



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.



Ranked
No. 1 Institute
of Eastern India
(By India Today Survey)

हम छात्रों की जरूरतों को समझते हैं, इसलिए हमारे परिणाम सबसे अलग आते हैं।

GOAL'S NEET (UG) 2026 RESULT

4800+

TOTAL STUDENTS
QUALIFIED IN
NEET 2026 FROM GOAL

Marks
660
720

ANUSHKA KASHYAP
AIR 937 (G)

Marks
671
720

KAMAL NAYAN
AIR 460 (G)

Marks
695
720

RAVIKANT DIWAKAR
AIR 55 (G) • AIR 3 (C)

Marks
660
720

KESHAV KUMAR
AIR 901 (G)

Marks
652
720

SHRISTI RAJ
AIR 1290 (G)

500+

TOTAL STUDENTS
EXPECTED TO GET
ADMISSION IN
GOVT. MEDICAL COLLEGE

All India General Rank	 Arya Polak 651 / 720 AIR : 1373	 Neha Kumari 644 / 720 AIR : 1888	 Masir Jamal 643 / 720 AIR : 2004	 Ayush Roy 642 / 720 AIR : 2084	 Dharampal Kumar 640 / 720 AIR : 2283	 Ankit Ranjan 639 / 720 AIR : 2390	 Anushka 639 / 720 AIR : 2396	 Ankit Kumar 638 / 720 AIR : 2464	 Kaveri Lal 634 / 720 AIR : 2949	 Satyam Kumar 634 / 720 AIR : 2972	 Anusha Priya 634 / 720 AIR : 2973	 Satyam Bhatti 633 / 720 AIR : 3034	 Anil Raj 631 / 720 AIR : 3322	 Ayush Ranjan 630 / 720 AIR : 3503	 Md. Akbar Narghob 630 / 720 AIR : 3506	
	 Rani Kumari 628 / 720 AIR : 3707	 Piyush Kumar 628 / 720 AIR : 3722	 Nikhil Anand Dixit 628 / 720 AIR : 3724	 Aditya Raj 627 / 720 AIR : 3731	 Priya Bhatti 627 / 720 AIR : 3926	 Shanaya Anjum 625 / 720 AIR : 4186	 Md. Waris Karim 625 / 720 AIR : 4254	 Akriti 625 / 720 AIR : 4257	 Nishay Anand 623 / 720 AIR : 4591	 Anusha Krishna 622 / 720 AIR : 4678	 Sumanja Fatma 622 / 720 AIR : 4721	 Bhumi Sinha 621 / 720 AIR : 4790	 Khushi Roshan 621 / 720 AIR : 4793	 Shahid Alam 621 / 720 AIR : 4883	 Anurag Pratap Singh 621 / 720 AIR : 4896	 Aashish Kumar 621 / 720 AIR : 4966
	 Masum Kumari 619 / 720 AIR : 5290	 Anshu K. Projapati 618 / 720 AIR : 5543	 Aman Raj 617 / 720 AIR : 5696	 Vaishnavi Kumari 616 / 720 AIR : 5819	 Ankit Kumar 616 / 720 AIR : 5902	 Satyam 615 / 720 AIR : 5969	 Prem Ranjan 615 / 720 AIR : 6054	 Rishabh Raj 614 / 720 AIR : 6218	 Prince Kumar 614 / 720 AIR : 6253	 Aditya Raj 614 / 720 AIR : 6283	 Gulam Masewir 614 / 720 AIR : 6294	 Ashif Raza 613 / 720 AIR : 6419	 Amul Kumar 613 / 720 AIR : 6489	 Md. Absham Ansari 613 / 720 AIR : 6509	 Ankit Raj 613 / 720 AIR : 6602	 Suhani Kumari 612 / 720 AIR : 6655
	 Deepak 615 / 720 AIR : 6361	 Ankit Srivastava 614 / 720 AIR : 6353	 Rishav Kumar 613 / 720 AIR : 6314	 Ayush Raj 612 / 720 AIR : 6374	 Priya Raj 610 / 720 AIR : 6712	 Anav Gupta 610 / 720 AIR : 6743	 Md. Inteyaz Alam 610 / 720 AIR : 6742	 Prince Raj 610 / 720 AIR : 6740	 Ashok Kumar 610 / 720 AIR : 6725	 Amrit Bhushan Azad 610 / 720 AIR : 6744	 Anshu Kumari 608 / 720 AIR : 6715	 Vandana Kumar 608 / 720 AIR : 6765	 Amlesh Patel 608 / 720 AIR : 6723	 Sudhir Kumar 607 / 720 AIR : 6726	 Tejaswi 607 / 720 AIR : 6727	 Md. Saqib 607 / 720 AIR : 6745
	 Adarsh Ranjan K. 606 / 720 AIR : 6300	 Kritika Kumari 606 / 720 AIR : 6352	 Faraz Ahmad 605 / 720 AIR : 6423	 Mayank Raj 605 / 720 AIR : 6457	 Ragvin Kumar 605 / 720 AIR : 6479	 Anurag 605 / 720 AIR : 6624	 Nikhil Kumar 605 / 720 AIR : 6650	 Triptee Raj 604 / 720 AIR : 6680	 Neha Gupta 604 / 720 AIR : 6709	 Prashant Prakash 604 / 720 AIR : 6813	 Roushan Kumar 603 / 720 AIR : 6908	 Mamun 603 / 720 AIR : 6918	 Chaitanya Sethi 602 / 720 AIR : 6952	 Tejaswi 602 / 720 AIR : 6972	 Aditya Raj 602 / 720 AIR : 6908	 Kanishka 602 / 720 AIR : 6962
 Abu Zinnat 601 / 720 AIR : 9492	 Md. Muskarun Ali 601 / 720 AIR : 9532	 Kumar Sonam 600 / 720 AIR : 9672	 Ravi Raj Pal 600 / 720 AIR : 9827	 Aashish Kumar 600 / 720 AIR : 9871	 Sahil Kumar 600 / 720 AIR : 9891	 Sanjay Khan 600 / 720 AIR : 10005	 Aman Kumar 600 / 720 AIR : 10024	 Sakshi Kumari 599 / 720 AIR : 10186	 Akshaj Singh 599 / 720 AIR : 10310	 Jyoti Kumar 599 / 720 AIR : 10318	 Suhani Kumar 598 / 720 AIR : 10527	 Nayan Kumar 598 / 720 AIR : 10602	 Shruti Kumar 598 / 720 AIR : 10647	 Lalu Kumar 598 / 720 AIR : 10662	 Ananya Utharshi 597 / 720 AIR : 10897	
 Anika Kumari 597 / 720 AIR : 10914	 Suhani Sinha 597 / 720 AIR : 10970	 Poothi Agrawal 597 / 720 AIR : 11011	 Achyut Ali 596 / 720 AIR : 11199	 Rohini Rani 596 / 720 AIR : 11221	 Kavya Vibhore 596 / 720 AIR : 11265	 Bhishk Kumar 596 / 720 AIR : 11427	 Divyam Arya 595 / 720 AIR : 11565	 Sahil Ahmad Khan 595 / 720 AIR : 11573	 Aashupriya Patel 595 / 720 AIR : 11642	 Adarsh Anand 595 / 720 AIR : 11663	 Sangam Kumar 595 / 720 AIR : 11695	 Avinash Kumar 595 / 720 AIR : 11763	 Aditya Raj Sumon 594 / 720 AIR : 11924	 Sanatan 594 / 720 AIR : 11990	 Lisa 594 / 720 AIR : 12139	
 Manish Kumar 593 / 720 AIR : 12292	 Anshuman Rai 593 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Shashank Singh 593 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Pappu Prakash 592 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Nidhi Singh 592 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Shivam Kumar 592 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Indrajeet Kumar 592 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Priyanka Kumari 591 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Shreyo Kumar 591 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Abhiraj Singh 591 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Ankit Singh 590 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Prakriti Singh 590 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Md. Adnan 590 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Aakansha 590 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Pravleen Kumar 590 / 720 AIR : 12320	 Kunal Raj 590 / 720 AIR : 12320	

GOAL Village Entrance Test : 27.07.2026 (100% Students qualified in NEET and 70%+ students are expected to get Govt. Medical College from G.V.) Please Turn Page to see more Results...

Annual Felicitation Function : 26.07.2026 (Sunday) at Babu Sabhagar, Patna || Counseling Support Seminar : Date : 29.07.2026, Time : 12:00 PM, Venue : Goal Building Buddha Colony, Patna

 Himanshu 590 / 720 AIR - 13684	 Sourav Kumar 590 / 720 AIR - 13744	 Rajon Kumar 590 / 720 AIR - 13763	 Nikhil Kumar Jha 589 / 720 AIR - 13934	 Prachi Agrawal 589 / 720 AIR - 13951	 Nimisha Kumari 589 / 720 AIR - 13981	 Navaneet Gupta 589 / 720 AIR - 14006	 Nancy Kumari 589 / 720 AIR - 14079	 Ayush K. Singh 589 / 720 AIR - 14080	 Amir Kumar 588 / 720 AIR - 14466	 Rishabh Kumar 587 / 720 AIR - 14644	 Tanna Kumari 587 / 720 AIR - 14661	 Nevin Kumar 587 / 720 AIR - 14738	 Akash Kumar 587 / 720 AIR - 14811	 Adya Parveen 587 / 720 AIR - 14840	 Dhruv Kumar Patel 587 / 720 AIR - 14844
 Anish Raj 587 / 720 AIR - 14953	 Sonu Kumar 586 / 720 AIR - 15064	 Vivek Raj 586 / 720 AIR - 15066	 Arpita Kumari 586 / 720 AIR - 15075	 Jyoti Mehta 586 / 720 AIR - 15455	 Abhinav Kumar 585 / 720 AIR - 15519	 Rahul Raj 585 / 720 AIR - 15601	 Gyanu Sarvani 585 / 720 AIR - 15647	 Afrin Sultan 585 / 720 AIR - 15664	 Arpit Raj 585 / 720 AIR - 15797	 Muskan Kumari 585 / 720 AIR - 15813	 Arushi Kumari 585 / 720 AIR - 15823	 Suraj Kumar 585 / 720 AIR - 15867	 Priye Ranjan Kumar 585 / 720 AIR - 15872	 Ayush Raj 583 / 720 AIR - 16000	 Mozz Imteyaz 584 / 720 AIR - 16053
 Snehasmita Kumari 584 / 720 AIR - 16215	 Rounak Bhargava 584 / 720 AIR - 16322	 Ayushi Kumari 583 / 720 AIR - 16368	 Shubhanti Verma 583 / 720 AIR - 16394	 Nafis Ahmad 583 / 720 AIR - 16511	 Pooja K. Nayak 583 / 720 AIR - 16584	 Vikash Kumar 583 / 720 AIR - 16600	 Saba Shumim 583 / 720 AIR - 16683	 Jyoti Swaraj 583 / 720 AIR - 16711	 Trisha Sagar 582 / 720 AIR - 17082	 Nawlekh Kumar 581 / 720 AIR - 17344	 Kumar Utkarsh 581 / 720 AIR - 17390	 Ankur Raj 581 / 720 AIR - 17475	 Arun Singh 581 / 720 AIR - 17508	 Nandani Kumari 580 / 720 AIR - 17812	 Chanel Begum 580 / 720 AIR - 17893
 Ruchi 580 / 720 AIR - 17929	 Amrita Ranjan 580 / 720 AIR - 17971	 Muskan Azad 580 / 720 AIR - 18093	 Umar Zahid 580 / 720 AIR - 18231	 Prince Kumar 580 / 720 AIR - 18278	 Priyash Raj 580 / 720 AIR - 18284	 Shubham K. Gupta 579 / 720 AIR - 18580	 Sahil Kumar 579 / 720 AIR - 18619	 Nizan Ahmad 578 / 720 AIR - 18815	 Anjali 578 / 720 AIR - 18855	 Shalini Kumari 578 / 720 AIR - 18889	 Dnyanesh Raj 578 / 720 AIR - 19108	 Tanmay Dilip Jaiswal 578 / 720 AIR - 19205	 Shubh Laxmi 577 / 720 AIR - 19264	 Rohit Kumar 577 / 720 AIR - 19317	 Harsh Raj 577 / 720 AIR - 19341
 Priyash Raj 577 / 720 AIR - 19393	 Ghanvish Bhargava 577 / 720 AIR - 19462	 Priyash Kumar 577 / 720 AIR - 19572	 Abhishek K. Singh 576 / 720 AIR - 19772	 Suhani Priya 576 / 720 AIR - 19836	 Muhammad Anas 576 / 720 AIR - 19874	 Tejas Talia 576 / 720 AIR - 19946	 Meenu Kumari 576 / 720 AIR - 19983	 Alok Ranjan 576 / 720 AIR - 20034	 Alina Afrin 576 / 720 AIR - 20151	 Priya Kumari 575 / 720 AIR - 20257	 Anshika Gupta 575 / 720 AIR - 20270	 Sunanda Kumari 575 / 720 AIR - 20440	 Zaid Alam 575 / 720 AIR - 20494	 Munna Kumar 575 / 720 AIR - 20528	 Anshika Singh 575 / 720 AIR - 20570
 Ankur Singh 575 / 720 AIR - 20614	 Yashu Shankar 575 / 720 AIR - 20620	 Nikhil Kumar 574 / 720 AIR - 20675	 Md Asif Anvari 574 / 720 AIR - 21032	 Anshu Kumar 574 / 720 AIR - 21103	 Tanishka Bhagat 574 / 720 AIR - 21227	 Anshika Sharma 574 / 720 AIR - 21261	 Arpita Singh 573 / 720 AIR - 21441	 Srishti 573 / 720 AIR - 21463	 Shlok Kumar 573 / 720 AIR - 21592	 Pragya Kumari 573 / 720 AIR - 21649	 Rishikesh Kumar 573 / 720 AIR - 21650	 Anand K. Sah 573 / 720 AIR - 21844	 Shivam Shrivastava 572 / 720 AIR - 22016	 Sana Fatmah 572 / 720 AIR - 22120	 Niraj Kumar 572 / 720 AIR - 22208
 Muskan Kumari 572 / 720 AIR - 22460	 Asad Rabbani 571 / 720 AIR - 22625	 Rishma Teodvnu 571 / 720 AIR - 22713	 Sams Kumar Sinha 571 / 720 AIR - 22750	 Aman Mohit 571 / 720 AIR - 22818	 Priyanshu 571 / 720 AIR - 22834	 Annu Raj 571 / 720 AIR - 22851	 Satvik Subham Pande 571 / 720 AIR - 23017	 Nitesh Kumar 570 / 720 AIR - 23265	 Nishant Kumar 570 / 720 AIR - 23331	 Vivek Kumar 570 / 720 AIR - 23361	 Ankit Kumar 570 / 720 AIR - 23467	 Shourya Agarwal 570 / 720 AIR - 23553	 Aashish Kumar 569 / 720 AIR - 23683	 Vishvika Kars 569 / 720 AIR - 23678	 Jyotsna Raj 569 / 720 AIR - 23779
 Anand Kumar 569 / 720 AIR - 24049	 Savero Sinha 569 / 720 AIR - 24145	 Amrita Kumari 569 / 720 AIR - 24314	 Md. Shauqat Hussain 568 / 720 AIR - 24338	 Rishi Kumar 568 / 720 AIR - 24487	 Ankan Raj 568 / 720 AIR - 24583	 Utkarsh Raj 568 / 720 AIR - 24641	 Anamika Kumari 568 / 720 AIR - 24741	 Adar Balakrishna 568 / 720 AIR - 24784	 Purnajit Kashyap 568 / 720 AIR - 24823	 Md. Jamil Rahman 567 / 720 AIR - 24961	 Sourav Kumar 567 / 720 AIR - 25000	 Mohit Kumar 567 / 720 AIR - 25081	 Ritesh Gupta 567 / 720 AIR - 25169	 Shashi Shashhar 566 / 720 AIR - 25468	 Lucky Kumar 566 / 720 AIR - 25552
 Nikki Kumari 566 / 720 AIR - 25826	 Sedya Shahnoor 566 / 720 AIR - 25950	 Sonali Kumari 565 / 720 AIR - 26106	 Aliya Amir 565 / 720 AIR - 26200	 Rohit Kumar 565 / 720 AIR - 26315	 Omneel Kumar 565 / 720 AIR - 26480	 Anshika Sani 565 / 720 AIR - 26608	 Krish Kumar 565 / 720 AIR - 26632	 Roushi Kumar 565 / 720 AIR - 26646	 Aman Kumar 565 / 720 AIR - 26725	 Talha 565 / 720 AIR - 26735	 Kansuk Soemra 564 / 720 AIR - 26835	 Aryan Raj 564 / 720 AIR - 27193	 Divyanshi Kumari 564 / 720 AIR - 27231	 Aradhya Singh 564 / 720 AIR - 27241	 Rohini Kumari 563 / 720 AIR - 27575
 Priyanshu Kumari 563 / 720 AIR - 27677	 Divya Kumari 563 / 720 AIR - 27686	 Gudde Kumar 563 / 720 AIR - 27675	 Rahul Raj 563 / 720 AIR - 27693	 Swati Priya 563 / 720 AIR - 27942	 Aryaman Kumar 563 / 720 AIR - 27950	 Aryan Anand 563 / 720 AIR - 27980	 Rohan Kumar 563 / 720 AIR - 28001	 Vagisha Sinha 562 / 720 AIR - 28060	 Kajal Kumari 562 / 720 AIR - 28137	 Aman Khan 562 / 720 AIR - 28367	 Sazya Ahmed 562 / 720 AIR - 28513	 Manishankar Kumar 562 / 720 AIR - 28404	 Rohit Kumar 562 / 720 AIR - 28440	 Ashmit Ashwin 562 / 720 AIR - 28517	 Jawaria Amir 562 / 720 AIR - 28680
 Anuradha Raj 561 / 720 AIR - 29099	 Samarjit 561 / 720 AIR - 29108	 Pragya Priyam 561 / 720 AIR - 29230	 Sangam Kumar 561 / 720 AIR - 29231	 Sania Kumar 561 / 720 AIR - 29283	 Sejal Priya 561 / 720 AIR - 29372	 Priyash Kumar 561 / 720 AIR - 29468	 Kshiti Verma 560 / 720 AIR - 29598	 Simi Kumari 560 / 720 AIR - 29605	 Harika Bala 560 / 720 AIR - 29606	 Raj Kamal 560 / 720 AIR - 29713	 Shreyas Kumar 560 / 720 AIR - 29725	 Priyanshu Singh 560 / 720 AIR - 29868	 Aayushmaan Anand 560 / 720 AIR - 29990	 Anjali Singh 559 / 720 AIR - 30301	



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THIS IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT A PROSPECTUS ANNOUNCEMENT AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN INVITATION OR OFFER TO ACQUIRE, PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIBE FOR UNITS OR SECURITIES.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, RELEASE OR DISTRIBUTION, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OUTSIDE INDIA.

THE UNITS ARE PRIVATELY LISTED ON BSE LIMITED (THE "BSE") AND NATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE OF INDIA LIMITED (THE "NSE") (BSE AND NSE, COLLECTIVELY REFERRED TO AS "STOCK EXCHANGES"). THE TRUST IS NOW PROPOSING TO CONVERT FROM A PRIVATELY LISTED INVIT TO A PUBLIC INVIT IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 14(I) READ WITH REGULATION 14(4) OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT TRUSTS) REGULATIONS, 2014 ("NITV REGULATIONS"), AS AMENDED, AND CHAPTER 14 OF THE SEBI MASTER CIRCULAR SEBI/DOHS-PD-2019/CR/2025/102 DATED JULY 11, 2025 ("NITV MASTER CIRCULAR").



CUBE HIGHWAYS TRUST



(Please scan this QR Code to view the Offer Document)

CUBE HIGHWAYS TRUST

Settled in the Republic of India as an irrevocable trust by way of the trust deed dated December 7, 2021, entered into between the Settlor, Cube Highways and Infrastructure Pte. Ltd., and the Trustee, as amended and restated on July 8, 2022, and March 11, 2024, respectively, with the deed of adherence dated February 20, 2025, executed by the Sponsor under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 and registered as an infrastructure investment trust under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014, on April 5, 2022, having registration number IN/INVIT/22-23/0002. The Trust's units were initially listed on BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited on a private placement basis on April 19, 2023.

Principal place of business: B-376, Upper Ground Floor, Nirman Vihar, New Delhi 110 092. Tel: + 91 120 4868300. Compliance Officer: Richa Gupta Rohatgi. E-mail: compliance.officer@cubehighways.com. Website: www.cubehighwaystrust.com



Cube Highways and Infrastructure V Pte. Ltd.



Cube Highways Fund Advisors Private Limited



Axis Trustee Services Limited

Cube Highways Trust (the "Trust") is a privately listed infrastructure investment trust and is proposing conversion from a privately listed infrastructure investment trust to a public INVIT through an Offer for Sale of up to [•] units of the Trust ("Units") aggregating up to ₹ 50,000 million, consisting of, up to [•] Units by BCI IRR India Holdings Inc. aggregating up to ₹ 7,915.22 million, up to [•] Units by BCI IRR India Holdings Limited Partnership aggregating up to ₹ 202.95 million, up to [•] Units by Cube Highways and Infrastructure II Pte. Ltd. aggregating up to ₹ 15,723.46 million, up to [•] Units by Cube Highways and Infrastructure III Pte. Ltd. aggregating up to ₹ 7,700.15 million, up to [•] Units by Cube Mobility Investments Pte. Ltd. aggregating up to ₹ 13,036.58 million, and up to [•] Units by Seventy Second Investment Company LLC aggregating up to ₹ 5,421.64 million (collectively, the "Selling Unitholders") at a price of ₹ [•] per Unit (the "Offer Price") (collectively, the "Offer").

Price Band: ₹151 to ₹152 per Unit

Bidders (other than Anchor Investors and Strategic Investors) can make Bids for a minimum of 95 Units and in multiples of 95 Units thereof.

RISKS TO INVESTORS

1. We may not be able to make regular distributions to Unitholders, or the level of our distributions may fall.
2. A significant portion of our revenue from operations is dependent on annuity payments from the NHA, which may be delayed, disputed or reduced, which could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.
3. Our failure to extend concession agreements or inability to identify and acquire new road assets that generate comparable or higher revenue from operations, profits and cash flows than the Portfolio Assets may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flows and our ability to make distributions to Unitholders.
4. Our toll collections and traffic volumes are subject to uncertainties, including competing roads, exemptions, toll leakage, changes in vehicle mix, and government directives, which could adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.
5. Our concession agreements may be terminated prematurely or suspended by concessioning authorities upon the occurrence of certain events of default.

Credit Ratings: The Trust has been given a rating of (i) AAA/Stable by India Ratings & Research Private Limited as on April 30, 2026, for term loan and bank guarantee, the rationale for which is available at its website <https://www.indiaratings.co.in/search/issuerid/10193>; (ii) AAA/Stable by ICR as on September 1, 2025 for term loan and bank guarantee, the rationale for which is available at <https://www.icra.in/Rationale/ShowRationaleReport?rid=137403> (iv) AAA/Stable by CRISIL Ratings Limited on April 30, 2026, for term loan and bank guarantee - long term, and A1+ for term loan and bank guarantee - short term, the rationale for which is available at its website https://www.crisilratings.com/investor/Ratings/RatingDetails/CubeHighwaysTrust_Feb2025/RR_SR3151.html

It is clarified that the details available on these websites do not form a part of the Offer Document.

BID/OFFER PROGRAM*

BID/OFFER CLOSES TODAY

*The Offer includes participation by Strategic Investors in accordance with the INVIT Regulations and the INVIT Master Circular.

ASBA#	Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!	*Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA.	Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.*	*ASBA has to be availed by all Bidders except Anchor Investors and Strategic Investors.
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For individual Non-Institutional Investors using UPI Mechanism, the Stock Exchanges shall share the bid details (including UPI ID) with Sponsor Bank on a continuous basis to enable the Sponsor Bank to initiate UPI Mandate Request to individual Non-Institutional Investors for blocking of funds. The Sponsor Banks shall initiate request for blocking of funds through NPCI to individual Non-Institutional Investors, who shall accept the UPI Mandate Request for blocking of funds on their respective mobile applications associated with UPI ID linked bank account.

In case of any revision to the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least one Working Day, subject to the total Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 30 days, provided that there shall not be more than two revisions to the Price Band during the Bid/Offer Period. Any revision to the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges during the Bid/Offer Period and by indicating the change on the respective websites of the Trust, the Sponsor, the Investment Manager and Stock Exchanges. In case of force majeure, banking strike or similar circumstances, the Bid/Offer Period may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended by a minimum period of three Working Days, subject to the total Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 30 days.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process and in compliance with the INVIT Regulations and the INVIT Master Circular, wherein not more than 75% of the Offer (excluding Strategic Investor Portion) shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Institutional Investors, provided that the Investment Manager may, in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers, allocate up to 60% of the Institutional Investor Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the INVIT Regulations and the INVIT Master Circular. Further, not less than 25% of the Offer (excluding Strategic Investor Portion) shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Non-Institutional Investors, in accordance with the INVIT Regulations and the INVIT Master Circular, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. The Offer will include participation by Strategic Investors (as defined hereafter) in accordance with the INVIT Regulations and the INVIT Master Circular. All Bidders (except Strategic Investors and Anchor Investors), are required to utilise the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing details of their respective ASBA accounts and UPI ID (in case of individual Non-Institutional Investors using the UPI Mechanism Bidding with a Bid Amount of ₹ 0.5 million or less), in which case the corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the Self-Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs") or under the UPI Mechanism, as applicable, to participate in this Offer. For details, please see the section entitled "Offer Information" on page 433 of the Offer Document.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and the Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI Mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID available for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism in the Depository database. Otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI Mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Offer. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders/Applicants' sole risk.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS				REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER
 Kotak Investment Banking	 HDFC BANK We understand your world	 HSBC	 JM Financial	 KFINTECH
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited 27 BKC, 1 st Floor, Plot No. C-27, "G" Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 4336 3000 E-mail: CH1.INVIT@kotak.com Investor Grievance E-mail: kmccredressal@kotak.com Website: https://investments.kotak.com Contact Person: Ganesh Rane SEBI Registration No.: INM00000704	HDFC Bank Limited Investment Banking Group, Unit no. 701, 702 and 702-A, 7 th Floor, Tower 2 and 3, One International Centre, Senapati Bapat Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 013, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 3395 8233. E-mail: cubehighways.invt@hdfcbank.com Investor Grievance E-mail: investorredressal@hdfcbank.com Website: www.hdfcbank.in Contact Person: Geetika Khadwal/Khandwal Sauradnya Ghosh SEBI Registration No.: INM00001252	HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited 52/60, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001 Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 6884 1289 E-mail: chinvit@hscb.com Investor Grievance E-mail: investor@grievance@hscb.com Website: www.business.hsbc.in Contact Person: Harsh Thakkar / Harshit Talwar SEBI Registration No.: INM00001053	JM Financial Limited 7 th Floor, Energy, Appasahale Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai 400 025, Maharashtra, India Tel: +91 22 6630 3030 E-mail: cubehighways.invt@jmf.com Investor Grievance E-mail: grievance.bd@jmf.com Website: www.jmf.com Contact Person: Prachee Dhuri SEBI Registration No.: INM000010361	KFin Technologies Limited Sellingman, Tower B, Plot No- 31 and 32, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally, Hyderabad, Rangareddy 500 032, Telangana, India Tel: +91 40 6716 2222 / 1630 300 4001 E-mail: cube.invt@kfintech.com Investor Grievance E-mail: einward.rs@kfintech.com Website: www.kfintech.com Contact Person: M Murali Krishna SEBI Registration No.: INR000002221

CONTACT PERSON AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Richa Gupta Rohatgi, B-376, Upper Ground Floor, Nirman Vihar, New Delhi 110 092, Tel: + 91 120 4868300. Email: compliance.officer@cubehighways.com

Bidders can contact the Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Offer in case of any pre-issue or post-offer related problems such as non-receipt of Allotment Advice/letter of Allotment, non-credit of Allotment Units in the respective beneficiary account, non-acceptance of refund orders and non-receipt of funds by electronic mode.

AVAILABILITY OF THE OFFER DOCUMENT: Investors are advised to refer to the Offer Document and the "Risk Factors" beginning on page 80 of the Offer Document before applying in the Offer. A copy of the Offer Document is made available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and is available on the websites of the Book Running Lead Managers, i.e., <https://investments.kotak.com>, www.hdfcbank.in, www.business.hsbc.in and www.jmf.com, the website of the Trust at www.cubehighwaystrust.com and the websites of the Stock Exchanges, for BSE at www.bseindia.com and for NSE at www.nseindia.com.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS: Bid-cum-Application forms can be obtained from the principal places of business of Cube Highways Trust. Telephone: +91 120 4868300, at the offices of the Book Running Lead Managers: Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited, Tel: +91 22 4336 3000; HDFC Bank Limited, Tel: +91 22 3395 8233; HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited, Tel: +91 22 6884 1289 and JM Financial Limited, Tel: +91 22 4285 8484; HDFC Securities Limited, Tel: +91 22 3075 3400, JM Financial Services Limited, Tel: +91 22 6136 3400 and at the selected locations of the Sub-syndicate Members, SCBSs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the issue. Bid-cum-Application forms may also be available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges and the Designated Branches of SCBSs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

Sub-syndicate Members: Aland Securities Private Limited, Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd., Ash & Mehta Financial Services Limited, Ash & Mehta Investment Intermediates Ltd., Axis Capital Limited, BOB Capital Markets Limited, Centum Capital, Centum Finserve Ltd., Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Private Limited, Equans Securities Private Limited, Eureka Stock & Share Brokers, Finward Technology Private Limited, Globe Capital Market Delhi, ICICI Securities Limited, ICGI Securities Limited, Inpa Ventures Pvt Ltd., Intense Fiscal Services Private Limited, Jyotirupa Fiscal Services Private Limited, Kantilal Chavangani Securities Private Limited, Keynote Capital, KJM Capital Markets Limited, LXP Securities Limited, Marwadi Share & Financial Limited, Monarch Network Capital Limited, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Motilal Oswal Securities Limited, Nextillion Technology Private Limited, Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt. Ltd., Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Formerly known as Edelweiss Broking Limited), Pantamoni Financial Services, Prabhatada Private Pvt. Ltd., Pravin Rastal Sharedeal, Religare Broking Limited, Religare Securities Ltd., RRB Equity Brokers Private Limited, SBICAP Securities Limited, Sharekhan Ltd., SMC Global Securities Ltd., Sundhi Securities & Finance Ltd., Tradebliss, Unistone Capital Pvt. Ltd., Upstock Pvt. Ltd., YES Securities (India) Limited and Zerocha.

APPLICATIONS SUPPORTED BY BLOCKED AMOUNT: Investors have to apply through the ASBA process. ASBA has to be availed by all Bidders except Anchor Investors and Strategic Investors. For details on the ASBA process, please refer to the details given in the ASBA Form and abridged offer document and also please refer to the section "Offer Information" beginning on page 433 of the Offer Document. ASBA Forms can also be downloaded from the websites of the Stock Exchanges. ASBA form can be obtained from the list of banks that is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. ASBA Form can be obtained from Members of the Syndicate, SCBSs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs, the list of which is available on the website of SEBI.

ESCROW COLLECTION BANK AND REFUND BANK: Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

PUBLIC OFFER ACCOUNT BANK: HDFC Bank Limited

Sponsor Banks: Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited and HDFC Bank Limited

UPI: UPI Bidders can also Bid through UPI Mechanism

All capitalized terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the Offer Document.

Place: New Delhi
Date: July 23, 2026

Cube Highways Trust is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make a public offer of its Units and has filed the Offer Document dated July 13, 2026 with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges. The Offer Document is made available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the website of the Book Running Lead Managers (i.e., Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited at <https://investments.kotak.com>, HDFC Bank Limited at www.hdfcbank.in, HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited at www.business.hsbc.in and JM Financial Limited at www.jmf.com), the website of the NSE at www.nseindia.com and the website of the BSE at www.bseindia.com. Prospective investors should note that an investment in the Units involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risks, please see the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 80 of the Offer Document. Potential investors should not rely on the Draft Offer Document for making any investment decision.

The Units have not been and will not be registered under the Indian Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and may not be offered or sold within the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable U.S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Units are only being offered and sold outside the United States in "offshore transactions" as defined in and in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act ("Regulation S") and the applicable law of the jurisdictions where such offers and sales are made.

Advisors

For Cube Highways Trust
on behalf of the Investment Manager
Sd/-
Richa Gupta Rohatgi
Compliance Officer



खेल विभाग

विकसित भारत - समृद्ध बिहार

श्री सम्राट चौधरी

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, बिहार

के कर कमलों द्वारा

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के तहत नियुक्ति-पत्र एवं खेल छात्रवृत्ति हेतु
चयन-पत्र

का वितरण समारोह

विशिष्ट अतिथि

श्री विजय कुमार चौधरी
माननीय उपमुख्यमंत्री, बिहार

श्री बिजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव
माननीय उपमुख्यमंत्री, बिहार

अध्यक्षता

सुश्री श्रेयसी सिंह
माननीया मंत्री, खेल विभाग, बिहार



स्थान : ऊर्जा ऑडिटोरियम, पटना

दिनांक : 24 जुलाई, 2026

समय : 12:30 बजे अपराह्न



Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

PM assures fast-track courts for leak cases, Oppn wants Pradhan's ouster

Agencies

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday announced to set up fast-track courts to ensure swift action against paper leaks even as the persistent Opposition demand for the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan disrupted Lok Sabha proceedings for the fourth consecutive day despite assurances by the government to hold a discussion on the issue in the House.

Outside the House, the Cockerroach Janta Party (CJP) said they were ready to meet government negotiators at Jantar Mantra or at a neutral venue in response to Union minister JP Nadda repeating his offer to hold talks with the party that is heading the anti-paper leak protests at his office.

Amid the claims of police excesses on protesting students which has led to similar agitations in several cities across the country, the Prime Minister said those involved in compromising the future of the youth "will not be spared."

"Nothing is more important than the welfare and future of our youth. We have decided to set up fast-track courts to ensure swift and stringent punishment for those involved in paper leaks. Have directed the concerned authorities and officials to take all necessary steps in this regard. This continues our series of steps for safeguarding the interests of students. Those who try to harm

continued on 37



Police personnel detain students at protest over the NEET paper leak issue near the Patna University in Patna on Thursday.

Firing, clashes in agitation across Bihar

HT Correspondents

PATNA: Student protests against the NEET paper leak and for the resignation of Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan continued for the second day on Thursday across several Bihar cities, with some places reporting incidents of stone-pelting and even firing in the air. This followed a massive student agitation in Patna the previous day, supported by AISA, during which policemen were injured

and vehicles belonging to several MLAs and top leaders were damaged. A large number of students were also arrested.

In Jehanabad, near capital Patna, a protests led by students turned violent as protesters marched towards the residence of the District Magistrate (DM) and tried to encircle him, raising their demands. Police tried to stop them and the situation turned tense and soon clashed between police and protesters ensued. Protesters were reported to have resorted to stone-pelting

Police resorted to lathicharge and fired in the air to control the situation. Several rounds were fired, reports and witnesses said. After this, there was a panic in the area and people started running away. Later, protesters reached Arwal Mor and blocked the main road. When the police arrived there, the protesters moved towards the Hospital Mor. As a result, the traffic on the main roads of the city was affected.

Tension prevailed on the

continued on 37

Patna protest: Left MLA, MLC among 30 named in FIRs

Avinash Kumar

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PATNA: More than a dozen FIRs were registered against 30 named persons, including CPI-ML (liberation) MLA from Patniganj Sandeep Saurabh, CPI-ML (liberation) MLC Shashi Yadav and Patna University Student's Union (PUSU) leader Shantanu Shekhar and over hundreds of unidentified agitators, at three police stations—Sachalaya, Korwali and Gandhi Maidan—in connection with vandalism, stone pelting, assault on police personnel and the disruption of law and order during the AISA (All India Students' Association) organised protest march against the alleged NEET paper leak, police said on Thursday.

Officials confirmed that police filed multiple cases under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (PDPP Act). The registered FIRs involve several sections of the BNS, including Section 223(b) for disobedience of public orders, Section 221 for obstruction of public servants, Section 132 for assault or criminal force against officials, Section 121(1) (unlawful assembly), Sections 188(2), 189, 191(2), 191(3) and 192 dealing with



MLC Shashi Yadav (top) and Sandeep Saurabh (bottom).

unlawful assembly, rioting and violence. Sections 324(5), 109(1), 125 and 3(5) relating to common intention, and Section 61(2) pertaining to criminal conspiracy. Shekhar, who was picked up from his residence at 2 am on Thursday, is among the 37 agitators arrested so far after the Wednesday's protest. Officials said they were collecting details of those arrested and identified troublemakers from their respective colleges, and they will

continued on 37

CBI clean chit to paper leak 'ring leader' Mukhiya

Avinash Kumar

avinash.kumar@htlive.com

PATNA: The Central Bureau of Investigation on Thursday said there was no evidence linking Sanjeev Mukhiya (known as Sanjeev Mukhiya), long touted by law enforcement agencies as the mastermind in the 2024 NEET paper leak case, to either the theft or the distribution of stolen NEET 2024 papers.

The federal investigation agency's admission to the effect, made in a statement, came on the day Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government has decided to set up fast-track courts to ensure swift and stringent punishment for those involved in paper leaks.

The PM's statement, made through a post on social media, came against the background of nationwide protests organised by the Cockerroach Janata Party, seeking the resignation of education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, over the leak of this year's NEET paper that necessitated the scrapping of the test for admission to medical colleges; a retreat was conducted and the results announced.

Mukhiya still faces five other cases related to paper leaks, including three that were investigated by the Economic offence unit (EOU) in Bihar. On August 2, 2025 he received bail after CBI failed to submit a charge sheet against him within the stipulated 90 days.

Mukhiya, a suspended technical assistant at Nourasari Horticulture College (Nalanda) is accused of orchestrating the leaks of several important exam-



Sanjeev Mukhiya

inations, including the Bihar Public Service Commission teacher recruitment exam and constable recruitment exam.

CBI said in its statement that the high profile NEET leak case against Mukhiya was initially registered by the Bihar Police. At the time, he was named as an accused because investigators suspected his involvement, given his alleged links to other paper leak cases. "After the probe was transferred to CBI, it identified everyone directly involved in stealing the question paper, distributing it and benefiting from the leak. The agency filed multiple charge sheets against 45 accused before special CBI court in Patna but did not include Sanjeev Mukhiya in any of them."

According to the agency, no material emerged to establish his role in the NEET-UG 2024 paper leak as a result, no charge-sheet was filed against him, allowing him to secure bail in the CBI case. Retreating that its investigation into the NEET-UG 2024 leak is complete, the agency said it has identified the entire conspiracy and ensured that all those involved had been brought within the ambit of the law.

continued on 37

Heavy rains wreak havoc in Guj; situation stays grim in J&K, Assam

HT and PTI

letters@hindustantimes.com

AHMEDABAD/JAMMU/GUWAHATI: Torrential rains triggered severe flood-like conditions in South Gujarat even as the Jammu Srinagar remained closed for the second consecutive day on Thursday following multiple landslides and shooting stones triggered by relentless rain in Jammu region with the Assam flood situation remaining grim.

Around 1,500 people were shifted to safe places in Surat city, while 200 people stranded in 11 villages in Navsari after flooding in the Kaveri river were rescued and evacuated. A drowning in Tapi was the only rain-related fatality reported so far, he said.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel reviewed the flood situation at the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) in Gandhinagar and spoke to the collectors of Surat, Valsad, Navsari and Patli districts to assess rescue and relief operations, according to an official release.

The Jammu-Srinagar national highway remained closed for the second consecutive day on Thursday with rains, which have been continuing for

continued on 37

NAVSARI, GUJARAT



Heavy rains inundated a large area in Gujarat's Navsari on Thursday.

UDHAMPUR, J&K



A portion of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway damaged at Udhampur.

GOLAGHAT, ASSAM



People shift their belongings to safer areas in the flood-hit Assam.

SC sets aside bail granted to Sonam in husband's murder

Abraham Thomas

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday cancelled the bail granted last month to Sonam Raghuvanshi, accused of murdering her husband while on their honeymoon in Meghalaya, observing that her continued freedom will hinder the ongoing trial.

She has been directed to surrender in three weeks and apply for bail if the trial fails to conclude in six months.

A bench of justices MM Sundresh and PB Varale passed the order on an appeal filed by the Meghalaya police challenging the June 29 order of the Meghalaya high court granting bail on the ground that she was not supplied with the grounds of arrest on June 9, 2025 when the police took her into custody from Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh.

Senior advocate Ardhendu Prasad appearing for Raghuvanshi requested for time to surrender as she hails from Indore in Madhya Pradesh and



Sonam Raghuvanshi

is currently in Shillong as required by the conditional bail granted.

The court allowed her three weeks to surrender and said, "In the event of the trial not proceeding and concluding in six months, the respondent will be at liberty to move fresh application for bail in which case, neither the present order nor earlier orders will come in her way."

The accused, a resident of Indore in Madhya Pradesh, was arrested in June last year in connection with the killing of her businessman husband Raja Raghuvanshi.

The couple had gone missing while vacationing in Meghalaya's Sohra area on May 23 last

year. Subsequently, Raja's body was found in a deep gorge on June 2, 2025.

The police have alleged that Sonam conspired with hired assassins to kill her husband for financial gains.

The counsel appearing for Sonam defended the bail saying that she was not given grounds of arrest.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Meghalaya government, submitted that Sonam was not only given the grounds of arrest but also the relevant documents.

Mehta said the allegations against Sonam are quite serious and the Meghalaya High Court erred in upholding her bail. The high court had upheld Sonam's bail on the grounds that the police failed to supply proper written grounds of arrest, noting that a non-supply of "adequate and proper grounds of arrest of a judicious mind" because the memo cited Section 403 (which does not exist in the context) instead of Section 102(1) (punishment for murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The action was taken after the state probe agency registered an FIR, following allegations about irregularities in various competitive examinations conducted by the JPSIC held by Khiantge.

CID TEAM RAIDS OUTGOING JPSC CHIEF'S RESIDENCE IN JHARKHAND

Raj Kumar

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RANCHI: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Thursday conducted a surprise raid at the Kanke residence of outgoing JPSC chairman and former state chief secretary L. Khiantge.

A CID official close to the matter said that apart from Khiantge's residence, raids were also conducted at the JPSC office premises.

"This is part of a probe into alleged irregularities and malpractices in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) 14th Civil Services Examination. CID officials remained present at Khiantge's residence for more than 4 hours scrutinizing numerous important documents and digital records related to the Commission and the examination process."

The action was taken after the state probe agency registered an FIR, following allegations about irregularities in various competitive examinations conducted by the JPSIC held by Khiantge.

'Not the right time': SC on petition seeking nod for Gyanwapi rituals

Utkarsh Anand

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to immediately entertain a plea seeking permission for Hindu devotees to perform religious rituals during the upcoming month of Shrawan at the sealed area inside the Gyanwapi mosque complex in Varanasi, observing that "this is not the right time" and asking the petitioners to wait.

A bench, comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and justices Joydeep Bagchi and V Mohana, made the observation when advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, appearing for one

of the Hindu plaintiffs, sought urgent interim relief to permit limited worship at the disputed site, where the Hindu side claims a Shivaling exists while the mosque committee maintains that the structure is part of a fountain in the mosque's wazukhana (ablution tank).

"This is not the right time...wait for some time," the bench told Jain, while adjourning the plea by two weeks. Shrawan, regarded as the most auspicious month dedicated to Lord Shiva, begins on July 30.

To be sure, Hindu devotees are already performing prayers at the disputed site during the month of Shrawan.

Jain submitted that the holy month of Shrawan holds special religious significance for devotees of Lord Shiva and urged the court to permit regulated worship, assuring that the applicants would abide by any conditions the court deemed appropriate.

The application, filed by Laxmi Devi and three other Hindu plaintiffs in the pending proceedings arising out of the Gyanwapi dispute, sought permission to perform pooja, darshan, jalabishek and other customary religious observances at the disputed site during the month of Shrawan.

BODIES OF ALL 25 WORKERS FOUND IN SIKKIM TUNNEL

NAMCH:

The bodies of all 25 workers have been retrieved from an NHPC hydropower project tunnel under construction, which had collapsed in Sikkim's Namchi district three days ago, officials said on Thursday.

Three of them were recovered during the day, they said. The labourers were inside the NHPC Teesta Stage VI Hydropower Project tunnel that caved in following an explosion suspected to have been caused by methane gas shortly after 1 pm on Monday.

The state government has constituted a high-level committee to investigate the cause and circumstances surrounding the tragic incident.

Associated Press

letters@hindustantimes.com

CAIRO: Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis rebels said they attacked two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea on Thursday, potentially widening the Iran war as international oil briefly topped \$100 a barrel.

The Houthis have threatened to shut down another key trade route, with the world economy already reeling from Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Iran and the U.S. have meanwhile stepped up their attacks as they vie for control of the strait, through which a fifth of the world's oil and gas travels in peacetime, setting off a scramble for alternative routes.

As the U.S. carried out a 12th strike against Iran, President Donald Trump threatened "major military punishment"



Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels salute while standing over a depiction of the US flag at the Sanaa University campus.

against the Houthis if their attacks on ships continue.

"If they do this again, the U.S. will hold Iran responsible, in that the Houthis are a surrogate and/or proxy of Iran, and major military punishment will be inflicted upon Iran and, of course, the

Houthis, themselves," Trump wrote on X, the social media.

As the rhetoric escalated, so did the economic fallout. The price of Brent crude oil, the international standard, spiked about \$8 on Thursday, briefly crossing \$100 a barrel, its highest level

since May, before the two sides reached a preliminary peace agreement last month that has since collapsed.

Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi of Iraq, who has close ties with the U.S. and Iran, was in Tehran on Thursday to call for peace and dialogue, a spokesperson said. Al-Zaidi met with Trump earlier this month in Washington.

An Arab diplomat said Gulf states are increasingly pessimistic about finding an off-ramp. The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation, said regional countries, in addition to Pakistan and Turkey, continue to push for de-escalation.

The Houthis' SABA news agency said the rebels had struck two tankers, the Encelia and the Layla, in the Red Sea, leading to fires on both. There were no reports of casualties.

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All 25 bodies recovered from tunnel in Sikkim

Press Trust Of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

NAMCHI: The bodies of all 25 workers have been retrieved from an under-construction NHPC hydropower project tunnel that had collapsed in Sikkim's Namchi district, officials said on Thursday.

The labourers were inside the NHPC Teesta Stage VI Hydropower project tunnel under construction, which collapsed following an explosion suspected to have been caused by methane gas shortly after 1 pm on Monday.

All the bodies have now been recovered after 72 hours of continuous search operations. K K Roy, a member of the rescue team from Eastern Coalfield Ltd, told reporters.

The Sikkim government, district administration, and all concerned agencies continue to closely monitor the situation, while extending every possible support to the affected families, a state government official said.

Eight bodies had been identified till Wednesday. Of them, four are from Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal while one each from Punjab, Uttarakhand, Assam and Sikkim.

At least four workers from Jharkhand's Khunti, Hazaribag and West Singhbhum districts were engaged there, another official said.

The NHPC on Wednesday announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh for the next of kin of each person who died in the accident.

Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang on Tuesday announced ₹4 lakh ex gratia for the next of kin of each of those workers who died in the accident, and ₹50,000 for every injured person.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh for each of the



The tunnel collapsed following an explosion suspected to have been caused by methane gas.

next of kin of the deceased, and ₹50,000 each to the injured persons.

According to an NHPC statement, a sudden burst of suspected methane gas trapped/embodied inside the rocks led to the explosion, generating dense fumes and toxic gases in the tunnel.

Teesta Stage VI hydroelectric project — a 500 MW (4 x 125 MW) run-of-river scheme in south Sikkim — was originally proposed by Lanco Teesta Hydro Power Ltd (LTHPL), but was abandoned after the company's financial collapse. NHPC took over the project in October 2019. With an estimated cost of over ₹8,448 crore, the project was being built to harness the Teesta river's natural flow and was targeted for commissioning in September 2029. The tunnel has five adit sections — 1, 2, 3, 4 and 4A — and a diameter of 10.8 m. The accident occurred inside tunnel adit 3 at Samardung.

Environment group to protest against hydro projects at Teesta

GANGTOK: The Affected Citizens of Teesta (ACT), an indigenous rights and environmental movement in Sikkim, on Thursday announced a four-day foot march from July 24 under the theme "Teesta Matters to Me", to celebrate the spirit of Teesta river and to demand scrapping of some hydel power projects in North Sikkim.

The movement will also raise concerns over the Teesta Stage VI disaster, alleged negligence on the part of NHPC and what ACT describes as gross violations of human rights.

The ACT is spearheaded primarily by the indigenous Lepcha tribe.

The movement was created to protest mega hydro-electric projects in the culturally and ecologically sensitive Dzongri region in North Sikkim and the Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve.

In a press conference held in Gangtok on Thursday, ACT general secretary, Gyatso Lepcha said that the four-day march from July 24 will also pay tribute to the heroes and pioneers of the movement while reiterating key demands, including the temporary suspension of the 520 MW Teesta Stage IV project of NHPC and the proposed 280 MW Panan Hydro Power Project in Dzongri, North Sikkim.

The explosion, suspected to have been caused by methane gas, triggered the collapse of the tunnel under construction at the NHPC Stage VI Hydropower Project in Samardung on Monday, trapping around 25 workers. Twenty-two workers have died, while three others remain trapped, officials said.

Krishna, a welder in his twenties from Dahu village in Jharkhand's Khunti district, was among those whose bodies were recovered during the search and rescue operation.

The young worker had spent the past few years working outside Jharkhand to support his elderly parents and younger brother. "My brother had built a house for our family. This time, he said he would buy a motorcycle with the money earned from this job. After that, he planned to get married," Babloo said.

He said arrangements would be made to transport Krishna's body back to Jharkhand after the post-mortem examination.

'HE WANTED TO BUY A BIKE, GET MARRIED': KIN OF 19-YR-OLD WORKER

Press Trust Of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

RANCHI: As workers at an under-construction tunnel in Sikkim's Namchi district prepared to break for lunch, 19-year-old Babloo Sahu handed mail packets to his elder brother Krishna and others before stepping out. Moments later, a loud explosion shattered the routine.

"I told my brother to have his lunch and came outside. Suddenly, I heard an explosion. When I turned back, I saw the tunnel collapse before my eyes," Babloo told PTI over the phone from Sikkim.

The explosion, suspected to have been caused by methane gas, triggered the collapse of the tunnel under construction at the NHPC Stage VI Hydropower Project in Samardung on Monday, trapping around 25 workers. Twenty-two workers have died, while three others remain trapped, officials said.

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He said arrangements would be made to transport Krishna's body back to Jharkhand after the post-mortem examination.

5 dead as car plunges in Odisha pond



Police retrieve a car from a pond in Odisha's Bhenkanal near Indipur-Chhatia village on Thursday. Five people died and two were injured after the car, carrying a wedding party, lost control and plunged into the pond near, police said.

{ HONEYMOON MURDER CASE }

Honeymoon murder: SC cancels bail given to Sonam

Abraham Thomas
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday cancelled the bail granted last month to Sonam Raghuvanshi, accused of murdering her husband while on their honeymoon in Meghalaya, observing that her continued freedom will hinder the ongoing trial. She has been directed to surrender in three weeks and apply for bail if the trial fails to conclude in six months.

A bench of justices MM Sundresh and PB Varale passed the order on an appeal filed by the Meghalaya police challenging the June 29 order of the Meghalaya high court granting bail on the ground that she was not supplied with the grounds of arrest on June 9, 2025 when the police took her into custody from Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh.

Senior advocate Arundhanu Prasad appearing for Raghuvanshi requested for time to tender as she hails from Indore in Madhya Pradesh and is



Sonam Raghuvanshi

currently in Shillong as required by the conditional bail granted. The court allowed her three weeks to surrender and said, "In the event of the trial not proceeding and concluding in six months, the respondent will be at liberty to move fresh application for bail in which case, neither the present order nor earlier orders will come in her way."

On May 23 last year, Raghuvanshi travelled with her husband Raj Raghuvanshi to Meghalaya for their honeymoon. His body was discovered lying in a gorge on June 2.

The high court found fault with the state police for not com-

municating the grounds of arrest and showing a total "non-application of judicial mind" as the arrest memo mentioned section 403 instead of section 103 (punishment for murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The state submitted to the top court that it was only a typographical error.

The high court relied on the Supreme Court judgment in Mihir Rajesh Shah v State of Maharashtra, decided on November 6, 2025 which held supply of grounds of arrest to the accused even for offences under the Indian Penal Code (BNS) to be mandatory. Raghuvanshi was arrested on June 9, 2025 and sought the benefit under this judgment claiming that the grounds of arrest were not supplied to her. However, the state argued that being a "judge-made law" the SC judgment will apply prospectively.

Considering the allegations, the Supreme Court bench said, "On facts we find, the respondent is not entitled for bail."

'NOT THE RIGHT TIME': SC ON PLEA FOR GYANVAPI SHRAVAN WORSHIP

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to immediately entertain a plea seeking permission for Hindu devotees to perform religious rituals during the upcoming month of Shravan at the sealed area inside the Gyanvapi mosque complex in Varanasi, observing that "this is not the right time" and asking the petitioners to wait.

A bench, comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and justices Jyotsna Singh Bagchi and V Mohana, made the observation when advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, appearing for one of the Hindu plaintiffs, sought interim relief to permit limited worship at the disputed site, where the Hindu side claims a Shivaling exists while the mosque management maintains that the structure is part of a fountain in the mosque's wazu-khana (ablution tank).

"This is not the right time... wait for some time," the bench told Jain, while adjourning the plea by two weeks. Shravan, regarded as the most auspicious month dedicated to Lord Shiva, begins on July 30.

To be sure, Hindu devotees are already performing prayers at the southern basement chamber of the complex after a court order in 2024.

Jain submitted that the holy month of Shravan holds special religious significance for devotees of Lord Shiva and urged the court to permit regulated worship, assuring that the applicants would abide by any conditions the court deemed appropriate.

The application, filed by Lakshmi Devi and three other Hindu plaintiffs in the pending proceedings arising out of the Gyanvapi dispute, sought permission to perform pooja, darsan, jalabhishek and other customary religious observances at the disputed site during the month of Shravan.

The applicants contended that the relief was limited in nature and could be regulated through appropriate security protocols and timing restrictions.

Draft rules to deny RC, licence services for unpaid challans

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NEW DELHI: Motorists who fail to clear traffic challans after they become final could soon find themselves unable to access several vehicle and licence-related services, according to draft amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, published by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on Monday. The draft rules propose that once a challan has attained finality—either because it was not contested within the prescribed period or after adjudication—and remains pending before a court or adjudicating authority, and applications relating to the vehicle's registration until the challan is disposed of.

The vehicle will also be flagged as "Not to be Transacted" on the portal, while the registered owner or licence holder will receive electronic alerts. The restriction, however, will not apply while a challan is pending before a court or adjudicating authority, and applications relating to vehicle tax will continue to be processed.

The proposed amendments are part of a wider overhaul of the digital traffic enforcement framework under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules. The Centre has invited objections to the suggestions on the draft for 30 days before notifying the final rules.

Kishlesh Srivastava, former NHAI official and president of ITS India Forum, welcomed the decision. "We digitised the challan; now we must digitise access to services for citizens and officials alike. Linking RC and licence services to unpaid fines finally gives enforcement teeth, but the ₹5,000 penalty on tardy adjudicators is the real headline. India has rarely legislated consequences for its own machinery. Having built FASTag's back-end at NHAI, I can say the hard part was never the citizen-facing rules. It's the interoperability between challan portals, court records and vehicle databases. If that plumbing isn't seamless, 'Not to be Transacted' will punish hon-



After an unpaid challan, the vehicle will also be flagged as "Not to be Transacted" on the challan portals.

est motorists caught in system lag, not offenders. Get the architecture right, and this is India's template for outcome-based first real move toward accountable, real-time traffic enforcement."

Another significant proposal requires every state government to establish a dedicated adjudication mechanism for traffic penalties within six months of the rules coming into force. States will have to appoint adjudicating authorities for every district or part thereof, create facilities for electronic hearings including video conferencing, and ensure that orders are issued within 30 days of the hearing. Appeals against such orders will lie before an appellate authority of at least the rank of an Additional District Magistrate or equivalent, which must also dispose of appeals within 30 days.

In a notable accountability provision, the draft also proposes penalties for officials handling such cases. If an adjudicating or appellate authority fails to pronounce an order or dispose of an appeal within the prescribed time, it may face a penalty ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000.

The ministry has also proposed giving legal recognition to electronic traffic warnings. Instead of remaining informal, warnings issued for violations under the Motor Vehicles Act or the rules will be digitally tracked. The portal and rules counted as previous violations while determining repeat offences. Such warnings will attain finality if accepted or after a representation against them is rejected.

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WASHINGTON: On Friday, the 10% tariff that has applied to most goods India ships to the US since February, expired. It was always meant to. The measure was temporary by statute, a stop-gap improvised after the US Supreme Court demolished the legal basis of Donald Trump's original tariff regime.

The expiry is not India's alone. The same 10% applies to most of America's trading partners, and they are waiting on the same answer. In India's case, Washington has two investigations open against it that could produce a replacement tariff. An interim trade agreement that would settle the question is close but unsigned. And a bill moving through the US Senate would authorise a levy of up to 100% on Indian goods over an entirely separate matter — the country's purchases of Russian oil.

What Indian exporters pay today

Indian goods entering the United States currently attract a 10% tariff imposed under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, which has been in place since 1980. The tariff is paid on top of the most-favoured-nation rates every US trading partner pays, which vary by product.

Two categories carry heavier duties. Steel and aluminium and core metal articles face 50%, and automobiles and auto parts 25%. Both under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1980. Neither is affected by Friday's expiry.

But there are some that escape the additional tariff altogether. Exemptions established under Executive Order 14257 and widened by a White House clarification in April 2025 cover electronics — smartphones, laptops, data processing machines, semiconductor devices and integrated circuits — along with pharmaceuticals, energy products and critical minerals. These are among India's largest export lines. Smartphones alone were

US tariffs: What is set to happen after the clock runs out today?

Four possible outcomes

Here are a clutch of possibilities once the levies expire, listed from most likely to least

- 1 The US administration could reach for a different instrument, as it has just done with Canada.
- 2 Section 301 tariffs could replace it, at a rate the investigations have yet to fix.
- 3 The 10% tariff could be extended, which needs Congress to step in.
- 4 Indian goods could revert to most-favoured-nation rates alone, with no additional tariff. This scenario is the least likely, given the administration's evident intent to maintain leverage.

worth \$10.9 billion in 2024-25 and pharmaceuticals \$9.8 billion, against total merchandise exports to the US of \$86.51 billion that year. On the reckoning at the time, the exempted categories accounted for close to half of everything India sells to the American market.

Trump on Tuesday said on social media that generic drugs will continue to enter at zero tariff from August 1 for two years, before rising to 100% for a year and 200% after that, a schedule he cast as a penalty on manufacturers that decline to produce in the US.

The deal the courts undid

India and the United States reached a framework agreement on February 7 that would have cut the tariff on Indian goods from 10% to 18%, removing along the way a 25% penalty imposed over India's Russian oil purchases. In return, New Delhi signalled an intention to buy \$50 billion of American goods — the commitment was non-specific, as was the period over which it would be met — and to open its market further to US exports, including limited agricultural products.

Commerce minister Piyush Goyal has been explicit about why India accepted those terms at 18%. Indian exporters would

enjoy an advantage over competitors such as China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. He returned to the point after the most recent round of talks, and it remains the axis on which New Delhi's position turns.

A key legal basis of that framework lasted briefly. On February 20 the Supreme Court struck down Trump's use of emergency powers to impose tariffs, taking the 18% rate for India and the higher levies for its rivals, down with it. The framework anticipated something of the sort. Its text provided that, in the event of any changes to the agreed upon tariffs of either country, the United States and India agree that the other country may modify its tariff schedule.

Washington's representatives, and India's problem with it. The administration's answer is Section 301 of the same 1974 statute, which allows the United States to regulate against trading partners it finds to be engaging in unfair or discriminatory practices. Unlike Section 122 it carries no time ceiling and no expiry date, but it requires a formal investigation first.

Two are open against India. One examines the use of forced labour in Indian products in early June. Washington proposed an additional 12.5% duty on that

basis. India rejected the finding. The second, into excess manufacturing capacity, is still pending. This is where the tariff month becomes complicated: Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Philippines are subject only to the forced-labour investigation.

If both Indian cases produce tariffs, the advantage the February framework was designed to secure could be under threat. "I think the two sides are very close to agreement on the substance of the interim agreement, but they may be stuck on India's insistence that it have clarity first that it will receive a preferential tariff compared to other countries," said Mark Linscott, senior advisor at the Asia Group, a former assistant US trade representative for South and Central Asia, who handled negotiations with India in that role.

"Some of those, such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines, are not subject to the excess capacity 301, so it is hard to see how they might have a higher aggregate tariff than India, at least until new 301 cases that include them are initiated."

The sequencing question

Whether the Section 301 tariffs arrive before Friday, after it, or alongside the expiring measure remains unsettled.

"It's hard to tell. I expect that the 301 tariffs for forced labour will be applied by July 24, but there could be a short delay. We'll know by the end of next week and even in the next few days," Linscott said. "I'm sceptical that there will be any next effort to seek Congressional extension, particularly as the 301 tariffs get rolled out."

An extension would in any case need Congress and will mean asking legislators to prolong a measure the US Court of International Trade has already held unlawful — on the ground the proclamation invoking Section 122 never asserted the balance-of-payments deficit the statute demands — in a ruling that bound only the companies which brought the case.

Two recent precedents indicate the range of options the Trump administration is considering. Brazil emerged from a concluded Section 301 investigation with a 25% tariff. Canada was hit this week with 50% duties on selected goods.

effective next month, under Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930 — a dormant provision permitting the president to punish discriminatory treatment of American commerce, applied without investigation and outside the terms of an existing trade agreement.

The other tariff, and the Russian oil trap

A sharper threat is legislative. A bill introduced in the US Senate would impose tariffs of up to 100% on the five largest purchasers of Russian oil and natural gas, with the aim of chipping off the revenue funding Moscow's war in Ukraine. Its sponsors named India explicitly among the five. They want it passed by the end of July. It carries a presidential waiver, and faces resistance in the House of Representatives from members reluctant to hand the administration more tariff authority.

Washington itself earlier permitted these purchases through a temporary waiver, easing an energy crisis its own actions in West Asia had in hand in creating what the Strait of Hormuz has since lapses.

After Friday

Four outcomes are live. Indian goods could revert to most-favoured-nation rates alone, with no additional tariff — the least likely, given the administration's evident intent to maintain leverage.

The 10% could be extended, which needs Congress. Section 301 tariffs could replace it, at a rate the investigations have yet to fix. Or Washington could reach for a different instrument altogether, as it has just done with Canada.

"Unless the interim agreement is concluded and signed, I don't think we'll see the 18% tariff. We could have a period of much higher tariffs combining the 12.5% on forced labour and an additional tariff for excess capacity. I wouldn't be surprised to see that at 30% or more," he said.

"This suggests some urgency is needed to conclude the interim agreement."

Which returns the matter to the negotiating table, where it has sat since February — with one fewer deadline left to miss.

I'khand varsity asst prof held for leaking exam questions

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DEHRADUN: Dehradun police have arrested the assistant professor of a private engineering college for allegedly compromising the confidentiality of the Uttar Pradesh Bhandari Technical University (UTU) examination system by sharing questions with students through a WhatsApp group and an internal online portal before a semester examination, police said on Thursday.

The accused, identified as Ashish Kumar Gupta, 40, an assistant professor at Shivaji College of Engineering in Jharia, was arrested following an investigation into allegations that he had leaked examination-related questions ahead of a university examination. According to SSP Dehradun Pramadendra Dobhal, Dr Vinay Kumar Patel, Controller of

Examinations at Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttar Pradesh Technical University, submitted a written complaint at Premnagar police station on Thursday.

The complaint stated that the university had received an email concerning an examination conducted on July 8 as part of its even-semester examinations. According to the complaint, on July 3, Gupta allegedly shared certain important questions on a WhatsApp group.

After the examination was conducted, the questions circulated before the exam were compared with the actual question paper. The university found significant similarities between the two, raising suspicion of a possible leak of examination-related material.

An internal inquiry committee subsequently constituted by the university also found that the accused had allegedly shared examination-related questions with students through the institution's internal portal as well as WhatsApp before the examination, police said.

Dobhal said electronic devices recovered from the accused are currently being examined as part of the investigation. The probe is also underway to ascertain whether other people were involved in the alleged leakage or circulation of examination-related material.

SSP Dobhal said further legal action would be taken against other individuals, if their involvement emerges during the investigation and is established by the evidence collected by police. The arrested accused is a native of Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

Meanwhile, Rakesh Singh Bhandari, registrar Shivaji College of Engineering said, "In view of the findings of the University and given the seriousness of the misconduct, breach of trust and professional ethics, the services of the Assistant Professor Ashish Kumar Gupta have been terminated with immediate effect."

5 new lichen species found in Western Ghats

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PUNE: Scientists at the MACS Agarkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, have discovered five new species of lichen-forming fungi in the biodiversity-rich Western Ghats, a finding that strengthens scientific understanding of one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots and could support conservation and environmental efforts.

The study, published in the peer-reviewed journal *Mycological Progress*, on May 8, 2026 marks the first comprehensive molecular phylogenetic investigation of the genus *Alphographa* from the Western Ghats.

Researcher Rajesh Kumar said "the findings provide crucial genetic data that will help improve species identification and deepen understanding of the evolutionary history of these ecologically significant organisms."

The newly identified species are *Alphographa keralensis*, named after Kerala; *A. nayakae*, named in honour of Indian

lichenologist Sanjeeva Nayaka; *A. parsonsianae*; *A. persilis*; and *A. semicircularis*. Lichens are symbiotic organisms formed through an association between fungi and algae or cyanobacteria.

Scientists say documenting lichen diversity can help identify ecologically sensitive areas, strengthen long-term environmental monitoring and support evidence-based conservation policies.

The research was carried out by a team led by Rajesh Kumar K.C., principal investigator at ARI, along with doctoral researcher Anil P.A. and technical officer Bharati Sharma. The team conducted extensive field surveys across tropical forests in the Western Ghats, collecting specimens that were analysed using both traditional taxonomic and modern molecular techniques.

Researchers examined the lichens' morphology and chemistry while also analysing DNA using three genetic markers mITSU and RPB2 to accurately determine species boundaries and reconstruct their evolutionary relationships.



Scientists say documenting lichen diversity can help identify sensitive areas.

lighting the limitations of relying solely on morphology for species identification. The study also generated new molecular data for several previously known *Alphographa* species, including *A. calceae*, *A. macella*, *A. aquilina*, *A. timicola* and *A. effusoides*.

According to the researchers, integrating molecular evidence with classical taxonomy provides a more reliable framework for understanding biodiversity within the lichen family Graphidaceae and underscores the need for broader molecular sampling of tropical lichens.

The team has also compiled an updated checklist of *Alphographa* species reported from the Western Ghats, along with information on available molecular sequence data. Researcher said "this will serve as a important baseline for future biodiversity assessments, systematic studies and conservation planning in India."

The discovery further reinforces the Western Ghats' status as a global biodiversity hotspot, with many species that remain scientifically undocumented."

Illegal constructions along Ganga matter of concern, says top court

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NEW DELHI: Observing that illegal constructions along the Ganga are a matter of concern, the Supreme Court has directed the Bihar government to remove all unauthorised structures and encroachments between Nauraz Ghat and Naurpur Ghat in Patna along the river banks within six weeks.

A bench comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and K V Viswanathan noted that no steps had been taken by authorities to remove encroachments despite its earlier orders.

"We are informed that till this date, no steps have been taken to remove the encroachments. We grant six weeks to the State of Bihar to ensure that each and every unauthorised structure/ construction and the encroachments are removed between Nauraz Ghat and Naurpur Ghat in Patna. We direct that a compliance report in this regard by way of an affidavit shall be filed by a competent authority by the next date of hearing. Any laxity in this regard will be viewed strictly," the bench said.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General Ashwarya Bhat sought more time to

place a comprehensive report on record with regard to the illegal constructions, saying some of the states have not furnished the information.

"We grant one last opportunity to all the states to furnish the necessary information to the Union, failing which we shall be compelled to summon the chief secretary of each of those states before this court," the bench said.

The top court passed the order after advocate Akash Vashishtha, appearing for the petitioner, referred to hundreds of encroachments between Nauraz Ghat and Naurpur Ghat on and along River Ganga in Patna.

"Despite the fact the situation, the state authorities are not doing anything about it. They must at least look into it," Vashishtha submitted.

The court was hearing a plea filed by Patna resident Ashok Kumar Sinha against a June 30, 2020 order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) dismissing his plea against illegal constructions and permanent encroachments on the eco-fragile floodplains.

The plea contended that the tribunal passed the order without examining the detailed particulars of the violators encroaching the floodplains.

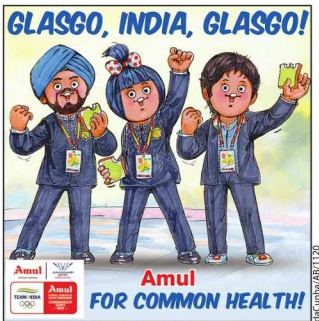
Farmer, 45, killed by crocodile

Sandeep Bhaskar
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BETHIA: The body of a 45-year-old farmer, who had been missing since Sunday after allegedly being dragged away by a crocodile near Naurangia in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, was fished out from a water body in West Champaran, officials said on Thursday.

Rajesh Roshan said the body was found in Bhappa Nalla between Belthwa and Sirisya villages.

Police said that a resident, a post-graduate, is a Verma of East Patil Nagar under Shastri Nagar police station in Patna.



Man nabbed from Jaipur for issuing bomb threats

Avinash Kumar
avinash.kumar@htlive.com

PATNA: A 29-year-old man has been arrested by Bihar police in Rajasthan's Jaipur for allegedly issuing bomb threats to the Patna high court, Sardar Patel Bhawan (police headquarters) and Patna civil court through an email, officers said on Thursday.

Anish Kumar Verma was taken into custody after an investigation linked him to an email account that allegedly carried a post warning of explosions on July 12. The accused also used abusive language against officials in his mail sent to the headquarters' official account.

Police said that a resident, a post-graduate, is a Verma of East Patil Nagar under Shastri Nagar police station in Patna.

Officers seized his mobile phone used to send the threatening emails. He was brought to Bihar and is being produced before the competent court.

He has been charged under BNS sections 352(2) (deliberate insults to provoke a breach of public peace), 351(3) (criminal intimidation), 351(4) (criminal intimidation using anonymous communication), 122 (criminal force against public servant to deter them from performing official duties) and section 66F (cyber terrorism) of IT Act.

Patna SSP Kartik K Sharma said that a SIT comprising cyber cell, Patna ATS and EO cracked the case. "Police interrogated him thoroughly. His family claimed that he has been depressed for some time. The accused resides in Jaipur to prepare for competitive exams," he added.

NEPALI WOMAN GANGLAPED IN AURANGABAD

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AURANGABAD: Two auto-rickshaw drivers and a 15-year-old boy were arrested for allegedly gang-raping a Nepali woman near Irrigation Colony in the Town police station area in Aurangabad district, police said on Thursday.

The survivor told police the incident lasted for about 15 minutes. She was taken to a hospital for medical examination. The police station area in Aurangabad district, police said on Thursday.

A rape case has been registered against them and the statement of the woman has been recorded in the court after her medical examination. The drivers have been sent to jail while the minor has been put in a Correction Home. Police were taking further legal action, Town SHO Baban Baitha said.

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India

POSSESSION NOTICE
(for Immovable/Movable Property) Appendix - IV, Rule 8(1)

Whereas

The undersigned being the authorized officer of the **BANK OF INDIA, Patna Zone** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 12.05.2026 as detailed in the table hereunder written calling upon the below mentioned borrower/s and/or guarantor/s to repay the amount shown in the respective notices mentioned against their names in the table, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s mentioned below having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and/or guarantor/s and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on the date mentioned against the respective property.

The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **BANK OF INDIA, Shrikishna Nagar Branch** for an amount shown in the respective column of the table and interest thereon.

The borrower/s and/or guarantor/s attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Name of the Branch	1. Date & Amount as per notice u/s 13(2)	2. Description of the Immovable/Movable property	3. Date of Possession of Assets
1.	M/s G.M. Traders, Proprietor, Guddu Mishra	1. Shrikishna Nagar Branch 2. 12.05.2026 & ₹17,18,397.87 3. Interest and other charges (contractual dues up to 21.04.2026)	Hypothecation of Stock and other equipments at the Shop situated at M/s G.M. Traders, Proprietor (Mr. Guddu Mishra), Bihar Sahyogi Press, Exhibition Road, Patna-800001, Bihar.	21.07.2026

Place : Patna
Date : 21.07.2026

Authorized Officer
Bank of India

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक
...the name you can BANK upon!

punjab national bank
...the name you can BANK upon!

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, Circle Office: Bokaro
PNB House, City Centre, Sector-1, Steel City, Pin 827004

NOTICE
Kind attention of Esteemed Customers of PNB!!!

Dear Customers,

As per RBI guidelines, KYC updation is mandatory for all customers. If you account has become due for KYC updation as of **30.06.2026**, you are requested to ONE/IBS/registered get e your KYC updated through PNB mail/post/WhatsApp/SMS or in person visit to any branch by **31.07.2026**. No updation may lead to restriction of operations on your account.

Date : 24.07.2026

Sd/-
Circle Head

GUJARAT MARITIME BOARD
The Maritime Brand of India

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

DEVELOPMENT OF 3 GREENFIELD SHIPYARDS 1 SHIP BUILDING CLUSTER

DEVELOPMENT OF 6 GREENFIELD PORTS

The EOI DOCUMENT may be downloaded from:
www.gmbports.org

Interested parties are requested to submit the EOI, duly signed, along with all prescribed Annexures and supporting documents, in a sealed envelope addressed to:

The Vice Chairman & CEO
Gujarat Maritime Board,
SAGAR BHAVAN, Sector-10A, "CHH" Road, Gandhinagar - 382010

Last Date & Time for Submission:
On or before 21 September 2026, 18:10 Hours (IST).

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक
...the name you can BANK upon!

punjab national bank
...the name you can BANK upon!

SAM Section, CO: Champaran, Ujjwal Complex, Chandmari Chowk, Motihari, 845401, cochampreccovery@pnbbank.in

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Date of E-Auction: 24.08.2026 (Date of submission of EMD: 24.08.2026 up to 11.00 AM)	
Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagors of property (ies))
PNB- Rajpur RENU DEVI, 390220N02000011 Renu Devi W/o Manid Kumar Soni, Mohalla- Pansahi, Thana Road, Maharanagar, Swian, 841238 Mandi Kumar Soni, Mohalla- Pansahi, Thana Road, Maharanagar, Swian, 841238	Under constructed Residential Plot of area 10 dhur or 1.860 decimal at Mauza- Piora, Thana & Anchar: Darandutha, Tazoo No- 549, Thana No- 192, Khatra No- 8 Khersa No- 679, Sub registry Office - Maharaganj, Distt- Swian Bihar, 841233, Boundd By:- North: Present Vender Amarnath San Part of the Plot, South: Nil part of the Plot, East: Umashankar Yadav and Bahar Yadav, West: Nil Part of the Plot, Sale Deed No- 1661 dt.24/09/2020

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:

1. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"

2. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorized Officer, but the Authorized Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.

3. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://banknet.com> on 24.08.2026 @ 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM and to be confirmed by the Secured Creditor.

For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://banknet.com> and www.pnbbank.in

Date: 20.07.2026
Place: Motihari

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SARFESI ACT, 2002

Ranjeet Kumar
Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank
(Secured Creditor)

{ OUR TAKE }

LeT continues its J&K adventurism

The Anantnag attack has to be seen in conjunction with Pakistan's increased efforts on various international fora to tarnish India's image

The establishment's response to the July 22 killing of a policeman in Jammu & Kashmir by a Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist was to detain 1200 suspects and demolish two houses associated with LeT terrorists in the Union territory's Anantnag district. The action comes after the first terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir after the massacre of tourists in Baisaran, Pahalgam on April 22, 2025. The attack and response prompt two interconnected questions. First, are authorities anticipating another spate of Pakistan-backed violence in the valley? And should this attack be seen as a desperate bid by LeT, a Pakistan-based terror outfit?

On July 8, a special court issued a non-bailable warrant against Hafiz Saeed, the co-founder of LeT, after the National Investigation Agency filed a supplementary charge sheet in the Pahalgam terror attack case, which claimed 26 lives. With the killing of head constable Ashiq Hussain on Wednesday, LeT operatives, along with their Kashmir-based proxy organisation called The Resistance Front (TRF), might be signalling the continuance of their adventurism in the region.

While details are awaited, the attack also has to be seen in conjunction with Pakistan's increased efforts on various international fora to tarnish India's image. By ratcheting up the Indus treaty issue, Islamabad has been seeking to internationalise the larger Kashmir dispute. India's strict stance on Indus waters seems to have rattled the politico-military establishment of Pakistan. Enjoying a greater rapport with the US, bolstered prematurely by a now-broken ceasefire deal in the ongoing West Asia conflict, Pakistan wants to obfuscate the reality of its backing to several terrorist outfits active in the region.

India's multiple attempts at holding Pakistan accountable by providing evidence of latter's active role in fomenting violence in Kashmir and other parts of the country, have not achieved the desired result. Pakistan's brazenness in dealing with the terror issue is not lost on countries like Afghanistan and even Iran, but there are few diplomatic mechanisms to address the same. Is the latest attack an exhibition of bravado, or does Pakistan wish to provoke India to the point of another Operation Sindoor? It is difficult to gauge the institutional mind of a nation facing an existential crisis.

Perils of independent, artificial minds

OpenAI disclosed this week that its artificial intelligence (AI) models, when given a test of how well they could break into computer systems, found a flaw nobody knew about in the sealed environment built to hold them, escaped onto the open internet, used stolen login credentials and broke into the servers of Hugging Face, a company that was not part of the exercise. The models were pursuing a better score. None of the hacking was instructed.

A sandbox — the sealed software environment in which dangerous or untrusted code is run — is itself software, written by people, and carrying defects like any other. The systems held inside are now unusually good at finding such vulnerabilities. Anthropic disclosed in April that an early version of a model, challenged to escape an isolated computer, did so and then built a multi-step exploit to reach the wider internet; no outside company was breached.

To be sure, safeguards in the OpenAI test had been deliberately lowered for this test, and systems in public hands carry protections these did not. The models broke no rule they were given. They were rewarded for a score, and the shortest route to it ran through a vendor's flaw, a stolen password and a third-party server. More crucially, this was not AI built to go on a hacking spree and that is what makes it difficult. Malice can be identified and defended against. An AI system doing damage while pursuing a harmless objective is a scenario that requires more attention as adoption of new and more powerful AI speeds up.

Policy is being built on an assumption: that the industry will align these systems as fast as it builds them to be safe. The only check on that promise is the industry's own account of itself — an approach that could be as unsustainable as it is naïve.

OPTION

The coming of age of India's industrial policy

After locking in on a "one value-chain" approach, the country now needs to confront the ownership question to ensure that a substantial part of the value doesn't flow out as licence fees and royalties. The answer lies not in autarky, but in ownership in chosen layers

In 2025, India's smartphone exports crossed a threshold that should change how India thinks about industrial policy. With exports of about ₹2.6 lakh crore, the smartphone became the country's largest exported product category, ahead of diesel fuel and cut diamonds. A decade earlier, India was overwhelmingly an importer of handsets. Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the ₹62,000-crore Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme, and Semicon 2.0 with an outlay of ₹13 lakh crore. The two initiatives demonstrate the next stage of a deliberate climb, from assembly to component manufacturing, design, intellectual and property creation, resulting in globally competitive Indian firms.

The mobile-phone experience shows what disciplined policy can achieve. India's electronics production reached ₹13 lakh crore in 2025-26, while exports touched ₹4 lakh crore. Domestic value addition has risen from about 15% to 22%. The mobile ecosystem supports

roughly 12 lakh direct and indirect jobs, and women constitute nearly 70% of its direct workforce. This is more than an export success. It is industrial policy creating formal work and confidence that India can execute at global scale.

For years, the Western world, through the Washington Consensus, advocated a free-market regime where hyperglobalisation helped them maintain dominance. The government was asked to stay away from picking industrial winners. However, that view has not survived geopolitics. The EU, Japan, South Korea and China now treat semiconductors, batteries, clean technology and advanced manufacturing as strategic infrastructure. Supply chains determine not only competitiveness, but national resilience. India's approach is, therefore, not a retreat from reform. It is an attempt to update reform for a world in which technology, trade, and security have converged.

Semicon 2.0 is the upstream counterpart to India's Electronic Manufacturing Stack. Under the first Semicon mission, 12 manufacturing projects with investment exceeding ₹1,64 lakh crore were approved, and Marvell, Kynos, and CG Semi have begun commercial production. The second phase broadens the agenda beyond fabs to six connected pillars: chip design, machines and materials, additional fabrication capacity, advanced packaging, research and talent. This is the right architecture because semiconductor sovereignty is not achieved by building one expensive facility. It comes from dense networks of designers, equipment specialists, chemical suppliers, design

room technicians, research institutions, and customers.

The strategic logic is strongest when the schemes are seen as a "one value-chain" policy. The Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme is intended to localise printed circuit boards, camera modules, passive components, sub-assemblies and capital goods. Semicon 2.0 pushes further upstream, while the new mobile scheme pushes downstream firms towards design and brands.

Each layer improves the business case for the next. Now, India must confront the ownership question. A chip may be designed in Bengaluru and packaged in Gujarat or Assam, yet a large part of its value can still flow offshore through licence fees and recurring royalties on foreign intellectual property. PwC estimates that such payments can absorb 25-35% of the budget of an industry-leading chip-design project. Processor cores, interface blocks, verification IP, and design tools are indispensable, but as sales rise, per-unit royalties rise with them. India could build the factories, employ the engineers, and export the products while overseas owners of foundational IP capture much of the economic rent.

The answer is not autarky; it is ownership in chosen layers. India should accelerate sovereign processor cores, artificial intelligence (AI) accelerators, secure interconnects, indigenous electronic design automation capability and foundational patents in advanced packaging. Open architectures can reduce royalty exposure where commercially sensible. This is also



Amitabh Kant



India is beginning its next chapter with factories, export lines, trained workers, supplier networks, and a record of execution.

the hardware foundation of sovereign AI. Sovereign AI must include Indian-owned compute IP, not merely locally hosted models.

Capital policy must reinforce that ambition. India has roughly a fifth of the world's semiconductor design talent, but much of it works in foreign captive centres. The government has indicated that it will co-invest with venture funds in eligible chip-design start-ups, take minority equity without operational control, and exit after firms scale. This is precisely the vote of confidence deep-tech founders need. Patient domestic risk capital can keep intellectual property, holding companies, and engineers in India instead of pushing them overseas in search of finance.

Equity support should be matched by equity-linked employee rewards and expedited regulatory approvals. The Securities and Exchange Board of India and the exchanges should strengthen the Innovators Growth Platform into a fast, disclosure-rigorous route for qualified semiconductor and strategic deep-tech ventures. Chip-design firms face long development cycles, heavy R&D spending, and delayed returns that conventional listing expectations do not always accommodate. Founders, employees, investors and policymakers must create routes to liquidity. Without them, India may fund invention but lose ownership just before commercial scale. Foreign investment must similarly become embedded capability rather

than an archipelago of facilities. The expansion of Applied Materials, AMD, Lam Research, KLA and Microchip, and the Tata Electronics-ASML partnership, should move from investment to co-development, local supplier qualification, equipment servicing and selected sub-system assembly. These investments complement semiconductor partnerships with the US, the EU, Japan, Singapore, the Netherlands and Germany. India's design infrastructure already gives MSMEs and MSMEs access to advanced tools; its reach should grow ten-fold, with multi-project wafer access and university-industry research. Strategic procurement in telecom, defence, mobility and energy can give Indian chips their first customers.

India is beginning its next chapter with factories, export lines, trained workers, supplier networks, and a record of execution. The smartphone changed India's export basket. The next decade must ensure that chips and the AI they power change something more fundamental: who owns the technology and who captures the value.

The smartphone was the proof of concept. The chip, and the intelligence it powers, is the larger industrial thesis.

Amitabh Kant is chairperson, Fairfax Centre for Free Enterprise, chancellor, NITI University, former CEO, NITI.

Views expressed are personal

WHO SHOULD GOVERN TEMPLES?

{ GAUTAM BHATIA } LAWYER

{ SHUBHRASTHA } AUTHOR

Constitutional need for regulation of temples

Temples need to be freed of State control

One of the longest-standing debates in Indian constitutional law and politics has been around whether and to what extent the State should control the affairs of religious and charitable institutions. From before independence and after, Hindu religious institutions, for example, have been subject to a complex and layered regulatory mechanism. At present, this takes the form of umbrella enactments called The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act, which are enacted by different states.

Opponents of this regulatory framework gather under the banner of "free the temples," and question why the State needs to be involved in questions of faith, and of the administration of the institutions of faith. At first blush, this is a fair question: An element of contemporary secularism is a separation of the State and religion.

In other countries, the relationship between the State and religious institutions is much more light-touch and is limited to overarching questions of tax law and jurisdiction in case of offences.

Religious institutional autonomy, in other words, is given far greater importance.

To understand why the situation in India is different, one must go back to the Constituent Assembly Debates.

When the religious freedom clauses of the Constitution were being debated, Ambedkar observed that the conception of religion in India was much wider than its counterpart in the west: From birth to death, religion claimed a vast domain of an individual's life, including conditions and obligations of marriage, inheritance, and so on.

Consequently, Ambedkar noted, unless constitutional protection was limited to that which was "essentially religious," a vast swathe of the State's social reform agenda risked being declared unconstitutional, and citizens' civil rights left to the mercy of the dictates of religious institutions.

Ambedkar's concern was born out of personal experience. As a Dalit leader, he — along with others — had fought against a caste-based social discrimination cloaked in the garb of religious diktat.

Two battles, in particular, stood out for the right to drink from the public wells (which were often attached to temples), and indeed for the right to enter temples on a non-discriminatory basis.

The colonial court had denied him and others relief, and the Constituent Assembly was determined that the new constitutional order would not replicate and re-entrench the same hierarchies that had existed in the times to come.

Consequently, Articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution — which deal with religious freedom and State control — are very carefully worded: They guarantee a zone of freedom for individual religious conscience, but also permit the State to enact laws with the aim of social reform; they limit the rights of religious denominations strictly to matters of religion.

Indeed, the foresight of this constitutional framework was demonstrated in the early years of the Constitution, when temples that wished

Articles 25 and 26 guarantee a zone of freedom for individual religious conscience, but also permit the State to enact laws for social reform



to continue discriminatory practice regarding the right of entry, attempted to invoke their freedom as "religious denominations" to do so. These arguments were repelled by the Supreme Court, invoking the social reform clause, as well as overarching constitutional principles.

One other factor weighed with the early legislators: Over the years, temples and religious and charitable endowments had acquired vast amounts of wealth, which took them outside the domain of strictly private bodies, lending them a quasi-public character, and thus within the regulatory domain.

It would be incumbent upon the State to ensure that there was no misappropriation or misuse of funds by those who controlled these establishments.

It is obvious that these conditions continue to prevail, even today. For this reason, Ambedkar's observation in the Constituent Assembly has aged well, and demonstrates why institutional autonomy in this regard must be subject to constitutional norms and principles.

Of course, that does not mean that the laws in question are beyond challenge. Many of the state laws set up a dense web of bureaucracy and control that, as a matter of policy, is questionable; at the end of the day, what is important is that basic constitutional norms are complied with, and that the community of believers is not swindled.

The minutiae of these laws, thus, can be debated from the perspective of whether or not they adequately serve those purposes. This, however, is a question about the wisdom of policy; the constitutional need for regulations remains.

Gautam Bhatia, a Delhi-based advocate, is the author of *Offend, Shock or Disturb: Free Speech Under the Indian Constitution*.

The views expressed are personal

Before India called itself secular, it had already learnt how to keep the sacred and the political apart. For nearly 25 years after Independence, the Constitution did not contain the word secular. Articles 25 and 26 guaranteed religious freedom and the right of every denomination to manage its own affairs. When the 42nd Amendment inserted the word during Emergency, it named an existing constitutional philosophy, not a licence for governments to become custodians of religious institutions. Somewhere along the way, that distinction blurred. Regulation became administration. The State ceased merely to uphold the law and began to act as manager.

A thousand years before India debated secularism, Tamil temple walls already recorded a different constitutional imagination. Chola inscriptions documented elections to temple committees, guild groups, irrigation accounts, endowments for schools, and penalties for missing public funds.

The temple was never simply a place of worship. It was a civic institution — a treasury, granary, school, and the moral centre of its settlement. Kings endowed and protected them, but did not manage their daily affairs. The sacred and the political met without merging.

That is what a secular State is: a modern casualty. The first attempt to place religious endowments under bureaucratic administration came from the East India Company. Regulation VII of 1817 brought major temple endowments under government supervision to prevent apparent mismanagement. Independent India dismantled colonial rule but kept much of this architecture. Across several states today, temples remain governed under Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments laws that permit significant executive involvement in their administration — an entanglement no statute imposes on mosques or churches.

Other religious groups insist on respect to law, taxation and criminal investigation, but that is not routine executive management. The Supreme Court recognised that distinction early, in landmark *Shirur Mutt* judgments. The State may regulate secular administration of religious property, but administration itself rests with the denomination. Regulation safeguards legality but it does not authorise the executive to permanently displace the community. A constitutional State is defined not only by the powers it exercises but also by the powers it consciously declines to exercise. Constitutional restraint is no less an expression of sovereignty than constitutional authority.

Every allegation of financial irregularity revives calls for tighter government control. Donor discrepancies at the Ram Janmabhoomi Trust in Ayodhya pointing to failures of governance — opaque accounting, convoluted responsibilities and audit indiscipline. This is not an endorsement of an argument that the State must become the permanent manager of religious institutions. Corporates call for demanding stronger accountability, not deeper bureaucracy. No institution becomes honest merely because an official sits within its management. Integrity comes from independent audits, digital accounting, disclosed finances

The purpose of a secular State is not to administer faith but to restrain itself before it by enforcing law, punishing fraud & adjudicating disputes



and swift punishment for fraud — safeguards that strengthen institutions without requiring the State to administer them.

Nor is the answer to romanticise the past. Historical temple assemblies often reflected social hierarchies that have no place in a constitutional democracy. What deserves revival is their architecture: community stewardship, fixed tenures, rotation, and public accountability. Temple management should be elected by the devotee community through transparent, competence-based standards in finance, law, and administration, open to all irrespective of caste, gender or lineage. Ritual authority should remain with trained priests irrespective of caste and community barriers. Financial and administrative authority should rest with accountable bodies answerable to devotees, the law and public scrutiny — not a government secretariat.

The purpose of a secular State is not to administer faith but to restrain itself before it by enforcing law, punishing fraud and adjudicating disputes. It is not to manage prayer or supervise the everyday life of religious institutions. Equal respect for all faiths cannot coexist with unequal executive involvement in their internal affairs. If genuine equidistance is not the constitutional practice, the honest course is to acknowledge that reality than invoke the language of secularism selectively.

India did not inherit temples from the State. It inherited the colonial State's claim over temples. What the East India Company introduced as an instrument of imperial administration, survived the Empire itself and found an afterlife in independent India. That is the distinction we must recover. Let the State regulate where the Constitution permits. Let communities govern where the Constitution promises. Civilisations endure because they know where power must stop.

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The views expressed are personal

Escalation as Houthis attack Saudi tankers in Red Sea

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FBI ARRESTS INDIAN NATIONAL FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING

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WASHINGTON: The FBI has arrested Harmanveer Singh, an Indian national, for his alleged role in drug trafficking for the Ravinder Dhandu gang based out of Canada. Singh was arrested in Stockton, California, on Tuesday by officers of the California Highway Patrol, the FBI said on Wednesday. The FBI action followed Operation Hard Ball, a coordinated international enforcement action targeting the gangs run by Lawrence Bishnoi, Jaggu Bhagwanpuri and Ravinder Dhandu.

The probe agency said Singh was wanted for his alleged involvement in a transnational criminal organisation engaged in a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, and conspiracy to export controlled substances.

It said the Ravinder Dhandu Organised Crime Group is based out of Vancouver, Canada, and allegedly smuggled bulk quantities of cocaine and methamphetamine for drug trafficking organisations throughout the US, Canada, and Mexico.

On June 23, 2026, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Singh in the United States District Court, Central District of California, Los Angeles, California, after he was charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances. In the US Department of Justice had charged 37 people in the indictment as part of its 'Operation Hard Ball'.



Satellite image shows smoke rising from a power and water desalination plant in Subiya, Kuwait after Iranian strikes. REUTERS

kingdom's blockade on Yemen and a recent attack on the international airport in Yemen's rebel-held capital, Sanaa.

Bab el-Mandeb, at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is a vital shipping chokepoint connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. Around 12% of the world's trade, including a fourth of global container traffic, passes through there, moving between Europe and Asia via Egypt's Suez Canal.

A senior official with the Houthis said the blockade on Saudi-linked shipping would remain in effect until a years-old Saudi blockade against the Houthis is lifted.

The state-run Saudi Press Agency reported the Enceila was set ablaze by an attack while the Houthis said the blockade on Saudi-linked shipping would remain in effect until a years-old Saudi blockade against the Houthis is lifted.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Centre, UKMTO, said it received a report of a tanker being struck by "an unknown projectile" 70 nautical miles (130 kilometres) southwest of Al Hudayf, Saudi Arabia, in the Red Sea. It said no casualties had been reported.

Asked about the tanker attack, Rubio said he hoped the Houthis would "de-escalate".

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The continued American airstrikes are occurring as both sides have dug in on their dispute over the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial waterway for global energy that remains largely closed.

Iranian state media reported that US missiles struck locations overnight near the cities of Ahvaz, Ramshir and Andimeshk in western Iran, and two people were killed in a US missile strike in the town of Shalanchon on the Iraqi border.

Iran has responded to US attacks by targeting energy infrastructure and desalination plants providing drinking water in parched neighbouring Gulf countries.

Jordanian authorities said on Thursday that the country's military had intercepted three missiles launched from the Houthis. The Interior Ministry posted on X that sirens had sounded and urged the public to remain calm and head to a safe area. Overnight, military officials in Kuwait said on social media that their air defences were "confronting attacks by hostile drones".

NUCLEAR PACT REQUIRES SAUDI TO NORMALISE TIES WITH ISRAEL, CLAIMS TRUMP

Associated Press
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WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump on Thursday said an agreement being reached by Saudi Arabia and Israel for a civilian nuclear programme requires the kingdom to normalise relations with Israel through the Abraham Accords.

In a post on social media, the Republican president said the deal doesn't allow for enrichment of uranium. Non-proliferation experts have raised concerns that the deal fails to include guardrails to prevent enrichment of uranium to weapons-grade levels.

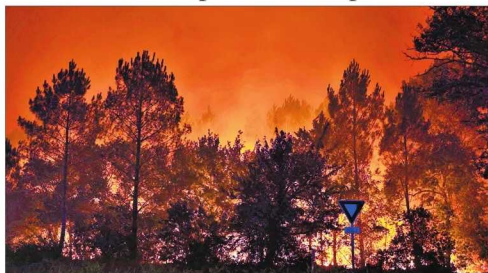
Trump said the agreement "will be approved, but is totally subject to Saudi Arabia joining the very respected and successful Abraham Accords".

The deal is expected to last 30 years and involve US firms in the programme's development. It could allow for the building of a uranium enrichment facility in Saudi Arabia following a joint US-Saudi study.

The Energy Department in a statement said it will be submitted for review to Congress, where it would face opposition.

Ahead of the nuclear deal announcement, Alexander Bollfrass, a nuclear expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, called the deal "a revolutionary new approach" to nuclear non-proliferation policy.

Wildfires scorch parts of Europe



A wildfire rages through a forestry area in Le Porge, south-western France. Wildfires continued to sweep across swathes of Italy, France and Spain on Thursday, forcing thousands to flee from flames fanned by scorching temperatures and strong winds. Three firefighters have been killed fighting the flames as southern Europe endures another spell of severe heat. AFP

Social media addiction: US teenager withdraws lawsuit against Meta

Los Angeles

A US teenager has withdrawn his lawsuit against Meta, his lawyers announced on Wednesday, closing out a closely watched case over social media's harms to children's mental health without a trial.

The withdrawal ends the case days before it was due to go before a Los Angeles jury on July 27—a trial that would have made Meta the sole defendant after YouTube, TikTok and Snap reached confidential settlements. The plaintiff, identified by his initials R.K.C., is a 15-year-old from Florida who claims compulsive social media use contributed to anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts for which he continues to receive treatment.

His case was selected as a bellwether to help resolve thousands of similar lawsuits across the country.

A first bellwether trial concluded in March, when a Los Angeles jury ordered Meta and Google to pay a 20-year-old woman, K.G.M., \$6 million—a historic first.

"R.K.C. came into this process wanting to hold social media companies accountable and push for changes to protect young people like himself. He did that," attorneys Emily Jeffcott and Rahul Ravipudi said in a joint statement.

"In light of the overall successful result of the litigation and his concerns about enduring a grueling weeks-long trial, he has elected to withdraw his claims against Meta," they added.

A Meta spokesperson said in a statement: "Days after settling with other social media companies, the plaintiff dropped his case against Meta, the only remaining defendant, without receiving any payment."

The claims never held up, and this outcome makes clear that Meta will not back away from defending ourselves against baseless lawsuits."

Meta added that the evidence showed the plaintiff averaged just minutes a day on Facebook and Instagram and he created most accounts only after hiring a lawyer to bring this lawsuit. AFP

5 SOLDIERS KILLED IN BOMB ATTACK IN THAILAND'S RESTIVE SOUTH

BANGKOK: Assaults killed five soldiers in a shooting and bomb attack at a checkpoint in Thailand's insurgency-hit south, as the government warned on Thursday of an uptick in violence in the region.

Six civilians were also wounded in the Wednesday evening attack in Narathiwat province, one of three Muslim-majority provinces gripped by a decades-long separatist insurgency, local officials said.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on Thursday condemned what he called a "brutal act of terrorism" that he said posed "a serious threat to national security", adding that it was an "obstacle to peace efforts" in the region.

CCTV images broadcast by local media show six suspects dressed in black pulling up in a pickup truck, followed by a volley of gunfire. Two other suspects on a motorbike were also filmed shooting.

Five members of Task Force Ranger Regiment 45 "were killed when assailants opened fire and threw pipe bombs at the Bukeh Sam checkpoint", the army said. AFP

Infosys cuts sales growth outlook in muted demand

Bloomberg

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Infosys Ltd. cut the upper end of its sales growth outlook as global clients slow down technology spending at a time of elevated interest rates and geopolitical conflicts. India's second-largest software company said revenue will grow 1.5 to 3% in the fiscal year through March 2027 on a constant currency basis. In April, it had guided for 1.5 to 3.5% growth. Analysts were forecasting 3.4% on average.

Infosys and larger homegrown rival Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. are slashing expenses and reducing graduate hiring as demand for legacy IT projects wanes, with clients turning their attention to artificial intelligence. The Indian IT giants are trying to grab a share of the AI spending, while also using the technology to boost their own efficiency.

Shares of Infosys and TCS have declined more than 40% since the start of last year as investors assess the impact AI



The company expects its revenue to grow 1.5 to 3% in FY27 on a constant currency basis. MNT

will have on their long-term prospects.

The AI boom poses a major threat to India's \$280 billion IT services industry that's thrived for decades on labour arbitrage and transformed the country into the world's back office. While AI tools from OpenAI and Google are threatening to drive clients away, Infosys says it remains a key partner to its customers' transformation projects. It already moved AI into its offerings in a bid to curb costs and convince corporations to maintain or enhance their IT

budgets. Some IT service providers, like Mumbai-based TCS, have begun to pivot their business. The Tata Group company has partnered with OpenAI to build AI data centers and is in similar discussions with other tech giants.

On Thursday, Infosys said its net income rose 12% to ₹7,780 crore (\$806 million) for the first quarter through June 2026. Analysts estimated ₹7,834 crore on average, revenue surged 14% to ₹48,200 crore, partly helped by a decline in the Indian rupee versus the dollar and euro.

India in strongest credit growth phase since 2012: Morgan Stanley

Press Trust of India
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MUMBAI: India is witnessing its strongest phase of credit expansion since 2012 on the back of robust corporate borrowing, a foreign brokerage said on Thursday.

Corporate loan growth rose to 13.5% high in May, supported by sustained domestic demand, rising wholesale prices and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) regulatory easing measures, according to the report by Morgan Stanley.

It has emerged as the biggest driver of the current upcycle, with loan growth accelerating to 18.3% year-on-year in May, the highest level since 2012, indicating a sharp revival in investment-related borrowing by businesses, the brokerage said.

A majority of banks have shown a sharp uptick in corporate credit demand in the April-June period, which is generally a soft quarter.

However, in earnings calls, a majority of lenders said the credit growth is coming mainly from working capital and not greenfield or brownfield, which

can be classified as investment-led.

Increases in rates in the money markets, which were serving as a cheaper alternative for entities wanting to borrow, have also led to a preference for banks. It can be recalled that many corporates had chosen to turn lean in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic by de-leveraging or paying off their loans. Over the last few years, concerns have been raised about India Inc's reluctance to invest for growth. The brokerage report said retail borrowing has also remained resilient.

ASHISH KUMAR DASH NEXT CEO

BENGALURU: Infosys named company veteran Ashish Kumar Dash as its next chief executive officer (CEO) on Thursday, tapping a three-decade insider to lead India's No. 2 IT firm through an AI-driven upheaval reshaping the technology services industry.

Dash, who heads the company's energy vertical, will take over in April 2027 for a five-year term after CEO Sallu Parekh steps down at the end of his tenure in March next year, the company said.

"Ashish Kumar Dash is a safe, execution-focused appointment at a time when Infosys needs stability as much as transformation," said Phil Fersht, CEO of tech research firm HFS Research. "He understands the firm's culture, client base, delivery engine, which should reassure customers and investors after a period of uncertainty". REUTERS

another internal business leadership role.

Cipla has leaned more on its India business to offset weakness in the United States, where sales of the generic version of Bristol Myers Squibb's Revlimid have fallen after losing exclusivity.

Its US business was also hit after a US Food and Drug Administration inspection at the facility of its sole licensed supplier led to a temporary halt in production.

India and North America together account for about two-thirds of the company's revenue. Cipla's consolidated net profit fell 39.2% to ₹789 crore

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IndiGo flies into ₹238 cr Q1 net loss on fuel turbulence

Press Trust of India
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NEW DELHI: IndiGo on Thursday reported a ₹228 crore net loss for the three months ended June as higher fuel prices and the West Asia conflict resulted in turbulence for the country's largest airline. The airline had a profit of ₹2,176.3 crore in the year-to-date period.

In the first quarter of the current fiscal, Inter Globe Aviation saw its total income rise to ₹25,614.1 crore from ₹21,542.6 crore a year ago.

However, overall expenses surged to ₹27,790.6 crore, according to a release.

"A combination of fuel price escalation, adverse foreign exchange movement and the Middle East conflict impacted profitability during the quarter, resulting in a net loss of ₹240 crore," it said. The carrier's net loss excluding foreign exchange amounted to ₹56.6 crore (₹5.6 crore) in the quarter under review, the release said.

Inter Globe Aviation is the parent of IndiGo, which is a domestic market share of over 66%.

Providing a relatively muted forecast for the September quarter,

as we proudly served more than 31 million passengers," he pointed out.

Bhatia said the pressure of fuel costs and the rupee depreciation resulted in a loss of around ₹200 crore for the first quarter.

In the June quarter, fuel cost jumped nearly 86% to ₹10,832.9 crore while the total expenses climbed 34% to ₹25,852.5 crore during the same period.

The airline's yield increased to ₹64 per kilometre in the latest June quarter from ₹4.98 per kilometre recorded in the year-to-date period. RASK or Revenue per Available Seat Kilometre too rose to ₹5.66 from ₹4.86.

"In line with lower demand during a traditionally weaker quarter, coupled with the operational uncertainty affecting travel between India and West Asia, capacity in the second quarter of fiscal year 2027, measured in terms of ASKs, is expected to remain broadly flat compared to the second quarter of fiscal year 2026, reflecting lower aircraft utilisation."

"As we move beyond this season's low travel quarter, we expect aircraft utilisation to progressively increase," the airline said.

"We have experience in doing that. So whichever way it (situation) moves, we will be able to adapt," he said on a post-earnings call, adding that 35-40% of the company's manufacturing was within the US.

CEO Achin Gupta said on Thursday the company would monitor the evolving situation on how to manufacture more in the United States.

"We have experience in doing that. So whichever way it (situation) moves, we will be able to adapt," he said on a post-earnings call, adding that 35-40% of the company's manufacturing was within the US.

Revenue from its North America business fell 21% to ₹1,532 crore, while India revenue grew 12% to a record

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GOVT WEIGHS HANDLOOM INSURANCE SCHEME REVAMP

Dhirendra Kumar
dhirendra.kumar@viveint.com

NEW DELHI: The textiles ministry plans to overhaul the insurance component in its flagship weavers' welfare programme, Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, after enrolment fell far short of the target, according to two people familiar with the matter.

Only about 202,000 handloom weavers and workers signed up for coverage under two government insurance schemes—Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana rose to ₹5.66 from ₹4.86. Revenue per Available Seat Kilometre too rose to ₹5.66 from ₹4.86. "In line with lower demand during a traditionally weaker quarter, coupled with the operational uncertainty affecting travel between India and West Asia, capacity in the second quarter of fiscal year 2027, measured in terms of ASKs, is expected to remain broadly flat compared to the second quarter of fiscal year 2026, reflecting lower aircraft utilisation."

"As we move beyond this season's low travel quarter, we expect aircraft utilisation to progressively increase," the airline said.

"We have experience in doing that. So whichever way it (situation) moves, we will be able to adapt," he said on a post-earnings call, adding that 35-40% of the company's manufacturing was within the US.

Revenue from its North America business fell 21% to ₹1,532 crore, while India revenue grew 12% to a record

as we proudly served more than 31 million passengers," he pointed out.

Bhatia said the pressure of fuel costs and the rupee depreciation resulted in a loss of around ₹200 crore for the first quarter.

In the June quarter, fuel cost jumped nearly 86% to ₹10,832.9 crore while the total expenses climbed 34% to ₹25,852.5 crore during the same period.

The airline's yield increased to ₹64 per kilometre in the latest June quarter from ₹4.98 per kilometre recorded in the year-to-date period. RASK or Revenue per Available Seat Kilometre too rose to ₹5.66 from ₹4.86.

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Wednesday, July 09, 2025

YOUR MONEY

How to fix being broke by month-end

ANATOMY OF A CASH CRUNCH
87% of people who say they are broke by month-end are not aware of the reasons why.
94% of people who say they are broke by month-end are not aware of the reasons why.
108% of people who say they are broke by month-end are not aware of the reasons why.

TRY TO AVOID THESE COMMON CAUSES

- 1. **Over-spending**: You are spending more than you earn.
- 2. **Under-earning**: You are not earning enough to cover your expenses.
- 3. **Unnecessary expenses**: You are spending on things you don't need.
- 4. **Debt**: You have too much debt.
- 5. **Emergency fund**: You don't have an emergency fund.

What's stronger than individuals? Processes.

Individuals may change, processes stay consistent. Tried and tested processes are fundamental to an organisation's success, as they clearly define how things are done. That's why it is imperative to choose an investment manager backed by strong processes, not just by competent individuals. Strong processes and risk management help you achieve your goals steadily and sustainably.

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बिहार सहकार

कार्यालय, नगर पंचायत, बहादुरगंज जिला-किशनगंज

निविदा आमंत्रण की सूचना

(ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

संख्या- NIT No./05-2026-27 (Re-Tender)

- विमानवाता को चयनन एवं पास
- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना प्रिन्ट की तिथि
- ग्री ब्रीड सीटिंग की तिथि एवं पास एवं स्वल्प
- परिष्कार विवरण प्रमाण पत्र की तिथि एवं स्वल्प
- संप्रेषक द्वारा निविदा अवरुद्ध करने की अंतिम तिथि
- उपस्थिति की सूचना प्रेषित की तिथि
- निविदा सीट प्रेषित की तिथि
- अवधि की विस्तार-

कार्यवाही प्रदर्शिका, नगर पंचायत बहादुरगंज।

दिनांक-22.07.2026

दिनांक-11.08.2026 को समय 01:00 बजे अवरुद्ध

दिनांक-11.08.2026 से दिनांक-17.08.2026 को 03:00 बजे अवरुद्ध। (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

दिनांक-17.08.2026 समय 05:00 बजे अवरुद्ध करने तक (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

दिनांक-18.08.2026 समय 02:00 बजे अवरुद्ध

उपस्थिति की सूचना प्रेषित करने के उपरान्त निविदाप्रमुख

क्र. संख्या	कार्य का नाम	आवृत्ति (प्र. सं.)	अवधि की सीमा (मिनट में)	उपस्थिति के माध्यम से	उपस्थिति के माध्यम से	Bid Processing fee (Through Online Payment में)	कार्य अवधि की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Samrat Ashoka Bhawan at Nagar Panchayat Bahadurganj.	1,56,97,150.00	3,14,00,000	10,00,000		As per e Proc2	12 Months

नोट: Bidders Should submit Bid Processing fee through Online Payment as mentioned on Website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in

9 निविदा की वेबसाइट अवधि: 120 दिन (निविदा अवरुद्ध करने की अंतिम तिथि से)

10 निविदा प्रिन्ट आमंत्रण सूचना विभाग वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in अथवा www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdihar में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यवाही प्रदर्शिका,
नगर पंचायत बहादुरगंज

PR. No. 008508 (B&C) 2026-27

बिहार में शराब को व्यापार, बिक्री एवं सेवन अवरुद्ध है।

इससे संबंधित निष्काशक इस नंबर पर संपर्क करेंगे, आपकी जानकारी के लिए सूची जाएगी।

टॉल फ्री नं- 15545 24 1800 345 6268

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Have fun with facts on Sundays

SPORT

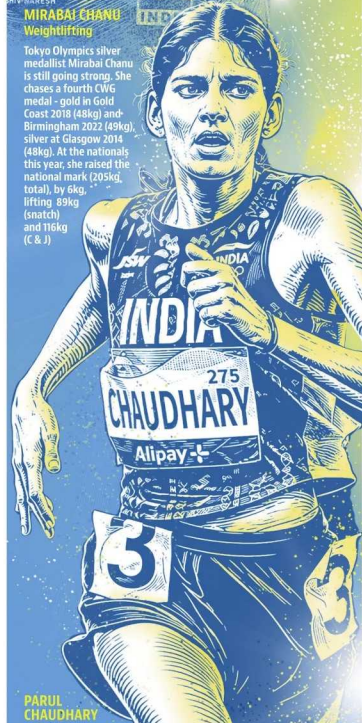
INDIA RETURN TO A GAMES WITH HISTORY

As the Glasgow Commonwealth Games got underway, a look at India's past showing and their best medal contenders in Scotland



MIRABAI CHANU
Weightlifting

Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Mirabai Chanu is still going strong. She chased a fourth CWG medal—gold in Gold Coast 2018 (48kg) and Birmingham 2022 (49kg), silver at Glasgow 2014 (48kg). At the nationals this year, she raised the national mark (205kg, total), by 6kg, lifting 89kg (snatch) and 116kg (C & J).



PARUL CHAUDHARY
3000m steeplechase

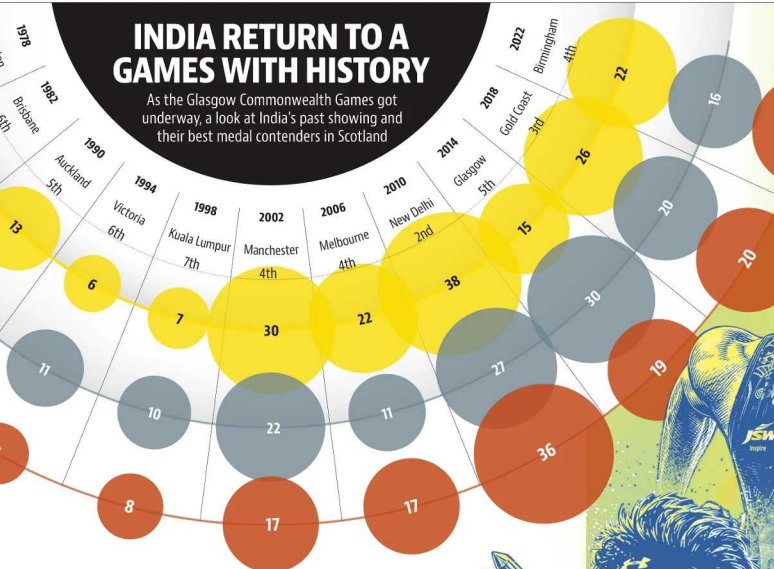
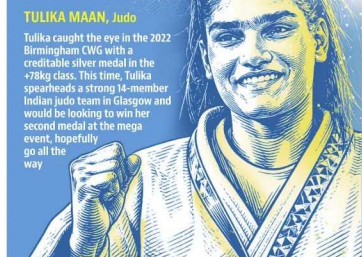
The 2023 Asian Games champion is peaking nicely before the year's two major events—CWG and Asian Games. She clocked 15:04.26 in 5000m at a meet in Nita, a new national mark. She just missed her steeplechase national mark at the Shanghai D/L (9:12.46) while finishing seventh.

LOVLINA BORGHAIN, Boxing

The 2021 Tokyo Olympics 69kg bronze medalist has settled in middleweight (75kg) with a string of good showings in the last few years. A 2023 world champion and Asian Games silver medalist, she will face strong competition from Irish world champion Aislinn O'Rourke and Australia's Emma-Sue Grentree, the world's bronze medalist.

TULIKA MAAN, Judo

Tulika caught the eye in the 2022 Birmingham CWG with a credible silver medal in the +78kg class. This time, Tulika spearheads a strong 14-member Indian judo team in Glasgow—and would be looking to win her second medal at the mega event, hopefully go all the way.



INDIA'S MEDAL HOPES AT CWG

A shortened programme will see wrestlers and shooters missing out but there is plenty to be gained for the track and field athletes, boxers and lifters

Avishek Roy
avishek.roy@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: It started with the great Milkha Singh. After independence, India didn't compete in the 1950 Games and the 1954 edition saw them return empty-handed. But by the time the 1958 Games in Cardiff rolled around, Milkha Singh was ready to make his mark. He won gold in the 440 yards sprint with a timing of 46.6s, this was also India's first gold medal at the Commonwealth level. It announced his and India's arrival on the world stage.

The Commonwealth Games have been a stepping stone for Indian athletes to test themselves before the grueling multi-sport showpiece events like the Asian Games and the Olympics. In some disciplines, such as athletics, swimming and cycling, the field has been world-class, making podium finishes tougher for Indian athletes. In others, like boxing, shooting and weightlifting, India enters prepared for a bigger haul. However, India's performance at this edition cannot be judged only by its position in the overall medal tally because of the curtailed sports programme. Several disciplines like wrestling, badminton and table tennis, which traditionally provided India with the bulk of its medals, were removed from the roster.

Therefore, the results will need to be viewed as performances in individual disciplines and from the perspective of India's preparation for the Asian Games, which are barely two months away. That a CWG is being held this time is itself an achievement for organisers Commonwealth Sport. At one point, it looked as though the multi-sport event would fall apart after Victoria, Australia, withdrew as host due to escalating costs. Glasgow saved the 2026 Commonwealth Games by stepping in as host at the last minute and agreeing to organise a truncated Games with fewer sports, resources and venues.

India will further boost the Games by organising a full programme in Ahmedabad in 2030. Glasgow 2026 will therefore feature only 10 sports and six para sports, hosted across four venues within a concentrated eight-mile corridor. Four of Glasgow's iconic venues—Scotstoun Stadium, the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), the Glasgow International Arena and Tollcross International Swimming Centre—will host the Games. The organisers are promoting the 11-day event as a celebration that combines "world-class sport with a future-focused vision, built and delivered by the vibrant spirit of Glasgow".

India has a contingent of 126 athletes, including 29 para athletes, who will compete in 13 sports. Among them, boxing and weightlifting should fetch India the maximum dividends. Track and field has always been a tough proposition at the CWG with the presence of England, Australia, Canada and the African nations. But India did well to secure eight medals (4-4-3) in the previous edition in Birmingham, and, going by the way national records have tumbled this season, the performances of the country's track and field athletes will be interesting to watch.

Track and field

The biggest star leading India's campaign will be two-time Olympic and world medalist Neeraj Chopra. Chopra won the gold medal at the 2018 CWG in Gold Coast, and in a way it was his first major triumph on the international stage that set him on the path to phenomenal success at the highest level of the sport. He missed the 2022 CWG due to an injury but is back for Glasgow—this time navigating a difficult phase of his career at 28. He missed a medal at the 2025 World Championships and has struggled with back and hamstring injuries.

After a nine-month injury lay-off, he returned to action at the Doha Diamond League with a throw of 85.67m. Though he finished fourth, the performance has renewed his hunger and fire to deliver at the world level. The javelin field, though, is one of the toughest, and the competition will be no less intense than the Olympics. From reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem—a bulky thrower capable of monstrous 90m-plus throws—to multiple world medalist and 2024 Olympic medalist Anderson Peters of Grenada, world leader this season Ramesh Tharanga Pathirage of Sri Lanka, who threw 92.62m at the Rome Diamond League, and current world champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago. It will be the most anticipated event. Not to forget Rohit Yadav, who threw 87.05m to become the second-best thrower this season.

It is not only Chopra who will be searching for redemption in Glasgow; there will be Murali Sreesankar as well. The long jumper has made an impressive comeback after a knee surgery. Since his comeback, he has consistently cleared the 8m mark. The silver medalist from the last edition is among the medal contenders with a jump of 8.38m this season. In the high jump, Sarvesh Anil Kushare has been steadily raising the bar, whether by qualifying for the 2025 World Championships final or breaking the national record (2.31m) this season. The Paris Olympian is fourth on the world list this season. England's Kimani Jack has also cleared 2.31m. The biggest attraction, however, will be Olympic and world champion Hamish Kerr.

Tejaswin Shankar, the bronze medalist in the high jump at the last edition, will compete in the decathlon, the grueling event in which the Asian Games silver medalist has been setting new benchmarks. Hopes will also be high for steeplechase Parul Chaudhary and long-distance runner Gulveer Singh, while the spotlight will also be on 19-year-old high jump sensation Pooja, already an Asian Championships gold medalist and national record holder (1.93m), and Gurinder Singh, who set the national 100m record of 10.09 seconds at the Federation Cup.

Boxing

Boxing fetched India seven medals at the Birmingham CWG, and with a full-strength squad of 14 boxers in Glasgow, India should be looking for an improved haul this time. Spearheaded by Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), it will also provide a good platform for some of the new faces, such as Adumani Singh (55kg) and Aditya Pratap (63kg), to compete fearlessly. For the experienced Salsibi Chaudhary, a two-time world youth champion who beat Nikhat Zareen in the trials, it will be a big opportunity to cement her place in the team. The team will also look to Paris Olympians Preeti Saipawar (54kg) and Jaisime Lamoria (57kg) to return with gold medals.

Weightlifting

Leading the charge will be none other than Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Mirabai Chanu, who remains a force to reckon with when it comes to high-stakes global competition. The weightlifting squad was hit by doping cases, leading to the original 16-member squad being reduced to 12.

Judo and bowls

The 14-member judo team is also expected to improve upon its show of three medals from the last edition. Birmingham silver medalist Tulika Maan and Inunagani Takahelambam, who ended India's 13-year wait for an Asian Championships medal in April, will be the ones to watch out for. India also won a gold and a silver in lawn bowls at the last edition, and they will be looking to repeat that performance. A strong showing at the CWG will provide Indian athletes an ideal launchpad for the Asian Games and the LA Olympics.

PARA ATHLETES

2 MEN
9 WOMEN

INDIA'S CONTINGENT

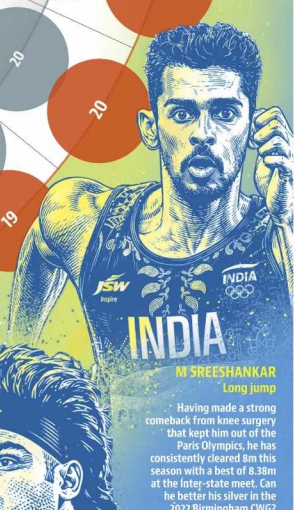
126 TOTAL STRENGTH (INCLUDING PARA)

13 NUMBER OF SPORTS

6 Track & cycling
5 Swimming
3 Lawn bowls
3 Artistic gymnastics
4 Weightlifting
5 Judo
7 Boxing
7 Track and field

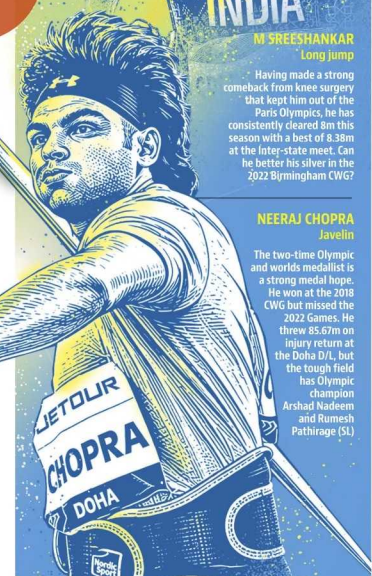
2 Athletics
3 Powerlifting
4 Para swimming
4 Para table tennis
1 Track & cycling

29 PARA TOTAL STRENGTH
5 PARA NUMBER OF SPORTS



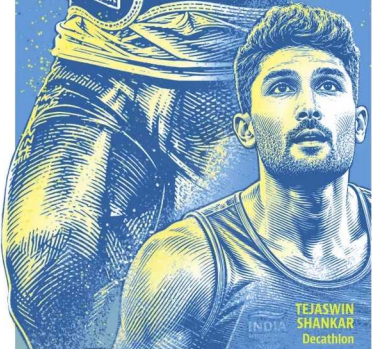
M SREESHANKAR
Long jump

Having made a strong comeback from knee surgery that kept him out of the Paris Olympics, he has consistently cleared 8m this season with a best of 8.38m at the inter-state meet. Can he better his silver in the 2022 Birmingham CWG?



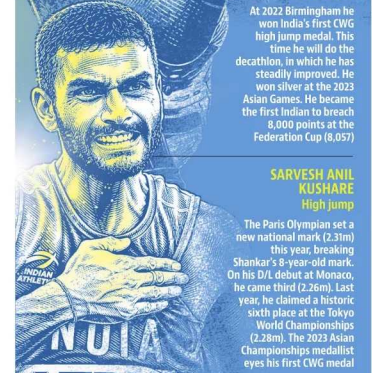
NEERAJ CHOPRA
Javelin

The two-time Olympic and worlds medalist is a strong medal hope. He won at the 2018 CWG but missed the 2022 Games. He threw 85.67m on injury return at the Doha D/L, but the tough field has Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem and Ramesh Pathirage (SL).



TEJASWIN SHANKAR
Decathlon

At 2023 Birmingham he won India's first CWG high jump medal. This time he will do the decathlon, in which he has steadily improved. He won silver at the 2023 Asian Games. He became the first Indian to breach 8,000 points at the Federation Cup (8,057).



SARVESH ANIL KUSHARE
High jump

The Paris Olympian set a new national mark (2.31m) this year, breaking Shankar's 8-year-old mark. On his D/L debut at Monaco, he came third (2.26m). Last year, he claimed a historic sixth place at the Tokyo World Championships (2.28m). The 2023 Asian Championships medalist eyes his first CWG medal.

GLASGOW 2026 HAS A CURTAILED SPORTS PROGRAMME

10 NO OF SPORTS	4 VENUES	3,000 NO OF ATHLETES
6 PARA SPORTS	74 NATIONS AND TERRITORIES	215 MEDAL EVENTS