

Raahgiri security concerns raised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The New Delhi Traders' Association (NDTA) has strongly opposed the proposed Raahgiri Day in Connaught Place on October 4 and urged NDMC to shift the event to a non-commercial venue, citing property damage, traffic chaos, law-and-order concerns, and business losses during previous editions.

In a letter to NDMC Chairman Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, the traders' body said Connaught Place was "fundamentally a business and commercial district, not a cultural or recreational hub". It claimed that shopkeepers and traders had opposed earlier Raahgiri events because of losses and traffic congestion.

According to the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Connaught Place's Inner Circle will go car-free on Sunday as Raahgiri Day brings cycling, fitness activ-



ities, street performances and live music to the heart of the national Capital. The event, organised by the Raahgiri Foundation, Delhi Traffic Police and Fit India, in association with the NDMC, will be held on October 4.

Popular Indian rock band Euphoria will perform live at Central Park, alongside local cultural performances and a range of activities open to the public, a statement said.

The programme will be held in partnership with Fit India's 'Sundays on Cycle' initiative, with citizens encouraged to participate in com-

munity cycling drives and fitness activities.

"The Inner Circle will host demonstrations and activities centred on walkability, cycling and non-motorised transport. Sports activities, street art and interactive workshops will also be organised, with programmes focusing on youth participation, civic engagement and environmental awareness," the statement said.

The event will also serve as the curtain-raiser for Urban Adda '26, a three-day conference on urban transformation scheduled to be held at the India

Habitat Centre from October 5 to 7. With motorised vehicles making way for pedestrians and cyclists, the organisers said the event will provide citizens an opportunity to experience Connaught Place as a more people-friendly public space.

The association said previous events had resulted in "multiple incidents of violence, property damage, traffic chaos and severe loss of business due to chaotic vehicular restrictions", according to the letter.

It also claimed that during earlier Raahgiri Days, "glass panels and windows were broken by an unruly crowd", while shop fronts, fixtures and public property were damaged. The association further claimed that an incident of stabbing had been reported to police during one such event, highlighting what it described as "serious law-and-order risks associated with large, uncontrolled crowds in CP".

The traders' body said

restrictions on vehicular movement also disrupted supplies to restaurants and shops and affected weekend business. "Restaurants, showrooms and retail outlets suffered loss of business as customers avoided the area due to traffic restrictions and perceived insecurity," the letter said.

The association also raised concerns over garbage and litter, saying large quantities of waste were thrown around the Inner and Outer Circles, including in front of shops and eateries, while public property was defaced.

The traders also flagged concerns over the safety of women, children and senior citizens, alleging incidents of eve-teasing and misbehaviour by anti-social elements during earlier events.

The association has requested that the October 4 event not be held in Connaught Place and be "permanently shifted to a more suitable, non-commercial, open venue".

Anti-CEC protest at Jantar Mantar denied permission

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Delhi Police denied permission for a proposed Gandhi Jayanti protest at Jantar Mantar against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar on Thursday. However, the barricades went up around the area and Central Armed Police Forces were deployed, meaning residents and commuters passing through New Delhi district on October 2 will likely face movement restrictions regardless of whether the gathering actually takes place.

Police sources estimated that around 3,000 to 4,000 people could turn up for the protest despite the denial, prompting heightened secu-

rity measures across Jantar Mantar and key points in New Delhi district. Barricades have been put up on roads leading to the area, with additional personnel positioned at entry and exit points to regulate movement and prevent unauthorised gatherings.

The protest was called by the All India Students' Association (AISA), Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha and Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan, seeking Kumar's removal over allegations of irregularities in electoral rolls and the conduct of elections. AAP leaders and workers, members of the Indian Youth Congress and others are expected to attend, though the CJP is not expected to join the Delhi protest.

Hindu College seeks DU intervention over admission, financial irregularities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi



The Hindu College Staff Association has urged Delhi University to take over the college and order an independent, time-bound inquiry into alleged irregularities in admissions, finances, procurement, appointments and governance.

In a memorandum submitted to the DU Vice Chancellor, the staff body raised several concerns, including alleged violations of university admission rules, bypassing of the Staff Council, financial and procurement irregularities, non-disclosure of audit documents and alleged viola-

It also alleged that a meeting of staff to ratify the admissions was presented as a Staff Council meeting despite not being convened or attended by the elected Staff Council secretary.

The memorandum raised concerns about delays or denial of study leave, child care leave, sabbatical leave, and promotions, as well as issues related to inquiry reports and exoneration orders. On governance, the association alleged that the Staff Council had been bypassed and that parallel committees had been constituted. It also sought the restoration of the council's statutory authority and regular meetings.

tions related to appointments and tenures.

The association alleged irregularities in supernumerary admissions despite objections from concerned teachers-in-charge and committee conveners. It claimed that the prescribed 20 per cent cap and applicable DU ordinances were breached.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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H1N1

PROTECT YOURSELF
AND YOUR FAMILY
FROM SWINE FLU!

BE AWARE OF THE SYMPTOMS:

FEVER
AND COUGH

SORE
THROAT

RUNNY OR
STUFFY NOSE

✓ DOs

Cover your mouth and nose with a handkerchief or tissue when you cough or sneeze.

Wash your hands often with soap and water.

Stay away from public places if you have fever, coughing and sneezing.

Drink plenty of water and eat nutritious food.

Sleep well and stay rested.

✗ DON'Ts

Shake hands or use other contact greetings.

Spit in public.

Take medicines without consulting the physician.

सौजन्य से :
जन स्वास्थ्य विभाग
दिल्ली नगर निगम

राष्ट्रीय वेक्टर जनित रोग नियंत्रण कार्यक्रम
स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं निदेशालय, दिल्ली सरकार
PH-IV

द्वारा जनहित में जारी
RO No. 29/DPI/MCD/2026-27

सत्यमेव जयते
दिल्ली सरकार

सत्य का संकल्प | अहिंसा का मार्ग | सेवा का भाव

राष्ट्रपिता
महात्मा गांधी

एवं

पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री
श्री लाल बहादुर
शास्त्री

की जयंती पर शत-शत नमन

“पूज्य बापू का जीवन हमें याद दिलाता है कि हम ये सुनिश्चित करें कि हमारा हर कार्य ऐसा हो, जिससे, गरीब से गरीब व्यक्ति का भला हो। वहीं शास्त्री जी का जीवन हमें विनम्रता और सादगी का संदेश देता है।”

रेखा गुप्ता
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली

DIP/Shabdarth/Display/0103/26-27

- नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

CISF mourns loss of four personnel killed in fratricide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Thursday mourned the loss of four of its personnel, posted at the 'Sewa-III Hydro Electric Project, Mashka, Basohli, Kathua (J&K)', who lost their lives there on September 29, 2026, in an unfortunate incident of fratricide.

Their last rites were performed on Thursday at their native places with full honours and in keeping with laid-down procedure.

According to a CISF Press release, late Assistant Commandant Ankit Kumar Pandey joined the Force in

October 2015. His last rites were performed at his native place, Mathiya Daulatpur, District Ambedkarnagar (UP) Senior officers, including 'DIG Manish Kumar Singh' and the Deputy Commandant of CISF Unit, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Tanda, were present with personnel of the Unit and paid homage on behalf of the Force.

Late Sub Inspector Laxman Singh joined the Force on '09 August 2013 and had served CISF for over thirteen years. His last rites were held with full honours at Village Loona, District Solan (HP). Personnel of CISF Unit,



Punjab and Haryana Civil Secretariat (P&HCS), Chandigarh, attended the ceremony and paid homage on behalf of the Force.

Late Constable Sanjeev Kumar joined the Force in October 2013. His last rites were performed at his native Village Rameen, Makhyaan, PO Chowki Choura, District Jammu (J&K). Personnel of CISF Unit, Salal Hydro Electric Project (SHEP), attended the ceremony and paid homage on behalf of the Force.

Late Constable Md Rafiq joined the Force in March 2010* and had served CISF for over sixteen years.

His last rites were held with full honours at Village

Kandali, District Doda (J&K)', with a Guard of Honour and ceremonial salute, in the presence of family members, relatives and colleagues. Personnel of CISF Unit, Dulhasti Hydro Electric Project (DHEP), paid homage on behalf of the Force.

CISF grieves with the families, colleagues and friends of the departed personnel. The Force holds it a 'solemn duty to stand by the bereaved families' in this hour of grief, shares their sorrow as one family, and assures them of all possible support and assistance, in accordance with the rules, in the days ahead, the CISF Press note said.

Mumbaikars gather outside pilot Smit Machchhar's home



Residents and well-wishers hold national flags and photographs of flydubai pilot Captain Smit Machchhar as they chant slogans outside his residence, in Mumbai on Thursday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

Hundreds of Tricolour-waving citizens assembled outside the residence of Captain Smit Machchhar in Tilaknagar in the eastern part of Mumbai on Thursday to honour his bravery as accolades poured in for his action. Some also sought a gallantry medal for him.

Holding his photographs, those assembled outside Swastik Heights residential complex prayed for Machchhar's quick recovery.

Amid chants of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', several of those who gathered at Tilaknagar sought a gallantry award like the Shaurya Chakra, or even the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, for Machchhar.

"I have known Captain Smit since he was a child, and his family is very dear to me. I was also involved in business with his father for some time. His father raised both his sons, Smit and his brother, remarkably well. We are deeply proud of what he has achieved. His patience and presence of mind helped avert a serious disaster," his neighbour Daulatbhai Vora said.

Childhood friend Pratik Gandhi described Machchhar as an ambitious yet deeply grounded individual. "Smit is my childhood friend. We played cricket together, and I have seen his journey first-hand. We would often talk about his ambitions, his

career growth, and his drive to do better," Gandhi said. Smit was well known for his calmness, presence of mind, and composure, even in high-pressure situations, Gandhi added.

Amit Soni, a childhood friend of Smit who used to play cricket with him, described him as a very cheerful and lively person.

"We are deeply concerned about his health. Not just those who know him, but every Mumbaikar is proud of him," he said. Soni said his parents live in a flat in the residential complex, while Machchhar, his wife and two children live in Dubai. They often visit Mumbai, he added.

Accolades poured in Machchhar with his childhood friends, neighbours from the Mumbai building where he lived until a few years ago, and politicians were among those who hailed Machchhar as a hero and praised his courage.

They also prayed for the speedy recovery of the pilot, who is currently being treated at a hospital in Saudi Arabia and has received high praise nationally and globally, including from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu. Janit Shah, a urologist and a neighbour of the pilot's family in Mumbai's Ghatkopar area, said Machchhar was able to avert a tragedy because of "muscle memory" even after being stabbed.

Karnataka CM protests outside CEO office over SIR



Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar along with state ministers submits a petition to Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) V. Anbukumar at his office, seeking an FIR and investigation into alleged voter list deletions through pre-printed Form-7 submissions in Bengaluru on Thursday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday staged a sit-in outside CEO V Anbukumar's office demanding an FIR over "electoral fraud" during the ongoing SIR and ended the 5-hour protest following a direction from the CEO for action regarding Form-7, a contentious issue the CM had flagged with him.

Shivakumar even put a Cabinet meet on hold to stage the demonstration and was joined by his Cabinet colleagues and ruling Congress MLAs.

The senior Congress leader yielded after Anbukumar directed election officials to

initiate action against applicants found to have knowingly made false statements or declarations in electoral forms, amid allegations of bulk filing of Form-7 applications to delete names of eligible voters.

Shivakumar also highlighted the EC assurance of action regarding Form-7.

Form-7 is a voter application form for objection for proposed inclusion/deletion of name in the existing electoral roll.

The CM held a meeting with Anbukumar for about two-and-a-half hours before announcing the sit-in. He said he would not leave the place until an inquiry was ordered and an FIR registered.

Rahul Gandhi meets families of deceased tribal children in Balaghat, alleges Government neglect

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi on Thursday visited Jagla village in Balaghat district and met families of Baiga tribal children who died amid reported cases of illness, malnutrition and malaria. He travelled by road from Gondia in neighbouring Maharashtra, where he had arrived by air.

Gandhi spent around an hour interacting with the affected families and hearing their concerns. Many tribal residents from neighbouring villages also gathered at Jagla during his visit. According to available reports, 32 tribal children have died in Balaghat district over the past three months, with malnutrition and malaria among the reported causes. Congress has claimed that the actual number of deaths is higher.

After meeting the families, Gandhi said tribal people were entitled to their rights and alleged that they had been left without adequate support from the Centre and the state



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi interacts with tribal families affected by malnutrition and disease outbreaks in Balaghat district, Madhya Pradesh on Thursday

PIONEER PHOTO

Government. He alleged that the state Government had failed to address the health situation in the affected areas effectively and said he would raise the issue in Parliament.

Gandhi raised concerns over healthcare, education and employment facilities in tribal areas. He alleged that affected families had not received full compensation and called for stronger implementation of the Forest Rights Act, revival of MGNREGA work and better access to schools and hospitals.

He said tribal communities should receive the full

benefits of Government schemes they are eligible for. Gandhi also said tribal people should be referred to as 'Adivasis' rather than 'Vanvasi', describing them as the country's original inhabitants. He said the Congress would work to secure their rights in education, healthcare and employment if voted to power.

Before visiting Jagla, Gandhi stopped at the Government primary school in Mate and interacted with students about the mid-day meal programme and their educational facilities. The visit has triggered a

political exchange between the Congress and BJP. While Congress has raised concerns over healthcare, malnutrition and welfare delivery in the tribal belt, BJP leaders have questioned Gandhi's visit and its political purpose.

The reported deaths have brought renewed attention to healthcare access, nutrition, welfare delivery and tribal rights in Balaghat's remote areas. The exact number and causes of individual deaths remain subject to official assessment, with political parties citing different figures.

Traffic violator with 208 unpaid challans traced in Greater Noida

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

A habitual traffic violator with 208 pending challans, none of which had ever been paid, was traced to Jalpura Village in Greater Noida by Delhi Traffic Police, which has now forwarded his driving licence to the concerned authority for suspension. The action was taken as part of a broader enforcement push against repeat offenders, encroachments and road-safety hazards across the city.

Police said the violator had evaded detection for a long time through incorrect contact details and an untraceable address on his vehicle records, but sustained tracking efforts eventually led officers to him. With none of his 208 challans ever paid, the case highlights how repeat offenders can continue driving on Delhi's roads for years while evading accountability, a gap the force is now moving



to close through persistent tracing rather than relying solely on the challan system.

Alongside action against habitual violators, Delhi Traffic Police coordinated a two-day special drive with the MCD Veterinary Department to remove stray cattle from roads and traffic-sensitive locations. This hazard has long contributed to accidents and sudden traffic disruptions for com-

muters. The drive removed 73 stray cattle from the city's roads, directly reducing one of the most unpredictable obstacles drivers and pedestrians face daily.

As part of "Mission Safai," officials carried out special encroachment removal drives on September 29 and 30 in coordination with civic agencies across Delhi. During these drives, officials issued 1,169 challans for improper

parking, removed 209 rehri or patri stalls, towed 54 vehicles, removed 33 e-rickshaws, demolished 15 shops, and impounded 13 vehicles.

MCD staff working alongside the drive also seized 14 display boards, 10 carts, one table and one iron stall being used for unauthorised roadside occupation. These items typically narrow already congested streets and footpaths.

Delhi Traffic Police said these coordinated initiatives reflect its continued commitment to effective enforcement, road safety and improved traffic management. Officials said such drives would continue in coordination with concerned stakeholder agencies against encroachments, improper parking, habitual traffic violations and other road-safety hazards, with the stated goal of ensuring safer, more disciplined and smoother mobility for all road users in the city.

MCD clears rooftop solar plan for 1,100 civic buildings

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Delhi Municipal Corporation has approved a unified rooftop solar plan to equip approximately 1,100 civic buildings with solar power without any direct capital expenditure.

The civic body cleared the proposal in its House Meeting on Tuesday, allowing Indraprastha Power Generation Company Limited (IPGCL) to conduct feasibility assessments and install solar systems at eligible municipal properties under the Delhi Solar Energy Policy, 2023.

The move also means the corporation will drop its earlier plan to float a separate tender for rooftop solar projects and instead adopt the State power department's framework, officials said.

According to official documents, the civic body has already installed 574 rooftop solar photovoltaic plants with a combined capacity of 13.25



MWp across its properties. Of these, 399 are on buildings of the erstwhile South Delhi Municipal Corporation, 164 are on school buildings of the former North Delhi Municipal Corporation, and 10 are on properties of the erstwhile East Delhi Municipal Corporation.

Structural and feasibility assessments have identified another 800 to 900 municipal buildings that could potentially host grid-connected solar systems, officials said.

The state Department of

Power had directed IPGCL to implement solar projects on all feasible Government and civic properties under the policy. IPGCL has already awarded tenders covering nearly 2,600 Government buildings, including around 1,100 MCD properties.

Under the arrangement, the Delhi Government will bear the capital expenditure or long-term operational costs under the RESCO model through IPGCL, leaving the MCD without a capital expenditure burden.

Officials said that under

the RESCO (Renewable Energy Service Company) model, a third-party firm sets up, runs and maintains a solar power system on a customer's premises. In contrast, the customer pays only for the electricity it generates.

The client does not own the plant. It buys the power at a pre-agreed tariff for a fixed term, typically under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or a lease.

The arrangement shifts the burden of financing, installation and upkeep from the consumer to the service provider. It removes the heavy upfront capital cost.

The civic body, however, will be responsible for routine roof repairs and maintenance and will provide basic access for installation work. IPGCL will conduct site surveys and install systems of up to 25 kW under the CAPEX model, along with five years of free maintenance. IPGCL will install larger systems under the RESCO model.

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UAE forms special team to probe flydubai incident

"Ambassador of India to the UAE met Captain Smit Machchhar's family in Dubai and conveyed the Government of India's full support and assistance for his welfare and wellbeing," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

Mittal was accompanied by Indian Consul General to Dubai Emmadi Vishnu Vardhan Reddy during the meeting.

"We are proud of Capt Smit for his bravery to save so many lives and avert a tragedy," Mittal said in a post on X after meeting the family.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also praised Machchhar following the incident, calling him a "true hero". In a statement on Wednesday, Netanyahu said that despite being stabbed and seriously injured, Machchhar fought back, opened the cockpit door and helped enable passengers and crew members to overpower the attacker.

The incident was thus brought under control before the aircraft made its emergency landing in Tabuk.

The circumstances surrounding the cockpit altercation and the alleged attempt to take control of the aircraft are now the subject of an official investigation by UAE authorities.

INDIA bloc plans rallies against ECI, SIR, CEC

Meanwhile, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) will stage a protest in Mumbai on October 2, seeking the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. The CJP announced the protest after a report emerged about alleged differences within the ECI.

The Congress said the chorus of voices against the "capture" of the electoral system is getting louder and asserted that citizens will no longer tolerate "vote chori" in any form. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah, and the CEC were collectively "destroying democracy" through the SIR exercise and accused them of committing "treason". He reiterated his demand that Kumar resign and become an "approver", and called for an investigation against Modi and Shah.

NIA arrests accused in Vikas Bagga case

They recruited local hitmen, arranged weapons and ammunition, and transferred funds to India. The initial chargesheet listed Babbar, Harjit and Kulbeer as conspirators who had fled, along with UAE-based Harwinder, who allegedly

arranged logistics and finances. He reportedly handled terrorist funds, arranged weapons, and helped deliver them to the hitmen. Indian authorities issued a Red Corner Notice for Harwinder on April 17 and sought his extradition on June 19.

The UAE extradited him to India on October 1. NIA officers arrested him at Indira Gandhi International Airport on Wednesday and took him to the Special NIA Court.

Eight airports to get full-body scanners

The idea of full body scanners was introduced a few years back, but due to various issues, including those related to passenger privacy, the technology is yet to be deployed at the airports.

In response to a query about the privacy concerns, Nirwan said that one issue was about the image that was coming out after scanning and now the scanners are being made 'image agnostic' as it will just be a model of a person. The technology will display on the screen if something suspicious is detected or where something is kept on the body and will show only that particular part.

Amid concerns that wearing certain ornaments and even mangal sutra could trigger alarms by full-body scanners, BCAS is working

on refining the algorithms used by these scanners in close coordination with the vendors and original equipment manufacturers.

"What we are getting today in India is based on algorithms that have been designed for foreign markets. There are certain typical things that are on the body of Indian citizens or people living in India. So, those algorithms are also being continuously refined," the BCAS DG said.

All such details will be available from data from the ongoing trials and accordingly, Nirwan said the algorithms will be refined. India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets and there are now 165 airports.

Inspection of Gandhi Smriti financials gets...

The commission found that the CPIO had provided the available information and indicated the mode of accessing the remaining records. It held that the reply furnished by the CPIO and the action taken in compliance with the FAA's order were "in order".

However, in the interest of transparency and effective access to information, the CIC gave the applicant four weeks to approach the respondent office to inspect the records.

The CIC said that the copies of documents

sought during the inspection be provided free of cost up to 20 pages, while prescribed fees may be charged for additional pages.

The CPIO was also allowed to withhold or redact third-party information or other material exempt from disclosure under Section 8 of the RTI Act, read with Section 10, while facilitating inspection and providing copies.

A new Navratri proposal: Nine days...

In this regard, Prime Minister Narendra Modi serves as a source of inspiration for him, having observed Navratri fasts with deep commitment and spiritual dedication for many years.

Inspired by this example, Khandelwal will once again host daily evening community *falahar* gatherings at his residence throughout Navratri, with participation from people belonging to diverse sections of society.

He expressed confidence that if similar small-scale community initiatives are undertaken across the country, they can play a significant role in bridging social divides, strengthening cultural consciousness, and providing renewed momentum to the cause of national unity.

NIA nabs 13 in JMB offshoot case

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
■ New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested 13 people on 29 September 2026 after searches at 16 locations in Assam, West Bengal and Kerala, in connection with a terror conspiracy attributed to an offshoot of the proscribed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). Authorities arrested eight people in Assam, four in West Bengal and one in Kerala.

During the searches, investigators seized mobile phones, pen drives and memory cards from the accused. The agency has said the operation forms part of a continuing probe into efforts to expand the banned organisation's ideology and network on Indian soil.

The operation began with action by Assam Police in late 2025. On 28 December, police arrested 11 people from Assam, West Bengal, and Tripura. Two days later, the Special Task Force police station registered Case No. 06/2025 against 35 people. The main allegation was that an online radicalisation module was being run through a Telegram group called "Purva Akash," managed



by Bangladesh-based handlers of Imam Mahmud Kafil, or IMK. The 11 people arrested in December were formally charged on 25 June 2026 and are still in judicial custody.

The NIA took over the investigation, registered a case vide RC-01/2026/NIA/GUW, and filed a chargesheet against the 11 accused in the NIA Special Court in Guwahati under different sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The agency says further investigation found that the accused were actively involved in a conspiracy linked to IMK, which it describes as a branch of JMB. The goal was to spread the group's ideology in West

Bengal and the north-eastern states. Investigators believe the conspiracy included promoting the organisation's extremist agenda, radicalising vulnerable youth, and expanding its network in India. The NIA also said that JMB's senior member Imam Mahmud Habibullah set up IMK to promote the banned group's agenda in India.

The September arrests are seen as a continuation of the earlier investigation. The agency says the 13 people recently arrested had worked together to increase the presence of IMK and JMB through secret meetings, religious indoctrination programs, sharing extremist literature, and using digital platforms for propaganda against India.

They are also accused of encouraging loyalty to IMK and JMB leaders. Police will check devices found in Assam, West Bengal, and Kerala for contacts with handlers, meeting records, and material related to the earlier Telegram group that first caught police attention.

Ten people accused in the case are still missing. One is an Indian national, and nine are from Bangladesh. The NIA says the investigation in RC-01/2026/NIA/GUW is ongoing. The agency has not named the 13 people arrested on 29 September or given details about their specific roles, apart from their alleged link to the larger conspiracy.

The case began in December 2025 as a state-level investigation into an online channel. By mid-2026, authorities filed a chargesheet, and nine months later, it became a multi-state NIA operation.

Authorities are focusing on a banned Bangladeshi group and an India-based offshoot reportedly started by one of its senior members. Authorities are still seeking both Indian and Bangladeshi nationals. The most recent arrests include people from Kerala, the Northeast, and West Bengal.

J&K SIA cracks down against human trafficking

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jammu

In a significant action against an organised transnational human trafficking and cyber fraud network, the State Investigation Agency (SIA), Kashmir, on Thursday conducted searches at the residential premises of Gulam Nabi Khanday @Charlie @Mohsin @Jerry Khan, resident of Bungam Chewgam, Kulgam, and Ashiq Hussain Sheikh, resident of Baghpora Yar Khushorganisedhipora, Qazigund.

The searches form part of an ongoing investigation into a serious and organised network allegedly engaged in trafficking unemployed youth from Jammu & Kashmir and other parts of the country under the guise of overseas employment, followed by their exploitation in cyber fraud operations in Myanmar.

The operation was carried out in the early hours pursuant to search warrants issued by the competent Court in connection with FIR No. 01/2026 of Police Station SIA Kashmir.

According to official sources, during the searches, the SIA seized incriminating



material, including mobile phones, identity-related documents, PAN cards, a passport and job agreements, which are being examined as part of the ongoing investigation.

According to official sources, preliminary investigation has brought to light an alleged modus operandi in which local facilitators, in coordination with foreign-based handlers, lured vulnerable and unemployed youth with offers of employment abroad.

The sources said the victims were allegedly moved through Thailand to the Myawaddy region of Myanmar, where they were subsequently subjected to exploitation and allegedly

compelled to participate in cyber scam operations.

The emerging dimensions of the case indicate the involvement of a transnational chain extending across jurisdictions, involving recruitment, movement, facilitation and exploitation of victims. The investigation is accordingly being pursued to identify the complete network, its local and overseas linkages, and the financial and logistical channels allegedly supporting its operations.

The SIA is learnt to have sought co-operation from National agencies and international partners in this important investigation.

"The digital and documentary material seized during

the searches will be subjected to detailed examination to establish further linkages, communication channels, financial transactions, recruitment mechanisms and other evidence relevant to the investigation", official sources added.

SIA is pursuing the leads to identify, trace and dismantle the entire network, establish the role of each person involved, and uncover the mechanisms through which victims were recruited, transported and exploited.

"The SIA is taking all necessary legal measures to identify the perpetrators and safeguard the interests of victims of such trafficking and exploitation", official sources said.

Chandrasekaran family's ₹436-cr TVS connection raising governance questions

ASHOKE RAJ ■ Mumbai/New Delhi

What initially appeared to be a single business transaction in Tamil Nadu has now emerged as a broader commercial relationship spanning two states and projects worth an estimated ₹436 crore.

Documents show that Hanno One Warehousing, a company linked to Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran's wife Lalitha and son Pranav, has been associated with two TVS-linked projects.

In November 2025, Hanno One sought 35 acres in the Immavu Industrial Area near Mysuru, according to minutes of the Karnataka Land Audit Committee.

The proposed project was described as an industrial park for auto-component manufacturing and supply to TVS Motor and its Tier-1 suppliers. The proposed investment was around ₹330 crore, while the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board subsequently allotted land valued at roughly ₹27 crore.

The Karnataka proposal followed an earlier project in Tamil Nadu. In June 2025, TVS Motor leased approximately 17 acres at Uddanapalli to Hanno One. HDFC Bank documents described the roughly 3.3-lakh-square-foot facility as the "TVS Motors Warehouse Project", with an estimated project cost of ₹106.3 crore.



Hanno One itself was incorporated only in March 2025. The relation-

ship assumes greater significance because of Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus of the TVS Group. Srinivasan is also a Tata Trusts nominee on the Tata Sons board and serves on its Nomination and Remuneration Committee, which is involved in evaluating the performance and remuneration of the Tata Sons chairman. In September 2026, Srinivasan also voted in favour of Chandrasekaran's next term.

This raises questions about disclosure and governance. The Tata group's Code of Conduct places emphasis on identifying and disclosing actual or potential conflicts involving immediate family interests. Tata Sons has said that Hanno

One's formation was disclosed and that its transactions with TVS did not require separate disclosure to the board.

The issue, therefore, extends beyond whether the transactions were legally permissible. The broader question is whether the scale and nature of the commercial relationship warranted additional disclosure or scrutiny given Srinivasan's institutional role.

With projects in two states and an estimated ₹436 crore involved, the Chandrasekaran-Srinivasan relationship now raises questions about transparency, conflict-of-interest management and corporate governance.

Lt-Gen Mohit Seth takes over command of White KNIGHT CORPS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Jammu

Lieutenant General Mohit Seth took over command of the Nagrota-based White Knight Corps on Thursday from Lieutenant General PK Mishra. Lt-Gen Seth, an Infantry officer, served as Commandant of the Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT) in Bhutan before taking over command of the 16 Corps.

On assuming command, the new Corps Commander exhorted all ranks to uphold the highest standards of oper-



ational readiness, professional excellence and team spirit, while continuing to foster peace, security and stability in the region.

"Prepared For Today, Ready For Tomorrow. We Serve, We Protect," White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

Nation salutes Gandhi ji and Shastri ji on their birth anniversaries

2 October, 2026

On the birth anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, the nation pays tribute to these two great leaders who dedicated their lives to the service of the nation.

"Gandhi ji demonstrated the way of courage, simplicity, service, and power of compassion, while Shastri ji continues to motivate us in the endeavour of building a strong and self-reliant India."

- Narendra Modi





Editor's
TAKE

The man we honour, the Mahatma we forget

Today, on Gandhi's 157th birth anniversary, we remember the man, but the harder question is whether the country still remembers his ideals

Every October 2, India performs a familiar ritual: wreaths at Rajghat, a dry day and a holiday. The harder question is whether the country still remembers the man behind it. The world he left is more fractured than the one he confronted. His message of non-violence is lost in the din. Global military spending was at a record \$2.887 trillion in 2025, and the message of love no longer resonates with world leaders who are hell-bent on waging wars.

Societies are split along faith, class, region and now algorithms, with every feed rewarding outrage over understanding. That is precisely why Gandhi matters more than ever. His genius was method, not sentiment. The 1930 Salt March, with 78 volunteers walking about 390 km to Dandi over 24 days, shook the moral authority of an empire. He insisted that means and ends are inseparable, that an opponent must be persuaded rather than humiliated, and that a leader's credibility rests on living what he preaches.

In a season of shouting, these are working tools of politics. Have we forgotten him? Not his face. It sits on our currency, in every government office and on statues in nearly every city. What we have forgotten is his discipline. On India's first Independence Day, he was not in Delhi. He was in Calcutta, fasting and praying, trying to hold a riot-torn city together.

Set that against an India where hate speech is routine, mob lynching has stained too many headlines, and public life is conducted as a contest of insults. Swachh Bharat, launched on his birthday in 2014, borrowed his broom but missed his point: for Gandhi, cleanliness was a question of dignity and caste, not a photo opportunity.

The replacement of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act with the VB-G RAM G Act in December 2025 sharpened the question. The government presented it as an expansion, with 125 days of guaranteed work instead of 100. The Opposition called it erasure and pointed to the 40 per cent burden placed on states. Both arguments deserve scrutiny.

What is beyond dispute is that his name left a law that had carried it since 2009. Reviving Gandhi does not mean spinning wheels or wearing khadi. It means three things. First, civility as a political obligation, with parties competing on ideas, not contempt. Second, his talisman taken seriously: recall the face of the poorest person you have seen and ask whether your policy serves them. Growth that leaves the last person behind fails his test. Third, communal harmony treated as national security, not a line in festival greetings. Gandhi called his life an experiment with truth and never claimed it was finished. The experiment now belongs to us. On Friday, let us leave the garlands and keep the discipline.

India's long road to a permanent UNSC seat

India's campaign for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council is entering a more demanding phase. While reform of the Council remains stalled over competing claims and veto power, New Delhi must simultaneously secure support for its immediate bid for a non-permanent seat — testing the reach of its diplomacy across the Global South, Asia and beyond



KALYANI SHANKAR

India is campaigning for both a permanent and a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Securing a permanent seat requires significant changes to the UN structure, which are progressing slowly. India is seen as a key voice for the Global South and in the Indo-Pacific. Foreign Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, currently in New York for the UN meeting, has initiated the campaign for a non-permanent seat this year.

In August 1950, the US proposed to India, through its ambassador, that it consider replacing China as a permanent UNSC member. Nehru reportedly dismissed this suggestion, missing India's chance for permanent membership. However, the international situation was at the peak of the Cold War; the complexity may have justified his stance.

New Delhi has been working for the seat for the past 30 years as part of its foreign policy goals. Over the years, many countries have supported India's candidacy, recognising its growing influence, large population, and contributions to peacekeeping. However, changing the UNSC's structure is complicated because it requires unanimous consent from the current five permanent members: the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom. Currently, there is no clear timeline for when, or if, India will achieve this goal.

India believes the current UNSC structure no longer reflects modern realities. It argues that its status as the largest democracy and its growing economy make it a key global player. India's commitment to peace is shown through its significant involvement in UN peacekeeping missions, where it has sent many personnel to help maintain stability.

India will need to engage in strong diplomatic efforts, as Tajikistan is also vying for the Asia-Pacific non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

Tajikistan's support from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation could make the competition harder for India. To strengthen its position, India needs more support beyond Fiji, the United States, Austria, and Sri Lanka. Elections happen once a year through a secret ballot and require a two-thirds majority, even if candidates are not opposed.

The G-4 nations support each other's ambitions for permanent seats, and some European countries back India's bid for the UNSC.

However, challenges remain, including disagreements over how many new seats to add



INDIA IS OPEN TO A STRUCTURE THAT MAY INITIALLY EXCLUDE VETO POWER FOR NEW PERMANENT MEMBERS. THIS PROPOSAL SEEKS TO ADDRESS HISTORICAL APPREHENSIONS AMONG CURRENT MEMBERS WHILE PROMOTING MORE EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION. THIS MOVE ACKNOWLEDGES THE NEED TO BALANCE POWER DYNAMICS WITHIN THE COUNCIL AND ENSURE DIVERSE GLOBAL VOICES ARE INCLUDED IN DECISION-MAKING

The writer is a popular columnist

and the controversial question of veto power for those new members.

Despite support from various nations, India faces challenges regarding new seats and veto power. It favours a proposal that initially excludes veto rights for new permanent members, addressing existing members' concerns while promoting fairer representation. As External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reiterated in parliamentary sessions, India is actively engaged in the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on UNSC reforms.

India is working to mobilise broader support for expanding the UNSC. This strategic engagement includes bolstering its ties with Global South nations, highlighting India's commitment to fostering collective development and addressing shared challenges on the international stage.

India advocates reform of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) because it believes the current structure no longer reflects 21st-century realities. As the world's largest democracy with a rapidly growing economy, India plays an important role on the global stage.

Additionally, India's long-standing commitment to international peace and security is demonstrated by its substantial contributions to UN peacekeeping missions. The country has deployed thousands of personnel, further solidifying its reputation as a regional player dedicated to maintaining global stability.

Several European nations have supported India's candidacy, seeing it as a way to diversify representation within the Council. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been particularly outspoken about the urgent need for reform, emphasising important issues such

as seat allocation and claims regarding regional representation. However, the reform process has faced significant challenges because no unified negotiating text exists and disputes continue over expanded membership and the contentious issue of veto power.

Despite strong backing from multiple countries, substantial challenges remain. Central to these challenges are contentious discussions over allocating new seats and the implications of allowing additional members to wield veto power. Nevertheless, India continues to champion permanent membership, articulating its commitment to both global governance and the principles of peace and security the UNSC is meant to uphold.

In its reform proposal, India is open to a structure that may initially exclude veto power for new permanent members. This proposal seeks to address historical apprehensions among current members while promoting more equitable representation. This move acknowledges the need to balance power dynamics within the Council and ensure diverse global voices are included in decision-making.

Moreover, support for India's candidature continues to grow, with backing from entities like the African Union, which has called for a permanent seat to ensure the UNSC adequately represents African interests and perspectives. Nevertheless, the path to permanent membership is complex and requires careful negotiations and consensus-building among current permanent members. The bid will test India's diplomatic outreach across regions, especially among the Global South, OIC members, SCO countries, African states, island nations and major Western partners.

Daiv Vani

WISDOM FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE

The Curse Spoken in a Moment of Anger

Sage Durvasa was known equally across the scriptures for his considerable spiritual power and his famously short, unpredictable temper.

When Shakuntala, lost entirely in thoughts of her beloved Dushyanta, failed to notice Durvasa arriving unannounced as a guest and did not offer him the customary hospitality expected of any host, he cursed her in a sudden fury, declaring that the very person she had been thinking of so fondly would forget her completely and entirely. Realizing almost immediately the harshness of his own reaction, he softened the curse only slightly, allowing that a single token, a ring, could eventually restore Dushyanta's lost memory of her. Even so, the consequences of that one momentary lapse into anger caused Shakuntala years of wholly unnecessary separation, hardship, and quiet suffering.

Durvasa's spiritual power was entirely real and considerable, but so was the lasting damage caused by a single unchecked emotional reaction, one he could only soften slightly afterward, never fully undo no matter how much he later regretted it.

We often speak carelessly in anger, comfortably believing our harsh words can be easily retracted or forgiven afterward, forgetting just how much lasting damage a single moment of unchecked fury can quietly leave behind.

Today, pause deliberately before reacting in anger to a small oversight or perceived slight, and consider what unnecessary, lasting harm a hasty word might actually cause.

—DAIV

The unfinished story of India's handloom weavers



NAMRATA KOHLI

2ND OPINION

At The Kunj, in New Delhi, Aadyam Handwoven recently brought together handwoven textiles from different weaving clusters across India. Alongside the textiles was something increasingly difficult to encounter — a special screening of Shyam Benegal's 1987 Hindi film Susman, which portrayed the lives and struggles of India's handloom weavers.

Susman is not readily available on mainstream streaming platforms, and Aadyam obtained special permission from Shyam Benegal's family to screen the film. "Susman" — loosely translated as "the essence" — is an apt title for a film about the people who form the very warp and weft of India's handloom tradition.

Nearly four decades after the film was made, it raises an uncomfortable question: how much has really

changed for the Indian weaver? "From the time of Shyam Benegal's movie, a lot has changed, but nothing much has changed. The film is equally relevant today," says Manish Saksena, Business Lead, Aadyam Handwoven, an Aditya Birla initiative.

Among the traditions showcased was Pochampally Ikat, which originates in Bhoodan Pochampally in Telangana's Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district and is renowned for its distinctive geometric patterns. The beauty of Ikat begins even before the loom. Unlike conventional weaving, where the design emerges primarily during weaving, in Ikat the yarn itself is carefully tied and resist-dyed according to a predetermined pattern before it reaches the loom. The coloured threads must then be aligned with remarkable precision during weaving for the pattern to emerge. The slight feathering at the edges of motifs — rather than machine-like uniformity — gives Ikat much of its distinctive handmade character.

There is something truly distinct about this craft. In Pochampally, this intricate process also creates an unusual partnership between weavers. "In Pochampally, the weaver has to be very particular. He has to synchronise with the person doing the tie-and-dye," explains Saksena. "The husband and wife often work in tandem here. In other clusters, men may do the main weaving and women some of the lighter weaves, but because of the technique in Pochampally, there is much more working together."

But keeping such labour-intensive craftsmanship alive comes at a price. Pochampally saris at premium stores in silk can today range from around Rs 20,000 to Rs 1 lakh, depending on the silk, intricacy and amount of work involved. "Handloom is meant to be worn by everyone. That is the true essence," says Saksena. "But silk prices have really been shooting up. At the same time, there is a minimum wage, and we are very conscious that the weavers' livelihood is maintained." It creates one of handloom's contemporary contradictions: how does a craft remain accessible while ensuring that the people making it are adequately paid?

For Saksena, Susman is also personal. He first saw the film at a festival in 1987. "It pretty much shaped why I chose this profession," he recalls. "It was a very inspirational film and impacted me at a very impressionable age." At the exhibition, he also displayed another piece of his own history — a sari he bought for his mother from his first salary in 1994.

A sari can carry a family memory for decades; a weaving tradition can carry a cultural memory for centuries. Nearly 40 years after Susman, perhaps the challenge is no longer simply preserving the loom. It is ensuring that the people sitting at it can build a future from it.

The writer is an author, podcaster and a Senior Fellow at the Ministry of Culture, Government of India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Courage that made India proud

Kudos to Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, whose presence of mind and extraordinary courage saved the lives of 174 passengers aboard an Israel-bound Flydubai flight from an attempted crash landing.

Though investigations are still under way, early reports indicate that the Captain was stabbed by his Omani co-pilot, allegedly with the intent of crashing the plane and killing all the travellers, including dozens of Israelis. Despite being seriously injured and bleeding, the Indian pilot fought back and opened the cockpit door. This allowed passengers and crew members to enter the flight cabin, overpower the assailant, safely divert the plane and land in Saudi Arabia.

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it," said Nelson Mandela. The Indian pilot deserves the highest honours and accolades, both national and international, for upholding the lofty traditions of civil aviation by placing his own life on the line to save those of the passengers.

One hopes there is no attempt to justify the attack as an inevitable consequence of Israel's past military actions against Iran and Lebanon. It may also be time to enforce stringent rules when assigning pilots to flights serving specific destinations.

V JAYARAMAN | CHENNAI

CAFE-3 norms may raise car costs

Apropos "Government notifies new CAFE-3 norms for passenger vehicles", published on October 1, I believe the government's notification of the third phase of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE-3) norms is an important step towards reducing fuel consumption and carbon emissions from passenger vehicles. The rules will apply from April 1, 2027, to March 31, 2032, and will progressively tighten fleet-wide efficiency requirements. A significant feature is that the final framework does not provide a separate concession for petrol cars weighing below 909 kg. Instead, the formula offers relatively softer targets to lighter vehicle fleets while imposing greater efficiency requirements on heavier vehicles. The norms will have a major impact on carmakers' product strategies. Manufacturers with lighter portfolios, such as Maruti Suzuki, may find compliance comparatively easier, although their large petrol-car base will still require greater use of CNG, hybrids, electric vehicles and fuel-saving technologies.

Companies with SUV-heavy portfolios, including Tata Motors and Mahindra & Mahindra, may face greater pressure to improve efficiency or expand electrified models. More efficient cars could lower fuel costs and pollution, but cleaner technologies may initially raise vehicle prices.

BAL GOVIND | NOIDA

Gandhi's enduring message of harmony

In his emotional "the light has gone out of our lives" speech to the nation following the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, a deeply saddened Jawaharlal Nehru, India's Prime Minister, said, "For the light that shone in this country was no ordinary light.

The light that has illumined this country for these many years will illumine this country for many more years, and a thousand years later, that light will be seen in this country and the world will see it, and it will give solace to innumerable hearts."

In the preface to Nobel laureate Romain Rolland's book, *Mahatma Gandhi: The Man Who Became One With The Universal Being*, the editor echoed this sentiment: "The emotions released by this calamity, if directed to constructive purposes, may, however, lead to the worldwide fulfilment of those principles of conduct for which the Mahatma laid down his life." Now, the finest tribute to him is to live and let live, emulating the spirit of his life. A devout Hindu, he nonetheless remained a true secularist. "Ishwar Allah Tere Naam", the famous bhajan promoting religious harmony, was his favourite song. Gandhiji also championed the poorest. As India remembers Mahatma Gandhi, his message of peace, harmony and humanity remains as relevant as ever.

HARIDASAN RAJAN | KERALAM



An artisan puts the finishing touches on miniature idols of Goddess Durga, crafted from clay and sponge wood, ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja festival, in Birbhum district, West Bengal. PHOTO: PTI

Can India turn transition into a financial asset?

Climate finance is good at funding new green assets. The harder challenge is creating financial value when existing high-emission assets need to be transformed, repurposed or eventually retired



RIA SINHA

Climate finance is largely built around creation. A solar project can borrow against future electricity sales. Green bonds can finance new infrastructure. Blended finance can help an emerging technology move from being technically possible to commercially

viable. The harder problem begins when climate value comes not from building something new, but from changing what already exists.

Let's take a thermal power plant that could operate commercially for another decade. If cleaner and reliable replacement capacity becomes available five years earlier, retiring or repurposing the plant could avoid substantial future emissions. But the financial obligations do not disappear. The owner may lose expected revenue, lenders may still have exposure, workers and local economies may be affected, and replacement electricity still has to be financed.

The avoided emissions have a climate value. What is less clear is how that value can help pay for the transition itself.

India therefore needs to think about climate capital according to the job it has to do. Some capital builds the emerging low-carbon system. Some helps existing assets become cleaner or change function. Over time, some will also be needed to finance the repurposing or retirement of assets that the energy system can eventually do without.

For India, that last category has to be approached carefully. Coal (including lignite) supplied 69.5 per cent of electricity between April and June 2026 and accounted for roughly three-fourths of maximum generation during non-solar peak-demand hours. Thermal power still performs an important system-security function.

This cannot become a backdoor case for shutting viable coal capacity prematurely. India's electricity demand is still growing. The more useful question is whether, once adequate replacement electrons are available, finance can help an older asset move out of its existing role earlier than it otherwise would.

An experiment underway in Singapore offers one possible route. Its Transition Credits Coalition (TRAC-TION) has been exploring energy-transition credits generated from verified emissions reductions when coal plants retire earlier than planned and are replaced with cleaner energy. The idea is not that carbon credits pay for the entire exercise. Rather, revenue from avoided emissions can improve the economics of an otherwise difficult transition transaction.

There is now enough work on this idea to make it more than a thought experiment. Verra's methodology for accelerated retirement of grid-connected coal plants has been active since May 2025. It sets out how net emissions reductions can be calculated when retirement is paired with replacement renewable generation and requires a just-transition plan for affected workers and communities. A revised methodology consulted on in 2026 is now at final review.

India should not copy this model mechanically. Its coal fleet, demand trajectory and development needs are different. But the underlying financial idea deserves a domestic pilot.

Suppose the gap between a plant's remaining economic value and the value realised through an earlier transition is too large for the owner or lenders to absorb. A transaction could combine restructuring by existing lenders and owners, concessional finance or guarantees, commercial capital for replacement capacity, public resources for workers and site redevelopment, and revenue from verified avoided emissions.

Carbon revenue would be only one piece of the financing package. Its role would be to put a price on a climate benefit that is otherwise difficult to monetise.

A limited Transition Finance Transaction Framework could test this approach. The first question should be simple: is the energy system actually ready for the asset to change role?

In power, adequate replacement electrons, whether from renewables, storage, hydro, nuclear or stronger grid connections, must exist before retirement is



REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

CLIMATE FINANCE HAS SPENT YEARS LEARNING HOW TO MAKE TOMORROW'S ASSETS INVESTIBLE. INDIA WILL ALSO NEED A WAY TO DEAL WITH YESTERDAY'S ASSETS WHEN KEEPING THEM IN THEIR EXISTING FORM NO LONGER MAKES ECONOMIC OR ENVIRONMENTAL SENSE

financed. In sectors such as steel, fertilisers or refining, the equivalent question concerns alternative low-carbon molecules and production processes. Finance should follow technical readiness, not run ahead of it.

There would need to be other safeguards. An asset already due to close should not earn a windfall for doing what economics would have forced it to do anyway. Nor should one plant's closure simply shift generation and emissions elsewhere. Workers, local economies, land rehabilitation and productive reuse also have to be part of the transaction.

India is already beginning to treat mine closure in this broader way. The coal ministry reported in July that 42 coal mines had been scientifically closed, with ecological restoration, community interventions and productive post-mining land use forming part of the process.

India's emerging carbon market and climate-finance taxonomy provide a useful policy backdrop. The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme now covers 490 obligated entities across seven emissions-intensive sectors and has put in place an institutional framework for monitoring, reporting and verification. Separately, the draft climate-finance taxonomy explicitly supports transition activities and says India's classification must reflect its development priorities, transition pathways and energy-security needs.

There is an opportunity to connect these pieces more deliberately. Instead of treating transition finance as a broad label for anything less carbon-intensive than the status quo, India could distinguish between capital that improves an existing asset, transforms it, repurposes it and, where justified, finances its retirement.

But this brings us to the question that may ultimately determine whether such transactions work at all: who pays?

Should the asset owner absorb the loss in remaining economic value? How much should existing lenders restructure? When is public or concessional capital justified? Should buyers of verified transition credits contribute because they value the avoided emissions? Who finances replacement electricity, worker support, land restoration and local economic redevelopment? And what part, if any, should international climate finance bear?

These are not secondary questions. A transition can be technically sensible and environmentally credible, yet still fail because its costs fall on actors with neither the incentive nor the capacity to carry them. The answer will vary across assets and sectors, but the distribution of transition costs has to become explicit.

The issue extends well beyond coal. Cement kilns, steel-making equipment, refineries and industrial systems built around carbon-intensive molecules will increasingly face choices between retrofit, conversion, replacement and retirement. Each has a different financial logic.

Climate finance has spent years learning how to make tomorrow's assets investible. India will also need a way to deal with yesterday's assets when keeping them in their existing form no longer makes economic or environmental sense. The goal is not to pay viable assets to disappear before the system is ready. It is to ensure that, once transformation or retirement becomes technically sensible and economically desirable, the absence of a financing mechanism does not become the reason the old system persists.

The next innovation in transition finance may therefore lie not only in putting a value on avoided emissions, but in answering the harder question that follows: who should bear the cost of turning that climate value into an investible transition?

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Tax certainty is India's next corporate advantage



SANDEEP S NAGAR

India's economic transformation is creating businesses of unprecedented scale, ambition and complexity. Companies are expanding across jurisdictions, undertaking acquisitions, restructuring operations, and attracting institutional capital. In this environment, taxation can no longer remain confined to the accounts department. It is increasingly becoming a boardroom issue.

The real competitive advantage for Indian businesses in the coming years may not simply be access to capital or technology. It could be tax certainty, which means the ability to structure busi-

nesses and transactions with greater predictability about their legal and fiscal consequences.

The Indian tax environment has undergone significant transformation. Digitisation, data integration, and increasingly sophisticated scrutiny have made transactions far more visible to the authorities. For businesses, this has created both an opportunity and a responsibility. The opportunity lies in greater transparency and a more formalised economy; the responsibility is to ensure that business practices, financial statements, tax filings, and documentation tell the same story.

This is where tax advisory needs to evolve. The traditional model treated taxation largely as a compliance exercise: calculate the liability, file the return, and respond if a notice arrives. That model is increasingly inadequate. Tax implications need to be considered when a business is being structured, when an acquisition is being evaluated, when assets are transferred, when a company is reorganised, and even when promoters are planning succession.

In other words, tax strategy needs to move upstream into business strategy. For companies undertaking mergers and acquisitions, tax due diligence is particularly critical. An acquisition does not necessarily end with the transfer of ownership. Historical tax exposures, pending litigation, assessment risks and compliance gaps can travel with the transaction, depending on its structure. These risks can affect valuation, warranties, indemnities and the ultimate economics of the deal.



Corporate restructuring presents a similar challenge. A restructuring may have a compelling commercial rationale, but its legal and tax consequences cannot be considered separately. The question is not merely whether a restructuring can be implemented, but whether the resulting structure is commercially efficient, legally defensible and sustainable.

This is also why India's growing tax-litigation ecosystem requires a more integrated approach. A tax dispute is rarely only about interpreting a provision. It is ultimately about facts, documentation, accounting treatment, business purpose and legal interpretation. A company that waits until a dispute reaches the appellate stage to examine its position has already lost valuable ground.

Prevention, therefore, is becoming as important as representation. There is another dimension that deserves attention: the MSME sector. India's formalisation drive has brought millions of smaller businesses into the digital and tax ecosystem. GST registrations, income-tax filings, digital payments, and banking trails have increased transparency. But formalisation should not stop at registration.

MSMEs need greater access to professional financial and tax guidance. Basic financial hygiene, proper documentation, timely filings, and a clear understanding of tax obligations can prevent disputes that become disproportionately expensive later.

The answer is not necessarily more compliance for its own sake. It is smarter compliance. India's aspiration to become a globally competitive manufacturing, services, and investment destination also makes tax predictability important for international investors. Global capital evaluates not merely the size of an opportunity but the predictability of its operating environment. Clear rules, consistent interpretation, efficient dispute resolution and professional advisory support can substantially strengthen India's investment proposition.

The country's tax architecture has come a long way, but the next stage must focus on certainty, simplicity and trust. Professionals who combine financial understanding with legal expertise have an increasingly important role to play in this transition. The emergence of dual-qualified practitioners reflects the changing requirements of modern business, where legal, financial and regulatory questions increasingly overlap.

The larger lesson for corporate India is simple: tax should not be viewed as the cost of doing business. Companies that build this architecture early will be better positioned to manage disputes, execute transactions, attract capital and sustain growth. India is moving towards a more formal, transparent, and globally integrated economy. Its businesses must evolve accordingly. The next generation of corporate success will belong not merely to those who grow fastest, but to those who build the strongest foundations for that growth.

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Ayushman Bharat's next test: Are we paying for the right healthcare?



INDU BHUSHAN

As Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) approaches eight years since its September 2018 launch, it has much to be proud of. About 100,000 people receive free hospital

treatment daily, and by June 30, 2026, it had financed 12.69 crore admissions worth ₹1.92 lakh crore, with better financial protection and earlier access to treatment. Very few public programmes anywhere have expanded healthcare access at this scale and pace.

But scale brings its own challenges. Having shown that publicly financed health assurance can expand access, PM-JAY must now ask a harder question: are we always paying for the right care?

This is not simply about fraud, which is relatively easy to define: a service not provided, documents fabricated, a claim falsified. Clinical decision-making is far more complicated: whether a Caesarean was necessary, a hysterectomy avoidable, or a knee replacement should have followed conservative treatment first often involves judgement, not black-and-white rules.

We were conscious of this when designing PM-JAY. Certain procedures were particularly susceptible to moral hazard, where insurance itself can influence the type or quantity of care provided. So

we built safeguards: reimbursement for normal and Caesarean deliveries was kept equal so payment would not reward surgery; vulnerable procedures faced pre-authorisation and stricter documentation; some were reserved for public hospitals, where supplier-induced demand was highest-risk.

These safeguards mattered, but no scheme can anticipate every clinical situation across thousands of conditions, nor can an insurer substitute its judgement for the doctor's. It is precisely in these grey areas that PM-JAY's next generation of oversight needs to evolve.

Caesarean sections illustrate the problem. NFHS-6 shows Caesarean deliveries rose from 21.5 per cent in 2019-21 to 27.2 per cent in 2023-24; 54.1 per cent of private-facility births were Caesarean, against 16.9 per cent in public ones. This doesn't tell us how many were unnecessary, nor should it deny a woman a Caesarean when she needs one. WHO prescribes no ideal rate but recommends examining patterns through tools like the Robson classification. A blanket cap misses the mark: what really matters is why rates swing so distinctly across hospitals, states and sectors.

A similar pattern is emerging in orthopaedics. Total knee replacement is covered under PM-JAY, and since October 2024, citizens aged 70 and above qualify irrespective of socio-economic status. As



this population grows, oversight should shift towards age-, severity and indication-based review, so that surgery follows clinical need and, where appropriate, conservative treatment first.

Hysterectomy makes an even stronger case for looking beyond the claim. The concern isn't new: under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana, which preceded Ayushman Bharat, reports of indiscriminate hysterectomies in states such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar became a serious worry. An early National Health Authority analysis of 17,333 hysterectomy claims under PM-JAY (September 2018-April 2019) found the median age was just 44, and

nearly 69 per cent were performed in private hospitals. It did not conclude the procedures were unnecessary but found substantial variation and recommended better capture of clinical indications and consideration of alternatives.

Hysterectomy can be lifesaving when appropriately indicated; the concern arises when an irreversible procedure becomes the first response to a condition with effective alternatives. Claims oversight must examine not just whether a procedure was performed, but whether it was appropriate and alternatives were considered. For heavy menstrual bleeding, the UK's NICE recommends a hormonal levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system (LNG-IUS) first, with hysterectomy appropriate where indicated but only after fewer invasive options and the woman's informed choice.

The stakes extend beyond the hospital stay. In younger women, hysterectomy that also removes the ovaries brings forward the loss of oestrogen, accelerating the onset of osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease. Around 46 million Indian women over 50 already live with osteoporosis, and coronary artery disease is a leading cause of death among postmenopausal Indian women. Weaker bones and joints can, in turn, feed into the same knee-replacement claims PM-JAY now covers, so an avoidable hysterectomy today can quietly add to tomorrow's orthopaedic burden.

The cost of an intervention is not merely what

is paid today. A hysterectomy in a young woman shifts her long-term health, and a Caesarean carries over into future pregnancies. High-cost elective procedures should not be rationed by age, but by disease severity, functional impairment, prior conservative treatment and comorbidities, especially when public resources finance the procedure.

PM-JAY must shift from claims assurance to clinical assurance. The Health Benefit Package should adequately cover non-surgical alternatives to prevent financial incentives from tilting medical decisions towards unnecessary procedures. Pre-authorisation must capture meaningful clinical indications rather than creating administrative paperwork. Data analytics can flag unusual utilisation patterns for targeted audits, accounting for hospital size and specialty. Clinicians must help design these safeguards so rules examine patterns without hindering patient care. Moving beyond basic fraud prevention, PM-JAY must now ensure treatments are clinically appropriate and necessary.

PM-JAY's next test is not to reduce the number of surgeries, or to make an insurer a doctor. The objective is to ensure financial incentives and oversight systems support sound clinical judgement. Public money should pay for the right intervention, at the right stage, with an eye on the patient's health over a lifetime. The natural next stage in PM-JAY's evolution, from financing more healthcare, is to financing better healthcare.

The writer is a former CEO of Ayushman Bharat

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Order Order

Foreigners don't have inherent right to seek entry into India: HC



The Delhi High Court has held that a foreign national does not have an inherent or legally enforceable right to seek entry into India. The high court also said the statutory framework does not treat the possession of a visa as creating an absolute and unconditional right of admission into India.

"...the statutory scheme expressly contemplates circumstances in which, notwithstanding possession of the requisite travel documents, a foreigner may not be permitted to enter India on the grounds specified therein, including considerations relating to national security, sovereignty and integrity of India, relations with a foreign State and public health, besides such other grounds as may be specified by the Central Government," Justice Amit Mahajan said in an order passed on September 30. The court said issuance of a visa or refusal of entry or granting clearance of immigration is a sovereign function of the State that is embedded in considerations of national security, foreign policy and administrative discretion. (PTI)

SC urges raising cap on State Bar Councils



The Supreme Court on Thursday asked Attorney General R Venkataramani to consider a plea seeking an increase in the statutory strength of State Bar Councils, currently capped at 25 members under the Advocates Act.

A bench of Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana passed the order while hearing a petition filed by advocate Rohit Pandey, who has challenged the adequacy of the existing strength of State Bar Councils in view of the substantial growth in the number of advocates over the decades. The plea said that the 25-member limit was prescribed when the Advocates Act was enacted in 1961. Now, the electorate of several State Bar Councils has increased manifold since then, it said.

The counsel for Pandey cited the Bar Council of Delhi, which, according to the plea, has around two lakh registered advocates, and argued that such a large electorate requires adequate and proportionate representation in its elected body. (PTI)

HC allows termination of pregnancy of 15-year-old rape victim



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Kochi

The Kerala High Court has allowed the medical termination of a 30-week pregnancy of a 15-year-old rape survivor, following a plea by her mother.

Justice Harisankar V Menon allowed the plea filed by the girl's mother seeking termination of the pregnancy and directed the state government to make arrangements for the procedure. The court issued the direction after a medical board constituted by it to examine the girl opined that medical termination was the most suitable option, as continuation of the pregnancy would significantly affect the mental health of the 15-year-old sexual assault survivor.

The board said that since the gestation had crossed 30 weeks, the baby would be born alive and had more than a 95 per cent chance of survival if no major anomalies or perinatal complications occurred. It also said the baby would require a stay in neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for about two months.

Based on the medical board's report, the court directed the state to ensure that the procedure was carried out after obtaining an undertaking from the victim and her mother that the girl was willing to undergo it. "If the child survives, the state shall provide appropriate measures and standard neonatal care. If the child still develops complications, as voiced by the report of the medical board, the necessary medical aid shall be provided by the state to the child, as and when it arises," the court said.



HC questions ECI's handling of SIR voter deletions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

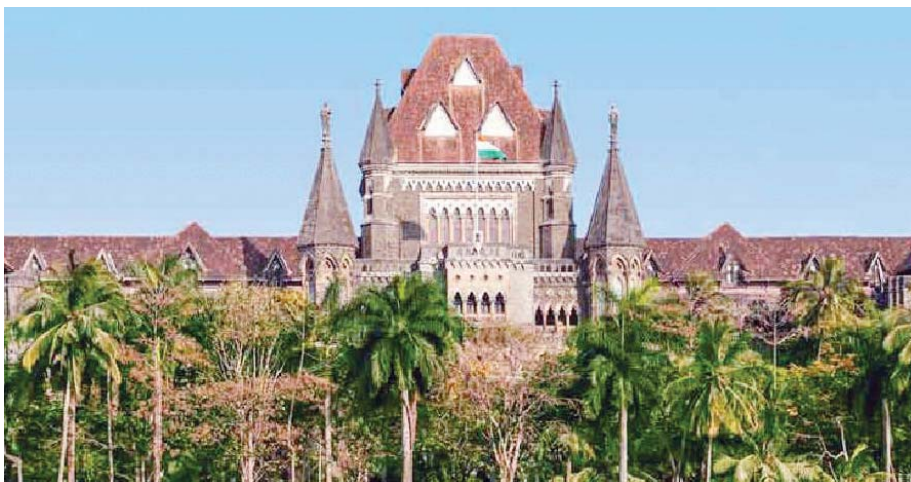
■ Panaji

The Bombay High Court on Thursday said the object of the Representation of the People Act and Election Commission of India, which cannot be "overridden", is to ensure that votes are cast by citizens.

However, what the ECI has done is not in consonance with its object, the Goa bench of the HC, comprising Justices Valmiki Menezes and Amit S Jamsandekar, said while hearing a writ petition filed by six members of a family whose names were deleted from the voters' list.

Petitioners Paresh Salgaonkar and his kin told the court they had moved to a new house in the same Santa Cruz assembly constituency and were instructed by the Booth Level Officer to submit Form 8 for a change of address.

At the time of processing, errors showed up since no



record of their Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) was found, and as such, their Form 8 was rejected, the petitioners told court.

While hearing the arguments of advocate Gaunish Agni on behalf of ECI, the division bench said rejecting Form 8 means "the roll will not have that person's name", adding "we have

reservations about that".

"Form 8 could be kept until you complete the SIR (Special Intensive Revision) and then you deal with all the Form 8s. But if you reject Form 8 because you did not come with the right form, we have reservations about that," the bench observed and asked if the ECI was empowered to reject it.

Agni told the bench that ECI had the power, adding that if anybody is left out during SIR, only Form 6 would be considered.

"If any party goes back to the situation where there is no SIR, you submit Form 8 and we will consider it," Agni told HC. Agni clarified that the forms of the petitioners were rejected because they did

not fill it during the enumeration period.

"The basis of SIR is the enumeration form," he said.

The bench, however, observed that the Election Commission's endeavour is to have as many eligible voters on the roll as possible.

"Why should it reject Form 8, if it comes during that period (SIR), and that is what we are trying to understand. Your guidelines are perfectly fine, but why do you have to reject Form 8? You can keep it pending," the bench said.

"Because what happens is that if you don't keep it pending, the person escapes from the roll. He will be neither here, nor there. You finish your roll and deal with all the Form 8s. Because that is the best information for you to understand that people have shifted," the court observed.

The bench said the larger object of the Representation of the People Act and the ECI is to ensure that votes are

cast by citizens.

"For that purpose, they can adopt any measures. Whatever measures that you adopt, the object has to be achieved. In that object, here and there, there may be aberrations. But the object cannot be overridden," the bench asserted. The High Court observed that what the ECI had done was not in consonance with its object.

"How will you succeed in the object? If you have to achieve an object of not missing out a voter, where a voter comes forward to you with a wrong form, are you supposed to reject it or keep it in abeyance? Finalise your roll and deal with these forms. You accept that he is being missed. You accept that many people may have been missed," the bench further said.

Agni, however, asked if it wasn't the voter's duty to come before SIR and intimate the ECI that he had shifted.

SC dismisses TMC plea on frozen bank accounts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court dismissed a plea by the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC faction to operate four debit-frozen bank accounts with public sector banks. A bench of Justices MM Sundresh and PB Varale said it was not inclined to interfere with the Calcutta HC order which refused to allow plea.

The top court noted that the Election Commission has frozen the symbol and therefore the larger issue as to who is entitled to the amount is pending adjudication.

"We refrain from going into



the merits. We are not inclined to exercise our jurisdiction under Article 136. We request the high court to expedite the hearing," the bench said.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for TMC faction by Banerjee, submitted that the state police has frozen

bank accounts because it is opposed to party and wants to stop its political activities.

Singhvi said the party required a minimum of ₹12.15 crore per month for sustaining its operations and expenses. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta opposed Singhvi's plea and contended that there was a factional dispute in which one side claimed to be real TMC.

He told the court that a complaint was made that a PA of the Banerjee faction of the TMC had allegedly deposited ₹35 crore through cash into those accounts. There was an investigation under progress in this regard, Mehta said.

The top court noted Mehta's submission and dismissed the plea. The Calcutta HC on August 27 had refused to pass an interim order allowing the Mamata Banerjee-led faction to operate four debit-frozen bank accounts holding around ₹804 crore, observing that granting relief would undermine its earlier order permitting party to meet day-to-day expenses.

The TMC had sought permission to operate four accounts with public sector banks that were debit-frozen by the West Bengal Police, claiming there were lacunae in the FIRs related to the freezing.



HC asks if Parth did not benefit from Mundhwa land deal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Thursday orally asked the Maharashtra government if Parth Pawar, son of Deputy CM Sunetra Pawar, was not a beneficiary in the Mundhwa land deal case as he holds 99 per cent stake in the firm that bought the state plot at a heavily discounted price.

Parth Pawar, a Rajya Sabha MP, is a majority partner in Amadea Enterprises LLP, which purchased a 40-acre government-owned land parcel in Pune's upscale Mundhwa area at a price much lower than its actual value.

A single bench of Justice Madhav Jamdar said a person who holds 1 per cent share in the company has been made an accused in the case, but the probe was silent on the person (Parth Pawar) who holds 99 per cent of the shares in the firm. The court poised this

question while granting pre-arrest bail to Pune Tehsildar Suryakant Yewale, named an accused in the case for allegedly misusing his official position to facilitate the controversial transaction. Yewale has denied any role in the transaction and claimed he has been falsely implicated.

The court last month sought the Maharashtra's Director General of Police (DGP)'s response to a submission made by Yewale in his plea that Parth Pawar was not named an accused in the case as he was a highly influential person.

DGP Sadanand Date, in his affidavit submitted to the court, said there was a need for a more professional and detailed investigation and hence instructions have been issued to the Pune Commissioner of Police to carry out further probe in the matter.

The court on Thursday accepted the statement, but questioned the police probe.

Court orders framing of charges against Yasin Malik and 6 others in Hawala funding case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

A Delhi court has ordered the framing of money laundering charges against jailed chief of banned JKLF Yasin Malik, separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah, Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid and four others for allegedly drawing funds from Pakistan for secessionist activities. The six have been accused of using hawala channels to obtain funding.

In an order dated September 9, Special Judge Prashant Sharma said, "I conclude that prima facie, there is sufficient material on record based upon which



strong suspicion is raised against all seven accused persons namely, Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali, Naval Kishore Kapoor, M/s Trison Farms and Constructions Pvt Ltd, Mohd Yasin Malik, Shabir Ahmad Shah, Masarat Alam and Abdul Rashid Sheikh, for which said accused persons have to be charged with offence under Section 3 of

PMLA, punishable under Section 4 of PMLA."

Section 3 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) deals with the offence of money laundering.

The court had posted the matter for formal framing of charges on September 30.

According to court sources, the accused could not be produced physically in court on September 30 because of security-related issues, following which the judge directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to get the charges signed by the accused in the prisons where they are incarcerated.

They said that the court has posted the matter for

further proceedings on October 30.

The ED case stems from a 2017 NIA case, where the agency had invoked several charges, including of criminal conspiracy under the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, against the accused.

The prosecution has alleged that the accused persons were involved in receiving funds from Pakistani establishment through hawala and from other outfits by way of various means to propagate their ideology and agenda of secessionism and subversive activities prejudicial to law of the land.

HC grants bail to pro-ISIS group member in UAPA case



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Thursday granted bail to Mohammad Shahzad Kamal, an alleged member of a pro-ISIS group called Harkat-ul-Harb-E-Islam in a case under the anti-terrorism law.

A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Arun Bhardwaj said the accused has been in custody for more than five years and the case against him does not warrant continued incarceration as the trial is not likely to end anytime soon.

Kamal, who was arrested on August 31, 2021 by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in a case registered in 2018 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), approached the high court after the trial court rejected his bail plea on May 29, 2024.

"The impugned order passed by the learned trial court cannot be sustained and is accordingly set aside. The appellant is directed to be released on bail," the court ordered.

According to the NIA, Kamal, along with other co-accused, entered into a criminal conspiracy to commit terrorist acts and wilfully abetted in providing funds for "jihadi activities" of the Harkat-ul-Harb-E-Islam, a terrorist gang affiliated with the proscribed organisation ISIS.

Kamal allegedly provided funds on multiple occasions to carry out terrorist activities.

The court directed the accused's release on a personal bond of ₹50,000 and two sureties in the like amount. It also imposed several conditions on him, including surrendering his passport and not leaving his native place in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur, except to travel to Delhi to attend his trial or report to the NIA office.

The court directed him not to make any public statement in relation to the case or participate in any activity that may prejudice public order or the integrity of the trial or disseminate any anti-national material on any social media platform or otherwise.

India showcases justice reforms and global legal partnerships at 15th UN Congress in Abu Dhabi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

■ New Delhi

India showcased its efforts to build a modern, citizen-focused, tech-enabled and globally connected justice system at the 15th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Abu Dhabi, being held under the theme, "Accelerating crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law: Protecting people and planet and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the digital age."

In this regard Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal held meeting with UAE Minister of Justice Abdullah Sultan bin Awad Al Nuaimi, during the 15th UN Congress highlighting India's tech-driven justice system, new criminal laws and global legal cooperation. Addressing the UN Congress, Meghwal highlighted India's new criminal laws—the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam—and their focus on technology, faster justice, forensic investigation and digital-first procedures. He also highlighted India's digital response to cybercrime through the Indian Cyber Crime



Coordination Centre (I4C) and the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal, enabling faster reporting, fraud prevention and freezing of mule accounts.

Meghwal reiterated India's zero-tolerance stance against terrorism and stressed the need for global cooperation against terrorism, drug trafficking, transnational wildlife crime, illegal logging, toxic waste dumping and other organised and environmental offences.

It was also highlighted the growing India-UAE legal partnership, particularly in international arbitration and alternative dispute resolution. The partnership between India International Arbitration

Centre (IIAC) and Dubai International Arbitration Centre (DIAC) is strengthening knowledge exchange, professional training, joint programmes, research and digital dispute-resolution mechanisms. DIAC handles nearly 5,000 cases worth over AED 80 billion (around USD 21.8 billion).

During his visit, Meghwal also met Monika Juma, Executive Director, UNODC, to discuss cooperation against drugs and organised crime and stronger legal and judicial partnerships.

These developments reflect the deepening India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, which now spans trade,

investment, energy, technology, defence, education and people-to-people relations, alongside cooperation in law, justice and good governance.

India's participation in the 15th UN Congress underlines its commitment to modern laws, digital innovation, strong institutions, effective enforcement and meaningful international cooperation—building a justice architecture equipped for a fast-changing digital world. Effective justice today needs more than laws. It needs technology, skilled institutions, global teamwork and an unwavering commitment to fairness, according to a statement in this regard by PIB.

AGEL boosts BESS capacity to 6.63 GWh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ahmedabad

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), India's largest renewable energy company, has expanded its operational Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity to 6.63 gigawatt-hours (GWh) at Khavda, Gujarat, from 3.55 GWh in June 2026.

AGEL now accounts for more than 50% of India's operational BESS capacity of about 12.6 GWh. This milestone consolidates Khavda's position as the world's largest operational battery energy storage installation at a single location, with 6.63 GWh of operational capacity. AGEL achieved the 6.63 GWh milestone within 14 months of commencing on-site BESS construction at Khavda, Gujarat with this latest capacity addition being commissioned in just 10 months from the start of its construction. The BESS is



integrated with AGEL's renewable energy (RE) development at Khavda, where the company is developing a 30 GW RE plant across 538 square kilometers of barren land.

The AGEL 6.63 GWh BESS can store enough clean energy to power around two million homes a day, and support peak electricity demand of cities like Nagpur, Patna or Vizag for several hours. This BESS capacity at Khavda is equivalent to

battery storage capacity of more than 150,000 mid-sized EVs and can store enough energy daily to meet almost twice the Delhi Metro's estimated daily electricity requirement, underscoring the unprecedented scale of the installation.

The scale-up to 6.63 GWh strengthens the integration of renewable energy into the grid by enabling clean power to be stored and dispatched when required.

Mr Sagar Adani, Executive

Director, Adani Green Energy, said, "Reaching 6.63 GWh of operational battery storage in just 14 months is a significant milestone for AGEL and India's clean energy transition. At this scale, storage can make renewable power firmer, more reliable and dispatchable when the grid needs it. As India's power demand grows, we will continue to scale energy storage solutions, both, battery and pumped storage to support a more resilient, lower-carbon grid."

Advanced project controls, digital monitoring systems, agile construction management practices, and strategic partnerships with leading global BESS OEMs enabled adherence to aggressive project timelines while maintaining stringent quality and safety standards.

The deployment serves as a benchmark for large-scale energy storage execution and operations, supporting

India's energy transition through reliable and scalable storage infrastructure.

The BESS uses lithium-ion battery technology, integrated with an Energy Management Systems (EMS) and automated telemetry to manage charging and discharging, optimise system performance and support grid services.

Battery storage can improve grid stability, manage peak demand, reduce energy curtailment and enable renewable power to be delivered when required.

AGEL is on track to add over 10 GWh of BESS capacity in FY 2026-27 and is targeting 50 GWh of storage capacity over the next 5 years. The company is also pursuing pumped storage projects (PSPs) as part of its broader strategy to build large-scale, firm and dispatchable renewable power capacity.

NBCC inks MoU with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

NBCC (India) Limited, a Navratna CPSE, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the FY 2026-27 on 30th September 2026 with its Administrative Ministry, MoHUA, outlining the performance targets of the Company for the FY 2026-27.

The MoU has been signed by D Thara (IAS), Secretary (CD), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, on behalf of the Ministry and by Dr KP Mahadevaswamy, Chairman and Managing Director, NBCC, on behalf of the Company.

The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of senior officials including Shri Ravi Kumar Arora (IAS), Joint Secretary (Land & Estates); Sanjeet (IRAS), Joint Secretary & Financial Advisor, MoHUA; Sandeep Kulharia (IRSME), Director (Estate), MoHUA,



Suman Kumar, Director (Commercial); Mr Anjeev Kumar Jain, Director (Finance); and MB Singhal, Executive Director (Finance), NBCC, along with other officials of the Ministry and NBCC.

The MoU sets out the performance targets for the Company for FY 2026-27 and provides a snapshot of the milestones to be achieved by NBCC in respect of financial and operational performance parameters. It is also mentioned that NBCC has been awarded an 'Excellent' rating

by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for its outstanding performance under the annual MoU for FY 2024-25. This recognition underscores NBCC's consistent operational excellence, strong financial discipline, and leadership in delivering infrastructure projects of national importance.

Building on this momentum, for FY 2026-27, NBCC has delivered robust financial results along with notable achievements in key physical parameters.

SRM University debuts in times higher education world university rankings 2027

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Amaravati

SRM University-AP has made its debut in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2027, securing a place in the 1001-1200 band in its very first year of participation.

Established less than a decade ago, SRM University-AP says the recognition makes it the youngest private university in India to achieve this distinction within 10 years of its inception. The milestone marks a significant step in the University's emergence as a research-led institution with a growing global presence.

This also makes SRMAP Andhra Pradesh's first university, to achieve this honour in this span. Other than achieving a strong position overall, SRM University-AP's performance was particularly strong in International Outlook, where it recorded a score of 58.5 and was placed fifth in India on this indicator,

above some of the best academic institutions. Its Research Quality score of 55.4 further reflects the strong reach, influence and growing impact of the University's scholarly output within the global research community. Dr P Sathyanarayanan, Professor Chancellor, SRMAP, expresses, "Entering the Times Higher Education World University Rankings within a decade of our founding affirms that we are moving in the right direction.

It reflects the quality, purpose and ambition that define SRM University-AP. With a focused roadmap for research and academic growth, we will build on this foundation by further strengthening academic quality, global engagement and meaningful impact."

For Vice-Chancellor, SRM AP, Professor Ch Satish Kumar, the recognition reflects the culture of inquiry the university has built in under a decade: "To be placed in the 1001-1200 bracket of the Times Higher

Education (THE) World University Rankings so early in our journey is a moment of real pride, and it deepens our resolve toward the vision we have set for this university.

It reflects the culture of curiosity we have nurtured at SRM University-AP, where faculty and students pursue questions that matter and share their findings with the global scholarly community. We will now strengthen every pillar, with re-energized focus so that the university increasingly transforms as a global destination for learning and research."

The University's inaugural participation was coordinated by its Quality Assurance and Rankings (QAR) team. Dr Karthik Rajendran, Associate Dean, Quality Assurance and Rankings, said, "This was our first submission to (THE), and securing a place in the rankings on our first attempt is deeply encouraging. It validates our efforts to benchmark teaching, research and international engagement against global standards.

NBCC to build international culture centre in Gurugram



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

NBCC (India) Limited, a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Diya Parivar Society (IDPS), New Delhi for the construction of the prestigious India International Cultural Centre (IICC) at Gurugram. This MoU aims to establish a world-class cultural centre dedicated to the preservation, promotion and global presentation of India's rich cultural heritage.

"Strategically located at Sector 9A, Gurugram, the IICC is situated approximately 20 minutes from the Indira Gandhi International Airport and in close proximity to the Dwarka Expressway. The Centre is envisioned as a cultural bridge between India and the world, facilitating access for international delegates, artists, scholars and tourists.

The proposed Centre will comprise an integrated ecosystem featuring a Saraswati Museum, dedicated to ancient Indian knowledge systems and manuscripts; a Gurukul and School of Languages for the promotion of Sanskrit and other Indian languages; a state-of-the-art auditorium for cultural performances; and a Research Centre, Library and Archives for scholars and researchers.



DMRC's Managing Director Dr Vikas Kumar has been honoured with the prestigious 'Aaj Ka Karmveer' award in the 'Bureaucratic Excellence' category. In a ceremony held in Mumbai on 27th September, 2026 (Sunday), Dr Kumar was honoured in recognition of his distinguished contribution to public service and administration. He received the award from Sh. Mangal Prabhat Lodha, the Hon'ble Minister for Skill Development and Innovation, Government of Maharashtra. Aaj Ka Karmveer Social Foundation honours distinguished individuals, including Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardees, who have made outstanding contributions across the Social, Health, and Wealth sectors, while actively promoting social welfare initiatives.

Pioneer photo

Kotak Mahindra Bank to elevate Anup Saha as CEO next year

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

Kotak Mahindra Bank on Thursday said it has received RBI approval to elevate Anup Kumar Saha as its managing director and chief executive.

Saha was appointed executive director earlier this year and has been handling the retail banking, data analytics and marketing functions. His appointment is for three years starting January 1, 2027.

He had a long stint with ICICI Bank and also worked with non-bank lender Bajaj Finance before joining Kotak Mahindra Bank. The elevation was necessitated by the decision of Ashok Vaswani, the incumbent MD and CEO, not to seek reappointment upon completion of his term.

"Since joining Kotak, he has worked closely with our teams and demonstrated a clear understanding of the opportunities ahead. I am confident that Anup will build on Kotak's



Anup Kumar Saha

strong foundations, deepen its customer relationships and lead the Bank forward with purpose and discipline," Vaswani said. The bank's chair-

man C S Rajan said Saha has already been actively engaged with the Bank's businesses in his current role and the bank looks forward to his leadership to strengthen the franchise and also pursue sustainable growth. Saha said Kotak has a strong franchise, a trusted brand and talented teams across the organisation. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to deepen customer relationships, tirelessly execute and build sustainable value for shareholders and all our stakeholders," Saha said.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Engineering Department
Short Tender Notice
Tender Reference No. GNDU/ENG/2026/10/01-04
The Engineering Department of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar invites online bids for:-
(i) Construction of Toilet Block (He, She & Handicapped) within GNDU College Phillaur Under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0. (ii) Construction of Toilet Block (He, She & Handicapped) within GNDU College Verka Under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0. (iii) Construction of Toilet Block (He, She & Handicapped) within GNDU College Jalandhar Under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (iv) Construction of Toilet Block (He, She & Handicapped) within GNDU College Jandiala Jalandhar Under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0.
Closing date & time: **12-10-2026 upto 04:00 pm**
For details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any Corrigendum/Addendum to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.
2426/12/2026-27/15785 Dated CHD :- 01/10/2026

Assam Skill University begins journey in digital agri-entrepreneurship

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Guwahati

A new chapter in digital agri-entrepreneurship and skill development began at Assam Skill University (ASU) with the commencement of the 30-Day Certificate Course in Digital Agri-Entrepreneurship (CCDAE) on 28 September 2026. The programme is being jointly conducted by Assam Skill University and Farmutd Ecosystem Private Limited.

The online inaugural session marked the formal beginning of the programme, bringing together 40 trainees from 20 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs)



across Assam. The trainees have been sponsored by the ARIAS Society, Government of Assam, with the entire training cost supported by ARIAS.

The programme seeks to create a structured learning platform for participants to develop skills in digital agriculture and entrepreneurship and explore emerging opportunities in the

evolving digital agri-ecosystem. The inaugural programme was attended by distinguished representatives from Assam Skill University, Farmutd Ecosystem Private Limited, ARIAS Society, and the Department of Agriculture, Government of Assam. Aruna Rajoria, IAS, Commissioner and Secretary, Department of Agriculture and APC, graced the occasion along with senior officials and representatives from the participating organisations.

From Assam Skill University, Hanif Noorani, ACS, Registrar; Professor Manoj Deka, Dean of Academics; Professor Vikas

Singh Bhadoria, Director, Industry Engagement; Professor Utpal Barman, IT Department; and Mousumi Sen, OSD, Training and Industry Collaboration, were present during the inaugural programme.

The session also featured insights from Cmdr. Sumantra Hazarika (Retd.), Co-founder and COO, Farmutd Ecosystem Private Limited, on the role of Farmutd in the programme, and Dr. Abdul Razzaq Ahmed, DDA and Nodal Officer, AIF, on the relevance of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme for the participating trainees.

Representatives from the Department of Agriculture and ARIAS Society included Dr Uday Praveen, IAS, Director of Agriculture; Shri Nripen Das, Director, Horticulture and Food Processing; and Baljeet Singh, Market Analyst, ARIAS Society.

Over the 30-day programme, the trainees will receive exposure to precision agriculture, AI/ML-powered crop advisory, soil intelligence, remote sensing, satellite-based crop monitoring (NDVI), soil health intelligence calibrated for Assam's acidic soil, and weather-based pest prediction.

IRFC launches Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC), a Navratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways on Thursday launched its 'Swachhata Hi Seva 2026' campaign, reaffirming its commitment to cleanliness, environmental responsibility and a healthy and well-organised environment.

The campaign was launched in the august presence of Manoj Kumar Dubey, Chairman & Managing Director, IRFC, at the board room of the Corporation.

The programme included a Swachhata Pledge, plantation drive and signature campaign, symbolising the collective commitment of IRFC employees towards cleanliness and environmental sustainability. The month-long campaign will be undertaken from 02 October to 31 October 2026



across IRFC. During the campaign, employees and departments will actively participate in cleaning and organising their surroundings, improving hygiene, promoting responsible waste management and undertaking activities aimed at creating a cleaner and greener environment.

Speaking on the occasion, Manoj Kumar Dubey, Chairman and Managing Director, IRFC, emphasised that Swachhata should not remain limited to a cam-

paign, but should become an integral part of everyday life. He called upon all employees to actively participate in the initiative and contribute towards creating a clean, organised and environmentally responsible environment.

The CMD also highlighted the importance of collective participation, discipline and individual responsibility in making the Swachhata campaign meaningful and sustainable. He encouraged employees to adopt clean-

liness as a continuous practice and contribute towards maintaining clean and green surroundings.

The Signature Campaign organised as part of the initiative reflects the collective resolve of IRFC employees to contribute towards the objectives of 'Swachhata Hi Seva'. The Plantation Drive further reinforces IRFC's commitment to environmental sustainability and greener surroundings.

The campaign carries forward the spirit of "Swachhata Hi Seva - Collective Action for Visible Impact", encouraging employees to translate the message of cleanliness into visible and sustained action.

Through the campaign, IRFC aims to strengthen a culture of cleanliness, environmental consciousness, discipline and collective responsibility, contributing towards a cleaner, greener and more sustainable environment.

ICICI Bank gets show cause notice over ₹229 crore GST demand

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

ICICI Bank on Thursday said it has received a show cause notice from GST authorities for a tax demand of over ₹229 crore on services provided to customers maintaining specified minimum balances in their accounts.

ICICI Bank received the show cause notice under Section 73 of Maharashtra Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 from Additional Commissioner, CGST raising a GST demand amounting to ₹229,14,35,396 along with interest and penalty, it said in a regulatory filing.

The tax demand pertains to services provided by the bank to customers maintaining specified minimum balances in their accounts. Shares of ICICI Bank closed at ₹1,305.50 apiece, down 1.29 per cent over previous close on BSE.

verka

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66

Notice Inviting Tender

www.verka.coop

Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	<u>For Verka Mohali Dairy</u> a) Hiring of insulated S.S road milk tankers for transportation of milk from Verka Mohali Dairy to sister Union, other Unions/Plants within or outside Punjab. b) Swift desliger/Venue/Breeze or Equivalent.	Annual/10 No's Annual/26 No's
2.	<u>For Verka Ferozpur Dairy</u> Supply of Fresh cut firewood for boiler.	12000 Quintals
3.	<u>For Verka Patiala Dairy</u> a) Crown Corks. b) Fire Wood.	Annual Half Yearly/30,000 Quintals
4.	<u>For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy</u> a) Hiring of Vehicle (Tata 407, 409, Mahindra Max, Mahindra Pickup, Bolero, Tata Ace or Equivalent) for transportation of milk cans from mpes/ farms to MCC's	Routes Kalanaur-4 Local-5 Tugaiwal-5 Batala-4 25.10.2026 to 30.11.2026/500 MT
5.	<u>For Verka Sangrur Dairy</u> Rice Husk	1000 MT Annual
6.	<u>For Verka Jalandhar Dairy</u> a) Steam Coal having Calorific value not less than 5500 kcal/kg. b) Hiring of deep freezer (cold store) for storage and transportation of white butter from Verka Jalandhar Dairy to hired cold store & vice-versa.	1000 MT Annual
7.	<u>For Verka Amritsar Dairy</u> Hiring of insulated vehicle for supply of Fresh Milk and Milk Products at :- a) Army-2 Route b) Tarn tran & Goindwal route	Two Years Two Years
8.	<u>For Verka Cattle Feed Plant, Ghanja Ke Banger</u> a) Annual labour rate contract for Loading of Cattle feed/ Mineral feed supplement into trucks and Unloading of raw material and trace elements, all work related to production activities. b) Purchase of Sodium Bi Carbonate. c) Hiring of tankers for transportation of Molasses. d) Hiring of AC passenger vehicles (Swift Dzire/ Toyota Etios or Equivalent) for the area of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh and Haryana.	Annual 250 MT (approximate) 4500 MT Annual/01 No.

NOTE:

- For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
- Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

1018/12/2026-27/15791

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NEW DELHI | FRIDAY | OCTOBER 2, 2026

BUSINESS10

CBI files second chargesheet in ₹7,429 crore RHFL fraud case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) submitted its second chargesheet on Thursday against 11 accused, including three former executives of the Reliance ADA Group, in the loan fraud case involving the alleged diversion of ₹7,429 crore borrowed by Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL). However, the chargesheet has not named Anil Ambani, chairman of the Reliance ADA Group.

The CBI has listed Amit Bapna, Director and Chief Financial Officer of RHFL; Amitabh Jhunjunwala, Group Managing Director and Vice Chairman of RCL; and Suresh Nagarajan, CFO of Reliance Power Ltd, in the chargesheet submitted before a special court in Mumbai.

A CBI spokesperson stated that seven companies, Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, Reliance Power Ltd, Reliance Big Entertainment Pvt Ltd, Reliance Broadcast Network Ltd, Reliance Business

Broadcast News Holdings Ltd, Reliance MediaWorks Financial Services Pvt Ltd and Kunjbihari Developers Pvt Ltd, and one private individual, Vijay Napawaliya, CA, who is the statutory auditor of RHFL, are also named as accused in the chargesheet.

The accused have been charged in a chargesheet for offences involving criminal conspiracy and cheating under the IPC; the investigation carried out to date has shown that funds totalling ₹7,429.16 crore, which Reliance Home Finance Ltd. had borrowed, were allegedly channelled via

intermediary and conduit entities to various companies in the Reliance ADA Group in violation of the terms and conditions set out by the lenders, the spokesperson said.

The spokesperson said this resulted in “wrongful loss to the lending banks and financial institutions and corresponding wrongful gain to the accused persons and related entities”.

The agency registered the case after receiving complaints from the Union Bank of India (formerly Andhra Bank) and other banks in the consortium. On July 9, the agency submitted the

first chargesheet in the case against four of the accused persons. By the time this chargesheet was filed, a total of 15 accused persons, including senior officials and those from the Group companies, had already been chargesheeted in the case.

The spokesperson added that further investigation is still ongoing to establish the role of the other accused persons and to look into the other allegations.

The CBI is investigating nine first information reports relating to Reliance Communications Limited (RCom), RHFL, Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL), Reliance Telecom Limited (RTL) and Reliance Capital Ltd (RCL), after receiving complaints from various public sector banks, LIC and EPFO.

The CBI had previously submitted six chargesheets in the Reliance ADA Group cases; the current one is the seventh chargesheet, and to date seven accused persons have been arrested,” the spokesperson said.

NSE NIFTY

Intra-day on October 1, 2026

High: 22,610.60

Previous close: 22,620.45

Open: 22,543.70

Low: 22,217.30

Close: 22,421.95

-198.50

(-0.88%)

BSE SENSEX

Intra-day on October 1, 2026

High: 72,572.90

Previous close: 72,480.29

Open: 72,192.89

Low: 71,292.88

Close: 71,909.70

-570.59

(-0.79%)

9am 10 11 12 1pm 2 3 4

9am 10 11 12 1pm 2 3 4

KBK Infographics

Sensex hits fresh 52-week low, Nifty drops 198 pions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty extended losses for the fourth straight session on Thursday as heavy FI selling, high bond yields and a fresh spike in crude oil prices weighed on investor sentiment.

The BSE Sensex dropped 570.59 points, or 0.79 per cent, to settle at 71,909.70.

The 30-share benchmark shed as much as 1,187.41 points to hit a fresh 52-week low of 71,292.88 during the session. The 50-share NSE Nifty tumbled 198.50 points, or 0.88 per cent, to

end at 22,421.95. From the 30 Sensex firms, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel, Adani Ports, ITC, Power Grid, Hindustan Unilever and Eternal were the major laggards and HDFC Bank were among the winners.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹10,148.41 crore. In five consecutive sessions till Wednesday, FIIs have offloaded equities worth ₹34,203.14 crore.

“The market sell-off has been driven largely by external factors, raising concerns about the economic outlook for 2026–27,” Vinod Nair said.

HDFC Bank appoints Anup Bagchi as MD, CEO

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

HDFC Bank on Thursday appointed Anup Bagchi as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for three years with effect from October 27, 2026.

Bagchi, currently serving as the MD and CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, will succeed Sashidhar Jagdishan, who informed the board in August that he would not seek reappoint-

Anup Bagchi

ment when his term ends on October 26.

In a regulatory filing, HDFC Bank said the Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Bagchi as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for three years.

Consequently, the Board of Directors of the Bank, based on the recommendation of the Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee, at its meeting held on October 1, 2026, approved the appoint-

ment of Bagchi as an Additional Director of the Bank with effect from October 2, 2026.

The board also approved the “appointment of Anup Bagchi as the MD & CEO of the Bank on such terms and conditions, including remuneration, as approved by the RBI, for a period of 3 (three) years with effect from October 27, 2026, subject to approval of the shareholders as per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013”, HDFC Bank said.

Nokia, ICEYE to build sovereign LEO satellite communications systems

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Helsinki

ICEYE, a European provider of sovereign intelligence from space, and Nokia have announced a partnership to develop secure, sovereign and high-performance broadband low Earth orbit (LEO) satellite communications systems for Governments.

The companies said the systems will support a range of Government missions, including defense, border security, emergency services and disaster response. The first communications satellites under the partnership are expected to be launched in 2028.

The jointly developed systems are designed to give Governments ownership and control of the satellites, ground infrastructure and user terminals. The systems will provide targeted, high-throughput and low-latency connectivity over priority mission areas. They are intended to complement existing military and commercial communications networks rather than replace them, adding connectivity, capacity and resilience for operations in challenging environments.

The partnership combines ICEYE's experience in sovereign satellite missions with Nokia's expertise in secure networking technologies and its expanding defense business. The companies plan to integrate satellites, ground infrastructure and ruggedised end-user terminals as part of the offering.

Gold rises ₹500 per 10 gram

GOLD & SILVER

10g = ₹1,49,800*

1kg = ₹2,27,000*

₹1,48,600

GOLD 10g

₹1,49,300

GOLD 10g

₹1,49,800*

GOLD 10g

₹2,32,000

SILVER 1kg

₹2,32,000

SILVER 1kg

₹2,27,000*

SILVER 1kg

Sept 29 Sept 30 Oct 1

Sept 29 Sept 30 Oct 1

Gold prices rose for the second straight session, rising ₹500 to ₹1,49,800 per 10 grams in the National Capital on Thursday, as a weaker rupee and a firm global trend supported the precious metal.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹1,49,300 per 10 grams in the preceding session.

Silver, however, declined by ₹5,000 to ₹2.27 lakh per kilogram, inclusive of all taxes, on Wednesday's closing level of ₹2.32 lakh per kg, according to local traders. Despite the two-session recovery, gold lost Rs 2,800 or nearly 2 per cent, this week, while silver shed ₹10,000, or 4.2 per cent.

The rupee's slide below the 96-per-dollar mark provided some support to domestic gold prices. The Indian currency closed at 96.31 against the greenback on Thursday, its weakest level in more than two months.

Bullion markets will remain shut on Friday on account of Gandhi Jayanti. Gold gained on Thursday after soft US inflation data reduced expectations of a rate hike by the US Federal Reserve, while silver remained volatile amid an upside move in the US dollar, said Gaurav Garg, Head of Research at brokerage platform Lemonn.

Jio platforms IPO in final stages

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Jio Platform is giving final touches to its public offer documents, touted as India's largest at an estimated \$3.8 billion, after concluding worldwide roadshows, according to a source aware of the development.

The roadshows overseas were led by Jio Platforms Managing Director and Reliance Jio Chairman Akash Ambani and Reliance Retail Ventures Limited Executive Director, Isha Ambani.

“Jio Platforms has completed the first leg of the IPO after roadshows with potential investors globally. The roadshows were held in the US, UK, Dubai, Singapore and Hong Kong. Now, the company has started preparations for filing a red herring prospectus,” a source aware of the development.

An email query sent to Jio Platforms elicited no response. The digital services arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries, Jio Platforms, last month received approval from markets regulator Sebi to proceed with its initial public offering, paving the way for what would be the country's largest stock-market listing.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had issued its final observations on August 28. Jio

Platforms had filed its draft IPO papers in June.

According to its draft prospectus, the company plans to issue up to 27 crore fresh equity shares, equivalent to about 2.9 per cent of its post-issue equity base. The offering could value Jio Platforms at about \$137 billion, people familiar with the matter had earlier indicated.

The proceeds will be used primarily to repay or prepay, in whole or in part, about ₹27,500 crore of outstanding borrowings of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, Jio Platforms' material subsidiary, according to the draft prospectus.

The remainder is earmarked for general corporate purposes. The public offering comes as India's primary market has remained active, with strong participation from retail investors and domestic institutions.

More than two dozen IPOs have been announced or launched since July 1, nearly matching the 28 recorded in the first half of 2026.

Jio Platforms houses Reliance's digital businesses, including its telecommunications operations.

Reliance Jio Infocomm, the telecom arm of JPL, dominates the Indian telecom market with a 32.89 per cent market share in fixed-line connections, serving 157.9 million customers, and a 39.29 per cent share in mobile connections, with 506 million customers. JPL has the largest 5G Standalone network outside China, with 26.85 crore 5G customers as of June 2026. Jio leads the Fixed Wireless Access segment globally with about 1.5 crore subscribers, roughly 1.5 times the second-largest player, US-based T-Mobile.

tories, telecom companies, hotels, hospitals and other bulk users increasingly bought diesel meant for retail customers.

The unusual rush is being driven by a price gap of as much as Rs 50 a litre between retail diesel and fuel sold to bulk consumers, creating a powerful incentive for large users to shift purchases to petrol pumps.

Jio-bp has capped diesel purchases at 50 litres per customer per day at some outlets, while limits at Nayara Energy stations range from 70 litres to 200 litres.

“In the past, letters had been issued; instructions had been issued to them (for restricting fuel sales). There is no change in the Government view on this,”

he said. Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said his ministry is “in touch” with the private fuel retailers but did not elaborate.

Retail petrol and diesel prices have remained unchanged since May despite rising international

crude prices. Prices charged to industrial and other bulk consumers, which are more closely linked to international market rates, have risen more sharply.

The resulting gap between retail and bulk diesel prices has widened to as much as

Govt revises guidelines on issuance of exempted FASTags for Divyangjan, PwD vehicles

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Vehicles registered under the ‘Divyangjan’ category will get an exempted FASTag based on the percentage of disability recorded in a valid disability certificate, unique disability identity (UDID) card or other applicable records, as the Government on Thursday revised guidelines for the segment.

In a statement, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said that to promote ease of living for the citizens and further simplify toll-related procedures for Divyangjan and persons with disabilities (PwD), it has revised the guidelines for issuance and renewal of exempted FASTags for

eligible Divyangjan/PwD beneficiaries.

Earlier, guidelines mandated renewal of exempted FASTag for Divyangjan on an annual basis.

“However, as per the new guidelines, validity of the exempted FASTag

will be determined by the recorded percentage of disability. “FASTag issued to persons with 70 per cent to 100 per cent disability will be valid for five years, while those issued to persons with 40 per cent to less than 70 per cent disability will be valid for three years,” the ministry said.

According to the ministry, the exempted FASTag may be renewed thereafter, subject to continued eligibility and compliance with the provisions of the National Highways Fee Rules, 2008.

The revised provisions are aimed at making the National Highway tolling ecosystem more accessible, transparent and user-friendly for eligible Divyangjan/PwD beneficiaries.

GST mop-up jumps 15% to ₹2.03 lakh crore in September

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Gross GST collections rose 14.7 per cent in September to over ₹2.03 lakh crore, aided by domestic consumption and strong growth in revenues from imports, according to Government data.

Gross GST collections from domestic activities rose 10.1 per cent to about ₹1.38 lakh crore, while revenues from imports were up 26 per cent to ₹65,525 crore, the data showed. Goods and Services Tax (GST) refunds, however, slowed to Rs 27,001 crore in

September, a decline of 3 per cent year on year.

After adjusting for refunds, net GST collections rose 18.1 per cent to over ₹1.76 lakh crore in September. This is the

third month in the current fiscal year when GST collections have crossed ₹ 2 lakh crore. Earlier in April and July, the GST revenues had touched record highs of about ₹2.43

lakh crore and over ₹2.11 lakh crore, respectively. During the first half of the fiscal (April-September), gross GST collections grew 11.6 per cent to over ₹12.46 lakh crore. Net collections rose 10.4 per cent to over ₹10.66 lakh crore.

EY India Tax Partner Saurabh Agarwal, said the Rs 2 lakh crore mark in gross GST collections, with growth of close to 15 per cent, shows that domestic demand continues to do well in spite of global pressure. The growth in the tax mop-up is broad based with Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat and

Karnataka each up 16 per cent to 18 per cent. Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have done considerable growth, which showcases holistic development across the country, Agarwal added.

Grant Thornton Bharat Partner and Tax Controversy Management Leader, Manoj Mishra said the sharp 25.9 per cent growth in import-linked GST in September, compared with around 10 per cent growth in domestic GST, reflects a combination of currency, commodity prices and import dynamics.

flydubai incident: Co-pilot’s motive unknown

MELANIE LIDMAN/SAMY MAGDY/
CARA ANNA ■ Jerusalem

The motive of the Omani co-pilot who stabbed his captain on a flight to Israel, causing the plane to plummet dangerously and forcing it to land in Saudi Arabia, remained unknown on Thursday as investigators across the region raced to learn more.

Israeli passengers who were on the flydubai aircraft carrying 174 people from the United Arab Emirates to Tel Aviv have described how the bloodied Indian captain managed to open the cockpit door to let them in before they grappled with the copilot and stabilised a descent so sharp that the plane’s rudder was torn away.

“We felt helpless, suspended in midair, and I didn’t know who to turn to. But it was all instinct to survive,” one of the responders, Asaf



Israeli passenger Yaniv Hayoun with blood stains on his shirt at the arrivals gate at Ben Gurion International Airport near Tel Aviv, Israel

Rajuan, said in a new statement shared by Israel’s presidency.

A regional official briefed on the investigation said the suspect, an Omani citizen, was under arrest and confirmed that Saudi authorities were working with countries,

including Israel, to try to determine a motive. He said the UAE, the United States and Oman also were involved. The official did not describe the extent of Israeli involvement. “All possible scenarios, from terrorism to mental disorders,

are being looked into. Nothing is ruled out for now,” said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the probe.

Israeli intelligence and security officials were investigating the copilot in Saudi Arabia, according to another regional official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

Saudi Arabia does not have formal diplomatic ties with Israel, but there is longstanding security and intelligence cooperation through alternative channels.

Video shot inside the plane by Shota Musayev, a dentist who treated the captain, shows the copilot on his knees, with his hands tied behind his back. The copilot’s name still has not been released.

The UAE Government said its investigation team had begun its

work into the motive and “whether it was linked to any terrorist purpose,” adding that UAE law applies to crimes committed on board. Capt Smit Machchhar, widely praised as one of the heroes of the flight, was reportedly in stable condition, the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia said overnight. The condition of the copilot was not clear.

Asked if there is any indication of Iranian involvement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told *Fox News* “it’s too early to say.” The prime minister told *CNN* that Israel had received no specific warning.

US President Donald Trump told reporters at the White House that he and Netanyahu discussed the incident “at length” by phone and it seemed as though the copilot “was perhaps a terrorist or perhaps a whack job.” (AP)

Pakistani airstrike in Afghanistan kill 22 TTP militants

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
■ Islamabad

Pakistan on Thursday said it killed at least 22 terrorists in airstrikes in Afghanistan as part of a campaign to eliminate militants’ hideouts across the border.

Afghanistan’s Taliban Government, meanwhile, said that Pakistani strikes killed nine Afghan civilians, including women and children, and injured 11 others. This comes amid a sharp escalation in already strained relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, with the two sides trading allegations over militant sanctuaries, cross-border attacks, airstrikes and border incursions. Pakistan’s information ministry, in a statement, said that the country’s security forces conducted “well-planned and calibrated aerial strikes” against the hideouts and safe havens of the banned



Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), killing multiple terrorists. It said that “selective targeting” of terrorist camps and hideouts at two locations in Afghanistan was carried out based on credible intelligence with “precision and accuracy.” “Targets were destroyed with precision and initial reports suggest killing of twenty-two terrorists,” it said. (PTI)

Israeli leaders hails Indian pilot as hero

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Jerusalem

Israeli leaders have hailed Captain Smit Machchhar, an Indian national, as a “hero” for thwarting an alleged attempt by his co-pilot to crash a flydubai flight carrying nearly 180 people, and wished him a speedy recovery.

Machchhar was stabbed and seriously injured by his co-pilot in the cockpit of flydubai flight FZ1073, travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv, on Wednesday.

“Despite being stabbed and seriously injured, he fought back, resisted, opened the cockpit door, and enabled passengers and crew to overpower the



attacker - preventing a catastrophic mid-air disaster,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement, hailing him as a “true hero.” “My salute to the Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar for his extraordinary bravery,” Netanyahu said, adding that he saved the lives of 174 people,

including Israeli citizens and other nationals.

“I wish Captain Machchhar a speedy and full recovery. He is a true hero.” The flight, carrying 174 passengers, including 27 children, safely landed in Saudi Arabia, where authorities took the co-pilot into custody. Israeli President

Isaac Herzog thanked Machchhar, who, he said, “with his last strength, opened the cockpit door and enabled the neutralisation of the terrorist”.

“To Captain Smith Machchhar - thank you from the bottom of my heart for the bravery, determination, and actions that saved many lives. I wish you a full recovery and strong health. The State of Israel extends immense gratitude to you,” he said in a post on X.

Herzog also announced that he will recommend awarding the ‘President’s Medal for Civilian Bravery’ to four flight passengers who “displayed extraordinary courage in an impossible situation”.

Pilot in stable condition

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Dubai

Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar, who was seriously injured while foiling an alleged attempt by his co-pilot to crash a Flydubai flight, is in stable condition and receiving treatment at a hospital in Saudi Arabia, officials said on Thursday.

Machchhar was stabbed and seriously injured by his co-pilot in the cockpit of Flydubai flight FZ1073, travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv, on Wednesday. The plane was carrying 174 people.

The Indian Embassy in Riyadh, in a social media post, said that the pilot is “admitted in a hospital in Tabuk city in northwest Saudi



Arabia and receiving necessary medical attention”.

The mission said that while a full update on his health was awaited, he was “reported to be in stable condition”.

Trump rejects Iran’s peace deal, may ramp up bombings

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Dubai

US President Donald Trump says it’s “possible” he may ramp up bombing of Iran after the November 3 midterm elections and that he rejected Iran’s latest peace offer because it’s not good enough.

Fighting between Houthis rebels and Government forces overnight stirred fears that the Iran-backed rebels may be advancing toward Taiz City in southwestern Yemen.

Trump said in a Time magazine interview published Thursday that he won’t now accept proposals from Iran that “he wouldn’t have approved a year ago.”

He left open the possibility of resuming bombing Iran after the November 3 election. He refused to offer details, telling journalists, “I can’t tell you that because look, you know, you’re asking, where are you going to bomb?”

The US president told Time magazine that he only heard about those reports on the same day that the September 28 interview was conducted with Time reporters, adding “I can’t imagine this.”

Trump said had Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu been forewarned, “he would have done something about it” or “would have had people at least alert.” An Israeli newspaper reported that Netanyahu was directly warned by the president of the United Arab Emirates that Hamas was planning a major offensive just days before the militant group attacked on October 7, 2023.

In the same Time magazine interview, Trump repeatedly avoided answering directly whether Netanyahu should be reelected in elections later this month.

Trump said that he’s “not involved in politics anymore” and touted his own record on Israel.

But he said Netanyahu shouldn’t be underestimated even if “people have written off Bibi many, many times, just like they’ve written off me many, many times.”

Of Netanyahu’s opponent, Gadi Eisenkot, Trump said: “I don’t hear bad things about him.”

Iran-backed Houthi rebels clashed with government forces overnight into Thursday in residen-



tial neighbourhoods in eastern Taiz, located about 100 km (60 miles) from Mokha, which the Houthis seized last month.

A main road linking Taiz and Aden was cut off due to the latest clashes.

Al-Thawra Hospital, located a few kilometres from the clashes, received six bodies and 35 wounded people Thursday, according to hospital manager Abdelrahman al-Sabry.

The official told The Associated Press by phone Thursday the number of dead and wounded was similar to those in early September, when fighting was intense before clashes de-escalated.

Renewed violence in Yemen has killed hundreds and displaced tens of thousands. The Houthis captured the strategic city of Mokha and a number of

Red Sea islands last month, extending their reach to the key maritime waterway of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. It was the Houthis’ biggest land grab in years, and ended a 2022 ceasefire that largely stopped major fighting in Yemen’s 12-year civil war.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry summoned Britain’s ambassador in Tehran on Thursday to “strongly protest” allegations by British Prime Minister Andy Burnham linking Iran to a sabotage plot at RAF Fairford, Iranian state television reported.

The ministry dismissed allegations that Iran was connected to the alleged plot as “baseless” and called on the British Government to provide an official explanation and change its approach toward Iran.

Piyush Goyal, EU Trade Commissioner discuss progress on free trade agreement

SAGAR KULKARNI ■ Washington

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal met European Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic and reviewed the progress towards signing the India-EU Free Trade Agreement.

Goyal met Sefcovic on the sidelines of the G20 Trade Ministers’ meeting in Milwaukee. “Good meeting my friend, Mr @MarosSefcovic, European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, on the sidelines of the G20 Trade Ministers’ Meeting,” Goyal said in a post on X. The minister said he and Sefcovic reviewed progress towards the signing and entry into force of the India-EU FTA.

“Also exchanged views on progress under the India-EU Trade and Technology Council, meaningful WTO reform and shared G20 priorities,” Goyal said. India and the EU concluded the free trade agreement in January this year, almost two decades after launching the initial negotiations in 2007.

On September 11, the European Commission formally requested the Council of the European Union to authorise the signing and conclusion



Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal during a meeting with United States Trade Representative Jamieson Greer in USA

of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement.

The India-EU FTA, dubbed the “mother of all deals” by leaders on both sides, is expected to be signed later this year and implemented in early 2027. (PTI)



M.P. BUILDING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(An Agency of Govt. of M.P., Public Works Department)
16 – A, CEDMAP Building, Arera Hills, Bhopal (M.P.)-462011
Telephone No. : 0755- 4853297, 0755- 4853295, E-mail : proc@mpbdc.mp.gov.in
NIT No. :8415/GM/MPBDC/CW&MISC/26/NIT-90
Bhopal, Date : 01.10.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Madhya Pradesh Building Development Corporation Limited (MPBDC) Bhopal invites online tenders for the following works :-
1. Construction of Kanya Shiksha Parisar at Gohparu Dist. Shahdol M.P. (2nd Call) PAC Rs. 2999.36 Lakhs
2. Construction work of District Institute of Education and Training COE at Dist. Vidisha M.P. PAC Rs. 1019.35 Lakhs
3. Construction work of District Institute of Education and Training COE at Dist. Ujjain M.P. PAC Rs. 985.31 Lakhs
4. Construction work of District Institute of Education and Training COE at Dist. Shajapur M.P. PAC Rs. 948.18 Lakhs
5. Construction work of District Institute of Education and Training COE at Dist. Shahdol M.P. PAC Rs. 923.54 Lakhs
6. Construction work of District Institute of Education and Training COE at Dist. Narsinghpur M.P. PAC Rs. 847.29 Lakhs
7. Construction work of District Institute of Education and Training COE at Dist. Umaria M.P. PAC Rs. 819.63 Lakhs
8. Construction of Indoor and Outdoor Sports Complex in Rajendra Nagar Ward No. 37, Bhopal. (2nd call) PAC Rs. 263.32 Lakhs
9. Construction of Hockey turf restoration at Ranilal Sports Complex at Dist. Jabalpur M.P. (3rd call) PAC Rs. 106.28 Lakhs
10. Purchase of additional 160 KVA D.G. Set for MPBDC office at CEDMAP Building Bhopal (M.P.) PAC Rs. 27.04 Lakhs
11. Demolition of dilapidated and old buildings in the campus of Deotalab District Rewa M.P. PAC Rs. 1.36 Lakhs
Detailed NIT and tender documents can be viewed, downloaded and purchased online from (05.10.2026 at 18:00 hrs. to 26.10.2026 at 15:30 hrs.) from website www.mptenders.gov.in The bidders have to submit the Bids online only, from website www.mptenders.gov.in PAC can vary at the time of uploading of tender document. Any amendment/corrigendum 'if any' will be published on website only, will not be published on newspapers.
M.P., Madhyam/128340/2026

MANAGING DIRECTOR

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
Ref: Tender Notice No. 39/2025-2026 dated 01.09.2026.
(i) Tender No. 08265434 due on 22.10.2026.
i. In reference to above tender, the due date has been extended from 29.09.2026 to 22.10.2026.
ii. In reference to above tender, Four new documents has been added.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.
The corrigendum has been published on website www.ireps.gov.in.
3421/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice NO. 46/2026-2027 Dated: 30.09.2026
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	14260913A	RUBBER BASED ADHESIVE	51151 LTR	22.10.26
02	09262541	CROSS BAR	4090 NOS	26.10.26
03	07261530	AIR BRAKE HOSE COUPLING	28862 NOS	26.10.26
04	15245210C	HIGH SPEED PRECISION LATHE MACHINE	2 NOS	28.10.26
05	16265043	SPRING SINGLE COIL	264 NOS	29.10.26
06	16265042	NICKLE CADMIUM BATTERY	7 SET	02.11.26

NOTE:- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
3424/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client i.e. ICICI Bank Ltd. that Mrs. Kiran Sharma is owner of Apartment No.1101, on 11th floor, in Tower-2, in the project known as Puri the Pranayam, situated at Sector-62-85, Faridabad-Haryana, vide a sale deed dt. 29.09.2017, Doc. No. 287/ for 50% share & vide Reimbursement deed dated 03.09.2026, (for remaining 50% share), executed by her son and daughters i.e. Harshit Sharma, Yati Sharma & Mr. Saksham Sharma, All Persons are hereby informed that above owner wants to sale the said property to Mr. Ashish Madan or his nominee who is taking a loan facility from our client, if anybody having any objection/s upon the ownership of above owner its sale/mortgage, and any other kind of objection/litigation, Charge etc., kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 14 days of the present.
Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, Hind Pk. 23, Shivaji Marg, Moh. Nagar, Delhi-15
Email: kumar@knlawgill.com Ph: 011-41112527-28

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is notified for the information or general public that my client Mr. Arvind Kumar S/o Thakur Modi & Mr. Dinesh Bhowarati Mundhra S/o Mr. Bhowarati Mundhra have proposed to purchase the Double Storeyed House built up Ground & First floor, with roof rights, bearing property MPL No.53, measuring 65 sq. yds., situated at Gali Dom Walk, (known as Dooms/So), Bagh Dowlah, Fatehpuri, Delhi- 110006 from Mrs. Asha Sharma W/o Kalish Chand Sharma & Mr. Kalish Chand Sharma S/o Late Ram Singh, who has purchased from Mrs. Vimla Gupta W/o Late Jai Bhagwan Gupta & others. Mrs. Vimla Gupta W/o Late Jai Bhagwan Gupta, Survivor Member Certificate of late Jai Bhagwan Gupta is being held by Mrs. Vimla Gupta. Any person having any right or interest in respect of the said property are hereby required to give notice of the same to the undersigned on below mentioned address within 15 days from the date of publication hereof together with copies of all documents in their possession, if any, failing which any such right, title, interest, or claim, if any, will be deemed to have been waived and not binding on clients.
Rakesh Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. 118, First Floor, Tehsil Compound, Gharabad, Moh. No. 7836/67064

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Vikas Kaul, S/o Late Smt. Varsha Kaul, R/o Flat 402, Plot GH- 83, Bhagwanti CGHS, Sector 56, Gurugram - 122011, declare that my mother, namely Late Smt. Varsha Kaul, expired on 08 Feb 2026 and she has left behind the following Legal Heirs:
1. Vikas Kaul (Son)
2. Anuja Zutshi (Daughter)
There are no other Legal Heirs except the mentioned above. If anyone has any objection regarding this, he/she can raise an objection within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice, at the office of The Tehsildar, Wazirabad, Gurugram, Haryana.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INDIAN RAILWAY POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH & ASSOCIATED NORTHERN RAILWAY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI-110005
File No. E/Med/SR/74/IRPGIMSR/NRCH/26/02
Adv. No. IRPGIMSR & Ass. NRCH/SR/26/02
ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR RESIDENTS
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for Engagement to the post of Senior Resident under Senior Residency Scheme at INDIAN RAILWAY POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH & ASSOCIATED NORTHERN RAILWAY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI. The Walk-in-Interview for engagement of Senior Residents will be held on 12th & 13th October 2026 at the designated venue of IRPGIMSR & Associated NRCH, New Delhi. Detailed advertisement with VACANCY STATUS, Terms & Conditions, Format of Application form is available on Northern Railway website www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in & <https://irpgimsr.indianrailways.gov.in> under head News & Recruitment Info.
PCMD & DIRECTOR/NRCH & IRPGIMSR
3422/26
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
DTL intends to invite following Expression Of Interest (EOI):
Inviting stakeholder inputs and feedback to validate and strengthen the bidding process for establishing public EV charging and battery swapping infrastructure under the Delhi EV Policy, 2026.
For complete details of EOI please visit website: - <https://dtl.gov.in>.
Inputs may be submitted within 07 days of this publishing through:
https://docs.aooeul.com/fonnns/d/e/IFAIPQLSdWs_QD5i3Kh3fUL4idBISvNv4Yo3i9-eNIIWusZJ0iJfpg/viewform?pli=1&pli=1
Any stakeholder / individuals willing to offer land parcels, parking areas or premises for the establishment of EV charging or battery swapping stations may furnish site details via:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/IFAIPQLSddpitB_62kBFaJh8iZpY9Fox8sBeplCH8Y7eukB_DiP4rFAw/viewform?usp=preview.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Sudhir Nimesh had acquired the rights of Property bearing No. A-432 (Old Plot 1-A & 2-A), measuring 250 sq. yds., Kharsa no. 520/2, Situated in Village Saboli Lal Dora, Abadi of Main Wazirabad Road, Block-A, Meet Nagar, Illaga Shahdara, Delhi, Sale Deed dt. 04.05.2026 executed by Mr. Barwara Lal Alias Barwari Lal, duly Registered Doc. No. 2026/231/2534. Now Mr. Sudhir Nimesh is the undisputed owner of above said property and willing to Mortgage the above said property with Hero Fincorp Limited.
OR
Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance however or otherwise is hereby required to inform in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client. Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi -110024



SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwaysIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the president of India, Sr. Division Signal & Telecom Engineer, Hyderabad Division, South Central Railway, Secunderabad invites open tenders for the following works through e-Procurement up to 11.30 Hours of 22.10.2026.
Tender Dated: 30.09.2026
Sl. No.: 1, Tender No. Y/SG/36/2026-27/20, Name of the work: Hyderabad Division: Improvement to RailNet Infra by Provision of Multi-Gig Switches and Core Switch at Rail Nilayam, FTH for Lancer Lines Officer Quarters, Improvements to S&T HQ Drawing Office., Tender Value (Rs.): 8,97,97,081.21, EMD (Rs.): 17,96,000.00
For bid document and other details log in to <https://ireps.gov.in>. Any corrigendum issued online only.
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Hyderabad
For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <http://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in



Kishan's 80 sends India to Asiad final against Pakistan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Nisshin

Ishan Kishan's calculated 46-ball 80 on a difficult track laid the foundation as defending champions India hammered Sri Lanka by 124 runs in the Asian Games men's cricket semifinal here on Thursday to set up a gold medal clash with arch-foes Pakistan.

Kishan and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (38 off 21) took India to 169 for seven in 20 overs on a turning track after Sri Lanka put them in to bat on winning the toss.

While chasing the 170-run target, the island nation first collapsed to 31 for six inside the powerplay before being eventually bundled out for 45, which is the joint lowest T20 International total by a Test-playing nation. West Indies was dismissed for the same score in 2019 against England.

Jasprit Bumrah struck twice in his opening over and was then joined by Axar Patel, who also claimed two



wickets. "We have to perform in both batting and bowling to win. We've been waiting for some days, there was a lot of rain around. To switch on and perform like this after a long break is commendable," Axar said after the match referring to the washed out quarterfinal against Afghanistan and cancellation of practice sessions due to the inclement weather here.

Sri Lanka's collapse included two run-outs, which was ample proof of them being rattled by the pitch and the loss of early wickets. The odd ball

was flying off the surface, sowing doubts in the batters' minds. In the end, India took just 9.5 overs to dismiss them. The Lankans will now fight for bronze in the play-off against Bangladesh, who were beaten by Pakistan earlier in the day.

Both the bronze medal and the final will be held here on Saturday.

The build-up to the India-Pakistan showdown will once again be dominated by the chatter on whether the two teams will shake hands.

The Indian players have refused to exchange pleasantries with their Pakistan counterparts in the Asia Cup and ICC events since Operation Sindoor last year to show solidarity with the Indian armed forces.

It remains to be seen if the management sticks to status quo or there is a handshake with the Pakistan players after the game, a protocol that has been followed by athletes of others sports in the Asian Games.

India and Pakistan players will have to share the podium irrespec-

tive of what happens in the final, like the women's team did after winning gold last week.

In the clash against Sri Lanka, India decided to bring back Sooryavanshi into the playing eleven for the knock-out game alongside Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson considering the spin-friendly conditions here.

They left out left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh with Bumrah being the only fast bowling resource available to them.

Similar tactic was employed by a second-string Sri Lanka, who tried to spin a web around the Indian batters after opting to bowl first and was largely successful.

If it weren't for the "X" factor of Sooryavanshi and Kishan, India would have ended up with a much lower total. For a change, it was a sunny morning here as both teams took the field for the first time in the competition.

With the ball turning a fair bit in the powerplay, it was clear that the game would be dominated by the spinners.

Only two overs of pace were used by the Sri Lankans. Abhishek (7 off 3) perished after smashing a straight six off Sri Lanka captain Sahan Archachige. The left-hander tried to make room but ended up offering a regulation catch at short third man.

India survive Pakistan scare to enter final, will face Malaysia in title clash

AJAI MASAND ■ Kakamigahara

Defending champions India survived a scare before Abhishek struck with just 45 seconds remaining to snatch a dramatic 4-3 victory over arch-rivals Pakistan and seal a place in the Asian Games hockey final here on Thursday.

India will take on Malaysia, who beat South Korea in the other semifinal, in the gold medal contest on Saturday. Harmanpreet converted two perfectly executed penalty corners in the 5th and 13th minutes, while Sukhjeet Singh scored a field goal in the 23rd minute. Abhishek scored the winning goal for India from a field play in the final minute of the game. Pakistan's goals were scored by Abu Mahmood (30th minute), Hannan Shahid (45th) and Waheed Rana (49th).

The defending champions looked set for a comfortable semifinal win after captain Harmanpreet's brace and Sukhjeet Singh's field strike put them firmly in control.

But a stunning second-half collapse allowed Pakistan to claw their way back as they scored three goals and push India to the brink of an embarrassing defeat before Abhishek's late strike rescued the team. India, who had dominated the opening half, inexplicably retreated into their shell after the break, surrendering control of the midfield and allowing Pakistan's



young forwards to dictate the pace and flow of the game. With their defence under sustained pressure and their attacking threat blunted, the Indians were left scrambling to protect their lead. Just as the contest appeared headed for a shootout, Abhishek found the decisive touch, with his effort taking a deflection off Pakistan defender Sufiyan and beating goalkeeper Ali Raza to send India into the final, where they will meet the winner of the other semifinal between South Korea and Malaysia. The late winner spared India the consequences of a remarkable capitulation, but their inability to close out a match they had dominated for long stretches will raise questions ahead of the title clash. (PTI)

Head coach Gambhir criticises Guwahati track



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Guwahati

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir came down heavily on a flat Barsapara Stadium track where India chased down a record 406 against the West Indies with skipper Shubman Gill hitting a double hundred and former captain Rohit Sharma smashing his 35th century.

Not to forget the centuries scored by West Indies batters John Campbell, skipper Shai Hope and rising star Amir Jangoo. Even after a comfortable chase, Gambhir's irritation was palpable.

"If I have to be absolutely honest, I feel there has to be a bit more contest between bat and ball. This is not cricket, this is only batting. Imagine a young bowler bowling on this wicket, and the opposition getting 400 and then we go on to chase 400," Gambhir said. Five centuries and a total of 800 plus runs in an ODI might be enthralling for spectators but the uneven contest turns bowlers into bystanders, reckoned Gambhir.

"Obviously, for the records, for the crowd, it's outstanding, but if you ask me as a genuine cricket fan and as a coach, because I have to have sympathy for bowlers as well. "When you bowl on this kind of a wicket, it's not fair for bowlers. So, we've got to give something to the bowlers so there's at least something which they can work with," he added.

Kamboj replaces Prasidh in ODI squad; Dhir comes in for Washington for T20Is

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Guwahati

Pacer Anshul Kamboj was on Thursday drafted in as a replacement for injured Prasidh Krishna for the third and final ODI against the West Indies to be played in Mullanpur on Saturday. A BCCI release attributed the sidelining of Prasidh to a left hamstring injury.

In the second ODI at Guwahati on Wednesday, Prasidh suffered a niggle and could bowl only five overs and returned figures of 1/45 as the West Indies posted a record 405/7.

India chased down the target in 43.3 overs with eight wickets in hand to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series. Kamboj is currently playing for India A in a four-day match against Australia A at Puducherry.

Kamboj, who will join the India squad in Chandigarh, bowled 17.3 overs in the first innings, taking three wickets.

He bowled just two overs in the second innings before getting parachuted to Chandigarh, owing to Prasidh's injury. The national selectors also decided to withdraw Washington Sundar from India's T20I squad for the five-match series against the Windies, beginning in Lucknow on October 6.

The decision has been taken in view



of the upcoming Test tour to New Zealand, and Sundar will now appear in a few Ranji Trophy matches for Tamil Nadu. "The decision has been taken in view of the upcoming Test series against New Zealand. With the Ranji Trophy season commencing on October 11, Washington will get an opportunity to play red-ball cricket for his state team and prepare for the Test series. Naman Dhir has been named as his replacement in the T20I squad," board release stated.

India's updated ODI squad: Shubman Gill [C], Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ruturaj Gaikwad, KL Rahul [VC, WK], Dhruv Jurel [WK], Nitish Kumar Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, Gurnoor Brar, Mohammed Siraj, Aaquib Nabi, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Naman Dhir, Anshul Kamboj.

Ganesh wins bronze in men's individual compound archery

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Nagoya

Indian compound archer Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru produced a commanding performance to win men's individual bronze medal at Asiad on Thursday.

Ganesh, who was a part of the gold-winning men's team on Wednesday, defeated Vietnam's Cong Duc Dang 149-144 in the bronze medal playoff after bowing out of individual gold contention with a semifinal loss.

It was perfect shooting from the 20-year-old Indian in the playoff as he was on mark in 14 out of his 15 shots.

Ganesh had lost 144-148 to Kim Jongho of South Korea in the semifinal after he could not replicate his stupendous quarterfinal form. He trailed throughout in the last-four stage and eventually went down 29-30 29-30 28-29 30 28-30.



Ganesh had defeated Chinese Taipei's Chieh-Lun Chen 148-138 in the quarterfinals earlier in the day at the Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square here. In that match-up, Ganesh won all the five series with scores of 29-28 29-28 30-29 30-26 30-27. He shot only two 9s, in opening two series, before going on 10-hitting spree. Chikitha missed out on hat-trick of medals after bowing out from women's compound individual quarterfinals.

India clinches men's skiff silver in Asiad sailing

PHILEM DIPAK SINGH ■ Gamagori City (Japan)

The Indian pair of Manu Francis and Prince Kurisinkal Noble bagged the silver medal in the men's skiff opening race 9 of the Asian Games sailing competition here on Thursday.

The team of Harshita Tomar and Shital Verma won the bronze medal in the women's skiff sailing event. The Indian duo concluded the competition with 24 net points and 28 total points across nine races to finish ahead of China, who were disqualified thrice in race 2, race 6 and race 8. Japan won the gold medal with 11 net points and 14 total points, while Hong Kong bagged silver with 15 net points and 18 total points.

Earlier, the 31-year-old Francis and the 30-year-old Noble, who hail from Ernakulam and are first cousins, combined for a total of 23 points after nine races and finished behind China, who totalled 16 points in the competition where lowest total score wins the regatta.

The Chinese team comprised Wen Zaiding and Liu Tian.

Points in men's skiff sailing are decided by the finish position in each race and a first



place brings in one point to the total.

The Indians managed to win race 3 and finish second race 1, 5 and 9 during the competition. China, on the other hand, emerged on top in four races to end up as the best-placed side. Son of a fisherman, who had died during the 2018 catastrophic flood in Kerala, Noble said winning a medal in his debut Asian Games was a special feeling. "It was our first Asiad and winning a medal is very special. It was a tough and we somehow won silver," Noble said.

Both train at the Army Yachting Node in

Mumbai.

"It was very tough actually. It was windy. We are not much comfortable with windy conditions. But we survived and somehow won a silver," Francis said.

"In light (windy) conditions, we are pretty good. We train in India, and in India almost every time it is light wind."

For Francis, it was a mixed feeling as he felt they could have won gold.

"We don't feel much about it. Happy and not that much happy. Because we could have won the gold," he said. (PTI)

Squash: Indian men and women end with bronze medal after semifinal defeats

PHILEM DIPAK SINGH ■ Nagoya

Defending champions India came up short against Malaysia in the men's semifinals after the women met the same fate against Hong Kong despite Tanvi Khanna's stirring comeback, ending the country's Asian Games squash campaign with two bronze medals in the team event.

In the women's team semifinals, Anahat Singh's opening-match loss proved crucial India went down against Hong Kong 1-2. Later on Thursday, India were the stronger team on paper against Malaysia but were outplayed 1-2 to settle for bronze.

Overall, India ended their squash campaign with two silver medals in singles, couple of bronze in team event and



another bronze in mixed doubles.

A lot rode on 18-year-old Anahat in the women's semifinals as India hoped to better their Hangzhou 2022 show. However, the world No. 17 Indian squandered four match points to go down 2-3 (11-9 11-8 6-11 11-13

10-12) against world No. 25 Sin Yuk Chan in a thrilling opening match. World No. 73 Tanvi then scripted a fine comeback with a 3-1 (4-11 13-11 11-9 13-11) win over world No. 40 Ka Yi Lee to keep India's hopes alive in the three-match contest.

However, veteran Joshana

Chinappa, a former world top-10 player, suffered a straight-game loss to world No. 39 Ho Tze Lok. "Yeah, definitely very disappointed, we had come so close to, obviously in the mixed doubles as well. But we played our best and with that I'm really happy with just the effort level," Joshna said.

"Of course the team event as well, we had come really close to also beating them, but yeah this is what happens sometimes and it's tough, but at least I'm so proud of my team," said the 40-year-old who set a record of playing in the most editions of Asian Games among Indians. Up against Sin Yuk Chan, Anahat made a superb start, taking the first two games, and was leading 10-6 in the fourth game before squandering four match points to

allow Sin to make a roaring comeback.

She fell 7-9 behind in the fifth game but clawed back to 9-9, only for Sin to grab the first match point. The Indian saved it with a backhand drop, but a composed Sin earned another match point and sealed it with ease.

"I was 2-0 up and had a great chance of winning, but I wasn't really able to convert the game. Of course, it doesn't always go to plan, but Tanvi did incredibly well coming back and backing up that match and winning against an amazing player," Anahat said later.

With the silver she had won in the women's singles here, Anahat has taken her Asian Games medal count to four. She won two bronze medals in the last edition. (PTI)

Nitesh Siwach settles for silver; Mansi misses out



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Nagoya

Nitesh Siwach missed out on a historic gold but secured India's first silver medal in Greco-Roman wrestling at the Asian Games since 1962, while Mansi Ahlawat lost the bronze medal play-off in women's 62kg event here on Thursday.

Nitesh, who had the opportunity to become India's first Greco-Roman gold medalist at the Asian Games since 1962, went down 0-4 to Japan's home favourite Yuri Nakazato in the men's 97kg final.

Mansi, meanwhile, was beaten 2-5 by Mongolia's Altjin Togtokh, whose strong defence stood out in the medal bout.

Nitesh's medal is India's first silver in Greco-Roman wrestling at the Asian Games since 1962 in Jakarta where Malwa Singh (52kg) and Ganpat Andalkar (+97kg) won gold while Udey Chand (70kg), Saijan Songh (87kg) and Maruti Mane (97kg) won silver medals.

In that edition, the same wrestlers had also competed in men's freestyle also and won medals on both styles.

In the 97kg final, Nitesh tried to establish a two-on-one grip from the opening seconds but Nakazato refused to allow the Indian any attacking opportunity.