

Smart teachers hold key to India's future: President



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PIONEER IN SHORT

PAWAR DEFENDS VIRAL CALL VIDEO

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar defended his actions after a viral video showed him rebuking IPS officer Anjana Krishna during her crackdown on illegal mummy soil excavation in Solapur. Pawar claimed he aimed to deescalate tensions, not interfere with law enforcement. The video, aired by Marathi news channels, depicted Pawar sternly asking Krishna to halt action. Despite the controversy, he expressed support for the police and adherence to legal governance. Meanwhile, an FIR was filed against several individuals who allegedly obstructed officials during the August 31 operation. Charges include assault, unlawful assembly and environmental law violations.

SHETTY, SPOUSE UNDER FRAUD PROBE

Mumbai Police's Economic Offences Wing has issued a Lookout Circular (LOC) against Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj Kundra in a ₹60 crore cheating case. The case involves a complaint by businessman Deepak Kothari, who alleges the couple duped him in a loan-cum-investment deal linked to their company Best Deal TV Private Limited. Kothari claims funds meant for business were diverted for personal use. Shetty and Kundra deny criminal wrongdoing, stating the matter is civil and was adjudicated by the National Company Law Tribunal. The LOC aims to monitor the couple's frequent international travel.

HEART DISEASES TOP INDIAN DEATHS

Cardiovascular diseases remain India's leading cause of death, accounting for nearly 31 per cent of fatalities, according to the Sample Registration Survey's 2021-2023 report. Non-communicable diseases cause 56.7 per cent of deaths, while communicable, maternal, perinatal and nutritional conditions account for 23.4 per cent. Other major causes include respiratory infections (9.3 per cent), cancers (6.4 per cent), and respiratory diseases (5.7 per cent). Cardiovascular diseases dominate deaths in those over 30, while suicide is the leading cause in ages 15-29. Injuries make up 9.4 per cent of deaths. The report highlights potential misclassification but offers vital insights for understanding India's mortality.

PUNJAB CM HOSPITALISED

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was hospitalised at Fortis Hospital, Mohali, after experiencing exhaustion and a low heart rate. His vitals were stabilised, and he is under close medical observation. Mann had been suffering from viral fever and was admitted when his condition didn't improve. AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal visited Mann at his residence after the news of his illness.

The ByStander



Tariff relief in works: FM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
 ■ New Delhi

With US President Donald Trump imposing stiff tariff on India thereby adversely impacting exports up to 48 billion dollars, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Friday that the Government will announce a package of relief measures to support exporters. Her assurance that Indian exporters will not be left "high and dry" came as the US last month enforced additional duties on Indian goods, including a 25 per cent punitive levy linked to New Delhi's Russian crude oil imports. With this, tariffs on several products — ranging from garments and jewellery to footwear and chemicals — have climbed as high as 50 per cent.

The relief package would help those industries affected by the recently imposed tariffs. "The Government will come out with something to handhold those who have been hit by 50 per cent tariffs," Sitharaman said without elaborating further. "Industries have been speaking about tariffs and their impact. The



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressing the media in New Delhi on Wednesday

Government has designed something and we will come up with the same for companies hit by 50 per cent tariffs," she said. However, the finance minister added that the proposed plan would need Cabinet approval. Sectors most affected include textiles and apparel, as well as gems and jewellery,

which together account for a large share of India's export earnings. Exporters in other industries are also under pressure. These include leather and footwear, chemicals, engineering products, agricultural and marine exports. With higher tariffs, exporters fear that India's products may become less

competitive in the American market. Companies have warned that this could result in lower orders and weaker demand in the coming months. The Government's plan will likely address liquidity challenges faced by small and medium exporters.

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Lost India to China, Trump laments

ASHOKE RAJ
 ■ New Delhi

US President Donald Trump on Friday claimed that the United States has "lost" both India and Russia to "deepest, darkest China," as relations between Washington and New Delhi continue to deteriorate — marking what analysts describe as the lowest point in over two decades of bilateral engagement.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump reacted to the growing strategic alignment among Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, China. Sharing a widely circulated old photo of Modi, Xi and Putin walking together, Trump wrote, "Looks like we've lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest China. May they have a long and prosperous future together!" India's Ministry of External Affairs offered no immediate comment on Trump's remarks. A spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal simply stated: "I



PM Modi seen with President Putin and President Xi at SCO summit

MEA SLAMS US REMARKS

New Delhi: India has strongly rejected recent remarks made by US President Donald Trump's senior trade advisor, Peter Navarro, calling them "inaccurate and misleading." The comments have further inflamed diplomatic tensions between New Delhi and Washington following the imposition of steep US tariffs on Indian goods. "We have seen inaccurate and misleading statements made by Mr Navarro.

Obviously, we reject them," said Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for India's Ministry of External Affairs, at a press briefing on Friday. Navarro, known for his combative rhetoric, has launched repeated attacks on India since Trump's return to office, targeting the country's trade practices and foreign policy — especially its continued energy ties with Russia.

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have no comments on the post." Trump's statement follows a sharp escalation in trade tensions after the US administration — under his

renewed influence within the Republican Party — doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent.

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As Yamuna recedes, silt and sickness cover Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
 ■ New Delhi

Despite a reduction in the water being released from Haryana's Hathnikund Barrage, the Yamuna River continues to pose a significant threat to the Capital, flowing nearly two meters above its danger mark and one metres (m) above the evacuation level. The high water levels have led to widespread waterlogging, disrupting daily life and affecting thousands of residents in low-lying areas, with Government data showing that almost 18,000 people have been impacted across five districts. The water level in the river was recorded at 207.12m at 6pm at the main flood forecasting station of Old Railway

Bridge, well above the danger mark of 205.33m and the evacuation level of 206m. According to the Central Water Commission, current indications show that the water level of the Yamuna River in Delhi will continue to recede. On Saturday, 6 September 2025, at 8.00 am, the water level of the Yamuna is expected to be 206.40m. The relentless overflow has engulfed cremation grounds, temples, major roads and local markets, bringing normal life to a standstill in affected areas.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta held an online review meeting with Divisional Commissioner Neeraj Semwal and the district magistrates of all 11 revenue districts to assess the situation.

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Workers moving a cart loaded with LPG cylinders through a flooded relief camp in New Delhi on Friday

Terror threat puts Mumbai on toes



Police personnel keep vigil as part of crowd control measures for the immersion of Lord Ganesh idols as the Ganesh Chaturthi festival concludes, at Girgaon Chowpatty, in Mumbai

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
 ■ Mumbai

The Mumbai Police are on high alert after receiving a threat message claiming that 14 terrorists entered the city with 400 kg of RDX and planted them in vehicles, an official said on Friday. As the police made security arrangements for *Anant Chaturthi*, the 10th day of the Ganesh festival, the traffic police control room on Thursday night received a threat message on their WhatsApp helpline, the official said. He said that the Crime Branch has launched an investigation into the threat and the Anti-

Terrorism Squad (ATS) and other agencies have also been informed. The official said that the sender mentioned the name of an organisation called Lashkar-e-Jihadi in the threat message. The sender claimed that 14 terrorists had entered the city and planted 400kg of RDX in 34 vehicles for blasts, which will "shake the country", he said. Mumbai is celebrating the 10-day Ganesh festival, and police are making security arrangements for lakhs who will throng the city's streets on the final day, on Saturday. While investigating the source of the message, the police are taking precautions to

prevent untoward incidents in the city. The official said security has been beefed up at key locations and combing operations are being conducted at different places. The police have also appealed to Mumbaiers not to believe in rumours and report any suspicious activity, he said. More than 21,000 police personnel will be deployed in Mumbai to maintain law and order during idol immersions while for the first time, police will use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for route management and other traffic-related updates.

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CDS General Anil Chauhan with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Gorakhnath Temple

China border dispute biggest challenge: CDS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
 ■ New Delhi

The unresolved boundary dispute with China is the biggest national security challenge followed by Pakistan's proxy war and its strategy of "bleeding India by a thousand cuts," Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan said on Friday. "I consider the unresolved border dispute with China as the biggest challenge. The second major challenge is the proxy war being run by Pakistan against India," the CDS said. "Pakistan's strategy has been to bleed India by a thousand cuts. It means keep hurting India slowly at a regular interval and keep the flow of blood continuing in

the country." He added that dealing with threats emanating from two adversaries with nuclear weapons is another major challenge facing India as it will have to be prepared for any kind of conventional warfare. At an event in Uttar Pradesh, the top military official identified regional instability and its impact on India, and the preparations needed to handle future battlefield scenarios with high technology components in a rapidly changing environment as the fourth major challenges. "Wars are changing rapidly. Future wars will not be confined to land, air and water. It will include space, cyber and electromagnetic domains.

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Delhi boy wins global scrabble contest

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 ■ New Delhi

By closing his final game of Scrabble with the word 'Bae', Madhav Gopal Kamath created history at the World Youth Scrabble Championship (WYSC) by becoming the first Indian to win the tournament. Kamath emerged victorious among 218 under-18 players from 18 countries at the 20th edition of the annual tournament held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The 14-year-old from Delhi clinched the championship, organised by the World English-Language Scrabble Players Association (WESPA), in the penultimate round, finishing with 21 wins from 24

KAMATH, A CLASS 10 STUDENT, WAS FIRST INTRODUCED TO THE BOARD GAME AT THE AGE OF FIVE

rounds. Kamath, a class 10 student of Sanskriti School in Chanakyapuri, was first introduced to the board game at the age of five at home by his father and uncle. "I would just sit and watch them play and from there I picked up the basics of the game. It seemed like a fun game and then I started playing. So at first I'd play casually at home with my dad and my brothers and then started playing at tournaments when I was 6 or 7,"

Kamath said. Since his first entry into the Under-18 championship, Kamath has played in the tournament seven times and stood runner-up twice. Even though the closing word 'Bae' values only five points, Kamath said it was one of the words in the long game that helped him win. "I don't think there was any one particular important word that turned the game. Bae was the last word that I played in my final match," he said. Earlier this year, Kamath became the youngest-ever national champion of the 25th National Scrabble Championship in Mumbai, and is currently ranked 8th in the world across all ages.

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Single Indians or missing records?

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

Complete lack of awareness in registration of marriages not just birth and death, has led to a startling revelation in the Sample Registration System (SRS) report for 2023 which has reflected only 50.5 per cent of the total population had never been married, with a higher percentage among men (55.4 per cent) than women (45.3 per cent) in 2023. Surprisingly, Bihar, and Jammu and Kashmir have the highest percentage of the never married population at 58.3 per cent and 57.5 per cent, respectively. Whereas, Tamil Nadu has the lowest percentage (41.3 per cent)

BIHAR AND J&K HAVE THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THE NEVER MARRIED POPULATION

never married population. Officials attributed to the lower percentage records as majority of the Bihar couples do not get registered their marriage as per the protocol. In urban areas, the highest mean age at effective marriage is recorded in Jammu & Kashmir (27.6 years), followed by Himachal Pradesh (27.1 years), Assam (25.0 years) and Maharashtra (24.9 years) for all ages. The lowest mean age at effective marriage in urban

areas are seen in West Bengal (22.9 years), Bihar (23.0 years), and Jharkhand (23.2 years). At the national level, 2.1 per cent women got married before the age of 18, 25.0 per cent got married between the ages of 18-20 and 72.9 per cent got married at the age of 21 or above. In rural areas, the corresponding percentages are 2.5 per cent, 28.1 per cent and 69.4 per cent respectively, while in urban areas, they are 1.2 per cent, 17.0 per cent and 81.8 per cent respectively. On the other hand, 45.9 per cent of the total population was reported as married, with a higher percentage among females (49.0 per cent) than males (42.9 per cent). The remaining 3.6 per

cent of the population was either widowed, divorced or separated, with a higher percentage among females (5.6 per cent) than males (1.7 per cent). The proportion of married females is lowest in Jammu & Kashmir (48.7 per cent) and highest in Himachal Pradesh (63.0 per cent). The proportion of widowed/divorced/separated females is highest in Tamil Nadu (12.4 per cent) and lowest in Bihar (2.5 per cent). The highest percentage of the population was reported as widowed, divorced or separated in Tamil Nadu (6.8 per cent) and lowest in Bihar (1.5 per cent).

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IN BRIEF

Teachers are nation's builders: Vijender Gupta



Praising teachers as the "silent builders of the nation," Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta, called for greater recognition and investment in educators, whose work, he said, directly contributes to the nation's destiny. Speaking at a Teachers' Day event, Gupta stressed that the "New India" of the future is being built in today's classrooms, where teachers are the guiding force in producing citizens who are not only skilled but also rooted in values and national pride.

"As India moves towards the vision of a Viksit Bharat @2047, the role of teachers will be even more critical in shaping responsible citizens who uphold the values of democracy, inclusiveness, and integrity" he added. The event, organised by the Mahamana Malaviya Mission, honoured the 137th birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

MCD hosts Raahgiri event



Municipal Corporation of Delhi on Friday organised 'Raahgiri' cultural programme in PVR Saket under 'Delhi ko Koode se Azadi' Swachta campaign with the aim to increase public awareness towards cleanliness and strengthen citizen participation.

Member of Parliament South Delhi Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, MLA Sh Gajinder Yadav, Deputy Mayor Jai Bhagwan Yadav, Standing Committee Chairperson Satya Sharma, MCD Commissioner Ashwani Kumar, senior officials of MCD and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The event was organized in collaboration with Raahgiri foundation and other partner NGOs to showcase their inspiring work through paintings, aerobics, and cultural dance performances on the theme of "Waste-Free Delhi".

NDMC schools adopt 'Guru-Shishya' model with mantras, yoga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

THE VIKAS BHI, VIRASAT BHI INITIATIVE SEEKS TO INTEGRATE INDIA'S CULTURE INTO MODERN EDUCATION

Chanting mantras, practising yoga and meditating—that is how students will begin their day in NDMC schools while teachers impart education following the classical Guru-Shishya model.

This is part of the 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi' curriculum launched by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta at the Talkatora Stadium here on Thursday, the eve of Teachers' Day. Fifteen teachers were felicitated at the event for their contribution to education.

The 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi' initiative seeks to integrate India's cultural heritage into modern education that would benefit more than 28,000 students across NDMC-run schools.

According to the curriculum document, students will now recite Sanskrit mantras such as the Gayatri Mantra, Saraswati Vandana, Guru Mantra and Shanti Path during daily assemblies.

Each has a defined educational purpose—the Gayatri Mantra to enhance concentration and clarity, Saraswati Vandana to cultivate intellectual focus, the Guru Mantra to instil respect for teachers, and the Shanti Path to

encourage peace and harmony, according to the document.

The curriculum notes that chanting mantras fosters mindfulness, positivity and compassion, while teaching humility, discipline and ethical responsibility. It emphasises that education must nurture wisdom and values alongside academic knowledge.

Another key feature is the integration of yoga and meditation into the school timetable.

Breathing practices like Anulom-Vilom and Bhramari are aimed at boosting lung capacity, immunity and mental focus. Postures including Tadasana, cat-cow stretch and 'Bhujangasana' will be taught to improve flexibility, posture and motor coordination.

Mindful meditation techniques such as gratitude reflections, five-senses awareness and body scans are designed to help students regulate emotions,

reduce stress and build resilience. The curriculum lists outcomes such as improved concentration, emotional balance, and overall well-being. The programme also expands learning beyond classroom walls.

Nature walks, outdoor science labs, gardening and eco-art projects like leaf printing and nature mandalas are included to connect students with biodiversity and environmental conservation.

According to the document, arithmetic will be taught by counting leaves and measuring garden spaces, while science classes will involve observing plants, birds and insects.

Literature and art will draw inspiration from natural surroundings. "Learning beyond walls, wisdom beyond books" is described as a guiding principle of this approach.

At its core, the curriculum revives the Guru-Shishya Parampara model, promoting respect for teachers and mentorship among peers.

A house system based on great gurus—Dronacharya (discipline), Vyasa (wisdom), Charaka (health) and Vashishtha (righteousness)—will instil values through collective activities.

The curriculum also highlights inclusivity, with buddy programmes pairing differently-abled and mainstream students, as well as intergenerational learning.

Elderly citizens will be invited to share stories, skills and life lessons, while students will introduce them to modern tools and technologies.

A 10-week Swachhta module forms another pillar of the programme. Students will practise waste segregation, water conservation, and plastic reduction through hands-on activities such as clean classroom competitions, poster-making and plantation drives.

They will also be introduced to hygiene drills, food safety and eco-friendly alternatives like making cloth bags from old garments.

The 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi' document underlines that the initiative is aligned with the National Education Policy 2020 and NCERT syllabus, while drawing inspiration from India's traditional wisdom.

By combining yoga, mantras, nature learning and values of humanity with modern subjects and skills, NDMC aims to create "responsible, confident and culturally rooted citizens".

VS Negi elected DUTA president

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Professor VS Negi of the National Democratic Teachers Front (NDTF) has been elected Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) president, securing 3,366 votes.

He defeated professor Rajib Ray of the Democratic Teachers Front (DTF), who polled 2,728 votes and professor Rajesh K Jha of the Academics for Action and Development Delhi Teachers' Association (AADTA), who secured 1,420 votes.

Other candidates included professor Kamlesh Kr Raghuvanshi (451 votes), Sandeep (14), and professor Sanjay Mohan Marale (10). Of the 8,221 votes polled, 7,989 were declared valid and 232 invalid.

Voting for the Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) elections witnessed an enthusiastic response on Thursday, with 8,221 of the 9,861 eligible teachers casting their votes.

This marked a turnout of 84 per cent, marginally lower than the 85.85 per cent recorded in 2023.

Polling, held from 10 am to 5 pm across 32 booths set up in the Arts Faculty and Satyakam Bhawan, also decided 25 aspirants for 15 executive member posts.

Fifteen members were elected to the DUTA executive,

with Akanksha Khurana topping the list by securing 9,576 votes. She was followed by Ramanand Singh (9,192) and Manish Kumar (7,372). Other winners included Sakshi Yadav (6,612), Dinesh Kataria (6,439), Amit Singh (6,388), Bimalendu (6,081), Sanjay Kumar (5,862), Biswajit Mohanty (5,658), Chhotu Ram Meena (5,632), Bhupendra Singh (5,338), Yash Yadav (5,283), VS Dixit (5,238), Devendra K. Rana (4,521) and Dhanraj Meena (3,949).

Professor Ramananda Singh, Department of Chemistry, Kirori Mal College, has become the first person from North East India to be elected to the DUTA Executive Council, a historic achievement that transcends regional and institutional boundaries.

The biennial DUTA elections are considered significant in shaping the policies and academic direction of Delhi University.

This year's campaign revolved around issues such as permanent appointments, regularisation of ad-hoc teachers, implementation of the National Education Policy, and academic reforms.

Outside the polling venues, supporters distributed pamphlets and urged teachers to vote, while groups of faculty members engaged in animated discussions on key election issues. In 2023, professor Ajay Kumar Bhagi of the NDTF was elected DUTA president.

Delhi Police arrests two for aiding ₹6.4 crore stock market fraud

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Two men were arrested for allegedly facilitating a multi-crore stock market scam by providing their bank accounts to interstate cyber criminals.

The accused, Mohammad Asim Ali Khan from Uttarakhand and Rushikesh Jaywant Kamble from Maharashtra, acted as "professional account providers" for organised cybercrime networks that duped investors with fake IPO funding and high-return stock market investment schemes, police said.

According to the police, victims were lured through social media groups into downloading fake trading applications and then con-

vinced to transfer large sums of money.

The investors funds were routed through layered bank accounts—a method used to launder money through several bank accounts to make the original source difficult to trace.

"Whenever victims sought withdrawals, the fraudsters used to block them. The syndicate had cheated investors of nearly ₹6.40 crore. The arrests have disrupted financial channels that were being used by cyber syndicates to launder money collected through fraudulent investment schemes," the official said.

Police said in one case, registered at the Special Cell, a complainant alleged of being duped of ₹5.93



crore. A technical probe revealed that at least 33 first-layer accounts were used to siphon the money.

Among them was the bank details linked to

accused Asim Ali Khan, through which transactions worth ₹66 lakh were facilitated. His account was found linked with eight National Cyber Crime

Reporting Portal (NCRP) complaints.

In another case, registered at Cyber East police station, a complainant alleged of being cheated of Rs 46.66 lakh. Investigations revealed eight first-layer accounts, including those operated by Kamble, who allegedly handled fraudulent transactions of ₹6.71 lakh.

His two accounts were linked to as many as 78 NCRP complaints, police said. During interrogation, both men admitted to repeatedly opening bank accounts and handing over full access, cheque books, ATM cards, internet banking credentials and SIM cards, to their handlers for a commission.

"These accounts were

vital for receiving and layering fraud proceeds, thereby shielding the masterminds of the racket from direct detection," a police officer said.

Investigators found that Khan was earlier booked in a cybercrime case in Kurukshetra in Haryana, while Kamble was involved in a case with the Cyber Crime Detective Department in Hyderabad.

Their background established them as repeat offenders and trusted facilitators, police added.

Police further said that several more accounts linked to the racket have been identified. Efforts are underway to freeze them and trace the handlers and other co-accused. Further investigation is underway.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

LOST & FOUND

I, Kajal, D/O Sant Pratap Singh, has lost my original Provisional Trade Certificate-Marksheet issued by Board of Technical Education Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi, bearing roll no. 42/12 & serial no. 2319 for the year 2014. If found kindly contact me at 8750227616.

PD(2914)A

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Manoj Paswan, S/o Mr. Ram Chander Paswan, R/o H.No.-6/174, Trilokpuri, East Delhi, Delhi-110091, hereby solemnly affirm that my name wrongly written as Manoj Kumar in my son 10th class Marksheet issued by CBSE. My correct name is Manoj Paswan.

PD(2915)C

I, AKHILESH KUMAR S/O VISHAMBHAR THAKUR residing at 306, B-9, Swaroop Vihar, Near Nathupura, Burari, North Delhi, Delhi - 110084 have changed the name of my minor daughter ANUSHKA KUMARI aged 15 Years and she shall hereafter be known as ANUSHKA THAKUR.

PD(2917)C

I, No.16021206N Nk Patel Babubhai Chamanaji, R/o-166, Patel Vas, Dhunsol, Banaskantha, Gujarat-385535, have changed my name from Dhruv to Patel Dhruv Babubhai, vide affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2919)C

I, Patel Rinkuben W/o No. 16021206N Nk Patel Babubhai Chamanaji, R/o-166, Patel Vas, Dhunsol, Banaskantha, Gujarat-385535, have changed my name from Patel Rinkuben Babubhai, vide affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2920)C

I No.15428406K HAV/NA Anoop Devasia, R/o-Thekkemalayil (H), Rayarome (PO), Alakode (Vill), Kannur (Dist) Kerala-670571, have changed my Father's name in my Army service record from Devasia to Devasia T S, vide affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2921)C

I Rohidas, Father of JC-778805W Sub Patil Jitendra Rohidas R/o-Vill- Sarve, Teh-Pachora, Dist- Jalgaon, Maharashtra-424103, have changed my name from Rohidas to Rohidas Chindha Patil, vide affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2922)C

I, No.15338160P Hav Harshpal Singh R/o-Vill- Naudiyal Gaon, PO- Toli, Dist- Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand-246176, have changed my daughter's name from Simran to Simran Rawat, vide affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2923)C

I No.15428406K HAV/NA Anoop Devasia R/o-Thekkemalayil (H), Rayarome (PO), Alakode (Vill), Kannur (Dist) Kerala-670571, have changed my Mother's name in my Army service record from Philomina to Philomina V J, vide affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2924)C

I, Ranjana Bai, Mother of JC-778805W Sub Patil Jitendra Rohidas R/o-Vill- Sarve, Teh-Pachora, Dist- Jalgaon, Maharashtra-424103, have changed my name from Ranjana Bai to Ranjana Rohidas Patil, vide affidavit dated 05/09/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2925)C

Pilot held for secretly filming woman in market

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

A 31-year-old private airline pilot was arrested by the Delhi Police for allegedly filming objectionable videos of a woman using a hidden spy camera. The Delhi Police said the pilot, identified as Mohit Priyadarshi, was arrested by the staff of Kishangarh police station in South West District, a resident of the Civil

Lines area in Agra (Uttar Pradesh). According to police, they have recovered a lighter-shaped device fitted with a hidden camera from his possession.

He was arrested by the personnel of the Kishangarh police station in Delhi's South West District following a complaint registered on August 30 by a woman. The police said Priyadarshi has admitted to his crime and stated that he

had been making such videos to satisfy "his personal gratification".

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Amit Goel said he allegedly used lighter-shaped spy camera to film videos of unsuspecting women. A case under sections 77 (voyeurism) and 78 (stalking) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita was registered at Kishangarh police station, and an investigation was taken up.

The incident reportedly took place at the Shani Bazar

when the accused allegedly attempted to record the complainant without her consent using a hidden camera. According to the woman's complaint, while at the market, she spotted a man pointing what looked like a lighter at her. Suspicious, she realised he was actually trying to record her without consent.

During the investigation, CCTV from the area was thoroughly reviewed, and the suspect's image was circulated among police networks.

BABA FARID UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, FARIDKOT.

Admission Notice - M.Sc Nuclear Medicine Courses-2025-26
Application forms are invited on prescribed performa available at www.bfuh.s.ac.in for admission to M.Sc Nuclear Medicine at **Guru Gobind Singh Medical College, Faridkot**. Duly filled application form alongwith requisite fee+ 18% GST and documents must reach up to **20-09-2025** by 5p.m. at Principal Office, GGS Medical College, Faridkot. The entrance exam will be held on 30-09-2025 After that Counselling will be held in 2nd week of Oct from 9.30 a.m. onwards at Principal Office GGS Medical College, Faridkot and also visit website for any update. Reporting time will be till 11:00 am during the Counselling (2nd week of Oct). For eligibility and other conditions visit on University website www.bfuh.s.ac.in. Those applicants who have already applied for the above said courses need not apply again

Principal

3108/12/2025-26/2881

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED

CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995
Regd. Off: at NS-92, Khasra No - 33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun park Bus Stand New Delhi - 110043
Email id: superiorfinlease@gmail.com; Website: www.superiorfinlease.com
Special window for Re-jodgement of Transfer request of physical Share
In accordance with SEBI Circular SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD-PO/D/ICR/2025/97 dated 02, July, 2025, Shareholders of SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED are hereby informed that a special window has been opened from July 07, 2025 to January 06, 2025 for re-jodging transfer deeds.
Shareholders may please note that this window is only for re-jodgement of transfer deeds which were lodged prior to the deadline of April, 01, 2019 for transfer of physical shares and returned/rejected/not attended due to deficiency in the documents/process/otherwise.
Investors may re-odge their earlier request with the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agents (RTA) along with requisite documents and rectifying deficiencies, during the special window period of six months from July 07, 2025 to January 06, 2025. The investors may send the documents to the Company's RTA at below address:
SKYLINE FINANCIAL SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED
UNIT: SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED, SCRP CODE: 538835
Address: 1st floor, D-153/A, Pocket D, Okhla Phase I, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi-110020
Contact: 011 2681 2883
E-mail: admin@skylinefin.com; info@skylinefin.com
The detail regarding the special window is also available on the website of the Company.
Further, SEBI has mandated that transfer of securities shall be processed by the Company's RTA ONLY in dematerialized form. Hence, we also request you to convert your physical shares into dematerialized (demat) form at the earliest.
You are requested to take note of the above and furnish the aforesaid documents at the earliest.
For and on behalf of
SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED
Sd/-
Rajneesh Kumar
Director
DIN: 02463693
Date: 05.09.2025
Place: New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Vinita Aggarwal W/o Late Shri Giridhari Lal Aggarwal R/o A-19, 3rd Floor, Kewal Park, Netaji Marg, Azadpur, Delhi-110033, hereby severs all relations and disowns/debars her son, namely Tarun Aggarwal S/o Late Shri Giridhari Lal Aggarwal, and his wife, Priti Kumari, from all movable and immovable properties and assets due to his misconduct. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk.
Fankaj Kumar Pandey (Advocate) High Court, New Delhi - 110003, Mob: 9958573206

3108/12/2025-26/2881

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Shakhawat Ullah, S/o Mr. Barkat Ullah, R/o 34, Ansh Mahavidyalaya, PK Road, GPO, New Delhi-110001, has by affidavit disowned his son Mohd. Ubaid (28 yrs) from all familial, legal, financial, and proprietary relations. He shall have no rights/claims in any of Mr. Ullah's properties. Public is cautioned not to deal with him in Mr. Ullah's name/assets; any such dealings are at your own risk.
ADVOCATE (Mohd. Arafat Ahmad) Delhi High Court, Reg-2040A, Gali No. 26 B, Tughlakabad Extn. Mob: 8287829070

PUBLIC NOTICE

Chrome Digital Media Private Limited
CIN: U74900DL2012PTC231483
Regd. Office: C-38, Green Park (Main), New Delhi - 110016

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that pursuant to the provisions of Sections 12, 13 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, the Company proposes to shift its Registered Office from the National Capital Territory of Delhi to the State of Uttar Pradesh. The Registered Office is proposed to be shifted:
From: C-38, Green Park (Main), New Delhi-110016
To: 3rd Floor C-40, Sector-27, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301
The petition in this regard is proposed to be filed before the Regional Director (Northern Region), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi for approval.
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed shifting of the Registered Office may deliver their objections supported with documents, if any, to the Regional Director (Northern Region), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi, within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Chrome Data Analytics & Media Private Limited
CIN: U74300DL2011PTC226911
Regd. Office: C-38, Green Park (Main), New Delhi - 110016

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that pursuant to the provisions of Sections 12, 13 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, the Company proposes to shift its Registered Office from the National Capital Territory of Delhi to the State of Uttar Pradesh. The Registered Office is proposed to be shifted:
From: C-38, Green Park (Main), New Delhi-110016
To: 1st Floor, C-40, Sector-27, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301
The petition in this regard is proposed to be filed before the Regional Director (Northern Region), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, New Delhi for approval.
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118 teachers honoured at Shikshak Mahakumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

The invaluable role of teachers in nation-building and shaping future generations was at the heart of the 'Shikshak Mahakumbh - State Teachers' Award 2025' on Friday. The grand ceremony, held at Tyagaraj Stadium, saw 118 teachers and 5 educationists being honoured for their contributions. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta lauded the educators, with Pradhan stating that Delhi's education system is "in the right direction and under the right leadership."

Pradhan highlighted the ancient 'Guru-Shishya' tradition of India, calling teach-



ers the "main sculptors of nation-building." Citing former Presidents Dr. S. Radhakrishnan and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, he emphasised the teacher's role in instilling values in students. He also commended the Delhi government for its initiatives to improve government schools and advance the 'NIPUN Bharat Mission'.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brickworks Digital Solution Private Limited
CIN: U64200DL2015PTC284006
Regd. Office: C-38, 2nd Floor, Green Park (Main), New Delhi - 110016

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that pursuant to the provisions of Sections 12, 13 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, the Company proposes to shift its Registered Office from the National Capital Territory of Delhi to the State of Uttar Pradesh. The Registered Office is proposed to be shifted:
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LOST & FOUND

I PRITAM KAUR LUTHRA WIFE OF DALJIT SINGH LUTHRA R/o D-16/51, SECTOR-7, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110085. I HAVE LOST MY PROPERTY FILE/DOCUMENTS OF HOUSE NO.- D-16/51, SECTOR-7, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110085. IF ANYBODY FINDS MY PROPERTY FILE/DOCUMENTS THEN PLEASE CONTACT ON 9899099641

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Lt. Col. (Retd.) Ishwar Singh Yadav Managing Director, M/s Orbit Staffing Innovision Pvt. Ltd. with license Number B-0735/HYD/COM/1000+5/9115/2014 is closing its branch office and operations from our Noida Location. # 577, Ground Floor, Varun Enclave Sector-28, Oppo. Delhi Public School, Noida-201303 (U.P.). Any claims against our company in this regard should be intimated within 30 days from the date of publication of the said Advertisement copies of complaint to the Protector General of Emigrants Ministry of External Affairs, Sushma Swaraj Bhavan (SSB), Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110021.
Lt. Col. (Retd.) Ishwar Singh Yadav
M/s Orbit Staffing Innovision Pvt. Ltd.
H.No. K-14, AWHG Colony
Secunderabad, Hyderabad-500015
Date: 06.09.2025
Telangana, India



Flood hits water supply in Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said on Friday water supply in several parts of Delhi has been disrupted after the Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant (WTP) reduced production by 20 per cent due to increased turbidity and silt in the Yamuna River.

One of its biggest plants, the Wazirabad WTP, has an overall capacity of producing 138 million gallons per day (MGD) of water. The production, however, has been reduced.

"We reduce the water production due to high amounts of silt and turbidity in the river, which is our raw water source, which is further treated in the plants. The Wazirabad plant is functioning at 20 per cent reduced capacity, but we hope

DJB'S BIGGEST PLANTS, WAZIRABAD WTP, HAS AN OVERALL CAPACITY OF PRODUCING 138 MILLION GALLONS PER DAY OF WATER

to improve on that and bring the plant to full capacity in the next few hours," the official said.

This is not the first plant impacted by rising turbidity. The Chandrawal WTP was also affected earlier, but it is now functioning at full capacity, the official said.

"The Chandrawal plant is now functioning at full capacity, only the Wazirabad is slightly affected," the person said. The curtailed supply has left thousands of city residents high and dry.

"There has been no water supply in Model Town since yesterday. When contacted, the DJB told us that due to the Wazirabad water treatment plant shutdown, the supply is expected only from tomorrow morning," said Sanjay Gupta, General Secretary, Model Town Residents Society.

Many residents tried for water tankers, but were told by the DJB that no water tanker was available. Residents were forced to buy drinking water jars from the market, Gupta added.

The Yamuna has risen above the 207-metre mark, flooding several low-lying areas in the last few days, displacing people and affecting businesses.

The same DJB plants got affected during the floods in 2023 and were entirely shut down for a few days.

Delhi flood victims struggle in camps amid food, health crisis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

As soon as the horn of the food truck blares, children and women rush to form a queue to collect their meals near flood relief camps in Delhi, where several families displaced by the rising Yamuna are staying.

Strips of cloth tied to ropes stretch across the middle of the camp, serving as makeshift drying lines, while piles of salvaged belongings and plants uprooted by the floods lie scattered in corners.

"We face a lot of trouble here at night because of the mosquitoes. Even the food we get mostly has rice. For those who have a fever, how will they manage to eat only rice?" said Shanti, a resident of Yamuna Khadar.

Ram Kishan, a farmer, said his family has been left with no means of livelihood after his crops were destroyed. "All my fields have gone under water. This year's



PANKAJ KUMAR

entire harvest is gone, and my family completely depended on it," he said.

A walk through the Mayur Vihar Phase I relief camp showed how people are trying to hold on to whatever they could save.

For Poonam, the mother of a six-month-old baby, the struggle is of a different kind. "Living with a small

child like this, under the open sky, is very difficult. There is no privacy, no comfort and we are constantly worried about the baby's health," she said.

Utensils, mattresses and wooden cots were placed along the roadside. Some children played nearby while elderly men sat in groups, talking about the loss they

had suffered.

Another resident of Yamuna Khadar, Rajesh, said the floods have left him with nothing to return to. "My house is still under water and most of my belongings are gone. I had borrowed money for repairs last year, and now everything is washed away again. I don't know how I will repay the debt," he

said. In the makeshift shelters, inadequate facilities and poor sanitation have left people vulnerable to infections, water-borne illnesses and vector-borne diseases, raising fears of an outbreak.

At one of the largest relief camps in Mayur Vihar, a tent marked as a medical unit stood nearly deserted. A small bag of medicines lay unattended, with no staff in sight. Civil defence volunteers claimed a separate facility had been arranged for healthcare, but residents said little help was available. Apart from inadequate medical support, the camps have little by way of basic sanitation. Toilets are few, forcing many to rely on open defecation, further compounding the risk of contamination.

However, the water level in the Yamuna river at Delhi's Old Railway Bridge receded to 207.31 metres at 8 am on Friday, a day after reaching the season's highest at 207.48 metres.

Parvesh Verma refutes claims of Yamuna flooding in Civil Lines



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Verma on Friday refuted claims that Yamuna river water had entered the Civil Lines area, clarifying that the situation was the result of waterlogging due to rainfall and not river flooding.

"It is only waterlogging caused by rainfall. The bell mouths of drains along the roads in the Civil Lines area were closed as a preventive measure to ensure Yamuna river water does not enter the roads," said Verma to reporters while visiting Nigam Bodh Ghat, Monastery Market and nearby areas to take stock of the situation.

"Between the Yamuna and Civil Lines area, there is a wide slip road, which is about 10 feet below the Ring Road. There is water-

logging on that slip road, which we are trying to pump out, and by evening it is likely to be cleared," said the minister, accompanied by PWD and Irrigation and Flood Control Department officials.

Addressing concerns about flooding in Monastery Market, Yamuna Bazaar, Vijay Ghat, Qudsiya Ghat and other such areas, Verma said a solution will have to be found because these are directly on floodplains.

"The Monastery Market is directly on the river; the houses and slums where the river water enters are all unauthorised. Yamuna did not impact the traffic of Delhi, nor did it reach anywhere near the Supreme Court like it did in 2023. We made sure that the drains were stuffed with sandbags, hence the rainwater could not pass further," Verma added.

CM reviews flood situation, directs 24x7 monitoring, relief work

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday reviewed the flood situation in Yamuna river and said the Government is alert and prepared to deal with any contingency. According to a statement from the Chief Minister's Office, Gupta said the water in Yamuna is "continuously receding" and the situation is likely to return to normal soon.

In an online review meeting with the Divisional Commissioner and all District Magistrates, she issued a series of instructions to ensure prompt and effective relief for affected residents. "The water in the Yamuna is continuously receding," the Chief Minister said, "and it is likely that the situation will soon return to normal. The people of Delhi need not panic."

The chief minister emphasised that safeguarding the lives and property of those impacted is the Government's top priority. She stressed that no negligence would be tolerated. Government teams are providing 24x7 assistance, including continuous supply of food, water, medical aid, and toilet facilities to affected people. Fodder is also being provided for cattle belonging to farmers in the affected areas. Residents of low-lying areas, who had to be evacuated, are being shifted to relief camps where proper care is being ensured.

The Chief Minister has instructed all senior officials



to maintain round-the-clock vigil in affected areas. They are to ensure proper arrangements for food, water, medical care, and sanitation in the relief camps. She also gave specific instructions to District Magistrates to pay special attention to the elderly, women, and children.

The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) is also keeping a constant watch on the situation. Officials have been instructed to coordinate with local social organizations to ensure that timely and effective help reaches the people.

In a move to address the long-term impact of the floods, the Chief Minister has instructed senior officials to assess the crops damaged by the floods. This is to consider appropriate compensation for the affected farmers.

District Magistrates have also been asked to ensure the protection of cattle and other animals, with arrangements for fodder and related needs. The Chief Minister said that Delhi's Members of Parliament, Government ministers, MLAs, and other public representatives are visiting affected areas. She noted that their public participation is making the relief work even more effective.

She also brought up the issue of water from a few drains in neighbouring Haryana entering the fields and low-lying areas of Delhi's border regions. She has directed the concerned District Magistrates to resolve this issue promptly. They are to coordinate with Haryana's departmental officers to ensure that the drainage system is fixed. Officials informed her that work is in

progress.

The Chief Minister made it clear that the lives and safety of those impacted are her Government's top priority. She said the entire administrative machinery is active in response to the continuous rainfall and flooding. Senior officials, disaster management teams, and health services are on full readiness to deal with any emergency.

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DDA sells 152 offered flats in an hour



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) innovative marketing strategy has paid rich dividends, with all 152 additional flats offered under the Apna Ghar Aawas Yojana 2025 being booked within an hour of opening on Friday. The swift sale, expected to generate Rs 100 crore in revenue, comes after the same flats had been repeatedly offered in previous schemes since 2023 without success.

Under the extension of the scheme, 76 MIG flats at Loknayakpura and 76 EWS flats at Narela were sold on a first-come-first-served basis. The DDA attributed the rapid sale to aggressive and innovative sales and marketing strategies implemented under the direct supervision of Lieutenant Governor V K

Saxena. In response to sustained public demand for affordable housing, the DDA has extended the scheme by three months, making it operational until November 26, 2025. Ready-to-move-in flats across different categories, including LIG, MIG, and HIG in Narela, and LIG flats in Loknayakpura and Siraspur, are available for booking.

The DDA remains committed to expanding housing accessibility and ensuring ease of home ownership through a completely online and transparent process.

In a move to cater to diverse housing needs, the DDA also launched its Premium Housing Scheme on August 26, 2025. This scheme offers luxury flats at premium locations like Vasant Kunj, Alaknanda, Dwarka, and Jasola.

Flood victims battle fever, infections

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

As families from the inundated Yamuna belt are shifted to relief camps, a steady flow of flood-affected people are now rushing to doctors with fevers, rashes, and fungal infections. Medicines and ointments are being distributed at the relief camps, and regular check-ups are underway. An ambulance is also stationed outside the relief camp along with the medical camp.

Approximately 322 people are staying at camps set up at Sarvodaya Vidyalaya near Kashmiri Gate. They were previously at the Yamuna Bazar relief camp, which also had to be evacuated due to flooding.

According to a doctor at the camp, there has been no major outbreak of diseases so far, and the situation remains under control. However, he said there were many cases of itching, skin irritation, and mild infections caused by contact with floodwater.

The floodwater and prolonged exposure during evacuation have left children and the elderly particularly vulnerable. Inside the camps, many parents reported that children under 6-7 years of age are suffering from mild fever



and body rashes.

People at the camp said children are susceptible to recurring fevers and weakness. Pooja, a 60-year-old woman, said that her five-year-old grandson has been suffering from a mild fever for the past two days. Pooja's family of five are currently taking shelter at the camp. He had a slight rash earlier, but over the past two days, he developed a mild fever and last night, we had to take him to GTB Hospital, she said.

Another woman, Shivani, said her two-year-old son has a fever that is accompanied by vomiting. She confirmed that medicines have been provided by the medical team. Women and elderly people are experiencing itching and skin infections. Many people are reporting rashes and irritation due to exposure to

floodwater.

Dharmais, a camp resident, said, "I was in the floodwater for a while and ended up developing athlete's foot. But it's getting better now as doctors have given me ointment and medicines. They also advised me to avoid keeping my feet wet."

The health camp operates from morning until 3 pm, staffed by three medical personnel. They said that since most people were able to evacuate before the floodwaters rose too high, there have been no serious health concerns so far. Most health issues are limited to those who were exposed to water for extended periods.

Medical teams explained that many cases of rashes and itching are the result of prolonged exposure to contaminated water.

Kejriwal visits flood relief camp in Delhi's Shastri Park

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal on Friday urged the Delhi Government to provide adequate relief materials to the flood-affected people in the national capital, saying there have been delays in food delivery and setting up tents.

During a visit to a relief camp in Shastri Park, Kejriwal, a former chief minister, remarked that if the central Government can send relief materials to earthquake-hit Afghanistan, Delhi's flood victims should also get help on time.

Hitting back, Delhi Minister Kapil Mishra said: "As long as there was no flood in Punjab, Kejriwal ji was staying in Punjab with his belongings. As soon as trouble struck Punjab, Kejriwal ji fled from Punjab to Delhi. Be loyal to someone, you AAP folks".

Criticising Kejriwal, BJP Yogendra Chandolia said, "Arvind Kejriwal went there yesterday."

This monsoon, there has been a lot of rain across the country. The Delhi Government is making every possible effort. We should discuss these things beyond politics. His



Government is in Punjab. The situation in Punjab is not worth seeing. The rain has caused devastation in the states. The Delhi Government is making every possible effort."

Earlier AAP supreme said all of Delhi is facing the issue of waterlogging. "I can see that people are facing issues. They are not getting food on time. There are mosquitoes everywhere. It has been raining but tents were only put up yesterday. This is a natural calamity. We urge the Government to provide facilities to people. It is the responsibility of the

Government to make adequate arrangements," Kejriwal told reporters. "The desilting of drains did not happen on time."

There is sewer backflow in many areas and there is no drinking water in many places. I urge the Government to provide facilities to people," he said. Kejriwal also requested the BJP-led Government at the Centre to provide aid to flood-affected states in north India.

He visited Punjab, which has seen devastating floods on Thursday, to take stock of the situation in the AAP-ruled state.

BJP slams Congress for insulting people of Bihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The BJP on Friday slammed the Congress for "comparing" people of Bihar with 'bidis', calling it an "insult to all Biharis", and asked the Opposition to be ready to face its political consequences. The party said the NDA will make it a "very big issue" in the upcoming assembly polls in the state.



Tejashwi Yadav, we want to warn you that we will make it a very big issue in the Bihar elections and expose you," the Lok Sabha MP from Bihar's Patna Sahib constituency said.

"People of the country and Bihar are watching. We will give a befitting reply to this... People of Bihar will give you a reply," he added.

Lashing out at the Congress, Union minister Piyush Goyal said the opposition party has again demonstrated its negative and petty mindset by insulting people of Bihar. Voters have repeatedly rejected the Congress which is in frustration and disintegrating, with the Gandhi family no longer popular, he said.

The party sometimes attacks courts or the Election Commission, he said, alleging that Prime Narendra Modi has been repeatedly abused by its leaders. People of Bihar will give a befitting reply to the Congress and RJD, he said.

As the Kerala Congress' post on X kicked up a political row, Yadav told reporters that an apology should be extended if any objectionable comment has been made with regard to Bihar.

Deleting the controversial post, meanwhile, Kerala Congress said on X, "We see that our jibe at Modi's election gimmick with GST rates is being twisted. Our apologies if you felt hurt." Prasad condemned the Congress and the RJD leadership for maintaining a "shameful silence" on the issue. "The Congress, Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi must understand that the drama they did over SIR (Special Intensive Revision) of electoral rolls in Bihar stands exposed. The truth is out in the open that you can stoop to any level for some votes and even abuse anyone. Now you are comparing all Biharis with bidi and insulting them," the BJP leader said.

Centre proposes disability-friendly road safety SOP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Centre has proposed draft guidelines mandating disability-friendly ambulances, priority evacuation of injured persons, trained first responders, accessible public transport, and comprehensive rehabilitation plans for victims of road accidents who sustain disabilities.

The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), prepared by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), also integrates accident reporting databases with the Unique Disability ID (UDID) system to ensure real-time alerts and streamlined compensation claims. These draft guidelines for public consultation were issued last month. The draft has been formulated in compliance with the Supreme Court's 2014 directive entrusting the government to frame SOPs for road safety and post-trauma care.

It lays down a framework for identification, immediate medical response, rehabilitation, and long-term social integration of persons with disabilities (PwDs) arising from road accidents. According to the SOP, all new and retrofitted road and transport infrastructure must comply with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016, and related Indian Roads Congress (IRC) codes.

This includes tactile paving, ramps, accessible crossings, audible signals, low-floor buses and priority

seating. States and Union Territories will be required to conduct regular accessibility audits.

The guidelines further call for "disability-inclusive zones" in areas with high PwD footfall such as hospitals, rehabilitation centres, and special schools, and mandate the adaptation of public transport and app-based cabs to meet accessibility standards.

For emergency response, the SOP prescribes training of police, paramedics, and good samaritans to identify signs of existing or acquired disabilities and handle victims with spinal or limb injuries using immobilisation techniques.

Ambulances will be required to have ramps and adjustable stretchers, while

trauma centres will be linked to disability institutes like National Institutes (NIs) and Composite Regional Centres (CRCs) for specialised care.

The post-trauma care plan includes physiotherapy, occupational therapy, vocational training, and psychological counselling.

Victims will be provided with assistive devices such as prosthetics, wheelchairs, and hearing aids through the Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) scheme and relevant state programmes.

On financial support, the draft directs District Road Safety Committees to coordinate with State Legal Services Authorities to secure compensation for accident victims under the Motor Vehicles Act. It also requires States to work with the

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to formulate insurance packages that cover rehabilitation and assistive technologies.

To prevent misuse, the SOP mandates verification of disability certificates against the UDID database before processing compensation claims. In suspicious cases, victims may be re-examined by empanelled hospitals.

The draft also calls for annual training of first responders and medical staff, integration of accident data across platforms like Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), and the appointment of PwD liaison officers in state transport departments to monitor accessibility initiatives.

person in Garhi Mendu. "During the inquiry, it was found that Ombir was last seen around 8.30 am that day, moving from Pusta Road towards the village. However, no one saw him drowning," a police officer said. Based on this information, police teams conducted search operations along with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and local residents.

pretated as a signal of growing alignment among the three powers. India has defended its oil purchases from Russia, saying the move is driven by national interest and market stability. "Our energy policy is based on ensuring affordability and security for Indian consumers. These purchases are lawful and vital for economic stability," an official from the Indian Petroleum Ministry said.

India has also criticized the US tariffs as "unjustified and discriminatory," especially in light of the fact that China — also a major importer of Russian oil — has not faced similar penalties.

The war of words reflects a sharp downturn in US-India relations, once hailed as a cornerstone of democratic alignment in the Indo-Pacific. The collapse of trade talks earlier this year, coupled with the growing geopolitical divergence, has complicated what was once considered a strategic partnership.

While both sides maintain open diplomatic channels, analysts warn that rhetoric like Navarro's may further erode trust at a critical juncture in global affairs.

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Delivery agent arrested for exploiting woman

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Noida

A 22-year-old delivery man has been arrested in Noida for allegedly coercing a woman to remove her clothes by holding a knife to her child's neck, making obscene videos of her, and circulating them on social media, police said on Friday.

The accused, identified as Gaurav from the Gulistanpur village, used to deliver milk and groceries to the woman's home.

According to the police, he forcibly entered the

house one day while the woman's children were asleep, allegedly held a knife to her son's neck and compelled her to undress while he filmed the incident on his mobile phone.

The complainant alleged in her FIR lodged at the Surajpur police station on September 2 that Gaurav repeatedly used the videos to blackmail her, threatening to kidnap her daughter and share the recordings with her husband, who works in Ahmedabad. She alleged that he eventually shared the clips with her

husband and made them viral. Gaurav was arrested from the Surajpur area on Wednesday, and a mobile phone was recovered from him, the police said.

He has been booked under Section 76 (assault or use of criminal force to a woman with intent to disrobe) and Section 351 (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with Section 67 of the Information Technology (IT) Act, which pertains to the publication or transmission of obscene material in electronic form.

Body found 2 days after man went missing in Delhi flood

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The body of a man was recovered on Friday, two days after he went missing from the flood-affected area of Garhi Mendu village in north-east Delhi, police said. The man was identified as Ombir, a resident of the village, they said.

Police said they had received information on September 3 about the possible drowning of a

person in Garhi Mendu. "During the inquiry, it was found that Ombir was last seen around 8.30 am that day, moving from Pusta Road towards the village. However, no one saw him drowning," a police officer said. Based on this information, police teams conducted search operations along with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and local residents.

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Single India or missing records?

The highest and lowest percentage of married population was reported in Tamil Nadu (51.8 per cent) and Bihar (40.2 per cent).

"Among the bigger States/UTs, the highest proportion of females getting married before the age of 18 is observed in West Bengal (6.3 per cent) followed by Jharkhand (4.6 per cent) and the lowest is Kerala (0.1 per cent) followed by Himachal Pradesh and Haryana recorded at 0.4 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively. The highest proportion of females getting married in the age interval 18-20 years is observed in West Bengal (44.9 per cent) followed by Jharkhand (41.5 per cent) and the lowest in Jammu & Kashmir (8.4 per cent). The proportion of females getting married at the age of 21 or above is the highest in Jammu & Kashmir (90.3 per cent) followed by Haryana (86.1 per cent) and the lowest in West Bengal (48.8 per cent) followed by Jharkhand (53.9 per cent)," the report said.

Further, data also shared that a significant proportion of deaths in India and most of the bigger States/UTs occurred among people aged 60 years and above, with the highest proportion recorded in Kerala (78.5 per cent) followed by Himachal Pradesh (76.2), Maharashtra (68.8 per cent), and Delhi (67.5 per cent).

The report for 2023 contains estimates of various demographic, fertility and mortality indicators based on the data collected through the SRS sample survey. SRS in India is one of the largest demographic surveys in the world, covering about 8.8 million sample population. The report indicates that cardiovascular diseases remain the leading cause of mortality in India, causing nearly 31 per cent of deaths.

The same report also said that overall cardiovascular disease remained the leading cause of death, claiming nearly 31 per cent of lives, followed by respiratory infections at 9.3 per cent, malignant and other neoplasms at 6.4 per cent, and respiratory diseases at 5.7 per cent. The cardiovascular diseases, a lifestyle phenomenon, are the leading cause in the 30-plus age group, while intentional injuries-suicide is the most common cause of death in the 15-29 age group.

Among other causes of death flagged by the report are digestive diseases, 5.3 per cent, fever of unknown origin, 4.9 per cent, unintentional injuries: other than motor vehicle accidents, 3.7 per cent, diabetes mellitus, 3.5 per cent, and genitourinary diseases, 3.0 per cent. "Injuries constitute 9.4 per cent of deaths and ill-defined causes constitute 10.5 per cent of deaths. However, the majority of ill-defined causes are at older ages (70 or higher years)," it said.

As Yamuna recedes, silt and sickness cover Delhi

In a statement issued later in the day, the Chief Minister's Office said meals are being distributed three to four times a day and essential facilities, such as toilets, clean drinking water and other necessary services, are available near the relief camps.

Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvath Verma visited flood-affected areas, including Nigam Bodh Ghat, Monastery Market and nearby places, for an on-ground inspection. He refuted claims that the Yamuna water has entered the Civil Lines area, clarifying that the situation is a result of waterlogging due to rainfall and not the river flooding.

"It is only waterlogging caused by the recent rainfall. The bell mouths of the drains along the roads in the Civil Lines area were closed as a preventive measure to ensure that the Yamuna water does not enter the roads," the minister said. Addressing concerns about flooding at Monastery Market, Yamuna Bazaar, Vijay Ghat, Qudisia Ghat and other such areas, Verma said a solution will have to be found because these

places are directly on the floodplain.

Former chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal visited a relief camp in northeast Delhi's Shastri Park and claimed that he was informed by the flood victims that there was no food or drinking water in the camps and people were forced to sleep under the open sky in the rainy season.

The most severe impact has been felt in East Delhi, where 7,200 people are affected. The situation is also critical in North-East Delhi (5,200 people affected), South-East Delhi (4,200), and North Delhi (1,350), while Shahdara has also reported 30 affected individuals. In response, authorities have set up 35 relief camps across these districts, providing immediate assistance with food, clean drinking water, and sanitation facilities.

As a consequence of the flooding, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has reduced water production at the Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant (WTP) by 20 per cent due to increased turbidity and silt levels in the Yamuna's raw water, officials said. The Wazirabad plant, one of the largest in the city, normally produces 138 million gallons per day (MGD). The reduced output has led to water-supply issues in certain parts of Delhi.

The fury unleashed by the Yamuna and the waterlogging caused by blocked sewage at Nigam Bodh Ghat disrupted traffic on the Outer Ring Road stretch from Chandgi Ram Akhara to Hanuman Mandir, prompting the traffic police to put multiple diversions in place to ease congestion.

The chaos led to long queues of vehicles and frustrating delays for thousands of motorists. Police have advised people to avoid the affected area and plan alternative routes. Several diversions are in place to ease the congestion. Traffic from Wazirabad towards Signature Bridge and from Chandgi Ram Akhara to IP College Red Light is being redirected. For those travelling from Mall Road to the Outer Ring Road, a new path has been set up through IP College Red Light, Maharaja Gangadhar Marg, Shamnath Marg, and other smaller roads before rejoining at Barafkhana Chowk. Similarly, private vehicles from Wazirabad and Majnu ka Tila heading towards the ISBT and Outer Ring Road have been diverted through a series of internal roads to bypass the waterlogged stretch.

Commercial vehicles from Wazirabad to Majnu ka Tila are being directed via the Wazirabad Flyover, Signature Bridge, and Shastri Park Pusta. The police also urged motorists not to park their vehicles on the roadside, as this could further obstruct traffic flow. The traffic woes highlight the severe impact of the rising Yamuna on the city's transport infrastructure, affecting both private and commercial vehicles and adding to the daily struggles of Delhi residents. As families from the inundated Yamuna belt are housed in the relief camps, doctors in the city are witnessing a steady flow of flood-affected people with fevers, rashes and fungal infections. The floodwater and a prolonged exposure during evacuation have left children and the elderly particularly vulnerable.

At the camps, many parents reported that children aged below 6-7 years are suffering from a mild fever and body rashes. People at the Sarvodaya Vidyalaya near the Kashmere Gate camp said children are susceptible to recurring fever and weakness. The district authorities have also cautioned people against venturing out into the swollen river for swimming, boating or recreational purposes.

Tariff relief in works: FM

Many of them are struggling with high working capital requirements, as payments from overseas buyers are taking longer, sources said.

The package is expected to make credit more easily available to exporters so they can continue their operations. Another major goal is to ensure that jobs are not lost, as many of these sectors employ a large number of workers, especially in small towns. The support is being seen

FROM PAGE - 1

as a temporary cushion until exporters can secure new markets outside the US.

The Government may design this package on the model of the COVID-19 relief plan. During the pandemic, the MSME sector had been given a Rs 20 lakh crore package to keep businesses running and protect employment. A similar approach may be adopted this time to help exporters face the new tariff challenges, sources said.

The Government is also moving ahead with its Export Promotion Mission, which was announced in the Union Budget earlier this year. This mission aims to make Indian products more competitive abroad, expand into new markets, and reduce dependence on traditional trading partners. Together with the relief package, it is expected to give exporters some confidence at a time when trade conditions are becoming more difficult.

Delhi boy wins global scrabble contest

Speaking about preparing for the word game, Kamath said that it requires constant preparation of at least an hour every day and it goes beyond "just reading the dictionary".

"Scrabble is a mind sport just like chess, it takes a lot of preparation. So I do about an hour of Scrabble practice every day. There are some apps, websites that help you do that, it's not just reading a dictionary. It's more complex than that. "Essentially you have to learn more words, not necessarily common words so that's why there are apps and all," he said.

Even before he started placing tiles on the Scrabble board, Kamath liked to read books, something that has helped him fine tune his game.

"I started reading books far before I started playing Scrabble, and I still read a lot of books. It definitely helps. My reading habit helped me get into Scrabble, not the other way around," he said.

Having played the game competitively for almost 10 years, Kamath now looks at the written word differently. As each letter in the game carries a numerical value, words appear to Kamath as "important" and "unimportant". "I have realised I see words differently. When I see a word I think if it's a high value word or unimportant word. In Scrabble, 7 or 8 letter words are more important than most words, so those words will stick with me a bit more," he said. Apart from Kamath, 11 of the country's best youth Scrabble players participated in the WYSC, supported by the Essar Foundation and mentored by player and coach Neeta Bhatia, in partnership with the Scrabble Association of India and Wordaholic.

Suyash Manchali, 15, from Bengaluru, who was the runner-up at last year's edition in Sri Lanka, secured fifth place with 17 wins this time.

"Madhav's victory is a historic milestone for Indian Scrabble and a proud moment for the entire community. Over the years, our young players have shown immense promise, and this world title validates India's growing stature in global Scrabble," Harvinderjit Bhatia, president, Scrabble Association of India, said in a statement.

China border dispute biggest challenge: CDS

It will be a challenge for us to make adjustments and keep ourselves ready for such a scenario," he said.

General Chauhan said the armed forces were given full operational freedom to conduct Operation Sindoor and its aim was not only to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack, but also to draw a red line on cross-border terrorism.

The CDS also said that the National Security Advisor (NSA) played a significant role in planning and implementation of Operation Sindoor in terms of providing guidance to the military that

included target selection, deployment of troops, framework for de-escalation and use of diplomacy. Gen Chauhan said the tri-services synergy was also on full display during the May 7 to 10 operation.

In that context, he elaborated on efforts of the last few years to ensure jointmanship among the three services.

"We tried to synergise communication systems among the Army, Navy and the Air Force, we tried to synergise our air defence systems and counter drone apparatus," he said.

General Chauhan described Operation Sindoor as a "multi-domain operation that included coordination among various wings of the military". The joint mobilisation was a crucial aspect of it, he said.

In the context of geopolitical turmoils in various geographies, he delved into various emerging threats and challenges and observed that war is an extension of politics.

Terror threat puts Mumbai on toes

The highest and lowest percentage of married population was reported in Tamil Nadu (51.8 per cent) and Bihar (40.2 per cent).

"Among the bigger States/UTs, the highest proportion of females getting married before the age of 18 is observed in West Bengal (6.3 per cent) followed by Jharkhand (4.6 per cent) and the lowest is observed in Kerala (0.1 per cent) followed by Himachal Pradesh and Haryana recorded at 0.4 per cent and 0.6 per cent respectively. The highest proportion of females getting married in the age interval 18-20 years is observed in West Bengal (44.9 per cent) followed by Jharkhand (41.5 per cent) and the lowest in Jammu & Kashmir (8.4 per cent). The proportion of females getting married at the age of 21 or above is the highest in Jammu & Kashmir (90.3 per cent) followed by Haryana (86.1 per cent) and the lowest in West Bengal (48.8 per cent) followed by Jharkhand (53.9 per cent)," the report said.

MEA slams US remarks

Navarro sparked outrage earlier this week by describing the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war as "Modi's war," arguing that India's continued import of Russian oil is enabling Moscow's military aggression. His comments came just hours after Trump's new 50 per cent tariff on Indian exports came into effect.

He also suggested that India could see a 25 per cent rollback in tariffs if it halted its purchase of discounted Russian crude.

Navarro escalated his criticism by accusing India of running a "profiteering scheme," dubbing the country the "Maharaj of tariffs."

"They don't need the oil. It's a refining profiteering scheme. It's a laundromat for the Kremlin. That's the reality of that," he claimed, referring to India's growing role as a refiner and exporter of Russian crude. In one of his most controversial remarks yet, Navarro accused Indian elites of profiteering "at the expense of the Indian people," while making an offensive caste reference. "India is nothing but a laundromat for the Kremlin. You got Brahmins profiteering at the expense of Indian people," he said. The casteist comment has drawn widespread condemnation on social media, with many calling it unacceptable and racist.

Navarro also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin.

"It is a shame to see Modi getting in bed with Xi Jinping and Putin. I'm not sure what he's thinking," Navarro said. "We hope he comes around to seeing that he needs to be with us, not Russia." A viral video from the summit showed Modi, Putin, and Xi walking together and sharing a friendly moment-widely inter-

MGNREGA underfunded, turned into mock scheme: Congress



The Congress on Friday alleged that MGNREGA has been "chronically underfunded" by the Modi government, making a "mockery" of the scheme's demand-driven vision, and reiterated its demand of significant budget enhancement and a minimum wage of ₹400 per day to kickstart real income growth.

Cess 'slitting throat of federalism': Derek O'Brien

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien on Friday said the cess going to the Centre is "slitting the throat of federalism", and noted that several states have voiced concern over the shrinking divisive pool of tax revenues.



Agri Minister to submit detailed damage report to PM Modi



Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday said he will submit a detailed report on the Punjab flood situation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after visiting the flood-hit areas in the state.

Longest lunar eclipse since 2022 on September 7-8

The longest total lunar eclipse visible from India since 2022 will occur on the intervening night of September 7 and 8, astro-nomers said. They added that this is the first time since July 27, 2018, that an entire total lunar eclipse can be observed from all parts of the country.



Teaching methods that won national awards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

From creating palm leaf manuscripts for the class, setting up a neuropsychology lab, integrating theatre studies with Indian knowledge systems, developing a women's safety app to rallies and puppet shows, the unique teaching methods of 81 educators have bagged them the National Teachers Awards this year.

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the awards upon the teachers at a ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan on Friday to mark the occasion of Teachers' Day.

Basanta Kumar Rana, a teacher at Govt NUPS Kondel school in Odisha's Malkangiri, has been chosen for the award for his innovative pedagogy and community engagement that improved student attendance and participation.

"Through awareness rallies, road shows, puppet shows, and a monthly mobile community library, he strengthened the school-society bond.

By introducing initiatives like "talking walls" and a "stone alphabet and number garden," he transformed the campus into an interactive learning space that fosters foundational literacy and numeracy and beyond," the Ministry of Education said in the citation.

Ibrahim S, from Govt Junior Basic School Moola Androth, Lakshadweep, brought students back to school through



Attendees during the National Teachers Awards 2025 ceremony at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Friday

home visits and personalised support while creating a nurturing environment with initiatives like the Green Library, play corners, and the "One Plant for One Student" project, fostering health, creativity, and environmental awareness.

Santosh Kumar Chaurasia, from PM SHRI School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya in Chhattisgarh's Korba, has been recognised for his pioneering use of innovative and ICT-based pedagogy.

"He has guided over 50 students to secure admission in IITs and

medical colleges.

As a resource person and master facilitator, he trains teachers in experiential learning and innovative pedagogies.

Passionate about making chemistry engaging, he has developed more than 50 interactive chemistry games on Wordwall.

"Beyond academics, he contributes as an author, writing on contemporary issues such as the impact of mobile phones on children and the evolving role of women in modern India," the cita-

tion read.

M Devananda Kumar, Faculty of Telugu at Dr Lakireddy Hanimireddy Government Degree College, Mylavaram, Andhra Pradesh, has been recognised for his innovative teaching practices, including creating thallapatra granthas (palm-leaf manuscripts) and producing educational videos for LMS.

Similarly, Proshanto Kr Saha, Faculty of Psychology at Rajiv Gandhi Central University, Arunachal Pradesh, has received

the coveted award for his expertise in forensic psychology and neuropsychology, with over 14 years of academic service. "He established a neuropsychology lab, developed intervention training modules, led major research projects, and extended psychological support to child abuse victims, reflecting his commitment to both academic excellence and social impact," MoE said.

Vibha Sharma, Professor of English at Aligarh Muslim University, has been recognised for integrating theatre studies with Indian knowledge systems through innovative and interactive pedagogies.

"An accomplished playwright and actor, she has developed MOOCs, led GIAN courses, mentored students in theatre practice, and contributed as a national-level resource person, extending her outreach to learners across India, especially the underprivileged," the citation read. S Siva Sathya, professor of computer science at Pondicherry University, has been awarded for over 25 years of excellence in higher education through curriculum design, mentorship, and experiential learning.

"Her research bridges AI and societal impact, with innovations like MITRA, a women's safety app that earned her the "Naari Shakti Puraskar" from the Hon'ble President of India. Beyond technology, she also nurtures a deep passion for art and yoga," MoE said.

Smart teachers hold key to India's future: Murmu



President Droupadi Murmu pays tribute to Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Smart blackboards, smart classrooms and other modern facilities have their own importance. But the most important thing is smart teachers. Smart teachers are the teachers who understand the needs of their students' development. Smart teachers make studies interesting and effective with affection and sensitivity.

"Such teachers make students capable of fulfilling the needs of society and the nation. Sensible teachers work to instill a sense of dignity and security in children," she said.

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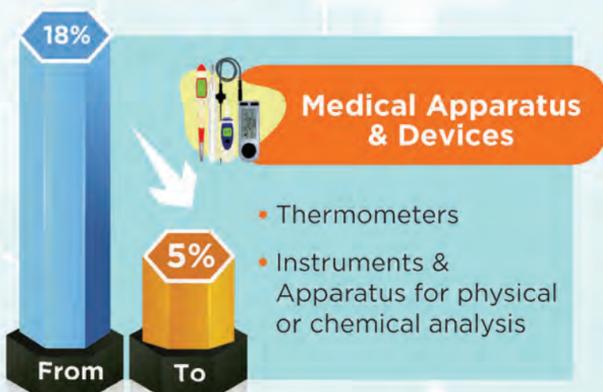
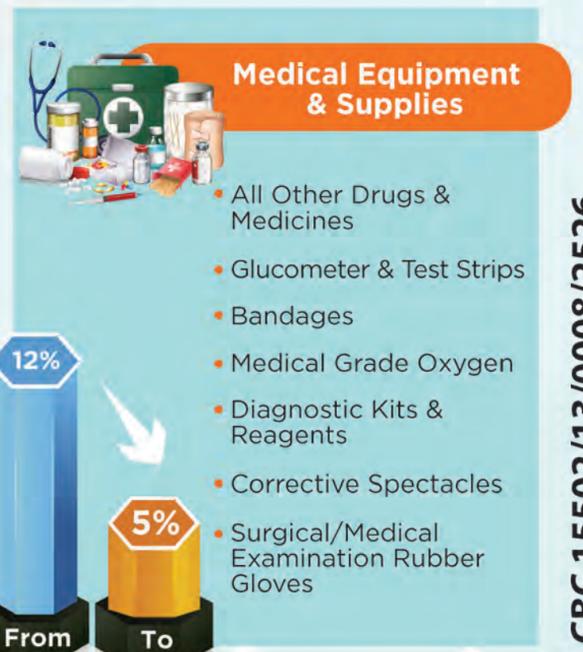
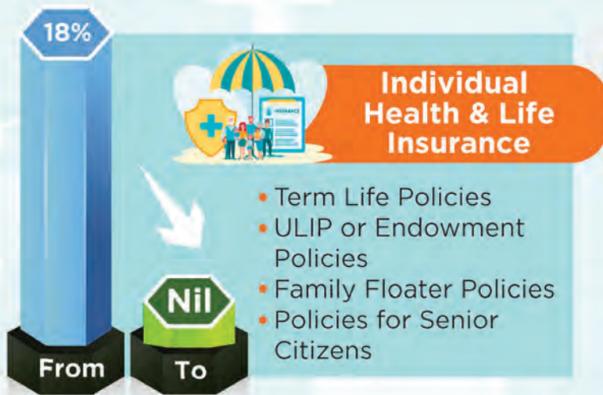
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Prime Minister



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States Focus

Opposition slams Mamata for backing 'tainted' teachers



BORAJ POND WATER GUSHES INTO LOCALITIES IN AJMER

Damage to the embankment of the Boraj pond in Rajasthan's Ajmer district triggered flash floods that inundated hundreds of homes across multiple localities, leaving behind a trail of destruction and sparking protests by people, officials said on Friday. The incident occurred on Thursday night when the earthen embankment of the pond, located on the outskirts of Ajmer city, gave way after days of heavy rainfall. The resulting deluge swept through low-lying areas, including Swastik Nagar, Bharat Nagar, Rawat Nagar, Jyoti Nagar, SS Colony and parts of Foy Sagar Road, and caused extensive damage to homes and public infrastructure.



THREE-DAY RSS COORDINATION MEETING BEGINS IN JODHPUR

A three-day all-India coordination meeting of senior functionaries of the RSS and its affiliates began on Friday in Rajasthan's Jodhpur. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and general secretary Dattatreya Hosbale are attending the meeting in which extensive discussions on important issues concerning national unity, security and social perspectives will be held. BJP national president JP Nadda also arrived in Jodhpur on Thursday evening to attend the meeting.

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

The Opposition parties have slammed Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for expressing her sympathy for the deposed school teachers who were earlier adjudged "tainted" by the Supreme Court. "The Chief Minister seems to be more concerned about the "tainted" teachers who had secured their jobs through corrupt means does this not smell a rat when the deserving teachers who too lost their jobs are agitating in the streets the Chief Minister is showing her sympathy for the "tainted" teachers who obtained their jobs through corrupt means," said Bengal BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya. The Court in an order passed earlier this year cancelled an entire recruitment

panel of 1916 that led to the dismissal of about 25,600 school teachers on account of non-transparency in recruitment process. The Court also directed the State School Service Commission to hold a fresh recruitment examination and complete the appointment procedure by December 31 of this year. The new recruitment examination will be conducted on September 7 and 14. The Court has ruled the "tainted" teachers ineligible to appear in the exams. The Chief Minister had earlier said that she was "concerned about the teachers who have lost their jobs after being ruled tainted," adding she would try to find out ways of accommodating them in Class III jobs. The Chief Minister in an award giving programme



earlier said that she was looking for alternative jobs for the teachers who had been ruled tainted. "After working for so many years, many of them have been termed 'tainted and inelig-

ible'. I am looking into this matter. They may not work as teachers according to the court's order, but I am trying to ascertain whether they can work as Group C or D staff of course legally," she said.

Following the Court order the SSC last week released the names of 1806 "tainted" teachers. Incidentally a large number such tainted teachers in the list published by the SSC turned out to be the

close relatives of TMC leaders including ministers and MLAs. "Her sympathy for the tainted and the lathi-charge that her police resorted to on the eligible and agitating teachers is a proof of the corrupt nature of her Government the Court has rightly called it an institutionalised corruption," said a CPI(M) leader. Meanwhile, Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari on Friday alleged that some TMC people were leaking questions. "The TMC is selling questions for ₹50,000 I have reports that they are selling questions for the coming two examinations," he said. The SSC however rejected the charges saying the "question papers are absolutely safe and there is no question of any leak."

BJP slams Karnataka for ballot paper move

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

Taking a swipe at the Congress Government in Karnataka, the opposition BJP on Friday claimed the state cabinet's decision to use ballot papers instead of EVMs in the next local body polls amounted to "self-certifying" that the ruling party came to power through "vote theft." Urging the 136 Congress MLAs elected in the 2023 Assembly polls and the nine Congress MPs from the state to resign first, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra alleged, "Let them win the elections again using ballot paper, or accept that they came to power through vote theft." The Congress Government on Thursday decided to recommend to the State Election Commission (SEC) that all

future panchayat and urban local body elections in Karnataka be held using ballot paper instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil had cited "erosion of public confidence and credibility in EVMs as the reason for the cabinet decision." The cabinet also authorised the SEC to "prepare, revise and, if necessary, redo" the electoral rolls for local body polls, citing discrepancies and allegations of "vote theft." Vijayendra, in a post on 'X', claimed, "The highest number of illegal voting, complaints of vote theft, incidents of election violence, and complaints about irregularities in the country have been registered in the courts during elections held on ballot papers—and that too

THE CONGRESS RECOMMENDED THE SEC THAT ELECTIONS IN KARNATAKA BE HELD USING BALLOT PAPER SYSTEM

against Congressmen." "The people of the country have not forgotten that Indira Gandhi imposed the Emergency due to the court's verdict in the wake of vote theft and election malpractices by her," he alleged. Alleging that the Congress, "an expert in vote theft and election malpractices using ballot papers," was in disarray due to continuous electoral defeats, he said Rahul Gandhi was creating a "childish controversy in the name of 'vote theft', putting forward a baseless, immature and twisted argument."

"To support this, the ruling Congress Government in the state has decided to conduct elections using ballot papers," he added. "While the entire country and the world are moving rapidly based on technology, the Congress Government in Karnataka is insulting technology," he claimed. According to Vijayendra, Congress under Rahul Gandhi supports ballot-based elections only because "electoral irregularities, booth violence and fraudulent voting can be committed without hesitation" through ballot papers. "The Congress Government in Karnataka is going to take the first step to implement it. The Congress's agenda and goal is to defy the democratic system and transparent elections," he alleged.

SIT probing Dharmasthala case, no need for NIA: Siddaramaiah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday downplayed calls for a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into allegations of multiple murders, rapes and burials in Dharmasthala, saying the case is already being investigated by the state police through a Special Investigating Team (SIT). The chief minister was responding to questions about Hindu and Jain sees meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking an NIA probe into the case. "We have constituted SIT, they are police. Who is in NIA? They too are police," Siddaramaiah told reporters. The Opposition BJP and JD(S) have also demanded an NIA probe, targeting the

Congress Government over its handling of the case. They alleged a conspiracy behind the "smear campaign" against Dharmasthala and the local Hindu temple. The controversy erupted after a complainant, later identified as C N Chinniah and arrested on charges of perjury, claimed to have buried several bodies, including women showing signs of sexual assault, in Dharmasthala over the past two decades, with implications pointing to the administrators of the local temple. The SIT, tasked by the state Government to probe the allegations, conducted search operations, digs at multiple locations identified by the complainant in forested areas along the banks of the Netravathi River, where skeletal remains were recovered at two sites.

Flood-hit Jammu reels under devastation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Pargwal (Jammu)

Days after floodwaters swallowed their homes and fields, the villagers of Pargwal walk barefoot through sludge and rubble, searching not just for belongings but for pieces of memory in the mud-filled farmlands that stretch to the International Border.

On Tuesday last, the Chenab river burst into their hamlet with a roar, breaking walls, carrying away animals and household items, and leaving behind a suffocating carpet of mud. The villagers were scattered across the fields, searching for whatever the river had not claimed. Pargwal village, near Akhnoor, one of 27 border

hamlets, is situated between the border with Pakistan and the mighty Chenab river. For two days, floodwaters stood up to the first storey of houses, drowning shops, granaries and livestock. Over 3,000 people were evacuated by rescue teams, but the damage remains everywhere. Broken walls lean dangerously, doors creak in mud,

and fields — once green with paddy — now lie under thick layers of silt. Subash Chander bent over in the muddy waters, his hands trembling, as he pulled out their only surviving old almirah half a kilometre from his house with the help of his brothers. It was a wedding gift, still locked, holding inside not just cash and jewellery but the weight of memory. "I thought I would never see it again. It is a piece of memory for us," he whispered, brushing mud off its corners. Hander recalled the fearful moment when the flood struck and said, "We had a narrow escape as the water gushed into our house suddenly. We rushed to save children and elders first. A wall was damaged on the back side due to the impact of water. "It was all happening in front of our eyes. We could not save anything except our lives. Now, when we see our houses ruined, we cannot even eat," he added.

Ludhiana sounds flood alert after embankment faces strong flow of water

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Ludhiana

The Ludhiana district administration has sounded an alert after an embankment in the eastern part of the district came under heavy pressure due to strong flow of the Sutlej river. Villages including Sasrali, Boont, Rawat, Hawas, Seera, Boothgarh, Mangli Tanda, Dheri, Khawajke, Khassi Khurd, Mangli Kadar, Mattewara, Mangat and Meharban may face flooding if the 'bundh' (embankment) weakens further and gives way, officials said on Friday. Residents have been advised to stay alert, move to upper floors where possible, and temporarily shift to safer shelters if living in low-lying or single-



Army personnel work to seal a breach in the Satluj embankment in flood-hit Rour, Ludhiana

storey houses. Rescue centres have been set up at 'Satsang Ghars' on Rahon (Ghonsgarh), Chandigarh and Tibba roads here and Kailash Nagar, as well as at Khassi Kalan, Bhukhri and Mattewara schools and mandis.

IMD ISSUES HEAVY RAIN ALERT IN PARTS OF ARUNACHAL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Itanagar

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday issued a forecast of moderate to heavy rainfall in several districts of Arunachal Pradesh between September 6 and September 9, with localised thunderstorm activity expected in parts of the state. According to the district-wise forecast by the meteorological centre here, scattered to fairly widespread rainfall is likely on Saturday, particularly affecting districts such as West Kameng, East Kameng, Kurung Kumey, Kra Daadi, Lower Subansiri, Papum Pare, and parts of Lohit and Namsai.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS)
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3

No. CE/STBR/SOPD-G/N.L.T./07/2025-26/22

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, PWD, (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Ghy-3 invites online bids on behalf of the Governor of Assam for 1 (one) No. of Bridge in Tinsukia, Sadiya LAC under SOPD-G for the year 2025-26 in Tinsukia District amounting to Rs. 161.14 Lakhs (appx.) including GST etc. under Tinsukia, Doomdooma, Makum & Sadiya Territorial Road Division, Tinsukia District from approved & eligible Contractors registered with PWRD, Assam.

Details have been made available at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned in the "State Bridge Design Branch". Amendment/ Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The Contractor/Bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website <http://assamtenders.gov.in>

Note:
1. The Scheme is being sanctioned from competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the Scheme, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.
2. The approximate N.I.T. Value is inclusive of GST (12%), L.C. (1%) etc.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer PWD (Roads),
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

DIPR/C/PIO/362/6-Sep-25

GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD
NAGAON-BATADRAVA, RAHA(SC), DHING, RUPAHIHAT & SAMAGURI,
TERRITORIAL BUILDING DIVISION
NAGAON (ASSAM)

PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Nagaon-Batadrava, Raha (SC), Dhing, Rupohihat & Samaguri Territorial Building Division, Nagaon on behalf of the Governor of Assam invite bids for the following work having experience of similar nature of work from APWD registered contractors. Details of the bids may be seen at e-procurement portal website: www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in for participating in the bidding process.

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of work (Rs. In Lakhs)	Cost of Bid (In Rs.)	Bid Security (E.M.D)	Category of APWD (B) registered contractor
1.	Creation of toilet facilities for the persons with disabilities and transgender and improvement of existing toilet at Judicial Court complex, Nagaon	27.88077 L.	560.00	2% for General category and 1% for reserved category	Class- I(A/B/C), /Class-II

Note:-
1. Any modification of tender may be seen in the portal www.assamtenders.gov.in.
2. Value of work may vary according to the Detail NIT.
3. The prospective bidder may visit the work site before submission of tender. The Bidder have to submit evidence of site visit in the form of a certificate duly certified by the undersigned.
4. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, PWD,
Nagaon-Batadrava, Raha (SC), Dhing, Rupohihat
& Samaguri Territorial Building Division, Nagaon.

DIPR/C/PIO/358/6-Sep-25

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, HISAR	SPECIAL REPAIR OF OLD DHS ROAD TO NEW BYE PASS THROUGH SATROD KHURD RD 0.000 TO 0.430 AND 1.080 TO 1.670 IN HISAR DISTRICT (ROAD ID 4855) (MC HISAR AREA) (SHIFTING OF HT LINES OF 11 KV SATROD AP FEEDER AND 11 KV JINDAL ELECTRO FEEDER DUE TO MODIFICATION OF THE ROAD UPTO 40 FEET FROM SAIN DHARAMSALA SATROD TO NATIONAL HIGHWAY (NH-10) DELHI-SIRSA ROAD HISAR)	03.09.2025 11.09.2025	32.16 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662225651 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, HISAR	PROVIDING INDEPENDENT FEEDER FED FROM BUDANA 33 KV SUBSTATION TO RAKHI GARHI MUSEUM IN HISAR DISTT. (BALANCE WORK AS PER REVISED ESTIMATE)	03.09.2025 15.09.2025	42.18 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662225651 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, SONIPAT	ANNUAL REPAIR OF 2 NOS NON-RESIDENTIAL REVENUE BUILDING IN MINI SECTT AT SONIPAT IN SONIPAT DISTT. FOR THE YEAR 2025-26. + 1 WORKS	02.09.2025 09.09.2025	31.53 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01302200575 pwd-eeed2-sonapat@hry.nic.in
4	PWD B&R, AMBALA	CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT VETERINARY DISPENSARY AT VILLAGE TALHERI RANGRAN IN AMBALA DISTRICT (UNDER NABARD RIDF-XXIX SCHEME).	03.09.2025 10.09.2025	25.30 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9034929655 pwd-eeed-ambala@hry.nic.in
5	PWD B&R, ROHTAK	REPLACEMENT OF FAULTY VCB IN CH ROHTAK + 1 WORKS	04.09.2025 11.09.2025	37.38 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662225651 pwd-eeed-rohtak@hry.nic.in
6	PWD B&R, HISAR	PROVIDING FIRE FIGHTING SYSTEM IN JUDICIAL COURT COMPLEX AT MANDI DABWALI IN DISTT. SIRSA (PDG. FIRE ALARM SYSTEM ONLY)	03.09.2025 11.09.2025	7.94 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662225651 pwd-eeed-hissar@hry.nic.in
7	PWD B&R, AMBALA	RENOVATION OF TOILETS IN THE CAMPUS OF GOVT. POLYTECHNIC FOR BOYS AT AMBALA CITY IN AMBALA DISTRICT.	03.09.2025 09.09.2025	16.87 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01712977224 pwd-eeed1-ambala@hry.nic.in
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ, REWARI	CONST. OF PANCHAYAT GHAR AT VILL. JANT SAVARWAS BLOCK REWARI DISTT REWARI.(HGVI SCHEME) + 2 WORKS	01.09.2025 08.09.2025	34.93 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0127422260 prexeeng_hry@nic.in
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ, AMBALA	CONST. OF COMMUNITY CENTRE AT VILLAGE SADIKPUR BLOCK SAHZADPUR	04.09.2025 10.09.2025	26.04 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0171-2551368 prexeeng_amb@hry.nic.in
10	PANCHAYATI RAJ, JHAJJAR	CONST. OF TOILET, WALKING TRACK AND OTHER CIVIL WORKS IN PARK CUM VYAMSHALA AT VILLAGE, KHERI KHUMMAR, BLOCK AND DISTRICT JHAJJAR	03.09.2025 10.09.2025	10.98 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416721433 prexeeng_jr@hry.nic.in
11	PANCHAYATI RAJ, JHAJJAR	CONST. OF STREET FROM PANCHAYATI WELL TO H/O BANNI SINGH, VILLAGE - MADANA KHURD, BLOCK BERI	03.09.2025 10.09.2025	17.25 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416721433 prexeeng_jr@hry.nic.in
12	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS PANCHKULA, HARYANA	PURCHASE OF ISI MARKED SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE SOLUTION OF GRADE-II	05.09.2025 06.10.2025		https://etenders.hry.nic.in dsndharyana.gov.in	0172-2570122 Supplies@hry.nic.in
13	ZILA PARISHAD, SONIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF SHE AT VILLAGE KHERI DAMKAN + 7 WORKS	02.09.2025 09.09.2025	371.20 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416391006 prexeengzp_snp@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT www.etenders.hry.nic.in

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Order Order

Telangana BJP moves SC against order quashing defamation case against CM



Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy

The Telangana unit of the BJP has moved the Supreme Court challenging an order of the high court which quashed a defamation case against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over his speech during the 2024 Lok Sabha poll campaign. The plea is slated to come up for hearing on September 8 before a bench of Chief Justice BR Gavai and Justices K Vinod Chandran and Atul S Chandurkar.

The Telangana High Court on August 1 acted on Reddy's plea who sought quashing of proceedings in the case pending in a Hyderabad trial court. The BJP's Telangana unit, represented by its general secretary, filed a complaint in May 2024 against Reddy alleging he delivered a defamatory and provocative speech against the party on May 4 last year. Reddy, it alleged, connived with the Telangana Congress Party to develop a fake and dubious political narrative that the BJP would end reservations if voted to power. The complainant claimed the alleged defamatory speech lowered BJP's reputation as a political party.

A trial court in August last year said a prima facie case was made against Reddy for the alleged offences of defamation under the erstwhile IPC and under Section 125 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Section 125 of the Act deals with promoting enmity between classes in connection with election. Challenging the trial court's order, Reddy moved the high court contending the allegations in the complaint do not make a prima facie case against him. Reddy argued before the high court that political speeches cannot be made a subject matter of defamation.

₹40.91 lakh compensation to woman as she suffers miscarriage due to accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

A Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal has directed an insurance company to pay ₹40.91 lakh compensation to a woman who suffered miscarriage due to a road accident in 2018. Presiding officer Shelly Arora was hearing the claim petition of Anshu Kashyap, who suffered injuries after a rashly driven vehicle hit her on December 12, 2018.

The claimant said she had already been certified as disabled owing to dwarfism suffering from 40 per cent disability and the accident rendered her with 84 per cent permanent disability in her lower limbs. In an order dated September 2, the tribunal held the accident was caused by the driver's "speedy and reckless" driving.

On the point of compensation, the tribunal said the 41-year-old woman lost her six-month-old foetus and compensated her with ₹5 lakh on that count.

"In such advanced age, without any reproductive assistance, chances of normal pregnancy are very rare, even the success rate of reproductive assistance is also very low. Therefore, even without any conclusive certification by a medical expert, it can at least be inferred that any further possibility of enjoying motherhood for the injured shall be very rare," the order read.

For other losses, it said the woman's disability had severely impeded her unhindered physical mobility, limiting her capacity to perform

routine daily sustenance tasks and she required a wheelchair. "In view of her medical condition, it is evident that she would require the active assistance of an attendant at least for 12 hours a day," the tribunal said.

The woman was a Government school teacher and the disability was stated to inevitably affect her efficiency, mobility, and overall ability to perform her duties.

"While the job of a teacher does not demand heavy physical labour, it still involves tasks like standing for long periods, moving between classrooms, supervising co-curricular activities, and participating in school events; all of which are now likely to be affected," the tribunal said.

It said these limitations may not cause an immediate reduction in her salary, but they would still restrict her chances of competing for certain assignments, postings, or roles that could have offered better pay or additional benefits in the future.

"Because of the injuries and permanent disability, the claimant can no longer enjoy life as she did before the accident. Activities that once gave her joy, such as travelling freely, taking part in social gatherings, or moving about without help, are now limited or not possible at all," the tribunal said.

It directed the vehicle's insurer, Ifco Tokio General Insurance Co Ltd, to pay a total compensation of around ₹40.91 lakh for various pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages.



Water seepage irks Delhi NCLT Bar Association

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Bar Association has raised urgent concerns with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) after three courtrooms of the Tribunal's New Delhi Bench were declared unsafe and shut down due to severe water seepage.

The NCLT issued a public notice on September 3, informing advocates and litigants that court rooms IV, V and VI on the 8th floor of Block 3 of CGO Complex at Lodhi Road have become structurally unsafe. At present, only three courtrooms are functional against the sanctioned six.

Continuous leakage from the roof had caused deterioration of the false ceiling, raising risks of collapse, short-circuiting and fire hazards.



NCLT building in Delhi

After inspection, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) confirmed that the courtrooms were unfit for use until repairs and certification were completed. An order issued the same

day notified that with effect from September 4, all courts of the NCLT New Delhi Bench would function on a half-day basis from the remaining rooms available on the 6th and 7th floors.

In its September 4 representation to MCA Secretary Deepti Gaur Mukerjee, the NCLT Bar Association led by President and Senior Advocate UK Chaudhary and Secretary General Saurabh

Kalia described the situation as a "complete obstruction in the administration of justice."

"The closure of the 8th floor has exacerbated the situation, bringing the functioning of the NCLT to a near standstill. All courts under the New Delhi Bench are now operating on a half-day basis, resulting in a severe disruption of judicial proceedings," the Association said. The Bar highlighted that even before the shutdown, court no. VI had been functioning temporarily from court no. V and the premises lacked basic facilities such as a bar room for advocates, a canteen, photocopying services and adequate space for registry staff.

The Association pointed out that a 2018 PIL it filed before the Delhi High Court on the issue remains pending. Although the High Court had directed that the

First Floor of the CGO Complex be earmarked for NCLT use, renovation was abruptly halted and possession never handed over.

"The persistent roof leakage at NCLT New, Delhi has forced closure of the courtrooms, bringing critical judicial work to a halt. The Ministry must act with urgency to restore full operations. Stakeholders' trust in the insolvency and company law framework depends on assuring seamless, efficient and timely adjudication, said NCLT Bar Association's President and Senior Advocate UK Chaudhary.

Copies of the representation have also been marked to the Chief Justice of India, the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, NCLT President Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar and MCA Joint Secretary Anita Shah Akela.

Khalid's bail plea: Sibal to approach SC against 'injustice'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Days after the Delhi High Court denied bail to Umar Khalid in the Delhi riots case, senior advocate Kapil Sibal on Friday said Article 21 had been violated and "we will approach the Supreme Court" against the "injustice". The Rajya Sabha MP also questioned as to where India's democracy was heading with political parties not raising such issues thinking that this may harm them politically. "We don't want to do the right thing and raise our voice for it. Our lawyers, middle class and society are silent," Sibal said.

In an apparent swipe at former Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud over his reported remarks that there were at least seven adjournments sought by Khalid's counsel, Sibal said only two adjournments were sought by the defence when the matter was



Kapil Sibal

before the Supreme Court. "If the court does not give a verdict for years, are lawyers to be blamed for it. This is the state of affairs of the court. If you don't want to give bail,

reject the plea. Why do you have to do 20-30 hearings," Sibal said at a press conference here.

"Umar Khalid has been in custody for the last four years, 11

months and 15 days and will continue to be in custody. There have been two appeals — filed in 2022 and in 2024 — that were rejected by high courts. One SLP was filed in 2023 but was withdrawn in 2024," he said.

Pointing out that the Supreme Court has stated that bail application should be heard as soon as possible and there are several verdicts to that effect, Sibal asked whether that has been applied to the case of Khalid.

"The first appeal that came before the High Court had 28 hearings in 180 days. In 2024, an appeal was filed and it took 407 days to be rejected," Sibal said. He said the case against Khalid pertains to a speech he made in Mumbai for which he has been charged under UAPA.

The charge is that he gave a speech which implied that there would be violence in future and it is not about killing a person,

kidnapping a person or attacking territorial integrity of the country, he said. There is no direct evidence against him, Sibal claimed. "The judges that are sitting in high courts, according to us, this is a violation of Article 21 and this injustice should not be done," he said. "But life depends on hope and we will approach the Supreme Court and expect that we will be heard," Sibal said.

Denying bail to nine persons including Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the "larger conspiracy" case of February 2020 riots, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday ruled "conspiratorial" violence under the garb of demonstrations or protests by citizens cannot be allowed.

A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur was dealing with the pleas of Imam, Khalid, Mohd Saleem Khan, Shifa Ur Rehman, Athar Khan, Meeran Haider, Abdul Khalid Saifi, Gulfisha Fatima and Shadab Ahmed.

Allow passion to evolve, law graduates urged

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Visakhapatnam

Supreme Court Judge Justice Surya Kant on Friday advised graduates of a law college here to allow their interests and passions to evolve, saying very few professionals — lawyers or otherwise — find their calling overnight.

Addressing the convocation of multiple batches of students of Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University (DSNLU), Justice Surya Kant said evolving interests and passions should not be seen as confusion but as a sign of growth.

"The truth is, very few professionals — lawyers or otherwise — find their calling overnight. Your interests and passions will evolve, and as they do, your sense of purpose will transform," he said. Acknowledging the internal struggle many face in finding the perfect role, the apex court judge said passion rarely emerges in a sudden burst. Instead, it develops gradually through layers of experience, curiosity, and reflection.

"Today, you may have an idea of where you wish to go, and tomorrow that vision



Justice Surya Kant

may shift. Permit yourself to evolve and adapt, for the simple reason that growth rarely proceeds in a straight line." Reflecting on the legal profession, Justice Surya Kant said

"Some may discover their passion in advocacy, others in the corporate world and still others in teaching, public service or paths entirely unexpected. The magic of law lies in its permeability — its ability to let you reinvent yourself, to switch lanes and start over, he added.

The judge called on law graduates not to be afraid of uncertainty, but to embrace it and have the courage to ask themselves "what truly makes me happy?".

Noting that life is akin to a Formula 1 Grand Prix, Justice Surya Kant likened the pivotal role of the paddock crew on a race track to the support and guidance that shapes one's journey through life.

"However, this race is a little different from the ones you watch online: in the Grand Prix of your life, your goal is not to finish the race faster than everyone else. The goal is to focus on the quality of your own race," he said. The judge advised young lawyers and graduates to invest time in relationships, occasionally set work aside, and be present for those moments and people that matter the most.

'Police witnesses to be examined physically'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Following protests by Advocates Associations, the Delhi Police has clarified that material Police witnesses be examined physically in Court and only formal police witnesses will be examined through video conferencing from police stations. The Delhi Police has said that the examination of material police witnesses may continue to be conducted in physical mode, pending further consultations among various stakeholders.

"This would ensure that while the objective of expediting proceedings and reducing delays is met, the sanctity and efficacy of examination of crucial witnesses is also maintained. Further, in the event of any request from

the defense counsel for examination of a police witness, in physical mode, the same may be considered by the learned Presiding Judge on merits," an order issued by the Delhi Police on Thursday said.

The order said that the arrangement will facilitate a smooth and balanced implementation of the newly introduced provisions for virtual examination of witnesses in Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS). Last month, the Delhi LG had issued a notification as per the second proviso to section 265(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which allows for witnesses to be examined by "audio-video electronic means" at a designated place notified by the state Government. All bar bodies in

the national capital, including the Supreme Court Bar Association, Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association, Delhi High Court Bar Association and the District Bar Associations, voiced their protests against the LG's notification, saying that it will impact fair trial. Allowing police witnesses to testify from police stations will vitiate the fairness of the process, the lawyers' associations stated. After week long protests by Advocates and shut down of trial courts, the Delhi Police stated that the notification will be put on hold till the Union Home Minister met the representatives of the bar associations for an open discussion. A PIL has been filed in the Delhi High Court against the LG's notification which will be heard next week.

SC pulls up MCD on 'Gumti of Shaikh Ali' cleanliness



Gumti of Shaikh Ali

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

"You will clean it in two hours if a dignitary is coming," the Supreme Court has said as it slammed the MCD for its inaction in maintaining cleanliness around the Lodhi-era monument "Gumti of Shaikh Ali" in Defence Colony area in the national capital.

Directing the MCD commissioner to hold officers accountable, a bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and SVN Bhatti told him to submit an action plan to deal with the gaps shown by the court commissioner.

"If a dignitary is coming, you will clean it in two hours and keep the area spick and span. Is this the respect you show to our orders? It is very difficult to restrain ourselves but is this the way you behave? Is there any ego issue that you say the archaeology department will do?" the bench observed on September 4.

The top court also directed the municipal body to depute a senior official to monitor the situation on a day-to-day basis and to share the details of the officer with the senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan who has been appointed court commissioner in the matter. Examining a report submitted by Sankaranarayanan, who visited the site on

Wednesday, the court found non-compliance of its orders. It then summoned the MCD commissioner and directed him to appear by 3 pm

"We find that there is too much of a communication gap between the court and the MCD. We would thus like the Commissioner of the MCD to be personally present in the court at 3 pm so that whatever order the Court passes is in his presence so that it is taken in the right spirit," the bench said.

The top court continued, "We have been constrained to pass this order as we have been giving sufficient leverage and latitude to the MCD to come clean by showing its bonafide but we find that our hopes have been dashed by the conduct and the stand taken by the MCD." When the commissioner appeared he submitted there was some communication gap as regards the cemented portion and assured that it will be removed.

The court then posted the matter for September 18 and sought a report MCD on officers responsible for disobeying its orders and the action taken in this regard.

The top court had previously ordered the park inside the Lodhi-era monument "Gumti of Shaikh Ali" premises not to be used for the construction of badminton or basketball courts. The top court then direct-

ed the Delhi Government to issue a fresh notification to declare the Lodhi-era monument "Gumti of Shaikh Ali" a protected monument under law. The dispute over the monument surfaced when the top court directed the Defence Colony resident welfare association to vacate its structures and pay ₹40 lakh to the archaeology department of the Delhi Government as compensation for occupying the historical place since the 1960s.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by Defence Colony resident Rajeev Suri, who sought to have the Gumti declared a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act). The plea was filed in the top court after the Delhi High Court dismissed his plea in 2019. The top court has been regularly passing directions to ensure removal of encroachments, illegal occupation, and beautification of the monument and its surrounding area.

Protected monuments under the AMASR Act benefit from legal protection, conservation efforts, and restrictions on activities around them to ensure their preservation for future generations. Such monuments are safeguarded against damage, destruction, and unauthorised construction or excavation in their vicinity.



Editor's TAKE

Demographic shift: Is India ageing too fast

It is a demographic paradox — once battling rapid population growth, the nation now faces the challenges of declining births and the prospect of an ageing society

It is a classic dilemma: Too much of anything is bad, but too little of it is equally worrisome. India has long been celebrated as a young nation with a large working-age population powering its growth story.

However, recent data suggest a quiet demographic transformation is underway. The latest Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2023 reveals that India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has declined to 1.9, down from 2.0 in the previous year, well below the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman. For the first time, rural India's TFR has touched the replacement rate of 2.1, while urban India's rate is even lower at 1.5.

The fall in fertility is driven by a combination of social, economic, and cultural changes — rising urbanisation growing cost of raising children, women education, availability of contraceptives — have altered family aspirations. Women's increasing participation in the workforce have played a decisive role, as they have delayed marriages, which reduce the reproductive window. Besides, fewer children and higher education ensure upward mobility. While this decline is a sign of progress, especially in terms of healthcare and gender empowerment, it carries complex implications for economic growth.

The most immediate concern is the risk to India's demographic dividend. The country's youthful workforce has been its biggest economic advantage, but now the working-age population will peak in the coming decades before beginning to shrink. This will mean fewer workers supporting a growing unproductive population.

The uneven fertility rates across states also add a layer of complexity. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh continue to record relatively high fertility, while states such as Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal are far below the average. This could result in inter-state labour migration, creating social tensions. Sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services may face shortages of young workers, while the pressure on pensions, healthcare, and elderly care will mount.

Addressing this shift will require a careful and balanced policy response. Family planning policies must adapt to regional variations, with high-fertility states focusing on population stabilisation while low-fertility states may need to encourage childbearing through supportive measures such as childcare facilities, parental leave, and financial incentives. More importantly, India must invest heavily in human capital. With fewer children being born, the emphasis must move from numbers to quality — ensuring good education, healthcare, and job opportunities. India's falling fertility rate is both a triumph and a test. The window of demographic advantage is narrowing, and unless India acts decisively to adapt, the very advantage it has could become a challenge for its future.

India's quest for knowledge

From the early vision of science and Gandhian thought to the contemporary framework of NEP-2020, each milestone reflects the nation's attempt to prepare its citizens for a changing world while remaining rooted in its cultural ethos

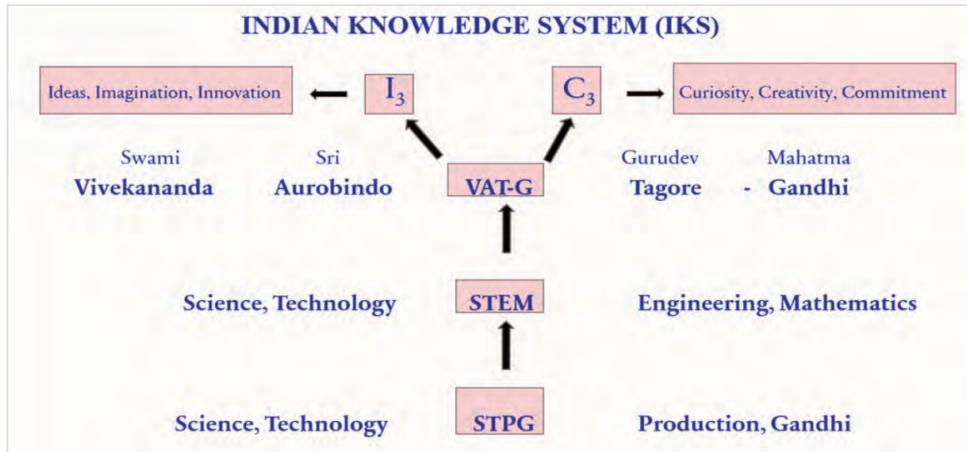


AARIF

India formulated its latest National Education Policy, NEP-2020, after a long gap, as the earlier National Policy on Education was formulated only in 1992. There was a major attempt to formulate a new curriculum framework for school education, 25 years. It was released on November 14, 2000, the birthday of Pandit Nehru, by the then Minister of HRD, Dr Murlidhar Manohar Joshi.

Based upon it, the school textbooks, some of which were more than three decades old, were rewritten and revised. Focus must now be on where we stand at this juncture in education and how far we are preparing ourselves for the future in the national and global context. Unprecedented changes are taking place both in the content and process of education everywhere. Simultaneously, there is an ever-increasing global realisation of the interdependence of nations, communities, and people all around. It is now left to India to resume its leadership role in the process of the reshaping of the world, which was taking shape anyway! It needs to create a vibrant knowledge society, a highly acculturated people, and excellence in spirituality. Obviously, it has to be achieved only by seriously envisioning and implementing a dynamic and visionary Indian education system.

New challenges were emerging before the education systems globally, and every nation has to decipher its own challenges. India attempted the same through the reformulation of its education policy, the NEP-2020: "This National Education Policy envisions an education system rooted in Indian ethos that contributes directly to transforming India, that is Bharat, sustainably into an equitable and vibrant knowledge society, by providing high-quality education to all... The vision of policy is to instil among the learners a deep-rooted pride in being Indian, not only in thought, but also in spirit, intellect, and deeds, as well as to develop knowledge, skills, values and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development." This is a very comprehensive statement that would require not only tremendous efforts in implementation but also modern comprehension of the Indian tradition of knowledge quest, which in the ancient days commanded global respect and adulation. It shall have to be supplemented by the global philosophical and epistemological comprehension. The Centre for Contemporary Studies, PMML, Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi, has been re-energised under Nripendra Misra, chairman of the executive committee. He inspired a study on how education development during the second half of the 20th century could be reviewed and recalled for



The Pioneer SINCE 1865

THIS STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED OVER A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS, AND A MANUSCRIPT OF 553 PAGES ENTITLED MILLENNIAL TRANSITION: LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION, CULTURE, AND SOCIAL COHESION HAS BEEN WRITTEN

The writer is a Research Fellow at Delhi University. He voluntarily assisted Professor JS Rajput, a Padma Shri awardee educationist, who conducted this project at the instance of the PMM, as an Atal Fellow for two years

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the benefit of the millennials, who would be holding the reins of power in practically every country in years to come. This study has been completed over a period of two years, and a manuscript of 553 pages entitled *Millennial Transition: Leadership, Education, Culture, and Social Cohesion* has been written. It has been prepared as an outcome of the study and submitted to the organisation on July 8, 2025. The National Book Trust of India, NBT, has accepted it for publication.

This study finds that India initially began its post-independence journey of education, knowledge, and development under the shadow of the times that were characterised by STPG: Science, Technology, Production, and Gandhi, an acronym often used by an outstanding scientist and academician, Prof Daulat Singh Kothari. This motto was the futuristic vision of those days and has subsequently been substituted by STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. It was incorporated for implementation in the National Policy on Education, 1986, which was revised in 1992. Afterwards, there was a long gap, and the next policy formation was completed only in 2020. The biggest challenge that India faced during the first five to six decades after independence was to take education to every child.

Focus at this stage is on excellence and skill acquisition. Today the biggest challenges are acculturation, social cohesion, and religious amity. Towards this, the passage passes through VAT-G, the ideas, thoughts, philosophy, and pragmatism of Swami Vivekananda, Sri Aurobindo, Gurudev Tagore, and Mahatma Gandhi. Swami Vivekananda was the most brilliant interpreter of the Indian quest of knowledge and wisdom in the contemporary context for international audiences. Sri Aurobindo, who understood Western culture and its inadequacies and

dwelled in great depth on the universality of the Indian interpretation of spirituality in the global context, and the Gurudev, who developed a subtle comprehension of the beauty of the man-nature interdependence. The comprehension of the thought, philosophy, and pragmatism of the great quartet offers an effective understanding of India, its knowledge traditions and systems, and its relationship to the global developments. Crossing this stage, one could go deeper into the works of the galaxy of illustrious persons and their works. Gurudev Tagore had highlighted the need to encourage the divine gift of the power of ideas and the power of imagination given in abundance to every child. The two I's, if inspired and nurtured with empathy, would lead to the third, Innovations, which constitutes the P. To make it easier for the teachers and learners, three C's — Curiosity, Creativity, and Commitment — are also added: C₃. Thus, the VAT-G, together with the I₃ C₃, constitutes the perfect combination for those interested in understanding and also in finding a solid base for Indian education, rooted in culture and committed to progress.

This identification comes after a thorough study and analysis of the initial post-independence emphasis on STPG — Science, Technology, Production, and Gandhi. It was followed by the STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Whatever the challenges, a nation like India cannot ignore its national and international responsibilities in the world of knowledge and skill acquisition. As the Indian tradition of knowledge quest, which is not confined to a particular region, community, religion, or language, has to be studied in its broader framework and, more importantly, in light of the modern traditions of knowledge generation and creation being developed on the international map.

PICTALK



A young Newar girl, embodying divine feminine energy, waits for the Kumari Puja ritual, during which she will be venerated — at Hanuman Dhoka, Basantapur Durbar Square, Nepal.

PHOTO: PTI

Mentors illuminate the journey of lifelong learning



M J WARS

THE PIONEER 2ND OPINION

As we all know, teaching is truly a rewarding and unique profession, long regarded as one of the most sacred, noble, and pious services to both society and the nation. Teachers' Day is celebrated by students across the country with the purpose of expressing their gratitude towards their mentors for their invaluable contribution. The date of celebration varies from country to country. Since 1994, UNESCO has observed Teachers' Day on October 5. In India, however, it is celebrated on 5 September, the birth anniversary of Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Apart from being the first Vice-President and the second President of India, he also served as Chairman of the University Grants Commission in 1949. Radhakrishnan was a great scholar and an excellent

teacher, admired widely for his contribution to education. When his students and friends once sought his permission to celebrate his birthday, he modestly suggested that it would be far better if the day were dedicated to the entire teaching profession by honouring the hard work and commitment of teachers across the nation.

The purpose behind celebrating Teachers' Day is to acknowledge the dignity of the profession and the contribution of educators in nurturing young minds and nation-building. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also advocates restoring high respect for teachers and inspiring the best minds to join the profession. This year's celebration held special significance for Aligarh Muslim University, as Professor Vibha Sharma of the Department of English was selected for the National Education Award 2025 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the field of education. The role of educators in shaping society is undeniable. Teaching is one of the most essential aspects of human life, pervading individuals, society, culture, and every dimension of human endeavour. Teachers, with their profound understanding of subject matter and deep reservoirs of wisdom, continually enrich the lives of their students. It is no coincidence that UNESCO has recognised India as one of the most linguistically diverse countries in the world, a fact reflected in the richness of its teaching traditions.

The principal role of a teacher is to transmit knowledge from one generation to another, ensuring that art, ideas, and cultural nuances are effectively preserved and carried forward. In India, there has long been a tradition of respecting and honouring teachers, known traditionally as gurus. Irrespective of religious belief or linguistic background, Teachers' Day is celebrated throughout the country. From childhood, we have heard the story of Eklavya, which defines exemplary discipleship. This tale illustrates dedication, hard work, obedience, and the spirit of *guru-dakshina*, the offering traditionally made by students in gratitude for learning. Dronacharya, by asking for Eklavya's thumb, immortalised his disciple's loyalty. In Islamic tradition, too, the teacher holds a very high status. Hazrat Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) once said, "If a person teaches me even one single word, he has made me his servant for a lifetime." The role of a teacher extends far beyond imparting knowledge or preparing students for examinations. It includes guiding them to distinguish right from wrong, correcting their mistakes, and shaping their moral character. Teachers are recognised for their contribution to society by inspiring, enlightening, and preparing students to become responsible citizens.

Prof M J Warsi, a widely acclaimed linguist, teaches in the Department of Linguistics at Aligarh Muslim University

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BITS, PILANI (GOA) FACES STUDENT SAFETY CRISIS

The Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, at Sancoale in Goa, has been shaken by a spate of student deaths since December 2024. On Thursday, a nineteen-year-old student was found dead in his hostel room. Undue pressure, harassment through ragging and pressing mental health concerns have been cited as possible reasons for five deaths within a single year. Parents of the deceased have expressed serious concern over the possibility of foul play in some cases.

Ultimately do more harm than good. A thorough relook at the curriculum and examination pattern is urgently required. The introduction of systematic and consistent wellness courses cannot be overemphasised.

At the same time, campus security must be enhanced, and vigilant monitoring of unwanted visitors should be considered a necessity rather than an optional measure. The committee constituted by the Goa Government has the onerous responsibility of not only identifying the causes of these unfortunate deaths and fixing accountability, but also of recommending practical ways and means to ensure a safe, healthy and secure environment for all students.

GANAPATHI BHAT | AKOLA

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Faith cannot bind language

An event featuring the proud Urdu speaker Javed Akhtar has been postponed by the West Bengal Urdu Academy due to threats from the orthodox section of his own linguistic-cum-religious group.

How can a liberal soul be allowed a free ground in this country where fundamentalism and orthodoxy call the last shot irrespective of community?

While attending the Kolkata Literary Meet in 2022, Akhtar sang paeans to Urdu, celebrating its secular literature and Indian credentials surpassing divides of Hinduism and Islam — with practitioners ranging from Mirza Ghalib to Munshi Premchand, Faiz Ahmed Faiz to Krishan Chander.

Akhtar stressed: "Languages belong to regions, not religions. Ten crore Muslims of erstwhile East Pakistan told seven crore Muslims of West Pakistan that they would not learn Urdu at the cost of Bengali. I love Urdu as you love Bengali, but I respect and salute those who defended Bengali. For them, mother tongue was far more important than religion." Surely this is not music to the ears of Urdu imperialists. Nor will harbingers of "Hindi-Hindu-Hindustan" be pleased. Thanks to Akhtar for practising "live and let live", reminding us that language transcends religion.

KAJAL CHATTERJEE | KOLKATA

GST reforms yield mixed results

The announcement of rationalisation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates is a watershed in India's indirect tax regime. It focuses on boosting consumption with significant rate cuts on essentials, FMCG goods and consumer durables through a new two-tier slab: "Merit" and "Standard."

The exemption of life and health insurance, along with life-saving drugs, could address low insurance penetration and high out-of-pocket expenditure in health care.

From the export perspective, lower production costs in labour-intensive sectors due to reduced GST on raw materials may absorb additional tariff shocks announced by the United States. A simplified, consumer-friendly GST 2.0 appears a step towards removing the "Gabbat Singh Tax" tag. However, uncertainties remain. Revenue loss for states due to rate cuts may affect welfare schemes and fiscal stability.

To mitigate this, greater devolution of taxes under the Sixteenth Finance Commission and extension of Compensation Cess are crucial, alongside addressing concerns raised by MSMEs, consumers and other stakeholders. GST 2.0 offers hope but requires vigilance and cooperation.

PRASUN KUMAR DUTTA | KOLKATA

Mental health demands actions

Over one billion people live with mental health disorders, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Conditions such as anxiety and depression impose immense human and economic costs. While many nations have strengthened mental health policies, greater investment is needed globally to expand services that protect and promote well-being.

Mental health conditions are widespread, affecting all ages and incomes. They represent the second-largest cause of long-term disability, reducing healthy life expectancy. They increase health-care costs for families while inflicting significant global economic losses. Recent WHO reports — *World Mental Health Today and Mental Health Atlas 2024* — highlight progress but expose gaps in services. Governments and leaders must act urgently to ensure mental health care is treated not as privilege but as a basic right. The economic burden is staggering. While treatment costs are high, the indirect cost of lost productivity is higher still. Depression and anxiety alone cost the global economy over one trillion US dollars annually. These findings underscore the urgent need for sustained investment, prioritisation and collaboration to expand access, reduce stigma and address root causes of mental illness.

N SADHASIVA REDDY | BENGALURU



North India's Floods: Not Seasonal Wrath, but Climate Collapse

It is tempting to see these floods as seasonal wrath. But they are not accidents of weather; they are a mirror to our misplaced idea of progress. Describing them as 'natural calamities' dangerously denies their man-made roots

FIRST
Column



ACHARYA PRASHANT

Over the past weeks, North India has been brought to a standstill. The monsoon, once awaited as a lifeline, has turned into a chain of disasters with floods, landslides and water-logging. What should have replenished the soil has instead uprooted families, erased livelihoods, and scarred the land.

The scale of this devastation is staggering. Himachal Pradesh alone has lost over 340 lives since 20 June: 182 to landslides, flash floods and collapsing houses, the rest to rain-triggered accidents. More than 1,300 roads lie blocked, including four national highways; over 2,100 transformers are down; nearly 800 water supply schemes are disrupted. Entire tourist districts like Shimla, Kullu and Chamba are cut off. The State Disaster Management Authority has warned that restoring access to many remote villages may take weeks.

In Jammu & Kashmir, the Tawi and Chenab rivers have surged past danger levels, schools are closed, and evacuations are under way. Punjab reports devastation across 1,400 villages in 23 districts: 350,000 people affected, 148,000 hectares of crops gone. Delhi and NCR, too, wade through waterlogged streets, schools shut, and transport paralysed. Northern Railway has cancelled 68 trains; the Pathankot-Jammu line remains blocked. Relief teams are in the field, but the scale of loss dwarfs every effort.

It is tempting to see these floods as seasonal wrath. But they are not accidents of weather; they are a mirror to our misplaced idea of progress. Describing them as "natural calamities" dangerously denies their man-made roots.

Fragile Mountains, Fractured by Greed

Himachal's hills are collapsing because we drilled, blasted, and cemented them year after year. When rivers are forced into concrete and wetlands into real estate, the monsoon is bound to return the debt.

The Himalayas are geologically young, their slopes precariously held together. Yet we have treated them as construction sites. Every highway cut through rock, every tunnel bored into the mountain, every dam raised across a river has weakened what was already fragile. So when the rains come hard,



ASIA IS HEATING NEARLY TWICE AS FAST AS THE GLOBAL AVERAGE, WHICH MEANS MORE VIOLENT BURSTS OF RAIN AND MORE FREQUENT CLOUDBURSTS

The writer is philosopher and teacher of global wisdom literature and is the founder of the PrashantAdvait Foundation

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the mountains do not simply get wet, they collapse. In Uttarakhand too, the red alerts keep coming. The India Meteorological Department has warned of extremely heavy rainfall in Dehradun, Nainital, Rudraprayag, and Udham Singh Nagar. District administrations fear fresh landslides and cloudbursts in zones already scarred. These are not isolated accidents; they are the cumulative outcome of years of taking more from the hills than they can yield.

Cities That Engineer Their Own Floods

There is also a stark contrast between rural helplessness and urban negligence. Villages in the Himalayas collapse because they are too weak to resist. But what excuse do Delhi and Gurgaon have? These are the richest cities. They drown not from poverty, but from negligence: storm drains buried, floodplains encroached, public responsibility traded for private convenience.

Urbanisation was meant to expand our horizon. Instead, it has imported the village's narrowness into skyscrapers: responsibility ends at the boundary wall. Inside, polished roads and manicured

lawns; outside, chaos and waterlogging. The annual drowning of our richest cities is not a failure of funds, but a failure of mindset.

The Climate Crisis Is Not Distant, It Is Here

Climate change is the decisive force behind today's devastation. Asia is heating nearly twice as fast as the global average, which means more violent bursts of rain and more frequent cloudbursts. NASA confirms floods and droughts have already doubled worldwide in two decades.

According to the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, the average number of flood-affected districts in India has jumped from 19 a year (1970-2004) to 55 a year (2005-2019). This is not seasonal wrath, it is climate collapse unfolding before us. Yet three out of four of India's flood-prone districts still lack proper early-warning systems.

This crisis is inseparable from global feedback loops: permafrost is releasing methane, glaciers are vanishing, coral reefs are dying. Once these cycles begin, they drive themselves. To dismiss floods as accidents of weather is not realism, it is denial. This is not pessimism,

it is physics.

Inequality of Emissions, Inequality of Suffering

The world's richest 10% drive emissions with private jets and excess lifestyles, while farmers and labourers lose lives and crops. Climate change is not only an ecological crisis. It is the violence of the rich upon the poor.

Yet it is not the elites who die in landslides or lose their crops to floods. It is farmers in Punjab whose fields are destroyed, labourers in Himachal whose houses collapse, and migrant families in Delhi who lose what little they had. Climate change is not only measured in degrees or millimetres of rainfall, it is measured in uprooted families and broken livelihoods.

And inequality is not just global; it is domestic too. In India, urban elites consume far more energy, fuel, and goods than the rural majority, yet it is the poor who live on riverbanks, in fragile hillside settlements, and in unplanned colonies most exposed to disaster. The climate crisis is layered upon pre-existing injustice, deepening every faultline of class and geography.

Redefining Progress Before It Is Too Late

We need to redefine progress. A "good life" cannot remain defined by bigger cars, bigger houses, more air miles. That definition was implanted by those who profit from our desires.

Urgent reforms are overdue: restore wetlands and floodplains, tax carbon-heavy consumption, and disclose the footprints of corporations and celebrities. But there is a warning: no reform will hold without a shift in human consumption. Policies will fail unless minds change. Festivals need not mean firecrackers. Joy need not mean excess travel or display. The climate outside reflects the climate within, and when the inner self is restless, nature too collapses.

This is why the PrashantAdvait Foundation has launched Operation 2030, a mission to awaken citizens before the UN's climate deadline. Scientists warn that unless warming is capped at 1.5°C by 2030, feedback cycles-melting glaciers, rising seas, collapsing ecosystems-will lock us into irreversibility. Operation 2030 rests on one insight: only inner clarity can anchor outer change.

A Civilisational Test

Looking again at this week's disasters: highways blocked, villages drowned, pilgrims stranded, crops ruined, it is clear that these are not just damages to be compensated; they are reminders of what reckless choices bring.

Mountains can bear only so much blasting, rivers only so much encroachment, cities only so much concrete. When the limits are crossed, collapse follows. If we hurry to rebuild on the same foundations of ignorance, the next disaster is already assured. If we pause, reflect, and change direction, this moment could still become a turning point.

The Gita reminds us: action born of inner clarity liberates, while action born of delusion destroys. Development without wisdom is rehearsal for the next tragedy. The monsoon has spoken. The question is, will we listen?

And if we refuse to listen, it will not only be us who pay. It will be our children and grandchildren who inherit a land where the monsoon is feared, not welcomed; where rivers mean devastation, not fertility. History will ask what we were doing in 2025, when the signs were so clear. Our silence then will be the loudest testimony of all.

'Voter Adhikar Yatra' redefines Opposition unity, elevates RaGa's stature



ANIL ANAND

Mr Rahul Gandhi's 1,300-kilometre 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' criss-crossing the rough and tumble of the Hindi hinterland of poll-bound Bihar has certainly stirred the country's political pot afresh. If his across-the-country Bharat Jodo Yatra and Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra were meant to bring him out of the closet and erase the image of "Pappu" carelessly heaped upon him by the Narendra Modi dispensation, the Bihar outing has not only established him as the sole potential candidate to challenge Mr Modi, but also considerably increased his acceptability in the opposition camp.

This, importantly, is his first foray in the hard-core cow-belt where Congress has nothing to fall back upon. It is too early to gauge his endeavour's impact on the organisation or its electoral dividends. The net gain is that he has been able to set the narrative, forcing others, including the BJP, to follow, and has led the charge from the front.

His political rating has definitely increased, notwithstanding the fact that the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' was supposed to be a local phenomenon with focus on the Bihar assembly elections. The idea was to corner the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the ruling BJP on the issue of surreptitiously deleting votes through a hurriedly called Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls barely three months before assembly polls.

No one, even Mr Gandhi's worst critics, can deny that he has been able to raise a crescendo over this issue single-handedly in true 'Sansad se Sadak tak' manner and succeeded singularly despite a hostile and partisan media. The fact of the matter is that he has successfully changed the tide from being reactive to launching the action straightaway. This is particularly so in Bihar. In the rest of the country, it has become a talking point and theme of discussion, thereby forcing the ECI to come out with unconvincing clarifications, leading to strengthening his narrative and the resultant doubt in the public mind.

Although the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' was an I.N.D.I.A combined venture, which was represented by the presence of leading leaders and representatives of its constituents (regional parties from other parts of the country) but dominated by the Bihar-centric poll alliance, from the word go it had the stamp of Mr Gandhi affixed.

In fact, he became the star attraction pulling crowds, overwhelmingly youth, and finally his stamp was firmly affixed on the mega event by

the time it concluded.

The astounding success of the Rahul-focused march, as senior journalist and columnist Ms Neeraja Chaudhary described it after extensively covering the event, is solely ascribed to him. Despite the Congress organisation being in shambles in Bihar, he drew out enthusiastic crowds.

The immediate purpose of the march covering nearly 125 assembly constituencies was, of course, to galvanise public opinion in favour of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)-Congress-Left led opposition alliance. Despite the RJD being the dominant partner, Congress, courtesy of Mr Gandhi, has been able to steal the show. However, the success of the event with Mr Gandhi playing a dominant role has also brought into focus its impact on the national political scene, particularly the fragile opposition unity.

From the national perspective, it has raised the stature of Mr Gandhi by many notches, establishing him as the frontline challenger to Mr Modi in future electoral contests. The regional satraps, particularly the muscle-flexing Trinamool Congress supremo, Ms Mamata Banerjee, and self-styled rebel and AAP chief, Mr Arvind Kejriwal, seem to have fallen by the wayside as the Bihar event unfolded. As it is, the latter has disassociated himself from the I.N.D.I.A alliance but kept a window open as AAP has joined the opposition protest on SIR in Bihar. The just concluded monsoon session of Parliament saw a more co-ordinated show by the opposition alliance on the issue of alleged tampering of voters' lists and sudden SIR in Bihar. There was not a single voice of dissent and every constituent of I.N.D.I.A participated at one level or the other.

The SIR and resultant 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' have pushed Mr Modi, for the first time in the last decade, on the back foot. It is for the first time, all this while, that an issue has stuck around his neck, rendering his well-crafted counter-offensive mechanism ineffective.

The positive buzz over these issues combined with his relentless 'Samvidhan Bachao' campaign getting public traction, has proved a new trendsetter for Mr Gandhi. Although Mr Gandhi has emerged as the dramatic persona behind the success of the Bihar march and the main driving force behind his relentless campaign against the ECI and the BJP-led Central Government, it should in no way diminish the contribution of the other I.N.D.I.A bloc partners. The united show put by the opposition inside and outside Parliament, despite reluctance to direct participation by Ms Banerjee and her ilk, certainly gave strength to him as the leader of the premier opposition party of the country.

Another interesting outcome of these developments, owing to effective headship provided by Mr Gandhi, is acceptance of his leadership by

the bloc leaders as against earlier reluctance on their part. This is a hard-earned situation which he should not squander by only focusing on his solo drives and ignoring Congress's organisational weaknesses.

There is still a strong imponderable whether Mr Gandhi's stellar effort will help raise the Congress's graph both at the national level and in Bihar. Such a scenario had earlier emerged at the end of his nearly 6,500-kilometre twin yatras across the country, but it had fizzled out due to lack of organisational back-up from the party to carry forward the positive impact.

Will the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra', which has firmly saddled Mr Gandhi on the national political firmament, meet the fate of the Bharat Jodo yatras?

The question assumes significance as nothing much has changed on the organisational front in Congress, which continues to reel under a status quoist culture.

His efforts to change this culture, which primarily is being perpetuated by the old guard, have met stiff resistance after the culmination of the Bharat Jodo Yatras. The more he tried to change, though efforts were a tame affair, the more vicious the saboteurs became in the form of active BJP cells.

The Bihar yatra has fully empowered Mr Gandhi to act decisively and given him enough elbow space to act. The fact that he has shown guts to take the bull by the horns by launching a direct diatribe against Mr Modi, mostly over policy issues including "poll management", means he should not let this opportunity go and must act to overhaul the Congress, removing deadwood, non-performers, and moles of the BJP (by Mr Gandhi's own admission).

This is not only in Mr Gandhi and Congress's interest, but more in the interest of the nation. A strong Congress and thereby a strong opposition could be an anathema to the ruling elite's attempts at creating a unitary system, undermining the basic democratic ethos of the country. The opposition parties, particularly Ms Banerjee and Mr Kejriwal, should also shed their biases and keep aside personal ambitions for a while to work for a bigger cause, which is to thwart the challenge posed by Mr Modi.

The hard fact which they cannot ignore is that a national party such as Congress with pan-India presence should act as a pivot to face this challenge. The sooner they realise, the better it would be to take the fight against the ECI's shenanigans, and for the protection of the Constitution, to its logical conclusion en route to electoral victories ahead.

The writer is Political and National Affairs Analyst

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How Mao misled Nehru as China-Pakistan axis took shape

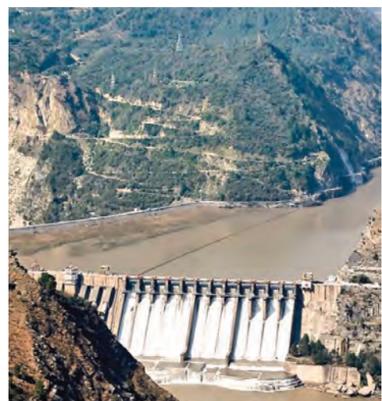
A new book, "Trial By Water: Indus Basin and India-Pakistan Relations" by Uttam Sinha, brings out how, as the Indus Waters Treaty was being negotiated, Mao Zedong was already casting his eye on a strategic relationship with Pakistan

When India and Pakistan signed the Indus Waters Treaty in 1960, brokered by the World Bank and hailed internationally as a model of co-operation, it seemed a rare moment of stability in an otherwise fraught relationship. Yet even as Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru extended his hand toward reconciliation with Pakistan, a more ominous challenge was quietly taking shape to the north-a China-Pakistan axis that would soon alter the strategic landscape of South Asia.

A new book, *Trial By Water: Indus Basin and India-Pakistan Relations* by Uttam Sinha, brings out how, as the Indus Waters Treaty was being negotiated, Mao Zedong was already casting his eye on a strategic relationship with Pakistan. What Nehru hoped would be a step toward peace with one neighbour coincided with the forging of an alliance between his two most difficult adversaries.

The seeds of this two-front challenge were sown in the 1950s. After occupying Tibet in 1950, Mao had set his eyes on Aksai Chin, a desolate but strategically crucial high-altitude desert of Ladakh. By the mid-1950s, China had built a road through the region, linking Xinjiang to Tibet. Nehru, downplaying its importance, told Parliament in 1959 that the area had "not a blade of grass," a remark that would haunt India after China consolidated its grip during the 1962 war. Behind Mao's rhetoric of Asian solidarity, his ambitions were calculated and expansionist. When he met Nehru in 1954, Mao charmed the Indian leader with talk of shared struggles against Western imperialism. He spoke of peace, dismissed war as unprofitable, and even recited poetry at their farewell. But beneath the gestures lay a grand design. For Mao, rivers, mountains, and barren expanses were not empty landscapes; they were strategic levers. Control over the headwaters of the Indus in Tibet and Aksai Chin gave China the ability to influence lifelines that sustained millions downstream.

Even as Indian engineers were engaged in delicate negotiations with Pakistan over the Indus river system, China was tightening its grip over these contested territories. The Indus, beginning from Tibet's sacred Mount Kailash, passes through Aksai Chin before reaching Ladakh and eventually flowing into Pakistan. With the occupation of Aksai Chin and later the Shaksgam Valley ceded by Pakistan in 1963, China was steadily positioning itself as a decisive player in Kashmir's strategic geography. The betrayal became clear as Pakistan and



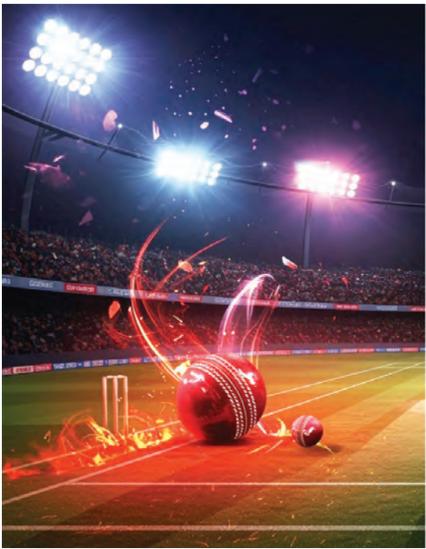
China moved closer in the late 1950s and early 1960s. While Nehru defended the Indus Waters Treaty as a step toward peace with Pakistan, Islamabad was quietly negotiating with Beijing to define their common border. In 1963, Pakistan handed over 5,180 square kilometres of the Shaksgam Valley to China, giving Beijing a foothold in Gilgit-Baltistan and cementing the foundation of a long-term strategic partnership.

India's protests went unheeded. An official note to China in 1962 asserted India's sovereignty over the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, but by then, the ground reality had shifted. As New Delhi placed its faith in diplomacy and restraint, Beijing and Islamabad were forging an alliance that would eventually confront India on two fronts-militarily in wars and diplomatically in global forums.

The story of the Indus Waters Treaty, often celebrated as a triumph of co-operation, thus hides a parallel story of strategic miscalculation. As Nehru sought peace with Pakistan through water-sharing, Mao was setting the stage for a partnership with Islamabad that would redefine South Asia's security equation. The real trial was not in the Indus waters alone, but in the dangerous alignment of two neighbours-an axis that continues to test India to this day.

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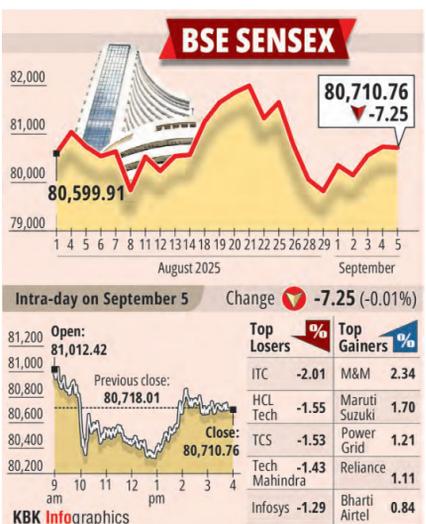
Harsh Goenka, a well-known Mumbai-based industrialist, is known to be outspoken, even cheeky in his social media posts. In an outlandish reverse sweep, he took on the Government's GST's 'doosra.' His latest tweet on X: "No tax for BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India), good. But increased 40 per cent GST on IPL (Indian Premier League) tickets." He said this was the new 'Incredible India,' where cricket is a religion, the Board is God, IPL is the temple, the cricket fans, or the devotees need to pay a higher offering. It was a clean hook off the front foot, and the ball landed in the stands.

There was another dichotomy. The GST on tickets for regular international and domestic matches remains at 18 per cent, but the tax on IPL was pushed up from 28 per cent to 40 per cent (the sin tax applicable on tobacco, high-end cars, and business flight travel). The Government is clear that the League is not really cricket, it is more of an entertainment enjoyed by the elite. Which is possibly wrong as one knows of hundreds of middle-class homes, who save to buy relatively-expensive IPL tickets so that their children can get a glimpse of the cricketers from a vantage position of deep cover.

For years, the BCCI, which claims to be a non-profit entity, has strived, fought and battled to retain its tax exemption status. In its 2023-24 annual, the Board noted that the income tax appellate body ruled (2021) that the former was "entitled to continuance of registration under Section 12A of the Income Tax (which allows zero tax for non-profit entities like trusts, welfare societies, NGOs and religious bodies)" The income tax authority has appealed in the Bombay High Court. However, acting prudently, the BCCI continues to recognise the liability, which amounted to ₹7,362 crore as on March 31, 2024, and pertains to the past six years since 2018-19.

In August 2018, the Board amended its Constitution to avail of the tax exemptions under Section 12A. But it has defended against the tax googlies for years before it. Based on professional advice, the Board, as stated in the annual report, "believes that no provision for income tax is required to be made in respect of the prior years and until the change to the Constitution... aggregating ₹7,453 crore as it believes that it has a good case to avail the (tax) exemption... notwithstanding the demands/disputes raised by the income tax department which have been challenged... before various appellate/judicial authorities." If pre- and post-2018 demands are combined, the BCCI disputed taxes stand at almost ₹15,000 crore.

Do not forget that the BCCI is the richest cricket body in the world, and by far the wealthiest sport body in the country. In 2023-24, it clocked an annual revenue of more than ₹9,700 crore, of which almost 60 per cent was the surplus from IPL. The money that was handed over by the International Cricket Council, which shares its profits with member nations, was just over ₹1,000 crore. The Board is raking in more money from the League, as compared to the international matches. But only the fans pay the taxes, and that too in a sinful way. A clear case of hit wicket, or shall we say, hit ticket.



Checking the pulse of pulses

The recent NITI Aayog report on pulses projects a steady rise in production, but underscores the importance of achieving self-sufficiency in production. Beyond nutritional benefits, pulses enhance soil health, conserve water, and help to mitigate climate change. Due to the wide popularity and demand for pulses, the report emphasises on increasing yield to meet domestic demand.

The relevance of the report lies in the fact that India needs to be 'Atmanirbhar' in pulses. The Government too supplies them to the States and Union Territories for welfare schemes like public distribution system, mid-day meal, among others. Achieving self-sufficiency can lead to benefits like reduction in import dependency and stabilising prices against global fluctuations, says the report.

"This stability ensures food security and supports rural livelihoods by providing consistent income for pulses farmers, while promoting food sovereignty," adds the report. Globally, pulse production has grown steadily at three per cent per year since the early 2000s. Developing countries account for nearly 75 per cent of the output, while Asia contributes over 44 per cent of the production.

Quoting OECD-FAO 2024 data, NITI Aayog predicted a growth in the global market, with per capita consumption reaching 8.6 kg by 2033. This growth is expected in most regions, with Europe witnessing an increase of three per cent annually. In 2023-24, India achieved a yield of 242 lakh tonnes, and imported 47 lakh tonnes. The export figure was six lakh tonnes.

In January 2024, the Government expressed confidence in achieving import independence

by December 2027. This is achievable with planning and execution. India is the world's largest cultivator and producer, with over 38 per cent of the world's cultivated area, and more than 28 per cent of the global output.

But in terms of yield, the country ranks lowest among the top ten producers. India ranks 2.5 times lower than Ethiopia, which is the leading producer of pulses at 1.9 tonnes/hectare, followed by Canada, USA, China and Russia. "India's area under cultivation experienced fluctuations, and a declining trend in the initial three decades. There was some recovery... during the mid-70s, mid-80s, and early '90s, but afterwards, the area... either stagnated or declined," notes the think tank's report.

In recent times, the cultivated area fell to 108.39 lakh hectares in 2024-25 from the "normal area" of 129.61 hectares. But in 2025-26 (as on August 15, 2025) there was an increase by 1.14 lakh hectares. According to the report, pulses production faces significant challenges stemming from technological and environmental constraints.

The need of the hour is to address farmers' problems due to inadequate access to quality seeds, and ineffective management of crop disease and pest control. With nearly 80 per cent of production dependent on rainfed areas, specialised knowledge needs to be imparted. India must adopt a multifaceted strategy to achieve self-sufficiency. The focus should be on "three key pillars: Value addition, area expansion and higher productivity.

Supported by the Government's procurement and pricing, the area under cultivation has seen progress. There is a move to launch a six-year *Atmanirbharta* campaign with the

following aims: Develop climate resilient seeds, enhance protein content, hike productivity, improve storage and assure remunerative prices. Central agencies like Nafed will procure the produce of farmers who register with them, and enter into agreements over the next four years.

In addition, there is a need for interventions at the State levels. While 10 States contribute more than 90 per cent of the output, the top three account for more than 55 per cent. There are variations in yields, with Gujarat being the most productive, and Karnataka the least. Even the States like Madhya Pradesh (largest producer) and Maharashtra (second largest) "have room for improvement." Both are below Gujarat's level. The same is true for Rajasthan, which has the largest area under cultivation, and ranks third in production.

The contribution of pulses to foodgrain production has declined over the decades, with the lowest point in 2000-01. Since 2015, policy interventions increased both area and production, which pushed up the share, which remains below 10 per cent. In 2023-24, pulses imports shot up after some time, primarily due to rise in red lentils, yellow peas and black gram. Red lentil purchases from Canada doubled, and yellow peas came from Russia and Turkey.

Dietary patterns across the country too contribute to either preference or lack of them for pulses. "Cereals, for instance, contribute significantly to the daily diet, i.e., 50-70 per cent of daily energy intake exceeding the recommended limit of 45 per cent, while pulses, meat, poultry and fish contribute only 6-9 per cent, falling short of the recommended 14 per cent of total energy," states the NITI Aayog report. Pulses intake remains below diet levels, which is evident across the States, and in both urban and rural areas.

The report suggests several ways to enhance production. Using a third of the rice fallow area across 10 States can increase production by nearly three million tonnes. Intercropping them with sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra can unlock three million hectares of area. Optimising the rice-wheat cropping system in Bihar, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh can add another four million hectares. These strategies can lead to an extra production of eight million tonnes.

Procurement remains a problem area. According to the NITI Aayog, "Most of the pulses growers are currently unable to reach regulated markets to sell their produce; instead, village traders are their main buyers. Therefore, to ensure remunerative prices for these growers, it is important to bring the procurement centres to the growers' doorsteps, particularly during harvest season."

A price guarantee too is critical. This may be by bridging the gap between what the farmers earn and MSP, or ensuring procurement under MSP. "Both these provisions are already there in the scheme, PM AASHA, operated by the Ministry of Agriculture. Its operational part needs to be strengthened for effective and comprehensive coverage."



The Tech Wrecker

Cooking a multi cuisine meal

Apple CEO Tim Cook is probably questioning his decision to take that big bite of the Apple. His multi cuisine global strategy is slowly unravelling, dish by dish, recipe by recipe, and meal by meal. As a corporate Sous Chef, he is running around the global kitchen to rustle up ingredients, and hustle up a meal that will please several leaders. But as any chef realises, it is near-impossible to please every customer. Someone will be displeased about the dessert. Another one by the appetiser. A third by one of the dishes in the main course. Some may not like the looks, others the taste, a few the herbs.

Like any global CEO, who is ambitious enough to dip his fingers in several pies, and experiment with a multi cuisine meal, Tim Cook needs to grapple with three crucial ingredients, which can turn stale quite quickly. These are obviously money, manufacturing and markets. The first relates to multiple investments that he has promised to multiple leaders. The second is how to spread the operations to extract the best efficiencies, and progress towards high productivity without disturbing the nuanced balance between demanding palettes. The third is about customers, what to serve in which country. Like cooking, it requires a delicate touch.

The US President Donald Trump wants Cook to return home, and help the former make America great again. Pushed, cajoled and berated, the Apple CEO committed \$600 billion investments in the US. Apart from public admonitions, Trump loses no opportunity to ask Cook about his new investment meals. The other day, at a private dinner that the president hosted for tech leaders, and which was attended by the CEOs of Google, Microsoft and OpenAI, apart from Apple, he asked Cook, "How much money is Apple going to be investing in the United States because you know, you were really elsewhere, and now you are

coming back home in a big way?"

Keeping the half-bit apple aside, donning his best chef's attire, Cook was at his diplomatic best. "I want to thank you (president) for setting the tone such that we could make a major investment in the United States. That says a lot about your focus, and your leadership, and your focus on innovation." To some, it sounded a bit tongue-in-cheek. For Trump, the focus is on himself, leadership is about beating others with a stick, and offering a carrot, and innovation is to use archaic laws to appropriate superpowers. Just to ensure that there are no cross-connections or signal drops, the Apple CEO praised the US First Lady, Melania Trump, for her work in

education.

Last month, the CEO had apparently assured the Indian Government that Apple has no intention to behave like a snake, and wriggle out of the country's heavenly abode. He said he was committed to invest \$2.5 billion to boost the local iPhone production by 50 per cent to 60 million units a year. There was no question of slowing down the expansion or investment inflows. Despite the bite from the Apple, and goading from a snake, Adam (Cook) and Eve (Mother India) will remain in this heaven. According to reports, the company is assembling the soon-to-be-launched iPhone 17 in India.

This brings us to the second ingre-

dent, which is sharp on the taste buds. Everyone wants Apple to make it in their countries. Trump wishes to impose 'Make in America.' India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, wants to expand 'Make in India.' China's president, Xi Jinping, is not worried. He knows that global manufacturers have no option but to make in China, whatever they may say about China+1 strategy. Apple cannot make in America, and sell to the world. For that, the options are India and China, with potential investors still salivating on the latter. Cook needs to take job as a global Sous Chef seriously. He cannot antagonise anyone.

As things stand, the iPhone maker will manufacture high-end compo-

nents in the US. It is cheaper and safer to do it, given that neither India nor China have the skills. He will make the low-end components in India, which will assemble the phones. India is quite happy with the situation as it can claim that the iPhone, the world's most sophisticated and desired dish, is being made in India, and being served to global customers. China, as we said before, knows that one does not need to cater to other people's tastes. If one can provide the right ingredients, environment and kitchens (factories), the chefs are happy, and they will keep the customers happier.

Now for the markets. This is the most complex part of Cook's plan. One taste cannot fit all. Well, it does work for a hamburger, pizza or Coke but not for iPhones. Even in the case of the hamburger, McDonald's was forced to use Indian ingredients, and avoid beef to cater to Indian tastes and culture. Pizza makers possibly sell as many vegetarian variations as the non-veg ones in India. Chinese food is now completely Indianised. So, Cook knows that even if the ingredients are the same, made in just a few nations, the serving needs to be special. He needs to market the same cuisine differently in different markets. Thus, India can be a base for dual markets, domestic and the US. China can cater to the non-US markets. The US operations can fulfill the needs of the Americans, and foreigners.

Well, it does get a bit wonky managing all these ingredients and taste buds. It is tricky to handle the local herbs, some of which are extra spicy and edgy, as also transport the ingredients all over the world, and establish separate logistics for the final products. There are several promises Cook needs to fulfill. He is under pressure from his masters and customers. The kitchen is getting crowded, and there is little space to jostle around. But the chef has to fire up, or the food will either not arrive in time and style, or rot.



Cooling jobs, hot-headed Trump



When the Labour Department put out a disappointing jobs report a month ago, an enraged President Donald Trump responded by firing the economist in charge of compiling the numbers, and nominating a loyalist to replace her. Nothing quite so dramatic is likely on Friday when the department releases hiring and unemployment numbers for August.

Yet, the August numbers may be almost as dismal as those for July. The former are expected to show that companies, government agencies and non-profits added a modest 80,000 jobs during the month, according to a survey of forecasters by the data firm FactSet. This will be a slight improvement on July's 73,000, but still indicate, and maybe prove, that the American job market has cooled down significantly from last year.

Jobs are an important part of Trump's vision to boost American manufacturing, and create more employment opportunities for Americans. His immigrant policy is aimed at reducing foreign workers so that locals can get more jobs. If the jobs market continues to cool down, the president may blow his top, even if he does not fire someone, and hire someone else.

The silver lining is that the unemployment rate is forecast to stay at a low 4.2 per cent, which suggests that employers are stuck in a no-hire, no-fire mode. While they are reluctant to add many new workers, they do not want to give up the ones they have. One is not sure how long the employers will continue with their wait-and-watch attitude? At some stage, as is visible in some sectors, companies will begin to cut staff, and let go of people. This will make Trump angrier.

The US job market has lost momentum this year, partly because of the lingering effects of the 11 interest rate hikes by the inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve in 2022 and 2023, and partly

because Donald Trump's policies, including his trade wars with several nations, have created uncertainty that leaves managers reluctant to make hiring decisions. In fact, even investment decisions are in a limbo, as American firms engage in immediate firefighting tactics.

So far in 2025, the economy has generated 85,000 new jobs a month, down from 168,000 last year, and an average

400,000 a month during the hiring boom of 2021-2023 as the United States roared back from Covid-19 lockdowns. "The labour market is showing signs of cracking," said Heather Long, chief economist at Navy Federal Credit Union. "It is not a red siren alarm yet, but the signs keep growing that businesses are starting to cut workers."

The Labour Department reported

that the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits, a proxy for layoffs, rose last week to the highest level since June, though the number of claims remained within a healthy range. An outplacement firm said that the US-based employers have announced more than 892,000 jobs cuts this year through August, which is more than the 761,000 reported for all the 12 months of 2024.

If hiring slows down, and firing goes up, Trump will start firing aimlessly in all directions to extricate some good news on the economy front. In a sign that the US hiring gains are limited and fragile, nearly 80 per cent of the new private sectors jobs this year were created in just one industry: healthcare and social assistance, a Labour Department category that spans hospi-

tals to daycare centres.

After seeing the weak July jobs numbers, Trump fired Erika McEntarfer, head of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, baselessly claiming the hiring report had been rigged to hurt him politically. He nominated a partisan ideologue, EJ Antoni, to replace her. But for now, pending Antoni's confirmation by the Senate, the jobs report is in the hands of the acting commissioner, William Wiatrowski, a career Labour Department official. The August figures may nudge Trump to pressurise the Senate to hasten Antoni's hiring.

Economists and others familiar with how the jobs numbers are collected have expressed confidence that the Labour Department procedures will keep the data safe from political interference. What set Trump off a month ago was not the July hiring or unemployment figures. It was the department's revisions, which shaved a stunning 258,000 jobs off May and June payrolls, and slashed average monthly hiring from May through July to a mere 35,000.

The revisions are standard practice, and necessary because many companies surveyed by the government submit their responses late or correct what they have already sent in. Government economists are contending with a big drop in the share of companies that respond to the surveys. A decade ago, about 60 per cent of those surveyed responded. Now only about 40 per cent do.

This is not unique to America. It is an international problem for data collectors, especially since Covid-19. The United Kingdom even suspended publication of an official unemployment rate because of inadequate responses. "I remember being at an international conference where the chief statistician of the Russian Republic was complaining about how the Russians do not want to complete their surveys," William Beach, the labour department's commissioner from 2019 to 2023, said in an interview last month. "What could he do? If you cannot compel completion in Russia, you cannot compel it anywhere."

Games managers craft

Online gaming firm Gameskraft Technologies filed a police complaint against its former CFO for allegedly siphoning off ₹231 crore, whose write-off led to a decline in the company's FY25 net profit. The Bengaluru-based firm reported a net profit of ₹706 crore on a revenue of ₹4,009 crore in the fiscal year 2024-25. While profit was much lower than ₹947 crore in the previous year, the revenue was higher than ₹3,475 crore.

The company said FY25 was the first full year of 28 per cent GST tax on its operations. The previous year earning was factoring in a six-month impact of the newly introduced GST regime for the online gaming sector. The 2024-25 profit was impacted by "a one-time accounting adjustment of past unsanctioned transactions amounting to approximately ₹231 crore," it said in a statement.

While the company did not elaborate on the nature of unsanctioned transactions, sources with the knowledge of the matter said the write-off pertained to the discovery of money allegedly siphoned off by the firm's former CFO. A police complaint was registered against the senior executive in a Bengaluru police station.

The former employee, who was removed as Group Chief Financial Officer

in May this year, could not be contacted for comments. The complaint states that he executed unauthorised financial transactions totalling ₹231.39 crore for the past years. It goes on to state that he had in a purported email to the company in March this year "voluntarily admitted" of misusing company funds for personal equity and derivatives trading.

Globally, there are cases of senior executives, especially in stock and bond trading firms, using the company's money to play personal trades, which go wrong. In some cases, only the money that was siphoned off is lost. In others, the companies are saddled with huge losses as the trades were in their name but hidden. In the 1990s, Nick Leeson's fraudulent, unauthorised and speculative trades resulted in the collapse of Barings Bank, the UK's oldest merchant bank. Leeson was convicted of financial crime in Singapore.

Following the discovery of unauthorised use of company funds, Gameskraft instituted a forensic audit which revealed the extent and nature of funds being siphoned off, sources said adding that the company will make all attempts to recover the money from the accused. Following best accounting practices, Gameskraft has recognised the amount in its P&L, resulting in the impact on profit.

"While recording steady increase in

revenues, the decline in Gameskraft's profit after tax (PAT) is primarily due to the full-year impact of the 28 per cent GST, which led to a rise in tax outflows from ₹1,512 crore in FY 2023-24 to ₹2,526 crore in FY 2024-25, and a one-time accounting adjustment of past unsanctioned transactions amounting to approximately ₹231 crore," the company statement said.

The Indian online gaming sector is undergoing a fundamental transformation with the recent Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, which prohibits online real-money games, whether skill-based or chance-based.

"The legislation has created widespread disruption, compelling operators to shut down online money game operations, and begin the arduous journey of reimagining their business models. This regulatory shift comes after the introduction of the 28 per cent GST on deposits in October 2023, which compressed margins and slowed growth," it said.

The sector also faces uncertainty from retrospective tax notices totalling ₹2.5 lakh crore, currently under review by the Supreme Court. "In light of the recent Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, Gameskraft has already stopped 'Add Cash' and 'Gameplay' services across their rummy



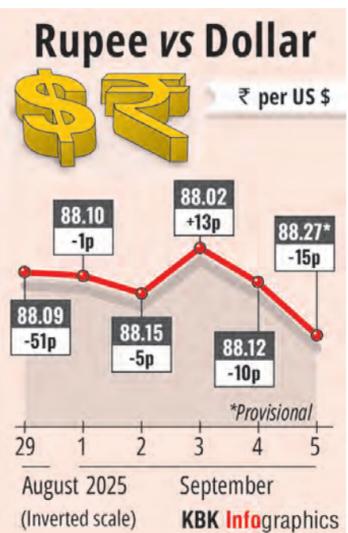
apps, and has maintained a strong focus on compliance, transparency, and operational continuity, working closely with auditors, banking partners, legal advisors, and policymakers during this transition," it said.

The company said it has cleared all regulatory dues and has proactively safeguarded the interests of its players,

employees, partners, vendors, and service providers through timely action and consistent and transparent communication.

Founded in 2017, Gameskraft in less than a decade, has grown into one of India's gaming bellwethers and has already initiated structured internal discussions to chart the road ahead.

Guided by their core values of responsible innovation, player protection, regulatory alignment, and strengthened compliance frameworks, the company is actively exploring new avenues and solutions to adapt to the evolving regulatory landscape, while contributing to the sustainable growth of India's digital gaming ecosystem.



Billions or millions, take your pick

Reliance Industries has consistently remained compliant with international sanctions and is expected to adhere to upcoming measures on Russian oil, analysts said, estimating that oil sourced from Russia contributes just 2.1 per cent to its consolidated EBITDA. Reliance operates the world's largest single location refining complex, with more than half of the capacity exclusively dedicated for exports. It is also India's biggest user of Russian oil.

In July, the European Union (EU) approved its eighteenth sanctions package in response to Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine. It lowered oil price cap to \$47.60 per barrel from \$60, for cargo to avail western shipping and insurance services, as well as banned import of refined petroleum products derived from Russian crude, including those refined in third countries, beginning January 2026.

Reliance's Jamnagar refinery complex, which includes a 35.2 million tonnes a year unit dedicated only for exports, sells fuels like diesel to EU and other nations. Stating that Reliance has been compliant with western sanctions, Jefferies in a note said the company "has adhered to western sanctions on Iranian and Venezuelan crude, and is likely to comply in the event of sanctions on Russian crude, in our view."

Like other Indian refiners, Reliance increased purchase of Russian oil



post Ukraine war in February 2022. This was because the oil was available at a discount because of the EU price cap, and some western nations shunning purchases to punish Moscow for its invasion of Ukraine. Estimating a \$1 per barrel benefit from refining Russian oil, the brokerage said Russian grade Urals headline discount to Brent has varied between \$4-7 per barrel over the past 15 months, with landed discounts prevailing at \$3 given higher logistics and insurance costs.

"This translates to \$1-1.2 per barrel

of incremental margin on Reliance's refinery throughput, in our view," it said, adding that this would mean around \$500 million of EBITDA per year, or 2.1 per cent of consolidated pre-tax earnings. "Benefit of Russian crude is limited... in our view," Jefferies said. Previously, the Hong Kong-based CLSA made a similar estimation of limited benefit.

US officials have targeted India for its import of Russian oil saying New Delhi was funding Russia's war machine and profiteering off Russian

oil. American estimates indicated that the benefit to refiners ran into billions of dollars. The Jefferies report contradicts those figures, and states that the benefit to Reliance is half a billion dollars.

CLSA in its report titled 'Russian crude imports, the real math' found the "net annual benefit to India from Russian crude imports to be much smaller at just \$2.5 billion, or a small 6 bps of India's GDP." This is significantly lower than the speculative number of \$10-25 billion benefit being

quoted. A foreign news agency calculated that the benefits from Russian crude oil to India was way lower than the adverse impact of the US' 50 per cent tariff.

But as one understands, the imbroglio and oil slicks related to crude oil, Russia, India and the US are not just about economics. They are about politics, bruised egos and changing geopolitics, where strong-arm tactics seem to be more important than delicate moves. Hence, analysing them only in the context of profits and losses is understanding a part of the narrative. Yet, there is no doubt that cheaper Russian crude oil played a part in the strategies.

While the Russian crude oil price was capped at \$60, when the Brent crude oil traded at \$75, the entire differential of \$15 a barrel was not India's gain. The CLSA report explained, "However, the net gain to Indian importers is far smaller than this visible discount as there are several shipping, insurance and reinsurance related restrictions for Russian crude. Therefore, Indian refiners import Russian crude on a cost, insurance and freight (CIF) basis, landed in India. Thus, the landed price of Russian crude is at a far lower discount."

The discount on Russian crude has been steadily declining. The discount averaged around \$8.5 per barrel in FY24, which fell to \$3-5 in FY25, and has declined to about \$1.5 per barrel last month. The net gains estimated at \$2.5 billion for FY25 have gone down even further in the last few months. According to CLSA, at current discounts, the annualised gains are \$1 billion.



FROM THE WORLD

COLOMBO

Indian arrested for smuggling

An Indian national was arrested while attempting to smuggle in 10.75 kilograms of Kush worth over ₹100 million (INR 29 million) at the international airport on Friday, a local media report said. The Indian national was arrested at the green channel of the Bandaranaike International Airport (BIA) in the morning. The 43-year-old arrested works as a salesman at a shoe store in New Delhi, news portal Ada Derana reported. A senior customs department official said that they used the scanning machines installed in the green channel to detect the consignment of illegal intoxicants, according to the Daily Mirror. The authorities said he purchased the consignment of Kush from Bangkok, Thailand, Ada Derana added. Kush, a variety or strain of the indica subspecies of cannabis plant.

UKRAINE

Ban on Orthodox church likely

The Ukrainian Government has declared that a branch of the Orthodox Church has failed to sever its longstanding ties with Moscow – and could soon be banned. The looming ban affects one of the two rival branches of Orthodoxy in the country.

UK Deputy PM resigns after tax row

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
London

Angela Rayner on Friday resigned as UK's Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Secretary after a sped-up independent ethics inquiry concluded that she had underpaid tax on a recently bought home.

Rayner, 45, a powerful leader within the Labour Party, handed in her resignation after the inquiry concluded that she had breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct by failing to seek out specialist tax advice to ensure she paid the correct stamp duty on the property on the south coast of England. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who is now formalising a forced Cabinet reshuffle of his top team, expressed his regret at losing his senior-most minister.

"You were right to refer yourself to the Independent Adviser on Ministerial Advice and right to act on his conclusions," Starmer said, in a rare hand-written letter in response to Rayner's resignation. "On a personal note, I am very sad to be losing you from the Government. You have been a trusted colleague and a true friend for many years. I have nothing but admiration for you and huge respect for your achievements in politics," he said, adding that she will remain a "major figure" in the Labour Party as she moves to the backbenches.

Sir Laurie Magnus, Starmer's Independent Adviser on Ministerial Standards, informed him that his deputy cannot be considered to have



UK's Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner

met the "highest possible standards of proper conduct" and therefore was in breach of the Ministerial Code of Conduct.

Rayner, Labour's member of Parliament for Ashton-under-Lyne in northern England who also held the influential post of Secretary of State of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, said she deeply regretted her decision to "not seek additional specialist tax advice."

"I would like to take this opportunity to repeat that it was never my intention to do anything other than pay the right amount. I must also consider the significant toll that the ongoing pressure of

ANGELA RAYNER HANDED IN HER RESIGNATION AFTER THE INQUIRY CONCLUDED THAT SHE HAD BREACHED THE MINISTERIAL CODE OF CONDUCT

the media is taking on my family," she said in her resignation letter to the PM.

The letters were released by 10 Downing Street along with the letter to Starmer from Laurie Magnus, who described his conclusion as "highly unfortunate."

"She [Rayner] believed that she relied on the legal advice

that she did not heed the caution contained within it, which acknowledged that it did not constitute expert tax advice and which suggested that that expert advice be sought," he wrote.

He added, "I believe Ms Rayner has acted with integrity and with a dedicated and exemplary commitment to public service. I consider, however, that her unfortunate failure to settle her SDLT [stamp duty] liability at the correct level, coupled with the fact that this was established only following intensive public scrutiny, leads me to advise you that, in relation to this matter, she cannot be considered to have met

the 'highest possible standards of proper conduct' as envisaged by the Code. "Accordingly, it is with deep regret that I must advise you that in these circumstances, I consider the Code to have been breached."

Earlier this week, after weeks of intense media coverage, Rayner had revealed a complex arrangement with her ex-husband over the care of her disabled son involving another property that remains a family home. Under the stamp duty requirements for homebuyers in England, anyone buying a second property is expected to pay an additional surcharge.

Mamdani likely to be New York's next mayor: Trump



Democrat Zohran Mamdani

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Washington

US President Donald Trump has said he thinks Democrat Zohran Mamdani is likely to become New York City's next mayor unless two of the three major candidates running against him drop out of the race. But the Republican didn't say which two candidates he'd like to see quit.

Trump said "No" when he was asked by a reporter on Thursday night if he'd urged or encouraged any of the candidates in the race to drop out, but went on to say he would like to see that happen. "I don't think you can win unless you have one-one-one, and somehow he's gotten a little bit of a lead," Trump said of Mamdani.

"I have no idea how that happened." The president, who spoke as he hosted a dinner at the White House with tech executives, went on, "I would like to see two people drop out and have it be one-one-one, and I think that's a race that could be won."

Mamdani, a 33-year-old

democratic socialist, has been the presumptive favourite in the election since soundly beating former governor Andrew Cuomo in the Democratic primary in June.

But Cuomo is still on the ballot as an independent, as is incumbent Mayor Eric Adams. Joining those three Democrats in the field is Republican Curtis Sliwa, the founder of the Guardian Angels crime patrol group.

Recently, intermediaries for Trump reached out to people close to Adams to talk about whether he would consider abandoning his reelection campaign to take a federal job, according to people familiar with those conversations who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the private nature of the talks.

On a recent trip to Miami, Adams met with Steve Witkoff, a former real estate developer in New York who is now one of Trump's main diplomatic envoys in Washington, according to one of the people briefed on the discussions.

Israel strikes Gaza City high-rise building

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Deir al-Balah (Gaza Strip)

Israel struck a high-rise building on Friday as the Army ramped up an offensive in preparations to take over Gaza City.

Defence Minister Israel Katz said the strike on the building was just the beginning, warning "when the door opens it will not close" and the army's activity will increase. His comments come days after Israel began mobilising tens of thousands of reservists and repeating evacuation warnings as part of its plan to widen its offensive in Gaza City and other Hamas strongholds, which has sparked opposition domestically and condemnation abroad.

Palestinians said Israel's strike Friday targeted the Mushtaha tower in Gaza City, located in the southern area of the once-upscale Rimal neighbourhood. The tower already had come under Israeli attacks and photos of the building taken before the strike showed its roof was heavily

damaged. Israel said it struck the building because it was used for Hamas surveillance.

Israel has declared Gaza City, in the north of the territory, to be a combat zone. Parts of the city are already considered "red zones" where Palestinians have been ordered to evacuate ahead of expected heavy fighting.

That has left residents on edge, including many who returned after fleeing the city in the initial stages of the Israel-Hamas war. Moving costs thousands of dollars and finding space in the overcrowded south to pitch a tent feels impossible. But staying behind, they say, could be deadly. While this wasn't the first strike on Mushtaha tower, it was the first time the building was targeted since Israel announced its operation to take Gaza City several weeks ago.

Gaza City resident Ahmed al-Boari said the building and the surrounding areas were recently inundated with displaced families who have come since Israel began operating on the out-

skirts of the city. It was unclear how many people were killed in the strike.

Israeli public fears for hostages

Israel's new offensive also has sparked widespread protests among members of the Israeli public who fear it will endanger hostages still held in Gaza, some of who are believed to be in Gaza City. There are 48 hostages still held in Gaza, 20 of who are believed to be alive.

Hamas released a propaganda video Friday of two hostages in Gaza City. A video shows Guy Gilboa-Dalal in a car, at one point joined by another hostage, Alon Ohele.

Gilboa-Dalal speaks, likely under duress, pleading for the war to end and to return to their families. Gilboa-Dalal was last seen in a video more than six months ago with another hostage, Eyyatar David, as they watched other hostages being released during a ceasefire. As concern for the hostages persists, Israel has continued its offensive across Gaza.

UK royal family in mourning after Duchess of Kent dies, aged 92

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
London

Britain's royal family on Friday began a period of mourning after Buckingham Palace announced the death of the Duchess of Kent, a cousin of the late Queen Elizabeth II. She was 92.

Buckingham Palace said Katharine Kent, who was married to the Duke of Kent—a grandson of King George V, passed away peacefully at Kensington Palace in London on Thursday night.

As one of the oldest members of the royal family, the Duchess was best known around the world as the elegant lady who presented the trophies at the conclusion of the Wimbledon tennis tournament. "It is with deep sorrow that Buckingham Palace announces the death of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Kent," the palace statement said.

"Her Royal Highness passed away peacefully last night at Kensington Palace, surrounded by her family. The King [Charles] and Queen [Camilla] and all members of the Royal Family join The Duke of Kent, his children and grandchildren in mourning their loss and remembering fondly The Duchess's life-long devotion to all the organisations with which she was associated, her passion for music and her empathy for young people," the statement added.

Born Katharine Worsley, the Duchess hailed from an aristocratic land-owning family in Yorkshire before becoming a part of the royal family in 1961 on her marriage to Prince Edward, the Duke of Kent, at a wedding ceremony attended by Queen Elizabeth II and the then Prince Charles.

Music was a big part of the life of the Duchess, having spoken of how emotional it made her feel, as a listener and as a musician.

The Duchess of Kent, who had not been a working member of the royal family since 2002, is survived by her 89-year-old husband and their two sons and a daughter. King Charles III has approved a period of Royal Mourning until the day of funeral, with members of the royal family and staff to wear black and those in uniform to sport black armbands in customary tribute.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
Ph: 01639-256232-256236

Advt. No. BFU-25/23

VACANCIES
Online applications are invited w.e.f. 06/09/2025 to 15/09/2025 from eligible candidates for the recruitment to the posts of **Executive Engineer-02, Law officer Gr.IV** on regular basis at Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot/constituent Colleges/Institutions.

For Application form, fee, specially vast detail of posts, Category wise distribution and other terms & conditions, visit University website: www.bfuhs.ac.in.

REGISTRAR
3108/12/2025-26/2873

KSOLVES
Energy & Finance

KSOLVES INDIA LIMITED
(CIN: L72900DL2014PLC289020)

Regd. Office: 317/27, Second floor, Lane no 3, Mehrauli Road, Saidulajab, Saket, New Delhi South Delhi DL 110030 IN
Corp. Office: Smartworks Tower D, C-28 & 29, C Block, Phase 2, Industrial Area, Sector 62, Noida, Uttar Pradesh 201301
Tel No.: 0120-4983651
E-mail: cs@ksolves.com Website: www.ksolves.com

NOTICE OF 11th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE OF 11th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO CONFERRING (VC) OR OTHER AUDIO-VISUAL MEANS (OAVM).

Notice is hereby given that 11th Meeting of the members of the Ksolves India Limited ("the Company") is scheduled to be held on **Saturday, September 27, 2025** at 11:00 a.m. (IST) through Video Conferencing or any other audio visual means in compliance with all the applicable provisions of companies act, 2013 (ACT) and rules made thereunder and SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure requirement) regulations, 2015 read with General Circular dated April 08th 2020, April 13th 2020, May 05, 2020, September 20, 2020, December 31, 2020, January 31, 2020, December 08, 2021 and December 14, 2021, 02/2022 dated May 05, 2022 and 19/2022 dated December 28, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Collectively referred as MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular dated May 12, 2020, January 15, 2021, May 13, 2022 and January 05, 2023 (SEBI Circulars) or any other applicable circular in this regard to transact the business set out in the Notice of AGM. Members attending the AGM through VCOAVM shall be reckoned for the purpose of Quorum up to 103 of the Act. In compliance of the above Circulars, the Notice of AGM and the Financial Statements for the FY 2024-25 along with Board's report, Auditor's report, and other documents required to be attached thereto (Collectively referred as "Annual Report") will be sent only by e-mail to all the members of the company whose e-mail address are registered with the company/ Registrar & shares transfer agent (RTA) or Depository participant (DP). The electronic dispatch of notice along with other documents shall be completed on September 05, 2025 and will also be available on the company's website of the stock exchange i.e. National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) at www.nseindia.com and BSE Limited (BSE) at www.bseindia.com. In compliance with the provision of section 108 of the act read with rule 20 of Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended from time to time & Secrotianal standards on General meeting (SS-2) (the Company is pleased to provide remote e-voting facility ("Remote E-voting") to all the members to cast their votes on all resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM through National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL). Additionally, the company is providing facility for e-voting through AGM (e-voting) to all the members who have not cast their votes through remote e-voting. The Procedure instructions in respect of have been provided in the Notice of the AGM.

The members of the company holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on cut-off date, September 20, 2025 shall be eligible to cast their votes by remote e-voting or attend the meeting through VCOAVM and cast votes at AGM. The voting rights shall be in proportion to their shares of the paid-up equity shares capital as on the cut-off date. The remote e-voting period will be from September 24, 2025 at 09:00 a.m. and ends on September 26, 2025 at 05:00 p.m. Any person who becomes a member of the company after dispatch of notice AGM & holding shares as on cut-off/record date i.e. September 20, 2025 may obtain the login id & password by sending a request at cs@ksolves.com or investor@bhatnagaronline.com. However, if the person is registered with NSDL/CDSL for remote e-voting then existing user credentials can be used for casting votes. Members are requested to carefully read all the Notes which are set out in the Notice of the AGM and instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting votes through remote e-voting through AGM.

Detailed procedure for remote e-voting before the AGM / remote e-voting through the AGM is provided in the Notes to the Notice of the AGM.

Instructions for Members for Attending the AGM through VC / OAVM are as under:

- Member will be provided with a facility to attend the AGM through VCOAVM through the NSDL e-voting system. Members may access by following the steps mentioned above for Access to NSDL e-voting system. After successful login, you can see link of "VCOAVM link" placed under "Join meeting" menu against company name. You are requested to click on VCOAVM link placed under Join Meeting menu. The link for VCOAVM will be available in Shareholder/Member login where the EVEN of Company will be displayed. Please note that the members who do not have the User ID and Password for e-voting or have forgotten the User ID and Password may retrieve the same by following the remote e-voting instructions mentioned in the notice to avoid last minute rush.
- Facility of joining the AGM through VC / OAVM shall open 30 minutes before the time scheduled for AGM and will be available for Members on first come first served basis.
- Members are encouraged to join the Meeting through Laptop for better experience.
- Further Members will be required to allow Camera and use Internet with a good speed to avoid any disturbance during the meeting.
- Please note that Participants Connecting from Mobile Devices or Tablets or through Laptop connecting via Mobile Hotspot may experience Audio/Video loss due to Fluctuation in their respective network. It is therefore recommended to use Stable Wi-Fi or LAN Connection to mitigate any kind of a/sorastid glitches.

Members facing any technical issue in login before / during the AGM can contact NSDL helpline by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.com or call at 022- 4886 7000
Members who would like to express their views/questions as a speaker at the Meeting may pre-register themselves by sending a request from their registered e-mail address mentioning their names, DP ID and Client ID/folio number, PAN and mobile number at cs@ksolves.com by September 20, 2025 (5.00 p.m. IST). Only those Members who have pre-registered themselves as a speaker will be allowed to express their views/questions during the AGM. The Company reserves the right to restrict the number of speakers depending on the availability of time for the AGM.

Members attending the AGM through VCOAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Act.

By the order of the board
For Ksolves India Limited
Sd/-
Manisha Kide
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Date: 05.09.2025
Place: Noida

TWENTY FIRST CENTURY MEDICARE LIMITED

Plot No. 22, LSC, Madangir, New Delhi-110062
CIN-U24239DL1985PLC022113, E-Mail: mpd.humanity@gmail.com

NOTICE is hereby given that the 40th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Company will be held on Tuesday, 30th September, 2025 at 10.00 A.M. at Plot No.22, L.S.C. Madangir, New Delhi-110062, to transact the business, as set out in the Notice of AGM. The Company has completed dispatch of the Annual Report for financial year 2024-25 to Members through permitted mode by Friday, September 5, 2025.

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of the AGM using electronic voting system provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) from a place other than the venue of the AGM ("remote e-voting") and the business may be transacted through such voting. The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Tuesday, September 23, 2025 ("cut-off date").

The facility for voting, either through electronic voting system or polling paper shall also be made available at the AGM. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting may attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

The e-voting period commences on Friday, September 26th, 2025, at 09:00 a.m. and ends on Monday, September 29th, 2025 at 05:00 p.m., thereafter the said facility shall be blocked. During this period, Members may cast their vote electronically. The e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL thereafter.

A person who has acquired shares and become a Member of the Company after the dispatch of notice of AGM and holding shares as of cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com. However, if the person is already registered with CDSL for remote e-voting then the existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.

For details relating to remote e-voting, please refer to the Notice of the AGM. In case of any queries relating to voting by electronic means, please refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at www.evotingindia.com or contact at toll free no. 1800225533 or send a request at helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com. In case of any grievances connected with facility for voting by electronic means, please contact to the Manager (CDSL), Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futrex, Mafatal Mill Compound, N.M. Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cdsindia.com or call on 022-23058542/43.

The Notice of AGM is also available on the website of the CDSL at www.evotingindia.com and at the website of Skyline Financial Services Private Limited, (the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent) at www.skylineferts.com.

For Twenty First Century Medicare Limited
Rajni Sharma (Director)
Date: 01-09-2025
Place: New Delhi
DIN: 00144238

ASSOCIATED FINMAN LIMITED

Regd. Office: 59/17, Ground Floor, Bahubali Apartments, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi-110005

CIN: L65910DL1984PLC018871
Email id: associatedfinman1984@gmail.com; Tel No.: +91 1132963621
Website: www.associatedfinman.com

NOTICE OF 41st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REMOTE E-VOTING INFORMATION AND BOOK CLOSURE

- Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of Associated Finman Limited (the Company) will be held on **September 27th day of September, 2025** at 12:30 P.M. at its registered office 59/17, Ground Floor, Bahubali Apartments, New Rohtak Road, New Delhi 110005 to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of AGM in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (Act) and Rules framed thereunder read with General Circular issued from time to time, respectively circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars").
- Electronic copies of the Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year ended March 31, 2025 of the Company has been sent to all the members, whose email ids are registered with the Company/RTA/Depository participant(s), as on the cut-off date i.e. **20th September, 2025**. Please note that the requirement of sending physical copy of the Notice of the AGM and Annual Report to the Members have been dispensed with vide MCA Circulars. The Notice and the Annual Report will also be available and can be downloaded from the website of the Company www.associatedfinman.com
- The facility of casting the votes by the members ("e-voting") will be provided by NSDL ("National Securities Depository Limited") and the detailed procedure for the same is provided in the Notice of the AGM. The remote e-voting period commences on **Wednesday, 24th September, 2025 to Friday, 26th September, 2025** during this period, members of the Company, holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date of **20th September, 2025**, may cast their vote by remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM. Members participating through in person shall be counted for reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Act.
- Members, who are holding shares in physical/electronic form and their e-mail addresses are not registered with the Company/their respective Depository Participants, are requested to register their e-mail addresses at the earliest by sending scanned copy of a duly signed letter by the member(s) mentioning their name, complete address, folio number, number of shares held with the Company along with self-attested scanned copy of the PAN Card and self-attested scanned copy of any one of the following documents viz., Aadhar Card, Driving License, Election Card, Passport, utility bill or any other Govt. document in support of the address proof of the Member as registered with the Company for receiving the Annual Report 2024-25 along with AGM Notice by email at ria@bahubali.com. Members holding shares in demat form can update their email addresses with their Depository Participants. The notice of the AGM contains the instructions regarding the manner in which the shareholders can cast their vote through remote e-voting or by e-voting at the time of AGM.
- The Register of Members and Share Transfer books of the Company will remain closed from **Friday, 20th September, 2025 to Friday, 27th September, 2025** (both days inclusive).
- The Notice of AGM and Annual Report for the financial year 2024-25 sent to members in accordance with the applicable provisions in due course.

For Associated Finman Limited
Sd/-
Naveen Kumar Thakur
Director
Place: Delhi
Date: 05.09.2025
DIN- 09694776

RLF LIMITED

[Corporate Identification Number -L74999HR1979PLC032747]

Registered Office: 14 Kms, Pataudi Road, Village Jhund Sarai Veeran, Gurugram, Haryana, 120116

Corporate Office: D-41, South Extension, Part-II, New Delhi-110049.

Website: www.rfltd.com; Email: compliance@rfltd.com; Telephone: 011-26258237

NOTICE OF THE 45th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING & BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of RLF Limited will be held on Tuesday, 30th September, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. IST at 14 Kms, Pataudi Road, Village Jhund Sarai Veeran, Gurugram, Haryana, 120116 to transact the business (es) as mentioned in the notice of AGM which is being circulated for convening the AGM. The Company has sent the notice of AGM for Financial Year 2024-25 on September 04, 2025 through electronic mode to the members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depositories. The Annual Report for Financial Year 2024-25 is available and can be downloaded from the Company's website www.rfltd.com and on the website of stock exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com.

In compliance with section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 20 of The Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 ("the Rules") including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force, guidelines prescribed by the MCA, the members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on all resolutions set forth in the notice of AGM using electronic voting system (insta-vote) provided by MUFJ Intime India Pvt. Ltd. The voting of members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025 ("Cut-off date").

The remote e-voting period commences on **Saturday, 27th September, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.** and ends on **Monday, 29th September, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.** During these period members may cast their votes electronically. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by MUFJ Intime insta-vote thereafter. The eligible shareholders may also cast their vote at the Annual General Meeting either by a show of hands or through a poll and Members who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right at the AGM. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

The documents pertaining to the items of business to be transacted in the AGM are open for inspection at the Registered Office of the Company during business hours on any working day. Pursuant to regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Wednesday, 24th September, 2025 to Tuesday, 30th September, 2025 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 45th AGM of the Company.

Any person who acquires shares and become member of the Company after the dispatch of notice of the AGM by the Company and whose name appear in the register of members of the Company or in the statement of beneficial ownership maintained by the Depositories as on cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2025 can view the notice convening the AGM on the website of the Company www.rfltd.com website of stock exchange viz BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com. Such members can exercise their voting rights through e-voting by following the procedure as mentioned in the said notice of AGM. Members are also informed that in case shareholders/investor have any queries regarding E-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions ("FAQs") and Insta-Vote e-Voting module available at <https://instavote.lintimetime.co.in> under download section or you can email us to enotices@in.mgms.mufj.com or contact on: - Tel: 022 - 4918 6000.

For RLF LIMITED
Sd/-
Aditya Khanna
Managing Director
Date: 04.09.2025
Place: Haryana
DIN:01860038



Xi, Kim Jong pledge deeper ties

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un pledged mutual support and enhanced cooperation during talks in Beijing after a commemoration of the end of World War II, the countries' state media said.

Xi and Kim, along with top officials from their countries, met at Beijing's Great Hall of the People, a day after Kim attended a Chinese military parade alongside other foreign leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

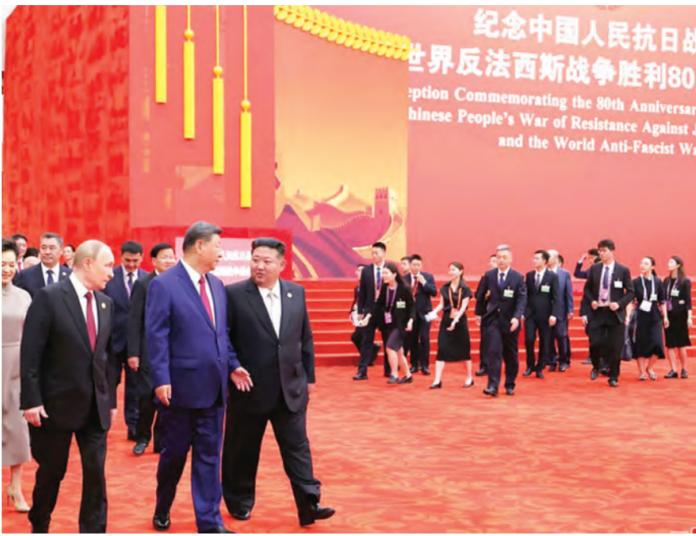
Kim is making a rare trip outside North Korea.

Xi highlighted the "traditional friendship" between China and North Korea and pledged to consolidate and boost relations, according to a readout of their statements published by Chinese State broadcaster CCTV.

"This position will not change regardless of how the international situation evolves," Xi told Kim, according to CCTV.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said on Friday that the leaders discussed increasing high-level visits and contacts as well as strengthening strategic cooperation and protecting shared interests in international and regional affairs.

It said Kim left Beijing by his private train on Thursday evening after his meeting with Xi. China has been North Korea's biggest trading partner and aid provider, though questions



KIM JONG TRIP TO CHINA MARKS TRANSFORMATION

Tokyo: Kim Jong Un put on a command performance this week at a gathering of some two dozen world leaders in China, striding with confidence and a broad grin across one of the biggest international stages of his 14-year career as North Korea's leader.

As Kim returns home on Friday, his time in Beijing marks a stunning transformation from his first tentative, violent years in power, when some analysts suggested the inexperienced young leader would struggle to survive threats to his rule.

Serious diplomacy with a large group of leaders was unimaginable. But in Beijing, Kim looked like the leader his propaganda services have constantly sought to portray: an important - crucial, even - player in world affairs, entirely at home with the biggest hitters in Eurasia. Beginning in 2018, when he and US President Donald Trump held the first of their much-publicized meetings, Kim has emerged as a far different, far more confident leader than when he was thrust into power after his father's death in 2011.

Granted, he is not yet appearing at the United Nations or established Western global forums. And the attendees in Beijing - which didn't include leaders from the US, Western Europe or Japan - showed little interest in pressing him on widespread concerns about human rights violations or his nuclear weapons. But the events this week are a watershed in his use of international diplomacy to advance his largely secluded nation's aims.

He deftly handled his two biggest allies, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, laughing with them, pledging enduring assistance to Moscow in its war against Ukraine, and strengthening a sometimes shaky relationship with China. He confidently rubbed shoulders with world leaders at a military parade marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

He even felt self-assured enough to bring his young daughter, and possible successor, along for the ride.

have lingered about the strength of their bilateral relationship. In recent years, Kim's foreign policy has focused heavily on Russia. He has sent combat troops and ammunition to back Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in return for economic and military assistance.

At a meeting with Kim in Beijing after the parade, Putin praised the bravery of North Korean soldiers in the fighting. But experts say that Kim would feel the need to prepare for the possible end of the Russia-Ukraine war. Kim, on his first visit to China in six years, brought his young daughter, adding to speculation that she's being primed as the country's next leader.

On Wednesday, he joined 26 foreign leaders who watched the parade marking the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. It was the first time that Kim joined an event with a large group of world leaders since taking office in late 2011.

North Korea's economy has been suffering under heavy US sanctions tied to Pyongyang's development of nuclear weapons. Some observers say Kim's trip could also be meant to increase leverage in potential talks with US President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly expressed his hopes to resume diplomacy between the two countries. China is believed to want its neighbour to return to negotiation and give up its nuclear weapons development.

Pakistan, China launch second phase of CPEC, ink \$8.5 billion deals

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Islamabad

Pakistan and China have formally launched the second phase of the controversial CPEC project and signed 21 agreements and joint ventures worth about \$8.5 billion.

The MoUs were signed in Beijing on Thursday, on the concluding day of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, when he met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and attended an investors' conference.

According to the Dawn newspaper on Friday, the agreements covered cooperation in the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0, as well as in areas like science and technology, information technology, media, investment, and agriculture.

The total worth of the MoUs and joint ventures is about \$8.5 billion, it said. The PM Office in an official statement said during talks with Li, Shehbaz described the meeting as "most productive".

"Both sides also agreed to continue working closely on the next phase of the upgrad-



Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif meeting Chinese Premier Li Qiang

ed CPEC 2.0, with its five new corridors," it said.

India opposes the CPEC, which will link Xinjiang in China and the Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan, as it passes through PoK. The CPEC is the flagship project of China's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The BRI is seen as an attempt by Beijing to further its influence abroad with infrastructure projects funded by Chinese investments all over the world.

The PMO statement said during the meeting, Prime Minister Sharif highlighted the "significant contribution" of

the CPEC to Pakistan's socio-economic development in the past decade.

He also stressed the need to accelerate the implementation of the Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project, the realignment of the Karakoram Highway, and the operationalisation of the Gwadar Port.

In a social media post on Thursday, Sharif said he "invited Chinese companies to enhance their investment footprint in Pakistan" and underlined that both sides agreed to advance their cooperation in IT, agriculture, minerals, textiles and industry.

Anutin Charnvirakul elected as Thai PM in parliamentary vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Bangkok

Veteran Thai politician Anutin Charnvirakul was elected Prime Minister on Friday after winning a parliamentary vote, according to an official tally.

The leader of the Bhumjaithai Party won a total of 311 votes, far exceeding the 247 required majority from the House of Representative's 492 active members. He and his Government are expected to take office in a few days after obtaining a formal appoint-

ment from King Maha Vajiralongkorn. Anutin, 58, succeeds Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who was dismissed by court order as prime minister last week after being found guilty of ethics violations over a politically compromising phone call with neighbouring Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen. A border dispute between the two nations erupted into a deadly five-day armed conflict in July. Anutin, who's an elected member of the House, got up from his seat and walked around the

chamber to take pictures with other lawmakers when he was a few votes short from the winning total.

Anutin told reporters as he exited Parliament to visit his father in a hospital that he would work hard to solve the country's problems. "I intend to work with my full capability," he said. "I must work everyday and make the most out of it, with no day off." Videos published by Thai media showed Anutin laughing as he hugged his father who said he was "very happy to see this day."

Foreign troops in Ukraine legitimate targets, says Putin

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Kyiv

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that any foreign troops deployed to Ukraine before a peace agreement has been signed would be considered "legitimate targets" by Moscow's forces.

Putin's comments came hours after European leaders repledged their commitment to a potential peacekeeping force, a prospect that Moscow has repeatedly described as "unacceptable."

"If any troops appear there, especially now while fighting is ongoing, we assume that they will be legitimate targets," he said during a panel at the Eastern Economic Forum in the far eastern Russian city of Vladivostok. Putin also dismissed the idea of peacekeeping forces in Ukraine after a final peace deal, saying "no one should doubt" that Moscow would comply with a treaty to halt its 3½-year full-scale invasion of its neigh-



Russian President Vladimir Putin

bour. He said that security guarantees would be needed for both Russia and Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov later said that Moscow would need "legally binding documents" to outline such agreements. "Of course, you can't just take anybody's word for something," he told Russian news outlet Argumenty i Fakty.

Putin's comments follow remarks from French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday that 26 of Ukraine's allies have pledged to deploy troops as a "reassurance force" for Ukraine once fighting ends.

Macron spoke after a meeting in Paris of the so-called coalition of the willing, a group of 35 countries that support Ukraine.

UKRAINE CONFLICT AFFECTING GLOBAL SOUTH: INDIA AT UNGA

United Nations: India has voiced regret over the Ukraine conflict's "collateral consequences", including prices of fuel, saying countries of the Global South have been left to fend for themselves, as Delhi underscored that diplomatic efforts hold the promise to end the war and bring lasting peace.

"India continues to remain concerned over the situation in Ukraine. We maintain that the loss of innocent lives is unacceptable, and no solution can be found on the battlefield," India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathani Harish, said.

Addressing the UN General Assembly debate on 'The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine', Harish said India continues to "note with regret that the collateral consequences of the conflict, including prices of fuel, is affecting the world at large and particularly the countries of the Global South, which have been left to fend

SAR TELEVENTURE LIMITED
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Regd. Office: B-16, First Floor, Sector-2, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh
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NOTICE OF 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND REMOTE E-VOTING
Notice is hereby given that 06th AGM of Members of SAR Televenture Limited ("the Company") will be held on **Monday, September 29, 2025 at 4:00 P.M. IST** through Video Conferencing/Other Audio-Visual Means ("VC/OAVM") in compliance with provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, rules framed thereunder, SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, read with Circular(s) issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs or SEBI in this regard, to transact the Ordinary and Special Businesses as set out in the Notice of 06th AGM without the physical presence of the members at a common venue. The venue of the AGM shall be deemed to be Registered Office of the Company.

Notice of 06th AGM and the Annual Report of the Company for the financial year 2024-25, have been sent on Friday, 05th September, 2025, through electronic mode to the members of the Company who are holding shares as on Friday, 29th August, 2025 and whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depository Participant(s). Additionally, a letter providing the web-link, including the exact path of Notice of 06th AGM and Annual Report being sent to those shareholders whose email address is not registered with the Company/DP. Further, hard copies of the Annual Report will be provided to those members who request for the same at info@sarteleventure.com.

Members holding shares either in physical form or in dematerialized form, as on the cut-off date for e-voting i.e. **Monday, 22nd September, 2025**, may cast their vote electronically on the Ordinary and Special businesses, as set out in the Notice of 06th AGM through electronic voting system ("Remote e-voting") provided by MUFG Intime India Pvt. Ltd. ("RTA"). All members informed that-

- the remote e-voting shall commence on **Friday, 26th September, 2025 (9:00 a.m.) and end on Sunday, 28th September, 2025 (5:00 p.m.)**.
- the cut-off date is **Monday, 22nd September, 2025** for determining the eligibility to vote through e-voting or through the e-voting system during 06th AGM;
- Any person, who purchase shares of the Company and becomes Member of the Company after the Company has sent the Notice of 06th AGM by email and holds shares as on **Monday, 22nd September, 2025 ("cut-off date")**, may obtain the User ID and password by sending a request to MUFG at enotices@n.mps.mufg.com or to the Company's email address info@sarteleventure.com. However, if a person is already registered with MUFG Intime India Pvt. Ltd. ("RTA") for remote e-voting then existing user ID and password can be used for casting vote.
- Members may note that: a) the remote e-voting module shall be disabled after the aforesaid date and time for voting and once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, the Member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently; b) the Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the date of 6th AGM may participate in 6th AGM through VC/OAVM facility but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again through the e-voting system during 06th AGM; c) the Member participating in 06th AGM and who had not cast their vote by remote e-voting, shall be entitled to cast their vote through e-voting system during 06th AGM; and d) a person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date for e-voting only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting, participating in 06th AGM through VC/OAVM Facility and e-voting during 06th AGM.
- The Notice of 06th AGM and the Annual Report of the Company are also available on the website of the Company at www.sarteleventure.com, on the websites of the Stock Exchange i.e. NSE Limited at www.nseindia.com and also on the website of MUFG Intime India Pvt. Ltd (agency for providing the Remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM facility) i.e. <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in/>.
- In case of any queries, members may contact INSTAVOTE helpdesk by sending a request at enotices@n.mps.mufg.com or contact on: - Tel: 022 - 4918 6000.
- Those Members who have not yet registered their email addresses and holds shares in demat form, please update your email address through your respective Depository Participant(s).

The above information is being issued for the information and benefit of all the Members of the Company and is in compliance with MCA Circulars and SEBI Circulars.

By order of the Board
For Sar Televenture Limited
Sd/-
Vandana Kaushik
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
Place : Noida (U.P.)
Date : 05th September, 2025
M. No. A31054

UNITED LEASING AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED
[Corporate Identification Number - L17100HR1983PLC033460]
Registered Office: Plot No 66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurugram, Haryana, 122001
Corporate Office: D-41, South Extension, Part-II, New Delhi- 110049.
Website: www.uliltd.com; Email: teamunited83@gmail.com

NOTICE OF THE 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, REMOTE E-VOTING & BOOK CLOSURE

Notice is hereby given that the 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of **United Leasing and Industries Limited** will be held on **Tuesday, 30th September, 2025 at 10:30 A.M. IST** at 14 Kms, Pataudi Road, Village Ihund Sarai Veeran, Gurugram, Haryana, 122016 to transact the business (es) as mentioned in the notice of AGM which is being circulated for convening the AGM. The Company has sent the notice of AGM for Financial Year 2024-25 on September 04, 2025 through electronic mode to the members whose email addresses are registered with the Company/Depositories. The Annual Report for Financial Year 2024-25 is available and can be downloaded from the Company's website www.uliltd.com and on the website of stock exchange i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com.

In compliance with section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with rule 20 of The Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 ("the Rules") including any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force, guidelines prescribed by the MCA, the members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on all resolutions set forth in the notice of AGM using electronic voting system (insta-vote) provided by MUFG Intime India Pvt. Ltd. The voting of members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025 ("Cut-off date").

The remote e-voting period commences on **Saturday, 27th September, 2025 at 9:00 A.M.** and ends on **Monday, 29th September, 2025 at 5:00 P.M.** During these period members may cast their votes electronically. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by MUFG Intime India Pvt. Ltd. thereafter. The eligible shareholders may also cast their vote at the Annual General Meeting either by a show of hands or through a poll and Members who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right at the AGM. The Members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again.

The documents pertaining to the items of business to be transacted in the AGM are open for inspection at the Registered Office of the Company during business hours on any working day. Pursuant to regulation 42 of SEBI (Listing Obligations & Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013, The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Wednesday, 24th September, 2025 to Tuesday, 30th September, 2025 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of 41st AGM of the Company.

Any person who acquires shares and become member of the Company after the dispatch of notice of the AGM by the Company and whose name appears in the register of members of the Company or in the statement of beneficial ownership maintained by the Depositories as on cut-off date i.e. 23rd September, 2025 can view the notice convening the AGM on the website of the Company viz www.uliltd.com website of stock exchange viz BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com. Such members can exercise their voting rights through e-voting by following the procedure as mentioned in the said notice of AGM. Members are also informed that in case shareholders/investor have any queries regarding E-voting, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and insta-Vote e-Voting module available at <https://instavote.linkintime.co.in/> under download section or you can email us to enotices@n.mps.mufg.com or contact on: - Tel: 022 - 4918 6000.

For United Leasing & Industries Limited
Sd/-
Ashish Khanna
Managing Director
Date: 04.09.2025
Place: Haryana
DIN: 01251582

MODI RUBBER LIMITED
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392
Registered Office: Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)
Corporate Office: 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025
Website: www.modirubberlimited.com; Email: investors@modigroup.net; Phone: +91-11-47107398

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 52nd Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of Modi Rubber Limited ("Company") will be held on Tuesday, the 30th September, 2025 at 11:30 a.m. (IST) through Video Conferencing ("VC")/ Other AudioVisual Means ("OAVM") facility provided by Mas Services Limited to transact the business set out in the Notice convening the AGM.

Notice of AGM and Annual Report: In compliance with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide its Circular No.09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 read with and General Circular No.09/2024 dated September 19, 2024 and SEBI Circular Nos. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/167 Dated October 07, 2023 and SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2024/133 dated October 3, 2024 the AGM of the Company will be held through VC/OAVM.

The Notice setting out the business to be transacted at the AGM together with the Integrated Annual Report of the Company for the year 2024-25 has been sent on 05.09.2025 through electronic mode only to the members whose email address is registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s). The Notice and the Integrated Annual Report are also available on the Company's website at www.modirubberlimited.com and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively.

E-voting: The Company is providing to the members, the facility to cast their vote(s) on the business as set out in the Notice of the AGM through remote e-voting facility ("remote e-voting") as well as during the AGM to those members who could not cast their vote(s) by remote evoting. **Members are requested to note the following:**

- the company has fixed 23rd September 2025 as the 'Cut Off date' to ascertain the eligibility of members to vote by remote e-voting or by e-voting at the AGM.
- A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. 23rd September 2025 only, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or for participation and voting at the AGM.
- the remote e-voting period shall be available as under:
Commencement of remote e-voting : from 09:00 a.m.(IST) on Saturday 27th September 2025
End of remote e-voting : till 05:00 pm (IST) on Monday, 29th September 2025
- any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice and holds shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in However, if the person is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting then he/she can use their existing User ID and password for casting the vote.
- the members who have cast their vote by remote e-voting prior to the AGM can also attend/participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again at the AGM.
- the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL after 5.00 p.m. (IST) on 29th September 2025. The votes once cast by the member, cannot be changed subsequently.
- those members, who intend to participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM facility and could not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting during the AGM.
- the manner of voting for members holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. The notice will also be available on the website of the Company at www.modirubberlimited.com Members are requested to carefully read all the Notes set out in the Notice of the AGM with respect to instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting vote etc. Contact details: In case of any queries relating to e-voting, the members may refer to the FAQs for members and e-voting user manual for members available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800-222-990 or send a request at evoting@nsdl.co.in.

The members are requested to note the following contact details for addressing queries/grievances, if any:

MAS Services Limited T-34, 11 th Floor, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-II, New Delhi - 110020	Phone No. +91-11-2638 7281 82, 83 Fax no. +91-11-2638 7384 E-mail: info@masserv.com
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By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
(S K Bajpai)
Head - Legal & Company Secretary
Place : New Delhi
Date : 05th September, 2025



PROSPECT

VEDANTA BEATS ADANI GROUP WITH ₹17,000 CR BID TO ACQUIRE JAL



Mining conglomerate Vedanta on Friday beat Gautam Adani's Group to make a winning bid for the acquisition of debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates (JAL) for ₹17,000 crore, according to sources.

The bid value translates into Jaiprakash Associates' net present value of ₹12,505 crore. JAL, which has interests in real estate, cement, power, hotels and roads, has been dragged into insolvency proceedings after it defaulted on payment of loans. Lenders of JAL conducted a challenge process for the sale of the company under the IBC. Multiple bidders participated in the process, but in the end, firm bids were placed by only two entities, Adani and Vedanta Group.

CAIT TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO BOOST CONSUMPTION OF SWADESHI PRODUCTS



Traders' body CAIT on Friday said it will launch a campaign this month to encourage traders to increase the presence of "Swadeshi" products in markets to boost their consumption as an alternative to foreign goods. The announcement comes in the backdrop of the reciprocal tariffs on Indian goods levied by the US and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call to promote "Swadeshi" products. "The trading community pledges that Swadeshi products will be available in every shop, every market, and every street cart. The only alternative to foreign goods will be Swadeshi," CAIT said in a statement. The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said a national conference will be organised in Nagpur on September 15-16, with the participation of over 400 trade leaders, hawkers' organisations, consumer forums, and industry representatives from across the country.

Aravind VK honoured with Merlin Award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Aravind VK, known on stage as Myztiq Mayaman, an Indian magician-technologist based in Columbus, Ohio (USA), has been honoured with the 2025 Merlin Award by the International Magicians Society (IMS) in Las Vegas.

The Merlin Award — often described as the "Oscar of Magic" — is the world's most prestigious recognition in the field of magic.

Past recipients include David Copperfield, Criss Angel, and India's own Gopinath Muthukad, who received it in

2011 in the presence of then Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh.

This year, Aravind received the title "Most Magical Techie and Filmmaker," a unique category celebrating the fusion of art, technology, and cinematic storytelling.

Born in a small village in Kerala and now settled in the US, Aravind balances his career as a senior Data Engineer with his passion for magic, mentalism, and filmmaking. His shows and short films combine psychology, technology, and illusion, creating a new genre of storytelling. Beyond entertain-



ment, Aravind has also used his art for charity and social good, collaborating with community organisations across the US and supporting Kerala's Different Art Centre, founded by magician-philanthropist Gopinath Muthukad, which empowers differently-abled children through art.

"This award is not just for me — it is for every Indian who dares to dream beyond boundaries," says Aravind. Aravind's recognition highlights the growing global presence of Indian talent at the intersection of creativity, technology and social impact.

DUSU election: Candidates must submit affidavit, ₹1 Lakh bail bond

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

A press conference was organised by the DUSU Election Committee to brief the media about the DUSU election 2025-26 schedule, prevailing guidelines on conduct, guidelines on defacement of public and private property and ₹1 lakh bond.

It was clarified that only handmade posters are allowed for canvassing among the students and specified wall of democracy.

Any act of defacement may be reported on the online portal of DUSU and on the college portal, in the case of college. It was clarified that a prospective candidate for DUSU Elections is required only to submit an affidavit and a surety bond of ₹1 lakh.

There is no need to deposit the amount in the University or his/her own account. The surety bond can be signed by the parents/guardian/friend/supporter.

All measurers are being taken to the DUSU elections



2025-26 as green election and clean election. The DUSU Election Committee and the University have indicated Zero tolerance towards defacement and violation of guidelines.

The DUSU Election Committee and other committees like committee for prevention of defacement, discipline committees, students grievance cell, univer-

sity proctorial board, Delhi Police and other civic agencies are vigilant and keeping a watch on all aspects of DUSU elections 2025-26.

The DUSU Election Committee has met with the prospective candidates and students groups and discussed to conduct a free and fair DUSU Election 2025-26. The students have explicitly shown their interest to keep

the elections free from any kind of defacement. The chief election officer appreciated the co-operation received so far from the students in maintaining the law and order and avoiding the defacement activities.

A team of observers will visit the colleges and vicinity from Monday onwards to curb the menace of defacement.

Pandit Harish Pujari honoured with Doctorate



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Renowned astrologer and Vastu Shastra expert Pandit Harish Pujari, with over 28 years of experience, was conferred a prestigious Doctorate Award in New Delhi. The honor was presented by acclaimed actress Nushratt Bharuchcha at an event organised by the Honorary Doctorate Award Council, Bharat Gaurav Ratna Shri Samman Council, and the World Human Rights Protection Commission.

Pandit Harish was also

appointed Vice President of the World Human Rights Protection Commission. Since 2004, he has guided countless individuals through his expertise in astrology and Vastu Shastra while dedicating himself to social service. His notable contributions include supporting orphaned and underprivileged children, particularly in higher education for meritorious students. This doctorate recognises his unwavering commitment to societal welfare through both spiritual guidance and humanitarian efforts.

Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate unveils 'Wings of VANAHA' in Pune

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate (SPRE) has set a new benchmark in industry recognition with the unveiling of 'Wings of VANAHA', a landmark tribute celebrating the achievements of 60 top-performing Channel Partners at its flagship 1,000-acre integrated township, VANAHA, near Bavdhan, Pune.

Taking inspiration from iconic global traditions of immortalising names — from the Hollywood Walk of Fame to the names of soldiers etched on India Gate — Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate reimagined this spirit of timeless recognition for the real estate industry.

The bespoke 'Wings of VANAHA' installation stands as a lasting symbol of growth, trust, and shared legacy. It honours the pivotal role Channel Partners have played in shaping VANAHA into one of Pune's most sought-after addresses. As a part of the ceremony, each channel partner was presented with a handcrafted metal leaf engraved with their name, which was ceremonially placed on the installation designed in the form of the VANAHA emblem.

Together, these leaves form a living monument, capturing the enduring partnership and commitment behind VANAHA's journey. "Our Channel Partners are the roots of our growth story," said Mr



Sriram Mahadevan, CEO of Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate and MD of Joyville Shapoorji Housing. "The 'Wings of VANAHA' is not just an acknowledgement, but a symbol of how deeply their contributions are interwoven with VANAHA's success.

Together, we are creating new benchmarks for collaboration in India's real estate sector." The evening concluded with a celebratory toast, marking not just milestone achievements but also the enduring spirit of partnership that continues to power VANAHA's success.

VANAHA by Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate is one of Pune's largest integrated developments, offering thoughtfully designed residential, commercial, and retail spaces across 1,000 acres, with over 350 acres dedicated to open green landscapes.

The township is anchored by premium lifestyle amenities, including a state-of-the-art clubhouse, gym, spa, multi-purpose courts, landscaped gardens, and panoramic views of the Oxford Golf Course—

ranked among Asia's top five and home to Pune's only private 18-hole golf course. VANAHA is strategically located near major IT hubs like Hinjewadi, Mahalunge-Mann Hi-Tech City Park, and Baner.

This gives it immense appeal for professionals. Its location is further enhanced by proximity to renowned educational institutions, such as FLAME University and Symbiosis International University.

It is also near multi-specialty hospitals and established commercial centres. The acclaimed Oxford Golf Course, ranked among Asia's top five, further elevates the project's lifestyle quotient. Recently, SPRE launched VANAHA Verdant, offering 2 and 3 BHK apartments. To date, the company has sold over 2000 apartments worth ₹1800 crores. These sales include both the mid-segment (Yahavi and Springs) and premium developments (Golf and phase 1 & 2) within the township.

VANAHA is uniquely positioned to offer a peaceful, green lifestyle while ensuring effortless connectivity

to the city. The township is home to over 400 species of flora and fauna, reinforcing its nature-first ethos.

Future infrastructure upgrades such as the upcoming Metro Line 2 (Chandni Chowk to Viman Nagar), the Mumbai-Pune Expressway 'Missing Link', the proposed 10-lane Mumbai-Bangalore National Highway, the proposed 6-lane Paud-Mahad corridor, the proposed new 8-lane flyover at Chandni Chowk, and the proposed 14-lane wide Ring Road will significantly enhance accessibility and value for residents.

About Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate (SPRE) Shapoorji Pallonji Real Estate is a well-regarded, reputed player in the Indian real estate sector owing to its cutting-edge design innovation, construction quality, and architectural excellence.

It constitutes a significant segment of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, an enormous multi-business conglomerate. The group has more than 160 years of legacy that bridges the earliest celebrated structures of India and the modern marvels.

VIBGYOR Gurugram excels in Chess, Science Olympiad

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Gurugram

Students from VIBGYOR High Gurugram blazed a new trail in the international sports and academics arena by winning in their categories in the FIDE Rapid & Blitz Chess and scoring 15 slots in the Science Olympiad.

The school has made its mark in sporting and academic excellence. Young talents Nirmay Agarwal (Grade X) and Navya Agarwal (Grade III) created waves by winning their categories at the International Open FIDE Rapid & Blitz Chess tournaments. Girl students have also secured multiple District and State level Judo championship titles across Under-14 and Under-8 categories. Other outstanding achievements are discernible in the International Science Olympiad, where learners from the Gurugram campus have secured the top 15 ranks across disciplines including general knowledge, social studies, computer science, mathematics and English. "Our aim is to inspire young minds to explore boldly and create new benchmarks, not just on the national stage, but internationally as well.

We are committed to venturing out in the northern region, duplicating the highly successful VIBGYOR Gurugram model by expanding across other States, thereby making our vision of holistic and quality education accessible to a larger population," said school vice chairperson Kavita Kerawala.

Recognised among the top five schools in Gurugram, the institute reaffirmed its commitment to deliver high-quality, future-ready education that nurtures the intellectual, social and emotional development of new-age learners, the school said in a statement. The school's curriculum is delivered through an interactive, experiential pedagogy that blends classroom theory with hands-on learning, sports, performing arts and community engagement, it added.

Gurugram Metro extension launched



PARVESH SHARMA
■ Gurugram

The long-awaited Gurugram Metro extension project has officially taken off, with Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, and Haryana Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini laying the foundation stone on Friday in Sector-44.

The ambitious project, pegged at ₹5,452.72 crore, is expected to redefine urban mobility, decongest roads, and significantly push up property values across the city.

The 28.5-km corridor will feature 27 stations, connecting Old Gurugram with New Gurugram and creating a seamless link to Cyber City and other key business hubs.

The metro will run in a loop from the Millennium City Centre Metro Station (earlier HUDA City Centre) to Mouslari Avenue near Cyber City, with a 1.85-km spur to the Dwarka Expressway.

The new line will cover major locations including Subhash Chowk, Hero Honda Chowk, Udyog Vihar, Palam Vihar, Sector-45, 47, 48, 72, and Ashok Vihar. These stations have been strategically planned in high-demand areas to benefit both residents and commuters.

The project, to be executed by Gurugram Metro Rail Limited (GMRL) and Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation Limited (HMRTC), is expected to be completed within four

years.

Experts predict a strong boost for Gurugram's real estate market, particularly in traditional localities such as Sectors 4, 5, 9, 10, 22, 23, 37, 45, 47, 48, 72, and Palam Vihar. Improved access and reduced travel times are expected to drive demand from both homebuyers and investors.

The project is also seen as a game-changer for developments along the Dwarka Expressway, SPR, and Sohna Elevated Road, where significant residential and commercial inventories are concentrated.

"The laying of the foundation stone for the new Gurugram metro line is a landmark step in strengthening the city's infrastructure. Improved connectivity through metro expansion will not only ease commuting for residents but also unlock immense real estate potential along the corridor. With enhanced accessibility to business hubs and residential clusters, we anticipate a strong surge in housing demand across Gurugram and neighbouring towns," Mohit Malhotra, Founder & CEO, Neoliv said.

Union Minister Manohar Lal highlighted the rapid expansion of metro services in India, noting that in 2014, the network covered only 248 km in five cities. Today, it spans 1,066 km across 24 cities, with another 970 km under construction.

He added that metro

connectivity saves both time and money, while ensuring safe and efficient commuting.

He also announced that the Urban Affairs Ministry will provide 10,000 subsidized buses nationwide, including 450 for Haryana and 100 for Gurugram, supported by a mobile app for last-mile connectivity.

Pradeep Aggarwal, Chairman of Signature Global (India) Ltd., said, "This metro expansion will decongest traffic, ease mobility, and unlock new opportunities for businesses and citizens. Together with other transformative infrastructure projects, it will position Gurugram as a seamlessly connected urban hub."

Calling it a "historic day", Chief Minister Naib Singh Saini said the project will reduce traffic congestion, cut pollution, save travel time, and generate employment.

He further revealed that future corridors are planned, including Rezangla Chowk to Dwarka Sector-21, Sector-56 to Pachgaon, and the "Nameo Metro Corridor" connecting Delhi to Karnal, Neemrana, and Faridabad via Noida.

Gurugram, already home to over 250 Fortune 500 companies and a majority of Haryana's unicorn startups, is poised to further strengthen its status as a leading business and residential hub with this metro expansion.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
TENDER CALL NOTICE
No. CE/PHD/M/ACCTS-1125/502 Dt. 02/09/2025
Name of the work: "Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of 2.00 MLD STP-III in front of maritime academy for two years (2025-27)". Estimated cost: Rs.2,16,04,587.90. Last Date & time of submission : 22.09.2025 up to 17:30Hrs. Refer our website for details: eprocure.gov.in/epprocure/app
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PHD(M), PPA
PPA/PR/37/2025-2026 dt. 04.09.2025

BRIEFLY

ROSS TAYLOR TO COME OUT OF RETIREMENT TO PLAY FOR SAMOA



New Zealand cricket great Ross Taylor will come out of retirement to play for Samoa at the Twenty20 World Cup qualifying tournament in Oman next month. Taylor retired from international cricket in 2022 after playing more matches for New Zealand than any other player: 112 tests, 236 one-day internationals and 102 T20 internationals. He remains second behind Kane Williamson on New Zealand's all-time test scoring list with 7,683 runs and second, also behind Williamson, with 19 test centuries.

Taylor's mother, Lote, was born in Samoa. Taylor will play under his given names and chiefly title as Leapepe Luteru Ross Poutoa Lote Taylor. Now 41, Taylor answered the call of his friend, former Black Cap Tarun Nethula, to join Samoa at the qualifying tournament.

STONES RULED OUT OF ENGLAND WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS



John Stones has been ruled out of England's World Cup qualifiers against Andorra and Serbia with a muscle injury. The Manchester City defender left the national team training camp on Friday, with head coach Thomas Tuchel saying he could not be risked for the upcoming games. Stones played in all three of City's Premier League games this season, but Tuchel said he was carrying an injury when reporting for England duty. "He came with minor issues, muscular issues, to camp and didn't progress as we thought and hoped he would, so he left camp this morning because we will not take the risk, not against Andorra and also unfortunately not against Serbia," Tuchel said Friday. England plays Andorra at Villa Park on Saturday and Serbia in Belgrade on Tuesday.

EL SALVADOR BEATS GUATEMALA



Harold Osorio scored late to give El Salvador a 1-0 away win over Guatemala in the first match of the final round of Central America World Cup qualifiers. Osorio's 79th-minute goal on Thursday was just enough for the Salvadorians who're trying to advance for their first World Cup since Spain in 1982.

El Salvador leads Group A with three points, two clear of Panama and Suriname. El Salvador will be aiming for back-to-back wins when it hosts Suriname next Monday, when Guatemala visits Panama. Twelve teams, divided into three groups, are vying for three direct spots from regional qualifying for next year's World Cup. The United States, Canada and Mexico have qualified automatically as World Cup co-hosts. In the earlier CONCACAF World Cup Group A qualifying game, Panama salvaged a scoreless draw against Suriname. "It was what I had predicted in my analysis of Suriname, and it was a crazy match with chances for both sides," Panama coach Thomas Christiansen said.

INDEPENDIENTE DISQUALIFIED FROM COPA SUDAMERICANA



Argentine club Independiente was disqualified from the Copa Sudamericana after violent clashes involving fans at its stadium in a match against the Universidad de Chile last month, South American soccer's governing body said. More than 100 people were arrested and around 20 injured when the round of 16 match was played on August 20 at the Libertadores de América stadium in Avellaneda, a province of Argentina's capital Buenos Aires. Regional soccer authorities also ruled that Universidad de Chile would advance to the quarterfinals of the continental competition where they will play Alianza de Lima of Peru.

South Africa clinches ODI series against England

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ London

South Africa clinched the ODI series against England with a game to spare after a five-run win in the second match that was set up by a record-breaking 85 by Matt Breetzke at Lord's.

Brought in to the Proteas lineup to replace the ill Wiaan Mulder, Breetzke became the first player in ODI history to score at least a half-century in his first five matches, according to the ESPNcricinfo website.

The 26-year-old middle-order batter's 77-ball knock added to a 49 from opener Aiden Markram and 58 from Tristan Stubbs as South Africa, which was put into bat, made 330-8 from its 50 overs on Thursday.

"It was a more than com-



South Africa successfully defended 330 at Lord's to go 2-0 up in the three-match series in England

petitive score. I definitely would have taken that when we were three wickets down," Proteas captain Temba Bavuma said.

England was skittled for 131 on the way to losing the first match by seven wickets at Headingley on Tuesday but competed much better two days later, despite losing Jamie Smith to the first over of the reply.

It went down to the last over, off which England needed 16 with one wicket remaining, but some inspired hitting by tailender Jofra Archer (27 off 14 balls) couldn't prevent the hosts falling just short on 325-9.

Before that, Jacob Bethell illuminated the home of cricket with a 58-ball 40, including hitting four consecutive boundaries, and put

on 77 runs for the third wicket with Joe Root (61 off 72 balls) to give England a chance.

Jos Buttler then smashed 61 off 51 balls before being deceived by a slower ball from Lungi Ngidi and getting bowled.

Will Jacks kept alive English hopes with two sixes but was one of two wickets to fall in the 47th over, bowled by Nandre Burger (3-63).

Archer hit two fours and two sixes but ran out of balls as the South Africans — back at Lord's 2 1/2 months after beating Australia there to win the World Test Championship — prevailed again.

"They probably got 10, 15 too many, but to get within one blow of their score, I thought was a good effort," England captain Harry Brook said.



BCCI raises Indian team's jersey sponsorship rates

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Sponsoring the Indian cricket team is set to get costlier with the BCCI raising the amount to ₹3.5 crore per match for a bilateral series and ₹1.5 crore for a game in a multilateral event.

According to a report in Cricbuzz, these figures will apply in competitions sanctioned and organised by the ICC and Asian Cricket Council (ACC). Citing industry sources, the report added that these figures are slightly higher than the current rates of ₹3.17 crore for bilateral games and ₹1.12 crore for multilateral matches. The development comes in the wake of Dream11's exit as jersey sponsor, which was triggered by the Government's Online Gaming Act, 2025. Following the government's recent Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025, the BCCI promptly cancelled the contract of the Indian team's lead sponsor, Dream11. With this revision, which will come into effect only after the end

of the upcoming Asia Cup, the BCCI could potentially earn over 400 crore rupees, though the final figure may be higher depending on the bidding outcome.

The BCCI on Tuesday invited bids for the Indian team's title sponsorship rights after fantasy sports giants Dream11's pullout and barred companies dealing in real money gaming and crypto currency from the process due to a Government ban on such entities.

The Indian team will be without a title sponsor in the Asia Cup starting September 9 in the UAE as the Board has set September 16 as the last date to submit bids.

Dream 11 recently shut down its real money games due to the 'Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act 2025', which states that "no person shall offer any, aid, abet, induce, indulge, engage in offering online money gaming services nor shall involve in any advertisement which directly or indirectly promotes any person to play any online money game".

Central Zone reply strongly to West Zone

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

Central Zone top-order batters, led by Danish Malewar, carried the team to 229 for two, giving a solid reply to West Zone on the second day of the Duleep Trophy semifinal here on Friday. Shubham Sharma (60) and skipper Rajat Patidar (47) were batting at stumps after Central bagged four quick wickets to end West's first innings at 438. Central need a further 209 runs to take an innings lead.

Malewar, who made a double hundred in the quarterfinal against North-East Zone, took his time to settle down before making 76, as his opening partner Ayush Pandey (40 off 59 balls) went off the blocks briskly.

The left-hander made 32 runs in boundaries, but his cavalier stay ended when Pandey's drive on the off pacer Arzan Nagwaswalla ended with Aarya Desai in the covers. But Malewar and Shubham stitched together a 93-run alliance for the second wicket to ensure that they did not waste a firm beginning. Malewar was confidence personified during his 136-ball innings, seldom giving any chance to the bowlers with precise footwork.

A backfoot punch, which was executed standing tall on his feet, off pacer Tushar Deshpande was an absolute treat to watch. It fetched him four runs in a blink. But at the other end, Shubham, a veteran of 67 first-class matches, was not



Central Zone's Saransh Jain celebrating with teammates after taking the wicket of West Zone's Dharmendrasinh Jadeja on day two of the Duleep Trophy 2025 in Bengaluru

really comfortable especially against off-spinner Tanush Kotian and left-arm spinner Dharmendra Jadeja.

The West Zone spinners often beat his outside edge and pinned him on the back-

foot, but close margins kept saving the 31-year-old.

There was some help for the spinners as West Zone skipper Shardul Thakur often employed a slip and short leg fielder around an hour into

the second session. Malewar, who completed his fifty in 94 balls, looked good to carry on for more, but a rather loose drive outside the off-stump off Jadeja resulted in a caught behind catch to Harvik Desai.

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (ROADS)
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3

NO. CE/STBR/SOPD-G/NIT/07/2025-26/20

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, PWD, (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Ghy-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) amounting to Rs. 308.140 Lakhs (Approx.) for Construction of SPT Bridge, and Construction Road, under Mukhya Mantri Nagariya Paki Path Nirman Achari (MMNPPNA) and SOPD-G for the year 2025-26 pertaining to Rangapara and Sipajhar LACs of Assam

Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned in the "State Bridge Design Branch". Amendment/Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The Contractor/Bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWRD, Assam website <http://assamtenders.gov.in>

Note:
 1. The Scheme is being sanctioned from competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the Scheme, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.
 2. The approximate N.I.T. Value is inclusive of GST (12%), L.C. (1%) etc.

Sd/-
 Chief Engineer PWD (Roads),
 Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

DIPRC/PIO/364/6-Sep-25

HIMALAYA FOOD INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
 Regd. Office: 118, 1st Floor, 12 Gagandeep Building, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008
 CIN: L70102DL1992PLC047399 Tel. +91 11 45108609
 E-mail id: cs@himalyainternational.com | website: www.himalayafoodcompany.com

INFORMATION REGARDING 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD THROUGH VIDEO-CONFERRING (VC)/ OTHER-AUDIO VISUAL MEANS (OVAM)

The 34th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the members of **Himalaya Food International Limited** ("the Company") will be held on Tuesday, September 30th, 2025 at 05:00 P.M. (IST), through video conferencing ("VC")/ other audio-visual means ("OVAM") in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder and Securities Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations") read with General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated: April 08, 2020, 17/2020, dated: April 13, 2020, 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020, 02/2022 dated May 5, 2022, 10/2022 dated December 28, 2022, 09/2023 dated September 25, 2023 and 09/2024 dated: September 19, 2024 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA Circulars") and circular dated May 12, 2020, May 13, 2022 and circular dated January 5, 2023, October 07, 2023 and October 03, 2024 along with the other applicable Circular (s) issued in this regard by MCA and SEBI, to transact the businesses that will be set forth in the Notice of AGM.

In compliance with the above Circulars, the Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report of the Company for the FY 2024-25 comprising of the Audited Financial statements, Auditor's report, Board Report and other documents required to be attached thereto, will be sent only through electronic mode to those members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company/ Registrar and Share Transfer Agent or Depositories/Depository Participant(s). The aforesaid documents will be available on the website of the Company at www.himalayafoodcompany.com and also be available on the website of the BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com, in due course of time.

Manner of registering/updating e-mail addresses and bank account details

(a) **For the members holding shares in physical mode:** Please send duly completed Form ISR-1 along with the requisite documents to the Registrar & Share Transfer Agent of the Company i.e., M/s. BEETAL Financial & Computer Services (P) Ltd. at 3rd Floor, BEETAL House, 99, Behind Local Shopping Centre, Madangiri Village, Madangiri, New Delhi, Delhi 110062. The Form ISR-1 is available on the website of the Company and can be accessed at <https://himalayafoodcompany.com/pages/forms-for-investors>.

(b) **For the members holding shares in demat mode:** Please register/ update your email addresses and/or bank account details with your Depository Participant ("DP").

Members can join and participate in the AGM through VC/OVAM facility only. The instructions for joining and the manner of participation in the AGM will be provided in the notice. Members attending the AGM through VC/OVAM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

The Company will provide remote e-voting facility to all its members (holding shares in demat/physical) to cast their votes on the resolutions set forth in the Notice of AGM. The process and manner of remote e-voting, the facility of joining AGM through VC/OVAM and e-voting at the AGM, for members holding shares in demat form or physical form and for members who have not registered their email addresses, will be provided in the Notice of AGM. The members attending the AGM through VC/OVAM, who have not cast their vote through remote e-voting, shall be allowed to vote through e-voting at the AGM.

Notice of Book Closure

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 10 of Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company shall remain closed from Wednesday, September 24th, 2025 to Tuesday, September 30, 2025 (both days inclusive).

The above information is being issued for the information and benefit of all the members of the Company and is in compliance with the MCA Circular(s) and the SEBI Circular.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors
Himalaya Food International Limited
 Sd/-
Man Mohan Malik
 Managing Director
 (DIN: 00686077)

Date: 05.09.2025
 Place: New Delhi

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

2 MINUTES STOPPAGE OF TRAINS

For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to provide 2 minutes stoppages to the following trains at the stations shown against them. The details are given below:-

Train No. & Name	STATION	Arr.	Dep.	Date (from the Originating Station)
15120 Dehradun-Banaras Express	Aithal	21:10	21:12	08.09.2025
15119 Banaras-Dehradun Express	Aithal	02:54	02:56	08.09.2025
15274 Anand Vihar (T)-Raxaul Express	Bilpur	22:56	22:58	09.09.2025
15273 Raxaul-Anand Vihar (T) Express	Bilpur	01:48	01:50	08.09.2025
13152 Jammu Tawi-Kolkata Express	Malihabad	16:08	16:10	08.09.2025
13151 Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express	Malihabad	13:28	13:30	08.09.2025
54076 Delhi-Bareilly Passenger	Garhmuktesar Bridge	02:20	02:22	08.09.2025
54075 Bareilly-Delhi Passenger	Garhmuktesar Bridge	23:35	23:37	09.09.2025
14236 Bareilly-Varanasi Express	Roza	18:02	18:04	09.09.2025
14235 Varanasi-Bareilly Express	Roza	09:25	09:27	08.09.2025
14308 Bareilly-Prayagraj Sangam Express	Roza	19:10	19:12	09.09.2025
14307 Prayagraj Sangam-Bareilly Express	Roza	09:00	09:02	09.09.2025
13010 Yog Nagri Rishikesh-Howrah Express	Roza	05:20	05:22	08.09.2025
13009 Howrah-Yog Nagri Rishikesh Express	Roza	23:12	23:14	08.09.2025
13006 Amritsar-Howrah Express	Roza	07:42	07:44	08.09.2025
13005 Howrah-Amritsar Express	Roza	18:50	18:52	08.09.2025
13152 Jammu Tawi-Kolkata Express	Kanth	08:36	08:38	08.09.2025
13151 Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express	Kanth	19:48	19:50	08.09.2025
14314 Bareilly-Lokmanya Tilak (T) Express	Dibai	14:26	14:28	13.09.2025
14313 Lokmanya Tilak (T)-Bareilly Express	Dibai	11:28	11:30	15.09.2025
13152 Jammu Tawi-Kolkata Express	Chandok	07:02	07:04	08.09.2025
13151 Kolkata-Jammu Tawi Express	Chandok	21:32	21:34	08.09.2025

For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Visit RailMadad website:- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

Please join us on

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Serving Customers with a Smile

BRIEFLY

LONDON CITY LIONESSES SIGN GRACE GEYORO



London City Lionesses marked its arrival in the Women's Super League with the blockbuster signing of France midfielder Grace Geyoro from Paris Saint-Germain, with sections of the British media saying the transfer fee is a world record. Sky Sports and the BBC, who are broadcast partners with the WSL, are reporting the fee is around 1.4 million pounds (\$1.88 million). That would exceed the \$1.5 million paid by the Orlando Pride to sign Mexico star Lizbeth Ovalle from Tigres UANL last month. Neither London City nor PSG Féminines have confirmed the exact fee. It would be the fourth time in 2025 that the women's transfer record has been broken, after US defender Naomi Girma (San Diego Wave to Chelsea for \$1.1 million in January) and Canada striker Olivia Smith (Liverpool to Arsenal for \$1.3 million in July).

WILLIAMS SISTERS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUTH



Venus and Serena Williams are partners in a new initiative to provide opportunities for young people from under-resourced communities through tennis and education. The Williams Family Excellence Program was announced on Thursday at the US Open, along with the USTA Foundation between, women's semifinal matches, with Venus Williams taking part in the on-court ceremony. The program will focus on post-secondary education and career development, aiming to reach more than 2,500 people ages 13 to 25 annually by 2035. The USTA Foundation's community-based organisations will identify and recruit young people from under-resourced communities who have athletic potential and financial need, and provide them with no-cost or low-cost high-performance training, college recruitment guidance, and access to camps and competitions.

MASCOT, LOGO OF ASIAN AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIP LAUNCHED



Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday launched the mascot 'Jalveer' and logo for the upcoming 11th Asian Aquatics Championship scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad from September 28 to October 11. The event will serve as qualification meet for the 2026 Asian Games. Mandaviya was accompanied by officials from the Swimming Federation of India (SFI). The Championship will take place at the newly constructed Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, built as per Olympic specifications, and will host over 30 participating nations across multiple disciplines. Speaking on the occasion, Mandaviya said, "This championship marks a historic milestone for Indian aquatics, offering our athletes the opportunity to showcase their talent against the finest in Asia."

FRANCE VS LUXEMBOURG SOCCER GAME POSTPONED



A soccer game between France and Luxembourg's Under-21 teams was postponed on Friday after the bus carrying the visiting team was involved in a traffic incident in Brittany. The game was to be played in the town of Lorient as part of the European Under-21 championship qualifying campaign. The French soccer federation said it has been rescheduled for October 3, 2026 at a venue yet to be determined.

India crush Thailand 11-0 in women's Asia Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Hangzhou (China)

Udita Duhan and Beauty Dung Dung scored a brace each as India began their campaign in the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament with a 11-0 thrashing of Thailand here on Friday.

Udita scored in the 30th and 52nd minutes from penalty corners while Dung Dung struck in the 45th and 54th minutes.

India's other goal-scorers were Mumtaz Khan (7th minute), Sangita Kumari (10th), Navneet Kaur (16th), Lalremsiami (18th), Thoudam Suman Devi (49th), Sharmila Devi (57th) and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (60th).

India, currently ranked ninth in the world, led 5-0 at half time in the Pool B match against the 30th-ranked Thai.

India got a total of nine



India thrashed Thailand 11-0 in their campaign opener at the Women's hockey Asia Cup 2025

penalty corners, out of which they converted five, while Thailand did not earn any PC.

India asserted their dominance early on with two field goals from Mumtaz and Sangita in the first quarter. The second quarter saw India being more menacing in attacks and the team added three more goals to extend its advantage.

Experienced forward Navneet and mid-fielder Lalremsiami scored a field goal each in quick succession, followed by a penalty corner conversion from Udita just before the half time break.

The second half followed a similar trend as India continued their constant attacks inside Thailand's circle.

India won four penalty corners in the third quarter, and Dung Dung converted one PC in the 45th minute.

India shifted gears in the final quarter, pumping in five more goals to seal a big win. Mumtaz, Udita and Sharmila scored through penalty corners while Dung Dung and Rutuja struck field goals.

The tournament features eight teams and the top two from each of the two pools will qualify for the Super 4s stage. The top two teams in Super 4s will play in the final scheduled for September 14.

India have come into the tournament without the injured duo of veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia and ace drag-flicker Deepika.

The Asia Cup winners will qualify for the 2026 Women's World Cup to be held in Belgium and the Netherlands.

After Thailand, India will take on Japan on Saturday, followed by the final pool match against Singapore on September 8.



Yuki Bhambri's semifinal finish is a turning point in his career

Yuki Bhambri bows out of US Open

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ New York

India's Yuki Bhambri ended a semifinalist at the US Open men's doubles event with partner Michael Venus, marking his deepest run at a Grand Slam tournament.

Bhambri went down 7-6 (2) 6-7(5) 4-6 in a thrilling contest against the experienced sixth seed British pair of Neal Skupski and Joe Salisbury, but not before scripting history of his own.

The 33-year-old Delhi player became only the fourth Indian man in the Open era to reach a Grand Slam doubles semifinals, after Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna.

The Indian-New Zealand duo had stitched together an impressive campaign at Flushing Meadows, topping higher seeded combinations en route to the last four.

Their run included victories over fourth seeds Germans

Tim Putz/Kevin Krawietz apart from knocking out 11th seeds Rajeev Ram and Nikola Pietrangeli, underlining Bhambri's growing stature on the doubles circuit after injuries curtailed his singles ambitions.

"This has been a special week for me. To be playing at this level and in the semifinals of a Slam is a big moment," Bhambri said after the loss.

Bhambri's showing continues a strong season for Indian tennis, coming close on the heels of Bopanna's consistent success on the doubles tour.

For the Delhiite, who has endured multiple injury layoffs in the past decade, the semifinal finish represents a breakthrough and a potential turning point in the latter half of his career.

With the result, Bhambri assured himself a significant boost in rankings and valuable momentum heading into the rest of the season.

India eye final berth in men's hockey Asia Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Rajgir (Bihar)

One step away from the final, the Indian men's hockey team will look to reach its optimal level of efficiency, when the Harmanpreet Singh-led side takes on tricky China in its last Super 4 stage match of the Asia Cup here on Saturday.

After the disappointing 2-2 draw against five-time champions South Korea, India bounced back strongly to outplay Malaysia 4-1 in their second Super 4 match and the latest result will give the home team a lot of confidence heading into the contest against China.

The convincing win enabled India to jump to the top of the standings with four points from two matches, while both China and Malaysia have three points each. Korea are languishing at the bottom with just one point.

The top two teams from the Super 4s will progress to the summit clash, and a draw would be enough for India to seal their place in Sunday's final.

After a subdued outing against Korea, the Indians played with more intent and tenacity against Malaysia, although the start was far from rosy. The Indians were slow off the blocks and conceded an early goal before getting their act together to stage a remarkable comeback by excelling in all departments of the game.

Speaking after the win against Malaysia, chief coach



India's Hardik Singh celebrating with teammates after scoring a goal during Men's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 match between India and Korea in Rajgir, Bihar on Wednesday

Craig Fulton said the squad is "still not there" as far as reaching peak performance was concerned, and the Indian players know that the expectations from them are high.

The question is how do they live up to the expectations. The answer is simple: just raise their game a few notches by doing the small details correctly.

So far in the tournament, the midfield has been marshalled pretty well by the likes of veteran Manpreet Singh, Hardik Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad and Rajinder Singh. Their co-ordination with the forwardline was a treat to watch against Malaysia.

Hardik, in particular, has been a livewire in the mid-

field with his fast dribbling skills and solo runs.

Manpreet has been a workhorse for Indian hockey for years now and his performance against Malaysia proved that he is still hungry for more. Not only did he create chances for the forwards, but he also assisted and scored a goal against Malaysia.

The trio of Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh and Mandeeep Singh has been mighty impressive upfront and would look to continue the fine show in the remainder of the tournament.

Young Shilanand Lakra, who is trying to cement his place in the team after returning from a two-year injury layoff, too created as well as scored for his side.

India, however, will have to utilise their chances more once inside the opposition circle and for that, they will need to remain calm and composed.

One thing that might worry Fulton a bit is the rate of penalty corner conversion. After a fine start, skipper Harmanpreet looked to have run out of ideas from set pieces, while the likes of Jugraj Singh, Sanjay and Amit Rohidas too found the going tough.

Against Malaysia, India earned six penalty corners but made use of just one, and that also from a rebound.

"Good defence, good pressing, good turnovers. So it was a good combination. It was an all-round effort," Fulton said.

Amanda Anisimova defeats Naomi Osaka at US Open



Naomi Osaka, of Japan, serving to Amanda Anisimova of the United States, during the women's singles semifinals of the US Open tennis championships

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ New York

Amanda Anisimova eliminated four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-3 in a US Open semifinal that ended at nearly 1 am on Friday and featured two of the most powerful first-strike hitters in women's tennis.

The number 8-seeded Anisimova, a 24-year-old who was born in New Jersey and grew up in Florida, reached her second straight major final by coming through after 2 hours, 56 minutes.

"I wasn't sure I would make it past the finish line and I tried

to dig deep," said Anisimova, who needed three match points to get the job done.

"It was a huge fight out there today."

When it was over, Anisimova yelled, "Let's go!" and enjoyed the moment by kneeling on the court and leaning forward.

She will face defending champion and current number 1 Aryna Sabalenka on Saturday for the title. Sabalenka beat Jessica Pegula in three sets on Thursday. Sabalenka owns three major trophies, all on hard courts.

This is the fifth consecutive women's final at a Slam involving an American woman.

At Wimbledon in July, Anisimova had a Grand Slam breakthrough, upsetting Sabalenka in the semifinals — a result that increased the American's edge in their head-to-head series to 6-3 — and making it all the way to the title match before losing 6-0, 6-0 to Iga Swiatek.

But Anisimova recovered from that quickly enough and well enough to get past Swiatek in two sets in the US Open quarterfinals.

Now Anisimova is the first opponent to beat Osaka — a former number 1 player who was seeded number 23 in New York — this late in a Grand Slam tournament.

ARYNA SABALENKA BEATS JESSICA PEGULA

New York: On Aryna Sabalenka's first chance to end her US Open semifinal against Jessica Pegula for the chance to play for a second consecutive trophy, the defending champion dumped what should have been an easy overhead into the net, then stared at the ground.

On Sabalenka's second chance, she missed a clumsy volley — and maybe shouldn't have even ventured forward, because she went just 15 for 27 when up at the net. Uh, oh. So good at important moments in the high-stakes, high-tension final set, Sabalenka held it together there and held on, converting her third match point Thursday night to finish off a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Pegula in a rematch of last year's final.

"I was super emotional. I was just like, Oh, my gosh, no way it's happening. Please, just close this match," Sabalenka explained afterward. "The whole match, I just keep telling myself: (Onto) the next one, just one step at a time, don't worry about the past. Just try better in the next point."

When it was over, Sabalenka rocked back on her heels, spread her arms and screamed.



Aryna Sabalenka and Jessica Pegula

On Saturday, when she faces number 8 Amanda Anisimova or number 23 Naomi Osaka, the number 1-seeded Sabalenka will be trying to become the first woman to claim consecutive championships at Flushing Meadows since Serena Williams got three in a row from 2012 to 2014.

"I had to work really hard to get this win," Sabalenka said after improving to 8-2 against Pegula over their careers. "Hopefully I can go all the way again."

Thursday's first semifinal was quite close, far closer than the straight-set triumph for Sabalenka over Pegula 12 months ago that gave the 27-year-old from Belarus her third Grand Slam title, all on hard courts.

Since then, Sabalenka was

the runner-up to Madison Keys at the Australian Open in January and to Coco Gauff at the French Open in June, then was eliminated in the Wimbledon semifinals by Anisimova in July.

Arthur Ashe Stadium's retractable roof was shut before the semifinals began, which prevented disruption from the wind outside gusting at up to 30 mph and the rain that arrived during play. In the good, indoor conditions, number 4 Pegula played about as cleanly as possible in the first set and the third, making just three unforced errors in each.

But in the second, that count was nine.

By the end, Sabalenka had accumulated more than twice as many winners as Pegula, 43-21.