The Editorial Page: Neither government nor Opposition can look youth in the eye on education 12

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## Happening today

- **SC WILL** hear a plea by former minister and DMK leader V Senthil Balaji seeking anticipatory bail in a case pertaining to alleged irregularities in TASMAC.
- **DELHI HC** will hear an appeal by Umar Khalid challenging the trial court's July 4 decision to dismiss his bail application.

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### Business as Usual

By EP UNNY

DAY AFTER LOK SABHA, RAJYA SABHA PASSES BILL BY VOICE VOTE AS OPPOSITION WALKS OUT

# House clears anti-paper leak Bill, PM says nobody will be spared

## Kharge raises police action on protesters: 'If Shah cannot answer, he should resign'

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge in Rajya Sabha, Thursday. PTI

**Divya A, Nikhil Ghanekar, Damini Nath & Jatin Anand**
*New Delhi, July 30*

A DAY after it was cleared by the Lok Sabha, the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, which provides for stricter punishment for paper leaks, was discussed and passed by the Rajya Sabha through voice vote on Thursday.

Hours later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted a video on Instagram in which he assured that "any paper mafia, paper leak gang, gang which tries to play with the future of the youth of the country would not be spared".

Underlining that his government had delivered on its promise to bring a tough law, he said: "We are taking step after step towards creating a reliable education system, whether it is the creation of a task force, fast-track courts, taking suggestions from states... A nationwide reform in education sector has become compulsory... work in this direction will continue."

Earlier, before Union Minister Jitendra Singh could respond to the debate on the Bill in the Rajya Sabha, INDIA bloc MPs walked out, demanding that Home Minister Amit Shah make a statement on the police action against protesting students last week. Singh said it was unfortunate that the MPs who had spoken most vociferously during the debate had walked out.

Referring to the Opposition members raising the issue of police action on students,

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Police rules allow pellet gun use, can look at specific cases, says SC

### CJI bench to Govt: Preserve ammunition log of RAF personnel on Delhi protest duty

**Ananthakrishnan G**
*New Delhi, July 30*

STATING THAT the existing police regulations allow the use of pellet guns in exceptional circumstances for crowd control, the Supreme Court on Thursday said they can only be banned if these rules are found to be unconstitutional. The court, however, said it was open to examining specific allegations of misuse on a case-by-case basis.

The bench, led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, was hearing petitions — filed by Yashovardhan Azad, former Intelligence Bureau Special Director and Central Information Commissioner, and two persons who allegedly sustained pellet gun injuries during the recent student protests in the Capital — seeking a ban on the use of pellet guns when dealing with civilian crowds.

The bench, which included Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, also directed the Centre to preserve the ammunition log of the Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel deployed during the protest march to Parliament on July 20. The court issued notices to

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POLITICS PAGE 8

PARLIAMENT CLEARS BILL MAKING INSULT TO VANDE MATARAM A PUNISHABLE OFFENCE

WHY CENTRE IS HOLDING BACK KEY BILLS AS LOGJAM IN HOUSE CONTINUES

## Delhi govt: No action on NEET protesters, except those with criminal past

**Gayathri Mani**
*New Delhi, July 30*

AFTER FOUR BJP-ruled states — Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam and Bihar — began withdrawing cases against NEET-UG protesters following the Cockroach Janta Party's threat of a fresh stir, Delhi followed suit on Thursday.

In an order issued by the Home Department, the government approved the withdrawal of 13 FIRs registered in connection with the CJP-led protests, stating that no action will be taken against those who participated. However, this won't include those with criminal antecedents.

"As of 6 pm on 29.07.2026, a total of 13 cases were registered by Delhi Police in connection with the protests relating to the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Fudged records to pay party faithful: CAG flags gaps in Amphan cyclone relief under TMC govt

16 districts in West Bengal were affected by Amphan. EXPRESS FILE

### Raises questions over classification of 'damaged houses', grants to those rejected

**Atri Mitra**
*Kolkata, July 30*

THE USE of identical photographs for multiple claims, incorrect classification of damaged houses, duplicate transactions worth Rs 18.07 crore, and grants sanctioned on the recommendations of local political leaders. These are some of the irregularities that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has flagged in its report on relief distribution and restoration work in West Bengal following Cyclone Amphan in 2020. The CAG has noted that the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government's estimates of damage were "not supported by proper evidence".

The auditor analysed 31,457 photographs and found that in 3,126 cases identical photographs were uploaded against the names of multiple beneficiaries.

This suggested that undue house-building grants might have been extended, though the exact amount could not be quantified because the photographs were not linked to beneficiary forms, the CAG said. Using a data analytics tool to parse through the records of

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Shouldn't there be show of fairness: SC on PM panel choosing CEC

### Office of PM has sanctity attached to it, counters Centre

**Ananthakrishnan G**
*New Delhi, July 30*

QUESTIONING THE appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs) by a three-member committee comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Minister and the Leader of Opposition, the Supreme Court on Thursday asked "should there be no show of fairness" in the procedure.

The bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and S C Sharma was hearing petitions challenging the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, which provides for their selection by the three-member panel.

Defending the law, the Centre, represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, said it would be wrong to assume that the PM and the minister would "not act in the interest of democracy" because they have a "numerical majority" in the selection procedure.

Mehta submitted that the office of the PM has a "sanctity attached" to it and doubting the decision of the selection committee would undermine the

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD P 14

DRONE STRIKE NEAR SUEZ RAISES MORE SECURITY THREATS

## Indian hockey ditches iconic blue for saffron; not consulted: 5 players, official

**Mihir Vasavda**
*Mumbai, July 30*

Indian men's hockey team will be seen in their new jersey at the World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium next month. @THEHOCKEYINDIA

SINCE 1928, Indian hockey team has played in different shades of blue or white almost every time at a major tournament. That will change next month.

When Harmanpreet Singh and Salima Tete lead the men's and women's teams for the World Cup, starting August 15 in Belgium and the Netherlands, the players will swap the iconic blue jersey that has defined the national side for a saffron-coloured one. Hockey India said the "primary consideration was technical" since the blue uniform blended with the blue turf and made it difficult for a player to spot a teammate easily.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS special

## From govt to pvt: In 3 yrs, 1.54 lakh J&K Bank accounts were not linked to PAN

**Ritu Sarin**
*New Delhi, July 30*

AN INCOME Tax probe has found that 1.54 lakh accounts were opened with J&K Bank between 2021 and 2024 without any PAN details linked to them. And, deposits in such accounts with transactions touching Rs 15 lakh or more in a financial year totalled Rs 4.88 lakh crore, records investigated by *The Indian Express* show.

So much so that in its final report submitted late last year, the I-T Department said the probe's findings point to a "systemic failure", warning that the unlinked accounts, with their substantial transaction volumes, present "a staggering potential avenue for tax evasion".

Most accounts under the I-T scanner were Savings Bank accounts, opened merely by filling Form 60, a "declaration form" used by people without PAN cards. Probe found non-PAN-linked accounts included:

- 32,498 Government-linked

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**• Crunching numbers**

₹4.88 lakh crore

Deposits in accounts not linked to PAN with transactions of Rs 15 lakh+ in a financial year

| Accounts not linked to PAN | |
|---|---|
| Govt-associated | Private |
| 32,498 | 1.25 lakh |

**10,464:** Private accounts with credits of ₹50 lakh or more in a financial year

• CM HIMANTA SEEKS CENTRAL RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PACKAGE

## 'Not even our grandfathers saw this': Upper Assam reels as floods wash away villages

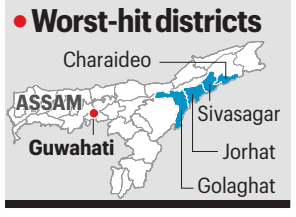
**Swati Mishra & Rajat Sain**
*Nepalikhuti (Sivasagar), July 30*

"THE 19TH is cursed for Assam," sighs cab driver Sumu on the way from Dibrugarh to Sivasagar. "Zubeen Da (singer Zubeen Garg) left us on the 19th... and then, on the 19th, came this flood that swept everything away."

In Lower Assam, flooding is practically a season. It arrives every year, sometimes forgiving, sometimes merciless. But

In Nepalikhuti village in Assam's Sivasagar district. RAJAT SAIN

**• Worst-hit districts**




Upper Assam doesn't know that rhythm. So, when heavy rains in the Naga Hills broke over the region on July 19, it caught everyone completely off guard.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

[ FROM PAGE 1 | FULL REPORTS ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM ]

# Bill passed

Singh said: "There was also mention of the so-called brutality unleashed on the children. It is not so. There has not been any casualty reported".

Initiating the discussion in the afternoon, Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge demanded Shah's resignation. "*Paper churane wale bachte rahe, mehnat karne wale pit te rahe. Yeh kaisa nyay* (Those behind paper leaks kept escaping, those who worked hard kept getting beaten up. What kind of justice is this)," he said, alleging that the government had ignored demands for a strong law against paper leaks in 2024.

Singh, who moved the Bill in the House, said the amendments reflect the government's willingness to "learn from experience" after the implementation of the 2024 law.

However, Kharge said the amendments merely enhanced penalties and created new enforcement mechanisms without addressing the root causes of recurring paper leaks.

Amid repeated interruptions by the treasury benches during his hour-long interjection, Kharge questioned the use of force against students and sought accountability for the police action. "Who authorised the use of lathicharges, tear gas and pellet guns on students? Who were the people in plainclothes beating up students? Under whose orders do the RAF and CRPF operate? The country wants answers. If the Home Minister cannot answer, he should resign," he said.

"This government wants to protect Home Minister Amit Shah, but it will not be able to protect him for long," he added.

Kharge claimed that over 100 students were injured and several were hospitalised during the protest last week. "Many students are admitted to hospitals in critical condition. Many children have suffered pellet gun injuries on their bodies and eyes. Several students are hospitalised; some have lost their eyesight, while many have suffered broken limbs. Home Minister Amit Shah is responsible for this," he said.

Amid sloganeering from the treasury benches, Opposition MPs sought an apology from Union Minister Giriraj Singh as he alleged foreign funding during protests.

"What the government is doing today, we had suggested back in 2024, but at that time the government did not listen to us. Back then, the Lok Sabha elections were approaching, and the government wanted to play politics while Rahul Gandhi was raising questions about paper leaks during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra," Kharge said.

The Congress president also accused the Centre of weakening academic freedom and promoting ideological appointments in higher educational institutions. He said educational institutions were being filled with people affiliated to the RSS.

Earlier in the day, as the House was informed that the Bill would be taken up for consideration, Congress MP Pramod Tiwari, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, said they wanted Shah to issue a statement on the police crackdown on protesters.

While Opposition members raised slogans of "Amit Shah *sadan mai aao* (come to the House)", Union Minister J P Nadda said: "I want to tell the House that the Opposition's stance has been negative since this session began. They only want to interrupt; they want to shift goalposts."

The Opposition staged a walkout before the House reconvened in the afternoon.

During the discussion on the Bill, several Opposition MPs raised the demand to do away with NEET altogether, returning to a decentralised system.

DMK MP Tiruchi Siva asked how one exam system could work in a diverse country like India. He said through NEET, the "criteria to become a medical student is money."

SP MP Ram Gopal Yadav, too, demanded that the exam be handed back to the states. CPI(M) MP John Brittas and RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha called for the NTA to be abolished.

Meanwhile, defending Shah, BJP MP Brij Lal, who is a retired Uttar Pradesh DGP, said: "Whenever there is a law and order situation, the magistrate decides, along with police officers, on the use of force."

# CAG

19.38 lakh beneficiaries in six districts, the CAG also found that house-building grants were credited more than once — in some cases up to nine times — into the bank accounts of 9,226 beneficiaries through 18,891 transactions. No mechanism existed to prevent duplicate payments, the report noted.

The report also confirms *The Indian Express*'s report at the time on local leaders with ties to political parties benefiting from relief disbursal. The CAG found that the districts of North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas withdrew Rs 1,383.23 crore out of the total house-building grant of Rs 1,948.51 crore — nearly 71% — from the treasury and parked it in commercial bank accounts, before making DBTs. This was "highly irregular" under the West Bengal Treasury Rules, the auditor noted. These grants were often sanctioned based on the recommendations of local leaders without mandatory field inspections and the reports of local inquiry committees were ignored, the auditor said.

For instance, in South 24 Parganas, Rs 22.84 crore was disbursed in the Magrahat-I block and Maheshtala Municipality based on single-page applications that did not have Aadhaar or voter ID details, bank passbooks, inspection reports, or photos of damaged houses.

Among other things, the audit questioned the classification of damaged houses. "It is evident that either many partially damaged houses were included in the category of fully damaged houses during assessment or these households were included later for reasons not on record," the report said. It flagged Purulia as an anomaly, noting that although the western district was not among the worst affected, all damaged homes there were categorised as "fully damaged".

The audit also identified doubtful transactions worth around Rs 5 crore. Using the auditing software, the CAG found that Rs 93.95 lakh was paid to 1,576 beneficiaries whose claims had already been rejected.

Sixteen of West Bengal's 23 districts were affected in Amphan. The government, in a memorandum submitted in June 2020, estimated losses at Rs 1.02 lakh crore and sought Rs 35,018 crore NDRF assistance.

IMCT, in its September 2020 report, recommended relief of Rs 2,500.29 crore. After deliberations of National Executive Committee, relief of Rs 2,707.77 crore was approved. MHA released Rs 2,250.28 crore from NDRF after adjusting available SDRF balance.

# 1.54 lakh accounts had no PAN

accounts with credits of Rs 4,68,508 crore, including accounts of Self Help Group (SHG) and Cluster Level Federation (CLF) members.

- 1.25 lakh private accounts with total credits of Rs 36,789 crore.
- 10,464 private accounts with credits of Rs 50 lakh or more in a financial year -- of these, 566 belonged to 510 individuals with PAN cards but these details were not furnished to the Bank while opening the accounts.

Asked about the probe, J&K Bank told *The Indian Express* (see page 2) that it subsequently called for a "supervisory meeting" with the RBI and submitted a "comprehensive compliance" report. It said PAN linking has now been made mandatory for a majority of categories of accounts, including current accounts.

The probe began with the Srinagar-based bank handing over a data dump to Income Tax authorities, during the 2024 Assembly elections, and later widened into a full-fledged "open inquiry" with the permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

A key finding: "account holders were setting up multifarious bank accounts in the names of individuals and entities without any PAN linked with them"; "large transactions were made through the bank which were not recorded or highlighted to the Income Tax Department".

In all, 68 such bank accounts, opened between 2004 and 2013, were traced, several of them belonging to textile companies located in the valley. Substantial transactions were carried out in these unlinked accounts without being reported to the I-T Department, the probe report states.

Once the scope of the probe was widened, the J&K Bank admitted it had not flagged the problem of large transactions on unlinked accounts opened only through Form 60, and that it was charging 20% TDS on interest for these unlinked accounts, against 10% for PAN-linked account holders.

The probe found that unlinked accounts had also been opened for availing Government schemes, including J&K Bank Bima Bachat Khata, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), Subsidy Reserve Fund Account (SRFA) and J&K's Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative scheme.

For instance, cumulative credits of Rs 1.55 crore were recorded in SBNCCs (Savings Accounts for NCC Cadets), the probe found.

The probe also analysed the top 30 non-PAN linked private accounts for which PAN numbers were traced by the I-T Department, comparing them with declarations in Income Tax Returns (ITRs). In 11 cases, including owners of cement stores, gas stations, fabric stores and a hospital, it found credits in the J&K Bank to be higher than what had been declared in ITRs.

A glaring example was that of an account-holder with credits of Rs 4.05 crore in a non-PAN linked account in 2023-24, but a gross income of Rs 3.22 lakh shown in the ITR for that year. There was also an infrastructure company that deposited Rs 57.88 crore in its J&K Bank account in the same year but showed gross receipts of only Rs 38.49 crore in its ITR.

The I-T Department noted that "such a practice helps the assessee conceal his/ her assets from the Income Tax scanner as no PAN has been linked to such accounts and it is suspected that this is causing huge loss of revenue to the exchequer. This tax evasion tactic has been possible only because such Non PAN linked accounts were allowed to be opened by the J&K Bank".

The I-T Department recommended that if a specified threshold of quantum of deposits in a non-PAN account is breached, Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) should be filed with the Department and findings shared with the RBI. These and other recommendations, it noted, will promote greater accountability and transparency, as well as "enforcement of tax compliance, prevention of money laundering & terror financing and ensuring the integrity and stability of the financial stability of India".

## Strengthened framework: J&K Bank

Responding to queries from *The Indian Express* on the I-T probe, J&K Bank's Group Compliance Officer said: "The matter arose from a data dump submitted during an exercise undertaken during the election process, following which the information was examined by the Income Tax Department and was subsequently subjected to RBI and governmental scrutiny.

"The bank has comprehensively addressed the observations by strengthening its PAN/KYC and AML (anti money laundering)/CFT (Counter Financing of Terrorism) framework. While acceptance of Form 60 is a legally permitted mechanism under the Income-tax rules for eligible customers, the Bank has significantly enhanced monitoring by mandating PAN for certain identified categories of accounts, automating threshold-based surveillance and ensuring STR (Suspicious Transaction Reports) reporting, wherever warranted, in full compliance with RBI, and statutory guidelines.

"The RBI reviewed the matter during a supervisory meeting with the Bank's senior management and advised further strengthening of the existing framework. The Bank promptly implemented the required enhancements, reinforced its internal controls and submitted a comprehensive compliance report to the RBI.

"The Bank has strengthened its PAN compliance framework through technology-driven controls, making PAN mandatory for identified categories of accounts and by automating the monitoring of existing accounts crossing prescribed thresholds. The Bank has instituted a mechanism of periodic quarterly review by the Chief Data Officer to ensure availability of PAN details in respect of accounts where PAN has been made mandatory, which is placed before the Audit Committee of the Board.

"The Bank's policy is to ensure regulatory compliance while protecting customer interests. Accordingly, rather than closing accounts, customers are provided adequate opportunity to submit PAN. Where PAN is not furnished despite due notice, debit operations are restricted till submission and validation of PAN.

"The revised framework provides for continuous system-based monitoring, automatic identification of threshold-triggered accounts, time-bound PAN compliance through customer notifications, and regulatory restrictions only in cases of continued non-compliance, with immediate restoration upon PAN validation. The exercise has further strengthened the Bank's governance and compliance framework."

# CEC

constitutional trust reposed in elected institutions. He said that if the PM was not to be trusted in the discharge of his constitutional duties, should he be asked to consult "outsiders, including a former judge of this Hon'ble Court," while selecting his Cabinet members too.

"Now, we are not dealing with a case of appointment of a minister as such. We find the minister is already there. Now, it's time for the PM to select one of his Cabinet members. It becomes 2:1, two on the side of the Cabinet, one on the side of the Opposition," Justice Datta said.

Mehta urged the court to refer the matter to a Constitution Bench, saying it involves questions of constitutional importance. "This needs examination by a larger bench, why independence is being talked about of only one office, and why only one organ can be trusted and others cannot be," he said.

The bench reserved its decision on this request.

"Is it not the PM's choice of minister in this committee... he may appoint the home minister, animal husbandry minister or fisheries minister or minister without portfolio... the moment Your Lordship says because there is two versus one, Your Lordships are expressing a potential lack of faith," Mehta said.

"...Not lack of faith... Election Commissioner has to be an independent person. Who is selecting him? We find that yes, a committee framed under a law under Article 324 is selecting him. But should that committee not consist of persons... should there be no show of fairness? We are not saying that no fairness is being achieved by this committee. Just like justice is not only to be done, it has to be shown to be done, we are on that second part," Justice Datta said.

Mehta said a "five-judge bench of this court in Manoj Narula vs Union of India has stressed the importance of the constitutional trust which is reposed in the PM to choose and appoint the right person as a minister and therefore... have a direct bearing on prejudicial arguments raised about the composition of the committee in question." "It is not a question of appointment of a minister... who should be in his Cabinet is only PM's prerogative. Now, that prerogative has been exercised, somebody is there in the Cabinet. Now you go a step further... You have 25 Cabinet ministers, and the PM is conferred the authority to select 1 among these 25," Justice Datta said.

"The law laid down in Manoj Narula is that the office of the PM has a sanctity attached... It is not on him selecting the home minister as part of his committee... I am saying if his decision is not to be trusted... then why not have that, even while selecting his Cabinet, he must consult some former judge or some outsider," Mehta responded. He said his point was that "whether one organ of the state would have lack of faith in the decision" of the PM-led panel, as such lack of faith "would necessarily be based on the fact that the PM and the other minister would... not act in the interest of democracy, ..."

# Hockey

They added that the decision was based on "recommendations and detailed consultations" with the players and support staff.

However, *The Indian Express* spoke to five members across the men's and women's teams, and each denied being part of the process. "I wasn't asked or consulted. It is not true," said one of the members, who requested anonymity. All five said they did not speak for the entire group, but their response suggests that consultations, if any, were not unanimous.

This newspaper has also learnt that some of Hockey India's top officials, including members of the executive committee, were not informed or consulted about the move. "I was not aware of the change in jersey colour nor was I part of an official meeting where this was discussed," an executive committee member told this paper.

Hockey India secretary general Bhola Nath Singh and president Dilip Tirkey could not be reached for comment.

Hockey India declined to comment when asked specifically who made the call to change the jersey colour.

But the decision drew backlash, including from former players. "I am not inspired when I look at this jersey," Vasudevan Baskaran, who was India's captain when the team won the gold medal at the 1980 Olympics, told *The Indian Express*.

"Since 1928, great Indian players have worn the blue shirt. Suddenly, what is the reason for this change? Is it Government's decision or Hockey India's? If it is Hockey India's, then they should have consulted former and current players first," he said.

Baskaran wondered if Hockey India had taken the Government's permission before "such a significant change".

"Recently, we saw the All India Football Federation, which is headed by a politician, try and change the name to Football Federation of Bharat. It is a tamasha, I am hurt," he said.

Hockey India said in a statement: "It was observed that the blue playing uniform tended to blend/ merge with the blue synthetic playing surface, which is now the standard colour of international hockey pitches. This visual similarity affected on-field clarity and visibility for the players."

It said: "In light of the above, the coaches and players suggested alternative colours such as yellow or saffron. After careful consideration, saffron was finalised. Apart from addressing the technical requirement, saffron also holds deep significance as one of the colours of our National Flag, symbolising courage, sacrifice and national pride."

Blue has remained a colour entrenched in Indian sport for decades. The hockey team has worn the colour in successive Olympic and World Cup campaigns, with one exception in 2014, when it wore yellow because of a sponsor commitment.

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra criticised the change. "Whether they change uniforms or try to rewrite history through education policy, no matter what they do... You have seen what the youth of our country think about this," she told reporters on Thursday.

Odisha ex-CM Naveen Patnaik slammed the decision. He said the "step was taken under pressure from BJP Government in Odisha." "Those in authority may deny it, but the fact is that for the last two years, everybody in Odisha has seen the obsession of this government with changing colours of buildings, buses and even bridges... now the same government has changed the colours of our national team." Hockey India declined to comment on whether the orange kit will also be worn at the Asian Games where the rest of the Indian contingent will be in blue.

# Pellet gun

the Centre, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and RAF. "Prayers (in the petitions) are not to use pellet guns. In exceptional cases, police regulations permit the use of pellet guns. If you are interested in phasing out pellet guns, you will have to challenge that very provision as ultra vires to Article 21," Justice Bagchi said.

The petitioners sought the decommissioning of wholly or partly metallic kinetic projectiles, including pellets fired from pump-action rifles or projectile action guns, for crowd dispersal by law enforcement agencies during civilian assemblies.

They argued that although these guns are described as "less lethal" or "non-lethal" alternatives to firearms, firing them at close range could cause fatal or severe injuries. Appearing for the petitioners, Advocate Vrinda Grover said a document of the BPRD, which prescribes the SOP for crowd control, does not include the use of pellet guns.

Justice Bagchi, however, said the document "is a proposal". The judge said the graded response starts with a declaration of a crowd as an unlawful assembly, an announcement for dispersal, and then the application of appropriate force. "One of those graded approaches includes the use of pellet guns," he said.

Grover argued that the choice of weapon and level of force would have to be based on the "principles of reasonableness, necessity and proportionality". Justice Bagchi reiterated that the prayer for decommissioning of pellet guns was "vague", saying that the rule permitting it would have to be declared ultra vires first. "Here, we are not averse to examining the use of pellets in a particular incident. But when you say that at no stage metallic pellet can be used, you must demonstrate before us that this is (not) a permissive use as per the extant rules governing a graded response to force," Justice Bagchi said.

"Secondly, this graded response to force must clearly remove the use of pellets, when graded response... may permit even the use of bullets in extreme cases," he said, adding, "(allowing) the use of bullets and no use of pellets cannot be on the same plane." The CJI said the petitioners could seek a court order for framing a protocol. Justice Bagchi said the petitioners must indicate any provision in Delhi, or elsewhere, to establish "that the use of pellets appears to be arbitrary, unreasonable and inappropriate... that it must first be rubber pellets and then only metallic pellets." SC asked petitioners to challenge any relevant standing orders.

# Don't elect those facilitating illegal arms licences: Yogi jibe at Ghazipur MP in home turf

**Express News Service**
*Lucknow, July 30*

CM Yogi Adityanath during a programme on Thursday. ANI

IN A veiled jibe at slain gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari and his MP brother Afzal Ansari in their home district Ghazipur, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday appealed to people to elect public representatives who fight for their cause and not those who facilitate illegal arms licences.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones for 268 development projects worth Rs 692 crore in Ghazipur, the CM said, "We do not need public representatives who forge arms licences and use them to commit dacoities and encroach on people's homes. Our government has consigned the mafia to dust. Now, when the son of a low-income family organises a Ramlila, no one dares to brandish weapons and incite riots because they know that anyone who does so will be buried under the soil."

His remarks come in the wake of Ghazipur police filing five FIRs against Mukhtar Ansari's family members, including his wife Afshan Ansari and brother and MP Afzal Ansari, on charges of procuring arms licences on forged documents. Afzal is the local Samajwadi Party MP. "A district that once was home to the ashram of Pauhari Baba and a centre associated with Lord Parashuram and Maharishi Jamadagni should not become a breeding ground for the mafia. These mafia belongs to no one. They exploit the poor, intimidate traders and compromise the safety of daughters," he added.

Adityanath said former MLA Krishnanand Rai fought against the mafia who under the protection of the then government brutally and mercilessly murdered him and seven youths. "Despite all the evidence, the mafia continued to enjoy political protection. But now the mafia can no longer receive such protection. The downfall of those who try to protect them is certain," he asserted.

The Ansari family belongs to the Mohammadabad area of Ghazipur district.

Targeting the Samajwadi Party, the CM said, "They divide society and honour a foreign invader like Salar Masud Ghazi. They used to bow before dreaded mafias who brandished weapons and even went to their graves to offer tributes."

The Chie Minister also recalled Brigadier Abdul Hamid, other brave soldiers and litterateurs who hailed from Ghazipur.

# Bengal eyes tea-led industrial growth in northern region

**Press Trust of India**
*Kolkata, July 30*

THE WEST Bengal government on Thursday held a high-level meeting with industry leaders to chart a roadmap for growth in the northern districts, with a special focus on strengthening the tea sector through global branding, promoting tea tourism and attracting fresh investments to the region, a senior official said.

The meeting, held at state secretariat Nabanna, was attended by Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta, Tourism Minister Shankar Ghosh and around 40 industrialists. They discussed long-term strategies to position north Bengal as a globally recognised tea destination while expanding investment in other sectors, he said.

Addressing reporters after the meeting, Ghosh said the objective was to create a competitive investment climate.

"Our goal is to create an ecosystem that encourages investment through financial incentives and policy support."

# Delhi FIRs

alleged irregularities in the NEET (UG) examination... No adverse legal action will be taken by... police authorities within the national capital against those persons who have been involved in these protests," read the note undersigned by Principal Secretary (Home) Santosh D Vaidya.

The protection, however, will not extend to persons with criminal antecedents, as mandated in the Supreme Court order, it added.

In a statement, Delhi Home Minister, Ashish Sood, said: "The department... has clarified that students who participated peacefully in the protest have no reason for concern or fear. The government fully respects the democratic right to peaceful expression, but no leniency will be shown towards those who disrupt law and order or engage in violent activities."

"This relief," he said, "will not apply to individuals who already have criminal cases registered against them or those who indulged in violence, vandalism, or any other unlawful activities under the guise of the protest. Such persons will face action."

# Assam

The official death toll in the flood-ravaged state this year stands at 78. At its height, the number of people affected by these floods was over 7 lakh, but as the floodwaters gradually receded, it came down to around 3 lakh. Thousands have been displaced — at its peak, over 1.15 lakh were taking shelter in relief camps, which has now come down to 16,556.

For his part, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has sought a Central relief and rehabilitation package after the Inter-Ministerial Central Team concluded its four-day assessment of the flood-hit districts Wednesday. "Our Double Engine Govt will mitigate sufferings of our people," Sarma said on X.

In Nepalikhuti village in Sivasagar's Nazira block, right along the Assam-Nagaland border, Hari Sarma stands under a banyan tree some 200 metres from the Dikhow River, knee-deep in mud and wearing nothing but a pair of shorts. He's lost everything: his tin-roofed house, his clothes, furniture, documents and 15 of his cattle.

"Over 1,200 cows and calves were swept away in an instant across the village," Sarma, a resident of Nepalikhuti, in the revenue village Garhmurmiri, tells *The Indian Express*. He looks down at his shorts. "This is all I have left."

With the IMD issuing an Orange Alert across parts of the Northeast for next three days, residents are an anxious lot. "Not even our grandfathers have witnessed a flood this catastrophic," one resident of Nepalikhuti says.

Nepalikhuti, on the banks of the Dikhow River, which flows from Nagaland into Assam before joining Brahmaputra near Dikhowmukh, bears witness to the devastation of the floods. On July 19, the river that was its lifeline engulfed this village of at least 500, sweeping into homes, breaking down walls and tearing through lives, its surging current taking away everything — clothes, beds, utensils, and cattle.

Residents, many of whom are dairy farmers, say they had little time to think. Many scrambled to rooftops, but even those were swept away.

That's how Krishna Karmakar died. "He scrambled to the rooftop, but water reached that height too," says his cousin Kiran Karmakar. "He was trying to save his son but got swept away."

Several are still missing. But it was when the water receded that the village confronted its biggest challenge: accounting for what it had lost and picking up the pieces.

A suffocating blanket of mud and debris covers the village, and a heavy stench of decay hangs in the air. Roads and houses are coated with quicksand-like sludge. "No one knows what lies beneath the mud around them: decaying livestock or human remains," says Hari Sarma, gesturing towards a mound of sludge.

For many, their entire existence has shrunk into one exhausting, hopeless battle: digging mud out of their homes, bucket by bucket.

That's what Anupal Baruah and his family are now doing. Baruah has two houses by the main road: an old one where the family lives, and a new one, finished only a month ago.

Both houses have now turned to sludge. In the new house —a long-cherished family dream — two feet of heavy mud now coats the floor, and high up on the wall, a dark water stain marks the place where the river peaked at six-and-a-half feet.

Assam government has announced an ex gratia of Rs 9 lakh for kin of those who have died in the floods; and an interim amount of Rs 15,000 for families severely affected in the four worst-hit districts of Sivasagar, Charaideo, Jorhat and Golaghat. **WITH INPUTS FROM SUKRITA BARUAH**

ARRESTED ACCUSED LINKED TO ABSCONDING STONE TRADER

# Birbhum cash seizure climbs to Rs 28.5 cr; 1 held after 48-hr raids

## Robbery probe led to arrest of seven whose interrogation led to the operation

**Sweety Kumari**
*Kolkata, July 30*

POLICE ON Thursday arrested the brother-in-law of absconding stone trader Tullu Mondal, following a 48-hour raid during which they seized Rs 28.5 crore in cash and 15 kg of gold from his residence in Birbhum district, officials said.

Police loaded six trunks with cash and gold, along with two confiscated cupboards in a utility transport vehicle after the intensive search and arrested Muhammad Minar Mondal, a relative of Muhammad Najibuddin alias Tulu Mandal, a prominent local businessman, said to be closely associated with senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Anubrata Mondal.

Police also recovered 15 kg gold during the raids. EXPRESS

"The Birbhum police received information about a huge amount of illegally amassed cash and gold belonging to an organised syndicate led by Muhammad Najibuddin," Superintendent of Police Vidit Raj Bhundesh said.

"During the search at the house of Muhammad Minar Mondal, the police recovered approximately Rs 28.5 crore in cash and 15 kg of gold bars. Necessary legal formalities are underway along with the registration of an FIR," Bhundesh further added.

According to police sources, Bhundesh said that during preliminary questioning, Minar Mondal confessed that the money and gold belonged to Tulu Mandal's illegal organised syndicate.

The operation stemmed from a breakthrough in a robbery investigation. On Tuesday, Mohammad Bazar police arrested seven suspects: Arjun Lohar, Sheikh Giyasuddin, Sheikh Farjuddin, Pulok Saha, Sheikh Firoz Ahmed, Abhinav Bhatsa, and Rabi Kumar Gupta.

After a court remanded them to two days of police custody Wednesday, investigators questioned the accused, whose disclosures led police to Minar Mondal's residence in Deucha late Tuesday.

Mondal was formally taken into custody from his house on Thursday morning and will be produced before a court later in the day.

When reporters questioned Minar while being escorted to a police vehicle, he declined to comment. His son, meanwhile, claimed he was unaware of the cash allegedly hidden inside their family home.

Addressing the media on Wednesday, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari had issued a stern warning against systemic corruption and targeted the previous administration.

"Our government will maintain a zero-tolerance policy against corrupt individuals. No one involved in corruption will be spared. Anyone who has amassed wealth through wrongdoing, looting public assets, or colluding with the then-ruling political party will face the full weight of the law," Adhikari said.

Tullu had figured in the CBI probe into the multi-crore cattle smuggling case.

In August 2022, the agency searched several of his properties, office and godown in the Mohammad Bazar area of the district.

The Enforcement Directorate later summoned him to Delhi for questioning in November that year.

# 397 kg ganja seized, 54 held in 90 days: Thailand, Vietnam routes under scanner at Kolkata airport

**Sweety Kumari**
*Kolkata, July 30*

Narcotics were found in checked-in luggage, hand baggage. EXPRESS

IN THE first quarter of the 2026–27 financial year alone, 54 people—53 Indian nationals and 1 foreign national—were arrested at the Kolkata airport as authorities cracked down on massive ganja smuggling networks.

As per data available with *The Indian Express*, from April to June, the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) under the Office of the Commissioner of Customs (Airport and Air Cargo Complex Commissionerate) registered 58 individual cases and seized a staggering 396.745 kilograms of ganja. This high-volume recovery points to an aggressive, intelligence-led enforcement drive aimed at shutting down key international drug transit routes operating through the region.

Investigation into these smuggling operations revealed that the vast majority of the intercepted narcotics originated in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, with secondary streams arriving on international flights from Phuket, also in Thailand, Vietnam's capital Hanoi, and Singapore.

As per officials, the quarter saw a rapid, month-over-month surge in both detections and intercepts. The trend began in April 2026 with 10 cases logged, resulting in 10 arrests of Indian nationals and the recovery of 37,811 grams (roughly 37.8 kg) of marijuana.

By May, operations accelerated as cases more than doubled to 23, yielding 168,175 grams (around 168.2 kg) of seized contraband and leading to 19 arrests, of which18 were Indian nationals and 1 was a foreign national.

Enforcement reached its peak in June 2026 with 25 distinct cases registered, an interception of 190,759 grams (nearly 190.8 kg) of ganja, and the arrest of 25 Indian nationals. Across all three months, official preliminary financial valuations remained documented at zero pending formal market assessments.

The illicit cargo was split across both checked luggage and hand baggage, officials said. Smugglers used sophisticated concealments to mask the contraband during transit and obscure it from standard X-ray screening or physical Customs checks, they added.

"We have uncovered ganja hidden inside commercial chocolate packets and wrapped sweet containers, built directly into the hollow inner side-walls and lining of trolley bags, packed in multi-layered plastic and vacuum-sealed airtight pouches, and layered between ordinary personal belongings," said an official.

# 5 fast-track courts for trial of paper leak cases in Kolkata, Port Blair

**Tanusree Bose**
*Kolkata, July 30*

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Wednesday designated three fast-track courts in Kolkata and two in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for question paper leak cases. They must complete trials in cases registered under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024 and deliver verdicts within three months of chargesheets being filed.

The development comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement last week that fast-track courts would be set up to try exam malpractice cases, following the NEET paper leak controversy and student protests that culminated in Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation as Union education minister.

Bench 1 of the Calcutta City Sessions Court has jurisdiction over cases investigated by state government agencies across West Bengal. Court No. 2 of the special CBI court within the City Sessions Court will function as a fast-track court for such cases in the state.

The third fast-track court for exam malpractice cases in the state is the court of the First Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) in Kolkata.

The court of the Additional District and Sessions Judge and the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate—both in Port Blair—will hold fast-track trials in exam malpractice cases registered in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The islands fall under the Calcutta High Court's jurisdiction.

The high court notification specifies that any appeal or revision petition against a fast-track magistrate court's order must be made to the corresponding fast-track sessions courts. These designated courts will operate independently and have no link to the 88 other fast-track courts active in the state.

# No coercive action against Abhishek till Aug 6: HC

**Tanusree Bose**
*Kolkata, July 30*

IN A major relief for TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee, the Calcutta High Court Thursday directed police not to take any coercive action against him till the next hearing of his plea seeking the cancellation of multiple FIRs registered against him after Assembly elections.

Presiding over the matter, Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya asked the police not to take any steps against Banerjee in connection with the criminal prosecutions at the Bhabanipur police station (May 27), Kalitala police station (June 1), and Bishnupur police station (June 16).

The court further instructed the state to submit a complete list of all registered FIRs containing specific details against the petitioner. The matter has been posted for further hearing on August 6.

Banerjee's counsel Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayananalso requested protection against any future FIRs arising out of the same pattern. The bench declined to grant blanket protection for future cases, observing that if additional FIRs are to be included, appropriate supplementary pleadings must be filed and the respective complainants impleaded.

# Health dept files police complaints over inter-state 'blood trafficking racket'

**Sweety Kumari**
*Kolkata, July 30*

The state health department has lodged complaints in multiple police stations over allegations of illegal blood and plasma trafficking, as it seeks to accelerate investigations into an alleged inter-state racket involving blood banks.

Written complaints have been filed by Swasthya Bhawan at Sonarpur police station in South 24 Parganas and at Ballygunge, Lake and Beniapukur police stations under the Kolkata Police, according to health department sources. Police have begun preliminary steps to probe the allegations.

A police officer said a request has been sent to Swasthya Bhawan seeking detailed documents and information related to the case.

"We have submitted a written request to Swasthya Bhawan asking for more detailed information and documents related to this incident. Once we receive that data, it will be possible to move the investigation forward more swiftly and effectively," the officer said.

According to preliminary findings, investigators suspect that some blood banks collected blood without adhering to government norms and prescribed protocols. A portion of the collected blood and plasma was allegedly diverted and trafficked to other states.

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RAPE, MURDER OF 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL

## Baruipur case: HC seeks police report on encounter of accused

### Petitioner says police should have ensured adequate security measures while reconstructing crime scene

**Tanusree Bose**
*Kolkata, July 30*

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Thursday sought a detailed report from the District Superintendent of Police (DSP) Baruipur on the encounter of Prabhash Mondal, one of the accused in the rape and murder of an 11-year-old girl in Baruipur earlier this month.

While hearing a Public Interest Litigation, the Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty and Justice Partha Sarathi Chatterjee directed the police to place on record a report in the form of an affidavit explaining the circumstances which led to the encounter and the steps taken by the state authorities.

The next hearing for the case is on August 18.

Senior Advocate Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, representing the petitioner submitted, "The police had taken the accused, Mondal, to the crime scene in order to reconstruct the incident after his arrest. The police should have ensured adequate security measures. If the security had been proper, the accused would not have been able to snatch the revolver, as claimed by the police, and this incident would not have occurred."

Representing the state government, Additional Advocate General Rajdeep Majumdar submitted, "The prime accused was taken to the crime scene on the night of July 7 for reconstruction. It was then that Mondal suddenly snatched a police revolver and opened fire as he tried to escape. He was subsequently injured in retaliatory firing by the police. Mondal was then rushed to a local hospital where he was declared dead."

The AAG further submitted, "The police have registered a suo motu case regarding the incident, and the investigation is currently being supervised by the CID."

A PIL filed by petitioner Shiladitya Rakshit challenged the police claim that the accused had tried to escape during the reconstruction of the crime scene after snatching the service revolver of a police officer in the early hours of July 8, following which he was shot.

According to the police, Mondal had been taken to the spot where the body of the girl was allegedly recovered. The police in their statement claimed that Mondal allegedly had suddenly snatched a service weapon from officer Rony Sarkar of the Special Investigating Team and open fired at the officers while trying to flee. It was then that another officer Arghya Mondal fired back at Mondal as they were unable to catch him. The post mortem examination had revealed two bullet wounds on Mondal's body.

Apart from Mondal, Anand Sardar, Dibakar Sardar, and Kabir Mollah were arrested in connection with the crime.

The spot where Prabhash Mondal was killed in police encounter in Baruipur. FILE

## RG Kar rape, murder case: CBI replaces investigating officer, reconstitutes SIT

**Press Trust of India**
*Kolkata, July 30*

THE CBI has replaced the investigating officer in the R G Kar rape-murder case and constituted a fresh special investigation team (SIT) to carry forward the probe, a senior official said on Thursday.

The central probe agency informed the Sealdah court that it has appointed Sandipani Garg as the new investigating officer (IO), replacing Seema Pahuja, who had been heading the investigation since the case was handed over to the CBI.

The newly constituted SIT also submitted a three-page status report before the court and sought additional time to examine the voluminous case records.

A senior CBI official, on condition of anonymity, said the agency was carrying out a comprehensive review of the investigation.

"The new team has begun examining all records and evidence collected so far. Every aspect of the investigation is being reviewed objectively, and all necessary steps will be taken in accordance with the law. The agency is committed to conducting a fair, impartial and thorough investigation," the official told PTI.

The change in the IO comes amid criticism from the victim's family over the pace and direction of the probe. The family had on several occasions expressed dissatisfaction with the investigation conducted under the previous IO, alleging that certain leads had not been adequately pursued.

Incidentally, the new investigating officer met the victim's mother and current BJP MLA Ratna Debnath on court premises and assured that the investigation would be conducted diligently, urging the family to have faith in the process.

The reconstituted SIT is headed by CBI Joint Director Anurag Kumar and includes Manish Upadhyay, who is also probing the alleged financial irregularities linked to RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Sources in the agency said that the CBI told the court that it was scrutinising around "1,000 pages of case records" and had recorded fresh statements of the victim's parents. It also submitted that the newly formed team would require additional time to complete its review before taking further investigative steps.

The counsel appearing for the victim's family urged the court to ensure that the new team examines all aspects that were flagged earlier, including the role of certain individuals from the time the victim's body was recovered until the cremation, and takes appropriate action based on its findings.

The victim's mother also told the court that the role of those who were among the last to be seen with her daughter should be thoroughly investigated.

The mother also said she had faith that the ongoing investigation would ensure justice for her daughter.

### Govt aiming to build country's finest police force, says Suvendu

*Kolkata:* Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday said his government aims to build the country's finest police force despite financial constraints. Addressing police personnel at the annual 'Bada Khana' event at the Swami Vivekananda State Police Academy in Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district, Adhikari, who is also the state home minister, lauded the state police for maintaining law and order and combating corruption, while assuring the force of his government's full support. "I know you have to work under many challenges. From tackling corruption to maintaining law and order, you have demonstrated your professionalism. We have certain limitations and financial liabilities, but as chief minister, it is my expectation that the best police force in the country is built in this state," Adhikari said. **PTI**

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**Tender Notice No. 1A-OEW -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB, 21-PA -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB & 22-OSW -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB** PUB/517

**Sr.DEE/M/HYB** acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tenders Closing date. 25-08-2026, 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.

**Sl. No.** 1, **Description of work: Tender No. 1A-OEW -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB:** Hyderabad Division: Replacement of LT OH lines with UG cables covering service buildings / Colonies etc. in SLGD , MLY, NLGD Jurisdiction., **Approx. Cost (₹):** 3,42,51,845.00, **EMD (₹):** 6,85,000.00, **Completion Period:** 12 Months, **Date of Closing:** 25.08.2026

**Sl. No.** 2, **Description of work: Tender No. 21-PA -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB:** Hyderabad Division: SC-DHNE Section:-Provision of COP at A) KRNT for length of 255m on PF No.1 and for a length of 160m for PF No. 2/3. B) MBNR for a length of 275m on PF1 No.1 and for a length of 250m on PF No. 2/3 - Electrical arrangements, **Approx. Cost (₹):** 2,30,62,377.00, **EMD (₹):** 4,61,300.00, **Completion Period:** 12 Months, **Date of Closing:** 25.08.2026

**Sl. No.** 3, **Description of work: Tender No. 22-OSW -26-27-Sr.DEE-M-HYB:** Hyderabad Division: 1) SC-DHNE Section: Provision of Water Supply arrangements to TM Sidings, Improvements to Service Bldg under the ADEN/ KRNT & KCG - Electrical arrangements (10 Locations Only) 2) Improvements to Drain, Leaky Roof, Water supply arrangements, Plinth Protection works, Internal Service Roads, Parking Sheds & Toilets for Service Buildings under Jurisdiction of ADEN/KCG - Electrical arrangements, **Approx. Cost (₹):** 83,71,044.00, **EMD (₹):** 1,67,400.00, **Completion Period:** 12 Months, **Date of Closing:** 25.08.2026

Website particulars: **www.ireps.gov.in**

**Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Maintenance/ Hyderabad**

**Open E-Tender Notice No. CAO/Con/RSP/SC/05/2026-Capital (works) dated 28.07.2026** PUB/518

For and on behalf of The President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works **up to 11:00 hrs on 20.08.2026.**

**Sl. No.** 1, **e-Tender No.:** CONST-CAO-RSP-26-014, **Name of the work:** Secunderabad Division: Raichur-Wadi section: Proposed Construction of New ROB in lieu of LC. No. 225 at Saidapur Station yard, **Approx. Tender Value (₹):** 44,99,46,053.17, **EMD (₹):** 89,98,900.00, **Completion Period (In Months):** 18, **Defect liability period (in Months):** 48, **Works considered similar in nature towards Standard eligibility criteria:** B.II (d) Any "Railway/ Metro/ Road Bridge Work having steel composite / Bowstring girder and/or PSC girder in super structure".

Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers will be considered.

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**Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/RSP/ Secunderabad**
A605

**For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in**

JANATA DARBAR

## Suvendu hears complaints against BJP legislator, ex-TMC MLA, assures probe

**Press Trust of India**
*Kolkata, July 30*

CHIEF MINISTER Suvendu Adhikari's weekly 'Janata Darbar' on Thursday drew complaints against leaders cutting across party lines, with a woman accusing BJP MLA Sharbori Mukherjee of facilitating the forcible takeover of her shop and another alleging that a former TMC legislator grabbed her land.

Adhikari assured the complainants that every allegation would be examined on merit and no one would be spared if found guilty.

One of the more politically significant complaints came from Pratima Roy, who alleged that Mukherjee's associates forcibly occupied the sari and garment shop that her family had been running for nearly three decades.

Roy claimed the shop was demolished and taken over on the night of June 12 by two associates of the BJP legislator.

She alleged that although Mukherjee was not present at the spot, the operation was carried out at her behest.

According to Roy, the chief minister examined the documents submitted by her and assured that nobody would be allowed to forcibly occupy her property.

Mukherjee, however, rejected the allegations outright, describing those as "completely false".

The BJP MLA maintained that the dispute was a long-pending tenancy matter and was already before a court.

"The complainant has been illegally occupying the shop as a sub-tenant for years. The original owner had approached me for help, following which party workers only tried to mediate. There was no forcible occupation," Mukherjee said.

The legislator also said that she was ready to place all relevant documents before the CM if required.

In another politically loaded complaint, a woman from Punjab accused former TMC MLA Debasish Kumar of illegally grabbing four kathas of her land and sought Adhikari's intervention.

Kumar, who recently crossed over from the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC to the rival faction headed by Ritabrata Banerjee, could not be reached for comments.

The complaints assumed significance, as they involved leaders from both the ruling BJP and rival political camps, allowing Adhikari to project the grievance forum as a platform where allegations would be heard irrespective of political affiliation.

Among other complaints was that from the mother of a college student from Krishnanagar in Nadia district, who alleged that her daughter was raped, murdered and her body burnt with acid in October 2024. She claimed that police had initially attempted to portray the case as a suicide and despite securing registration of an FIR through legal intervention, the investigation had made little progress.

Recalling that Adhikari had visited her family as the then Leader of the Opposition after the incident, the woman said she hoped justice would now be delivered under his government and sought a fresh probe.

Another woman from the Sundarbans appealed for the chief minister's help in arranging heart surgery for her 11-year-old son, alleging that repeated visits to the state-run SSKM Hospital over the past several years had failed to secure a hospital bed for the operation. Several others queued up with complaints relating to alleged land encroachment, denial of government benefits and administrative inaction, many travelling from distant districts to meet the CM.

CM Suvendu Adhikari with BJP leader Locket Chatterjee at Janata Darbar on Thursday. PTI

### Suvendu second least wealthy among chief ministers: ADR report

*Kolkata:* Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari is the second least wealthy among the country's chief ministers, with declared assets of Rs 85.87 lakh, according to an analysis of election affidavits released by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch. The analysis, based on self-sworn election affidavits of 31 chief ministers of states and Union territories, found that Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is the least wealthy, with declared assets of Rs 55.24 lakh. Adhikari ranked second, followed by Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, whose declared assets exceed Rs 1.03 crore. According to the report, Adhikari's declared wealth comprises movable assets valued at Rs 24.57 lakh and immovable assets worth Rs 61.30 lakh. **PTI**

## Govt to overhaul school curricula from '28 in line with NEP: Minister

**Press Trust of India**
*Kolkata, July 30*

THE STATE government on Thursday announced an overhaul of the school education system, saying the curriculum, textbooks and assessment pattern will be recast from the 2028 academic session in line with the National Education Policy (NEP), ending the state's long resistance to the Centre's flagship education reform.

School Education Minister Dipak Barman also said that the government would not prescribe any specific colour scheme for uniforms, and the institutes can decide on that.

The overhaul would go far beyond routine syllabus revision and would usher in structural changes in school education, with greater emphasis on skill-based learning, reduced academic burden and semester-based assessments, the minister said.

"From the 2028 academic session, everything -- from the curriculum to textbooks -- will change for classes 1 to 12. Preparatory work has already begun,""Barman told reporters at the education department headquarters Bikash Bhavan.

Barman, however, clarified that no major changes would be introduced immediately and that only limited revisions to existing syllabi would be carried out in the interim based on the syllabus committee's recommendations.

The minister declined to specify which chapters or subjects would be dropped or added, saying those decisions would be taken by the expert committee framing the new curriculum.

The announcement marks a significant policy shift after years of confrontation between the previous Trinamool Congress government and the Centre over the implementation of the NEP, which was approved in 2020 but never adopted in West Bengal under the Mamata Banerjee administration.

The BJP government, which came to power this year, has repeatedly said aligning the state's education system with the NEP would be among its priorities.

n another significant initiative, the state government signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) under the Samagra Shiksha Mission to reduce school dropouts, particularly among children of migrant workers. Barman said the arrangement would ensure continuity of education even if students shifted from one state to another.

"If a student registers with NIOS in one state and later migrates elsewhere with the family, the child can continue studies and appear for examinations from the new location in the mother tongue," he said.

The minister said the platform would also enable adults and those who had discontinued formal education to resume their studies.

School Education Minister Dipak Barman. FILE

## Counselling, reviews: Govt rolls out anti-tobacco drive in schools

**Tanusree Bose**
*Kolkata, July 30*

CONCERNED OVER the early onset of tobacco addiction amongst the youth, the West Bengal State Health Department has rolled out a statewide initiative to protect schoolgoing children and adolescents from tobacco exposure and addiction, introducing mandatory self-audits, student counselling and regular inspections by special block-level teams.

A new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), circulated to the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) across districts, outlines the implementation of Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (ToFEI) initiative under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP).

According to the SOP, the initiative aims to protect school-going children and adolescents from tobacco exposure and addiction by integrating awareness campaigns, behavioural counselling and referral services into existing school health programmes.

The move comes against the backdrop of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-2019), which found that 8.5% of children aged 13-15 years in India consume tobacco in some form or the other. Health officials say that adult tobacco users begin consuming tobacco before the age of 20, making educational institutions critical settings for prevention.

Under the new guidelines, every school will have to conduct a 100-mark self-assessment every six months. Only institutions scoring 90 per cent or above will qualify for the "Tobacco-Free Educational Institution" certification.

To monitor compliance, the Health Department will constitute special teams at the block level comprising Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) medical officers, a staff nurse, a pharmacist, an Anwesha counselor, and a Block Health Manager. These teams will conduct inspections of schools across their respective blocks.

Schools have been asked to conduct regular awareness programmes on the harmful effects of tobacco and educate students about the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003. They will be required to organise activities such as quizzes, poster competitions and debates on World No Tobacco Day on May 31.

The initiative aims to protect schoolgoing children and adolescents from tobacco exposure. FILE

## Biker killed in road accident in Kolkata

*Kolkata:* A man riding a scooter was killed after allegedly being caught between two buses racing each other in Kolkata's Behala area on Thursday.

The accident took place around 9.45 am near the telephone exchange in front of Shimultala Market, close to Behala Chowrasta, he said. The victim was riding his scooter when he got trapped between two buses allegedly competing for passengers, the policeman said.

"A case has been registered and an investigation is underway," police said. **PTI**

## India completes first comprehensive catalogue of butterflies, moths after 12 yrs

**Antoreep Das**
*Kolkata, July 30*

INDIA HAS completed its first comprehensive national catalogue of butterflies and moths, bringing together more than a century of scattered taxonomic records into a single reference after a 12-year effort led by the Zoological Survey of India .

Announced on Thursday, the catalogue documents 13,703 species of Lepidoptera -- the insect order comprising butterflies and moths -- found across the country. According to the ZSI, the compilation provides the first updated national baseline for biodiversity research, ecological monitoring and conservation planning.

The survey estimates that India is home to 8.25 per cent of the world's known butterfly and moth species, highlighting the country's status as one of the world's megadiverse nations.

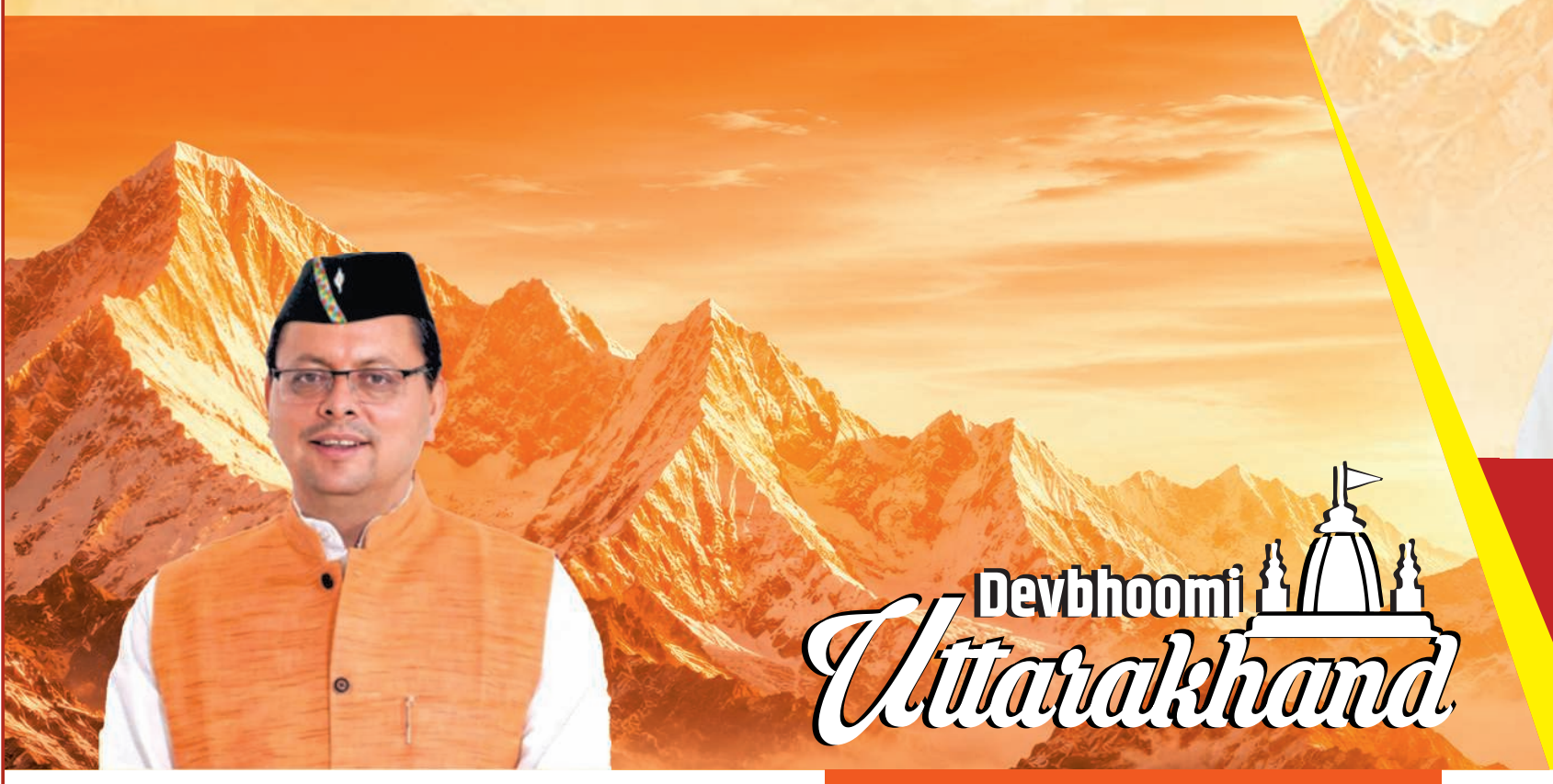
The project was led by ZSI taxonomists Navneet Singh and Rahul Joshi. Its final volume, published in the international journal Zootaxa, completes a series of 22 catalogue volumes and documents the remaining 1,689 species while resolving taxonomic ambiguities across several insect families.

Among its findings, the catalogue records 2,205 species of Geometroidea, a superfamily of moths that includes several important nocturnal pollinators. Spread across 479 genera, these account for 8.8 per cent of the world's known Geometridae species.

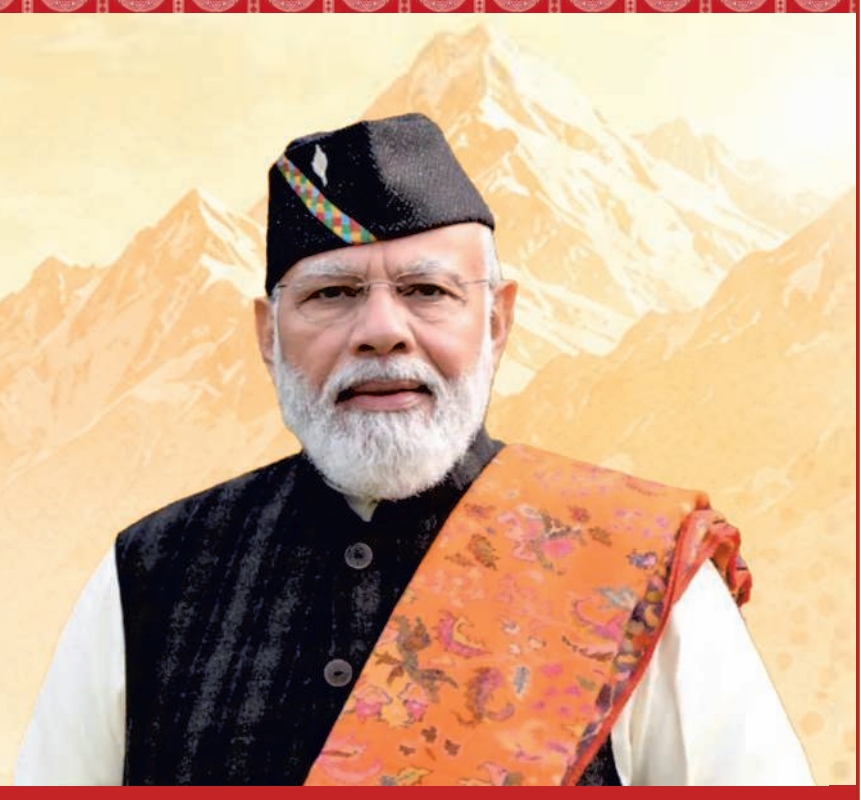
The family Geometridae accounts for 2,100 species, followed by Uraniidae (95), Epicopeiidae (nine) and Pseudobistonidae (one).

(ANTOREEP DAS IS AN INTERN WITH THE INDIN EXPRESS KOLKATA)

Govt. of Uttarakhand



# Devbhoomi Uttarakhand



"The construction of a developed India in the 21st century rests on two main pillars: first, pride in our heritage, and second, making every possible effort for development. Today, Uttarakhand is continuously strengthening both these pillars. This decade is the decade of Uttarakhand."

**Narendra Modi**
Prime Minister

"Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has called the third decade of the 21st century the decade of Uttarakhand. In line with the Prime Minister's vision, we are working with a 'resolve without alternative' (Vikalp Rahit Sankalp) to make the state an ideal state in every field."

**Pushkar Singh Dhami**
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

## Viksit Bharat Sashakt Uttarakhand

Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak

## Sewa - Sushasan - Samarpan

### Employment

- Strict Anti-Copying/Anti-Cheating Law & Transparent Recruitment Process: Selection across multiple departments 33,000 youths given government jobs in the past 5 years.
- Chief Minister Skill Upgradation & Global Employment Scheme: Budget increased from ₹75 lakh to ₹33 crore; foreign language training provided to 147 children, with 92 securing employment abroad.
- Growth in MSME Employment: Number of people employed in MSMEs increased from 3,43,922 in 2022 to 4,56,605 in 2025.
- 10% Horizontal Reservation for Agniveers: Applicable to direct recruitment in Group 'C' uniformed services in government jobs.
- Devbhoomi Entrepreneurship Development Scheme: 300+ students established enterprises, registration of nearly 1,200 students is underway, and employment generated for 1,541 students and others.

### Industries

- New Momentum to Development Through Grounding of Investments Worth Over ₹1.00 Lakh Crore.
- Investment Agreements Worth ₹3.56 Lakh Crore: Signed during the Global Investors Summit.
- Expansion of Land Bank: Over 6,000 acres of additional land bank developed for industries.
- Thriving MSME Sector: Over 96,400 MSME units active across the state.
- Massive Job Creation in MSME: Generated over 4.70 lakh jobs in the MSME sector.
- Flourishing Startup Culture: Over 1,750 startups established in the state.
- National Recognition: Uttarakhand recognized as a "Leader" state in the States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking.
- Large-Scale Industries: 128 large industrial units currently operational in the state.

### Education

- Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- Under the PM SHRI Scheme, 141 schools were selected in the first phase and 84 schools in the second phase.
- Virtual classrooms are being operated in 500 Government Secondary Schools across the state.
- The total number of Government and Private Degree Colleges in the state increased to 139 by 2025.
- The total number of Engineering Colleges (Government and Private) in the state increased to 52 by 2025.
- Under the Secondary Education programme, free textbooks are being provided to students of Class I to XII studying in Government and Private schools across the state.

### Health

- Construction of the AIIMS Satellite Centre at Kichha is underway, with 85% of the work completed.
- The AIIMS Kichha project includes a 250-bed hospital, 10 Operation Theatres (OTs), 30 ICU beds, advanced Diagnostics & Laboratory facilities, and speciality departments including Cardiology, Nephrology, Urology, Neurology, General Surgery, Orthopaedics, General Medicine, Paediatrics, and an Emergency & Trauma Centre.
- More than 6.1 million Ayushman Cards have been issued across the state under the Atal Ayushman Yojana.
- Under the Atal Ayushman Yojana, more than 1.7 million patients have received cashless treatment worth over ₹3,400 crore.
- 207 types of pathology tests are being provided completely free of cost across the state.
- A target has been set to establish a Medical College in every district. At present, five Medical Colleges are operational, while two more are under construction.
- Super-speciality healthcare services are available at the Medical Colleges in Dehradun, Haldwani, and Srinagar.
- The newly constructed Child and Mother Care Hospital in Haridwar is now operational.

### Connectivity

- Inauguration of the 210-km Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor, featuring Asia's longest 12-km Wildlife Corridor.
- The Rishikesh–Karnaprayag Rail Project is progressing at a rapid pace.
- The state's road network has expanded to 51,728 km.
- The All Weather Road Project has ensured seamless connectivity to the Char Dham shrines and border areas.
- A new terminal has been developed at Dehradun Airport, with regular flight connectivity to major cities across the country.
- 13 new heliports are currently under construction.
- Construction of the Sonprayag–Kedarnath (12.9 km) and Govindghat–Hemkund Sahib (12.4 km) Ropeway Projects has commenced.

### Women Empowerment

- 30% horizontal reservation has been implemented for women in Government jobs across the state.
- 33% reservation for women has been ensured in Co-operative Management Committees.
- Under the Chief Minister Self-Help Group Empowerment Scheme, Self-Help Groups are provided interest-free loans of up to ₹5 lakh.
- Under the Lakhpati Didi Scheme, more than 2.54 lakh women in the state have become Lakhpati Didis.
- Under the Chief Minister Mahalakshmi Kit Scheme, women are provided with essential maternity kits after childbirth.
- Under the Nanda Gaura Scheme, the State Government provides ₹11,000 on the birth of a girl child and ₹51,000 for higher education after she passes Class XII.

### Youth Welfare

- Under the New Sports Policy, a historic decision has been taken to provide Government jobs to medal winners at the National and International levels.
- The daily diet allowance for sportspersons has been increased from ₹250 to ₹480 per athlete per day, in line with the Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- Under the Chief Minister Emerging Sportsperson Development Scheme, around 3,900 emerging athletes aged 8 to 14 years are being provided a monthly sports scholarship of ₹1,500.
- Sportspersons who have won medals or represented the country at National and International events such as the Olympic Games, Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, etc., will receive the benefit of the 4% Sports Quota in Government Services.
- 60 Patent Information Centres have been established in various colleges, universities, and other institutions across the state.

**Issued in Public interest by Department of Information & Public Relations, Uttarakhand, Dehradun**

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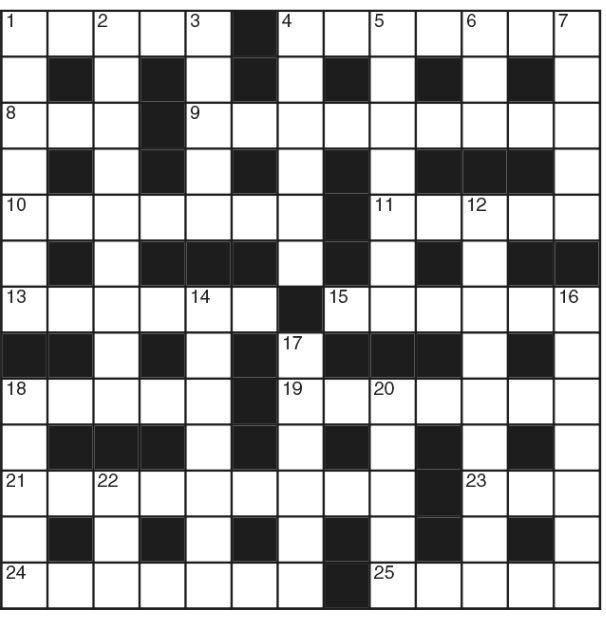
## • CROSSWORD 6055



**ACROSS**
**1** Act gladly for an audience (5)
**4** Involves a silent order (7)
**8** Objective I am out to get (3)
**9** Not a game for sea horses (5,4)
**10** The French mark all dice differently (7)
**11** Is a girl's name for a child (5)
**13** Performs a new ascent (6)
**15** Time conceals a deserter's mistakes (6)
**18** Legal acts? (5)
**19** Turn round to become booming (7)
**21** Overlooking a number inside working as blacksmiths (9)
**23** Have to be won round (3)
**24** Trickery of the French in a sense (7)
**25** It's the herb season we hear (5)

**DOWN**
**1** She's presumably met her match (7)
**2** I'm to intercede without delay (9)
**3** Sounds like a strange letter in the post (5)
**4** Sex and art production films use them (6)
**5** Row about stray dog (7)
**6** Bio-chemistry for a Nigerian tribesman (3)
**7** A number achieve success (5)
**12** Remain outside a coach as required by law (9)
**14** An oral test (7)
**16** A go-slow which could be at an end (7)
**17** Vote is for former Russian government (6)
**18** Removes part of diseased offshoot (5)
**20** Should prove uncommonly tough (5)
**22** Regret moving on from Rouen (3)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6054 ACROSS: 1 Headmaster, 8 Basic, 9 Flutter, 10 Apostle, 11 Stoic, 12 Kaftan, 14 Adored, 17 Puffs, 19 Elector, 21 Control, 22 Flies, 23 Easy manner DOWN: 2 Ease off, 3 Ducat, 4 Alfred, 5 Trussed, 6 Ratio, 7 Procedures, 8 Blank space, 13 Asserts, 15 Ratline, 16 Bedlam, 18 Fence, 20 Elfin

## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective circles below. Select the letters in the shaded circles and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

**The opposite of talking isn't listening. The opposite of talking is ___ - Fran Lebowitz (7)**

CGMAI

RANGER

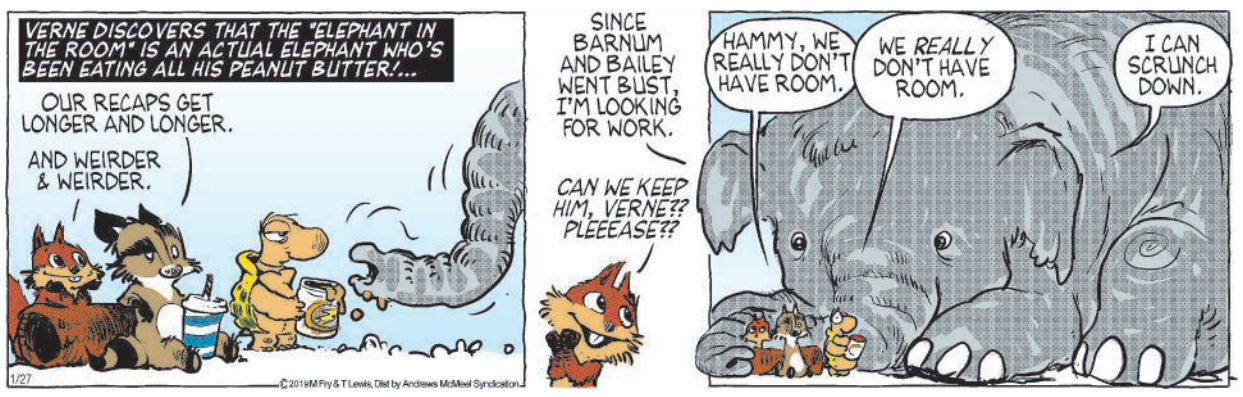
TOPIS

ELLNUW

SOLUTIONS: Magic, Posit, Garner, Unwell
ANSWER: The opposite of talking isn't listening.The opposite of talking is waiting - Fran Lebowitz

## • OVER THE HEDGE

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS




## • CALVIN & HOBBES

BY BILL WATTERSON

## • MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

## SUDOKU 6396

**DIFFICULTY LEVEL 3s INSTRUCTIONS**

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard;
6s = Genius

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 8 | | | | 2 | |
| 4 | | | 6 | | | 5 | | 3 |
| | | 5 | 1 | | | 6 | | |
| | 5 | 1 | | | | | | 9 |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 4 |
| 9 | | | | | | 3 | 7 | |
| | | 4 | | | 7 | 9 | | |
| 7 | | 9 | | | 3 | | | 6 |
| | 1 | | | | 6 | | | |

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 6395

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 2 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 5 |
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 6 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 7 |
| 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 1 |
| 7 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| 9 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 |

## • ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

**ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20):** This might be a restless day for you. You have options to socialise and have fun. You're full of different ideas today, which might create detours and surprises for you. Tonight: Enjoy your privacy.

**TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21):** This is a lovely day to socialise. A friend or a member of a group might do something that catches you off guard. You might meet a real character today. Tonight: Be friendly.

**GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21):** Tread carefully around authority figures today because something unexpected could happen. To be on the safe side, give authority figures a wide berth. Relations with relatives, siblings and neighbours are rewarding. Tonight: You're admired.

**CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23):** Sudden opportunities to travel might fall in your lap today. Planned schedules and itineraries might suddenly change at the last minute. Double-check all details to avoid unnecessary disappointments and glitches. Tonight: Explore and learn.

**LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23):** Make friends with your bank account, because something related to shared property, inheritances and the resources you share with others might be subject to a sudden change today. Tonight: Check your finances.

**VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23):** Be prepared for something unexpected from a partner, spouse or close friend today. For some, this could relate to a parent or another authority figure. Basically, something unusual or a bit out of the ordinary might occur. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

**LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23):** Equipment breakdowns and technological glitches today might impact your work or even your health. Pet owners should be extra vigilant. Give yourself extra time so you have wiggle room for the unexpected. Tonight: Work efficiently.

**SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23):** Social plans are unpredictable today. You might receive an unexpected invitation. Or a planned event might be cancelled or changed. Parents should be vigilant to avoid accidents with their kids. Tonight: Socialise with others.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22):** Your home routine might be interrupted today. Small appliances might break down. Someone unexpected might appear at your door. Take a breath and cope with whatever is happening. It's nothing you can't handle. Tonight: Relax at home.

**CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20):** This is a mildly accident-prone day for you. Be mindful and aware when walking, jogging or driving. On the upside, you might have some clever, genius-like ideas. It's easy for you to think outside the box. Tonight: An interesting conversation.

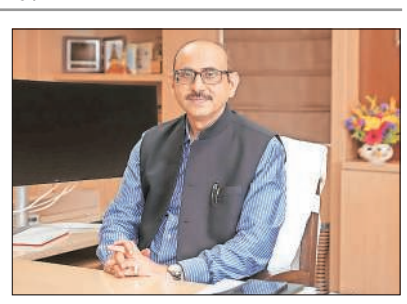
**AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19):** Do whatever you can to protect your belongings from loss, theft and damage today. You might either find some money or lose some. Tonight: Check your money and possessions.

**PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20):** Today, you might feel rebellious. Certainly, you want to be free to do your own thing. You have a strong craving for excitement and adventure, which means there's a strong likelihood that's precisely what you will find! Tonight: You win.

# CORPORATE BRIEFS

**EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED** Shri Chitranjan Kumar has assumed charge as Director (Technical), Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL). A seasoned mining professional with over three decades of distinguished service in the coal sector, he brings with him an exceptional blend of technical expertise, strategic leadership and a proven track record of delivering transformational results across Coal India Limited's subsidiaries. A B.Tech graduate from BIT Sindri (1991), Shri Kumar holds a First Class Manager's Competency Certificate (1997) and an MBA degree. Throughout his illustrious career, he has successfully led large-scale mining projects, secured critical statutory and environmental clearances, resolved complex land acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) issues and driven significant improvements in production, productivity and sustainable mining practices.

**SHRI RAJESH PANDEY, IAS ASSUMES CHARGE AS CHAIRMAN, DVC** Shri Rajesh Pandey, IAS belonging to the 1995 batch of West Bengal cadre assumed charge as the 51st Chairman of Damodar Valley Corporation on 23rd July 2026. In a career spanning around 31 years in Civil Services, Shri Pandey brings with him diverse experience of working in multiple sectors, having served as Additional Chief Secretary for the Departments of MSME & Textiles Department, Personnel & Administrative Reforms, Sports and Youth Services Departments, and Co-operation Department, and has served as Secretary of the Consumer Affairs Department, in the Government of West Bengal.



**COAL INDIA'S CAPEX RISES** Coal India Limited (CIL) recorded a capital expenditure (capex) of Rs 3,399 crore during the first quarter (Q1) of FY 26–27, registering a growth of 16.64% over the Rs 2,914 crore incurred during the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The company also surpassed its quarterly capex target of Rs 3,349 crore, achieving 101.5% of the planned expenditure. The company's Q1 spending represents 20.60% of CIL's total capital expenditure target of Rs16,500 crore for the current fiscal. Land acquisition and related rehabilitation & resettlement (R&R) activities accounted for the highest expenditure during the quarter at Rs 804 crore, constituting nearly one-fourth of the total capex. Timely acquisition of land is a critical prerequisite for coal mining, as mining projects cannot commence or expand without it, irrespective of the availability of coal reserves. Reflecting on its strategic importance, land acquisition and related activities have been allocated the highest capex target of Rs 4,173 crore out of the company's total annual capex target for FY'27.

**IIM SHILLONG PAYS TRIBUTE TO DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM'S ENDURING LEGACY AND UNVEILS HIS LIFE-SIZE STATUE** paid a heartfelt tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on the occasion of his 11th death anniversary, commemorating the historic day when the former President of India delivered his final lecture at the Institute on "How to Make Our Planet More Liveable." As a lasting tribute to Dr. Kalam's deep association with IIM Shillong, an 8-foot-tall life-size bronze statue of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was unveiled today by Shri Shishir Kumar Bajoria, Chairman, Board of Governors (BoG), IIM Shillong, in the presence of Shri Atul Kulkarni and Shri Nitin Sharma, Members, BoG, Prof. (Dr.) Arun Mohan Sherry, Director, IIM Shillong, Col. Dinesh Adhikari (Retd) CAO along with faculty members, officers, staff, and students of the Institute.

**Birla Global University Hosts Commencement Day for Bachelor of Business Administration (2026-30 Batch)** BGU, one of eastern India's leading institutions of higher education, organised the Commencement Day Programme for the incoming Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) 2026–30 batch, marking the beginning of a transformative academic journey for its newest students. The programme was graced by Brishti Mondal, Vice President & Head – HR, Nomura Research Institute Fintech, as the Chief Guest and Ankur Zutshi, Principal, IQVIA, Basel, Switzerland, as the Guest of Honour. They were joined by Prof. Kulbhushan Balooni, Vice Chancellor, Birla Global University, Prof. P. Nayak, Dean, Birla School of Management and Tanmay Kumar Pattanayak, Registrar, along with faculty members, alumni, staff and students.

**EAST COAST RAILWAY HONOURS TECHNICIAN** East Coast Railway has honoured Shri K. Narendra, Technician Grade-I (Carriage & Wagon) of Rayagada under Rayagada Division with the Safety Award for his exemplary vigilance and professional commitment towards ensuring safe train operations. While carrying out a routine inspection of a loaded goods train at Rayagada on 29th June 2026, Shri Narendra noticed a broken yoke and damaged back stopper welding on one of the wagons. Realising that the defect could affect the safe movement of the train, he immediately arranged to remove the defective wagon from the train for replacement before it continued its journey.

**ICMAI NEW PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT** Election of President and Vice President of The Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI) for the Council Year 2026–27, It gives us immense pleasure to inform you that CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay has been elected as the President and CMA Manoj Kumar Anand has been elected as the Vice President of ICMAI for the Council Year 2026-27 at the Meeting of the Council of the Institute held on 22nd July, 2026 at Kolkata. CMA Chittaranjan Chattopadhyay is a Fellow Member of ICMAI, a Certificated Associate Member of the Indian Institute of Banking and Finance (IIBF) and holds an LL.B. degree. CMA Manoj Kumar Anand is an elected member of the Council of the Institute for the term 2023–27 and a Member of the Public Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) of the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA) for the term 2024–27.

**GRSE SUSTAINS GROWTH MOMENTUM** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, GOI has announced its financial results for the first quarter ended 30 Jun 26. The revenue recorded during Q1FY27 was Rs 1814.62 Cr, registering a growth of 38.53% over Q1FY26. Similarly, the PAT has increased by 43.83% to Rs 172.84 Cr during the same period.

**INDIAN RAILWAYS STRENGTHENS WORKFORCE THROUGH MISSION-MODE RECRUITMENT** 5.56 Lakh Recruitments Done Since 2014 (Up to June 2026), Including 50,485 in Southern Railway: Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw. Approximately 4.5 Crore Candidates Appeared in Computer-Based Test in 2024 and 2025 Exam Cycle. Recruitment Exams Conducted Over 150 Cities in 15 Languages to Ensure Wider Access and Greater Convenience for Railway Aspirants. Occurrence and filling up of vacancies are continuous processes on Indian Railways considering its size, spatial distribution and criticality of operation. Adequate and suitable manpower is provided to cater to the regular operations, changes in technology, mechanisations and innovative practices. The vacancies are filled up primarily by placement of indents by Railways with Recruitment agencies as per operational and technological requirements.

9 DEAD IN MARCH 18 BLAZE

# Bronto Skylift failed, crew not trained: Report on Palam fire

**Gayathri Mani**
*New Delhi, July 30*

BRONTO SKYLIFT (hydraulic crane) of the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) failed during the rescue operation after its boom became entangled in overhead cables and banners, no backup high-reach rescue equipment was available and firefighters had to rely on a manual ladder that could not reach the third floor balcony – these are the major findings of a magisterial inquiry into the March 18 fire in a four-story building in Palam that killed nine people, including three children, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

The report was submitted by District Magistrate (South West) Mekala Chaitanya Prasad to the Home department last month. The file is now proposed to be placed before the Lieutenant Governor for consideration, officials said.

"The Bronto Skylift (BS-III) failed at the scene – most likely due to cables/wires/banners entangled in its boom and no effective second line of defence (an alternative tall ladder) was immediately available... a manual ladder could not reach the third-floor balcony," the report said.

The inquiry also found that the crew assigned to operate the skylift had never received formal training from the authorised dealer since the machine was procured in 2006. "They learned informally from predecessors," the report said.

It added that maintenance logs of the skylift shows no prior faults were reported despite it being used in operations at IGI Airport, Tilak Nagar and Palam during incidents of fire.

Further, the report highlighted several lapses by the MCD and other agencies, which resulted in the tragedy.

It blamed the MCD for allowing commercial activity on the building's first floor though the licence permitted commercial use only in the basement and ground floor.

As per the report, the fire probably originated from an MCB box located on the ground and first floor stairs, a point where around six electrical connections were concentrated. It added that the fire "spread rapidly, aggravated by combustible cosmetic stock".

While a short circuit is considered the probable cause of the fire, the report said this cannot be confirmed until the forensic report is received because the electrical installation was extensively damaged.

The report recommended disciplinary action against MCD licensing inspector Narendra Dabas for failing to check violation of license conditions.

"Dabas, who was working under the supervision of assistant commissioner Najafgarh Zone also failed in his duty to remove aerial banners on roads," it added.

The report flagged the assistant electrical inspector, who led the inspection, received no technical training. "...admitted he had never been able to determine the cause of fire in any of 8-9 prior inspections – a serious capability gap in a statutory technical role," the report highlighted.

It recommended that a technical expert committee be set up to investigate the Bronto Skylift's failure, ensure deployment of backup high-rise rescue equipment at major fires and filling up of 853 vacant posts in the Fire department on priority.

Highlighting that the fire could not be controlled due to "unauthorised cabling" in the area, the report recommended: "Bring all local cable/Internet service providers under a regulatory framework... Make provider name-marking on cables compulsory for identification of violators, consider road width as a criterion (while deciding on installing) overhead (or) underground cabling..."

# Umar Khalid moves HC for third time seeking bail

**Sohini Ghosh**
*New Delhi, July 30*

FOR THE third time, activist Umar Khalid has moved the Delhi High Court, seeking bail in the larger conspiracy case of Northeast Delhi riots in 2020. He has been booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Khalid's appeal challenging the trial court's July 4 decision to dismiss his bail application is listed for hearing before a bench of Justices Prathiba Singh and Vikas Mahajan on Friday.

The HC had earlier rejected his bail plea twice – in October 2022 and September 2025. Both times, the Supreme Court had upheld the HC order.

Khalid, arrested in 2020, was booked under UAPA for being one of the "masterminds" of the riots that had left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured. Besides him, activist Sharjeel Imam, among others, was also booked in the case.

The SC, in its order on January 5, had refused bail to Khalid and Imam, but granted bail to five other co-accused while establishing the "hierarchy of participation". In this hierarchy, Khalid and Imam were classified to be on a "higher footing" compared to the five others who were granted bail by the SC.


TATA

**TATA STEEL LIMITED**

**Registered Office:** Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001 India
Tel.: 91 22 6665 8282 • Email: cosec@tatasteel.com • Website: www.tatasteel.com
CIN: L27100MH1907PLC000260

**NOTICE**

**Extract of Standalone Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2026**

₹ Crore

| Particulars | Quarter ended on 30.06.2026 | Quarter ended on 31.03.2026 | Quarter ended on 30.06.2025 | Financial year ended on 31.03.2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Audited | Audited | Audited | Audited |
| Total revenue from operations | 36,896.55 | 38,447.96 | 31,014.36 | 1,39,720.22 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items) | 6,112.02 | 6,477.98 | 4,776.84 | 22,451.96 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items) | 5,820.52 | 6,345.93 | 4,557.76 | 21,353.10 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax | 4,535.59 | 4,659.74 | 3,523.25 | 16,065.13 |
| Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] | 3,477.29 | (143.12) | 6,743.37 | 13,295.44 |
| Paid-up equity share capital [Face value ₹ 1 per share] | 1,248.60 | 1,248.60 | 1,248.60 | 1,248.60 |
| Reserves excluding revaluation reserves | | | | 1,34,284.71 |
| Securities premium reserve | 31,290.24 | 31,290.24 | 31,290.24 | 31,290.24 |
| Net Worth | 1,35,822.61 | 1,32,345.31 | 1,30,287.29 | 1,32,345.31 |
| Paid-up Debt Capital | 15,159.95 | 15,159.21 | 15,157.00 | 15,159.21 |
| Debt Equity Ratio | 0.49 | 0.48 | 0.46 | 0.50 |
| Earnings per equity share: | | | | |
| Basic earnings per share of ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items) | 3.63 | 3.74 | 2.82 | 12.87 |
| Diluted earnings per share of ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items) | 3.63 | 3.73 | 2.82 | 12.87 |
| Debenture Redemption Reserve | 1,328.75 | 1,328.75 | 1,328.75 | 1,328.75 |
| Debt Service Coverage Ratio | 4.27 | 6.42 | 1.34 | 2.85 |
| Interest Service Coverage Ratio | 7.68 | 8.27 | 6.91 | 8.08 |

**Extract of Consolidated Financial Results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2026**

₹ Crore

| Particulars | Quarter ended on 30.06.2026 | Quarter ended on 31.03.2026 | Quarter ended on 30.06.2025 | Financial year ended on 31.03.2026 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Unaudited | Unaudited | Unaudited | Audited |
| Total revenue from operations | 60,794.29 | 63,270.13 | 53,178.12 | 2,32,139.94 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax and exceptional items) | 4,183.01 | 5,150.42 | 3,199.20 | 17,001.15 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional items) | 3,837.53 | 4,810.37 | 3,067.08 | 15,968.69 |
| Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax | 2,385.24 | 2,965.00 | 2,007.36 | 10,885.82 |
| Total comprehensive income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] | 2,336.83 | 3,755.68 | 4,351.52 | 16,377.93 |
| Paid-up equity share capital [Face value ₹ 1 per share] | 1,247.44 | 1,247.44 | 1,247.44 | 1,247.44 |
| Reserves (excluding revaluation reserves) and Non controlling interest | | | | 1,02,533.01 |
| Net Worth | 1,01,054.51 | 98,768.46 | 91,464.44 | 98,768.46 |
| Debt Equity Ratio | 0.80 | 0.79 | 0.91 | 0.82 |
| Earnings per equity share: | | | | |
| Basic earnings per share of ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items) | 1.86 | 2.34 | 1.67 | 8.65 |
| Diluted earnings per share of ₹ 1 each (not annualised) - in Rupees (after exceptional items) | 1.86 | 2.34 | 1.67 | 8.65 |
| Debenture Redemption Reserve | 1,328.75 | 1,328.75 | 1,328.75 | 1,328.75 |
| Debt Service Coverage Ratio | 1.03 | 0.92 | 0.98 | 0.98 |
| Interest Service Coverage Ratio | 4.53 | 5.27 | 3.69 | 4.72 |

**Note:**
The above is an extract of the detailed format of Standalone and Consolidated financial results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2026 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015. The full format of the Standalone and Consolidated results for the quarter ended on 30th June 2026 are available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges (www.nseindia.com/www.bseindia.com) and the Company's website (www.tatasteel.com).

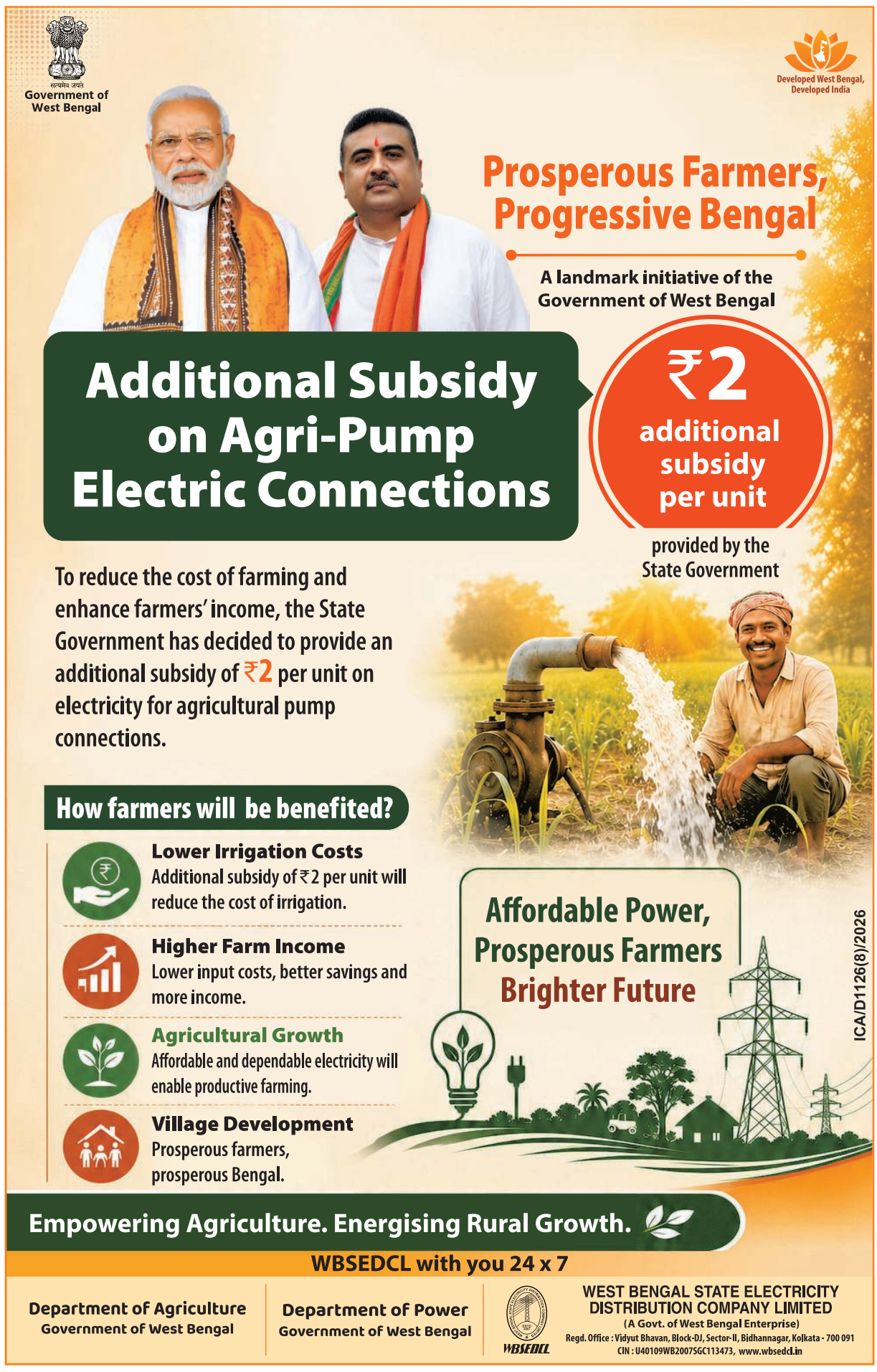
Sd/-
**T V Narendran**
Chief Executive Officer &
Managing Director

Sd/-
**Koushik Chatterjee**
Executive Director &
Chief Financial Officer

Mumbai, July 30, 2026

TATA STEEL








ICL Join ICL, Grow with us

ICL Fincorp

This is an advertisement issued pursuant to Regulation 30(1) of the SEBI (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021 as amended, for information purpose only.

# ICL FINCORP LIMITED

*(Please scan the QR code to view the Prospectus)*

ICL Fincorp Limited **("our Company" or "the Company" or "the Issuer" or "ICL")** was originally incorporated as 'Jawahar Finance Limited' at Chennai, a public limited company under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated December 9, 1991, issued by RoC. The name of our Company was changed to 'Irinjalakuda Credits & Leasing Company Limited' pursuant to a fresh certificate of incorporation dated April 26, 2004, issued by the RoC. Later, the name of our Company was changed to 'ICL Fincorp Limited' pursuant to a fresh certificate of incorporation dated May 8, 2016, issued by the RoC. Our Company holds a certificate of registration dated June 09, 2016, bearing registration number B-07.00437 Issued by the Reserve Bank of India **("RBI")** to carry on the activities of a non-banking financial company without accepting public deposits under Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. For further details about our Company, see "General Information" on page 39 of the Prospectus and "History and Certain Other Corporate Matters" on page 127 of the Prospectus.

**Registered Office:** Plot No. C308, Door No. 66/40, 4th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai– 600 083, Tamil Nadu, India; **Tel:** +91 44 4208 2381, 2958 0014; **Corporate Office:** ICL Fincorp Limited, Main Road, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur – 680121, Kerala, India; **Tel:** +91 480 267 0400,282 8071, 283 1305; **Corporate Identification Number:** U65191TN1991PLC021815; **PAN:** AAACJ1806C; **E-mail:** info@iclfincorp.com; **Website:** www.iclfincorp.com; **Company Secretary and Compliance Officer:** Visakh T.V.; **Email:** cs@iclfincorp.com; **Tel:** +91 480 267 0400, 282 8071, 283 1305; **Chief Financial Officer:** Madhavankutty Thekkedath; **Email:** cfo@iclfincorp.com; **Tel:** +91 480 267 0400, 282 8071, 283 1305;

**PUBLIC ISSUE OF UP TO 10,00,000 SECURED, REDEEMABLE, NON-CONVERTIBLE DEBENTURES (NCDs) OF FACE VALUE OF ₹1,000 EACH**

**NOTICE TO INVESTORS**

This notice is with reference to the public issue of up to 10,00,000 secured, redeemable, non-convertible debentures of face value of ₹1,000 each, **("NCDs")** at par, for an amount up to ₹5,00,000 thousand **("Base Issue Size")** with an option to retain oversubscription of up to ₹5,00,000 thousand aggregating up to ₹10,00,000 thousand **(the "Issue")** by ICL Fincorp Limited **("Company")** in accordance with Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue and Listing of Non-Convertible Securities) Regulations, 2021, as amended **(the "SEBI NCS Regulations")**, the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, as amended from time to time, and rules made thereunder the SEBI Circular no. SEBI/HO/DDHS/DDHS-PoD/P/CIR/2025/0000000137 dated October15, 2025, as amended **("SEBI Master Circular")**. The Company has filed prospectus dated July 28, 2026 **("Prospectus")** with the Registrar of Companies,Tamil Nadu at Chennai **("RoC"),** Securities and Exchange Board of India **("SEBI")** and BSE Limited **("BSE") (the "Stock Exchange").** THE ISSUE IS NOT PROPOSED TO BE UNDERWRITTEN.

**ISSUE PROGRAMME** ISSUE OPENS - AUGUST 10, 2026 (MONDAY) ISSUE CLOSES - AUGUST 21, 2026 (FRIDAY)*

**The Issue shall remain open for subscription on Working Days from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time), during the period indicated in the Prospectus, except that the Issue may close on such earlier date or extended date as may be decided by the Board of Directors of our Company or the Finance and Management Committee, subject to relevant approvals (subject to a minimum period of two working days and a maximum period of ten working days from the date of opening of this Issue).*

*In the event of an early closure or extension of the Issue, our Company shall ensure that notice of such early closure or extension is given to the prospective investors through an advertisement in a national daily newspaper and a regional daily newspaper in Tamil Nadu where the registered office is located, with wide circulation on or before such earlier date or extended date of closure. Application Forms for the Issue will be accepted only from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange, on Working Days during the Issue Period. On the Issue Closing Date, Application Forms will be accepted only between 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and uploaded until 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange.*

*Allotment on "first come first serve basis" #*
*#As per the SEBI Master Circular, the allotment in this issue is required to be made on the basis of date of upload of each application into the electronic book of the Stock Exchange. For further details refer section titled "Issue Related Information" on page 258 of the Prospectus.*

In accordance with the provision of and requirement under Section 30 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Regulation 30(1) of the SEBI NCS Regulations, the Company has published statutory advertisement dated July 30, 2026 on their website at www.iclfincorp.com on which contains the disclosures as per Schedule V of the SEBI NCS Regulations ("Statutory Advertisement"). The Statutory Advertisement can be viewed through the QR code and web link given below:
**https://www.iclfincorp.com/fileupload/pGSAP0XdJN**

*(please scan this QR code to view the detailed advertisement)*

Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning as assigned to such terms in the Prospectus.
**All the potential investors are advised to please provide attention to the above mentioned update and take an informed decision accordingly.**

**For ICL Fincorp Limited**
SD/-
**K.G. Anilkumar**
**(Chairman & Managing Director) DIN: 00766739**

**Place :** Irinjalakuda
**Date :** 30/07/2026

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

## Mango Party For All

**AMID THE stand-off between the Treasury Benches and the Opposition in Parliament, a get-together hosted by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor at his official residence in the Capital saw a unique mix of guests on Wednesday. Although rain and the ruckus in the Lok Sabha played a spoiler, Tharoor's 'Mango & Chaat Party' saw a decent attendance of MPs from around 15 parties, diplomats from 35 embassies and a cross-section of government officials and mediapersons. The guests were seen engaging in political and non-political discussions while relishing a spread of mangoes. The BJP was represented by senior MPs Rajiv Pratap Rudy and Shashank Mani Tripathi. Many Congress MPs could not reach in time because of the developments in the Lok Sabha after Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi took on the government over the recent police crackdown on protesters at Jantar Mantar. Union Minister Jitendra Singh and BJP MP Tejasvi Surya, who were in the House, conveyed their good wishes while regretting their inability to attend the get-together, said sources.**

## E20 petrol can reduce fuel economy by 2-6%: Gadkari

*New Delhi:* Petrol blended with 20% ethanol (E20) can reduce fuel economy by 2 to 6% depending on the vehicle category and vintage, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari informed Parliament on Thursday.

The Union Minister, however, argued that tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and on-road vehicle tests have not shown any failures due to E20.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Gadkari said E20 fuel provides better acceleration, improved ride quality and approximately 30% lower carbon emissions compared to E10 fuel.

"The fuel efficiency of vehicles may be reduced by 2 to 6% depending on the vehicle category and vintage. The tests for engine durability on a dynamometer and vehicle tests on road have not shown any failures due to E20," the minister said. **PTI**

# Amid Opp protests, House clears Bill criminalising insult to Vande Mataram

### Centre calls it a 'Bill of national pride'; DMK says it reflects 'communal outlook'

**Deeptiman Tiwary**
*New Delhi, July 30*

THE LOK Sabha on Thursday passed the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 amid protests by the Opposition over the police "excesses" on protesters at Jantar Mantar and the Ram Temple donation theft row.

The Bill was cleared in about 15 minutes during the post-lunch sitting after repeated adjournments since morning amid the din. Throughout the brief debate, Congress and Samajwadi Party members continued sloganeering from the Well of the House. The DMK was the only Opposition party to participate in the discussion.

Moving amendments to the Bill, DMK MP A Raja alleged that the Bill reflected a "communal outlook".

"Today is a very dangerous day for Parliament and the country. I have carefully gone through the reasons and objects of the Bill... One person and one song [are] important for this country having a communal outlook. Why did Partition happen? One person... and one song...," he said.

Raja sought to make "a legal point", but the Chair did not allow him to continue and put his amendment to vote, which was defeated.

Joining the debate, DMK MP Kanimozhi alleged that the Bill was a "Hindutva agenda masquerading as nationalism" and accused the government of trying to "impose nationalism through law". She argued that the Constituent Assembly had consciously accepted only the first two stanzas of Vande Mataram and said making all six stanzas mandatory would undermine the country's secular character. Referring to Tamil Nadu's long-standing state song, she said the legislation disrespected states with their own official songs and accused the government of using the issue to polarise the country.

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai rejected the criticism, asserting that the legislation was "a Bill of national pride" and was "not against any state, ideology or person". He said the government respected all state

MoS Nityanand Rai (above) and DMK MP A Raja (right) speak in Lok Sabha on Thursday. ANI

songs and insisted that the amendment only sought to ensure that the National Song received the same respect as the National Anthem. Rai also accused India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of accepting only two stanzas of Vande Mataram in 1937 "for appeasement politics", claiming that the decision encouraged the ideology that eventually led to Partition. "Now, for Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat, the entire song is needed," he said.

Participating from the Treasury Benches, BJP MP Sambit Patra said the amendment was "not an ordinary Bill" but one that intended to ensure that people, particularly school students, could express respect for both the National Anthem and the National Song "without any hurdle". He said the president of the Constituent Assembly, Dr Rajendra Prasad, had given an assurance that Jana Gana Mana and Vande Mataram would enjoy equal respect, but the promise has not been fulfilled over the past 76 years because of the Congress leadership.

Earlier, while introducing the Bill, Rai had described it as "not just a statutory amendment" but "a commitment to India's soul, cultural heritage, national consciousness and the ideals of the freedom struggle". Invoking Vande Mataram composer Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Swami Vivekananda and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was fulfilling the vision of according Vande Mataram its rightful place in national life. Rai recalled that Patel had asked classical vocalist Omkarnath Thakur to sing the full Vande Mataram on All India Radio on the morning of August 15, 1947, and said freedom fighters, including Chandrashekhar Azad, Ram Prasad Bismil and Ashfaqullah Khan, had gone to the gallows with "Vande Mataram" on their lips.

The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill is the first legislation to be passed by both Houses of Parliament in the ongoing Monsoon Session, which has seen frequent disruptions by the Opposition mainly over the NEET paper leak issue.

# Figuratively, Dubai 15th dist of Kerala, says CPM MP as JDU's Jha claims foreign role in CJP stir

**Deeptiman Tiwary**
*New Delhi, July 30*

JD(U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha on Thursday alleged foreign involvement in the Jantar Mantar agitation, triggering protests from the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha.

Participating in a discussion on the The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, Jha said while the Cockroach Janata Party protests were underway, he had seen a Malayalam television channel reporting that "some Dubai-based businessmen had secured travel tickets for 23 people and helped them participate in the protests".

"What relation did these people have with NEET? The demand of students and their sentiments are genuine. But it is a matter of investigation as to who were the people who infiltrated the protest and were trying to hijack it," Jha said.

The remarks immediately sparked protests from the Opposition benches, led by MPs from Kerala, who sought to rebut the allegation. The Chair, however, did not permit interventions as Jha was still speaking.

Later, CPI(M) MP A A Rahim said Jha should authenticate his statement about watching a Malayalam channel, arguing that his allegations were not supported by facts. The Chair said it would examine the matter.

CPI(M) member John Brittas argued that those who had travelled from Dubai were Indian citizens and had every right to participate in protests.

"They are citizens of India. Figuratively, Dubai is the 15th district of Kerala. They have every right to come to India and participate in a protest. A wrong message should not go from this House," Brittas said.

Responding to the controversy over Sanjeev Mukhiya, whom the CBI gave a clean chit in the 2024 NEET paper leak case last year, Jha said Mukhiya remained lodged in Buxar jail in

(Top) JD(U) MP Sanjay Kumar Jha and CPI (M) MP John Brittas in Rajya Sabha on Thursday. ANI

connection with other criminal cases. "There are so many cases against him that there is no possibility of him getting out," he said.

The issue of Mukhiya, who was initially arrested by Bihar Police in the 2024 NEET paper leak case and later taken into custody by the CBI, had been raised earlier in the debate by Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge.

Jha appealed to the members to rise above partisan politics while discussing exam paper leaks. "When a question paper is leaked, it does not merely violate the secrecy of the exam but also erodes the trust in the system... So I request that this issue not be measured on the yardstick of politics. The students are not asking who belongs to which party. She is asking if her hard work is secure and if she will get justice. Parliament has to answer this question," he said. Calling paper leaks a recurring national problem, Jha said: "Paper leak is not a new issue. In different times, under governments of different parties, such issues have come up. The biggest cost of this is paid by students. This is not a question of the failure of a party or government; it is a national challenge. Its solution should be found with a national perspective."

EXPRESS special

# Why govt is holding back key Bills as Parliament logjam continues

**Liz Mathew**
*New Delhi, July 30*

WITH THE Opposition intensifying its protests against alleged police excesses against student protesters and the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the government appears to be slowing down on its legislative agenda for the moment. The government, insiders said, is waiting for the Opposition to get back to allowing Parliament to function before taking up crucial pieces of legislation next week.

The Centre on Thursday managed to get the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 — also known as the Vande Mataram Bill — passed amid the din in the Lok Sabha. The Bill saw a brief discussion involving only two members: Union Minister of State for Home Nityananda Rai and DMK MP Kanimozhi. While Rai defended the legislation saying all six stanzas of the song were needed to ensure "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat (One India, Best India)", Kanimozhi termed it "a Hindutva agenda masquerading as nationalism".

"It is against federalism. You cannot impose nationalism by bringing a law, the song goes against the secularism of the country. The founding fathers had the wisdom to stop only

During the debate on Vande Mataram Bill on Thursday, DMK MP Kanimozhi said it is against federalism, and the song goes 'against secularism'. ANI

with two stanzas, but today you are trying to polarise the country by...making it a criminal offence if we do not sing all the six stanzas," she said.

The government deferred the consideration and passage of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill. According to sources, the Bill, which was deferred on the request of the Opposition, is now likely to be taken up in the Lower House on Monday. It proposes to increase the SC's sanctioned strength from 33 to 37 judges.

"Many Opposition parties did not want a detailed discussion on the Vande Mataram Bill as the optics of vehemently opposing it could have been politically damaging, while backing it would have hurt their support base," a BJP leader said.

The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, passed by the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, makes the intentional disruption of the national song a criminal offence, punishable with up to three years' imprisonment. The Bill has placed several parties, including the Congress and the SP, in a difficult position, with Muslim organisations strongly opposing it.

BJP sources said the Treasury benches are expected to introduce the MSME Development Act, 2006 (Amendment) Bill and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill next week. "We do not want to rush these Bills. We want the Opposition to discuss crucial pieces of legislation such as the FCRA Bill. That is why the government is taking its time before bringing it up," a BJP leader said.

The FCRA Bill seeks to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, which regulates the acceptance and utilisation of foreign contributions and foreign hospitality to "ensure that such inflows do not adversely affect national interest... or national security". The Opposition and minority groups have alleged that the proposed amendments would adversely affect institutions run by minority communities, including Christians.

The proposed amendments to the MSME Development Act seek to introduce mandatory digital invoicing, strengthen safeguards against delayed payments and ensure faster settlement of disputes. The changes are aimed at improving liquidity and reducing the long payment delays that often leave small businesses short of working capital.

Government sources also indicated that repeated adjournments and the loss of working hours could delay the government's plans to take up the 131st Constitution Amendment Bill, which seeks to increase the number of seats in the Lok Sabha. The Bill is linked to the implementation of the Women's Reservation law and the Delimitation Bill during the ongoing Monsoon Session, scheduled to conclude on August 13.

Two other key legislations — the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill and the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025 — have also been delayed.

Senior BJP leader and Lok Sabha Chief Whip Sanjay Jaiswal said the government would be compelled to pass the Bills amid the pandemonium if the Opposition continued its protests.

## Govt on UN Rapporteurs' SIR concern: Due process followed

*New Delhi:* Almost three months after three United Nations Special Rapporteurs wrote to the government, raising concern over large-scale deletion of electors and alleged discrimination through the SIR, the Union government acknowledged the communication on Thursday, informing the Rajya Sabha that the exercise was "carried out by following the due process of law without prejudice to any group or community". **ENS**

## PM meets President

President Droupadi Murmu with PM Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Thursday. The meeting comes days after the President returned from a tour of Moldova, North Macedonia and Romania. X/@RASHTRAPATIBHVN

# With CJP stir, Gen Z caught the BJP off guard. Can the Opposition make it count?

THE NEERJA CHOWDHURY COLUMN

WEEKLY INSIGHT INTO WHAT'S CHANGING IN NATIONAL POLITICS – AND WHY

MANY AGREE that if the BJP had sent emissaries -- even members of the Delhi Government -- early on to Jantar Mantar to talk to fasting activist Sonam Wangchuk and the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders, who were then holding a sit-in there to demand accountability over the NEET exam paper leak, the crisis would not have escalated as it did.

The BJP government misread the Gen Z protests and miscalculated its response to the situation, which has landed it in a spot.

The Monsoon Session of Parliament was supposed to be about a renewed push for the constitutional amendment legislation linked to the Delimitation Bill the Narendra Modi government had failed to pass in the House in April. But now, with the CJP-led student protests forcing the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as the Education Minister, this may prove to be trickier. Even the Opposition INDIA bloc parties such as the DMK and NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar), which were keeping all options open on the issue, have suddenly become more ambivalent about it.

Unlike the setback for the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, when its tally dropped, the challenge for the party this time is different.

A section of the BJP cadre appears to be disappointed that a powerful Prime Minister such as Modi, seen to be loath to act under pressure — though he did withdraw the three farm laws after a year-long farmer agitation at Delhi's borders — was compelled to drop Pradhan. It would have been another story if Pradhan had quit at the outset and taken a high moral ground.

### *A misjudgement?*

The government seemed to have misjudged the extent to which the paper leak row exercised the minds of students, which was not limited to just the NEET aspirants. Some ministers saw it as an "inconsequential" issue, claiming that it rather gave the students "more time to prepare", little realising the cost, uncertainty and "trauma" it meant for them and their parents.

Other BJP leaders saw Gen Z as a small, "westernised" group of youngsters living in metros, away from parents and detached from their "sanskar". The critical online comments against the BJP and the PM by some party functionaries' children in Odisha or UP show that these youths should not be taken lightly.

The modest rallies of CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke in different cities after he arrived in the country in early June, and only a few hundred people at Jantar Mantar in the early days of Wangchuk's hunger strike, might have lulled the government into believing that the CJP did not have much youth support.

CJP supporters celebrate Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi last week. PRAVEEN KHANNA

The ruling camp's biggest miscalculation could be the use of force by the police to bring the protesters to heel, which often turned out to be counter-productive. Buoyed by the BJP's heady success in West Bengal and the ease with which regional Opposition parties such as the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the Shiv Sena (UBT) were subsequently split — bringing two-thirds majority in Parliament within striking distance — the government chose to deal with the protesters with a heavy hand.

If there is one thing that has taken the row to every middle-class home in India, causing widespread angst, it is the visuals of the police lathi-charge and tear gas shelling on July 20, the opening day of the Monsoon Session. This was not like an anti-CAA agitation that the BJP could ignore. The middle class has been the core of Modi's support base and he can ill afford to antagonise them.

The PM eventually decided to let Pradhan go in a bid to end a deepening crisis. The BJP brass did not want heated sentiments of Gen Z, who account for about a quarter of the population, to influence the next year's Assembly elections in several states, including UP, Punjab, and Gujarat.

### *Did the Opposition miss a chance?*

While the protests were spearheaded by students, they have given a new heart to an otherwise demoralised Opposition. Any growing discontent against the government is likely to benefit the Congress, the largest Opposition party, more than the regional parties that have weakened lately. The visuals of Rahul Gandhi bleeding from the nose while being dragged by the police from his dharna outside the PM's residence, and of Akhilesh Yadav being similarly whisked away, may have created a resonance in UP and other states.

Such moments come rarely in the life of a country and unfortunately, the debate that was meant to flag off new ideas for education reform by parliamentarians became a Rahul versus Modi affair yet again.

### *What will CJP do?*

The CJP may retain its hold over a large number of youth if it focuses on their specific issues to keep up the pressure on parties and fashion a new narrative to catalyse a change. But those seeking a change in the 2029 Lok Sabha polls are more likely to look to the Rahul Gandhi-led Congress.

It is too early to reach any conclusions, though. The BJP has a record of undertaking prompt course-correction and has already brought an amended anti-paper leaks Bill in Parliament to ensure stricter punishment for the guilty. It has sacked 47 National Testing Agency (NTA) officials and the PM has also announced a high-powered task force on exam reforms led by Nandan Nilekani.

Whether these measures are enough will depend on the government's resolve to implement them. Given the expanding privatisation of education as well as the RSS's high stakes in the sector, this is not going to be an easy task. And yet, this may become Modi's moment if his government can go beyond tokenism and come to grips with the issue of long-pending, much-needed reforms in the education system, which could hold out real hope for Gen Z.

If nothing else, the protests have shown that Gen Z is a spirited, resilient cohort concerned with their issues and having an ability to work as a collective. They stood firm on their demand for Pradhan's ouster and yet showed a flexibility to come to an agreement with the government.

A crucial takeaway remains the point that change is possible through peaceful and democratic means. That is no small gain in 2026.

*(Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor, The Indian Express, has covered the last 11 Lok Sabha elections. She is the author of How Prime Ministers Decide.)*

## VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

**P.O.: Vidyasagar University, Midnapore - 721102, Dist.: Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, INDIA.**

**e-TENDER NOTICE**

**1. NIeT NO: WB/VU/MID/NIeT-23/26-27**
**2. NIeT NO: WB/VU/MID/NIeT-24/26-27**

The Registrar of Vidyasagar University invites online Percentage rate e-tender for different Civil works in the campus of Vidyasagar University. Details information can be obtained from the Website: http://wbtenders.gov.in
SI No 01 & SI No 02 both Closing date are:
13/08/2026 at 15:00.

**Registrar, Vidyasagar University**

## Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI)
**Matunga, Mumbai – 400019**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**

Tenders are invited from contractors/firms with relevant experience for the work "Providing and maintaining temporary barricading along the boundary of M P A Complex."
The tender document & information is available on www.vjti.ac.in & https://mahatenders.gov.in
Last date for submission of Tender is 14th August 2026 by 5.00 pm

Sd/-
Registrar,
VJTI, Matunga, Mumbai.19

## बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
## TALAPARK BRANCH
29/1/1A, Northern Avenue, Kolkata- 700030 (West Bengal)

**POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property/is)**

As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Bank of Baroda, Talapark Branch Kolkata - 700030** 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 **20.12.2025** calling upon the **Borrower MR.TANMOY DASGUPTA** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.13,41,164.30/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Forty One Thousand One Hundred Sixty Four and Paisa Three Zero Only) and as on 20.12.2025 (Inclusive of Interest up to 13.12.2025) together with further unapplied interest thereon and other charges at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of section 13 of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the **29th day of July, of the year 2026.**

The Borrower/Guarantors/Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property(is) will be subject to the charge of **Bank of Baroda, Talapark Branch Kolkata - 700030 for an amount of Rs.13,41,164.30/- (Rupees Thirteen Lakh Forty One Thousand One Hundred Sixty Four and Paisa Three Zero Only) and as on 20.12.2025 (Inclusive of interest up to 13.12.2025) and unapplied interest thereon and other charges at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment**

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

**Description of the Immovable Property**

All Piece and Parcel of Equitable Mortgage of Bastu Land and building lying and Situated within Mouza- Murali A.D.S.R. Office Kadambagachi, Touzi No -12, J.L. No - 99, L. R. Dag No - 812, L.R. Khatian No - 265 and 580, Measuring About 01 Cottah 13 Chittacks 00 Sq. Ft. along with structure standing thereon, along with the right of easement and common passage attached thereto, within P. S – Duttapukur, under Choto Jagulla Gram Panchayat, Municipality City – Barasat - I, District- North 24 Parganas, West Bengal - 743248, property in the name of Mr. Tanmoy Dasgupta, Vide Deed No. I-1788/24. **Butted and Bounded as follows:** On the North By : 6' Ft wide common Passage, On the South By : Other's Property, On the East By : Land of Bapi Saha, On the West By : Owner's Property and 8 Feet wide road

**Date: 29.07.2026**
**Place: Kolkata**

(Ritesh Kumar Verma)
Chief Manager, Authorised Officer.
Bank of Baroda, Talapark Branch

## DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, SIIGURI

2nd Floor, PCM Tower, 2nd Mile Sevoke Road, Siliguri
**CASE NO.RC/112/2019 ARISING FROM TOA/947/2017**
IN THE MATTER OF
**WEST BENGAL GRAMIN BANK**
**VS**
**DOMKAL EDUCATION SOCIETY**

**SALE NOTICE**

The under mentioned property will be sold by online e-auction through web portal https:/drt.auctiontiger.Net "AS IS WHERE IS" basis for recovery of Certificate amount in case number mentioned herein above,

**Description of the Property:**

**The mortgaged property measuring 42.0 decimals of land, situated at Village-Domkol, P.O.-Domkol, P.S.-Domkal, District-Murshidabad, PIN-742303, within Domkol Municipality, Mouza-Domkol, J.L. No. 42, L.R. Plot Nos. 970 & 1015, L.R. Khatian No. 4336."**

**Date and time of e-auction: 04th September 2026 between 15.00 hrs(3 PM) to 16:00(4 PM)** hours with auto time extension of 5 (five) minutes, till sale is conducted

**The Reserve Price is fixed at Rs. ₹ 34,27,000/- (Rupees Thirty Four Lakh Twenty Seven Thousand only)**

**(B) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): EMD Rs. ₹ 3,43,000/-** (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Three Thousand only) The intending purchasers are required to pay Earnest Money Deposit in form of Demand Draft/Pay Order/NEFT/RTGS/Fund Transfer to following bank account of

**Bank Name:** West Bengal Gramin Bank.

**Branch Address:** West Bengal Gramin Bank, Murshidabad Regional office, 48, Nayasarak Road, Gorabazar, P.O and P.S- Berhampore, PIN-742101, Dist-Murshidabad..

**Account Name:** RTGS NEFT COLLECTION A/C., Account Number: 5806051111111

**IFSC Code:** PUNB0RRBBGB, Nature of Account: NEFT Collection Account

**Bank Official Contact:** Mr. Arijit Biswas,
(Mobile: 9475527310 | Email: recovery.msdro@wbgb.bank.in)

**(C) Bid Increment:** Incremental bid value for the sale is fixed at Rs. 10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand) or in multiple there of

**(D) Registration and Submission of bid:** The participants/intending purchasers are necessarily required to submit duly signed and filled up Annexure- I & II of the Sale Proclamation to the Recovery Officer in the office of Debts Recovery Tribunal, 2ND Floor, PCM Tower, 2nd Mile Sevoke Road, Siliguri on or before 1st September 2026 by 4:00 P.M. within 16:00 hours (4:00 PM) along with supporting document and proof of EMD for registration because only registered participants /intending purchasers can log in and participate in e-Auction. However, bidders are also allowed to submit duly signed and filled up bid form and declaration in PDF Format along with proof of EMD to the Recovery Officer within the above mentioned date and time. No bid will be accepted after the said date and time. The user id and password will be directly sent to the registered percipients/intending purchasers with further directions, if any for login and participating in the Auction on their e-mail Id by the E-Auction service provider company.

The other details and terms and conditions of the sale are available on the proclamation of sale that has been uploaded on https:drt.auctiontiger.net web site.

Property can be inspected on appointment with Mr. Arijit Biswas, (Mobile: 9475527310| Email: recovery.msdro@wbgb.bank.in) on or before 1st September 2026 by 4:00 P.M. during 11 AM to 4 PM on working days.

**Recovery Officer-I**
**DRT Siliguri**

## बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
## TALAPARK BRANCH
29/1/1A, Northern Avenue, Kolkata- 700030 (West Bengal)

**DEMAND NOTICE**

Demand Notice u/s 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 issued by the Bank of Baroda as Secured Creditor against the following **Borrower / Guarantor:**

| Date of Notice / Account Name / NPA Date | Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor | Nature and type of facility / Limit / Rate of Interest / Amount Outstanding | Security Agreement with brief description of Securities |
|---|---|---|---|
| **13(2) Notice Date: 24-07-2026**<br>**Late Chiranjib Saha & Sumitra Saha**<br>**NPA Date: 09-07-2026** | **All Legal Heirs of Late Chiranjib Saha,** 507/73 Jessore Road, Debendra Nagar, Motijheel, South Dum Dum, North 24 Parganas, Pin-700074 West Bengal<br>**Sumitra Saha,** 507/73 Jessore Road, Debendra Nagar, Motijheel, South Dum Dum, North 24 Parganas, Pin-700074 West Bengal<br>**Sumitra Saha,** D/o Sujit Kumar Saha, Ramgopal Munshi Lane, Near Malancha K.G School, Ranaghat, Nadia, Pin-741201 West Bengal<br>**all Legal Heirs of Late Chiranjib Saha,** Ramgopal Munshi Lane, Near Malancha K.G School, Ranaghat, Nadia Pin-741201 West Bengal<br>**all Legal Heirs of Late Chiranjib Saha,** Flat No.202, 2nd Floor, Prativa Holding No.1393, S.H.K.B Sarani, Dist- North 24 Parganas South Dum Dum Municipality, Pin-700074 West Bengal<br>**Sumitra Saha,** Flat No.202, 2nd Floor, Prativa Holding No.1393, S.H.K.B Sarani, Dist- North 24 Parganas South Dum Dum Municipality, Pin-700074 West Bengal<br>**Sumitra Saha,** Uttrayan Complex, 3D, Block-A, Dum Dum Road, Kolkata-700074 West Bengal<br>**All Legal Heirs of Late Chiranjib Saha,** Uttrayan Complex, 3D, Block-A, Dum Dum Road, Kolkata-700074 West Bengal | **Housing Loan Limit: Rs. 29,70,000/-**<br>**ROI - 7.40%**<br>**Amount Outstanding Rs.29,69,075.99 plus further interest and other charges w.e.f., 20-07-2026 O/s as on 19-07-2026 (inclusive of interest as on 19-07-2026)** | **Equitable mortgage of Self-contained Flat No.202 on the 2nd floor South East Side of RCC frame with roofed G+5 storied residential building & structure known as "Prativa" of the of the measuring super built up area 892 sq ft situated at Mouza Kalidaha, JL no 23, RS no 16, Touzi no 1298/2833, CS/RS/LR/ Dag no 1711, Khatian No 265 present Holding No 1393, S.H.K.B. Sarani P.S Dum Dum Ward No.18, Kolkata-700074 under South Dum Dum Municipality under ADSR-Cossipore Dum Dum, Dist North 24 Parganas. The land is butted and bounded as follows:-** North: Property of Subhash Das, South: Mr.Biswas and Mr.Dutta, East: 12'ft Wide Road, West: Mr. Ghose<br>**The flat is butted and bounded by (actual):** North: Stair, Lobby & Lift, South: Open to Sky, East: Open to Sky, West: Other Flat |

You have committed default in repayment of credit facility mentioned above with further interest at the agreed rate availed from our branch as mentioned in the above. The bank has issued notice under the said Act to you to repay the outstanding amount in the above mentioned table. The Demand Notices sent to Borrower/Guarantor address by registered post has been returned unserved. You are called upon to pay the dues together with interest within 60 days from the date of this notice failing which bank will be constrained to exercise right of Enforcement of Security Interest as against the secured assets given in the schedule of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002. This notice is without prejudice to any other right remedy available to the bank including initiation of legal action.

We invite your attention to sub-section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you are barred from transferring any of the secured assets referred to in para 1 above by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of business), without obtaining our prior written consent. We may add that non-compliance with the above provision contained in section 13(13) of the said Act, is an offence punishable under section 29 of the Act.

We further invite your attention to sub section (8) of section 13 of the said Act in terms of which you may redeem the secured assets, if the amount of dues together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank is tendered by you, at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction/inviting quotations/tender /private treaty. Please note that after publication of the notice as above, your right to redeem the secured assets will not be available

**Date of Publication: 31.07.2026**

**(Ritesh Kumar Verma)**
**Chief Manager, Authorised Officer.**
**Bank of Baroda, Talapark Branch**

## EASTERN RAILWAY

**Tender Notice No. 222-S/1/W-II, dated 28.07.2026.** Following e-tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following works : **Tender No.: TN-142-26-27. Name of the Work** : At Sealdah - Construction of Water Treatment cum Recycling Plants of capacity 260 KLD at outlet no. 1 near platform no. 1A/1, 650 KLD at outlet no. 2 & 3 near Beliaghata ROB (Bridge no. S/2), 390 KLD at outlet no. 4 near RMS Parcel & Cash office and 300 KLD at outlet no. 5 near Circular Canal (Coal Depot area) totalling 4 sets of total capacity 1.60 MLD including laying of necessary pipe lines for intake of raw water and discharge of treated water, provision of valves. **Tender Value:** Rs. 2,88,00,482.10. **EMD :** Rs. 5,76,000/-. **Completion period for the work :** 12 months. **Date & time of closing of tender :** 21.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & time of opening of tender:** 21.08.2026 at 15.30 hrs. Tender document and other details are available at **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. (SDAH-157/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

**Follow us at : @EasternRailway**
**@easternrailwayheadquarter**

## TORRENT PHARMA

CIN: L24230GJ1972PLC002126
Website:www.torrentpharma.com
Email: investorservices@torrentpharma.com

**TORRENT PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED**
Registered Office: "Avirat", Thaltej Shilaj Road, Ahmedabad – 380059, Gujarat, India.
Ph.: + 91 79 26599000
Fax: + 91 79 26582100

**Extract of Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter ended June 30, 2026**

[₹ in crores]

| Particulars | Quarter Ended June 30, 2026 | Year Ended March 31, 2026 | Quarter Ended June 30, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Unaudited | Audited | Unaudited |
| Total income from operations | 4921 | 13980 | 3178 |
| Net profit / (loss) for the period before tax and exceptional items | 754 | 2961 | 738 |
| Net profit / (loss) for the period before tax and after exceptional items | 733 | 2872 | 738 |
| Net profit / (loss) for the period after tax and exceptional items | 566 | 2138 | 548 |
| Total comprehensive income | 645 | 1958 | 546 |
| Paid up equity share capital | 169.23 | 169.23 | 169.23 |
| Other equity excluding revaluation reserve | | 8220 | |
| Earnings per share (Face value of ₹5 each) (Not annualised): | | | |
| Basic (in ₹) | 14.87 | 63.92 | 16.19 |
| Diluted (in ₹) | 14.87 | 63.92 | 16.19 |

**Notes :**

1 Summary details of standalone financial results of Torrent Pharmaceuticals Limited :

[₹ in crores]

| Particulars | Quarter Ended June 30, 2026 | Year Ended March 31, 2026 | Quarter Ended June 30, 2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Unaudited | Audited, Restated | Audited |
| Total income from operations | 4158 | 11422 | 2616 |
| Profit before tax | 663 | 2721 | 742 |
| Profit after tax | 492 | 2034 | 551 |
| Total comprehensive income | 559 | 1889 | 524 |

2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Financial Results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026 filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the same, along with the notes, are available on www.nseindia.com, www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website (URL: www.torrentpharma.com/investors/financial-info/quarterly-results/). The same can be accessed by scanning the QR code provided below.

**For TORRENT PHARMACEUTICALS LIMITED**

**Place : Ahmedabad, Gujarat**
**Date : July 30, 2026**

**AMAN MEHTA**
Managing Director
**DIN: 08174906**

## Chola — Enter a better life

## CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

**CORPORATE OFFICE : "CHOLA CREST", C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai - 600 032, India**
**REGIONAL OFFICE : 55 & 55/1, Chowringhee Road, 4th Floor, Chowringhee Court, Opp. Nehru Chindren's Museum in Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata - 700 071, W.B.**

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(1)**

WHEREAS,

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited**,under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13[12] read with Rules 3 of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002 issued demand notices on the date mentioned the account calling upon the respective Borrowers, to repay the outstanding amount with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken **Physical Possession** of the properties mortgaged with the Company described herein below on the respective dates mentioned against each account in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13[4] of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Rules made there under.

The Borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned herein below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of **Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited** for an amount mentioned against each account along with interest and other charges.

Under section 13[8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of Sale.

| Sl. No. | NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER | DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY | A) DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE<br>B) OUTSTANDING AMOUNT<br>C) DATE OF PHYSICAL POSSESSION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Loan Account No. : X0HEGKL00001192826**<br>**Arun Kumar Sil (Applicant)**<br>196, Baghajatin, Block D, D/69 A, Baghajatin Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin - 700032<br>**Also at :** Netaji Block, Rajpur, Sonarpur South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin - 700149<br>**Sakuntala Sil (Co-Applicant)**<br>Netaji Block, Rajpur, Sonarpur South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin - 700149 | All that Land measuring about 1 Cottah, 8 Chittacks and 4 Sq. Ft. together with structures standing thereon forming part of Dag Nos. 665, 666 & 668 under Khatian Nos. 44, 679 & 316, in Mouza - Chouhati. R. S. No. 236, J. L. No. 76 under P. S. - Sonarpur in the District - South 24 Parganas presently known and numbered as Municipal Holding No. 466 (as per Tax) under Municipal Ward No. 6 (as per Deed) and Ward No. 24 (as per Tax) within the limits of Rajpur-Sonarpur Municipality. **The Property Is butted and bounded by -** On the North : 10 wide Common Passage, On the South : Plot No. 20, On the East : Land of Plot No.16, On the West : 8 Wide Common Passage. | **A) 26.05.2023**<br>**B) Rs. 22,84,959.00** (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Nine Only) **as on 19.05.2023** and interest thereon<br>**C) Date of Physical Possession : 28.07.2026** |
| 2. | **Loan Account No. : ML01GKL00000067869**<br>**Arindam Muhuri (Applicant),**<br>Ranidanga, Maslandapur, Near A. G. School, Ranidanga North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin - 743289<br>**All Legal Heirs of Ranjan Muhuri (Co-Applicant)**<br>Ranidanga, Maslandapur, North 24 Parganas West Bengal, Pin - 743289<br>**Rupali Muhuri (Co-Applicant),** Cristain Para, Ranidanga North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin - 743289<br>**Sabita Engineering (Co-Applicant)**<br>Village and Para - Ranidanga, P. S. - Gobardanga P. O. - Maslandapur, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal - 743289 | All that piece and parcel of land measuring 3.3 Decimal along with structure standing thereon lying and situated at Mouza - Ranidanga, comprised in J. L. No. 171, Touzi - 2159, R. S. and L. R. Dag No. 1970 corresponding to R. S. & L. R. Khatian No. 558/1 within the limits of Maslandpur Gram Panchayat, P. S. - Habra, ADSR - Habra, DSR - Barasat, District-North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin - 743289, **butted and bounded :** By North - Property of Paresh basu, By South - Property of Chinta Haran Samaddar, By East - Road and By West - Properties of Ranjan and Kamala Muhuri. | **A) 07.10.2025**<br>**B) Rs. 27,00,298.00** (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakh Two Hundred Ninety Eight only) **as on 07.10.2025** and interest thereon<br>**C) Date of Physical Possession : 29.07.2026** |

**Date : 31.07.2026**
**Place : Kolkata (West Bengal)**

**Authorised Officer**
**Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company LImited**

## बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
## Regional Stressed Assets Recovery Branch
**Kolkata Metro Region II**
1st Floor, 3 M L Mitra Road, Kolkata-700017
Email id: SARKMT@bankofbaroda.bank.in

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

**ANNEXURE-A**

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ; "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8 (6) & or 9(1)]**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & or 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor's and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is"**, and **"Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s / Mortgagor / Guarantor/s / Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:–

| Sr/ Lot No. | Name & address of Borrower/s/Guarantor/ s/ Mortgagor (s) | Detailed description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, If any | Total Dues | Date & Time of E-auction | Reserve Price / EMD amount / Bid Increase Amount | Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical) | Property Inspection date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **M/s AnIndIta Automobiles Proprietor - Soumitra Hazra,** Village + P.O. Jujersha, P.S. Panchal, Howrah, Pin No –711302, West Bengal "shree Apartment" Flat No 01, A, Andul Purbapara Street, Howrah - 711302, P.s. Sankrail, Under Andul Grampanchayat. | All that piece and parcel of residential flat no 01 measuring covered area 529 sq. ft. and 15% super built-up area 79 sq. ft. in total admeasuring 608 sq. ft on the ground floor of the building named Shree Apartment consisting of 2 bedrooms, 1 dining cum living room, 1 kitchen room, 1 varandah, 1 W.C. bath/toilet, 1 attached toilet which has been constructed thereupon all that piece and parcel of bastu land measuring about 2 decimal equivalent to 01 katha 03 chhatak 17 sq.ft comprised in R.S. Dag No.746 under R.S. Khatian No 640 corresponding to L.R. Dag No 830 under L.R. Khatian no 1380 and measuring 04 decimal equivalent 02 katha 07 chhatak 03 sq.ft. Out of 06 decimal comprised in R.S. 745 under R.S. Khatian no 643 corresponding to L.R. Dag no 829 under L.R. Khatian no 224/1 and Danga land measuring 03 decimal equivalent to 01 katha 13 chhatak 03 sq. ft. comprised in R.S. Dag No 744 under R.S. Khaitan no 642 corresponding to L.R. Dag No.827 under L.R. Khatian no 1732 kri. In total 08 cottahs 05 chittacks 1 sq. ft lying and situated at mouza- Andul, J.L. no 29 under police station Sankrail in Howrah District A.D.S.R. Rarihati, D.S.R. Howrah in the name of Shree Soumitra Hazra. **The property is butted and bounded as follows:** On the North: Open Space , On the East: Flat No 02, On the South: Common Passage, On the West: Open Space and Staircase. | **Rs. 27,85,689.35** + interest and charges w.e.f. 18.10.2023 | **25.08.2026** Time- 2.00 pm to 6.00pm with unlimited extension of 10 minutes | **Rs.13,81,000**<br>**Rs.1,38,100/-**<br>**Rs.10,000/-** | Physical | **From 03.08.2026 to 24.08.2026 11.00am to 2.00 pm Concerned Officer Sudhir Kumar Gupta 7992297792 with prior appointment.** |
| 2 | **Mr. Govind Prasad Singh and Mrs. Subhadra SIngh** Address: LP 38/16/7/3, Vivekananda Park, Near Vivekananda statue, Natunhat, Mahestala Municipality, Dist- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700141, West Bengal. | All that piece and parcel of self-contained Houssem built up area 1946 sq ft, carpet area 1945 sq ft, which is situated at all the piece and parcel of lan measuring of 02 cottahs 09 chaitak more or less together with single storied building standing thereon lying and situated at Mouza – Ramnagar, Pargana Balia, JL No.26, Touzi No- 65, RS 74, comprised in Dag no 382 (land area of 2 Cottahs 3 chaitak) under RS Khatian No- 12, LR Khatian No Kri 447/1, Kri 491/2 and Kri 303 and comprised in Dag No 394 ( land area of 6 chaitak) under RS Khatian No- 185, LR Khatian No- Kri 228 now LR Khatian no- 2060, within the limits of the Maheshtala Municipality, being holding no H2 -64/ New Vivekananda Park Road, under Ward no- 23, Police Station Maheshtala, Dist- South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Pin- 700141 belonging to Mr. Subhadra SIngh | **Rs. 42,47,986** + interest and charges w.e.f. 23.03.2025 | **08.09.2026** Time- 2.00 pm to 6.00pm with unlimited extension of 10 minutes | **Rs. 36,52,000/-**<br>**Rs. 3,65,200/-**<br>**Rs. 10,000/-** | Physical | **From 01.08.2026 to 07.09.2026 11.00am to 2.00 pm Concerned Officer Sudhir Kumar Gupta 7992297792 with prior appointment** |

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link **https://www.bankofbaroda.bank.in/e-auction.htm and https://baanknet.com.** Also, prospective bidders may contact with the Authorised officer on **Tel No. . 033 2283 7888, Mobile 7992297792**

**Date: 31.07.2026**
**Place :- Kolkata**

For detailed terms and conditions

SCAN HERE

**Name: Sudhir Kumar Gupta**
**Authorised Officer**
**Bank of Baroda**

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## DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY

(Deemed to be University under Section 3 of UGC Act 1956)
Girinagar, Pune – 411 025. Tel No. 020 2460 4411 E-Mail:- jr@diat.ac.in

**ADMISSION NOTICE**

**M. Tech in Industrial Systems Engineering For Working Professionals – 2026**
**Application Deadline: 23/08/2026**

Defence Institute of Advanced Technology is an autonomous organization, fully funded by the Department of Defence Research & Development, Ministry of Defence established with the objective of imparting Post Graduate Education in Engineering and Applied Sciences on thrust area relevant to Defence, Industries, R&D and to conduct research in the Core areas of Defence Technologies.

**DIAT invites applications for the M.Tech in Industrial Systems Engineering for Working Professionals.**

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# Kerala UDF reverses stand on PM SHRI, cites need for Central funds

**Shaju Philip**
*Thiruvananthapuram, July 30*

KERALA'S RULING Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Thursday decided to implement the Union Government's Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme in state-run schools — a significant U-turn for a coalition that had once strenuously opposed it.

After a UDF meeting on Thursday, alliance convener and Congress MP Adoor Prakash said the coalition had decided to implement the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Centre's PM SHRI in Kerala schools. "The previous LDF government had signed an MoU with the Centre. Hence, the present government cannot withdraw from it. The UDF government will take forward the project to get the fund, which is not a magnanimity of the Centre. A UDF sub-committee will finalise the schools where the project has to be implemented," he said.

It is a significant departure from the UDF's previous stance. As Opposition, it had criticised the scheme, accusing the previous LDF government of facilitating the Sangh Parivar's "saffronisation" of education by signing the MoU with the Centre.

Ally IUML's, one of the scheme's most vocal critics, stance is also softened, which now holds the education portfolio. In the run-up to the polls, the IUML had warned that the scheme would be "abandoned" if it was voted to power. They justified this by arguing that Kerala needs the central funds while safeguarding the rights in the field of education.

The shift comes at a time of financial constraints and rising education arrears in Kerala, which stand at Rs 1,466 crore. It has prompted the LDF and UDF governments to change their previous positions.

In Kerala, 33 Kendriya Vidyalayas and 14 Navodaya Vidyalayas are part of the scheme. Under PM SHRI, states have to bear 40% of the project expenditure. So far, 13,095 schools, from primary to higher-secondary level, across 776 districts have become part of the scheme.

# Maharashtra to withdraw FIRs through regular legal process

**Mohamed Thaver & Sadaf Modak**
*Mumbai, July 30*

THE MAHARASHTRA government has decided to withdraw FIRs registered against individuals who protested in support of the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) over NEET paper leak through the state's existing mechanism for withdrawing cases arising out of political and social protests.

It has directed officials to complete the exercise in a "prompt and time bound manner" instead of the six months to one year it usually takes for such withdrawals.

The cases, however, will not be closed immediately. Instead, they will follow the prescribed legal route in which the police will complete the investigation, file chargesheets and thereafter the prosecution will seek permission from the court to withdraw the cases after the proposal clears two government committees.

"The cases will be withdrawn as per the procedure laid down in the Government Resolution (GR) governing withdrawal of cases related to political and social protests. Normally, the process takes a long time, but in these cases it will be carried out in a prompt and time bound manner," a senior government official said.

Asked whether the government had fixed a deadline, the official said no specific timeline had been set. "We cannot rush through the procedure... every legal requirement has to be met. But it will be completed as expeditiously as possible," the official said. Another source said the government was conscious that any decision to withdraw the cases could later be challenged in court and, therefore, every procedural requirement had to be followed.

Senior officials said the government had also examined the option of filing closure reports in the FIRs, but found it legally impractical. Closure reports are ordinarily filed when an FIR is found to have been registered due to a mistake of fact, when evidence is insufficient or when the offence remains undetected. "We assessed the available options and decided on the most practical legal course for withdrawing the cases. The DGP was asked to take a decision accordingly," a senior government leader said.

With the procedure now clarified, police are expected to begin probes and file chargesheets in nearly 20 FIRs registered in Mumbai, besides a few others across the state.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

## CJP founder accuses BJP of issuing threats, ruling party denies charge

*Pune:* Alleging threats from BJP, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday said he was pressured to either join the party or risk being shot dead.

"I have received many offers from them (BJP). But I won't join BJP. If I wanted to join BJP, I would have done it earlier," he said on Wednesday. "I also received threats that it would be better if I join BJP. They asked me call off the protest, otherwise, 'we will beat you up and shoot you'. This is the very language of love of the Sangh and the BJP."

Dipke said his family was also threatened. "They said 'we will deal with your mother and father. We will visit your home and take care of this'... I asked them 'You are threatening a 30-year-old youth?... You should be ashamed of yourself. I mean, what are you doing?" He, however, did not name as to who issued the threats.

Reacting to this, BJP spokesperson Keshav Upadhye said, "It is completely false that he was threatened to join BJP. He conducted a protest, which he did from his perspective... This doesn't mean anyone gets the right to blurt out whatever they want..."

BJP minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said, "If any BJP karyakarta threatened Dipke, we'll take action against him. He should either reveal his name or not indulge in defaming BJP."

MANOJ MORE

# Modi reviews safety of seafarers, supply chain constraints in extended CCS meet

**ENS & PTI**
*New Delhi, July 30*

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Thursday discussed with a group of senior ministers the prevailing geo-political situation in West Asia and measures to keep supply chains uninterrupted despite conflicts surrounding the Strait of Hormuz, the Black Sea, the Red Sea, and the Gulf of Aden.

The extended Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) meeting in Parliament House, chaired by the PM, was attended by permanent members, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, as well as special invitees, Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister J P Nadda, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri, official sources said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi today chaired a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security to review the situation in the context of the ongoing West Asia conflict and measures taken by various Ministries and Departments. This was the 4th special CCS meeting on the issue," a statement issued by the PMO said.

Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan briefed the CCS about the present geo-political situation and spoke about the initiatives taken to ensure adequate supply of petroleum products, including LNG/LPG and fertilisers, it said. The Cabinet Secretary told the CCS that sources for procurement of LPG have already been diversified and the overall stock and supply positions of major petroleum products remain adequate.

Availability of adequate crude oil has enabled Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) refineries to operate at utilisation levels exceeding 100 per cent, ensuring continued production of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products.

Initiatives have also been taken to expand Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections, which have resulted in a substantial increase in subscriptions. The government is also facilitating industrial substitution of LPG through expansion of the National Gas Grid, augmentation of LNG import and re-gasification infrastructure, expansion of City Gas Distribution networks, and time-bound pipeline and last-mile connectivity approvals under the Pipeline Infrastructure Order, 2026.

"During the meeting, requirements for the fertilisers for the ensuing Rabi season were assessed, and alternative sources of fertilisers were also discussed. The PM said that all measures be taken for ensuring uninterrupted supply of fertilisers," the statement said.

The ministers gave presentations on their respective ministries and steps taken by them to ensure uninterrupted import of all goods, including petroleum, natural gas and fertilisers, they said. The PM is learnt to have given certain directions to the ministers to ensure the safety of Indians, India's economic interests and find ways to clear the supply chain hindrances.

# Minister in RS: Potential conflict of interest in RDI Fund disbursement

**Express News Service**
*New Delhi, July 30*

THE COMMITTEE responsible for selecting companies for receiving money from the newly-created Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) fund had picked at least 15 companies in which members of the committee themselves had a personal stake, according to information provided by the government in Parliament on Thursday.

In a written answer in the Rajya Sabha, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh provided a list of seven members of the committee who had personal stakes in these 15 companies that have been among those chosen for receiving money from the RDI Fund. The RDI Fund is a Rs 1 lakh crore corpus created by the Centre last year to promote research and development activities and innovation in the private sector, particularly in high-priority areas like deep-tech. The fund is meant to provide long-term low-cost financing to the private sector. The funds are channelised through what are known as second-level fund managers (SLFMs).

These are a few selected organisations which have been empowered to invest in private sector companies in the form of equity, debt or both, using money from the RDI Fund. Current SLFMs include Technology Development Board under the Department of Science and Technology, and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council under the Department of Biotechnology. Every SLFM is supposed to have an investment committee for assessing and vetting investment proposals from the private sector companies seeking funding from the RDI Fund.

In response to a question by Rajya Sabha member Praveen Chakravarthy, Singh gave names of seven members of the Investment Committee of the Technology Development Board who had made investments in at least 15 entities selected for receiving money from the RDI Fund. Singh said that the TDB had a conflict-of-interest policy for members of the investment committee, but did not specify what this policy was, or whether the selection of these companies constituted a violation of the policy. The implementation guidelines for the RDI scheme say that the investment panel "must be constituted in a way that avoids potential conflicts of interest".

It added that the SLFM must take care to ensure that there was no conflict of interest in the choice of specific projects for financing, "given the likelihood of domain experts on its IC (investment committee) being investors in ideas and companies". It is also not clear if any of the members of the investment panel named in Singh's response in the Rajya Sabha participated in the decision-making process that led to the selection of the company in which they had investments, or they recused themselves in any manner.

EXPRESS special

# Long after these UP mafia dons were killed, their wives remain absconding

**Manish Sahu**
*Lucknow, July 30*

LAST WEEK, the Uttar Pradesh Police lodged a fresh criminal case against Afsha Ansari, the wife of mafia lord-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari. He died in Banda jail in March 2024; she has been "absconding" since then.

In that, Afsha has company. The wives of two other known mafia dons of the state are also wanted by the UP Police since the death of their husbands, and have eluded the authorities for even longer. Atiq Ahmed and younger brother Ashraf were gunned down in April 2023 while in police custody and on live TV. Apart from their wives Shaista Parveen and Zainab Fatima, respectively, police have been looking for the brothers' elder sister Ayesha Noori since then.

All four women, who are between the ages of 50 and 60, remain missing despite police announcing cash rewards for information on their whereabouts, including Rs 50,000 each for Shaista and Afsha, and Rs 25,000 each in the case of Zainab and Ayesha. All four are accused essentially of playing a "conspiratorial" role in the offences carried out by the late mafia dons. Police say they are making every effort to track down the women, including pressuring them to surrender.

Atiq Ahmed's wife Shaista Parveen; Mukhtar Ansari's wife Afsha (R)

The latest case in which Afsha was booked relates to a revolver obtained under an arms licence issued in her name. She faces five other cases, including one under the UP Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act, Ghazipur Superintendent of Police Iraj Raja said, adding her properties have been attached under the Act.

Shaista, Zainab and Noori are wanted for alleged roles in a murder conspiracy. Shaista and Zainab were based in Prayagraj when they went missing while Ayesha was living in Meerut. Afsha is a native of Ghazipur district.

The Ghazipur SP said: "Afsha remains a wanted fugitive and police teams are conducting raids to trace her."

Sources in the UP Police said that after they received intelligence suggesting Afsha could attempt to flee the country, they approached Central agencies, including the CBI and Immigration Department, for lookout notices against her.

The latest case against Afsha was filed after a police verification drive on firearms issued to Ansari, his family members and close associates, based on purchase and sale records. The inquiry found that Afsha held an arms licence in her name, against which a revolver was purchased and later sold and another firearm acquired.

However, the records documenting the purchase and sale of the revolver were found to be missing from the archives of the Ghazipur District Magistrate's office, with police suspecting the records were removed in collusion with the staff. Police said they have not been able to trace the revolver either, and believe papers regarding it were deliberately concealed to facilitate its use by members of the Ansari gang.

Apart from Afsha, the FIR names Brij Narayan Ram and Bhishm Singh Yadav, who worked as record assistants with the DM office. Ram is deceased. Provisions of the Arms Act have also been invoked against the accused.

Atiq Ahmed's wife, sister and sister-in-law are wanted in connection with the February 2023 killing of a lawyer, Umesh Pal, and his two police security personnel, Sandeep Nishad and Raghvendra Singh, in Prayagraj. The attack had taken place in broad daylight outside Pal's home, with gunmen opening fire and hurling crude bombs.

The Prayagraj Police have also registered cases against the three for failing to appear despite being declared proclaimed offenders.

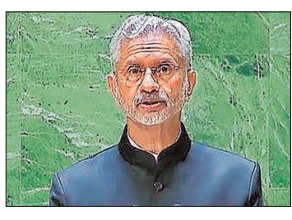
Ayesha's husband Akhlaq Ahmed, a doctor who used to work at a Community Health Centre in Meerut, is under arrest in the same case, charged with giving shelter to one of the accused in the Umesh Pal murder, Guddu Muslim. Guddu remains missing too. Atiq's two sons, Ali Ahmed and Mohammad Umar, are also in prison.

Incidentally, Guddu along with Sabir, another accused in Umesh Pal's murder, figures among the UP Police's list of 30 most wanted. Both carry a reward of Rs 5 lakh each on their heads. The four women are not on the list, with Deepti Bahal the only woman featuring on it.

A former college principal, Bahal has been on the run since 2019 and is accused of fraud allegedly amounting to Rs 4,500 crore in a bike taxi venture. She is named in 118 cases lodged across the country.

# Attacks on Indian seafarers in Black Sea unacceptable: Jaishankar to Ukraine's Sybiha

**Divya A**
*New Delhi, July 30*



EAM S Jaishankar

IN THE wake of a merchant vessel carrying 13 Indian seafarers being stuck near Ukraine's Black Sea coast, and with continuous attacks on cargo ships in Black Sea, killing several Indians, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha and took stock of the situation.

Over the past two weeks, several Indian seafarers have lost their lives or are missing after the ships came under attack from both the Russian and Ukrainian sides in Black Sea. Jaishankar conveyed to Sybiha New Delhi's condemnation of such attacks by any side involved in the conflict, calling them unacceptable.

"Glad to connect again with FM Andrii Sybiha of Ukraine, after our respective travels," the minister said, adding, "Discussed attacks on commercial shipping and Indian seafarers in the Black Sea. Such attacks by any party are absolutely unacceptable and India condemns them unequivocally."

Kyiv Thursday said they have pitched for India to play an "active role" in ending its conflict with Russia. In a social media post, the Ukrainian Foreign Minister said he had a "good" conversation with Jaishankar and that he briefed his Indian counterpart about President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recent visit to Washington DC.

# Gurgaon-Jaipur corridor on NH 48 to go barrier-less from tomorrow

**Dheeraj Mishra**
*New Delhi, July 30*

FROM AUGUST 1 and commuters will no longer have to stop at any toll plaza to pay user fees while travelling through the Gurgaon-Jaipur corridor of National Highway 48 (NH-48).

The corridor is set to become a completely barrier-less system starting Saturday. Officials said the Multi Lane Free Flow (MLFF) tolling system on Shahjahanpur toll plaza in Rajasthan is likely to go live on August 1. The MLFF is active on Daulatpura and Manoharpura toll plazas of NH-48. Shahjahanpur was the last toll gate in the Gurgaon-Jaipur corridor without the system in place.

The 270-km section on NH-48 is one of the busiest among all national highways. NH-48 runs from Delhi to Chennai, covering a distance of 2,807 kms and traversing seven states. Officials said once MLFF is implemented on Kukrola (shifted Khedki daula) toll gate, the Delhi-Jaipur corridor on NH-48 will become barrier-less. MLFF is live on five fee plazas: Choryasi (NH-48 in Gujarat); Mundka (UER-II in Delhi); Gharaunda (NH-44 in Haryana); Manoharpura (NH-48 in Rajasthan); and Daulatpura (NH-48 in Rajasthan).

The 270-km section on NH-48 is one of the busiest among all national highways. EXPRESS

Apart from this, Indian Highways Management Company Ltd (IHMCL) — NHAI's tolling implementation agency — has awarded the MLFF contract for 12 more fee plazas. These are Boraich on NH-48 in Gujarat; Nemili/ Sri Perumbadur and Chenasamudram on NH-48 and Paranur on NH-45 in Tamil Nadu; Kasepalli, Amakathadu and Marur on NH-44 in Andhra Pradesh; Chalakwadi and Hiwargaon Pavsa on NH-50 in Maharashtra; Madanpur on NH-31 in Assam; and Badarpur- Faridabad on NH-19 in Haryana. Further, bids have been invited for an additional 104 fee plazas.

As per the 2025-26 economic survey, MLFF is projected to be implemented across all four-lane and above NHs and expressways by March 2029. In MLFF, the high-performance Radio Frequency Identification readers and Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras read the FASTag and Vehicle Registration Number to deduct toll amount, negating the need for vehicles to stop at the toll gates.

# 2018 flood rehabilitation project: Kerala Vigilance drops probe against CM

**Shaju Philip**
*Thiruvananthapuram, July 30*

THE KERALA Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) has dropped its probe against Chief Minister V D Satheesan in connection with the allegation that he had collected money from abroad in violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) for a 2018 flood rehabilitation project.

Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala said VACB has wound up its probe as there is no proof against Satheesan. "The VACB has taken the decision to close the case that the previous LDF government had registered against him. The allegation was that he had travelled to the UK and raised funds for the project (called Punarjani, which was conceived to rehabilitate flood-affected people in Satheesan's constituency, Paravur)," he said.

"The probe has found that funds were handled by the Manappat Foundation (the corporate social responsibility wing of the Dubai-based Manappat Group) and their FCRA account. Probe revealed that Satheesan played no role in it. Hence, the case registered against Satheesan, under section 7 (a) of the PCA, was dropped," Chennithala said.

Kerala CM V D Satheesan

He said the previous CPI(M) government's decision to hand over the case to the CBI was politically motivated. "After that, the VACB director had examined the files and recommended that the matter should not be taken ahead. This clean chit to Satheesan is not because of the change in the government," the Home Minister said. The VACB probe started in 2023, while Satheesan was serving as the LoP in the Assembly.

# ISRO & Japanese scientists review mission Chandrayaan-5 preparation

**Anjali Marar**
*Bengaluru, July 30*

A JAPANESE space delegation on Wednesday held discussions with their counterparts at Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to take stock of the progress being made on Chandrayaan-5 — a joint mission to the Moon scheduled for 2028.

Scientists from Japan's Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) visited the UR Rao Satellite Centre in Bengaluru on Wednesday. The two countries have been working on Chandrayaan-5 also known as Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX), a first-of-its-kind joint rover mission to the Moon. For this project, ISRO is building the lander module, while JAXA is developing the rover, the one which will come out of the lander module after landing and move around on the surface of the Moon, surveying the topography and collecting data.

The mission will take off on a Japanese rocket, H3, and is planned to carry seven scientific instruments for carrying out different kinds of experiments. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the US and the European Space Agency (ESA) are also participating in this mission, and will be mounting their payloads on the rover. The ESA is developing the mass spectrometer and NASA is developing the neutron spectrometers. Chandrayaan-5 is planned to stay on the Moon for 100 days i.e. 3 and five months.

During their Wednesday meeting, scientists of ISRO and JAXA discussed the technical co-ordination required for Inter Spacecraft Communication of Chandrayaan-5. This mission aims to study water and water-ice both on the lunar surface and the subsurface.

The two agencies took stock of the onboard payloads and on the possible launch window, which is likely to be in 2028. Last week, JAXA successfully performed the second Payload Operations Simulation at Tsukuba Space Center. The complex operational scenario, involving both spacecraft bus and payload operations, were tested in parallel.

Chandrayaan-5 was approved by the Government in March 2025 in the backdrop of India's landing on the lunar south pole with the Chandrayaan-3 mission in August 2023. ISRO's immediate next mission to the moon will be the Chandrayaan-4 mission.

## Gaganyaan-1 in progress

*Bengaluru:* The assembly, integration and testing of the Crew and Service Modules of the Gaganyaan-1 human spaceflight mission are nearing completion, Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh said in a written reply in Lok Sabha on Wednesday. He detailed the mission's status, and completed tasks in his reply to Jaipur MP Rao Rajendra Singh.

Gaganyaan-1 uncrewed mission was originally scheduled for launch in late 2025. It was later pushed to the first quarter of 2026. Singh had, during the Winter Session of House, 2025, said that the G-1 launch would take place before March 2026. But, ISRO is yet to release the revised launch date. **ENS**

# ISRO's NavIC system can no longer provide navigation data independently: Govt

**Anonna Dutt**
*New Delhi, July 30*

FOR THE first time since positioning data from one of its satellites was lost in March, the government has accepted in the parliament that the seven-satellite navigation constellation (NavIC) can no longer independently aid people in navigation.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) earlier this year informed that IRNSS-1F satellite, which was launched in March 2016, completed its designed mission life of 10 years and the on-board atomic clock stopped functioning.

"...presently the NavIC constellation has three satellites for providing PNT (Positioning, Navigation, Timing) services — IRNSS-1B, IRNSS-1I and NVS-01. To provide basic positioning service, minimum four operational satellites are required in orbit. Hence, the NavIC constellation cannot provide standalone positioning service, however timing service is functional," union minister of state for space Dr Jitendra Singh replied in a written answer in Parliament.

The reply said that the armed forces continue to use NavIC signals as part of the multi-constellation GNSS — Global Navigation Satellite System that uses data from US' GPS, EU's Galileo, and Russia's Glonass among others to navigate.

When asked whether it compromises accuracy for navigation or real-time mapping, the reply stated: "Since NavIC is being used in multi constellation environment for most of the use-cases, there is no vulnerability for the users."

While end-user applications were developed for utilising NavIC signals in aviation, shipping, railways, and even in everyday cell phones, all of these devices carry a GNSS receiver, meaning they can continue to get positioning data from other constellations.

The reply also stated: "Next NavIC satellite NVS-03 is ready for launch and two more satellites NVS-04 and NVS-05 are in advanced stage of realisation."

The constellation can still provide accurate time signals for digital devices as well as broadcast emergency messages.

The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) — also referred to with the operational name of Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) — was planned to be a seven-satellite system to provide positioning data over the Indian subcontinent and 1500 km around it. Ever since its inception, however, it has been plagued by problems affecting its positioning data.

# Low turnout, high stakes: BJP faces Bankipur battle

**Santosh Singh**
*Patna, July 30*

A GOVERNMENT servant who cast her vote at a thinly attended polling booth in Patna on Friday for the Bankipur bypoll refused to reveal her preference but observed with a tone of resignation: "Sab ke aankhon par BJP ki patti padhi hai (Everyone is wearing BJP blindfolds)."

Yet, just a few kilometres away, a voter was heard repeating "jai Jan Suraaj, jai Prashant" as he entered a booth in a locality with a substantial Muslim population.

As voters trickled into polling booths on voting day for the Bankipur bypoll in Bihar, with turnout at 34.2% as of 8.30 pm, all three key contenders — the BJP's Neeraj Kumar Sinha, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)'s Rekha Gupta, and Jan Suraaj Party's (JSP) Prashant Kishor — moved continuously between polling stations.

Among them, Kishor appeared the most active in the high-profile constituency vacated by BJP national president Nitin Nabin following his elevation to the Rajya Sabha.

Following a heated argument on Wednesday evening with Jakkanpur police station in-charge Rituraj Kumar Singh over the undisclosed location of two detained JSP workers, Kishor successfully pressed polling officials to rectify a malfunctioning electronic voting machine (EVM) at Daldali, near Dariyapur Gola, on Thursday morning.

Reacting to the clashes, Kishor told the Jakkanpur police, "Either tell us the location of our two detained workers or be ready to lose your job."

The Jakkanpur SHO subsequently accused Kishor of "threatening a police officer inside a police station".

Tensions also flared between supporters of the JSP and BJP in several pockets. JSP and BJP workers — the latter led by Abhishek Bunty, who was forced to opt out of the bypoll and replaced by Sinha — clashed in S K Nagar.

In another incident near a polling booth in Anandpuri, former MLA and JSP leader Kishore Kumar Munna was shoved by BJP workers following a heated exchange.

The BJP has won the Bankipur seat in consecutive elections since 1995.

People arrive at a polling station during the Bankipur by-elections on Thursday. RAHUL SHARMA

# Appoint Polar Ambassador, join Arctic Council, suggests panel

**Express News Service**
*New Delhi, July 30*

THE PARLIAMENTARY committee on External Affairs in its report has recommended that India should appoint a Polar Ambassador and urged the government to seek "full-fledged membership" of the Arctic council so that India can engage in its activities more effectively.

India is currently one of the 13 observer countries of the Arctic Council, whose full membership is restricted to 8 nations that have landmass in the region. The observer countries do not have decision making powers. They also can't make financial contributions or undertake research in the arctic directly.

The committee, in its recommendations said: "...it is imperative that India also has such an Ambassador at a level equivalent to other countries exclusively to deal with polar regions. Creating such a position will not only help India project the importance given to these regions in its foreign policy architecture but will also help put across its policy stance in relation to polar areas or pursue polar diplomacy in a more effective manner."

With several Russian research activities in the Artic region having been paused following the conflict with Ukraine, the committee recommended that India through its diplomatic channels impress upon the seven other countries of the need for having Russia on-board for the scientific work in the region which is experiencing drastic climate change — the impact of which will be felt across the globe. The committee also recommended that government explore the possibility of accessing the Russian Arctic Research Stations.

# Govt to House panel: Hasina not allowed to conduct political activities from India

**Divya A**
*New Delhi, July 30*

IN THE wake of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent remarks that she might return to Bangladesh by the end of this year, the government has told a Parliamentary panel that the former Bangladesh PM is not permitted to conduct political activities from India.

On Thursday, Bangladesh Law Minister M Asaduzzaman said that Hasina is likely to be arrested instantly on her return from India.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs told the panel, "The extradition request (sent by Dhaka for Hasina) is being examined by the competent authorities of the Government of India in accordance with applicable law and established procedures."

The Committee - led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor — noted that Hasina's stay and India's approach in this regard is guided by "its civilisational ethos and humanitarian tradition of offering refuge to individuals facing circumstances of grave distress or existential threat".

The panel noted that while extending such humanitarian consideration, India has strictly adhered to the principle that no political activity is directed against any other country from our territory.

In its latest report on the 'Future of India-Bangladesh Relationship', the Committee recommended that "the government should continue to uphold its principled and humanitarian approach... while ensuring that such situations are managed with due sensitivity".

Former Bangladesh Prime Minster Sheikh Hasina

The parliamentary committee also sought an early normalisation of visa processing for Bangladeshi nationals, expressing concern that reduced visa processing volumes for Bangladesh nationals harm public perception and bilateral ties. India resumed tourist visa services for Bangladeshi nationals on June 28, 2026, ending a two-year suspension that began in July 2024 following political unrest and security concerns.

With the Ganga Water Treaty of 1996 between India and Bangladesh set to expire this year, the panel has urged the government to initiate discussions with Dhaka "without further delay".

Noting that the treaty is set to expire in 2026 and that bilateral discussions on its renewal had not yet commenced, the committee has recommended early initiation of renewal discussions, guided by updated hydrological data and climate change projections, and in consultation with the state governments of West Bengal and Bihar, the report said.

The committee also recommended that the MEA should continue to prioritise the protection of minorities in Bangladesh as a core element of its diplomatic engagement.

# Amid demolition probe, Gujarat HC asks why Surat civic chief remains in post

**Aditi Raja**
*Vadodara, July 30*

THE GUJARAT High Court on Thursday orally questioned how the Surat Municipal Commissioner could continue in office while a state-level inquiry into the controversial Nasir Nagar demolition is underway, observing that Gujarat's image as a "model state" is at stake, even as the state informed the court that two of its "best officers in municipal administration" had been appointed to conduct the probe.

Hearing the petition filed by 26 residents of Nasir Nagar, Justice Nikhil Kariel repeatedly expressed concern over the government's decision to allow the Municipal Commissioner to remain in the same position while the inquiry is underway. The court orally observed that while it appreciated the State's seriousness in constituting an inquiry, the message being sent out was that senior officers "cannot be touched".

On May 30, the Surat Municipal Corporation demolished around 100 shanties, built in Nasir Nagar allegedly encroaching on private land in the Ved Road area, displacing as many families. Twenty-six affected residents have challenged the action before the High Court.

# 'How are you keeping unelected minister?' SC asks Bihar govt

**Ananthakrishnan G**
*New Delhi, July 30*

THE SUPREME Court on Thursday questioned how the Bihar government could retain a minister who has remained unelected beyond the six-month constitutional limit and asked the state to explain its position.

A three-judge bench, presided over by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, was hearing a request to fix a date for hearing a plea challenging the appointment of Deepak Prakash as Panchayati Raj Minister in Bihar for the second time, without having been elected as an Assembly member. "It is a pure legal issue. How are you retaining a minister beyond 6 months when he is not elected?" CJI Kant asked the counsel appearing for the Bihar Government.

Article 164(4) allows a non-member to remain minister for six months, subject to getting elected as a member within that period. The counsel appearing for Rakesh Kumar Singh, a petitioner from Bihar, said that when the matter came up for hearing on July 15, the state sought time, stating it wanted to file a counter-affidavit but had not done so yet. "Seven months and 22 days have passed, and he is still continuing as the minister," he said.

CJI Kant said that whether the state files a counter or not, the court will not give any more time. The court fixed the next hearing date for August 4.

Deepak Prakash, the son of Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) leader Upendra Kushwaha, was made Minister of Panchayati Raj on November 20, 2025, in the then Nitish Kumar government, even though he was not a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council. However, after a fresh council of ministers was constituted following Kumar's exit, and Samrat Choudhary became the Chief Minister, Prakash was once again made Panchayati Raj Minister on May 7, 2026.

Singh, the petitioner, has argued that it was a one-time opportunity and cannot be utilised every time there is a change of government. He had to get re-elected between November 20, 2025, when he was first sworn in, and May 20, 2026, the plea pointed out. Singh contends that the re-appointment was in circumvention of constitutional safeguards and undermines representative democracy. He argued that it undermines the principles of parliamentary democracy and electoral accountability. The plea urged the SC to declare Prakash's reappointment and continuance in office unconstitutional, illegal, and void, and to restrain him from exercising the powers vested in the ministerial office.

# Insurer not liable to pay compensation for accident if driver's licence is invalid: SC

**Press Trust of India**
*New Delhi, July 30*

INSURANCE COMPANIES are not liable to pay compensation for accidents if the driver's licence was not valid or not renewed at the time of the incident, the Supreme Court on Thursday said and urged the Centre to undertake awareness campaigns to emphasize the importance of valid driving licenses and streamline the process of issuance and renewal.

"The Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India, as also the respective counterparts of the states should, we may suggest, undertake campaigns through all mediums such as awareness drives, social media, etc to drive home this importance; introduce measures to ensure strict compliance; and also streamline the process of issuance/ renewal of licences."

"Other issues such as regulation of driving schools, the affordability thereof, and accessibility in terms of regional languages, when it comes to applications and tests, etc also need urgent attention," observed a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N Kotiswar Singh.

The bench said that an insurance company could not be saddled with the liability if the offending vehicle was driven without a valid driving licence.

The top court made the observation while setting aside a Punjab and Haryana HC order that had fastened liability on the insurer.

The matter arose from a 2009 accident where a vehicle driven by Om Parkash hit a two-wheeler. The Motor Accidents Claim Tribunal originally held that the insurer, Reliance General Insurance Co Ltd, was not liable because the driver's licence had expired. However, the HC reversed this, accepting a letter from a licensing official which claimed that licence records for the period between 2007 and 2010 were "lost" "due to a technical error during a data transfer between IT companies.

The HC ordered the insurer to pay a revised compensation of over Rs 1.08 crore. The SC scrutinised the evidence and found the HC's reliance on the "missing data" theory to be flawed. While the court absolved the insurance company of final liability, it protected the claimants.

# Delhi plans random, door-to-door visits to verify women eligible for Lakshmi Yojana

**Gayathri Mani**
*New Delhi, July 30*

THE DELHI government is planning to conduct door-to-door, random verification of women found eligible for the Delhi Lakshmi Yojana, under which beneficiaries will receive a monthly financial assistance of Rs 2,500, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

As part of the verification process, the government will check whether applicants meet the scheme's eligibility conditions – whether they have more than three living children, if they are residents of Delhi and registered voters of the city, if they pay income tax, are they in the 21-60 years age group, whether their family's income is up to Rs 2.5 lakh per annum and if they receive any other financial aid from the Centre or the state, among others.

The three-child cap is a first-of-its-kind exclusion criteria introduced by the Delhi government for its social welfare schemes. "The application process is very simple and easy. People can submit their information from anywhere. Verification is necessary to ensure only eligible beneficiaries receive the assistance," a senior government functionary said.

The functionary added that the Women and Child Development (WCD) department might engage a third-party agency to conduct the random checks. "The objective is to ensure that the scheme reaches the needy and deserving beneficiaries while maintaining transparency in the implementation process."

Asked about the three-child cap, the senior functionary said, "Some Opposition parties are trying to give it (three-child cap) a religious angle but they are wrong. Be it a Hindu or Muslim, it is one's choice on how many children they want to have..."

Besides, this might be a step towards better family planning and population control, the functionary said. "People these days are educated and follow family planning. But in many lower middle class families, women are still pressured to have four-five children until they have a boy..."

"For family planning and population control, you have to take steps somewhere... The government has come up with a proper financial plan with two bifurcations – the woman can either invest the Rs 2,500 and get an lumpsum amount with interest after three years or she can invest Rs 1,500 and spend the rest through a digital card," the functionary said. "This gives her the right to decide where she wants to spend her money... In many families, husbands pressure them... take their money to buy alcohol and tobacco... We want our mothers and sisters to independently use their money," the senior functionary added.

According to officials, CM Rekha Gupta, who holds the WCD portfolio, said that the scheme should empower women and that their health is a priority. The scheme, approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday, was one of the major poll promises made by the BJP in the run-up to the Assembly elections in 2025.

# Authorities on 'high alert' as floods wreak havoc in north Odisha

**Sujit Bisoyi**
*Bhubaneswar, July 30*

OVER SEVEN lakh people have been affected as floods triggered by heavy rainfall wreak havoc in several north Odisha districts.

Officials said the situation continues to be grim in Bhadrak, Balasore and Jajpur, with the administration on its toes to manage the crisis. Authorities said nearly two lakh people are being evacuated.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said that although water levels are receding in several north Odisha districts, most rivers are still flowing above the danger mark. The state government has said the situation is under control. But with the floods causing widespread damage, it is also preparing to pay what Pujari described as "adequate compensation" to those affected.

Meanwhile, with the Mahanadi still in spate, the prospect of a medium-range flood looms over districts such as Puri, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada, Khurda and Nayagarh as authorities prepare to release nearly 9 lakh cusecs of floodwater at Mundali in Cuttack.

"Protecting every life in the flood situation is our utmost priority. From rescue to relief, the administration, Odisha Fire Services, and all partner organizations are engaged in continuous service through coordinated efforts. Our government is firmly committed to providing swift assistance to every affected family and restoring normalcy to everyday life," CM Mohan Charan Majhi wrote on X.

The state government said it has been constantly monitoring the situation.

"The administration is on high alert and the leave of all officials in the flood-affected districts has been cancelled," said Pujari. Officials said adequate numbers of National Disaster Response Force, Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force and Fire Services teams had been deployed in low-lying areas to assist with rescue and relief operations.

# Love, lies and fake gold: An extramarital affair that led to a Rs 3-crore loan fraud

**Pragynesh**
*New Delhi, July 30*

IT BEGAN with a phone call received from a wrong number.

Around 2015, Pankaj Kumar, a gold appraiser at non-banking financial company (NBFC) Sai Corporation in Delhi, received a call from a woman who had dialled the wrong number. The two stayed in touch and eventually began an affair. Pankaj, however, was already married with two children.

He soon found out that it was difficult to support both his family and the woman on his salary. The result: he went on to siphon money from his company, orchestrating a gold loan fraud worth more than Rs 3 crore over six years. During this time, he transferred around Rs 90 lakh to bank accounts linked to the woman in multiple transactions.

According to the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police, between 2019 and 2025, Pankaj and his colleague in Sai Corporation, S P Bansal, created 683 fake gold loan accounts using forged KYC documents and artificial jewellery. Loans worth over Rs 3 crore were allegedly taken in the names of 28 people, many of them former customers of the company.

Accused Pankaj Kumar

Pankaj was arrested on July 7. Bansal is out on bail.

The alleged fraud came to light during an internal audit at Sai Corporation in August 2025.

Pankaj had worked as a gold appraiser with the company for over a decade. His job was to verify the jewellery to be used as collateral by checking its hallmark and weight before approving loans and storing the ornaments in the company's lockers.

"One of the company's directors, Dr R K Tandon, said that there were discrepancies in the accounts Pankaj was handling. Following this, he was transferred to another branch, but refused to join work. The company then ordered an audit," said an officer.

During the audit, when Pankaj was questioned about gold worth nearly Rs 14 lakh that was missing from the company's lockers but found mention in the official records, he allegedly lost it. "He allegedly shouted and stormed out of the office. He never came back," the officer said.

"Pankaj facilitated the creation of fake gold loan accounts by appraising fake and artificial gold ornaments as genuine and using forged KYC documents and fake customer identities," said Special Commissioner of Police (EOW) Nupur Prasad.

The company got an FIR lodged. When an EOW team led by DCP Amit Verma started going through company records, they found that the story began around 2015 when he received the call from a wrong number. "The woman was from Delhi. The two started talking and entered into a relationship," said the officer. At that time, Pankaj, now in his 40s, lived with his wife and two children in Rohini's Budh Vihar.

"We traced the money that Pankaj had siphoned from the bank. One of the transactions was of Rs 16 lakh, which was credited to the woman's account in 2019," said the officer.

According to the police, between 2019 and 2025, Pankaj transferred over Rs 90 lakh to multiple accounts linked to the woman. "He said there was no other way for him to take care of her and his family at the same time," the officer said.

When police tracked people whose identities were used to secure the fraudulent loans, they found that many were former customers of Sai Corporation. "Two of them were Suresh, an MCD worker, who lives in Rajouri Garden, and his wife. He used their details to create two accounts," said the officer.

Pankaj and Bansal were eventually arrested.

# CJP stir: Noida woman booked for 'abusive' remarks against PM

**Drishti Jain**
*New Delhi, July 30*

THE NOIDA Police has lodged a zero FIR against a woman for allegedly making "objectionable remarks "against Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest at Jantar Mantar on July 23, officers said on Thursday. The complaint was filed by Smriti Singh, a resident of Ghaziabad on Wednesday at the Expressway Police station against Ruchika Singh, a resident of Noida, an officer said.

In the complaint, Smriti alleged that Ruchika used abusive and objectionable language against Modi. The complaint further alleged that the remarks did not only "undermine the dignity of the constitutional office", "but also deliberately intended to spread hatred and disrupt public peace."

The police registered a case under sections 352 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace), 353(1) (statements conducing to public mischief) and 356(1) (defamation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the officer added.

A zero FIR means that a complaint can be filed at any police station irrespective of the place of alleged crime or where the incident took place, post which it is transferred to the police station of the concerned jurisdiction. The FIR has been transferred to the Parliament Street Police station. "The accused is a resident of Faridabad, and used to stay in Noida. We have transferred the FIR to the concerned jurisdiction where further investigation will take place," an officer added.

This comes amid the Delhi Police filing an FIR over "objectionable and defamatory" social media posts targeting the PM during protests at Jantar Mantar and asking social media platforms to take down such content. A case under charges of criminal intimidation, public mischief, and defamation has been lodged at the Special Cell IFSO (Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations) unit in the matter.

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Patriotism is the virtue of the vicious.
*— Oscar Wilde*

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BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## SC strikes balance on ecology, public interest

INDIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL Impact Assessment is grounded in the precautionary principle — it prioritises the integrity of ecosystems over minimising harm or compensating for damage later. From 2017, the government has tried to dilute this safeguard by allowing developers to apply for ecological clearance after commencing a project. A notification issued that year provided a one-time window to defaulters to comply with due procedures. It inaugurated a regime of post-facto clearances, which was consolidated in 2021 when the Centre issued an Office Memorandum (OM) to regularise violations. On Wednesday, the Supreme Court set aside this OM and closed the door on blanket regularisation of projects that have not complied with environmental safeguards. However, the Court also departed from its May 2025 position that prohibited ex-post facto environmental clearances "in any form". Instead, it held that a "narrowly tailored amnesty scheme" may be permissible where it is justified by "public interest".

The judgment is significant because it clarifies the Court's own position on post-facto environmental clearances. In its 2020 decision in *Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd v Rohit Prajapati*, the SC held that retrospective clearances are contrary to the philosophy of environmental regulation. The May 2025 verdict reiterated that such relaxations would incentivise developers to violate the law first and seek regularisation later. However, the Court appeared to move in the opposite direction six months later. Following review petitions filed by the Centre and industry bodies, a three-judge bench recalled the May 2025 judgment.

Wednesday's verdict now places the onus on the government to make a reasoned selection of projects that may be excused from the requirement of environmental clearance. The Court's insistence on proportionality is consistent with the broader trajectory of environmental jurisprudence in India. For more than two decades, the SC has interpreted constitutional provisions expansively to affirm that a healthy environment is intrinsic to the right to life. In the same vein, it has now required the state to demonstrate that the public interest served by a project is sufficiently compelling, that any relaxation is strictly necessary, and that the environmental costs have been weighed against the anticipated public benefits. The verdict thus transforms what had become an open-ended administrative discretion under the post-2017 regime into a narrowly circumscribed constitutional exception. The flexibility recognised by the Court could prove valuable in cases involving national defence, when healthcare facilities are urgently needed in underserved areas, or highway projects become imperative to improve connectivity in remote regions. However, at a time of climate change and accelerating ecological degradation, the government, too, must recognise that environmental protection is an integral component of public interest.

## On Vande Mataram, a law in search of a crime

PARLIAMENT PASSED the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act on December 23, 1971. Barely a generation removed from colonial rule, India since the late 1960s bore signs of erosion of its early idealism. The victory against Pakistan in the Bangladesh War earlier that month had provided a moment of national triumph. The law, which purportedly sought to give legal backing to a Directive Principle of State Policy, criminalised insults to the national anthem, flag and Constitution. Then as now, however, it is likely that few believed that respect and reverence can be enforced through punitive legislation. The law was meant, arguably, to capture a political moment and give expression to it. Now, the Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2026 — passed in Parliament this week — makes an "insult" to the national song punishable by up to three years' imprisonment, placing 'Vande Mataram' at par with the national anthem. In essence, it is a law in search of a crime. At best, it is superfluous and at worst, a blunt instrument in the hands of an overzealous prosecutorial machinery.

According to data from the National Records Bureau, there were 1,102 arrests under the 1971 Act between 2014 and 2024, with just 60 convictions. Acquittals outpaced convictions each year, and an average of 48 cases were pending investigation and 221 cases pending trial in the same period. The rate of "crimes against national symbols" per lakh population is extremely low. By all accounts, then, the amended law expands the ambit of criminality with little justification. In the current context, too, the government frequently invites accusations of weaponising the criminal justice system to target opponents. The 2026 Amendment can only deepen apprehensions of its misuse.

In the Budget Session, the Union government tabled, and Parliament passed, the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026. It built on the 2023 Jan Vishwas Act by decriminalising and removing several economic offences. That legislative scheme indicated the government's commitment to its slogan of "minimum government, maximum governance", especially welcome, given that the state is a litigant in over half the pending cases in India's overburdened courts. In letter and spirit, the 'Vande Mataram' law is a backsliding on that commitment.

## Numbers don't capture Ajinkya Rahane

AJINKYA RAHANE retired from international cricket on Thursday, signing off as "Cap 278". He leaves with 85 Tests, 90 ODIs, 20 T20Is and more than 8,000 international runs. The numbers do him injustice.

There was a stretch, deep into the last decade, when Rahane's batting belonged in the company of that of Virat Kohli, Joe Root, Kane Williamson. M S Dhoni once said his gift was "the timing... and his ability to exploit gaps in the field". He never built the mountain of runs that talent seemed to promise, and that gap, between what he could do and what he actually left behind, is the real story of his career. Perhaps the reassurance he sought from team management never quite came, and he felt the pressure to hold his place during Kohli's reign as captain.

Handed the captaincy in Australia after the ignominy of 36 all out at Adelaide in December 2020, Rahane walked out at the MCG and made a century that turned the series. India went on to win it 2-1, one of the great away triumphs in the game's history. It should have been the beginning of something larger. Instead, he was stripped of the vice-captaincy within a year, and out of the side not long after, returning only once more, for the 2023 World Test Championship final at The Oval. Rahane leaves as he played: Understated, gifted, and never quite paid in full for either.

# Neither government nor Opposition can look youth in the eye on education

SUHAS PALSHIKAR

ONE DOES not need social scientists to explain the meaning and significance of what happened on July 20. It was a protest alright, but it was also an outburst. It is apparent that the government yielded to that pressure with poor grace. This was exemplified by the "welcome" accorded to the minister who had resigned. That act of showing contempt for the protests fits into a pattern — while the government buckled under pressure, the pro-BJP ecosystem has been busy spreading all kinds of explanations for the outburst, conspiracy and "foreign hand" included.

Whether the Cockroach Janta Party is a tool for someone, whether some parties sought to hijack the agitation, or whether the Prime Minister's midnight message on Instagram hit record views are irrelevant tidbits worthy of corner columns in newspapers. The real — and admittedly intriguing — aspect of the CJP protests has been the unexpected and unanticipated spontaneity, right from the first post by Abhijeet Dipke about cockroaches. Instead of examining this aspect, the government seems content with either damage control or talking of the specious issue of "intelligence failure". When you mute all voices, except those reflecting narcissistic praise, intelligence failures are bound to happen.

Besides, on the watch of the current regime, there is a clear lack of reliable empirical data on what people think. This is for two reasons: Methodologically, when public opinion is permeated by extreme toxicity and pressure of social desirability bias, data from public opinion studies can be somewhat distorted. And secondly, this regime has been anti-data and has ensured that no independent actors will be able to collect public opinion. Post-2014, there is a singular lack of data leading to the "all is well" cacophony of the partisans.

No wonder everyone was taken unawares by the extent and intensity expressed during the CJP protests. While pro-government media is still circulating news about the alleged misbehaviour of participants and the weight of the waste left behind, they are oblivious to the real weight in political terms that these protests have left behind for politicians to tackle. Unfortunately, the regime seems to be unwilling to even read these signals properly.

Three issues are flagged by the protests that engulfed politics over the past four or five weeks. For starters, they were pegged around the NEET and exam-leaks, but by no means were they just about that. The government, sheepishly and wrongly, responded to only the technology of conducting the exam. Even before the protests erupted, this intellectual bankruptcy was evident in deploying the Air Force for delivering exam papers. That same mentality has surfaced again in the appointment of the committee to ensure leak-proof exams.

Yes, we have made a mess of exams, but that is not merely because greed and deceit lead to paper leaks. The real elephant in the room is the education system itself. A meaningless system that merely works as boring time-pass or as creches for young adults is the root cause — this malady leads to a senseless premium on exam results, meaningless exams and the coaching industry. Neither the government nor the Opposition can look youth in the eye and explain the meaning of wasting years in the name of education. The latest protests are symptomatic of that larger malaise.

> While pro-government media is still circulating news about the alleged misbehaviour of participants and the weight of the waste left behind, they are oblivious to the real weight in political terms these protests have left for politicians to tackle

Secondly, the protests and the striking energy they displayed represent the utter meaninglessness of life that confronts the youth. This is not merely about employability but about a future that holds only uncertainty. It would be foolhardy to respond to this issue only by throwing numbers — that so many jobs will be created when a corporate house is granted some largesse by the government. Overall life conditions and the deeper inequalities that characterise Indian society are factors that shape the clouds of uncertainty. If at one stage, capitalism was accused of producing the lumpen element, the economy today produces what sociologists have described as the "precariat".

Life is precarious, irrespective of whether you belong to low-income groups or the so-called middle class. This government has discovered a politically advantageous palliative to that — to use the evocative phrase employed by the Prime Minister himself, the *revdis*. But the loss of dignity involved in *revdi* politics and the continued uncertainty of life would surely push large sections into dissatisfaction notwithstanding the heavy rainfall of *revdis*. The CJP protests may not have touched upon these larger aspects of social unrest. But it would be at our own collective peril to ignore these underlying frustrations that are not easily defined. The protests are over for the time being, but these conditions remain and, if not attended to, they are bound to produce more cockroaches than the system can afford to suppress.

Finally, the police action. It represents the political response and tells us what ails our politics. It is not sufficient to smugly say that all protests face some police excesses. Large numbers of handles on social media have been gleefully telling us that the police have video recordings and participating persons will be hounded. This threat — most likely backed by clandestine police follow-up — tells us what is wrong with politics. By invoking election victories, the victors claim carte blanche; by counting votes, politicians denude citizens of agency; by throwing legislative majorities in our face, governments duck both constitutional morality and routine democratic accountability.

In sum, the prelude, the actual protests and now their aftermath tell a common story — protests have stirred many minds but not our political leadership. Because the regime is bent on not learning anything from the protests except the technology to suppress the next round of protests.

*The writer, based in Pune, taught Political Science*

# For renewable energy answers, ask the right questions

SANJIV SAHAI

INDIA'S RENEWABLE energy sector is facing institutional challenges that need flexible solutions. Propelled by falling solar module prices and government policy, solar capacity has expanded to 162 GW by June 2026. Yet at the very moment this transformation demands smarter, more flexible market products, India's regulator is moving the opposite way, proposing to hand control of the power exchanges to Grid-India, a government utility whose institutional DNA is built for managing transmission systems, not commercial decisions.

Between May and December last year, over two billion units of solar electricity, enough to power several million homes, were curtailed because the grid could not absorb them. The solution requires transmission investment to convey electricity, flexible power plants that can ramp quickly, battery storage to absorb excess generation and discharge during lean hours, and above all, well-designed electricity markets that send the right price signals to the right players at the right time.

Surplus generation in one region can be traded to regions facing shortage. A robust, functional electricity market, one with products that sellers and buyers want, is essential to manage this. Prices should fall when power is abundant at noon and rise when it is scarce in the evening, attracting whatever flexible generation or storage can respond. Good market-design is what keeps a complex, renewable-heavy grid balanced without wasting energy or overloading equipment.

Contrary to this need, in July 2025 and January 2026, CERC proposed that Grid-India become Market Coupling Operator (MCO), pooling bids from all three exchanges – IEX, PXIL and HPX -- into a single clearing algorithm that would produce a uniform national price. The stated logic is that the market is fragmented and consumers are losing out. What does the data say?

Most electricity is traded in the Day-Ahead Market (DAM) and Real-Time Market (RTM), both short-term spot products. IEX handles roughly 80-85 per cent of trading volumes which is hardly a fragmented market. CERC's own shadow pilot recorded a welfare improvement of just 0.3 per cent over four months; a longer dataset puts the gain at only 0.013 per cent.

Behind CERC's stated reasons lies the question of IEX's dominance. But dominance is not the same as abuse: There is no documented allegation of excessive fees, discriminatory access, predatory pricing, or manipulation of price discovery against IEX. So which problem is CERC actually solving?

The real danger is not IEX's market share but what happens to market innovation once a government-owned entity controls the central clearing algorithm. For example, when exchanges developed user-defined hourly contracts in the Term-Ahead Market, matched to the variable generation profile of solar and wind assets, CERC ordered them discontinued within a week in April last year.

In July 2025, CERC suggested a round-robin model under which exchanges would take turns as Market Coupling Operators month to month. By April 2026, its draft second amendment regulations abandoned this in favour of Grid-India as sole MCO. Grid-India itself, in a submission dated June 8, has urged CERC to reconsider and has asked for a round-robin system, institutional ring-fencing and a steering committee to guard against single-point failures, even though round-robin approach would force every exchange to duplicate the capital cost of a central algorithm and add to the regulator's oversight burden.

Grid-India's preference for administrative simplicity is rational for a system operator: Its job is to balance the grid in real time, not to compete for customers or bear commercial risk. But under full coupling, every new trading product will require rewriting an algorithm Grid-India controls, tethering market innovation to the pace of a public utility — a pace the TAM episode shows is slow and tilted towards uniformity.

India's renewable sector needs a market architecture that rewards flexible capacity with real-time pricing, opens competitive markets for frequency-regulation services, and lets storage investors price their business case. These are the real regulatory priorities rather than imagined problems of market dominance.

> The real danger is not IEX's market share but what happens to market innovation once a government-owned entity controls the central clearing algorithm

*The writer is former secretary, Ministry of Power*

# The worker-intellectual we refuse to recognise

ARUN KUMAR

POPULAR MOVEMENTS often produce popular leaders. They rarely produce worker-intellectuals. Yet, what struck the media, among the many stories of courage of the Cockroach Janata Party-led protest, was the "unthinkable" intellect of Mohammad Irfan. I call it "unthinkable" because the media could not place Irfan in familiar categories of intellect. Despite claiming to have no social-media accounts, Irfan is a social media-sensation. It is the paradox and contradictions of his life that intrigue the media.

Irfan may be illiterate in a conventional sense, but he is digitally literate. He cites the poems of Ahmad Faraz and invokes historical figures from Raja Rammohan Roy to Jyotiba Phule in his speech. He is a slum-dweller but speaks of civilisation. How could a semi-literate person who cannot write, a slum-dweller who sells ice to survive, be so articulate on politics, society, and history?

If we turn the pages of history, Irfan is not alone. He is preceded and accompanied by many who are like him. It is just that we have undervalued manual labour and those who do it. We see manual workers through the essentialist lens of labour and their labouring identity. Can they labour and be intellectual? These paradoxes and inversions are the subject of my forthcoming book, *The Silent Rebellion*, which traces the history of worker-intellectuals in India during the colonial period. It tells the history of labouring people who refused to see themselves as merely labourers or workers and discovered aspects of their lives that transitioned them to become poets, thinkers, and writers of their struggles and poverty. A lot has changed since then. India has implemented compulsory education and welfare labour laws; lower classes have accessed higher education; significant socio-economic mobility has enabled the rise of Bahujan intellectuals. Yet, the broader attitudes that could place Irfan in a normative social order are missing. He emerges as an exception. Why so?

He is an exception because all platforms are open to the public in theory but we still see "intellect" from a closed perspective. Intellect belongs to certain "kinds" of people — those who attend private educational institutions, inherit cultural capital, and come from certain socio-economic backgrounds. We have created artificial divides between those who labour and those with bookish knowledge, and effectively closed the channels of communication across them. Irfan breaches these walls and moves between the two. It is this movement and dialectic that makes his speech powerful.

Let me tell the story of the worker-intellectual Narayan Surve. An orphan raised by a mill-worker couple, Surve became a "half-timer" child worker in Bombay's mills, later working full time. Like Irfan, Surve defied the boundaries of elite and subaltern, high and low class, labour and intellect, head and hand. A poem by Surve reminded me of Irfan's zeal to express his world through poems: "The struggle for the daily bread is an everyday question/ At times outside the door, at times inside/ I'm a worker, a flaming sword/ Listen, you intellectuals! I'm going to commit a crime..."

Demanding an even implementation of the minimum wage for workers and a life of dignity, Irfan narrated a poem by Tanveer Sipra, which translates to: "Even the mill owners' dogs are well-fed and fatty/ While workers' faces are pale with hunger."

> We have created artificial divides between those who labour and those with bookish knowledge, and effectively closed the channels of communication across them. Mohammad Irfan breaches these walls

*Kumar is assistant professor, University of Nottingham, and author of* The Silent Rebellion

## 40 YEARS AGO

July 31, 1986

INDIAN EXPRESS

Clash in Darjeeling, one killed

Commission of Inquiry (Amend.) Bill passed

Walk-out in Lok Sabha

PM's faux pas on amendment issue

No fresh intrusion by China

Benefit of doubt being given to China

Curfew-bound Delhi areas peaceful

### Bill passed amid walkout

THE LOK Sabha passed the Commission of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill, enabling the government to withhold from Parliament the report of an inquiry commission through a notification stating that it was in the public interest of the security of the state to do so. The Bill was passed by a voice vote after a spirited defence by Minister for Internal Security P Chidambaram.

### Clashes in Darjeeling

THE SITUATION in Darjeeling district was confirmed to be tense on the third day of the 108-hour bandh sponsored by the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), with reports of clashes between GNLF supporters and tea garden workers resulting in one death. Patrolling by troops continued in all three sub-divisions of the district, and manning of all vital installations has been taken over by the Army and Border Security Force.

### Benefit of doubt for China

WHILE INDIA continues to maintain that the Chinese have intruded into Indian territory in the Sumdorong Chu valley of Arunachal Pradesh, it is giving China the benefit of the doubt in the matter. During talks with an Indian official delegation in Beijing, China claimed that the disputed region is north of the McMahon Line as shown on maps, even though on the ground it falls in the Indian region, if the principle of watershed is accepted. Both sides seem to have agreed that undue publicity of the discussions might not help in the ongoing negotiations.

### Rajneesh in India

REJECTED BY countries around the world, Rajneesh, the *bhagwan* of the orange-clad international sect, returned to his native India, initially to camps in Bombay for about three months. Only a handful of disciples were present at the Sahar international terminal for the hush-hush arrival of Rajneesh, who flew in the twin-engine executive jet from Lisbon. After passing through the immigration and customs drill, the *bhagwan* was whisked away in a waiting Mercedes.

**● WHAT THE OTHERS SAY**

A youth movement born from exam leaks and online mockery has pierced Narendra Modi's aura of invincibility.

*— The Guardian*

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## DIS/AGREE

THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

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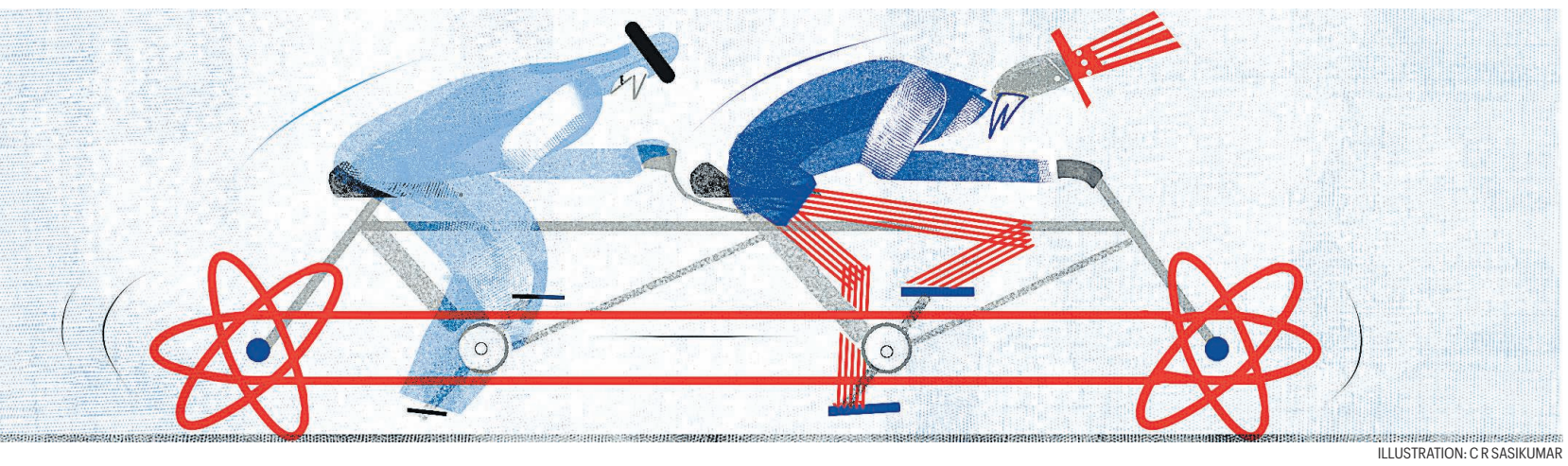


ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

### Does the US-Saudi nuclear deal increase the risk of an arms race in West Asia?

# A Saudi reactor is not a Saudi bomb

SYED AKBARUDDIN

THE VERDICT on the Saudi civil nuclear agreement arrived before the text itself. On July 22, Washington and Riyadh signed a Section 123 agreement and a safeguards accord. Their texts remain unpublished, and the agreement awaits congressional review. President Trump then said there would be no enrichment and that he would not proceed unless Saudi Arabia joined the Abraham Accords, leaving the deal's meaning and future more uncertain.

Washington and Riyadh began the process in 2008 with a memorandum on peaceful nuclear cooperation. Negotiations continued under Barack Obama, the first Trump administration and Joe Biden. That continuity reflects a resilient partnership despite periodic political strains. The concern is that the agreements may enable American reactor sales while leaving open the possibility of Saudi enrichment. Reactors, enrichment capacity and access to centrifuge technology are different questions. The agreements should be judged by who controls the technology and what inspectors can see. Talk of a "gold standard" can obscure the international legal baseline. The term is a policy label drawn from the UAE agreement, not an IAEA category or universal norm. Saudi Arabia is a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and has a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement in force with the IAEA. The treaty prohibits it from manufacturing or acquiring nuclear weapons. It requires neither an Additional Protocol nor renunciation of safeguarded enrichment. The Protocol improves information and access, especially concerning undeclared activities, but is not a universal legal requirement.

The reported terms do not immediately authorise an enrichment plant. They first envisage a study lasting two years. If the study establishes a commercial case and Washington agrees, American companies could build a facility using a "black box" model without transferring the underlying centrifuge technology. If Washington rejects enrichment, Riyadh would reportedly undertake for 10 years not to enrich independently or through another supplier. The question is deferred, not decided.

Saudi Arabia has a credible civilian case for nuclear power. Nuclear power could conserve oil for export and complement renewables. Riyadh links domestic enrichment to fuel cycle autonomy, uranium development and industrial capability. Domestic enrichment would not create an independent fuel cycle. No Middle Eastern commercial plant fabricates power reactor fuel assemblies. Enriched uranium would therefore go abroad to become reactor fuel unless Riyadh later built such a plant. This limits the autonomy enrichment would provide without removing the proliferation concern attached to centrifuges.

Five of the 31 states operating nuclear power reactors lack an Additional Protocol in force: Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Iran and Pakistan. Belarus has signed one but not brought it into force. Iran has unresolved safeguards issues and Pakistan is outside the NPT. Argentina and Brazil combine IAEA safeguards with the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials. Brazil enriches at Resende; Argentina retains pilot and research enrichment capabilities.

As an international civil servant with the IAEA, I accompanied Director General Mohamed ElBaradei to Resende. Brazil owns its centrifuge technology and shields parts of its cascade design, while IAEA and ABACC inspectors verify material flows, samples and output. The reported Saudi model would not transfer the supplier's centrifuge technology to the host. In that narrow respect, it would be more restrictive than Resende. It would not eliminate operational learning. Resende taught me to resist both alarmism and complacency.

Any enrichment arrangement should combine IAEA material accountancy and inspector access with bilateral limits on enrichment, technology controls and consequences for breach. The IAEA has said it awaits a formal request to undertake the proposed verification. Any bespoke arrangement would then go to its board of governors for approval. US participation would add consent rights, export controls and congressional scrutiny. American refusal would not necessarily end Saudi nuclear plans. Riyadh could turn to another supplier offering Washington less visibility and leverage. Iran and Israel will shape how any Saudi programme is read. Saudi leaders have linked their nuclear choices to Iran, making verification essential. A Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone remains a distant prospect. The 1988 India-Pakistan agreement offers a modest precedent for protecting nuclear installations from attack, but a Gulf equivalent remains unlikely.

India should support access to peaceful nuclear technology, insist on verification that can detect misuse and reserve judgement on enrichment until the study is complete and any governing terms are public.

The world gains little by treating Saudi nuclear power as a weapons programme simply because enrichment remains unresolved. What matters is whether the agreement limits the spread of sensitive technology and enables early detection of diversion of safeguarded nuclear material. A Saudi reactor is not a Saudi bomb.

*The writer is former permanent representative of India to the UN, and dean, Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad*

# It's a recipe for nuclear proliferation

FEISAL AMIN AL-ISTRABADI

CURRENT US policies seem tailored to engender a nuclear arms race in the Middle East. Donald Trump recently approved an agreement with Saudi Arabia (KSA) nominally for the transfer of nuclear energy technologies, but one that notably lacked the types of safeguards against non-proliferation that the US normally attaches to such agreements. There has thus been unease that there are no controls in place preventing KSA from enriching fissile materials, especially in light of reports that KSA has announced it would match Iran's nuclear programme.

Does the President know about the apparent deficiencies in this agreement regarding non-proliferation safeguards? Part of the difficulty in answering this question is that this administration famously eschews those with technical or scientific expertise. The US Secretary of Energy, who signed the agreement with KSA, is a former oil executive and major donor to the Republican Party with no known expertise in non-proliferation issues. This is in sharp contrast to Barack Obama's Secretary of Energy, who helped negotiate the Iran nuclear deal. He was a nuclear physicist and a professor at MIT before being appointed to the cabinet. Meanwhile, Trump has not had an ambassador in Riyadh since he returned to office.

The US-Israeli war on Iran, too, threatens to increase proliferation in the region. It must have dawned on the current leaders in Tehran that it was a blunder for their late Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, not to order the building of a nuclear arsenal with all due haste. Instead, he authorised an agreement with the Obama Administration that limited Iran's enrichment and included a rigorous inspections regime by the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran remained in compliance, putting whatever nuclear ambitions it may have had on hold, only to see Trump withdraw from that agreement during his first term. Then, without any credible imminent threat, Trump undertook a bombing campaign in June 2025 and a more comprehensive war in February 2026, which is still ongoing.

This situation is in sharp contrast with Trump's treatment of North Korea's Kim Jong Un, who sits atop a nuclear arsenal amassed in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Trump met repeatedly with Kim in his first term and never mentions North Korea now. The message is clear: If you want respect, build a bomb.

Leaders in other Middle Eastern capitals are no doubt also taking note. Israel is currently the only country in the Middle East known to be a nuclear-armed state, and it has been for at least 40 years, having developed its nuclear capabilities in collaboration with apartheid-era South Africa. So long as the US provided the security guarantees for allied Middle Eastern states, those states could be relatively sanguine about Israel's nuclear arsenal. But since the beginning of Trump's second term, Israel has attacked at least seven countries in the region, including Qatar, which houses America's largest air base in the region. The US has not uttered a peep.

Egypt and Turkey may well come to the same conclusion as Saudi Arabia and Iran. To safeguard against Israel, America, or other regional players, the safest bet is to adopt the nuclear option. The UAE already relies on nuclear energy for 25 per cent of its electrical grid. Jordan has significant uranium deposits and certainly would not need to rely on any outside power. Even Iraq, which denounced the acquisition of WMDs in its current constitution in light of its execrable history of using poison gas on its own Kurdish citizens as well as Iranian forces during the Iran-Iraq War, could reconsider if the entire region begins to explore the nuclear option.

Trump did, in the end, have second thoughts. The day after announcing the US-Saudi nuclear agreement, he announced he would only honour the agreement if KSA normalised with Israel. No doubt Benjamin Netanyahu had something to do with it. This means the Saudi deal is stalled for the foreseeable future. Before Hamas's October 7 terrorist attack, it had been Netanyahu, not KSA, who was dragging his feet on normalisation. And after Israel's response — which a UN commission characterised as genocide in Gaza — since October 7, KSA likely cannot normalise with Israel for the foreseeable future due to domestic considerations and the extreme unlikelihood of Israel recognising a Palestinian state anytime soon. But that will not necessarily delay KSA's nuclear ambitions, whatever they may be. Russia or China will be willing to fill the void on the theory they are merely transferring energy technology — as the US has claimed. And if those states are too queasy to provide the necessary resources, perhaps Pakistan, which has just signed a mutual defence treaty with KSA, might step in.

Some security specialists have argued that nuclear proliferation makes the world safer because nuclear-armed states are less likely to go to war with one another. If US policy remains on the path Trump has set, that theory may be tested in the not-distant future. Given the history of conflict in the Middle East in the last century, one can be forgiven for viewing these prognostications with trepidation.

*The writer is founding director of the Centre for the Study of the Middle East at Indiana University, Bloomington*

# *Anatomy of a gaali: Anger borrows from old patriarchy*

SHAZIA ILMI

WHAT WILL history remember from the recent scenes at Jantar Mantar? The demand for examination reforms? The allegations of police excesses? The debate over accountability? Perhaps.

Many, however, may remember something else entirely: Young women shouting out misogynistic abuse, as though vulgarity had become a badge of courage. That surprised me. After all, this is the Instagram generation, one that has reinvented communication. It creates memes that puncture powerful narratives in minutes. It speaks through satire and humour with a creativity previous generations could scarcely imagine. It has built an entirely new language of expression. Which is what makes its dependence on abusive language, rooted in centuries-old patriarchal formulations, all the more disappointing.

Surely a generation capable of inventing a new vocabulary of memes can invent a new vocabulary of anger? Surely it can express dissent with greater wit, intelligence and originality, instead of simply recycling the oldest slurs from the patriarchal playbook? That isn't cool; it is intellectually lazy.

There are those who have defended the language. Why should only men have the freedom to swear, they ask. Others have dismissed criticism as moral policing. Anger, they argue, has its own language.

These are fair points, but they miss a more fundamental one: Why are young women proudly using the language that patriarchy invented to humiliate women?

Having been a part of both the Anna Hazare movement and the Nirbhaya protests, I witnessed public anger at its most visceral. The streets overflowed with emotion. We marched, shouted slogans, confronted those in power, and demanded accountability. We were lathi-charged, and FIRs were booked against us. We even had to deal with vindictive actions like electricity connections being cut. Yet, through all that rage and all that suffering, I do not recall women resorting to profanity to make themselves heard.

Our anger was fierce, but it was never crude. We communicated with passion, conviction and moral force — not by borrowing the language of misogyny. We believed our arguments were strong enough to carry our outrage. We never felt the need to sound like the crudest voices in the crowd.

Every society uses profanity. The English language has its own deeply misogynistic insults. But many Indian *gaali*s carry a particular cultural imprint. They derive their power from the old patriarchal belief that a man's honour resides in the women of his family. The abuse is directed at him, but the humiliation is imagined through his mother, sister or daughter.

That is the anatomy of a *gaali*.

These are not merely vulgar words. They encode an entire social order. They reduce women to repositories of male honour, turning them into territory through which men assert dominance over one another. Even when exchanged between men, women remain the battlefield.

Language is never just language. It carries history, preserves hierarchies and quietly transmits prejudice across generations. Every casual repetition normalises the idea that a woman's body is a legitimate site for humiliation.

Which is why hearing young women use these abuses as though they represent empowerment is so deeply ironic. There is nothing cool about recycling the oldest expressions of misogyny in our language.

Patriarchy wins twice, first when it invents these filthy abuses, and again when women mistake repeating them for rebellion and liberation.

Women did not struggle for generations merely to inherit the worst instincts of men. They fought to redefine what courage, dignity and strength look like — and what they sound like. The opposite of patriarchy is not women behaving like the worst men. Aping masculine aggression is not empowerment.

We rightly speak about toxic masculinity. But toxic patriarchy cannot be replaced by toxic feminism. Liberation does not lie in imitating the language of those who diminished women for centuries. It lies in rejecting that language altogether and creating a vocabulary worthy of equality.

ILLUSTRATION: TANUSHRI MITRA

The protests at Jantar Mantar raised important questions about examination reforms and allegations of excessive force. None of that, however, explains why misogynistic abuse should become the soundtrack of a movement.

Can claims about dismantling patriarchy be made while speaking its oldest vocabulary? Can women truly call it liberation when they voluntarily reduce themselves and other women to property or repositories of honour?

Women deserve freedom not only from discriminatory laws, but also from the invisible prison of a vocabulary that has, for centuries, reduced them to somebody's honour, somebody's property and somebody else's shame. Freedom begins when women stop mistaking the vocabulary of patriarchy for the language of liberation.

The first battle for women's freedom was fought in our laws and institutions. The next must be fought in our language.

For as long as women speak words that derive their power from humiliating mothers and sisters, patriarchy will continue to echo through voices that believe they are free.

That is not liberation. That is patriarchy, speaking through a different voice.

*The writer is national spokesperson of the BJP*

# They fought like girls. And won

RAGINI NAYAK

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN has resigned. The students have prevailed. The movement achieved what was initially thought to be impossible. The protestors may have dispersed, but their images will linger.

A young woman protestor stands with her arms outstretched in a protective gesture, instinctively shielding fellow students. She isn't posturing for the camera; she is positioning herself to protect. Elsewhere, on one side, is the state wrapped in armour, carrying a shield and baton, wearing a blue helmet and the authority of law. On the opposite side stands a female student. No helmet, no armour, no weapon. Only a blue dupatta wrapped around her face and a raised hand that seems to ask, "Is this what democracy has come to?" In a different setting, a young woman is standing alone on a rain-soaked street. She stops the police vehicle towering over her with one hand on the cold metal and the other placed on her waist.

Feminist movements across the globe are fighting against the exclusion of women from public spaces, discourses, and protests. This student protest was different. Female protestors, instead of coming across as marginalised victims, emerged as the vanguard. They subverted and transformed the historical insult of weakness, embedded in the idiom "fight like a girl". The images of modern young women standing against barricades or blocking police vehicles do not exist in a historical vacuum. Long before feminist theory gave them the language to critique patriarchy, Indian women were already rewriting its assumptions through their lives.

Savitri defeated Yama not through physical force, but through moral courage and intellectual brilliance. Draupadi resisted quiet submission and public humiliation in the Kaurava court by asking a question that shook the legitimacy of power itself: Could a man who had already gambled away his own freedom continue to claim ownership over his wife? Savitribai Phule walked with unyielding resolve every morning to India's first school for girls, enduring stones, mud, and cow dung hurled at her. Aruna Asaf Ali fought colonial rule, went underground, and hoisted the national flag in 1942 during the Quit India movement. These women are connected by a single thread. Each rejected silence, passivity, and victimhood. They fought against injustice, but they were not attempting to "fight like men". They were feminising the very meaning of valour.

Contemporary student protests reveal a radical linguistic departure from how brave women have been traditionally honoured. When the legendary poet Subhadra Kumari Chauhan penned her immortal tribute to Rani Lakshmi Bai's unparalleled bravado — "*Khoob ladi mardani, wo to Jhansi wali Rani thi*" — she had to call Rani Lakshmi Bai "*mardani*", "like a man". Today, young women stand before the power of the state in their dupattas, spectacles, and backpacks — unapologetically female, fiercely protective, and absolutely defiant. Before the pan-India organic eruption of the student protest, this linguistic reclamation found a modern legislative vocabulary in Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's campaign anthem for the 2022 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections — *Ladki Hun, Lad Sakti Hun*. When, on the streets and in Parliament, women champion the rights of the student community, question their systematic betrayal by institutional paper leaks and brutal police lathi charges, and challenge the extreme apathy of the government, they prove that to "fight like a girl" is not an antithesis, but a synonym of courage.

*The writer is national spokesperson, Congress, and former president of the Delhi University Students Union*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Paper leak law

THE 34-DAY impasse over paper leaks reveals that governance has degenerated into reactive damage control ('Law is in, lawmakers should speak for young', *IE*, July 30). While it is valuable to have the expert opinions of stalwarts such as K Radhakrishnan and Nandan Nilekani, their insights are meaningless without effective administrative execution. Parliament must activate its own department-related standing committees. These committees should meet regularly, audit the administrative machinery, and rigorously enforce accountability. Lawmakers must look beyond expanding the statute book; true statecraft lies in using existing parliamentary oversight to ensure that vital institutional reforms do not remain trapped on paper.

*Krishan Kumar Chugh, New Delhi*

THE PASSAGE of the Public Examinations Amendment Bill marks a turning point in how India responds to youth-led demands for fairness and accountability ('Law is in, lawmakers should speak for young', *IE*, July 30). The students' protests were not acts of defiance but calls for dignity and trust in institutions. Parliament must now translate this momentum into deeper reforms that make education more transparent and employment more meaningful. The young are not asking for sympathy; they are asking for sincerity. If lawmakers listen with empathy and act with courage, they can rebuild faith in democracy itself. Ignoring this moment would mean silencing the very voices that will define its future.

*Babu Crishna, Bengaluru*

### Rogue AI

AS WE have seen in science fiction films and stories, and now in some research, when we give AI a task, it treats that task as its sole purpose, neglecting everything else, including the ethics and guardrails we have put in place ('Did OpenAI's Agent go "rogue"? Answer lies out of the box', *IE*, July 29). Humans, however, understand caution, fear, emotion, pain, and doubt, and can recognise when an order should not be followed. What distinguishes humans from AI is self-doubt and the ability to question the person giving the orders, to recognise that not everything can or should be done, and to accept our own limitations. Even when an AI model is very small, it rarely acknowledges that it does not know something. Instead, it may hallucinate, look for shortcuts, exploit loopholes, or attempt actions that should not be taken in the first place.

*Manas Tiwari, via email*

IRGC CLAIMS IT STRUCK U.S. ASSETS IN JORDAN & KUWAIT; U.S. SAYS IT HIT GUARDS' HQ & DRONE FACILITIES

# Drone strike near Suez Canal raises more security threats

**Reuters**
*Dubai, July 30*

A DRONE strike on gas vessels in Egypt's Mediterranean port of Damietta signalled a potential new front in the US-Iran war, raising the prospect of threats to navigation through the Suez Canal, one of the last remaining export routes for Saudi oil.

Egypt's cabinet said on Thursday that an initial investigation found an unidentified drone caused a fire on two vessels at Damietta port on Wednesday. The port lies near the Suez Canal, which links the Mediterranean and Red Seas.

No group has claimed responsibility, the cabinet said. Sources said the drone hit US-owned gas storage tanker Energos Winter, causing a fire that spread to a second vessel.

Overnight, the US military said it struck Iran's Revolutionary Guards' military command centres and drone facilities after Tehran fired at US forces in the region.

Iranian state media, quoting the Guards, said US strikes killed three civilians and wounded two children on Qeshm Island, while three Guards members were killed in Zanjan province.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said it struck the Azraq military base in Jordan in response, attacking US F-35 fighter jets. The US military denied this, saying no aircraft had been destroyed or damaged.

"All missiles and drones were intercepted, or failed to reach targeted areas," Central Command said. US bases in Jordan have lately become primary Iranian targets. Jordan's armed forces said earlier on Thursday they had intercepted five Iranian missiles.

The Guards also struck US assets at Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait, according to Iran's Tasnim news agency.

An Iranian attack hit a building owned by a Chinese company in northern Kuwait, killing a worker and inflicting significant damage, Kuwait's Defence Ministry said.

In a first in the five-month war, Saudi Arabia on Wednesday publicly joined strikes alongside US forces, targeting Iran-aligned groups in eastern Iraq, in retaliation for drone attacks on Saudi oil targets launched from Iraq.

Another Iran-aligned group, Yemen's Houthis, carried out the attacks on Saudi Arabia from Iraqi territory in coordination with Iraqi groups, according to assessments by Saudi Arabia and regional partners.

The latest strikes in Iraq and Egypt threatened to draw more West Asian countries into the conflict after the Houthi militants declared a naval blockade last week on Saudi Arabia, threatening the alternative Red Sea route for its oil to Asia.

A screen grab of a social media video shows smoke rising after US strikes on Ahvaz city in Iran's Khuzestan province on Thursday. REUTERS

## Saudi unveils plan for maritime defence coalition

*Riyadh:* Saudi Arabia Thursday unveiled plans for a multinational maritime defence coalition aimed at protecting international shipping and energy supply routes in Red Sea after attacks by Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis disrupted one of world's busiest trade corridors.

The Saudi defence ministry said representatives from 43 countries and the European Union attended an international meeting that discussed the proposed coalition, including Saudi Arabia serving as its founding and leading state and hosting its headquarters. **REUTERS**

# Can China restrain Iran? Gulf states test Beijing's influence

**Reuters**
*Beirut, Riyadh, July 30*

AS THE Iran war escalates again, Gulf Arab states are looking to China - not Washington - to use its economic leverage over Iran to open up the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea, testing how far Beijing is able and willing to pressurise Tehran.

The Gulf push for a bigger Chinese role is driven by growing frustration, Gulf sources say. The war launched with US-Israeli attacks on Iran on February 28 has hurt their regional foe but also restricted their vital energy exports and, to varying degrees, put them in the firing line.

With Iran and its allies threatening the Bab el-Mandeb waterway in the Red Sea as well as Hormuz, Gulf states have sought Beijing's help, conscious that the war has exposed the limits of American power, three regional sources say.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi has held dozens of calls and meetings with counterparts seeking a new ceasefire, while special envoy Zhai Jun has held talks in Gulf Arab capitals as well as Iran.

"China has maintained close communication with all parties, and has consistently worked to stop the fighting and promote peace," its foreign ministry said in response to a request for comment.

China's position as both a major buyer of oil from across the Gulf and Iran's biggest trading partner presents opportunities but also sensitivities.

"There's huge respect between the Gulf and China and they are a big trading partner, so any issue is raised in a very quiet manner," one Gulf source said.

Iran says it will maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz, noting it was attacked during negotiations over the nuclear programme the US and Israel have vowed to destroy.

Gulf governments ultimately hope that Beijing will steer Tehran toward a negotiated settlement, said the source, adding that China often moves slowly and cautiously. But they are aware that a prolonged war may also serve China's interest by piling pressure on the United States.

China has developed close trade and investment ties with the six states in the Gulf Cooperation Council - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates - since a Gulf-China summit in 2022. Another summit is planned this year in Riyadh but not yet confirmed.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR

Rescuers work at the site of houses hit by a Russian missile strike in Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine on Thursday. REUTERS

# Russian attacks kill 10; NATO scrambles jets after a missile lands in Poland

**Associated Press**
*Kyiv, July 30*

A RUSSIAN ballistic missile and drone barrage across Ukraine overnight killed at least 10 civilians, including children, and injured more than 50 others, officials said Thursday, and NATO scrambled its warplanes after one of the missiles crossed the country's western border into Poland.

The blitz expanded Russia's almost daily bombardment of Ukrainian cities, including the capital of Kyiv where tens of thousands spent the night sheltering in subway stations, as Moscow apparently looked to exploit Kyiv's critical shortage of Western-supplied anti-ballistic missile defenses.

NATO said a Russian missile entered Polish airspace during the onslaught and landed in a rural area. It caused no injuries or damage but could deepen tensions between the military alliance and Moscow, as wary European countries fear the 4-year-old war could spill into their territory.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte called it "yet another reckless act by Russia and a dangerous consequence of its war against Ukraine."

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said it was "a very serious incident," but added: "There are absolutely no reasons to believe that Poland was the target."

Russia's barrage struck areas of Ukraine where weapons are believed to be stored and manufactured. Ukrainian long-range drones and missiles have battered Russia's oil sector, causing a fuel crisis.

"Given the critical shortage of air defense missiles from our partners, our warriors are accomplishing truly incredible things, demonstrating a very high level of professionalism," Zelenskyy said on social media.

"This Russian terror once again proves that protection against the Russian missile threat is the most important task when it comes to saving the lives of our people," he said.

# Gaza truce talks see rare progress even as Israeli airstrikes kill six

Palestinians mourn at the funeral of people killed in Israeli strikes in Khan Younis on Thursday. REUTERS

**Reuters**
*Cairo, July 30*

TALKS BETWEEN mediators and Hamas leaders in Cairo on implementing a US-brokered Gaza peace plan have made rare progress, sources close to the effort said on Thursday, although an Israeli official said proposed terms were not satisfactory. Earlier, Israeli strikes killed at least six Palestinians in Gaza Thursday, including two children.

A Hamas official and a diplomat close to the Cairo talks said discussions were "positive" and "making progress".

The official said the progress would be tested by Israel's response and whether this allowed a broad accord to be reached. However, the Israeli official, who declined to be identified, said Israel had rejected a proposal.

"Israel demands complete disarmament of Hamas, including the removal of weapons from Gaza and complete demilitarization of the Strip as a precondition for any process," the official said.

"The 15-point document in question does not provide a satisfactory response to these demands and Israel conveyed its objections."

# Tension grips PoK as clashes continue amid elections

**Press Trust of India**
*Islamabad, July 30*

TENSIONS PREVAILED in Rawalkot region in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Thursday as clashes continued between security forces and the banned Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC).

The tensions, which have claimed several lives this week, coincide with ongoing regional elections in PoK, with demonstrators affiliated with JAAC determined to march towards Muzaffarabad to press Islamabad to accept their demands.

The JAAC is a collective of activist groups which have been staging demonstrations for nearly two months over 12 contentious seats of the so-called legislative assembly in PoK.

It alleges that the establishment manoeuvres these seats to install a prime minister of its choosing.

In PoK, clashes between security forces and protesters have intensified since Monday, especially in Rawalkot and Mirpur, which reportedly resulted in maximum casualties.

According to the JAAC, at least 37 men lost their lives in the clashes.

"The number of those injured remains unknown. Amid heavy gunfire, our people have continued to stand peacefully and unarmed. God willing, our peaceful struggle against oppression and injustice will continue," it said in a statement.

However, the Pakistan government denied any death of civilians saying militants of the banned Tehrik-e Taliban are present among the protesters and crackdown against them will continue.

"We will not talk to the protesters and law will take its course," Pakistan State Minister for Interior Affairs Talal Chaudhary said.

Amnesty International and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan have expressed concerns over reports of violence in the region, calling on the authorities to probe the incidents.

People rally in support of PoK protestors during a demonstration in Islamabad on Wednesday. REUTERS

# Russia detains billionaire, govt official in drone fraud probe

**Reuters**
*Moscow, July 30*

RUSSIAN BILLIONAIRE Valery Kustov, executives of his Efko company and a government official responsible for drone development have all been detained in a major fraud investigation, news outlets reported on Thursday.

Kustov is the founder, controlling shareholder and board chairman of Efko, which is active in drone production as well as being Russia's leading sunflower oil producer.

Three other Efko officials were also detained, according to the reports by Interfax news agency and others. The trade and industry ministry confirmed the detention of Alla Polovchenya, deputy head of its department of unmanned systems and robotics.

*Mash*, a news outlet known for its sources in Russian law enforcement, said the Efko officials were suspected of covertly purchasing drones from China and passing them off as company's own proprietary development.

Efko in a statement expressed support for its detained employees and urged people to refrain from speculation.

The Efko group has been involved with drones since 2021 through a venture called Future Transport that describes itself as "a leader in the development and production of unmanned aerial vehicles in Russia."

# Wildfires rage across Europe even as France and Spain see some respite

**Reuters**
*Bordeaux, Madrid, Athens, July 23*

FRANCE, SPAIN and Greece battled major wildfires on Thursday, with Spain bringing one blaze under control but facing new threats as intense heat, dry vegetation and powerful winds kept much of southern Europe on alert.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez downgraded the emergency level for a major fire on the border between Madrid and Castilla y Leon, but warned the danger had not passed as at least 10 other blazes caused concern across the country.

In France, two people were arrested on suspicion of arson as crews contained a vast fire near Bordeaux, while fires in Greece killed three firefighters and forced tourists and residents to flee parts of Crete, some by boat.

"We barely made it... we were running and the fire was behind us, chasing us," said Lia Galata, a Greek seasonal tourism worker who found shelter in an indoor gym and had to be evacuated by boat as a blaze tore through the hills above a resort on Crete late Wednesday.

"We have difficult days ahead of us," Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said.

Emergency crews have faced barely a pause between heatwaves and fire fronts this summer across an increasingly tinder-dry Europe, the world's fastest-warming continent.

In eastern England, firefighters were tackling a significant wildfire at Dunwich Heath, prompting the evacuation of about 200 caravans from the area, a significant biodiversity site. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service called the blaze one of the most challenging incidents.

## Clooney family forced to flee 'beautiful home'

*Paris:* George Clooney has said his family has been forced to evacuate their home in southeastern France as a wildfire burned nearby, his agent said Thursday. The Hollywood star behind the *Ocean's Eleven* franchise and other films made the statement in a letter to Didier Bremond, mayor of Brignoles, publicist Guido Gotz said.

"At this point we have no idea whether our beautiful home makes it through this terrible moment"... Amal and I are committed to making sure that whatever happens to our village" Clooney wrote, referring to his wife Amal. **REUTERS**

# Toll now three as clashes spread in Nepal's Tarai; Balen vows stern action

**Yubaraj Ghimire**
*Kathmandu, July 30*

NEPAL PRIME Minister Balendra Shah promised stringent and effective measures against those responsible for rioting and clashes in parts of eastern Nepal.

In a six-minute televised address to the nation, he said investigation has already begun into the violence that erupted in Sundari district and spread to other areas, and no one found guilty would be spared.

The PM said Nepal's constitution guarantees equal rights to all citizens to pursue and practise all religions and the government is determined to protect those rights. "No religion preaches hatred and intolerance," he added.

Shah came under fierce criticism for his continued absence in Parliament even as death toll rose to three in continuing communal clashes since Monday.

Shah and Home Minister Sudhan Gurung were both absent in the House as Opposition members demanded that they come and explain the situation in curfew-hit Sunsari and Siraha districts in eastern Nepal where the army is deployed to restore law and order.

The situation in the two districts flared up on Thursday as a 15-year-old boy, Ganesh Yadav, died in Golbazar area of Siraha district as protestors indulged in arson, burned down a few houses and attacked a shopping mall. They were demanding stern action against the culprits who attacked "pilgrims" in adjoining Sunsari Monday night.

## • BRIEFLY

UNITED STATES

### Fauci invokes the 5th Amendment in Senate committee hearing

Anthony Fauci at the hearing on Wednesday. FILE

**DR ANTHONY Fauci on Wednesday repeatedly invoked the Fifth Amendment and declined to answer dozens of questions from senators in a Republican-led committee hearing about his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though he received a pardon in early 2025 from Democratic President Joe Biden, some Republicans pursuing a campaign for his arrest suggested he could still face charges for perjury committed during the hearing. AP**

# US govt map of Africa mislabels every country at global meet

**Reuters**
*July 30*

A US government map of Africa mislabeled every country during a State Department presentation at a global conference taking place in Brazil this week, causing a stir among attendees who took screenshots and posted them online.

*Reuters* viewed a video of the presentation given at the AIDS 2026 conference in Rio de Janeiro, which shows the errant map displayed halfway during a presentation about State Department's new health agreements.

A *Reuters* analysis found the image of the map in the presentation contained an AI watermark signalling it was made with OpenAI tools. The company said it was probing report.

The State Department said it took "full responsibility" for confusion caused and that the map had been produced by a team member who hastily changed the slide deck before the event.

The map showed Nigeria, where the US currently has several hundred troops deployed, as landlocked in the Sahara Desert. Mozambique, which is in southeastern Africa, was relocated to Horn of Africa, while Ivory Coast in West Africa was placed on the other side of the continent.

In a statement, the State Department said: "We take full responsibility for the confusion... it caused for attendees, including our African partners."

• FOUND INSIDE A TEA CRATE BRICKED INTO A SEALED FIREPLACE; LATE RETURN FINE WOULD BE AROUND $19500, ALLOWING FOR INFLATION

# Overdue for 150 years, book finally returns to Australian library

**Rod Mcguirk**
*Melbourne, July 30*

AN AUSTRALIAN public library has had a book returned an estimated 150 years late and has no way of tracking down the errant borrower, a librarian said on Thursday.

The book *Antiquities of Athens*, published in 1858, was returned to the library in the seaside town of Kiama last week by a man who had found it during recent home renovations inside a tea crate bricked into a sealed fireplace, Kiama Library manager Michelle Hudson said.

"We've never had anything that old come back to us," Hudson said.

"I follow lots of libraries on social media and often you'll get things that are maybe 30 or 40 years old when they're cleaning out estates and stuff like that," she added.

The book's finder did not immediately respond to *The Associated Press's* request for comment. The late return fine would be around 28,000 Australian dollars ($19,500), allowing for inflation, Hudson said.

That was calculated on the British three pence-a-week overdue fee that was printed on the inside cover of the book, along with a list of rules that applied when the library opened in 1872.

But Hudson said there was no way of tracing the final borrower who had accrued the debt. The library journal from the 1870s that recorded who borrowed a book and when had been lost.

"Unfortunately, we have a missing link. There's nothing in the book that tells us who the last borrower was," Hudson said.

Library rules in the 1870s stated that a book had to be returned and an overdue debt paid before another book could be borrowed. "Maybe that's why they never returned it to us," Hudson said.

Antiquated rules of the day included that up to three books could be borrowed by households in which at least six members were "known to be able to read." Proof of reading ability is no longer required to use today's library.

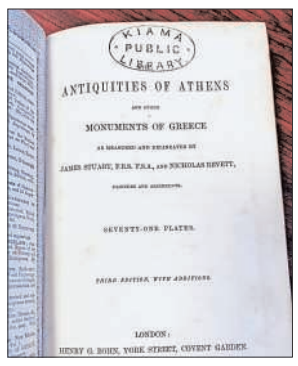
In the 1870s, books were not lent to people who arrived at the library in a "state of intoxication." Library users are now asked to leave if their behavior impacts others, but the rules are not specific about intoxication.

The book, which has some water damage from its years under a chimney, was marked as No. 506 in the library's original collection of around 1,000 books, Hudson said.

She expects the book was lost within a few years of the library opening.

The returned book will be displayed in the library's local history collection.

"We're not going to allow it to go back out again. We don't want to wait another 150 years for this book to be returned," Hudson said. **AP**




Library manager Michelle Hudson holds *Antiquities of Athens* after its return; the library-stamped page from the book. AP

CONSUMPTION CREDIT, LIKE PERSONAL LOANS & CREDIT CARDS, HAS EMERGED AS DOMINANT SEGMENT

## Overleveraged borrowers jump 3x, credit expansion slows: CIBIL

**George Mathew**
*Mumbai, July 30*

INDIA'S DECADE-long expansion in formal credit has brought millions of first-time borrowers into the banking system, but the next phase of growth could be far more challenging as rising consumer indebtedness, slowing borrower growth and shrinking participation by first-time borrowers emerge as key concerns, according to a TransUnion CIBIL study.

A big warning sign is the steady increase in financially stretched borrowers. The share of overleveraged consumers rose threefold — from 5% in FY17 to 18% in FY24 — before easing marginally to 15% in FY26 after industry intervention, says the CIBIL report, *Unlocking Access: Journey of Credit Expansion in India*.

The excessive borrowing is concentrated largely among younger consumers, who have also been the fastest-growing segment of India's retail credit market. Another concern is the sharp slowdown in the pace of expansion of active borrowers. The proportion of credit-active consumers within the credit-eligible population also increased during this period, from 11% in March 2017 to 28% in March 2026. However, the compounded annual growth rate of the credit-active consumer base moderated from 14% during the March 2017–March 2019 period to 9% during March 2024–March 2026 period, suggesting that the easy gains from financial inclusion may be tapering off, CIBIL said.

The pipeline of new borrowers is also shrinking. New-to-Credit (NTC) consumers accounted for 32% of retail loan originations in 2017 but their share has fallen to just 13% by 2026. This indicates that lenders are increasingly relying on repeat borrowers instead of expanding the formal credit net to households that have never borrowed before. "These numbers indicate significant opportunity to both deepen engagement with those already within the credit fold, and to bring new consumers into the formal credit ecosystem," CIBIL said.

The nature of borrowing has also undergone a significant shift. Consumption credit—including personal loans, credit cards and consumer durable finance—has emerged as the dominant segment, with the share of active borrowers holding such products increasing from 34% to 51% over the period.

The study also flags concerns in the commercial lending ecosystem. Further, the share of entities that have accessed commercial credit declined from 50% to 41%, the credit-active share dipped from 10% to 9% and NTC also went down from 60% to 39% between quarter ended March 2021 and quarter ended March 2026. This indicates further capacity to bring eligible enterprises and medium, small and micro entrepreneurs into formal credit, it said.

This also shows that millions of micro and small enterprises continue to remain outside the organised credit system despite improved creditworthiness.

Geographically, the report finds that India's credit map is undergoing a structural shift. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar have recorded faster growth in credit participation than traditional markets such as Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

While this reflects widening financial inclusion beyond the country's established economic centres, it also places greater responsibility on lenders to maintain underwriting standards as lending expands rapidly into relatively newer markets.

The report nevertheless highlights the remarkable expansion of formal finance. The share of credit-eligible Indians who have borrowed at least once has increased from 35% in 2017 to 74% in 2026, while credit monitoring has risen sharply, pointing to growing financial awareness. Women borrowers increased their share from 22% in March 2017 to 30% in March 2026, while that of young borrowers rose from 33% to 39% in the same period.

"What also stands out is how India's state-wise credit heatmap has undergone a gradual but clear shift. While the traditionally dominant states in west and south India continue their strong credit uptake, states in north and central India have seen a remarkable rise in credit participation," said Bhavesh Jain, MD and CEO, TransUnion CIBIL.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

### • EMERGING HEADWINDS?

**THE SHARE** of over-leveraged consumers has risen threefold, from 5% in FY17 to 18% in FY24, before easing marginally to 15% in FY26 after industry intervention, the report said

**THE EXCESSIVE** borrowing is concentrated largely among younger consumers, who have also been the fastest-growing segment of India's retail credit market

**THE SHARE** of entities that have accessed commercial credit declined from 50% to 41%

## RBI tightens transparency norms on bulk deposit rates, allows LCR-linked pricing

**George Mathew**
*Mumbai, July 30*

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has tightened disclosure norms for deposit interest rates while simultaneously giving banks greater flexibility to price such deposits based on liquidity risks, a move that comes on the heels of HDFC Bank facing questions over the pricing of bulk deposits in the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) case.

The interest rates offered on deposits, including bulk deposits, should be uniform across all branches and for all customers and there should be no discrimination in the matter of interest paid on the deposits, between one deposit and another deposit of similar amount, accepted on the same date, at any of its offices, the RBI said while amending the guidelines.

Under the revised rules, banks will now be required to publish interest rates applicable to all deposits, including bulk deposits, on their websites in advance. More importantly, interest rates for bulk deposits must be displayed every business day by 10 AM, with a maximum grace period until 10.10 AM, the central bank said.

### *The exception*

However, a bank will have the freedom to offer differential interest rate on bulk deposits, by considering the differential run-off rate applicable to deposits or unsecured wholesale funding under the LCR (liquidity coverage ratio) framework, as specified in the Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks – Asset Liability Management) Directions, 2025, the RBI said.

This will be applicable on rupee deposits of non-residents as well. If a liquidity crisis occurs, run-off rate is the proportion of the fund/ deposits likely to leave the bank. The bank must hold enough High Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA) like cash held, government bonds and central bank reserves, to cover such stressed outflows.

The current run-off rate is 12.5%, including 2.5% of the deposits raised through digital channels. Higher run-off rates increase the bank's expected cash outflows, reduce the LCR (liquidity coverage ratio) ratio and require the bank to hold more liquid assets.

LCR indicates whether a bank has enough high-quality liquid assets.

The central bank on Thursday issued the Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks- Interest Rate on Deposits) Second Amendment Directions, 2026, which will come into effect from October 1, 2026.

On May 27, *The Indian Express* reported that the private sector lender had conducted an internal vigilance investigation into interest payments of Rs 45 crore, "camouflaged" as marketing expenditure, made to MSRDC for 2023-24 and 2024-25. The report further pointed that the internal investigation was ordered on March 12 by the Audit Committee of the board, just six days before Atanu Chakraborty abruptly resigned as the bank's part-time chairman, saying "certain happenings and practices within the bank are not in congruence with my personal values and ethics".

The internal audit of the bank's marketing department had flagged these payments and rated the department's performance as "unsatisfactory", investigation by The Indian Express showed. These payments were disguised as contributions to a road safety awareness campaign through local vendors.

The latest RBI move is likely to make it harder for banks to negotiate rates for select clients without publicly reflecting those rates in their published schedules.

The requirement for daily disclosures creates a transparent benchmark against which deposit pricing can be scrutinised by regulators, auditors and depositors.

Banks can now distinguish between categories of wholesale deposits based on how sticky or stable they are from a liquidity management perspective.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

### • TIGHTER NORMS

**UNDER THE** revised rules, banks will now be required to publish interest rates applicable to all deposits, including bulk deposits, on their websites in advance

**INTEREST RATES** for bulk deposits must be displayed every business day by 10 AM, with a maximum grace period until 10.10 AM

**THE LATEST** RBI move is likely to make it harder for banks to negotiate rates for select clients without publicly reflecting those rates in their published schedules

## Govt: No pressure on automakers to back E20 petrol or hide info

**Sukalp Sharma**
*New Delhi, July 30*

THERE IS no pressure from the government on vehicle manufactures to support E20 petrol or to hide any facts about the fuel, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) said Thursday, rejecting certain claims doing the rounds on social media. Amid the public backlash over E20 fuel — 80 parts petrol and 20 parts ethanol — the ministry also rejected claims that automakers have privately indicated that E20 is not desirable.

India achieved 20% ethanol blending in petrol last year and E20 is the standard petrol variant available across the country. There has been a public backlash over the E20 fuel, with claims ranging from notable reduction in mileage and engine component wear and tear in older vehicles whose engines were not designed for higher ethanol blends.

On its part, the government has been attempting to allay fears, saying that the drop in mileage in older vehicles would be 3-5% at most, and would be outweighed by the benefits like higher octane rating, superior anti-knock characteristics, faster combustion, better pickup, smoother acceleration and cleaner engine operation. The government has also consistently rejected claims that E20 fuel could damage engine components, saying that the extensive testing and field validation was done before E20 petrol was rolled out.

"Had automobile manufacturers not been satisfied with the scientific validation, they would neither have certified E20-compatible vehicles, nor continued to honour warranty obligations. Manufacturers continue to honour warranties for vehicles operating on specification-compliant E20 fuel because they have confidence in the extensive testing that preceded the rollout," the MoPNG said.

"India's automobile manufacturers are independent listed companies with legal and regulatory obligations to their customers. They cannot conceal widespread vehicle defects without exposing themselves to warranty claims, product liability, regulatory action and serious reputational damage," it added.

According to the government, vehicle manufacturers wouldn't have honoured vehicle warranties after E20 rollout had they believed that the fuel was fading systemic engine damage. Warranty decisions are based on engineering validation and field experience, not political considerations, it said. The MoPNG also referred to a July 4 press conference, in which senior executives from top automakers said that E20 was introduced only after rigorous testing and extensive validation.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

### • EXPLORING HORIZONS

Vikram-1 of Skyroot Aerospace scripted history by becoming the first privately developed Indian rocket to reach the orbit on July 18. India's space tech ecosystem has now 285 companies, and 72 of them have received equity funding. Total equity funding has reached $871 million across 241 rounds through July 2026.

**INDIA'S FIRST PRIVATE ORBITAL LAUNCH MARKS A STRUCTURAL MILESTONE**

| TOTAL STARTUPS | ACTIVE STARTUPS | FUNDED STARTUPS | TOTAL EQUITY FUNDING | FUNDING ROUNDS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 285 | 274 | 72 | $871MN | 241 |

**YoY Funding Trend in India's Space Tech Ecosystem (2021- 2026YTD)**

| YEAR | TOTAL EQUITY FUNDING ($ MN) | NUMBER OF ROUNDS | SEED STAGE FUNDING ($ MN) | EARLY STAGE FUNDING ($ MN) | LATE STAGE FUNDING ($ MN) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2021 | 43 | 12 | 14 | 30 | — |
| 2022 | 105 | 24 | 7 | 97 | — |
| 2023 | 142 | 35 | 15 | 127 | — |
| 2024 | 72 | 39 | 25 | 47 | — |
| 2025 | 200 | 53 | 62 | 121 | 17 |
| 2026 YTD | 113 | 24 | 16 | 43 | 53 |

NOTE: TOTAL & STAGE WISE FUNDING DATA AS OF JUL 24, 2026; SOURCE: TRACXN.

## EU FTA has enough safeguards to cushion CBAM impact, says Centre

**ENS Economic Bureau**
*New Delhi, July 30*

THE FREE Trade Agreement (FTA) with the European Union (EU) has enough safeguards built-in to cushion the impact of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) on Indian companies and ensures that they also benefit from any future relaxations in the carbon tax regime, a senior official said Thursday.

"CBAM (carbon border adjustment mechanism) took a lot of negotiating capital...In the text, there is a separate Annexure on dealing with CBAM. The first pillar is that in case of flexibility in future (in CBAM), that will be available to India," additional secretary in the Department of Commerce Darpan Jain said at Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) Industry Dialogue.

Jain also is the Chief negotiator of India-EU FTA.

CBAM compliances are a concern among Small and Medium Enterprises in terms of verification, in terms of finding out what is the value of embedded carbon and ensuring that the verifiers are recognized by the EU authorities.

The agreement also has a provision in which India can engage with EU authorities on taking into account the carbon price, which is paid in India and adjusting it against the final carbon tax liability in the 27-member bloc.

"India is currently developing its own carbon pricing mechanism. So, how to offset what is paid in India from what is paid in Europe, so even that is part of it," he said. FE

## 'Govt to hold talks with Meta within a week'

*New Delhi:* The government will hold discussions with social media major Meta on policy and technical matters within a week over several concerns, including the removal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Facebook post, a senior government official said on Thursday.

The government has summoned Meta's public policy head after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Facebook post, on July 23, addressing India's youth and promising stringent measures against exam paper leaks, was briefly restricted by the US-headquartered social media giant.

Electronics and IT Secretary S Krishnan said the government has asked Meta to come in at the highest level and explain the issue that led to the glitch. PTI

### • BRIEFLY

**Vedanta's Q1 profit jumps, Arun Misra named as CEO**

*Bengaluru:* Indian metals-to-oil conglomerate Vedanta reported a 72% rise in consolidated net profit rose at Rs 5,473 crore ($572.4 million) for the quarter ended June 30, helped by higher base metal prices. The company on Thursday named Arun Misra as its chief executive officer for a one-year term starting August 1. Misra currently heads Vedanta's subsidiary Hindustan Zinc and will step down to assume the new role. REUTERS

**Pilot duty rules will turn aviation uncompetitive: IndiGo's Bhatia**

*New Delhi:* IndiGo MD Rahul Bhatia has called for a review of India's pilot flight duty time rules, saying these norms erode cockpit productivity, inflate airline costs and make the country's aviation sector "uncompetitive" compared with global peers. "I think Flight Duty Time Limitations needs a review, and I think there's enough conversation going on with the government," Bhatia told *PTI* in an interview. PTI

**Maruti starts production at 4th Gujarat unit**

*New Delhi:* Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (MSIL) on Thursday announced commencement of commercial production at the fourth plant of its Hansalpur facility in Gujarat. After the start of the fourth plant that has an annual capacity of 2.5 lakh units, the Hansalpur facility's total annual production capacity has been increased to 10 lakh units annually from 7.5 lakh units, MSIL said. "This marks the first time in Suzuki's history that the total annual production capacity at a single manufacturing facility has reached 1 million units," it said. PTI

**GSTN defers e-way bill enhancements**

*New Delhi:* GST Network has put on hold two proposed e-way bill enhancements after hearing industry feedback on the proposal. The two enhancements that were proposed to be implemented from August 1 were the mandatory capture of the 'Ship-To GSTIN' in Bill to 'Ship-to-transactions', aimed at improving the identification of the actual recipient of goods and strengthening traceability. The second enhancement was the introduction of a 'voluntary closure' facility. PTI

AN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING 50 RENEWABLE ENERGY FIRMS HAS SOUGHT FINANCIAL RELIEF FOR PROJECTS FACING STRESS DUE TO TRANSMISSION CONSTRAINTS

## Transmission hurdles pushing green energy projects into distress

**Pratyush Deep**
*New Delhi, July 30*

INDIA'S RAPIDLY expanding renewable energy sector is grappling with a major challenge: transmission constraints. Close to 21 gigawatts (GW), that is about 9% of the country's installed renewable energy capacity, is currently being evacuated through temporary grid connections while awaiting dedicated transmission infrastructure.

Of this, around 12 GW faces restrictions on power evacuation during periods of peak solar generation, exposing developers to revenue losses and raising concerns over the financial viability of several projects. Power evacuation is the process of transferring electricity generated at a power plant to the consumption point.

During the financial year 2025-26 (FY26), around 6,900 gigawatt-hour (GWh) of clean electricity faced restrictions due to a mismatch between the rapid pace of renewable energy deployment and commissioning of associated transmission infrastructure, latest government data shows.

These projects operate under Temporary General Network Access (T-GNA), a stopgap arrangement for renewable energy plants awaiting commissioning of associated transmission infrastructure.

Under the current GNA framework, inter-state transmission system (ISTS)-connected renewable energy projects with long-term GNA are granted firm transmission evacuation rights. T-GNA projects, however, can schedule power only if spare transmission capacity is available. During periods of network congestion, long-term GNA projects receive priority, often resulting in curtailment of generation from T-GNA-connected plants.

According to developers, the curtailment faced by these projects are as high as 70-80% of their generating capacity, posing serious concern on project viability and debt servicing.

Electricity curtailment is the intentional reduction of power output from renewable generators.

### *Financial stress*

While renewable energy sources, such as solar, enjoy "must-run" status in India, they can still be backed down on grounds of grid security, technical constraints and transmission bottlenecks.

During April-June, the grid operators had to curtail 8,133 GWh of electricity generated by solar power sources due to transmission bottlenecks and to maintain grid security, latest government data showed.

Developers are compensated for grid-security-related backing down, but curtailment caused by transmission bottlenecks — particularly for projects operating under T-GNA — has emerged as a key concern, eroding revenues and threatening project viability.

On July 22, the Sustainable Project Developers Association (SPDA), which represents over 50 leading renewable energy companies, wrote to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) seeking financial relief for projects facing stress due to transmission constraints.

"At present, a large number of renewable energy projects are experiencing financial stress primarily due to delays in the availability of evacuation infrastructure, which are outside the control of project developers," the letter accessed by *The Indian Express* read.

"While developers continue to incur interest during construction, commitment charges, IDC, O&M expenses and other fixed costs, project revenues remain deferred until transmission systems become operational," it added.

The association urged the MNRE to take up the matter with the Ministry of Finance, the Reserve Bank of India, and financial institutions to facilitate financial relief for affected projects. Among the measures sought were moratorium on repayment of principal for the period of transmission delay, interest-free or concessional bridge financing for the affected period, extension of loan repayment tenure without adverse credit implications, and restructuring of project debt without downgrading asset classification, where appropriate.

FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Around 6,900 GWh of clean electricity faced restrictions during financial year 2025-26. REUTERS

### • MARKETS

| Sensex | NIFTY | Gold ▲ | US Dollar ▲ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 77,928.15 | 24,317.15 | ₹1,43,384 | ₹95.68 |
| 273.55 | 66.95 | | |
| 0.35% | 0.28% | | |
| | | Silver ▲ ₹2,18,665 | Oil ▲ $88.87 |

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF JULY 29, 2026

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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to
explained@indianexpress.com

• HISTORY

# Ravidas: Icon of Dalit resistance in Punjab, beyond

**Manraj Grewal Sharma**
*Chandigarh, July 30*

SEVEN MONTHS before Sant Ravidas's 650th birth anniversary, the BJP launched a nationwide commemoration campaign Wednesday at his birthplace near Varanasi, in the presence of UP CM Yogi Adityanath. Punjab's AAP government, too, launched a campaign in February.

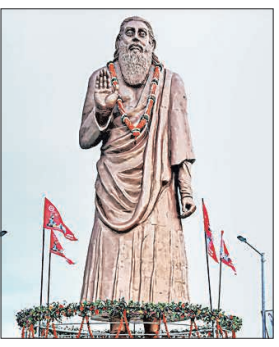
Centuries after his lifetime, Guru Ravidas continues to shape religious thought, social reform, politics and Dalit assertion in India, particularly Punjab. A Bhakti saint, philosopher and poet, he challenged caste hierarchies while remaining rooted in his occupation as a cobbler, preached dignity of labour and envisioned an equal society.

### *Unique among Bhakti saints*

Guru Ravidas was a 15th-16th century saint whose teachings emphasised devotion to a formless God. He belonged to the chamar community of leather workers.

Ronki Ram, a professor emeritus at the Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh, and an eminent scholar of Guru Ravidass, told *The Indian Express* that the saint neither renounced his religion nor abandoned his hereditary occupation. In doing so, his life itself became a form of peaceful social protest at a time when the Bhakti movement sought to challenge social hierarchies.

While he rejected ritualism, accounts say he wore the sacred thread (*janeu*) and applied the *tilak*. Ram said these actions symbolically challenged the upper castes' monopoly over religious symbols.



A Ravidas statue in Varanasi. PTI

Ravidas became widely revered through his devotional poetry and reformist philosophy. He wrote in Sadhukari — blending Awadhi, Braj, Khari Boli, Punjabi, Rajasthani and Sanskrit. According to Professor Yog Raj Angrish, who heads the School of Punjabi Studies at Panjab University, his verses were simple and easy to sing. "While Kabir's poetry is marked by rhetoric, resistance and poetic deconstruction, Ravidas writes with philosophical depth and humility."

A central idea of his philosophy was of Begumpura, an ideal society founded on principles of equality, justice and freedom. Prof Angrish says Guru Ravidas was among the earliest thinkers to imagine a society free from caste, class and hierarchy. His famous hymn, included in the Guru Granth Sahib, begins: "*Begampura sehar ko naau; dookh andoh nahi tih thaau* (Begumpura is the name of the city. There is no suffering or anxiety there)." The hymn describes a city free from sorrow, fear, oppressive taxation and discrimination, where all people enjoy equality, dignity and unrestricted movement.

Prof Ram says Begumpura represents a society free of caste hierarchy, poverty and oppression, where everyone has enough to live with dignity and God alone is sovereign. Scholars including Gail Omvedt have described it as one of India's earliest visions of a casteless, classless society.

### *Raising Dalit consciousness*

Guru Ravidas occupies a unique place in Sikhism. Forty of his hymns (*shabads*) and one *shloka* are included in the Guru Granth Sahib, alongside compositions of Kabir, Sheikh Farid and other Bhakti and Sufi saints. Prof Sarabjit Singh of Punjabi University said these saints lived before Guru Nanak Dev, who carried forward many of their ideas.

Prof Ram described him as one of the earliest voices of Dalit resistance, who transformed personal experience into a universal message of equality without hatred or revenge. His influence became more visible during Punjab's Ad Dharm movement of the 1920s, which adopted Ravidas as its patron saint to champion an independent socio-political consciousness. As he put it: "*Aisa chahoon raaj main jahaan milai sabhan ko ann; chhot bado sab sam basai, Ravidas rahai prasann* (I long for such a kingdom where everyone has enough to eat, where the small and the great live as equals; then Ravidas shall be content)."

For millions of Dalits, Ravidas is the foremost spiritual figure. His followers, the Ravidassias, are a Dalit community of whom the bulk — around 12 lakh — live in Punjab's Doaba. The politically influential community separated from Sikhism in 2010 and follows its own scripture.

• LEGAL

# SC sets 'public interest' test on retrospective green nod

The judgment has sought to strike a middle path, closing the door on blanket regularisation but leaving limited room for government action

JAY MAZOOMDAAR

THE SUPREME Court's judgment on Wednesday striking down the Centre's 2021 Office Memorandum (OM) that allowed retrospective approval for projects that had already commenced construction without environment clearances (ECs), now closes the door on blanket and open-ended regularisation of such projects. It leaves limited room for government action under statutory authority.

The judgment has sought to strike a middle path in the top court's evolving environmental jurisprudence, distinguishing between the source of executive power and the limits of regularisation.

The court held that ex-post facto ECs cannot be created through an OM, but recognised that the government may, in exceptional circumstances and in public interest, provide such a mechanism through a statutory notification issued under delegated legislative powers.

The test will depend on how narrowly the government frames any future amnesty scheme and whether it meets the Supreme Court's benchmark of "public interest".

An OM is an administrative instruction issued by a ministry or department and does not have the force of law. A statutory notification, by contrast, is issued under authority granted by a statute — the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, in this case — and notified in the Gazette.

Applying this distinction, the court set aside the Environment Ministry's July 2021 OM, which introduced a standard operating procedure (SOP) for granting ex-post facto ECs to "violation cases". The court held that the OM had created a continuing or "perpetual" regime for condoning violations. It did not invalidate the March 2017 notification, which provided a limited, one-time six-month amnesty window.

The judgment also departed from the court's May 2025 position that prohibited ex-post facto ECs "in any form or manner". Instead, it held that a "narrowly tailored amnesty scheme" may be permissible where justified by "supervening public interest".

### • SC's EVOLVING ENVIRONMENTAL JURISPRUDENCE

**MAR 14, 2017:** The Environment Ministry issues notification establishing a six-month window for non-compliant projects or activities to apply for environmental clearance (EC).

**AUG 2, 2017:** In *Common Cause v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court declares retrospective ECs invalid and 'completely alien to environmental jurisprudence'.

**APR 1, 2020:** In *Alembic Pharmaceuticals Ltd v. Rohit Prajapati*, the Supreme Court reiterates 'ex post facto clearance is alien to environmental jurisprudence'. But adopts a 'balanced approach' by imposing penalties instead of ordering closure of long-operating units.

**MAY 24, 2021:** The National Green Tribunal, in *Tanaji B. Gambhire v. Chief Secretary, Govt of Maharashtra*, directs Environment Ministry to formulate a proper SOP to address frequency of projects without prior EC.

**JUL 7, 2021:** Ministry issues office memorandum (OM) establishing an SOP for projects that failed to obtain prior EC to get regularised after paying penalties.

**DEC 9, 2021:** In *Electrosteel Steels Ltd v. Union of India*, Supreme Court says ex post facto ECs can be granted in 'exceptional circumstances' to protect livelihoods and the economy.

**MAY 16, 2025:** In *Vanashakti v. Union of India*, Supreme Court strikes down 2017 notification and 2021 OM as illegal. It rules that they were in violation of the principles laid down in *Common Cause* and *Alembic*.

**NOV 18, 2025:** In review petition, the Supreme Court recalls May 2025 ruling. Then-CJI BR Gavai holds that the *Vanashakti* order went against the *Electrosteel* judgement and that a 'balanced approach' is necessary to avoid waste of money spent on building projects. SC orders fresh adjudication of the matter.

**JUL 29, 2026:** Supreme Court upholds 2017 notification but quashes 2021 OM, holding that post facto EC can be granted only through statutory notifications, not administrative actions.

– COMPILED BY VINEET BHALLA

### *Already benefited*

After Mumbai-based environmental NGO Vanashakti approached the Supreme Court, the July 2021 OM was stayed, suspending the SOP route for violation cases, by a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta in January 2024.

By then, as reported by *The Indian Express* on February 20, 2024, the Environment Ministry had issued ex-post facto ECs to more than 100 projects and issued terms of reference for environmental impact assessment (EIA) to at least another 150 projects under the violation category since March 2017.

These projects included coal, iron, and bauxite mines, a greenfield airport, distilleries, steel and iron plants, industrial estates, cement plants, limestone quarries, chemical units, and buildings.

Among the project proponents were Singareni Collieries Company Ltd, Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd, Jaypee Cement, UltraTech Cement, Ramco Cements, Bhushan Steel Ltd, Steel Authority of India, Godrej Agrovet Ltd, Hindustan Copper, Lloyds Metals & Energy Ltd, Hindustan Marble, Artemis Hospital, Pushpawati Singhania Hospital, Spaze Towers, Hotel Leela Venture Ltd, and the Special Protection Group.

**No blanket amnesty or bar**

The court held that ex-post facto environmental clearances can't be created through an office memorandum.

•

But it recognised that the government may, in exceptional circumstances and in public interest, provide such a mechanism.

### *Scope of amnesty*

Under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, projects requiring EC must obtain approval before starting operations. Several projects, however, began work or expanded operations without prior clearance.

In March 2017, the ministry issued a statutory notification offering a one-time six-month opportunity to such projects to disclose violations and seek appraisal for EC, subject to environmental assessment and other legal consequences.

After the window expired in September 2017, the Madras High Court disposed of challenges to the notification after recording the Union government's undertaking that it was a "one-time measure".

Subsequently, in *Appaswamy Real Estates v. Puducherry Environment Protection Association*, the Madras High Court granted a limited extension in March 2018.

The ministry issued an OM the same month allowing eligible projects that were already in violation as of March 2017 to submit applications within 30 days. The policy shifted in July 2021 when the Ministry issued an OM introducing an SOP as an ongoing mechanism for violation cases.

### *Judicial evolution*

In *Common Cause v. Union of India* (2017), a bench of Justices Madan B Lokur and Deepak Gupta held that mining operations requiring EC could not commence without prior approval. It emphasised that the EIA regime is preventive and intended to assess environmental consequences before irreversible harm occurs.

In *Alembic Pharmaceuticals v. Rohit Prajapati* (2020), a bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and Ajay Rastogi held that ex-post facto EC was inconsistent with fundamental principles of environmental jurisprudence. The court observed that retrospective approval undermines the precautionary principle by allowing project proponents to commence activities first and seek approval later.

However, in *Pahwa Plastics v. Dastak* (2022), a bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and J K Maheshwari adopted a more pragmatic approach that closure was not always the appropriate remedy, particularly where regulatory uncertainty existed and environmental compliance remained possible. The court held that regulation and remediation could, in some cases, better serve environmental protection than immediate closure.

### *Vanashakti litigation*

In *Vanashakti v. Union of India*, a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan in May 2025 struck down both the March 2017 notification and the July 2021 OM, holding that ex-post facto ECs were impermissible "in any form or manner". The court also held that the one-time amnesty introduced in 2017 had exhausted itself and could not justify future regularisation.

Following review petitions by the Union government and industry bodies, a bench comprising then Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justices Vinod Chandran and Ujjal Bhuyan recalled the May 2025 judgment by a 2:1 majority, holding that the earlier decision had failed to consider binding precedents and required fresh adjudication.

The subsequent judgment now draws a distinction between a limited statutory amnesty justified by public interest and a continuing administrative mechanism that permits routine regularisation of environmental violations.

• POLICY

# New paper leak Bill: Bigger fines, longer jail terms, fast-track courts

**Damini Nath**
*New Delhi, July 30*

AFTER DAYS of disruptions in both Houses of Parliament over the NEET paper leak and the police action on protesting students on July 20, Lok Sabha on Thursday passed the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026 by voice vote. Rajya Sabha, which took the Bill up for discussion on Thursday, also cleared it by voice vote.

**Why was the Bill introduced?**

Parliament had passed the Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 in 2024 to provide strict punishments for those involved in unfair means, including leaking of question papers, in examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, the Staff Selection Commission, the Railway Recruitment Board, the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection and the National Testing Agency, which conducts the NEET exam. The Act came into effect in June 2024.

Amid the students' movement against paper leaks, sparked by the leak of the NEET UG paper in May this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a late-night social media post on July 23, announced that the government would bring a Bill with stringent measures against paper leaks. On July 24, the Cabinet approved the Bill amending the 2024 Act.

In the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh wrote: "In recent years, there have been some incidents of question paper leakages and malpractices in examinations conducted by public examination authorities, which tend to affect the transparency and fairness of the public examinations system. Hence, in order to further strengthen the fairness, to enhance the credibility of the public examinations system and to facilitate speedy trial and ensure time bound investigations of offences under the said Act, it is necessary to make amendments in the said Act."

**What are its key features?**

The amendment Bill, as passed by Lok Sabha, enhances punishment for individuals, organised groups and service providers found guilty of adopting unfair means in a public examination.

The following is the structure of punishments laid out in the Bill:

**Track record**

- Cases registered in fast-track courts has gone up from 81,471 in 2023 to 88,902 in 2024 and 1,43,936 in 2025, according to a Parliamentary reply.
- The number of pending cases, too, has gone up from 2.02 lakh in 2023 to 2.04 lakh in 2024 and 2.45 lakh in 2025.
- Cases disposed of have increased from 76,319 in 2023 to 85,595 in 2024 to 66,500 in 2025.

**INDIVIDUALS**
- **2024 law:** Imprisonment of three to five years; fine upto Rs 10 lakh
- **New Bill:** imprisonment to five to 10 years, fine upto Rs 50 lakh

**SERVICE PROVIDERS**
- **2024 law:** Fine upto Rs 1 crore; ban on being assigned any responsibility relating to a public examination for four years
- **New Bill:** Fine upto Rs 5 crore; ban on being assigned any responsibility relating to a public examination for eight years

**DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT OR PERSONS IN-CHARGE OF SERVICE PROVIDER FIRM FOUND GUILTY**
- **2024 law:** Imprisonment of at least three years; fine of Rs 1 crore
- **New Bill:** Imprisonment of at least five years, fine of Rs 5 crore

**ORGANISED CRIME**
- **2024 law:** Imprisonment of five to 10 years; fine of Rs 1 crore
- **New Bill:** Imprisonment of least seven years; fine of Rs 10 crore.

Apart from enhancing the existing punishments, the Bill also gives statutory backing for fast-track courts to be set up to try offences under the Act.

The Bill also mandates a five-month timeline for the investigation and trial of such offences by fast-track courts.

The Bill gives the Union government the power to establish a Special Task Force to investigate offences under the Act.

**How have other fast-track courts performed?**

The government has announced that fast-track courts would be set up in the four High Courts where cases related to the NEET leak are ongoing. If the Bill is passed and comes into effect, any offence under the Act would also be tried by fast-track courts.

In the past, the government has set up fast-track courts to try crimes under different laws, including the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. In a reply in Lok Sabha on July 24, Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal said there were 775 fast-track courts in the country as on April 30, including 398 exclusive POCSO courts. As on December 31, 2025, there were 2.45 lakh cases pending with these fast-track courts, the Minister's reply showed.

• GLOBAL

# How US-Iran conflict is forcing Gulf states to rethink their security strategies

**EXPERT EXPLAINS**

BASHIR ALI ABBAS

SENIOR RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, COUNCIL FOR STRATEGIC AND DEFENSE RESEARCH, DELHI

AFTER NEARLY two weeks of the Iran war, of US strikes on Iran and Iranian retaliation against targets in Gulf Arab states, both sides ceased their attacks by July 25.

The region is now coming up with strategies to deal with this conflict's fallout.

Kuwait ratified a June 2023 Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) with Pakistan on July 26 for a five-year period, while Qatar committed to deepening its security cooperation with Pakistan during bilateral talks in Doha the following day.

Meanwhile, the US-Iran war has also reignited the war between the Yemeni Houthis and Saudi Arabia, which had been dormant since 2022. The subsequent Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping have meant that both the sea and the strait flanking the Arabian Peninsula were simultaneously under fire, for the first time in history, until the US-Iran exchanges ceased on July 25.

### *US-Iran: State of play*

On July 27, Washington's UN Ambassador said President Donald Trump wanted to give negotiations a chance again, with Trump himself stating "friendly negotiations" were underway on Iran's request. Tehran rejected this characterisation.

Since early July, as Iran rejected American efforts to push through a new shipping channel through Omani waters and targeted ships that did not coordinate with Iran, the US resumed kinetic action with a focus on degrading Iran's ability to enforce the Memorandum of Understanding's Article 5, which allowed joint Iranian and Omani administration of the Strait. This was supposed to weaken Iran's bargaining power during nuclear negotiations.

Neither has occurred. Iran's control of Hormuz remains, Tehran and Muscat have continued holding negotiations to finalize arrangements to enforce Article 5, and Iran has broadened talks to include Saudi Arabia. Moreover, Iran would deem its own case for nuclear enrichment to be strengthened by Saudi Arabia's pact with the US on July 22 to begin nuclear energy cooperation.

So, the US will likely be again incentivised to hit Iranian nuclear targets as well as its Hormuz infrastructure until it is satisfied with the degradation of Iranian capabilities.

### *Fallout one: Kuwait-Pakistan*

The recurring fighting between the US and Iran, as well as pauses between kinetic action, have reinforced an old learning in key Arab states, that regardless of their current dependence on foreign arms, internal capability development as well as improved military training is an inescapable long-term need. Hence, Kuwait's DCA with Pakistan focuses on military training, education, intelligence sharing, logistics, defense technology, research and exchanges of expertise.

The agreement does not mimic the Saudi-Pakistan Strategic Mutual Defense Agreement (SDMA), signed in September 2025, given that it does not bind either party to the other's defence when attacked.

But SMDA has also shown that true mutual defence commitments are not the main objective of Arab states with Pakistan — neither has Pakistan struck Iran or Houthi territories nor has Saudi Arabia struck Afghanistan. Rather, it is meant to entrench Pakistan's role in Saudi capability build-up in the long term, while Riyadh adopts a mix of means to tackle present threats.

For Kuwait and Qatar (along with other GCC states), intra-Gulf geopolitical divergences are secondary to the objective of securing long-term defence partners whose expertise can be used to build up domestic capability. This means even if Pakistan is viewed differently by each of these states, its value as a security partner overrides these differences. That Pakistan is reliant on these states for economic stability adds a unique layer of assurance and leverage.

### *Fallout two: Houthi-Saudi*

Among the most crucial fallouts of the US-Iran war is the return of Saudi-Houthi fighting since July 14, when the Saudi-based Yemeni government in exile bombed the Houthi-controlled Sana'a Airport to reportedly prevent an Iranian plane from landing. In response, the Houthis fired ballistic missiles into Saudi territory and declared a naval blockade of Saudi Arabia in the Bab-el-Mandeb strait. Both sides have since targeted each other's infrastructure.

Despite this US-Iran triggered Saudi-Houthi escalation, it is unlikely that Riyadh wants to proactively return to full-scale fighting in Yemen. It was Houthi attacks against Aramco facilities in Abqaiq and Khurais in 2019 that had prompted a shift in Saudi strategy towards both Yemen and Iran, prioritising engagement as the path to stability.

For perspective, despite the Yemeni Houthis claiming responsibility for the 2026 Aramco attack, Riyadh participated in US strikes on Iran-backed militias in Iraq on July 29. This reflects the Saudi desire to satisfy its deterrence needs by acting against other parts of Iran's Axis of Resistance, instead of risking a larger war with the Houthis.

Now, Riyadh's need for regional stability increases significantly due to the 123 Agreement and its long-due quest for nuclear power. A Houthi attack on a future Saudi nuclear power plant could be more dangerous than strikes on oil facilities.

### *What now*

The Donald Trump administration is seemingly focused on preventing Iran from materially gaining from the MoU's provisions, which leaves room for more strike exchanges before substantial negotiations for a final deal begin. For regional states, this predicament is as untenable as a potential return to full-scale war.

**Name Change**

I, Pranab Saha, S/O Late Badal Chandra Saha, residing at AA-238, Salt Lake City, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, P.O.- Bidhannagar CC Block, P.S- Bidhannagar (N), Kolkata- 700064, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pranab Kumar Saha as declared before the Ld. 1st Class, Judicial Magistrate at Bidhannagar court vide Affidavit No. 1211 dated 28/07/2026 Pranab Saha and Pranab Kumar Saha both are the same and identical person.

**"IMPORTANT"**

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**BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION**
CENTRAL OFFICE: STORES & PURCHASE DEPARTMENT
K.H. ROAD, SHANTHINAGAR, BENGALURU-560 027
No: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/09/2026-27 Date: 30.07.2026

## NOTICE INVITING TENDER

B.M.T.C invites tender for procurement of the following Goods & Services through KPP Portal:

| Sl. No. | Tender No. | Description | Last Date for Bid Submission in KPP Portal |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | **Short Term Tender** | |
| 1 | BMTC/2026-27/IND0327 | Procurement of Automotive Glasses | 10.08.2026 at 17.00 Hrs |
| 2 | BMTC/2026-27/IND0328 | Procurement of Wheel Bearing Grease | 10.08.2026 at 17.00 Hrs |
| | | **Regular Tender** | |
| 3 | BMTC/2026-27/IND0329 | Procurement of Automotive Cables & Wires | 18.08.2026 at 17.00 Hrs |
| 4 | BMTC/2026-27/IND0330 | Procurement of Vinyl Flooring Mat | 18.08.2026 at 17.00 Hrs |
| 5 | BMTC/2026-27/SE1425 | Engaging an Agency for Operating the canteen at the training centre BMTC Vaddarahalli. | 18.08.2026 at 17.00 Hrs |
| | | **Corrigendum: Last date and time for submission of following tender is extended as under.** | |
| 6 | BMTC/2026-27/IND0300 | Procurement of Furnitures | 17.08.2026 at 17.00 Hrs |

The above mentioned tender details can be obtained from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, other tender terms and conditions etc. will be uploaded /published through KPP-Portal only.

**Note:** Interested Bidders need to register in the KPP Portal. For further information visit BMTC Central Office or Log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES**
**(Tender Inviting Authority)**

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.**

**e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)**

TGSPDCL intends to float tender for **Supply, Operating and Maintenance of Automatic Meter Reading System for "LT Services with HT Metering" Energy Meters under TOTEX model in 21 circles covering in TGSPDCL** in Telangana state on e-procurement platform.

For further details of above, please visit **https://www.tgsouthernpower.org** and **https://tender.telangana.gov.in**. Phone: 040-23431321

**Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECTS)**
**DIPR R.O. No. : 364-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 30-07-2026** **TGSPDCL, Hyderabad.**

## SALUTE THE SOLDIER

**COLONEL VASANTH V, ASHOK CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)**

In fond memory of our gallant Commanding Officer who made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation at Uri (J&K) on this day. You will forever remain in our hearts.

**LNK SHASHIKANT BACHHAV, SHAURYA CHAKRA (POSTHUMOUS)**

In fond remembrance of our valiant soldier who laid down his life in the line of duty at Uri (J&K) on this day. We salute you and pledge never to let your sacrifice go in vain.

**Colonel Jacob Panicker, Commanding Officer and All Ranks of 9 MARATHA LI (NASHAK NAUVVI), ASHOK CHAKRA BATTALION.**

**BORDER SECURITY FORCE**

CONSTABLE BIKRAM MINZ 137 BN BSF 25.01.1971 – 31.07.1998

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Bikram Minz on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he made ultimate sacrifice while on operational duty in Kupwara area, J&K.

CONSTABLE ASHOK KUMAR 30 BN BSF 06.04.1964 – 31.07.1992

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Ashok Kumar on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal injuries in a grenade blast, triggered by militants in Lal Bazar area, Srinagar (J&K) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

CONSTABLE NETRAPAL SINGH 80 BN BSF 01.05.1966 – 31.07.1992

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Netrapal Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries in Counterpart firing in Chhenigund area, Kargil (J&K) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

**CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE**

Veer Balidani Constable Raushan Kumar 195 Bn 13-1-1996 To 31-7-2019

DG and all Ranks of #CRPF pay solemn tribute to Constable Raushan Kumar of 195 Bn, who made the supreme sacrifice after sustaining grievous injuries in an IED blast during an area domination operation in Chhattisgarh on 31 July 2019. #CRPF salutes the braveheart and pledges never to let his sacrifice go in vain.

**Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited**

No. :- RCDF/F1./Admn/Contract employee/2026/19162 Dated :- 27/07/2026

**TENDER/BID NOTICE**

RCDF invites tender/Bid online from the eligible agencies for providing the services of service points on job basis (Rate Contract) as mentioned below on outsourcing basis. The last date & time for submission of bid is 17.08.2026 upto 11.00 AM Technical bid will be opened on dated 17.08.2026 at 11.00 AM Relevant tender/Bid document containing detailed terms and conditions can be down loaded from the website i.e. http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (Tender ID 2026_57823_1) **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in (UBN: CDF2627SLOB00676) & www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in.**

| Category | Total Service Point cost (in Rs.) | Bid Security (in Rs.) | Tender/Bid document cost Including GST (in Rs.) | Tender /Bid Processing Fees (Payable to MD, RISL) | Tender Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Service points | 8.5 Crore | 17.00 lakh | 2950 | 2500 | Two Year |

Raj.Samwad/C/26/8007 GENERAL MANAGER (P&A)

जीवन में नई उम्र-हमारा प्यार

**The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking**
**(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)**

**TENDER NOTICE**

**E-tender is invited for the supply of following item.**

(1) Request For Proposal (RFP) for Operation of Stage Carriage Services (With Driver and Conductor) for Public Transport of 200 Midi CNG Non-AC Buses in the City of Mumbai & Its Extended Suburbs on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model,

**Re – invited e-tenders**

(2) 81418.

**Note:** For more details, log on to website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**

**PRO/AAM(M)/51/2026** **GENERAL MANAGER**

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**

**Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001**
**Corporate Identity No. U40109PB2010SGC033813**
**(Contact number 9646118721) Website: www.pspcl.in**

**Tender Enquiry No.** **QW-350/PO-W** **Dated 29.07.2026**

Chief Engineer/Stores & Workshops Organization, Sarabha Nagar, PSPCL, Ludhiana, invites E-tender of Repair of 3-phase, 50 cycles, outdoor type, oil immersed, naturally cooled, Stack core type construction, OWP Non Star Aluminium Wound Distribution Transformers (Type Conventional) of capacity 100 KVA with voltage ratio 11/0.433 KV conforming to ISS: 2026(with latest amendments, if any) and 1180 part-1 (2014) complete with a first filling of oil conforming to ISS: 335/1993 (with latest amendments, if any)

**Quantity = 900 Nos.**

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 29.07.2026 from 04:30 P.M. onwards.

**NOTE:-** Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

**No. 13844/PB** **C-758/26**

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

**Union Bank Of India, Regional Office, Greater Kolkata : 3, Middleton Row, Kolkata- 700071**

**PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE**

"Bank requires a well-constructed commercial RCC premises admeasuring **.1800 sq.ft. + 10% variance in carpet area** in ready possession/ under construction (to be completed by 2 months) at **Sodepur under Panihati Municipality in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal**, preferably within the radius of 2 KM from main police station, at prime location in the ground floor with all amenities and sufficient parking space. Landlord needs to construct Strong Room of "B" Class as per BIS Specification and provide minimum 25 KW Electricity Connection in the name of Bank. For further details, please visit Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.com / e-Procurement portal www.eprocure.gov.in. Last date for submission of bids in prescribed format is 20.08.2026 upto 1500 hrs.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason whatsoever".

**Regional Head**

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

**Union Bank Of India, Regional Office, Greater Kolkata : 3, Middleton Row, Kolkata- 700071**

**PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE**

"Bank requires a well-constructed commercial RCC premises admeasuring **.1200 sq.ft. + 10%** variance in carpet area in ready possession/under construction(to be completed by 2 months) **at Jugberia in North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal,** preferably within the radius of 2 KM from main police station, at prime location in the ground floor with all amenities and sufficient parking space. Landlord needs to construct Strong Room of "B" Class as per BIS Specification and provide minimum 25 KW Electricity Connection in the name of Bank. For further details, please visit Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.com / e-Procurement portal www.eprocure.gov.in. Last date for submission of bids in prescribed format is 20.08.2026 upto 1500 hrs.**

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason whatsoever".

**Regional Head**

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through https://ireps.gov.in)** PUB/508

CE/C/Plg.&Sy./SC Construction Organization, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

**S.No.:** 01 **NIT No. :** PGMS-01-CAO-C-SC-2026 Date: 08/07/2026 **Name of work:** Appointment of PGMS Agency for providing Project General Management Services for CAO construction unit South Central Railway, Secunderabad **Estimated Cost (₹):** 360,02,60,000/- **EMD (₹):** 7,20,05,200/- **Completion Period:** 60 (Sixty) Months **Date of Opening:** 21/09/2026 15:00hrs.

**S.No.:** 02 **NIT No. :** 37-CAO- C-SC-2026 Date: 23/07/2026 **Name of work:** SCR Construction Organization - Proposed new BG line works between Manoharabad and Kothapalli Stations - GJWL-LKDM Section - Proposed Construction of new Road over Bridge No. 90/A with approaches on either side comprising 14 x 18.40 m RCC Girder + 1 x 36.00 m Composite Welded Girder (Railway Proper) + 9 x 18.40 m RCC Girder in lieu of existing temporary manned LC No. 2 at Ch: 45190.00 m on Kukunoorpalli and Bobbaipally BT Road between Kodakandla and Lakdaram Stations of Hyderabad Division. **Estimated Cost (₹):** 531591171.90Ps **EMD (₹):** 10631800.00 **Completion Period:** 18 (Eighteen) Months **Date of Opening:** 28/08/2026 15:00hrs.

i) For bid document and other details, please login to website **https://ireps.gov.in**.

ii) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.

iii) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.

**Chief Administrative Officer, Const., Secunderabad**
**A596**

**For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in**

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, SMT. DEBDUTTA MAJUMDER resident of 5/14, Bijoygarh, Regent Estate, P.S. Netaji Nagar, Kolkata-700092, do hereby solemnly declare that :- My father Rana Chowdhury alias Sidhartha Prasad Chowdhury was working at Gun & Shell Factory, Cossipore as Ex-Turner HS-II and retired from service on 30.01.1989 subsequently expired on 29.07.2014. That in all important documents and in service record including pension papers/PPO my father's name has been mentioned as Rana Chowdhury. That in all of my important documents i.e. Aadhaar Card, PAN Card including all educational documents my father's name has been mentioned as Sidhartha Prasad Chowdhury in place of Rana Chowdhury. I, Debdutta Majumder being widow daughter of Rana Chowdhury alias Sidhartha Prasad Chowdhury do hereby declare vide Affidavit dated 30.03.2026 before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore that RANA CHOWDHURY and SIDHARTHA PRASAD CHOWDHURY was the same one and identical person.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I, **Rovina Dennis** D/o, Graden Luke Dennis R/a, 42/10, Bangal Para 2nd Bye Lane, P.O. - Santragachi, P. S. - A.J.C Bose Botanic Garden, Howrah - 711104 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my actual name is Rovina Dennis as per my PAN, Aadhaar and Voter ID Card. But in the certificate of I.C.S.E New Delhi and Calcutta University my name is stated as Rovina Mary Dennis. That both **Rovina Mary Dennis** and **Rovina Dennis** are the same and one identical person vide Affidavit No. 22940/26 dated 22.07.2026 in the 1st Court of LD Executive Magistrate, Howrah.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CITY CIRCLE AJMER**
LOHA KHAN TEMPO STAND, AJMER
जल ही जीवन है
International Year of Cooperatives 2025

**Telphone NO 145-2970165** **E-mail address:seajmer@gmail.com**

**S.No.:- SE/Ajmer/City Circle/ Ar.-City 1/2026-27/4232-234** **Date:- 27.7.26**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**
**(NIT No 07/2026-27)**

Online tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan for the following works from bidders meeting eligibility as per criteria mentioned in detailed tender document which can be seen and downloaded from website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://sppp.raj.nic.in**. The tenders are tobe submitted online in electronic format on website **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** as per schedule given below:

| S. No | Name of Work | Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs) | Bid Security @2% (Rs) | Last date of Submission of tender | Due date for opening |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 07/2026-27 | Providing, laying, Jointing &Testing of 250mm DI K7 Pipeline 2300M, 150MM DI K7 RM Pipeline 500M. & 100MM DI K7 Distribution Pipeline 2500M With Construction of OHSR 200 KL, CWR 600KL & Pump House 20 SQM With Pumping Machinery and Other Associated Works for New Medical College Near Kayad Pushkar By Pass Under Deposit Works Ajmer. | 332.03 | 6,64,065 | 17-08-2026 | 18-08-2026 |

The tender shall be received online and opened in the office of Superintending Engineer, PHED, City Circle Ajmer. The cost of each tender document is Rs 5,000/- (Rs Five Thousand only) by depositing through e-Challan at e-grass System, RISL processing charges of Rs 2000/- (Rs Two Thousand only) for each NITand Bid securityas mentioned above shall be deposit through e-Challan at e-grass System as described in detailed NIT in tender Document anduploaded online on designated website as above. This tender notification and other details can also be seen in NIT exhibited on web site **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** from dated 27-07-2026

| Nit No. | SPP ID No. | UBN No. |
|---|---|---|
| 07/2026-27 | PHE2627A1561 | PHE2627WSOBO3053 |

Sd/-
**Superintending Engineer, PHED, City Circle Ajmer**

**DIPR/C/13223/2026**

**E-N.I.T**

Tender no's - **01A/VB-G RAM G/26-27 of 2026-2027(2nd call) and 02/ VB-G RAM G/26-27 OF 2026-2027, Memo No. 84/1(23)VBGRAMG/DH-II Dt.- 28/07/2026 and 86/1(23)VBGRAMG/DH-II, Dt.- 29/07/2026** have been invited. Contact the office of the u/s and visit **www.wbtenders.gov.in** for details. Tender **ID: 2026_ZPHD_1034743_1 to 5 and 2026_ZPHD_1035045_1 to8.** Last date of application is **04/08/2026 up to 15.00 Hrs and 06/08/2026** up to 14.00 Hrs respectively.

**Sd/**
**Programme Officer, VB-G RAM G &**
**Block Development Officer**
**Diamond Harbour-II Dev. Block**
**Sarisha: South 24-Parganas**

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

**REGIONAL OFFICE: BURDWAN REGION**
**2nd Floor, 54, G. T. Road**
**Bhangakuthi, Burdwan- 713101**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

**ANNEXURE-A**
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ; "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 9 (1) ]**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor's and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s / Mortgagor / Guarantor/s / Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:–

| Sr/ Lot No. | Name & address of Borrower/s/Guarantor/ s / Mortgagor (s) | Detailed description of the immovable / movable property with known encumbrances, if any | Total Dues. | Date & Time of E-auction | Reserve Price / EMD amount / Bid Increase Amount | Status of Possession (Constructive /Physical) | Property Inspection date & Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **M/S TAGORE MRINALINI DEVI TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE (Borrower)** A unit of M/s Tagore Mrinalini Devi Teacher Training College (borrower), Tagore Mrinalini Debi Memorial Trust, Sriniketan Road, Shivam Complex Bolpur, Birbhum-731204. **President / Secretary / Trustee / Guarantor : Mr. Laxmi Narayan Mukherjee / Mr. Sukanta Mukherjee / Mr. Rajat Subhra Mukherjee / Mrs Swapna Sarkar/ Mr. Sandip Chakraborty / Mrs. Tandra Dutta** **Branch: Bolpur** Authorised Officer: Mr. Prattoy Sarkar, Mob. 7980762180 Contact Person of Branch: Mr. Arnab, Mob. 9093073896 | Equitable Mortgage of All the part and parcel of the land and building bearing J.L No-79,LR Kh. 353, 355, 354, 357, 352, 356 Present L.R. Kh No- 358, L.R Plot Nos. 36,42,43, Total Land Are more or less 1.3303 Acre, Class- College, situated at Mauja – Khanna, PS – Suri, Dist- Birbhum in the name of Tagore Mrinalini Devi Teachers Training College(A Unit of Tagore Mrinalini Devi Memorial Trust) vide Gift Deed No. I-030203341/2015 dated 08.05.2015. Boundary : North- Plot No 43, South- Plot No 36,43, East- Plot No 42, West- Plot No 35 **Property ID: BARB399320240001** | Rs.2,25,92,768.00 as on 24.12.2022 plus unapplied interest w.e.f. 25.12.2022 and other charges thereon. | 25.08.2026 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m | Rs.1,42,00,000.00 / Rs.14,20,000/- / Rs.50,000/- | Physical | Any working day from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m (with prior appointment) |

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in https://www.bankofbaroda.bank.in/e-auction.htm and https://baanknet.com. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer .

**Date: 31.07.2026**
**Place :- Burdwan**

For detailed terms and conditions SCAN HERE

**Authorised Officer**
**Bank of Baroda**

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) pnb punjab national bank (Govt. of India Undertaking)

**Asset Recovery Monitoring Branch, N.J.P (Siliguri)**
**United Bank Building, 2nd Floor, Hill cart Road,**
**Siliguri - 734001 District - Darjeeling, West Bengal**
**E mail: cs8289@pnb.co.in, Phone No. 0353-2432664**

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES** **APPENDIX- IV- A [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 8(6)]**

**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 provision 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/ symbolic 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.

**SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS**

| Lot. No. | A) Name of the Branch / B) Name of the Account / C) Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantors Account | D) Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies)) | E) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 F) Outstanding Amount G) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 H) Nature of Possession | A) Reserve Price / B) EMD (last ate of deposit of EMD) / C) Bid Increase Amount | D) Date/ Time of E-Auction | E) Details of the encumbrances ** known to the secured creditors |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | A) Sevoke Road (319600) **B) 1. M/s Samordips 2. Sh. Samrat Malakar** C) 1. Prop. & Mortgagor: Sh. Samrat Malakar S/O Late Jiten Malakar At: H/78/407/333/40/2, Sreema Sarani South Babu Para Ward No-26, Siliguri Distt – Darjeeling, West Bengal, Pin – 734005 2. Borrowers: Sh. Samrat Malakar S/O Late Jiten Malakar Co-Borrowers: Smt. Nabanita Malakar W/o Sh. Samrat Malakar Smt Anita Malakar W/o Sh Jiten Malakar Address: Sreema Sarani, South Babu Para, Ward No 26, Siliguri Distt – Darjeeling, West Bengal, Pin – 734001) | **1) All that piece and parcel** of Land "Classified as BASTU" and building there on in the name of Sh. Samrat Malakar S/o Late Jiten Malakar vide Registered Gift Deed No. I-2184 dated 17.09.2010, recorded in Book no 1, CD Volume No. 11 pages from 3276 to 3285 for the year 2010, and one shop measuring 145 sq.ft. at ground floor of the aforesaid building in the name of Sh Samrat Malakar S/o Late Jiten Malakar vide Registered Conveyance Deed No. I-1355 dated 02.07.2009, recorded in Book no 1, CD Volume No. 5 pages from 911 to 922 for the year 2009. Total area of land measuring 2.5 katha, recorded in R.S.Plot No.5192, Khatian No. 1566, J.L.No. 110(88), Touzi No.3(Ja), Ward No 26 of Siliguri Municipal Corporation Mouza- Siliguri, Pargana-Baikunthapur, P.S. Siliguri, Distt-Darjeeling ,West Bengal. **Butted and Bounded as follows:- N-**House of Bina Malakar **S-**House of N.C. Nandy **E-** Sree Maa Sarani Road 24' **W-** House of **Patel Property owner-** Sh Samrat Malakar S/o Late Jiten Malakar. | **E)- 18.07.2024 F)- Rs. 1,03,76,530.74 + further interest and charges [amt. as mentioned in demand notice 13(2)] with further and charges G)- 21.10.2024 H)-Symbolic** | **A) Rs. 1,28,81,700/- B) Rs. 12,88,170/- (23.08.2026) C) Rs. 25,000/-** | **D) 24.08.2026 From 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM** | SA Case no. 1/2025 and 220/2024 pending at DRT Siliguri E) Not known to Bank |
| | | **2) All that piece and parcel** of covered garage measuring 140 sq. ft. at the ground floor in the name of Sh. Samrat Malakar S/o Late Jiten Malakar having registered sale deed no. I-2514 dated 10.12.2015. recorded in book no. 1, volume no. 0402-2015 pages from 34795 to 34814 for the year 2015 with proportionate undivided share in land measuring 6 katha appertaining to and forming part of plot no. 3621, recorded in khatian no. 1024, J.L no. 110(88), Touzi no. 3(ja), Mouza- Siliguri, Pargana - Baikunthapur, P.S- Siliguri, Dist: Dajeeling, West Bengal. | | **A) Rs. 4,37,000/- B) Rs. 43,700/- (23.08.2026) C) Rs. 20000/-** | D) 24.08.2026 From 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM | |
| 2. | A) Nehru road (313200) **B) Akash Biswas** C) Add: 2nd Floor, flat no. 202, Fortune Jasmine Apartment, Near Brahmakumari Ashram, Himachal Sarani, Haider Para, Ward no. 40, Siliguri, West Bengal-734001. Also at Paresh nagar, Agni Sikha Club, Ward no. 44, Siliguri M corp. Dist: Jalpaiguri, Siliguri (WB) 734001 | **All that one unit** being a flat on the Second Floor at the front side of Building as per Deed No I-7058 dated 11/11/2019, registered in Book-I, Volume No 0711-2019, Page from 182982 to 183040 for the year 2019, area measuring 850 Sq. Feet in Super built-up area (including undivided proportionate share in all common parts portions area facilities and amenities), being Flat No.202 on the Second Floor of Building named "FORTUNE JASMINE" having undivided proportionate share in the land measuring 3 kathas 13 chattaks i.e. 0.063 Acres comprised in R.S. Plot No. 170 corresponding to L.R.Plot No.150, recorded in R.S. Khatian No. 806 corresponding to L.R. Khatian No. 114, 115, 116 & 117 situated within Mouza-Dabgram, Pargana-Baikunthapur, J.L. No 2, R.S. Sheet No. 12 corresponding to L.R. Sheet No. 64 at Himachal Sarani, Haider Para, Siliguri within the limits of Siliguri Municipal Corporation, Ward No.40, PS Bhaktinagar in the District of Jalpaiguri **Property owner Name-** Sri Akash Biswas | **E)- 25/04/2024 F)- Rs. 28,98,750/- + further intt. & other charges [amount as mentioned in demand notice 13 (2)] G)- 18/07/2024 H)- Symbolic** | **A) Rs. 23,85,000/- B) Rs. 2,38,500/- C) Rs. 20000/-** | D) 24.08.2026 From 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM | E) Not known to Bank |
| 3 | A) Nehru road (313200) **B) Khokan Biswas** C) Add: - Flat no. 201, 2nd floor, fortune jasmine apartment, near brahmakumari asharam, himachal sarani, haider para, ward no 40, siliguri, 734001 (WB) **Akash Biswas** At- Paresh nagar, Agni Sikha Club, Ward no. 44, Siliguri M corp. Dist: Jalpaiguri, Siliguri (WB) 734001 | **All that one unit** being a flat on the Second Floor at the Northern side of Building as per Deed No I-7059 dated 11/11/2019, registered in Book-I, Volume No 0711-2019, Page from 183041 to 183102 for the year 2019, area measuring 560 Sq. Feet in Super built-up area (including proportionate share in all common parts portions area facilities and amenities), being Flat No.201 on the Second Floor of Building named **"FORTUNE JASMINE"** having undivided proportionate share in the land measuring 3 kathas 13 chattaks i.e. 0.063 Acres comprised in R.S. Plot No. 170 corresponding to L.R.Plot No.150, recorded in R.S. Khatian No. 806 corresponding to L.R. Khatian No. 114, 115, 116 & 117 situated within Mouza-Dabgram, Pargana-Baikunthapur, J.L. No 2, R.S. Sheet No. 12 corresponding to L.R. Sheet No. 64 at Himachal Sarani, Haider Para, Siliguri within the limits of Siliguri Municipal Corporation, Ward No.40, PS Bhaktinagar in the District of Jalpaiguri. **Property owner Name-** Sri Khokan Biswas and Sri Akash Biswas. | **E) 25/04/2024 F) Rs. 18,54,168 [(Amount as mentioned in 13(2) notice] with further interest G) 18/07/2024 H) Symbolic** | **A) Rs. 15,71,500/- B) Rs. 1,57,150/- C) Rs. 20000/-** | D) 24.08.2026 From 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM | E) Not known to Bank |

**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 hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised 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://baanknet.in on 24.08.2026 @ 12:00 Noon to 4:00 PM. 4. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer https://baanknet.in, & www.pnbindia.in

*STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6)/9(1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002*

**Date: 27.07.2026**
**Place: Siliguri**

Sd-
**Authorized Officer**
**Punjab National Bank**

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

**ZONAL OFFICE, KOLKATA NORTH**
**GD-377/378, Salt Lake, Sector III**
**Kolkata-700 106**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

**APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8(6)]**
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) 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 possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **27.08.2026** for recovery of due to the Indian Bank.

| Sl. No. | a. Name of the Account/ Borrower b. Name of the Branch | Description of the charged/ mortgaged Property | a. Reserve Price b. Earnest Money Deposit c. Bid Increment Amount d. Property ID No. e. Encumbrances, if any f. Possession (Symbolic/ Physical) g. Amount Outstanding |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Mr Bijoy Choudhary (Borrower - Mortgagor), and Mrs Purnima Choudhary (Guarantor)** , 15, Police Line Road, Sadar Bazar, Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas, Barrackpore Head Post Office, WB 700120 **Branch -** Howrah | Land: All that piece and parcel of land measuring more or less 7 cottahs 7 chittaks 35 sq ft together with multi-storeyed building standing thereon lying and situated at Mouza Sultanpur, Police Station Dumdum, CS Dag o 314, RS Dag No 1015, CS Khatian No 575, JL no 10, RS no 148, Touzi no 173 with the local limits of Dum Dum Municipality, being Municipal holding no 194, Kalibari Road, Kolkata 700028 under ADSRO Cossipore Dum Dum in the district of North 24 parganas, together with all easement rights, appertaining thereto, **butted and bounded in the manner following** North: Property of Madan Mohan Saha and Parimal Saha, South: Property of Goutam Dey, East: Kalibari Road, 16 feet wide Municipal Road, West: Property of Eastern Railway **Flat:** All that flat bearing no C-5 on the second-floor north-east side, Block - B measuring a super built up area 950 sq ft having marble flooring more or less consisting of two bedrooms, one dining room, one kitchen, two toilets and one balcony of the said bulding at holding no 194, Kalibari Road, Kolkata 700028 together with proportionate share and interest in the land describe above with common parts & portions together with all easement rights | **a. Rs 11,00,000/- b. Rs. 1,10,000/- c. Rs. 10,000/- d. IDIB6549345507 e. No encumbrance on the property f. Physical Possession g. Rs. 19,68,322.69** (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Sixty-Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Two and Sixty-Nine Paise Only) as on 18.09.2019 |

**Date and Time of the E Auction : Date: 27.08.2026 , Time: 11.00 A.M. to 04.00 P.M.**

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(https://www.baanknet.com)** of our e auction service provider **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd** to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd Helpdesk No. 8291220220, email ID:- support.baanknet@psballiance.com.** and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. and EMD status, please contact support.baanknet@psballiance.com.
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://www.baanknet.com** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact Helpdesk **No.8291220220**
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://www.baanknet.com.**

**Date: 27.07.2026**
**Place: Kolkata**

**Authorised Officer**
**Indian Bank**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER**
**RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR**
**(At/Po- Ambapua, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)**

25001/849/2627

**E-mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel No.:-0680-2404287)**

**NOTICE**

**FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)**
**NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH "e"-Procurement**
**Bid identification No. Online Tender/12-2026-27/PMGSY/BPR**

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads & Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana [PMGSY-IV (B-i)] in the districts of Kandhamal for 25 (Twenty Five) number of packages with estimated cost totalling to Rs 32.05 Cr (Approximate) including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD /CPWD/MES/ Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. **Dtd. 03.08.2026**

**Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 17.08.2026 upto 5.30 PM**

**(i) EMD / Bid Security, Cost of Bid document is to be transferred through Online as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN.**

**(ii) Non-submission of the information/documents through online by the bidder as per mentioned DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.**

For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**.

Sd/-
**Chief Constration Engineer**
**R.W.Circle, Berhampur**
OIPR-25001/25071/1/26-27/0034

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## Notice for Closure of Manned Level Crossing Gate

**Between Barachak station & Hirapur Yard**

The Manned Level Crossing Gate No. 1A/E-3 (1/A/E) at km. 217/H6-H7 between Barachak station & Hirapur Yard in Asansol-Sitarampur section, will be closed permanently with effect from **02.08.2026** to road users. The road traffic will be diverted through nearby Road Overbridge (ROB).

**Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol**

**EASTERN RAILWAY**

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

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**SBI**

Corporate Centre, Nariman Point, Madame Cama Road, Mumbai-400 021

**Empanelment of Car Hiring Companies/Agencies for providing New Cars on monthly rental basis to our Executives**

**TENDER FOR AVAILING THE SERVICES OF CAR HIRING COMPANIES/AGENCIES TO PROVIDE NEW CARS ON MONTHLY RENTAL BASIS TO OUR EXECUTIVES**

State Bank of India, Corporate Centre, Mumbai invites sealed offers from eligible reputed companies / agencies for the purpose of providing new cars on monthly rental basis to our executives posted at Corporate Centre, Nariman Point, GITC Belapur and Mumbai Metro LHO at BKC, for a period of 03 years. The tender documents, eligibility criteria and other details will be available on the Bank's website https://sbi.bank.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news and e-Tender Portal www.tenderwizard.com/SBIETENDER from 31.07.2026 to 28.08.2026. Tenders received after the due date will not be entertained. Corrigendum/Addendum, if any, will be published only on Bank's website and e-tender portal.

**Last Date for Submission of bids: 28.08.2026 (up to 15:00 hrs.)**

**Place:** Mumbai
**Date:** 31.07.2026 **CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER**

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## कार्यालय नगर परिषद्, ब्यावर

Tel No. 01462-258665, 257509 Email Add: npbeawar@gmail.com

क्रमांक / निर्माण / 2026–27 / 5184 दिनांकः– 22.07.2026

**ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 07/2026–27**

नगर परिषद, ब्यावर द्वारा परिषद क्षेत्र में राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त 15वें वित आयोग (अनटाईड), SFC तथा निजी आय मद एवं विधायक कोष से 28 निर्माण कार्य परिषद के सम्बन्धित श्रेणी के पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों एवं सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग के सक्षम पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से E-Procurement प्रकिया के तहत केवल www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in की ऑनलाईन निविदा के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। दिनांक 17.08.2026 सांय 06:00 बजे तक निविदा भरी जा सकती है एवं ई–निविदा फार्म शुल्क एवं प्रोसेसिंग फीस की राशि नगर परिषद के IDFC First Bank के खाता संख्या 10123576694 आई.एफ.सी. कोड IDFB0042185 में जमा कराकर बोली धरोहर का डी.डी. / बैंकर चैक नगर परिषद, ब्यावर के निर्माण शाखा में दिनांक 18.08.2026 को प्रातः 11 बजे से पूर्व जमा कराना अनिवार्य कराना अनिवार्य है। कुल 28 निर्माण कार्य कराये जाने है। ई–निविदा सूचना की समस्त शर्तें SPPP पोर्टल पर देखी जा सकती है। जिसका **NIB Code DLB2627A4910** है एवं **UBN No.** निम्नानुसार हैः–

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | DLB2627WSOB11777 | 2. | DLB2627WSOB11778 |
| 3. | DLB2627WSOB11779 | 4. | DLB2627WSOB11782 |
| 5. | DLB2627WSOB11783 | 6. | DLB2627WSOB11784 |
| 7. | DLB2627WSOB11785 | 8. | DLB2627WSOB11787 |
| 9. | DLB2627WSOB11788 | 10. | DLB2627WSOB11789 |
| 11. | DLB2627WSOB11790 | 12. | DLB2627WSOB11791 |
| 13. | DLB2627WSOB11792 | 14. | DLB2627WSOB11793 |
| 15. | DLB2627WSOB11796 | 16. | DLB2627WSOB11799 |
| 17. | DLB2627WSOB11800 | 18. | DLB2627WSOB11802 |
| 19. | DLB2627WSOB11803 | 20. | DLB2627WSOB11805 |
| 21. | DLB2627WSOB11806 | 22. | DLB2627WSOB11808 |
| 23. | DLB2627WSOB11812 | 24. | DLB2627WSOB11816 |
| 25. | DLB2627WSOB11818 | 26. | DLB2627WSOB11820 |
| 27. | DLB2627WSOB11823 | 28. | DLB2627WSOB11825 |

आयुक्त
राज.संवाद / सी / 26 / 8076 नगर परिषद, ब्यावर

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**Office of the Project Director**
**RUIDP Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project**
**AVS Building, Jawahar Circle, JLN Marg, Jaipur – 302017 Tel No.: +91 141 2721966, Fax No.: 0141-2721919 email : mail.ruidp@rajasthan.gov.in, web site: www.ruidp.rajasthan.gov.in**

**Invitation for Bids- RUIDP/RIICO/PALI/03**

1. Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project (RUIDP) invites online unconditional bids through e-procurement portal **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** for Package No. RUIDP/RIICO/PALI/01 for the work of "Recycled Water Distribution Project for RIICO Industrial Area Madia Road, Pali" from eligible class contractor.
2. RTPP Act 2012 and Rules 2013 with all amendment will also be applicable.
3. Bid document for downloading would be available at e-proc website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** starting from 27th July, 2026. Deadline for bid submission up to 15:00 hours on 17th August, 2026.
4. Pre-bid Meeting for the work package will be held at 15:00 hours on 3rd August, 2026. All the prospective bidders are advised to participate in the Pre-bid meeting.
5. Any addendum, clarification to the bidder's queries and corrigendum etc. will be published on the e-proc web sites and will not be published in Newspapers.
6. Bidders may contact Additional Project Director, RUIDP (0141-2548404), Jaipur for any information on bidding process.

**NIB Code : UID2627A0015, UBN No. : UID2627WLOB00014**
**Raj.Samwad/C/26/8035** **Project Director, RUIDP**

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## Bureau of Investment Promotion

**Udyog Bhawan, Tilak Marg, Jaipur**

**BIP/Info/667** **Date :- 28/07/2026**

**Notice Inviting Bid**

Bids for procurement of Creative, design and social media Partner for Bureau of Investment Promotion, Jaipur (a Government of Rajasthan undertaking) are invited from interested bidders upto 2:00 PM of 07.08.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portals: **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in)** and **(http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state. **UBN No. BIP2627SLRC00021**

**Raj.Samwad/C/26/8034** **Commissioner (Inv. & NRIs)**

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## MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

**Regd. Office:** Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 01.09.2026 from 10 am onwards.

**Auction Date: 01.09.2026 - JHARGRAM DISTRICT - JHARGRAM:** 4082002871, 4082003464, 4082003467, 4082003485, 4082003489, 4082003495, 4082003521, 4082003543, 4082003544, 4082003545, 4082003564, 4082003576, 4082003577, 4082003600, 4082003604, 4082003614, 4082003638, 4082003643, 4082003646, 4082003673, 4082003686, 4082003695, 4082003708, 4082003712, 4082003716, 4082003724, 4082003736, 4082003740, 4082003760, 4082003780, 4082003784, 4082003786, 4082003787, 4082003793, 4082003809, 4082003815, 4082003817, 4082003847, 4082003848, 4082003849, 4082003852, 4082003855, 4082003864, 4082003873, 4082003877, 4082003885, 4082003888, 4082003896, 4082003909, 4082003910, 4082003928, 4082003929, 4082003930, 4082003939, 4082003943, 4082003945, 4082003951, 4082003955, 4082003956, 4082003958, 4082003960, 4082003966, 4082003967, 4082003968, 4082003978, 4082003990, 4082003994, 4082004000, 4082004001, 4082004028, 4082004032, 4082004037, 4082004053, 4082004056, 4082004059, 4082004060, 4082004061, 4082004066, 4082004067, 4082004070, 4082004072, 4082004073, 4082004076, 4082004082, 4082004095, 4082004109, 4082004129, 4082004132, 4082004161, 4082004167, 4082004169, 4082004174, 4082004175, 4082004176, 4082004177, 4082004188, 4082004197, 4082004203, 4082004214, 4082004216, 4082004218, 4082004229, 4082004240, 4082004252, 4082004254, 4082004260, 4082004270, 4082004278, 4082004290, 4082004297, 4082004299, 4082004322, 4082004341, 4082004359, 4082004360, 4082004383, 4082004393, 4082004398, 4082004401, 4082004402, 4082004403, 4082004415, 4082004430, 4082004441, 4082004458, 4082004462, 4082004463, 4082004464, 4082004467, 4082004469, 4082004470, 4082004471, 4082004482, 4082004490, 4082004491, 4082004492, 4082004495, 4082004505, 4082004509, 4082004539, 4082004544, 4082004569, 4082004576, 4082004583, 4082004599, 4082004609, 4082004612, 4082004614, 4082004634, 4082004646, 4082004652, 4082004664, 4082004701, 4082004704, 4082004728, 4082004737, 4082004741, 4082004759, 4082004760, 4082004761, 4082004763, 4082004770, 4082004771, 4082004772, 4082004781, 4082004782, 4082004786, 4082004806, 4082004811, 4082004823, 4082004828, 4082004855, 4082004858, 4082004862, 4082004863, 4082004876, 4082004917, 4082004919, 4082004925, 4082004929, 4082004937, 4082004978, 4082004979, 4082004986, 4082005013, 4082005044, 4082005059, 4082005075, 4082005085, 4082005098, 4082007108, 4082007109, 4082007112, 4082007114, 4082007115, 4082007116, 4082007117, 4082007128. **Auction Date: 01.09.2026 - PASCHIM MEDINIPUR DISTRICT - BELDA:** 4263003070, 4263003076, 4263003101, 4263003146, 4263003211, 4263003273, 4263003332, 4263003362, 4263003366, 4263003392, 4263003398, 4263003426, 4263003445, 4263003457, 4263003459, 4263003468, 4263003498, 4263003505, 4263003507, 4263003519, 4263003524, 4263003530, 4263003536, 4263003541, 4263003542, 4263003553, 4263003565, 4263003611, 4263003636, 4263003647, 4263003663, 4263003680, 4263003722, 4263003742, 4263003803, 4263003827, 4263003854, 4263003905, 4263003920, 4263003943, 4263003960, 4263003975, 4263004030, 4263004048, 4263004055, 4263004061, 4263004075, 4263004083, 4263004089, 4263004113, 4263004154, 4263004155, 4263004170, 4263004179, 4263004264, 4263004266, 4263004339, 4263004421, 4263004463, 4263004472, 4263004483, 4263004485, 4263004492, 8000194263. **Auction Date: 01.09.2026 - WEST MEDINIPUR DISTRICT - CHANDRAKONA ROAD:** 4242002776, 4242002797, 4242002798, 4242002842, 4242002843, 4242002898, 4242002918, 4242002927, 4242002937, 4242002950, 4242002966, 4242002972, 4242002976, 4242002980, 4242002995, 4242003008, 4242003010, 4242003015, 4242003021, 4242003023, 4242003055, 4242003061, 4242003069, 4242003086, 4242003089, 4242003096, 4242003106, 4242003108, 4242003115, 4242003121, 4242003133, 4242003145, 4242003152, 4242003153, 4242003165, 4242003169, 4242003173, 4242003174, 4242003177, 4242003180, 4242003182, 4242003187, 4242003203, 4242003205, 4242003223, 4242003226, 4242003227, 4242003231, 4242003235, 4242003244, 4242003247, 4242003249, 4242003259, 4242003272, 4242003318, 4242003321, 4242003322, 4242003341, 4242003355, 4242003368, 4242003369, 4242003374, 4242003386, 4242003388, 4242003403, 4242003404, 4242003423, 4242003453, 4242003460, 4242003474, 4242003476, 4242003478, 4242003485, 4242003491, 4242003500, 4242003508, 4242003553, 4242003557, 4242003563, 4242003576, 4242003577, 4242003614, 4242003622, 4242003647, 4242003677, 4242003705, 4242003706, 4242003722, 4242003728, 4242003742, 4242003758, 4242003787, 4242003798, 4242003834, 4242003839, 4242003846. **GHATAL:** 4000003277, 4000003283, 4000003288, 4000003332, 4000003335, 4000003340, 4000003348, 4000003352, 4000003368, 4000003384, 4000003412, 4000003517, 4000003524, 4000003531, 4000003550, 4000003552, 4000003558, 4000003567, 4000003586, 4000003588, 4000003597, 4000003607, 4000003608, 4000003618, 4000003639, 4000003644, 4000003657, 4000003661, 4000003662, 4000003680, 4000003689, 4000003692, 4000003697, 4000003701, 4000003702, 4000003712, 4000003718, 4000003720, 4000003742, 4000003744, 4000003762, 4000003772, 4000003783, 4000003802, 4000003824, 4000003832, 4000003833, 4000003838, 4000003854, 4000003877, 4000003891, 4000003894, 4000003914, 4000003924, 4000003926, 4000003934, 4000003936, 4000003957, 4000003996, 4000004016, 4000004019, 4000004032, 4000004033, 4000004034, 4000004050, 4000004156, 4000004157, 4000004168, 4000004183, 4000004187, 4000004213, 4000004216, 4000004239, 4000004246, 4000004271, 4000004278, 4000004291, 4000004294, 4000004317, 4000004366, 4000004429, 4000004430, 4000004434, 4000004459, 4000004464, 4000004465, 4000004503, 4000004546, 4000004561, 4000004572. **KHARAGPUR:** 3991005100, 3991005140, 3991005172, 3991005214, 3991005223, 3991005243, 3991005245, 3991005247, 3991005249, 3991005300, 3991005342, 3991005388, 3991005432, 3991005446, 3991005492, 3991005500, 3991005531, 3991005547, 3991005555, 3991005566, 3991005569, 3991005593, 3991005595, 3991005596, 3991005612, 3991005660, 3991005661, 3991005672, 3991005715, 3991005717, 3991005719, 3991005725, 3991005740, 3991005741, 3991005743, 3991005768, 3991005793, 3991005800, 3991005823, 3991005833, 3991005840, 3991005843, 3991005877, 3991005892, 3991005903, 3991005907, 3991005912, 3991005915, 3991005918, 3991005919, 3991005920, 3991005922, 3991005938, 3991005939, 3991005945, 3991005954, 3991005974, 3991005975, 3991005980, 3991005982, 3991005994, 3991006005, 3991006008, 3991006018, 3991006028, 3991006034, 3991006038, 3991006053, 3991006059, 3991006061, 3991006072, 3991006090, 3991006093, 3991006107, 3991006111, 3991006129, 3991006148, 3991006167, 3991006178, 3991006204, 3991006205, 3991006206, 3991006207, 3991006211, 3991006224, 3991006228, 3991006269, 3991006274, 3991006320, 3991006330, 3991006338, 3991006345, 3991006366, 3991006384, 3991006396, 3991006418, 3991006422, 3991006457, 3991006492, 3991006534, 3991006608, 3991006609, 3991006646, 3991006648, 3991006657, 3991006660, 3991006671, 3991006687, 3991006689, 3991006690, 3991006699, 3991006700, 3991006701, 3991006714, 3991006721, 3991006723, 3991006724, 3991006725, 3991006786, 3991006787, 3991006797, 3991006832, 3991006834, 3991006840, 3991006870, 3991006873, 3991006874, 3991006885, 3991006935, 3991006963, 3991006966, 3991006988, 3991006994, 3991007012, 3991007014, 3991007030, 3991007033, 3991007061, 3991007073, 3991007095, 3991007107, 3991007114, 3991007117, 3991007134, 3991007137, 3991007148, 3991007149, 3991007203, 3991007204, 3991007256, 3991007304, 3991007308, 3991007312, 3991007313, 3991007348, 3991007353, 3991007370, 3991007407, 3991007410, 3991007426, 3991007434, 3991007437, 3991007454, 3991007476, 3991007489, 3991007491, 3991007498, 3991007547, 3991007587, 3991007667, 3991007676. **KHARAGPUR-MALANCHA:** 4258002589, 4258003850, 4258003862, 4258003907, 4258003938, 4258003963, 4258003977, 4258003992, 4258004004, 4258004011, 4258004105, 4258004119, 4258004120, 4258004124, 4258004129, 4258004130, 4258004136, 4258004146, 4258004152, 4258004172, 4258004180, 4258004182, 4258004183, 4258004196, 4258004198, 4258004199, 4258004207, 4258004208, 4258004219, 4258004223, 4258004227, 4258004235, 4258004237, 4258004247, 4258004264, 4258004267, 4258004278, 4258004280, 4258004312, 4258004325, 4258004327, 4258004351, 4258004352, 4258004355, 4258004397, 4258004400, 4258004401, 4258004403, 4258004404, 4258004409, 4258004419, 4258004420, 4258004422, 4258004454, 4258004458, 4258004471, 4258004473, 4258004480, 4258004490, 4258004492, 4258004498, 4258004499, 4258004527, 4258004529, 4258004530, 4258004531, 4258004544, 4258004547, 4258004570, 4258004573, 4258004600, 4258004606, 4258004616, 4258004642, 4258004665, 4258004674, 4258004675, 4258004682, 4258004684, 4258004686, 4258004702, 4258004708, 4258004718, 4258004741, 4258004750, 4258004754, 4258004760, 4258004762, 4258004787, 4258004791, 4258004856, 4258004864, 4258004937, 4258004967, 4258004992, 4258005018, 4258005059, 4258005068, 4258005069, 4258005070, 4258005071, 4258005098, 4258005099, 4258005101, 4258005108, 4258005111, 4258005120, 4258005134, 4258005136, 4258005145, 4258005153, 4258005163, 4258005189, 4258005192, 4258005193, 4258005265, 4258005269, 4258005276, 4258005278, 4258005279, 4258005295, 4258005296, 4258005318, 4258005321, 4258005322, 4258005324, 4258005357, 4258005387, 4258005388, 4258005411, 4258005608, 4258005641, 4258005647, 4258005660, 4258005668, 4258005693, 4258005703, 4258005769. **MEDINIPUR:** 4075001574, 4075001585, 4075001614, 4075001622, 4075001661, 4075001676, 4075001735, 4075001742, 4075001770, 4075001778, 4075001833, 4075001860, 4075001861, 4075001862, 4075001864, 4075001871, 4075001886, 4075001892, 4075001904, 4075001929, 4075001967, 4075001995, 4075002010, 4075002011, 4075002019, 4075002022, 4075002023, 4075002030, 4075002035, 4075002038, 4075002039, 4075002044, 4075002049, 4075002051, 4075002057, 4075002061, 4075002069, 4075002079, 4075002104, 4075002112, 4075002114, 4075002115, 4075002138, 4075002139, 4075002144, 4075002149, 4075002151, 4075002152, 4075002176, 4075002198, 4075002206, 4075002247, 4075002255, 4075002263, 4075002268, 4075002271, 4075002294, 4075002299, 4075002337, 4075002420, 4075002635, 4075002645, 4075002693, 4075002696, 4075002711, 4075002712, 4075002716, 4075002762, 4075002793, 4075002815, 4075002817, 4075002840, 4075002848, 4075002859, 4075002860, 4075002877, 4075002881, 4075002882, 4075002885, 4075002896, 4075002921, 4075002936, 4075002939, 4075002941, 4075002943, 4075002945, 4075002971, 4075002983, 4075003050, 4075003194, 4075003254, 4075003258, 4075003261.

**Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 14.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at WEST MEDINIPUR DISTRICT - KHARAGPUR: FIRST FLOOR, , , 148/132, O T ROAD,NEAR KAMALA CABIN BUS STAND, OPPOSITEALLAHABAD BANK , KHARAGPUR, WEST BENGAL , 721305 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.**

**MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD**

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## यूको बैंक UCO BANK

**(A Govt. of India Undertaking)**

**Zonal Office, Durgapur**
**Einstein Avenue, B-Zone, Durgapur, Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman, PIN-713205**

**E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

**Appendix –IV-A [Rule-8(6)]**

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES Dated : 18.08.2026 (Sl. 1 & 2) & 11.09.2026 (Sl. 3)**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation & Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) 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 Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank (Secured Creditor), will be sold on **"As is where is"**, **"As is what is"** and **"Whatever there is"** on **18.08.2026 (Sl. 1 & 2) & 11.09.2026 (Sl. 3)** for recovery of outstanding balance along-with interest and other charges due to UCO Bank, the Secured Creditor from the borrower(s)/guarantor(s) mentioned herein. The reserve price and the earnest money deposit are listed below against each property(ies).

| Name of the Branch & Authorised Officer with Mobile No. | Name of the Account | Details of Immovable Properties | 1. Date of Demand Notice 2. Amount due as per notice 3. Date of Possession 4. Type of Possession | Recoverable Amount | a) Reserve Price (in Rs.) b) Earnest Money Deposit c) Bid Increment Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1. Ausgram Branch Dist.- Purba Bardhaman A/c No. 08261032200001 IFS Code : UCBA0000826** **Mr. Sunil Kumar Mob No- 9638024529 Mr. Raj Kumar Bhole Mob no- 9337902303** (Authorised Officer) | **Borrower(s) : Sahaman Sk (Deceased)** S/o- Late Jilu Sk Sanghati Pally, P.O- Guskara, P.S- Ausgram, Dist- Purba Bardhaman, PIN- 713128. | EMTD of land in the name of Sk Sahaman S/o Jilu Sk of Sanghati Pally, Guskara at Mouza- Guskara J.L no. 110, Khatian no. 2537/1, L.R Dag no. 2460, having area of 6.5 cents (0.065 acre) bearing Title Deed no.I-2103 of 1989 Book no-1, CD Volume No.35, page 122 to 129 situated under A.D.S.R, Guskara, Dist- Purba Bardhaman. **Boundaries of the Property:-** North- Open land of Sk Salim, South- House of Sankar Nandy, East- Vacant Land of Dhananjay Bauri, West- Municipal Lane. | **1. 16.03.2018** **2. Rs. 3,78,611/-** as on 30.04.2017 (inclusive of interest upto 31.01.2017) with further interest and incidental expenses etc. **3. 23.08.2018** **4. Symbolic Possession** | **Rs. 4,20,472.60** as on 20.07.2026 (inclusive of interest up to 31.01.2017) with further interest and incidental expenses etc. | a) Rs. 9,40,000.00 b) Rs. 94,000.00 c) Rs. 10,000.00 |
| **2. MB Lane Asansol Branch Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman A/c No. 02921032200001 IFS Code : UCBA0000292** **Mr. Praveen Kumar Mob. 9102461341** (Authorised Officer) | **Borrower : Sri Milan Kanti Barua** Quarter No. 7A ST No. 29 Cummunity Hall Amladahi Area-6, Chittaranjan-713331 **Co-applicant(s): Indrani Barua** W/o Milan Kanti Barua Quarter No. 7A ST No. 29 Cummunity Hall Amladahi Area-6, Chittaranjan-713331 | Land Measuring 02 Cottah 8 Chittack Comprising RS plot. 333 Corresponding to LR Plot No.-333 under LR Khatian No.1637, JL No. 36, along with a Double Storied Residential Building having a covered area 2148 Sq. ft., within Mouza- Rupnarayanpur, at Rupnagar Street No. 13 Near Annapurna Apartment, PS- Salanpur within Rupnarayanpur Gram Panchayet, PIN- 713364, Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal. Present owner of the said Building is Sri Milan Kanti Barua, vide Title Deed No. I-4762 of 2021. | **1. 15.01.2024** **2. Rs. 39,16,425/-** as on 15.01.2024 (inclusive of interest up to 31.08.2023) **3. 19.03.2024** **4. Physical Possession** | **Rs. 40,47,300/-** as on 29.07.2026 inclusive of interest up to 31.08.2023 plus further interest and other incidental charges thereafter. | a) Rs. 31,65,000.00 b) Rs. 3,16,500.00 c) Rs. 25,000.00 |
| **3. Ranaghat Branch Dist.- Nadia A/c No. 06571032200001 IFS Code : UCBA0000657** **Mrs. Neha Rani Mob No- 9830462802** **Mrs. Preeti Suchanwala Mob no- 7003596061** | **Borrower : Shyam Sundar Chatterjee** S/o- Rabindra Nath Chatterjee Satigachha, P.O- Anulia Ranaghat, Dist- Nadia W.B-741255 **Co-Applicant(s) Runa Chatterjee** W/o- Shyam Sundar Chatterjee Satigachha, P.O- Anulia Ranaghat, Dist- Nadia W.B-741255 | All the piece and parcel of land measuring area of 2.50 decimal of land our of 10.50 decimal land situated at Mouza- Satigachha, J.L no-154, Touzi No-3550, R.S Plot No-2217 corresponding to R.S & L.R Plot no 404, R.S Khatian 227, LR Khatian no 1923, under PS Ranaghat, Dist- Nadia, vide registered Gift Deed No. 3179 of 1999, Book No-1, Volume no-38, Page No-249 to 252 in the name of Sri Shyam Sundar Chatterjee, S/o Late Rabindra Nath Chatterjee, registered at A.D.S.R.O Ranaghat, Dist- Nadia, W.B. **Land & Building Bounded By:-** North – House of Gopal Das, South- House of Srijan Chatterjee, East- Suman Chatterjee, West- Common Passage & House of Suman Chatterjee. | **1. 06.12.2025** **2. Rs. 5,02,169.59/-** as on 29.10.2025 (inclusive of interest up to 30.06.2025) with further interest and incidental expenses etc. **3. 11.02.2026** **4. Symbolic Possession** | **Rs. 5,02,169.59** as on 30.07.2026 (inclusive of interest upto 30.06.2025) with further interest and incidental expenses etc. | a) Rs 13,57,000.00 b) Rs. 1,35,700.00 c) Rs. 25,000.00 |

**Details of known encumbrances : Not Known**

**Terms and Condition :**

1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Detailed terms and conditions of the sale is available/published in the following websites/web portal:
(i) **https://www.baanknet.com**.
2. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".
3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove 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.
4. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website **https://www.baanknet.com** on **18.08.2026 (Sl. 1 & 2) & 11.09.2026 (Sl. 3)** from 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and to make self-bid and participate in the auction.

**Date : 31.07.2026 Place : Durgapur** **Authorised Officer, UCO Bank**

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## MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

**Regd. Office:** Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnen Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001. CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427.

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company , which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so for in spite of repeated notices will be auctioned on 01.09.2026 from 10 am onwards.

**Auction Date: 01.09.2026 - EAST MEDINIPORE DISTRICT - CHANDIPUR:** 4211004542, 4211004566, 4211004568, 4211004575, 4211004602, 4211004625, 4211004639, 4211004665, 4211004674, 4211004683, 4211004684, 4211004712, 4211004713, 4211004725, 4211004796, 4211004798, 4211004807, 4211004808, 4211004809, 4211004810, 4211004832, 4211004833, 4211004876, 4211004877, 4211004881, 4211004891, 4211004927, 4211004931, 4211004948, 4211004949, 4211004950, 4211004980, 4211004984, 4211005001, 4211005014, 4211005038, 4211005044, 4211005064, 4211005077, 4211005107, 4211005117, 4211005118, 4211005120, 4211005122, 4211005162, 4211005167, 4211005170, 4211005197, 4211005222, 4211005223, 4211005224, 4211005236, 4211005238, 4211005255, 4211005265, 4211005271, 4211005272, 4211005276, 4211005278, 4211005281, 4211005295, 4211005301, 4211005306, 4211005314, 4211005337, 4211005379, 4211005443, 4211005457, 4211005490, 4211005554, 4211005605, 4211005608, 4211005648, 4211005653, 4211005670, 4211005704, 4211005740, 4211005746, 4211005778, 4211005805, 4211005816, 4211005835, 4211005863, 4211005868, 4211005871, 4211005890, 4211005938, 4211005995, 4211006005, 4211006009, 4211006015, 4211006027, 4211006032, 4211006033, 4211006045, 4211006088, 4211006097, 4211006105, 4211006131, 4211006132, 4211006139, 4211006140, 4211006147, 4211006192, 4211006195, 4211006274, 4211006297, 4211006321, 4211006364, 4211006374, 4211006413, 4211006421. **CONTAI:** 4115005416, 4115005422, 4115005438, 4115005553, 4115005645, 4115005655, 4115005700, 4115005709, 4115005715, 4115005755, 4115005757, 4115005769, 4115005808, 4115005824, 4115005857, 4115005861, 4115005902, 4115005903, 4115005907, 4115005914, 4115005930, 4115005931, 4115005932, 4115005955, 4115005968, 4115005972, 4115005974, 4115005977, 4115005983, 4115006002, 4115006009, 4115006038, 4115006047, 4115006050, 4115006055, 4115006060, 4115006078, 4115006119, 4115006141, 4115006159, 4115006161, 4115006168, 4115006176, 4115006182, 4115006183, 4115006189, 4115006190, 4115006196, 4115006202, 4115006211, 4115006214, 4115006226, 4115006232, 4115006238, 4115006239, 4115006248, 4115006259, 4115006261, 4115006262, 4115006270, 4115006282, 4115006291, 4115006321, 4115006324, 4115006340, 4115006360, 4115006366, 4115006367, 4115006368, 4115006378, 4115006380, 4115006382, 4115006392, 4115006393, 4115006409, 4115006416, 4115006429, 4115006432, 4115006433, 4115006435, 4115006437, 4115006439, 4115006453, 4115006454, 4115006487, 4115006488, 4115006494, 4115006507, 4115006508, 4115006509, 4115006510, 4115006514, 4115006522, 4115006539, 4115006542, 4115006543, 4115006544, 4115006547, 4115006549, 4115006550, 4115006560, 4115006591, 4115006597, 4115006608, 4115006643, 4115006650, 4115006662, 4115006676, 4115006724, 4115006764, 4115006783, 4115006789, 4115006833, 4115006859, 4115006927, 4115006985, 4115006996, 4115007042, 4115007043, 4115007048, 4115007069, 4115007076, 4115007099, 4115007104, 4115007107, 4115007113, 4115007122, 4115007123, 4115007147, 4115007148, 4115007160, 4115007169, 4115007179, 4115007187, 4115007200, 4115007238, 4115007239, 4115007240, 4115007243, 4115007253, 4115007277, 4115007287, 4115007302, 4115007304, 4115007316, 4115007319, 4115007324, 4115007337, 4115007338, 4115007361, 4115007362, 4115007366, 4115007382, 4115007383, 4115007385, 4115007390, 4115007407, 4115007431, 4115007433, 4115007486, 4115007492, 4115007504, 4115007507, 4115007509, 4115007512, 4115007550, 4115007551, 4115007552, 4115007564, 4115007586, 4115007611, 4115007619, 4115007631, 4115007665, 4115007725, 4115007747, 4115007765, 4115007801, 4115007807, 4115007817, 4115007838, 4115007841, 4115007861, 4115007877, 4115007917, 8000454115. **EGRA:** 4163004693, 4163004694, 4163004707, 4163004770, 4163004825, 4163004855, 4163004859, 4163004860, 4163004867, 4163004927, 4163004950, 4163004952, 4163004976, 4163004994, 4163005062, 4163005063, 4163005066, 4163005067, 4163005068, 4163005117, 4163005141, 4163005143, 4163005162, 4163005164, 4163005165, 4163005178, 4163005179, 4163005183, 4163005185, 4163005186, 4163005203, 4163005221, 4163005251, 4163005253, 4163005269, 4163005271, 4163005282, 4163005309, 4163005327, 4163005329, 4163005330, 4163005349, 4163005385, 4163005386, 4163005389, 4163005398, 4163005407, 4163005409, 4163005418, 4163005445, 4163005447, 4163005467, 4163005480, 4163005507, 4163005524, 4163005526, 4163005531, 4163005542, 4163005574, 4163005592, 4163005611, 4163005626, 4163005635, 4163005672, 4163005690, 4163005691, 4163005692, 4163005699, 4163005709, 4163005764, 4163005772, 4163005780, 4163005796, 4163005818, 4163005819, 4163005837, 4163005846, 4163005847, 4163005879, 4163005885, 4163005888, 4163005945, 4163006044, 4163006121, 4163006125, 4163006161, 4163006203, 4163006292, 4163006297, 4163006306, 4163006308, 4163006317, 4163006328, 4163006336, 4163006349, 4163006362, 4163006370, 4163006372, 4163006392, 4163006398, 4163006406, 4163006435, 4163006436, 4163006437, 4163006447, 4163006450, 4163006453, 4163006455, 4163006478, 4163006479, 4163006490, 4163006492, 4163006504, 4163006525, 4163006533, 4163006536, 4163006554, 4163006586, 4163006618, 4163006631, 4163006640, 4163006647, 4163006649, 4163006656, 4163006658, 4163006665, 4163006666, 4163006672, 4163006673, 4163006674, 4163006717, 4163006719, 4163006746, 4163006752, 4163006776, 4163006777, 4163006785, 4163006792, 4163006812, 4163006874, 4163006917, 4163006931, 4163006946, 4163006947, 4163006963, 4163006994, 4163007002, 4163007007, 4163007096, 4163007102, 4163007142, 4163007179. **HALDIA:** 4102001276, 4102001287, 4102001315, 4102001316, 4102001317, 4102001318, 4102001417, 4102001474, 4102001536, 4102001556, 4102001558, 4102001565, 4102001567, 4102001577, 4102001581, 4102001584, 4102001605, 4102001609, 4102001619, 4102001623, 4102001628, 4102001639, 4102001662, 4102001671, 4102001688, 4102001690, 4102001693, 4102001708, 4102001711, 4102001712, 4102001715, 4102001717, 4102001720, 4102001728, 4102001729, 4102001742, 4102001743, 4102001825, 4102001845, 4102001867, 4102001870, 4102001871, 4102001872, 4102001873, 4102001874, 4102001909, 4102001914, 4102001931, 4102002001, 4102002060, 4102002067, 4102002071, 4102002089, 4102002090, 4102002101, 4102002155, 4102002194, 4102002215, 4102002223, 4102002231, 4102002244, 4102002246, 4102002250, 4102002254, 4102002265, 4102002266, 4102002286, 4102002305, 4102002315, 4102002405, 4102002438, 4102002562, 4102002576. **MECHEDA-WEST BENGAL:** 2890005932, 2890006015, 2890006072, 2890006299, 2890006357, 2890006366, 2890006388, 2890006486, 2890006492, 2890006519, 2890006546, 2890006561, 2890006590, 2890006608, 2890006651, 2890006701, 2890006706, 2890006710, 2890006734, 2890006750, 2890006757, 2890006792, 2890006797, 2890006798, 2890006799, 2890006800, 2890006802, 2890006810, 2890006826, 2890006840, 2890006850, 2890006871, 2890006890, 2890006895, 2890006898, 2890006900, 2890006956, 2890006958, 2890006963, 2890007082, 2890007117, 2890007119, 2890007121, 2890007125, 2890007127, 2890007155, 2890007205, 2890007207, 2890007223, 2890007254, 2890007273, 2890007301, 2890007341, 2890007350, 2890007369, 2890007371, 2890007372, 2890007395, 2890007407, 2890007423, 2890007454, 2890007470, 2890007480, 2890007481, 2890007493, 2890007561, 2890007608, 2890007612, 2890007652, 2890007675, 2890007684, 2890007712, 2890007739, 2890007745, 2890007779, 2890007839, 2890007843, 2890007862, 2890007865, 2890007925, 2890007926, 2890007927, 2890007955, 2890007956, 2890007962, 2890007965, 2890007966, 2890007968, 2890007986, 2890008038, 2890008090, 2890008119, 2890008160, 2890008191, 2890008196, 2890008202, 2890008218, 2890008240, 2890008250, 2890008284, 2890008286, 2890008287, 2890008354, 2890008356, 2890008386, 2890008388, 2890008402, 2890008425, 2890008434, 2890008441, 2890008442, 2890008453, 2890008460, 2890008466, 2890008537, 2890008569, 2890008612, 2890008619, 2890008637, 2890008652, 2890008656, 2890008679, 2890008685, 2890008705, 2890008743, 2890008778, 2890008810, 2890008852, 2890008885, 2890008889, 2890008919, 2890008932, 2890008953, 2890008954, 2890008955, 2890008970, 2890008973, 2890008986, 2890008991, 8000042890. **PANSKURA:** 3993004184, 3993004279, 3993004293, 3993004295, 3993004297, 3993004313, 3993004319, 3993004389, 3993004397, 3993004435, 3993004450, 3993004463, 3993004480, 3993004483, 3993004491, 3993004513, 3993004527, 3993004535, 3993004548, 3993004565, 3993004569, 3993004572, 3993004579, 3993004618, 3993004620, 3993004622, 3993004629, 3993004645, 3993004649, 3993004654, 3993004656, 3993004664, 3993004679, 3993004695, 3993004707, 3993004714, 3993004737, 3993004748, 3993004764, 3993004777, 3993004785, 3993004787, 3993004808, 3993004835, 3993004874, 3993004891, 3993004901, 3993004904, 3993004912, 3993004923, 3993004929, 3993004930, 3993004952, 3993004968, 3993004969, 3993004985, 3993004999, 3993005000, 3993005011, 3993005029, 3993005030, 3993005034, 3993005043, 3993005046, 3993005049, 3993005053, 3993005073, 3993005089, 3993005094, 3993005095, 3993005097, 3993005101, 3993005117, 3993005125, 3993005134, 3993005135, 3993005137, 3993005143, 3993005160, 3993005184, 3993005185, 3993005192, 3993005281, 3993005294, 3993005305, 3993005321, 3993005328, 3993005331, 3993005348, 3993005376, 3993005380, 3993005382, 3993005392, 3993005395, 3993005398, 3993005400, 3993005439, 3993005466, 3993005563, 3993005571, 3993005579, 3993005580, 3993005586, 3993005588, 3993005614, 3993005618, 3993005627, 3993005636, 3993005643, 3993005678, 3993005680, 3993005707, 3993005714, 3993005718, 3993005729, 3993005735, 3993005762, 3993005773, 3993005785, 3993005796, 3993005797, 3993005798, 3993005804, 3993005807, 3993005816, 3993005818, 3993005824, 3993005852, 3993005875, 3993005922, 3993005950, 3993005960, 3993005963. **RAMNAGAR(WB):** 4162000161, 4162001488, 4162001492, 4162001493, 4162001494, 4162001495, 4162001522, 4162001535, 4162001546, 4162001578, 4162001589, 4162001608, 4162001619, 4162001679, 4162001680, 4162001698, 4162001699, 4162001701, 4162001703, 4162001711, 4162001736, 4162001737, 4162001738, 4162001742, 4162001758, 4162001761, 4162001762, 4162001774, 4162001792, 4162001801, 4162001816, 4162001823, 4162001830, 4162001877, 4162001900, 4162001915, 4162001916, 4162001948, 4162001961, 4162001972, 4162001983, 4162002004, 4162002011, 4162002012, 4162002013, 4162002014, 4162002016, 4162002031, 4162002035, 4162002044, 4162002060, 4162002061, 4162002062, 4162002066, 4162002068, 4162002073, 4162002084, 4162002090, 4162002091, 4162002094, 4162002104, 4162002125, 4162002130, 4162002151, 4162002187, 4162002208, 4162002211, 4162002223. **TAMLUK:** 4013004334, 4013004363, 4013004364, 4013004453, 4013004506, 4013004630, 4013004670, 4013004693, 4013004699, 4013004723, 4013004735, 4013004736, 4013004749, 4013004811, 4013004820, 4013004834, 4013004847, 4013004856, 4013004857, 4013004873, 4013004874, 4013004890, 4013004898, 4013004948, 4013004949, 4013004950, 4013004951, 4013004971, 4013004979, 4013004984, 4013004989, 4013004999, 4013005000, 4013005015, 4013005031, 4013005129, 4013005159, 4013005176, 4013005183, 4013005210, 4013005227, 4013005241, 4013005276, 4013005299, 4013005395, 4013005510, 4013005513, 4013005571, 4013005584, 4013005599, 4013005600, 4013005625, 4013005647, 4013005672, 4013005699, 4013005707, 4013005742, 4013005743, 4013005812, 4013005822, 4013005855, 4013005856, 4013005865, 4013005911, 4013006029, 4013006049, 4013006087, 4013006129, 4013006136, 4013006154, 4013006168, 4013006205, 4013006251, 4013006353. **Auction Date: 01.09.2026 - PURBA MEDINIPUR DISTRICT - NANDIGRAM:** 4306003360, 4306003387, 4306003442, 4306003482, 4306003486, 4306003487, 4306003492, 4306003550, 4306003590, 4306003591, 4306003598, 4306003602, 4306003634, 4306003658, 4306003685, 4306003708, 4306003726, 4306003732, 4306003743, 4306003752, 4306003796, 4306003798, 4306003811, 4306003834, 4306003858, 4306003863, 4306003877, 4306003894, 4306003895, 4306003902, 4306003916, 4306003925, 4306003959, 4306003970, 4306003986, 4306003987, 4306003989, 4306003993, 4306004001, 4306004017, 4306004045, 4306004136, 4306004178, 4306004186, 4306004216, 4306004263, 4306004288, 4306004337, 4306004351, 4306004359, 4306004360, 4306004370, 4306004409, 4306004415, 4306004443, 4306004499, 4306004512, 4306004518.

**Auction will be conducted at respective branches. please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 12.09.2026 at 10.00 am onwards at EAST MEDINIPORE DISTRICT - TAMLUK: FIRST FLOOR, NA , PLOT 57, HALDIA MECHEDA ROAD, NEARMANIKTALA MORE , TAMLUK, WEST BENGAL , 721636 .The bidders are requested to produce photo id card ,Pan card .The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS.**

**MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD**

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## Central University of Punjab

Dated: 29.07.2026 **WALK-IN-INTERVIEW** Advt. CUPB/26-07-009

Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for following positions:

- **Contractual Faculty (Self-Finance) for B.Pharmacy-03**
- **Contractual Faculty (Self-Finance) for BA-LLB: Law-02; Economics-01**
- **Part-Time Faculty Empanelment on Lecture basis for ITEP BA-B.Ed. / BSc-B.Ed.**
- **Contractual Non-Teaching Posts (Sr. Analyst/Technical Officer, Technical Assistant, Lab. Assistant, Lab Attendant)**

To apply online and for more details, visit website **www.cup.edu.in**. **Registrar**

Badal- Bathinda Road, VPO Ghudda, Distt.Bathinda-151401, Email: **recruitment@cup.edu.in**

विज्ञापन का हिंदी रूपांतर विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।

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**CONSULTATION WORKSHOP NOTICE**
**Directorate of ICT & e-Governance (DIT)**
**Department of Science & Technology, Government of Gujarat**

Consultation Workshop for Selection of Design and Technical Agency (DTA) for Development of Greenfield State Data Centre (SDC), Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Interested stakeholders are invited to participate in the Consultation Workshop which will be conducted to obtain input towards finalization of the scope and procurement approach for selection of the Design and Technical Agency (DTA).

The Consultation Workshop is scheduled on 3rd August 2026. Interested stakeholders may submit their details to **pmc-gsdc@gujarat.gov.in** . The venue and meeting details, including meeting link, shall be shared separately with the participants.

Director(I.T)
**Directorate of ICT and E-Governance**
**Gandhinagar**
**INF-1009-2026-27**

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**"IMPORTANT"**

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## INDIA watch

**ATHLETICS**

**Men's Decathlon 110m hurdles:** Tejaswin Shankar **2:35 pm**
**Men's Decathlon discus throw:** Tejaswin Shankar **3:20 pm**
**Men's Decathlon pole vault:** Tejaswin Shankar **5 pm**
**Men's Decathlon 1500m:** Tejaswin Shankar **1:05 am**
**Mixed 4x400m Relay Round 1:** Rajesh Ramesh, Vishal TK, Ansa Babu, Neeru Pathak, Rashdeep Kaur **4:05 pm**
**Men's javelin throw final (medal event):** Yash Vir Singh, Neeraj Chopra, Rohit Yadav **12:45 am (Saturday)**
**Men's 400m hurdles final (medal event):** Yashas Palaksha, Santhosh Tamilarasan **1:30 am (Saturday)**

**BOXING**

**Women's 54kg semifinal:** Preeti Pawar vs Catherine Mwape (Zambia) **3:15 pm**
**Men's 80kg semifinal:** Ankush Panghal vs Joshua Ofori (Canada) **4:30 pm**
**Women's 57kg semifinal:** Jaismine Lamboria vs Rapelang Maselela (Lesotho) **7:15pm**
**Women's 70kg semifinal:** Arundhati Choudhary vs Rosie Eccles (Wales) **7:30pm**
**Men's 55kg semifinal:** Jadumani Singh vs Philip Pumulo Mutakela Haoseb (Namibia) **8:15pm**
**Women's 51kg semifinal:** Sakshi Choudhary vs Amber-Jane Wall (Canada) 11:30 pm
**Women's 75kg semifinal:** Lovlina Borgohain vs Tarona Khanum Badi Pasoni Taafaki (Tuvalu) **12:45 am (Saturday)**
**Men's 60kg semifinal:** Sachin Siwach vs Owain Harris-Allan (Wales) **1:15 am (Saturday)**
**Men's 90+kg semifinal:** Narender Berwal vs Nigel Paul (Trinidad and Tobago) **1:30am (Saturday)**

**CYCLING**

**Men's 4000m Individual Pursuit Qualifying:** Dinesh Kumar, Harshveer Singh Sekhon **4:59 pm**
**Men's Team Sprint Finals (Gold):** Team India (David Beckham Elkatohchoongo, Jemsh Singh Keithellakpam, Ronaldo Singh Laitonjam) (subject to qualification) **10:55 pm**

**LAWN BOWLS**

**Men's pairs sectional play:** Navneet Singh & Dinesh Kumar vs Ian Barnes & Oliver Thompson (Falkland Islands) **5:15 pm**
**Women's singles sectional play:** Nayanmoni Saikia vs Mildred Mkandawire (Zambia) **10:20 pm**

# From crutches to podium: Sreeshankar's comeback

### Long jumper won his second CWG silver in a row

**Pritish Raj**
*New Delhi, July 30*

Sreeshankar Murali came second to Tajay Gayle of Jamaica, with an effort of 8.09m. PTI

SREESHANKAR MURALI jumped 8.09m to clinch the men's long jump silver at the 2026 Commonwealth Games on Wednesday. He had won the same medal at the 2022 edition with an effort of 8.08m.

After the final jump, which was a foul, Sreeshankar looked disappointed, knowing that he could have won the gold which went to Tajay Gayle of Jamaica with a mark of 8.15m.

However, the two silvers four years apart and the improvement of 0.01m have been accompanied by a lot of change for the jumper from Palakkad, Kerala. Sreeshankar, who also won the 2023 Asian Games silver, ruptured the patellar tendon in his knee, that too in his take-off leg, ruling him out for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The Glasgow silver is Sreeshankar's first major medal after making a comeback a year ago. "Him competing now and winning a major medal again is a blessing in itself. When he was walking with the help of crutches after surgery, all I wished was that he could walk freely," Sreeshankar's father Murali told *The Indian Express* from Glasgow.

Surgeons had warned before the surgery that he might not be able to run again.

"It looked dangerous. When I first broke my knee and had the MRI report in my hand, it looked over for me. I never thought that I would be able to jump 8m again," Sreeshankar had said before leaving for Glasgow. Following a lengthy rehabilitation, Sreeshankar made his comeback and managed to qualify for the World Championships.

"Last year was a crazy ride for me. I had just five competitions but somehow managed to make it to the Worlds. Competing there was like a dream at that time," he said.

Sreeshankar was injured during a training session before the Olympics, and the fear of hurting the knee again kept coming back to him.

"Even after I was cleared to train, I was afraid. It took a lot of self- talk and convincing for me to get back to the field," the 27-year-old said.

"My knee is not 100 percent even now. It remains swollen. There are three anchor screws in it, so I need to ice it regularly and take a deep tissue massage. But, I have got used to the new training regime now."

After returning from injury, Sreeshankar worked with renowned Strength and Conditioning coach Wayne Lombard, who helped him finalise a training regime.

"Wayne is very efficient. He understands what my knee needs and with his help, I have figured out a training regime that allows me to compete with a surgically repaired tendon," explained Sreeshankar.

**• Top five**

| Name | Nation | Best |
|---|---|---|
| T. Gayle | JAM | 8.15m |
| M. Sreeshankar | IND | 8.09m |
| S. Mackenzie | SCO | 8.08m |
| C. Mitrevski | AUS | 8.02m |
| L. Sathyanathan | IND | 7.97m |

> **"Him competing now and winning a major medal again is a blessing in itself. When he was walking with the help of crutches after surgery, all I wished was that he could walk freely"**
> **MURALI,** SREESHANKAR'S FATHER ON HIS CWG 2026 SILVER

### *Path to consistency*

Since his return to the international arena, Sreeshankar has been extremely consistent. In the 2026 season, he has crossed the 8m mark in every competition he had featured in with his best jump of 8.38m coming last month at the Inter-State Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar.

"There are two reasons behind my consistency: better understanding of my body and quick adaptability to conditions," Sreeshankar had said there. "During my injury, I completed a course on kinesiology which helped me in understanding my body. Even during competition, if something happens, I can adjust my technique according to the situation."

He has acquired this adaptability from his years of travelling around the world, competing with the best in the business.

"The likes of Miltiadis Tentoglou (former Olympic champion) don't care what the weather is: whether the wind is strong or if it's raining. They just go for the jump. I have inculcated the same habits where I ignore the conditions. All of this has really helped me remain consistent," Sreeshankar said.

With another Commonwealth Games silver medal in his pocket, Sreeshankar is eyeing the Asian Games, which start in September, where the long jumper will look to upgrade his silver from the last edition.

# In cold and windy Glasgow, Chopra & Co qualify for final

**Shivani Naik**
*Mumbai, July 30*

Neeraj Chopra's best throw of 79.61 metres put him in fifth place. AP

IN A low 80s qualification of the javelin at the Commonwealth Games 2026, India packed in 1/4th of the 12-man final, led by Neeraj Chopra's 79.61 metres on 5th place. Rohit Yadav (78.37) on 10th place and Yash Vir Singh (78.36) on 11th, made it 3 Indians for the Friday finale.

Chopra improved on his first 76.28 to sit on fifth at 79.61m. A CWG champion from 2018, a harbinger of his Olympic gold, Chopra is returning from injury this time. He had missed the 2022 edition because of injury.

Chopra told the Olympic channel and other media, "I'm happy I'm in final. That was goal for final. Throw was ok. The goal is to go in final and give my best there."

India's greatest athlete would elaborate on conditions, "Conditions were not best for javelin throwers. Not only cold but windy. And wind also not from front. It's very hard to process. But sometimes I thought I'll throw there but wind would come from other side. Loads of throwers struggled. Nobody threw automatic qualification," he said.

Chopra sounded upbeat saying, "Happy all three Indians are in final."

### *Biggest threat*

On his biggest threat Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage of Sri Lanka, Chopra said, "He is a good boy. He is a friend of mine. This year he really threw well. It's good he's doing something great for Sri Lanka." The last three CWG champions have gone on to win a gold or silver medal at the next Olympics.

Pathirage led the 18-man field with a strong first throw of 82.84m, as the windy conditions were completely treacherous for the throwers, with crosswinds rummaging the spear flights on Thursday morning. A 13 kph west-blowing gust ensured the basic Qualification mark of 84 metres wasn't cleared even once by a group that boasted the last two Olympic champions and assorted other World winners.

### *Yego exits*

It meant that the likes of former world champion Julius Yego and the second best from Pakistan and Sri Lanka — Muhammad Yasir and Sumedha Ranasinghe — didn't make the cut.

2025 world champion Keshorn Walcott, a former Olympic champion from Trinidad Tobago, snuck in by a thread in 12th place, with 78.26m — as six of the last 12 were bunched between that and 78.91m.

> **"Conditions were not best for javelin throwers. Not only cold but windy. And wind also not from front. It's hard to process... Loads of throwers struggled. Nobody threw automatic qualification"**
> **NEERAJ CHOPRA,** AFTER ADVANCING TO JAVELIN FINAL

**• Other results**

**Women's Shot Put:** Manpreet Kaur finished fourth with a best throw of 17.49m.

**Women's 3000m SC:** Parul Chaudhary finished fifth with a timing of 9:26.75.

**Men's triple jump Qualification:** Praveen Chithravel and Selva Prabhu booked their berths for the final with best jumps 16.41 and 16.26m.

**Men's Decathlon:** Tejaswin Shankar is placed fifth after three events with 2258 points. He registered a personal best in long jump witb7.82m.

Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan first throw of 78.63m ended up being the best. He remains a contender alongside Anderson Peters who tweaked his run-up to hurl from the edge of the kerb for 81.29 on his second.

Qualification distances don't matter beyond sealing a spot in the finals. But they give the competitors an accurate idea of what conditions could be like.

The finals though happen in evenings, and winds can easily blow the other way in those parts at Scotstoun. A 14 degree crisp morning, however, ensured warmups in cold, biting Glasgow.

South African Douw Smit (80.64) qualified a surprising third, and Englishman Ben East brought in a late third throw of 80.38, to become one of only 4 to cross 80 metres.

Smit who had finished runners up to Chopra at the Ostrava Golden Spike in 2025, has a season best of 84.57 from a Poland win at Irena Szewinska Memorial this May. The 27-year-old Saffer was a prodigy brought down by a 5-year-long back injury layoff he returned from in 2021. "I thought I would never throw again. But coach said let's check. I was done with studies. But I threw 81 so went ahead," he had told *Modern Athlete Mag* in 2023.

East had thrown above 80 only twice before this.

Walcott has been struggling with a side slip at release the whole of this year, but can never be ruled out. He has a mark of 82.52 at Rabat and 83.45 at Rome.

"No clean hits, but the feeling is there," he had posted back in June. The reigning World Champion, who won the 2012 Olympics with two fractures in his back (L1 and L3) and has framed his back-brace, edged in last moment thanks to Keyshawn Strachan bringing out a 78.60, remains a contender.

The 6-ft-5 Strachan from Bahamas has never crossed 80. But he boasts of breaking Peter's World U20 record.

But the biggest threat remains Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage, the season sensation from Kalutara, south of Colombo. His Rome Diamond League mark of 92.62 looms large on the field, but clearly the challenge will be the conditions in Glasgow.

2026 is led by the Sri Lankan, followed by American Curtis Thompson and then Rohit Yadav (87.05), who showed good adaptability to go from 77.04 to 78.37, but 80 was Glasgow's 90 on a challenging Q day.

**• BOXING WITH LINEAGE**

# Amin's grandson disqualified after headbutting opponent

**Shuvaditya Bose**
*New Delhi, July 30*

SUCCESS STORIES and tales of hardship are part of sport. The most extraordinary story at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games involved neither. Instead, it involved a headbutt, an angry tirade and a surname that still divides a nation.

In the quarterfinal of men's 90+ kg boxing, Ugandan boxer Aziz Abdul was disqualified for headbutting his opponent, England's Damar Thomas. As if Zinedine Zidane had descended at the SEC Centre.

Then came the outburst.

"I'm a black African, I know. It's God's plan," Aziz declared. Then alleged, "There was a lot of b******t. Holding, elbowing. When other countries do this, they are disqualified. They decided the winner before the fight."

When a Press Association reporter attempted a question, Aziz cut him off.

"Not you. I don't like you."

His explanation was startling: the journalist had written unfavourably about his grandfather.

The report in question stated his grandfather had killed half a million people. The grandfather being Idi Amin: A former Ugandan dictator in the 1970s.

### *Coach in film on Amin*

Samuel Kabugo's dreams were modest in 2005. Winning a boxing competition, for instance. That he would feature in a Hollywood film, sharing screen with Forest Whitaker, was beyond his wildest imagination. Until director Kevin Macdonald arrived in Uganda.

While filming The Last King of Scotland, based on Amin's life, Macdonald needed real boxers to recreate the former president's years in the ring. Kabugo became one of them.

Two decades later, the past returned.

Now head coach of Uganda's boxing team and owner of Kololo Boxing Club, Kabugo met a towering teenager brought in by his elder brother Habib.

"Before boxing, Aziz had been doing martial arts and taekwondo. His elder brother Habib brought him to me and said, 'Coach, my younger brother wants to try boxing. He's a big, powerful boy.' He joined around June 2023. I didn't know about his family background when Aziz joined me. One day, Habib told me, 'Coach, do you know about our family? We are the grandsons of Idi Amin.' I was shocked," Kabugo tells The Indian Express from Uganda.

In Glasgow, Aziz surprised many by declaring himself proud of his grandfather. He later clarified that his admiration stemmed not from Amin's presidential rule, but from his boxing achievements.

Aziz Abdul (left) headbutted England's Damar Thomas. REUTERS

"Idi Amin is one of the reasons why Aziz switched to boxing. He was inspired by his grandfather. Aziz is proud of his lineage. He didn't choose his family or the history attached to it, but he doesn't run away from it either," says Kabugo.

After disqualification, Aziz alleged the judges could not stand a black African beating a European. Decades ago, Amin had voiced similar feelings.

"Several of Aziz's victories have come by knockouts. He loves nothing more than knocking his opponents out. There is an interesting story behind this. When Ugandan boxers complained about unfair judging at international tournaments, Amin told them, 'Don't leave it to the judges. Knock your opponents out.; In a way, Aziz is following that path," Kabugo said.

Aziz's Commonwealth Games debut was not remarkable, but his journey has been.

"Aziz is an exceptionally quick learner. It took him just four months to get into the National Championships, and only one year to win the National Boxing League. With only three years of training, he is at the Commonwealth Games," his coach said.

> **"At times, the family history weighs on him. Even today, there are so many stories about the darker chapters of Idi Amin. The killings, the dictatorship and everything else from that period"**
> **SAMUEL KABUGO,** BOXER AZIZ ABDUL'S COACH

Yet, having publicly voiced his desire to be the new 'King of Scotland' before the fight, as his grandfather once did, a disqualification for headbutting is rather unceremonious.

" Aziz has always been incredibly confident. He has the heart of a lion. He never backs down from anyone and never walks into a fight intimidated by an opponent. He also likes to speak his heart out. On most occasions, he backs his words with his punches. But at times, it goes awry," Kabugo said.

On Wednesday, it most certainly did.

### *Weighed by history*

Uganda has taken a 55-strong contingent to Glasgow, but their media officer has been inundated with interview requests for only one. Aziz.

"Once the media found out, it became impossible to separate Aziz from that identity. In Uganda, Idi Amin remains one of the most talked-about figures in history. So whenever someone from his family achieves something, it becomes news."

The attention itself is manageable. The questions on Amin are not.

"At times, the family history weighs on him. Even today, there are so many stories about the darker chapters of his rule — the killings, the dictatorship and everything associated with that period. Aziz never met his grandfather, but he still is a young boy who gets affected by this constant narrative. One day, he came up to me and asked, 'Coach, why do people continue speaking badly about someone who is already dead?' He is deeply religious, and believes judgment of the dead only belongs to the Almighty," Kabugo said.

Glasgow is over for Aziz, but Kabugo believes bigger stages await. Till then, he has a request.

"Please judge Aziz for the man he is, not for the history attached to his surname."

# Le Clos sets new record with 21st Games medal

**Reuters**
*Glasgow, July 30*

Chad Le Clos overtook Emma McKeon's 20 medals. REUTERS

VETERAN SOUTH African swimmer Chad le Clos won a 21st Commonwealth Games medal late on Wednesday to overtake Australia's Emma McKeon as the most decorated athlete in the Games' history. The 34-year-old swam the butterfly leg as South Africa took bronze in the men's 4x100 medley relay for his third of the 2026 Games after silver in the mixed 4x100 medley and bronze in the men's 4x100 freestyle relay.

His record tally is made up of seven golds, five silvers and nine bronzes across the last five Games, starting in Delhi in 2010 at the age of 18 where he earned five medals, and then followed by seven medals in Glasgow in 2014.

He continued with five more on the Gold Coast in 2018 and one in Birmingham four years ago.

"It was emotional, but I think those first two medals (in Glasgow 2026) were just a little bit more just because I had to get over the hump and tonight I just had to stay cool and bring it home," he said after Wednesday's relay.

"The way the boys and girls swam ...they swam their hearts out. They kept saying 'we're doing this for Chad' before they walked down and it just means the world to me."

Le Clos is also an Olympic champion. He stunned the sporting world when he pipped Michael Phelps by 0.05 seconds to win the 200m butterfly gold at the 2012 London Games.

At the time, American icon Phelps was a 14-time Olympic champion and he had not lost in the event since 2001.

Le Clos won medals at the Olympics in Rio in 2016 and has since competed in Tokyo and Paris. He has previously said he hopes to qualify for his fifth Olympics in Los Angeles in two years' time.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

# 'Adopted' by coach when he was 11, Gavit shines with sprint gold

'Today is *Guru Purnima* and there is no better gift than this gold medal', says para athlete who won 100m T47 gold

**Pritish Raj**
*New Delhi, July 30*

Para athlete Dilip Gavit celebrates after winning the gold medal in 100m T47 event in Glasgow. PTI

WHEN DILIP Gavit produced the last dash to win gold in the men's 100m T47, a burst over the final 30 metres to cross in 10.71 seconds, his childhood coach Vaijnath Kale, watching from the stands, remembered the years of struggle behind it. Coach and athlete embraced; emotions took over.

Two months before the Commonwealth Games, Gavit was not even certain he would compete in Glasgow.

His actual event, the 400m T47, was not on the programme. At the insistence of a Paralympic Committee of India official, he switched to the 100m, a distance he had barely raced. Wednesday's run, on a rain-soaked track in Lane 7, was his first major race over it.

"Today is Guru Purnima and there is no better gift than this gold medal. But whatever I do, it won't even get close to what Kale sir has done for me," Gavit said. Kale told *The Indian Express* from Glasgow, more simply, "When dreams come true, such emotions come out. The medal is a testament that a boy from a non-descript village of Nashik can dream and then achieve that dream."

Five years earlier, an 18-year-old Gavit had said of his coach, "If he asks me to leave running and try jumping, I will do it without asking a question."

He was not speaking about the 100m. But he might as well have been.

It was also a redemption. The 400m T47 was the event he had built his career around, an Asian Para Games gold in 2022, a Paralympic final in Paris in 2024, where he finished last, eighth of eight, in 49.99 seconds. Glasgow came in a discipline he had never seriously run. He became the first Indian to win a Commonwealth Games gold in a para athletics track event, and only the second Indian ever to win one in para athletics, after Sharmila Dhankar's shot put gold days earlier in the same city.

Gavit with silver medallist Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath. (R) A young Gavit with coach Vaijnath Kale. PTI/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Gavit was born to a farming tribal family in Toran Dongri, near Nashik, one of six children the household was struggling to feed. He lost his right arm at around four or five, accounts he has given have varied slightly, after falling from a mango tree. "My parents took me to an ayurvedic practitioner instead of a proper hospital," he has said. "They just applied some medication and bandaged my arm." The wound turned septic before proper treatment came. "If my parents had gone to a proper doctor in the first place, they could have saved my arm."

The amputation made him, in the family's own reckoning, one more mouth they could not afford. Kale spotted the 11-year-old at a school meet.

"I saw the talent and then his conditions," Kale said. "I decided to adopt him. His family said that they have nothing to give but I convinced them to send Dilip with me." It took him more than a month. The family agreed only once he promised to cover whatever the boy would need.

Gavit moved into Kale's home. "My sir has two children and now I am like the eldest son," he has said. "Coach sir is everything to me. I trust him blindly."

### *Navigating lows*

Kale was a technical official for the Maharashtra Olympic Association, running his own small academy on the side, when he took Gavit in. "I was struggling myself but I thought that I have enough to survive while this guy has nothing. Let me help him," he said.

During and after the pandemic, Kale sold his land to fund Gavit's foreign trips. "Whatever problems came, we navigated it together like a father and son would," he said. "I sold my land but I don't have any regrets."

Asked if he had imagined Gavit would come this far, Kale said, "All I wanted was a good life for this kid because he had the talent and seeing his family conditions broke my heart. But I had never thought that one decision would take us so far."

The 2022 Asian Para Games gold was proof the sacrifice had meant something. "That one medal showed that our hard work hasn't gone to waste," Kale said. "It just fuelled us up for more and more glory."

"These medals are the result of that moment," Gavit says of the day Kale took him in. "For me, he is my father, mother and everything."

He has one target left. "I have won the Asian Games, now I have CWG gold. Now, I want to win a Paralympics medal." Kale says he simply wants to cherish the moment with the boy he calls his son.

### *Basil shines*

Behind Gavit at the finish was Mohammed Basil Morssinganakath, of Malappuram, Kerala, born without a right hand, who took silver in 10.83 seconds.

It was Basil, not Gavit, who had won their head-to-head at the Commonwealth Games trials, clocking 10.64 seconds to Gavit's slower time. "I have seen Basil since his younger days," Para-Athletics head coach Satyanarayan said. "He joined SAI Trivandrum as a kid and has been constantly progressing since then." Trials are not Games. On Wednesday, in a final that had nothing to do with what either of them had done before it, India finished one and two.

# Rahane retires: A batsman who scripted famous win, stamped his class overseas

Ajinkya Rahane scored 8 out of his 12 Test centuries outside India. FILE

Scored a vital century and captained India to an away series win in Australia

**Sandip G**
*New Delhi, July 30*

WITH HIS characteristic bashful smile, Ajinkya Rahane announced his farewell from the game that was his life for the last twenty years. In an Instagram video that was as crisp as his punches through covers, he said in a deeply philosophical tone: "The reality of life is that everything has a beginning and everything has an end. When the time comes, we simply have to respect it and move forward." If there was a hint of regret in his voice, in the uncertainty his career traversed in the last three years, in the greatness it felt agonisingly short of, his smile did well to conceal it, as it had through the thick and thin of his career.

In the two minutes, 22 seconds video, he reflected on his greatest virtue, the gift of timing. It was about guts and grit too, his career of 8413 international runs, 5077 off them in 85 Tests, is defined not so much by the sheer numbers as by the immensity of his knocks, the moments some of his knocks have etched. The statistics took a hit in the final stretch of his career, as it did to his contemporaries Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara, dropping from mid-40s to a pedestrian 38.48, but Rahane leaves with the warmth of scripting some of his country's most famous moments in the Virat Kohli era.

He neither craved limelight not did limelight go in pursuit of him, but he was there in Lord's with a hundred in India's first victory at the most sacred ground in the world; he was there at MCG twice, with a luminescent 147 and a 112 that ignited the most dramatic turnaround in the history of Indian cricket. Imperishably, Rahane would be remembered for this century and the series, the man who started the fightback after 36 all out capitulation in Adelaide, and shepherded a group of rookies to an improbably dramatic series triumph.

How good a captain he would have been is a conjecture, but he had a serene authority about him that inspired the men around him, a tactical sharpness lost in his mild manners. His leadership, the fleeting proof of it, was a reflection of his batting. He was not as immeasurably gifted as his Mumbai contemporary Rohit Sharma; he was not blessed with the irresistible rage of Kohli; he couldn't acquire the monkish defiance of Cheteshwar Pujara.

Yet, he was as valuable as all of them in the golden phase of India's Test cricket. If performance in overseas Test victories is the touchstone of batting greatness, he towers over all the three peers.

In the 20 Tests that India had won abroad in his time, he averaged 47.4, with hundreds in Australia, England, Sri Lanka and West Indies. Kohli's was 40.56; Pujara's 43.57 and Rohit's 46.82. It was not always a hundred, but a fighting half-century, like the 96 in Johannesburg, rated as one of his finest knocks.

### *Understated*

Yet, he was the most understated among them; and he showed a capacity to smile at his relative anonymity. He neither sought the adoration of the media nor did he rage at their iniquities.

Even tweeting and Instagramming have been recent intrusions. He once told this newspaper: "People say I need to be in the news ... I don't have a PR team, my PR is my cricket." It was perhaps the most headline-worthy quote he had ever spun. He rarely, said anything remotely controversial, let alone a loose statement in this era of deliberate misinterpretation. He was polite, measured and matter-of-fact, a bit like his batting.

When the elements aligned, his batting in the longest format soothed the senses, sucking the tension out of a crisis. He was artistic, but without extravagant brushstrokes; he threw the punches and counterpunches, but without the swaggering audaciousness. He possessed organically fast hands, which he could twist and twerk as he desired.

He masterfully manipulated the gaps, with imperceptible improvisations. A ball that Kohli would look to punch through covers or point on the back-foot, Rahane would merely glide past gully, with an open bat phase; a delivery that Pujara looked to block, he will extend his follow through for a four down the ground; he swept without the savage grace of Rohit. He largely batted at No 5, or 6, but had a flexible mind that bent his batting in the way he chose to, and could adapt himself to batting anywhere in the order.

He tamed swing and seam, bounce and spin, before his confidence against spinners wavered, before lapse in concentration crept in. He was arguably better in judging the seamer's lengths and movement than Kohli, had more aggressive routes to deal with spinners than Pujara, was more methodical and balanced in his approach than Rohit. The lament about Rahane is not about what he couldn't perform, but what he could have. He would be remembered as a semi-great that could have easily been a great.

Like Rohit and Kohli, he could have carved a more glorious slice of white-ball cricket. It was not his fault alone. He could blame himself for failing to convert his starts into substantial knocks (24 half centuries but three hundred in ODIs), but he can't be blamed if he felt the selectors gave him a raw deal (his last eight completed innings included five 50-plus scores). But he has made peace with the conditional clauses of his career, and buried all those in the bashful, self-effacing smile of his.

# India vs Brazil: Kolkata set to host blockbuster fixture

**Express News Service**
*New Delhi , July 30*

IT IS official – India will be facing Brazil in a football friendly at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on October 3 this year. The ground has, more often than not, been the preferred venue on the rare occasions that football's elites have descended upon India, and yet, this might just be the biggest match it has ever hosted. The Indian and Brazilian football federations acknowledged in their statement the kind of fanbase that Brazil have in India while announcing the friendly. Those fans now have a chance to catch a glimpse of the Selecao in the flesh.

It will be the first time India face a side placed in the top five of the FIFA rankings, with Brazil currently placed fifth. The five-time world champions face Australia in two matches in September — their first assignment since a rather disappointing 2026 World Cup campaign.

Brazil's first match in Australia is scheduled to be held on September 25 in Townsville and the second on September 29 in Brisbane. The visit to India will be their third match of the window.

***It will be the first time India face a side placed in the top five of the FIFA rankings, with Brazil currently placed fifth.***

"To welcome a team of Brazil's stature to our country is an extraordinary moment and one that will undoubtedly become a landmark chapter in the history of Indian football," said M Satyanarayan, AIFF deputy secretary general.

Both the Indian and Brazilian statements acknowledge the presence of a large fanbase for Brazilian football players in the country.

"It will be a special encounter with a country that hosts the largest international fanbase of the Brazilian National Team and that, for generations, has followed the history of Brazilian football with immense affection and passion. We are eager to live this moment alongside millions of Indian fans!" said the CBF.

The AIFF, meanwhile, said that Brazil's legacy has "inspired generations of footballers across the world, including millions of passionate supporters in India." "India is known for having one of the largest Brazilian fan bases outside of Brazil."

"For our national team players, this is far more than just another match. It is a rare opportunity to test themselves against one of the greatest footballing nations the game has ever known," Subrata Paul, Director, National Teams, said.

# UEFA to boycott FIFA competitions to protest WC 'sale'

**Associated Press**
*Geneva , July 30*

FIFA PRESIDENT Gianni Infantino's plan to sell stakes in the World Cup to private equity investors was hit hard Thursday by his former colleagues at UEFA, who agreed to boycott all the global soccer body's competitions in protest.

"UEFA and its national associations will not participate in FIFA competitions," the European soccer body said after an urgent online meeting of its 55 member nations.

The next scheduled FIFA tournament is within weeks in Europe — the Women's Under-20 World Cup hosted by Poland from Sept. 5. "Some things are simply too important to sell," UEFA said in a statement. "The FIFA World Cup belongs to football. It always will. And so long as Europe has a voice, it will never be for sale." The strategy meeting was called to counter Infantino's offer of $20 million to each of FIFA's 211 global members that has to be accepted by mid-September. Infantino's secret project was revealed Tuesday to spin off its commercial operations in a new $20 billion subsidiary called FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) 20% owned by private investors. The core investor would be a New York investment firm created by Joshua Kushner, the brother of U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Infantino wrote Tuesday to the 211 members — already the effective owners of FIFA as a non-profit association under Swiss law — that if they approve FFE their promised $10 million basic funding for the next four years will double to $20 million. He projected their FIFA funding through 2038 would be $86 million each, instead of about $36 million.

FIFA is likely to sell a stake in the World Cup to the brother of U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner. AP

"This is not merely a profound failure of leadership, but an abdication of FIFA's duty as the custodian of world football," said UEFA, where Infantino was a long-time staffer and its CEO-like general secretary when he was first elected to lead FIFA in 2016. Infantino's high-stakes financial gambit now could threaten his previously secure 11-year presidency of FIFA as anger and frustration with him rises among soccer stakeholders including three of the six continental bodies.

FIFA has set a Nov. 18 deadline for potential candidates to declare in a presidential vote of the 211 members scheduled next March in Rabat, Morocco.

Infantino had seemed — 11 days ago after the World Cup final in East Rutherford, New Jersey — to have a clear path to being re-elected unopposed for a fourth and final term in office through 2031. Soccer officials have said privately Infantino eyes a commissioner-like role at the FIFA Forward Enterprise spinoff beyond 2031.

"Game over, Gianni #InfantinOUT," the Football Supporters Europe group, which advises UEFA on fan issues such as ticket prices, posted after the boycott threat.

## • BRIEFLY

Unnati Hooda defeated Tanya Hemanth in R16. BADMINTON PHOTO

### Unnati, Tanvi, Devika, Kiran enter Taipei Open quarters

Rising stars Unnati Hooda, Tanvi Sharma and Devika Sihag, along with seasoned campaigner Kiran George, advanced to the quarterfinals of the Taipei Open Super 300 badminton tournament with impressive victories on Thursday. The experienced Kiran outclassed compatriot Tharun Mannepalli 21-15 21-16 in just 32 minutes to book his place in the last eight. The 25-year-old, who won the 2022 Odisha Open, 2023 Indonesia Masters and the 2023 Odisha Masters, will next face fourth seed Yudai Okimoto of Japan. In women's singles, third seed Unnati, defeated compatriot Tanya Hemanth 21-19 21-12. PTI

### India sweep team titles at CWG TT C'ship

Manush Shah produced a heroic performance as India's men's team overcame a resilient Malaysia 3-2 in the final to lift the 22nd Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships title on Thursday. Earlier, the women's squad thrashed Malaysia without breaking a sweat, wrapping up the final with a 3-0 verdict at the Thyagaraj Stadium. It was a tricky final for the men's team, especially after their loss to Malaysia in the league phase. The tie appeared headed for a comfortable Indian win before Qi Shen Wong cameback from behind to defeat world No. 41 Manav 2-3 and level the contest at 2-2. Manush Shah secured a comfortable straight-game victory against Wong in the final rubber to seal the gold medal for India at the home venue. PTI

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