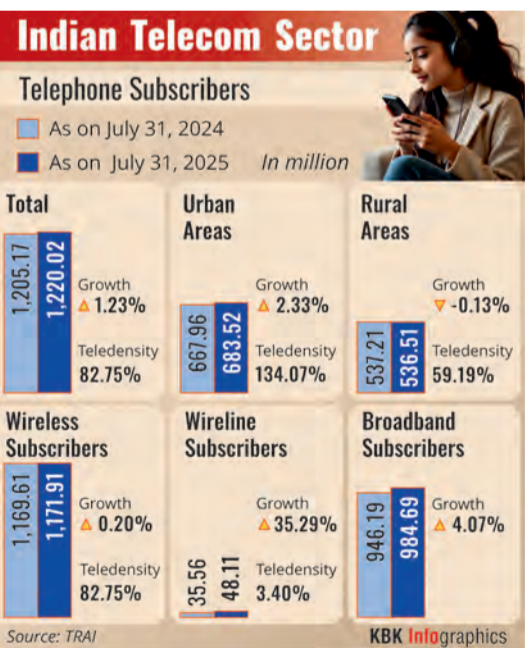


"Backed by strong macroeconomic fundamentals, India's growth journey remains in the global spotlight. While the RBI expects growth pace to continue into 2025-26, other projections echo this optimism. The United Nations has forecasted growth of 6.3 per cent in 2025, and 6.4 per cent in 2026, while the CII places its estimate slightly higher at 6.4067 per cent," states the backgrounder.

The IMF revised its forecast to 6.4 per cent in 2025 and 2026, and S&P Global raised India's long-term sovereign credit rating, which came after 18 years. The rating agency felt that the country's real GDP growth averaged 8.8 per cent between FY 22 and FY 24, the highest in the Asia Pacific region. It projects a growth of 6.5 per cent in FY 26, and 6.8 per cent over the next three years.

More importantly, the country's employment surged, with 170 million jobs created in the past decade, reflecting the government's focus on youth-centric policies and its *Viksit Bharat* vision. The backgrounder states that the labour force participation rate for those who are 15 years and above increased from less than 50 per cent to over 60 per cent in the past few years.

In the April-June 2025 quarter, agriculture engaged the majority of rural workers, and the tertiary sector was the largest source of employment in the urban areas. On average, more than 550 million were employed in the country, of which 400 million were men. Self-employment dominated rural jobs and, as expected, salaried persons were prominent in the urban areas. Unemployment rate has dipped.



Lower spends, stricter visas, AI disruptions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai

The Indian Information Technology (IT) sector, once seen as a defensive play for investors, is grappling with a downward re-rating. Analysts point to a mix of factors such as slowing discretionary technology spending, US visa uncertainties, and the disruptive impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on traditional jobs as reasons why the sector has struggled to outperform the indices.

According to Emkay Research's report, the Nifty IT Index has underperformed the broader markets by 3.9 per cent in the last three months, and 15.5 per cent in the last six months. While a modest recovery was visible in the past month due to a weaker rupee, and expectations of interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve, the sector's medium-term outlook remains cautious.

Hiring slump signals weak demand

A leading employment indicator, Naukri's JobSpeak Index, highlights the sector's muted momentum. Overall, hiring grew 3.4 per cent year-on-year in August 2025, but fell 13.3 per cent month-on-month. More worryingly, hiring in the IT-software and software services de-grew 6 per cent YoY, and dropped a sharp 15.6 per cent MoM, marking the sixth monthly decline in eight months. "IT players are expected to run

operations tighter and maintain higher utilisation amid the soft demand environment, with hiring recovering gradually driven by a rebound in tech spending, easing macro risks, and renewed discretionary tech spending in CY25," the Emkay report explained.

AI and machine learning (ML) remain the bright spot in the sector, growing 54 per cent YoY. But these positions are fewer in number, although they are highly-skilled and high-paying, compared to the

large base of traditional software jobs. The Emkay report observed that AI-centric positions are increasingly complementing or replacing conventional IT roles, creating a mismatch in the job market.

US policy adds to anxiety

Indian IT stocks face structural headwinds from tightening US H-1B visa norms, as well as curbs on migration. The US tariff regime has created further pressures on Indian exporters of goods and services. "Elevated

macro and geopolitical uncertainty dampen the outlook for IT spending, and could delay a broad-based recovery in client spending," the Emkay analysts wrote.

AI: A double-edged sword

While AI is a growth engine, it is contributing to job redundancies and skill mismatches. The Emkay report noted that companies are focusing on specialised AI expertise, while trimming traditional roles. This shift is evident in the hiring patterns: fresher recruitment remains strong in emerging hubs like Jaipur (+26 per cent) and Kochi (+16 per cent), while experienced hiring is led by sectors like oil and gas, and healthcare sectors, rather than the IT one.

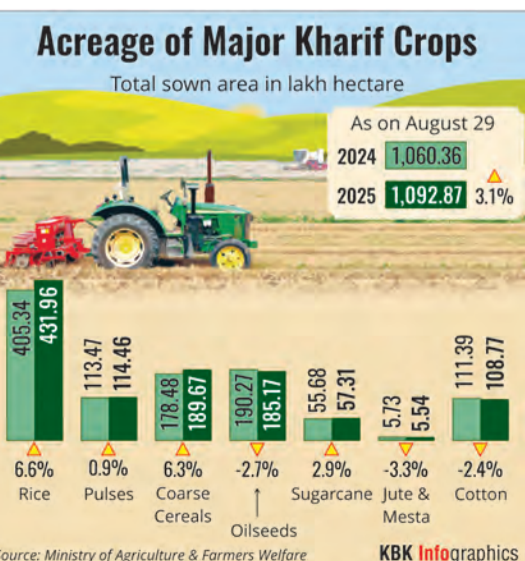
Mid-cap IT firms, with their agile execution and focused bets on high-growth areas like AI, are

expected to outperform the larger players. "We believe mid-cap companies are likely to continue outperforming Tier-1 players, driven by stronger execution capabilities, strategic deal sourcing, and focused investments in high-growth areas," the Emkay's analysts observed.

Valuation reset

The underperformance of the IT sector is stark when compared with the broader indices. Over the past year, the Nifty IT Index fell by 16 per cent, while the Nifty 50 was down three per cent. According to Sonam Srivastava, Founder at Wright Research, "In technology, IT services companies continue to face muted earnings growth, but attractive dividend yields and low investor expectations provide valuation support. Any second-half acceleration driven by Gen-AI monetisation or easing global interest rates could lead to a sector re-rating. Internet platforms, meanwhile, remain in high-growth territory, benefiting from the shift from scale to profitability. Financials are adjusting to moderating growth and normalising credit costs."

According to the Motilal Oswal Financial Services research report on technology: "IT services companies maintain a cautiously optimistic outlook while recognising that ongoing macroeconomic headwinds continue to pressure overall demand. Infosys maintained a cautiously optimistic stance (upgrading the lower end of guidance), with the upper end of its three per cent YoY organic CC guidance hinging on a gradually improving environment, while HCLT remained the most constructive, guiding for 3-5 per cent YoY CC growth (also, upgrading the lower end of guidance)."



FROM THE WORLD

US
Google monopoly cracked

A federal judge on Tuesday ordered a major make-over of Google's search engine in a crackdown aimed at curbing the corrosive power of an illegal monopoly. The 226-page decision made by US District Judge in Washington, DC, will likely ripple across the technological landscape at a time when the industry is being reshaped by artificial intelligence breakthroughs — including conversational "answer engines" as companies.

Xi declares China's rejuvenation unstoppable at Parade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Beijing

China on Wednesday for the first time displayed a range of new weapons at a massive military parade, which included laser weapons, nuclear ballistic missiles, giant underwater drones, besides fifth-generation aircraft, flaunting its military might.

One much-talked-about new weapon, displayed at the People's Liberation Army (PLA) parade to commemorate the 80th anniversary of China's victory against Japanese aggression in World War II, was the giant LY-1 laser weapon. The laser weapon, mounted on top of an eight-wheeled HZ-155 armoured truck, can effectively damage the optical sensors of enemy weapons and equipment.

Chinese defence analysts say it will truly change the rules

of maritime warfare. Laser warfare was regarded as the new military domain. India last month successfully test-fired an integrated air defence weapon system (IADWS), especially the high-power laser-based Directed-Energy Weapons system, which invited praise from a Chinese military expert who said it should be considered as a "significant advancement".

Also, China for the first time displayed a new type of DF-5C liquid-fuelled intercontinental strategic nuclear missile. State-run GlobalTimes reported that the missile has an estimated range of more than 20,000 kms and has advantages in defence penetration and precision. It can cover the entire globe under its strike range, an expert was quoted as saying. Also, the PLA's first air-launched nuclear



Russian President Vladimir Putin, Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev arriving to attend a military parade

missile, the JL-1, has been unveiled atop a military truck.

This model is significantly smaller than the JL-3 submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missile, which is on show. Official media says that these two missiles, along with the DF-61 and DF-31, represent the "first concentrated display" of the PLA's "land, sea and air triad strategic nuclear forces", constituting a "strategic advance for safeguarding national sovereignty and defending national dignity".

Military blogger Ma Yan told the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post that the

upgraded intercontinental ballistic missile DF-5C sends the message that "China's strategic deterrence is credible, reliable and sufficient".

The DF-5C can reportedly carry up to 10 multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle warheads, "meaning that a single missile can target 10 different locations at the same time", she said.

The missile can target "the enemy's military bases and critical facilities", and adjust the order of strikes. "Its existence strengthens our nuclear deterrent strategy, ensuring

effective retaliatory strikes, even under the harshest war conditions," she said. The PLA Rocket Force has displayed its new DF-26D, a variant of the DF-26 intermediate-range ballistic missile.

It can carry both nuclear and conventional warheads and reportedly has a range of up to 5,000km. Also, China has unveiled its fifth-generation combat planes on active duty for the first time in the grand parade. All five models — the J-20, J-20A, J-20S and J-35A of the PLA Air Force, as well as the PLA Navy's J-35 flew in several arrowhead-shaped

groups.

This is the first time in the world that five models of cutting-edge stealth fighter jets have appeared in one parade, state-run China Daily reported. It also marked the maiden public performance of the J-20S, the world's first and only model of twin-seat stealth jet; the J-20A, an upgraded single-seat variant of the J-20 baseline configuration; and the J-35, the first radar-evading combat plane in the Navy, the report said.

This fills a previous gap in China's nuclear arsenal, as the Chinese military lacked

a usable air-based nuclear weapon.

In addition to these strategic missiles, the parade showcased the CJ-1000 vehicle-mounted supersonic cruise missile, the YJ-18C ship-launched cruise missile, and the YJ-21 air-launched ballistic missile, the official media reports said. Four new types of hypersonic strike missiles — YJ-15, YJ-17, YJ-19 and YJ-20 — were also displayed, highlighting the PLA's ability to carry out ultrafast, long-distance precision strikes on hostile ships and land targets, according to the Post report.

The PLA also displayed its multi-stage, multi-layer air and missile defence network. The PLA Air Force brought six types of advanced systems to the parade. The occasion marked the public debut of the HQ-20 and HQ-22A anti-aircraft missile systems and the HQ-29 exoatmospheric missile interception system.

Wang Yanan, chief editor of Aerospace Knowledge magazine, said that in addition to conventional ballistic missiles, the HQ-19 can defend against hypersonic glide vehicle weapons that boast extremely fast speeds and supreme agility.

As a cutting-edge strike hardware, the hypersonic glide vehicle weapon is virtually impossible to intercept by previous air-defence missiles and poses a significant threat to high-value assets, Wang claimed.

The largest surface-to-air missile system China has ever shown, the HQ-29 is likely a mid-course interceptor designed to engage threats outside the Earth's atmosphere.

SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED
Regd. Office: 38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat, New Delhi-110049
CIN-L24302DL1973PLC189662/Email ID: - info@sunilhealthcare.com/Web:- www.sunilhealthcare.com
Tel: +91-11-49435555/00, Fax: +91-11-43850087

NOTICE OF THE 51ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, THE 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT 12:30 P.M./IST THROUGH VIDEO CONFERRING ("VC") OR OTHER AUDIO VISUAL MEANS ("OAVM"), E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the 51st Annual General Meeting of the members of the Company will be held on Monday, the 29th September, 2025 at 12:30 P.M./IST through Video Conferencing (VC) or other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) for which Registered office of the Company at 38E/252A, Vijay Tower, 3rd floor, Panchsheel Commercial Complex, Shahpur Jat, New Delhi-110049, shall be deemed as the venue for the meeting to transact the businesses as set out in the AGM Notice.

Pursuant to General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated 8th April, 2020, 17/2020 dated 13th April, 2020, 22/2020 dated 15th June, 2020, 33/2020 dated 28th September, 2020, 39/2020 dated 31st December, 2020, 10/2021 dated 23rd June, 2021, 20/2021 dated 8th December, 2021, 3/2022 dated May 05, 2022, No. 10/2022 dated December 28, 2022, No. 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 and No. 09/2024 dated September 19, 2024 (collectively referred to as the "MCA Circulars") and Circular Nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/ CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62, dated May 13, 2022, SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/4 dated January 05, 2023, SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/167 dated October 07, 2023 and SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2024/133 dated October 03, 2024 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI Circulars"), Companies are permitted to hold Annual General Meeting (AGM) through Video Conferencing (VC) or other Audio Visual Means (OAVM), without physical presence of the Members at a common venue.

In compliance of the aforementioned circulars, Electronic Notice of AGM alongwith the explanatory statement as per section 102 of Companies Act, 2013, and procedure of Remote E-Voting/ Evoting, attending of the meeting through Video conferencing details, Annual Report for Financial year 2024-25 etc. has been sent electronically on Wednesday, September 03, 2025 to the all the members at their email address whose email IDs are registered with Company/RTA/Depository Participant (DP). Further, the same are also available on Company's website <https://www.sunilhealthcare.com/annual-reports>, website of Stock Exchange i.e. www.bseindia.com, and the website of MUFG Intime India Pvt. Ltd. i.e. <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013, read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended from time to time, Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligation & Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015 and the Secretarial Standard on General Meeting issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, members of the Company have been provided with the facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be considered at the 51st Annual General Meeting (AGM) by electronic means through e-Voting services. The company has engaged services of MUFG Intime India Private Limited for availing of Instavote platform for casting the vote through "remote e-voting"/ e-voting.

The members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on cut-off date i.e. Monday, the 22nd September, 2025, may cast their vote electronically on the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM through electronic InstaVote platform of MUFG Intime India Pvt. Ltd: <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in>

In terms of SEBI circular no. SEBI/HO/CFD/PoD2/CIR/P/2023/120 dated July 11, 2023, Individual shareholders holding securities in demat mode are allowed to vote through their demat account maintained with Depositories and Depository Participants. For detail Remote e-Voting Procedure, please refer Note no. 23 of the Notice of the 51st AGM.

The members may note that:

- The remote e-voting period will commence at 9:00 A.M. on Friday, the 26th September, 2025 and will end at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, the 28th September, 2025 and thereafter e-voting module shall be disabled by Evoting agency.
- Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the shareholder, the shareholder shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
- The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to their shares of the paid up equity share capital of the Company as on cut-off date of Monday, 22nd September, 2025.
- Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after sending of the notice and holding shares as of the cut-off date i.e. Monday, 22nd September, 2025, may obtain the login ID and password by following the instructions of Remote e-voting given in Note no. 23 of the Notice of AGM.
- A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting/voting at the Annual General Meeting through e voting.
- A member may participate in the AGM even after exercising his right to vote through remote e-voting but shall not be allowed to vote again at the AGM.
- M/s. ATCS & Associates, Peer Reviewed Practising Company Secretaries, (ICSI Unique Identification No. P2017RJ063900), Jaipur has been appointed as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the e-voting and remote E voting process in a fair and transparent manner.
- In case shareholders/ members holding securities in physical mode/ Institutional shareholders have any queries regarding e-voting including login, they may contact INSTAVOTE helpdesk by sending a request at enotices@in.mpsms.mufg.com or contact on: - Tel: 022 - 4918 6000. The Member may also contact at delhi@linkintime.co.in, cs@sunilhealthcare.com or to our RTA at rtal@alankit.com or lalitap@alankit.com.
- For details instruction of e-voting and attending meeting through VC or OAVM, the members are requested to go through the notice of the meeting (especially note no. 24).

Notice is further given that pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and applicable provision of SEBI (Listing Obligation and Disclosure Requirement) Regulation, 2015, the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain close from Tuesday, 23.09.2025 to Monday, 29.09.2025 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meeting of the Company.

On order of the Board
For SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED

Sd/-
SATYENDU PATTNAIK
COMPANY SECRETARY
& COMPLIANCE OFFICER
F7736
Place - New Delhi
Dated- September 04, 2025

Regd. Office:
38E/252A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat, New Delhi-110049
CIN No: L24302DL1973PLC189662
Phone No: +91-11-49435555/00 Fax no 011-43850087
Email ID: info@sunilhealthcare.com
Web: www.sunilhealthcare.com

Indian students killed in car collision

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
London

Two students from Telangana have been killed in a two-car road collision at a major roundabout in Essex, south-east England, while five others sustained serious injuries, local police have said. While Chaitanya Tarre, 23, died on the spot, Rishi Teja Rapolu, 21, succumbed to his injuries in hospital soon after the accident at the Rayleigh Spur roundabout early Monday.

Essex Police said two other men from east London who were driving the cars at the time of the crash were arrested on suspicion of dan-

gerous driving before being released on bail. "Sadly, one man died at the scene while another died in hospital. Specialist officers are supporting their families. Five other people were taken to hospital with serious injuries," Essex Police said in a statement.

The drivers of the two cars — two men from Barking aged 23 and 24 — were arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury by dangerous driving. "They have since been released on bail until November 20. Our investigation into the collision is ongoing," the statement said. The force has issued a public appeal for information, including any CCTV, dash cam or other footage in relation to the collision on the A130 — a major dual carriageway road.

The National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) UK issued a statement to condole the death of the students, who are believed to have been on their way back from a Ganesh Visarajan celebration with their peer group. "We are deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Essex, UK, involving nine students from the Telugu community," NISAU UK said in a statement.

"The accident has claimed the precious lives of two young students, Chaitanya Tarre and Rishi Teja Rapolu. Our heartfelt condolences go out to their families and loved ones during this incredibly difficult time," the statement said. Several other students remain in hospital and under urgent medical care, it said.



Pope Leo XIV waves as he arriving for his weekly general audience in St Peter's Square at The Vatican

Sri Lanka customs releases 500 EVs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Colombo

A Sri Lankan court here on Wednesday ordered the release of a second lot of Chinese BYD Electric Vehicles (EVs), held by the Customs over an alleged misrepresentation of their motor power.

The Court of Appeal's verdict to release 506 Chinese EVs came after the official dealer, John Keells CG Auto, sought relief for the second time within a month.

All 506 cars are subject to submission of additional bank guarantees of 1.8 billion rupees to Sri Lanka Customs by the dealer. The Customs wanted tests to be done to verify if the engine power of the EVs had been falsified in the import documents to gain an undue tariff advantage. This was the second lot



of Chinese BYD EVs held by the Customs over the alleged misrepresentation of their motor power under customs tariff classifications. In July, a similar consignment of 1,000 EVs from Chinese manufacturer BYD was held at Sri Lanka Customs over suspected undervaluation of motor power to reduce excise duty, officials told the parliamentary oversight committee.

The Customs reached a Court of Appeal settlement in August with the importer to release over 900 units while the tests to verify motor power were pending.

The importer was accused of making declarations stating a lower motor capacity — 100 kW from the actual 150 kW — so that lower

customs duties can be charged. The customs tariff for a 100 kW motor is four million rupees lower than for a 150 kW motor. BYD experienced brisk sales after Sri Lanka allowed car imports in February this year for the first time in five years. By May, within 3 months, they captured almost 90 per cent of the electric car market.

THAILAND'S RULING PARTY SEEKS ELECTION

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Bangkok

Thailand, which has been under a caretaker Government since last week, saw competing efforts to resolve its political crisis on Wednesday, as the country's main opposition party agreed to support its rival to be the next prime minister while the party in power said it wants a new election.

The Pheu Thai party, which heads the caretaker Government, announced it was asking the country's king to dissolve Parliament and call a new poll instead of having the current House of Representatives vote for a new prime minister.

No date has yet been set for a vote in Parliament, nor was it clear if the king would endorse dissolution.

The Constitutional Court last week dismissed Paetongtarn Shinawatra as prime minister for breaching ethics laws in a phone call with Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen about tensions over competing claims along their border, which erupted into a deadly five-day armed conflict in July.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn alone is empowered to dissolve Parliament. However, the Council of State, which advises the Government on legal matters, suggested that a caretaker prime minister cannot call for dissolution unless a vote for a new prime minister reaches a deadlock.

The opposition People's Party, the biggest party in Parliament, announced Wednesday morning that its lawmakers would vote to appoint Anutin Charnvirakul, leader of the Bhumjaithai party, as the next prime minister.

People's Party leader Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut said that the Pheu Thai party had failed to govern effectively in its two years in power. However, its support is contingent on conditions specified in an agreement signed by Anutin, including that the prospective new Government must dissolve the House of Representatives within four months and call a general election. An Anutin-led Government would also commit to organizing a referendum on constitutional amendments to allow the drafting of a new constitution by an elected constituent assembly. The People's Party has long sought changes in the constitution — which was imposed during a military Government — to make it more democratic.

Russia launches drones, missiles at Ukraine

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Kyiv

Russia fired more than 500 drones and two dozen missiles at Ukraine overnight, authorities said Wednesday, as Ukraine's president and European leaders persevered with talks aimed at strengthening Ukrainian defenses and adding momentum to so far unsuccessful US-led peace efforts.

The main Russian nighttime targets were civilian infrastructure, especially energy facilities, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, as another winter approaches three years after Russia's all-out invasion of its neighbor. The attacks targeted mainly western and central Ukraine and wounded at least five people, the Ukrainian air force said. Russia's aerial assaults that hit civilian areas and its army's drive to crush Ukrainian defenses along the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line have not abated in recent months, despite US President Donald Trump's attempts to stop the fighting.

While Zelenskyy has accepted Trump's proposals for a ceasefire and face-to-face talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the Kremlin has raised objections. Meanwhile, the Ukrainian president described the overnight strikes as "demonstrative." Takeaways from Trump's meeting with Zelenskyy and Europeans "Putin is demon-



strating his impunity," Ukraine's president said on Telegram Wednesday, urging tougher sanctions on Russia. "Only due to the lack of sufficient pressure, primarily on the war economy, does Russia continue this aggression." Amid recent diplomatic maneuvering, Putin was in China meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, as well as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The three countries support Russia's war effort,

Washington says. Pyongyang has sent troops and ammunition to Russia, while China and India have bought Russian oil, indirectly helping its war economy.

In his daily video address on Tuesday evening, Zelenskyy said the number of Russian drone attacks is growing, including in broad daylight, and reported "another buildup of Russian forces in some sectors of the front." He said it revealed "an open disregard by Russia for everything the world is doing

to stop this war." Zelenskyy arrived in Denmark on Tuesday for talks with Northern European and Baltic countries about new military aid and further diplomatic support for Ukraine.

British Defense Secretary John Healey, meanwhile, arrived in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv for meetings on how to strengthen Ukraine's military. Zelenskyy was due later Wednesday in Paris for talks with French President Emmanuel Macron, ahead of a Thursday meeting there of

European countries assessing what kind of postwar security guarantees they might be able to provide with the United States. NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said Paris talks about what each country can provide.

Rutte said he is "discreetly part of all the conversations" alongside NATO's Allied Commander, Grynkeiwich, because the plans would draw resources from alliance countries and officials need to "prevent spreading our resources too thinly."

American Hindu group slams Navarro's Brahmins remarks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Taking strong exception to White House trade advisor Peter Navarro's recent remarks like 'Brahmins profiting,' American Hindu group has sought his dismissal terming his remarks as Hinduphobic and culturally insensitive.

HinduPACT's American Hindus Against Defamation (AHAD), a Hindu advocacy group, has sought his dismissal from President Donald Trump's team, describing his recent remarks as "inappropriate" and "weaponised Hindu phobia." The Hindu group objected to Navarro's reference to caste and his "portrayal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a sacred act of Hindu prayer". In its press release, the AHAD said, "Navarro's rhetoric constitutes not only a cultural violation but also a reckless provocation that endangers the dignity of over a billion Hindus and threatens the foundational relationship between the two largest democracies."

The group criticised Navarro's comments about "Brahmins profiting at the expense of the Indian people", calling it a colonialist stereotype. "It's not a critique; it's a colonial-era trope recycled to divide Hindu society and depict India as inherently unjust," the group said. Ajay Shah, executive



Peter Navarro FILE PHOTO

chair of HinduPACT, said, "This is not foreign policy. It's weaponised Hinduphobia." He added that dividing Hindus through colonial ideas does not build relationships; it destroys them. "People like Navarro have no place in American political life," he said.

The group bloc also slammed Navarro for sharing a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in saffron robes. It said the picture was shared to mock Hindu spirituality while exerting economic pressure on India.

Commenting on the picture, HinduPACT president Deepthi Mahajan said, "If the target was the Hindu faith, that's religious hostility. If the target was India's leadership, that's diplomatic recklessness. Either way, it's a serious violation."

addressing and countering defamation, misrepresentation, and prejudice against Hinduism, its symbols, icons, and culture. Founded in 1997 as an initiative of the World Hindu Council of America (VHPA), it is now part of a larger advocacy organisation, HinduPACT. The strong reaction came after Navarro's utterances against India for buying Russian oil. He had reportedly said "Brahmins" are profiteering at the expense of the Indian people and it needs to "stop".

"Look (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi is a great leader," Navarro, the Trump administration's Senior Counsellor for Trade and Manufacturing, said in an interview with Fox News. The trade adviser said he does not understand how the Indian leader is cooperating with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping "when he's the biggest democracy in the world".

Israel's nuclear program sparks global concern

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Dubai

Construction work has intensified on a major new structure at a facility key to Israel's long-suspected atomic weapons programme, according to satellite images analysed by experts.

They say it could be a new reactor or a facility to assemble nuclear arms — but secrecy shrouding the programme makes it difficult to know for sure. The work at the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Centre near the city of Dimona will renew questions about Israel's widely believed status as the Mideast's only nuclear-armed state. It could also draw international criticism, especially since it comes after Israel and the United States bombed nuclear sites across Iran in June over their fears



that the Islamic Republic could use its enrichment facilities to pursue an atomic weapon. Among the sites attacked was Iran's heavy water reactor at Arak.

Seven experts who examined the images all said they believed the construction was related to Israel's long-suspected nuclear weapons

program, given its proximity to the reactor at Dimona, where no civilian power plant exists. However, they split on what the new construction could be. Three said the location and size of the area under construction and the fact that it appeared to have multiple floors meant the most likely explanation for

the work was the construction of a new heavy water reactor. Such reactors can produce plutonium and another material key to nuclear weapons.

The other four acknowledged it could be a heavy water reactor but also suggested the work could be related to a new facility for assembling nuclear weapons. They declined to be definitive given the construction was still in an early stage.

"It's probably a reactor — that judgement is circumstantial but that's the nature of these things," said Jeffrey Lewis, an expert at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, who based his assessment on the images and Dimona's history.

Israelis protest Gaza conflict with disruptions

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Deir Al-Balah

Protesters took to Israel's streets for what they called a "day of disruption" on Wednesday, denouncing the call-up of tens of thousands of reservists for an offensive that has drawn global condemnation and fuelled fears in Israel that it could endanger hostages still held in Gaza.

The demonstrations, the latest of their kind to roil Israel, accuse Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet of failing to secure a ceasefire deal and instead intensifying an invasion that hospitals in Gaza say in its initial stages is already accelerating a rise in fatalities. "We have to take extreme action so that someone will remember. There's no such thing as a state abandoning its citizens," Yael Kuperman, a protester near the Knesset, told Israeli public broadcaster Kan. Strikes hit both Gaza City and southern Gaza as Israel urges evacuation.

Meanwhile, hospital officials told The Associated



Press at least 24 people were killed in strikes overnight into Wednesday.

Nasser Hospital said it received 10 bodies, including one aid-seeker in Rafah and a child killed by a strike in southern Gaza. Shifa Hospital said the bodies of 14 people, including two children and four women, arrived on Wednesday, while Al-Quds Hospital said it received another person killed by Israeli strikes. Israel says that Gaza City — the

largest Palestinian city in either the besieged strip or the occupied West Bank — remains a Hamas stronghold above what military officials claim is a vast underground tunnel network, even after raids earlier in the war. Israel has intensified air and ground assaults on the outskirts of Gaza City, particularly in western neighbourhoods where people are being driven to flee toward the coast, according to humanitarian groups that

coordinate assistance for the displaced. Site Management Cluster, one such group, said on Wednesday that families were trapped by the prohibitively high cost of moving, logistical hurdles and a lack of places to go. "Palestinians are also reluctant to move due to the fear of not being able to return or exhaustion from repeated displacement," it said. Hospitals report dozens killed as international outrage grows.

The twin threats of combat and famine, Palestinians and aid workers say, are only growing more acute for families in Gaza City, the vast majority of whom have reported being displaced multiple times during the 23-month war.

Hospital officials and Gaza's Health Ministry said Wednesday the death toll kept climbing, with people killed in airstrikes while trying to reach aid, or from hunger. The ministry said 113 Palestinians were killed on Tuesday — more than half in Gaza City — over the past 24 hours.

Iran increased stockpile of near weapons-grade uranium: UN Agency

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Vienna

Iran further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels before Israel launched its military attack on June 13, a confidential report by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog seen by The Associated Press said Wednesday.

The report by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency said that as of June 13, Iran had 440.9.6 kg of uranium enriched up to 60 per cent, an increase of 32.3 kg since the IAEA's last report in May.

The report stated that this figure is "based on the information provide by Iran, agency verification activities between 17 May 2025 and 12 June 2025 (the day preceding the start of the military attacks) and estimates based on the past oper-



ation of the relevant facilities". That material is a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90 per cent. The confidential report also stated that as of June 13, Iran's total enriched uranium stockpile was 9874.9 kg, which

represents an increase of 627.3 kg since the last report in May. The UN nuclear watchdog said that since June 13, it has "not been able to conduct the infield activities required to collect and verify Iran's declarations used to estimate the

changes to the previously reported stockpile".

According to the IAEA, approximately 42 kg of 60 per cent enriched uranium is theoretically enough to produce one atomic bomb, if enriched further to 90 per cent.



Jamaica's election amid economic concerns

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ KINGSTON

Jamaica was holding a general election on Wednesday that many believe could be a defining moment for an island shaken by corruption, inequity and economic concerns. Prime Minister Andrew Holness of the Jamaica Labour Party is seeking a third term and running against Mark Golding, an attorney and longtime leader of the People's National Party. The Jamaica Progressive Party and the United Independents' Congress are also in the running. In addition, nine independent candidates are registered to contest the election in various constituencies. A total of 63 seats are up for grabs in Jamaica's House of Representatives. The leader of the party that wins a majority becomes the island's next prime minister.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (RSO), Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites 'E-Tender' in prescribed tender form for the following work.

1	Name of the work	Development of facilities at TRIP sheds under Electrical with its location
2	Approx. Tender value (Rs.)	Rs. 45,96,570.00 (including GST)
3	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Rs. 91,900/- Note:-Online payment mode available on IREPS website.
4	Date & Time of tender opening (immediately when tender submission ends)	23.09.2025 at 11:00 hrs.
5	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE No.: 230-Elect/RSOWP/2024-25, Dt.: 01.09.2025 2640/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय, नगर पालिक निगम, कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)
ई-प्रोक्च्यूरमेंट निविदा सूचना

क. 230 / निर्माण / 2025 दिनांक 28.08.2025

एकोक्त पंजीयन प्रणाली अंतर्गत सक्षम श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु (Online) आनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनुमानित लागत (रु.लाख में)	निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथि
1	बसखसपुर सी.बी.डी. प्लांट हेतु नवीन प्रस्तावित स्थल पर प्रीकास्ट बाग्गडूवाल तथा ब्रिकवर्क बाग्गडूवाल, रॉटी गेट एवं मिट्टी फिलिंग का कार्य (वि.ख.न्या. मद्द) (द्वितीय निविदा)	199.58	16.09.2025 (T. No. 174455)

उपरोक्त कार्य की निविदा को जानकारी ई-प्रोक्च्यूरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है, साथ ही निगम के वेब साईट www.korbamunicipal.in पर भी देखी जा सकती है।

॥ स्वच्छ भारत निर्माण में योगदान दें ॥

अधीक्षक अभियंता
नगर पालिक निगम
कोरबा (छत्तीसगढ़)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2024-25-40. The details are as under:-

1	Name of the work	Dismantling, Overhauling, Assembling, testing and fitting of Air dryer of Trident make during JOH/MOH of Electric locomotives for a period of 24 months at Electric Loco Shed-Ghaziabad.
2	Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 67,43,895.13
3	Earnest Money to be Deposited	Rs. 1,34,900.00
4	Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender bid of Tender	25.09.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
5	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Document	25.09.2025 (After 15:00 Hrs.)
6	Website particulars where complete details of Tender Documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions, please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No.: 230-TRS-GZB-2024-25-40 Dated: 01.09.2025 2668/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

COSCO (INDIA) LIMITED
CIN : L25199DL1980PLC010173

Regd. Office : 2/B, Roop Nagar, Delhi-110 007 Website : www.cosco.in Email : mail@cosco.in
Tel. : 91-11-23843000 Fax : 91-11-23846000, BSE Trading Symbol: Cosco

Notice
100 Days' Campaign - "Saksham Niveshak"

Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPF Authority) in line with the objectives of the Niveshak Shivir and its broader drive for investor education and facilitation, has launched a "100 days' Campaign - "Saksham Niveshak" from July 28, 2025 to November 06, 2025, for shareholder whose dividends have remained unpaid/unclaimed. In this regard, Cosco (India) Limited ("the Company") has initiated 100 Days' Campaign - "Saksham Niveshak" and this notice is being issued by the Company as a part of the aforesaid campaign.

All the Shareholders who have unpaid/unclaimed dividend, Dividend/Shares transfer to IEPF Authority or those who are required to update their Know Your Client ("KYC"), Bank/Nomination details/ contact information (e-mail, mobile no., address), etc. may write to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent i.e. Skyline Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. Add- D-153 AJ 1st Floor | Okhla Industrial Area, Phase - I, New Delhi-110 020. Tel. : 011-26812682-83, 40450193 to 97 e-mail: admin@skylineirta.com

Further, Shareholders holding shares in Dematerialized form are requested to contact their respective Depository Participant to update the KYC, Bank/Nomination details.

This campaign is special to reach out to the shareholders to update their KYC, Bank/nomination details and to claim their unpaid/unclaimed dividend /shares and to ensure timely receipt of dividend and to avoid transfer of shares and dividend to the IEPF Authority.

We urge all shareholders to take prompt action during the campaign period to safeguard their entitlement and ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

For Cosco (India) Limited,
Sd/-
Sudha Singh
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: Delhi Date : 3rd September, 2025 Membership No.: A33371



Bhupen Hazarika: The bard of Brahmaputra and beyond



DR AMARJYOTI CHOUHURY

Dr Bhupen Hazarika was an extraordinary blend of facets. A creative mix of a lyricist, a composer, a singer, a performer, a poet, a writer, an editor, a music director, a movie director, a political persona and an activist—all rolled into one.

How this musical prodigy emerged as the bard of Brahmaputra is a fascinating story. That he could repeat the feat for the neighboring populace of west Bengal and Bangladesh in Bengali seemed almost like magic.

Actually, however, it was his grit and the prowess of his music and narrative that enabled him to achieve this feat. The careful blend of folk elements with universality in his songs had an irresistible appeal. His cry against injustice and his overwhelming optimism in his songs too resonated profoundly in this populace.

Later when he extended this feat to the pan Indian stage, it was a further confirmation of the power of his songs and of the narrative that he wove in his songs, films and his brand of journalism.

His creativity thus transcended geographical and media related boundaries with consummate ease. Very often he joked "All these personalities live in harmony in me." Harmony indeed was a favourite theme of him. A theme that was

delicately nurtured in him by his illustrious mentors, Jyotiprasad Agarwala and Bishnuprasad Rabha. His films have ushered in bright traces of neo-realism to our world of cinema. His films like "Era bator sur", "Lotighoti", "chikmik Bijulee" and "Chiraj" are examples of this breed. In "Pratidhwani" he took us to the question of love in the exotic backdrop of Meghalaya. etc. No wonder, Dada Saheb Phalke award was conferred on him. Rivers have been his life long love. Indeed, his life too sings like a river. A river of Sa-Re-Ga-Ma-Pa-Dha-Ni-Sa-Sa. His beginning note was in Sadiya. Sadiya is where the sight of Himalayan mountains surround you. Where the rivers Dihang, Dibang and Lohit merge as the mighty Luit (Brahmaputra). His fans claim he has the currents of the river in his voice. And breeze from mountains in his tunes. No wonder he is fondly revered as "The Bard of Brahmaputra".

Re: The Brahmaputra at Guwahati lends him the second note. Its inspired ambience steadies his Rishava. Ga: The tutelage of Jyoti Prasad Agarwala And Bishnu Prasad Rabha provides him the next ascendance (Arohan). Gently it lifts him to the cloud of Gandhara. Ma: Benares allows him meandering to the "Ma" of Indian classical music. Its tradition of innovations carves in him an overflowing tributary.

Pa: Next is his stint at Columbia University. Here he writes a thesis on effective use of mass communication techniques in the world of education. It brings him face to

face with the legend that was Paul Robeson. Robeson kindles in him the old fire. The fire of concern for the humanity.

Dha: The musician now returns home with a thundering "Dha". While returning, he decided to write his own songs so as to provide him fuller range of self-expressions. Changes come also in his way of public performance of songs. He now prepares himself as the perfect performer communicating in toto what is inside. Those were his hey days with IPTA when he started collecting folk tunes of the land with single minded zeal. In his music, he starts deftly mixing local tunes with those of distant lands. Literally he storms into our hearts with his songs and films.

Ni: In clear note of Ni, he raises his voice against all injustices. Sa (higher) This is when he enters the high octaves of life. This is when he strides our world of music like a colossus.

The result is a soulful weaver whose words grow from the soil. Like a herb. Like a banana tree. Or Like a betelnut tree. Yet at times the lyrics would frame the

eternal truths. The result is an adored singer whose voice emerges from our hearts. Like a Dotara. Like a Gagara. Like an overwhelming orchestra. And he leads you, through his performances, from the humdrum to the sublime. The result is a singer who has a nation in wait for his words. His melodies. His farsighted actions. Like his leadership in according the status of classical art to the legacy of Satriya dances.

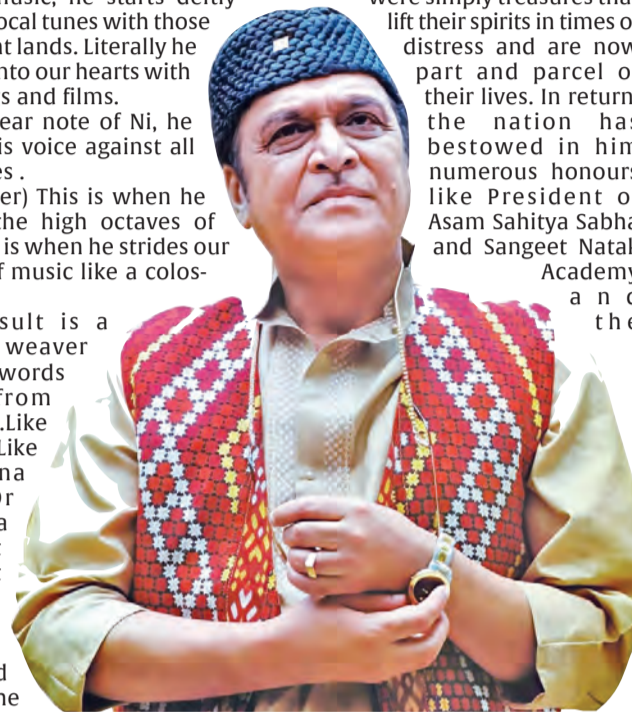
Looking back, his songs are not mere words, not mere tunes. These were simply treasures that lift their spirits in times of distress and are now part and parcel of their lives. In return, the nation has bestowed in him numerous honours like President of Assam Sahitya Sabha and Sangeet Natak Academy and the

ultimate Indian civilian award of Bharat Ratna. His songs channeled in us a new belief in ourselves. We were also made intensely proud of our ethnic as well as of our composite Assamese identity. His pet theme of social harmony prepared us for our creative evolution amidst a multicultural ambience. His songs fetched us visions of a society where there are outstretched hands for helping the needy. Further, in his vision of society, divisions on the basis of caste, creed and colour simply evaporated. While proudly nurturing our roots, his songs also prepared us for traits of universality. More importantly, when our lives flounder, his songs also readied us to face it with grit and determination. It is through such a complete package of ideas that he still has enormous influence in our socio-cultural ethos.

Hence it is our obligation that we bring his achievements and ideas in their full glory to our younger generation. In birth centenary celebrations of Sudhakantha, already various programmes have been designed to meet these objectives. A high level of enthusiasm has already surrounded us.

We have reasons, indeed, to trust that his artistic creations and the narrative he promoted shall boldly resonate to resurrect in us and specially in our younger generation, his bright world of ideas, ideals and musical innovations.

The writer is presently a professor emeritus at Dr Bhupen Hazarika Centre for Creativity, Assam Royal Global University



Chief Minister Himatnada Biswa Sarma is distributing cheques under MMUA to women beneficiaries of Jalukbari constituency at a programme held at Azara on Wednesday

PROSPECT

AMANTA HEALTHCARE IPO SUBSCRIBED 82.60 TIMES

The initial public offering (IPO) of Amanta Healthcare Ltd received 82.60 times subscription on the closing day of bidding on Wednesday. The ₹126-crore IPO got bids for 57,81,83,634 shares against 70,00,000 shares on offer, as per NSE data. The portion for non-institutional investors garnered a whopping 209.40 times subscription. The category for retail individual investors got subscribed 54.96 times and qualified institutional buyers part received 35.86 times subscription. The company's IPO has a fresh issue of up to 1 crore shares.



YES BANK SHARES CLIMB 4%

Shares of Yes Bank jumped 4 per cent on Wednesday after fair trade regulator CCI cleared Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation's proposal to acquire up to 24.99 per cent stake in the private sector firm. The stock climbed 4.09 per cent to settle at ₹20.36 on the BSE. During the day, it surged 4.19 per cent to ₹20.38. At the NSE, shares of the company went up by 4 per cent to ₹20.35. SMCB is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. (SMFG).



MEDANTA LAUNCHES 550 BED HOSPITAL IN NOIDA

Global Health Limited "Medanta" on Wednesday announced the commencement of operations at its new 550 bedded hospital in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The launch further strengthens Medanta's commitment to provide highest standard of healthcare in the National Capital Region (NCR). The state of the art hospital opens with 300 operational beds, including 100+ ICU beds and 5 advanced operating theatres. Speaking about the launch of the Noida unit, Dr. Naresh Trehan, Chairman and Managing Director of Medanta, shared: "Our new hospital in Noida marks another milestone in Medanta's journey of bringing world-class healthcare to the people of India. Pankaj Sahni, Group CEO, Medanta, said: "The launch of our Noida facility today represents a significant step in Medanta's growth journey."



Arvind Kumar honoured with SCOPE eminence awards



Arvind Kumar, Indian Oil's Director (Refineries), with additional charge of Director (Pipelines), receiving the SCOPE Eminence Award for Individual Leadership from President Droupadi Murmu at Vigyan Bhawan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Arvind Kumar, Director (Refineries) with additional charge of Director (Pipelines), IndianOil, has been conferred with the SCOPE Eminence Award for Individual Leadership (Miniratna I & II PSEs) for the year 2022-23. President of India, Droupadi Murmu presented the award for his stellar performance and transformational leadership during his tenure as Managing Director of CPCL (Chennai Petroleum Corp. Ltd), at Vigyan Bhawan recently.

Mamoni Basumatary, General Manager (Technical), at IndianOil Refineries HQ, bagged the SCOPE Award for Outstanding Women Leadership. Under Arvind Kumar's stewardship, CPCL had achieved record operational and financial milestones, secured "Schedule A" status, and earned accolades for its industry-leading performance. With more than 35 years of rich experience, Mr. Kumar has been instrumental in spearheading mega refining and petrochemical projects and has been widely recognised for his visionary leadership.

HCLTech and Rubrik to deliver multi-layered cybersecurity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

With ransomware attacks and the cost to recover on the rise, preventative measures alone can't guarantee business continuity. That's why HCLTech, a leading global technology company, and Rubrik, the cybersecurity company, have launched HCLTech VaultNXT powered by Rubrik, designed to monitor and detect ransomware attacks. Using Rubrik Security Cloud to secure data across enterprise, cloud, and SaaS environments, VaultNXT powered by Rubrik combines a series of overlapping and reinforcing security measures to facilitate cyber recovery and ensure data integrity. "With rising cyberattacks and complex cloud envi-

ronments, Indian enterprises must move beyond prevention alone and adopt a holistic 360° cybersecurity strategy" said Ashish Gupta, Managing Director, India & Head of Engineering at Rubrik. "VaultNXT powered by Rubrik is built for this. With the Rubrik Security Cloud, our customers gain a unified interface that centralizes control and deep visibility across their entire data landscape." "With the prevalence and destruction of ransomware attacks, we understand that a strong cyber resilience strategy is essential," said Rampal Singh, Senior Vice President and Global Business Head- Hybrid Cloud, Application Operations and Mainframe Services at HCLTech. "At HCLTech, combined with

VaultNXT powered by Rubrik and our dynamic security framework with a full spectrum of technology services, we are able to provide a stringent recovery process and seamless protection for our joint customers against cyber threats and ransomware compromises." Key features of VaultNXT powered by Rubrik include immutable architecture to protect backups against malware and ransomware or cyberattacks, comprehensive and native AI/ML-driven ransomware monitoring and investigation, sensitive data monitoring and threat hunting to determine IOCs (Indicators of Compromise), Turbo Threat Hunting to hunt down IOCs in thousands of backups within minutes, threat containment to

quarantine infected snapshots and orchestrated and automated app & identity recovery. Rubrik's 2025 State of Data Security Report found that 90 percent of IT and security leaders reported a cyberattack against their organisation in the past year. In addition, the report found that the most common attack vectors were data breaches (30 percent) and malware on devices (29 percent). VaultNXT powered by Rubrik is designed to reduce sensitive data exposure by identifying what types of data is present, where it lives, and who has access to it. It also has robust security at the point of data and has built-in orchestration, which is pivotal during the recovery process.

Cabinet approves ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme to promote critical minerals recycling

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

The Cabinet on Wednesday gave its go-ahead to a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme to promote recycling of critical minerals in the country. The decision was taken during the cabinet meeting held under the

chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The scheme aims at developing recycling capacity in the country for the separation and production of critical minerals from secondary sources. These include e-waste, Lithium Ion Battery (LIB) scrap, and scrap other than e-waste and LIB scrap, such as catalytic converters in

end-of-life vehicles. "The Union Cabinet Today approved a ₹1,500 crore incentive scheme," the mines ministry said in a statement. This scheme is part of the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM), which is aimed at building the domestic capacity and supply chain resilience in critical minerals.

Dharmendra Pradhan pitches for training module for Anganwadi workers



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday called for developing a structured training module for Anganwadi workers, describing them as the "first teachers" in a child's life. Speaking at the launch of Guidelines for Co-location of Anganwadi Centres with Schools, Pradhan said Anganwadi workers play a critical role in shaping early childhood care and education (ECE) and must be given opportunities to enhance their skills. "Many Anganwadi workers are highly committed, but if they wish to continue their education, they should get that chance. Whether it is completing Class 12, graduation, or pursuing further courses, a common training module can support

them," he said. He said while experience is invaluable, professional support would help them meet the demands of the new education framework. "We must design a structured module for their capacity building, just like teachers undergo professional development," the minister said. Pradhan underlined the importance of the early years for nation-building. "The child who is six months old today will be a young leader in 20 years. If we want a developed India by 2047, the foundation has to be strong, and Anganwadi workers are at the heart of that process," he said. Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi, who also addressed the gathering, said the co-location guidelines are a step towards fulfilling the National Education Policy

(NEP) 2020 vision. She noted that nearly 85 per cent of brain development takes place by the age of six, making early education and care crucial. "This is the result of the prime minister's vision and the education minister's consistent push. When Anganwadis and schools function under one roof, children will not only get nutrition and safety but also learn through play and strong foundational skills," she said. The new guidelines aim to provide uniform rules to smoothen children's transition from Anganwadi to Class 1 and ensure holistic development. Calling the initiative a confluence of "education and values", Devi added that co-location will also ease the childcare burden for working mothers, giving them confidence to pursue their livelihoods.

Prof Pradeep Kumar Prajapati Appointed AIA Director

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Ministry of Ayush has appointed Professor Pradeep Kumar Prajapati as the Director of the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA). Prajapati has been appointed on deputation and his tenure will be for five years or until further orders, whichever is earlier. This appointment was approved by the cabinet committee on appointments on August 20. Ayurveda researcher Dr Prajapati is currently the Vice-Chancellor of Rajasthan Ayurveda University (DSRRAU) in Jodhpur. Prior to this, he served as the Dean of the All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi. Professor Prajapati has enriched numerous insti-



tutions across the country through his research and lectures. He has shared the mantra of a disease-free life with

the world. He believes that when wisdom is coupled with humanity, history always remembers such individuals.

JITF INFRALOGISTICS LIMITED
CIN NO. : L60231CT2008PLC016434
Registered Office: A-11(7), Udaya Society, Sector-3, Taibandh, Raipur-492099, Dharsiwaa, Chhattisgarh, India
Website: www.jitfinfra.com, E-mail: contactus@jitfinfra.com

NOTICE OF THE 18TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 18th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held on Tuesday, 30th September 2025 at 12.00 Noon at Hotel Grand Rajputana, Telghani Naka Chowk, Station Road, Raipur-492001, Chhattisgarh to transact the business as set out in the Notice convening the said Annual General Meeting. The Notice of AGM along with Annual Report for the Financial Year ended 31st March 2025 has been sent to the members who hold shares as on record date, i.e., 29th August 2025, by email, whose email id is registered with the Company/Depository(s) and the physical copy to all the other members. The said documents can also be viewed on the company's website at www.jitfinfra.com.

Notice is also hereby given that pursuant to section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 and regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from 24th September 2025 to 30th September 2025 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.

Further, pursuant to the provisions of section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 20 of Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company is providing remote e-voting facility to its members to cast their vote electronically on the resolutions to be transacted at 18th AGM of the Company.

The member please note the following:

- The remote e-voting shall commence at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, 27th September 2025 and shall end at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 29th September 2025.
- The remote e-voting shall not be available beyond 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 29th September 2025.
- The cut-off date for determining the eligibility of members for remote e-voting and voting through poll at AGM is 23rd September 2025.
- Any person who becomes member of the Company after dispatch of notice of the meeting and holding shares as on cut-off date, i.e. 23rd September 2025, may obtain the user id and password by contacting RCMC Shares Registry (Pvt.) Ltd., R & T Agent of the Company at B-25/1, Okhla Industrial Area Phase II, New Delhi - 110020, phone-011-26387320-21, Fax-011-26387322, Email- evoting.services@rcmcdelhi.com.
- The members who cast their vote through remote e-voting may also attend the AGM but shall not be allowed to cast their vote at AGM.
- The facility of voting through poll shall be available at the AGM to those members who have not casted their vote through remote e-voting.
- Members may go through the e-voting instructions provided in the AGM Notice or visit <https://evoting.nsdl.com> and in case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting User Manual for members available at the download section of <https://evoting.nsdl.com>

For JITF Infra Logistics Limited
Sd/-
Alok Kumar
Company Secretary
ACS-19819

Place: New Delhi
Date: 03.09.2025

BRIEFLY

AFGHANISTAN SPINNERS STIFLE PAK FOR WIN IN TRI-SERIES



Ibrahim Zadran and Sediqullah Atal smashed successive half-centuries before Afghanistan spinners strangled Pakistan's deep batting lineup to notch an 18-run win in the T20 tri-series on Tuesday. The spin trio of captain Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi and left-arm spinner Noor Ahmad, playing his first game of the tournament, shared six wickets between them to limit Pakistan to 151-9. Zadran (65) and Atal (64) followed their half-centuries against United Arab Emirates a day ago with an impressive 113-run stand as Afghanistan posted 169-5 after Khan won the toss and elected field. It was the fourth straight game in the tri-series in which teams successfully defended totals. UAE lost both its games while chasing against Pakistan and Afghanistan.

HAPPIEST MOMENT TURNED IN SOMETHING TRAGIC: KOHLI



India and Royal Challengers Bengaluru batting superstar Virat Kohli has opened up about the June 4 stampede during his franchise's IPL victory celebrations, saying, "nothing in life really prepares you for the heartbreak" of 11 deaths on what should have been the happiest day for his side. The tragic incident occurred when an estimated 2.5 lakh fans thronged at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium to celebrate RCB's maiden IPL title. "What should've been the happiest moment in our franchise's history. Turned into something tragic," Kohli was quoted as saying by RCB on its 'X' handle.

DEFENDER JHINGAN OUT FOR REMAINDER OF CAFA CUP



Star Indian defender Sandesh Jhingan has been ruled out of the rest of the CAFA Nations Cup matches after sustaining an injury during the team's 0-3 defeat to Iran. The injury to the 32-year-old stalwart is a big blow to India as they take on a strong Afghanistan side in their third and final Group B match on Thursday. India are currently placed second in the four-team group with three points from two games after a thrilling win against hosts Tajikistan, which was followed by a defeat to Asian giants and world number 20 Iran. Iran are leading the pool with six points following an all-win record. India's hopes of advancing in the tournament hinge on the match against Afghanistan. "Defender Sandesh Jhingan had sustained an injury during India's CAFA Nations Cup 2025 match against Iran, and has been ruled out of the remaining matches. He will return to India today," posted All India Football Federation (AIFF) on 'X'.

MESO IN SOUTH AFRICA'S WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP SQUAD



Seventeen-year-old wicketkeeper-batter Karabo Meso on Wednesday earned her maiden call-up to South Africa's 15-member squad for the women's ODI World Cup starting later this month in India and Sri Lanka. Meso, who debuted for the senior side against Sri Lanka in T20Is in March this year, has played two ODIs and five T20Is so far.

Oltmans open to short-term roles with India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

Legendary Dutch hockey coach and former High Performance Director of the Indian men's team, Roelant Oltmans is open to working in the country again but doesn't want a full-time assignment at this stage of his career.

The 71-year-old, who served a five-year stint with the Indian men's team first as a High Performance Director (HPD) and then as head coach, was removed in 2017 following a string of poor performances by the national side, in particular a sixth-place finish at the Hockey World League semifinals in London. He had then said that India is not the easiest of countries to work, especially in the sporting sector.

On Wednesday, Oltmans, who is here with the Chinese

team for the men's Asia Cup, said that while he doesn't want to take up a full-time job, he now prefers to work as a consultant for short stints with any national team that needs his help.

"If you have a job like that (full-time coach) you have to go for long tours and long-term contracts, and I don't want long-term stints right now. I am only focused on short-term assignments," Oltmans told PTI in an interview on the sidelines of the ongoing men's Asia Cup.

On whether he would be open to a short-term stint with India again in future, the tactician said, "You never know, you never know."

Oltmans came to India as an HPD in 2013 and helped in strengthening the sport at the grassroots level.

He was appointed head coach of India in 2015 and served in that position till

2017, when he was removed.

He has also worked with Malaysia and Pakistan and is currently here with the Chinese team as an assistant coach on the request of fellow Dutchman and assistant coach Michel van den Heuvel.

"Let me be very clear, there is only one coach and that's Michel and not me. I just came here for this tournament to support him on his request. My job is to scout players," Oltmans said.

Ranked 22nd in the world, China are making big strides in world hockey, and that was evident from



their gutsy performance against Paris Olympics bronze medallists and world No.7 India in their Asia Cup opener, which they eventually lost 3-4.

Oltmans feels rankings hardly matter in modern-day hockey, a fact that China proved against India.

He believes, if not LA2028, Chinese hockey will be a force to reckon with by the 2032 Olympics.

"It's a very short time for him (Van den Heuvel) to make too many changes; he tried to bring in awareness and what he wants from the players. I must say they (China) have grown slowly from the last Asian Champions Trophy. In the Asian Champions Trophy, China were not able to score a goal against India in two matches and now they have scored three in one match. That is the difference.

"The way they are progressing, I believe, China will be there at the top league by the 2032 Olympics," Oltmans

said. Even though Australia's Anthony Farry is the Chinese head coach on paper, it is Van de Heuvel who is calling the shots right now.

Oltmans rated India clear favourites in the Asia Cup but refrained from talking much about Indian hockey.

"India is the best team in Asia, no doubt about that. Apart from that I don't want to speak more about India."

Last year just before the Asian Champions Trophy, Oltmans suddenly stepped down as Pakistan's head coach, refusing to accept a short-term contract.

The tumultuous and short association with Pakistan hockey last year has left a sour taste in Oltmans' mouth.

"No, no I am not going to work for them (Pakistan) anymore. No dues were left with Pakistan, everything is perfect, though it took a lot of time and patience."

Battling back injury, Cummins vows to do 'whatever it takes' for Ashes return

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Sydney

Australian Test skipper Pat Cummins has said he would do "whatever it takes" to play the high-profile Ashes, even as he battles a back injury which he's likely to have picked up due to an uptick in workload during the World Test Championship Final against South Africa earlier this year.

The 32-year-old quick, who will miss the upcoming white-ball games against New Zealand and India and also the Sheffield Shield matches in the run-up to the Ashes, is hopeful he would recover in time for the opening Test in Perth beginning November 21. "I'm never going to go into a Test match unless you think you can finish the Test match," Cummins told cricket.Com.Au on

Wednesday. "But when you're 18 or 19, you're like, 'Let's make sure this is the perfect rehab whether it takes an extra six months'. Whereas, I'm happy to be a bit like, 'Well, it's an Ashes series, whatever it takes to play it'."

"Then, say, at the end, if you're still not 100 per cent and you need to then have a bit of a break next year. There's not another Ashes series," said Cummins, amplifying the importance of the series against England.

Medical scans have revealed a lower-back issue that has continued to trouble the stalwart even weeks after the Test series against the West Indies. Cummins is currently on a restricted regimen in the gym and will not be risked over the coming weeks to ensure the back issue gets resolved. He has a history of

injuries, including persistent back issues and an ankle problem that made him miss the Champions Trophy earlier this year. The pacer said the experts will "reassess" him in a month's time.

Cummins said he would require little preparation time for the Ashes even if he misses the Shield games, adding that he was willing to take the risks. "I think you're willing to take a few risks and be a little bit aggressive to try and play as much Tests as you can. At this stage of my career, I feel like I can probably get up to speed a bit quicker than when I was 18 or 19.

"Back then you probably feel like you need to play a few Shield games or one-dayers. I'm pretty confident even if I don't get a chance to play a Shield game, I can get up to speed pretty quickly."

"It's (nearly) 12 weeks until the first Test, it feels a long way away, so we've got plenty of time." Cummins, who bowled 35.1 overs in the WTC Final defeat to South Africa at Lord's in June in four days, saw his bowling workload increase drastically during the title clash soon after returning from the grind of the Indian Premier League.

"Sometimes you might just get unlucky and bowl a lot of overs in, say, the World Test Championship final and that's enough to kind of start it (injury)," he said.

"Through the West Indies, I felt like maybe it was a little bit sore, but nothing abnormal for fast bowlers, you've always got some niggles. Once you get home and everything settles down, it just hung around a little bit."

He sent down another 49



overs in less than a fortnight in the first two Tests against the West Indies.

On his injury, Cummins, who has missed just one Test due to injury since taking charge of the Test side four years ago, said, "It's similar (to previous injuries). But I've been really lucky, the last seven or eight years I haven't really had much."

"In 2018 I had a full-blown

stress fracture, which kept me out for a full off-season. But I've had a really good run as far as fast bowling goes and have been well looked after.

"It feels worlds away (from those more serious injuries). I've bowled a lot over the last few years, so something was bound to happen at some point. But hopefully I get this right and don't miss too much cricket," he added.

Shreyas, Jaiswal eye big outing for West Zone in Duleep Trophy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Bengaluru

The dynamic trio of Shreyas Iyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shardul Thakur will be aiming to make a statement when a star-studded West Zone takes on Central Zone in the Duleep Trophy semifinal here on Thursday.

Iyer, who could not find a place in India's Asia Cup squad, will be keen to begin the season on a bright note here, and keep himself in contention ahead of some crucial assignments such as the home series against the West Indies and the subsequent white ball tour of Australia.

This might be an incredibly frustrating phase for Iyer, whose 604 runs across 17 matches for Punjab Kings at an average of 50.33 and at a strike-rate in excess of 175 did not resonate with the selectors during the Asia Cup selection.

But if he can channelise that frustration and turn it into runs, West Zone may be benefitted.

Jaiswal offers a slightly different case. Having already



secured his place in the Test side for the foreseeable future, the young left-hander would want to sustain his red ball game time ahead of the home series against the West Indies and world champions South Africa.

His last competitive outing was the fifth Test against England at the Oval, and since he is yet to crack the white ball code, Jaiswal might have to wait till the series against the West Indies in October for

an international appearance. On other hand, Thakur, who is set to lead West Zone, will try to push his stocks up after Lukewarm outings against England in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy to remain on the selectors' radar.

Other prominent members of the West Zone team like Ruturaj Gaikwad and Tanush Kotian will hope for a strong effort to get back into national reckoning.

On paper, West carries far too many guns but Central Zone are no mere pushovers.

Dhruv Jurel might come back to lead them if the India wicketkeeper batter has recovered from a groin niggle that kept him out of the quarterfinals against North East Zone.

Even without Jurel, their batting packed a punch as stand-in skipper Rajat Patidar, Danish Malewar and Shubham Sharma cracked big hundreds last week. They also have a competent bowling unit in left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey, and pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Deepak Chahar.

They will nonetheless have a job at hand against a strong West Zone batting line-up, which will miss an injured Sarfaraz Khan, on a BCCI Centre of Excellence pitch that looked slow and smooth during the quarterfinals.

But they will miss the presence of left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who is travelling to Dubai to join India's Asia Cup squad.

SQUADS:
West Zone: Shardul Thakur (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Aarya

Desai, Harvik Desai (wicket-keeper), Shreyas Iyer, Shivalik Sharma, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Jaymeet Patel, Manan Hingrajia, Saurabh Nawale (wicket-keeper), Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian, Dharmadrasinh Jadeja, Tuskar Deshpande, Arzan Nagwaswala.

Central Zone: Dhruv Jurel (c/wk), Rajat Patidar (vc), Aryan Juyal, Danish Malewar, Sanjeet Desai, Aditya Thakare, Deepak Chahar, Saransh Jain, Ayush Pandey, Shubham Sharma, Yash Rathod, Harsh Dubey, Manav Suthar, Khaleel Ahmed.

NORTH TAKE ON SOUTH: The absence of Tilak Varma, who has left for Dubai to start his preparations for Asia Cup, pacer Vysakh Vijayakumar and left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore, both of whom have been injured, will weaken South Zone.

Therefore they will require some healthy scores from the likes of N Jagadeesan, Devdutt Padikkal and Salman Nizar, who recently slammed 116 in 13 balls in the Kerala Cricket League, to tide over North's challenge.

North will also have to contend with the unavailable-

ity of pacers Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana, as they are part of the Asia Cup squad.

India pacer Anshul Kamboj is likely to step in for this match.

Hence, they will require an encore from the likes of Ayush Badoni, skipper Ankit Kumar and Yash Dhull, who were the centurions in the quarterfinals.

SQUADS:
South Zone: Mohammed Azharuddeen (C), Tanmay Agarwal, Devdutt Padikkal, Mohit Kale, Salman Nizar, Narayan Jagadeesan, Tripurana Vijay, Tanay Thyagarajan, Vasuki Koushik, Nidheesh MD, Ricky Bhui, Basil NP, Gurjapneet Singh, Snehal Kauthankar, Ankit Sharma, Shaikh Rasheed.

North Zone: Ankit Kumar (C), Shubham Khajuria, Ayush Badoni, Yash Dhull, Ankit Kalsi, Nishant Sandhu, Sahil Lotra, Mayank Dagar, Yudhvir Singh Charak, Anshul Kamboj, Auqib Nabi, Kanhaiya Wadhawan. (Standbys: Shubham Arora (wk), Jaskaranvir Singh Paul, Ravi Chauhan, Abid Mushtaq, Nishank Birla, Umar Nazir, Divesh Sharma).

Mexican fans urged to end homophobic chants ahead of 2026 World Cup

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Mexico City

Frustrated that Mexico's soccer federation has failed to stop a homophobic chant heard during national team matches, LGBTQ+ activists are appealing directly to local fans to end the offensive habit before next summer's World Cup.

The chant, a one-word slur that literally means male prostitute in Spanish, went viral in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil and the subsequent fines — including 100,000 Swiss francs (then \$114,000) for two incidents during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar — had little impact.

"Those fines have been for nothing. And what has the federation done? Not much. And what it has done is

useless," said Andoni Bello an LGBTQ+ activist and critic of the chant who played for Mexico in amateur soccer tournaments organized by the International Gay and Lesbian Football Association.

The United States, Canada and Mexico are hosting the 2026 World Cup starting next June 11.

Mexico was awarded 13 matches in three cities — Monterrey, Mexico City and Guadalajara, the capital of the state of Jalisco where the chant was first heard during a 2004 Olympic qualifier between Mexico and the US. Afterward, it spread to stadiums across the country with fans of Guadalajara soccer club Atlas.

The slur usually occurs when the opposing goalkeeper takes a goal kick and it is



more frequent when the Mexican team is losing the match.

"I'm concerned about the violence expressed in stadiums, which is invisible and anonymous," Bello added. "This normalised violence perpetuates homophobic hate crimes in this country. It seems very drastic, but it's

real. If we think nothing's happening, we're perpetuating it."

Initially, federation officials argued that the chant wasn't aimed at gays and that the word had different connotations in Mexican culture, but then they changed the approach by launching social campaigns that did not

succeed. Now, they simply ask fans before matches not to do it.

In 2022, the federation also threatened fans shouting the slur at games with five-year stadium bans but they did not enforce it.

"The federation wanted to find other meanings for it. It has no other meanings; it's a homophobic one," Bello said. "We call on sponsors, institutions, players, teams, and fans to change the way they view people and their sexuality."

Bello has teamed with Calma Comunidad, a non-profit organisation that seeks to provide sexual education, and the National Council to Prevent Discrimination, a decentralised agency of Mexico's government that tries to eliminate discrimi-

nation in the country. They will approach top-tier teams and their fan clubs to try to do workshops before the World Cup.

"It's a great opportunity to generate these small, big changes. Here we are resisting to generate or promote those changes," said David Moncada, who works for Calma Comunidad.

Bello added that neither he, nor the other organizations are asking fans to spot having fun at the stadium, just to avoid doing it while using a homophobic slur.

"I want my team to win, and I want the other team to feel the pressure of the stadium. Of course, I'm going to yell and pressure them to make mistakes, but I don't need to make homophobic comments," Bello added.



Wasteful India settles for 2-2 draw against Korea in Super 4 match

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Raigir (Bihar)

India wasted chances galore to settle for a 2-2 draw against defending champions Korea in their first Super4 match of the men's Asia Cup hockey tournament here on Wednesday.

The Indians were by far the better side on display in terms of possession and chances but the Koreans defended stoutly to earn a deserving draw.

Both teams got a point each. Hardik Singh (8th minute) and Mandeep Singh (53rd) scored for India, while Korea's goals were scored by Jihun Yang (12th) and Hyeonhong Kim (14th).

India will next play Malaysia, while Korea will be up against China on Thursday.

The India-Korea match was delayed by nearly 50 minutes because of a heavy downpour just before opening whistle. From the onset, Hardik was a livewire for India in the midfield with his neat dribbles and solo runs.

India secured their first penalty corner in the second minute. The hosts earned back-to-back penalty corners in the seventh minute but they failed to breach the Korean defence.

But a minute later India deservedly took the lead through Hardik.

Sukhjeet Singh stole the ball in the halfline and passed it on Hardik, who dribbled past four to five Korean defenders and then put the ball in past the goalkeeper to give his team the lead.

But some sloppy defending from India allowed Korea to draw level in the 12th minute.

An intentional push from Jugraj Singh on a Korean player inside the circle resulted in a penalty stroke and Jihun Yang made no mistake.

Two minutes later, Korea added salt to India's wounds when Hyeonhong Kim converted their first penalty corner, flicking the ball past Indian custodian Krishan Bahadur Pathak's extended left leg.

The second goal seemed to have unsettled the Indians a bit as the South Koreans played fine zonal hockey to keep their opponent's at bay.

The Indians did manage to penetrate the circle a few times but the Korean defence was resolute.

In the 24th minute, Jarmanpreet Singh's slap shot from right after receiving a pass from skipper Harmanpreet Singh was saved by an alert Korean goalkeeper Jaehan Kim as India went into the halfway break trailing 1-2.

After the change of ends, Korea tried to slow down the game as much as possible



and were content to hold on to possession as India pressed hard but without any sting.

In the 41st minute India had a golden chance to draw level but an unmarked Sukhjeet Singh pushed wide of the target after receiving an inch-perfect pass from Manpreet Singh. Minutes later Abhishek reverse from wen inches wide of the goal.

The Indians had another great chance but with just goalkeeper to beat, Abhishek could not connect properly and shot wide.

Seconds from the end of third quarter, India secured their fourth penalty corner but Harmanpreet's effort was saved by the Korean defence.

The Indians created chance after chance in the fourth and final quarter but the forwardline just bungled inside the striking circle, wasting easy opportunities. India high press resulted in another penalty corner in the 49th minute but Jugraj's powerful flick was blocked by the Korean first runner.

Soon Mandeep Singh created another chance but his reverse hit was palmed away by custodian Kim.

The Korean defence finally buckled under relentless pressure when Mandeep found himself at the right place at the right time to push in Sukhjeet's assist to level the scores.

India secured another penalty corner seconds later but Amit Rohidas shot wide.

The Indians continued to put pressure till the final whistle in search of the winner, which eluded them.

Meanwhile in the first Super4 match, Malaysia beat China 2-0 to open their points tally. The opening half ended goalless before Syed Cholan broke the deadlock for Malaysia by converting a penalty corner in the 45th minute. Two minutes later, Akhimullah Anuar scored a fine field goal to double Malaysia's lead.

The Chinese, thereafter, pressed hard for goals resulting in some onfield skirmishes between the two sides.

In fact, there was some shoving and pushing between the two sides when Fitri Saari unintentionally hit Xiaolong Guo of China in his leg, forcing the latter to limp out off the pitch. The incident resulted in yellow cards (10 minutes suspension) for Yuanlin Lu of China and Malaysia captain Marhan Jaail.

Earlier in the day, Ryosuke Shinohara scored a brace as Japan defeated Chinese Taipei 2-0 to progress to the 5-6th classification match. Shinohara scored both his goals from field efforts in the fifth and 11th minute respectively.

Carlos Alcaraz to face Novak Djokovic

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ New York

Carlos Alcaraz finger-wagged the crowd, beat Jiri Lehecka to the net and cruised into the semifinals at the US Open.

The second-seeded Spaniard beat Lehecka 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, making some high-light-reel shots and putting his hand to his ear afterward to encourage more cheers from fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium. It's his first hard-court semifinal appearance at a major since winning his first Grand Slam title at the U.S. Open in 2023.

"I kind of met the Grand Slam version of Carlos," Lehecka said. "He just showed that he is one of the contenders, for sure. Everyone knew that, and he proved that."

Alcaraz is just 22 years old and is in the semifinals at a major for the ninth time. Only Rafael Nadal with 10 has more before turning 23.

Next up for Alcaraz is Novak Djokovic, the 24-time Grand Slam champion who knocked him out of the Australian Open quarterfinals in January and beat him for the gold medal at the Paris Olympics last year.

Djokovic got past Taylor Fritz 6-3, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4 at night. Alcaraz would supplant Jannik Sinner - whom he lost to in the Wimbledon final and beat in the French Open final - atop the rankings if he wins the U.S. Open for a second time.

"It's really difficult not to think about it," Alcaraz said. "Every time that I step on the court, I am trying not to think about it. If I think about the No. 1 spot too much, I think I'm going to put pressure on



myself and I just don't want to do that. I just want to step on the court, try to do my things, try to follow my goals in the match and try to enjoy as much as I can. The No. 1 is there, but I'm trying not to think so much about it."

Before facing Fritz or Djokovic on Friday night, Alcaraz plans to play golf Wednesday with 2017 Masters champion Sergio Garcia. He thinks his countryman owes him more than a few strokes. "He has to give me at least between 10 and 15 shots," Alcaraz said. "It's going to be great. I'm not that good, Sergio, come on." Jessica Pegula makes the US Open semifinals again.

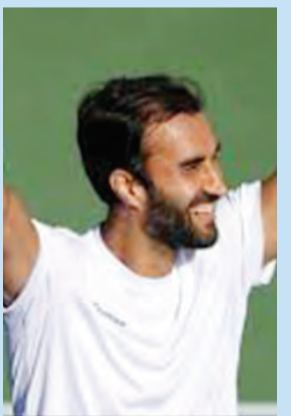
On the women's side, Jessica Pegula broke through her quarterfinal wall again at the U.S. Open, defeating Barbora Krejickova 6-3, 6-3 to get to the semifinals at a Grand Slam tournament for just the second

BHAMBRI MAKES FIRST GRAND SLAM QUARTERS

New Delhi: Yuki Bhambri reached the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam for the first time in his career, progressing to the last-eight of the US Open men's doubles competition with partner Michael Venus here.

The 14th seeded Indo-New Zealand combination knocked out fourth-seeded German pair of Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz 6-4 6-4 in one hour and 23 minutes. They will next take on Croatia's Nikola Mektic and American veteran Rajeev Ram, who are the 11th seeds in the draw.

In his injury-marred singles career, the 33-year-old Indian could never go beyond the first round but in doubles, he has been doing better. He reached the third round of French Open and Wimbledon this year. All Indians out of Junior US Open Meanwhile, the promising Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi gave a scare to second seed Hannah Klugman of Britain before going down in the girls singles second round 7-6 (1) 4-6 6-3. She battled for two hours and two minutes. Maaya had an opportunity to break Klugman when the British player was serving for the match but she found a way to survive, consistently attacking the backhand of the Indian. Later, Maaya also bowed out of the doubles event along with partner Laima Cinalli, going down 2-6 2-6 to fourth seeds Luna Vladson and Jeline Vandromme. Hitesh Chauhan and Krish Tyagi also lost their respective boys doubles second round matches to the tournament.



take care of business," Pegula said. "I've played good players but (gotten) convincing wins over those players."

Pegula, 31, is seeded fourth at the U.S. Open and aiming for her first Grand Slam championship. She and No. 8 Amanda Anisimova are the only Americans left in the women's singles field.

Krejickova knocked out one of them, Taylor Townsend, who failed to convert eight match points when they met

in the quarterfinals on Sunday. Pegula was not perfect, but she played well enough to stay in control at all times and broke Krejickova one final time to end the match in under 90 minutes - on her first match point attempt.

"She had a couple really good returns when I was serving at 4-1," Pegula said. "We all saw what she did against Taylor, so I was happy that we're done."

Venus' US Open ends with a loss in women's doubles quarterfinals

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ New York

Venus Williams' first Grand Slam tournament in two years ended on Tuesday when she and Leylah Fernandez lost in the U.S. Open women's doubles quarterfinals to the top-seeded duo of Taylor Townsend and Katerina Siniakova 6-1, 6-2.

When the match finished after 56 minutes in Louis Armstrong Stadium, Williams smiled as she walked to the net to shake hands with Siniakova, then hug Townsend. Thousands of spectators rose to give Williams a standing ovation; Townsend and Siniakova then joined in, applauding for Williams.

"Growing up watching Venus and (her sister) Serena, for me and my sister, it was an inspiration," Townsend told the crowd. "It was an honor to share the court today."

Siniakova called Williams "a legend" and said it was "a privilege" to play against her.

The 45-year-old Williams earlier exited in the first round of both singles - bowing out against Karolina Muchova in three sets - and mixed doubles. She was out of competition for 16 months until returning to play at a tournament in Washington in July. Her most recent major tournament had been the 2023 U.S. Open.

"What I'm proudest of is it's not easy to come off the bench. It really isn't, and I have never had a layoff that long. It brought new chal-



lenges that I wasn't ready for in so many ways. So I'm very proud that I. Stayed myself. I didn't try to play another game. I didn't try to play it safe. I went for it, and that's who I am. I go for it. When you go for it, good things happen," Williams said. "Perhaps I didn't get there this time, but I know who I am, and I know that I can work once I have a little chance."

She said she wasn't sure of future plans but made it sound as if she plans to play again. "Seeing Venus playing on court for joy just kind of brought me back as to why I started playing tennis," said Fernandez, a 22-year-old from Canada who was the 2021 singles runner-up in New York.

Williams and Fernandez received a wild-card entry from the U.S. Tennis Association and had not lost a set in their first three matches of their debut as a

team. Townsend, who currently is ranked No. 1 in doubles, and Siniakova are an experienced duo who won Wimbledon in 2024 and the Australian Open this year together. Siniakova has won a total of 10 Grand Slam titles in women's doubles.

Williams, of course, is the owner of 14 Grand Slam titles in women's doubles alongside Serena, who left the professional tour in 2022.

The older Williams sibling also has won seven major singles championships and another two in mixed doubles.

She was the oldest player in the singles draw at the U.S. Open since 1981.

Townsend's time in Flushing Meadows continues in women's doubles after she failed to convert eight match points and got knocked out of singles in the fourth round by Barbora Krejickova.

Want to be 'Captain Cool' like Dhoni: Pakistan women's captain Fatima Sana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Pakistan women's cricket team captain Fatima Sana draws inspiration from India's World Cup-winning skipper MS Dhoni and aspires to become 'Captain Cool' like him, as she prepares to lead her side to the 50-over World Cup later this month.

The Women's World Cup, scheduled to commence on September 30, is being co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka with Pakistan set to play all its matches in the island nation following an agreement reached between the

BCCI and the PCB. Pakistan, who remained unbeaten in the qualifiers held in April, will start their campaign against Bangladesh in Colombo on October 2.

"It is natural to be a little nervous initially when captaining in a big tournament like the World Cup, but I take inspiration from Mahendra Singh Dhoni as a captain," Fatima told PTI Bhasha in an interview ahead of the World Cup.

"I have seen his matches as India and CSK captain. His on-field decision-making, calmness and the way he backs his players, there is a

lot to learn from that. When I got the captaincy, I thought that I have to become like Dhoni. I also watched his interviews and got to learn a lot," she said.

Dhoni retired from international cricket on August 15, 2020, while Fatima made her ODI debut against South Africa on May 6, 2019.

Pakistan have played the Women's ODI World Cup five times (1997, 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2022) but went without a single win in 1997, 2013 and 2017. In 2022, their only victory was against the West Indies in Hamilton, and the team finished last after losing all the other



matches. All-rounder Fatima, who has scored 397 runs and taken 45 wickets in 34 ODIs, is confident that the jinx will be broken this time around because the young players are aware their performance will decide the future of women's cricket in the country.

"This time, the jinx will definitely be broken because the young players know how important this tournament is for Pakistan women's cricket. We will not think about the past. My goal is to take the team to the semifinals," she added.

"In Pakistan, girls have

started playing cricket in schools and international matches are being telecast live. ICC has also taken a good initiative by increasing the prize money for the Women's World Cup, which will inspire budding players in Pakistan. But there is still a barrier which we have to break through this tournament," she said.

"In our country, women's cricket is not seen as a career option. But if we play well, it will make a huge difference. Our effort will be to inspire parents in Pakistan to encourage their girls to take a career in sports," said the all-rounder.