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CM announces integrated tourism circuit for Kukru

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday unveiled an ambitious roadmap to develop Kukru, a picturesque hill station in Betul district, into one of Madhya Pradesh's premier tourism destinations. During his visit to the scenic location, the Chief Minister announced a series of tourism, infrastructure, agriculture and livelihood initiatives aimed at boosting the local economy while promoting sustainable development.

The Chief Minister announced that an integrated tourism circuit worth Rs 15 crore will be developed, connecting Kukru with Chikhaldara, Muktagiri and Melghat. The project aims to strengthen tourism infrastructure and improve connectivity through major tourist attractions in the region. He said eco-tourism facilities, sunrise and sunset viewpoints, eco-resorts, trekking routes and various adventure sports activities will be introduced to attract more tourists. He also assured that additional funds would be allocated if required for the comprehensive development of Kukru.

To ensure that local communities directly benefit from tourism, the government will develop homestays for tribal families. These facilities will be managed on the lines of Madhya Pradesh Tourism hotels, with bookings handled through the state's tourism network. The initiative is expected to generate employment and promote rural entrepreneurship.

Highlighting Kukru's rich



agricultural and forest produce, the Chief Minister announced the launch of the "Kukru Natural" brand for marketing products such as coffee, kodo millet, kutki, amla, honey, harra, baheda, white musli and other forest produce. Women's self-help groups, with support from the Forest Department, will establish production units, while dedicated outlets will be opened in cities for marketing these products. Dairy product outlets selling rabri, mawa, curd and other milk products will also be established to create additional income opportunities for local residents.

The government will also promote coffee cultivation in the region by setting up a Rs 1 crore Robusta and Arabica coffee cultivation and processing project in collaboration with the Coffee Board and the Forest Department. Technical assistance will be provided to farmers, while

local youth will receive skill development training in tourist guiding, hotel management and driving through the National Skill Development Corporation.

To strengthen basic infrastructure, Mohan Yadav announced construction of a Rs 5 crore pond in Kukru to address water scarcity and support tourism. Several road projects, a wellness centre under the Ayush Department, a girls' hostel, a fair price shop and other public infrastructure projects were also announced for nearby villages. Detailed surveys will be undertaken for additional development works.

The Chief Minister began the day by performing yoga with local residents at Kukru Rest House, demonstrating various yoga postures and encouraging people to adopt yoga as part of their daily routine. He also launched the Pulse Polio campaign by

administering polio drops to children and reviewed the proposed tourism development plan through a presentation.

During his visit, Mohan Yadav interacted with self-help groups, farmers and villagers, appreciating their efforts in organic farming, dairy farming and natural agriculture. He ploughed a field and sowed maize alongside a local farmer, underlining the importance of agriculture in the state's economy.

He also visited Kukru's historic coffee plantation, encouraged farmers to expand coffee cultivation and discussed coffee processing and marketing with industry representatives. The Chief Minister released the "Betul Darshan" tourism booklet, distributed helmets to beneficiaries and handed over appointment letters to 45 candidates selected as forest guards from the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group category.

CM hails PM's Seychelles honour

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on being conferred the Republic of Seychelles' highest civilian honour, the Guardian of the Blue Horizon, describing it as a proud moment for every Indian.

He said the award reflects global recognition of Modi's visionary leadership and his contribution to environmental conservation, sustainable development, the blue economy and international cooperation.

Yadav noted that several countries have honoured the Prime Minister for his global leadership, adding that the latest recognition further enhances India's prestige on the international stage.

Madhya Pradesh launches Suman Panchayat programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday launched the Suman Panchayat (Surakshit Matritva Ashwasan Panchayat) scheme, a community-driven initiative aimed at improving maternal and child health outcomes across Madhya Pradesh.

The scheme was unveiled at a state-level programme at the RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration and Management in Bhopal, where the Chief Minister also released the State Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) Action Plan 2.0 and inaugurated several health awareness publications.

Addressing the gathering, Mohan Yadav said public participation has played a crucial



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Health and Family Welfare Rajendra Shukla during a pulse polio immunization programme at Academy of Administration in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo

role in strengthening the state's healthcare system. He said panchayats that actively work towards ensuring healthy mothers and children would be rewarded with an incentive of Rs 1 lakh and a certificate of appreciation if they record no maternal deaths, no deaths of children below five years of age and no cases of measles or rubella for one year.

The Chief Minister said Madhya Pradesh has emerged as one of the country's leading states in implementing health programmes, including the HPV vaccination campaign for cervical cancer prevention and initiatives to reduce maternal and infant mortality. He credited healthcare workers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, medical professionals, public repre-

sentatives and citizens for the state's achievements.

During the programme, Mohan Yadav also administered polio drops to five children as a symbolic launch of the three-day National Pulse Polio Campaign. Earlier in the day, he inaugurated the campaign by administering polio vaccine to children during his visit to Kukru in Betul district. Under the campaign, nearly 1.07 crore children below the age of five will receive an additional dose of oral polio vaccine between June 28 and 30. The Health Department has established around 83,000 vaccination booths, deployed 1.66 lakh vaccinators and 26,000 supervisors, besides setting up 3,800 transit booths and 1,400 mobile teams to cover high-risk and migrant populations.

Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla said Madhya Pradesh had achieved significant success in public health under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. He said more than eight lakh adolescent girls had received HPV vaccination within just two months, while nearly 1.5 crore people had been screened under the Healthy Liver Mission in less than a year.

The Chief Minister honoured districts for outstanding performance in health programmes. Rajgarh, Dindori and Morena secured the top three positions in the HPV vaccination campaign, while Balaghat, Chhindwara and Shajapur were recognised for their achievements under the Healthy Liver Mission.



BJP MP Alok Sharma and other leaders listen to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's live relay programme 'Mann Ki Baat' at Arera Colony locality in Bhopal on Sunday.

Biaora's plastic-free drive earns PM Modi's praise

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

The women-led Plastic-Free Campaign in Biaora town of Madhya Pradesh's Rajgarh district received national recognition on Sunday after Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the initiative during the 135th edition of his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat.

Calling it an inspiring example of "people's participation driving social transformation" and "Waste to Wealth", the Prime Minister said the campaign demonstrated how community-led efforts could create a lasting impact on society and the environment.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav listened to the programme along with villagers and public representatives at the hill station of Kukru in Betul district. Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs Durgadas Uikey, BJP State President Hemant Khandelwal, Bhainsdehi MLA Mahendra Keshar Singh Chauhan, Jan Abhiyan Parishad Vice Chairman Mohan Nagar and local residents were also present.

During the broadcast, the Prime Minister said he had come to know

about a group of women in Biaora who took it upon themselves to rid their town of plastic waste. Instead of waiting for government intervention, they began collecting discarded plastic bags and bottles from across the town. Over time, their efforts evolved into a large-scale public movement, with the collected plastic being recycled to beautify parks and public spaces.

Modi noted that hundreds of kilograms of plastic waste had been recycled over the past several months, transforming material that once polluted the environment into useful civic infrastructure. Congratulating the women and everyone associated with the campaign, he said the initiative had become a source of inspiration for the entire country.

Responding to the Prime Minister's appreciation, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav described the recognition as a proud moment for Madhya Pradesh. In a post on X, he said the campaign had successfully combined environmental conservation with women's empowerment by converting plastic waste into eco-bricks. He also highlighted the Prime Minister's appeal to citizens to opt for

eco-friendly clay idols during the upcoming Ganesh Mahotsav as part of the broader commitment to environmental protection.

The campaign is being led by environmental activist Anil Kushwaha and his organisation, which has been collecting single-use plastic and polythene waste from households for several months. The waste is processed into eco-bricks that are used to make benches, decorative installations, garden furniture and other utility items for parks and public places.

The movement has witnessed strong community participation. Homemakers segregate plastic waste at source, traders contribute discarded plastic from their establishments and 40 to 50 volunteers, including women and youth, participate in the campaign every day.

Plastic Banks and Bottle Banks have also been established across the town to encourage systematic collection, while awareness drives are being conducted in schools to promote environmental responsibility among students.

According to campaign members, more than two quintals of plastic waste have already been converted into eco-bricks and installed at various locations in Biaora.

HC orders FIR after missing girl found to be child bride

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Gwalior

A 17-year-old girl who had been reported missing from Gwalior's Bahodapur area has been traced by police from Noida in Uttar Pradesh, leading to the revelation that she was a victim of child marriage. Taking serious note of the development, the High Court has directed police to register an FIR against all those responsible for solemnising the illegal marriage within 15 days.

The girl's father had lodged a missing person's complaint at Bahodapur police station on June 12, claiming that his 19-year-old daughter had disappeared from their home in Sagar Tal Phase-2. Based on the complaint, police launched a search operation and tracked her to Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida) with the help of surveillance. She was found with a local resident, Kishan Khatik, who was taken into custody and brought back to Gwalior.

During court proceedings, officials examined the girl's marksheet and birth certificate, which revealed that she was 17 years old, contrary to the age mentioned in the missing complaint.

During counselling, the teenager alleged that her father had forced her into marriage while she was underage. She told authorities that she did not want to live with her husband or in-laws and had left home with her neighbour, Kishan Khatik, of her own accord.

Earlier, the girl's father had approached the High Court through a habeas corpus petition, alleging police inaction in tracing his daughter. However, after her recovery and the disclosure of the alleged child marriage, the court directed Bahodapur police to initiate legal action against everyone involved in arranging the marriage.

Police have already registered a case against Kishan Khatik under kidnapping and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. He was produced before a court and remanded to judicial custody. Investigators are now examining the role of the girl's parents, her alleged husband, in-laws and others involved in the child marriage. A separate FIR will be registered against them under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act.

Man gets 10 years in POCSO case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Dhar

A special court in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district has sentenced a man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment after convicting him in a case registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The Additional Sessions Judge at Badnawar convicted Mahesh alias Bhooma in connection with Crime No. 286/2024 registered at Badnawar police station under Sections 137(2) and 64 of the BNS and Sections 3 and 4 of the POCSO Act. The court also imposed a fine on the convict.

Police said the investigation was conducted by Sub-Inspector Heena Joshi, who collected crucial evidence and submitted the charge sheet before the court within the stipulated time. Dhar Police attributed the conviction to effective investigation and strong prosecution. The department reiterated its commitment to a zero-tolerance policy against crimes involving women and children and said prompt, impartial action would continue in such cases.

Kheoni's alpha tiger Yuvraj injured in dominance fight

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

A fierce territorial battle between two male tigers at Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh has left the sanctuary's long-reigning alpha male, Yuvraj, seriously injured, prompting a challenging rescue operation by the Forest Department.

Yuvraj, a 10-year-old tiger that had dominated the sanctuary for nearly a decade, was overpowered by a younger rival, Adhiraj, in a fight for territorial control. Forest officials said Yuvraj suffered deep injuries to his forelegs, leaving him limping and unable to hunt.

The injured tiger was spotted by a forest patrol team on Friday. On Saturday, a special rescue operation led by Van Vihar Bhopal's senior wildlife veterinarian, Atul Gupta, was launched to provide medical treatment.

The operation posed a major challenge as the sanctuary did not have an elephant, which is normally used to safely tranquilise wild tigers. The rescue team had to approach the animal on foot, making the operation

highly risky.

After nearly four hours of careful tracking and planning, the team successfully tranquilised Yuvraj from the ground, administered first aid and shifted him to Van Vihar in Bhopal for advanced treatment.

Forest officials described it as the first successful tiger rescue operation in Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary carried out without the assistance of an elephant.

Wildlife experts said territorial conflicts among male tigers are common, with rivals often targeting each other's forelegs to reduce their ability to hunt. As dominant males grow older, usually after the age of 10, they gradually lose their physical advantage, allowing younger tigers aged four to five years to challenge and take over their territories.

Yuvraj holds a special place in the history of Kheoni Sanctuary. Along with tigress Meera, he played a crucial role in increasing the tiger population, and officials believe the sanctuary's current family of seven tigers largely traces back to the pair.

20 passengers hurt in bus mishap

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ujjain

Around 20 passengers were injured after a private passenger bus overturned on the Indore-Ujjain highway near Meghdoot Hotel in the early hours of Sunday.

The accident occurred between 1 am and 1.30 am when a Sapna Travels bus travelling from Indore to Ujjain reportedly climbed onto the road divider, causing the driver to lose control before the vehicle overturned. The bus was headed to Nanakheda Bus Stand.

All injured passengers were rushed to Charak Hospital, where some are reported to be in serious condition.

Eyewitnesses claimed the bus was overcrowded, with several passengers standing due to a shortage of seats. Heavy rain at the time is also suspected to have contributed to the crash. Some passengers alleged the driver was under the influence of alcohol, though police said the exact cause will be established after investigation and a medical examination of the driver.

Video surfaces after Rewa woman's suspicious death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Rewa

A woman died under suspicious circumstances in Rewa district after allegedly being assaulted and poisoned by her relatives following a family dispute, police said. The incident occurred on the night of June 27 in Ujnihai Tola village under Garh police station limits.

The victim, Mamta Tiwari, wife of Ramesh Tiwari, was admitted to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in critical condition, where she later died during treatment.

According to Mamta's son, Arjun Tiwari, the family had been involved in a long-standing dispute with close relatives, including Rinku Tiwari, Neelu Tiwari and Neelam Tiwari. He alleged that an argument over a pet dog escalated into a violent confrontation. During the altercation, the accused allegedly assaulted Mamta and forced her to consume poison, causing her condition to deteriorate rapidly.

A video recorded before Mamta's death has surfaced and is being treated as an important piece of evidence

by investigators. In the video, which police describe as her final statement, Mamta allegedly named Rinku, Neelu and Neelam Tiwari and accused them of assaulting her. Police are verifying the contents of the video as part of the investigation.

Investigators have also found that tensions between the two families had existed for several months. On June 2, Mamta had submitted a written complaint to Garh police, alleging repeated disputes over a pet dog as well as an ongoing land dispute and old family rivalry. The earlier complaint is now being examined alongside other evidence.

Police have registered a case based on the family's complaint and launched a detailed investigation. Officials said the exact cause of death will be confirmed only after the post-mortem report is received.

The findings of the autopsy, along with the alleged dying declaration, the earlier complaint and witness statements, will determine the course of further legal action against those accused in the case.

BJP hits back at Jitu Patwari over land allotment charge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

A political row over the allotment of government land to the Veer Bharat Nyas intensified on Sunday after BJP MLA Rameshwar Sharma cited former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh's clarification to counter allegations made by Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari.

The controversy began on June 24 when Patwari, addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters in New Delhi alongside Pawan Khera, alleged that the Madhya Pradesh government had allotted government land

worth around Rs 500 crore to the Veer Bharat Nyas for a token Re 1. He questioned the basis of the allotment and demanded that the government release details of land purchased by the Chief Minister's family after 2023. Patwari also called for a white paper on the matter and alleged large-scale corruption in government functioning.

However, former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh, while addressing a press conference in Ujjain on Saturday, rejected the allegations, stating that Veer Bharat Nyas is a government trust and not a private organisation. Displaying the trust deed and official documents, he

said the trust's ex-officio chairman is the Chief Minister and that the same arrangement existed during his tenure as well as during Kamal Nath's government. Singh maintained that the land had been allotted to a government trust for Re 1 and that allegations of corruption in the allotment were baseless. He also alleged that some people level false accusations to black-mail others.

Reacting to Digvijaya Singh's remarks, BJP MLA Rameshwar Sharma said the former Chief Minister clearly understood the difference between government and private institutions because of his long administrative experience.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav ploughs a field in Kukru, Betul, MP on Sunday.

Swift police rescue saves elderly

Bhopal: Two police constables displayed exceptional courage and swift action to rescue an elderly man who was trapped in a fast-flowing drain amid incessant rain in Bhopal late on Saturday night.

The incident took place around midnight in the Hanumanganji police station area. Constables Mohit Shivhare and Rajendra Raghuvanshi, who were on night patrol in the Chhola Road area, heard cries for help near Puttha Mill at Agrawal Tiraha.

On reaching the spot, they found an unidentified man, believed to be around 60 years old, trapped in the drain after reportedly sustaining a head injury and falling into the swollen water channel. Continuous rainfall had turned the drain into a raging stream, while the man had become stuck in deep mud and was being pulled towards a narrow bridge by the strong current.

Realising the gravity of the situation, Constable Mohit Shivhare immediately entered the drain and held the elderly man to prevent him from being swept away. Meanwhile, Constable Rajendra Raghuvanshi, Night Officer Ram Sajeevan and the FRV team joined the rescue effort. After a strenuous operation, they managed to pull the man to safety.

Sewa Sadan holds free eye screening camp

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhind

Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital, in association with the Bhopal Utsav Mela Samiti, organized a free eye screening and cataract detection camp at Punjabi Bagh Gurdwara on Sunday. The camp was inaugurated by office bearers of the Bhopal Utsav Mela Samiti, members of the Punjabi Bagh Gurdwara Committee and the trustee of Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital.

A total of 251 people, including 100 men and 151 women, underwent comprehensive eye examinations during the camp. Of these, 58 patients were diagnosed with cataracts and shifted to Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital, where they were admitted for surgery scheduled on Monday. Those not



requiring surgery were provided free medicines.

In addition to eye check-ups, all beneficiaries underwent blood pressure and blood sugar screening. The camp was the second in Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital's ongoing series of free eye screening initiatives. The next camp is scheduled to be held on July 5 at Dubai Dharamshala, Gandhinagar.

Councillor Ashok Wani, Suryakant Gupta, Sunil Jainavin, Paramjeet Singh Bedi, Chandrashekhar Soni, Narayan Singh Kushwaha, Virendra Jain, Shyam Mangal, Sunil Khemchandani and Trustee Suresh Awatramani, along with the hospital staff, participated in the camp and contributed to its successful conduct.

Two cars gutted in fire outside driving school at Mata Mandir

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

Two cars parked outside a driving school at Mata Mandir in Bhopal were extensively damaged after they caught fire late on Saturday night. Police have launched an investigation to determine whether the blaze was caused by a short circuit, another accidental reason or was the result of deliberate arson.

According to police, the vehicles were parked outside a driving school operated by Muzaffar Ali near Mata Mandir Square. The owner informed police after noticing flames engulfing the two cars.

On receiving the alert, firefighters rushed to the spot and launched a fire-

fighting operation. The blaze was brought under control after considerable effort, preventing it from spreading to nearby vehicles and buildings. However, both cars sustained substantial damage before the fire was extinguished.

Station House Officer Gaurav Singh said the exact cause of the fire has not yet been established. Police have registered a case and begun an investigation into the incident.

As part of the probe, investigators are examining CCTV footage from cameras installed near the scene to ascertain how the fire started and whether any suspicious activity took place before the incident.

Burglars strike accused judge's house

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

Burglars allegedly broke into the residence of retired judge Giribala Singh, an accused in the Twisha Sharma death case, and attempted to steal gold jewellery and a file containing documents related to Giribala Singh and her son, Samarth Singh.

However, they abandoned the stolen items and fled after a police patrol vehicle reached the area. Police have confirmed the attempted theft and recovery of the belongings.

According to police, the incident occurred on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday. Giribala Singh's brother, who was present at the house, said the intruders entered through the rear portion of the property, preventing the family from noticing the break-in.

Beef seized, two women arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Rewa

Police in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district have arrested two women on suspicion of transporting beef after villagers intercepted them in the Saman police station area on Sunday. The seized meat has been sent to a forensic laboratory to determine its origin, while police have launched an investigation.

The accused have been identified as Muskan Khan, 23, and Rubiya Khan, 20, both residents of Amriti village under Govindgarh police station limits.

According to Saman police station in-charge Manisha Upadhyay, villagers had suspected the two women of allegedly transporting beef for the past several days. On Sunday, when they were seen travelling on a scooter through Lohi village, local residents attempted to stop them. Instead of halting, the women allegedly diverted towards the Lohi canal in an attempt to flee.

Villagers chased the scooter, which reportedly skidded and overturned a short distance away. Police said the two women allegedly threw the meat into the canal before they could be caught. The meat was later recovered from the canal by the police and sent for forensic examination to establish whether it was beef.

During the incident, the women allegedly pelted stones at the pursuing crowd. One of the stones reportedly struck Anand Singh Baghel, a member of a Hindu organisation, causing a head injury. Villagers subsequently detained the two women and informed the police. Officers reached the spot, took both women into custody and recovered the discarded meat.

17-year-old molested at Dewas coaching center; owner held

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Dewas

In a shocking incident, a coaching center operator was arrested on Sunday for allegedly molesting a 17-year-old student. The minor, traumatized by the continuous harassment, had stopped attending her classes before opening up to her parents.

According to reports, the student had been attending classes at the coaching center run by the accused, Vipin Sharma, for about a year. During this period, Sharma allegedly started passing inappropriate comments and making unwanted advances. The harassment escalated when he began pressuring the minor to visit his private room.

Terrified by the continuous ordeal, the student abruptly stopped going to the coaching center without informing anyone. Her sudden absence raised suspicions among her family members. Upon gentle questioning by her parents, the girl narrated the harrowing experience.

Following the revelation, the outraged family reached the BNP police station on Saturday night to file a formal complaint. Officials from the Rajput Karni Sena, including state working president Vishal Raghuvanshi, also arrived at the police station to protest an alleged delay in registering the First Information Report (FIR). They demanded swift and stringent action against the accused.

Police aspirant dies by suicide in Bhind

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhind

A 22-year-old man allegedly died by suicide at his home in Madhya Pradesh's Bhind district on Sunday. Police said preliminary investigation suggests the youth had been battling depression after being declared unfit during a police recruitment process.

The deceased was identified as Ajay Baghel, a resident of Rani Birgawan village under Phoop police station limits. According to family members, Ajay had dinner with them on Saturday night before retiring to his room. On Sunday

morning, when he did not come out for a long time, relatives knocked on the door but received no response. They later looked through the ventilator and found him hanging. Police were immediately informed.

Family members told investigators that Ajay had been preparing for a career in the police force for a long time and had participated in the recruitment process about three months ago. However, he was declared medically unfit during the physical examination. Since then, they said, he had become withdrawn and was under severe mental stress.

Police reached the spot, sent the body to the district hospital for post-mortem examination and later handed it over to the family for the last rites. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway. Police are recording statements of family members and examining all aspects to ascertain the circumstances that led to the incident.

Police said no suicide note was recovered from the spot during the preliminary investigation. Investigators are awaiting the post-mortem report while continuing to probe the circumstances surrounding the death.

Bhind records high polio coverage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhind

Nearly 1.90 lakh children aged below five years were administered oral polio vaccine across Bhind district by 5 pm on the first day of the National Pulse Polio Immunisation Campaign on Sunday.

The campaign was inaugurated by MP Sandhya Rai at the NRC booth of the District Hospital, where she administered polio drops to children. Senior health officials, including Chief Medical and Health Officer J.S. Yadav, Civil Surgeon R.K. Mishra and District Immunisation Officer Gaurav Bhatnagar, were present.

To ensure effective implementation, internal moni-

tors have been deployed in every block, while officials from various government departments are visiting field areas to ensure that no eligible child is left out.

District Immunisation Officer Gaurav Bhatnagar said the campaign received an encouraging response due to efficient administrative arrangements and active public participation. CMHO J.S. Yadav said children who could not receive the vaccine on the first day will be covered during the door-to-door campaign to be conducted on June 29 and 30, ensuring complete immunisation coverage across the district.

The district aims to achieve 100 per cent immunisation coverage through the campaign.



Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia during Lakhpati Didi felicitation and orientation programme in Guna, Madhya Pradesh on Sunday.

BHEL commissions new link road bridge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Bhopal, has strengthened its infrastructure with the inauguration of the newly constructed Habibganj-Berkheda Link Road Bridge, a key project aimed at improving internal connectivity and road safety within the township.

The bridge was inaugurated by S. M. Ramanathan, Director (Engineering, Research & Development), BHEL, in the presence of Executive Director Pradeep Kumar Upadhyay. General Manager (HR) T. U. Singh, senior officials, employees and project stakeholders also attended the inaugural ceremony.

The Habibganj-Berkheda

Link Road serves as an important internal transport corridor connecting major areas of the BHEL township. The previous crossing had deteriorated over the years, creating operational challenges such as a blind spot, a sharp curve and a restricted turning radius, which affected traffic safety and the smooth movement of vehicles.

To overcome these issues, BHEL replaced the old structure with a modern three-cell reinforced concrete box culvert measuring 17 metres by 12 metres. The project was completed in a record seven months, reflecting the organisation's engineering capabilities, efficient project execution and adherence to quality stan-

dards.

The new bridge has significantly improved traffic flow by eliminating the blind spot and sharp curve while enhancing stopping sight distance. The carriageway width has been increased from 6.2 metres to 8.2 metres, enabling safer and more efficient movement of vehicles. The improved road alignment is expected to reduce traffic conflicts and provide greater convenience to employees, township residents and visitors.

Addressing the gathering, S. M. Ramanathan congratulated the engineering teams and all departments involved in completing the project within the stipulated timeframe while maintaining high standards of quality and safety.

Indore Rural ramps up cyber awareness

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Indore

Indore Rural Police has intensified its cyber awareness campaign, 'Safe Click 2.0', across the district to educate citizens about online fraud and promote safe digital practices.

The campaign, being conducted under the guidance of Superintendent of Police Rajendra Kumar Verma, is being implemented across all police subdivisions and police station areas. As part of the initiative, awareness programmes and public meetings are being organised in villages to educate residents about cybercrime, digital security and precautions against online fraud.

In the Sanwer subdivision, police organised awareness sessions in several gram panchayats, where officers informed villagers about common cyber frauds, safe internet usage and the objectives of the Safe Click 2.0 campaign. A

similar programme was also held in Pigdambar Panchayat, where residents were encouraged to use digital platforms responsibly and remain alert against cyber scams.

Police also conducted cyber awareness programmes in various panchayats under the Betma police station limits, highlighting the growing threat of online fraud and the importance of digital vigilance.

The Superintendent of Police has directed all station house officers and subdivision officials to ensure that the campaign reaches every section of society, particularly vulnerable groups.

As part of the district-wide initiative, awareness activities are also being conducted in government offices, schools, colleges, gram panchayats and Anganwadi centres. Special emphasis is being placed on educating senior citizens, pensioners and other vulnerable groups about cyber threats and preventive measures.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav felicitates health workers at the state level program of Pulse Polio Campaign at RCVP Noronha Academy of Administration, in Bhopal, on Sunday.

Forest starts Gaj Chaupal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Anuppur

A herd of four wild elephants that migrated from neighbouring Chhattisgarh has once again entered forest and village areas of Madhya Pradesh's Anuppur district, damaging houses and crops and prompting the Forest Department to launch a special awareness campaign to prevent human-elephant conflict.

The department has started conducting "Gaj Chaupal" programmes in elephant-affected villages to educate residents about safety measures and reduce the risk of accidents. During one such session held on Saturday night, Jaitahari Range Forest officials interacted with villagers and explained how they should respond if they encounter elephants. Residents were advised on precautionary measures,

including maintaining a safe distance, avoiding any attempt to provoke the animals and immediately informing forest officials about elephant movement.

Forest officials said elephant movement between Chhattisgarh and the Jaitahari-Anuppur forest region has become a regular phenomenon over the past four years. The herd usually enters the district through forest corridors from the neighbouring state and often ventures into villages at night in search of food. This frequently results in damage to crops and mud houses while also posing a threat to human lives.

According to the department, the objective of the Gaj Chaupal initiative is not only to spread awareness about safety but also to promote peaceful coexistence between humans and wildlife.

CHANGE IN NAME

I HAKIM S/O SHAREEF KHAN MANSURI Here by Declare That I have Changed My name TO, HAKIM MANSURI S/O SHAREEF KHAN MANSURI so from now and In future I will be known by my new name. HAKIM MANSURI S/O SHAREEF KHAN MANSURIADD: 814/N Nandan Nager, madina masjid wali gali, Indore (M.P)

CHANGE OF NAME

My old name's spelling was NASEEM BANO D/O SHEHZAD AHMAD. Which is written in My Marksheets. Now In present documents. My name's spelling changed from NASEEM BANO D/O SHEHZAD AHMAD to NASIM BANO D/O SHAHJAD AHMAD. Which is written in My present Passport. Resident of 38, Sharda Nagar near Nariyal Kheda Bhopal (M.P.)

Raids uncover theft of devotees’ offerings in Ayodhya temple

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
■ Ayodhya/Lucknow

As dawn broke over the sacred banks of the Sarayu, police teams fanned out across Ayodhya for simultaneous raids on the homes of eight men accused of siphoning donations meant for the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple.

Police, along with magistrates, took Aadhaar cards, PAN cards, bank statements, and other documents from the homes of the eight accused men. At one house, they asked family members to unlock the doors. In other homes, they questioned neighbours and relatives about assets and lifestyles that did not match the men's modest salaries.

The eight men, Lavkush Mishra, Anukulp Mishra, Avinash Shukla, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh

Pandey, Ram Shankar Mishra, Subhash Chandra Srivastava, and Ramashankar Yadav (also known as Tinnu), were in charge of counting the cash and valuables donated by thousands of devotees. The raids on June 28 took place two days after a court sent them to judicial custody until June 29.

CCTV footage shows the men taking money several times. Police have found ₹79.85 lakh in cash and some foreign currency with the accused. Earlier, they found bundles of cash hidden under a cow-dung heap at one home and more money in a washroom near the counting room, highlighting the suspected theft.

The case was filed on June 25 under laws related to theft by employees, breach of trust, receiving stolen property, conspiracy, and the Prevention of Corruption Act.



Police officials conduct a search operation at the residence of a relative of Ramashankar alias Tinnu Yadav in Ayodhya on Sunday

PTI

It is based on a report from a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) set

up by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. After six days of investigation, the team

released its first report on June 23, and a police case was filed based on a complaint

from a trust member.

Investigators found problems in how donations were handled. Rules set in 2025, with help from State Bank of India officials, required security guards during counting, checking staff as they entered and left, conducting random inspections, requiring pocketless uniforms, and retaining CCTV footage for 180 days. These rules were not always followed, which allowed the problems to continue.

In practice, CCTV footage was kept for only about 45 days. Ramashankar Yadav, also known as Tinnu and a former driver for the trust's general secretary Champat Rai, reportedly had keys to several donation boxes, which broke the rules. Subhash Chandra Srivastava, who was in charge of counting donations, got his job through a senior trust official's recommendation. Tinnu

is also said to have helped his relative, Manish Kumar Yadav, join the same team. These failures made it easier for a small group to take money without being noticed right away.

The trust reported an annual income of about ₹327 crore for 2024-25. Most of the accused earned only ₹18,000 to ₹20,000 per month, but investigators are looking into claims that they suddenly bought land and property.

The June 28 raids aimed to uncover these links. Police are collecting documents, family statements, and accounts from neighbours to trace the money. They are also checking if the eight men acted alone or were part of a larger group.

The SIT is reviewing three years of donation records, audits, and cash-counting procedures. It called the

episode “tragic and shameful,” asked why donations from ordinary devotees across India seem to have been stolen, and demanded accountability from trust officials.

The Samajwadi Party has claimed that junior employees are being blamed to protect senior figures. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath responded firmly: “Tampering with people's faith cannot be tolerated. Whoever tampers with the faith of the people will have to face the consequences.” The state government acted quickly after receiving the SIT report. Still, this situation raises difficult questions that go beyond politics. How did such obvious rule violations continue in a temple watched closely by the public and government? Why did internal audits not catch these problems sooner?

Priyank Kharge vows legal fight, renews demand for RSS registration after Bengaluru court summons

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bengaluru

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge, facing a defamation case vis-a-vis RSS, on Sunday said the Constitution and law “are on our side,” and that there was nothing to be afraid of.

He said he would fight the criminal defamation case against him through legal means, even as he renewed his demand that the RSS should register itself as an organisation.

His remarks came a day after a Bengaluru court took cognisance of a private complaint alleging that Priyank and former Karnataka Youth Congress president Mohammed Haris Nalapad made defamatory remarks against the RSS, and summoned them to appear before it on July 21.

“We will abide by the law. Our foremost duty is to comply with whatever order the court has issued.



Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge

Whatever it may be, we are fighting this through legal means. We did not ask those questions casually or irresponsibly,” the minister told reporters.

Noting that attempts would be made to pressurise them, he said, “All this is natural. They (RSS) will try to exert pressure in every possible way. We will respond to it. When the Constitution and the law are on our side, there is no need to fear anything.”

Citing reported remarks by Vishwaprasanna Tirtha Swami of Pejavar Math, who also had called for the RSS to register itself, Priyank said, “They won't listen to me. They won't listen to you. They won't listen to the Constitution. At least let them listen to the religious leaders.”

Questioning why the RSS had not registered itself, he said, “Once they get registered, the issue will be over. It will put a stop to all those

who go around making statements indiscriminately. Why is the world's largest organisation still not registered?”

He added, “Where are its donations coming from? Who is maintaining the accounts? Who is benefiting from it and who is losing because of it? All of that should become known.”

Backing Priyank, Karnataka Congress president B K Hariprasad said the RSS should first register itself if it welcomed criminal proceedings against the minister.

“Anyone who respects the law of the land - if the RSS is happy that a case has been registered against Priyank, then they must first get their own organisation registered. Double standards will not work,” Hariprasad said.

Stressing that the RSS should function within the framework of the law, he said the Congress and its leaders would present their case in court in the manner they deemed appropriate.

Puri gears up for annual Snan Yatra of Lord Jagannath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Puri

The holy city of Puri is geared up for the Snan Yatra, or the bathing festival, of Lord Jagannath and sibling deities on Monday, with the State Government making all arrangements for the smooth conduct of the pre-Rath Yatra event.

The Snan Yatra day is also considered the birthday of Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath.

The devotees from across the country have started arriving in the pilgrim city to witness the ceremonial ‘Pahandi’ (procession) of the deities, which is scheduled to be held between 5 am and 7 am.

The deities will be brought to the ‘Snan Mandap’, a sacred altar on the premises of the 12th-century shrine, where the priests will pour 108 pitchers of water on the idols in full public view.



“The servitors have been requested to complete the rituals as per the schedule, and they have been working with full devotion for the Deva Snan Ustav,” Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) chief administrator Arabinda Padhee told reporters.

While the Puri district administration has declared a holiday for the schools in the Puri municipal corporation area, keeping in view the massive congregation of

devotees on the occasion, the police have already deployed 70 platoons (1 platoon comprises 30 personnel) for security, crowd and traffic management.

“The entire city is under CCTV surveillance and stress is being given on crowd management,” Central Range IGP, Satyajit Naik, who has been camping at Puri, said, adding that specialised units, along with several officers, are also deployed for the occasion.

FROM PAGE - 1

India, Seychelles boost ties across 19 sectors

The two countries also signed agreements covering diplomatic training between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service and Seychelles' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, agricultural research and education, mutual recognition of training and certification of seafarers serving on Seychelles-flagged vessels, and cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The agreements were announced after delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Modi and President Herminie during the Indian leader's three-day state visit to Seychelles, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Modi is visiting Seychelles at the invitation of President Herminie and will attend the country's National Day celebrations as the Guest of Honour.

West Bengal UCC Bill showdown today

Government sources said officials have spent the past several days studying UCC frameworks adopted in States such as Uttarakhand and examining proposals under consideration elsewhere, while preparing responses to anticipated objections from the Opposition.

Leaders from the other camp have Mamata Banerjee-led TMC camp, which has accused the BJP of using the UCC as an instrument of political polarisation rather than legal reform. For the Ritabrata Banerjee camp, which has sought to establish itself as the State's primary Opposition force, the discussion provides its biggest platform yet to project itself as an effective parliamentary counterweight to the Government.

For the BJP Government, it will be the first major test of its ideological agenda since its electoral victory. For the Opposition, it presents an opportunity to challenge one of the saffron party's signature promises.

And for Bengal's fractured TMC, it offers something else altogether — a chance for two warring factions to fight the same battle separately, each seeking to prove that it is the more effective voice against the State's new rulers.

PM Modi conferred Seychelles’ highest...

Accepting the award, Modi expressed gratitude to the people and Government of Seychelles and dedicated the honour to nations striving to combat climate change.

“Grateful to the people and Government of Seychelles as well as President Herminie for conferring upon me the ‘Guardian of the Blue Horizon,’” Modi said in a post on social media.

“I humbly accept this honour and dedicate it to all those countries that are fighting the challenge of climate change and consider environ-

mental protection their responsibility towards future generations. This is a pressing challenge which we have to overcome together,” he said.

Reaffirming India's commitment to global environmental action, the Prime Minister said the country stands ready to contribute towards building a greener and more sustainable planet. “India is ready to do whatever is required to make our planet greener and sustainable,” Modi said, highlighting the country's domestic and international initiatives, including Mission LiFE, the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign, the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) and the International Big Cat Alliance.

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the Presidential Distinction recognises Modi's “leadership and steadfast commitment to environmental conservation, sustainable development, climate resilience, blue economy and advancing the aspirations of the Small Island Developing States.”

The MEA said the honour reflects Seychelles' appreciation of India's expanding role as a trusted partner in capacity building, environmental action and sustainable development across the Indian Ocean Region.

Describing the significance of the award, President Herminie said, “It stands as a symbol of our nation's deepest respect and recognition for those whose leadership and partnership embody the spirit of the guardian of our blue horizon.” The MEA noted that the latest recognition adds to a series of international honours conferred on Modi for his contribution to sustainable development, including the FAO's Agricola Medal, the Seoul Peace Prize and the United Nations' Champion of the Earth Award.

Modi arrived in Seychelles on Saturday for a three-day visit focused on strengthening bilateral ties and enhancing cooperation in maritime security, climate action, development partnership and the blue economy. During the visit, he is scheduled to hold bilateral talks with President Herminie and participate in the country's National Day celebrations.

Earlier this month, the Prime Minister was awarded Slovakia's highest civilian honour, the Order of the White Double Cross (First Class), during his visit to Bratislava.

Ayodhya donation row: Alleged luxury lifestyle...

He built a farmhouse on the village outskirts, an existing vehicle and plans to book a Mahindra Scorpio SUV will come under judicial scrutiny as potential proceeds of crime. The case highlights critical gaps in legal safeguards for managing temple donations. When individuals with family connections secure sensitive roles without rigorous background checks or real-time monitoring, the risk of breach of trust multiplies.

The recoveries and digital evidence now place the onus on the accused to explain the source of their upgraded lifestyles in court. Any failure to account for assets disproportionate to

known income could invite attachment proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in addition to the BNS charges.

Legal experts say that swift and transparent prosecution is needed to deliver justice and prevent similar crimes at other religious sites. The current asset investigation and court-supervised trial must ensure clear accountability. If found guilty, Anukulp Mishra and the others could face long jail terms, fines, and loss of property.

The court process should also examine how these appointments were made and whether weak oversight enabled the alleged conspiracy. Restoring public trust needs more than just arrests. It requires digital tracking of donations, independent audits, and stricter legal rules for temple management.

The courts must now make sure that anyone who broke their duty is fully held to account. Only strong legal action can prevent these problems from recurring in places of worship, legal experts say.

India warns against unauthorised...

The MEA also urged prospective pilgrims to exercise caution while selecting private travel agencies. It advised travellers to verify that their chosen tour operator is duly registered and authorised to conduct the pilgrimage.

“Pilgrims are also strongly advised to verify that their tour operator is duly registered and authorised,” the advisory stated.

The warning assumes significance as several private operators advertise Kailash Mansarovar packages through Nepal, often promising expedited arrangements. However, entry into the Tibet Autonomous Region of China requires a valid Chinese visa, a Tibet Travel Permit and other approvals that cannot be guaranteed without prior authorisation from Chinese authorities.

Officials indicated that commencing the journey without confirmed documentation can leave pilgrims stranded in Nepal for extended periods, with limited options for assistance.

The advisory comes just weeks after the annual Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumed this year. In April, the MEA announced that the pilgrimage would be conducted between June and August through two designated routes: Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand, Nathu La Pass in Sikkim

The pilgrimage resumed last year after nearly five years, marking an important step in the gradual normalisation of India-China relations.

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is among the most revered religious pilgrimages for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and followers of the Bon faith. Mount Kailash is regarded as the abode of Lord Shiva in Hinduism, while Lake Mansarovar is considered one of the holiest freshwater lakes in the world. Given that both sites lie within China's Tibet Autonomous Region, Indian pilgrims must obtain multiple clearances before undertaking the journey. The MEA coordinates the official yatra in consultation with Chinese authorities, while many private operators also organise tours

Bus carrying CISF personnel overturns in J&K; 9 injured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jammu

Eight Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel and a civilian driver were injured after a bus carrying them overturned near Mata Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday, officials said.

The accident occurred along the Tarakote route to the shrine, and the condition of three injured CISF personnel – head constables Sammy Kumar and M M Dubey and constable P K Traya — was stated to be serious, they said. The seriously injured personnel were admitted in Narayana hospital for specialized treatment, the officials said. The rest of the injured, who included a sub-inspector and the civilian driver, Virender Singh, were admitted to the Community Health Centre in Katra, where their condition was reported to be stable, they said.

through Nepal, subject to the required approvals.

The latest advisory reflects growing concern over the increasing number of pilgrims facing avoidable difficulties because of incomplete documentation and unverified travel arrangements.

Deadly poison plot foiled at Muharram procession

The plot was exposed after at least one participant, Salman Syed, complained of severe stomach pain and vomiting after consuming a capsule.

Reports indicate several others also fell ill and were rushed to the hospital; all are stated to be out of danger. A medico-legal case was registered. During interrogation, the accused allegedly confessed that he intended to target the procession and claimed he “wanted to kill 15,000 people.” Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, including provisions for administering poison and attempt to murder. Premji has been sent to police custody. Investigators are now examining his mobile phone, financial transactions, contacts, and travel history. Premji, a BBA graduate, reportedly made multiple trips to Iran and Iraq in recent years, including several in the past year. Police are probing whether he acted alone or was part of a larger network.

The timely intervention by the patrol team averted what officials described as a potential large-scale tragedy during the religious procession. Further investigation is underway to determine the full motive and any possible accomplices. Mumbai Police have hailed the operation as a successful pre-emptive strike that saved countless lives. The seized capsules and remaining poison stock are undergoing forensic examination.

Iran attacks Bahrain, Kuwait after US strikes

The Kuwaiti military said air defences intercepted incoming Iranian drones and missiles on Sunday morning, just after the US strikes.

Kuwait, which hosts a major US army base, said it had detected and intercepted two ballistic missiles, and there were no reports of injuries or damage.

Bahrain's Interior Ministry said the Iranian strikes damaged a residential building near the international airport and no one was killed. The ministry released photos of an 8-story building, with the top floor destroyed, and filled with rubble, and its windows blown out.

The strikes came after the US and Iran traded attacks over the weekend. The US military's Central Command said it struck Iranian military “surveillance infrastructure, communication systems, air defence sites, drone storage facilities and minelaying capabilities” on Sunday, following an attack on a ship at sea early Saturday morning. That ship, the Panamanian-flagged tanker Kiku, carried crude oil for the state-run

energy company of Qatar, a key negotiator between Iran and the United States.

In a social media post, Trump said the US had “struck Iranian missile and drone storage locations, and coastal radar sites, for violating the Cease Fire Agreement, AGAIN!” He warned of a point where the US may no longer be able to be reasonable, “and will be forced to militarily complete the job.”

“If that happens, the Islamic Republic of Iran will no longer exist!” Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Damaging Pangong? Ladakh hits tourists...

They said the action follows a series of violations detected by wildlife officials during routine patrolling and through social media surveillance and reported to the LG Secretariat. The violations were reported at four separate locations under the Leh Wildlife Division-Merak and Lukung along the ecologically sensitive shores of Pangong Lake, Nubra Valley.

LG Saxena reiterated that while Ladakh warmly welcomes visitors from across the country and the world, tourists must be responsible and environmentally conscious.

He urged tourists, adventure enthusiasts and vehicle owners not to venture into protected wildlife habitats, as such activities disturb endangered species and damage fragile ecosystems and also harm the sanctity of the tourist places.

In the latest incident, the officials said that on June 23, wildlife staff detected a Mahindra Thar (Punjab registration number) being driven off-road near Merak into the waters of the Pangong Lake. The driver had deliberately driven the vehicle into the water for stunt purposes, causing damage to critical wildlife habitat and polluting the lake.

The driver was found prima facie guilty under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, and later, the vehicle was seized.

Similarly, on June 21, wildlife authorities acted swiftly after a video surfaced showing a Hyundai Creta (UP number) engaged in off-road driving near Lukung along Pangong Lake within the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary. The vehicle was intercepted at Zingral, Changla Pass, and the same day and impounded.

Earlier, on June 20, another social media video revealed a Mahindra Thar (Punjab number) driving through a stream inside the Karakoram (Nubra-Shayok) Wildlife Sanctuary, causing damage to the habitat and ecological integrity of the protected area. Following sustained intelligence gathering through the local police, the vehicle was later intercepted and impounded at Kharu the next day.

Similarly, on June 17, a viral video circulating on social media showed a Toyota Fortuner (Himachal Pradesh number) being driven off-road near Nurbuo La inside the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, with the driver reportedly chasing a Tibetan Gazelle.

GRAPEVINE

Cabinet Sec’s governance philosophy

A recent note by Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan to Secretaries to the Government of India is far more significant than it may appear at first glance. The accompanying guidance advises officers to question whether a meeting is necessary at all before convening one, to begin meetings on time, keep them focused and preferably within an hour, encourage subordinates to speak freely, even if it means disagreeing with the chair, prepare clear minutes with actionable decisions, and ensure timely follow-up. It also reminds officers that courtesy towards colleagues and external stakeholders is not merely etiquette but an essential leadership trait. Individually, these suggestions appear ordinary. Together, they represent a philosophy of administration.



Calling attention of NDA MPs!

Delhi is buzzing with anticipation after Sunday’s grapevine that BJP-led NDA MPs have been asked to park themselves in the national Capital as talk of a Union Cabinet reshuffle gains momentum. The hopefuls are doing everything they can. MPs are staying up late, calling important contacts, attending the right gatherings, and even looking for astrological signs to boost their chances at a ministerial post. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, known for his political skill, is in control. Will he change his council, bringing in new people and moving others aside to bring fresh energy? Or will he stick with his current team? With rumours spreading from Rashtrapati Bhavan to party offices, everyone in the Capital is waiting to see what he will do. The big question remains: Will Modi make a move or stay the course?



Pehchan Kaun

A top IAS, who served in two crucial ministries of the Government of India, sought early repatriation to his parent State cadre to settle in peace till he retires in February 2029. Grapevine has it that the image of two ministers he served under overshadowed his performance. In the corridors of power, the buzz was that in one of his two postings, which was a sort of public dealing, the minister, as well as subordinates and day-to-day public dealings, was peeved. The Seva Teerth was informed. In the second posting, he felt the heat of the persona of the king-sized Minister. Finally, the bureaucrat sought refuge from his parent cadre and will take charge there shortly.



Govt expands Anaemia Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Centre is overhauling its flagship ‘Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Abhiyaan’, under which low birth weight (LBW) infants aged 0-6 months will be added as the seventh beneficiary, recognising the importance of addressing anaemia from the earliest stages of life.

Union Health Minister JP Nadda will release the operational guidelines for the revamped strategy at the 16th meeting of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) on Monday, introducing a more comprehensive, technology-enabled and community-driven approach, the ministry said in a statement.

The revised guidelines transform the existing Anaemia Mukht Bharat programme into Anaemia Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, expanding its focus beyond iron supplementation to include early testing, therapeutic management, healthy dietary practices, digital tracking and community participation. A key feature of the new guidelines is the introduction of a 7x7x7 strategy, replacing the earlier 6x6x6 framework.

Under the revised strategy, low birth weight (LBW) babies aged 0-6 months have been added as the seventh beneficiary group, recognising the importance of addressing anaemia from the earliest stages of life, the statement said.

The seventh intervention, titled ‘Eating Right’, seeks to promote regular consumption of iron-rich and diverse diets as a daily habit, and the seventh institutional mechanism introduces a strengthened monitoring and evaluation system supported by digital tracking.

The programme also upgrades its service delivery model from the existing T3 approach ‘Test, Treat and Talk’ to a T4 approach ‘Test, Treat, Talk and Track’.

The revised framework aims to strengthen haemoglobin testing, ensure treatment of iron deficiency anaemia in line with national protocols, improve follow-up and referral through systematic beneficiary tracking, and enhance counselling on nutrition and healthy dietary practices, it said.

For pregnant and lactating women suffering severe



Union Health Minister JP Nadda

Mann Ki Baat: PM hails India’s defence self-reliance

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Underlining the country’s march towards self-reliance, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted several milestones achieved by India, citing the maiden flight of the made-in-India C-295 aircraft and the successful test of the indigenous Long-Range Land-Attack Cruise Missile.

Making this assertion during his monthly radio broadcast ‘Mann Ki Baat’, he also noted that in June itself, the country has achieved a major success in the aviation sector.

Stating that the C-295 aircraft has been made in India, he said, “As many as 40 such aircraft are being built right here in India, and this is giving new strength to MSMEs and the aerospace sector”. It will also increase employment opportunities,

he noted. The first made-in-India C-295 military transport aircraft successfully completed its maiden flight on June 10. The IAF is procuring 56 C-295 transport aircraft at a cost of around Rs 21,935 crore. Forty of these aircraft will be assembled by Tata Advanced Systems Limited in cooperation with Airbus at a production facility in Vadodara.

Modi said in June that the country achieved some other milestones that fill every citizen with pride. “Recently, I got the opportunity to participate in a Navy-related programme in Kolkata. There, INS Dunagiri, INS Shanshak and INS Agrya were inducted into the Indian Navy’s fleet. From the design to the manufacturing of these ships, everything is indigenous,” he said.

The prime minister said in June that the Defence Research and Development



Organisation (DRDO) also successfully tested an indigenous Long-Range Land-Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM).

“In other words, from the seas to the skies, our India is becoming increasingly secure and self-reliant,” he said.

The DRDO on June 15 conducted a successful flight-test of the LRLACM off the

coast of Odisha. The LRLACM is an indigenously built missile with all sub-systems developed by various DRDO laboratories and industry partners.

During the broadcast, Modi also thanked citizens for heeding his appeal to avoid buying gold for some time, holidaying abroad and opting

for carpooling in view of the West Asia situation.

“I am grateful to every citizen of the country; not only have they supported my appeal, but they are also actively cooperating in every way,” he said.

The prime minister said he had also requested farmers to adopt chemical-free farming, protect their farmlands, and maximise the use of natural fertilisers.

Referring to an initiative to prepare the youth for new technology while keeping them rooted in their heritage, he said the Central Sanskrit University in Delhi is launching a B.Tech program in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science. “This marks a crucial step towards integrating modern technology with India’s traditional knowledge,” he said.

Modi said Indian culture is reaching various corners of the globe, noting that in the

Dominican Republic, where the Indian population is just around 100, a team has been formed by some Spanish-speaking locals who have named it ‘Brahmakamal Dominicana.’

“The members study Vedic literature together and are learning to chant Vedic mantras. They have received no formal training on this, but they have learnt the correct pronunciation by listening to audio recordings,” he said.

The prime minister also spoke about the superstition surrounding the Hargila bird in Assam, which plays a vital role in keeping nature clean.

“Hargila was considered inauspicious in certain parts of Assam and trees housing Hargila nests were even cut down,” he said, adding that biologist Purnima Devi Barman witnessed this and resolved to change the misconceptions deeply rooted in people’s minds.

Monsoon 5-6 days away; Delhi, UP reel under intense heat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Conditions are favourable for further advance of the southwest monsoon into several northern states over the next five to six days, the IMD said on Sunday, even as the national Capital recorded its warmest morning in two years amid the delayed seasonal rainfall.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said in a release that conditions are favourable for further advance of the southwest monsoon into some more parts of the North Arabian Sea and some areas of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, among other states, during the next two to three days.

It is likely to continue its movement over some more parts of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, some areas of



Children play football on a rain-soaked ground during monsoon showers in Mumbai on Tuesday

PTI

Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and southeast Rajasthan during the subsequent two to three days.

However, it also warned of heatwave conditions — possibly severe — in Uttar Pradesh on July 28 and 29.

degrees Celsius, 3.2 notches above the seasonal average, while the maximum climbed to 41.8 degrees Celsius.

The last time the city’s minimum temperature was higher was on June 14, 2024, when it was recorded at 33.3 degrees Celsius.

According to the weather office, a heatwave has been realised over Delhi, and the “feels-like” temperature at 5.30 pm, as calculated by the IMD, was around 50.7 degrees Celsius. For Monday, however, it forecast thunderstorms with rain.

Skymet said the delay in the onset of the monsoon and the interaction of dry and moist winds have kept both temperatures and humidity unusually high.

“Normally, the monsoon reaches Delhi around June 27-28, after which temperatures begin to ease and

humidity increases. This year, however, the monsoon is likely to be delayed by about a week.

Dry westerly winds from Pakistan are keeping temperatures high, while south-westerly winds from the Arabian Sea are also reaching Delhi and increasing humidity,” Mahesh Palawat, Vice President (Meteorology and Climate Change),

Skymet, said.

“When these dry and moist air masses interact, clouds do form, but there is not enough moisture for widespread rainfall. By the time cloud formation takes place, usually around 4 or 5 pm, the day’s maximum temperature has already been recorded. That is why both the maximum temperature and the ‘feels-like’ temperature have remained unusually high,” he said.

VB-G RAM G Act will burden State finances, says Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Claiming that several States have raised concerns over the MGNREGA-substitute VB G RAM G Act, the Congress on Sunday said the new law would guarantee only centralisation and further financial stress on the States.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Modi Government, “vengeful and petty” as ever, bulldozed the repeal of MGNREGA through Parliament without any thorough consultation with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development, State Governments, or the other relevant stakeholders.

Now it emerges that several states have raised concerns regarding its substitute, VB G RAM G, scheduled for launch on July 1, Ramesh said on social media.

Even the BJP-governed states such as Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttarakhand have opposed the huge additional expenditure burden that is set to be levied on states once the new law comes into force, he said.

Four other State Governments have opposed the blackout period of the scheme during the peak agricultural season, Ramesh said, adding that at least five states have sought a hike in wages for rural workers.

Even Madhya Pradesh, the home state of the Union rural development minister (Shivraj Singh Chouhan), is voicing concerns around the Modi government’s new pet project, Ramesh alleged.



Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh

“MGNREGA guaranteed right to work derived from the Constitution. VB-G RAM G will guarantee only centralisation and further financial stress on states,” Ramesh said.

The Congress leader also shared a chart on social media that listed the “Modi Government’s four attacks on your right to work”.

It alleged that through the VB G RAM G Act, the Government is “attacking” the right to work, right to fair wages, Panchayati Raj and State finances.

The Congress alleged that the only guarantee the law offers is that of “extreme centralisation” and “weakening of the bargaining power of rural labour”.

The Centre has announced that the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, or the VB G RAM G Act, will come into force across the country from July 1, replacing the two-decade-old Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

Indian Army, Navy to join Seychelles National Day event

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

An Indian Army contingent drawn from the Assam Regiment, Navy’s frontline stealth frigate INS Tarkash and indigenously built Survey Vessel Large INS Ikshak are set to take part in the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Day of Seychelles on Monday.

Besides, an Indian Navy marching contingent and naval band will also be part of the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Day of the archipelago nation.

The celebrations will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the Guest of Honour. Modi is currently on a three-day visit to Seychelles starting June 27, during which he will hold talks with President Patrick Herminie.

INS Tarkash, a frontline



warship of the Indian Navy, arrived in Victoria, Seychelles, on June 26 during her ongoing operational deployment to the south-west Indian Ocean Region, the Navy said.

“During the port call, Tarkash, along with #INSIkshak, will participate in

Golden Jubilee celebrations of the National Day of Seychelles, on June 29, with a marching contingent and naval band, India Seychelles #BridgesofFriendship #MAHASAGAR #MaritimeCooperation,” it said in a post on X on Sunday.

Indian Navy’s indigenous-

ly built Survey Vessel Large (SVL) — INS Ikshak — has arrived in Victoria as part of her operational deployment to the south-west Indian Ocean Region and to take part in the golden jubilee celebrations of the National Day of Seychelles, a spokesperson of the Indian Navy said on Saturday.

The vessel had arrived at the port of Victoria, Capital of the archipelago nation, on June 26.

An Indian Army official on Sunday said a contingent of the force, comprising 32 personnel from the Assam Regiment and led by Captain Aryan H Deolekar, is set to take part in the celebrations on June 29.

India and Seychelles share long-standing historical ties. Over the years, the relationship has evolved into a strong strategic partnership encom-

passing defence cooperation, development, culture and trade, the Army said.

“An Indian Navy marching contingent accompanied by a military band is also participating in the celebrations, reflecting the close and enduring defence partnership between the two countries,” it said in a statement.

Participation of the Indian armed forces contingents in national celebrations of friendly foreign countries serves as a symbol of mutual trust, military camaraderie and shared commitment towards strengthening bilateral relations, the Indian Army said.

Such engagements reinforce defence cooperation and underscore India’s role as a reliable partner in promoting peace, stability and security in the Indian Ocean Region, it added.

Sonam Wangchuk begins hunger strike at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Sunday began a hunger strike at Jantar Mantar, joining the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) protest demanding accountability over alleged irregularities in examinations and seeking the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

Before sitting on the fast, Wangchuk, along with CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, visited Rajghat and paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. The protest began with the gathering observing a two-minute silence.

Hundreds of protesters, mostly youth and students, gathered at Jantar Mantar as Wangchuk started his



hunger strike. Several farmer leaders were also present at the protest site.

Explaining his decision to join the protest, Wangchuk said education had been close to his heart for the last 40 years and that he could not remain silent when young people raised concerns over the education system.

“I have been forced to sit here; I am not doing this happily. I am sitting on a fast in support of both issues. Many people ask me, you were doing a movement in Ladakh, why are you with CJP now. Education, which is the issue here, has been close to my heart for the last 40 years, since I was a student,” he said.

States Focus



ARUNACHAL FLOODS: 10 DISTRICTS HIT, DEATH TOLL RISES TO THREE

The toll in the rain-triggered flash flood in Arunachal Pradesh's Keyi Panyor rose to three on Sunday after the body of a man was found in adjoining Papum Pare district, as search and rescue operations were underway, officials said. Floods and landslides caused by incessant rainfall were also reported in several other parts of Arunachal Pradesh, where houses were inundated and infrastructure damaged, prompting the local administrations to launch rescue and evacuation operations, they said. Ten districts – Keyi Panyor, Papum Pare, Kra Daadi, Kurung Kumey, Lower Subansiri, Kamle, Upper Subansiri, East Siang, Leparada and Lower Siang – have been affected by the rain fury, the officials said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) also forecast the possibility of more than 200 mm of rainfall in parts of Arunachal Pradesh over the next 24 hours till Monday morning.

(PTI)



OVER 46,000 VOTERS REMOVED FROM MIZORAM ELECTORAL ROLLS

More than 46,000 voters have been removed from Mizoram's electoral rolls following the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), a senior official said. The exercise, which began on May 20, concluded on Sunday with all enumeration forms fully digitised, Mizoram Joint Chief Electoral Officer Ethel Rothangpui told PTI. A total of 46,191 names were deleted from the electoral rolls for reasons including death, untraceable status, permanent migration and duplicate enrolments, she said. Of those removed, 21,290 were deceased, 8,352 could not be traced, 13,992 had permanently shifted to other states or abroad, and 2,245 were found to have duplicate enrolments, she added. Rothangpui said 312 eligible voters either refused to enrol or re-enrol during the exercise due to religious beliefs. These individuals had either been included in the 2025 electoral rolls or had relatives enrolled during the previous SIR. Following the revision, Mizoram's electorate now stands at 8,28,877, representing 94.72 per cent of the more than 8.75 lakh voters recorded in the 2025 electoral rolls, the official said. The draft electoral rolls will be published on July 4, after which electors can file claims and objections between July 5 and August 4.

(PTI)

MDA website hacked; pro-Pak messages replace homepage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Meerut

The official website of the Meerut Development Authority (MDA) was hacked on Saturday, with unidentified hackers replacing its homepage with a black screen displaying objectionable pro-Pakistan messages and slogans. Visitors attempting to access the site were greeted with the defaced page instead of the usual information on urban development projects, tenders, and civic schemes. Officials confirmed the breach on Sunday and said the MDA's technical and information technology teams have taken the website offline for maintenance. Efforts are underway to restore the portal and secure its servers against further attacks. Superintendent of Police (City) Vinayak Gopal Bhosale said, "The hacking of the Meerut Development Authority's website has come to our notice. The



website is under maintenance for the time being. A case is being registered in connection with the incident, and the matter will be resolved soon." Police have initiated a probe to identify the perpetrators. The case is likely to be registered under relevant sections of the

Information Technology Act. Investigators are examining digital footprints to trace the origin of the attack. The MDA, responsible for planning and development in Meerut and surrounding areas, maintains the website as a key platform for disseminating information to citizens, developers, and con-

tractors. The defacement has raised concerns about the cybersecurity preparedness of Government bodies in Uttar Pradesh. While no data breach or loss of sensitive information has been reported so far, the incident highlights vulnerabilities in official portals. MDA officials are working closely with the police and cyber experts to strengthen security protocols. The website remained inaccessible to the public as of Sunday evening. Authorities have assured that normal services will resume once the portal is fully restored and secured. Similar cyber incidents targeting Government websites have been reported in the past, prompting calls for enhanced digital safeguards. Further details are expected as the investigation progresses. Citizens have been advised to rely on official MDA social media handles and physical offices for information until the website is back online.

Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya opens exhibits on Narasimha Rao, VP Singh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya inaugurated exhibitions on former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and a unique exhibition as a tribute to former Prime Minister VP Singh, which marks his birth anniversary on July 25. NV Subhash, grandson of the late Narasimha Rao, inaugurated the beginning of a programme to commemorate the 105th birth anniversary of Rao. Nripendra Misra, Chairman of EC, PMML, hosted the Chief Guest in the presence of Priyanka Mishra, CEO, Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya. The exhibition presents a curated collection of rare photographs, official documents, speeches, personal correspondence, and other archival materials that trace Rao's life and public service. Special attention has been given to his leadership during a crucial phase in India's modern history and his pivotal role

in initiating the economic reforms of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation that reshaped the country's economy. A major highlight of the display is its portrayal of Narasimha Rao as a multifaceted personality – scholar, freedom fighter, reformer and visionary statesman. Audio-visual presentations and selected archival records provide visitors with deeper insight into his contributions to governance, diplomacy, economic transformation and intellectual life. Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya said the exhibition aims to celebrate the enduring legacy of the leader commonly regarded as an architect of modern, globalised India, and to foster greater awareness of his contributions among students, researchers and the general public. The exhibition on VP Singh traced his journey from his early life to becoming the Prime Minister of India through archival documents, rare photographs, and newspaper clippings. It also showcased a selection



of poems written by VP Singh, offering visitors an insight into his literary contributions alongside his political legacy. A special highlight of the exhibition was the display of 19 original paintings created by Singh. "On the eve of the 105th birth anniversary of the late PV Narasimha Rao, Bharat Ratna awardee and former Prime Minister of India, I feel honoured and privileged to be here at the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya. Narasimha Rao was a great scholar, statesman, and politician – the first South Indian to become Prime Minister. A multilingual leader, he always placed the nation first, the party next, the family after, and himself last. Rare are such leaders who consistently think of the people. This photo exhibition will inspire the youth, showing how an ordinary person from a poor family in a remote village could rise to become Prime Minister through sheer hard work and vision for the country," said NV Subash, who is a BJP leader.

Mamata camp files police complaints against Ritabrata faction

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Kolkata

The battle for control of the TMC split further onto the legal turf on Sunday, with the Mamata Banerjee-led faction lodging fresh police complaints against dissident leader Ritabrata Banerjee and his associates, accusing them of illegally using the party's name, symbol and organisational designations to mislead workers and supporters. The complaints, filed by TMC's joint national secretary Dola Sen, came a day after the party's 'Kalighat wing' had approached the Pragati Maidan and New Town police with similar allegations against the breakaway camp. The move marks a sharp escalation in the month-long struggle within the party following the Assembly poll debacle, with both camps now increasingly relying on legal and organisational measures to establish their claim over the party's legacy and structure. In the latest complaints at



TMC's joint national secretary Dola Sen

Kalighat police station and Kolkata Police's Cyber Crime division, the Mamata Banerjee loyalists named Ritabrata Banerjee, former minister Arup Roy, Javed Khan, Sandipan Saha and Biplab Mitra, alleging that they were attempting to run a parallel organisation by projecting themselves as office-bearers of the All India Trinamool Congress without authorisation from the party leadership. "The accused persons are using the party's name, symbol and organisational

positions to create confusion among workers and supporters and damage the party's image," the complaint alleged. The police complaints come less than a week after the rebel faction organised a high-profile "special session" at a luxury hotel in New Town, where it announced a new national working committee that excluded both Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee. The June 22 meeting, attended by several MLAs and former legislators, was

projected by the dissidents as an attempt to "rebuild" the organisation after the party's crushing defeat in the assembly elections. On Saturday, the Ritabrata camp held another gathering in east Kolkata's Topsis area, drawing 47 former Kolkata Municipal Corporation councillors, which political observers viewed as a concerted effort to strengthen its urban support base ahead of the civic polls likely later this year. Notably, banners and signage at both meetings prominently displayed the TMC's grass-and-twin-flower symbol and the party's official name, even as portraits of Mamata Banerjee – once the unquestioned face of the organisation – were absent. In its complaint at the New Town police station, the Mamata Banerjee camp sought an investigation into those allegedly operating behind the scenes of the dissident movement, and questioned the source of funds being used for organ-

ising meetings, printing publicity material and running social media campaigns in the party's name. The loyalist faction also challenged the validity of positions claimed by rebel leaders. It cited a recent communication by Ritabrata Banerjee to Assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose in which he described himself as the party's "general secretary", a designation which, according to the Mamata Banerjee camp, has never been conferred upon him by the organisation. Another complaint referred to a meeting convened for Kolkata's TMC councillors by leaders of the breakaway faction, alleging that invitations were issued under unauthorised party designations. Ritabrata Banerjee, however, has dismissed the allegations. "Anyone can file a complaint. There is law in the country, and there is the Election Commission. Let there be faith in the law and the ECI," he said.

PMK urges Tamil Nadu Govt to break its silence on VB-G RAM G

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Chennai

PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss on Sunday urged the Tamil Nadu Government to 'break its silence' on the new rural employment scheme of the Centre – VB-G RAM G – that replaced the UPA-era MGNREGA and clarify whether it intends to implement it. "Only days are left before July 1, the date on which VB-G RAM G has to be implemented. Only 19 states/UTs have issued notifications to this effect so far. As Tamil Nadu has not made any official announcement regarding its stance, crucial questions have arisen over whether rural labourers in the state will receive employment under this new framework", he said in a statement here. Stating that the Union



PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss

Government has introduced sweeping modifications to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which previously guaranteed 100 days of work, he said, "The new 125-day employment program is scheduled to come into effect from July one." "Out of the ₹95,692 crore allocated across the country for this scheme, Tamil Nadu has been earmarked ₹7,957.57 crore," he said.

Deendayal Port sets national cargo record in 24 hours

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhuj

Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla has achieved a new national milestone by handling 7.78 lakh tonnes of cargo within 24 hours, marking the highest single-day cargo movement recorded at any major Government port in India. According to port authorities, the record was achieved on June 26 through the efficient handling of a wide range of import and export cargo across multiple vessels. The performance highlights the port's growing operational strength and its ability to manage high cargo volumes with speed and precision. Officials attributed the achievement to coordinated efforts by port management, employees, dock workers, shipping agents, stevedores and transport operators. Investments in modern cargo-handling equipment, digital monitoring systems and logistics infrastructure have also played a significant role in enhancing efficiency. Already among India's leading ports in annual cargo throughput, Deendayal Port's latest accomplishment further reinforces its position as a key maritime gateway on the country's western coast. Industry observers believe the record reflects the continuing expansion of India's port infrastructure and logistics capabilities, while boosting confidence among exporters and importers.



PDP sparks backdoor job row; Omar Abdullah's Government hits back

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

Sharpening its attack on the issue of 'back door appointments' by the Omar Abdullah-led Government, a People's Democratic Party (PDP) Young Turk, Iltija Mufti, went public on Sunday with a list of companies engaged in a recruitment drive. In response, the Omar Abdullah-led Government swiftly deployed three top guns to clear the air. Earlier, People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chief Mehbooba Mufti alleged that 25000 'backdoor appointments' have been made by the current dispensation in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. In her social media post on X, Iltija Mufti Sunday posed some direct



PDP leader Iltija Mufti

questions to know why hundreds of crores are being spent on outsourcing jobs to private companies. Who selected these companies, and what was the selection process? On what basis are

people being recruited without a transparent merit-based process? Will the Government make these contracts and recruitment details public? Reacting to these allegations, Nasir

Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister, along with two senior Cabinet ministers, Sakina Itoo and Javid Ahmad Dar, on Sunday clarified that the outsourcing system at the centre of the controversy was not of their making, and dared their critics to prove otherwise. Addressing a hurriedly called Press Conference in Srinagar, Nasir Aslam Wani explained, "Many misconceptions have been spread regarding our Government's employment policy". "It is our duty to clear these misunderstandings because it is our responsibility to ensure that the public receives the correct facts." Comparing the working of the two successive Governments, Wani claimed,

"Today, we are not witnessing the practices that were common in the past – paper leaks, cancelled selection lists, and other irregularities". "Those experiences belong to the past." The Omar Abdullah-led Government, he said, had launched a mission to fill nearly 40,000 vacancies through a transparent, merit-based process and expected it to be completed soon. Specifically on the outsourcing controversy, Wani cornered the previous PDP administration. "Just as they left us with the consequences of the abrogation of Article 370, the loss of statehood, the division of the erstwhile state into three parts," he said, "they also left behind this outsourcing

system." He added that the entire outsourcing framework had been put in place between 2015 and 2018, and that all appointments now being questioned were initiated before the 2024 elections. "The same process has simply continued." Wani then issued a direct challenge to critics: "If anyone can produce even a single piece of evidence proving that this Government has made a backdoor appointment, let them do so." Referring to the allegations of back-door appointments, Cabinet minister Sakina Itoo sought to explain the operational rationale for outsourcing, describing it as a short-term administrative necessity rather than a recruitment channel. "Outsourced person-

nel are engaged over and above the sanctioned strength of any department," she said, offering the example of a hospital that installs an extra X-ray machine but needs a technician immediately. "Patients cannot be made to wait indefinitely while the formal recruitment process takes place. "Itoo also clarified the procurement process for outsourcing agencies. "These outsourcing agencies are selected through the Government e-Marketplace portal using a transparent tendering process," she said, adding that renewals and extensions were merely a continuation of policy inherited from the previous Government.

Govt proposes amendments to Medical Devices Rules

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Union Health Ministry has proposed amendments to the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, to shorten the timelines for the grant of manufacturing licences for medical devices across different risk categories. The draft notification, published in the official gazette, seeks to simplify and expedite the licensing process while ensuring continued compliance with quality, safety and performance requirements, the ministry said on Sunday.

The proposed amendments seek to rationalise the timelines for the grant of manufacturing licences for medical devices across different risk categories. The initiative is aimed at enhancing the ease of doing business, improving regulatory efficiency, and facilitating the



Representative photo

timely availability of quality medical devices in the country, the ministry said.

Under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, medical devices are classified into four risk-based categories — Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D — with Class D comprising the highest-risk devices.

The rules prescribe statutory timelines for processing applications for manufacturing licences for each category. The proposed amendments seek to reduce these

timelines, thereby enabling faster regulatory approvals while maintaining the established standards of quality, safety and performance.

For Class B medical devices, which include low to moderate risk devices such as blood pressure monitors, hypodermic needles and pulse oximeters, the timeline for grant of manufacturing licence has been proposed to be reduced from 140 days to 115 days. Similarly, for Class C and Class D medical devices, which

include high-risk devices such as cardiac stents, hip and knee implants, and other orthopaedic implants, the timeline for the grant of a manufacturing licence has been proposed to be reduced from 105 days to 90 days.

The draft amendments also introduce clearly defined timelines for each stage of the licensing process, including scrutiny of applications, audit by notified bodies, verification of compliance and issuance of licences.

This is expected to bring greater transparency, predictability and efficiency to the regulatory framework, benefiting both the medical device industry and patients through faster access to quality-assured medical devices, the ministry said. The draft notification has been placed in the public domain for comments and suggestions from all stakeholders.

Kuki-Zo body urges removal of highway blockades in Manipur



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Kangpokpi

A Kuki-Zo organisation in Manipur's Kangpokpi urged the Central and State Governments to remove all blockades, allegedly by Naga groups, along the national and State highways passing through the district.

The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) said that following joint deliberation with all civil society organisations (CSOs) of Kangpokpi, it unanimously resolved to "serve a 48-hour ultimatum", effective from Sunday midnight, for removing all blockades.

The development came in the wake of price rise and depleting stocks of essential commodities in the Kuki-Zo majority district, caused by the blockades on NH-2 and NH-37, sources said. CoTU said road transportation, the "lifeline of the people and backbone of economic activities", has remained severely disrupted for over a month due to blockades and unauthorised checkpoints allegedly manned by Naga groups.

Pune realtor murder: Police use dummy to recreate crime scene

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Pune

Police on Sunday took Siya Goyal, an accused in the alleged murder of her fiancé and Pune realtor Ketan Agarwal, to Lohagad Fort to reconstruct the crime scene, using a dummy to recreate the moment he was pushed to his death, an official said.

The exercise was aimed at establishing the exact chain of events of the June 18 incident, when the 25-year-old victim was allegedly killed by Goyal (20) and her 'lover', Chetan Chaudhary (22), he said.

"A crime scene recreation was conducted this morning. The accused was taken to the actual spot where the incident took place," a senior official from the Pune rural police said. He said that a dummy body was created, and police officials asked Goyal to demonstrate how she pushed Ketan from the location. She also showed the route taken to reach the crime spot. Chaudhary would be taken to the fort separately for a similar reconstruction, he added. Goyal and



Chaudhary have been arrested for allegedly conspiring to kill Agarwal and pushing him off Lohagad Fort in Pune district.

Goyal has allegedly told police that she did not want to marry Agarwal, and hence plotted with Chaudhary to kill him as she thought calling off the wedding would bring disrepute to the family.

Investigators are probing various aspects of the case, including the planning of the alleged crime, the movements of the accused before and after the incident, their digital footprint, and the motive behind the murder, a senior police official said.

Row over MP minister's remark on officials rushing to RSS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh minister Kailash Vijayvargiya's alleged remark that administrative officials in the State have been rushing to show their affiliation with the RSS after the BJP came to power has triggered a row, with the Congress terming it a threat to the neutrality of the bureaucracy.

Addressing a memorial event for a former RSS pracharak on Friday, Vijayvargiya claimed that since the BJP came to power, there has been a "race" among officials to show their affiliation to the RSS, adding that the organisation has



Kailash Vijayvargiya

become "too crowded" with a shortage of "good people."

The videos of the minister's comments are now circulating on social media, drawing fire from the Opposition. In one such clip,

Vijayvargiya is heard recounting his interactions with an official.

"When we were in the Government, some officer came and said, 'Sir, I used to go to the shakha.' Hey, you go now... You never told me before our Government came to power," he said. The senior BJP leader claimed that every officer has a desire to show off his affiliation with the Sangh. "Every officer and employee thinks this... After the Government came to power, everyone became part of the RSS. Every officer became part of the RSS," he is heard saying in one of the videos. He narrated that one

such officer told him that his father was the president of an RSS shakha, even though there is no such position in the organisation.

Vijayvargiya also lamented that the organisation lacked good people. Referring to the late Sangh pracharak Shaligram Tomar and some other RSS officials from Madhya Pradesh, he said, "Such people are rare.

The organisation is growing, and its ideology is also growing, so to speak. But if there are no good people, then we should reflect and ponder over the importance of that ideology."

Sharing a video of the minister's

statement on X, Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee President Jitu Patwari said that Vijayvargiya's public statement raises a serious Constitutional question.

"If this type of identification has increased in the administrative system, then it is not just a political comment, but a deep and serious issue related to the fairness, neutrality, and constitutional dignity of the Indian administrative system!" he wrote in his post.

Patwari stated that the Constitution of India requires every Government official to be loyal to it and not to any political or ideological organisation.

Uddhav demands disqualification of 6 rebel MPs



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Parbhani

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday demanded the immediate disqualification of six party MPs who recently defected to the Eknath Shinde-led camp, alleging that their switch was part of a larger political conspiracy.

Addressing a rally in Parbhani, the former Maharashtra chief minister said the Lok Sabha Speaker must uphold the rule of law regarding the defections and alleged that the BJP's central leadership was systematically "clipping the wings" of its own state leaders. He attacked the BJP over the Ram Mandir donation embezzlement issue, accusing the saffron party of exploiting the temple for political gain, labelling it the "Babur Janata Party".

"Babur demolished the Ram Mandir. A 'Babur Janata Party' has now come to loot the newly constructed temple. What is the difference between them?" he questioned.

Thackeray stated that MPs loyal to the Shiv Sena (UBT) had submitted a formal representation to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking an opportunity to present their side, noting that party MP Arvind Sawant had cut short an official visit to Kargil after the Speaker advanced the date of the hearing.

"If there is a rule of law in this country, these six MPs should be disqualified. I still believe in the Lok Sabha Speaker because if he does not follow the law, he cannot ask others to follow it.

All Sikh MLAs, ministers to appear before Akal Takht, says Punjab CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Chandigarh

All Sikh MLAs and cabinet ministers will appear before the Akal Takht, which summoned them on June 29 regarding the anti-sacrilege law, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said on Sunday.

His statement came after a closed-door meeting with the party MLAs in Amritsar to decide the course of action in view of the directions of the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs. Our MLAs and ministers will go there and present their sides in writing, Mann said while speaking to reporters in Amritsar.

Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Kuldip Singh Gargaji, on June 15, had summoned all Sikh MLAs, regardless of party affiliation, and the Sikh ministers before the Akal Takht on June 29 regarding the anti-sacrilege law.

Non-Sikh Cabinet ministers have been asked to submit their views in writing on the matter before 29 June.

The Akal Takht and the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) had raised objections to the anti-sacrilege law — Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Act, 2026 — saying it was enacted without consulting the Sikh Panth.



AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann during a press conference in Amritsar on Sunday

The Akal Takht had earlier asked the State Government to remove provisions from the anti-sacrilege Act which are "against the Guru Granth Sahib, the Khalsa Panth and the sentiments of the 'Sangat' (Sikh community)."

Already, Sikh MLAs of other parties have confirmed that they would appear before the Akal Takht.

Replying to a question whether he will appear before the Akal Takht, the chief minister said he has not been summoned.

"Our MLAs and Cabinet ministers will present the Government side, Punjab Assembly Speaker (Kulraj Singh Sandhwan) will also go. Whatever suggestions come from the Akal Takht or SGPC, we will discuss the same," said Mann, who was accompanied by AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal.

Replying to another question over a purported video, Mann said he will send the clip, in which a person could be seen wearing a mask resembling his, to the Akal Takht.

Mann said he will also present his side in writing to the highest temporal seat of Sikhs, mentioning that a fake video has been made by putting a mask on someone. Stating that the

Akal Takht Sahib is above everything, he said his reverence for it is evident from the fact that when he was earlier summoned, he even skipped a function of the President of India to appear before it.

Replying to a question that the Opposition parties are accusing him of challenging the authority of the Akal Takht, Mann said, "I could not even think of doing it."

However, when political appointees occupying religious positions start taking one-sided decisions to appease their political masters, questions naturally arise, he said.

Mann said hoardings are being put up outside gurdwaras "to make the people aware about the order issued by the Akal Takht Sahib".

He questioned why similar boards were not installed against Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal when he was declared "tankhaiya" (guilty of religious misconduct).

Hoardings calling for his social boycott are being installed outside gurdwaras at many places by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

Mann accused the Congress, Akalis and the BJP of joining hands to target him for political gains by trying to give a religious colour to the issue.

Replying to a question on the SGPC deciding to hold a gathering on July 5 to spread awareness among Sikh congregations regarding the Sri Akal Takht Sahib's directives, Mann said it can do so at any time.

To a question regarding the Maharashtra Government's recent decision to repeal the 70-year-old Nanded Sikh Gurdwara Sachkhand Sri Hazur Abchalnagar Sahib Act, 1956, Mann said it should not interfere in the affairs of the Sikh community.

Meanwhile, Arvind Kejriwal said, "The BJP Government in Maharashtra should refrain from hurting the sentiments of Sikhs through such actions, which are not in the interest of anyone. Politics and religion are separate, and they should never be mixed under any circumstances," he said.

He said a grand temple dedicated to Luv, Kush and Mata Janaki will be built next to the temple of Lord Valmiki in Amritsar. Regarding the alleged embezzlement of devotees' offerings at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Kejriwal claimed that the main persons facing the maximum accusations are roaming freely. He further said police did not seek remand of those arrested in the case for questioning and demanded a probe to find where the money has gone.

Mock rescue drills held along Amarnath yatra routes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Srinagar/Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Sunday conducted comprehensive high-altitude operational drills at 18 strategic locations — many of them snow-bound — along the twin routes to the cave shrine of Amarnath, to assess the preparedness of its mountain rescue teams (MRTs), an official said.

To bolster safety measures for the pilgrimage, 45 specialised MRTs, comprising personnel from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster



Response Force (SDRF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), have been deployed along the 48-km Pahalgam route in Anantnag district and the 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district, the official

said. The annual 57-day yatra to the cave shrine, situated at an altitude of 3,880 metres in the south Kashmir Himalayas, is scheduled to commence on the twin routes on July 3.

Simultaneous mock rescue

drills were conducted at all the strategic locations, many of them still snow-bound, to assess the preparedness of the MRTs for ensuring the security of pilgrims, and timely response in cases of emergency, Ram Singh — who is overseeing the 18 rescue teams along the yatra routes — said.

He said the exercise involved MRTs deployed at Chandanwari, Pissu Top, Zojibal, Nagakoti, Wavbal, MG Top, Poshpathri, Kelnar, Dardkote, Sangam Top, Holy Cave, Lower Holy Cave, Y-Junction, Brarimarg, Railpathri, Domail, Panjarni and Sheshnag.

Rajasthan launches mental health programme in 1,500 schools

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jaipur

Rajasthan has introduced a structured mental health and well-being programme in primary education with the launch of the 'Khushishala' initiative in around 1,500 Government schools.

Officials claimed that Rajasthan is the first State in the country to launch such a programme.

The programme, implemented by the Rajasthan State Council of Educational Research and Training (RSCERT), targets students from Classes 1 to 5 and focuses on their emotional



Representative photo

well-being, social development and life skills through activity-based learning.

RSCERT Director Shweta Fagediya said the initiative also includes mental health and capacity-building training for teachers, enabling them to better understand and address the children's emotional needs.

"Khushishala has made Rajasthan the first State in India to implement a mental health and well-being programme at the primary education level. The objective is to strengthen children's emotional resilience and social-emotional skills while equipping teachers to better under-

stand and support students' emotional needs," she said.

Under the programme, teachers undergo a three-day training module along with a 21-day audio-based course focusing on emotional awareness, stress recognition, relationship building and well-being. Special teacher handbooks and mobile-based resources have also been developed to facilitate classroom activities.

She said the programme goes beyond teacher training and focuses on helping educators effectively translate wellbeing concepts into age-appropriate classroom activities. According to

education experts, teacher-led wellbeing programmes can improve classroom participation, social interaction and students' ability to cope with challenges. Such interventions also help teachers identify and respond to the children's emotional needs more effectively.

"The pilot involved 120 teachers and recorded a 53 per cent improvement in socio-emotional skills among students. Among girls, the improvement reached 69 per cent. The findings also indicated stronger teacher-student relationships and greater emotional development among children," she said.



Editor's
TAKE

Friendship renewed, strategy deepened

Modi's visit to Seychelles reaffirms India's resolve to anchor itself as Seychelles' trusted partner in the Indian Ocean

Seychelles marked fifty years of independence even as both nations marked fifty years of diplomatic relations established in 1976. Modi's last visit, in 2015, had set the template for India's outreach to Indian Ocean island states; this return – only the second by an Indian prime minister since 1981 – signalled that it has moved from a foreign-policy footnote to a recurring engagement, even if the eleven-year gap leaves room for more frequent high-level contact going forward.

The highlights were unusually rich for a National Day visit. Modi stood as Guest of Honour at the Golden Jubilee parade, where an Indian Armed Forces contingent marched alongside Seychellois troops and two Indian Navy warships anchored offshore – a quiet but pointed reminder of Delhi's naval reach. More significant was the substance behind the ceremony: Modi became the first Indian prime minister to address Seychelles' National Assembly, a gesture that elevated a transactional partnership into something closer to a parliamentary kinship between the world's largest democracy and one of the Indian Ocean's smallest.

Modi handed over the Made-in-India fast patrol vessel PS Lespwar to the Seychelles Coast Guard, along with ambulances, utility vehicles and laser radial boats meant to strengthen surveillance of an exclusive economic zone roughly 1.3 million square kilometres in size. This builds on years of quieter support – Dornier surveillance aircraft, a coastal radar network – and points to a partnership measured less in declarations than in delivered capability, an increasingly important currency in a region where promises often outpace performance.The real architecture, though, was laid earlier this year.

President Herminie's February state visit to India produced the SESEL Joint Vision framework, seven memoranda covering maritime security, digital cooperation, the blue economy and education, and a \$175 million package – a \$125 million rupee line of credit plus \$50 million in grants. This visit was less about fresh announcements than about reviewing implementation: a Seychelles Hydrographic Unit taking shape with Indian assistance, and a planned joint hydrography consultation later this year, suggest the relationship is shifting from pledges to project management.Strategically, the visit fits within Vision MAHASAGAR, India's evolving Indian Ocean doctrine, which treats Seychelles as a sentinel guarding sea lanes connecting the Gulf, East Africa and South Asia. That the visit overlapped with Seychelles' own commemorations of fifty years of ties with China is a useful reminder: India's edge will rest on consistency and follow-through rather than sentiment alone.

Ceremony aside, is this: the visit's true worth will be judged by whether the hydrographic unit, the credit line and the promised joint exercises actually materialise. For Seychelles, India offers an unusually equal partnership for an island nation of barely 120,000 people. For India, sustaining that goodwill is the price of credibility as an Indian Ocean power. Fifty years on, the relationship has matured past symbolism – what it needs now is patient, unglamorous follow-through.

Leaders come and go, institutions endure

Frequent changes at the top undoubtedly create uncertainty and can complicate long-term policymaking. But they may also reflect a political system in which leaders remain answerable to Parliament and their own party rather than insulated by fixed terms or personal mandates



BHOPINDER SINGH

Six Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom have left office in the last ten years (2016-2026). Only one-Rishi Sunak-departed as a result of electoral defeat. The other five-David Cameron, Theresa May, Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, and now Keir Starmer-left office primarily due to internal party pressure, perceived failure to deliver, or loss of parliamentary confidence. Many observers have prematurely interpreted this phenomenon-the "revolving door" at 10 Downing Street-as evidence of institutional decline or systemic instability within British democracy. But does such turnover necessarily produce persistent policy paralysis? Does it automatically indicate weak leadership legitimacy or strategic drift?

While frequent leadership change can certainly create short-term uncertainty, policy discontinuity, and even public fatigue, it would be an overstatement to assume that the United Kingdom is uniquely unstable in this respect. Other advanced parliamentary democracies with similarly episodic leadership turnover-such as Japan, Australia, and Belgium-have not experienced existential threats to democratic continuity or governance itself. Conversely, countries with comparatively stable leadership tenures can still suffer democratic erosion if the institutions responsible for scrutinising executive power weaken over time. Stability in leadership, therefore, is not synonymous with democratic health.

An alternative interpretation is that frequent leadership change may reflect a form of internal democratic responsiveness rather than systemic breakdown. In the UK context, it can be seen as an expression of robust parliamentary control over the executive. Leaders can be removed swiftly when they lose the confidence of their party or Parliament, allowing for rapid correction of perceived governance failures. This mechanism avoids prolonged dysfunction and reduces the risk of entrenched ineffective leadership. Unlike systems where leadership change requires fixed electoral cycles or extraordinary constitutional procedures, the Westminster model enables relatively immediate adjustment when political consensus collapses.

Crucially, this form of accountability can remove failing leadership without destabilising the state itself. It does not require constitutional rupture, military intervention, or prolonged administrative paralysis. Instead, it operates through established parliamentary conventions, preserving continuity in governance even as individuals at the top change. In this sense, accountability becomes real-time rather than episodic, discouraging complacency and reinforcing performance-based legitimacy.



Moreover, the British political system structurally discourages long-standing personality cults and hereditary political dominance. Leadership is not derived from personal mandate alone but is continuously contingent on parliamentary support. While charismatic leaders certainly exist, their authority remains institutionally constrained. The electorate chooses a Parliament, not a Prime Minister, and the Prime Minister serves only so long as they command the confidence of the House of Commons. This principle is often summarised in the constitutional logic that the executive is accountable to the legislature rather than directly insulated by a fixed term.

As Winston Churchill famously observed, "The Prime Minister is the servant, not the master, of the House of Commons." This principle is not merely rhetorical; it is embedded in the operational logic of the system. Churchill himself became Prime Minister in 1940 without a general election following the resignation of Neville Chamberlain, and he later made way for Anthony Eden in 1955, again without a direct electoral contest for the premiership. These transitions established a core tenet of Westminster governance: leadership may change when parliamentary confidence shifts, but the continuity of the state remains intact, and electoral legitimacy resides in the legislature rather than the individual officeholder.

Within this framework, leadership transitions are often treated as constitutional normality rather than political rupture. This helps explain why figures such as Keir Starmer could frame resignation as an acceptance of parliamentary judgment rather than a personal or ideological defeat. As he noted in his resignation speech: "My party has asked whether I am best placed to lead us into the next general election. I have heard the answer of my parliamentary party to that question, and I accept that answer with good grace." This reflects a political culture in which leadership change is institutionalised

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

PIC TALK

A man and a monkey rest side by side on a hot summer day, in Kolkata.

PHOTO: PTI



SHARMILA VAIDYA

2ND OPINION

As an educator for over 26 years, I have worn many different hats. I have worked with children, both with and without disabilities, conducted assessments and served as part of diagnostic teams. Each one had its own challenges and rewards. But my most meaningful responsibility was working with the parents or care givers of children with disabilities. By helping them recognise and understand and navigating them through their emotional turmoil in the years that followed was not an easy task. No textbook had prepared me with the knowledge and expertise for this challenge. Decades ago, many children with disabilities were educated separately, institutionalised, or simply not diagnosed. Fortunately, today we have come a long way in determining, understanding and accepting these disabilities. There are accommodations often provided by

The child behind the disability

schools, work places and public institutions to help support individuals to participate fully in everyday life. Parents and children are less embarrassed and more willing to discuss it openly. The stigma that was once attached to these disabilities has now gradually diminished. A person with physical impairments, mobility challenges and facial differences are easier to spot and easy for us to offer assistance. They receive special services in their daily living, for example at airports, public parking, public facilities, workplaces, etc. However, disabilities such as Autism, ADHD, OCD, learning disabilities and anxiety disorders are less apparent, hence easily overlooked. They do not receive the same immediate attention and treatment. It is only when one interacts with such individuals and their families that one becomes familiar with their daily challenges.

I remember a conference with a parent who was concerned as to how their son would cope with school. Although there was no formal diagnosis made, doctors suspected he might have autism and might face challenges in life, but it was too early to know for certain.

My heart went out to them when I saw tears in their eyes. The fear of uncertainty was overwhelming and devastating for them. I assured them that every effort would be made to accommodate their son's needs and for him to be included in a regular classroom setting.

Schools usually conduct their own evaluation, observe them in a classroom setting and then chalk out an individualised education plan that meets the needs of that individual. Teachers work closely with parents and the infor-

mation and documents are available only to staff members who work directly with the student. The parents left that meeting feeling hopeful and reassured. Since then, I have participated in many such conferences. Each of these meetings has reminded me that not everything can be learned in classrooms or in textbooks. The gratitude and trust shown by these families has been immensely rewarding and the understanding that empathy and compassion go a long way. Fortunately, there has been tremendous technological advancement in determining the early onset and continued support for individuals who cannot walk, talk or see. to be included in society. There are advanced wheelchairs, voice activated devices, sign language, hearing aids, braille technology and software have opened doors that were not possible in the past. For conditions like, Autism, ADHD, Down syndrome, Dyslexia, Cerebral Palsy, and OCD there is early diagnosis and new medications, counseling services, continued research, grants, technological advancements, media and general awareness in society are more prevalent than a decade ago.After all these years I have come to realise that when people are different and don't fit in a box of normalcy or within the normal spectrum, we view them with sympathy. While knowledge makes us understand the disability, it is compassion and empathy that helps us understand the child.

The writer is an educator based in the US and the author of several children's books

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THEFT OF FAITH IN AYODHYA: ACCOUNTABILITY MUST APPLY EQUALLY

The allegations surrounding the Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust deserve an impartial and transparent investigation. Whenever institutions handling public donations face serious accusations of financial irregularities, the response must inspire confidence rather than deepen public suspicion.The issue goes beyond one trust or one organisation.

It concerns the principle that accountability must be uniform regardless of the stature or ideological affiliation of those involved.

If allegations involve inflated land deals, procedural violations or financial impropriety, they should be examined through an independent investigation that commands public credibility.

Superficial inquiries only weaken confidence in institutions.

The public also expects consistency in the functioning of investigative agencies.

Allegations of corruption should receive the same degree of scrutiny irrespective of whether they concern political opponents, religious trusts or influential organisations.

Selective enforcement undermines the rule of law and erodes trust in democratic institutions.Millions of devotees contribute to religious trusts with faith that their offerings will be used responsibly.

That faith deserves protection through transparency, professional audits and credible oversight. Only an impartial investigation, free from political considerations, can establish the truth and reinforce public confidence in India's institutional framework.

S. PADMANABHAN | KOCHI

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

The reverse brain drain needs better planning

The return of thousands of Indian IT professionals from the United States should have been an opportunity to strengthen India's technology ecosystem. Instead, it has exposed the widening gap between expectations and employment opportunities. More than 7,300 professionals have already returned in 2026 after job losses in major American technology companies and the expiry of H-1B visas. Unfortunately, India's own IT industry is currently experiencing a hiring slowdown.Many of these professionals possess world-class expertise acquired at leading global firms. However, their expectations of salaries comparable to those in the United States often place them beyond the reach of most Indian employers.

While Global Capability Centres and startups are creating some opportunities, they remain insufficient to absorb such a large pool of experienced talent. Incentives for innovation, support for high-value research, entrepreneurship programmes, and policies encouraging technology-intensive investments can help utilise this valuable human capital. Returning professionals should also consider flexible compensation structures and entrepreneurial ventures.India cannot afford to let such highly skilled talent remain underutilised. A reverse brain drain should become an advantage, not a story of shattered aspirations.

DATTAPRASAD SHIRODKAR | MUMBAI

Govt must remove passport confusion

The Government's clarification that a passport is merely a travel document and not proof of citizenship has left many citizens puzzled. For decades, Indians have regarded the passport as one of the most rigorously verified documents issued by the Government. Obtaining one involves detailed scrutiny of identity, address and background, making it appear to represent official recognition of citizenship.

India does not permit dual citizenship and requires citizens acquiring foreign nationality to surrender their Indian passports. This practice naturally reinforces the public perception that possession of an Indian passport reflects Indian citizenship.

Legally, citizenship is determined under the Citizenship Act through birth, descent, registration or naturalisation, while a passport is issued primarily to facilitate international travel. Yet the distinction between the two has not been adequately communicated to ordinary citizens. The Government should issue a comprehensive public explanation outlining the legal relationship between citizenship and passport issuance. Such clarification is essential to remove unnecessary confusion and reassure citizens that their identity and legal status remain secure.

DVG SANKARA RAO | VIZIANAGARAM

Peace requires truth and equal justice

The clarification issued by the Kuki-Zo Council regarding its chairman's apology highlights the complexities of the continuing ethnic conflict in Manipur. Expressing sympathy for the tragic killing of six Naga civilians is a humanitarian gesture and should not automatically be interpreted as an admission of collective responsibility. Equally, the concerns expressed by Naga organisations reflect the deep mistrust that continues to prevail.

Lasting peace cannot be achieved through competing narratives or mutual accusations. The only sustainable path forward is a fair, impartial and time-bound investigation to identify the actual perpetrators and bring them to justice. Justice must neither be selective nor influenced by ethnic or political considerations.

At the same time, every instance of violence must be investigated. The suffering of one community should never diminish the pain of another. Equal justice is essential for reconciliation.

Manipur urgently needs confidence-building measures, impartial law enforcement and sincere political dialogue. Genuine peace will emerge only when every community believes that justice is being delivered fairly and without prejudice.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

Dr Ashutosh Mukherjee: The pioneer of Bengal’s intellectual awakening

At a time when colonial rule sought to constrain Indian aspirations, he transformed higher education into a vehicle of national awakening, championed Indian languages and research, defended academic autonomy, and left an enduring imprint on the judiciary and public life.



VIJENDER GUPTA

Ashutosh Mukherjee is a luminary of the colonial era who possessed a wealth of achievements. It is difficult even to catalogue the contributions of this great man, famously known as

the “Bengal Tiger.” The world knows him as a great educationist and as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta, but his personality was multidimensional. Ashutosh Mukherjee was born on 29th June 1864 into the lineage of the great poet Krittivas Ojha, author of the Bengali Ramayana, to Dr. Gangaprasad Mukherjee. Unfortunately he passed away at the age of just 59. Even in his short life, the contributions he made in the fields of education, justice, mathematics, literature, and public life are inscribed in golden letters in the history of modern India. The present age seems to have all but forgotten this intellectual giant of history. Today, on the occasion of his 162nd birth anniversary, there is an opportunity to remember him with reverence.

Ashutosh Mukherjee was a brilliant student from childhood. At Presidency College, he kept company with stalwart students such as Swami Vivekananda, Prafulla Chandra Ray, and Mahendranath Roy. He was the first student of the university to obtain a double degree-an M.A. in Mathematics and an M.Sc. in Physics. Ashutosh wrote a book on geometric conics, which was widely acclaimed. Had he remained entirely in the field of mathematics, he could have become a world-renowned mathematician, but his talent was multifaceted. He was accomplished in all fields-mathematics, law, history, language, culture and what not.

In 1883, Surendranath Banerjee was arrested on charges of contempt of court in connection with an article criticising an order of the Calcutta High Court. This sparked protests, and a group of students under Ashutosh’s leadership decided to demonstrate right in front of the Calcutta High Court. Perhaps this incident further strengthened his resolve to build a career in the world of law. He began his legal studies at City College, Calcutta, where he won the ‘Tagore Gold Medal’ for three consecutive years (1884, 1885, and 1886). In 1888 he obtained his degree and registered as an advocate at the Calcutta High Court. He began working in the chambers of Rashbihari Ghosh, a leading barrister of the bar at that time.

In 1885, he married Yogmaya Devi Bhattacharya. They had seven children, of whom the second son, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, carried forward his father’s legacy. Shyama Prasad became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta at the age of just 33. As independent India’s first Minister of Industry, he laid the industrial foundation of the country. By founding the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, he gave a renewed awakening to national consciousness. Proclaiming “In one country there shall not be two constitutions, two heads, and two emblems,” he struggled for the integration of Jammu and Kashmir and, in 1953, sacrificed his life under mysterious circumstances. Sir Ashutosh and the world of education could not be kept apart for long, and by 1897 he had obtained the degree of ‘Doctor of Law’ and taken up the position of ‘Tagore Law Professor’ at the University of Calcutta. On 5 August 1899, the University of Calcutta sent him to the Bengal Legislative Council, where he played the role of an extremely active member for the next five years. In the Council, together with Surendranath Banerjee, he opposed the Mackenzie Bill on each of its clauses, because it was undemocratic and unjust.

The purpose of this municipal law, in keeping with Lord Curzon’s tendency, was on the one hand to bring the Calcutta Municipality under government control, and on the other to give precedence to European commercial interests at the cost of the interests of Indian taxpayers-even though in reality it was the Indian taxpayers who were the greatest mainstay of the municipal system.

Ashutosh Mukherjee firmly advocated for the interests of teachers and opposed the existing disparity in the pay scales of the education service compared with the judicial and executive services. He said, “You appoint both in the same college. The work taken from them is also



VICEROY LORD CURZON INVITED SIR ASHUTOSH TO BECOME A JUDGE OF THE CALCUTTA HIGH COURT. HE SAID THAT IF HIS MOTHER PERMITTED, HE WOULD ACCEPT THE POSITION. UPON RECEIVING HIS MOTHER’S CONSENT, HE ASSUMED THE OFFICE OF JUDGE IN 1904 AND REMAINED IN THAT POST UNTIL 1923

of exactly the same nature; yet when the question of remuneration arises, you pay one double the salary of the other.” In 1902, Sir Ashutosh was appointed a member of the University Commission. On 4 January 1904, Sir Ashutosh became a member of the Imperial Legislative Council. Even in his brief tenure, he left a mark that would be remembered for a long time. In the Imperial Council, he strongly opposed Curzon’s University Bill alongside Gokhale. As a member of the Calcutta University Commission (Sadler Commission: 1917-19), he made a noteworthy contribution. Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee’s greatest contribution lies in the development of the University of Calcutta. He dedicated the University of Calcutta to the service of the nation. The establishment of departments of Indian languages was the crowning achievement of his life, making it possible to obtain the highest degrees in one’s mother tongue. He promoted research. He demonstrated that Indian universities could provide research and higher education even without foreign aid.

He emphasised the harmony of technical education, industry, and education. The University had its own press and published the ‘Journal of the Department of Letters.’ During Sir Ashutosh’s tenure as Vice-Chancellor, extensive work was done on ancient Indian history, language, culture, economics, and scientific subjects. He encouraged scholars to study Maratha history, Prakrit literature, and the like.

As Vice-Chancellor, he was under heavy pressure to expel Subhas Chandra Bose from the university for the assault on Professor Oten. Concerned about protecting the career of the young Bose, Ashutosh had him transferred to another college-the Scottish Church Missionary College. Since the colonial government regarded the University as a hotbed of sedition and sought to impose conditions and controls on the functioning of the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Ashutosh declined a sixth term.

Viceroy Lord Curzon invited Sir Ashutosh to become a judge of the Calcutta High Court. He said that if his mother permitted, he would accept the position. Upon receiving his mother’s consent, he assumed the office of judge in 1904 and remained in that post until 1923, during which time he also twice held charge as Acting Chief Justice. Of the hundreds of judgments Sir Ashutosh delivered as a judge, many are still cited today as examples of judicial skill.

Sir Ashutosh was a devout Hindu by faith and every year performed Durga Puja with great grandeur at his house in Bhowanipore. He was highly progressive in social matters and opposed untouchability. Even while bearing the opposition of the orthodox Hindus of the time, he had his widowed daughter remarried. For this act Ashutosh had to endure a great deal, but he remained unshaken. He held immense respect for other religions.

Owing to his inclination towards Buddhism, he served as President of the Maha Bodhi Society of India from 1911 to 1924. On 25 May 1924, in Patna, the mortal frame of the Bengal Tiger, Dr. Ashutosh Mukherjee, came to an end; but his ideas, the institutions he built, and his roar for truth and justice continue to inspire the ages even today.

The author is the Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly

Land grievances need triage, not theatre



VIVEK KUMAR SINGH

Land grievances dominate public grievance forums across India. Whether in Janata Durbars, district grievance hearings, public outreach programmes or online complaint portals, land-related complaints invariably account for a disproportionate share of administrative attention. Yet they also expose a fundamental contradiction in governance. Citizens approach these forums expecting solutions, while the officials hearing them often lack the legal authority to provide one. The resulting disappointment erodes public trust in the State. The opposite response is equally problematic. Faced with public expectations, media scrutiny and social media amplification, grievance forums sometimes drift into areas reserved for courts or statutory bodies. Complex disputes are discussed in public, competing claims are examined before cameras, and directions are issued beyond jurisdiction.

Public grievance forums should function as intelligent gateways into the land-governance ecosystem by identifying the nature of grievances, assessing their urgency and directing them to the appropriate institutional pathway. In short, they should operate as triage centres, not adjudication centres. The problem begins with language itself. The expression “land dispute” is used so loosely that it conceals more than it reveals. What administrators encounter at the cutting edge are not merely disputes but a much wider spectrum of land ailments. Encroachments on government land, disputes regarding possession of public land, eviction from settled land, family partition disagreements, private access-road disputes, measurement and demarcation issues, grievances arising from revenue proceedings, non-compliance with judicial orders and matters already pending before courts are all routinely grouped under the same label. Yet they are fundamentally different problems requiring fundamentally different remedies.

Field experience suggests that most grievances reaching public forums fall into a limited number of recurring categories. Each category points towards a different authority, a different legal framework and a different pathway to resolution. An encroachment case requires administrative enforcement. A demarcation dispute requires technical measurement. A matter pending before a civil court requires judicial determination rather than administrative intervention. The mistake is to expect a public grievance forum to resolve all of them. Such an expectation places both citizens and administrators in an impossible position. Citizens arrive seeking immediate relief, while officials are often constrained by law, jurisdiction and procedure. The resulting gap between expectation and authority becomes a source of frustration and mistrust. The challenge is compounded by the fact that land grievances rarely remain confined to legal questions. They frequently involve social relationships, economic interests, local power structures and community tensions. A seemingly minor boundary disagreement can escalate into violence. A disputed pathway can disrupt access to homes and farms. Left unattended, many such grievances eventually transform into litigation, law-and-order problems or political controversies.

This is precisely why public grievance forums matter. Their significance lies not in deciding every matter brought before them, but in identifying problems early and ensuring that grievances enter the correct institutional pathway before they escalate. Once a land grievance is received, the crucial question is not, “Who is right?” but “What kind of problem is this?” An encroachment, a demarcation dispute, a pending civil suit and a compliance failure may all arrive at the same public hearing, but they belong to entirely different institutional pathways. Public grievance forums are therefore best viewed as the triage centres of land governance. Their role is to classify grievances, assess their conflict potential, route them to the appropriate authority and monitor progress. The effectiveness of the forum depends less on its ability to decide matters on the spot and more on its ability to ensure that each grievance enters the correct pathway before it escalates into litigation. Many States already possess statutory mechanisms that can be better leveraged through such triage. Bihar, for instance, has a time-bound public grievance redressal framework as well as a specialised mechanism under the Bihar Land Disputes Resolution Act for specified categories of disputes. A triage protocol can provide the missing connective tissue between public hearings and these existing forums. The objective is not to create new institutions but to make existing ones work better. This distinction is critical. Public grievance forums should not become parallel courts. Questions of title, inheritance, easement rights and adjudication belong to institutions specifically created for those purposes. Grievance forums should not become passive listening posts that merely record complaints and generate acknowledgements. The challenge, therefore, is to strike a balance between helplessness and overreach. A triage-based approach respects institutional mandates while ensuring that citizens are not left to navigate a fragmented administrative system on their own. When grievance forums attempt to perform functions assigned to courts or statutory authorities, they inadvertently weaken those institutions. Conversely, when citizens leave public hearings without a clear pathway forward, confidence in governance suffers. A triage model avoids both outcomes by ensuring that every institution performs its designated role while remaining accountable for results. The success of public grievance forums should not be judged by the number of petitions heard or disposed of. Instead, it should be measured by the number of grievances correctly routed towards resolution. Disposal is an event. Resolution is an outcome. Every district should consider adopting a Land Grievance Triage Protocol. Such a framework would classify grievances into predefined categories, assess their conflict potential and route them to designated statutory pathways-whether under service-delivery legislation, specialised land-dispute mechanisms, survey processes or judicial forums. The objective would be to shift attention from disposal to resolution. India’s land governance challenges are too complex to be addressed through improvisation. They require clarity of roles, institutional discipline and structured coordination. Public grievance forums have an important role to play. Not every grievance can be resolved at a grievance forum.

Every grievance, however, can be correctly diagnosed there. Governance credibility is built when citizens know that their problem has been correctly identified, routed to the right institution and followed through to resolution. The challenge before land administration is not to make public grievance forums more dramatic. It is to make them more diagnostic. The future of land governance lies not in theatre, but in triage.

Vivek Kumar Singh is presently Chairman, RERA Bihar. As Principal Secretary, Department of Revenue and Land Reforms, Bihar, he had ushered in comprehensive digitisation of Land Records



Gen Z and shifting workforce preferences



DEEPIKA KUMAR

Recent news points to the fact that, of late, skilled plumbers earn more than entry-level engineers in tech firms such as Infosys and TCS (Link). In another post, Abhiraj Singh Bahl, co-founder and CEO of Urban

Company, highlighted that some of the skilled service professionals on the platform earn in excess of ₹40,000 per month, which often exceeds the starting salaries in several IT roles in India. It is an interesting anomaly to what we’ve studied in economics around sectoral evolution of economies. What does this imply for Gen-Z and Alpha workforces as they enter and adapt to new workforce shifts and dynamics?

As per Morgan Stanley Research report “Asia Faces Rising Youth Unemployment Challenge”- India has ~17 per cent youth unemployment in the age group of 16-24, closely followed by Indonesia and China. Part of this is being attributed to the massive explosion in AI across the world, that has taken away entry-level jobs. The remainder is being shaped by geopolitical turmoil and tensions, leading to cost-cutting and localisation of labour supply as time passes by.

In addition, India also faces a special challenge of underemployment (lower productivity) in primary sector jobs especially agriculture and

mining, where more people are employed for a relatively lesser GDP contribution from the sector (high labour factor productivity ratio).

A case study of China

Gen Z workers in China are finding new ways to tackle an absence of jobs (which also, partly includes the problem of absence of meaningful employment). A lot of them are resorting to blue-collared jobs, in the absence of white-collared jobs. The story of Zhang Weibo, who graduated from NTU (Nanyang Technical University) and decided to take up a blue collared job after leaving a white collared one, is an interesting case in point here. A sense of disillusionment with his white collared job, the feeling of restrictive-ness and a communal sense of discontent shared with others who join him in his cleaning efforts, provide impetus and strength to his decision. Link

Another social movement that has emerged in China is “Tongping” which means to lay flat - do the bare minimum - no work, no family, no home, no kids. A life of minimalism. Choosing what one wishes to do. Originally started as a movement against corporate slavery, the movement has now grown to accommodate (or rather, de-accommodate all forms of work). People who take this philosophy to the extreme, are choosing to go homeless, sleep-in restaurants and cafeterias than work to pay rent. Link

This one’s my favourite now - there’s a concept of “full-time children” where children continue to stay with parents long after they have graduated/post-graduated, and take care of



domestic chores (cleaning, cooking, feeding) and earn a salary from their own parents.

Meanwhile, in South Korea, a report by Korean Employment Information Service (KEIS) highlights that, in the 15-29 age group, about 18% were NEETs in 2024 (“Not in employment, education or training”). While partly driven by the need for mandatory military service, especially for male members of society, overall population numbers have been on the higher side, and the category of “non-seeking” population has grown even more in this case - spelling troublesome long-term unemployment trends.

A survey by Intelligent.com, a career advisory platform, highlights that “1 in 6 companies are hesitant to hire recent college graduates” and cite several reasons - including a lack of motivation, professionalism, inability to articulate and communicate well, and a poor work ethic, amidst others. In other words, employers are not partic-

ularly excited to hire an “anti-hustle” generation that seeks to work on its own terms, from anywhere, and for whatever amount of time.

Coming back to the problem at hand in India, the global trends point towards economic frictions and geopolitical tensions that cause similar challenges across regions, especially in Asia, a booming demographic. In India however, the challenge is even more layered, as education (and as a consequence, a job) is not entirely an independent choice but driven by societal and family norms. A lot of the so-called manual labour jobs (plumbing, cleaning, delivery) are looked down upon in most families, which believe that doing this would be a waste of a college degree that the society has collectively invested in. People choose to endlessly spend time preparing for exams, sitting idle and doing nothing over finding a money-making job, merely to live upto social standards.

In India, work is not just a means of survival, to earn bread and butter, but a huge part of social identity. Indian society, historically, was structured around a division based on occupation - an occupational dictionary was written up in the Manusmriti and used to divide society. Centuries later, we still run with archaic occupational dictionary that continues to reward intellectual labour over manual labour. Except, unfortunately, as times and realities change, circumstances change, is there perhaps a need to update how we view work fundamentally in its myriad shapes and forms? Another challenge that persists now is, that unlike major economies of the world, India grew on the backbone of soft industries, in other

words, tertiary and service sectors which are plateauing (or perhaps reaching the cusp of a new S-curve that’ll be driven by AI). Whether that’ll lead to more jobs or less, and of what kind, remains to be seen. But it clearly means a reconfiguration of job needs, requirements, and job descriptions - one that doesn’t exist. A lot of traditional need for STEM graduates is also going to change.

I will not be winding down this article neatly in clear conclusions, it is a work-in-progress discussion. This is merely an acknowledgement of how layered and systemic the problem of unemployment could be, and how social norms add to, and subtract from the same. What I’d choose to allude to is, much like corporates, a lot of learning (hard and soft-skills) could occur even in manual, so called “blue-collared” jobs. Sincerity, showing up for work every single day, building relationships, getting a pulse of what a client wants, and handling different customers/clients — all of these skills could very well be learnt from these jobs as much as any white-collared job. One could grow in a different way, through local networks and regional awareness, plug in customer gaps and build businesses, if they enter these jobs with the right intent and mindset. Perhaps a collegiate/institutional academic life isn’t necessary and supposedly right for everyone. And the wage differential above a lot of entry-level jobs, is already showing up in market statistics. Looking down upon these jobs is no longer an option.

The writer holds MBA from IIM Bangalore and worked as an Engagement Manager at McKinsey



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Order Order

MACT awards ₹23 lakh to man for permanent disability



A Delhi Motor Accident Claims Tribunal has awarded over ₹23 lakh to a man who suffered grievous injuries and permanent disability in a 2020 road accident.

Presiding Officer Sudeep Raj Saini was hearing a claim petition filed by Parmanand Rai, who suffered permanent disability after being hit by a car in 2020. In an order dated June 9, the tribunal said, "... the accident in question was caused due to rash and negligent driving of offending car, being driven by respondent no. 1, Devender."

According to the tribunal, Rai was crossing the road in Najafgarh on the night of February 29, 2020, when a speeding car hit him. The tribunal held that the accident occurred due to the rash and negligent driving of the offending car, relying on the Detailed Accident Report, the petitioner's testimony, medical records and the charge sheet. According to the court proceedings, Rai was working as a vegetable seller at the time of the accident. The tribunal assessed Rai's functional disability and loss of earning capacity at 30 per cent and awarded ₹23.16 lakh in compensation to him under various heads. The tribunal noted that the car was insured at the time of accident and directed the insurance company to deposit the compensation amount to the victim.

(PTI)

₹40 lakh compensation to elderly man in mishap claim



A Delhi Motor Accident Claims Tribunal here has awarded ₹40 lakh compensation to an elderly man who suffered permanent disability after being hit by a speeding motorcycle and allowed the insurance company to recover the amount from the vehicle owner and rider. Presiding Officer Sudeep Raj Saini was hearing a claim petition filed by Rajpal Singh (66), who suffered quadriparesis and became completely dependent on others for care following the accident. In the order dated June 9, the tribunal said, "It stands proved on the touchstone of preponderance of probabilities that the accident in question was caused due to rash and negligent driving of motorcycle being driven by respondent no 1, Irfan." According to the tribunal, Singh was hit by the speeding motorcycle while crossing a road near Aakash Hospital on December 25, 2018. He sustained grievous injuries and was taken to Safdarjung Hospital and later to Venkateshwar Hospital. The tribunal relied on the eyewitness testimony, the Detailed Accident Report, prompt registration of the FIR, filing of chargesheet against the rider and other material on record. Noting that the victim suffered 100 per cent functional disability and a total loss of earning capacity, the tribunal awarded him ₹16.63 lakh towards future loss of income, over ₹11 lakh towards future attendant charges and compensation under other heads, including treatment expenses, pain and suffering, conveyance and special diet. The tribunal directed that 10 per cent of the total award amount of ₹40 lakh be released immediately, while the remaining 90 per cent be kept in fixed deposits under the Motor Accident Claims Annuity Deposit (MACAD) scheme. It noted that the motorcycle was insured at the time of the accident and directed the insurance company to deposit the compensation amount within 30 days. The tribunal also granted the company recovery rights against the driver, Irfan, and the motorcycle owner, Imran Uddin, after finding that the rider did not possess a valid driving licence at the time of the accident, amounting to a breach of the insurance policy.

(PTI)

Plea in SC seeks national fire and life safety framework

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a direction to the Centre and others to frame a national fire and life safety framework for high-risk public occupancy premises across the country.

The plea said the framework should cover schools, coaching centres, hostels, hotels, guest houses, bed-and-breakfast establishments, restaurants, malls, cinema halls, hospitals and other commercial premises with high footfall.

The petition, filed by advocate Narendra Kumar Goswami, also sought directions to all the states and



Union territories to conduct within three-four months a special fire and life safety audit of high-risk public occupancy premises, prioritising coaching hubs, schools, hospitals, hotels, restaurants, banquet halls and malls.

Referring to some of the worst fire tragedies in India, including some recent ones



Justice Narasimha to be now part of SC Collegium

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Justice PS Narasimha is set to become a member of the Supreme Court Collegium with the retirement of Justice JK Maheshwari on Sunday.

Being the fifth senior-most judge, Justice Narasimha will officially be a part of the Collegium until he retires on May 2, 2028.

Justice Maheshwari retired on Sunday, demitting office after a nearly five-year tenure.

The Collegium will now comprise Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justice Vikram Nath, Justice BV Nagarathna, Justice MM Sundresh and Justice PS Narasimha. Under the Collegium system, which came into existence in 1993 after a Supreme Court judgement, five top judges of the apex



court recommend the appointment, transfer and elevation of judges to the Supreme Court and 25 high courts.

The government can return the recommendation to the Collegium under this system. While it usually accepts the recommendation if it is reiterated by the Collegium, there have been cases when the government returned the

file or did not respond to the recommendation.

Born on May 3, 1963, in Hyderabad, Justice Narasimha graduated with triple majors in economics, political science and public administration from the Nizam College, Hyderabad, and pursued law at the Campus Law Centre, Delhi University, in 1988. Enrolled as

an advocate in the same year, he practised in the high court, civil courts and tribunals in Hyderabad, before shifting his counsel practice to the Supreme Court. He appeared in a large number of cases before the Supreme Court, including those of the Constitution benches.

During this time, he was appointed the commission counsel for the Justice Chinnappa Reddy

Commission. He was also a member of the Supreme Court Legal Aid Committee.

Justice Narasimha was designated as a senior advocate by the full court of the Supreme Court in 2008. As a senior advocate, he appeared in many public law cases involving constitutional, administrative and environmental issues.

Court restrains Chandni Chowk shop owner from selling, dealing with fake Tag Heuer products

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

A Delhi court has restrained a shop owner near New Lajpat Rai Market in Chandni Chowk here from using, selling, soliciting, and displaying imitation products of Swiss luxury watchmaker Tag Heuer.

District Judge Anubhav Jain was hearing the plea of the plaintiff, Switzerland-based M/s Tag Heuer SA, according to which it had learnt that some people, including the defendant (the shop owner), are using marks identical or similar to it.

"The said marks and labels adopted and being used by

the defendant are fraudulent and obvious imitations of the plaintiff's respective registered and prior used marks, and the defendant maliciously and fraudulently adopted and started using the respective impugned marks, being influenced by and inspired by the plaintiff's marks," the plea said.

The defendants are violating the plaintiff's rights in the said marks and labels, it said.

"The defendant is not only making the retail sales but is also supplying the impugned trade marks to various other dealers/shopkeepers/retailers in Delhi, including New Delhi, who are making the clandestine and surreptitious



sales thereof to the ultimate unwary consumers in Delhi," the plea said.

It sought that the defendant be restrained from manufacturing, marketing, or otherwise dealing with the counterfeit goods with similar or identical marks to the plaintiff. In an order dated June 9,

the court said after the filing of the present suit in January 2016, the court had appointed a local commissioner who inspected the defendant's shop bearing no. 17 B, Pleasure Garden Market, New Lajpat Rai Market, Near Gauri Shankar Mandir, Chandni Chowk.

Court acquits man booked for carrying 10 kg marijuana citing procedural breach

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

A Delhi court has acquitted a man booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act for allegedly carrying 10 kg of *ganja*, citing procedural breach and several other infirmities.

The court said the prosecution failed to comply with mandatory procedures prescribed under Section 52A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, which mandates the preparation of any inventory and clicking photographs and submitting it before a



magistrate for verification.

Special Judge Jitendra Pratap Singh was hearing the case against Amjad Mandal, against whom the Vasant Kunj North police station had registered a case under the NDPS Act.

The court said the prosecution also failed to comply with rules mandating that a

copy of any "secret information" had to be forwarded to the immediate superior officer of the seizing officer within 72 hours.

According to the prosecution, the narcotics squad of the southwest district received "secret information" that the accused was carrying *ganja* and proceeding towards Kishan Garh village on September 10, 2018, based on which Mandal was apprehended with 10 kg of *ganja*.

It said the samples were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Rohini, for examination, and after completion of the investigation, a chargesheet was filed.

Justice does not mean whatever I want: Bombay HC raps law student

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

The Bombay High Court has pulled up a law student for making "reckless and irresponsible" statements while challenging a university's decision to bar her from appearing for final exams due to poor attendance, observing that justice does not mean "whatever I want and howsoever I put it".

The Aurangabad bench of Justices Vibha Kankanwadi and Ajit Kadethankar dismissed the 23-year-old's plea, noting that her attempts to overcome her own faults through false claims consti-

tuted an "abuse of process" that could jeopardise her career in the legal profession.

The court, in its judgment dated June 18, noted that any cause taken up before the courts of law must be bona fide.

"Every proceeding before a court is to seek justice; but the concept of 'justice' doesn't mean 'whatever I want and howsoever I put it,' the court said.

The petitioner, a postgraduate student at the Maharashtra National Law University in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, had challenged the institution's decision to bar her from appear-



ing for her final semester examinations for failing to meet the mandatory 75 per cent attendance requirement. After a single bench dismissed her initial plea in

Delhi HC denies interim bail to drugs smuggler for attending his sister's wedding

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has refused to grant interim bail to a man accused of trafficking narcotic substances and possessing over 40 kg of *ganja*. The accused sought interim bail for 20 days on humanitarian grounds to attend his sister's wedding ceremony in Bihar this month.

A vacation bench of Justice Tejas Karia dismissed the plea, stating that a strong case for denying interim bail was made out given the gravity of the offence alleged against the petitioner-

Thane court sentences man to life imprisonment for wife's murder



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Thane

A court in Maharashtra's Thane district has sentenced a 32-year-old man to life imprisonment for the brutal murder of his wife, whom he set ablaze during a quarrel in 2020.

Additional Sessions Judge BD Shelke on Friday found the accused, Shahir Devram Parkhe, a resident of Kalyan, guilty under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on him.

He also took a stern stance against a key eyewitness, who turned hostile, ordering her prosecution for perjury.

As per the case details, on the intervening night of March 17 and 18, 2020, Parkhe quarrelled with his wife, Payal, who called her close friend home to mediate and settle the dispute. Later, the accused, who was inebriated, fetched a plastic bottle containing kerosene and poured it over her, set her ablaze and fled the scene.

Payal had entered a love marriage with Parkhe, and the couple resided in the Daighar area of Thane. According to the prosecution, the accused suspected

his wife's character, leading to frequent disputes and cruelty. The victim suffered 70 per cent burns and succumbed at a hospital a few days later.

Additional public prosecutor Sanjay More examined 10 prosecution witnesses. Judge Shelke analysed dying declarations made by the victim to the police, the executive magistrate, neighbours, and her mother. A significant aspect of the trial involved the victim's friend, Kajal Mourya, who was an eyewitness to the initial sequence of events. During her cross-examination by the defence, she claimed that the victim had mistakenly ignited herself and alleged that her original statements to the police and magistrate were given under "pressure".

The court, however, noted that she had never lodged any formal complaint regarding such coercion and had affirmed standard details about the couple's disputes and the immediate aftermath of the fire. Mourya had deliberately suppressed material facts, told lies, and intentionally given false evidence, it stated, and subsequently issued a formal show-cause notice to her.



accused, the quantity of narcotics involved and his prior criminal antecedents.

Delhi Police opposed the interim bail plea, stating that the petitioner, arrested in the FIR registered in 2024 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, is a

habitual offender. The police counsel said the accused was arrested for possessing more than 40 kg of *ganja*, which is a "commercial quantity" under the law, and there were other brothers who could perform the religious ceremonies at the sister's wedding.

her attendance computation and alleged that the college had granted extra attendance to certain students arbitrarily. She further claimed that the University had not considered her genuine medical circumstances.

The University opposed the plea, contending that the petitioner had recorded only 45 per cent attendance, and had it been at least 67 per cent, additional attendance would have been granted after due consideration.

It also claimed that the petitioner failed to attend the hearing held by the Grievance Redressal Committee before whom she

had filed an application before approaching the court, and instead challenged the committee's order refusing her relief, claiming it was arbitrary.

The court refused to accept the petitioner's contention that the University had given concessions to some students, observing that it was hearsay and there was no evidence to support the same.

It noted that the petitioner had made absolutely "reckless and irresponsible" contentions, raising a new story about her ill health in the review petition, but had not submitted any supporting documents.

Rave parties: Himachal Pradesh High Court orders transfer of DC, SP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Shimla

The Himachal Pradesh High Court has ordered the transfer of the Kullu deputy commissioner, superintendent of police and sub-divisional magistrate, observing that they failed to maintain public order and instead facilitated the organisation of largescale rave parties in Parvati Valley of Kullu district.

A division bench of Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia and Justice Bipin Chander Negi directed the state government to transfer the said officials within a week of the order,



and to initiate departmental proceedings against them.

The order was pronounced on June 24 and the detailed copy was released on Saturday.

The bench further ordered the registration of an FIR and the constitution of a Special

Investigation Team (SIT) headed by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) to probe the matter and initiate departmental proceedings against the three officers.

Hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) on rave parties and drug abuse in Kullu and Mandi districts, the HC observed that the officials failed to maintain public order and instead facilitated the organisation of large-scale rave parties despite prior warnings from the police about the possibility of drug consumption, trafficking and other unlawful activities.

FROM THE WORLD

USA

Mango festival in Washington

Thousands turned up at the Dupont Circle in downtown Washington to get a taste of Indian mangoes and scrumptious biryani as the Embassy of India hosted a tasting session. Indian-Americans came to the Dupont Circle roundabout on Saturday from neighbouring Virginia and Maryland to relive the memories of yesteryears and relish the juiciest of mango varieties – Kesar, Langra, Malda and many more that were on offer. “I have memories of my grandmother serving us mangoes during the summers. I came here just to get a taste of Indian mangoes,” Disha, a US citizen born to Indian immigrant parents, said, relishing a plate of Kesar. “This is the yummiest of the mangoes I have ever had,” said Andrew, who is touring the US to watch the World Cup football.

SINGAPORE

Migrants to learn AI skills

The IIT Alumni Association in Singapore has started a programme to deliver structured digital literacy and Artificial Intelligence training to nearly 1,000 migrant workers, including Indians, in the city-state over the next two years. Supported by the Indian High Commission, the Indian Institutes of Technology Alumni Association - Singapore signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Migrant Workers' Centre. The MWC is a 16-year-old bipartite effort between the National Trades Union Congress and the Singapore National Employers Federation to improve the welfare of migrant workers in Singapore. “HCI has been very actively involved in promoting this partnership. We started with financial literacy workshops at a few dormitories, and that it has culminated in an enduring partnership,” said Indian High Commissioner Dr Shilpak.

Six killed in major TTP terror attack on Karachi Rangers camp

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Karachi

At least three terrorists and three paramilitary soldiers were killed after heavily armed militants of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) attacked a compound belonging to the Sindh Rangers in Karachi, the army said on Sunday.

The attack — the port city's first major terrorist strike since October 2024 — on the Pakistan Rangers (Sindh) camp was carried out by terrorists belonging to Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a splinter group of the TTP, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, said. The attack took place around 8.30 pm Saturday when the terrorists rammed a vehicle into the gate of the Sindh Rangers Bhattai wing in the densely populated Gulistan-e-Jauhar area, and stormed in and lobbed hand grenades, which led to multiple explosions.

A local resident said authorities told people to stay inside their homes and some residential buildings and areas witnessed power cut. At least three terrorists were killed in the attack, and one, believed to be an Afghan national, was captured alive, the army said without disclosing further details.

“The assailants, after a blast at (the) main gate of the camp, attempted to breach the perimeter security,” the

Trump wants new Syrian regime to fight Hezbollah

ABBY SEWELL ■ Beirut

As the White House has soured on Israel's war with Hezbollah in Lebanon, US President Donald Trump has shocked many in the region by pushing an alternative: Let Syria fight the Iran-backed militant group instead.

He has suggested that the battle-hardened and Islamist-led insurgents who overthrew Syria's autocratic President Bashar Assad a year and a half ago and formed a new government would do a better job of rooting out Hezbollah than the Israeli army.

Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa has said he has no interest in doing so, and has asserted that Trump's comments were misconstrued. But Trump has doubled down on the idea. Although it remains unclear how serious the



An Israeli flag tops a destroyed building in southern Lebanon

AP

White House is about the proposal, the prospect of a Syrian invasion has raised alarms in Lebanon — and also in Israel, which regards al-Sharaa's Islamist-led government with suspicion and has seized

control of a strip of southern Syria since he took power.

Syria has also become the site of rising tensions between Israel and Turkiye — a main backer of al-Sharaa's government — with each

seeking to limit the other's influence in the neighbouring country. Top Israeli security officials convened a meeting on the subject on Wednesday, according to an official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

On the sidelines of the G7 summit earlier this month, Trump complained that Israel's war with Hezbollah is dragging on too long and “too many people are being killed.” More than 4,000 people have been killed by Israeli strikes in Lebanon since Hezbollah joined the wider Iran war with a March 2 attack on Israel, including hundreds of women and children.

Israel says its strikes target Hezbollah and that it takes measures to protect civilians. “You don't have to knock down an

apartment house every time you're looking for somebody, because there are a lot of people in those apartment houses and they're not all Hezbollah,” Trump said.

“I suggested to Israel to let Syria take care of Hezbollah. Cause to be honest with you, I think they'd do a better job.” Days later, on the first day of US-Iran talks in Switzerland, Fox News' Trey Yingst said that, during an interview, Trump had expressed disappointment that Israel can't “put Hezbollah away” and said that he is “close to giving it to Syria” because he thinks al-Sharaa would be more precise.

The White House declined to comment and referred to Trump's previous statements. Syrian officials scrambled to do damage control. In a speech in Damascus on June 13, al-Sharaa said, “There

are people spreading rumours that Syria will intervene in Lebanon. This is not true. We are calling for a permanent end to the war and the strengthening of institutions, and for there to be economic ties and a calming of the situation in Lebanon.” In a June 21 interview with the Emirati network Al Mashhad, al-Sharaa said Trump's remarks had been misunderstood.

Trump “spoke about Syria's role in finding a safe and peaceful solution, but the statement was misinterpreted as if Syria were going to invade Lebanon tomorrow morning,” al-Sharaa said.

He said Syria had “presented our vision for a solution to the United States, which is to stop the war and address the negative effects on Lebanon and Syria, and to find different economic, political and social solutions.” (AP)

Ukrainian drone attacks Russian oil refinery

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Kyiv

Ukraine kept up its heavy drone assault on Russia, setting fire to a major oil refinery in the south and killing at least two people, Russian authorities said on Sunday.

Ukraine has markedly stepped up its long-range attacks on Russian military industries and energy facilities in recent months, aiming to cut Moscow's revenue for its invasion — now in its fifth year — and make Russians feel the consequences.

The campaign has choked Russian fuel supplies and military deliveries. According to Western analysts, it has also slowed Moscow's efforts on the battlefield, heaping pressure on the Kremlin to come to the negotiating table.

“Our ‘long-range sanctions’ reached two oil refineries in Russia,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on the Telegram messaging app on Sunday. “Each (strike) means a reduction in the resources that fuel the Russian war machine, and another step toward peace.”

Debris from downed Ukrainian drones sparked a blaze at the refinery in Slavyansk-na-Kubani, a town in Russia's Krasnodar region, east of occupied Crimea, according to Gov. Veniamin Kondratyev. The falling debris killed one person in Slavyansk and wounded another in a nearby village, according to regional authorities.

The Slavyansk site is one of southern Russia's major refineries, processing close to 4 million tons of crude per



year, according to its operator's website. It is also a key source of petroleum products intended for export through Russia's Black Sea ports, including fuel oil, naphtha and marine fuel.

Photos and videos circulating on Russian social media showed a thick cloud of smoke over what users said was the Slavyansk facility. The Associated Press was not immediately able to verify the images.

Zelenskyy also claimed that a second Russian refinery, in the Yaroslavl region around 700 kilometers (435 miles) from the Ukrainian border, was hit during the nighttime strikes. There were no immediate reports from Russian authorities about the Ukrainian strike on the Yaroslavl refinery. Local Gov. Mikhail Evraev reported on Sunday morning that some roads between Moscow and the region's capital, Yaroslavl, were temporarily closed due to “an enemy attack by Ukrainian drones.”

Yaroslavl's airport also briefly closed overnight, along with others in southern and western Russia, according to the country's civil avi-

ation agency. For months, Ukraine has been stepping up attacks on energy facilities deep inside Russia, arguing the sector both funds and directly fuels the Kremlin's invasion. Despite a raft of Western sanctions, Moscow remains among the world's top exporters of oil and natural gas.

More recently, Ukraine has attempted to choke off fuel deliveries to Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula Moscow illegally annexed from it in early 2014. Last weekend, Kremlin-installed officials in Crimea suspended gasoline sales to civilians, after Kyiv's targeting of supply routes triggered the worst energy crisis there since the annexation.

Civilian fuel sales were also being restricted in Russia's Irkutsk region in Siberia, thousands of kilometers (miles) from the Ukrainian border, local Gov. Igor Kobzev announced on Sunday. Drivers will be barred from buying more than 50 litres of fuel per vehicle per day at state-run Rosneft gas stations in the province, Kobzev said, while “other gas stations may set lower limits.”

Skydiving plane crashes in northeastern France, 11 dead

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Nancy

A skydiving plane crashed in northeastern France on Sunday, killing all 11 people on board, authorities said.

The plane suffered a malfunction and “fell almost vertically” after taking off from the Nancy-Essey airfield on the outskirts of the city of Nancy, the region's prefect, Yves Seguy, said.

It crashed on the edge of a built-up area near the airfield, he told broadcaster BFM-TV. “Had it occurred just a few dozen metres away, the accident could have caused collateral casualties,” Seguy, prefect of the Meurthe-et-Moselle region, said. The plane belonged to a skydiving club and was taking part in a parachute



jump, he said. Emergency services responded immediately and were providing psychological support to

several relatives of the victims, he said. Authorities were also collecting witness statements, he said.

France records around 1,000 additional deaths amid heatwave

KIRSTEN GRIESHABER/JOHN LEICESTER ■ Berlin

France saw around 1,000 additional deaths last week at the height of its record-smashing heat wave, the country's public health agency said on Sunday, as Europeans elsewhere were suffering through yet another day of new temperature highs that sparked wildfires in Germany and had Berlin police using water cannons to cool down the crowds.

Temperature records were toppled in several countries on the weekend as the heat wave slowly moved toward eastern parts of the continent. In Germany, a new night

time temperature record was reported from Kubschutz, in eastern Saxony, where the temperature did not drop below 29.4 degrees Celsius. The nightly record came only hours after a daytime record of 41.5 C in Mockern-Drewitz in Saxony-Anhalt, according to preliminary data by the German Weather Service DWD. The previous record was set a day earlier.

A new study from the World Weather Attribution, a Europe-based collaboration of scientists, reported Friday that the record-breaking heat and humidity in Europe this week would not have been possible without climate change. The rapid

study found that the heat would have been virtually impossible just five decades ago, and is 200 times more likely today than it would have been 20 years ago.

France saw a surge in deaths last week at the height of its record-smashing heat wave, including a sharp increase in calls to private homes, especially in the Paris region, the national public health agency said Sunday.

There were more than 1,200 deaths on Wednesday, when France was sweltering under its hottest temperatures ever, increasing to more than 1,400 deaths on each of the two following days, Public Health France

OIL COMPANY HELICOPTER CRASHES, IN SAUDI ARABIA, 14 PEOPLE DEAD

Dubai: All 14 people on board were killed in Saudi Arabia when a helicopter belonging to the world's largest oil company crashed on Sunday morning, according to the Saudi Ministry of Energy. The accident occurred around 6 am in Ras Tanura, and everyone killed was a Saudi national, the statement said. An investigation was opened into the cause of the crash. The helicopter belonged to Aramco, which is majority-owned by Saudi Arabia. Aramco recently has had to scramble as the Iran war disrupted oil supplies and



raised prices. The company has said it successfully shifted some oil exports to a pipeline to avoid the Strait of Hormuz, which has been disrupted as Iran asserted control over the waterway.

Iraqi officials, lawmakers arrested on corruption charges

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA ■ Baghdad

Several Iraqi political officials were arrested early Sunday on corruption charges, Iraq's State-run Iraqi News Agency reported.

It said the arrests were based on statement made by former Deputy Minister of Oil Adnan al-Jumaili, who was arrested last month, and “included members of Parliament whose immunity had been lifted.”

Iraqi security forces sealed off all entrances to the capital's heavily fortified Green Zone early Sunday and carried out raids inside the compound that houses key government institutions and foreign embassies.

A security agency report obtained by The Associated Press said that seven people were arrested, among them five members of Parliament. Some of the arrestees were from the political bloc of former Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani. It was not immediately clear what the specific accusations against them were.

Al-Sudani's bloc won the largest share of seats in November's parliamentary elections, but he ultimately stepped aside. (AP)



Adnan al-Jumaili



said. In April and May, before the heat wave, France's rate of deaths was about 900 to 1,000 per day, it said.

The agency concluded that France experienced a total of at least 1,000 additional deaths during those three days alone, an estimate it cautioned is likely to increase as more data is collected, including for deaths at home.

The increase in deaths was sharpest in areas under red warnings of extreme heat, it said. Those warnings blanketed about three-quarters of the country at the peak of the heat wave. The agency said that 85 per cent of the deaths involved people aged 65 and above.

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60 pc professionals say AI now central to HR operations

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming central to human resource management, with 60 per cent of professionals surveyed saying it is now a top focus across HR functions, while another 15 per cent reported its growing importance in areas such as recruitment and onboarding, according to a survey-based report.

The 'AI As The New HR Priority – Efficiency, Cost and Workforce Impact' report is based on a survey among 1,811 HR professional across industries conducted between May 7-31.

Over 60 per cent of professionals believe AI is now a top priority across HR functions, while another 15 per cent say it is becoming a growing priority across recruitment, onboarding, routine HR operations, workforce staffing and HR solutions firm Genius HRTech DigiPoll Survey, 'AI As The New HR Priority – Efficiency, Cost and Workforce Impact' has revealed.

According to the findings of the report, 60 per cent of respondents identified improving efficiency and productivity as the primary reason for AI adoption, followed by 20 per cent who believe organisations are leveraging AI to reduce costs and optimise workforce management.

It found that AI is already transforming day-to-day HR operations, with 42 per cent of respondents reporting significant improvements in the speed and efficiency of HR processes and another 29 per cent noting moderate gains, indicating that automation is making recruitment, onboarding and employee services faster and more seamless.

(PTI)

US-Iran talks, macro data to dictate bullion trend next week

Developments surrounding US-Iran negotiations, movement in crude oil prices and key global economic data are expected to steer gold and silver prices next week, analysts said. The focus will squarely be on talks scheduled in Burgenstock, Switzerland, where US Vice President JD Vance is expected to lead discussions with Iranian officials to build on last week's framework agreement aimed at ending hostilities and reviving nuclear negotiations.

Analysts said the outcome of the talks could influence risk sentiment and energy markets, with implications for bullions. Domestic commodity markets will remain closed during the morning session on Friday on account of Muharram.

"Gold and silver momentum looks sideways/corrective as focus will remain on the negotiation between Washington and Tehran and also on the flow of crude oil, LNG and raw materials from the Strait of Hormuz," Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG – Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services Ltd, said.

The precious metals ended last week on a lower note amid a strong rupee and diminishing demand.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, gold futures declined ₹3,325, or 2.2 per cent, to close at ₹1.47 lakh per 10 grams. Silver slumped ₹13,001, or 5.3 per cent, to settle at ₹2.33 lakh per kilogram.

"Gold remained under pressure throughout the week, ending nearly 2.2 per cent lower as the precious metals faced headwinds from a combination of falling energy prices, a stronger Indian rupee, and a hawkish policy stance from the US Federal Reserve," Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst, Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said.

A stronger rupee lowers the landed cost of imported gold, creating additional pressure on precious metals prices, he noted.

(PTI)

UPRERA issues show-cause to 76 realty promoters for failing to upload reports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority (UP RERA) has identified 76 projects whose promoters have not yet uploaded their annual audit reports for the financial year 2024-25 on the authority's web portal and have issued show-cause notices to all defaulting promoters.

UP RERA has directed all defaulting promoters to upload the pending audit reports within 15 days along with the prescribed late fee for the relevant financial year, failing which they

could face a penalty of up to five per cent of the estimated project cost.

According to an official statement, it is mandatory for real estate promoters to

The Pioneer

BHOPAL | MONDAY | JUNE 29, 2026

Fuel crisis: Govt policies insulated consumers

KUSHAN MITRA

When the Strait of Hormuz shut to commercial shipping in late February, global oil markets did what they always do: panic first, adjust later. Brent crude surged from the low \$80s to well above \$115 per barrel in a matter of days, briefly spiking higher as traders priced in the possible disruption of nearly a fifth of global supply. Freight costs jumped, insurance premiums surged, and LNG prices followed suit. In much of the world, that volatility travelled quickly and visibly to the consumer.

In the United States, gasoline prices rose within weeks, with several regions seeing double-digit percentage increases at the pump. Across Europe, where energy costs were already structurally elevated, the shock was sharper. Governments scrambled for the second time in barely six years after COVID to cushion households with subsidies, tax cuts, and fiscal transfers. This has become a familiar cycle in advanced economies: allow prices to spike, then compensate after the fact, at high fiscal cost and political discomfort.

India did not follow that script. And it is worth stating plainly, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas managed this crisis with a level of control and effectiveness that deserves far more recognition than it has received.

While global crude prices surged, Indian consumers saw remarkable stability. Petrol and diesel prices did not mirror international volatility. LPG remained accessible at subsidised rates. There were no widespread

shortages, no visible panic buying, no breakdown in distribution. In a crisis defined globally by price shocks, India delivered continuity.

This was not luck. It was policy. The government made an explicit choice to shield consumers and then implemented it through coordinated intervention. Excise duties were adjusted. Oil marketing companies were required to absorb under-recoveries. Supply chains were actively managed. The state, in effect, stepped in as a shock absorber between global markets and domestic consumers.

The cost of that decision was substantial. OMC losses during the disruption are estimated at ₹35,000-₹40,000 crore, as fuel continued to be sold below import parity. LPG subsidies alone added another ₹20,000-₹25,000 crore in burden over three months, with Ujjwala beneficiaries paying ₹642 for cylinders that would otherwise have cost upwards of ₹1,600. Add to this the revenue foregone on fuel taxes, and the total fiscal impact comfortably crosses ₹1 lakh crore.

Critics will point to these numbers and ask whether such intervention is sustainable. That is a legitimate question. But it is also, in this context, the wrong first question.

The first question should be — did the system work?

On every observable metric, it did. Fuel was available. Pumps did not run dry in any sustained way. LPG cylinders reached households without prolonged disruption. There was no cascading panic, no hoarding-driven shortages, no visible breakdown of distribution networks. The system absorbed a global shock and delivered domestic stability over a 100-day disruption in one of the world's most critical energy corridors.

That outcome stands in stark contrast to much of the developed world, where consumers were often deliberately exposed to price volatility as part of market adjustment. In India, that volatility was contained.

It is fashionable in some circles to dismiss such outcomes as inevitable or to attribute them to favourable circumstances. That reading does not withstand scrutiny.

India entered the crisis with roughly 60 days of crude reserves and about 45 days of LPG reserves. These were not symbolic figures; they were operational buffers that allowed time for rerouting and adjustment. Domestic LPG production was ramped up from around 35 TMT per day to approximately 54 TMT

Markets ahead: Fresh tension in West Asia, crude price to watch out for

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Developments on the geopolitical front, with the latest military exchanges involving the US and Iran, their impact on crude oil prices and domestic macro-economic data announcements would dictate sentiments in the stock market this week, analysts said.

Besides, trading patterns of foreign investors and progress of the southwest monsoon would also remain the key areas of focus for investors, they added.

"Market participants will closely monitor Industrial

Production (IIP) data, the final HSBC Manufacturing, Services and Composite PMI readings, and the foreign exchange reserves data for

fresh insights into the health of the domestic economy," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

Globally, the trajectory of

crude oil prices and geopolitical developments in West Asia will remain key drivers of market sentiment, he said.

The monthly auto sales numbers on July 1 will also be tracked by investors closely.

"The week ahead is likely to be shaped by developments on the geopolitical front, with investors closely monitoring tensions in the Middle East following the latest military exchanges involving US and Iranian forces. While broader diplomatic efforts remain in place, the recent flare-up has reminded markets that geopolitical risks remain elevated.

Cooling products see mixed demand in June quarter

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Demand for summer-centric products remained uneven during the June quarter, as weather-related disruptions and higher prices weighed on the air-conditioner market, while categories linked to refreshment, hydration and impulse consumption continued to benefit from seasonal demand.

According to industry experts, air-conditioner sales slowed in June amid unseasonal weather and inflationary pressures, while beverages, ice cream and dairy products continued to register healthy growth, driven by immediate

consumption and affordability. Godrej Enterprises Group Business Head and EVP (Appliances Business) Kamal Nandi said demand across cooling categories has been mixed. "Refrigerator is doing very well, and demand is high both for mass and premium segments. Washing machine demand is also picking up as we are entering the monsoon season," Nandi told PTI.

DGCA probes incident of trainee pilot getting injured by aircraft

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Aviation watchdog DGCA is probing the incident of a trainee pilot sustaining injuries after being hit by a running propeller of a trainer aircraft at the Kanpur airport on Friday.

The incident occurred after the trainee pilot boarded the twin-engine Tecnam P2006T aircraft VT-NBV, and the instructor concerned has been derostered from flying training duties pending investigation, DGCA said in a statement on Sunday.

The aircraft, belonging to Garg Aviation, a flying training organisation, was engaged in night instructional flying at the Kanpur (Chakeri) airport.

"A flight instructor and a cadet were on board the aircraft. After landing, the trainee pilot boarded the aircraft with the engine running. The cadet received injuries in her back due (to being) hit by the running propeller.

Board of Trade to meet on July 3 to discuss ways to boost exports

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Board of Trade (BoT), chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, is scheduled to meet on July 3 to leverage benefits from recent trade pacts and to discuss strategies for accelerating the country's exports, an official said.

The BoT includes participants from various states, Union territories, and senior officials from the public and private sectors.

In the meeting, representatives of export promotion councils, along with other participants, will present their

views on the export sector. "The BoT is meeting on July 3 here," the official said.

The last meeting of the board was held on November 25, 2025.

The meeting is important as India has implemented

five free trade agreements (FTAs) since 2021 with Mauritius, Australia, the UAE, Oman, and the four-nation European EFTA bloc. It has also signed a pact with the UK, which will come into force on July 15.

BRIEFLY

Scotland coach leaves after debacle despite new contract

Scotland coach Steve Clarke is stepping down after the team was eliminated from the World Cup even though he signed a new four-year contract only a month before. Clarke announced he was leaving in an emotional letter to Scotland's "Tartan Army" supporters shortly after Croatia's 2-1 win over Ghana on Saturday ensured Scotland could no longer qualify for the round of 32.

His seven years in charge saw Scotland reach its first World Cup since 1998 and qualify twice for the European Championship, having not done so since 1996.

Scotland's players "deserve all the praise and adulation that they receive and it was truly an honor to be called their Gaffer (boss)," Clarke wrote. "Thanks for having me and good luck to my successor." Scotland played its last game Thursday in a 3-0 loss to Brazil but had to wait for days to see if it would end up as one of the third-place teams with the best records, and get a spot in the knockout stage.

Its opening 1-0 win over Haiti was Scotland's first victory at any men's World Cup since 1990, but that narrow margin of victory ended up hurting Clarke's team after its subsequent losses to Morocco and Brazil. Goal difference was the tiebreaker among the third-place teams with three points and Scotland's minus-3 goal differential left it well adrift of Senegal, whose +2 goal differential saw it clinch the final spot among the eight qualified teams.

(AP)



Iran narrowly knocked out of tumultuous World Cup

Iran has been eliminated from the World Cup, narrowly failing to advance past the group stage in a politically charged tournament where the team played its matches amid tight restrictions imposed by the United States. Iran missed the round of 32 by one spot in heartbreaking fashion. It finished third in Group G with three points earned with draws against Belgium, New Zealand and Egypt.

Congo becomes 8th African team to make World Cup round of 32

MAURA CAREY
■ Atlanta

Africa had a historic 10 nations qualify for the 2026 World Cup. And now, following Congo's 3-1 defeat of Uzbekistan on Saturday night, eight are officially headed to the knockout stage. The previous record was two. After 17 days of competition, Morocco, South Africa, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cape Verde, Egypt and Congo qualified for the round of 32. Algeria can advance with a win or a draw against Austria on Saturday night.

Morocco was the first African nation to reach the semifinals of the World Cup four years ago in Qatar and looks capable of going deep again, having already held Brazil to a 1-1 draw. It is a co-host for the next edition of the World Cup in 2030.

Only six African countries had ever qualified for the knockout stage (several of them multiple times). The most in the same year had been two, in 2014 and '22.

This year's tournament has shown the strength of African soccer goes deep, with Cape Verde and Congo both surprise names in the round of 32. Congo has a tall task in facing England next, but for now, the team is



soaking in the moment.

"It's really historic for our country, Congo," forward Fiston Mayele said after the game. "It's the first win and the first knockout stage. Today, I have to be proud here, and almost everywhere in my country, everyone is happy with what we did. We're proud to be Congolese, and I think we will keep going."

Mayele scored a goal 78 minutes in, sandwiched between two scores from Yoane Wissa — a penalty kick at the 68-minute mark and another in stoppage time. After the game, with the player of the game trophy by his side, Wissa described the long road it's been for Congo to get to this point.

"It's only the second time we are in the World Cup, 52 years later. We started to qualify for the World Cup four years ago with this

group," Wissa said. "First game against Portugal, you drew. You lost against Colombia. Now you're losing one-nil after (10) minutes, so yeah, nothing is easy in football. We just need to show resilience, and when a time like this comes, you have to enjoy, because it's not easy."

Wissa hopes that the success in this World Cup shows that the future is bright for African soccer teams with young talent paving the way. "Now every African team can dream big. The last World Cup, Morocco has been to the semifinal. Now I think it's eight teams," Wissa said. "What's coming next is good for the African teams, and we can see that now youngest players come earlier, and we showed our team with (Noah) Sadiki, Mukau, so that's good, and that shows our federation can dream big."

(AP)

A knockout win would be miracle; says South Africa's Hugo Broos

GREG BEACHAM
■ Inglewood (US)

This World Cup is already a landmark for South Africa, which had never advanced out of group play in its three previous trips to the sport's biggest stage.

If Hugo Broos' team goes even farther when it faces co-host Canada on Sunday in the tournament's first knockout match, the Belgian coach is ready to call that something even bigger. "If we should succeed again to go through to the (next) round, I can say that should be a miracle for Bafana Bafana," Broos said Saturday.

Broos took over this team five years ago believing that the nation with Africa's sixth-largest population and its largest GDP should consistently have one of the continent's best teams. Bafana Bafana, as the team is known to its fans, had won only two World Cup matches in its checkered international history — but Broos has built a roster consisting largely of players from South Africa's



domestic league into a talented, versatile team that is finally living up to its nation's potential. South Africa still had to open this World Cup in arguably the most difficult way possible — facing co-host Mexico's strong team in the altitude of formidable Azteca Stadium.

But Broos' players rebounded impressively from that 2-0 messy loss: They drew 1-1 with Czechia before advancing with a stunning 1-0 win over favored South Korea last Wednesday.

"I think we can say already now that the World Cup is a success for us," Broos said Saturday before his team toured the field at SoFi Stadium. "Everybody expect-

ed and hoped that we should be in the second round, and we are, but that doesn't mean we are happy. Once you are there, you want more."

They've been required to make a quick turnaround from that match, traveling from the match in the Monterrey area down to their training base in Pachuca on Thursday before getting back on a plane to Los Angeles on Friday.

But Bafana Bafana is riding an emotional high after achieving its unprecedented success. Defender Ime Okon said the players have been eagerly viewing videos of the celebrations that broke out across their country near dawn when their team clinched a spot in the knockout rounds.

"It's a historic moment for us as a country," said Okon, who plays professionally in Germany. "We're just really happy and excited for it, and if we can go on, we will. We have a special group. We just want to see how far we can go."

(AP)

England beats Panama to win its WC group

ONALD BLUM
■ Foxborough

Jude Bellingham and Harry Kane scored early in the second half, lifting England over Panama 2-0 on Saturday and into what appears to be a more favorable bracket for the knockout phase of the World Cup.

On a rainy afternoon before a vocal pro-England crowd that made MetLife Stadium seem like Wembley, Panama held the European power scoreless through a first half when neither team mounted threats and Kane had 10 touches, the fewest of any player. Bellingham put the Three Lions ahead in the 62nd minute from Bukayo Saka's corner kick. Held in bear hug by Jorge Gutierrez at the top of the 6-yard box, Bellingham stuck out his left leg and stabbed the ball past goal-



keeper Orlando Mosquera for his third World Cup goal, his second this year.

Five minutes later, Bellingham crossed from the

left flank and Kane outjumped Andres Andrade to head the ball in for his 82nd international goal. Kane became England's record World Cup

scorer with his 11th goal, one more than Gary Lineker.

Wearing red jerseys in a tournament for the first time since beating Sweden in a

Lionel Messi becomes first to score in seven straight World Cup matches



In his first match since turning 39 three days earlier,

Messi scored on a free kick after being taken down just

outside the penalty box in the 80th minute. The low kick barely above the grass surface split two Jordan defenders into the left corner of the net. It was his 72nd career goal on a free kick, including his 12th for Argentina. Messi now has 123 international goals — second all-time to Cristiano Ronaldo's 145 — in 202 appearances.

Messi had been one of only three players to score in six consecutive World Cup

games along with France striker Just Fontaine and Brazil great Jairzinho.

Messi also scored on a free kick against Nigeria in the 2014 World Cup and is among six players since records are available dating to 1966 who scored two free kick goals in the World Cup. He joined Pele, Rivellino, Teofilo Cubillas, Bernard Genghini and David Beckham. "I am very happy for him, for the moment he is having," Giovanni Lo Celso said in trans-

lated remarks after becoming the first Argentine other than Messi to score in this tournament, also on a free kick in the 19th minute. "The truth is that seeing him every day excites, excites and infects a lot. So obviously seeing him like that for us is very important." Messi didn't start because Argentina had already clinched first place in Group J, and the game was further meaningless because Jordan was already eliminated from the knockout stage.



बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

JABALPUR ZONAL OFFICE, WRIGHT TOWN,
JABALPUR PH: 0761-2480065,67,68

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on **15.07.2026**, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under-

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which Property are being sold	Description of properties	Type of Possession	Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid Increase Amount
1) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur M/s Shree Nakoda Ginning and Pressing Factory Through its Directors/Guarantors/ LRs 1. Mr. Sushil Doshi 2. Mr. Premchand Doshi 3. Mr. Sawan Doshi 4. Mr. Anand Doshi (Deceased) Through its LRs Mrs. Puja Jain & Pahal Jain 5. Mr. Mridul Doshi Guarantors - 1. Mr. Sushil S/o Mr. Amolakchand Doshi 2. Mr. Premchand S/o Amolakchand Doshi 3. Mr. Sawan S/o Praveen Doshi 4. Mr. Anand S/o Prakash Jain (Deceased) through its LRs Mrs. Puja Jain & Pahal Jain (Natural Gurdian - Puja Jain) 5. Mr. Mridul S/o Sushil Doshi 6. Mr. Amolakchand S/o Gulabchand Doshi (Deceased) through its LRs Mr. SusilKumar, Prakash Chand & Premchand 7. Mrs. Hukumbai W/o Mr. Amolakchand Doshi (Deceased) Through its LRs Mr. SusilKumar, Prakash Chand & Premchand 8. Mrs. Chandrakanta W/o Late Mr. Praveen Kumar 9. Mr. Prakash S/o Mr. Amolakchand Doshi 10. Mrs. Pankunwar Bai W/o Mr. SushilKumar Doshi 11. Mrs. Mamtabai W/o Mr. Premchand Doshi 12. Mr. Praveen S/o Amolakchand Doshi All R/o.- Gram: Padliya, Near Karahi, Tehsil: Maheshwar, Dist. Khargone (M. P.)	Rs.18,77,43,542/- (Rupees Eighteen crores Seventy seven lakhs fourty three thousands five hundred forty two only) + Unapplied interest on contractual rate w.e.f. 01.11.2019 + penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses	PH no.56, Survey No. 56/1'1, village Padlya Khurd, Tehsil Maheshwar Dist. Khargone area 0.30 hect. Owner: Mrs. Chandrakanta W/o Praveen Kumar Doshi, Mr. Sawan S/o Prveen kumar Doshi and Mrs. Sonam W/o Piyush Kumar Doshi All the pieces of land and building constructed on plot (House)no. 270, Padlya Khurd, Tehsil Maheshwar Dist. Khargone admeasuring 235.79 sq.mtr. Owner: Mr. Prakash Chandra, Mr. Sushil, Mr. Premchand, Ms. Vijaya, Mrs. Chandrakanta, Mr. Gaurav, aman and Ms. Priyal. PH. no. 57,(Old PH N. 56) S.No. 3/11 and S.No. 3/10 village Aakhapura, Tehsil Maheshwar Dist. Khargone.area admeasuring 0.675+0.659 hect. Total area - 1.334 Hectare @ 13340.00 Sqm. Owner: Mr. Prakash Chandra, Mr. Sushil, Mr. Premchand, Ms. Vijaya, Mrs. Chandrakanta, Mr. Gaurav, aman and Ms. Priyal	Symbolic Symbolic Symbolic	Rs.9690000/- Rs.969000/- Rs.10000/- Rs.5227000/- Rs.522700/- Rs.10000/- Rs.14174000/- Rs.1417400/- Rs.10000/-
2) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Borrower - M/s Gurukripa Dehydrated Vegetables Through its Proprietor Mr. Narendra Hammad (Deceased) s/o Shri. Laxman Hammad Through Its Lrs (1) Mrs. Pooja Hammad w/o Late. Shri. Narendra Hammad (2) Master Poorvansh Hammad (minor) s/o Late. Shri. Narendra Hammad (Through its Natural Guardian Mrs. Pooja Hammad w/o Late. Shri. Narendra Hammad) Address - Plot no.7 to 11, Industrial Area, Segaon, Badwani, Tehsil and Dist. Badwani. Guarantor: Shri. Laxman Hammad s/o Shri. Dhanaji Hammad Address - House no. 401, village: balkuan, Tehsil and Dist: Badwani	Rs.2,43,79,247/- (Rupees Two Crore Fourty Three Lakh Seventy Nine thousand Two Hundred Fourty Seven only) (Ledger Bal: Rs.2,43,79,247/- + Unapplied Interest @ 13.45% p.a. with monthly rate w.e.f. 07.10.2016 + penal interest and other charges / expenses	Diverted land and construction thereon bearing Survey No. 105/3 PH no 09 (New no 23), situated at gram Balkunwan, Tehsil and district Barwani M.P. Total area - 0.089 hectare (890 sq.mtr.) Owned by : Shri. Laxman Hammad s/o Shri. Dhanaji Hammad	Symbolic	Rs.1755000 Rs. 175500/- Rs.10000/-
3) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Borrower - M/s. Ruchi Traders Proprietor: Mr. Suraj Singh s/o Mr. Fateh Singh Address1: Imaliya Swaroop, Berasia, Laxminarayan Krishi Upaj Mandi, 80 feet road, Bhopal (M.P) Pin 463106, Address2: Village Ramgada, Tehsil Berasia, Bhopal (M.P.) Pin 463106	Rs.1,26,05,017.70/- (Rupees One Crore Twenty Six Lakh Five thousand Seventeen rupees and Seventy Paise only) + Unapplied Interest Rs. 3,09,621.88/- upto 24/01/2024 + penal interest @ 2% and other expenses w.e.f. 25.01.2024	(A) All those pieces and parcel of property with construction & fixtures there being & lying at diverted commercial land & Building on Khasra No. 3/1/1/3/kha/2/ka (Re no Kh No. 3/1/1/3/2/2/1 area 0.40 Hect or 1.00 Acre situated at village Imaliya Swaroop, patwari Hlka No. 53/25, adjacent to main Berasia to Narsingh Garh Road, R.N.M. 02, Tehsil Berasia, Distt – Bhopal (M.P.) (Owned by Mr. Suraj Singh) (B) All those pieces and parcel of property with construction & fixtures there being & lying at diverted commercial land & Building on Khasra No. 3/1/1/3/kha/2/kha (Re no Kh No. 3/1/1/3/2/2 area 0.405 Hect or 1.00 Acre situated at village Imaliya Swaroop, patwari Hlka No. 53/25, adjacent to main Berasia to Narsingh Garh Road, R.N.M. 02, Tehsil Berasia, Distt – Bhopal (M.P.) Owned by - Mr. Suraj Singh	Physical	Rs. 12441000/- Rs. 1244100/- Rs.10000/-
4) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Borrower - M/s. LKT Hi Tech Hospital Proprietor: Dr. Kunj Lata Richhariya D/o Shri. Ramesh Chandra Richhariya. Address1: LKT Hi Tech Hospital, Mugaliya Hat, Bhopal (M.P.) Pin 462024, Address2: LKT Hi Tech Hospital, ward No 8, Vidisha By-Pass road, Near Police station, Ashok Nagar (M.P.) Pin – 473331	Rs.71,95,005.70/- (Rupees Seventy One Lakh Five thousand Seventeen rupees and Seventy Paise only) + Unapplied Interest Rs. 3,09,621.88/- upto 24/01/2024 + penal interest @ 2% and other expenses w.e.f. 25.01.2024	All those pieces & parcel of property with construction & fixture there being & lying at Flat No. MIG G 001, Ground floor, Silver Inn Homes, Old Ashoka Garden, Northern part of plot no 95,96,97, ward No. 69, Distt – Bhopal (M.P.) admeasuring area 436 Sq. ft / 40.52 Sqm.	Physical	Rs.990000/- Rs.990000/- Rs.10000/-
5) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Borrower - M/s Sharmila Singhai B-16, Manisha Market, Shahpura, Bhopal- 462016 Guarantor : 1. Smt. Sharmila, W/o: Shri Prashant Singhai 2. Shri Prashant Singhai, S/o: Shri M.M Singhai All - R/o.- B-16, Manisha Market, Shahpura, Bhopal- 462016	Rs.2,01,27,048/- + Unapplied interest on contractual rate w.e.f. 01.01.2019+ penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses	1. Open land/plot situated at Khasra no. 309 admeasuring 0.10 hect (1000 Sq. Mt.). At Nayapura, Kolar Road, PH no. 38/28 R.N.M -03 ,Vikas Khand Fanda Tahsil Huzur, Bhopal 2. Open land/plot situated at Khasra No. 307 admeasuring 0.10 hect (1000 Sq. Mt.). At Nayapura, Kolar Road, PH no. 38/28 R.N.M -03 ,Vikas Khand Fanda Tahsil Huzur, Bhopal Total Plot area 1000 + 1000 = 2000sq.mtr. Owner: Ms.Sharmila Singhai, Shri Prashant Singhai	Symbolic	Rs.3,24,00,000/- Rs.32,40,000/- Rs.10000/-

Inspection of Properties by bidder: 11.07.2026 between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 pm
Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid application/KYC documents/EMD etc. 15.07.2026 up to 11.00 a.m.
Date & time of E-auction with auto extention for 10 minutes- 15.07.2026 between 12.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

The auction sale will be On-line E-Auction / Bidding through website <https://baanknet.com>, email: support.baanknet@psballiance.com. Mob. - 8291220220 The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal using their mobile number and email id. Please take note that the registration and KYC approval etc take 2-3 working days. For detail terms and conditions of sale please refer to the link provided in <https://bankofmaharashtra.bank.in/asset-for-sales-search> and <https://baanknet.com>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorized officials **Contact details: Incharge Recovery Jabalpur Shri Onkar Kumar (Zonal Manager) - 9823296164, Shri Nikhil S Patil (DZM) - 7387211200, Shri Bhushan Mohite (CM Recovery - Z.O.) - 9923257090, Dr. Ravikumar Verma (Sr. Manager) (9300955688) & Shri Hariom Trivedi (CM & Authorised Officer) - 9405719723**
Note - The sales are subject to the order/outcome of any case pending/ filed if any before Court/Tribunal

Date: 29/06/2026

Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors/Legal Heirs(LR's):/Coparceners
The above shall be treated as Notice of 15days u/r 9(1) of security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra

2nd T20I: Ireland beat World champions India by 1-run to win series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Belfast

Jai Moondra, a software engineer from Rajasthan's Tonk, rocked a star-studded batting line-up filled with IPL stars as Ireland did the unthinkable, shocking reigning T20 World Champions India by one-run to complete a historic 2-0 series win here on Sunday.

It is easily the greatest moment in Irish cricket since Kevin O'Brien's epochal century when they beat England in the 2011 ODI World Cup. But humbling of the mighty India will certainly be at a different level for them.

In a slightly nippy, blustery conditions, Moondra (3/32 in 4 overs), who still holds an

Indian passport, removed Sanju Samson (0), Abhishek Sharma (0) for first-ball ducks with icing on the cake being skipper Shreyas Iyer's wicket.

India managed only 153 for 9, chasing 155 at the Stormont ground on an eventful Sunday, after the hosts made 154 for eight.

Towards the end, Harshit Rana (21 off 10 balls) tried his best before being dismissed off the penultimate delivery of the match.

The series defeat also put a stop to India's 16 T20I series winning streak that started mid 2023. Under mercurial head coach Gautam Gambhir, Indian men's cricket team has achieved some embarrassing firsts. After a home 0-3 white-



wash in Tests against New Zealand in 2024 and a first ODI series defeat against New Zealand in early 2026, getting completely annihi-

lated by a minnow is one of the lowest ebbs that one could have hit.

Once it became 19 for 3, it was always a catch-up game

for India. While vice-captain Tilak Varma (55 off 46 balls) respected the conditions where the ball was swinging and seaming. There was a bit

of spongy bounce and the odd ball stopped.

The IPL prima donnas decided to throw caution to the winds and never for once realised that they are not playing on the highways masquerading as cricket pitches which are on offer during the Indian Premier League with support of an Impact Player.

With Vaibhav Sooryavanshi breathing down his neck, Samson recorded his second successive first-ball duck against Moondra, who got one to shape in.

Three balls later, Abhishek, got a delivery bowled on hard length outside the off-stump and the southpaw's wild swig resulted in Matt Holland running back from his

short third-man position to grab the catch.

Shreyas Iyer looked loose on both days, something not expected from a new captain.

Moondra slipped a stock left-arm's delivery that was pushed in with the angle and he got an inside edge onto the stumps playing away from his body.

Ishan Kishan (12) was back due to a brilliant direct throw by Ross Adair that found him way short of the crease.

At 35 for 4, it seemed all over for India when former vice-captain Axar Patel and current deputy Tilak Verma joined forces on a pitch that had a bit of carry and off the surface movement.

Earlier, debutant Prince

gave an impressive account of himself with three scalps while Shivam Dube bowled a double wicket over as India restricted Ireland to what seemed like a below par 154 for 8. Harry Tector (53 off 47 balls) and the dangerous Ben Calitz (37 off 23 balls) added 65 runs for the fourth wicket stand before Dube (2/25 in 3 overs) got wickets off successive deliveries that played its part in stopping the hosts well short of a par-score of 180. He was ably supported by Arshdeep Singh who also got two wickets. Dube first had Calitz caught in the deep and then bowled a perfect off-cutter that breached Gareth Delany's defence to hit the top of off-stump.

Russell starts on pole for Austrian Grand Prix aiming to reignite F1 title challenge

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Spielberg Austria



last time out at the Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix.

With Kimi Antonelli starting fourth, this is Russell's chance to cut into his Mercedes teammate's standings lead. Antonelli leads by 41 points from Hamilton and 50 from Russell. Charles Leclerc and Hamilton start second and third for Ferrari, which has

struggled on tracks like Austria where power is more important than cornering ability. A small engine upgrade for this week wasn't enough to bridge the gap. "I think this weekend we've not been confident that we could fight for a win," Hamilton said after qualifying.

Srikanth enters US Open final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Fullerton (USA)



Star Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth edged out Japan's Yudai Okimoto in a three-game thriller to progress to the men's singles final of the US Open Super 300 badminton championships here. Srikanth, a 2021 world championships silver medalist, recorded a 22-20, 15-21, 21-19 win over World No. 33 Okimoto in 72 minutes to enter his first final of the season.

Srikanth, a former world No. 1, will meet World No 46 Su Li Yang of Chinese Taipei in the summit clash. Young shuttler Rounak Chouhan's dream run at his maiden Super 300 tournament

Christophersen 21-15, 11-21, 15-21 in a 54-minute semifinals. **Srikanth vs Okimoto:** Srikanth, now ranked 38th, made a bright start, racing to a 9-5 lead before extending it to 17-10. But Okimoto staged a remarkable comeback, winning 10 of the next 12 points to earn a game point.

The 33-year-old Indian snapped out of his slumber just in time, reeling off the next three points to pocket the opening game.

After the change of ends, Okimoto looked determined to force a decider. He controlled the rallies and stayed ahead for most of the game, taking a slender 11-9 lead at the interval before gradually pulling away to roar back into the contest.

Ben Stokes makes dramatic retirement announcement during Test match



STEVE DOUGLAS ■ Nottingham

England captain Ben Stokes made the dramatic decision Sunday to announce his imminent retirement from international cricket midway through the deciding third test against New Zealand.

"This is my last two days as your captain and my last two days representing England," Stokes told his England teammates inside the dressing room at the start of play at Trent Bridge on Day 4, in a video released on social media by England Cricket.

The match is headed to a fifth and final day Monday, with the series on the line at 1-1. The shocking announcement came 15 minutes before the tea break. Stokes picked up a wicket moments later and was given a standing ovation as he led England off at the end of the session.

"The reasons can wait (about) why," Stokes said in his dressing-room speech. "But I've had many trips to the well before for this team and I've got one more trip to do." Stokes, one of the world's most well-known cricketers, has represented England for 15 years, the peak surely coming in 2019 when he starred for England in its wild win over New Zealand in the 50-over World Cup final at Lord's. He also was a key player in England T20 World Cup-winning team in 2022, the same year he became test captain. Stokes has decided to quit international

cricket during a series when he made front-page news after being dropped by England for the second test amid an investigation following a night out with teammate Gus Atkinson after the first test at Lord's. The two players were in a London nightclub when an England team security official was reportedly struck by a rugby player from English club Saracens. The England and Wales Cricket Board dropped Stokes and Atkinson, and later said they had "breached specific contractual obligations" and were given a written warning. The sport's independent oversight panel - the Cricket Regulator body - said after its investigation that there was "insufficient evidence to establish that any regulatory breach occurred." Stokes was recalled for the third test. ECB chairman Richard Thompson said Stokes is "one of England's greatest ever cricketers and one of the defining figures of his generation."

"His performances under pressure, his relentless competitiveness and his ability to produce the extraordinary when it matters most have given me and millions of other fans memories that will endure forever," Thompson said. "Beyond his remarkable achievements on the field, his performances have inspired many youngsters to embrace cricket with positivity and belief. We are losing a batsman, a bowler, a captain and a talisman."

Perry, Gardner knock India out of Women's T20 WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ London

Ellyse Perry oozed class and Ashleigh Gardner was all muscle as Australia notched up a smooth six-wicket win to knock an underwhelming India out of the ICC T20 Women's World Cup here on Sunday. The defeat could well mean the end of Harmanpreet Kaur's time as India's T20 skipper.

Perry (56, 38b) who is playing her 10th World Cup, and Gardner (53 not out, 29b), added 100 runs for the fourth



wicket as the six-time champions chased down 171 in 19

Group 1 with an all-win record, while 50-over champions India ended third with six points. South Africa also progressed to the last four with eight points after they defeated Bangladesh by four wickets earlier in the day. However, the Aussies were staring at the wrong end of the barrel at 68 for three in 9.1 overs after the Indian bowlers dislodged openers Phoebe Litchfield, Georgia Voll and veteran Beth Mooney for precious little. Voll, in fact, fell in the first over itself, failing to negotiate Renuka Singh deliv-

ery that jagged back sharply. But thereafter, Perry and Gardner took apart the Indian bowlers with ease. They summoned years of vast experience to pick their bowlers and spots on the field to amass runs without taking undue risks. Gardner punished left-arm spinner Sree Charani and Shafali Verma for sixes, while Perry was more subtle in her ways. The 35-year-old pulled and cut Sree Charani, Shafali and Deepti Sharma with ease and her knock was studded with eight fours.



बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

JABALPUR ZONAL OFFICE, WRIGHT TOWN, JABALPUR PH: 0761-2480065,67,68

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on **15.07.2026**, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under-

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which Property are being sold	Description of properties	Type of Possession	Reserve Price EMD Amount Bid Increase Amount
1) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Borrowers Mr. Ashutosh Upadhyay, Add: H.No.2014, Kiran Kutli, Vijaynagar, Jabalpur - 482001	Rs.18618136/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Six Lakh Eighteen Thousand One hundred Thirty Six only plus applicable interest and penal interest thereon+ Others Charge w.e.f. 30.05.2024	(A) Residential plot bearing plot no 25-A on Diverted Khasara No. 17/3 situated at Amkhhera S.No. PC No. 22/24, PH no.80(new), Ward no.74, RI Circle Maharajpur Tehsil Panagar and Dist Jabalpur owned by Mr. Ashutosh Upadhyay Area 1250 Sqft. (B) Freehold residential plot bearing plot no 25 on Diverted Khasara No. 17/3 situated at Amkhhera S.No.4 P C No. 22/24, PH no.80(new), Ward no.74, RI Circle Maharajpur Tehsil Panagar and Dist Jabalpur owned by Mr. Ashutosh Upadhyay Area 1150 Sqft. © Freehold residential plot bearing plot no 24 on Diverted Khasara No. 17/3 situated at Amkhhera S.No.4 PC No. 22/24, PH no.80(new), Ward no.74, R I Circle Maharajpur Tehsil Panagar and Dist Jabalpur owned by Mr. Ashutosh Upadhyay Area 1000 Sqft.	Physical Physical Physical	Rs. 20,81,000/- Rs. 2,08,100/- Rs. 10000/- Rs. 19,15,000/- Rs. 1,91,500/- Rs. 10000/- Rs. 16,65,000/- Rs. 1,66,500/- Rs. 10000/-
2) Branch: Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur 1. M/s. Nava Bharat Press (Bhopal) Pvt. Ltd. Add.- 3, Indira Press Complex, Ramgopal Maheshwari Marg, M.P. Nagar Zone -1, Bhopal (M.P) Pin. 462011 2. Smt. Brij Maheshwari w/o Shri. Prafulla Maheshwari , 3. Shri. Sumit Maheshwari s/o Shri. Prafulla Maheshwari, 4. Shri. Sanjeev Maheshwari s/o Shri. Prafulla Maheshwari 5. Shri. Sandeep Maheshwari s/o Shri. Prafulla Maheshwari All Reside at - E- 3/22, Arera Colony Bhopal (M.P) Pin. 462016 6. Shri. Prafulla Maheshwari s/o Shri. Ramgopal Maheshwari (Deceased) – Through his Legal Heirs(LR's):LR's: (A) Shri. Sumit Maheshwari s/o Late. Shri. Prafulla Maheshwari (B) Shri. Sandeep Maheshwari s/o Late. Shri. Prafulla Maheshwari (C) Shri. Sanjeev Maheshwari s/o Late. Shri. Prafulla Maheshwari, (D) Smt. Brij Maheshwari w/o Shri. Prafulla Maheshwari All Reside at - E- 3/22, Arera Colony Bhopal (M.P) Pin. 462016 7. P.K. Maheshwari (HUF) – Through his Coparceners: Residing at - E-3/22, Arera Colony Bhopal (M.P) Pin. 462016	Rs.18,04,26,202.73 + Interest @ BPLR+2% (@14%) per annum with quarterly/Monthly rests with effect from 01.02.2007 & Other Charges etc thereon	Plot 118 to 124, on Plot No 785 (Old no 42) in Mouja Shubhas Nagar, N.B. 175-C, Area 14035 Sq feet and construction thereon, Diversion Sheet no 755-C (Marhatal), Near Motor Stand (OLD) Teen Patti Road, Napier Town, Ward No 28 (City), Swami Dayanand Saraswati Marg, Jabalpur (M.P) Pin 482002	Physical Possession (11707 Sq. Ft.) Remained area under Symbolic Possession	Rs.22,49,10,000/- Rs.2,24,91,000/- Rs.10000.00
3) Branch: Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur 1. Smt. Poonam Jat Shri Sanjay Jat Shri. Sanjay Jat s/o Shri. Subhash Chandra Jat H.No. 1313, Maharshi Arvind ward, Kanjar Mohalla, Near Bai ka Bagicha, Jabalpur (M.P) Pin 482002, Guarantor: Smt. Poonam Jat w/o Shri. Sanjay Jat H.No. 1313, Maharshi Arvind ward, Kanjar Mohalla, Near Bai ka Bagicha, Jabalpur (M.P) Pin 482002	Rs.69,65,478/- (Rupees Sixty Nine Lakhs Sixty Five Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Eight only + unapplid interest + penal interest @ 2.00% p.a. + other charges / expenses w.e.f. 30.07.2021	All piece and parcel of property at Mouza Bhartipur, N.B 130, PC No.29, Div Sheet No.96, House no.58/4, Plot no.120/1, Maharshi Arvind Ward no.53, The & Dist.Jabalpur.	Physical	Rs. 5771000/- Rs. 577100/- Rs.10000.00
4) Branch: Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Shri Amit Khampariya Shri Amit Khampariya,234/4 Durga colony, Sanjeevni Nagar, Garha, Jabalpur	Rs.30651458/- (Rupees Three Crore Six Lakh Fifty One Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Eight only) (Ledger Bal: Rs.29652141.62/- + unapplid interest Rs.943821/-+penalty of Rs.55495/-)+ Unapplid Interest @ 11.95% p.a. with monthly rate w.e.f. 31.07.2024 + penal interest and other charges / expenses till realization	Diverted open plot situated at Khamariya N.B 581 (New), PH no.74 (New 50), at present P.H.No. 00137, R.N.M, Khamariya, Div. Kh. No.527, 528,529,530,531,532/1, Tehsil & Dist. Jabalpur area admeasuring 3.269 Hect.	Physical	Rs. 23160000/- Rs. 2316000/- Rs.10000.00
5) Branch: Katni Shri Roshan Pyasi Roshan Kumar Pyasi S/o Shri Rameshwar Prasad Pyasi MES Colony, Hemu Kalani Ward, Murwara, Katni- 483442	Rs.1862695.00 /- + unapplid interest Rs. 53230 /- +penalty of Rs.74.00/-+Charges Rs 354/-Total dues: Rs. 19,16,353.00 /- (Rupees. Nineteen Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred fifty three only) + Unapplid Interest @ 8.70% p.a. with monthly rate w.e.f. 17/06/2025 + penal interest and other charges / expenses till realization	All those piece and parcel of property situated at Khasra No-71/1, PH No-34, Plot No-B-44, at RNM-Pahadi,Village- Imlaiya, Tehsil- Katni , District -Katni. Plot Area admeasuring 1000 Sq.Ft(92.93 Sq.Mtrs),Built up area Ground Floor 900 Sq.Ft	Physical	Rs. 1122000/- Rs. 112200/- Rs.10000.00
6) Branch: Katni Shri Gopendra Pyasi Gopendra Pyasi S/o Shri Rameshwar Prasad Pyasi MES Colony, Hemu Kalani Ward, Murwara, Katni- 483442	Rs. 18,47,043.00 /- + unapplid interest Rs. 62259 /-+ penalty of Rs.96.00/-+Charges Rs 354/-Total dues:Rs. 19,09,752.00 /-(Rupees. Nineteen Lakhs Nine Thousand Seven Hundred fifty two only) + Unapplid Interest @ 8.35% p.a. with monthly rate w.e.f. 17/06/2025 + penal interest and other charges / expenses till realization	All those piece and parcel of property situated at Khasra No-71/1, PH No-34, Plot No-B-43, at RNM-Pahadi,Village- Imlaiya, Tehsil- Katni , District -Katni. Plot Area admeasuring 1000 Sq.Ft(92.93 Sq.Mtrs),Built up area Ground Floor 900 Sq.Ft	Physical	Rs. 1122000/- Rs. 112200/- Rs.10000.00
7) Branch: Benikheda Mr. Inder Kumar Thakur Borrower: Mr. Inder Kumar Thakur, 1450/171/A, Chandan Colony Ganganagar, Gupta Kirana Store Ke Paas Garha, Jabalpur	Rs.1608763/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakh Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Three only) plus applicable unapplid interest + penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses w.e.f. 18.02.2025	All those pieces & parcel of property with construction & fixture there being & lying at Mouza-Garha, diverted plot no.16, part of khasra no. 80/1/2,NB 599,PH no. 28/33,New 6 Garha, RiC Garha Tehsil- Gorakhpur, Dist: Jabalpur, admeasuring 700 sq.ft.	Physical	Rs. 945000/- Rs. 94500/- Rs.10000/-

Inspection of Properties by bidder: 11.07.2026 between 11:00 am. and 4:00 pm
Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid application/KYC documents/EMD etc. 15.07.2026 up to 11.00 a.m.
Date & time of E-auction with auto extension for 10 minutes- 15.07.2026 between 12.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

The auction sale will be On-line E-Auction / Bidding through website <https://baanknet.com>, email: support.baanknet@psballiance.com. Mob.- 8291220220 The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal using their mobile number and email id. Please take note that the registration and KYC approval etc take 2-3 working days. For detail terms and conditions of sale please refer to the link provided in <https://bankofmaharashtra.bank.in/asset-for-sales-search> and <https://baanknet.com>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorized officials **Contact details: Incharge Recovery Jabalpur Shri Onkar Kumar (Zonal Manager) - 9823296164, Shri Nikhil S Patil (DZM) - 7387211200, Shri Bhushan Mohite (CM Recovery - Z.O.) - 9923257090, Dr. Ravikumar Verma (Sr. Manager) (9300955688) & Shri Hariom Trivedi (CM & Authorised Officer) - 9405719723**
Note - The sales are subject to the order/outcome of any case pending/titled if any before Court/Tribunal

Date: 29/06/2026

Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors/Legal Heirs(LR's)/Coparceners
The above shall be treated as Notice of 15/30days w/ 9(1) of security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra