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Demand raised to reopen Chaibasa Cement Plant

WIFE OF FORMER GM WRITES TO PM MODI

PARVINDER BHATIA : JAMSHEDPUR

Demands for reconsidering the permanent closure of the Chaibasa Cement Plant at Jhinkpani in West Singhbhum district have gained momentum, with a heartfelt appeal now reaching the Prime Minister's Office. Kiran Singh, a resident of Varanasi and wife of the plant's retired General Manager (HR) Surendra Singh, has written an emotional letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging the revival of the decades-old industrial unit.

In her letter, Kiran Singh described the cement plant as far more than a commercial enterprise, calling it the economic backbone of the Kolhan region and a source of livelihood for thousands of families, including members of the tribal community.

She highlighted that her husband dedicated 38 years of service to the factory and wit-



nessed its role in shaping the region's socio-economic development.

Referring to the plant's expansion in 2004 during the tenure of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Arjun Munda, she noted that the installation of a 4,000-tonne-capacity clinker unit significantly boosted production and generated employ-

ment opportunities for nearly 2,000 people. According to the letter, the plant once served as a catalyst for growth and prosperity across the region.

Kiran Singh also pointed to the extensive infrastructure developed around the facility, including nearly 900 residential quarters within the plant township, which contin-

ue to stand as reminders of its past significance. She stated that complications related to the renewal of mining leases were the primary factors behind the plant's closure and argued that these hurdles could be resolved through coordinated efforts by the Central and State governments.

Appealing for the revival of the unit in line with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and tribal development, she stressed that reopening the plant would restore employment, economic activity and hope for thousands of families dependent on the industry.

Concluding her letter on an emotional note, Kiran Singh recalled how the sounds of the factory had sustained generations of workers and their families.

Expressing sadness over its silence, she urged the Prime Minister to take steps to bring the Chaibasa Cement Plant back to

life before memories of its contribution fade away.

Meanwhile, a senior official of the Jharkhand Industry Department clarified that the company has not approached the department seeking assistance to resolve issues related to the plant's operations.

Speaking on the matter, the official said the department remains willing to extend support if the company requires any intervention from the government.

"If the company approaches us with specific concerns, we are ready to help within the scope of our responsibilities," the official stated. However, the official emphasized that the Industry Department's role is primarily to facilitate the establishment of industries and investments in the state. It does not have the authority to intervene in the day-to-day functioning or operational management of private industrial units.

Stay Secure - Safer Payment Habits for Everyday Transactions

PNS : NEW DELHI

The way customers shop, spend, and make payments is evolving rapidly. Today, digital transactions are no longer limited to a single channel or moment - customers are increasingly making transactions across retail and e-commerce platforms, booking travel, paying bills, or managing everyday expenses. At the same time, the growing digital footprint has created new opportunities for fraudsters to target unsuspecting users through increasingly sophisticated methods.

According to the RBI Annual Report 2025-26, card and internet fraud accounted

for nearly 74% of all reported fraud cases, making them among the most commonly reported forms of financial fraud in the country. These incidents can cause financial loss, inconvenience, and emotional distress.

The increasing frequency of these incidents highlights the importance of awareness and safe digital financial practices.

Customer centric financial organisations like SBI Card continue to invest in advanced technology, enhanced security capabilities, 24*7 Live Chat support, and customer awareness across the ecosystem, to enhance customer protection and experience.

'ZARURATCHAAHE JO BHI HO, LOANMILEGA'

PNS : GURUGRAM

Home Credit India, a leading consumer finance company, today announced the launch of its new integrated brand campaign, #LoanMilega. Built around the culturally resonant punchline, "ZaruratChaahe Jo Bhi Ho, #LoanMilega", the campaign reinforces Home Credit's commitment to empowering families with accessible, transparent, and convenient financing solutions while bringing alive the brand's core philosophy of #ZindagiHit.

The campaign is LIVE on YouTube and the link to the AVs are: Loan Against Property, Personal Loan, Consumer Durable Loans and Two-Wheeler Loans.

Keeping Children Out of Mines: The Challenges After Success

BY DR. AHMED RAZA



The declaration by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in 2024 that mica mining intervention villages in Jharkhand were child labour-free marked a significant achievement in the state's long struggle against child exploitation. The recognition reflected nearly two decades of coordinated efforts by government agencies, civil society organisations and local communities. However, the period since the declaration has highlighted the need for sustained vigilance to preserve these gains.

Over the past two years, monitoring by district administrations and partner organisations has shown that children in intervention villages have remained in schools and are no longer engaged in mica mining. The 100 per cent school enrolment achieved by 2024 has largely been maintained through 2026, with no reported dropouts. Officials attribute this success to close coordination among panchayats, schools and child protection committees, along with awareness campaigns such as "Back to School" and "Knock the Door."

A key factor behind the progress has been the effective halt of mica mining activities in the region. With mining banned and trade shifting elsewhere, opportunities for child labour have significantly declined. Community monitoring and administrative vigilance have also ensured that children are not involved even in cases of suspected illegal extraction. As a result, education has become the norm for children in villages once dependent on mica mining.

Despite these achievements, challenges remain. Poverty continues to affect many families, creating a risk that children could be drawn into other forms of informal labour. This has required

ongoing awareness programmes, livelihood support initiatives and stronger social protection measures. Concerns also persist regarding illegal mining activities and the broader economic vulnerabilities of communities in the mica belt.

Another major challenge is improving learning outcomes. While school attendance remains high, many children who lost years of education earlier continue to face difficulties in literacy and numeracy. Teachers and local administrations have been working to bridge these gaps. Health concerns also remain, as children previously exposed to mica and coal mining require regular medical monitoring, which is often inadequate.

Nevertheless, the transformation has been remarkable. Districts such as Koderma have reported improved academic performance and stronger board examination results, reflecting a shift from labour-driven survival to education-led aspirations. The experience demonstrates that child labour can be eliminated through coordinated action, but sustaining the achievement requires continuous monitoring, economic support and investment in education. The challenge ahead is not only to keep children out of labour but also to ensure they thrive in school and build better futures.

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PVUNL commissions 800 MW Unit-2, boosting State's power capacity

PNS : RANCHI

Patraru Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (PVUNL), a joint venture of NTPC Limited and Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited (JBVNL), on Thursday achieved a major milestone with the successful declaration of Commercial Operation Date (COD) of Unit-2 (800 MW) of the Patraru Super Thermal Power Project.

The commissioning of

Unit-2 marks a significant step towards enhancing power generation capacity in Jharkhand and strengthening the country's energy infrastructure. The foundation stone of the project was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

With the commercial operation of the second unit, PVUNL has added a total of 1,600 MW generation capacity within just seven months through the

commissioning of Unit-1 and Unit-2. The company said the achievement reflects the project's strong execution capability, technical expertise and coordinated efforts of all stakeholders involved.

The additional capacity is expected to improve power availability for Jharkhand and other beneficiary states, contributing to reliable, affordable and sustainable electricity supply. The milestone is

also seen as a major boost to the state's energy security and India's growing power requirements.

Speaking on the occasion, PVUNL Chief Executive Officer A.K. Sehgal congratulated employees, engineers, workers, vendors and partner organisations for their contribution to the successful completion of the unit. He also expressed gratitude to NTPC management, the Jharkhand gov-

ernment, district administration, regulatory authorities and project partners for their continued support.

Sehgal acknowledged the cooperation of the local community and project-affected families, stating that their trust had played a vital role in the successful execution of the project. He noted that PVUNL is implementing initiatives focused on skill development, livelihood

enhancement and community welfare to promote inclusive growth in the region. Senior officials, including Executive Director (Project) Anupam Mukherjee and other top management members, were present during the celebrations. PVUNL said the achievement reinforces its commitment to operational excellence, environmental sustainability and responsible power generation.

Adani Foundation's Blood Donation drive collects record 52,306 units on Gautam Adani's Birthday



PNS : AHMEDABAD

The Adani Foundation marked the 64th birthday of Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani with a nationwide blood donation campaign that collected a record 52,306 units of blood, making it one of the largest voluntary blood donation drives in the country.

Held on June 24, the annual initiative was organized across more than 754 cities, towns and villages in 21 states, five Union Territories and four international locations. The drive surpassed last year's collection of 28,090 units and was conducted in collaboration with over 764 blood banks.

The campaign, coordinated by the Adani Healthcare team, was inspired by Adani's guiding philosophy of "Seva hi Sadhana Hai" (service is worship). Thousands of donors participated in the initiative, transforming the occasion into a large-scale movement aimed at supporting healthcare needs and saving lives.

According to the Foundation, the blood collected during the drive amounts to approximately 23,538 litres and is expected to benefit more than 1.56 lakh patients. The donated blood will be processed into critical components such as whole

blood, packed cell volume, platelet concentrates, plasma, fresh frozen plasma, cryoprecipitate and albumin, which are essential for emergency treatment, surgeries, cancer care, maternal healthcare and the management of chronic illnesses.

More than 6,000 volunteers, including doctors, paramedics, data operators and administrative personnel from across the Adani Group, contributed to the successful execution of the campaign. The initiative was supported by Red Cross blood banks, government hospitals and trust-run blood banks nationwide.

Adani Foundation Chairperson Priti Adani, in a post on X, expressed gratitude to all participants and healthcare professionals involved in the drive. She said the collective effort would provide hope and support to more than 1.56 lakh patients and their families.

What began in 2011 with just over 1,300 units of blood donated has evolved into an annual tradition and one of India's largest voluntary blood donation initiatives. The Foundation said the campaign reflects its broader commitment to community welfare and demonstrates how individual acts of generosity can create a significant social impact.

I AM MOST MYSELF WHEN I AM PLAYING GOLF: SUVEER KAPOOR

BY ANTARA MOHAN

Before I met Suveer Kapoor, I thought I understood golf.

Like many people, I viewed it as a slow, leisurely sport associated with sprawling greens, gentle walks and the occasional perfect swing. But after spending an hour speaking with the 21-year-old golfer, I realized how wrong I had been.

By the end of our conversation, I wasn't just listening to a young athlete. I was listening to someone who had discovered, through sport, lessons about discipline, patience, self-awareness and purpose that many people spend a lifetime trying to learn.

Suveer's journey began in the summer of 2010 when he was just five years old. During a family trip to Europe with his parents, he was introduced to golf. What began as a childhood fascination soon became a passion. By the age of 11 or 12, he was already travelling across India to compete in tournaments, gaining experience and sharpening his skills.

A student of La Martiniere for Boys, Kolkata, Suveer decided in Class IX to pursue golf seriously. He joined the Tarun Sardesai Golf Academy and devoted himself to the sport while managing his studies. Earlier this year, after years of dedication and perseverance, he achieved a major milestone by turning professional.

Inspired by global icons Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, and Indian golfers Viraj Madappa and Anirban Lahiri, Suveer has steadily built his career. Yet beyond his achievements, it is his outlook on the game that stands out.

During a conversation, Suveer remarked, "I am most myself when I am playing golf." The statement reflected his deep connection with the sport, which he sees not just as a pro-



fession but as a place where he feels focused, authentic and at peace.

He also challenged the common perception that golf is a slow sport. While it may appear calm, professional golf demands constant attention to fitness, nutrition, recovery and preparation. According to him, the mental aspect is often the toughest challenge. Golf teaches patience, composure and the ability to remain present, as players cannot afford to dwell on mistakes or worry about future shots. Another lesson he highlighted was that golfers are always "playing against the course." Weather, wind, terrain and other external factors shape every round, making adaptability and humility as important as technical skill.

At just 21, Suveer displays remarkable maturity. His philosophy is simple: "If you don't do it now, somebody else will." However, he believes success

comes from working smart rather than merely working hard. Effective practice, recovery and self-assessment are often more valuable than endless hours of training.

Now competing internationally, including on the All Thailand Golf Tour, Suveer is embracing the challenges of professional golf while proudly representing India on the global stage.

Walking away from the interview, I realized that Suveer Kapoor's greatest strength may not be his swing. It is his mindset. At 21, he already understands something many people spend decades trying to learn: success is not about chasing shortcuts or controlling every outcome. It is about discipline, self-awareness, adaptability and continuous growth. In a world obsessed with instant results, Suveer believes in the process. And perhaps that is why, when he steps onto a golf course, he feels most like himself.

THE GENERATION THAT NEVER LOGS OUT



BY ANITA SHEKHAR

There was a time when students left school and disconnected from academic life until the next day. Homework relied on textbooks, social interactions happened face-to-face, and information was gathered through libraries and archives. Today, the boundaries between school, home, and social life have largely disappeared. With smartphones and internet access available at all times, students remain connected around the clock, creating a generation that never truly logs out.

For modern students, the digital world is an integral part

of daily life. A single device functions as a classroom, library, entertainment hub, and social platform. Online lectures, educational videos, e-books, and virtual discussions have transformed learning, making information accessible within seconds. This unprecedented access has encouraged students to become independent learners and globally aware individuals.

However, constant connectivity comes with challenges. Alongside academic responsibilities, students are expected to stay informed, maintain social relationships, and keep up with rapidly changing trends. Continuous notifica-

tions and messages often create pressure to remain online. The fear of missing out (FOMO) can make it difficult for students to disconnect, resulting in stress and an unhealthy balance between virtual and real life. Despite these pressures, today's students possess strengths that set them apart from previous generations. They are adaptable, resourceful, and technologically proficient. Comfortable navigating multiple sources of information, they embrace change and learn new skills quickly. They are also increasingly engaged with social issues such as climate change, mental health, gender equality, and social

justice. Rather than being passive observers, many actively participate in discussions and initiatives aimed at creating positive change.

The modern student is highly ambitious. Beyond academic achievement, many pursue creative interests, entrepreneurial ventures, and professional development opportunities. They enroll in online courses, build digital portfolios, and connect with people across the globe. As a result, education is no longer confined to the classroom but has become a continuous and borderless experience. Yet beneath their confidence and digital fluency lies a generation facing unique chal-

lenges. Intense competition, high expectations, and uncertainty about future careers often contribute to anxiety and stress. Students are expected not only to excel academically but also to develop impressive résumés and prepare for a rapidly evolving job market. In this environment, emotional support and understanding are as important as educational opportunities.

It is easy to criticize young people for spending too much time on screens, but such judgments often overlook the realities of the world they inhabit. They are growing up in an era defined by technological advancement, global connectiv-

ity, and instant access to information. Rather than focusing solely on screen time, society should help students develop the skills and judgment needed to use technology responsibly.

Today's students are more than consumers of technology; they are the innovators and leaders of tomorrow. With proper guidance, encouragement, and support, they have the potential to transform challenges into opportunities and build a more innovative, inclusive, and connected future.

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CM reviews Passing-Out Parade of 340 police personnel in Ranchi

EXPRESSES HAPPINESS OVER MORE WOMEN JOINING THE POLICE FORCE

PNS : RANCHI

Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday attended the Basic Trainees Passing-Out Parade Ceremony 2026 at JAP-1 Ground in Doranda, where 340 newly trained police personnel, including four Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) and 336 constables, formally joined the state police force.

The batch comprised 255 male and 81 female constables, with women accounting for nearly 25 per cent of the trainees. The Chief Minister inspected the parade, paid floral tributes at the martyrs' memorial on the JAP-1 campus, and presented awards to trainees who excelled in various subjects during their training and final examinations.

Addressing the gathering, Soren congratulated the recruits for successfully completing nearly 30 weeks of rigorous training and highlighted the growing participation of women in the police force.

"The increasing involvement of women in the state police is a matter



Chief Minister Hemant Soren attends the "Passing-out Parade Ceremony-2026" for basic trainees, at the JAP-1 Ground in Ranchi on Thursday, where he reviewed the parade and addressed the newly inducted police personnel. Pix by Vinay Murmu

of pride. We want equal participation of men and women in every sector, and this batch reflects that vision," he said. The newly inducted personnel showcased their skills through an impressive march-past and synchronized drill despite heavy rain. They

also took an oath pledging discipline, service to the nation and the state, commitment to the Constitution, the dignity of the police force, and dedication to duty.

Emphasising the responsibilities that come with the uniform, the

Chief Minister said police personnel are no longer serving only themselves but are entrusted with safeguarding the lives and rights of ordinary citizens.

He urged the recruits to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during training in maintaining law and order and effectively responding to challenges faced by the state. "The outcome of your training should be visible in strengthening law and order and addressing emerging challenges with commitment and professionalism," he said.

Soren also reiterated the state government's commitment to strengthening the police department through improved welfare measures. He announced plans to establish modern residential schools for police families and develop dedicated healthcare facilities for police personnel.

Director General and Inspector General of Police Tadasha Mishra, Additional Director General of Police Priya Dubey and other senior police officials were present on the occasion.

BJP awards dedicated party cadres, says Aditya Sahu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

RANCHI : An important meeting of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Jharkhand state media in-charges, spokespersons, and social media in-charges was held today at the state office under the chairmanship of State President Aditya Sahu.

Addressing the meeting, State President Aditya Sahu stated that the party has provided a significant opportunity for all office-bearers to work in the interest of the organization by entrusting them with specific responsibilities. He urged all workers and office-bearers to live up to the party's trust and to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity and responsibility.

He remarked that in the BJP, a position is not merely a matter of status but of responsibility. The organization keeps a close watch on the hard work and dedication of every worker. The BJP is a party where even a booth president can rise to the position of State President or National President based on their competence and dedication; thus, there are immense possibilities for growth for all workers.

Sahu noted that the media, spokesperson, and social media departments serve as powerful mediums for conveying the party's ideology and policies to society. He urged all in-charges and spokespersons to establish better coordination and communication with media representatives and emphasized

the need for regular attendance in the media department.

Addressing the gathering, Organization General Secretary Karmveer Singh stated that media, spokesperson, and social media in-charges must play an active role on social media platforms. He advised all office-bearers to stay constantly informed about news published and broadcast in electronic and print media and to keep themselves updated. He called upon them to work in a goal-oriented and planned manner, keeping the 2029 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in mind.

The meeting was conducted by State Media In-charge Yogendra Pratap Singh, while the vote of thanks was proposed by State Chief Spokesperson Pratul Shahdeo.

State General Secretaries Ganesh Mishra, Amar Kumar Bauri, and Manoj Singh also expressed their views during the meeting. Key office bearers present at the meeting included spokespersons Ajay Shah, Ramakant Mahto, Abhay Singh, Amit Mandal, Avinash Kumar, Sandeep Verma, Ravinath Kishore, Rafia Naz, Ashok Baraik, Mrityunjay Sharma, Prakash Singh, and Shobha Yadav; media co-in-charges Ajay Rai, Satish Sinha, Tariq Imran, Neeraj Singh, and Suraj Nath Shahdev; social media in-charge Rahul Awasthi; social media co-charge Rajnish Pandey; as well as Rahul Shahdev and Priya Karmali.



State BJP president Aditya Sahu along with others during a meeting at the party office in Ranchi on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

Congress slams BJP's 'Constitution Murder Day' observance

PNS : RANCHI

The Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee has strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) observance of the so-called "Constitution Murder Day," describing it as an act of political hypocrisy and an attempt to distort historical facts for political gain.

Addressing the issue, Jharkhand Congress media in-charge Rakesh Sinha said the BJP and its ideological affiliates, which remained detached from several key phases of India's freedom struggle and constitutional development, are now

attempting to mislead the public by projecting themselves as defenders of the Constitution.

Sinha said the Congress acknowledges that the Emergency remains a significant chapter in India's democratic history and one from which important lessons must be learned to strengthen democratic institutions. However, he alleged that the BJP's objective is not to learn from history but to divert public attention from contemporary governance failures.

He further claimed that democratic institutions in the country are increasingly facing challenges to their

autonomy. According to him, central investigative agencies are being misused against opposition leaders, the voice of the opposition is being suppressed in Parliament, and the dignity of constitutional offices is being undermined.

"The Constitution is not weakened by a single historical event alone. It is threatened whenever democratic values, freedom of expression, federal principles and the spirit of social justice come under sustained attack," Sinha said. He alleged that the record of the BJP-led government in recent years points toward such a trend.

State to launch Pulse Polio drive from June 28 for over 61 lakh kids

PNS : RANCHI

The State government has finalised preparations for the National Pulse Polio Immunization Campaign, which will be conducted across the state from June 28 to 30, 2026. More than 6.12 million children below the age of five are expected to receive oral polio vaccine drops during the three-day drive.

A State-Level Task Force meeting, chaired by Additional Chief Secretary of the Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare Department Ajay Kumar Singh, was held on Thursday to review preparations, inter-departmental coordination and strategies for achieving full coverage under the campaign.

According to officials, a target has been set to administer polio drops to approximately 61.26 lakh children across Jharkhand. On the first day of the campaign, June 28, children will be vaccinated at 24,507 Pulse Polio booths established throughout the state. On June 29 and 30, health workers will conduct door-to-door visits to reach children who may have missed vaccination at the booths.

Addressing the meeting,



Additional Chief Secretary Health Ajay Kumar Singh holds a meeting with officials in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

Singh directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination and transform the campaign into a mass public movement. He emphasized the active involvement of departments such as ICDS, Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, School Education, and Information and Public Relations to ensure maximum outreach and participation.

He said Anganwadi workers, Sahiyas, Panchayat representatives, self-help groups and grassroots-level organizations should play a proactive role in spreading awareness about the importance of polio immunization. Media organizations were also urged to help disseminate

information to every village, hamlet and urban settlement across the state.

The Additional Chief Secretary instructed all Deputy Commissioners to hold daily review and debriefing meetings during the campaign to assess progress and identify gaps. Immediate corrective measures should be taken wherever cases of missed children, low coverage, team absenteeism or vaccine resistance are reported.

Although India has remained free from wild poliovirus since 2011, officials stressed that continued vigilance is essential as the virus is still present in some countries.

Marathon held in Ranchi to raise awareness against drug abuse

PNS : RANCHI

A marathon was organized in Ranchi on Thursday to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote a drug-free Jharkhand. The event was flagged off from Babu Vatika at Morabadi Ground by Tourism, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Sudivya Kumar.

Addressing participants, Kumar said every step taken by the youth in the marathon symbolized a commitment to protect Jharkhand from the menace of substance abuse. He said making Jharkhand free from drug abuse is a key resolve of Chief Minister Hemant Soren, and the enthusiastic participation of young people reflected their determination to support that mission.

The marathon was held from Babu Vatika at Morabadi Ground to Albert Ekka Chowk and witnessed participation from students of various schools, colleges, universities and coaching institutes, along with sportspersons, government officials, employees and prominent citizens from Ranchi and other districts.

During the programme, the minister administered



Winners hold trophies after a marathon held against drug abuse in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

an anti-drug pledge to the participants, urging them to stay away from intoxicants and work towards building a healthier society. He later felicitated the winners at Albert Ekka Chowk.

Speaking on the occasion, Kumar said the youth of Jharkhand have not only pledged to help make the state drug-free but have also committed themselves to contributing towards a stronger and more prosperous Jharkhand. He said the overwhelming response to the marathon sent a positive message that a healthy, empowered and aware young generation is essential for the state's progress.

As part of the event, officials and departments

involved in anti-drug awareness initiatives were honoured for their outstanding work and efforts in promoting awareness against substance abuse.

The winners of the cycling competition organized alongside the awareness campaign were Sharad Ahir, Subhas Oraon and Gulshan Dungleung in the men's category, while Pooja Singh, Nisha Kumari and Manju Kumari secured the top three positions in the women's category.

An exhibition put up by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations also emerged as a major attraction at the venue, drawing considerable interest from participants and visitors alike.

CM reviews preparations for Durand Cup 2026 in Ranchi

PNS : RANCHI

Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday reviewed preparations for the upcoming Durand Cup football tournament during a meeting with senior Army officials at his residential office on Kanke Road.

Major General Sajjan Singh Mann and Colonel Hemchandra called on the Chief Minister and briefed him on the arrangements being made for the prestigious tournament, which Ranchi is set to host this year. The tournament is expected to begin on July 26.

During the meeting, the Army officials apprised the Chief Minister of the preparations underway, logistical arrangements and coordination being carried out with various departments to ensure the successful conduct of the event. State Tourism, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Sudivya Kumar was also present.

Soren described the Durand Cup as one of the country's most historic and prestigious football tournaments and said it was a matter of pride for Jharkhand to host the competition. "The state's identity in the field of sports is continuously strengthening at the national and international levels. Hosting major events like the Durand Cup will inspire local players and provide them with better opportunities," he said.

The Chief Minister directed officials to ensure that all preparations related to the tournament are completed within the stipulated timeframe. He also stressed that ade-



Major General Sajjan Singh Mann meets Chief Minister Hemant Soren at his official residence in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

quate arrangements should be made so that participating players, team managements and football enthusiasts do not face any inconvenience during the event.

Reiterating the state's commitment to sports development, Soren said the Jharkhand government remains fully dedicated to promoting sports and supporting the organization of national and international sporting events in the state.

The Durand Cup, one of Asia's oldest football tournaments, is expected to draw leading football clubs and teams from across the country, bringing significant sporting attention to Ranchi and Jharkhand.

INDIA ONE AIR SUSPENDS JAMSHEDPUR-KOLKATA FLIGHTS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

JAMSHEDPUR: Air connectivity between Jamshedpur and Kolkata suffered a major setback on Thursday as IndiaOneAir announced the immediate suspension of its Jamshedpur-Kolkata-Jamshedpur flight services. The airline cited the non-extension of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) by the West Bengal government and rising international crude oil prices as the primary reasons behind the decision.

The route was being operated under the Central Government's Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN, which aims to make air travel affordable and improve connectivity to

smaller cities. However, airline officials indicated that the financial viability of the service had become increasingly difficult after the expiry of the scheme's support period.

Sources said the RCS-UDAN scheme provides incentives and viability support for selected routes for a fixed period of three years. Following the completion of this period, the airline was required to operate the route without the earlier financial assistance. The absence of an extension of VGF support, particularly from the West Bengal government, significantly impacted the route's sustainability.

The airline also pointed to the steady rise in crude oil



prices in the international market, which has led to higher aviation turbine fuel (ATF) costs. Fuel expenses account for a major share of

airline operating costs, and the increase has placed additional financial pressure on regional carriers operating low-volume routes.

The suspension is expected to affect business travellers, students, patients and tourists who frequently relied on the direct air link between Jamshedpur and Kolkata. The service had played an important role in strengthening connectivity between the industrial city of Jamshedpur and eastern India's major commercial and transport hub. Passengers who had planned travel on the route expressed disappointment over the sudden discontinuation, while industry observers noted that the development highlights the challenges faced by regional airlines in sustaining operations after the end of government support under the UDAN scheme.

The announcement has also renewed discussions among stakeholders about the need for continued policy support and financial incentives to maintain air connectivity on economically weaker regional routes. As of now, no timeline has been announced for the possible resumption of the service.

It may be recalled that the daily flight connecting Jamshedpur with Kolkata and Bhubaneswar was launched in February 2023 by Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia in the presence of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The launch was widely seen as a major boost to Jharkhand's aviation map and Jamshedpur's connectivity.



Ranchi police conduct flag march on the eve of Muhharam at MG Marg in Ranchi on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

CFSL report links recovered skeleton to missing Bokaro teen

PNS : RANCHI

A forensic report from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Kolkata, has provided a significant breakthrough in the case of 18-year-old Pushpa Kumari, who went missing from Bokaro district nearly 11 months ago.

During a hearing on Thursday, the Jharkhand High Court was informed that DNA extracted from a tooth of the skeletal remains recovered during the investigation matched Pushpa's DNA profile. However, forensic experts have not yet fully

matched the DNA of the entire skeleton with that of her parents.

Pushpa, a resident of the Pindrajora police station area, went missing on July 31, 2025. After prolonged efforts to trace her failed, her mother, Rekha Devi, moved the High Court through a habeas corpus petition seeking her daughter's recovery.

Police arrested Dinesh Kumar Mahto during the investigation. According to investigators, he confessed to killing Pushpa, leading police to a site where a human skeleton was recovered. However, Pushpa's family has

consistently disputed the claim that the remains belong to her.

Following the High Court's direction, DNA samples from the skeleton and Pushpa's family members were sent to CFSL for examination. Members of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) were present in court when the findings were presented.

The High Court sought details of proceedings pending before the lower court and asked the state government to report on action taken against police personnel accused of negligence in the investigation.

Row over NCERT move on Emergency

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

A war of words broke out between the BJP and Congress on Wednesday after the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) included a section on Emergency in its class 9 social science textbook. Earlier, the topic was part of class 12 school curriculum. The textbook refers to the period as “one of the major challenges to democracy in India.”

“One of the major challenges to democracy in India was recorded when an Emergency was imposed in 1975-77. In the early 1970s, public dissatisfaction with the government led by Indira Gandhi was growing. Rising unemployment, inflation, and allegations of mis-governance led to widespread protests,” said the



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

paragraph in the newly developed Social Science textbook “Understanding Society: India and Beyond”.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan hailed the move saying future generations should know about the “dark deeds” of the

Congress with the latter accusing the NCERT of engaging in “divisive politics” and undermining Constitutional values.

Former law minister and BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad alleged that the Congress is afraid of the

truth because any discussion on the Emergency will raise uncomfortable questions about the arrest of Jayaprakash Narayan, the forced sterilisation campaign and other actions taken during the period. “Young people will ask

why Jayaprakash Narayan was arrested. Why was forced sterilisation carried out? The Congress does not have any reply,” Prasad told reporters during a Press conference at the BJP headquarters.

Congress MP KC Venugopal criticised the NCERT for including a section on the Emergency in the Class IX textbook. “They (BJP) are interested only in this type of divisive politics. They are trying to divert the history of India and are trying to change the curriculum... This is not at all acceptable. This is an attack on constitutional values, and we are fighting against that,” Venugopal said.

The Emergency was imposed 51 years ago on June 25, 1975, following a period of political unrest and a court verdict that declared Gandhi’s election

UP opposition slams BJP over Ayodhya Ram temple FIR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Lucknow

Opposition parties in Uttar Pradesh stepped up their attack on the BJP Government on Thursday after an FIR was lodged in connection with the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, with Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav and Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai questioning the timing and scope of the police action.

Police in Ayodhya registered the FIR on Thursday following a complaint from a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, hours after the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) also backed demands for a criminal case in the matter. In a post on X, Yadav alleged



that the FIR was preceded by efforts to shield influential persons. “In BJP rule, this is how injustice will be displayed: the tip of the tree will be hanged while the branches will be forgiven,” he said.

“The public is saying that first, under the pretext of the SIT, all evidence would have been cleaned up and it would have been decided which big fish had to be saved and who had to be trapped. Only after that has the FIR been registered,” he added. “It appears the SIT

report was prepared in advance and the investigation was conducted accordingly, meaning the conclusion had already been reached beforehand,” the former Uttar Pradesh chief minister added.

Speaking to PTI Videos in Varanasi, Rai said the Congress had raised the issue across Uttar Pradesh and demanded the registration of an FIR in connection with the alleged donation embezzlement.

“Our party raised its voice in every district of the state over the theft and embezzlement of offerings at the Ayodhya Ram temple and demanded that an FIR be registered. We had also submitted copies of a memorandum addressed to the president to officials in every district,” he said.

Two women die by suicide in Delhi; husbands booked

KHUSHI MEHROTRA ■ New Delhi

Two women in their 20s allegedly died by suicide in separate incidents in Delhi, with police registering cases against their husbands after family members accused them of harassment and cruelty.

In the first case, a 24-year-old woman was found dead inside her rented room in Khyala on June 24 after police received a PCR call regarding her death. Investigators who reached the spot found the woman hanging and seized a chunni allegedly used as the ligature material, along with other exhibits from the scene.

Police said the crime team and forensic experts inspected the room and preserved evidence. As the woman had been married for around three years, the matter was reported to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Rajouri Garden, for inquest proceedings.

During the inquiry, statements recorded from the deceased’s family members before the SDM allegedly pointed to cruelty and harassment by her in-laws. No suicide note was recovered. A ligature mark was found on her neck, and the body was shifted to the mortuary at Deen Dayal



Upadhyay Hospital after medico-legal formalities. Based on the allegations, police registered an FIR under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and began further investigation.

In a separate incident, a 26-year-old woman from Nangloi Extension was declared dead at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital on June 23. Police said preliminary inquiry revealed she died by suicidal hanging within seven years of marriage, necessitating an inquest by the concerned SDM.

The deceased’s mother told authorities that her daughter had allegedly been subjected to physical abuse by her husband, who frequently assaulted her while under the influence of alcohol.

Investigators also learned that the husband is currently undergoing treatment for a severe head injury suffered in an accident a few months ago.

During the investigation, the woman’s family handed over two videos purportedly recorded by her shortly before her death. Police said the videos appeared to show her in severe psychological distress and expressing fears for her safety due to alleged continuous harassment by her husband.

A post-mortem examination was conducted on June 24, and police subsequently registered a case against the husband based on the allegations and evidence collected so far. Further investigation is underway in both cases.

Kolkata warehouse collapse toll rises to 11, five rescued

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Kolkata

The toll in the Taratala warehouse collapse in south Kolkata rose to 11 on Thursday as rescue teams, aided by the Army’s advanced ground-penetrating radar (GPR) system, continued intensive search operations through the rubble for over 24 hours after the incident, officials said.

Five more people were rescued from the debris in the morning, taking the total number of victims pulled out from under the rubble to 30, according to sources involved in the operation.

According to official sources, 10 people died either at the site of the incident or shortly thereafter, while another injured person succumbed to injuries during treatment on Thursday, taking the toll to 11. The deceased, have been identified as Krishna Chowdhury (30) of North 24 Parganas, Rohit Choudhary (40) of Nadia, Rahul Choudhury (17) of Purba Bardhaman, Chandrama Choudhury (60) of Krishnanagar, Pappu Rajak (40) of Shyamnagar, Azgar Hossain (55) of Khidirpur in Kolkata, Sahil Sardar (17) of Basanti, Ghi Kumar (17) of Munger



Owner of the under-construction warehouse being produced at a court in Kolkata PTI

in Bihar, Hasan Imam (44) of Metiabruz, Nabin Singh of Asansol and Ganesh Kalindi (45), who died while undergoing treatment at SSKM Hospital. Nineteen injured are currently undergoing treatment in the state-run hospital, officials said.

Meanwhile, heavy rain stalled the rescue operations for nearly an hour, even as personnel from police, fire services, NDRF and the Army remained deployed at the

site. The warehouse was being built on a leasehold plot owned by the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in the city. Rescue efforts continued through the night under the supervision of senior state Government and civic officials, including Health Secretary Narayan Swarup Nigam, Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Nanda and Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Commissioner Smita Pandey. A senior state

Government official said all available resources had been mobilised to trace those who may still be trapped beneath the debris. “The rescue operation is being carried out on a war footing. Advanced equipment, including the Army’s ground-penetrating radar, cameras and other specialised devices, is being used to locate possible survivors,” the official said. The Army’s GPR system is being used to detect signs of life beneath the collapsed structure. The equipment can detect movement and pulse signals beneath layers of debris, helping rescuers focus their excavation efforts on specific locations.

Teams have also deployed cameras beneath the rubble to check for trapped persons, while mobile phone tower data is being used to trace the location of individuals whose phones remain active under the debris.

Five persons have been arrested in connection with the incident, including warehouse owner Shambhunath Behera, structural engineer Kamal Samanta, Gulzar Hussain, supervisor of Ayan Traders, labour supplier Dibakar Bhandari and Abdul Hamid.

Canada names Khalistanis for...

Surveillance does not work well, intelligence was not shared or acted on properly, and chances to stop the plot were missed.

For many years, Indian authorities said the bombing was carried out by Khalistani terrorists based in Canada. Canadian governments and memorials usually referred to them as “Sikh extremists” or simply described the event as a terrorist attack, without mentioning the Khalistan movement in official statements.

The report also says that violent extremist activities by CBKs continue to threaten Canada’s national security and Canadian interests abroad. It clearly separates peaceful advocacy for Khalistan, which is not considered extremism, from the actions of “a small group of individuals who use Canada as a base to promote, fundraise, or plan violence primarily in India.”

FIR filed in Ram Mandir fund embezzlement case

In its preliminary report to Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Sanjay Prasad, the SIT found serious problems with how cash was handled, how employees were hired and checked, how CCTV was used, and how offerings were tracked from the temple donation boxes to the Trust office and banks.

The report said that a private agency hired by SBI to count money used workers recommended by Trust associates, but there were insufficient checks on who entered or left the work areas. It also found problems in how gold, silver, and other valuables from devotees were recorded and tracked. The report noted that some sevadars and employees saw their assets grow quickly after the temple’s consecration in January 2024.

It is alleged that embezzlement went on for years, with staff staying quiet because influential people were involved. The SIT named 17 people as accused, including some senior Trust officials. It recommended filing FIRs, reorganising the Trust, and appointing a senior administrator. The investigation now also covers land deals and the purchase of construction materials. The Trust’s decision to file the FIR follows the SIT’s findings.

Sources say the complaint was based on the preliminary report and internal findings. The SIT has reportedly instructed key Trust functionaries not to leave the city. The Trust had initially maintained that internal audits were underway and sought the independent SIT probe to establish facts and counter what it described as attempts to tarnish the temple’s image. The development has intensified political debate.

The Trust and the UP government have said that the investigation began internally to ensure accountability. However, opposition parties want the full SIT report, all financial records, CCTV footage, and bank statements to be made

public. Some are asking for a CBI or court-monitored investigation. The SIT report and the FIR highlight ongoing concerns about how major religious institutions manage large public donations. Since the preliminary findings show both systemic problems and individual responsibility, more action is expected in the coming weeks, including possible arrests and a detailed final report. The Ram Mandir, consecrated in January 2024, attracts millions of devotees.

The Trust says it is committed to transparency and to protecting offerings made in faith.

Commercial LPG curbs lifted

To safeguard household consumption, the Government initially halted supplies of commercial LPG to hotels, restaurants and industrial users, diverting available volumes to domestic consumers.

Supplies were subsequently restored in phases to about 70 per cent of normal levels, although several sectors continued to face curbs of up to 50 per cent of their usual allocations as authorities sought to conserve fuel stocks amid concerns over import availability. Refineries were ordered to produce more LPG by diverting streams they would otherwise use for petrochemical production.

Crude oil prices have fallen back to pre-war levels, government crisis briefings have been suspended, and fuel supply concerns have receded as shipping and energy flows normalise. The rollback of emergency restrictions underscores New Delhi’s confidence that domestic production and imports are sufficient to meet demand, reducing the need for crisis-era rationing measures that had affected industrial and commercial fuel users.

The ministry has also directed Oil Marketing Companies to continue maintaining comprehensive data on commercial and industrial LPG consumers to facilitate efficient planning and supply management.

The government has directed Oil Marketing Companies to continue maintaining comprehensive data on commercial and industrial LPG consumers to facilitate efficient planning and supply management. A unified sectoral database will also be maintained across the OMCs to strengthen monitoring and operational coordination.

At the same time, the Government remains committed to expanding PNG connectivity. Commercial and bulk consumers who have already shifted to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) will continue to remain on PNG. Other eligible LPG consumers having access to the PNG network, or those in the process of shifting to PNG, will be progressively transitioned to PNG in coordination with City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities.

In this regard, the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has written to the Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories for ensuring smooth implementation of the revised supply arrangements.

FROM PAGE - 1 Earthquake hits Venezuela hard

Acting President Delcy Rodríguez, who gave the latest death toll early Thursday, said authorities were shifting rescue teams from other parts of the country to La Guaira, which sits north of Caracas on the coast. Officials were trying to make the most of the daylight hours to speed up efforts to rescue people believed to remain trapped under the rubble, she said.

Footage on state TV showed three children, covered in dust but alive, pulled from the rubble in La Guaira state, which Rodríguez described as a “disaster zone” and one of the areas hardest hit by the quakes because of the large number of collapsed buildings.

“Dozens of buildings have collapsed there ... and we are currently carrying out intensive rescue operations to save lives,” Rodríguez said. Video shared online appeared to show dozens of people, some lying on the ground and others on hospital beds, being treated outside a hospital in La Guaira.

While Venezuela sits near multiple fault lines, its position straddling the South American and Caribbean plates makes strong earthquakes much less common than in other parts of Latin America. Rodríguez appealed to businesses to make heavy construction equipment available for rescue operations, adding that search and rescue teams certified by the United Nations were on their way to Venezuela.

During the quakes, people ran from swaying buildings in Caracas, many visibly shocked when they turned back to see destroyed walls that left furniture visible from the street. Columns of dust rose in two typically busy neighborhoods in the capital.

“It started off gently and then gradually grew, and in the end, we all had to leave our houses, go outside and gather together,” Caracas resident Hector Ricci said.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the first earthquake, with a magnitude of 7.2, hit west of Moron on the Caribbean coast, about 170 kilometers (105 miles) west of Caracas. It had a depth of 22 kilometers (about 14 miles). Just a minute later, USGS reported a second 7.5 magnitude earthquake, with a depth of 10 kilometers (about 6 miles) and an epicenter 16 kilometers (10 miles) southwest of Moron. Interior Minister Diosdado Cabello urged people to remain outside as aftershocks could further damage structures, and many people stayed on the streets for hours, some sitting on the ground hugging pets as dust gathered around them. In downtown Caracas, hundreds of people spent the night huddled around parks, parking lots and other open spaces. Authorities warned against returning to homes with structural damage.

“We were afraid the buildings would collapse on us,” said Maria Cristina Diaz, a 41-year-old janitor. “My mother, my daughter and I were cold. We didn’t sleep a wink; but I didn’t want to spend the night alone at home after that terrible

earthquake.” “It was awful. We cried, we screamed. Thankfully, we’re alive,” she added.

Diaz and her family rushed to Plaza Candelaria in downtown Caracas because it’s one of the few open areas near her home. Parts of the capital lost power and cellphone coverage, and the earthquakes damaged and closed Simon Bolivar International Airport, the country’s main airport, Rodríguez said. In Caracas, subway services were suspended and natural gas shut off, she said. Classes will also be cancelled for several days, and the Ministry of Education said some school buildings would be used as shelters and donation centers.

On Thursday morning, scores of people in Venezuela and abroad struggled to contact family members. Families began posting missing-person fliers with photos of loved ones, while others shared handwritten lists of names as they searched for those still unaccounted for.

Also on Thursday, the UN human rights mission in Venezuela called on the government to lift local restrictions on social media.

“In the coming hours and days, timely access to reliable information and communication channels will be essential for the protection of the lives, safety, and well-being of the population,” the mission said in a statement.

In August 2024, then President Nicolas Maduro ordered X blocked in an attempt to suppress the exchange of information among those who rejected his claim of victory in the July presidential elections. (AP)

Dinesh Trivedi gets Cabinet rank tag

The travel visas were halted nearly two years ago amid an escalated security situation and strained ties with New Delhi during the Muhammad Yunus-led interim regime. “I am very happy to be able to announce the launch of general travel visas again. Visa applications can be submitted starting June 28,” Trivedi said.

New Delhi’s decision to send a veteran politician to Dhaka came at a time when both sides are looking at repairing the bilateral ties that came under severe strain during the tenure of Bangladesh’s interim government headed by Yunus. The relations between the two neighbours witnessed a major downturn after the Yunus-led interim government came to power in Dhaka following the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government in August 2024. Trivedi succeeded Pranay Kumar Verma, a 1994-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

J&K Police allege attack by Army inside station

“The matter pertains to an FIR registered by the local police in Atholi, Kishtwar. The matter is under examination through the appropriate institutional mechanisms. The Indian Army will extend full cooperation in the legal process.

Appropriate actions will be taken based on the outcome of the joint investigation. At this stage, it would be premature to comment further while the investigations are in progress,” he said.

According to the FIR, the Army personnel allegedly tore Kotach’s uniform and also assaulted Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Vijay Kumar Bhagat, who had also reached the spot. Katoch further alleges Special Police Officer Suresh Kumar was struck on the neck with the butt of a service rifle, resulting in serious injuries to him. He claimed several other police personnel on duty also sustained injuries during the unprovoked assault.

The FIR also alleges that the Army personnel assaulted the assistant regional transport officer (ARTO) of Kishtwar and his personal security officers inside the police station. The attackers also caused extensive damage to government and public property, vandalising the official vehicle of the ARTO, vehicles of the SDPO and the SHO, and breaking down the main gate of the police station, the FIR said.

What makes an Indian citizen? Ministry of...

Section 10 of the Passports Act allows authorities to revoke or cancel a passport for reasons such as wrongful possession, concealment of important information, security issues, ongoing criminal cases, or violations of rules. If your passport is cancelled, you must return it right away. Section 12 also requires you to return your passport if you become a citizen of another country, as India does not allow dual citizenship for ordinary citizens. If you do not follow these rules, you can be penalised. The government can ask for your passport at any time, so you do not have an absolute right to keep it.

No single document can fully prove citizenship. Indian citizenship is a legal status you get by birth, descent, registration, or naturalisation under the Citizenship Act. For people born after 1987, it is often necessary to show that a parent was an Indian citizen at the time of birth.

In cases such as voter list exclusions, deportations, or rights claims, officials and courts review all the evidence in accordance with the law. Aadhaar, Voter ID, PAN, or a passport can help prove identity or residency, but none is sufficient on its own. The state or courts make the final decision. Once a part of how things work in India. As digital checks become more common with Aadhaar links, voter roll updates, and biometric e-passports, the government is making it clear what each document is meant for.

A passport lets you travel and get visa-free or e-visa entry in many countries, but it does not determine citizenship in India. The key takeaway is simple: the law keeps citizenship separate from any single document. The MEA’s statement is legally sound and useful because it clarifies that citizenship is determined by law, not by holding a passport.

Amazon commits fresh \$13 billion to India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Global giant Amazon will invest an additional \$13 billion in India, taking its planned capital commitment in the country to \$48 billion between 2026 and 2030, Chief Executive Officer Andy Jassy said on Thursday after meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"A great meeting with Andy Jassy. I welcome Amazon's record \$48 billion investment in India. This will create new opportunities for our youth," Prime Minister Modi said in a social media post. This also reflects the growing interest across the world to invest in India, he said.

Announcing investment plans, Jassy also said the fresh investment underscores Amazon's long-term commitment to India, which Jassy described as one of the company's most important growth markets globally. He said Amazon's India business is seeing strong momentum, driven by robust customer demand across e-commerce and Amazon Web Services (AWS), its cloud-computing division.

The announcement comes as global technology firms step up investments in India, attracted by the country's expanding digital economy, growing consumer base and rising demand for cloud and AI services. Amazon has invested heavily in India over the past decade, building out logistics networks, technology infrastructure and digital services as it seeks to deepen its presence in one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

Jassy affirmed Amazon's long-term commitment to the country, and said the company's India business is on a strong growth trajectory with robust customer demand, especially in e-commerce and Amazon Web Services, its cloud computing

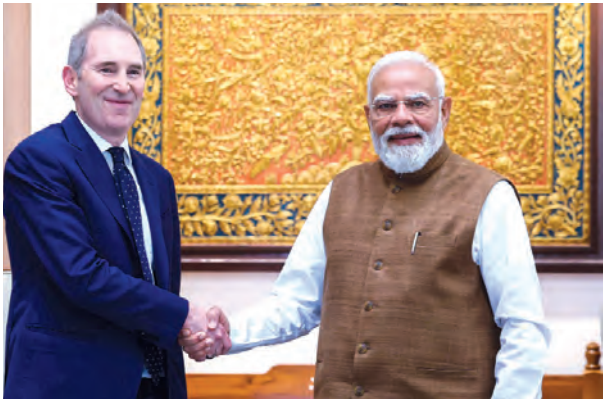
unit. He also highlighted the growing importance of India, a market where Amazon operates several businesses, including e-commerce, AI, cloud, and entertainment.

Sharing a photo from his meeting with the Prime Minister, Jassy, in a post on social media, said he really enjoyed the discussion about what's ahead for Amazon in India. "We've been serving customers, sellers, developers, startups, and enterprises in India for more than a decade and just getting started...Excited about what's ahead. Still early days for what we can build," Jassy said.

The Amazon top boss discussed the company's plans to invest \$48 billion over the coming five years, including more than \$21 billion in AI and cloud infrastructure.

By 2030, Amazon plans to support 3.8 million jobs, enable \$80 billion in e-commerce exports, and bring the benefits of AI to 15 million small businesses and four million Government school students, Amazon's top executive said. The company, in a statement, said that during his meeting with the PM, Jassy reiterated Amazon's long-term commitment to India and announced plans to invest an additional \$13 billion to expand AI and cloud infrastructure in the country by 2030.

The latest investment pledge positions Amazon as one of the largest global AI and cloud infrastructure investors in India, the US-headquartered e-commerce giant added. "The investment will expand AWS data centre capacity in Mumbai and Hyderabad, giving startups, enterprises and government organisations access to custom AI chips, managed AI services, secure and reliable cloud technologies and developer tools to innovate faster, scale rapidly, and serve customers globally," according to Amazon. With



PM Narendra Modi during a meeting with Amazon CEO Andy Jassy PTI

this, Amazon's cumulative investments in India exceed \$88 billion between 2010 and 2030. Just six months back, Amazon had announced \$35 billion in new India investments.

"The latest investment makes Amazon one of the largest global AI and cloud infrastructure investors in India, in addition to being the largest foreign investor in India, the largest enabler of e-commerce exports and one of the biggest job creators in the country," Amazon said.

The company plans to launch more than 20 new fulfilment centres and over 100 new last-mile delivery stations this year, bringing faster and reliable deliveries to customers nationwide, especially in tier 3 and 4 cities, the statement said. Amazon has also announced 'Sammaan', a programme focused on the welfare of tens of thousands of delivery associates powering its e-commerce and quick commerce network.

Since its launch in India, Amazon has digitised 12 million small businesses, enabled over \$20 billion in cumulative e-commerce exports, and supported 2.8 million jobs. Amazon has also trained over 10 million Indians on cloud skills.

"Through 2030, the company plans to invest a total of \$48 billion to expand and support its businesses in

India. In line with the government priorities, Amazon will continue its strong focus on AI-led digitisation, export growth, and job creation," according to the statement.

The Amazon top honcho said the company has seen strong growth in India, especially across e-commerce, AI, and cloud businesses.

"As we grow Amazon in India, our business priorities continue to align with India's priorities of democratising access to AI, digitising small businesses, creating jobs, and enabling exports. We are investing over \$48 billion in the coming five years to meet the strong demand across our business in India and to help the country achieve these priorities," Jassy said.

"We are inspired by Prime Minister Modi's vision of a Viksit and Atmanirbhar Bharat, and we are committed to being a long-term partner in India's growth story."

On the expanded investment pool, the company said the fresh investment commitment will help expand and support AI and cloud infrastructure across the two regions in Mumbai and Hyderabad. "Both AWS regions enable customers to securely store their data within India and give them access to the world's most advanced AI and cloud technology, including high-perfor-

COMMITMENTS ANNOUNCED BY GLOBAL CEOS, COMPANIES

Feb 18, 2026 — Google: \$15 billion

Google announced a five-year \$15 billion AI infrastructure plan, including subsea connectivity, data centres, cloud capacity and AI skilling in India

Mar 9, 2026 — ABB: \$75 million

ABB announced a \$75 million investment in India to expand manufacturing and R&D capabilities across critical industrial segments

Jun 5, 2026 — AirTrunk: \$30 billion

Australia's AirTrunk announced plans to invest \$30 billion in India to build 5 GW of data centre capacity by 2030

Jun 17, 2026 — CPP Investments: ₹7,000 cr

Canada Pension Plan Investment Board committed up to ₹7,000 crore with CtrIS Datacenters to expand India's digital infrastructure and hyperscale data centre capacity

Jun 18, 2026 — Saint-Gobain: 1 billion

Saint-Gobain announced another 01 billion investment in India over the next five years, calling India one of its fastest-growing markets

Jun 25, 2026 — Amazon: \$48 billion

Amazon CEO Andy Jassy met PM Narendra Modi and announced plans to take Amazon's India investment commitment to \$48 billion by 2030, including fresh AI and cloud infrastructure expansion

mance Trainium chips and AWS's leading inference engine Amazon Bedrock," Amazon said. The e-commerce giant underlined that hundreds of thousands of Indian enterprises, startups, and government agencies are already using AWS to build, train, and deploy AI workloads at production scale, including National Health Authority, Government e-Marketplace, Apollo Tyres, Delhivery, Physics Wallah, Axis Bank, and HDFC Bank.

"From day one, AWS has built its infrastructure so customers have full control over where their data resides, who can access it, and how it's secured," the company pointed out.

Amazon.in has over 100 million customers and more

than 1.7 million sellers, it said, adding that the company is seeing 85 per cent of new customers and over 65 per cent of orders from tier 2 and 3 cities.

In Bengaluru on Wednesday, Jassy had announced the company's plans to expand its ultra-fast delivery service, Amazon Now, to more than 300 Indian cities and to build what Amazon describes as the country's largest "delivery in minutes" network.

Amazon Now's aggressive expansion comes at a time when India's quick commerce market has emerged as one of the fastest-growing segments of the country's digital economy, driven by rising demand for ultra-fast deliveries and changing consumer preferences.

Nation Focus



GEHLOT CRITICISES BJP OVER CORRUPTION, LAW AND ORDER

Alleging that Rajasthan was witnessing deteriorating governance, rising corruption and a decline in law and order, former chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday said the Congress is prepared to extend moral support to the BJP Government if it seeks the Opposition's cooperation to improve the situation. Interacting with journalists here after concluding his 3-day visit to his hometown, Gehlot claimed that corruption has spread from villages to Jaipur city, and alleged that the spurt in the incidents of murder, rape and dacoity reflects the State's deteriorating administrative condition. (PTI)



CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON 4TH OF 6 NEXT-GEN PATROL VESSELS

Work has begun on the construction of the fourth of the six next-generation offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard, with a keel-laying ceremony held in Mumbai on Thursday, officials said. This ship, with modern machinery and state-of-the-art systems, is being indigenously designed, developed and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), in line with the Government's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. "This initiative marks a key milestone in ICG's ongoing efforts to enhance its operational capabilities and bolster coastal security, thereby strengthening the nation's strategic autonomy," the defence ministry said. The keel-laying ceremony of the fourth of the six next-generation OPVs, being built by MDL for the Coast Guard, took place in Mumbai on June 25, it said in a statement. The ceremony was attended by senior officials of the ICG and MDL. (PTI)

AI operates first flight from Varanasi under hub and spoke model



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Varanasi

Air India on Thursday operated the first flight from Varanasi under the Hub and Spoke model, which seeks to provide seamless connectivity between smaller cities and overseas destinations, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying the initiative will bring India's regions closer to global opportunities.

After inaugurating the first flight, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoan Naidu said such services will commence from six more cities in six weeks.

The model that seeks to make India a global aviation hub will enable seamless connectivity between Tier-II and Tier-III airports with international destinations.

Passengers arriving from smaller cities will be routed through major hub airports such as Delhi for onward international connections.

The inaugural 'Easy Connect' flight AI1111 departed from Varanasi at 9.30 am and landed at Delhi at around 10.50 am, and further passengers would be connected to nine international destinations, including Dubai, Colombo, Jeddah and Phuket.

In a message on Thursday, Modi said the Hub and Spoke international flights model would reduce travel time for passengers, as well as bring regions of India closer to global opportunities.

Modi said better international connectivity creates new opportunities for trade, tourism, investment, education and business.

During Emergency, Congress strangled democracy to save power, says Pradhan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday said that June 25, 1975, was the 'darkest day' in the history of Indian democracy when the then Congress Government attacked the very spirit of the Constitution, democratic institutions, and civil liberties to retain power.

Pradhan was addressing a gathering at an event to mark the 51st anniversary of the Emergency.

He emphasised that India is not just a geographical entity but a civilisation with thousands of years of cultural heritage and democratic traditions. He noted that India's democratic ethos is deeply rooted in its civilisational values, which is why it is often referred to as the "Mother of Democracy."

According to Pradhan, the framers of the Constitution, following India's Independence, envisioned a nation where the people would hold the supreme power, and governance would operate within the framework of the Constitution.

However, by declaring the Emergency on June 25, 1975, the then Congress



Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, during the Samvidhan Hatya Diwas, marking the 51st anniversary of the Emergency's imposition in Chandigarh PTI

government sought to suppress these democratic ideals, he said. Pradhan said that during the Emergency, freedom of expression was restricted, the press faced censorship, opposition leaders were imprisoned, and countless activists endured severe hardship and persecution.

Highlighting that the fundamental rights of citizens were suspended, and an atmosphere of fear was created throughout the country, Pradhan accused the then Congress Government of misusing the State machinery to stifle political Opposition.

He stressed that democracy is not just about holding elections; it involves protecting individual liberty, freedom of

thought, and upholding constitutional values.

As the world looks toward India with hope and confidence, Pradhan emphasised the importance of ensuring that the younger generation understands this dark chapter in the nation's history.

Senior BJP leader and former MP Satya Pal Jain shared his personal experiences from the Emergency period, accusing the then Congress Government of misusing the entire administrative apparatus to quell political dissent.

He added that the suffering of those imprisoned extended beyond themselves, significantly impacting their families, who faced severe economic and social struggles.

Railway allows javelins, bulky equipment except pole-vaults

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Sportspersons will now be allowed to carry javelins and bulky sports equipment on trains even if these items exceed the prescribed dimensions. However, pole-vault poles have been excluded from the relaxation.

In a recently issued circular, the railway ministry made provisions for the carriage of oversized and fragile sports equipment of non-standard dimensions in trains.

The relaxation followed reports highlighting the difficulties faced by sportspersons in carrying equipment



of non-standard dimensions while travelling by train.

The circular states that javelins and other bulky sports equipment may be booked and carried in the available luggage space of

trains on a priority basis, subject to payment of the applicable freight charges.

"It shall also be ensured that the above sports equipment shall be transported in the available luggage space of

Operation Sindoor showcased indigenous defence strength, says President Murmu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Asserting that a self-reliant country is better equipped to maintain its economic stability, President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday said that Operation Sindoor highlighted how indigenous defence capabilities are integral to enhancing operational readiness and strategic effectiveness of a nation.

Addressing a group of officer trainees of Military Engineer Services (MES), who had called on the president at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here, she said in today's world, marked by conflicts and geopolitical tensions, self-reliance has become a strategic necessity for nations. A self-reliant country is better equipped to maintain its economic stability and undertake developmental priorities during times of crisis, Murmu said.

"This was evident during Operation Sindoor, which highlighted how indigenous defence capabilities, advanced technology, and a robust domestic industrial base are integral to enhancing operational readiness and strategic effectiveness of a nation," the president said, addressing the officer trainees of 2023 and 2024 batches. Operation Sindoor



President Droupadi Murmu greets the officer trainees of Military Engineer Services during a meeting at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

was carried out by the country's defence forces, targeting terrorist and military facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir from May 7-10, 2025.

This operation was carried out in retaliation for the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed in cold blood by three Pakistani terrorists.

Murmu said that the world today is facing climate change and various environmental challenges. "In this scenario, sustainable development is no longer an option, but a necessity," she said.

The president asked them to adopt green technologies, conserve energy and water, increase green cover, minimise waste, and inte-

grate sustainability into every aspect of their work.

"Infrastructure that is resilient, efficient, and environmentally responsible will not only serve the needs of today but also safeguard the interests of future generations," Murmu said.

She said that the MES forms the backbone of defence infrastructure in our country and by developing and maintaining strategic installations, it plays a vital role in strengthening the operational capabilities of our armed forces.

Murmu said that in recent years, the country has seen the increasing participation of women in every field, including in the armed forces and defence establishments.

"Across the Army, Navy, Air Force, and supporting

organisations, women are breaking barriers and excelling in roles that were once considered beyond their reach. Their professionalism, leadership, courage, and commitment have enriched our institutions and strengthened our national defence," the president said, and hoped to "see women officers of MES in the upcoming batches". A diverse and inclusive workforce not only reflects the values of our Constitution but also enhances organisational effectiveness and innovation, she said.

Addressing the officers, Murmu said their efforts should contribute not only to a strong and secure India but also to a clean, green, and sustainable India.

कार्यालय कृषि उपज मंडी समिति नीमच, जिला-नीमच (म.प्र.)		
क्रमांक/ मंडी/नि./26-27/240	-//निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //-	नीमच, दिनांक 25.06.2026
प्रमुख अभियंता म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में उपयुक्त (एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली) पंजीकृत निविदाकारों से प्रतिशत दर आधार पर सिस्टम निविदाएं क्रमांक 2026_MPSAM_517485_1, के अंतर्गत ऑनलाईन निविदाएं दिनांक 29.06.2026 समय 10.30 से दिनांक 20.07.2026 को साय 5:30 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र एवं अन्य जानकारी निविदाकारों को म.प्र. शासन के ई-निविदा के पोर्टल http://www.mptenders.gov.in/nicgep/app पर प्राप्त होगी, एवं उक्त निविदा से संबंधित समस्त जानकारी मंडी बोर्ड के पोर्टल http://www.mpmmandiboard.gov.in पर भी अवलोकनीय होगी।		
नोट: आवश्यक होने पर उपरोक्त निविदा सूचना से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन सूचना अथवा अन्य जानकारी केवल उपरोक्तानुसार पोर्टल पर ही प्रदर्शित किया जावेगा।		
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States Focus



INDIA OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO EARTHQUAKE-HIT VENEZUELA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday expressed sadness over the devastation caused by the earthquakes in Venezuela, and said India stands ready to extend all possible assistance to the Latin American country. Powerful earthquakes struck off the coast of Venezuela on Wednesday evening, leaving at least 32 people dead and 700 injured. "Deeply saddened by the devastation caused by the severe earthquakes in Venezuela. On behalf of the people of India, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Venezuela, especially to the families who have lost their loved ones," Modi said in a post on social media. The PM said India prays for the speedy recovery of those injured and stand in solidarity with all those affected during this difficult time. "India stands ready to extend all possible assistance," he added.



VP ADMINISTERS OATH TO 10 NEWLY ELECTED RS MEMBERS

Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan on Thursday administered oath of office to ten newly elected members of the Upper House. The lawmakers took the oath in the main chamber of the Rajya Sabha. Among the new members sworn in were four members from Andhra Pradesh, two from Jharkhand, one each from Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. Five newly-elected members took the oath in Hindi, one in English, one in Tamil, and three in Telugu. The newly inducted members were Sana Sathish Babu (TDP), Vijay Chintakayala (TDP), Bhashyam Rama Krishna (TDP) and Lingamaneni Ramesh (JSP) (all from Andhra Pradesh), Tai Tagak (BJP) from Arunachal Pradesh, Rajesh Parmanad Shukla (BJP) from Gujarat, Parimal Nathwani (IND) and Baidyanath Ram (JMM), both from Jharkhand, Debashish Samantaray (BJP) from Odisha and Praveen Chakravarty (INC) from Tamil Nadu.

West Bengal Govt to unveil new policies before Durga Puja, says Finance Minister

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Kolkata

The West Bengal Government will unveil a series of policies, including an investment promotion framework, before Durga Puja festivities, as part of efforts to accelerate economic growth, Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta said on Thursday.

Dasgupta made the remarks while replying to the discussion on the state Budget in the Assembly. "In the next three months, before Durga Puja, we will present an investment promotion framework, an incentive policy and a startup policy," he said.



Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta

The minister said dedicated policy for women entrepreneurs would also be introduced to encourage greater participation in business and enterprise.

A cloud kitchen policy will be introduced, too, to encourage the women entrepreneurs, Dasgupta said.

The other policies will be on a global capability centre (GCC), an AI mission, and in addition, the Government plans to formulate a policy for sportspersons, he said.

Dasgupta said the absence of some of these policy frameworks had affected the state's ability to attract investments, including in the information technology sector.

The minister said the budget should be viewed as a roadmap signalling the direction in which the Government intends to take the state economy.

BJP seeks Congress apology on 51 years of emergency

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The BJP on Thursday attacked the Congress on the 51st anniversary of the Emergency, with party president Nitin Nabin saying it was a dark chapter in the history of Indian democracy and the Congress has not yet offered an "unconditional apology" to the nation for it.

In a series of social media posts in Hindi, Nabin said the Emergency was a dark chapter in the history of Indian democracy, during which an attempt was made to "crush the soul of the Constitution".

"On June 12, 1975, the Allahabad High Court had declared the election of the then prime minister, Indira Gandhi, illegal. After this, priority was given not to national interest but to the interest of power," the BJP chief said.

"To save the chair of one person, the freedom of the entire country was held hostage, and an attempt



was made to crush the constitutional values and democratic dignity established by Baba Saheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar," he added. Nabin said the Congress constantly blames the Modi Government for various reasons, including its election losses.

"If Parliament doesn't function, it is the Government's fault. If Congress is defeated in elections, it is the system's fault.

"If the public doesn't support (Congress), it is the institutions' fault. The

biggest question is why the party that invokes the Constitution has not yet offered an unconditional apology to the country for the Emergency," the BJP chief said. If there truly was concern for the Constitution, the first thing would have been to seek forgiveness from the country for the crime of murdering democracy, he added.

Nabin alleged that for decades, attempts were made to erase the "dark chapter of the Emergency" from the nation's collec-

tive memory. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, however, justice has been done to history with the decision to observe June 25 as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas', the BJP president said.

"Samvidhan Hatya Diwas not only reminds us of the past but also reinforces our resolve to remain ever-vigilant and dedicated to protecting the Constitution, democracy and civil liberties," Nabin said.

"This day reminds us of the importance of freedom and the need to safeguard democratic values. We pay tribute to all those who fought to protect democracy, even amidst trying circumstances," the BJP chief.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, senior party leader Ravi Shankar Prasad slammed the Congress for the imposition of the Emergency during its rule and said all the excuses made by the opposition party to justify it are "absolutely baseless".

Emergency tried to crush democracy, says Himanta



TONY DAS ■ Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday said the Emergency imposed in 1975 was an attempt to crush India's democratic values and civil liberties. Remembering the period, Sarma paid tribute to all the "brave warriors" who struggled to protect democracy.

"We remember that dark chapter in the history of Indian democracy, when in 1975 the Emergency was imposed in an attempt to crush the country's democratic values and civil liberties," he said in a social media post.

"Humble salutations to all the brave warriors who struggled to protect democracy," he added. In a programme organised by the BJP in the evening, Sarma honoured

"Loktantra Senanis" and said people must not let that dark chapter in the nation's history be forgotten.

"Just to cling on to power, the then Cong govt trampled upon the Constitution and converted the country into a jail," he said in another post. The Emergency was in force from June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977, after it was proclaimed under Article 352 of the Constitution.

Since 2025, the Narendra Modi Government has observed June 25 as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas'.

Agazette notification issued in this regard said the Emergency was declared on June 25, 1975, and was followed by a "gross abuse of power" by the government of the day, with people subjected to excesses and atrocities.

Congress launches nationwide campaign against paper leaks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Chandigarh

The Congress on Thursday announced a 40-day nationwide "Chhatron Ki Gooni" campaign, to press for reforms in the examination system and highlight issues of paper leaks, examination irregularities and unemployment.

Addressing a press conference, Congress Working Committee member Rajeev Shukla, Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring and Chandigarh Congress president HS Lucky said the campaign would begin on June 30 and continue till August 9.

The leaders informed that the campaign would be carried out



Congress Working Committee member Rajeev Shukla

across coaching centres, universities, hostels, libraries and other public places to engage with students and raise awareness about examination-related issues.

They alleged that repeated paper leaks and controversies surrounding competitive examinations and recruitment tests had shaken public confidence and affected millions of students and job aspirants across the country.

The Congress leaders noted that the campaign would focus on the alleged irregularities in national-level examinations, particularly the NEET-UG 2026 controversy, which they claimed exposed serious shortcomings in the examination system.

They also claimed that paper leaks had become an organised racket involving different stages of the examination process, including question paper preparation, print-

ing, transportation and examination centres. The party demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and called for an independent investigation into the alleged paper leak networks and their links with officials, contractors and other entities.

They accused the Centre of failing to prevent repeated examination scandals and said the issue affected not only students but also unemployed youth waiting for recruitment processes to be completed.

According to the Congress, grassroots activities under the campaign will include pamphlet distribution, corner meetings and direct outreach to students.

Govt considers revising AAY foodgrain entitlement to 7 kg per person

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Government is considering shifting the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) foodgrain entitlement from a fixed 35 kg per household per month to 7 kg per person per month — capped at 35 kg — a move to address the "inequities" in food distribution among the country's poorest households and provide for more rational food grain allocation and better align entitlements with nutritional requirements.

The Department of Food and Public Distribution has proposed an amendment to the National Food Security

Act, 2013, and the Food Ministry has invited public comments on the National Food Security (Amendment) Bill, 2026, until July 13.

Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), up to 75 per cent of the rural population and 50 per cent of the urban population — covering roughly two-thirds of India's population—are legally entitled to highly subsidised or free foodgrains.

The proposed changes seek to "remove intra-category inequities and provide for a more equitable and rational allocation of foodgrains while aligning beneficiary entitlements more closely with household



nutritional requirements," says the draft Bill.

Under the current law, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, designated as the poorest of the poor and are legally entitled to receive 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, the

Priority Households are entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month.

"The existing household-based entitlement under Antyodaya Anna Yojana, though intended as a protective measure for the most vulnerable families, results

in significant inequities depending upon the size of the household," the ministry said in a statement.

Under the proposed design, a two-member AAY household would receive 14 kg per month, while a family of five or more would be entitled to the existing ceiling of 35 kg.

Smaller households may see little change in absolute terms; larger ones stand to gain as allocation would scale with family size.

The Government has framed the amendment as part of its broader push to strengthen food and nutritional security through a "human life cycle approach"

-- ensuring access to adequate quantities of quality food at affordable prices, in line with the objectives of the National Food Security Act, 2013. Currently, rice and wheat are distributed for free to both priority households and AAY.

In Delhi, the State Government has cancelled nearly 7.72 lakh invalid and ineligible ration cards following a recent welfare audit and verification drive. This massive clean-up exercise freed up approximately 7.72 lakh ration card slots intended for the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other public distribution benefits.

LG chairs meeting in Pahalgam, reviews preparations for Amarnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jammu

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting in Pahalgam and reviewed preparations for the Shri Amarnath Yatra-2026, which starts on 3rd July.

The Lieutenant Governor held a comprehensive review of all key sectors, including logistics, lodging, healthcare facilities, sanitation, power and water supply, availability of civic amenities, road connectivity, RFID cards, functioning on joint control rooms, track maintenance and widening works, construction of footbridges, setting up of langars, creation of holding areas, traffic management and security arrangements.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag briefed the meeting on the overall preparations being made for the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Anantnag, delivered a detailed presentation on the multi-layered security framework and the comprehensive measures in place to ensure pilgrim safety along the entire route.

Speaking to the media persons, the Lieutenant Governor said, "The Jammu Kashmir Administration, Police,



Security Forces, Government of India, and the Shrine Board have finalised all preparations to ensure a safe and spiritually enriching experience for the devotees of Baba Amarnath. Residents and all stakeholders are eager to welcome pilgrims arriving from across the nation.

During the review meeting, LG directed the authorities to ensure safety, and weather-based evacuation protocols must be established alongside the strategic deployment of Mountain Response Teams (MRTs) at critical intervals. Furthermore, all transit tents must pass rigorous quality inspections and be equipped with functional fire extinguishers.

On the tracks, real-time crowd analysis must be utilised to identify and clear choke points, while robust

traffic management plans and designated parking zones must be enforced to prevent congestion and guarantee the uninterrupted transportation of essential supplies," the Lieutenant Governor directed the officials.

The meeting was attended by Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Amarnathji Shrine Board; Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department and Nodal Officer for Pahalgam Axis; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; M Suleman Choudhary, IGP Traffic J&K; Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; Amod Nagpure Ashok, SSP Anantnag and senior officers of civil administration, police and security forces.

NH-44 connectivity restored before Yatra: Gadkari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jammu

Ahead of the beginning of the Amarnath Yatra from July 3, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, on Thursday said the flood-damaged bridges over the Ravi River and Sehar Khad near Kalibari on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) have been restored, re-establishing a vital road link between Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

The Union Minister said the restored infrastructure would also provide a major boost to travel during the upcoming annual Amarnath Yatra by improving connectivity along the route.

In a post on X, Gadkari said the bridges had sustained extensive damage during last year's flash floods, severely disrupting traffic along the strategically important highway. He said the restoration work was taken up on priority in view of the highway's strategic and economic significance and was completed within the stipulated timeline.

"The reopening of these bridges will ensure seamless connectivity and facilitate the smooth movement of passengers and freight," the minister said.

In the Kashmir valley, the Gondola services were resumed in Gulmarg, a month after a technical snag forced the closure of the services.

On May 25, the army, police, NDRF and SDRF launched a rescue operation after the Gulmarg Cable Car services developed a techni-



cal snag, leaving more than 300 tourists and local guides stranded mid-air.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah oversaw the official resumption of the Gulmarg Gondola service, marking the full restoration of its operations. Omar said the services were restarted only after the French firm Puma certified repair work. On the other hand, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) also restored road connectivity between Gulabgarh and Machail in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district with the operationalisation of a 140-foot bailey bridge at cloudburst-hit Chishoti.

The bridge was virtually inaugurated by White Knight Corps

Commander Lt Gen P K Mishra on Thursday, in the presence of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly leader of opposition and Padder-Nagseni MLA Sunil Kumar Sharma, officials said.

The triple-double reinforced Bailey bridge replaces the earlier structure, which was washed away in a devastating cloudburst on August 14, 2025, severing the only road link to the remote Machail region, they said.

A cloudburst struck Chisoti village, the gateway to the Machail Mata temple in Kishtwar district, on August 14 last year, killing 65 people, mostly pilgrims, while more than 30 persons are still missing.

DRDO hands over FOC for Netra AEW&C system to Indian Air Force

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved a significant milestone with the handing over of the Final Operational Clearance (FOC) certificate of the Indigenous 'Netra' Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system to the Indian Air Force (IAF), the defence ministry said here on Thursday.

Giving details, it said the system has been indigenously developed through close collaboration among the IAF, DRDO, and associated industries to significantly enhance airborne surveillance, situational awareness and battle management capability. It represents a landmark achievement in India's journey towards self-reliance in advanced aerospace & defence technologies. The Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) was given in 2017.

The ceremony was presided over by the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Awadhesh Kumar



DRDO's indigenously developed Netra Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) system receives its Final Operational Clearance (FOC) during a ceremony at Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS) in Bengaluru on Thursday

Bharti in Bengaluru, Karnataka on Thursday.

Former Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria (Retd), former DRDO Chairman Dr S Christopher, serving and retired senior officers of IAF, Outstanding Scientist & Director Centre for Air Borne System (CABS)P Santhya, Outstanding Scientist and Chief Executive (Airworthiness) APVS Prasad, Scientist 'C' & Head NETRA FOC AS Kumaran, other senior

officials of DRDO, and industry partners attended the event.

In his address, the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff appreciated the FOC of indigenous Netra AEW&C. He spoke about the operational utilisation and reliability of the system during Operation Sindoor and Balakot strikes.

He reiterated the importance of indigenous technologies which offer the services the flexibility to adapt the system to the evolving

war scenario by undertaking modifications. He lauded the synergy among DRDO, IAF and the industry which has defined the success of the programme.

Distinguished Scientist and Director General of Aeronautics Cluster of DRDO Dr K Rajalakshmi Menon narrated the successful journey of NETRA. She brought out the challenges faced and the decisions taken that enabled to achieve the programme objectives and deliver the operationally capable system to IAF. She emphasised the importance of System Engineering and how it helped in the planning and execution of flight-tests.

The successful induction of the Netra AEW&C system into operational service reflects the DRDO's commitment to indigenisation, innovation, and capability enhancement of the Defence Services.

The programme stands as a shining example of synergy between operational users, scientific agencies, and defence production establishments.

Viral video row: BJP seeks Bhagwant Mann's resignation over 'mask theory' remarks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ludhiana

The Punjab unit of the BJP on Thursday demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, alleging that he had repeatedly changed his stand on a controversial video and was misleading the public.

Punjab BJP general secretary Anil Sareen said the people of the state no longer had faith in the chief minister's statements. He claimed that different explanations had been given for the video over time, including that it was AI-generated, a deepfake and most recently linked to a "mask theory".

Mann finds himself in the midst of a raging controversy after the Akal Takht earlier this month declared him "guru dokhi" (anti-guru) and "Khalsa panth virodhi" (anti-Khalsa panth) over a video purportedly showing a man resembling him indulging in objectionable activities with pictures of Sikh gurus and slain militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

Sareen questioned whether

the forensic reports cited by ministers and spokespersons of the AAP Government to term the video fake were genuine or whether the latest explanation should be accepted as the truth.

He alleged that serious questions had already been raised over the forensic reports obtained from Gurugram and claimed there were allegations that fake reports had been prepared with the involvement of Punjab Police officials.

The BJP leader also asked why the video had not been examined by an accredited independent forensic laboratory for eight months if the chief minister was certain that it was fake.

Accusing the Mann Government of misusing power and attempting to conceal the truth, Sareen said the chief minister should take moral responsibility for the controversy and resign from his post.

He alleged that the Government's changing versions had further eroded public trust and raised doubts over its credibility.



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann addressing a press conference, in Mohali, Punjab on Thursday

Facing mounting criticism from the opposition over a controversial video, Mann on Thursday reiterated that he was not in that video and claimed that the person seen in the objectionable clip was wearing a mask resembling his face.

The matter stems from the Akal Takht summoning Mann in January this year for allegedly making comments on "Guru ki Golak" (gurdwara donation box) and indulging in "objectionable activities" with the pictures of the Sikh Gurus and slain militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale in the purported video clip.

Addressing the media in Mohali on Thursday, Mann

showed a purported video clip to claim that the person seen in the controversial video was wearing a mask which resembles his face.

On January 15, when Mann had appeared before the Akal Takht in Amritsar, he had submitted that the video was fake or AI-generated and that the 'Singh Sahib' (Sikh Clergy) could get its forensic examination done from any lab in the country.

On June 18, the chief minister reiterated that it was not him in the objectionable video and claimed that some actor was imitating him. He cited reports of two labs showing that the man in the alleged objectionable video was someone else.

Contactless passenger health self-declaration portal launched amid Ebola outbreak

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Civil Aviation Ministry and Delhi International Airport Limited on Thursday launched an upgraded and contactless passenger health self-declaration portal to strengthen public health surveillance at points of entry in response to the Ebola disease outbreak in parts of Africa.

Developed in collaboration with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Union health ministry, the AIR SUVIDHA 2.0 portal enables international arriving passengers to submit a mandatory online health self-declaration covering 21-day travel history, exposure history and related symptoms, if any, prior to immigration clearance.

The portal enables real-



time data sharing with the Airport Health Officer, Bureau of Immigration, IDSP and State Surveillance Officers, enables swift identification and referral of at-risk travellers while keeping the arrival experience seamless and contactless, with no physical forms to fill on landing, the Health ministry said in a statement.

The Airsuvidha Self Declaration Form (SDF) can be completed 24 hours in advance before arrival to India.

"Passengers are requested to fill the forms before boarding of the flight, during web check-in for swift clearance on arrival and only required to show the downloaded SDF at the International Travel Health Desk or Immigration counter," the statement said.

The launch of the portal follows the WHO's declaration of the Ebola/Bundibugyo Virus Disease outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda as a public health emergency of international concern on May 17 under the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005.

The current outbreak has been confirmed as Bundibugyo Virus Disease (BVD), and countries bordering Congo and Uganda, including South Sudan, have been assessed as high-risk for transmission.

Ex-bureaucrat Sujata Karthikeyan joins BJD, inducted by Patnaik

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhubaneswar

Former bureaucrat Sujata Rout Karthikeyan, wife of former Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik's close aide VK Pandian, formally joined the BJD on Thursday. Patnaik announced her induction after a meeting at Sankha Bhawan, the party headquarters here.

"I would like to welcome Sujata Rout to the BJD. She will be joining the party as a simple member. She has been an IAS officer and held several important positions, including her last assignment where she looked after many women of our state," Patnaik said. "I am sure, as time passes, she will get used to her new position. She will learn to lead people, particularly



women," he added.

Amid speculation that Sujata could eventually take over the reins of the party, Patnaik asserted that he would continue to lead the BJD in the next elections. "I would like to repeat again for the information of the media and all other people that, of course, I will lead the BJD in the next elections. I want to make it very clear," he said.

Sujata, a native of Kendrapara district, said she would work sincerely

for the people of the state. "I have availed opportunities to serve the people of Odisha for 24 years under the leadership of Naveen Patnaik. Today, I got the same opportunity again to serve the people of Odisha under his leadership," she told reporters after joining the party.

"I will work for the people of Odisha with sincerity and dedication, with the blessings of Lord Jagannath, party leaders and millions of BJD workers," she added.

An IAS officer of the 2000 batch, Sujata resigned from the civil services on March 13, 2025. She is widely credited with expanding Mission Shakti, the women's empowerment programme of the previous BJD Government.

Rahul Gandhi expresses regret in Shivraj's son defamation case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jabalpur

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi has filed an application before the Madhya Pradesh High Court expressing regret for his allegedly defamatory statement about Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's son Kartikeya Singh.

Kartikeya Singh had filed a defamation complaint in a Bhopal court against the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. Gandhi's application, filed by his lawyer on Wednesday, said his statement was not related to Singh.

In the defamation complaint lodged in the Bhopal court for cases against MPs-MLAs, Kartikeya Singh alleged that during an election rally in Jhabua in 2018, Gandhi mentioned his name while referring to the Panama Papers leak scandal, thus



damaging his reputation.

The court issued a summons to Gandhi for personal appearance, following which the Congress leader moved the HC seeking to quash the summons as well as the defamation case. Justice Pramod Kumar Agarwal will hear Gandhi's petition on Thursday.

The petitioner on Wednesday produced the records of the lower court, as directed by the HC. Advocate Sankalp Kochhar represented the complainant before the high court.

Nominations open for Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2026, July 31 deadline



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Government has invited nominations for the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2026, a national honour for children aged 5 to 18, with July 31 set as the last date for submission.

In a statement, the Ministry of Women and Child Development said the award recognises exceptional achievements by children in bravery, social service, environment, sports, art & culture, and Science & Technology, and celebrates their "exceptional resilience, courage, creativity, and indomitable spirit". The ministry said the award will be conferred by the President at a special ceremony in New Delhi on Veer Bal Diwas on December 26.

"The award serves to encourage and inspire young talent by acknowledging their contributions at the national level and motivating others to strive for excellence," it said.

According to the statement, children nominated for the award must be Indian citizens and residents of India, between five and 18 years of age as on July 31, 2026, and should not be previous recipients of the award in any category.

The act, incident or achievement must have occurred within two years of the nomination deadline of July 31, 2026, it added.



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma chairing a budget review meeting at Lok Sewa Bhawan, Dispur evaluating proposals for 13 departments for FY 2026-27

CITU backs July 1 protest for MGNREGA restoration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) extends its fullest support, solidarity and active participation to the nationwide protest actions on July 1, 2026, called by the All India Agricultural Workers Union (AIAWU) and the joint platform of Rural Workers' Organisations.

The Government's decision to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) with the VB-GRAMG Scheme from July 1, 2026, is a calculated attempt to dismantle the only statutory guarantee of 100 days of wage employment available to rural households.

"For the rural working class, MGNREGA is not a welfare programme; it is a legally enforceable right to work that provides wage security, strengthens the bargaining power of labour against landlordist and capitalist exploitation, and offers protection against chronic unemployment and distress," said General Secretary Elamaram Kareem. The attack on MGNREGA is



not confined to agricultural workers alone. It is an assault on the entire rural and urban unorganised working class. The weakening of rural employment inevitably depresses rural wages, intensifies distress migration and expands the pool of cheap labour available to urban employers.

CITU demands strengthening of MGNREGA through a legally guaranteed minimum of 200 days of employment per rural household, a substantial enhancement of wages linked to inflation, and the timely payment of wages as mandated by law. CITU further demands that the employment guarantee be expanded to cover every rural household seeking work and that a similar legally

guaranteed employment programme be introduced for urban workers.

CITU calls upon all its State Committees, federations and affiliated unions at the district, block and panchayat levels to mobilise industrial workers, unorganised workers and all sections of the working class to actively participate in the 1 July nationwide protests in solidarity with rural workers.

CITU will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with AIAWU and all organisations of rural workers to strengthen this united struggle and ensure that July 1 becomes a resounding assertion of the Right to Work, the dignity of labour and the unity of India's working people.

Govt expands QR code tracking to key drug categories to curb counterfeits

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Government has expanded the ambit of the QR code-based track-and-trace mechanism to cover all antimicrobials, vaccines, anti-cancer medicines, and narcotic and psychotropic drugs, a move aimed at strengthening safeguards against counterfeit and substandard medicines.

The Union Health Ministry has notified amendments to the Drugs Rules, 1945, bringing these categories of medicines under Schedule H2, which mandates the use of bar codes or Quick Response (QR) codes for product identification and verification.

Under the amended provisions, manufacturers will be required to print or affix a barcode or QR code on the primary packaging label of the drug formulation, or on the secondary packaging where space constraints exist, the ministry said. The code will enable authentication and verification of medicines through software applications across the supply chain.

According to the ministry, the QR code will contain key product information such as a unique product identification and verification.

The Union Health Ministry has notified amendments to the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, replacing criminal penalties for certain procedural violations with an administrative adjudication mechanism as part of the Jan Vishwas reforms.

The amendments, notified on June 22, operationalise provisions of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, which seeks to decriminalise minor procedural non-compliances across multiple central laws and promote trust-based governance.

The Jan Vishwas law, published in April this year, and aimed at reducing compliance burden and improving ease of doing business, amends provisions across 79 Central Acts administered by 23 ministries and departments. In the health sector, 35 provisions spread across five laws under the



Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been modified, a statement by the ministry said.

Under the amended framework, the term "fine" has been replaced with "penalty" in Sections 40, 43 and 46 of the Act, shifting the enforcement framework from criminal prosecution to administrative adjudication.

Section 44 has been amended to introduce graded and proportionate penalties for contraventions committed by companies, ensuring that enforcement action is commensurate

with the nature and severity of the violation, the statement said.

Further, the adjudicating authority mechanism under Section 41 has been strengthened and its scope expanded to cover proceedings under sections 40, 43 and 44, facilitating transparent, efficient and accountable enforcement, it stated.

The amendments also provide for a structured adjudication process, including an opportunity for a hearing before the imposition of penalties, mechanisms for recovery

of penalties, and an appeal framework for aggrieved parties. "These measures are expected to encourage voluntary compliance, reduce unnecessary litigation, and ensure proportionate action in cases of minor procedural non-compliances, while maintaining regulatory oversight over clinical establishments," the statement said.

The notification implements the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Regulatory Reforms and underscores the Government's commitment to fostering a transparent, efficient and citizen-centric regulatory framework.

By replacing criminal penalties for procedural lapses with a fair and balanced administrative mechanism, the reforms seek to improve the ease of doing business in the healthcare sector while preserving the highest standards of patient care, safety and accountability, the ministry said.



Editor's
TAKE

Why India faces a cybercrime emergency

The SC's intervention and PM Modi's recent remarks underscore a stark reality: cybercrime has emerged as a pressing challenge of our times

For years, cybercrime in India was not taken seriously – yet another crime that could be easily dealt with. But the menace has now emerged as multi-headed hydra that has siphoned off millions of rupees and even forced individuals to lock themselves in their own homes as prisoners – digital arrest and phishing is no longer minor crimes they can wreck lives and the worst part it is very difficult to nab the culprits. But not any more, that comfortable distance has collapsed.

The Prime Minister has reviewed digital-arrest scams at a PRAGATI meeting and pushed states to operationalise the e-Zero FIR system nationwide, while the Supreme Court continues to hear a suo motu case it opened after an elderly Ambala couple was swindled of over a crore rupees by fraudsters wielding forged court orders. When the executive and the judiciary independently decide the same menace deserves their direct attention, it is no longer a law-and-order footnote. It is a governance emergency.

The numbers explain the urgency. The apex court itself has described the scale of digital fraud – running into tens of thousands of crores – in language usually reserved for organised crime, not white-collar mischief. "Digital arrest" scams, where con artists impersonate police officers, CBI or ED officials, or even judges to terrify victims into transferring their life savings, have proliferated precisely because they exploit two things India has in abundance: rising digital penetration among people who weren't raised on it, and a fragmented enforcement architecture where a fraud originating in one state, routed through a server in another, and cashed out via mule accounts in a third, falls through every jurisdictional crack. The e-Zero FIR mechanism – which converts verified financial-fraud complaints filed through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal into instant, borderless FIRs – is sound in design but has been adopted by barely a handful of states. Universal, urgent rollout, is the need of the hour.

This must be matched by genuine coordination between police, banks, telecom operators and platforms to freeze and trace money in real time, a standard operating procedure of the kind the Supreme Court has already asked the Centre to draft, and movement on international cooperation frameworks like the UN Cybercrime Convention, since most networks behind these scams operate from beyond India's borders. But no FIR portal, however fast, repairs damage already done. The first line of defence has to be the citizen. Verifying independently, hanging up, and reporting to 1930 or cybercrime.gov.in before money moves is the only real firewall available to most people, and it costs nothing.

The PM's intervention and the Court's scrutiny together create unusual institutional momentum. Squandering it through slow state-level implementation or public complacency would be the real failure. Cybercrime will not be defeated by outrage alone – it will be defeated by boring, relentless follow-through: faster FIRs, tighter bank-telecom coordination, and citizens who simply refuse to be afraid.

The path to freedom: Towards a drug-free India

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign) is not merely a government programme but a mass movement aimed at empowering India's youth power, family structure and national consciousness



BL
VERMA

As the entire world reflects on the challenge of substance use on the occasion of World Drug Day on June 26, for India, this issue emerges not merely as a social or health-related problem, but as a grave matter linked to the nation's future. Substance abuse weakens not just an individual, but the family, society, and ultimately the collective strength of the nation. It shatters the dreams of the youth, tears families apart, and hinders the pace of development.

Today, India has the largest youth population in the world. This youth power is the greatest asset of our 'Amrit Kaal'. If this power is channelled into education, skills, innovation, and nation-building, nothing can stop India from becoming a 'Vishwa Guru' but if the youth fall into the addiction of drugs, it will be a loss not just to one generation but to the future of the nation. Therefore, the fight against drugs is the responsibility of every Indian.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Central Government has not viewed the problem of drug abuse merely as a matter of law and order or health; instead, it considers it a critical issue linked to the future of India's youth and the progress of the nation. On numerous occasions, he has called upon the youth, parents, and all sections of society from public platforms to remain aware of substance abuse. From 'Mann Ki Baat' to various national programmes, he has repeatedly emphasised that drug addiction becomes a problem not of an individual but of the entire family and society.

It is indeed a result of the Prime Minister's sensitivity that the fight against drug abuse has not been limited to government action alone but has been transformed into a campaign driven by public participation. The 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' (Drug-Free India Campaign) was launched under his guidance, through which the message of awareness has reached crores of youth, students, and citizens.

The Prime Minister firmly believes that India's youth power is the country's biggest asset, and it is our national responsibility to safeguard it from evils like drug abuse.

Launched on August 15, 2020, the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan' (Drug-Free India Campaign) has today become a people's movement. This campaign is not merely a government programme, but a medium for social awakening.



Millions of youths, students, women, teachers, and voluntary organisations have actively participated in this movement. From villages to metropolises, from schools to universities, and from digital platforms to community events, a widespread public awareness against substance abuse has emerged.

The government has taken decisive steps to curb the supply of substances. The Narcotics Control Bureau and various security agencies have dismantled numerous international smuggling networks through coordinated action. Surveillance at the borders has been strengthened, and strict action has been taken against organised crime. We must understand that drug trafficking is not merely a crime; it is often linked to anti-national activities and the financing of terrorism. Therefore, this struggle against drug trafficking is also a struggle for national security.

However, the success of any law or government campaign is ensured only when society becomes its driving force. India's greatest strength is its social and cultural consciousness. Our families, our values, our community traditions, and our social solidarity are the strongest shields against substance abuse.

Family is the first and most important unit of this fight. If parents maintain open communication with their children, become their friends, and keep a watchful eye on changes in their behaviour, the problem of substance abuse can be prevented at an early stage. Schools and colleges, too, will have to play an active role in fostering self-confidence, positive thinking, and a healthy lifestyle among the youth.

Our mothers and sisters are the greatest strength of this campaign. Across the country, Self-Help Groups, Anganwadi workers, and women's organisations have played a significant role in spreading awareness and taking care of families. Their contribution to building a drug-free India is invaluable.

At the same time, we must also change our attitude towards those who have recovered from addiction. A person should be judged not by his past, but by his efforts to improve. The rehabilitation process can be truly successful only if society accepts and encourages them and provides them with opportunities to move forward.

On the occasion of World Drug Day, I call upon every citizen of the country, especially the youth, to become a part of this national campaign against drug abuse. Spread awareness in your family, your school, your workplace and your society. If every citizen resolves to keep even one person away from substance abuse, millions of lives could be saved.

Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign) is not merely a government programme but a mass movement aimed at empowering India's youth power, family structure and national consciousness.

Let us come together to turn this invocation into a mass resolve and move forward together towards a drug-free India, for the sake of building a developed India. It is the national resolve of 140 crore countrymen. This very resolve will serve as a strong foundation for the building of Viksit Bharat.

The writer is Union Minister of State Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution of India

When the distinction between performance and authenticity blurs



SANJAY
CHANDRA

2ND OPINION

A recent WhatsApp communication on our society group, a few cryptic comments on my Facebook wall, and several recent premature deaths among people in their mid-fifties have made me pause and reflect. At first glance, the incidents appear unrelated.

A camp was organised by our newly elected governing body to facilitate certain services for residents. It was a good initiative with a few inevitable hiccups. Many appreciated the effort, while some expressed disappointment. One resident urged the President of the Residents' Welfare Association to personally address such irritants in future. What caught my attention, however, was the response of another well-meaning resident who rushed to defend the President while assigning blame to the committee member who organised the event. In corporate and public

life, leadership is often defined by the willingness to absorb criticism while sharing credit. In our increasingly polarised environment, criticism and defence seem to attach themselves not to actions but to individuals.

A few days later, a neighbour chose to respond to one of my articles on social media with comments such as 'writing for publicity' and 'pathetic'. Interestingly, in face-to-face interactions, he remains polite and courteous. I also found myself reflecting on the untimely deaths of several talented individuals in their fifties. People who still had much to contribute, both professionally and personally.

I do not suggest that these losses can be explained by technology or social media. They did, however, make me reflect on the various pressures that modern life places upon us, often in ways we scarcely recognise. For much of human history, there existed a degree of separation between our public and private selves. Most people encountered a limited version of us. Public life usually required us to present our better selves. Our frustrations, contradictions, and unguarded moments remained largely within private spaces shared with those closest to us.

Digital technology has altered that arrangement fundamentally. Public life now accompanies us throughout the day. Opinions are formed instantly, reactions are displayed immediately, and disagreements are preserved indefinitely. The audience is always present. Moments of genuine solitude have become increasingly rare. The distinction between public and private life has become increasingly blurred. What earlier generations experienced in private

is now expressed, displayed, and debated in public spaces. Perhaps this is why civility appears more fragile. The pace of communication has accelerated, while reflection has not. We have acquired unprecedented tools for expression, but not necessarily the habits of restraint, patience, and perspective required to use them wisely. Technology has amplified our voices; it has not always deepened our understanding.

In such an environment, the distinction between performance and authenticity also begins to blur. The person we present to the world and the person we are in our unguarded moments are expected to coexist continuously. Social approval, criticism, validation, and comparison have become part of everyday life in ways previous generations never experienced. Perhaps this is one of the defining psychological challenges of our age. Technology has connected us more extensively than ever before, but it has also made performance a permanent condition of modern life. We are simultaneously participants, audiences, and subjects. There may be value in rediscovering something that earlier generations understood instinctively: the importance of spaces where one is not performing, responding, or being observed. Spaces where one can simply be. While technology has succeeded in bringing the world closer to us, it may also have made it harder for us to find distance from the world.

The writer is a founder of Kala - Crazy About Literature And Arts, is an author, speaker, coach, arbitrator, and strategy consultant

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Europe's heatwave is a warning to the world

The recent "Omega Heat" episode across Europe serves as a stark reminder of the growing dangers posed by climate change. The phenomenon, caused by an Omega Block atmospheric pattern, traps hot air over a region for extended periods, resulting in persistent and often deadly heatwaves. Scientists warn that rising global temperatures are making such extreme weather events more frequent, intense and prolonged. The consequences are already visible. Heat-related illnesses, deaths and wildfires have become recurring features of European summers. The United Nations has rightly described climate change as a public health emergency, underscoring the urgency of collective action. While Europe is currently in focus, countries like India are not immune. Similar atmospheric blocking patterns can intensify heatwaves across northern and central India, affecting millions of people. Improving early warning systems and investing in climate-resilient infrastructure have become essential.

However, adaptation alone is not enough. Meaningful reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions, rapid expansion of renewable energy and large-scale afforestation remain crucial to addressing the root causes. The lesson from Europe is clear: climate change is no longer a future threat but a present reality demanding immediate action.

R.S. NARULA | PATIALA

Building resilience through fitness

Rajyogi Brahma Kumar Nikunj Ji rightly points out that addiction cannot be tackled through awareness campaigns alone. Preventing substance abuse requires providing young people with meaningful pursuits that foster discipline, achievement and self-worth.

Alongside meditation and spiritual practices, progressive calisthenics can be a powerful tool in this effort. Unlike drugs, which offer temporary gratification, calisthenics rewards persistence and gradual progress. Each new milestone, whether mastering a push-up, pull-up or advanced bodyweight skill, builds confidence and generates a healthy sense of accomplishment. This process encourages self-discipline and resilience rather than dependency. Another advantage of calisthenics is its accessibility. It requires little or no equipment. Proper nutrition, adequate sleep and regular exercise become priorities, while harmful habits such as smoking and excessive drinking increasingly appear as barriers to progress. Most importantly, physical training provides a sense of purpose and direction. Activities that cultivate these qualities can help fill the void that often leads to substance abuse. India's fight against addiction must therefore focus not only on prevention but also on promoting healthy alternatives that strengthen both mind and body.

HARSH PAWARIA | ROHTAK

TN politics beyond electoral setbacks

Recent developments in Tamil Nadu politics have generated intense debate about the future of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the evolving political landscape of the state. Electoral setbacks, alliance realignments and the emergence of new political forces have naturally prompted questions about the party's long-term prospects.

However, it would be premature to conclude that the DMK is in terminal decline. The DMK remains one of Tamil Nadu's most influential political movements, with deep organisational roots and a legacy that extends beyond electoral cycles. Growing voter expectations, anti-incumbency sentiments and the rise of alternative political platforms are reshaping the state's political dynamics.

New entrants and opposition leaders are seeking to capitalise on this changing environment by presenting themselves as credible alternatives. For any political party, setbacks can serve either as a catalyst for renewal or a sign of deeper structural weaknesses. The coming years will reveal which path the DMK follows. Tamil Nadu's political future will be determined by the choices made by both leaders and voters alike.

JAYANTHY CK | CHENNAI

PIC TALK



People move on a boat through a flooded area after a substantial rise in the Brahmaputra river water level, at Morisuti Pam village in Morigaon PHOTO: PTI

DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

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AMMONIA LEAK: WHEN PROFIT COMES BEFORE HUMAN LIVES

The tragic ammonia leak in Tamil Nadu is yet another reminder of the unacceptable safety standards that persist in many industrial workplaces across India.

The deaths of workers and the hospitalisation of dozens more cannot be dismissed as an unfortunate accident. Such incidents are often the consequence of negligence, inadequate safety protocols and weak regulatory oversight. India's economic progress cannot be measured solely by rising industrial output and investment figures.

True development requires ensuring that every worker returns home safely at the end of the day. Unfortunately, migrant labourers and contract workers frequently bear the highest risks while possessing

the least bargaining power. Safety compliance is too often treated as a bureaucratic formality rather than a moral and legal obligation. The recurring pattern of industrial disasters points to systemic failures in enforcement.

Regulatory agencies must conduct rigorous inspections, impose strict penalties for violations and hold management accountable when preventable tragedies occur. Compensation alone cannot substitute for lost lives.

A nation aspiring to become a global manufacturing hub must place worker safety at the centre of its growth strategy. Economic prosperity loses its meaning when it is built upon avoidable human suffering.

VIJAYKUMAR H K | RAICHUR

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

Small modular reactors: Promise, progress and risks in the global energy transition

For countries such as India, where electricity demand continues to rise, SMRs offer intriguing possibilities but also significant uncertainties. The technology's future will depend not on its theoretical promise, but on whether governments and industry can demonstrate that it can be deployed safely, affordably and at scale.



RAJIB K MISHRA

As countries pursue ambitious decarbonisation goals while seeking reliable electricity supplies, Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) have emerged as one of the most discussed technologies in the global energy landscape. Promoted as a cleaner and more flexible alternative to conventional nuclear power plants, SMRs are increasingly being viewed as a potential complement to renewable energy systems. Yet despite growing policy enthusiasm and a long list of announced projects, commercial deployment remains limited, highlighting the importance of assessing both their promise and their risks.

SMRs are generally defined as nuclear reactors with a capacity of up to 300 MW per unit. Unlike conventional nuclear plants, which are typically built as large, site-specific projects, SMRs are designed for factory-based manufacturing and modular deployment. Their smaller size allows capacity to be added incrementally, reducing upfront capital requirements and potentially shortening construction timelines. Advocates argue that this approach could make nuclear energy more accessible and financially manageable, particularly for countries with moderate demand growth or constrained fiscal resources.

The growing interest in SMRs is closely linked to the changing structure of electricity systems. Rapid expansion of solar power has created a familiar challenge in many countries: abundant electricity during daylight hours but shortages during evening peak demand. Wind power, while valuable, remains variable. In this context, SMRs offer a source of firm, low-carbon electricity capable of operating around the clock and supporting grid stability when renewable generation is unavailable. Their role is therefore not to replace renewable energy but to complement it by providing reliable power when needed.

SMRs are also being explored as a tool for industrial decarbonisation and the repurposing of retiring coal-fired power plants. Many coal sites already possess transmission connectivity, cooling infrastructure and skilled workforces, making them attractive locations for future deployment. Beyond electricity generation, several advanced SMR designs can provide industrial process heat, district heating and hydrogen production, broadening their potential contribution to energy-transition strategies.

Technologically, SMRs encompass several reactor families. The most advanced are light-water reactors, based on technologies already used in conventional nuclear plants and therefore more familiar to regulators. Countries including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, China and South Korea are pursuing such designs. Other concepts include high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, which are well suited for industrial heat applications, and fast reactors that promise improved fuel efficiency and waste reduction but remain further from commercial maturity. A niche category of floating reactors has also emerged, led by Russia's pioneering efforts.

However, the gap between ambition and reality remains striking. As of the end of 2025, only two SMR projects worldwide are operating commercially for electricity generation.

The first is Russia's Akademik Lomonosov, a floating nuclear power plant located in the Arctic town of Pevek. Equipped with two small pressurised-water reactors producing about 70 MW of electricity, it has been supplying power and district heating since 2020. The project demonstrated that nuclear generation can be deployed in remote regions, but it also highlighted challenges related to marine safety, security and emergency response.

The second operational project is China's HTR-PM at Shidao Bay. This high-temperature gas-cooled reactor, producing approximately 210 MW of electricity, entered commercial operation in 2023. It represents the world's first grid-connected advanced SMR using non-light-water technology and is widely regarded as an important milestone for future industrial heat and hydrogen applications.

Beyond these two examples, most SMR projects remain under construction or in various stages of licensing and financing. China's ACPI00, also known as Linglong One, is under construction and expected to



become the first commercial land-based light-water SMR. Argentina's CAREM project has faced delays, while leading projects in North America and Europe continue to navigate regulatory approvals, financing requirements and supply-chain development. This limited deployment experience underscores the central challenge facing SMRs: while the technology is technically credible, its commercial viability remains largely unproven.

The most significant risk is economic. Although SMRs are smaller than conventional reactors, they remain capital-intensive projects. First-of-a-kind deployments have frequently experienced cost overruns and schedule delays, eroding the anticipated advantages of modular construction. Until multiple units are manufactured and deployed at scale, it remains uncertain whether the promised cost reductions can be achieved.

Regulatory uncertainty presents another major obstacle. Nuclear licensing is inherently rigorous and often time-consuming. Because regulatory frameworks differ across countries, reactor vendors frequently face repeated design reviews and approval processes, increasing costs and delaying deployment. For many developers, obtaining regulatory certainty remains as important as overcoming technical challenges.

Fuel supply is another area of concern. Several advanced SMR designs depend on specialised fuels such as High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU), for which global production capacity remains limited. Supply chains for nuclear-grade components and specialised manufacturing are also still developing, creating potential bottlenecks for future expansion.

Operational risks should not be overlooked. Unlike conventional nuclear plants, which benefit from decades of operating experience, many SMR technologies have little or no commercial track record. Questions remain regarding long-term reliability, maintenance costs and the ability of some designs to operate flexibly in renewable-dominated power systems.

Safety and security considerations continue to be central to the debate. While modern SMRs incorporate advanced passive safety features intended to reduce accident risks, nuclear energy remains a technology where low-probability events can have significant consequences. Cybersecurity, physical protection and nuclear safeguards become particularly important if large numbers of small reactors are eventually deployed across multiple locations. Waste management also remains unresolved. Although some advanced designs promise improved fuel utilisation and reduced waste generation, all reactors produce radioactive waste requiring long-term management and disposal.

For India, the SMR story is one of strategic preparation rather than deployment. The country does not yet have an operational SMR project, but recent policy initiatives, including the Nuclear Energy Mission, indicate growing interest in the technology as part of India's long-term energy transition.

India's position is strengthened by its extensive nuclear ecosystem. Institutions such as NPCIL, BARC and AERB provide capabilities across reactor design, fuel-cycle management, regulation and operations. This institutional depth gives India advantages that many aspiring SMR countries do not possess. Rising electricity demand, increasing renewable penetration, future coal retirements and growing land and transmission constraints all point towards the need for reliable low-carbon capacity. SMRs could potentially serve industrial clusters, support coal-site repowering and provide firm power in regions where grid flexibility becomes increasingly valuable.

India's private sector is also better prepared for SMR deployment than is often recognised. Over the past two decades, Indian companies have developed significant capabilities in heavy engineering, precision manufacturing, modular fabrication, construction, instrumentation and large-scale power project execution. Several domestic firms already participate in nuclear supply chains through the manufacture of forgings, pressure vessels, turbines, electrical equipment and specialised industrial components. As SMRs move towards commercial deployment, these capabilities can support reactor manufacturing, balance-of-plant systems, modular assembly and civil works under a government-led framework. This industrial preparedness not only strengthens India's prospects for domestic deployment but could also position the country as a competitive supplier of components and engineering services to the emerging global SMR market.

Nevertheless, SMRs are unlikely to follow a fully privatised path in India. Nuclear power remains a strategic sector under government control, and the financial, liability and safety risks associated with nuclear projects make purely private ownership improbable. A more realistic model is state-led deployment supported by private participation in manufacturing, construction, supply chains and long-term industrial offtake arrangements.

The global experience to date offers a clear lesson. SMRs should be viewed neither as a silver bullet nor as an immediate solution to power shortages. Their greatest potential lies in providing firm low-carbon electricity, industrial heat and long-term system reliability in increasingly complex energy systems. Whether they become a major component of future energy transitions will depend not on the number of announced designs, but on the ability of governments and industry to demonstrate safe, affordable and repeatable deployment at commercial scale. For India, that journey is only beginning, but the foundations technical, institutional and industrial are already taking shape.

Dr. Rajib K Mishra, Executive Director, IRADe

End of the Red Corridor: How India defeated Naxalism



BALAJI SRIVASTAVA

A 1967 spark at Naxalbari in West Bengal grew into an insurgency that spread through tribal heartlands of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. The 2004 formation of CPI (Maoist) brought the factions under one banner, with greater coordination and resolve. At its peak, however, the scale was stark. By 2010, as many as 96 districts saw violence and 126 carried the Naxal-affected tag. Close to 12 crore Indians lived under what functioned as a parallel armed order. The Maoist pursuit of a 'Red Corridor' stretching across almost a fifth of India's geography was indeed, without exaggeration, her most serious internal security challenge.

The Naxal footprint began to shrink when political will shifted post-2014, and decisively after 2019. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Naxalism was redefined as an integrated national security problem that cut across ministries and demanded a coordinated (whole-of-government) response. Union Home Minister Amit Shah drove this approach vigorously, matching sustained security operations with credible surrender and rehabilitation policies, and bringing personal oversight that enabled the system to deliver the desired outcomes.

What stood out was the speed at which operational gaps were closed. Backlogged procurement moved quickly, and modern equipment was sourced, when needed, from the Army, lending gear on the directions of the Union Home Minister. From anti-spike boots and sniper rifles to portable VSAT systems and air ambulances, requirements were met with rare urgency. To the forces on the ground, it sent one loud and clear message: the State stands firmly with you.

Two pillars anchored the approach. The first was a calibrated surrender-and-rehabilitation policy. When senior cadres laid down their arms, they were offered grants of up to ₹5 lakh, a three-year monthly stipend of ₹10,000, and support for housing and employment. Word travelled deep through kinship networks and trusted community intermediaries, amplified by All India Radio broadcasts in tribal languages that showcased real stories of those who returned and reintegrated into the mainstream. The second pillar was uncompromising action against those who held out. Intelligence-led joint Operations executed meticulously by CRPF battalions, CoBRA units, District Reserve Guards, and state police helped in dismantling the armed groups. The results are telling. Naxal-affected districts have fallen from 96 in 2010 to 38 in 2024. A decadal comparison shows security force casualties down by about 73per cent and civilian deaths by 74per cent. In 2024, 290 Naxalites were neutralised the highest in a year-but the more striking numbers lie elsewhere: 881 surrenders and 1,090 arrests. In 2025, till September, surrenders have crossed 1,225; in Chhattisgarh alone, over 1,000 cadres laid down their arms within a year.

At one point in Jagdalpur, more than 200 cadres-including central committee members-surrendered en-masse, holding copies of the Constitution. Few images capture this transformation better than the shift from the gun to the Constitution. Central to this shift was the CAPFs and the state police, Jungle-warfare trained CoBRA units, the Bastariya Battalion drawn from local tribal communities, and DRG units often comprising surrendered Naxalites who knew the terrain, were the composite force who went into the forests and held ground.

Capacity expanded steadily. Over the past six years, 336 security camps have come up in core areas, supported by 76 new helipads across Bastar and Jharkhand to ensure rapid mobility. Drone surveillance now reaches even Abujhmad (unknown hills), once seen as operationally out of bounds. These camps have served a dual purpose-restricting Naxalite movement while steering development through the Niyad Nellnar (Your Good Village) initiative, which has brought banking, schooling, healthcare and Ayushman Bharat coverage to villages within a 10-km radius. The impact of rehabilitation goes beyond what policy documents can measure. In Bastar, women who once carried weapons in the forests now manage the Bastar Café, serving both locals and security personnel. Former cadres inducted into the Bastar Fighters now protect the same villages they once intimidated. Every surrendered Naxalite living a stable public life disproves the Maoist calumny that the Indian State responds to dissent only with force.

At the top, the organisation has been systematically disrupted. The CPI (Maoist) general secretary Nambala Keshava Rao, or Basavaraju, was taken out, pursuant to a strategy that tasked senior IPS officers to track the top leadership of Maoists. In past four years, over 18 central committee members have been neutralized or captured thereby fracturing the leadership and planning capacity. Simultaneously, the enforcement agencies viz., NIA and ED have targeted the funding networks, choking the financial flows that sustained the Maoist operations. The goal of a Naxal-Mukt Bharat by March 31, 2026 stands effectively achieved. The 'Red Corridor', once spread across 17per cent of the country, belongs to the past. Rehabilitation is picking up speed, and sustained governance is shutting the vacuum for good. Clarity and resolve drove this shift. Security forces were finally backed by an unequivocal policy after years of drift. Meanwhile, tribal communities that never signed up for a war waged in their name are getting to see roads, schools, and rights, in place of rhetoric. Our task is cut out. We now need to secure this peace.

The Writer is former Director General of Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India



Standing against tyranny is service to God



HASAN KHURSHID

(October 10, 680 A.D.)

The pre-Islamic period in Arabia is known as the "age of ignorance". Scurrying away from the noble attributes of human principles, the Arabs were treading the path of retrogression and abhorrence. Suffering from worst evils and vices, these Arabs known as Bedouins (uncivilised rustics) were highly temptative of wrecking vengeance, group quarrels, tribal animosities leading to bloody warfare that lasted for generations.

In pre-Islamic period these Arabian Bedouins used to bury their newly born daughters alive out of ego. They had no sense of equality, humanity, decency and brotherhood.

In this crucial moment, Prophet of Islam Hazrat Mohammad brought the message of peace, tolerance, humanity, forbearance, liberty, equality, brotherhood, assisting to weak and securing justice for the persecuted. The Prophet gradually started transforming the heartless brutes to

humanise and turning towards peaceful life. The most notorious among them were the Bedouin tribes of "Bani-Omayya" (Omayyads). Omayyads did not tolerate the sojourn of humanity and peace. They violently opposed Prophet's teachings. Omayya's grandson, Abu Sufiyan, son of Herb, unfurled the flag of revolt against Islamic teachings. They started a campaign of persecution on the Prophet, who was forced to migrate from his home in Mecca to Medina. As such, the year of Prophet's flight from Mecca to Medina is marked as the beginning of Hijri era of Islamic calendar.

Still Prophet Mohammad was not given any respite and relief. Mohammad was compelled to fight battles many a time. In Medina, Prophet established the system for administering the "rule of law" in the light of Islamic jurisprudence, under the command of his son-in-law Hazrat Ali Murtaza ibn Abi Talib. Notwithstanding the bravery of Ali, the accused Omayyads suffered a thorough collapse. The shrewd Abu Sufiyan played a trick to subscribe to Islam outwardly and the Prophet mercifully granted quarter to Abu Sufiyan and his men.

On the contrary, Mohammad, realising his duties as Prophet was preparing his two beloved grandsons, 'Hasan' and 'Husain', sons of Ali Murtaza and Fatima Zehra, as perfect specimen of his own attainment and imparted to their young minds all the characteristics of his high morality.

After the demise of the Holy Prophet Mohammad, the school of Islamic thought, philosophy, culture and administration was shifted to 'Caliphate' with temporal and ecclesiastical powers. The first three caliphs were: Abubakar,



Umar and Usman. The last caliph Imam Ali Murtaza, was assassinated by the henchmen of the conspirator and hypocrite Muawiya son of Abu Sufiyan while Hazrat Ali Murtaza was prostrating before Allah in the mosque.

After Ali's assassination, Muawiya with the might of sword, usurped the seat of Caliphate in Syria and declared himself as the self-appointed caliph. Muawiya, the first ruler of the House of Omayyads displaced the democratic Islamic rule by oligarchical and barbaric despotic rule. After the death of Muawiya, his son accursed Yazid ascended to the Caliphate seat of Syria. He was a heartcore terrorist and had surpassed all his ancestors in practicing cruelty, violence and corruption. Yazid was libertine and sinner to the extent that the barest mention of his objectionable character is taboo in this civilised society. Yazid was the mammon of Unrighteousness, whose lust for power prompted him to beat

society into the mould he favoured. Yazid's criminal behaviour indicated the extreme occurrence of vulgar, inhuman innovations in the established Islamic values. He was immoral to the extent that he had married the real sister of his father.

On the contrary Imam Husain was recognised throughout the Arab world for his excellence of behaviour, wisdom, compassion and piety. When Yazid occupied the erstwhile seat of Caliphate, deceitfully usurped by his father Muawiya, Yazid by terrorising the citizens sought their allegiance to accept him as leader of the faithfully. He then demanded allegiance from Hazrat Imam Husain. Accursed Yazid was equipped with all the paraphernalia of power but so long as he didn't get the allegiance from Imam Husain, the grandson of the Prophet, he had no religious sanction to claim the Caliphate. He therefore demanded allegiance from Imam Husain to subscribe him as leader of the faithful. When Yazid bargained hard for Imam Husain to choose between allegiance and death, Husain straightaway refused him for allegiance, saying, "A person of my kind, cannot accept the allegiance of a man of his (Yazid's) kind." Husain knew that recognition of Yazid's immorality will permanently disfigure the "true faith" and a "pseudo religion" will emerge in the guise of Islam. Had he encountered no opposition, Islam was bound to acclimatised to the paralysing atonality from Yazid's degenerated symphony.

Imam Husain was mercilessly assassinated in the desert of Karbala along with 71 family members and companions on 10th of Muharram, 61 Hijri (October 10, 680 A.D.), after being kept

hungry and thirsty for three days.

Their heads were severed from the bodies and were mounted on lancers. Among the slain martyrs was Husain's six month old infant son, Ali Asghar, the buoyancy of whose innocent blood refloated the sinking ship of Islam. Ali Asghar's moon-like innocent severed head was too mounted on a lancer.

Asghar's little body among 71 others was too trampled through the hoofs of horses of Yazid's cavalry. The tents of Husain's household were torched. Daughters and grand children of Prophet Mohammad's extended family and the only surviving, ailing son office Imam Husain, were taken captives and paraded from Karbala to Syria, on bare backs of camels, where they were appeared before accursed Yazid, the wild beast in human form.

10th Muharram is universally observed by right thinking and kind-hearted people irrespective of caste, religion or faith. "Never in the fight of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few", said Churchill. The event of Karbala, taking place on 10th Moharram, 61 Hijri, teaches us: Never support injustice and oppression, no matter, how powerful the oppressor might be. No matter, what incentive, what threat you might be given? Husain declared, "Do not submit to exploitation of any kind, maintain a tenacious grip on veracity, and better die with honour guarding against evil, than live in shame."

The writer is a legal journalist and a columnist

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Order Order

Jacqueline Fernandez withdraws plea from SC

The Supreme Court on Thursday permitted Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez to withdraw her plea challenging a Delhi court order to frame charges against her in a ₹200 crore money laundering case.

“Counsel for the petitioner (Fernandez) has sought permission to withdraw this special leave petition with liberty to avail appropriate remedy in accordance with law,” a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi said. The top court permitted the withdrawal of petition with the liberty as sought by the petitioner.



A Delhi court on May 30 ordered framing of charges against the actor, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar and 15 others in the case. The actor had moved the top court against the order.

The trial court also directed that charges be framed against Chandrashekar and 20 others for various offences, including under the stringent MCOCA provisions, in another case registered by the city police's special cell. On June 3, setting the stage for trial, a Delhi court formally framed charges in the money laundering case.

On June 11, apex court judge Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra recused himself from hearing the actor's plea.

Fernandez, who was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) several times in connection with the probe, was named an accused for the first time in a supplementary charge sheet filed by the agency. (PTI)

Late night phone calls no evil: Delhi court



A Delhi court has said that merely because a woman talks to a man over the phone at late hours cannot be a reason to question her character or justify intrusion into her privacy by seeking preservation of her call detail records (CDRs).

Additional Sessions Judge Shunali Gupta made the observation while dismissing an appeal filed by a man challenging a trial court order that had refused his request for the preservation of the CDRs of his wife and another person in a pending domestic violence case.

In an order dated June 2, the court said, “To my mind, talking to any person even at odd hours of the day cannot by itself put a question mark on the character of the woman until and unless it has been alleged that the woman has some illegal, adulterous etc relationship with a said man.”

The appellant husband had argued that the preservation of the records was necessary as the complainant, his wife, was allegedly in regular telephonic contact with certain persons during late night hours and the records might otherwise be erased by the service provider with the passage of time.

Upholding the trial court's order, the sessions court said that although the right to privacy was not absolute and could yield to the right to a fair trial in appropriate cases, any request seeking preservation of another person's call records must be supported by specific and reasonable grounds.

“The Indian society no longer remains a primitive society wherein a woman talking with a man is considered to be a taboo,” the judge said.

The court noted that neither the application before the trial court nor the appeal disclosed any concrete reason necessitating preservation of the records.

“Women are working in every field, multinational companies etc and have male colleagues. Just because a woman is found talking on the phone at night... the same cannot ipso facto become a ground seeking preservation of CDR of her mobile number,” the court said. (PTI)

Gujarat Govt told to decide on Haren Pandya's remission plea

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ahmedabad

The Gujarat High Court has ordered the state government to take a decision within six months on the remission plea filed by a shooter sentenced to life imprisonment in the 2003 Haren Pandya murder case.

Mohammad Ashgar Ali, the shooter hailing from Hyderabad, was arrested a few days after Pandya, the former Gujarat home minister, was shot dead on March 26, 2003, in Ahmedabad.

He had approached the high court, stating that the government was not taking any decision on his plea for premature release made in 2025 after completing 14 years in prison, claiming his conduct in jail had been good. Justice MR Mengdey on June 17 directed the state to decide on Ali's remission plea, preferably within six months from



HAREN PANDYA

the date of receipt of the order.

“From the jail remarks submitted on record, it appears that the process for consideration of the case of the petitioner for grant of remission is underway and the opinion from

the advisory committee has also been called for, which has been received and the same shall be put up before the concerned authority in the near future,” the court stated in its order.



First step to equality is providing equal access to law: CJI Surya Kant

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has said the first step to equality is providing equal access to the law and emphasised that it should not merely be a procedural nicety. Speaking at the XIV St Petersburg International Legal Forum in Russia on Wednesday, the CJI said equal access to law must fructify in the conferment of actual rights rather than hollow statutory declarations.

“We must ask ourselves what it actually takes for equality before the law to become real? My answer, which I draw from my experience presiding over the world's largest and most complex judicial systems, is that the first step to equality is providing equal access to the law.

“Such access cannot merely be a procedural nicety and must fructify in the conferment of actual rights rather than hollow statutory declarations,” the CJI said.



He said the birthplace of equality was not necessarily the Magna Carta in 1215.

“Rather, my own personal belief is that its roots are traceable to Kautilya's Arthashastra, which belongs to the Indian subcontinent and propounded the theory of equality in the fourth century,” he said.

CJI Kant said the Indian Constitution, upon its inception, promised a new dawn and conferred upon the people a series of Fundamental Rights, including

economic disparities.

“Consequently, the Indian constitutional courts have interpreted and provided a broad and expansive interpretation of constitutional guarantees in order to eliminate all such barriers. This approach ensures that access to law and justice is not just a technical convenience but a non-discriminatory founding principle of governance,” he said.

The CJI said equal justice and equal law are not ceremonial phrases and they are the conditions under which a legal order may credibly call itself law at all.

Regarding the international legal framework, the CJI said numerous nations in the global east and south are still constructing their institutions, addressing the repercussions of colonialism and tackling poverty. “These countries frequently endure scrutiny and pressure that are not proportionally applied to wealthier and more influential States, whose own compliance records are not necessarily irreproachable,” the CJI said.

Vadhvan Project: Bombay HC clears mangrove removal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai/Palghar

The Bombay High Court has paved the way for accelerated execution of the Vadhvan Port Project in Maharashtra's Palghar district by granting clearance for the removal of mangrove patches located within the approach area of the near-shore reclamation zone. A bench of Justices Bharati Dangle and Manjusha Deshpande, in the order passed on Tuesday, said the project is of public importance and has wider economic significance.

The bench has permitted the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to fell 208 mangrove trees for the construction of an eight-lane access-controlled highway linking the upcoming port in

Palghar district to NH-48.

The court added that the project proponent had secured all necessary environmental, coastal regulation zone and forest clearances, besides complying with compensatory afforestation requirements.

The project was in the larger public interest and would provide crucial connectivity to the proposed Vadhavan Port, which has been identified as a nationally important infrastructure project, HC said.

“In our view, the said project being of public utility, would provide connectivity to the Vadhavan Port which is being developed as a major port on landlord port development model, which would open an opportunity for India to make it into the countries



with top 10 container ports in the world,” the court said.

The NHAI had approached the court seeking approval in view of earlier directions passed by the high court in a long-pending mangrove protection PIL, which requires prior court permission for the destruction of mangroves even in public projects.

The court, in its order, said NHAI had complied with com-

pensatory afforestation requirements. The project proponent has undertaken the plantation of 1.33 lakh mangroves on 30 hectares of land and deposited more than ₹4.83 crore towards mangrove compensatory afforestation, apart from other payments required under forest clearance conditions. With this clearance, key pending issues affecting

Bail to 5 held for non-veg party on boat in Ganga

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Varanasi

Five persons arrested for allegedly consuming liquor and holding a non-vegetarian party on a boat in the Ganga river in Varanasi were granted bail, their counsel said.

Advocate Vikas Singh said the accused were released by the court of the executive magistrate/assistant commissioner of police after furnishing two sureties of ₹20,000 each along with personal bonds.

The accused were identified as Deepak Kumar of Sujabad Padav in Ramnagar, boatman Ajay Sahni, Arun Kumar Sahni of Domri in Ramnagar, Anurag Nishad and Rahul Sahni of Bandha Road in Sujabad, Ramnagar.

The case came to light after a video allegedly showing the five men consuming beer and holding a non-vegetarian party on a boat in the river went viral on social media on Monday.

Following an investigation, the police identified



the individuals involved, arrested them and seized the boat.

The five accused, aged between 25 and 32 years, were arrested on June 23, Dasasvamedh ACP Atul Anjan Tripathi said.

Earlier this year, a similar controversy had surfaced when a video showing people eating biryani on a boat in the Ganga river went viral on social media on March 16. The Kotwali police had arrested 14 Muslim youths the following day in connection with that incident. The accused in that case were later granted bail by the Allahabad High Court.

Ayodhya donation row: SC to take up plea for fair, time-bound probe on June 29

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked a petitioner to mention before it on June 29 his plea seeking registration of an FIR, and a fair and time-bound probe into the alleged embezzlement of donations received at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The matter was mentioned for urgent listing before a bench of Justices BV Nagarathna and Joymalya Bagchi. The petition, filed by practising advocates Ajay Kumar Rai and Dinesh Kumar Yadav, said a CBI-led multi-disciplinary special investigation team (SIT) should investigate the alleged financial irregularities and other purported illegalities concerning the affairs and administration of the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.

On Thursday, one of the petitioners mentioned the matter and urged the bench that the plea be listed for hearing on June 29.

“This is a PIL (public interest

litigation) and it relates to the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. It has been numbered but no date is shown,” the petitioner said.

The bench observed if there was no deficiency in the plea, the registry would process it.

“Please approach the registry. If the deficiency is removed, it will be listed,” the bench said. The petitioner said the plea was registered and there were no deficiencies.

When he requested that the matter be listed for hearing on June 29, the bench said, “You mention it on Monday (June 29).”

The petition has sought directions to the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh government and the Trust for constituting and operationalising such regulatory, supervisory and audit mechanisms as may be necessary to safeguard public interest and maintain the confidence of millions of devotees and donors.

“Whether or not the reports regarding missing funds and other alleged irregularities concerning the Shri Ram



Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust are ultimately found to be true, such reports have caused deep concern among the generations that struggled for the restoration of the glory of Ayodhya,” the plea stated.

It said the SIT constituted by the Uttar Pradesh government has commenced its inquiry into the matter without the registration of an FIR or any regular criminal case.

The plea said the veracity of reports concerning alleged missing funds and other purported irregularities involving the Trust ought to be independently verified through a professional investigation conducted by a unified agency

possessing the requisite expertise, resources and institutional mechanisms for handling complex financial and criminal investigations.

“Such an inquiry would inspire greater public confidence than a preliminary probe conducted by a special investigation team (SIT) comprising administrative officers who may not possess specialised credentials in criminal investigation,” the plea said.

It said the issues involved not only concern the possible commission of cognisable offences but also directly affect the faith, sentiments and confidence of countless devotees and the public.

On June 13, the Uttar Pradesh government constituted the SIT on a request from the temple trust following allegations of misappropriation of donations received at the Ayodhya Ram temple.

The SIT comprises Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, Inspector General of Police Kiran S and Finance Department Special Secretary Neel Ratan.

Jharkhand HC relief to CM in model code violation case



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ranchi

The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday quashed criminal proceedings against Chief Minister Hemant Soren in a case related to the alleged violation of the model code of conduct during the 2014 assembly elections.

Soren was facing prosecution before a district court in West Singhbhum district in connection with the case.

Justice Anil Kumar Choudhary set aside the proceedings after hearing the matter at length.

An FIR was lodged at

Adityapur police station in 2014 alleging violation of the model code of conduct by Soren.

The chief minister had subsequently moved the high court, which had earlier stayed the criminal proceedings against him.

During the hearing, Soren's counsel contended that no violation of the model code had taken place and alleged that the FIR was lodged due to political vendetta.

The counsel submitted that Soren had merely participated in an election campaign for a candidate of his party.

Delhi HC permits rape survivor to terminate 28-week pregnancy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Delhi High Court has permitted a 15-year-old rape survivor to medically terminate her 28-week pregnancy, observing that although the law does not provide for abortion after 24 weeks, such permission can be accorded in view of grave mental injury and trauma inflicted upon the mind of a minor girl.

A vacation bench of Justice Mini Pushkarna, however, clarified that if the child is born alive in this case, authorities must offer medical assistance to the baby, involve the Child Welfare Committee, and if so wished by the girl



and her father, give the baby up for adoption.

The bench further directed AIIMS Delhi to preserve the foetus's tissue for DNA testing, which would be required in the criminal case. Invoking Right to Life, the

petitioner, who filed the plea through her father, told the court that she wanted to terminate her approximately 26-28 weeks pregnancy arising from an incident of rape.

She submitted that continuing the pregnancy would result in grave mental injury to her.

“The petitioner is permitted to get herself admitted at AIIMS, New Delhi on the strength of the present order for medical termination of her pregnancy. Let the procedure for termination of pregnancy be carried out by a team of competent doctors (as per law),” said the court in its order passed on June 24.

FROM THE WORLD

COLOMBIA

Trump-backed candidate wins

Conservative outsider Abelardo de la Esperiella, a millionaire political neophyte, will be Colombia's next president after electoral authorities on Wednesday declared him the winner of Sunday's runoff election. The businessman and lawyer, whose ventures include a clothing line, wine and rum brands, and a restaurant, earned US President Donald Trump's endorsement despite never having run for office. He defeated progressive lawmaker Ivan Cepeda by 1 percentage point, or more than 2,51,000 votes. The result effectively was an indictment of outgoing President Gustavo Petro's government, whose policies Cepeda had promised to continue, including a largely failed effort to establish dialogue with multiple armed groups.

USA

Hawaii gun law struck down

The Supreme Court struck down a Hawaii law requiring people to get permission to carry guns into stores and hotels on Thursday, in its latest opinion backing Second Amendment rights. The high court's 6-3 decision means people can carry guns onto privately owned property like shopping malls and gas stations, unless the owners specifically say guns are banned at their establishments. It comes shortly after the court found that marijuana users can't be completely banned from owning firearms. It's a win for President Donald Trump's Republican administration, which argued the law violates the Second Amendment. The measure was sometimes referred to as a "vampire rule" because it required people with guns get permission to enter, like vampire lore says bloodsuckers need an invitation to enter a home.

Oil tankers use new route through Hormuz despite Iranian threats

JON GAMBRELL / MATTHEW LEE ■ Dubai

Several tankers made their way out of the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday using a new route promoted by a UN maritime agency. Iran has threatened vessels using the path, which runs along the coast of Oman.

The opening of an alternative passage through the vital waterway would relieve pressure on the world economy and remove Iran's main source of leverage in ongoing peace talks with the United States. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, on a visit to the Gulf to reassure American allies, said Washington was committed to the new route.

Traffic through the strait has increased but is still well below prewar levels. Oil on Thursday briefly dipped below its last prewar price of just under \$73 per barrel, a sign that the market believes the situation is improving.

The two sides are still debating terms of an interim peace deal — from getting ships through the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf to the future of Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium.

Under the memorandum of understanding signed last week, the US and Iran agreed to a 60-day period to iron out the details. As talks are held behind closed doors, US President Donald Trump and Iranian leaders have seemed to negotiate in public, trading threats and claiming concessions the other side denies.

The flare-up of fighting in Lebanon between Israel and Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants has meanwhile



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio with Bahrain's Foreign Minister AP

threatened the wider truce. Israel's first airstrike on Lebanon since a ceasefire took effect over the weekend killed two people on Wednesday, according to Lebanon's state-run news agency.

The oil tankers, led by the Stoic Warrior vessel, sailed along the coast of the United Arab Emirates and then Oman early Thursday, passing by Oman's Musandam Peninsula fairly close to the shore. The route was laid out by Oman and the International Maritime Organisation, a UN agency.

North of the route is the Traffic Separation Scheme corridor, in the center of the strait, where ships had moved through freely before the war, transporting about a fifth of all the world's oil and natural gas.

Iran said it mined that passage after the US and Israel attacked it on Feb. 28, and at least one mine has been sighted there. Though

some ships had been getting out of the strait, with US military support, the UN agency's effort is the latest to free trapped vessels. The shipping company Maersk said its container ship, the Maersk Baltimore, and another chartered vessel had also made it out of the strait on Thursday.

Last week, 125 vessels crossed the strait, up from 33 the week before, according to marine data and analysis firm Lloyd's List Intelligence.

According to S&P Global, Wednesday saw 78 transits, the most since the war began. Among the vessels were 10 crude oil tankers, including five outbound large carriers that can carry up to 2 million barrels of oil.

Still, that daily total is below the average of 130 or more from before the war.

"Opportunistic operators - and there are many of them - emboldened by the lower transit risk, or at least the perceived lower transit risk, have

NO TOLLS ON SHIPS: US

Dubai: Rubio met with foreign ministers from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council to assure them that their interests would be protected in any agreement with Iran. Those countries, including major energy producers reliant on the Strait of Hormuz for exports, came under attack by Iran after the start of the war.

"There is no part in this deal that's undertaken that in any way undermines the security, the stability or the prosperity of any of our partners in the Gulf region," Rubio said at the meeting in Bahrain, home to the US Navy's 5th Fleet. He later told journalists the US and Gulf allies would ensure there would be no fees charged on ships moving through the strait. He also criticized Iran's hard-liners for going "on their official media and making all kinds of pronouncements" that he described as not true.

He said the US wanted to make sure the Oman route continued for ships to transit the strait. "If that stops, then we're going to have a problem," Rubio said. (AP)

begun chasing the backlog of trapped cargoes that built up during the conflict," said Richard Meade, editor-in-chief at Lloyd's List.

The naval arm of the Revolutionary Guard, apparently reacting to the new shipping route and increased traffic, issued a warning Thursday, carried by Iran's state-run IRNA news agency. (AP)

Iran-US peace talks expected to resume next week, says Pakistan

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ■ Islamabad

Pakistan has said talks between the US and Iran are expected to resume next week. In a statement issued late on Wednesday, Pakistan's foreign office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi said "parties are on the table" and that the process was going on. The US and Iran last week signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at restoring peace in West Asia.

Earlier this week, they engaged in technical-level talks in Switzerland's Burgenstock, in the presence of mediators Pakistan, which has signed the memorandum as a "guarantor", and Qatar, following which they agreed on a roadmap towards a final peace deal in 60 days.

"Talks are continuing. I believe that the talks will resume next week, probably on Tuesday.. Basically, this is a temporary gap, and it is not as such a break," Andrabi was quoted as saying in the statement.

"Our delegation was there in Burgenstock for the 22nd June talks. I understand that our



Tahir Andrabi

delegation will also be there when the talks resume next week," he added.

He also said the expected resumption of talks between the US and Iran next week was a "positive development".

However, the US and Iran have not yet said anything on the possible resumption of talks.

Trump clashes with senate GOP over vote to block war against Iran

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Washington

President Donald Trump berated Senate Republicans face to face on Wednesday for allowing a vote to block his war in Iran, further escalating a feud that has diverted GOP efforts to focus on election-year affordability issues and brought much of the chamber's business to a halt.

Invited by Florida Sen Rick Scott to speak at a GOP luncheon in the Capitol, Trump had signalled ahead of time that he would use the closed-door meeting to push senators to pass his proof-of-citizenship voting bill. But the conversation was more



focused on Tuesday's vote to approve the war powers resolution, a mostly symbolic measure that allows Congress to rebuke the administration's military actions. The House passed its own version of the resolution earlier this month.

Trump had particular words for the four Republican senators who

voted with Democrats on the measure -- Republicans Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Susan Collins of Maine, Rand Paul of Kentucky and Bill Cassidy of Louisiana — after calling them "losers" on social media.

Most Republicans stayed quiet. But Cassidy, who lost reelection in his primary last month after Trump endorsed an opponent, stood up and defended his vote. "I stood and said, You have not told the American people what's going on," Cassidy told reporters after the meeting. "This was supposed to last four weeks, it's lasted four months. Our original objectives have not been achieved" he added.

Very close on trade deal with US; competitive tariff advantage important for India: Goyal

ADITI KHANNA ■ London

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that the trade pact with the US is "very close", but it cannot come into force unless India secures a competitive tariff advantage over its competitor nations.

"The day that happens, the deal is on," he said here at the India Global Forum (IGF) UK-India Week event.

Goyal is here on a three-day official visit to discuss issues related to the implementation of the India-UK free trade agreement.

The minister held two-day talks with US Trade Representative Jamieson



Union Minister Piyush Goyal during the India Global Forum (IGF) UK-India Week in London

AP

Greer in New Delhi this week on the first phase of the India-US bilateral trade agreement (BTA).

However, a statement by the commerce ministry gave no indication that all differences were resolved ahead of the expiry of 10 per cent temporary tariff on July 24.

A free trade agreement is fundamentally aimed at providing a comparative advantage over competitor countries in terms of market access, he said.

"And until the framework of getting that competitive advantage can be finalised, we can't enter into force a US deal. I don't think I can be

more transparent than that..So that's broadly the discussions (between India and the US) on how the US will find the appropriate tools and legal backing to give us that competitive advantage over our competitors," he added.

When the framework of the first phase of the BTA was finalised, India had a comparative advantage over its competitor countries, such as ASEAN nations (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia), Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Under the framework, the US had announced an 18 per

cent tariff on Indian goods. At that time, tariffs on India's competing countries ranged from 19 to 20 per cent. But now, all countries face the same 10 per cent additional levy.

"There is always a little give and take (in an agreement)," he said, adding, "We are very close" to the deal.

Suggesting that the India-United States trade deal was 99 per cent complete, US Ambassador Sergio Gor, on June 3 in Mumbai, said that both sides were trying to resolve the remaining "1 per cent" sticking points and expected the long-awaited pact to be inked within the next several weeks. (PTI)

Powerful quake hits North Japan; no Tsunami warning issued

MARI YAMAGUCHI ■ Tokyo

A powerful earthquake struck off the northern coast of Japan during rush hour on Thursday morning, but the country's meteorological agency said there was no danger of a tsunami and no serious injuries were reported.

The tremor shook dozens of towns across northeastern Japan and was even mildly felt in the capital, Tokyo. It hit in an area where strong earthquakes have repeatedly been reported in recent months, including one that triggered a weeklong mega-quake caution advisory in December. In the town of Hashikami, a school principal recounted how her car shook



sideways when the quake struck as she was driving to work. Children already gathered at the school were safe, she said, though some were crying in fear.

The quake - off the eastern coast of the Iwate prefecture — had a magnitude of 7.2,

upgraded from an initial reading of 6.9, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Its depth was about 50 kilometres (30 miles), the agency said. The U.S. Geological Survey also reported the quake, giving its magnitude as 6.9. (AP)

Shiite Muslims mark holy day of Ashoura after months of war in Iran, Lebanon

KAREEM CHEHAYEB ■ Beirut

Shiite Muslims around the world on Thursday marked Ashoura, a holy day symbolising sacrifice and martyrdom that holds special significance for many this year after months of war in Iran and Lebanon.

Ashoura commemorates the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, at the Battle of Karbala in 680 AD. Imam Hussein was killed with his family and companions after refusing to pledge allegiance to the Umayyad caliphate.

The event cemented the schism between Sunni and Shiite Islam and remains a powerful symbol of resistance against oppression and injustice.

This year, Ashoura comes after months of war in Iran and Lebanon, homes to two of the world's largest Shiite populations. Iran and the US this week launched talks aimed at finalising a fragile ceasefire agreement. On the first day of the war on Feb. 28,



Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed in an Israeli airstrike. The 86-year-old Khamenei was not just Iran's top political leader.

He also had a final say on all religious matters and was revered by millions of Shiites worldwide. Ashoura comes just days before his funeral procession. (AP)

SC allows Trump administration to end legal protections for Haitians, Syrians

LINDSAY WHITEHURST ■ Washington

The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed the Trump administration to end legal protections for migrants fleeing violence and natural disaster in Haiti and Syria, exposing hundreds of thousands more people to potential deportation.

The 6-3 decision overturns lower court orders and allows the Department of Homeland Security to swiftly end temporary protected status, a program that protects a total of 1.3 million people from 17 countries.

The Trump administration argued that judges can't



second-guess immigration officials' decisions about the protections, which were intended to be temporary.

Immigration attorneys said the countries remain unsafe to return, and the administration ended them in an unlawfully hasty process tinged by racial

animus. During his 2024 presidential campaign, Trump amplified false rumors that Haitian immigrants were abducting and eating dogs and cats.

The Justice Department appealed to the Supreme Court after judges postponed the end of the program for

about 350,000 Haitians and 6,000 Syrians. The high court sided with the administration before and allowed the end of the program for people from Venezuela.

Federal authorities deny that racial animus played a role. They also cited a Supreme Court decision from Trump's first term that rejected bias claims based on his social media posts and upheld a travel ban on several Muslim-majority countries. DHS has ended the protections people from 13 countries since Trump returned to the White House in January 2025, including some that had been in place for more than a decade.

The terminations were made even though countries like Haiti and Syria remain dangerous, immigration attorneys said. Four Haitian women who were deported from the United States in February were found beheaded and dumped in a river several months later, lawyers said in court documents.

The House passed legislation with a rare bipartisan vote in April that would extend protections for Haitians, though the bill has languished in the Senate.

The US first granted protections to Haitians in 2010 after a catastrophic earthquake, and extended them multiple

times amid ongoing gang violence that has displaced more than a million people, according to court documents.

Syrians, meanwhile, were first granted protected status in 2012, during a civil war that lasted for more than a decade before the fall of President Bashar Assad's government in late 2024.

TPS was created by Congress in 1990 to prevent deportations to countries suffering from natural disasters, civil strife and other instability. It allows people already in the country to stay with work permits in increments of up to 18 months, but it doesn't provide a path to citizenship. (AP)



Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology S Krishnan, right, and US Under Secretary of State Jacob Helberg at the second Pax Silica Summit in Washington, DC, USA

PTI

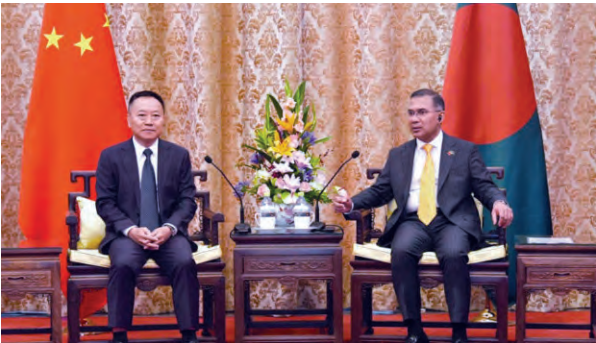
Bangladesh, China agree on Teesta management

KJM VARMA ■ Beijing

Bangladesh and China on Thursday agreed to strengthen cooperation in the management of the Teesta and other rivers.

The agreement was reached when Chinese water resources minister Li Guoying called on Bangladesh's Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, who is currently in Beijing, the state-run Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) news agency reported. Rahman, who chose Malaysia for his first visit abroad since assuming office earlier this year, arrived in the Chinese city of Dalian from Kuala Lumpur on Jun 22, where he attended a World Economic Forum event. On

Wednesday, he arrived in Beijing by a high-speed train from Dalian and is expected to hold meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Qiang and other senior officials. During his meeting with Li, Rahman highlighted Bangladesh's ongoing river excavation programme aimed at reducing flood risks, protecting the environment, and ensuring the proper management of water resources, the report said. In this connection, he sought China's support in improving Bangladesh's water resource management. Rahman also sought Chinese technical assistance in the Teesta management project, the report said. In response, the Chinese



minister assured full cooperation to the Bangladesh Government's initiatives in water resource management, it said. Referring to the a Memorandum of Understanding signed between Dhaka and Beijing in 2005, as well as the visit of Chinese water experts to

Bangladesh last year, Li said that bilateral cooperation between the two countries in water resource management is practical and research-based. Rahman also sought China's assistance in preventing riverbank erosion, improving irrigation systems, and enhancing inland water

navigation in Bangladesh, the report said. The Chinese minister noted that Bangladesh could benefit from China's experience in water management and invited Bangladeshi water experts and officials concerned to receive training in China, it said.

The Teesta project is a sensitive issue in India-Bangladesh relations, which has shown signs of improvement after Rahman's Government took over in February, ending the brief rule of an interim Government headed by Muhammad Yunus, during which New Delhi-Dhaka ties deteriorated. China has for years shown interest in developing the Teesta River

Management and Restoration Project, located near India's sensitive Siliguri Corridor connecting the mainland with the north-eastern states.

Against this backdrop, India in 2024 offered technical and conservation assistance for the Teesta basin, reflecting Delhi's efforts to deepen cooperation with Dhaka on transboundary river management.

Water sharing remains a key issue in New Delhi-Dhaka ties. The issue has assumed more significance because the India-Bangladesh Ganges Water Treaty, signed in 1996 for 30 years, to govern dry-season sharing of the Ganges river, is due to expire this year unless renewed. (PTI)

India hands over ₹250 crore for Bhutan stimulus plan



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Thimphu

India on Thursday handed over the fifth tranche of ₹250 crore to Bhutan for its Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP), the Indian Embassy said. This brought the total disbursed amount so far to ₹1,250 crore out of India's committed support of ₹1,500 crore for the ESP. India routinely funds projects in the neighbouring Himalayan nation. Over 30 per cent of the capital expenditure in Bhutan's budget for 2026-27 will be supported through grants by the Indian Government. On Thursday, New Delhi's Ambassador in Thimphu, Sandeep Arya, handed over an ₹250-crore cheque to Bhutan's Foreign Minister

Lyongpo DN Dhungyel, according to a press release by the Indian Embassy.

Arya observed that India has been fulfilling its development commitments to Bhutan and disbursing funds under the 13th Five-Year Plan (2024-2029) for project assistance, ESP, high-impact community development projects and programme grants, the embassy said.

Dhungyel said the ESP has contributed to Bhutan's post-pandemic economic revitalisation and employment generation. He highlighted the ESP's positive impact on farmers, students, youth, small and medium enterprises, startups, creative industry, hospitality and tourism sectors, the press release said.

Russia moved air defenses to protect Moscow, says Zelenskyy

ILLIA NOVIKOV ■ Kyiv

Russia is moving a significant part of its air defences to protect a handful of prime targets, including Moscow, as Ukraine's long-range drones continue to hammer sites deep inside the country, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says.

Ukraine has in recent months stepped up its aerial campaign against Russian military installations and energy facilities. Its success has caused fuel shortages and disrupted army supply lines, stalling Moscow's invasion of its neighbour after more than four years of fighting and rattling Russian officials. Zelenskyy said in his daily video address late Wednesday that Russia is moving more air defences to the capital as well as to Valдай, a town some 500 kilometres northwest of Moscow where Russian



President Vladimir Putin has a residence, and to protect the Kerch Bridge, which is a vital supply route connecting the Crimean Peninsula with the Russian mainland.

"In the Moscow region alone, they have amassed hundreds of launchers" for

air defence missiles, Zelenskyy said. "Nearly 90 launchers have been redeployed to Valдай from other regions of Russia." Ukrainian drones have recently hit Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city and Putin's hometown. Ukraine is also trying to cut

off Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula that Russia invaded and illegally annexed in 2014.

The changes, Zelenskyy suggested, would leave other parts of Russia vulnerable to Ukraine's increasingly sophisticated long-range drones, which can now fly more than 1,500 kilometres.

"There are many difficulties (for Russia), all because Putin refuses to end his war and to hear our proposals for a meeting, genuine negotiations, and a dignified peace," Zelenskyy said. Zelenskyy has accepted an unconditional ceasefire demanded by US President Donald Trump but Putin has refused, and a year of US-led peace efforts made no significant headway. Ukraine's prospects have brightened after more than four years of a gruelling war of attrition as its domestic development and production of cutting-

edge drones pin down the bigger Russian army.

Trump, who has previously been critical of Zelenskyy, said at the White House on Wednesday that the Ukrainian leader is "courageous" and "doing pretty well" in the war. Zelenskyy said he won pledges of sustained foreign support when he attended a recent summit of G7 leaders, including Trump, and that promised aid will help further fuel Ukraine's intensified campaign.

"Our operation, including the one concerning Crimea, has been carefully planned, and the way it is unfolding clearly demonstrates that if Ukraine receives exactly what we discussed with our partners at the G7 -- and that depends on our partners' decisions -- we will quickly create conditions in which Russia will be forced to choose peace," he said. (AP)

King Charles to reveal personal tax bill for first time

DANICA KIRKA ■ London

King Charles III is expected to become the first British monarch to reveal his personal tax bill on Thursday as he responds to demands for greater transparency in royal finances after months of embarrassing headlines about his disgraced younger brother, the former Prince Andrew.

The information will be released during Buckingham Palace's annual briefing on the sovereign grant, the mechanism through which taxpayers fund the monarchy. British media reported over the weekend. Last year, the palace published a 159-page report on how it spent the 86.3 million pounds (\$13.7 million) it received from the Treasury, including funds for a major renovation of the palace.



कार्यालय:- असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक-सह-मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, रांची।
- जिला स्वास्थ्य समिति, रांची -
Email :- Csofficeranchi@yahoo.com

Short Tender Notification

Civil Surgeon Cum Chief Medical Officer, Ranchi invites separate Technical & Financial Price Bid (Two Bid System) through tender from the registered and eligible firms for Rate Contract of AERB Compliance for **1. HIGH COURT DISPENSARY** in Ranchi District. The Blank Tender documents with detail conditions can be obtained from office & through www.sadarhospitalranchi.org.in

Sl.NO.	Particulars	Details
1	Name of the work	रेडियोलॉजी मशीन एवं एचए-रे कक्ष को AERB मान्यपत्र के अनुसार अपडेट किए जाने के संबंध में।
2	Date and time of start of submission of Bid	27.06.2026 से
3	Late Date and time for submission of Bid	04.07.2026 को अपराह्न 03 बजे
4	Date and Time for opening of Bid	06.07.2026 को अपराह्न 03 बजे
5	EMD in favoring District Rural Health Society, Ranchi	5,000.00 (Five Thousand)
6	Application Fee (Non-Refundable) in favoring District Rural Health Society, Ranchi	500.00 (Five Hundred)
7	Venue for getting & submission of tender document	District Health Society, Civil Surgeon Office, Sadar Hospital Campus, Ranchi-834001
8	Contact Number for any query	9470357559
9	Affidavit, Tender Fee and EMD हाथ-हाथ कार्यालय में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि	04.07.2025 को अपराह्न 03 बजे

PR 383352 (Health Med Edu and Family Welfare) 26-27 (D)



GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Co-operative Department
(Co-Operative Division)
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES JHARKHAND, RANCHI
INTEGRATED CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (I.C.D.P.) CELL, RANCHI

Short e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No:- ICDP/RANCHI/24/2026-27 DATE:- 25.06.2026

SL. No.	Name of work	No Of Unit	Estimated Value of Work (in Rs)	Cost Of BoQ (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Of Completion Of Work
01.	Construction of Solar Agro MFP Processing Unit (Civil Work) at Various Palsce of Jharkhand.	05	17,02,248 X 5 = 85,11,240.00	10,000.00	1,72,300.00	06 Months
02.	Date Of Publication of on Website					01.07.2026 AT 11:00 AM
03.	Last Date & Time of Submission of bids					10.07.2026 AT 05:00 PM
04.	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender					State Monitoring Officer, ICDP Cell, Ranchi, Pasupalan-Sahkarita Bhawan Singh More, Hesag, Hatia, Ranchi. 834003
05.	Contact No of Procurement Officer					7979760612, 7250895727

06. Bid document with details terms and conditions will be available online on e-tendering portal, <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in> from 01.07.2026 at 11:00 AM to 10.07.2026 up to 05:00 PM. Bids must be Submitted online only at the e-tendering portal <http://Jharkhandtender.gov.in> on or before 05:00 PM on 10.07.2026. Tender Fee and EMD Will be received through online mode only. Bidders can use internet banking facility for faster processing of tender fee and EMD. Alternatively, bidders can use NEFT/RTGS chahlan generated for the tender from Jharkhandtenders.gov.in portal. Technical Bid received online will be opened at 05:00 PM on 13.07.2026

07. Estimate Cost May Vary.

08. Corrigendum/Amendment if any will be published only on the above mentioned website. **Sd/-**

State monitoring Officer
ICDP Cell, Ranchi



STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND
Government of Jharkhand

e-procurement Notice inviting RFP for Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC)

Ref No: SHAJ/Proc/CW/Sahanand Chowk – Judge Colony/2024/490 Date: 24.06.2026

- State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites Request for Proposal for Engineering Procurement & Construction basis from eligible bidders for "Construction of Four Lane Elevated Road from Near Sahajanand Chowk to Near Judge Colony, Ranchi in the state of Jharkhand." The approximate cost of the work is **Rs. 326.61 crore**.
- The interested bidders who have experience in execution of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Request for Proposal (RFP) document for Engineering, Procurement & Construction document from e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in from **06.07.2026 (03:00 P.M.) to 27.07.2026 (upto 12:30 P.M.)**.
The complete RFP Application shall be submitted online by **27.07.2026 (upto 12:30 PM)** on e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in All the details regarding this RFP will be available on the above mentioned website. It will open on **28.07.2026 (at 12:30 PM)**.
- The contractors are required to submit non-refundable Tender Fee of **Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty thousand only) & Bid Security (EMD) of Rs. 3.27 Cr. (Rs. Three Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs) only**. Tender fees and Earnest money Deposit (EMD) shall be deposited online as per **Information Technology & E-Governance Department order no 120 dated 03.10.2023**.
- No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag. The cost of the work and Bid Security (EMD) may change.**

Sd/-

Member (Technical)
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi
Deen Dayal Nagar
(Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Division, Ranchi)

PR 383212 State Highway Authority of Jharkhand (26-27)_D

Booty Road, Ranchi-834008, Ph.: 0651-2361306, E-mail: memberbtechnical.shaj3@gmail.com

कार्यालय :-असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक-सह-मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, खूंटी

झारखण्ड स्टेट आरोग्य सोसाइटी के अन्तर्गत सविदा के आधार पर नियुक्ति हेतु विज्ञापन

विज्ञापन संख्या :- 01/2026 आवेदन जमा करने हेतु अंतिम तिथि :-...10.07.2026
आयुस्मान भारत-प्रधानमंत्री जन आरोग्य योजना के लिए झारखण्ड स्टेट आरोग्य सोसाइटी के अन्तर्गत खूंटी जिले के निम्नलिखित पदों पर एक वर्ष की अवधि के लिए सविदा के आधार पर नियुक्ति हेतु योग्य अभ्यर्थियों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।

SI No.	Position	No. of Post	Desired Qualification and Experience	Remunerati on (Rs./per Month)	Age Limit
1	District Program Coordinator	01-UR	Essential Qualification - MBBS/MBA in healthcare or Master of health/ Hospital Administration/Master of Public Health full time regular university degree. - At least 2 years of experience in implementation of government health insurance programme or insurance industry or TPA (Third Party Administrator)	50,000.00	Up to 45 Years

सभी तरह से विहित प्रपत्र में पूर्ण आवेदन को लिफाफे में निबधित डाक/ स्पीड पोस्ट से कार्यालय असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक-सह-मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी, खूंटी के कार्यालय में दिनांक-10.07.2026 के अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक जमा कराया जा सकता है।

उक्त नियुक्ति संबंधित अन्य शर्तें, अहर्ता, आवेदन प्रपत्र इत्यादि का विवरण खूंटी जिला के वेबसाइट <http://khunti.nic.in> एवं अखोहस्तारक्षी के सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

असैनिक शल्य चिकित्सक-सह-मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी,खूंटी
PR 383282 Health Med Edu and Family Welfare(26-27)#D

कार्यालयक अभियंता का कार्यालय,लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल, गुमला

अल्पकालीन ई० निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई० निविदा संख्या MID/GUMLA/ F/- 07/2026-27 दिनांक - 22.06.2026

- ई- निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी के कार्यालय का नाम एवं पता- कार्यालयक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमण्डल, गुमला।
- ई निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का मोबाईल नं० :- 0301 8102451272
- वेबसाइट में ई-निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय :- 03.07.2026 (अपराह्न 02:00 बजे से)
- वेबसाइट में ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- 09.07.2026 (अपराह्न 04:00 बजे तक)
- ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 10.07.2026 (अपराह्न 05:00 बजे)

क्र०	योजना का नाम	प्रखण्ड	मद	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपये में)	अंशदान की राशि (रुपये में)	परिमार्ण विपन्न की मूल्य (रुपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Construction of Toe wall and stone Pitching on the road taking to Dingoan Panchayat Bhawan (near Aditya Dham) Village- Tugsoan, Panchayat- Dingoan, Block- Ghaghra, Dist- Gumla	घाघरा	अनामद	7106650.00	142200.00	10000.00	03 माह

नोट:-

- केवल ई० निविदा ही स्वीकार की जायेगी।
- निविदा शुल्क एवं अंशदान की राशि केवल **Online Mode** द्वारा ही स्वीकार्य होगी।
- निविदा शुल्क एवं अंशदान की राशि का ई-गुमलान लिस्ट खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अंशदान की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो सारी जवाबदेही संबंधित निविदादाता की होगी।
- प्राक्कलित राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है। अंशदान की राशि परिमाण विपन्न की राशि के अनुसार होगी।
- सत्य सरकार के द्वारा निर्मित सभी अद्यतन आदेश/ संशोधन लागू होंगे।
- विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाइट- <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यालयक अभियंता, लघु सिंचाई प्रमंडल,गुमला

PR 383345 Minor Irrigation(26-27)_D



पुलिस अधीक्षक का कार्यालय रामगढ़।
Email:- sp-ramgarh@jhpolic.gov.in
आवश्यक सूचना सर्वसाधारण के लिए सूचना
अभियुक्त व्यक्ति की हाजिरी की अपेक्षा करने वाली उद्घोषणा
(धारा 84 देखिए)

मेरे सम्बन्धित किया गया है कि **Ajay Saw, S/o- Mithun Kalindi, R/o- Sunday Bazar, church Road, Chandrapura, PS- Chandrapura, Dist-Bokaro** ने भारतीय दण्ड संहिता की धारा-380/457 भा०दण्डवि० के अन्तर्गत चंडनीय संज्ञेय, अपराध किया है और उस पर जारी किए गए निगरानी के वारंट को यह लिखकर तोड़ा दिया गया है कि उक्त **Ajay Saw** मिल नहीं रहा है और मुझे सम्भाव्य रूप में यह दृष्टित कर दिया गया है कि **Ajay Saw** फरार हो गया है (या उक्त वारंट की तामिला से बचने के लिए अपने आपको छिपा रहा है)।

इसलिए उसके द्वारा उद्घोषणा की जाती है कि पतरातु(उत्पत्तकाना) थाना कार्ड सं०-191/2023 दिनांक-01.11.2023, धारा-380/457 भा०दण्डवि० के प्राथमिक अभियुक्त **Ajay Saw, S/o- Mithun Kalindi, R/o- Sunday Bazar, church Road, Chandrapura, PS- Chandrapura, Dist-Bokaro** से अपेक्षा की जाती है कि वह माननीय न्यायालय के सम्भा या मेरे सम्बन्ध उक्त परिवाद का उत्तर देने के लिए स्थान **J.M 1st Class, Ramgarh** 10.07.2026 तक हाजिर हो।
तिथि:-02.06.2026 (न्यायालय का मुखर)

ह०- (शिवेन्द्र द्विवेदी)
न्यायिक दण्डाधिकारी, प्रथम श्रेणी रामगढ़।

अतः सभी जन साधारण से अनुरोध है कि यदि फरार प्राथमिकी अभियुक्त **Ajay Saw, S/o- Mithun Kalindi, R/o- Sunday Bazar, church Road, Chandrapura, PS- Chandrapura, Dist-Bokaro** कहीं मिलते/ दिखते हैं तो इसके संबंध में पुलिस अधीक्षक कार्यालय/ **Sri Shivendu Dwivedi, J.M 1st Class, Ramgarh (Jharkhand)** के न्यायालय में इसकी सूचना देें या निम्नांकित फोन नम्बर पर संपर्क कर इसकी जानकारी दें।

पुलिस अधीक्षक रामगढ़ मो० न०-9431706113
ओपी० प्रभावी बरकाकाना, जिला-रामगढ़।
मोबाईल न०-9513294876

PR 383211 Police(26-27)_D

पुलिस अधीक्षक, रामगढ़।

AFFIDAVIT

I, Tara Kumari D/o Ganesh Yadav, R/o At/ P.O. Kapka, Barkatta, Distt. Hazaribagh, Jharkhand-825 323 do hereby solemnly affirm & declare as follows:-

- That due to mistake my name and date of birth written as "Tara Kumari" and D/O/B: 16/08/2008 in my Aadhar No: 2729 1252 6253, whereas as per my original Marksheet issued for Annual Secondary Exam, 2024 under JAC, Ranchi being Roll Code-21149, Roll No: 0115 Regn. No:21149-23995-22 my actual name and date of birth are: "Tara Kumari", D/O/B: 12/03/2008".
- That this affidavit is made for correcting my name & date of birth as "Tara Kumari ", D/O/B: 12/03/2008", in the said Aadhar records for needful and paper publication for needful.
- SI. No-26, Date-25.06.2026

कार्यालयक दण्डाधिकारी सिमडेगा

शपथ-पत्र

मैं गीता देवी पति स्व० मनोज नागसिंहा उम्र 41 वर्ष निवास ग्राम- बिर्सा बुधगुहार पोस्ट- बिर्सा, थाना- सिमडेगा, जिला-सिमडेगा (झारखण्ड) शपथ पूर्वक ध्यान करती हूँ।
1. यह कि उपरोक्त पत्र की स्थायी निवासी हूँ।
2. यह कि, मेरे पुत्र के आधार कार्ड सं० 8102 8975 4260 में नाम TILCHOAN NAGESYA एव जन्म तिथि 30.09.2009 ई० दर्ज है जो गलत है।
3. यह कि, मेरे पुत्र का जन्म प्रमाण पत्र जो ग्राम पंचायत बिर्सा के पंचियत सं० 820252003997000093 दिनांक 19/11/2025 ई० द्वारा जारी प्रमाण पत्र में मेरे पुत्र का नाम TILCHOAN NAGESYA एव जन्म तिथि 30/09/2010 ई० दर्ज है जो सही एवं वास्तविक नाम एवं जन्म तिथि है।
4. यह कि मेरे पुत्र के आधार कार्ड सं० 810289754260 में नाम एवं जन्म तिथि सुपर कर सही नाम TILCHOAN NAGESYA एव जन्म तिथि 30/09/2010 ई० दर्ज करने हेतु यह शपथ पत्र दे रही हूँ।
SI. No-6844, Date-13.06.2026

कार्यालयक दण्डाधिकारी सिमडेगा

शपथ-पत्र

मैं रामकी महतो पिता जलेश्वर महतो, उम्र लगभग 28 वर्ष, धर्म-हिन्दू राष्ट्रीयता- भारतीय, निवासी ग्राम- सुपरगढ़, पो०+ थाना-बरहाना, जिला-रामगढ़ (झारखण्ड) शपथपूर्वक ध्यान करता हूँ कि :- 1. यह कि, मेरा पुत्र का सही एवं वास्तविक नाम प्रिंस महतो (PRINCE MAHTO) है जो उसके नाम निर्गत जन्म प्रमाण पत्र में दर्ज है जो रजिस्टार जन्म एवं मृत्यु COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRES GOLA के द्वारा निर्गत है। जिसका रजि० नं० B-2020-20-04716-000596 पंजीकरण दिनांक 11/10/2020 तथा जारी करने तिथि 20/03/2025. 2. यह कि, मेरे पुत्र के आधार कार्ड में मेरे पुत्र का नाम भुलवरा दिनले कुमार (DENLE KUMAR) दर्ज है जो गलत है। 3. यह कि, यह शपथ-पत्र मैं अपने पुत्र का नाम आधार कार्ड में दिनले कुमार (DENLE KUMAR) के स्थान पर सुपर कर प्रिंस महतो (PRINCE MAHTO) दर्ज करने के लिए संबंधित विभाग में जमा करने हेतु निष्पादित कर रहा हूँ। 4. यह कि, उपरोक्त ध्यान सत्य एवं सही है।
SI. No- 4231, Date-06.06.2026

AFFIDAVIT

I, PAPIYA KUMARI, Daughter of Pradeep Pramanik, aged about 18 years, by faith-Hindu, Resident of Katalash Nagar, Chas, P.O. & P.S.-Chas, District- Bokaro, Jharkhand-827013 do hereby solemnly affirm on oath and declare as under:- 1. That, I am Indian Citizen and residing above mentioned address. 2. That, my name is mentioned as PAPIYA KUMARI in my entire educational/ academic certificates. 3. That, in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 7071 7114 2369, my name has been mentioned as AARUSHI PRAMANIK. 4. That, PAPIYA KUMARI and AARUSHI PRAMANIK are the names of same and one girl i.e. myself. 5. That, I intend to mention my name as PAPIYA KUMARI in place of AARUSHI PRAMANIK in my Aadhaar Card. 6. That, I solemnly declare that I shall at all times hereinafter in all records, deeds, writing, dealing, passport, visa, higher education as well as upon all occasions will be known as "PAPIYA KUMARI". 7. That, I am swearing this affidavit to submit it before the concerned authority in token of proof of contention made hereinabove and for needful purpose.
SI. No-1481, Date-24.06.2026

Before: The Notary Public, Ranchi

AFFIDAVIT

I, KHUSBOO KUMARI aged about 21 years, daughter of Shambhu Kumar, resident of Horanda, P.15 Kusal Colony, Kumbhar Toli Doranda, P.S. Doranda, District- Ranchi (Jharkhand) do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:- 1. That my full name is KHUSBOO KUMARI daughter of Shambhu Kumar and resided at above noted address. 2. That my Aadhar Card No. 9173 7569 8862. 3. That in my Aadhar Card my name wrongly entered as KHUSHBOO KUMARI instead of KHUSBOO KUMARI. 4. That correct spelling of my name is KHUSBOO KUMARI. 5. That this affidavit swear for the purpose of correction of name in Aadhar Card. 6. That the statements made above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
SI.No-939, Date-17.06.2026

Before: The Notary Public, Ranchi

AFFIDAVIT

I, Kundan Verma S/o Ram Lagan Verma R/o Madhukam, P.O: Hesal, Ratn Road, Dist. Ranchi, Jharkhand, do hereby solemnly affirm as under:- 1. That Shourya Verma is my son, her date of birth is 11/11/2015 according to his birth certificate. 2. That in Adhar card my son's name is wrongly written as Sourya Ram & Date of birth 14/11/2013 due to mistake. 3. That this affidavit is made for correction of my son's name Shourya Verma & Date of birth 11/11/2015 in the Adhar Card of my son. 4. That the statements made above are true and correct.
SI. No-03, Date-24.06.2026

▼ PROSPECT

Project Navbharat inspires students through ‘Know Your Army’ event at Sigar



As part of Project Navbharat, Spearhead Division organised an engaging ‘Know Your Army’ event at Sigar Military Station for students and NCC cadets from Don Bosco School and IGGJ Higher Secondary School. The programme aimed at fostering awareness about the Indian Army, inspiring patriotism among the youth and providing firsthand exposure to the life and ethos of a soldier. More than 100 students, accompanied by their teachers, participated in the event and interacted closely with Army personnel. A key highlight of the programme was an informative briefing on Operation Sindoor, which provided participants with insights into the professionalism, courage and operational capabilities of the Indian Army. The students also witnessed displays of modern weapons, surveillance and drone systems, offering them a glimpse into contemporary military technology and its role in modern warfare. The event further featured live firing demonstrations and a battle obstacle course, enabling participants to experience the challenges, discipline and determination that define military training. The interactive nature of the programme generated immense enthusiasm among the students and encouraged meaningful engagement with the Armed Forces.

Assam prepares for National Immunisation Day on June 28

More than a decade after India was declared polio-free, the country continues to undertake intensive immunisation efforts to protect children from the risk of polio virus transmission and importation. National Immunisation Day (NID) or often referred to as Polio Sunday, remains a key public health initiative to ensure that every child aged zero to five years receives protection through the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) in addition to the polio vaccine doses administered during the routine immunisation schedule. As part of the nationwide Pulse Polio Programme this year, the State of Assam along with the rest of the country will also observe the National Immunisation Day (NID) on June 28, with a target of vaccinating approximately 45 lakh children within the age group of zero to five across all the districts. Appealing to the people of Assam, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare Department, Ashok Singhal, has urged all parents to protect their child by giving them two drops of the polio vaccine during the campaign days. The Minister informed that the health department, with active participation of the district commissioners, has made elaborate arrangements in the districts for the successful conduct of the campaign and appealed to all sections of the society to join hands and ensure that every child of zero to five years of age in their localities receives the vaccine for ensuring the continued victory over polio for the state and the country.



Ashok Singhal

DoT notifies new telecom authorisation norms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Government has notified rules that operationalise a new authorisation-based framework in the telecom sector, marking a transition from the legacy licensing regime. The Centre has also notified the ‘Telecom eServices Portal’ that enables the digital implementation of the provisions of the Telecom Act.

A set of norms has been notified under the Telecom Act, among them, the Telecommunications (Authorisation for Provision of Main Telecommunication Services) Rules, 2025, that effectively shift entities from the old licence regime to a new authorisation-based framework.

Existing Unified Licence, UASL, ISP, NLD and ILD licensees can migrate to the new regime.

The draft of the rules pertaining to the authorisation-based framework was published on September 5, 2025, inviting objections and suggestions from stakeholders



Jyotiraditya Scindia

within 30 days — a window that was later extended to October 21, 2025.

“...comments and suggestions received in that period in respect of the said draft rules have been considered by the Central Government,” the notification by the Telecom Department said.

The rules allow any eligible entity to apply to the government for authorisation to provide telecom services either as a network service operator, a virtual network operator (VNO), or both.

“Any person may apply to the Central Government under rule 6 to obtain authorisation as a network service operator or virtual network operator or both to provide one or more telecommunication services that are within the scope and service area of any authorisation specified,” it said.

This includes unified service authorisation for a national service area, access service authorisation for one or more service areas, wireline access service authorisation, internet service authorisation for a national service area or one or more service areas, and long-distance service authorisation for a national service area.

Music meets social impact: Sonam Kalra supports HBA Foundation’s drowning prevention initiative

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Sonam Kalra, the world-renowned Sufi singer, demonstrated how powerful influencers can strengthen a cause. While she enthralled the audience at IIC with her Sufi songs, she supported the drowning prevention campaign spearheaded by Hemant Bala Advaita (HBA) Foundation.

It is painful for the family to lose the life of a younger member to drowning, and only parents can know what the pain is about. It never goes away. While stressing the need to create awareness that can prevent drowning, she also urged grieving parents not to weep over their beloved.

“Every soul that has passed remains with us in spirit,” she said. To capture this eternal connection, she beautifully recited the timeless verses of Mary Elizabeth Frye, leaving the audience with its comforting truth: ‘Do not stand at my grave and weep; I am not there, I do not sleep.’”



Among others who were present to strengthen the Drowning Prevention Mission were former Speaker of the Lok Sabha Meira Kumar, India’s Waterman and Raman Magsaysay Award Winner Dr Rajendra Singh, eminent Kathak dancer Shovana Narayan, senior IAS

officer Rashmi Singh, cultural visionary Sangeeta Gupta, strategic and defence expert Major General Karun Kumar Sinha (Retd.), veteran journalist Rakesh Sharma and Founder and Chairman of ANI Prem Prakash.

HBA convenor Santosh Verma stressed the need to create awareness about water safety measures, and he exhorted people to join this mission to multiply the efforts. There is a need for children to know what

Korean delegation visits YEIDA to explore investment opportunities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

A Korean delegation visited the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) on Thursday to explore investment opportunities in the region. The delegation included representatives from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources, Republic of Korea, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, and the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA).

The delegation comprised Kim Jinsoo, Director, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources; Kang Hong Koo, Deputy Director, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources; Sungjoong Cho, Commercial Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Korea; Donghyon Kim, Managing Director, KOTRA South Asia Head Office; and Jaewook (Jake) Lee, Executive Director, India-Korea Business Cooperation Desk, KOTRA.

During the visit, Shailendra Kumar Bhatia, IAS, Additional Chief Executive Officer, YEIDA, made a presentation



on the investment potential of the YEIDA region. He highlighted the region’s strong connectivity, the operationalisation of the Noida International Airport, and the growing presence of leading investors such as Escorts Kubota, HCL-Foxconn and other prominent companies.

He further stated that investments in the YEIDA region are coming in key sectors and products such as semiconductor chips, electronics manufacturing, medical devices, automobile components and other emerging industrial segments, which have strengthened the region’s industrial and logistics ecosystem.

Bhatia also briefed the delegation about the pro-

posed Korean City in Sector 4A of YEIDA, planned to attract and facilitate Korean investment in the region. He further shared details of the proposed Korean City, spread over approximately 900 acres and having “Multiple Land Use Industry” as its land use, with provisions for industrial, residential, commercial and institutional facilities.

He also highlighted its strong connectivity, including doorstep access to Noida International Airport and proximity to Yamuna Expressway, Eastern Peripheral Expressway and Dedicated Freight Corridors, making it suitable for attracting and facilitating Korean investment in the region.

Institutional investors put in bids worth ₹1,900 cr in IRFC share sale

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Institutional investors on Wednesday put in bids worth over ₹1,900 crore for Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) shares, over-subscribing the portion reserved for them.

Non-retail investors placed bids for over 21.87 crore IRFC shares, or 1.86 times of the 11.76 crore shares reserved for them. The indicative price for the bids is ₹91.10 per share, stock exchange data showed.

The government is selling up to 2 per cent stake or 26.13 crore shares in IRFC at a floor price of ₹91/share. The OFS includes a greenshoe option of 1 per cent stake.

Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Arunish Chawla said the OFS has received “enthusiastic



response from the investors”. “The Government has decided to exercise the green shoe option. Retail investors and employees get to bid on Thursday, 25th June 2026,” Chawla said.

At the floor price, bids for over 21.87 crore IRFC shares are valued at over ₹1,900 crore.

The floor price of ₹91/share was set at a discount of 7.8 per cent over Tuesday’s closing price of IRFC shares on the BSE.

Shares of IRFC closed 6.24 per cent lower at ₹92.53 on the BSE on Wednesday.

DAILY SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

HOW TO SOLVE IT

Sudoku is a logic puzzle where you fill a 9×9 grid so that numbers 1 to 9 appear once in every row, column, and 3×3 box, using elimination and logical deduction—no maths involved.

SOLUTION (25.6.26)

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

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

FRIDAY | JUNE 26, 2026

ACROSS

8 Put a skirt, mother, on at least! (7)

9 Don't allow clutter in and stay well away from (4,5)

13 Item of furniture from the inventory (5)

14 The cheek is tender (5)

15 He performs first in a tear-jerker (7)

16 Hemmed in by two vehicles is a large vehicle (7)

17 Didn't go on foot with the animals (5)

18 The cockney kept her captive in the wood (5)

20 Ahead in the first half of the series, which is great (5)

22 Wrapped up, as a camper will be (6)

23 It's the lucky the master's gone to bed (6)

25 Strain to keep from (7)

DOWN

1 Shout just before the crashing plane hits the ground? (6)

2 Transfer to? Don't be ridiculous! (4,4)

3 Harping on, while applying the salve? (7,2,2)

4 Loses one's figure but doesn't let that stop one? (4,5)

5 Rushed the fish inside and kept it from drying out (7)

6 However, strivers after equality want us to be (3,3,4)

7 A whole lot of mothers and one son (4)

10 Dull, boring people from the backwoods? (6)

11 An officer and in command (7)

12 Something to hunt with - or hunt for (3)

SOLUTION (25.6.26)

ACROSS	21. Sports	DOWN	15. Par-R
4. Tot-Em	23. Deer (dear)	1. Sport	16. Art
7. Pullover	24. De-OM-e	2. Glenn	18. Tar-tar
8. Is-land	26. Ten	3. Toss	20. Guest
10. Ra-n-t	27. Trey	4. Trial	22. So-y
13. Pall (pale)	29. S-n-ub	5. Tell	23. Denier
14. Tin-a	32. Pair	6. Manure	25. Dots
15. Palm	33. State	9. Simo-OM	28. F-Risky
16. Are	34. M-inor-S	11. Air	30. Nat-Al
17. Stan	35. Ki-te ma-rk	12. T-aste	31. Becky
19. Ogre	36. F-risky	13. Panther	33. She-m

Punjab & Sind Bank celebrates its 119th Foundation Day



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

Punjab & Sind Bank celebrated its 119th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm and a spirit of public service. On this occasion, the Regional Office, Lucknow, took significant steps towards expanding banking services by inaugurating six new branches and dedicating a newly renovated model branch to the public.

The newly inaugurated branches include Unnao City (Unnao), Vrindavan Colony (Lucknow), Jankipuram Extension (Lucknow), Kamta Chauraha Chinhat (Lucknow), Berwa (Hardoi), and Sandila (Hardoi). In addition, the Vikas Nagar Branch, Lucknow, has been upgraded and dedicated to customers as a modern model branch equipped with enhanced facilities.

As part of the Foundation Day celebrations, a blood donation camp and a free dental health check-up camp were organised at the Vikas Nagar Model Branch

premises. Bank officials, employees, and local residents participated enthusiastically in these initiatives. The blood donation camp reinforced the message of service to society and humanity, while a large number of people benefited from health consultations and dental check-ups.

Addressing the gathering, Rajiv Kumar Bansal, General Manager, said that Punjab & Sind Bank has always remained committed to supporting the weaker and underprivileged sections of society. He stated that the bank's 119th Foundation Day is not only a celebration of its achievements but also a reaffirmation of its commitment to fulfilling its social responsibilities with greater dedication.

On this occasion, Avdhesh Narain Singh, Deputy General Manager & Regional Head, stated that throughout its glorious 119-year journey, Punjab & Sind Bank has consistently progressed on the values of customer trust, excellence in service, and social responsibility.

HUDCO celebrates 12th International Yoga Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) celebrated the 12th International Yoga Day with great enthusiasm across its offices nationwide.

The main event was organised by the Ministry of Ayush in association with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Aadya Kaushalam Trust, and Samarpan Sewa Trust at Ansal Plaza Park, HUDCO Place, New Delhi.

The programme was graced by Sanjay Kulshrestha, CMD; M Nagaraj, DCP; Daljeet Singh Khatri, Director (Finance); and Vineet Gupta, CVO, who inspired employees through their active participation in the yoga session and

reaffirmed the importance of adopting yoga as a way of life. In line with this year's theme, “Yoga for Healthy Ageing,” employees enthusiastically participated in activities promoting physical fitness, mental well-being, and a balanced lifestyle.

The celebrations extended across all HUDCO regional offices, reflecting the organisation's collective commitment to health and wellness.

Around 500 employees participated in the Yoga Day activities nationwide, underscoring HUDCO's continued focus on fostering a healthy and inclusive workplace culture. Through such initiatives, HUDCO remains dedicated to promoting holistic well-being and encouraging sustainable practices that contribute to the overall wellness of its workforce.



RITES LIMITED (A Govt. of India Enterprise)		
Shikhar, Plot No. 1, Sector – 29, Gurgaon – 122001		
Requires qualified professionals in following position(s)/discipline(s):		
VC No.	Post	No of Post
RG/30-R1/25	Assistant Manager (HR)	03
RG/02-R1/26	DGM (Civil - Tunnel Construction Expert)	01
RG/03-R1/26	DGM (Transport Economist)	01
RG/18-R2/25	DGM (Civil-Marine Structural Expert)	01
Last date of application		22.07.2026 (Wednesday)
For complete details, candidates may see the detailed advertisement posted on RITES website www.rites.com under Career Section.		

BRIEFLY

Neymar debuts in this WC as sub for Brazil against Scotland



Neymar has finally played in this World Cup, and Brazil has a superstar back in time for knockout rounds. Neymar checked in during the 76th minute against Scotland on Wednesday, with the team leading 3-0 and well on its way to clinching a spot in the knockout stage. Brazil won by that score. His appearance wasn't a surprise: Brazil said earlier this week that he would be available, clearing the way for the forward to make his debut after missing first two matches because of right calf injury. It was his first appearance for Brazil since 2023.

"I'm very happy to be wearing the national team jersey again after three years," he told, following an emotional embrace with his family. "I feel fine physically. It was tough being sidelined for all those days." He did not start, and it seemed like that was plan Brazil coach Carlo Ancelotti had all along when he raised the possibility earlier this week that Neymar could play as substitute.

Bosnia-Herzegovina boosts chances with win over Qatar

Ermin Mahmic stripped his jersey off, darted toward the corner of the pitch in front of Bosnia-Herzegovina's fans and pumped his right fist. The 21-year-old Mahmic prompted thousands of the team's supporters at Lumen Field to celebrate Wednesday following his 80th-minute goal against Qatar in a 3-1 victory that boosted Bosnia-Herzegovina's chances of advancing at the World Cup. Mahmic, who had come on just past the hour mark, received a yellow card for removing his top.



England storms into Women's T20 World Cup semifinals at sweltering Lord's

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ London

Host England was first into the Women's Twenty20 World Cup semifinals with a group match to spare after beating the West Indies by 38 runs at sweltering Lord's on Wednesday.

Both former one-time champions came to the matchup unbeaten, and Danni Wyatt-Hodge battered England out of reach with 65 off 42 balls. Wyatt-Hodge is the tournament's leading run-scorer with 193, averaging 65. The West Indies can still advance if it beats winless Ireland in its last group match on Saturday. On the hottest

June day on record in Britain the evening game started at 35 degrees C and an air temperature of 41 C, and England made an impressive 186-7, the highest women's T20 total at Lord's and the second highest by a men's or women's side.

No team has chased down 187 at a World Cup and West Indies was limited to 148-5. The required run rate was at 10 after only two overs and after 69-4 in the 11th over the team appeared to have no interest in attacking the target despite a sloppy fielding effort by England.

Wyatt-Hodge, who launched the tournament two weeks ago with a century against Sri Lanka, smacked a 32-ball fifty. She should have been run out on 58 and caught on 59 and was finally run out on 65 by partner Heather Knight.

She hit eight boundaries.

"I'm happy it was my night tonight," Wyatt-Hodge said. "That was the hottest I've played in here in England. Felt like Dubai a couple of years ago (2024 T20 World Cup). But I enjoyed it, we came out all guns blazing."

Knight, dropped on



14, added 43 from 26 before she was run out, too.

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews was furious to be given out on review on 14 in the fourth over. There was a spike on UltraEdge despite a clear gap between bat and ball, and Matthews, who argued with the umpire because she didn't believe she touched the ball, said afterward she respected the umpire's decision.

Deandra Dottin was caught in the deep on 19 and Shemaine Campbelle was bowled on 20 and the West Indies appeared to go into a shell. A late unbeaten 51 off 30 came from Chinelle Henry when the result was already certain.

Top tennis players to limit media appearances at Wimbledon as protest over prize money continues

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ London

Top tennis players at Wimbledon will extend their protest over prize money by limiting their media appearances at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament next week.

The decision means the players will only talk to media for 15 minutes after each match during the first week of the tournament.

The protest began at this year's French Open where players complained that the total prize money

only made up 14.3 per cent of the clay-court tournament's revenue.

Wimbledon responded by hiking its total prize money by 20 percent this year — with the singles champions to get 3.6 million pounds (\$4.75 million) each.

However, a statement put out Wednesday by an advisory firm representing the players said the "direct action protest" will continue during the first week at the All England Club.

"Players will limit their contractual media commitments at the tourna-

ment to 15 minutes — reflecting that Wimbledon currently pays slightly below 15 per cent of revenues to players as prize money—for the duration of the first week of the Championships," the statement said. "Following detailed consultation with players across both tours, player representatives have written to Wimbledon's leadership to inform them of the planned action, while acknowledging the welcome recent 20% increase in prize money compared to last year's Championships."

Oz may get Litchfield boost ahead of India clash in WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Australia could receive a timely boost ahead of Sunday's T20 World Cup clash against India with star batter Phoebe Litchfield set to return from injury, and it could hand the six-time champions a significant edge in the high-stakes encounter.

Litchfield suffered a calf injury during the match



against South Africa in Manchester earlier in the tournament and missed the last three games, though the Aussies remained unbeaten.

e-Procurement Short Tender Notice
Two Envelope System

Tender Reference No. :- DMFT/MID/HAZARIBAG/F2-11/2026-27
Letter no - 536
Date :- 24.06.2026

1.	Name of the work	ग्राम अलपिठो के हेडली बोदरा के अंतर्गत आगनबाड़ी केन्द्र से लेकर गुन्डारी काली साव के घर तक कालीकरण पथ निर्माण।
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs.- 1,43,18,900.00
3.	Time of Completion	05 Months
4.	Date of Publication of e-Tender on website	04.07.2026 at 1:00 P.M (e-Procurement Portal- http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
5.	Last date/Time for Submission of e-Tender bids Online	11.07.2026 up to 5:00 P.M
6.	Last Date for Online Submission of Tender Fee and EMD	11.07.2026 up to 5:00 P.M
7.	Date of opening of e-Tender	13.07.2026 at 03:00 P.M
8.	Name & address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division, Hazaribag
9.	Contact no. of e-Procurement officer	06546-270485
10.	E-mail of e-Procurement officer	eemidhbg-cemr-jhr@nic.in

Note:- 1.) Only e-Tender will be accepted.
2.) Published Estimated Cost may be increased or decreased.
3.) Further details can be seen and Mode of Submission of Online Tender/Tender Fee/EMD through <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation Division,
Hazaribag.

PR 383277 Minor Irrigation(26-27)#D

JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN
NIGAM LIMITED
(CINNo.:U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd.Office-Kusai Colony,Doranda,Ranchi-834002
(Jharkhand) Fax No.:(0651) 2490486
(E-mail:sldcranchimo@gmail.com)

e-TENDERNOTICE

NIT No.303/PR/JUSNL/2025-26

E-tender in two parts i.e., Technical (Part-I) and Financial (Part-II)is invited from reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound consultancy firm for the following works:-

Name of Work	Appointment of Consultancy Firm for SLDC of Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd. (JUSNL) for support in Business Plan as per Regulatory framework including filing of True-up, APR, ARR and MYT for FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.
Period of Contract	60 months.
Minimum average annual turnover during last three years from Power consulting business in India.	Rs.30Crore
e-Tender fee	Rs.10,00,000+18%GST (online mode) in favour of SLDC/ULDC, payable at Ranchi.
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.2,50,000.00 to be paidthrough online/NEFT/RTGS Bank Name- Canara Bank Branch-Kusai Colony Account No.- 2959201005158 IFSC: CNBR0002959 This is mandatory that the UTR number be provided in the online bid.
Start Date & Time of Downloading the Tender Documents	29/06/2026 at04:00PM
Start Date and time of upload of BID	29/06/2026at04:10PM
Pre-bid meeting	03/07/2026 at 12:00 PM
End date and time of upload of BID	21/07/2026up-to12:00 PM
BID Opening date for technical part	22/07/2026at12:00PM
BID Opening date for price part	Will be communicated
Procurement Officer and address for communication	GeneralManager,SLDC,1 st Floor, JUSNL(SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi – 02.

1. e-Tender document and NIT including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any details / clarification required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.
2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.
Note: Bidders are requested to upload good quality scanned bid.
Uploaded bid should be easily readable to everyone. Poor quality scanned bid may cause rejection.

स्वीकृत एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाव। कृपया अपनी शिकयों को 18003456570(कॉल सेंटर) पर दर्ज करावें।

Sd/-
General Manager, SLDC
JUSNL

PR 383242 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(26-27).D

JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN No. – U40108JH2013SGC001704) GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND UNDERTAKING
Office: General Manager (CRITL/O.E)
JUSNL Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi – 834 002 (Jharkhand)
(E-mail: ceeritl.jusnl@rediffmail.com, gm.critl@jusnl.in, Website: www.jusnl.in)

e-Tender Notice e-NIT No. 302/PR/JUSNL/2026-27

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Limited Invite Bids (to be submitted in the e-Procurement Portal) for the following works:

Name of work	Annual operation and Preventive maintenance works, Emergency Maintenance work of 220/33 KV GIS Smart City Ranchi for One (1) year.
Estimated cost (Rs.)	Rs. 93,01,041/- including GST and other taxes.
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.1,86,500/- (Including GST)
Completion Period	One (1) Year
e-Tender fee	Rs. 11,800/- (Including GST)
Start Date & Time of Download the Tender Documents	29.06.2026 at4: 00PM
Start Date and time of upload of BID	29.06.2026 at4:10 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting	03.07.2026 at4:00 PM
End date and time of upload of BID	20.07.2026at4:00 PM
BID Opening date for Technical Part	21.07.2026 at4:00 PM
BID Opening date for Financial Part	Will be communicated
Procurement Officer and address for communication	General Manager, (CRITL/O.E), JUSNL Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi – 834002

Detailed Invitation of Bids which includes instruction for submission of Bids and all other relevant information is available on <http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Bidding Documents are also available online. Any details required in this regard can also be has from the office of the undersigned (+91-9471736495) during office hours.
The firms that technically qualify will be informed for date of opening for financial part of Bid.
Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in bidding document. Interested bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instruction given in the bidding document.
OFFICER INVITING BIDS:

स्वीकृत एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाव। कृपया अपनी शिकयों को 18003456570(कॉल सेंटर) पर दर्ज करावें।

Sd/-
General Manager (CRITL/O.E)
JUSNL, Ranchi

PR 383220 (Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd)26-27#D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गुमला

mail-rdsdgumla123@gmail.com

अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई- निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/GUMLA/14/2026-27

1.कार्य को विस्तृत विवरण: (अनाबद्ध निधि मद)

सूचक संक्र	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाणु विवरण का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
i	CONSTRUCTION OF PCC ROAD FROM MANI ORAON'S HOUSE TO MAIN ROAD VIA KABARISTAN, VILLAGE – BAGHNI, PANCHAYAT – CHHARDA, BLOCK – SISAI, DISTRICT GUMLA.	49,98,300.00	1,00,000.00	5000.00	03 माह:

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि –01.07.2026

3. ई- निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 01.07.2026 से दिनांक 08.07.2026 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक

4. ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, गुमला।

5. ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 10.07.2026 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे

6. ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता – कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गुमला।

7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 06524223013 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)

8. परिमाण विवरण की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।

9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मूल्यान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई-मूल्यान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,गुमला

PR 383354 Rural Development(26-27).D

JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN No. – U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office:SLDC Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002,JH
Phone: 0651-2400804 Website: www.jusnl.in
Office of the : General Manager Transmission Zone – IV, Medininagar (Daltonganj)
Address-Sudna, Daltonganj/ e-mail : gmtzdal@gmail.com

Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in two parts i.e. Technical Part (Part-I) and Price Part (Part-II) from reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound firm / agency / contractor for the following work:-

Sl. No.	e-N.I.T. No.	Description of Work	e-Tender fee (Non refundable) including GST (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)
1.	304/PR/JUSNL/ 2026-27	Tightening of jumpers of 400 kV D/C QM Latehar Chandwa Transmission Line under the jurisdiction of 400/220/132 kV GSS, Latehar	5,900.00	43,500.00
Availability of Tender Documents on e-tender website		From 27.06.2026 at 04:00 PM to 20.07.2026 up to 12:00 PM		
Start Date and time of upload of BID		27.06.2026 at 04:00 PM		
End date and time of upload of BID		30.07.2026 up to 12:00 PM		
BID Opening date for Technical Part (Part-I)		21.07.2026 up to 12:15 PM		
BID Opening date for price part		Will be communicated later on		
Tender Inviting Authority and address for communication		General Manager, Transmission Zone-IV, Medininagar, Bypass Road, Sudna, Near Sinchai Vihang, Medininagar – 822101, Jharkhand.		

1. e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any details / clarification required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. Please contact 9973936358 for any enquiry.
2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.
3. Bidder shall deposit tender fee & EMD as mentioned above through online mode as per rules of e-tendering portal
4. If there is sudden announcement of holiday by Govt. or Nigam on the date of opening of tender/ last date of submission of hard copy of bid then the next working day will be considered.
5. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.
Note: Bidders are requested to upload good quality scanned bid.
Uploaded bid should be easily readable to everyone. Poor quality scanned bid may cause rejection.

स्वीकृत एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाव। कृपया अपनी शिकयों को 18003456570(कॉल सेंटर) पर दर्ज करावें।

Sd/-
General Manager
Transmission Zone-IV, Medininagar

PR 383266 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(26-27)D

कार्यालय अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी, रामगढ़

(गोपनीय शाखा)

दूरभाष : 06553--222005 Email ID : sdo-ramgarh@jharkhandmail.gov.in

:- आदेश :-

मुहर्रम-2026 के अवसर पर यातायात व्यवस्था को सुदृढ़ करने के उद्देश्य से यातायात व्यवस्था दिनांक 25.06.2026 को (अपराह्न 05:00 बजे से रात्रि 11:00 बजे तक) एवं दिनांक 26.06.2026 को (पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से कार्यक्रम समाप्ति तक) रामगढ़ शहर में मालवाहक गाड़ी / ट्रक / टेम्पू के आवागमन को पूर्णतः बंद करते हुए रूट लाईन निम्न प्रकार परिवर्तित किया जाता है।

1— कोई भी मालवाहक गाड़ी / ट्रक / टेम्पू / भारी वाहनों / सवारी गाड़ी इत्यादि को शनिचरा हाट से लेकर थाना चौक तक और थाना चौक से लेकर शनिचरा हाट तक प्रवेश वर्जित रहेगा।

2— कोई भी मालवाहक गाड़ी या ट्रक / बस / भारी वाहनों का पटेल चौक से कोरिया घाटी, बोंगाबार चौक (भाया सुभाष चौक) तथा कोरिया घाटी, बोंगाबार चौक से पटेल चौक तक प्रवेश वर्जित रहेगा।

3— कोई भी मालवाहक गाड़ी / ट्रक / बस / भारी वाहनों का बरकाकाना से लेकर सुभाष चौक तक एवं सुभाष चौक से लेकर बरकाकाना तक प्रवेश वर्जित रहेगा।

यातायात प्रभारी, रामगढ़ को आदेश दिया जाता है कि उक्त परिवर्तित रूट लाईन के अनुसार वाहनों का प्रवेश एवं आवागमन पूर्णतः बंद कराने हेतु अपने स्तर से समुचित कार्रवाई सुनिश्चित करेंगे एवं वे यह भी सुनिश्चित करेंगे कि रामगढ़ शहरी में टेम्पू एवं अन्य सवारी गाड़ी के अनियंत्रित पार्किंग के कारण यातायात बाधित न हो।

सभी अंचल अधिकारी एवं सभी थाना प्रभारी /ओपीओ प्रभारी को आदेश दिया जाता है कि मुहर्रम के अवसर पर मीड़-भाड़ वाले क्षेत्रों में भारी वाहनों / मालवाहक गाड़ी या ट्रक / बस का प्रवेश व आवागमन बंद कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

मुहर्रम के अवसर पर संयुक्त जिलादेश ज़ापांक-912 / गौ. दिनांक 24.06.2026 द्वारा प्रतिनियुक्त दम्प्राधिकारी अपने संबंधित क्षेत्र / स्थल पर उक्त आदेश को अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करायेगे एवं उक्त परिवर्तित रूट लाईन के अनुसार वाहनों का प्रवेश एवं आवागमन बंद कराना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

पुलिस अधीक्षक, रामगढ़ से अनुरोध है कि उक्त परिवर्तित रूट लाईन के अनुसार वाहनों का प्रवेश एवं आवागमन पूर्णतः बंद कराने हेतु प्रमुख स्थानों पर आवश्यकतानुसार पुलिस बल की प्रतिनियुक्ति करने की कृपा की जाय।

हो / -
अनुमण्डल पदाधिकारी,रामगढ़

PR 383215 District(26-27).D

झारखण्ड सरकार, खान एवं भूतत्व विभाग

जिला खनन कार्यालय, धनबाद

-: सूचना :-

एतद् द्वारा सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guideline, 2016 एवं Enforcement & Monitoring Guideline for Sand Mining, 2020 तथा माननीय राष्ट्रीय हरित न्यायाधिकरण, कोलकाता द्वारा O.A. No. 120/2016/EZ, Rezwan-Vs- The State of Jharkhand & Ors. वाद में माफिती न्यायादेश दिनांक-17.08.2016 के अनुपालन में झारखण्ड राज्यान्तर्गत अवस्थित नदियों से बालू के उद्धार / बालू निर्यात को मानसून अवधि (10.06.2026 से 15.10.2026 तक) में पूर्णरूपेण प्रतिबंधित रहेगा।

विधित हो कि धनबाद जिलान्तर्गत अवस्थित निम्न बालू भंडारण / प्रसंस्करण स्थानों में कुल 35,79,063.805 घनफीट बालू का भंडारण है, जिससे बालू खनिज की आपूर्ति की जा सकती है:-

क्र०	अनुज्ञापिका का नाम एवं पता	डीलर कोड	स्थल का विवरण
1	मेसर्स अनिल कुमार सैंड स्टॉक यार्ड, प्रो०-श्री अनिल कुमार, पिता-स्व० सकलदेव प्रसाद, पता-बास्की नगर, धोवाटंड, पौ०-धनबाद, थाना-बैंकमोड़, जिला-धनबाद। M/s Dhanbad Bio Waste Management Pvt. Ltd, निदेशक- श्री श्याम मोहन सिंह, पिता-स्व० शिवदास सिंह, पता-धनसार, पौ०-थाना-धनसार, जिला-धनबाद Gatiman hanuman Enterprises, Partner- Brajesh Kumar Singh & Others, At- S/o- Sri Shyam Mohan Singh, R Traders Victory Colony, PO&PS- Dhanasar, Dist- Dhanbad	204284842001	मौजा-बैजरा, थाना न०-276, नया खाता न०-30, 124, नया प्लॉट न०-314, 734, कुल रकबा- 38.00 डीसमील, अंचल- पूर्वी दुण्ड्री। मौजा- सर्रा, प्लॉट न० 218(अंश), रकबा- 1 00 एकड़, अंचल- दुण्ड्री, धनबाद। मौजा-सर्ग, थाना न०-01, खाता न०-41, प्लॉट न०-345, रकबा-49 डीसमील, अंचल-दुण्ड्री।
2	मेसर्स कमल मंडल सैंड स्टॉक यार्ड, प्रो०-श्री कमल मंडल, पिता-श्री टहल मंडल, ग्राम-सोनाद, पौ०-बसरक कला, थाना-दुण्ड्री, जिला-धनबाद।	204124662001	मौजा- जियाजोरी, प्लॉट न० 169, 852, रकबा-0.18, अंचल- दुण्ड्री।
3	मौ गंगा सैंड स्टॉक यार्ड,प्रो०-संतोष कुमार तिवारी, पिता-स्व० गयानंद तिवारी, पता-रांची कोलोनी, मेथन डेम, धनबाद।	204195182001	मौजा-बेलियाद, प्लॉट न०-730(अंश), 731(अंश), 732(अंश), रकबा-0.45 एकड़, अंचल-एयारकुण्ड, धनबाद।
4	मेसर्स क्लासिक कंस्ट्रक्शन, पार्टो- मोहनीन अंसारी एवं मी० मरुगु अंसारी, पता-जमलपुर, पौ०-जंगलपुर, थाना-गोविन्दपुर, जिला-धनबाद।	204177372001	मौजा-देवली, खाता न०-02, प्लॉट न०-1076, 1077, 1078, रकबा-60 डीसमील, अंचल-गोविन्दपुर, धनबाद।
5	मेसर्स मी तारा ट्रेडर्स सैंड स्टॉक यार्ड, पार्टो- श्याम मोहन सिंह एवं पिता-स्व० शिवदास सिंह, पता-धनसार, पौ०-थाना-धनसार, जिला-धनबाद।	204177222001	मौजा-पान्डीबेजरा, प्लॉट न० 109, 79, रकबा-67 डी०, अंचल-पूर्वी दुण्ड्री, धनबाद।
6	मेसर्स संतोष कुमार महतो सैंड स्टॉक यार्ड, प्रो०-श्री संतोष कुमार महतो, पिता-श्री भीमलाल महतो, ग्राम-पालोबिरा, पौ०-वेपकिया, थाना- पूर्वी दुण्ड्री, जिला- धनबाद।	204153362001	मौजा- पांडरा-बैजरा, रकबा-0.38 एकड़, अंचल- पूर्वी दुण्ड्री।
7	मेसर्स भैली मिनरल्स, प्रो०-विजय कुमार सिंह, पिता-कुन्दन सिंह, पता- 03 न० चढाई (चिरकुण्डा), पौ०-थाना-चिरकुण्डा, धनबाद	204109402001	मौजा- पतलाबाड़ी, रकबा- 0.9 एकड़, अंचल-निरसा।
8	मेसर्स संजय कुमार मोदक, प्रो०-श्री संजय कुमार मोदक, पिता-श्री दिलीप कुमार मोदक, पता- तेलमोरी, पौ०-रामनगरगढ़, थाना-महुदा, जिला-धनबाद	204113602001	मौजा- कान्हा, रकबा-1.00 एकड़, अंचल-बाघमारा।
9	M/s Praneeldeep Enterprises, Partner-Ramesh Tudu & Arunav Sarkar, At-Kanak Villa, New DR Colony, Jagjivan Nagar, P.S. - Saraidihela, Dist- Dhanbad	204289142001	मौजा-गण्डुआ, थाना न०-27, खाता न०-215, प्लॉट न०-1660(अंश), रकबा-50.00 डीसमील, अंचल-निरसा।
10	श्री राजन प्रसाद, पिता-स्व० सकलदेव प्रसाद, पता- शास्त्रीनगर, पौ०-धनसार, थाना-बैंकमोड़, जिला-धनबाद।	204127112001	मौजा- पाईया, प्लॉट संख्या-1593 नया, (931 पुराना), रकबा- 32.5 डीसमील, अंचल-पूर्वी दुण्ड्री।
11	मौ कल्याणेश्वरी इन्स्ट्रुमेंट्स, प्रो०- श्री अजय कुमार सिंह, पिता- श्री कुन्दन सिंह ग्राम- 3 न० चढाई, पौ०- चिरकुण्डा, थाना- चिरकुण्डा, जिला- धनबाद।	204191793001 (Processing Unit)	मौजा- डुमरकुण्डा, प्लॉट न० 3681, 3657, 3660, 3658, 3662, 3661, रकबा- 2.05 एकड़ अंचल-निरसा, जिला-धनबाद।

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जिला खनन पदाधिकारी, धनबाद

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