

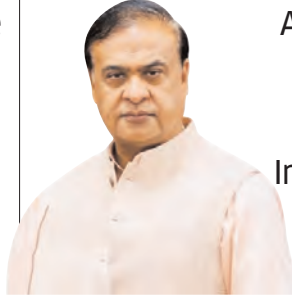
PAGE 6 NATION

No compromise on Gurugram's cleanliness, beautification: Nayab Saini



PAGE 7 USP

Assam CM attends State-level workshop on Agriculture Infrastructure Fund



PAGE 8 GLOBAL

Bill introduced in US Senate seeks 3-year pause on H-1B visas, codify \$100K fee



PAGE 16 SPORTS

Tilak, Kishan, bowlers help India drub Zimbabwe by 90 runs



AGENDA



GEN Z EXITS JANTAR MANTAR ON A HIGH

Pradhan resigns as education minister

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

After a month-long massive student agitation in Delhi seeking his resignation over exam irregularities and NEET paper leaks, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Saturday resigned. Pradhan handed over his resignation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi while President Droupadi Murmu accepted the resignation late in the evening.

The announcement comes amid escalating protests across the country calling for the minister to step down. He announced the move on his social media handle just hours before the third round of talks between the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and the Centre.

Pradhan, who was also one in the list of the troubleshooters for his party BJP, is the second Union Minister in the Modi Government since it came to power in 2014, when a sitting minister quit in face



IT WAS NOT A MATTER OF INDIVIDUAL PRESTIGE FOR HIM WANTED TO PREVENT ANTI-NATIONAL FORCES FROM EXPLOITING THE SITUATION AT JANTAR MANTAR

—DHARMENDRA PRADHAN

of public outcry and demand. The first was MJ Akbar, who stepped down as minister of State for external affairs in 2018 after sexual harassment allegations surfaced against him during the #MeToo movement.

In his two-page resignation letter addressed to the country's youth, Pradhan said that he made the decision to resign to ensure that "anti-national" forces do not exploit the decision and to ensure that the "national unity" remains intact.



People celebrate after Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned and took responsibility for the NEET paper leak on Saturday

PTI

PRALHAD JOSHI TO BE NEW EDUCATION MINISTER

Indian President Droupadi Murmu said in a press communique that she had directed Pralhad Joshi, a Cabinet minister, to be assigned the charge of the education ministry on the advice of Prime Minister Modi. Meanwhile, President has accepted the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan.



DEMANDS

- Government has also agreed to provide honourable compensation to the families of those who committed suicide
- Withdrawal of FIRs in Delhi and other BJP-ruled States
- The two sides will again meet after four weeks to work on broader reforms in the examination system



CJP ends protest after Govt accepts demands

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Ending their 36-day agitation, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Saturday called off its protest "with immediate effect" and asked supporters at Jantar Mantar to return home. This call was made after the Government accepted their key demands, including the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and assurances for FIRs withdrawal in Delhi and other BJP-ruled States.

The resignation of Pradhan

was the CJP's core demand over the NEET paper leak. The two sides will again meet after four weeks to work on broader reforms in the examination system.

CJP spokespersons Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, flanked by Union Ministers JP Nadda and Jitendra Singh at the press conference at the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi, shortly after the third round of talks between the two, said the CJP ended the protest in "good faith" that the Government would keep its word on the demands.



Union Ministers JP Nadda and Jitendra Singh and CJP spokespersons Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, during a joint press conference in New Delhi

PTI



DARO MAT (DON'T BE AFRAID). LET'S GET RID OF THIS REGIME THAT IS ATTACKING INDIA, DESTROYING OUR CONSTITUTION



—RAHUL GANDHI

DIRECT DEMOCRACY... STRAIGHT FROM THE STREETS. IT'S A VICTORY OF PEACE, PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE

EDUCATIONIST
—SONAM WANGCHUK



KAHA JAATA THA ISS SARKAR MEIN ISTIFE NAHI HOTE. JHUKTI HAI DUNIYA, JHUKAANE VAALA CHAHIYE

CJP FOUNDER
—ABHIJEET DIPKE



BJP backs Pradhan, hails his legacy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

BJP leaders acknowledged Dharmendra Pradhan's contributions after he resigned as Union education minister, with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju describing his journey as a "testament" to lifelong engagement with public life and student welfare.

BJP president Nitin Nabin said Pradhan's decision to step down reflects the "highest standards" of integrity and selfless service in public life, asserting that the party stands firmly with him. Nabin said that as Union education minister, Pradhan played a "pivotal role" in reforming India's education landscape.

Parliament to take up anti-paper leak Bill



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Tightening the noose around individuals, service providers and organised gangs involved in paper leaks, the Centre has proposed longer jail terms, steeper fines, and time-bound investigation and disposal of trials and appeals.

The bill, "The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026, is expected to be introduced in Parliament on Monday. According to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, Union Minister Jitendra Singh will move the Bill in the House. The

draft legislation was circulated among MPs shortly before the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan."

According to the statement of objects and reasons, the amendments have been proposed in view of recent incidents of question paper leaks and examination malpractices. Under the proposed law, individuals found resorting to unfair means will face imprisonment of five to 10 years, compared with the existing punishment of three to five years. The maximum fine has also been increased from ₹10 lakh to ₹50 lakh.



Pradhan's exit reflects Govt's failure: Oppn

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Opposition leaders described Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation on Saturday as an overdue admission of failure following weeks of intense student protests, terming the move as the first major dent in the ruling Modi Cabinet's stubbornness. Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said Pradhan was a symbol of corruption and "it is good that he is gone".

He described the student protest as a fight between "the past" represented by Prime Minister and the RSS, and the future of India.

PIONEER IN SHORT

LANDSLIDES SHUT 134 ROADS IN HIMACHAL

A total of 134 roads remained closed in Himachal Pradesh on Saturday due to landslides and flash floods triggered by torrential rains, while the Meteorological Department issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall in four districts of the state from July 28 to 30. The Shimla Meteorological Centre also warned of low to moderate flash flood risk in parts of Chamba, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla and Simla districts till Sunday morning, cautioning that inundation could occur in saturated soils and low-lying areas.

So far, landslides and flash floods have claimed 15 lives in Himachal during the ongoing monsoon season since its onset on June 30. As many as 14 have people died in landslide — 13 people killed in Lahaul and Spiti where a rock fell on a moving taxi on Friday, while one death was reported in Chamba district due to landslide. One person died in flash floods in Kangra district, officials said on Saturday. As many as 35 water supply schemes and 78 transformers have also been affected in the State according to the SEOC.

India's sacred Buddhist jewel Sarnath joins UNESCO's World Heritage list

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH ■ New Delhi

In a moment of profound national pride, the ancient Buddhist site of Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List on Saturday. The decision came during the 48th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Busan, South Korea, elevating Sarnath as India's 45th World Heritage property.

UNESCO announced the inscription with the statement: "New inscription on the # WorldHeritage List: Ancient Buddhist Site of Sarnath, #India." This recognition comes after a process that started in 1998, when Sarnath was first added to UNESCO's Tentative List. India submitted its official application in January 2025 for the 2025-26 cycle, leading to the recent vote after



review by ICOMOS experts. Sarnath is about 10 kilometres from Varanasi. It is home to the Deer Park, known in ancient texts as Mrigadava or Rishipatana, where Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, gave his first sermon around 528 BCE. Here, he "turned the Wheel of the Law" (Dharmachakra Pravartana), teaching the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path to his first five disciples. The Buddhist Sangha began at this site.

The World Heritage site

includes two main parts: the Chaukhandi Stupa and the Archaeological Remains of Sarnath.

The remains include the Dhamekh Stupa, thought to mark the spot of the first sermon, the Dharmarajika Stupa, the Mulagandhakuti Vihara, and the remains of the Ashokan Pillar, whose Lion Capital is now India's National Emblem. These monuments were built from the pre-Mauryan period through the 12th century CE.

AASHIRVAAD SELECT

MAKHMALI ROTIYON KA RAAZ!

GEHOON KA SARTAJ

Mewat's Development Journey Will Gain Greater Momentum: CM Saini

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday said that Mewat, once associated with neglect and backwardness, is today emerging as a symbol of development, trust and new opportunities under the transparent and people-centric governance of the double-engine government. Expressing confidence in the region's future, he said that in the years ahead, when Haryana's development story is told, people will remember Mewat for rewriting history. He asserted that the government's transparent governance and welfare-oriented policies have ushered in unprecedented transformation across every sector, and that Mewat's development journey will now gather even greater momentum.

Addressing the Mewat Vikas Sankalp Rally at Punhana in Mewat, organised by Chaudhary Javed Khan, who accorded the Chief Minister a warm welcome and honoured him with a traditional turban, Saini paid tributes to martyr Hasan Khan Mewati and said in the years ahead, Mewat would write a new chapter in Haryana's development story. He said India's identity lies in its diversity, but its greatest strength is its unity. Mewat is a living reflection of that India, where despite different traditions, dialects and ways of life, our hearts are one, our Tricolour is one, and Bharat Mata is one. This unity is our

greatest strength and our most valuable asset, he said.

Highlighting Haryana's recruitment process, the Chief Minister said that 1,494 candidates were selected under the Mewat Cadre and challenged anyone to prove that even a single candidate or their family had spent "five paise" to secure employment. He said the BJP government has ensured transparent recruitment and provided government jobs purely on merit. Over the past one-and-a-half years, 50,000 youth have been given government jobs without any recommendation or bribery, taking the total number of government jobs provided during the last 12 and half years to nearly two lakh.

Saini said Mewat has been identified as a priority region for focused development, adding that the government's objective is not merely to meet present-day needs but to build a prosperous, educated and self-reliant Mewat for future generations.

He called upon society to rise above politics, strengthen communal harmony, keep youth away from drug abuse, transform education into a people's movement, and make water conservation and environmental protection mass public campaigns.

CLEANLINESS, BEAUTIFICATION AND PLANNED URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF GURUGRAM TOP PRIORITY

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday said that cleanliness, beautification and planned urban development of



Gurugram are among the State Government's highest priorities.

Chairing the meeting of the District Public Relations and Grievances Redressal Committee, he directed officers that there would be no compromise with the city's cleanliness and aesthetics. He directed officers of all construction agencies and concerned departments to ensure that Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste is disposed of only at designated sites and in accordance with scientific norms.

He laid special emphasis on the prompt and effective resolution of complaints received through the CM Window. He said that he personally reviews complaints lodged on the portal regularly and directed all officers to deal with every complaint seriously, impartially and within the prescribed timeline. He warned that any negligence,

indifference or mala fide conduct on the part of officers would invite strict action.

Saini said that whenever a citizen approaches the Government with a grievance, it becomes the responsibility of the Government and the administration to ensure its resolution. He directed all officers to treat public interest as their highest priority and dispose of complaints on the CM Window with sensitivity so that citizens receive timely relief.

During the meeting, members of the RWA from Wazirpur Enclave in the Municipal Corporation Manesar area highlighted several civic issues before the Chief Minister. They informed him that although the colony had been regularised by the Government, it continued to face shortages of basic amenities such as sewerage, street lighting, drinking water and paved internal roads. They also sought strengthening of the power infrastructure and enhancement of electricity load in view of the increasing population. Taking serious note of the grievances, Saini directed officers of the departments concerned to conduct a joint survey of the colony and ensure that the issues are resolved on priority.

Punjab Govt Launches 100 New Aam Aadmi Clinics, Taking Total to 1,090

PNS ■ Chandigarh

Punjab Government has launched 100 more Aam Aadmi Clinics across the state with the campaign formally inaugurated on Saturday by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Balbir Singh, who dedicated the newly constructed Aam Aadmi Clinic at Vikas Nagar in Patiala Rural. With the addition of these new clinics, the total number of Aam Aadmi Clinics in Punjab has increased to 1,090.

As part of this initiative, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs and other public representatives inaugurated 71 new Aam Aadmi Clinics across the state on Saturday. The remaining 29 clinics will be dedicated to the public in different districts in a phased manner by July 31 by other public representatives.

Among the Cabinet Ministers, Dr. Baljit Kaur inaugurated 3 Aam Aadmi Clinics at Ambedkar Bhawan, Dera Sacha Sauda Road and Ward No. 11 in Malout, Sri Muktsar Sahib. Lal Chand Kataruchak dedicated 1 clinic, constructed at a cost of ₹25 lakh, in Pathankot city. Gurmeet Singh Khuddian

inaugurated 1 clinic in Muktsar Sahib. Hardeep Singh Mundian dedicated 3 Aam Aadmi Clinics, built at a cost of ₹76.41 lakh, in the Sahnewal Assembly constituency. Tarunpreet Singh Sond inaugurated 3 new Aam Aadmi Clinics at Narottam Nagar, Focal Point and Uttam Nagar in Khanna, constructed at a cost of ₹87 lakh. Similarly, Mohinder Bhagat inaugurated 3 Aam Aadmi Clinics at Siddharth Nagar, Budha Mall Ground and the Sports and Surgical Complex in Jalandhar. In addition, MLAs and other public representatives also inaugurated new Aam Aadmi Clinics in their respective constituencies.

On the occasion, the public representatives said that Aam Aadmi Clinics have brought healthcare services closer to the people, making treatment simple, convenient and affordable. They added that the commissioning of the new clinics would enable many more citizens to avail themselves of quality primary healthcare services.

At present, 990 Aam Aadmi Clinics are functioning in Punjab, including 414 in urban areas and 576 in rural areas. These clinics provide 107 essential

medicines and 47 types of laboratory tests completely free of cost. Each clinic is staffed with a Medical Officer, a Pharmacist and trained healthcare personnel. A modern IT-enabled system is being used for patient registration, diagnosis, treatment and the dispensing of medicines.

The scope of healthcare services at the Aam Aadmi

Clinics has also been expanded. The clinics now provide free antenatal care for pregnant women, treatment for dog-bite cases, family planning services, screening and treatment for hypertension, diabetes and other non-communicable diseases, along with several other essential primary healthcare services.

BRIEFS

PUNJAB GOVERNOR SUMMONS 13TH SESSION OF 16TH PUNJAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Chandigarh: The Sixteenth Punjab Legislative Assembly has been summoned by the Governor of Punjab to meet for its 13th Session on Monday, August 3, 2026 at 11:00 A.M., in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Hall, Vidhan Bhavan, Chandigarh, a statement issued on Saturday said.

HARYANA AGRI MINISTER LAYS FOUNDATION STONE FOR RS. 5.63 CRORE PRIMARY HEALTH CENTRE

Chandigarh: Haryana Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Minister, Shyam Singh Rana on Saturday laid the foundation stone of a new Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Alahar village of the Radaur Assembly constituency, Yamunanagar. The health facility, to be constructed at a cost of Rs. 5.63 crore on nearly 1.5 acres of land, is expected to significantly improve access to healthcare for residents of the village and surrounding areas. The Minister said the new PHC would ensure that quality healthcare services are available closer to people's homes, reducing the need to travel long distances for basic medical treatment. He said the Haryana Government is committed to strengthening healthcare infrastructure at the grassroots level so that timely and better medical services reach every citizen.

DRUG-FREE INDIA CAMPAIGN: YOUTH INVITED TO SPREAD AWARENESS THROUGH CREATIVE COMPETITIONS; APPLY BY JULY 27

Chandigarh: As part of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign), a series of awareness initiatives will be organised to educate young people and the public about the harmful effects of substance abuse while encouraging a healthy and positive lifestyle. In this regard, Mera Yuva Bharat, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, is organising a range of creative competitions under the Nasha Mukti Yuva Se Viksit Bharat campaign. A spokesperson of the department said that the initiative aims to promote awareness against drug abuse while providing a platform for young people to showcase their creativity. Interested participants can register through the official MY Bharat portal. The last date for registration and submission of entries is July 27. Youth in the 15-29 years age groups are eligible to participate in competitions including dance, singing, street plays, painting, debate, reel-making, slogan writing and poetry writing.

HIMACHAL BJP TO LAUNCH STATEWIDE CAMPAIGN FROM AUGUST AGAINST CONG GOVT'S FALSE GUARANTEES

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh BJP President Rajeev Bindal and Leader of Opposition Jaiaram Thakur jointly announced on Saturday that the party will launch a statewide agitation against the anti-people policies and unfulfilled promises of the ruling Congress government. The decision was taken during a special meeting of the party's senior leadership at the BJP state headquarters, Deep Kamal, Shimla. Bindal said the statewide movement will begin in August from the Mandal level and will subsequently expand to Assembly constituencies, district headquarters and finally the state level. "BJP workers will reach every village and every section of the society to expose Congress government's anti-people decisions and governance failures," he said.

MP MANISH TEWARI INAUGURATES OPEN-AIR GYM IN SECTOR 10

Chandigarh: City MP and former Union Minister Manish Tewari on Saturday dedicated a newly installed open-air gym at Leisure Valley, Sector 10, to the public. The facility was developed with a grant of approximately ₹5 lakh from his Members of Parliament Local Area Development fund. Addressing the gathering, Tewari said he remains committed to promoting better health and a healthier lifestyle among citizens. He noted that the open-air gym would benefit people of all age groups, emphasizing that a healthy individual is better able to fulfill responsibilities towards both family and society. He also added that several other development projects are currently underway across the city. Chandigarh Congress Committee President H.S. Lucky thanked Tewari for fulfilling the long-pending demand of the residents of Sector 10. He said that good health is the right of every citizen and that the Congress Party has always stood for protecting the rights and welfare of the people.

PRADHAN'S RESIGNATION VICTORY FOR STUDENTS, SAYS FORMER HARYANA CM

Chandigarh: Former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Saturday termed Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation a victory for students, saying it reflected the voice of the country's youth. Reacting to Pradhan's resignation, Hooda said had the education minister stepped down earlier, the situation witnessed in recent days could have been avoided. "Better late than never," the senior Congress leader told reporters. Repeated incidents of exam paper leaks had eroded the youth's trust in the examination system, he said.

"The whole system needs to be changed and a transparent system has to be put in place. New methods should be introduced to make the conduct of examinations foolproof," the senior Congress leader added. Targeting the BJP government in Haryana over paper leaks, Hooda alleged that 32 paper leaks have taken place in the state during its tenure.

HIMACHAL RANKS 3RD IN INVESTMENT FRIENDLINESS INDEX 2026 AMONG HILLY AND NORTH-EASTERN STATES

Shimla: In the latest 'Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026' released by the NITI Aayog, Himachal Pradesh secured 3rd position among hilly and North-Eastern states and in 'Frontrunner' category. Expressing pleasure on this remarkable position, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said, "Our government has consistently focused on BRAP (Business Reforms Action Plan) thereby enhancing ease of doing business. The state's top ranking reflects the success of our reform-oriented approach and commitment towards creating a transparent, efficient and investor-friendly ecosystem." A statement said the state's top ranking in key pillars demonstrates the strong foundation for sustainable industrial development and employment generation. Investment Friendliness Index 2026, specifically acknowledged state's strengths in human resources, women workforce participation, institutional effectiveness, regulatory environment and investor-friendly governance framework which contribute substantially to the state's investment attractiveness.

Himachal CM directs officials for one-year internship for foreign MBBS graduates

PNS ■ Shimla

Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday directed the Health department to allow a one-year internship for eligible MBBS graduates who completed their medical education from the foreign medical colleges and attended online classes during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the extraordinary circumstances prevailing at that time. Chairing a meeting with the students and senior officers of the Health department, Sukhu said that the state government would adopt a fair, pragmatic and student-friendly approach while addressing the concerns of affected graduates. He said that the government was committed to ensuring that deserving students do not suffer because of circumstances beyond their control during the pandemic. Sukhu asserted that uncertainty had arisen regarding the internship requirement for foreign medical graduates, as students from the same academic batches had been subjected to different internship durations. While some students were permitted to complete a one-year internship, others were directed to undergo a two-year internship despite having pursued their studies under similar conditions during the COVID-19 period. He said that the National Medical Commission (NMC) had delegated powers to the state governments to assess the adequacy of the 'compensatory training period' for foreign medical graduates whose academic programmes were conducted online during the pandemic.

Punjab Police in coordination with central agencies brings back fugitive gangster Billa from Indonesia

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In a major breakthrough against transnational organised crime, the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Punjab, in coordination with Overseas Fugitive Tracking and Extradition Cell (OFTEC) Punjab and Central Agencies, secured the deportation of fugitive gangster Jobanjit Singh alias Joban Billa from Jakarta in Indonesia. Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab, Gaurav Yadav said on Saturday.

The accused Joban Billa was detained in Indonesia on July 20 and subsequently deported to India. He was taken into custody by the Punjab Police from Mumbai Airport and is being brought to Punjab for further investigation. "The operation marks the successful culmination of Operation Nomad Hunt—a six-month-long intelligence-led international manhunt involving sustained surveillance, strategic intelligence gathering and close coordination with national and international agencies," said the DGP.

The DGP said that accused Joban Billa has been wanted in multiple heinous criminal cases, including murder, attempt to murder, NDPS Act and Arms Act offences.



Billa fled abroad on January 9, 2025, using a passport prepared on fake particulars of a Gorakhpur resident. The passport was issued from Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh, on March 8, 2024. Yadav said that the accused was evading arrest by operating across multiple countries. Joban was earlier hiding in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from where he travelled to Georgia and further from Georgia, he travelled to Indonesia.

"Punjab Police had issued a Red Corner Notice against accused Joban Billa and inputs regarding his fake passport and whereabouts

were shared with central agencies at different intervals. In addition, five INTERPOL references were also issued," he said, while adding that sustained and persistent efforts led to detention of the accused in Indonesia.

Operation Nomad Hunt has been executed under the close supervision of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) AGTF Promod Ban and led by Superintendent of Police (SP) AGTF/OFTEC Bikramjit Singh Brar. Ban said that Billa is wanted in four murder cases registered in Punjab

All-Party candlelight march organised in Shimla over NEET exam paper leak

PNS ■ Shimla

A candlelight march was held in Shimla on Saturday evening by various political parties and the general public regarding the NEET exam paper leak issue which was led by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

Starting from the Indira Gandhi sports complex, the procession passed through the Scandal Point and concluded at the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the Ridge. The protesters raised slogans vigorously throughout the event. The Chief Minister also administered the oath of the Preamble to the Constitution to the gathering.

Speaking to media persons, Sukhu stated that the march was organized with the cooperation of various political parties. He described it as an effort to secure justice for the students who were fighting for their rights at Jantar Mantar in Delhi. He affirmed that the people of Himachal Pradesh stand with all the youth struggling in this fight for justice.

He emphasized the need for transparency in all competitive examinations so that the youth receive due rewards for their hard work. He demanded compensation of rupees one crore each for the families of the youth who committed suicide due to the



NEET exam controversy.

Targeting the BJP, Sukhu remarked that paper leak incidents frequently surface in states governed by the BJP. He recalled that during the tenure of the previous BJP government in Himachal Pradesh, the police recruitment exam paper was leaked, as were papers for recruitment exams conducted by the Himachal Pradesh Subordinate Services

Selection Commission. He noted that upon assuming power, the Congress government dissolved the commission, established the State Selection Commission in its place, and ensured the culprits were put behind bars.

The Chief Minister thanked the Communist Party of India (Marxist), CPI(M) and the general public for the successful organization of the event.

Savouring the City of Joy

Navigating the Lanes and Flavours of Kolkata



AMITABH SHUKLA

A short but memorable visit to Kolkata in the middle of monsoons, helped me understand the City of Joy, its essence, soul and character like never before. Despite having travelled most parts of the country, somehow, I could not visit Calcutta or now Kolkata except for a 24-hour trip, long back in which I could hardly see anything nor taste the wonderful cuisine for which the city is known for.

Not this time though. It was a three-night two-day trip in which I had more time to absorb the vibe of the city, go through the hustle bustle and feel the nuances and the thought process of the residents and the way they navigate their daily life. "Better late than never," I told myself as I roamed the city streets, markets, lanes, by-lanes and most importantly the promenade of the Hooghly river, flowing magnificently through the middle of this great city.

The evening Indigo flight from Chandigarh to Kolkata, known as CCU in aviation terminology, was delayed by almost three hours as the incoming flight from Srinagar could not take off due to bad weather. The Indigo duty manager initially said it was late by an hour, then 2 hours and soon it became 3 hours. As per the airline norms, a sandwich, a tetra pack juice and water was made available to the passengers at the boarding gate for the delayed flight. I had booked a left side window seat to have a look at the expanse of the Himalayan range which is magnificent on a clear day but as the flight was delayed and it was dark outside, there was no view except the glittering lights of the cities and villages over which the aircraft was flying.

I arrived at the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose airport in Kolkata a little after 11 pm and it was apparent that the airport wasn't that busy as compared to other airports in metropolitan cities in the late evenings. Almost empty, it was a breeze reaching the exit gate and then calling an Uber for a 26 km ride to my friend's place in Chhitranjan Colony in the Baghajatin area of south Kolkata. The driver was from Ara district in Bihar and had been living in Kolkata as a Cab driver for the last 6 years after trying his luck in Delhi and also his native town to earn a livelihood. "This city has given me an identity. I found a stable livelihood here and my kids call this place their own," said the 41-year old Bhojuri speaking Shailendra Kumar, who has now become fluent in Bangla. He cannot read the script but speaks the language fluently. "It is easy to learn if you stay here for 6 months and interact with the local people," he said as a matter of fact. He encountered a few drunken driving check posts of Kolkata Police on a relatively traffic free road, which had plenty of traffic lights even at midnight.

My friend Ravi from my college days was waiting. He had come all the way from Purnea, 500-km away, just to spend a couple of days with me in Kolkata. He had bought an apartment a long time back when he was working in a leading newspaper and now comes to the city 2-3 times in a year to absorb the vibe and then heads back to his village as he now loves the rural life and nature in his sprawling farm. His third floor apartment was named 'Madhushala' (House of wine), and has a nameplate too, inspired by the popular poetry of Harivansh Rai Bachchan, who uses the metaphor of a tavern, cup, and wine to reflect on the complexities of life, love, and human suffering. Ultimately, Bachchan preaches a message of universal brotherhood and spiritual solace, suggesting that communal harmony can be found when people leave behind sectarian differences at the tavern door. "This indeed was Madhushala not long back," said a beaming Ravi as journalists, musicians, intellectuals and artists of all hues used to assemble here and have fun-filled evenings. A lot of water has flown down the Ganges or rather the Hooghly since then.

I savoured the first flavour of Kolkata just after I arrived at 'Madhushala'. Even though I wasn't hungry, there was a spongy Chhena sweet with little sugar content waiting for me. I ate one and then the second one. It was something I had never had for years. There was another sweet surprise waiting for me. A pot of "misti doi" or sweetened curd in a

small mud pot. What a taste it had, thick with malai with a thin layer of ghee on it and flavour of a lifetime. Ravi, known as Gopal Da in the neighbourhood, ensured that he had plenty of supply of this misti doi from a neighbourhood sweet shop throughout my two and a half day stay at his apartment.

After waking up in the morning, it was time for us to go for a stroll in the green neighbourhood of Chittaranjan Colony with plenty of water bodies and palm trees. There were several ponds in the colony and most of them looked well maintained with water filled to the brim in the monsoon season. "This is the USP of the area," Ravi explained, "these ponds never dry up even in the summers and support aquatic life, mainly fish. In monsoons, the water level rises almost to the road level".

At the roadside, the morning snacks were available and people had already assembled at the eating joints and tea shops. They were discussing the FIFA

curry was excellent though not thick and frankly I had never tasted better home cooked prawn curry. Another notable item on the menu was Okra or what many call as Ladies Finger, the humble Bhindi. The whole vegetable without being cut was steamed in rice and it elevated the experience of eating Bhindi. The original taste of the vegetable could be felt without being spoilt by oil or spices. The daal too was very well made and the lunch made my day. It was an authentic but simple Bengali cuisine, something to remember for a long long time.

Overcoming the urge for an afternoon siesta after lunch, we decided to move out in the afternoon as the weather was perfect after a drizzle throughout the night and almost till the afternoon. Kolkata has different modes of transport and in the short stay, the idea was to explore all that the city's public

used for the Taj Mahal, we can see the great influence of Mughal architecture in the entire building. An iconic building of Kolkata, a large number of visitors were appreciating the intricate design and detailed carvings in marble. A thought just came to my mind. At least the British name has not been changed in the last few decades and I hope that it continues the same way for the generations to come.

A short cab ride away was Princep Ghat monument, a majestic colonial pavilion situated on the banks of the Hooghly River. It was built to honor James Prinsep, a brilliant English scholar who deciphered the ancient Ashokan Brahmi script. This open-air monument is widely considered one of the finest surviving examples of classical European architecture in Kolkata.

The plaque, placed here to explain the building in May 2012 says, "After his demise, the citizens of Calcutta raised public funds of Rs 12,000 and

locals as well as tourists were on the promenade, the numerous food joints along the way and enjoying every bit of it. I was not an exception, immersed as I was in the moment.

After walking through most of the promenade, one naturally would be tired and as the evening set in and street lights turned on, we hailed the classic Kolkata Taxi—the Yellow Ambassador car. This Yellow Taxi has been immortalised through numerous movies made over the years and is one of the most iconic cultural symbols of the City of Joy and the vintage workhorse. This is a dying breed of transport as the Ambassador car stopped production years ago and whatever cars remain on the road are hardly preferred by the commuters even as they proudly proclaim "No Refusal" on their wide bodies. The ride to Park Street, the undisputed cultural, culinary, and entertainment pulse of the city

road and hailed the classic Yellow cab with "No Refusal" painted on it for Purno Das Road where the restaurant 'Tero Parbon' was located. The interiors of the restaurant were designed to mimic an old Bengali mansion with vintage wooden decor, aesthetic interiors with soothing paint combinations. We chose to sit in the balcony from where a clear view of the main dining area was visible.

First we ordered traditional Bengali cuisine—Bhetki Maccher Paturi, boneless fillet of Bhetki fish slow cooked in leaves with a dominant mustard flavour. It was steamed and quite delicate and a delight to eat. Along with it was ordered Postor Bora (Poppy Seed Pakora), considered a classic in Bengali gastronomy. It had a crisp, golden brown crust with a moist and rich creamy interior which gave a burst of flavour. The third item we ordered was Maccher Chop. The crunch and the fish filling in this was out of the world and the taste in one word—amazing.

The main course was simple. We had rice with Pabda Sorshe Jhal or scales free, single central spine Pabda fish cooked in pungent yellow mustard gravy with spices. The gravy was incredible, aroma magical and I realised when it came to cooking fish, the Bengali cuisine is indeed the ultimate. Of course, every regional cuisine has its own speciality but this one was indeed special. The Dessert was Nolen Gur Icecream in which the sweetener came from liquid Gur made from dates. It too was unique in the sense that you needed to pour the liquid gur into the icecream to savour the taste. By this time, the stomach was full like never before but the palate wanted more. Sandesh too was ordered and we savoured it for quite some time in the restaurant before moving out slowly and walking for the next 20 minutes for the food to digest properly.

Another cab ride took us to Millenium Park Jetty on the banks of the Hooghly river again where we decided to enjoy a cruise on the river. The longer duration cruise, which shows a panoramic view of the city from the river, was late in the evening and had to be ruled out due to paucity of time. Instead, we settled for a public ferry service, operated by West Bengal Transport Corporation connecting Kolkata on the east bank to Howrah on west bank of the Hooghly. Surprisingly, the cost was only Rs 6 for one person, one side and Rs 12 to and fro. We simply bought the ticket, waited at the iron platform on the river for the ferry and boarded it. We were on the Howrah side in 10 minutes and instead of disembarking, we simply kept sitting for the remaining part of what could perhaps be the cheapest cruise in the world. You could simply do it throughout the day if you are not bothered about the smell of burnt diesel from the engine of the ferry.

On our way back, we passed through the Eden Gardens, the landmark of Kolkata which has witnessed so many exciting cricket matches over the years. Being a cricket fan, it transported me back several years when VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid had broken all records in a partnership after a follow on and then India went on to win that test match. We soon reached the outskirts of Chittaranjan Colony and after getting out of the cab, I felt the need for a cup of hard boiled hot milk tea. A young college passout girl had opened a cafe and we went to have tea. Well made tea and I got talking with the girl and how she spoke very good Hindi. "My friends speak Hindi so I learnt the language. The youth of Kolkata all speak decent Hindi," she said. This is what I experienced in most parts of the city. Almost every youngster spoke Hindi well while others in the taxi business or shopkeepers too spoke the language.

I bought two packets of assorted sweets from Banchharam to take back home to Chandigarh the next day before I reached 'Madhushala'. A quick shower and it was time to go to the hotel where the groom's family and relatives were putting up. A turban was tied on my head too like the rest of those in the wedding party. We soon reached the venue, a wedding hall called Nimantran or Invitation in the New Alipore area where a traditional Bengali hospitality awaited it. I was told that Bengali wedding cuisine is special and indeed it was something to cherish and enjoy. My favourite in the evening was prawn pakora and Katla fish curry, cooked in mustard with thick gravy. The mutton Kassa too was well made and the curry outstanding. In dessert, there was something called doi sandesh which was unique as it did not have any shape and did not taste like curd at all. It was divine indeed. I overlooked the dishes, the variants of which are available everywhere and only chose the typical Bengali dishes for the evening. Full to the brim, I called Uber at almost midnight to go back to 'Madhushala' as I had an early morning flight to catch from CCU to IXC, which is the airport code for Chandigarh. As I was boarding the flight next morning, I promised myself and repeated the following words, "the next trip to Kolkata and nearby areas will be longer with more places on the itinerary and more local delicacies to savour."

ashuka.mail@gmail.com



constructed the monument in 1841 on the eastern bank of the river Hooghly in memory of the versatile genius James Prinsep. The Princep Ghat became an important landing place for all those dignitaries who came to Calcutta by Sea." The historic heritage monument was restored to its original splendour by the Public Works Department of West Bengal. The Vidyasagar Setu, a replica of the famous Howrah Bridge is in the background of the Princep Ghat, making it a great sight.

As rain was playing hide and seek, we crossed the railway track to the banks of the Hooghly river for a grand view of the lifeline of the city. Hooghly river is in the middle of the city and unlike Ganga river, passing through several cities in India, the river is not only clean but also very broad and gives the vibe of a sea. The Bay of Bengal is a few kms away and because of the ghat's proximity to the coast, the 460 m-wide Hooghly River experiences distinct tides that push inward from the sea. We stood at the banks, looking at the Vidyasagar Setu and then in the distant horizon, the Howrah Bridge, boats

floating on the river, rain drops hitting the river with a rhythm and also falling on us. The Hooghly in the Monsoons, more so when it is overcast, is all the more captivating with shades of grey all over and the river full till the brim and waves hitting the shores and the concrete ghats. You could watch this for hours without getting bored. A music band of youngsters was sitting below a tree and the lead singer with a guitar in hand was singing a Bengali song, quite melodious indeed. A few onlookers gathered there and watched the performance, enjoying every bit of it.

The riverfront promenade on the Hooghly river was renovated recently and now there is a broad walkway over three km long from the Vidyasagar Setu to the Howrah Bridge. It was wonderful walking on the promenade with the River on one side and the city on the other through many ghats, water jetties and boats of all makes and sizes. Preparation for evening Aarti was on one of the ghats while on another, the tourists were set to enjoy a river cruise. Braving the drizzle,

transport had to offer. In the straight roads, there are shared three-wheelers which ferry people from Point A to B. We took one for the nearest bus depot with 2 other passengers on board. At the bus depot, we waited for an AC bus but when it didn't come, Uber was the default choice to go to Victoria Memorial.

The city of Joy's remarkable architectural marvel.

The magnificent white marble building is widely celebrated for its grand architecture, sprawling lawns, and its museum holding over 28,000 artifacts. Conceived by Viceroy Lord Curzon to honor the deceased Queen Victoria, it blends European styles with traditional Indian motifs. It was designed to serve as a grand, monumental tribute to the deceased Empress and a symbol of British imperial power in India. It was formally opened for the public a little over 100 years ago in 1921. Of course, when it was conceived, Kolkata was the Capital of British India as Delhi became the Capital only in the year 1911.

Ravi told me that one of his relatives lives in the United Kingdom and after visiting Victoria Memorial was so fascinated by the intricate art work and architecture that he told him that the British could never build a similar building in London or anywhere in their home country. It indeed was a visual delight, a perfect mix of Indian and British architecture. Constructed purely from white Makrana marble sourced from Rajasthan, the exact same quarry

TRAVEL DIARY KOLKATA

Investment Friendliness Index 2026: Himachal 3rd among Hilly & North-Eastern States



Shimla: The State Government's commitment and diligent efforts towards enhancing the State's Investment Ecosystem have been well acknowledged in the latest Investment Friendliness Index (IFI) 2026, released by NITI Aayog. Himachal Pradesh secured 3rd position among Hilly and North-Eastern States and in Frontrunner' category. The position attained reflects sustained efforts of the State Government towards improving the Ease of Doing Business, strengthening investor confidence through various policy tools.

Expressing his pleasure on the remarkable position of Himachal Pradesh, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Sh. Sukhvir Singh Sukhu said, "Our Government has consistently focussed on BRAP (Business Reforms Action Plan) thereby enhancing Ease of Doing Business. The State's top ranking reflects success of our reform-oriented approach and commitment towards creating a transparent, efficient and investor-friendly ecosystem."

The State's top ranking in key pillars demonstrates the strong foundation for sustainable industrial development and employment generation. Investment Friendliness Index 2026, specifically acknowledged state's strengths in human resources, women workforce participation, institutional effectiveness, regulatory environment and

investor-friendly governance framework, which contribute substantially to the State's investment attractiveness. Himachal Pradesh secured first rank in Infrastructure Pillar reflecting strong performance in logistics, digital connectivity, power infrastructure and industrial facilitation. Also, first rank in Resources Pillar, driven by high labour force participation, strong human resource indicators and one of the highest women workforce participation rates in the country. In Regulatory Ease Pillar, ranked fourth, indicating a conducive business environment, investor facilitation mechanisms and for Institutional Environment Pillar, supported by low cybercrime incidence, effective grievance redressal systems and a stable regulatory environment. In Business Climate Pillar, ranked 5th, highlighted the success of ongoing reforms.

Missing Deed Notice
This is to notify all concerned that, on behalf of my client Carlin Homes Ltd. having its branch office at Ambala city, I hereby give notice that one customer Smt. Neha Devi w/o Sh. Teenu Kumar has applied to purchase a House being Property ID No. 1363242 Situated at Ranjit Colony Camp Tesla Jigadhar/ Dist. Yamuna Nagar, measuring 10.55 Sq. Yd. Owned by Smt. Prashant Sharma W/o Sh. Indreshwar vide Sale Deed No. 1348 dated 27/05/2024.
The As per Seller of property in Old Chain of property original Sale deed No. 4261 dated 11/09/2001 Executed and Registered in favor of Smt. Manju Bala w/o Sh. Neelinder Kumar and original Sale deed No. 1556 dated 04/05/2004 in favor of Smt. Veena Devi w/o Sh. Jagdish Lal which belongs to previous owner is lost and Not Found and Now Smt. Neha Devi w/o Sh. Teenu Kumar the property and going to take loan from Carlin Homes Ltd. So by this notice if any concern Bank or any person having any claim objection related to this property, to transact, Lost Deed and mortgage of said property with Carlin Homes Ltd. please may kindly contact me within 7 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. In the below mentioned address failing which no claim will be entertained later and Carlin Homes Ltd. will disburse the loan to proposed customer.
S. Arvind Singh 3140-3141, Kacha Bazar, Ambala cantt. 133001 Mob. 9989644404.

सामाजिक इच्छा
इस पब्लिक नोटिस के माफ़ी जनसमूह को सूचित किया जाता है कि प्रानी सोनिया पुत्री सोमनाथ निवासी 1215 मुख्यमंत्री पार्क ने अपने पिता सोमनाथ व माता निहारी देवी व अपने पति मोहन कुमार पुत्र सोमनाथ के कानूनी बलि के रिपोर्ट जारी करते हुए एक प्रार्थना पत्र इस कार्यालय में प्राप्त हुआ है प्रार्थी द्वारा पति प्रार्थना पत्र व सख्तन हफ्त नाम व रिपोर्ट पंक्ति /नंबर/ए पक्षी अलग अलग मुद्रा स्वर सोमनाथ व मुद्रा स्वर सोमनाथ देवी व मुद्रा स्वर सोमनाथ कुमार के निम्नलिखित कानूनी बलि है: गोला, मोहन (मुद्रा स्वर), मोहन, सोनिया, प्रीति, रेखा पुत्री सोमनाथ व मुद्रा स्वर, वैशाली, प्रीति पुत्री/माता मोहन कुमार है। यदि व्यक्ति कार्यालय रिपोर्ट में किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आति है तो वह जलसौंदर्य जगदीश कार्यालय में प्रकाशन के 15 दिन के अंदर -2 अपरिचित दर्ज करा सकता है यदि प्रार्थी द्वारा दी गई सूचना किसी भी समय गलत पाई जाती है तो प्रार्थी भारतीय दण्ड संहिता की भां 177 व अन्य संबंधित कानूनी दण्ड का भागीदार होगा। जलसौंदर्य, जगदीश

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PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mandep Singh, S/o Sh. Gurdial Singh, Chief Manager, State Bank of India, AMCC, Banasari Bagh, Sangrur, Aadhaar No. 5089 5161 7767 hereby give public notice that the following original title documents deposited with SBI by Sh. Bhushan Kumar Bansal, S/o Sh. Kishori Lal, and Smt. Kamlesh Rani, W/o Sh. Bhushan Kumar Bansal, for property situated at Goshala Road, Sangrur, against Lost No. 505308106300 and 36941293423 have been lost/misplaced while in the custody of the Bank.
*Original Sale Deed No. 1873 dated 14/01/1993.
*Original Memorandum of Family Partition dated 14/01/1993. DDR has been lodged vide DDR No. LAR-2026-SGR-752977 dated 18/07/2026. Any person having found or claiming the above documents is requested to hand over or intimate the same to the Chief Manager, SBI AMCC, Banasari Bagh, Sangrur (Branch Code: 63447) Govt No. 8437/33038. Within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice
Sd/- Mandep Singh Chief Manager
State Bank of India, AMCC, Banasari Bagh, Sangrur

Classified Advertisement
FOR BLACK AND WHITE ADS
CONTACT: 9417419351

THE PIONEER
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ADVERTISING
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LOST & FOUND
1. Anil Aggarwal Santosh S/o Mr Parkash Aggarwal, R/o House No. 2784, Sector 22-C, Chandigarh have lost my Document 1 Transfer letter dated (17.03.1973) 2 Original Transfer Letter dated (17.04.2000) 3 Stamp Paper of Three Page Rs. 75 each Missing in Sale Deed No. 2410 Dated (28.02.2000) 4 Allotment Letter Dated (09.01.1993) 5 Conveyance Deed Dated (27.01.1966) 6 Original Sale deed No. 1058 Dated (06.11.1971) on 24.07.2026 at 17:07:08 Hrs. L.A.R. No. 2026/024483 has been lodged at Police Station, Sector 19, Chandigarh on 24.07.2026 at 16:10:00 Hrs. If anyone finds the above mentioned documents, please contact me on my address.

HARYANA SHERA VIVAS PRACHINARARI OFFICE OF THE ESTATE MANAGER, HOUSING WING, HSPV PANCHKULA
NO. HSPV/HM/102/2026/1993
DATE: 23/07/2026
PUBLIC NOTICE
Sub: Transfer of H. No. 116, Housing Board Colony, Sector-31, Panchkula, Haryana, in the name of (i) Sh. Sanjeev Trehan S/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Trehan R/o H. No. 11, near Nasta Sahib, sector-31, Panchkula, Haryana-134109 (ii) Sh. Rajeev Trehan S/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Trehan R/o H. No. 77, sector-12, Panchkula, Haryana And Sh. Rakshit Trehan S/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Trehan R/o 2804, Shetlham Way, Bakerfield CA 93331, USA, Presently Residing at H. No. 11, near Nasta Sahib, sector-31, Panchkula, Haryana-134109 due to death of Late Smt. Indar Prashna W/o Late Sh. R. K. Trehan (Raj Kumar) living interest. It is notified for the information of the general public and all concerned with the property No. H. No. 335, Haryana, which stands in the name of Late Smt. Indar Prashna W/o Late Sh. R. K. Trehan (Raj Kumar), as per record of this office.

It has been reported by the applicant (i) Late Smt. Indar Prashna W/o Late Sh. R. K. Trehan (Raj Kumar) who was the owner of this property died on 19/04/2026. (ii) Sh. Sanjeev Trehan S/o Late Sh. Raj Kumar Trehan R/o H. No. 11, near Nasta Sahib, sector-31, Panchkula, Haryana-134109, they may furnish their objection in writing in the office of the undersigned within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which this property shall be transferred accordingly and no further claim whatsoever shall be entertained later on.
Estate Manager Housing wing HSPV Panchkula

The Buffet Box / Renée Ranchan The Extinct Talk of Conversation



Renée Ranchan
There was a time when silence was simply a way of life--an easy, unspoken companion that never demanded an introduction. It entered a room without announcing itself, settled comfortably into an armchair, accepted a cup of tea and departed without anyone feeling it had overstayed its welcome.

Today, silence behaves like an uninvited guest. The instant it appears, somebody lunges for a mobile phone al-ready in hand, clears a throat with solemn resolve, asks whether anyone would like more chai, or announces that petrol prices have gone up, as though the nation has been waiting for precisely that bulletin!

I noticed this recently in an elevator. Seven strangers. Four floors. A young man inspected his reflection in the mirrored panel with the concentration of a museum curator... A lady rearranged a strand of hair that had never w a n d e r e d . . . S o m e o n e coughed discreetly into a folded handkerchief. Another gentleman became utterly engrossed in the inspection certificate pasted beside the buttons, despite having ignored it for the previous 8-some years. A teenager pretended to reply to a message that plainly hadn't arrived. Meanwhile, one poor soul pressed the "Door Open" button twice, purely to manufacture an activity.

Nobody looked at anyone. Nobody smiled. Heaven forbid--nobody simply existed. The lift wasn't ascending. It was escaping. We have developed an astonishing allergy to unoccupied moments... The other afternoon, my friend Surabhi and I were waiting outside a diagnostic laboratory where the technician had vanished in search of

A few days later I found myself in the supermarket with my neighbour, Mrs. Brakta. The cashier was wrestling heroically with a barcode

that seemed determined not to scan. Years ago, somebody would have made a joke, the queue would have chuckled and life would have carried on. This time 12 customers stood cheek-by-jowl, yet not one exchanging so much as a smile. Every face glowed blue from a screen... A teenager repeatedly pursed his lips for invisible Selfies. A gentleman with a splendid walrus moustache tilted his head first left, then right, admiring his reflection in the darkened glass of his phone. A lady dabbed delicately at the corner of her eye before smoothing a rebellious curl behind one ear for what seemed the 6th time... Only a small boy examined everyone else with open curiosity. He was, perhaps the only person still practising the ancient art of noticing... The rest of us were missing the wood for the trees...

My favourite performance, however, unfolds at airport baggage carousels. Nobody trusts the conveyor belt. Passengers stare at it with the intensity of archaeologists awaiting a lost civilisation. Every black suitcase resembles every other black suitcase. One gentleman lifts the wrong bag, checks the tag, returns it defeatedly, then repeats the identical mistake three minutes over... Another positions himself precisely where every suitcase emerges, creating a human traffic island. A child circles the carousel because walking normally would apparently insult modern parenting!

Not a word passes between complete strangers sharing exactly the same inconvenience. Years ago, someone would have remarked, "Looks like our luggage has taken a holiday!" Today, everyone merely refreshes WhatsApp.

Even family dinners have become peculiar little theatre productions. Four generations occupy one table. Grandmother serves another helping. Father nods absent-mindedly. Mother asks whether anyone would like another roti. Nobody answers because everyone is consulting somebody who isn't present. The only genuine eye contact comes when the Wi-Fi col-lapses.

Then civilisation briefly returns. People blink. Look around. Notice windows. Recognise relatives. Someone even remembers the dog. A friend confessed recently that she becomes nervous if a conversation pauses for longer than 10 seconds. 10 Seconds... Imagine telling Jane Austen or P. G. Wodehouse that silence now carries an expiry date. They would probably enquire whether humanity had misplaced its vocabulary.

We proclaim ourselves more connected than any generation before us, yet the smallest conversational pause sends us scrambling towards glowing rectangles as though silence were contagious.

Perhaps we fear that if words stop arriving, thoughts might. Or worse...Feelings... Silence has become unfairly accused of being awkward. Silence is where observation lives, right?

It is where affection settles without fanfare...It is where grief catches its breath, where friendship feels no obligation to perform, where love requires neither commentary nor applause...Not every moment demands narration... Not every pause needs rescuing...Not every empty space is waiting to be filled...

Perhaps the next time the lift doors close, instead of studying the emergency instructions as though preparing for a doctoral examination, we might simply smile at another co-traveller.

Perhaps while waiting in a queue, we could notice the elderly gentleman carefully folding yesterday's newspaper, the little boy balancing on one foot, the woman discreetly wiping her nose with a crumpled tissue before composing herself again, the cashier humming under her breath, or the exhausted mother persuading a determined toddler that chocolate is not an essential food group.

Life is astonishingly entertaining when one actually looks at it... So here's my question: When did every pause become a problem? When did we begin mistaking constant stimulation for living?

And if silence can no longer accompany us for four floors in a lift...What, exactly, has become awkward--Silence...or Us?!

(Dr Renée Ranchan writes on socio-psychological issues, quasi-political matters and concerns that touch us all...)

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER					
The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Bilaspur invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering process: -					
Sr.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD Cost of Tender	Time of completion	Cost of form
1.	Restoration of rain damages of LWSS Manner Kanjotta in Tehsil Sadar District Bilaspur (SH: Construction of single room 11.97 Sqmt for storage of bleaching powder at S amadhar N. Main storage tanks)	323894/-	6480/-	Three Months	350/-
2.	Restoration of rain damages of LWSS Nain Guljain in Tehsil Ghumarwin District Bilaspur (SH: Repair of 65m dia rising main from various pump houses to main storage tanks at different locations and RD's)	227416/-	4550/-	Two Months	350/-
3.	A/R&MIO LWSS/WSS under Sadar, Ghumarwin and Jhandutta Bilaspur in Tehsil Sadar District Bilaspur from Kol Dam Reservoir. (SH: Providing and fixing of Automatic start Delta starlet 240 HP).	472500/-	9450/-	One Month	350/-
4.	A/R&MIO LWSS Mehrkatha in Tehsil Ghumarwin District Bilaspur (SH: Repair of 7.5 HP centrifugal multistage pump KSB make 4 stages Sr. No. 9972665979010001 set No.2 and pump bearing set No.1 (i) LWSS Mehrkatha (SH: Repair of 40 HP centrifugal multistage pump Kloroskar make type RKG 6 stages Sr. No. 1137300025 Set No.1 and pump bearing set NO.2).	155920/-	3120/-	One Month	350/-
5.	Restoration of rain damages of LWSS Bahl Bawana in Tehsil Sadar District Bilaspur (SH: Providing gun metal wheel valve and GI unions under JSV Section Kandroun under PDNA).	160682/-	3220/-	Two Months	350/-
6.	Restoration of rain damages of LWSS under JSV Sub -Division Kandroun in Tehsil Sadar District Bilaspur (SH: Providing of chain pully under PDNA).	345878/-	6920/-	One Month	350/-
7.	Restoration of rain damages of LWSS Kuthera Behl Bhagot in Tehsil Ghumarwin District Bilaspur (SH: Repair of rising main 1000m dia at various location at various RD's).	297660/-	5955/-	Two Months	350/-
8.	Restoration of rain damages of LWSS Harlog Chhelli in Tehsil Ghumarwin District Bilaspur (SH: Repair of gravity main pipe line of various diameters from various storage tanks at different locations).	268596/-	5375/-	Two Months	350/-

Last date of filing/ uploading the tender through e-tendering 03/08/2026 up to 11.00 AM
The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website <https://hptenders.gov.in>
HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Division, Bilaspur

RO No. 2162/2026-2027 Dt. 24-07-2026

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the State BANK of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to borrower(s)/ guarantor(s) on the date mentioned hereunder, calling upon the borrower(s)/guarantor(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective demand notice, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower (s)/guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub section(4) of section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 and the date mentioned against below accounts. The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India, Talwandi Mallian Distt. Moga for an amount of being less than amount of recovery made if any other charges/expenses, costs, thereon The Borrower's/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.				
Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of the immovable/Movable property/Assets	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding
Sh Arvinder Singh S/o Chhinder Singh VPO Talwandi Mallian Distt. Moga (Borrower)	House constructed on land measuring 2 Kanal 6 Marla i.e. 23/89 share of land measuring 8 Kanal 18 Marlas bearing Khazra No 143/14 (1-7), 15 (7-11) Khewat No. 473 as per Jamabandi Year 2017-18 Vakhia Talwandi Mallian Distt Moga in the name of Sh Arvinder Singh S/o Sh Chhinder Singh vide Title Deed No. 2022-23/136/1/827 dated 10.08.2022 and bounded as East: Shinder Singh, West: Manjit Singh S/o Kartar Singh, North: Shinder Singh, South: Common Passage	23.02.2026	24.07.2026	Rs. 13,82,666.06 as on 23.02.2026, less recovery if any, plus further interest, other charges and expenses thereon.
Place: Talwandi Mallian		AUTHORISED OFFICER		
DATE: 26.07.2026				

Voice Within / Vijay Singal Vedanta: The Culmination of Vedic Knowledge

phenomenal world). Whereas Brahman is the whole, unchanging universal reality; the jeevatman is a part of the whole. Brahman refers to the cosmic consciousness, and jeevatman refers to the individual consciousness.

This ancient Indian philosophy teaches that all existence is fundamentally one, and that the individual soul is identical to the universal soul. Jeevatman is not separate from Brahman in the same manner as a wave is not separate from the ocean. But due to the power of maya (ignorance), One appears as many. Brahman appears as jagat, the ever-changing world of names and forms. Jagat has been called mithya in the Vedanta, not because it does not exist, but because it does not exist, but in the sense that it is not permanent. It keeps on changing. Its ultimate reality is Brahman. The world one sees is real as an experience, but it is not independently real; in the same manner as the waves are real, but their ultimate reality is water.

Brahman is stated to be Sat-Chit-Ananda by nature. Sat is eternal existence - that which never comes and goes. It is the 'I am' principle. Chit, consciousness, is that which is aware. It is the 'I know' principle. Ananda is unceasing bliss - not merely pleasure, but freedom from a feeling of incompleteness.

Sat, chit, and ananda are not attributes, but the very nature of Brahman. It does not 'have' it. It 'is' it. As the jeevatman, in essence, is not different from Brahman, it is also sat-chit-ananda.

Based on these premises, the Vedanta philosophy has analysed as to why human suf-

नीलामी सूचना
राजकीय माडल संस्कृति प्रथमिक पाठशाला (कैथल)को 13779 सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि रा.मा.संस्कृति प्रथमिक पाठशाला हाबड़ी में नकारा घोषित हुए एक कम्परे की बोली दिनांक 3-8-2026 दिन सोमवार को करवाई जानी है। जिसकी जमानत राशि 5000 हजार रुपए रखी गई है। बोली की नियम व शर्त मौके पर बता दी जायगी।
मुख्य शिक्षक व एसएमसी प्रमुख राजकीय प्रथमिक पाठशाला हाबड़ी नं.9991544044

Public Notice
I, Shri Om S/o Arun Kumar R/o H.No. 83, Bharat Nagar, Vill. Chogiti, Jalandhar City-144008, I have lost my Original Sale Deed No. 3340 Dated 14-07-2004 in favour of Shara Bihari S/o Brij Pal Property Measuring 4 Marla 192 Sqft Situated at Chogiti, Tehsil and Distt. Jalandhar I have lodged the complaint LIR No. LAR-2026-JALC-756790 dated 23/07/2026 PS Rama Mandi. If any person find this missing sale deed or has any objection regarding it then He/She contact me Advocate Akhil Chopra 9463958158 within 7 days from the date of advertisement.

PUBLIC NOTICE - Sh. Satyawon s/o Jodha Ram, no Kachhi Ben Road, Near new grain market, Satyawon khadda, Rohtak is owner & in possession of property measuring 300 sq. yards, Plot no. 18 Western Part, Near Hari Singh Colony Rohtak moja Rohtak, Tehsil & District Rohtak, Haryana, lost his Sale Deed no. 2657 Dated 11/08/1981 in favour of Sh. Raj Harang s/o Sh. Gulshan Narang , regarding the property Situated at Hamarnagar Nagar, Near Hari Singh Colony Rohtak moja Rohtak, Tehsil & District Rohtak, Haryana between in Rohtak city and if any person has found Information/Possession Knowledge for above said documents shall submit them within 05 day to Sh. M. L. Dhillon Advocate, OfficeShree No.13 Near Ram Panchwari Chhotu Ram Chowk Rohtak or Chamber No.1471 Distt. Court Complex Rohtak M.No.941680702. Thereafter any kind of claim will not be accepted.

States Focus

Assam flood death toll rises to 62, 7 lakh affected



GOA TO SUBMIT PRIVATE FOREST REPORT TO NGT BY AUGUST 15

Goa will submit its final report on private forests to National Green Tribunal (NGT) before August 15, State Forest Minister Vishwajit Rane said on Saturday. The announcement comes amid the State Government's continued efforts to expand ecologically protected areas through planning and forest conservation measures.

"The Goa Forest Department will submit its final report on private forests to the NGT before August 15. Over 15 crore square metres of land will be finalised as private forest, bringing a nearly 20-year-long process to a close and ensuring legal protection for these forest areas," he said. Rane also said the Town and Country Planning (TCP) Board under him has notified more than 1.01 crore square metres of land in Salcete taluka as No Development Zone (NDZ).

According to the notification, the areas brought under NDZ include 34.36 lakh square metres at Sao Jose de Areal, 6.17 lakh square metres at Dicarparle, 36.92 lakh square metres at Curtorim, 20,450 square metres at Benaulim and 24.22 lakh square metres at Mulem.



SIR: JHARKHAND RECORDS MORE THAN 6 LAKH DEAD VOTERS

Jharkhand has recorded more than six lakh dead voters during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls with Ranchi registering the highest number of dead electors till Saturday, an official said. The enumeration exercise for the SIR of electoral rolls began on June 30 and will continue till July 29, during which BLOs are conducting door-to-door visits to distribute, collect and verify enumeration forms. Ranchi recorded the highest number of dead voters at 71,990, followed by Khunti at 53,885 till Saturday morning, they said. Booth-level officers (BLOs) have reached 99.58 per cent of Jharkhand's 2.64 crore electors under the ongoing SIR till 11 am on Saturday, an official said.

No compromise on Gurugram's cleanliness, beautification: Nayab Saini



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday said that cleanliness, beautification and planned urban development of Gurugram are among the State Government's highest priorities.

Chairing the meeting of the District Public Relations and Grievances Redressal Committee, he directed officers that there would be no compromise with the city's cleanliness and aesthetics. He directed officers of all construction agencies and concerned departments to ensure that Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste is disposed of only at designated sites and in accordance with scientific norms.

Haryana Industries and Commerce Minister, Rao Narbir Singh, Pataudi MLA, Bimla Chaudhary, Sohna MLA, Tejpal Tanwar and Gurugram MLA, Mukesh Sharma. A total of 15 grievances were taken up during the meeting, of which 13 were resolved on the spot, while directions were issued to keep two cases pending until the next meeting. The Chief Minister asked the concerned officers to

submit status reports on the pending cases in the next meeting.

The Chief Minister laid special emphasis on the prompt and effective resolution of complaints received through the CM Window. He said that he personally reviews complaints lodged on the portal regularly and directed all officers to deal with every complaint seriously, impartially and within the prescribed timeline. He warned that any negligence, indifference or mala fide conduct on the part of officers would invite strict action.

The Chief Minister said that whenever a citizen approaches the Government with a grievance, it becomes the responsibility of the Government and the administration to ensure its resolution. He directed all officers to treat public interest as their highest priority and dispose of complaints on the CM Window with sensitivity so that citizens receive timely relief.

During the meeting, members of the Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) from Wazirpur Enclave in the Municipal Corporation Manesar area highlighted several civic issues before the Chief Minister.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Guwahati

The flood situation in Assam remained grim on Saturday even as the water level has started to recede in some parts, while 62 people have died of the deluge and over 7.05 lakh people are affected in nine districts, officials said.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin on Friday late night, 14 more people lost their lives in the deluge during the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 62 this year.

Charaideo district witnessed seven people, including two women, drowning in flood waters; followed by six, including one woman, in Sivasagar; and one each in Jorhat, it added.

According to the authority's daily flood report, more than 7,05,100 people have been affected in Charaideo, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Hojai, Jorhat, Karbi Anglong, Nagaon and Sivasagar districts.

Sivasagar is the worst-hit district with nearly 3.5 lakh people affected, followed by Charaideo with almost 1.9 lakh people and Jorhat with more than 1.3 lakh people reeling under floodwaters.

The flood situation has improved marginally since Thursday, when over 7.21 lakh people were affected across 11 districts.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said his Government is yet to deliver relief materials to at least 80,000 flood-affected people even as the situation remained critical with many rivers continuing to rise following incessant rains.

"We are trying very hard to reach all the people with relief items, but still many are left out. In Nazira Assembly constituency, 30 per cent area or around 50,000 people are not reachable. In Sivasagar, 20 per cent of the area or 30,000 people are inaccessible. The count may be 10,000 more or less (from the 80,000 affected yet to be reached)," he said.

BJP MLA Mayur Borgohain painted a grim and helpless picture of the administration's flood relief efforts in Sivasagar district's Nazira subdivision during a review meeting.

He said the state machinery has not been able to reach the worst-affected areas of his Nazira constituency and around 30 per cent of the affected people are yet to receive any relief.

At present, the Dikhou river at Sivasagar, Dhansiri at Nanglamuraghat, Dhansiri at Numaligarh and Kushiara at Sribhumi are flowing above the danger level.

Around 856 villages are under water and 56,606.78 hectares of crop areas have been damaged across Assam, the ASDMA said.

Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by flood waters in different districts of the State.

The ASDMA said the administration has been operating 363 relief camps and relief distribution centres in seven districts, taking care of 1,15,205 displaced people at present.

Multiple agencies like the Army, NDRF, SDRF, Fire & Emergency Service, police and civil agencies have rescued around 1,000 people from different parts of Jorhat and Sivasagar, it added.



Bahadurgarh: Venkateshwar Hospital, Dwarka, in association with Soni Neuro & Gastro Hospital, Bahadurgarh, has launched the city's first Medical Oncology OPD. The OPD will be led by Dr. Mayank Agrawal, Senior Consultant & Unit Head – Medical Oncology, providing expert cancer consultation, diagnosis, and treatment planning closer to home.



Patiala: Chandigarh Healthcare & Academics Foundation (CHAF), in association with Max Super Speciality Hospital, Mohali, organised an academic session on the latest advances in liver cancer (HCC) management at Hotel Shaurya, Patiala. Dr. Tegbir Singh Sidhu highlighted new developments in minimally invasive therapies, targeted treatment and TARE. The event was attended by leading gastroenterologists, oncologists and physicians, who emphasised the importance of continuous medical education and multidisciplinary care in improving liver cancer outcomes.

Bank of Baroda Reports Strong Q1 FY27 Performance

Ludhiana: Bank of Baroda reported strong financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2026. The bank's total business grew 15.4% year-on-year to ₹30.50 lakh crore, while advances increased 17.4%. Net NPA improved to 0.50%, with healthy growth in retail, MSME and agriculture lending.



The authority has distributed 2,109.84 quintals of rice, 383.93 quintals of dal,

129.91 quintals of salt and 9,646.08 litres of mustard oil among the flood victims of

the State during the last 24 hours.

On account of widespread

flooding, 3,34,020 domestic animals and poultry are affected across the State.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Deepika, D/o Sh. Anoop Singh, R/o BachhaPatti Kalwan, Tehsil Narwana, District Jind, Haryana, have changed my name to Deepika Nain. Henceforth, I shall be known and addressed as Deepika Nain for all purposes.

I, Virender S/o Sita R/o Village Bawar Tehsil Gohana District Sonapat - 131302 (Haryana) have changed my minor Son name from Baby of Soni to Sachin Boora.

I, Santosh Kumari W/o Subhash Chander Arora R/o H. No. 456, Sector-13, Hisar (Haryana) declare that I have changed my name from Santosh Kumari to Santosh Arora for all future purpose.

I, Pardeep Kumar S/o Desh Raj R/o VPO. Sambhalikha Sub Tehsil Saha Distt. Ambala Haryana that I have changed my name from Pardeep Kumar to Pardeep Verma. Concerned note.

I Kritika D/o Sh. Min Bahadur R/o House No. 511, Sector 45, Burail, Chandigarh have changed my name from Kirtika to Kritika. And My correct date birth is 28/11/2011

I, Gurvinder Singh S/o Shamsheer Singh R/o H.no. 198/20 ROOP NAGAR Sonapat declare that GURVINDER SINGH and GURVINDER both names are same and one person. I shall be known as GURVINDER SINGH for all future purposes.

I, Ravinder S/o Beli Ram & Anjali Solanki W/O Ravinder R/o VPO Ram Nagar, Tehsil Safidon, Distt Jind Haryana Pin 126112 have change the name of my minor son from Third Baby of Anjali to Vansh for all future purposes.

I, No. 2511954A, Rank NK Dinesh S/o Sh. Priywarit R/o Vill. & P.O. Bohar, Teh. & Distt. Rohtak, Haryana -124021 declare that my father and my mother has been wrongly written as Priyavart and Jaswant Kaur in my Service record. The actual name of my father and my mother are Priywarit and Jashwanti. And I have changed my father DOB from 01.01.1978 to 27.04.1974. Vide affidavit dated 25.07.2026 before Notary Public Rohtak.

I Parmjit Kaur W/O Sukhdev Singh R/O Janer Distt. Moga Have Changed My Name To Parmjeet Kaur.

I Taranpreet Singh Dua S/O Gurcharan Singh R/O H.No.13 South Model Gram Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Taranpreet Singh.

I Mandeep Kaur Dua W/O Taranpreet Singh R/O H.No.13 South Model Gram Ludhiana Have Changed My Name To Mandeep Kaur.

I, Sekh Shaiful S/o Sekh Yakub R/o H.No. 7 Near Tarsem Hospital Shiv Vihar Jassian Ludhiana have known by both names Shaiful and Sekh Shaiful is one and the same person.

I, Babita C/o Ashwani Sharma R/o H.No.704 St.No.9 Derabassi Shakti Nagar Dera Bassi Po. Derabassi Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali have changed my name to Babita Sharma.

I, Ashwani Kumar Sharma S/o Vijay Sharma R/o H.No.704 St.No.9 Derabassi Shakti Nagar Dera Bassi Po. Derabassi Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali have changed my name to Ashwani Sharma.

I, Devinder Kaur M/o No. 19000118M Rank Retd Nk Talwinder Singh R/o Vill: Karimpura Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib have changed my name from Devinder Kaur to Davinder Kaur.

I, Mukesh Kumar S/o Sh. Govind Ram R/o House No. 1743, Balmik Basti, Ward No.1, Kalka Tehsil Kalka Distt Panchkula Haryana I have changed my Name from Mukesh to Mukesh Kumar.

I, SEVATI DEVI mother of No. 15781457X Rank HAV Name BEERENDRA YADAV presently residing at 120, Araawnguljar, Paseepur, Kaptanganj, Alahani, Azamgarh, State – Uttar Pradesh, PIN – 276141, have changed my name from SEVATI DEVI to SEVAATHI DEVI vide Affidavit No. IN-PB73950655987300Y Dated 25-07-2026 before Notary Public Pathankot (PB).

I, RATNAMALA is legally wedded spouse of No. 15779517H Rank RHM (OCC) Name BORA RAMMOHAN presently residing at Vill - Kotta Peta, Post - Salihundam, Tehsil - Gara, Distt - Srikakulam, State – Andhra Pradesh, PIN - 532405, have changed my name from RATNAMALA to BORA RATNAMALA vide Affidavit No. IN-PB73949674881649Y Dated 25-07-2026 before Notary Public Pathankot (PB).

I, Prithviraj Singh Father of No.15488612X DFR Ram Raj Singh resident of Village- Raju Ka Pura, Post- Sathon, Tehsil- Porsa, District- Morena, State- Madhya Pradesh, Pin-476115, have changed my name from Prithviraj Singh to Prithveeraj Singh vide affidavit No.IN-PB73545762634974Y dated 24 July 2026 before notary public Pathankot

I, Bavana Alivelumangamma, Mother of No.2622091Y NK Bavana Appala Naidu resident of Village-Talasamudram, Post-Talasamudram, Tehsil-Polaki, District-Srikakulam, State-Andhra Pradesh, Pin-532429, have changed my name from Bavana Alivelumangamma to Bavana Alivelamma vide affidavit No.IN-AP03892534799482Y 23 July 2026 before notary public Srikakulam (AP)

I, Ram Rati Mother of No.7784416N Hav Rigved Vishwakarma resident of Village- 76 Hathigan, Post- Purwa Khas, Tehsil- Karchhana District-Prayagraj, State- Uttar Pradesh, Pin- 212111, have changed my name from Ram Rati to Ranno Devi vide affidavit No.IN-PBY68650142487306 dated 10 July 2026 before notary public Pathankot

I, SUMANBAI ATMARAM NIKAM am Mother of Army No: 15581386X Rank: Hav Name: Nikam Ravindra Atmaram Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Morzar, Post: Vadali, Teh: Nandgoan, Dist: Nashik, State: Maharashtra, Pin: 423106 declare that in my Husband Service record my Date of birth is by Mistakenly Mentioned as 30/12/1991 but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct Date of birth is 30/12/1993. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832065, Dated: 25/07/2026, Before District Court, Panchkula, Haryana.

I, NIKAM SUMANBAI ATMARAM am Mother of Army No: 15581386X Rank: Hav Name: Nikam Ravindra Atmaram Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Morzar, Post: Vadali, Teh: Nandgoan, Dist: Nashik, State: Maharashtra, Pin: 423106 declare that in my Son's Service record my Name is by Mistakenly Mentioned as NIKAM SUMANBAI ATMARAM but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is SUMANBAI ATMARAM NIKAM. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832060, Dated: 25/07/2026

I, ATMARAM VITTHAL NIKAM am Father of Army No: 15581386X Rank: Hav Name: Nikam Ravindra Atmaram Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Morzar, Post: Vadali, Teh: Nandgoan, Dist: Nashik, State: Maharashtra, Pin: 423106 declare that in my Son's Service record my Date of birth is by Mistakenly Mentioned as 01/08/1951 but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct Date of birth is 23/08/1956. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832063, Dated: 25/07/2026

I, NIKAM ATMARAM VITTHAL am Father of Army No: 15581386X Rank: Hav Name: Nikam Ravindra Atmaram Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Morzar, Post: Vadali, Teh: Nandgoan, Dist: Nashik, State: Maharashtra, Pin: 423106 declare that in my Son's Service record my Name is by Mistakenly Mentioned as NIKAM ATMARAM VITTHAL but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is ATMARAM VITTHAL NIKAM. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832062, Dated: 25/07/2026

I, SORAMBAI am Mother of Army No: 15572921L Rank: Hav Name: Sanjay Kumar Dethliya Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Kanasiya, Teh: Tarana, Dist: Ujjain, State: Madhya Pradesh Pin: 456770 declare that in my Son's Service record my Name is by Mistakenly Mentioned as SORAMBAI but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is RAMU BAI. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832068, Dated: 25/07/2026

I, JAYSHRI RAVINDRA NIKAM is legally Wedded Spouse of Army No: 15581386X Rank: Hav Name: Nikam Ravindra Atmaram Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Morzar, Post: Vadali, Teh: Nandgoan, Dist: Nashik, State: Maharashtra, Pin: 423106 declare that in my Husband Service record my Date of birth is by Mistakenly Mentioned as 30/12/1991 but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct Date of birth is 30/12/1993. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832065, Dated: 25/07/2026, Before District Court, Panchkula, Haryana.

I, Army No: 15733102P Rank: LOC HAV Name- Banti Kumar R/o Baurhi, Baurihi, Patna, Baurhi, Bihar- 804451 Presently Posted at Unit: 31 Network Signal Regiment C/o 56 APO declare that I have Correct My Mother's Pramila Devi Date of Birth from 01/01/1976 to 01/01/1979.

I, JAYSHREE am legally Wedded Spouse of Army No: 15581386X Rank: Hav Name: Nikam Ravindra Atmaram Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Morzar, Post: Vadali, Teh: Nandgoan, Dist: Nashik, State: Maharashtra, Pin: 423106 declare that in my Husband Service record my Name is by Mistakenly Mentioned as JAYSHREE but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct Name is JAYSHRI RAVINDRA NIKAM. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832064, Dated: 25/07/2026, Before District Court, Panchkula, Haryana.

I, SALAGARAM am Father of Army No: 15572921L Rank: Hav Name: Sanjay Kumar Dethliya Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Kanasiya, Post: Kanasiya, Teh: Tarana, Dist: Ujjain, State: Madhya Pradesh Pin: 456770 declare that in my Son's Service record my Date of birth is by Mistakenly Mentioned as 08/03/1958 but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct Date of birth is 01/01/1964. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832069, Dated: 25/07/2026

I, SALAGRAM am Father of Army No: 15572921L Rank: Hav Name: Sanjay Kumar Dethliya Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Kanasiya, Post: Kanasiya, Teh: Tarana, Dist: Ujjain, State: Madhya Pradesh Pin: 456770 declare that in my Son's Service record my Name is by Mistakenly Mentioned as SALAGRAM but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct name is SALAGARAM. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832068, Dated: 25/07/2026

I, RAMU BAI am Mother of Army No: 15572921L Rank: Hav Name: Sanjay Kumar Dethliya Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Kanasiya, Post: Kanasiya, Teh: Tarana, Dist: Ujjain, State: Madhya Pradesh Pin: 456770 declare that in my Son's Service record my Date of birth is by Mistakenly Mentioned as 08/03/1963 but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Correct Date of birth is 01/01/1960. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832067, Dated: 25/07/2026

I, Army No: 15572921L Rank: Hav Name: Sanjay Kumar Dethliya Presently Posted at Unit: 105 Engr Regt C/o 56 APO Permanent Address: Vill: Kanasiya, Post: Kanasiya, Teh: Tarana, Dist: Ujjain, State: Madhya Pradesh Pin: 456770 declare that in my Service record my Daughter Name is by Mistakenly Mentioned as PAYAL but as per Civil/Govt. Documents my Daughter Full and Correct name is PAYAL DETHLIYA. Vide Affidavit No: 11AA 832073, Dated: 25/07/2026

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➤ PROSPECT



A delegation of the Assam Cricket Association, led by President Taranga Gogoi and Secretary Sanatan Das, called on CM Himanta Biswa Sarma at Lok Bhawan and contributed ₹50 lakh to the Chief Minister's relief fund

PIONEER PHOTO

NTPC board approves raising up to ₹12,000 crores via NCD issue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

State-run power giant NTPC's board has approved a proposal to raise up to ₹12,000 crore through issuance of non-convertible debentures (NCDs).

The Board of Directors of the company, at its meeting held on Friday, July 24, 2026, approved the issue of non-convertible debentures up to ₹12,000 crore, in one or more tranches through private placement in the domestic market, the company said in a regulatory filing on Friday evening.

The company said the issuance period will commence from the date of passing of the special resolution until completion of one year thereof or the date of the next Annual General Meeting in the financial year 2027-28, whichever is earlier.

The size, tenor, listing details (BSE and/or NSE), coupon/interest rate, security, if applicable, and other applicable details will be decided at the time of issue of each tranche/series, the filing said.



In another filing, giving operational and financial highlights in the April-June quarter this year, the company said its group installed capacity has increased to 90,904 MW as on June 30, 2026, from 82,646 MW as on June 30, 2025. NTPC Group capacity addition was 1796 MW in the first quarter of this fiscal.

The commercial power generation rose to 93.63 billion units (BU) in the quarter from 91.06 BU in the same period a year ago.

It maintained a plant load factor (PLF or capacity utilisation) of 76.71 per cent at coal-based plants in the quarter, up from 75.16 per cent a year ago.

The all-India PLF was 70.32 per cent at coal-based plants in the first quarter.

The average tariff was ₹4.86 per unit in the quarter compared to ₹4.87 per unit a year ago.

Assam CM attends State-level workshop on Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

TONY DAS
■ Guwahati

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma attended the State-level Workshop on the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) at Jyoti Bishnu International Kala Mandir in Guwahati on Saturday. Farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), agri-entrepreneurs and representatives of banks and financial institutions from across Assam participated in the workshop-cum-awareness programme.

The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 9, 2020 under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, is a flagship Government of India scheme that provides interest-subsidised loans for post-harvest management and community farming assets. Under the scheme, eligible individuals and institutions can avail loans of up to ₹2 crore per project with a 3% annual interest subvention for up to seven years, along with collateral-free credit guarantee support.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that the scheme was launched with the objective of promoting value addition to agricultural produce and creating modern agricultural infrastructure. He said the initiative encourages farmers not only to produce crops but also to process, store and market them through facilities such as warehouses, cold storages, custom hiring centres, drones, sensors, pumps, hydroponics, aeroponics, polyhouses, milling units and oil extraction units. He added that of the ₹1 lakh crore allocated nationally under the scheme, nearly ₹95,000 crore has already been utilised by farmers across the country.

The Chief Minister said that one of the biggest challenges faced by farmers in accessing institutional credit is the



requirement of collateral. He noted that the Credit Guarantee Fund created under the scheme addresses this concern by providing guarantee cover to banks, thereby enabling collateral-free lending to farmers. He also observed that Assam's Credit-Deposit Ratio has improved from 32% to 70%, though there remains scope to increase it further to around 90%.

Explaining the financial benefits of the scheme, Dr Sarma said that the Government provides a 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹2 crore and the lending rate is capped at 9%. While beneficiaries are ordinarily required to contribute 10% of the project cost under the scheme, he announced that the Assam Government will bear 5% of the beneficiary contribution. In the case of Farmer Producer Organisations, the State Government will bear the entire 10 per cent beneficiary share. He further informed that beneficiaries can also simultaneously avail benefits under other Government schemes, including PM-KUSUM, PMFME, MIDH and RKVY.

Referring to Assam's allocation under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, the Chief Minister said that the State has been allotted ₹2,050 crore, against which loans worth ₹1,181 crore have already been sanctioned to 893 farmers, FPOs and agri-entrepreneurs. Of this, ₹736

From Tiger Hill to Operation Sindoor: What Kargil built

COL TEJENDRA PAL TYAGI (RETD.)

Every year on the twenty-sixth of July, India pauses to remember the men who fought and died to reclaim the heights of Kargil. For those of us who have served in uniform, that anniversary carries a weight that does not diminish with time. It also carries a question that is seldom asked plainly: when India found itself fighting a war it had not anticipated, against an adversary dug into positions of commanding advantage, which country stood beside it without hesitation? The answer, now part of documented military history, is Israel.

The spring of 1999 exposed a series of critical gaps in India's military preparedness. Pakistani forces, occupying ridgelines in the Kargil-Dras sector at altitudes that made conventional ground assault costly in the extreme, had to be dislodged under strict orders not to cross the Line of Control. The Indian Air Force was tasked with providing precision air support to ground troops attempting to scale positions under fire. The problem was accuracy. Unguided munitions fired at targets on steep, narrow ridgelines from aircraft operating in confined airspace were not producing results. The Mirage 2000H fighter had the capability to deliver laser-guided ordnance, but the integration of the Litening laser designator pod was incomplete, and India, still under sanctions following the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests, had limited avenues to resolve the gap quickly.

Israel was one such partner. Ignoring pressure from the United States and other Western governments to delay arms shipments, Israel supplied India with



the Litening pods and the laser-guided munitions needed to equip its Mirages. It also supplied 155mm ammunition for the Bofors artillery guns that were the backbone of the ground campaign, and Searcher and Heron unmanned aerial vehicles that gave India its first sustained reconnaissance capability over enemy positions at high altitude. On June 24, 1999, a Mirage 2000H used a Litening pod to guide laser-directed munitions onto Pakistani Army command and control structures atop Tiger Hill. It was the first combat use of laser-guided bombs by the Indian Air Force. The conflict turned. Tiger Hill was taken.

That moment matters not simply as military history. It established the foundational character of the India-Israel defence relationship: reliable, operationally responsive, and unconditioned by political calculation. India's experience with several of its traditional suppliers during Kargil was instructive in precisely the opposite direction. The relationship that followed was shaped by that lesson.

In the years after Kargil, India built its inventory of Israeli systems deliberately. Heron and Searcher UAVs provided persistent surveillance along the Line of Control. Phalcon airborne early warning systems extended India's aerial situational awareness. Spike anti-

something already proved in combat.

The Industrial R&D and Innovation Fund, established at the summit as a co-development mechanism, is the instrument through which the transition from buyer to co-producer will be governed. The stated objective of both governments is the joint development of unmanned systems and counter-drone platforms under the Make in India framework, with the ambition of third-market export. This is not a future aspiration. It is the logical next stage of a trajectory that began in 1999 and has run without interruption through every major test of the relationship since.

The counter-terrorism dimension of the partnership deserves equal emphasis. Prime Minister Modi formally thanked Prime Minister Netanyahu at the summit for Israel's support in India's fight against terrorism. That expression of thanks rests on a foundation built over decades, through intelligence sharing, Special Forces training cooperation, and a common understanding of the threat that neither country has ever been able to afford to reduce to diplomatic abstraction.

On this anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, it is worth stating plainly what the historical record shows. When India needed a partner that would not calculate its risks or weigh its commitments against external pressure, Israel was one of them. Twenty-seven years later, the architecture of that partnership is stronger, more capable, and more institutionally embedded than at any previous point in its history. The men who reclaimed Tiger Hill deserve to be remembered alongside the relationship their war helped build.

The writer (Vir Chakra) is a 1971 war hero and the National President of the Rashtriya Sainik Sanstha

Galgotias University hosts Japanese delegation to explore collaborations



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Greater Noida

Galgotias University welcomed a high-level delegation of government officials, industry leaders and academic experts from Japan, along with representatives of the Governments of India and Uttar Pradesh, for discussions on academic and research collaboration. The talks prioritised three technologies central to the global sustainability agenda, Green Hydrogen, Electric Vehicles and Semiconductors, while keeping the door open to partnerships across a much wider range of disciplines.

The deliberations explored joint research programmes, technology exchange and academic partnerships, opening new pathways for the University's students and researchers to contribute to clean energy, sustainable mobility and next-generation manufacturing. The engagement reflects the growing role of universities as bridges between global policy leadership, advanced research and emerging talent.

Dr Dhruv Galgotia, CEO, Galgotias University, said, "Hosting such a high-level delegation on our campus is a proud moment for the University. It also demonstrates the growing importance of Greater Noida as a critical academic, industrial and transportation hub. We intend to convert these discussions into joint research

projects, exchange programmes and industry partnerships that our students and faculty can participate in directly."

India and Japan share a natural affinity rooted in centuries of civilisational and cultural exchange and reinforced today by common democratic values and complementary strengths. Japan brings deep expertise in precision manufacturing, clean energy technology and industrial innovation, while India offers scale, a vast pool of young engineering and research talent, and one of world's fastest-growing economies.

As the two nations deepen their Special Strategic and Global Partnership, academic and research collaborations are emerging as new avenues of engagement alongside trade and investment. Joint research programmes, faculty and student exchange, co-supervised doctoral work and university-industry partnerships are increasingly the channels through which the two countries turn shared intent into shared innovation, and Indian universities are positioning themselves at the centre of this exchange.

The visit also comes at a time of deepening cooperation between UP and Japan in clean energy and advanced manufacturing, positioning state as emerging hub for green hydrogen, EV components and semiconductor investment.

NCRTC honours Kargil heroes with tribute event at Begampul Namoh Bharat Station

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) on Saturday paid tribute to the brave soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces, honouring their indomitable courage, valour and sacrifice, on the occasion of the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas. A programme was organised on Saturday at Begampul Namoh Bharat Station, in which school students and NCRTC officials participated.

The Chief Guest of the programme was Colonel Rajesh Tyagi (Retd.), who was part of the 4 Jat Regiment during the Kargil War. He has been conferred with numerous honors, including the Sena Medal, for his outstanding military contributions and distinguished service. He is currently serving as the Director of Subharti Defence Academy.

Colonel Tyagi shared his experiences from the war with the audience and recounted inspiring stories of the bravery of Indian soldiers. He encouraged the students to strengthen their spirit of patriotism and pursue their dreams with confidence by becoming physically and mentally strong.

To familiarise young people with the significance of Kargil Vijay Diwas, a drawing activity on the theme "Guarding the Borders" was also organised for the students. Through their artwork, the students paid tribute to the brave soldiers who continue to guard the country's borders in difficult terrains and adverse conditions without regard for their own lives. Some of the artworks created by the students will



also be displayed at Begampul Namoh Bharat Station for commuters and the general public.

The programme also featured a musical performance by youth band Abhigav , making the occasion even more memorable. Through patriotic songs, the band paid tribute to the courage and valour of the Indian Armed Forces and filled the entire atmosphere with a spirit of patriotism.

Kargil Vijay Diwas is observed every year on 26 July to commemorate India's victory in the Kargil War of 1999. During the military campaign, known as Operation Vijay, the Indian Army regained control of strategic positions in the Kargil region that had been occupied by Pakistan-backed infiltrators near the Line of Control.

ONGC starts drilling first deepwater well in Mahanadi offshore basin under Samudra Manthan mission

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on Saturday commenced drilling its first deepwater exploratory well in the Mahanadi offshore basin, marking the start of an ambitious campaign to tap India's deep and ultra-deepwater hydrocarbon resources. ONGC spudded exploratory well, MN-DW18-H-D under the government's Samudra Manthan mission, the firm said in a statement.

The well is being drilled around 23 nautical miles from the Konark discovery off the Odisha coast, building on ONGC's recent Utikal and Konark discoveries that have strengthened the hydrocarbon prospectivity of the Mahanadi Offshore Basin.

The drilling campaign forms part of the push to accelerate exploration of India's offshore oil and gas reserves. In his Independence Day address on August 15, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for harnessing country's untapped offshore hydrocarbon potential.

In line with that vision, the government has opened nearly one million square kilometres of previously restricted offshore areas for exploration, paving the way for fresh acreage to be offered under upcoming rounds of the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP).

India's eastern and western offshore basins, extending to



water depths of up to 3,000 metres, are estimated to hold more than 5,600 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE) of hydrocarbon resources. Recent exploration successes in the Cauvery, Mahanadi and Andaman basins have further strengthened the outlook for offshore exploration, according to the statement.

To support the deepwater exploration programme, ONGC in January this year launched its flagship Deepwater Exploration Mission Centre, DeepX, in Mumbai. The centre integrates

the company's geoscientific expertise, advanced interpretation capabilities, specialised training and global collaborations under its "One Company, One Data" philosophy. The company said the commencement of drilling marks the beginning of one of India's most challenging deepwater exploration campaigns, aimed at boosting domestic oil and gas production, reducing import dependence and strengthening the country's energy security.

"The commencement of drilling marks the beginning of one of India's most challenging deepwater exploration campaigns. Every prospect evaluated, well drilled and discovery made will contribute towards enhancing domestic production, reducing import dependence and strengthening India's energy security and self-reliance," statement said.

FROM THE

WORLD

CANADA

15 years jailed for AI killer

A contract killer, who is already serving a life term for the murder of a former suspect in the Air India (AI) Kanishka bombing, has been sentenced to an additional 15 years in prison by a Canadian court.

Tanner Fox, 25, was sentenced on Wednesday after pleading guilty to the manslaughter of 41-year-old Chad Colivas of Abbotsford in British Columbia, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported. Police said Colivas was found with gunshot wounds at his home on 2022, and later died of his injuries.

Fox was arrested in 2023 along with 30-year-old Laetitia Acera. Acera pleaded guilty to break and enter and was sentenced to 4 years in prison, followed by two years of probation, while Fox pleaded guilty to manslaughter with a firearm in April

CHINA

Five killed in loess collapse

Five people were killed and three others injured after a large amount of loess collapsed onto a village in north China's Shanxi province, burying a house, authorities said on Saturday.

Loess is a wind-deposited sediment composed mainly of silt, along with clay, sand and calcium carbonate. The incident occurred on Friday evening in Haoyi village in Dicun township of Hongtong County in Linfen city, located on the Loess Plateau. The house was buried after the loess collapsed, killing five people and injuring three others, county-level emergency response authorities said. Rescue teams comprising local police, firefighters and medical personnel pulled out all eight people trapped under the debris, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Five of them were found without vital signs, while the three injured were hospitalised and are in stable condition, the report said. (PTI)

Houthis fire missiles at Saudi in response to strikes on Hodeida

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Cairo

Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels said they fired missiles and drones on Saudi Arabia in response to Saudi airstrikes on the strategic Red Sea city of Hodeida, in another escalation over vital shipping routes in the Middle East while the United States and Iran continue to vie for control of the Strait of Hormuz.

Brig Gen Yahya Saree, the Houthis' military spokesman, said in a prerecorded statement on Saturday that the attack targeted facilities of Aramco, the world's largest oil company, in the Red Sea cities of Yanbu and Jizan.

There was no immediate comment from Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom's civil defense said alerts sounded multiple times early on Saturday in Yanbu and Jizan. There were no reported strikes overnight in Iran, in an apparent break of nearly two weeks of con-



secutive nights of US attacks, though tension remains high following a recent escalation between the two countries over Hormuz.

The rising tension in the Red Sea has threatened to further choke global shipping, because the rebels have said they would close the Bab el-Mandeb Strait to Saudi-

linked shipping.

That strait, at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is a vital shipping chokepoint, connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. Around 12 per cent of the world's trade, including a quarter of global container traffic, passes through the narrows.

The Houthis targeted two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea this week. In response, Saudi Arabia struck the port city of Hodeida in Yemen, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said early Saturday. The strikes late Friday hit the city's port as well as the state-run telecommunications corporation, injuring two people, said Anees al-Asbahi, a spokesman for the Houthi-run health ministry.

The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen said it didn't hit the port but struck "legitimate military targets" in Hodeida province, which "were linked to threats to commercial vessels in the Red Sea."

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi called for "diplomacy and dialogue" to solve the Yemen conflict without "military confrontations" in an interview published on Saturday in the State-run Iran newspaper. (AP)

Iran reports no new US strikes as tensions remain high

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Cairo

Iran reported no strikes overnight into Saturday, an apparent break from nearly two weeks of consecutive nights of US attacks, but tensions remain high following a recent escalation over control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian Health Ministry spokesperson Hossein Kermanpour posted on X, saying that "Iran had a peaceful night," without any attacks reported. The US Central Command didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. However, unlike the previous 13 nights, it did not announce new strikes.

Sirens sounded multiple times early Saturday in Saudi Arabia's Yanbu and Jizan provinces, which house crucial oil facilities on the Red Sea, according to the Saudi Civil Defence. It said the sirens were because of a "potential danger" that was later lifted, without providing



further details. Bahrain also sounded missile alerts early Saturday, but no casualties have been reported.

A tenuous ceasefire that appeared to halt major operations in the conflict that started with American and Israeli attacks on Iran seemed to unravel early July. Iran was accused of striking three ships in the strait. The US responded by striking dozens of targets in Iran, which retaliated by firing at Arab states in the region.

The Strait of Hormuz, a crucial passage for world energy supplies effectively shut down by Iranian

attacks, has been at the centre of the conflict. The US military fired Friday on a merchant vessel in the Gulf of Oman that was trying to breach its renewed blockade of Iran's ports, while Iran targeted US-allied Gulf Arab countries.

Iran's Houthi allies targeted two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea this week, raising concerns the group may again try to block Red Sea shipping routes. In response, Saudi Arabia struck the port city of Hodeida in Yemen, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said early Saturday.

Bill introduced in US Senate seeks 3-year pause on H-1B visas, codify \$100K fee

SAGAR KULKARNI ■ Washington

A US senator has introduced a bill in the Senate that seeks to pause issuance of new H-1B visas for three years and codify the \$100,000 fee imposed by the Trump administration, which was struck down by a federal court.

US Senator Tim Sheehy, a Republican from Montana, said the US should not be issuing visas that make it easier to undercut the rights of American workers.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ highly skilled foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. American technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. "The H-1B programme was created to address workforce shortages for specialised, difficult-to-fill positions — not to displace qualified, hardworking Americans with cheaper, foreign labour," Sheehy said in a statement.

"My legislation, the End H-1B Abuse Act, restores the programme to its original intent



US Senator Tim Sheehy

new H-1B visas for three years and then restart the programme under far tighter limits and higher standards.

It also seeks to codify President Donald Trump's \$100,000 fee for each H-1B petition.

The Boston-based First Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday denied the Trump administration's motion to stay US District Judge Leo T Sorokin's June 8 ruling that struck down the fee, terming it an unlawful tax not authorised by Congress.

The bill also proposes to permanently replace the random lottery in statute with a wage-based selection system and bans concurrent employment and third-party staffing-agency models.

It also seeks to end the "dual intent" provision for H-1B visa holders and prevent H-class visa holders from bringing dependents.

The proposed legislation would also bar federal agencies from sponsoring or employing non-immigrant visa holders. In addition, it seeks to eliminate work authorisation for foreign students and certain exchange visitors by ending Optional Practical Training-style programmes. (AP)



A tourist uses a hand fan to cool off during a heat wave as people gather on Areopagus Hill with the Acropolis in the background in Athens

35 people killed after buses collide in Syria, State media reports

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Damascus

At least 35 people have been killed and dozens injured after two buses collided on a highway linking the Syrian Capital with the eastern province of Deir el-Zour on Saturday, State media reported.

Around 30 people were injured in the crash between a civilian bus and an Interior Ministry bus on the desert highway, the SANA news agency



cited a health ministry official as saying. Syrian military helicopters were reported to be involved in

the operation at the scene. The cause of the collision was not immediately known.

Small plane crashes into German home, 1 dead, 1 missing

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Berlin

At least one person died and a second one appeared to be missing after a small plane crashed into a home in northern Germany on Saturday, police said.

For reasons that are still being investigated, the small plane lost altitude and crashed into the roof of a single-family home in a residential neighbourhood in Ganderkesee in Lower Saxony, police in the nearby city of Oldenburg said.

According to police, the plane was carrying two people. One person was killed in the crash and rescue personnel were searching for the missing individual, German news agency dpa reported.



11 tourists rescued after speedboat sinks in Indonesia

MOHAMMAD TAUFAN ■ Palu

Indonesian rescuers found alive 11 European tourists and a local crew member who went missing after their speedboat apparently broke apart and sank in rough weather off a bay on Sulawesi island, officials said Saturday. Search teams continued looking for the vessel's Captain.

The vessel departed a dive resort in Tojo Unauna regency of Central Sulawesi province bound for Marisa Port in the neighbouring Gorontalo province but failed to arrive as scheduled, said Heriyanto, Head of the Gorontalo Province Search and Rescue Office. A local tour guide reported the missing boat to the search and rescue



office at 3.40 pm (local time) on, prompting an immediate search operation, said Heriyanto, who, like many Indonesians, uses a single name.

"Concerns arose when their speedboat had not arrived by afternoon," Heriyanto said. "We immedi-

ately launched a search mission overnight."

Five Dutch nationals, three Germans, a Czech man, a Belgian man, a French woman and two Indonesian crew members were on board, according to Indonesian authorities.

There was no immediate

comment from the national embassies of the tourists.

Heriyanto said dozens of search and rescue teams were deployed in a search operation covering approximately 300 square nautical miles of waters along and around Tomini Bay, a renowned marine tourism destination, with dozens of islands dotting its vast waters, based on the tour boat's route projections. A thermal-imaging drone and diving equipment were also being used in the search, he said.

Indonesia's meteorological agency forecast generally clear skies in the area, but rescuers on Saturday have faced challenging sea conditions, including strong winds and waves reaching up to 2.5 metres (8 feet) high. (AP)

France deploys massive cargo aircraft to dump flame retardant on wildfire

MARK CARLSON/EMMA DA SILVA/JOHN LEICESTER ■ Lege-Cap Ferrer

France was preparing to use a massive specially adapted cargo aircraft to dump flame retardants on Saturday on a wildfire that has forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people, including from some suburbs of the wine region city of Bordeaux.

Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said the hulking A400M aircraft will join what is expected to be a "long and very difficult" battle against the blaze raging in the Gironde region of western France. That blaze and another wildfire in the Landes region have together forced 197,000 people to evacuate, he said. With winds expected to shift in a westerly direction on Saturday afternoon, potentially driving the fire closer to Bordeaux, fire crews and authorities



were digging trenches, using retardants and taking other steps to block it, Nunez said. He said the fire was about 30 kilometres west of the city.

The government mobilized soldiers to join the battle against the flames and rushed in 1.5 million face masks to protect against choking smoke. The

prefect of the Gironde region that includes Bordeaux ordered the evacuation of parts of three of the city's western suburbs. Other towns and villages further west of the city were also ordered to evacuate.

Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu described the fires as unprecedented and said the Gironde blaze had become so strong that it was generating its own winds. "Our priority is clear: protecting human lives," he posted on X, adding that evacuation orders "must be respected without delay."

He said firefighting teams were being reinforced Saturday with the addition of hundreds of soldiers and that breathing masks to filter out smoke particles were being rushed to the Gironde region for those exposed to the clouds of potentially noxious fumes. (AP)

Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp among new additions to join UNESCO's World Heritage list

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Seoul

The Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia, an ornate 13th-century Buddhist temple in Thailand and tidal flats in western South Korea were among several sites added to the World Heritage List on Saturday at a UN committee meeting in South Korea.

The UNESCO meetings in Busan, which continue through next Wednesday, are reviewing dozens of other nominations, including the D-Day landing beaches in France, Mount Olympus in Greece and the ancient Japanese capitals of Asuka-Fujiwara.



The Okefenokee Swamp is regarded as one of the world's largest freshwater ecosystems, encompassing a vast network of wetlands that supports exceptional biodiversity and serves as the source of two major rivers. Its largely undisturbed peat beds preserve a 5,000-year record of environmental change, making the swamp both a globally significant natural habitat and a valuable source of information on long-term environmental change, according to a UNESCO description.

While the World Heritage designation places the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge alongside iconic US

landmarks such as the Grand Canyon, some locals have opposed the listing, fearing it would increase UN involvement in managing the site. "We accept this inscription not as a finish line, but as a commitment to keep the Okefenokee wild, resilient, and thriving for generations to come," said Kim Bednarek, executive director of the non-profit Okefenokee Swamp Park that's worked with the US government on the refuge's nomination package.

Wat Phra Mahathat Woramahawihan, a 13th-century Buddhist temple in southern Thailand known for its 78-metre stupa and dis-

tinctive architecture, was also inscribed on the World Heritage List, becoming Thailand's ninth site.

UNESCO has described the temple as an outstanding example of Theravada Buddhist architecture that remains a living place of worship, preserving religious traditions that draw large gatherings of devotees. While the World Heritage listing is expected to dramatically increase visitors to the temple, Kanop Ketchart, mayor of Nakhon Si Thammarat City, said officials are prepared to address potential infrastructure and capacity challenges. "We

have prepared our infrastructure, buffer zoning and evacuation plan to fit all the requirements of UNESCO," he said. "More importantly, the people are getting used to all this process for almost 10 years. So they are very much looking forward to (it)."

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said the expanded designation of the tidal flats "reaffirms the importance of international cooperation for the conservation of the Yellow Sea ecosystem and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway," a major migratory bird route that stretches from the Arctic through Asia to Australia and New Zealand. (AP)



Russian, Ukrainian report 14 dead in latest attacks

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Kyiv

Ukrainian attacks on holiday camps in the partly Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia region have killed 11 people, Moscow-installed officials said on Saturday, while authorities in Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region said a Russian drone strike killed three people.

Four children were among the 10 people killed in the attack on the resorts, Yevgeny Balitsky, the Kremlin-installed regional head, said on Saturday, adding that 14 people were wounded. Ukraine did not immediately comment on the attack. Sumy regional head Oleh Hryhorov said on



Demonstrators kneel as they take a moment of silence to honour the fallen soldiers in Russia-Ukraine war during a rally to denounce President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's decision to dismiss Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov after six months in the post in Kyiv, Ukraine

Saturday three people were killed when a large fire broke out after a Russian drone struck a "civilian facility," adding that the victims were drivers for private Ukrainian postal and courier service Nova Poshta.

Russia's defence ministry said it attacked a "storage and launch site" for Ukrainian drones in the Sumy region. In Zaporizhzhia, in southeastern Ukraine, a Russian drone attack late Friday hit a shopping centre, causing a fire that spread over a 500-square-meter area and injuring several people, regional head Ivan Fedorov said.

A major Russian attack on Friday on a site hosting a defence industry event near

Kyiv killed at least 10 people and wounded nearly 100 others. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned in his evening address on Friday that intelligence assessments indicated that Russia was preparing missiles for a large attack, saying there were indications that this could happen in the next 48 hours.

On Saturday, Romania's defence ministry said its forces "safely shot down" a drone that breached its airspace in an "unpopulated area" near the Ukrainian border. The drone was "shot down by a Romanian pilot from an F-16 aircraft," President Nicuor Dan said in a post on Facebook.

Strike paralyses Ebola treatment centre in Congo

PROSPER HERI NGORORA/ CONSTANT SAME BAGALWA ■ Bunia

Health workers at an Ebola treatment centre in eastern Congo went on strike Saturday over payment issues, disrupting care for patients in the epicenter of the country's rapidly growing outbreak.

The number of confirmed cases of Ebola in Congo has reached 2,973, including 1,309 deaths, according to government data released Friday in what authorities say is the fastest-growing outbreak on record.

Activities at the Elikeya Ebola Treatment Center in Bunia, Ituri province, were largely paralysed after doctors, nurses and security staff stopped work.

About a hundred health workers protested outside the treatment centre on Saturday. They said the unpaid bonuses were undermining morale and disrupting patient care,



and called on Congolese authorities to settle the arrears so they could resume their work.

In a statement issued Friday, staff said they had unanimously voted to strike from Saturday until "concrete solutions" were found to resolve "two months of unpaid per-

formance bonuses". Last week, health workers at Bunia General Hospital, the region's largest medical centre, went on strike over unpaid salaries. Some had told said they have not received any payment since they started work at the onset of the outbreak.The World Health Organisation says more than 100 healthcare workers have been infected since the beginning of the outbreak.

The Central African nation has been battling the Ebola outbreak caused by the rare Bundibugyo virus since May 15. A total of 766 patients remain in isolation or in hospitals, while 540 have recovered so far, according to data from Congo's Ministry of Health.

The eastern province of Ituri accounts for nearly 90% of confirmed cases. The outbreak continues to spread faster than health officials can track despite an expand-

ing response. A key challenge is that health authorities have yet to identify the outbreak's patient zero, while displacement from armed conflict and mining-related movements have made it difficult to trace thousands who have come in contact with infected individuals.

The response is being hampered by a funding gap, attacks on health centres, an ongoing conflict in eastern Congo and mistrust among local communities.

Response efforts have also been challenged by the lack of approved vaccines or treatments for the Bundibugyo virus, unlike the more common Zaire virus for which there is a vaccine and which was responsible for most of Congo's past 16 outbreaks of the disease. Enrollment in a highly anticipated study of two possible Ebola treatments recently started in Ituri. (AP)

UN chief urges international community to back Syrians

GHAITH ALSAYED ■ Damascus

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to the international community Saturday to support the people in Syria at the start of his first visit to the Arab country as UN chief, nearly two years after the fall of Bashar Assad.

Guterres' visit is the first by a UN secretary-general to the Syrian capital since 2009.

Shortly after his arrival, Guterres held talks with Syria's interim president, Ahmad al-Sharaa, before taking a tour of the old quarter of Damascus and the famous Umayyad Mosque.

Guterres' visit to Syria comes as the country is trying to recover from the deadly conflict that broke out in March 2011 leaving nearly half a million people dead and causing widespread destruction that would cost tens of billions of dollars to rebuild. "I have just arrived in Damascus for a visit of solidarity," Guterres posted on X at the start of his three-day visit. He added that the United Nations stands with Syria at this "pivotal moment."

"I appeal to the international community to spare no effort to support the people of Syria as well," the UN chief wrote. Since the five-decade Assad family rule came to an end in December 2024, when fighters led by gunmen loyal to al-Sharaa stormed Damascus, the nation has been struggling to recover from years of conflict and the effects of crippling Western sanctions.

While the United States and Europe have lifted many of the sanctions imposed during the rule of the Assad dynasty, the impact on the ground has so far been limited. Cuts to international aid have worsened living conditions for many. The United Nations estimates that 90 per cent of Syria's population lives in poverty. The World Bank released an assessment last year that said rebuilding Syria after over a decade of civil war is expected to cost about \$216 billion. (AP)



United Nations weighs in on Delhi demonstration

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ United Nations

The United Nations has said it is "aware" of the students' demonstrations in New Delhi and that it is important that people wishing to protest peacefully be allowed to do so without any fear of harassment, arrest or injury.

Stephane Dujarric, Spokesman for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, was replying to a question on Friday about the UN's position on the youth-led protests in India. "We're obviously very much aware of the protests that we've seen in New Delhi," said Dujarric. "It is important that people wishing to protest peacefully be allowed to do so



without the fear of harassment, the fear of arrest, or the fear of injury."

He also said it is incumbent on security forces, "there as it is everywhere," to ensure that those rights are protected. India's Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan resigned on Saturday after

weeks of protests over exam paper leaks.

The protests were spearheaded by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) - a satirical collective that turned into a national movement in weeks. It started on June 20 in New Delhi's Jantar Mantar, with CJP taking up the issue of the NEET exam

paper leak in May, for which around 2 million students had to sit for a retest. There were also reports of students dying by suicide in several states.

The protesters demanded education reforms in the country and Pradhan's resignation. On July 20, thousands of protesters marched towards the parliament, defying a police ban and barricades, which triggered a crackdown that left several injured.

The protesters have also demanded compensation for the families of the NEET candidates who died by suicide and withdrawal of police cases registered against protestors with regard to the July 20 parliament march. (PTI)

ICC prosecutor ousted over misconduct

MOLLY QUELL ■ The Hague

Supporters of the International Criminal Court (ICC) were trying to chart a course forward on Saturday, a day after the global institution was plunged into uncharted territory following the ouster of its chief prosecutor over allegations of sexual misconduct.

A lengthy and bruising process ended swiftly and decisively on Friday, when a large majority of the court's 125 member states voted to remove Karim Khan from his post.

The British barrister was accused of sexual misconduct with a female aide, as outlined by the AP in a series of stories, allegations he has steadfastly denied. According to documents seen by the AP, Khan engaged in a sexual relationship with the woman and tried to prevent her from pursuing her allegations. Khan's removal comes



at a time when the court is already facing daunting challenges, including a campaign by the United States to "dismantle" the ICC, which was established to prosecute people responsible for humanity's worst crimes.

Several countries where the ICC has open investigations met together on the sidelines of the

event on Friday to discuss the ways out of any potential impasses created by Khan's removal, according to three senior diplomatic officials familiar with the discussions. One of the officials said a number of states began planning for how to move forward before the final votes were tallied.

"Whether Khan is removed or not, we must bring everyone back together," the official said. They all spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak on the record.

A special session at UN headquarters in New York was scheduled to take all of Friday. Instead, a morning motion that would have made it harder to oust Khan failed and diplomats quickly moved forward to vote on removal, several hours ahead of schedule, according to three diplomats familiar with the proceedings. (AP)

Southern China on alert for Typhoon Noul as Hong Kong cancels flights

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Hong Kong

Typhoon Noul is bringing winds and heavy rain to southern China and Hong Kong over the weekend, with the region on high alert and dozens of flights cancelled.

Hong Kong's Observatory said Noul, which had intensified with maximum sustained winds of 140 kph near its centre, was moving on Saturday steadily across the northeastern part of the South China Sea and edging closer to the coast of eastern Guangdong.

The city's observatory forecasts Noul could make landfall Sunday morning around the vicinity of the southern Chinese cities of Huizhou and Shanwei, bringing strong winds and squally showers to parts of the region. China's weather centre, meanwhile, expects Noul to make landfall between late Saturday and early Sunday.

Hong Kong airport's website showed more than 150 flights had been cancelled for Saturday and Sunday. As Noul approaches Hong Kong, parts



of a large scaffolding on a high-rise building collapsed on Saturday afternoon, local police said, adding that initial reports indicated there were no injuries.

China's National Meteorological Centre expects parts of southeastern Guangdong and the southern coast of Fujian will experience heavy rain over the weekend.

Canada celebrates completion of new Detroit River bridge



ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Windsor

Canada on Friday celebrated the completion of a new bridge to the US over the Detroit River, a multibillion-dollar, multiyear project that will serve as a critical path for trade and casual travel between the countries.

With the six-lane Gordie Howe International Bridge dominating the skyline behind them, officials lined up in Windsor, Ontario, to hail what one described as "one of the most significant infrastructure achievements in Canada's history." Traffic opens Monday." Some days are remembered because they mark the end of a journey. Others are remembered because they mark the beginning of something entirely new. Today is both," said Chuck Andary, interim

CEO of the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority, which will operate the bridge.

Missing from the event: US and Michigan representatives. Canada scratched a joint gathering after President Donald Trump this week suddenly announced 50 per cent tariffs on Canadian goods entering the US. A soloist sang the national anthem, "O Canada," but the US anthem was not performed. "It's regretful that we're at this point in time with our trade relationship. We're hopeful for better days ahead," Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens told WXYZ-TV in Detroit a few days ahead of the ceremony. More than 70 per cent of Canada's exports go to the US, making America its largest trade partner, and Detroit is the No. 1 port for truck traffic on the US-Canada border, according to the US Department of Transportation.

SpaceX launches Starship on another test flight



MARCIA DUNNAP ■ Cape Canaveral

Towering 407 feet (124 metres), Starship soared from the company's base at the southern tip of Texas. NASA monitored the flight, a critical step toward using the Starship as a lunar lander for moon crews.

Elon Musk's SpaceX replaced six of the 33 engines on the first-stage booster after they failed to ignite last week, resulting in a last-second launch abort. The previous Starship flight in May also experienced engine trouble, which prevented the booster from making a controlled return. It was the 13th flight of

the world's biggest and most powerful rocket, and the second this year of the new version dubbed V3. Like the previous demo that climbed as high as 125 miles (200 kilometres), neither the booster nor spacecraft was being saved, instead ditching into the sea. The booster was bound for the Gulf of Mexico and the stainless steel, retro-looking spacecraft for the Indian Ocean more than 10,000 miles (16,000 kilometres) from where the hourlong flight began.

The Starlinks had a job to do before reentering over the Indian Ocean. Their solo-flying time was expected to be no more than 20 minutes. (AP)

President Murmu ends three-nation European visit, strengthening global ties

ASHWINI SHRIVASTAVA ■ Bucharest

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday successfully concluded her three-nation European tour, during which discussions were held to further strengthen bilateral partnership in key sectors including trade and tourism among others.

Murmu started her tour with a state visit to Moldova on July 20, the first by any Indian head of State, during which she held discussions with her Moldovan counterpart Maia Sandu covering the entire spectrum of bilateral ties. The two countries also agreed to strengthen cooperation in various areas



President Droupadi Murmu in a photograph with the members of the Indian community during a meeting as she concludes the final leg of her three-nation State Visit to Eastern Europe in Bucharest, Romania

of mutual interest, including agriculture, logistics and infrastructure.

After Moldova, Murmu visited North Macedonia from July 21 to 22. She is the first Indian president to visit this landlocked country in Southeast Europe. During this visit, both countries agreed to double bilateral trade and discussed cooperation in key sectors including tourism, hospitality and filmmaking.

The discussion came up during a meeting between President Murmu and her counterpart Gordana Sijanovska-Davkova, which was followed by delegation-level talks. She also addressed the Assembly of North Macedonia as well as

the inaugural session of the India-North Macedonia Business Forum. Murmu then arrived in Romania on July 23 - the first visit by an Indian head of state to the country in over three decades.

During her visit, India and Romania agreed to double trade over the next three years and strengthen cooperation in defence, among other key areas of bilateral partnership. She held discussions covering bilateral ties with her Romanian counterpart Nicusor Dan. Murmu addressed the India-Romania Business Forum on Friday in the country's capital Bucharest and separately held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral relations with Prime

Minister Ilie Bolojan. The president also interacted with members of the India-Romania Parliamentary Friendship Group. There are over 13,500 Indians in Romania, including approximately 10,000 workers. Murmu was also conferred an honorary doctorate by the Bucharest University of Economic Studies here.

The "Doctor Honoris Causa" is the university's highest academic distinction, awarded to eminent personalities for exceptional contributions to academia, public service and international cooperation. Murmu on Saturday met Indian community members before leaving for the airport. (PTI)



Gen Z goes LOL-itical



Students fleeing riot police turned the chaotic chase into live-action Subway Surfers, making baton-dodging legitimate cardio. One fitness vlogger shared smartwatch data of a frantic alleyway route, captioning it: "Personal best for the 5K sprint. Huge thanks to the riot squad for the serious motivation."

- A student picked up a smoking tear gas shell and threw it back, instantly earning the internet's "main character" tag.
- One protester turned a bruise into content with: "Mumma, main protest main aa gaya and lathi bhi padi."
- *What I ate in a protest* crossed a million views, while another reel dubbed the police-protester equation a "love and hate relationship".



fit check
for the protest
(swimming goggles for
protection)



SAKSHI PRIYA

just one flash of diamonds under those heavy runway lights is enough to remind us veteran front-rowers exactly why we endure the whole fashion month circus. Hyundai India Couture Week 2026 quietly opened with Anamika Khanna before the momentum shifted to Delhi for Falguni Shane Peacock and Rohit Bal. Falguni Shane Peacock took the first slot for the capital's calendar and completely transformed the space. They turned the runway into a literal Orient Express journey. Their showcase was called *Le Voyage* and it felt like a cinematic, setting the stage against this gorgeous luxury rail carriage prop. The designer essentially addressed the audience across continents as the collection traveled from the antinoma of Rome to the desert of Egypt, and back

The collection features a striking balance of structure and excess, showcasing an intricately embellished monochrome jacket alongside a dramatic gown covered in feathers.

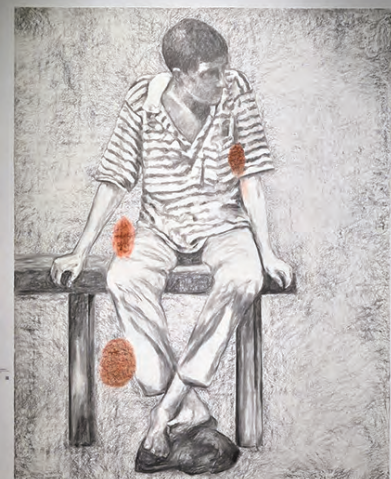
home to India. They managed to pull this off without ever once making the clothes look like a cheap souvenir postcard. The colour palette moved beautifully from powdery periwinkle and soft blush right into heavy midnight black and deep wine. As for the construction, it absolutely demanded close inspection. Corsets cut from near-invisible champagne mesh were packed with this obsessive micro-beading. A frosted lavender look caught the eye instantly: a severe little jacket drowning in crystals, hovering right over a skirt completely swallowed by feathers. The styling leaned shamelessly into excess, piling thick diamond chokers right up the throat while massive emerald and ruby drops brushed against delicate lace collars.

The feeling in the room changed when the House of Rohit Bal was shown; it felt like something special and deeply personal was happening. Frazee Tasmia, who presented *Dastkar* at India Couture Week in Delhi, is leading the House of Rohit Bal through Indian fashion's least tried challenge of succession. What does *dastkar* mean? It is Urdu for a craftsman, the very people who build luxury from the ground up. *Gudda* is no longer with us, but his soul and exactly what he wanted for Indian

The House of Rohit Bal brings pure theatre, contrasting crisp white tailoring and ruffled collars with heavy black velvet blooming in crimson roses.

couture remains entirely alive in this collection. When societies routinely fail to support the masters responsible for keeping our history alive, leaving gifted creators with zero stage left to stand on, a presentation turning the spotlight on the hands behind the legend breaks that forced silence beautifully. Heavy black velvet coats and stiff peplums bloomed with hyper-realistic crimson roses. In brilliant contrast, immaculate ivory sherwanis featured lush botanical scenes where delicately stitched hummingbirds and cheetahs hid among palm fronds. This completed a night proving true craft will always outlive us all.

Chandra Bhattacharjee's towering charcoal portraits quietly restore dignity to marginalised lives we often choose to ignore



Some exhibitions ask to be admired while others make us confront uncomfortable realities. *Shots in the Dark*, by artist Chandra Bhattacharjee, which is currently on view at Triveni Kala Sangam, at Mandi House, New Delhi belongs to the latter. Walking into the gallery, you are immediately confronted by towering charcoal figures of men and women whose canvas scale compels your attention.

These paintings stand taller than you. An intentional inversion of the reality outside the gallery, where such lives are routinely overlooked. But inside the gallery, the artist makes you



Through towering charcoal figures and stark monochromatic imagery, Chandra Bhattacharjee's *Shots in the Dark* confronts society's overlooked lives, restoring visibility and dignity while finding subtle glimmers of hope



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

Kargil Vijay Diwas

Based on Captain Anuj Nayyar's parents, Dhooop turns away from the battlefield to follow a grieving family's struggle against bureaucracy, offering a quiet, devastating portrait of those left behind to fight another war.



JP Dutta's four-hour war epic recreates Operation Vijay on a massive scale. With a sprawling cast and fierce high-altitude combat, LOC Kargil captures regimental pride, battlefield chaos and the brutal cost of reclaiming every.



Farhan Akhtar follows a directionless young man who transforms into a determined Army officer. More personal than strategic, *Lakshya* turns the Kargil conflict into a powerful journey of purpose, courage and duty.



Captain Vikram Batra towers as a national legend, yet Shershaah uncovers the charming young man behind the uniform, blending fierce frontline combat with a gentle, tragic love story. The film resonated with fierce combat and gentle romance.



Unarmed helicopter pilots flew into active fire zones without weapons, descending into narrow, hostile valleys to rescue wounded men from ridges and highlighting immense Indian Air Force risks.

GOODBYE TEN-STEP SKINCARE

Spending nearly an hour every night aggressively patting in ten different serums is a thing of the past. Bathroom shelves that once resembled chaotic pharmacies are finally clearing out. The grueling skincare marathon is dead. In its place? A massive wave of 'skiminalism.' Consumers are heavily paring down their routines, giving over-stressed skin barriers a break. This shift goes beyond clawing back lost sleep, though; cosmetic chemistry has gotten much smarter. Brands are dropping some seriously clever hybrids right now. Imagine ultra-sheer foundations packed full of niacinamide, or a reliable daily SPF that secretly doubles as a blurring primer. Several factors fuel this minimalist takeover:

- **Barrier Burnout:** Clinics keep seeing huge spikes in angry faces the direct result of over-exfoliating and piling on too much product
- **The Hybrid Boom:** Skincare-infused makeup completely dominates the aisles. Buyers happily pass on three separate glass bottles when a single tinted serum pulls all the weight.
- **Time Crunches:** Modern life leaves zero room for an exhausting bedtime routine. Those elaborate rituals are being swapped for three or four heavy-hitting essentials. It is easily the healthiest beauty trend seen in a decade.

The Pioneer AGENDA

We live in a society
exquisitely dependent on
science and technology,
in which hardly anyone
knows anything about
science and technology.
— Carl Sagan

India Innovates

From inventing zero to powering billions of digital transactions through UPI, India has consistently turned everyday challenges into creative, scalable solutions for the world. Its spirit of innovation draws strength from the fusion of ancient wisdom and cutting-edge technology. Whether through the digital revolution, remarkable achievements in space exploration or grassroots ingenuity, India has demonstrated a unique ability to adapt technology to its diverse and complex needs

GYANESHWAR DAYAL

India has been a country of seekers. In ancient India, exploration was a way of life. It had strong traditions of study of astronomy, medical science, mathematics, and metallurgy, which fuelled its growth and made it one of the richest nations in the world. However, somewhere down the line, that zeal faded and India fell behind in the race of scientific achievements. We missed the Industrial Revolution and became dependent upon the West for products, machinery and technology that always came with caveats. After independence, Jawaharlal Nehru took the initiative to launch India into scientific orbit again: space, Atomic research and other cutting-edge technology initiatives were launched. Though modest at that time, over the years they grew into institutions that we can be proud of. The seeds of innovations were always present in India's DNA, but now those seeds are sprouting.

On July 17, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off India's first indigenously built hydrogen-powered train on an unassuming 89-kilometre stretch between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana. Barely a day later, a Hyderabad-based startup's Vikram-1 rocket lifted off from Sriharikota and settled into a 450-kilometre orbit, making Skyroot Aerospace the first private Indian company - and India only the third nation after the United States and China — to reach orbit with a privately built launch vehicle. These two events were representative of India's resurgence as an innovating nation. It captured something real: India's technological ambitions are no longer confined to white papers and five-year missions. Across railways, space, defence and semiconductors, indigenous innovation is beginning to show up in hardware, balance sheets and export invoices.

A rocket and a railway: Twin symbols of a wider shift

The hydrogen train, christened "NaMo Green Rail," is a retrofitted ten-coach Diesel Electric Multiple Unit powered by a 1,200-kilowatt fuel cell system that combines hydrogen and oxygen to generate electricity, releasing only water vapour. Designed by the Integral Coach Factory to specifications drawn up by the Research, Design and Standards Organisation, and fuelled by an electrolysis-based green hydrogen plant at Jind, it places India alongside Germany, Japan, China and the United States among the small group of countries running hydrogen-powered passenger rail - part of Indian

Railways' stated ambition to be net-zero by 2030.

Vikram-1's achievement is more structurally significant. Its four-stage vehicle - three solid-fuel stages topped by a liquid-propellant kick stage - carried technology-demonstration payloads for Skyroot itself and three other Indian startups. ISRO and IN-SPaCe supplied testing facilities, trajectory support and the launchpad, but the vehicle, the capital and the commercial risk were private. Skyroot became India's first space-technology unicorn after a \$60-million funding round in May, and the government now counts more than 400 space startups nationwide, with an official ambition to grow the domestic space economy nearly fivefold, from roughly \$9 billion to \$44 billion, over the next decade. The company is already developing the larger Vikram-2, slated for a first flight in 2027 with roughly three times the payload capacity - a sign that Skyroot is building for a launch cadence, not a single demonstration flight.

Hardening the strategic edge

Parallel gains are visible in defence. In May, DRDO successfully flight-tested an Agni-series missile fitted with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle technology from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha - a capability that lets one missile engage several separated targets, and one that only a small number of nuclear-armed states possess. The test came almost exactly a year after Operation Sindoor, the May 2025 clashes with Pakistan that exposed both militaries' growing reliance on drones and accelerated India's own unmanned-systems programme.

That acceleration is now visible in the numbers. The armed forces' UAV inventory grew from under a dozen platforms in 2020 to more than 140 across nine categories by March 2026, and the defence ministry is preparing what industry bodies describe as its largest-ever drone order, worth upward of \$2 billion and reserved for domestic manufacturers. Indigenous programmes such as the stealth Ghatak combat drone are moving from design toward public demonstration.

The production and export numbers reinforce the picture. Defence output touched a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore in FY26, up 15.6 percent on the year and more than double the FY21 figure, according to the Ministry of Defence. Exports climbed 62.66 percent to ₹38,424 crore, spanning BrahMos missiles, Akash air-defence systems, Pinaka rocket launchers and Swathi radars sold to more than 80 countries. Yet the limits of self-reliance remain visible too: HAL's indigenous Tejas Mk1A fighter, ordered 83-strong in 2021, has faced repeated delivery delays tied to General Electric's F404 engine supply chain - a reminder that even flagship "Make in India" platforms still lean on foreign propulsion.

The race for digital sovereignty

Semiconductors and artificial intelligence form the third leg of this story. The Union Cabinet's mid-July approval of "Semicon 2.0" extends the ₹76,000-crore India Semiconductor Mission into equipment, design IP and R&D centres, building on a portfolio that has already drawn roughly ₹1.64 lakh crore in approved investment



THIS HYDROGEN TRAIN HAS 3200 HORSEPOWER, AND INDIA'S HYDROGEN TRAIN IS ALSO THE LONGEST. THE HYDROGEN TRAINS CURRENTLY OPERATING AROUND THE WORLD HAVE ONLY 3 OR 4 COACHES. AND FOR THE FIRST TIME, INDIA HAS MADE ITS MARK ON THE WORLD BY OPERATING A HYDROGEN TRAIN WITH 10 COACHES

— Prime Minister Narendra Modi

R&D

India's biggest strengths

- Space technology has become India's flagship scientific success, combining high reliability with low-cost innovation.
- Affordable engineering allows India to achieve globally competitive outcomes at significantly lower costs.
- Digital public infrastructure, AI deployment and biotechnology provide strong foundations for future innovation.

Areas where India still lags

- Advanced semiconductor fabrication (sub-5 nm chips).
- Frontier AI foundation models comparable to those from the US and China.
- Nobel Prize-level basic scientific research and R&D intensity.
- Commercialisation of university research and deep-tech startups at the scale seen in the US.
- Overall R&D spending remains around 0.7 per cent of GDP, well below countries such as South Korea, and the US, limiting the pace of scientific breakthroughs.

INDIA CLIMBED TO 38TH PLACE IN THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANISATION'S GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX IN 2025

across a dozen projects. Assembly and testing plants run by Micron, Tata Electronics and CG Semi are now operational in Gujarat and Assam; the flagship Tata Electronics-PSMC wafer fab at Dholera, built with the Taiwanese technology partner and backed by an ASML equipment agreement, is targeting first silicon by the end of 2026 - at mature process nodes rather than cutting-edge ones, a realistic if modest opening move into fabrication.

Design work is advancing faster than fabrication: in February, Qualcomm announced the tape-out of a 2-nanome-

THESE TWO EVENTS WERE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA'S RESURGENCE AS AN INNOVATING NATION. INDIA'S TECHNOLOGICAL AMBITIONS ARE FOR REAL

tre chip design from its engineering centres in Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad — now its largest engineering base outside the United States - a reminder that India's semiconductor story runs through advanced chip design as much as through its newer assembly lines.

In artificial intelligence, the IndiaAI Mission has onboarded more than 38,000 GPUs for subsidised access by startups and researchers, working toward a stated target of 100,000 by year-end, while government-backed Sarvam AI has released open-weight foundation models trained substantially on Indian-language data.

From milestones to momentum

These are not isolated technical feats; they are beginning to register in the wider economy. India's Production-Linked Incentive schemes, spanning fourteen sectors, had attracted cumulative investment of more than ₹2.4 lakh crore and generated ₹15.2 lakh crore in exports and roughly 14 lakh jobs by March 2026, according to the Commerce Ministry. Electronics manufacturing — anchored by mobile phones — has turned India from a net importer in 2014 into the world's second-largest producer, with output more than doubling since FY20. Defence tells a similar story: private industry's share of production rose from 22 to 24 percent in a single year, worth around ₹42,000 crore, as firms ranging from Adani Defence to smaller MSMEs enter a supply chain once dominated entirely by public-sector undertakings.

The cumulative effect shows up in India's climb to 38th place in the World Intellectual Property Organisation's Global Innovation Index in 2025, up from 81st a decade earlier — one of the longest-running "innovation overperformers" rel-

ative to its income level, in WIPO's own description. For an economy still classified as lower-middle-income, that ranking, paired with record defence exports and a functioning private launch industry, lends some empirical weight to the government's argument that India is moving from consuming imported technology toward producing and exporting it - with implications for high-skill employment, foreign investment in strategic sectors, and India's negotiating position in technology partnerships with the United States, Japan and the European Union.

The gaps that still need closing

The momentum, however, sits on uneven foundations. India's gross expenditure on research and development has been stuck near 0.64 percent of GDP for nearly two decades, the Economic Survey 2025-26 noted — against roughly 2.4 percent in China, 3.5 percent in the United States and almost 5 percent in South Korea. The shortfall is structural, not just financial: private industry contributes only about 41 percent of India's R&D spending, versus 75 to 79 percent in those three economies, and a large share of publicly funded research stalls in what the Survey calls the "valley of death" between laboratory prototype and market-ready product. A ₹20,000-crore Research, Development and Innovation fund announced in this year's budget is meant to address that gap, but utilisation of comparable past allocations has historically lagged well behind the money made available.

Other constraints are more familiar: slow-moving defence and space procurement cycles, uneven protection and commercialisation of intellectual property, a shortage of manufacturing-grade engineering talent even as design talent grows, and continued dependence on imported components — jet engines, lithography equipment, high-end GPUs - for the most demanding systems. Sustaining the present momentum will need deeper private R&D participation, faster disbursement of already-committed funds, procurement pipelines steady enough to justify industrial investment, and a deliberate push up the value chain from assembly and packaging toward design and fabrication.

INDIA'S MOST SIGNIFICANT SCIENTIFIC & TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS (2021-2026)

SPACE EXPLORATION

Chandrayaan-3 soft landing near the Moon's south pole (2023): India became the first nation to land near the lunar south pole, opening new possibilities for future lunar exploration and resource studies.

Lunar landing nations: US, USSR/Russia, China, India and first at the south pole.

SOLAR SCIENCE

Aditya-L1 Solar Observatory (2023): India's first dedicated solar mission is studying solar winds, coronal heating and space weather that affect satellites and communication systems.

India is one of the few countries operating a dedicated solar observatory in space.

COMMERCIAL SPACE

Skyroot's Vikram-1 (2026): India's first privately developed orbital rocket reached orbit, marking the arrival of an indigenous commercial launch industry and validating space-sector reforms.

India has joined a very small group of countries with successful private orbital launch capability.

SEMICONDUCTORS

Indigenous space processors and NavIC chips: Development of the Vikram processor, indigenous ASICs and Gallium Nitride technologies reduces dependence on imports in strategic electronics.

India is rapidly strengthening chip design and strategic semiconductor capabilities.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

IndiaAI Mission and sovereign AI infrastructure: India has invested in public AI compute, multilingual foundation models and AI applications in healthcare, agriculture and governance.

India is fast emerging as one of the top five AI ecosystems by talent and scale.

GREEN TRANSPORTATION

India's first indigenous hydrogen-powered train (2026): Hydrogen fuel-cell rail technology offers a zero-emission alternative for non-electrified routes and supports India's net-zero ambitions.

India joins a select group including Germany, China and Japan experimenting with hydrogen rail systems.

QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY

Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) for secure communications: DRDO's successful field trials of indigenous QKD strengthen cybersecurity for defence and critical infrastructure.

India is among fewer than 20 countries actively developing operational quantum communication technologies.

BIOTECHNOLOGY & VACCINES

COVID-19 vaccines and biotechnology ecosystem: India developed indigenous vaccines, supplied doses globally and expanded biotechnology manufacturing and genomic capabilities.

India is one of the world's largest vaccine manufacturers and a major global biotechnology hub.

Andy Burnham: Will the new prime minister finally change Britain



SURJIT SINGH FLORA



now, while economic restructuring takes years and often produces political costs before it produces results.

He inherits high public debt, expensive public services, housing shortages, and inflation that still cuts into family budgets. None of those problems has a quick fix. A government can announce new spending in a day, but it takes far longer to build homes, train workers, expand services,

next major political decision. The Treasury, Home Office, Foreign Office, and energy brief will show where he wants continuity and where he wants a break. The choice of ministers will also reveal how much authority he plans to give regional figures and whether his government will reward loyalty, experience, or policy expertise.

Reports said he convened his first cabinet meeting on July 21 and replaced several Starmer allies. That is an early signal, not a verdict on the government. New personnel can alter the tone of an administration, but they can't resolve its financial and institutional limits.

Burnham must hold Labour together while reassuring markets and voters. He also needs experienced ministers who understand England's regions, not only Westminster's habits. A large parliamentary majority reduces the threat of an immediate rebellion, but it doesn't remove internal divisions over taxes, public spending, housing, migration, and foreign policy.

Burnham has said Britain will maintain its defense and foreign policy commitments, including support for Ukraine. Early calls with the U.S. president and Ukraine's president will carry weight, especially as European governments face growing pressure to spend more on defense. His room for maneuver will depend partly on whether those commitments can fit alongside his domestic promises.

At home, the harder arithmetic remains unchanged. Britain faces weak growth, high debt, strained public services, stubborn inflation, housing shortages, and public distrust. Labour's majority gives Burnham room to act, but it doesn't give him unlimited money or endless time. Recent prime ministers have learned that popularity can disappear faster than a policy paper can be published.

His challenge is simple to state and difficult to meet: turn broad promises into affordable decisions that improve life beyond Westminster. That requires more than a new tone at Downing Street. It requires departments to work together, councils to receive dependable funding, and ministers to accept that some popular demands cannot be met immediately.

Andy Burnham has arrived with a clear offer: cost-of-living relief, a 10-year national plan, more council housing, stronger mental health care, an end to rough sleeping, and more power for local communities. Those pledges speak to real grievances, especially in places that believe national politics has overlooked them. Still, voters will judge the government by delivery, funding, and visible results, not the atmosphere outside No. 10. The cabinet and the first policy announcements will show whether Burnham can restore confidence in British politics or simply become the eighth prime minister in the next decade. His success will depend on whether he can turn the authority of a strong parliamentary majority into steady, measurable government before public patience runs out again.

Surjit Singh Flora is a veteran journalist and freelance writer based in Brampton Canada

Britain has a replacement prime minister, but there hasn't been enough patience for another false start in the country. On July 20, Andy Burnham became the United Kingdom's seventh prime minister in a decade after Keir Starmer resigned. The high turnover has rendered political change routine, even if the problems confronting households have become difficult to ignore.

Now the former mayor of Greater Manchester heads both the Labour Party and the government. His first message was blunt: ease pressure on households, restore public trust, stop Westminster politics running amok. That's a reasonable agenda, but it also raises the bar. Voters have heard pledges of rebirth before.

The transfer of power was swift. The test of power will not be.

Keir Starmer announced his resignation on June 22 after losing support among Labour MPs. He stayed on as caretaker prime minister while the party selected a successor, a period that gave Burnham time to prepare but offered little relief from the uncertainty already surrounding the government.

Burnham had returned to the House of Commons by winning the Makerfield by-election. He was sworn in as the constituency's MP on the same day Starmer announced he would step down. His return gave him a parliamentary base just as the Labour leadership contest began.

That contest was barely a contest. Burnham won unopposed on July 17 after receiving 379 nominations, more than 94 per cent of Labour MPs. With Labour holding 403 of the Commons' 650 seats, those numbers gave him a commanding mandate inside Parliament. They also removed one immediate obstacle, leaving him responsible for meeting expectations that his uncontested victory had raised. On Monday, Burnham met King Charles III at Buckingham Palace and accepted the monarch's invitation to form a government. That constitutional step made him prime minister.

He then arrived at 10 Downing Street with his wife, Marie-France van Heel, to a welcome from staff and supporters. Burnham had spent nine years as Greater Manchester mayor, from 2017 to 2026. He built a national reputation as the "King of the North," a title rooted in his criticism of London-centered decision-making. He must now prove that his regional politics can guide the whole country.

Outside No. 10, Burnham said Britain needs stability, hope, and public trust. The appeal was aimed at voters worn down by leadership churn and political fights that rarely improve daily life.

Yet trust won't return because a new prime minister uses calmer language. It will depend on whether the government can make decisions that people can see in their wages, housing costs, local services, and household bills.

Burnham promised immediate action on the cost of living. The broad target is clear: families need relief from inflation and high bills before they'll believe another long-term plan. Any early measures will face a difficult test, since public spending is already under pressure and large promises require money that the Treasury doesn't have in unlimited supply.

"Seven prime ministers. Ten years." Burnham's first speech treated that record as a warning, not a talking point. The figure captures the public's frustration with a political system that has repeatedly promised stability while producing another leadership crisis. Burnham also attacked a system he said had taken wrong turns since the 1980s. He called for a "circuit breaker" after decades of privatization, weakened local government, and public services under strain. That argument will appeal to voters who believe the state has withdrawn from too many parts of daily life. It will also face resistance from those who fear a larger public sector without firm controls on spending. His answer is a detailed 10-year national plan, due by the end of 2026. It is expected to cover industrial renewal, British businesses, jobs for younger people, education, affordable essentials, and stronger public services. The language is ambitious, but the details now matter more than the announcement. A plan of that length needs clear annual targets, reliable funding, and ministers willing to defend it when short-term political pressure rises.

Burnham has separated immediate relief from the bigger repair job. The first is about easing cost-of-living pressure. The second is about rebuilding an economy that has delivered weak growth and limited prospects for too many workers. The two goals are connected, but they won't be achieved on the same timetable. Families need help

agency. Communication remains the thread that binds these worlds together. It is through communication that ideas gain meaning, policies gain legitimacy, institutions build trust and societies negotiate change.

Although these themes may appear distinct, they are deeply interconnected. Stories influence technology, technology transforms communication, and communication, in turn, reshapes the stories societies tell about themselves. Understanding one increasingly requires understanding the others.

Many of the essays in these pages first appeared in the columns of prominent newspapers. They were written in response to contemporary events, evolving debates and moments that invited reflection.

Beneath the immediacy of headlines lay enduring questions about perception, responsibility, innovation, culture and public discourse. Rather than presenting isolated commentaries, the writers sought to weave together a conversation about the forces that are quietly redefining our world.

The essays move across diverse landscapes. Some explore the changing language of cinema and the place of Indian storytelling on the global stage. Others examine the opportunities and dilemmas presented by artificial intelligence, particularly as India seeks to shape an inclusive, ethical and globally relevant AI ecosystem. Several reflect on diplomacy, governance, media, public communication and the power of narratives in influencing institutions and societies. While the subjects vary, the underlying inquiry remains constant: how do ideas travel, how do perceptions form, and what responsibilities accompany those who shape them?

The world is changing too rapidly for certainty to be a lasting companion. Instead, we hope these essays encourage readers to pause, question familiar assumptions and engage more thoughtfully with the transformations unfolding around them. In an age defined by abundant information but increasingly fragmented attention, thoughtful observation has become an act of responsibility.

Cinema cannot be understood without culture, technology cannot be separated from society, and communication is most effective when it is grounded in empathy, clarity and purpose.

The writers are deeply conscious that every essay represents only one perspective among many. They invite readers not merely to agree or disagree with our arguments, but to continue the dialogue — to question, to reflect and perhaps to see familiar issues through a different lens. If these pages inspire conversations that extend beyond the final chapter, they will have fulfilled their purpose.

Ultimately, this book is about perception. About recognising that the world is rarely defined solely by what happens, but by how we understand it. In an era of relentless information, perhaps the greatest challenge before us is not learning to see more, but learning to see better.

TEAM AGENDA

Every generation inherits the same world, but no two generations see it in quite the same way. What changes is not merely technology or politics, but the lens through which we interpret them. Today, that lens is being shaped simultaneously by cinema, artificial intelligence and communication — three forces that influence not only what we know, but also what we believe, remember and ultimately choose to see.

Cinema has always been more than entertainment. It reflects our aspirations, preserves our histories, challenges our assumptions and quietly shapes our collective imagination. Artificial intelligence, meanwhile, is redefining how information is created, curated and consumed, raising questions that extend far beyond technology into ethics, governance, creativity and human

agency. Communication remains the thread that binds these worlds together. It is through communication that ideas gain meaning, policies gain legitimacy, institutions build trust and societies negotiate change.

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WEEKLY MOON SIGN FORECAST | 26 - 1 AUGUST

Reflect, Learn and Build with Quiet Confidence

Dr Shanker Adawal
Astrologer, Author & Researcher

This forecast is based on your Moon Sign (Janma Rashi), which often reflects day-to-day emotional and instinctive patterns more closely than general Sun-sign readings.

Moon Watch

The Moon's quiet message for the week ahead. This week encourages quiet reflection before confident action. Learning from recent experiences and applying those lessons with patience can help create stronger foundations for the days ahead.

Weekly Overview

The week begins under the Scorpio Moon, encouraging thoughtful decisions and deeper understanding. Sagittarius then broadens perspective through learning and fresh ideas. By the closing days, Capricorn shifts attention towards responsibility, practical progress and building lasting stability.

Aries (Mesh): Professional responsibilities deserve careful attention during the opening days. You may gain more by observing situations than reacting quickly. Midweek supports learning, discussions and exploring new possibilities. As the Moon enters Capricorn, practical planning and steady effort bring visible progress. A disciplined approach is likely to produce lasting results.



Taurus (Vrishabh): Relationships and shared responsibilities remain important throughout the week. Honest conversations can clear misunderstandings that have quietly lingered. Midweek encourages broader thinking and useful advice from experienced people. By the weekend, financial planning and practical decisions become easier. Patience will strengthen both confidence and stability.



Gemini (Mithun): Daily work and routine matters require steady organisation. Small improvements introduced now can make a noticeable difference. Midweek encourages meaningful discussions, learning and exchanging ideas. As the week progresses, emotional distractions begin to settle. A balanced approach helps you complete important tasks with greater confidence.



Cancer (Karka): Creative interests and personal relationships receive encouraging support during the opening phase. You may feel inspired to revisit an old idea or unfinished plan. Midweek favours travel, learning or exploring new opportunities. The weekend shifts focus towards practical responsibilities, helping you build stronger foundations for the future.



Leo (Simha): Family matters and personal priorities may require greater attention than usual. Practical conversations can help create better understanding at home. Midweek encourages confidence through learning rather than immediate action. As Capricorn energy develops, routine responsibilities become easier to manage. Consistent effort will be more rewarding than quick decisions.



Virgo (Kanya): Communication plays an important role throughout the week. Useful information may arrive through ordinary conversations or professional contacts. Midweek supports planning, writing and organising future work. By the weekend, creativity and confidence return naturally. Careful preparation now will make the next phase much easier.



Libra (Tula): Financial matters and practical responsibilities deserve balanced attention during the opening days. Midweek encourages cooperation and thoughtful discussions that help resolve pending issues. By the weekend, home and family become stronger priorities. Small improvements made now can create lasting comfort and peace of mind.



Scorpio (Vrishchik): The Moon begins the week in your sign, encouraging self-awareness and emotional clarity. This is a good period for reviewing priorities before moving ahead. Midweek brings optimism and a wider perspective through learning or meaningful conversations. The closing days support practical decisions that strengthen long-term stability. Take decisions with confidence.



Sagittarius (Dhanu): The pace gradually increases as the Moon enters Sagittarius. New ideas, learning opportunities and future planning receive encouraging support. You may find yourself thinking beyond immediate concerns. By the weekend, practical matters require greater discipline. A measured approach will help transform ideas into steady progress. Do weigh pros and cons before committing yourself.



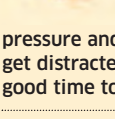
Capricorn (Makar): Professional goals become clearer as the week unfolds. Early reflection helps identify what deserves your attention most. Midweek supports cooperation and careful planning before major decisions.



Once the Moon enters Capricorn, confidence grows naturally. Your patience and consistency are likely to attract appreciation from others. You will be appreciated for your efforts and good behaviour.

Aquarius (Kumbh): Friendships, teamwork and shared projects may become more active during the opening phase. Midweek encourages learning from different viewpoints and expanding your perspective.

As the weekend approaches, a quieter pace allows thoughtful planning. Avoid unnecessary pressure and focus on building steady progress instead. Do not get distracted by people who may not be favourable to you. It is good time to reflect on your life.



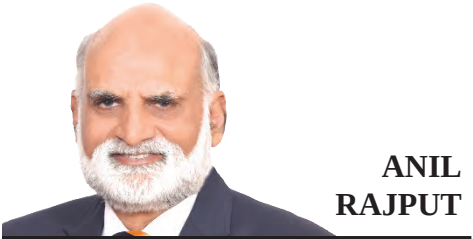
Pisces (Meen): The week encourages looking beyond immediate situations and understanding the bigger picture. Midweek supports meaningful conversations, travel or fresh learning experiences.

As Capricorn energy becomes stronger, attention turns towards long-term goals and practical responsibilities. Quiet confidence and patient effort will guide you towards lasting progress. Your success is guaranteed provided you remain focussed and do not indulge in unnecessary verbal duels.



“A HEALTHY OUTSIDE STARTS FROM THE INSIDE”
— ROBERT URICH

Sawan: The sacred flavours of the monsoon



ANIL
RAJPUT

Some seasons announce themselves through abundance. Sawan arrives through patience and restraint. As rain darkens the earth and draws the scent of wet soil into homes, the sacred month asks the devotee to slow down and turn eating into an act of attention. In North India, Sawan begins on Thursday, July 30, 2026, under the Purnimanta lunar calendar. Across much of western and southern India, the corresponding month begins on August 13 under the Amanta system. It is not a single feast day with one prescribed menu, but a month-long discipline shaped by worship, fasting, pilgrimage, agriculture and rain. More than celebration, Sawan teaches patience. Its cuisine reveals how Indian households learned to respond to rain not by withdrawing from food, but by making food more thoughtful.

The month carries different names as it travels through India's languages and calendars. Its classical Sanskrit form is Shravana. Across much of Hindi-speaking North India it is commonly called Sawan or Saavan. Maharashtra and Gujarat generally use Shraavan, while Shrivana is familiar in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In Bengal it is known as Srabon, in Odisha as Srabana, and in Assam as Xaun or Saon. Tamil tradition observes the corresponding seasonal period through Avani, although its solar calendar does not align exactly with the lunar month followed elsewhere. These differences show how one sacred season has been absorbed into many regional cultures.

The relationship between rain, food and the sacred reaches deep into India's civilisational memory. In the Rigveda, Parjanya is praised as the life-giving power of rain whose arrival makes plants rise and food spring forth for living beings. The Taaittiriya Upanishad later gives food an explicitly spiritual dignity, teaching that food must not be despised and presenting annam as fundamental to life itself. The familiar idea of "Annam Brahma" asks the eater to recognise food as part of the order sustaining creation. Later Puranic and devotional traditions placed Sawan especially under the grace of Shiva. The month recalls the Samudra Manthan, when Shiva consumed halahala to protect the worlds, and the tapasya of Parvati, whose devotion became a model of patience, resolve and sacred union. Jalabhishek, Sawan Somwar fasts and the Kanwar pilgrimage arise within this world of sacrifice and surrender.

Seasonal health traditions added another layer. Ayurveda's ritu-charya, or seasonal regimen, treats Varsha Ritu as a period when humidity, irregular weather and weakened digestive strength

require moderation. The Charaka Samhita advises attention to food and digestion during the rains, favouring preparations that are warm, digestible and appropriately seasoned. Religious vrata and Ayurvedic guidance are distinct traditions, yet they meet naturally in Sawan. The fast limits indulgence, while the season favours moderate quantities and freshly cooked food. Ginger is traditionally used to answer the sluggishness associated with damp weather, sesame is regarded as warming, coconut as cooling, jaggery restores quick energy after restraint, and ghee is used sparingly for nourishment and satiety. Sawan cuisine is therefore a seasonal dialogue between climate, agriculture, health and devotion.

Even the ritual ingredients carry meanings beyond taste. The three leaflets of bilva are often understood as recalling Shiva's trident, his three eyes or the three gunas. Milk is commonly associated with purity and cooling surrender, curd with fertility and abundance, honey with the harmony of different essences, and jaggery with sweetness in human relationships. Turmeric, especially important in the monsoon kitchens of the western coast, signifies auspiciousness, fertility and protection. Such meanings vary, but they reveal why an offering is never merely decorative. Its physical character, seasonal place and symbolic value belong together.

This logic also explains why ordinary grains disappear from many fasting kitchens. Wheat, rice and common pulses may be set aside as part of religious discipline, while ingredients placed in a different ritual category take their place. Rajgira, or amaranth, is a seed rather than a cereal grain. Kuttu is buckwheat, singhara flour is made from water chestnut, and sama is barnyard millet. They allow the devotee to eat within the boundaries of the vrata and produce a cuisine with techniques of its own.

A North Indian Sawan Somwar meal may begin with Singhare ki Kadhi, in which water chestnut flour is whisked into fresh curd, seasoned with cumin, ginger, green chilli and rock salt, and simmered until smooth. Some families avoid curd during the rains, while others accept it fresh and thoroughly cooked. Kele aur Singhade ki Tikki combines boiled raw banana with water chestnut flour and mild spices before the patties are shallow-cooked until crisp outside and tender within. A third savoury option, Sama ke Chawal ka Dhokla, uses soaked barnyard millet and curd to create a light, steamed preparation after a fast. Where fermented foods are avoided, the batter may be rested only briefly and raised with lemon or fruit salt.

The sweet side of the northern vrat kitchen is equally distinctive. Rajgira Sheera is made by roasting amaranth flour slowly in ghee before adding warm milk or water, jaggery and cardamom. Its dense, nutty texture makes a small portion satisfying after a day of restraint. Ramdana Laddoo uses popped amaranth bound with warm jaggery syrup, turning a fasting ingredient into a sweet that can be offered, stored and shared. In Mithila, where Madhushravani is



observed by newly married women through a disciplined cycle of worship connected with Gauri and serpent deities, Makhana Kheer gives the region's own ingredient a ceremonial place. Fox nuts are roasted in ghee, simmered in milk and scented with cardamom for the restrained meal after worship.

As Sawan moves westward, faral becomes more elaborate. Gujarat's Farali Pattice encloses coconut, roasted peanuts, raisins and green chilli inside a mashed potato shell, which is shallow-fried until golden and served with vrat-friendly chutney. Maharashtra's Rajgira Thalipeeth combines amaranth flour with boiled potato, peanut powder, cumin and chilli before it is patted by hand and cooked on a griddle. Both provide energy and texture while preserving the discipline of the fast. Maharashtra's Shraavan is also marked by Mangala Gauri Tuesdays, when worship, songs and traditional games bring newly married women and their families together. Here the table moves from fasting to ritual celebration. Puran Poli wraps a filling of chana dal, jaggery, cardamom and nutmeg inside soft wheat dough, while Ukadiche Modak encloses coconut and jaggery within steamed rice flour shells. Shrikhand, made by straining curd and blending it with sugar, saffron and cardamom, cools the meal. These are not strict vrat foods, because Sawan does not impose one rule on every day. It moves between private restraint and communal joy, proving that discipline and festivity can belong to the same sacred month.

In Rajasthan and neighbouring regions, Hariyali Teej gives the monsoon one of its most recognisable sweets in Ghevar. A thin batter is poured into hot ghee so that it forms a crisp, honeycombed disc, which is then lightly soaked in syrup and sometimes crowned with rabri and nuts. Ghevar travels from maternal homes to married daughters, carrying affection across households. Its delicate structure absorbs sweetness without losing form, much like Sawan itself, which receives the abundance of rain while asking the individual to remain inwardly steady. Uttarakhand offers another expression of



Shraavan Harella. Families sow seeds before the festival and cut the young shoots as symbols of fertility, renewal and a hoped-for harvest. Clay images of Shiva and Parvati may be worshipped, bringing divine union into direct conversation with soil and seed. Harella is less a feast than an agricultural prayer, and its significance strengthens the central truth of Sawan cuisine: before food reaches the plate, it begins as rain, earth, patience and cultivation.

Along the Konkani coast and in Karnataka, fresh turmeric and colocasia leaves shape the monsoon table. Patholi, also called patoleo or eeradye, is made by spreading soaked rice paste over a turmeric leaf, adding coconut and jaggery, folding the leaf and steaming the parcel. When opened, the rice layer carries the leaf's deep monsoon fragrance. Its savoury companion, Patrode, layers colocasia leaves with a spiced rice and lentil paste before they are rolled, steamed and sliced into spirals. Karnataka's Nag Panchami traditions add Khara Kadubu, a steamed rice flour dumpling filled with seasoned lentils and coconut, and Tambittu, in which roasted grain or lentil flour is combined with jaggery, coconut and ghee. These dishes preserve hand skills that cannot survive through written recipes alone.

Farther south, Shrivana and Varalakshmi Vrat create another rich offering tradition. In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Poornam Boorelu encloses a chana dal and jaggery filling inside a rice and urad batter before the spheres are fried until golden. Karnataka's Bele Holige, or obbattu, rolls a similar filling within a thin flatbread and serves it warm with ghee. Tamil homes prepare Sweet Kozhukattai, steamed rice flour dumplings filled with coconut and jaggery. The savoury side appears in Kosambari, made with soaked moong dal, cucumber, coconut and lime, and in Guggillu or Sundal, where cooked legumes are tempered with mustard seeds, curry leaves and fresh coconut. These preparations are offered before they are shared, turning prosperity from private possession into collective blessing.

Toward the month's close, the western coast celebrates Narali Purnima, when fishing communities offer coconuts to the sea before returning to maritime work. Narali Bhaat carries that gratitude into the home. Rice is cooked with coconut, jaggery, cardamom, cloves and ghee until the grains are fragrant and lightly coated. The coconut becomes more than an ingredient. It is an offering to the waters, a prayer for safety and a reminder that livelihood remains dependent upon nature's permission.

Sawan also travels through acts of service. During the Shrawani Mela, kanwariyas collect Ganga water at Sultanganj in Bihar and walk to



Baidyanath Dham in Deoghar, Jharkhand, observing austerity along the route. Community kitchens, fruit, water and simple sattvik meals sustain the pilgrimage, turning nourishment into seva. In Kashmir, the Amarnath Yatra similarly reveals a cuisine of hospitality through langars that feed pilgrims in difficult terrain. Here the sacred meal is defined not by rarity, but by the willingness to cook for an unknown traveller.

The beverages of Sawan remain closely tied to ritual and recovery. Panchamrit, prepared from milk, curd, ghee, honey and sugar, gathers several symbolic ingredients into one offering before it is received as prasad. Kesari Badam Milk restores energy gently after a fast, while cumin and ginger-scented Taak accompanies western Indian meals where household custom permits buttermilk. Southern offerings may include Panakam, a jaggery drink sharpened with dry ginger and cardamom. Tender coconut water, lemon water with rock salt and diluted fruit drinks also appear according to the rules of the vrat. The purpose is restoration without excess while preserving the stillness of the day.

Sawan is therefore not a single regional menu or an uninterrupted festival. It is patience made visible through food. It asks the household to recognise the rain praised since Vedic times, the sacred dignity of annam, the discipline of the vrata, the seasonal wisdom of ritu-charya and the labour hidden inside every ingredient. A water chestnut kadhi, an amaranth laddoo, a turmeric-leaf sweet, a lentil-filled dumpling, coconut rice and ghevar can all belong to the same civilisational story without surrendering their regional identities.

To carry Sawan forward, we must preserve more than its dates and dietary practices. We must ensure that future generations understand why grains are set aside, how jaggery binds popped amaranth, how rice paste is spread across a turmeric leaf, how a kadubu is folded, why seeds are sown for Harella and why naivedyam is offered before anyone eats. These traditions will survive only when families continue to cook them, explain their meaning and invite younger generations into the kitchen. A custom remembered only through photographs eventually becomes nostalgia, but a custom prepared, offered and shared remains alive. The truest tribute to Sawan is to ensure that its sacred flavours, its spirit of patience and its reverence for the monsoon continue to pass from one pair of hands to the next.

(The writer is Secretary, Cuisine India Society)



When it rains, we crave

TEAM AGENDA

Monsoon showers transform the city. Heavy clouds gather. Suddenly, the stomach requires something hot, fried, heavily salted. Researchers attribute this sudden hunger shift straight to human biology. When grey skies steal the sunlight for consecutive days, the body suffers a temporary serotonin drop. The brain reacts fiercely to this deficit. It calls for fats, craving heavy carbohydrates to elevate those specific mood-regulating chemicals. Yielding occasionally to these rich urges makes complete sense. Plates piled high with crisp onion fritters, paired alongside scalding cups of crushed ginger tea, define the Indian wet season. The loud spit of hot oil mirrors the heavy downpour outside.

Consuming fried snacks nightly practically guarantees drag-

ging through the next day with severe lethargy, making the smartest move swapping out heavy grease for clever, punchy flavours while local vendors press spiced sweet potato patties onto roaring iron surfaces until thick, blistered crusts form. A heavy pour of sharp tamarind water completes the plate. People experience the brilliant, chaotic thrill of eating outdoors, completely avoiding those heavy calories. Steamed moong sprouts serve as another fantastic option. Tossed wildly with raw chopped tomatoes, fresh mint leaves, plus fiery green chillies, this bowl delivers a massive, satisfying crunch.

Timeless classics remain vital. We see the vendor charring fresh corn cobs black over open flames, applying a rough rub of lime alongside rock salt. This entire process requires absolutely zero oil. Steaming boiled peanuts dusted with chaat masala crush mid-afternoon energy slumps instantly. Warm roadside snacks offer a brilliant, earthy alternative to greasy packaged crisps. Long downpours mean people want to graze continuously. Dry-roasting chickpeas in sharp turmeric with red chilli powder answers



that specific urge. Anyone wanting a lighter bite can turn to foxnuts. A small portion tossed in a hot pan alongside one drop of ghee plus cracked black pepper works wonders. These culinary traditions matter deeply, much like the wider cultural heritage we fight to preserve. History survives in these small daily acts. It lives within the crackle of roasting seeds, within spices bubbling away in a heavy pot. Damp evenings soon drop into freezing nights. Diners suddenly need proper comfort served in a bowl. Nothing heals a bone-chilling damp evening quite like a bowl of slow-simmered chicken broth thawing a person from the inside out, or perhaps a peppery mushroom broth spiked with crushed garlic working just as brilliantly.

The rainy months vanish fast. Eating an occasional fried treat remains a fine tradition, but keeping wholesome alternatives ready ensures a lively, balanced season.

Street vendors press spiced sweet potato patties onto roaring iron surfaces until thick, blistered crusts form

Discovering Türkiye's culinary traditions through authentic cuisine

TEAM AGENDA

Anatolian cuisine carries centuries of culinary history, shaped by diverse cultures and traditions that have passed through the region. From handcrafted mezze and aromatic kebabs to traditional desserts, its food reflects the rich regional heritage of Türkiye, where recipes, flavours and hospitality have been passed down through generations.

Bringing this culinary legacy to the Capital, "A Taste of Anatolia", an exclusive Turkish culinary festival at NYC, Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi Airport, offered diners a gastronomic journey through the rich and diverse culinary heritage of Türkiye. Curated by eighth-generation Ottoman Chef Gökhan Eser Kesen, the festival



guests. The occasion celebrated not only Turkish cuisine but also the enduring cultural ties between India and Türkiye. Guests were treated to a carefully crafted Anatolian feast featuring an array of handcrafted mezze, succulent traditional kebabs, regional specialties and iconic Turkish desserts. Each dish offered a glimpse into the culinary traditions that have shaped the region over generations.

The dining experience was complemented by a vibrant ambience inspired by the colours, aromas and traditions of Türkiye, transporting diners to the heart of Anatolia.

The festival also highlighted the growing appetite for authentic global culinary experiences in the Capital. Savouring the flavours of Anatolia in Delhi offered diners more than a meal; it became an experience celebrating culture, culinary craftsmanship and the enduring spirit of Turkish hospitality.



ANATOLIAN MEANS FROM OR RELATING TO ANATOLIA, THE LARGE HISTORIC REGION THAT MAKES UP MOST OF MODERN-DAY TÜRKİYE (TURKEY)

Carefully tend the garden of your mind

AMMA (SRI MATA AMRITANANDAMAYI DEVI)

The mind is a flow of thoughts. If there are no thoughts, there is no mind. If we wish to control our mind, we should become aware of our thoughts. We should always be alert about which thoughts to accept and which to reject. If not, they will become the cause of our ultimate ruin.

One day, a grandfather took his grandson to the zoo. There, they saw two lions in two cages next to each other. One of the lions would remain standing peacefully no matter who went near the cage. Even if someone tried to touch it, it would not become angry. It was obvious that the lion had become habituated to the presence of human beings.

The other lion would start to roar as soon as anyone went near. It would try to strike with its paws. Because of this, people would keep away from it. The grandfather asked, "Son, if these two lions were to fight each other, who would win?"

No matter how hard he thought, the grandson couldn't come up with an answer. Then, the grandfather said, "The lion that's fed more food will win."

Similar is the case with the thoughts in our mind. If we allow negative thoughts to proliferate, they will become strong. Negative qualities such as pride and anger will fill the mind. They will bring about inner and outer failure.

This indulgence in negative thoughts is the main cause of the violence, injustice and other problems that we see around us today. However, if we plant the seeds of positive thoughts, qualities such as love, compassion and patience will fill our hearts. Peace and contentment will blossom in society.

Often, we are not aware of the rise of thoughts. Weeds flourish where paddy grows. They should be rooted out at once. If not, they will absorb all the fertilizer and destroy the crops. Weeds proliferate very



WHEN ANGER AND HATRED TAKE ROOT IN THE MIND, IT BRINGS PAIN TO US AND ALL THOSE AROUND. WHEN LOVE AND COMPASSION BLOSSOM, THE WORLD BECOMES FRAGRANT

quickly even when we don't pay any attention to them.

But we should give the crops we have planted sufficient water and fertilizer at the right time. We should spray insecticides to ensure that worms don't destroy the crops. It is thus necessary to tend them with utmost care and attention. In the same way, negative thoughts will flourish on their own; we don't need to try. However, in order to cultivate good thoughts, we need to make deliberate efforts.

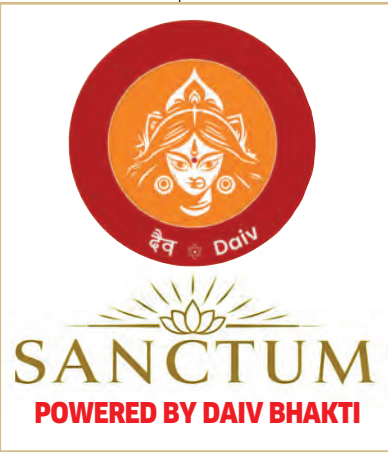
Love, compassion and patience should become our very nature. Before this can happen, we should clear the weeds of egoism, selfishness, and likes and dislikes from the garden of our mind. We should evaluate each thought mindfully, reject the negative ones, and cultivate the positive ones.

Consider how hurt we feel if someone gets angry with us. For this reason, we should never become the cause of hurt to even one other person.

Just as we feel so much happiness when someone behaves lovingly to us, we should be able to give others such happiness, too. If we have this attitude, we will be able to respond appropriately in any situation.

Love, patience and discrimination form the foundation of life. We need these more than learning or earning. If we have them, we will be able to gain everything else. Not understanding this truth, human beings are creating hell on this earth. It is the mind that illumines or darkens the path of life.

(Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, known simply as Amma, is a spiritual master and humanitarian who has given her darshan in the form of a motherly embrace to more than 4 crore people. Listening to the cries of the suffering, Amma leads an NGO that reaches across more than 50 countries, working in the areas of healthcare, disaster relief, education, gender equality, and environmental restoration)



SADHGURU

Today, there is much talk about water scarcity and other ecological issues that humanity is facing. The fundamental behind all these problems is the human being. If any other species had perpetrated the kind of damage that we have to the planet, we would have found a way to deal with them. If billions of Martian locusts landed here and began to cut through all our trees, turn our soil into deserts, and suck the water out of our rivers — we would have definitely exterminated them. But the problem is not alien locusts. The problem is us.

Since we are the source of the problem, we can also be the source of the solution. We are a problem only because we are in an unconscious, compulsive mode of action. If we were conscious, we would naturally be a solution. This is why I have been working with United Nations agencies and other forces, and proposing this idea of a "Conscious Planet" movement.



ing worms, insects, birds, animals, plant life, and ourselves - happens out of just thirty-nine inches of soil profile. The real damage is happening to this topsoil, which sustains every life that we know. If we can ensure the soil is organically rich and healthy, the planet will be capable of regenerating itself, and we will be able to manage the other problems, to a large extent.

Right now over 95 per cent of the global population have absolutely no awareness of the ecological disaster building around them. Ecological awareness is confined only to a small segment of people, and even among them, the idea of ecology is largely limited to using less water while showering or turning off the tap when brushing teeth. It is wonderful that people are conscious about what they are using, but this is not a comprehensive ecological solution. Only when ecology becomes an election issue, will it become government policy, and only then will there be large budgets allocated so that solutions manifest.

Restoring Ecology Is Profitable

If we want to make this happen, there has to be a marriage between economy and ecology. Today, we have structured society such that ecology and economy are in conflict with each other. If we pitch ecology versus economy, economy will always win. You can see this happening

everywhere in the world. But restoring ecology can actually be very lucrative. This is the essence of our Cauvery Calling campaign, to revitalize River Cauvery in southern India.

We have been looking at transitioning farmers from short-term farming to long-term agroforestry — tree-based agriculture, the practice of tree cultivation along with other crops. In this process, farmers would plant 2.42 billion trees in the Cauvery River basin. This will cover one third of the basin under shade, in turn increase ground water levels and bring back the river flow. Moreover, farmers will benefit from improved soil fertility, better crop yields, and above all, an exponential surge in their income. In the Cauvery basin, we have converted 263,306 farmers into tree-based agriculture and within five to seven years, their wealth has increased by 300-800 per cent. We want to make Cauvery Calling a demonstrable large-scale model that can be replicated for other rivers.

(Ranked amongst the fifty most influential people in India, Sadhguru is a Yogi, mystic, visionary and a New York Times bestselling author. Sadhguru has been conferred the Padma Vibhushan by the Government of India in 2017, the highest annual civilian award, accorded for exceptional and distinguished service. He is also the founder of the world's largest people's movement, Conscious Planet- Save Soil, which has touched over 4 billion people)

Awareness

Many of life's deepest regrets are born not from a lack of ability, but from a lack of awareness. A single careless moment can shatter years of effort, while one mindful moment can transform an ordinary life into an extraordinary one. True spirituality nurtures this awareness. It awakens the inner light that fills life with wisdom, purpose, and lasting peace

DR SWAMI GYANANANDDAS

Awareness is a small word, but its impact is immense. It is the silent light that guides human actions, decisions, and destiny. Bhagwan Swaminarayan states, "Awareness brings clarity, caution, and wisdom, while unawareness leads to confusion, negligence, and often disaster."

At its core, awareness means being conscious of oneself, of one's surroundings, and of the consequences of one's actions. It is not merely knowing something, but being attentive to what truly matters at the right moment. History, personal life, and daily experiences repeatedly prove that success walks hand in hand with awareness, and disaster often follows unawareness. An aware person observes, thinks, and then acts. An unaware person reacts blindly and brings disaster.

The very first journey of the majestic Titanic began on April 10, 1912. It set sail from Southampton, England, heading toward New York City, as the pride of human engineering. It was called unsinkable, and this belief settled deeply into the minds of its builders, officers, and passengers. However, 'unsinkable and unbreakable belief' in the form of overconfidence itself became the seed of tragedy.

On a cold, moonless night of April 14, 1912, the Atlantic Ocean lay calm and silent, almost deceptively peaceful. Beneath a sky scattered with stars, a

massive ship sliced through the dark waters with confidence and pride. Music played, lights glowed, and passengers slept without fear. Yet, hidden in that silence was danger. Ice warnings had been sent, but these signals were ignored, and speed was never reduced. The captain and crew underestimated the danger, trusting technology more than reality. Lifeboats were insufficient, emergency drills were ignored, and caution was replaced by overconfidence. In those quiet hours, it was not fate but unawareness that was steering the ship.

When steel met ice, the illusion of safety shattered, and within a few hours, the world learned a painful lesson: even the mightiest creations collapse when awareness is absent. The result was devastating: more than 1,500 lives were lost.

Awareness is not limited to grand events; it plays an equally crucial role in daily life. A driver who is aware of road conditions, traffic signals, and pedestrians prevents accidents. A moment of distraction, checking a phone or ignoring a signal, can turn an ordinary journey into a tragedy. Similarly, a student who is aware of time, priorities, and learning gaps succeeds steadily, while one who ignores these realities struggles despite talent.

In professional life, awareness determines growth and failure. A business leader who is aware of market trends, employee morale, and ethical responsibilities builds a lasting organization. On the other hand, unawareness of changing customer needs or internal problems slowly ruins even well-established companies. Many businesses fail not because of a lack of resources, but because leaders fail to notice warning signs in time.

Awareness also plays a deep role in human relationships. Being aware of others' emotions, words, and silences builds trust

and harmony. Many relationships break not because of hatred, but because of unawareness, unheard feelings, unnoticed pain, and ignored signals. A simple moment of attentive listening can save years of misunderstanding.

In personal growth, self-awareness is the foundation of success. A person who is aware of their strengths and weaknesses can improve steadily. Such awareness brings humility, learning, and balance. Unawareness, however, creates ego and stagnation. A person who never reflects on their actions repeats the same mistakes, blaming circumstances instead of correcting themselves.

Mahant Swami Maharaj states, "Awareness of one's thoughts, actions, and intentions purifies life. It transforms ordinary work into meaningful effort. Many teachings across cultures emphasize living with awareness, being present in the moment rather than drifting through life unconsciously. In contrast, unawareness is like walking in darkness. One may move fast, but without direction. The faster one moves without awareness, the greater the risk of falling."

Dr Raymond Williams, former Professor of Religion and Dean at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana (USA), once asked Pramukh Swami Maharaj, "You are a sadhu who has embraced the monastic life from a young age. Yet you lead a vast international organization engaged in more than 150 social and humanitarian activities. You travel across the world, meeting people of diverse cultures, faiths, and languages, while also helping them resolve the challenges of their daily lives. Such an extraordinary level of awareness and engagement seems almost impossible. How do you manage it?"

Swamiji replied, "God is the source of all strength. He inspires us and keeps us aware every moment. Every decision, every thought, and every action is guided by Him. We have simply surrendered our mind and body at His lotus feet and remain in constant communion with Him." Of course, when God dwells in the mind, awareness never sleeps, and every circumstance becomes guided by wisdom.

(Dr Swami Gyanananddas is a dedicated follower of the Swaminarayan tradition and has earned a PhD from MS University)



AT ITS CORE, AWARENESS MEANS BEING CONSCIOUS OF ONESELF, OF ONE'S SURROUNDINGS, AND OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF ONE'S ACTIONS

Working Together for a Conscious Planet

Vote for Ecology

There are 5.2 billion people living in countries with the ability to vote and elect their nation's leadership. We are looking at how to get at least three billion people on board so that ecological issues become the issues that elect governments. We want to make these three billion people aware of at least five ecological aspects that must happen in their country, and two or three aspects that must not happen. If we do this, then ecology will become if not number one, at least the number two issue in election manifestos.

As a part of the Conscious Planet movement, I am trying to bring focus to the most important aspect of rejuvenating this planet: the soil. Everything you see as life on this planet — includ-

GURU PURNIMA SPECIAL

How Do We Find A Guru?

Sometimes people are simply given the knowledge and their life blossoms

GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

Once, there was a very talented teacher. He was a great orator. He could speak and convince people very well. He had a fair knowledge of scriptures, and spiritual techniques too. But he did not feel complete. He was in search of a Master. Though he was honoured by the king, and the public, there was something that was out of reach. He just wanted to surrender to a Master, but who could he surrender to?

Only when time comes, does the Master arrive in one's life. Such a time had almost come for the teacher. When he was departing from the kingdom, the king said, "It's so far away, you cannot walk. You take my palanquin."

The man sat in the palanquin and started on his journey of seeking his Master. When he arrived in the town, he asked to be taken to the Master. Then, one of the men who was carrying the palanquin, came forward and said, "Here I am." The moment was one of eternal beauty. The man fell to the Guru's feet, and asked, "How could you do this? Since when are you carrying me?" The Guru said, "I heard that you are coming to see me. So I came half way to receive you."

The Master had come half the way and carried the palanquin of the disciple. He said, "You take one step towards the Master and the Master takes 10 steps towards you." But the disciple has to take that first step. That's the story of the tradition of Masters.

It is immaterial whether you choose the Master, or the Master has chosen you. When the time comes, everything falls in place. Sometimes people are simply given the knowledge and their life blossoms. Then there are others, who seek for wisdom, and then they get it. But anyone on the path of wisdom should know that they are the chosen ones.

It is very hard to get a human body. It's like winning a lottery. Then, once you get a human body, it is very hard to be interested in the spiritual path. Among millions, only a few will have that interest. And even when one is interested, it is very hard to get the right path, to get the right knowledge, the right Master. So, when everything falls in place, you are the luckiest.

There are so many people seeking it, and everyone doesn't get it.

This is why it is said, when you have come to the Master, you have taken a new birth. When your relationship with the Master and the tradition is established, you have a new life. That's why often people's names are changed once they come to a Master, to signify that he is not the same



“GURU IS A WITNESS TO ALL TYPES OF MIND, INTELLECT AND THOUGHTS – SARVADHI SAKSHI BHOOTAM” - GURUDEV

person who he was before. A Guru gives both shiksha, that is learning, and diksha, the culmination of intellect. Information and transformation, both are given by the Guru.

How does one know that they have found the Master? When you come to the Master, five things happen.

Sadness goes away; joy wells up for no reason; you are reminded of the knowledge; awareness dawns suddenly; sense prevails; misery disappears; your desires get fulfilled and your talents manifest. No doubt Guru brings you comfort. But you must understand that Guru is a witness to all types of mind, intellect and thoughts — Sarvadhi Sakshi Bhootam. If you are a witness, you are not involved in anything — good, bad, right, wrong.

Pleasant experiences make you grow, but so do the unpleasant experiences. In life there's ups and downs. Every rise has expanded something in you and every low has brought you depth and wisdom. Guru Tattva is a witness to all that. Is the Guru responsible for your enlightenment?

If the Guru could set you free, he could have done it to the whole world. The Guru is not responsible for your awakening. And yet freedom is next to impossible without the Guru. So, the Guru is responsible, and yet not responsible. This is a mystery.

The role of a Guru is as clear as the role of a mother. A mother nurtures, nourishes and makes a person grow in the material world. Similarly a Guru is there to make you grow in wisdom. Just like a bud has everything it needs to become a flower, but still it needs a little nurturing - a little watering, some sunlight to blossom, the same way in the presence of a Guru, total blossoming of intellect happens. For a Guru, it does not matter whether one comes to him to be relieved from pain or suffering; or

IF THE GURU COULD SET YOU FREE, HE COULD HAVE DONE IT TO THE WHOLE WORLD. THE GURU IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR AWAKENING. AND YET FREEDOM IS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GURU. SO, THE GURU IS RESPONSIBLE, AND YET NOT RESPONSIBLE. THIS IS A MYSTERY

whether one comes to seek wisdom or whether the disciple is already a wise person. For a Guru, everyone is equal.

Often seekers ask me if one needs a living Master. It depends on the individual. If someone is connected to their Guru who has crossed over to the other side, they may not need it. But once you have a Master, you will see that the Master is an empty space, and all the other Masters are also with Him. Your relationship is only with the formless, but it gives an illusion to you that you are relating to the form.

At the same time, without the form, you can't see the formless. As you proceed on the spiritual path, you start relating with the energy, with the presence of Guru beyond the physical body. Once you have found a Guru, remember that he or she is always there with you, watching and giving you wisdom. Only the best will happen for you.

BRIEFLY

Cape Verde’s Vozinha to join Chile club Colo Colo



One of the breakout stars at the World Cup has a new home in Chile – Cape Verde goalkeeper Vozinha has signed a contract with Colo Colo, the South American country’s biggest soccer team. The 40-year-old Vozinha became one of the most talked-about players at the World Cup with a string of remarkable saves against top teams such as eventual champion Spain and defending champion Argentina.

“Welcome. We’re waiting for you,” the club wrote Friday on its social media pages in a post that quickly sparked excitement not only among Colo Colo supporters but across Chile, where the national team failed this year to qualify for a third consecutive World Cup.

Anibal Mosa, president of Blanco y Negro, the company that manages the Chilean club, had confirmed shortly before that the goalkeeper, who had no contract with any team during the World Cup, will arrive in Chile soon.

“Vozinha is going to be a Colo Colo player. In the next few days, he will travel to Chile, undergo the necessary medical examinations, and then be presented here at the Estadio Monumental,” Mosa told media, referring to Colo Colo’s home stadium in Santiago, Chile’s capital.

(AP)

Atletico signs South Korea WC midfielder Lee Kang-In



South Korea midfielder Lee Kang-In has agreed to join Atletico Madrid from Paris Saint-Germain, the Spanish club said Saturday. Atletico said the player would sign a contract through June 2031. The transfer fee was undisclosed but it is reportedly between 35 and 40 million euros (\$39.8 million and \$45.5 million). The 25-year-old Lee played all three group-stage games at the World Cup, where South Korea failed to advance after losing twice.

Born in Incheon, Lee moved to Spain when he was 10 to join Valencia’s training academy and ended up playing 62 games for the club. After a stint with Mallorca, he joined PSG in 2023, scoring 16 goals in 124 appearances.

He will now play for an Atletico side that finished La Liga in fourth place and reached the Copa del Rey final last season. Lee will help fill the creative void left by Antoine Griezmann, who has left for the MLS as Atletico’s all-time top scorer.

(AP)

Lyonnes signs Barcelona’s Salma Paralluelo



French women’s champion OL Lyonnes signed Spain forward Salma Paralluelo from Barcelona on a four-year contract on Saturday. Lyon announced the signing on X.

A standout junior athlete, the 22-year-old Paralluelo scored twice for Barcelona when it routed Lyon 4-0 in the Champions League final in May, and helped Spain win the World Cup in 2023. Paralluelo is also a world champion at Under-17 and Under-20 level, and finished third in the Ballon d’Or voting in 2023 and 2024. “Wanted by Europe’s top clubs, Salma Paralluelo has chosen to join the Lyon project to open a new chapter in her career and continue her development at the highest level,” the French champion said. The club has won the women’s Champions League a record eight times and is recruiting strongly under president Michele Kang. It has signed goal-scoring midfielder Caroline Weir from Real Madrid, goalkeeper Maria-Luisa Grohs from Bayern Munich and Sweden international Johanna Rytting Kaneryd from Chelsea.

(AP)

AITA, Administrator headed for showdown over constitution at Sunday’s EGM

AMANPREET SINGH
■ New Delhi

The All India Tennis Association’s (AITA) Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on Sunday is likely to witness a confrontation between the federation and court-appointed Administrator Justice (Retd.) Gita Mittal, with the two sides deeply divided over the constitutional amendments that will determine the body’s future governance.

The document prepared by the AITA Executive Committee, accessed by PTI, shows that while numerous technical changes suggested by Justice Mittal have been accepted, several major governance pro-

posals have been rejected in favour of the federation’s own draft. The EC repeatedly argues that many of the Administrator’s recommendations either go beyond the National Sports Governance Act or are not required for statutory compliance. While both seek to align AITA’s constitution with the National Sports Governance Act, 2025, they differ sharply on several key governance issues, including voting rights, the composition of the General Body and Executive Committee, athlete representation, tenure norms and powers of various committees.

The battle lines have effectively been drawn even before Sunday’s meeting,

CWG: Rupa, Pinki shine in Lawn Bowls competition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Glasgow

Rupa Rani Tirkey and Pinki Singh maintained India’s impressive momentum in the Lawn Bowls competition at the Commonwealth Games with a third straight win, while Putul Sonowal tasted his first defeat after back-to-back victories, here on Saturday.

The Indian duo of Rupa and Pinki continued their dominant run, prevailing over Tonga 2-0 in tie-breaker of women’s pairs third round match in Section B to stay on course for a berth in the semi-finals. Rupa and Pinki won the first set 5-2 against Tonga’s Paris Baker and Milika Nathan. Tonga made the brighter start, taking a 1-0 lead after the opening end.

Lead Paris Baker produced an excellent opening spell, leaving India under pressure despite Rupa complet-



ing her three bowls. India responded strongly in the second end through excellent teamwork between lead Rupa and skip Pinki.

Rupa delivered a superb second bowl to help India edge ahead in the second end and level the scores at 1-1, with three ends remaining in

the opening set. India maintained their dominance to claim the first set 5-2. Tonga, however staged a remarkable comeback to take the second set 6-4 and force a tiebreaker thanks to some fine work by Ilea Baker and skip Nathan the pair taking a 6-0 lead after three ends.



Rupa Rani and Pinki tried hard to come back but fell short. In the tie-breaker though, the Indians rose to the challenge with Rupa putting the team ahead and Pinki closing it out.

Rupa and Pinki will face their Namibian counterparts in their fourth round match

in Section B on Sunday.

India and England both have three wins in as many games in Section B of the women’s pairs sectional play but the latter are ahead on set count. Sonowal loses his third round match

Sonowal made a gritty fight but lost his men’s singles

third round match to Izzat Shameer Dzulkeple of Malaysia. Sonowal lost 0-2 (4-8, 8-9) to his Malaysian opponent in the Section D match that lasted around one hour at the Scottish Event Campus (SEC) Hall 3.

After losing the first, Sonowal trailed 5-9 in the second but made a remarkable recovery in the ‘End 7’. But that was not enough as the Indian lost the second set by a thin margin.

The 43-year-old Assam Police officer grabbed the headlines on Thursday by defeating reigning world champion Ryan Bester of Canada in the opening round, but was pushed to the limit before overcoming Falkland Islands’ Cecil Alexander in a tie-break in the second round of Section D.

He is now in the second spot in the Section D standings and faces Shaun James Parnis of Malta on Sunday.

Mannat works on technique after maiden pro triumph

AMIT KUMAR DAS
■ New Delhi

Rory McIlroy’s perseverance in completing a career Grand Slam has left a lasting impression on India’s teenage golfer Mannat Brar, who is focused on refining her game and building physical strength as she aims to compete with the world’s best.

The 19-year-old from Chandigarh, who clinched her maiden professional title at the Hero Women’s Pro Golf Tour event in Bengaluru last month after overturning a seven-shot deficit in the final round, says she often looks to the Northern Irishman for inspiration. “I always idolised Rory McIlroy a lot. And even now, just, I think yesterday or day before, I was just seeing a random interview of his, which was before he won the Masters ...

“...it was some interviewer asking him that, you must have wanted to win the Masters at this point. And he said, ‘I’ve not won,



but it’s not from a lack of trying. I think these words, it’s really stuck with me because as golfers, we all want to win,” Brar told during an interview. “Sometimes we try too hard, but we never try too less. And that’s something I see in myself also, that results really don’t matter, but to keep knocking on doors, to keep working hard towards that one goal, it’s something I really admire in Rory. Brar’s victory in Bengaluru only strengthened the belief she had carried for years.

“I believed I could win

this tournament even two or three years ago. It was just a matter of chance that I didn’t,” she said. “I obviously I have performed very well. And when I was an amateur on the national circuit, being an amateur, and I always believed that I can win and might sound cliché to say this, but I always knew that I’m a winner. “So winning, I think just brought in the trophy. But the belief I had in myself of being a winner was always there.” While still an amateur, Brar had finished tied 11th at the Indian Open in 2024. In April this year,

she finished as the top female competitor (Tied-4th overall) in a mixed-field professional event at the IGPL Invitational Congo.

Reflecting on the impact of Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL) on her career, she said: “The IGPL has been incredible. Playing alongside men for the same prize money is rare in women’s sport and very validating. “It also allowed me to learn from experienced golfers like Udayan Mane.”

Brar, who is working under renowned coach Jassi Garewal at the Roundglass Academy, said the past year has been about making technical improvements while becoming physically stronger. “I’ve been with him for more than five years and we’ve been really working on my swing. He’s always told me that, I have great feel. I am very artistic. I can play. I can manage to play good golf. But he wants to get me to play good golf by being technically sound,” she said.

(PTI)

At Lord’s, Minister Mandaviya underscores India’s push to host 2036 Olympics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ London

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya used a visit to the iconic Lord’s Cricket Ground to underscore India’s ambitious bid to host its first Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2036, saying the country is committed to bringing the world’s biggest sporting spectacle to Ahmedabad.

Mandaviya, who was in the UK this week for the inauguration of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, was greeted for a tour of the world-famous stadium and exhibits including the Prudential Trophy and the Ashes.

“The relationship between MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club) and India is one of the most important in the game,” said MCC Chief Executive and Secretary Robert Lawson, who welcomed the minister to the ground on Friday. “Cricket holds a unique place in the hearts of millions across India, and there is a deep



affection and reverence for Lord’s among Indian players and supporters alike. That passion for the game is something we are always proud to celebrate. “We were delighted to share some of the ground’s rich history, from the famous Honours Boards, including the recently added achievements of India’s women’s cricketers, to iconic pieces of memorabilia such as Sourav Ganguly’s shirt and the Prudential Trophy,” he said.

Lawson presented Mandaviya, who was accompanied by Indian High Commissioner to the UK P. Kumaran, with one of the match balls from

England’s recent ODI against India at Lord’s as a “small memento” of his first visit. “We look forward to continuing to strengthen the longstanding friendship between MCC and Indian cricket,” added Lawson.

Rahul Kale, the MCC member who facilitated the visit with the High Commission of India in the UK, expressed great enthusiasm over the evolving India-UK partnership in the sphere of sports.

“From Lord’s to every cricket ground in India, the MCC’s relationship with Indian cricket stands as a symbol of mutual respect, shared passion, and a com-

mitment to the global growth of the game,” said Kale. Earlier, the Consulate General of India in Edinburgh hosted an Indian diaspora reception in Glasgow in honour of the ministerial visit.

“The minister warmly welcomed the community and encouraged everyone to cheer for and support Team India at the Commonwealth Games 2026,” the Consulate said.

On Friday, India opened its medals tally at the Games with para powerlifter Jhandu Kumar clinching a bronze in the men’s heavy-weight final. A 123-member Indian team in participating in the Glasgow Games, which opened on Thursday and will run until August 2.

We want to write own piece of history in WC, says hockey coach Fulton



SAUMIJOYTI S CHOUDHURY
■ New Delhi

Fully aware of the legacy he is chasing, Indian men’s hockey team chief coach Craig Fulton is determined to break the 51-year-old medal jinx at the World Cup, and said the Harmanpreet Singh-led is eyeing to “write its own piece of history” in the upcoming showpiece.

Fulton, who guided India to their second consecutive bronze medal at the Paris Olympics, very well knows that consistency will be key if India are to win a drought ending medal at the upcoming World Cup in The Netherlands and Belgium from August 15 to 30.

Eight-time Olympic gold medallist, India boast of only three World Cup medals, the last of which — a gold — came way back in the 1975 edition in Kuala Lumpur under Ajit Pal Singh’s captaincy. “1975 was the last time India won it and what’s important is to get consistency in the tournament and bring that consistency into the Asian Games and we win the Asian Games as a priority as well,” the 51-year-old South African told PTI.

“We are excited about the opportunity. Tournament hockey is about playing your best hockey when it counts, you got to peak at the right time and have really strong squad through all the lines.

We have shown in Paris that we can put in an experienced squad with some youth. We have a good chance and we can beat any team on our day. “I am fully aware about the legacy of Indian hockey and also the fact it hasn’t gone really well in the World Cup, we would love to change that, we would love to write our own piece of history in Indian hockey.” Placed in Pool D along side Wales, England and arch-rivals Pakistan, Fulton emphasised on the need to start well in the tournament. “We have tough group and we need to do good job against Wales in game 1 and really focus on building momentum and try to get to the end of the tournament where you play your best hockey.” Currently ranked eight in the world, Fulton has already set his realistic goals from the World Cup and the Asian Games that follows within three weeks’ time. The Asian Games holds greater significance for India as it is a qualifying event for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. “The ideal goal is we want to win every tournament we play. So in Asia we won every tournament we played, that’s ideal. Realistic is down to ranking. So now we are ranked 7th or 8th in the world now, so we have a 5 per cent chance of winning the World Cup through ranking but that does that stop us winning it, ‘No’.

NORTHERN RAILWAY e-TENDERING OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. NIT-19/UMB-2026-27 DATED 24.07.2026					
Open tenders through e-tendering are invited on & behalf of president of India by Sr. Divisional Engineer/Coordination, Northern Railway, Ambala from the willing contractors for following work upto 15.00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter.					
S. N.	Name of work	Approx. Cost (Rs.)	Bid Security (Rs.)	Period of Completion	Date of Closing & Opening
1	TRR & other miscellaneous works in the section of ADEN/PTA in c/w Ludhiana-Dhuri-Jakhai-TRR(P)-68.641 km.	1,69,39,498	3,38,800	08 Months	17.08.2026
2	(01) Setting up of Bio-Toilet Testing Lab in C&W depot, CDG & (02) Modification in TPC Control under ADEN/UMB.	76,13,731	1,52,300	06 Months	17.08.2026
3	(1). Crossing of 250 mm Dia DI K-9 Water supply pipe line through first MS casing pipe of internal dia 800 mm & second MS casing pipe of internal dia of 1000mm under Railway Track/land at shifted location at KM 101/8-9 on SIR-NLDM section under ADEN/SIR. (2). Crossing of 600 mm Dia DI K-9 Water pipe through first MS casing pipe of internal dia 800 mm & second MS casing pipe of internal dia of 1000mm under Railway Track/land at KM 47/7-8 between RPAR and MNPR stations on SIR-DLPC section under ADEN/SIR. 3).Crossing/ Laying of 400mm DI water supply pipe through 600mm & 800mm double M.S. casing pipe square to track passing under railway track/land at Km 27/4-5 in Gidderbaha yard on BT-SGNR section. 4). Crossing/Laying of 400mm DI sewer pipe through 600mm & 800mm double M.S. casing pipe square to track passing under railway track/land at Km. 140/4-6 between JHK & PUL station on DUL-BTI section.	1,13,64,103	2,27,300	04 Months	17.08.2026
4	Provision of STP (Sewage Treatment Plant) of capacity 1 MLD & sewerage connectivity in Old Railway Colony Ambala Cantt on UMB-KLK section.	5,77,07,591	11,54,200	11 Months	17.08.2026
5	TBSR (H-Beam) at sanctioned bridges under ADEN/RPJ & ADEN/SIR in c/w Ambala Division TBSR (H-Beam) 2264 nos.	3,46,94,750	6,93,900	09 Months	17.08.2026
6	CTR(P) of 1.718 TKm with 60kg (90 UTS) rails laid on PSC wider sleeper 1680nos/km (LWR) (Line no.2&3 passenger loop line), CTR (SH) of 0.910 TKM with 60kg rails on PSC sleepers 1540 nos/km (Line no.5), TRR (S) with 52kg rails (LWR) (Chandpur siding) and yard improvement work i.e. muck disposal, deep screening, sand hump etc in yamunanagar Jagadhri yard in the section of SSE/P-way/YJUD under ADEN/SRE.	99,17,654	1,98,400	12 Months	17.08.2026
1. Tenderers are required to upload scanned copies of all related eligibility documents including PAN/TIN/GST as per conditions. 2. The required Bid Security will be acceptable On-line payment through Net Banking/or Payment Gateway payment/Bank Guarantee bond (Annexure-VIIA) well before & upto 15:00 hrs. of closing date & time of tender 3. Tenderers should have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate to participate in e-Tendering of works tenders. 4. For detail, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in 5. GST will be levied as per GST Act. 2017.					
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					



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- Narendra Modi



Antyodaya Melas to be Organised in 22 Assembly Constituencies Across the State

Chief Guest

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini

Chief Minister, Haryana

July 26, 2026 | 10 AM | Ladwa, Kurukshetra

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Sr. No.	District	Assembly Constituency	Venue
1	Ambala	Narayangarh	Government College, Narayangarh
2	Bhiwani	Bhiwani	Panchayat Bhawan, Bhiwani
3	Charkhi Dadri	Dadri	Mini Secretariat Charkhi Dadri
4	Faridabad	Prithla	CMEEE Govt Senior Secondary School Fatehpur Billoch
5	Fatehabad	Ratia	BDPO office, Budhlada Road, Ratia
6	Gurugram	Badshahpur	Government Senior Secondary School (Boys), Badshahpur
7	Hisar	Adampur	BDPO office Adampur
8	Jhajjar	Badli	BDPO office Badli
9	Jind	Julana	Shaheed Major Laathar Government College, Julana
10	Kaithal	Guhla	BDPO office, Guhla, Kaithal
11	Karnal	Karnal	Panchayat Bhawan, Karnal
12	Kurukshetra	Ladwa	Indira Gandhi National College, Ladwa
13	Mahendragarh	Narnaul	Auditorium Hall, Near Mini Secretariat, Narnaul
14	Nuh	Ferozepur Jhirka	BDPO office Ferozepur Jhirka
15	Palwal	Hodal	Government College, Hodal
16	Panchkula	Panchkula	Community Centre, Barwala
17	Panipat	Samalkha	SDM Office, Mini Secretariat, Samalkha
18	Rewari	Bawal	MC Office (Ground Floor) Bawal
19	Rohtak	Garhi Sampla-Kiloi	DRDA Hall, Zila Vikas Bhawan, Rohtak
20	Sirsa	Sirsa	BDPO office Sirsa
21	Sonipat	Kharkhoda	Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Kharkhoda, Sonipat
22	Yamunanagar	Yamunanagar	DPRC Hall, Panchayat Bhawan, Yamunanagar

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