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GDMC's PG & intern doctors protest for hike in stipend

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Demanding an increase in stipend, about 70 post graduate doctors and over 100 internship doctors staged a protest at the OPD building of Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) Hospital on Tuesday. Resident Doctors Association president Dr Abhijeet Rathi said PG doctors began their protest outside the GDMC OPD building on Tuesday. He said they have been demanding a hike in stipend from around Rs 69,000 to Rs 1,25,000. Interns also raised a correspondingly similar demand.

In every other State, the stipend of PG doctors is raised every year, but there have been no hikes for years in the



mountain State of Uttarakhand. He said they have boycotted work in OPD, wards and operation theatres (OT) at GDMC hospital. However, keeping patient care in mind, some PG doctors are providing services in the Emergency department. He said the au-

thorities concerned and GDMC principal have been approached and have given verbal assurance. "The protest will continue till action is taken on our demands," he added.

Intern doctors also raised similar demands. An intern doctor, not wanting to be named, said that they have been protesting from 10 AM to 3 PM since Monday and continued it on Tuesday. "We will continue till our demand is considered. We are demanding a hike in stipend from Rs 17,000 to Rs 30,000," she said. She said that a memorandum in this regard was earlier also submitted to the Health minister but no action has been taken yet. Due to low stipend, expenses like transport and food have become unmanageable, she added. Both intern and PG doctors have boycotted OPD, ward and OT duties but are providing services in emergency. Notably, they claimed that similar protests are being held in every medical college of the State over the same demands.

Patients & attendants face hardship as protest blocks OPD entry at GDMC Hospital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The protest by PG and intern doctors at the entrance of the OPD building at Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) Hospital caused considerable inconvenience to patients and their attendants contrary to what doctors are meant to prevent, on Tuesday.

Patients and attendants said the ongoing protest has blocked the main entry to the OPD building, forcing them to take a longer route

from the other side to enter the building.

Notably, over 100 intern doctors and around 70 PG doctors staged a protest at the OPD building on Tuesday demanding an increase in stipend. Amid this, many patients and attendants were seen facing difficulties in entering the building.

They urged authorities to look into the matter seriously to ensure ease and comfort of patients and visitors at the hospital.

Pandey orders strict monitoring of sanitation, dengue control

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) on Tuesday has stepped up efforts to improve sanitation and prevent dengue and other vector-borne diseases, with Dehradun municipal commissioner Alok Kumar Pandey directing officials to ensure regular monitoring of garbage collection, fogging and anti-larval activities. A review meeting was held at the MCD premises to assess door-to-

rules. Shops, hotels, restaurants and other commercial establishments were directed to keep adequately sized dustbins outside their premises and hand over waste only to authorised garbage collection vehicles. Public awareness campaigns will also be conducted to encourage waste segregation and discourage littering. Pandey directed sanitation workers of the MCD and

also stressed the need to encourage employees who perform well.

All Garbage Vulnerable Points (GVPs) in the city should be identified and removed through necessary action. He added that regular cleaning and monitoring should be ensured at such locations to prevent garbage from accumulating again. Pandey said that negligence in the sanitation system would not be tolerated and directed officials to regularly inspect their respective areas and monitor sanitation, garbage collection, fogging and anti-larval activities. He also appealed to residents to avoid dumping waste in the open or in drains, keep dustbins outside commercial premises and hand over garbage only to authorised collection vehicles. The chief municipal health officer Dr Anand Shukla, assistant municipal commissioner Rajbir Singh Chauhan, chief sanitation inspectors, sanitation inspectors and other officials were present at the meeting.



door garbage collection, fogging, anti-larval spraying, cleaning of drains, waterlogging-prone areas and action against open garbage dumping.

Pandey directed officials to ensure door-to-door garbage collection as per designated routes and timings and said that garbage should not remain accumulated in any area for long. He said that accountability should be fixed on the concerned agency in case of negligence. He also instructed officials to regularly conduct fogging and anti-larval activities in vulnerable and identified areas. Waterlogging-prone locations should be identified and immediate cleaning and necessary action taken to prevent mosquito breeding. Area-wise monitoring and reporting of fogging and anti-larval activities was also ordered.

Pandey directed officials to ensure regular cleaning of drains and immediate lifting of waste generated during cleaning. Action as per rules should be taken against supervisors, sanitation inspectors and chief sanitation inspectors in case of negligence in door-to-door garbage collection. Officials were also directed to issue challans against people dumping garbage on roads, public places, vacant plots, drains and other prohibited locations. Frequently reported garbage dumping points should be identified and kept under special monitoring. Officials were asked to use available photo and video evidence to identify violators and take action as per

associated agencies to work in prescribed uniforms to ensure proper identification, discipline and accountability. He

Critical patient told to go to a “bigger hospital” by rude GDMC hospital medicos, kinfolks allege

MANSI BHAMBRI ■ Dehradun

Serious lapses in the Emergency department at Government Doon Medical College (GDMC) hospital, the State's biggest government medical college hospital have come to the fore after a critically ill elderly patient was allegedly denied admission for two days and made to shuttle between emergency and OPD without ambulance support. At a time when incidents of patients dying due to delayed treatment or alleged shirking of responsibility by staff are becoming frequent, the GDMC incident is a wakeup call, especially for the department and minister concerned.

On Tuesday, the patient's condition deteriorated while his family alleged that the Emergency department had been refusing admission for the past two days on the pretext of "no vacant bed". The patient's son Manish Kumar, resident of Rajpur Road, said that his father has been se-

verely ill for the past few days and unable to eat. "For two days my mother took my father to GDMC Hospital emergency and pleaded for admission, but doctors and staff refused, saying there is no bed," he alleged. On Tuesday morning, with no treatment, his father's condition worsened. When his mother again reached emergency, instead of admitting him, officials sent them to OPD for consultation.

Kumar said his mother visited the OPD, where the doctor examined and advised immediate admission in the Emergency department. Despite being advised emergency admission, no ambulance was provided for a few minutes to shift the patient from the OPD building to the emergency building. They were finally sent by an auto to the emergency for treatment.

Kumar further alleged that even after reaching the Emergency department, a junior female doctor told them there was no bed and asked them to take the patient to some big hospital. An argument also broke out between the intern doctor and the family. "We don't have enough money to go to a private hospital. Government hospitals are meant for people like us," Kumar said. After repeated requests and intervention, the patient was finally admitted in the emergency.



AAP accuses BJP & Cong of diverting attention from public issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Uttarakhand president Uma Gaur Sisodia on Tuesday accused the BJP and Congress of using the "stage purification" controversy to divert public attention from key issues facing the state. Sisodia said that people were struggling with inflation, unemployment, migration, corruption, poor education and healthcare and law and order concerns but the two parties were focusing on unnecessary controversies instead of answering questions on these issues.

She asked both parties to explain when employment opportunities would increase, migration from the hills would stop and conditions in government schools and hospitals would improve. Sisodia said that people wanted

concrete answers and development-oriented policies rather than emotional and controversial issues. She added that the AAP would continue to raise issues related to employment, education, healthcare, roads, water, electricity, women's safety and corruption.

She also urged the BJP and Congress to explain their work to the people instead of engaging in controversies over stage purification.

When contacted, GDMC principal Dr Geeta Jain termed the matter serious and a cause for concern. She attributed the behaviour to possible

frustration among intern and PG doctors due to the ongoing strike. "This should not have happened. I will direct all doctors and emergency staff that

every patient reaching the hospital must be provided treatment. Such behaviour will not be tolerated in future," she said.

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Ncr Plaza,24, New Cantt Road, Hathibarkala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, 248001

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
[See provision to Rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable asset(s)

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Invent Pharma Incorporation Represented By Proprietor Ruchi Rastogi (Borrower), Neeraj Rastogi, Amit Rastogi, Charanpreet Singh, Meetu Rastogi, Ruchi Rastogi (Guarantor), Nitin Rastogi, Meetu Rastogi, (Mortgagor) A/C No 424005000099, 424055000022	Prop 1: Flat No B-102, First Floor Meridian Heights, Forming Part Of Property Bearing Municipal No 2-C (New Municipal No 209/144) And Property Bearing Municipal No 208/143 (Old No 2/11 And Old No 2c/1) And Part Of Property Bearing Municipal No 207/142, Kalidas Road, Dobhalwala Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Area: 2310 Sq Ft Prop 2: Shop No 3 Part of Property Bearing Municipal No 6 Cross Road Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Area: 260 Sq Ft	Rs. 3,50,52,147/- as on August 26,2026	Prop1: Rs. 1,50,00,000/- Rs. 15,00,000/- Prop 2: Rs. 80,00,000/- Rs.80,00,000/-	September 18, 2026 From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 PM	October 16, 2026 From 11:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The online auction will take place on the website (URL Link- <https://BidDeal.in>) of e-auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ notices are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till October 15, 2026 before 05:00 PM failing which, this secured asset will be sold as per schedule.

The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Bank Ltd, NCR Plaza,24, New Cantt Road, Hathibarkala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, 248001 on or before October 15, 2026 before 05:00 PM and thereafter they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before October 15, 2026 before 05:00 PM along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, in case prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI Bank Ltd, NCR Plaza-24, New Cantt Road, Hathibarkala, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, 248001 on or before October 15, 2026 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Dehradun.

For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the e-auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Bank Limited on 9372730494/7304914763.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s

Date: September 09, 2026
Place: Dehradun

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

Corporate Off. : 503 & 504, 5th Floor, G-Block, Inspire BKC, BKC Main Road, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400061.
Regd. Off. : Cornerzone IT Park, Tower B, 1st Floor, No. 111, Mount Poonamallee Road, Porur, Chennai - 600116, TN.

SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd.
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF 30 DAYS FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH PROVISION TO RULE 8(B) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

NOTICE is hereby given to the Public in General and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below listed immovable properties ("Secured Assets") mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd.** (hereinafter referred to as **SMHFC**) ("Secured Creditor"), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on the date and time mentioned herein below, for recovery of the dues mentioned herein below and further interest and other expenses thereon till date of realization, due to **SMHFC** Secured Creditor from the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) LAN	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price : Earnest Money Deposit :	Date & Time of E-Auction	Date of EMD Submission
1.	LAN : 611639211952317 1. MOHIT PANWAR 2. NISHA PANWAR	1 BHK Flat (Fasli Year 1428 -1433), Kharsa No. 62 Min. Situated At 1 st Floor Having Super Area Measuring 450 Sq. ft Or 41.82 Sq. Mtrs. Forming Part of Property Comprising of Land Bearing Kharsa No. 62 Min. Mauza Kulhan Man Singh Pargana Farwa Doon Dehradun. East : Land Of Others; West : Land Of Others; North : Common Stairs and Flat of Others Then 20 Fit Wide Road; South : Land of Others.	Rs. 26,60,000/-	21.10.2026 at 11.00 a. m.	19.10.2026 to 01.00 p. m.

Details terms and conditions of the sale are as below and the details are also provided in our/secured creditor's website at the following link website address (<https://BidDeal.in> and <https://www.grihashakti.com/pdf/E-Auction.pdf>) The Intending Bidders can also Contact : **Naveen Kumar Tomar, Mob.: Naveen Kumar Tomar, E-mail : Naveen.Tomar@grihashakti.com, Mr. Niloy Dey, on his Mob. 8655619157, E-mail : Niloy.Dey@grihashakti.com**

Place : Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Date : 07.09.2026

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
SMFG INDIA HOME FINANCE CO. LTD.

कार्यालय फील्ड डायरेक्टर

कार्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व, रामनगर (नैनीताल)

टेलीफोन नं०-05947-253977, फेक्स नं०- 05947-251012, ई-मेल- dirctra@yahoo.in

पत्रांक 672 /15-1 रामनगर, प्रेस विज्ञप्ति दिनांक 08, सितम्बर, 2026

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व के अन्तर्गत पर्यटन वर्ष 2026-27 में ढेला, झिरना, गर्जिया, बिजरानी, ढिकाला एवं दुर्गादेवी पर्यटन जोन में नियंत्रित पर्यटन संचालन हेतु योग्य (Eligible) व्यावसायिक वाहनों का पंजीकरण किया जाना है। जिसके अनुक्रम में इस विज्ञप्ति के माध्यम से योग्य व्यावसायिक वाहनों के पंजीकरण के लिए वाहन स्वामी एवं चालकों हेतु आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। आवेदन पत्र एवं योग्य व्यावसायिक वाहनों के पंजीकरण हेतु नियम, शर्तें व प्रतिबन्ध कार्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व की वेबसाइट <http://www.corbettonline.uk.gov.in/> <https://corbettgov.org> पर प्रदर्शित हैं, जिसे वेबसाइट में भली-भांति देखा जा सकता है, आवेदन पत्र को कार्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व की वेबसाइट <http://www.corbettonline.uk.gov.in/> <https://corbettgov.org> से दिनांक 10.09.2026 से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। व्यावसायिक वाहन पंजीकरण आवेदन पत्र को मय स्वप्रमाणित संलग्नकों सहित सत्यापन/ जांच हेतु मूल अभिलेखों के साथ, वाहन स्वामी/ वाहन चालक स्वयं कार्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व कार्यालय के रामनगर स्थित ईको टूरिज्म यूनिट स्वागत कक्ष में उपस्थित होकर जमा करना अनिवार्य है। स्वप्रमाणित/ सत्यापित आवेदन पत्रों को दिनांक 24.09.2026 तक (प्रातः 10:00 बजे से अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक) जमा करवाना होगा। निर्धारित तिथि/ समय (दिनांक-24.09.2026 अपराह्न 05:00 बजे) के पश्चात् प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पत्रों को किसी भी दशा में स्वीकार/ विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। व्यावसायिक वाहन पंजीकरण हेतु प्राप्त होने वाले समस्त आवेदन पत्रों की सूची एवं इसके जांचोपरान्त नियमानुसार योग्य एवं अयोग्य व्यावसायिक वाहनों की सूची कार्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व की वेबसाइट में प्रदर्शित की जायेगी। तत्पश्चात् योग्य व्यावसायिक वाहनों को ही कार्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व के अन्तर्गत पर्यटन वर्ष 2026-27 हेतु पंजीकृत किया जायेगा एवं योग्य व्यावसायिक वाहनों की सूची कार्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व की वेबसाइट <http://www.corbettonline.uk.gov.in/> <https://corbettgov.org> में पृथक से प्रदर्शित की जायेगी।

(राहुल मिश्रा)
उप निदेशक
कार्बेट टाइगर रिजर्व, रामनगर (नैनीताल)।

ECI to implement DSE & PSE modules in U'khand under SIR

Govt machinery on before SC verdict on major Vanbhulpura encroachment verdict

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Election Commission of India has decided to implement the Demographic Similar Entry (DSE) and Photo Similar Entry (PSE) modules in the voter lists in Uttarakhand in the ongoing process of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in the State. Under DSE and PSE, the voters whose names and pictures are found in the modules in different voter lists as similar names and pictures will be issued notices and given 15 days to respond.

meeting held at the State secretariat on Tuesday. In the meeting, a detailed discussion regarding the ongoing SIR was held. The CEO informed that the anomalies were issued to 24.30 lakh voters in the State and the electoral registration officers (ERO) and assistant electoral registration officers (AERO) have completed the process of hearing of 24.29 lakh notices.

The CEO informed the representatives of the political parties that hearing on more than 40 per cent of claims and objections on Forms VI, VII and VIII has been done under the SIR in the State.

Additional chief electoral officer Vijay Kumar Jogdande, deputy chief electoral officer Kishan Singh Negi, assistant chief electoral officer Mastu Das were present in the meeting. BJP's Rajkumar Purohit, Advocate Satendra Jain, Indian National Congress's Manoj Rawat, BSP's Satendra Chopra and Bhimrao, Aam Aadmi Party's Shyam Babu Pandey and CPI-M's Anant Akash attended the important meeting.

Chhoti Road Indranagar, Taj Masjid, Gandhinagar, Chorgalia Road, Taj Chowraha, Bhardwaj Chowraha and Railway Station Gate, among other areas.

Police have continued area domination operations in the region, intensified preventive detentions and verification campaigns against suspects. Checks are being conducted in sensitive areas, and the entire area is being monitored along with officers and staff from the police, PAC, anti-riot team, BDS, fire and drone teams were present.

TC appealed to the residents of the area to respect the Supreme Court's decision and cooperate with the administration in further action. He urged people to maintain peace and ignore any rumors.

The SSP clarified that the police are also continuously monitoring social media platforms. A warning has been issued to avoid posts and comments that are misleading, baseless, or spread rumors that could impact law and order. Strict legal action will be taken against those found involved in such activities.

Selja charges up State Congress organisation for VS polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Congress State in-charge Kumari Selja held a brainstorming session with the heads of the frontal organisations, departments and cells of the Pradesh Congress Committee here on Tuesday. The meeting assumes significance in view of the Vidhan Sabha elections of 2027. In the meeting, Selja directed the leaders that they should extensively tour the State to strengthen the Congress organisation and should actively reach out to the public. "The people of the State are paid by the policies



of the BJP government. Congress workers must go out to the public and raise their voices strongly regarding the injustice against Dalits, the safety and respect of women, rising unemployment and the problems of the youth," she said.

She added that every Congress worker should consider the public's problems as their own and strive for their solutions. "All departments and cells of the organisation should not remain confined to paper but should be active on the ground and establish direct communication with

BJP candidates elected presidents of DCBs unopposed in Garhwal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party supported candidates have won in most of the positions in the District Cooperative Bank (DCB) election in Garhwal division. In the elections held in the six districts of Garhwal division, all the BJP candidates for the posts of president and vice president were elected unopposed.

Manjit Rawat in Dehradun, Gajendra Singh Rawat in Chamoli, Sharda Rana in Uttarkashi, Pankaj Rawat in Pauri, Subhash Chandra Ramola in Tehri and Vijendra Chaudhary in Haridwar



आप सभी को
हिमालय दिवस
9 सितम्बर, 2026
की
हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री

हिमालय सुरक्षित रखने के लिए आइए संकल्प लें कि

अधिक से अधिक वृक्षारोपण करेंगे।

कूड़ा-कचरा इधर-उधर नहीं फेंकेंगे।

जंगलों को आग लगने से बचाएंगे।

सिंगल यूज प्लास्टिक उत्पादों का प्रयोग नहीं करेंगे।

“ हिमालय हमारी अमूल्य धरोहर है। हमारे प्रदेश का जनजीवन हिमालय से जुड़ा है। हिमालय पर्वत श्रृंखला बहुमूल्य औषधीय जड़ी-बूटियों, वन्यजीवों और वनस्पतियों का भण्डार है। इतना समृद्ध भूखण्ड दुनिया में बहुत कम है। आइए मिलकर, हिमालय को बचाने का संकल्प लें और पर्यावरण, वन्य जीवन के साथ-साथ अपने जीवन को भी सुरक्षित करें। ”

हिमालय बचाओ- जीवन बचाओ

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IN FOCUS



People gather to witness the grand chariot procession of Mother Mary marking the culmination of St Mary's annual feast at Shivajinagar, in Bengaluru on Tuesday

FDA flags railway, ISKCON kitchens

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has suspended the food licences of an IRCTC-linked supplier in Kurla and three food establishments at ISKCON, Juhu, for alleged violations of norms.

The FDA suspended the licence of R K Associates & Hoteliers in Kurla West after an inspection on September 2 found cockroaches in storage and processing areas, uncovered food, food preparation near open garbage, damaged floor tiles and cracks and damaged surfaces on walls, among other deficiencies, an official release said.

The FDA has launched a state-wide crackdown on food establishments violating the laws and rules regarding hygiene and food safety after IAS officer Tukaram Mundhe took over as its commissioner in May this year.

The inspector also found deficiencies in personal hygiene at R K Associates & Hoteliers. An employee with an injured finger was allegedly handling food, and only 21 of the 34 food handlers could produce medical fitness certificates.

Inspections were also carried out on September 3 at



Representative image

three food establishments at ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness), Hare Krishna Land, Juhu, an official release said.

At one of the establishments, the FDA found inadequate records of periodic testing of water used for food production, improper inspection of raw materials and improper temperature and humidity conditions for storing raw and prepared food, the release said.

It also found food and non-food items stored in a manner that posed a risk of cross-contamination, pest

infestation, inadequate cleaning and lack of calibration of measuring and monitoring devices.

It issued the licence suspension order on September 7 after examining the inspection report and photographs, the FDA said.

The food services restaurant at ISKCON, Juhu, was found to have an open rear kitchen entrance without adequate measures to prevent pest entry, no required laboratory testing, inadequate lighting, deficiencies in raw-material inspection and cleaning,

clogged drains with food waste and pest droppings, and lapses in medical examinations, vaccination and training records of food handlers.

The third establishment, ISKCON Govindas Restaurant, was found to have deficiencies in food testing, drinking-water testing, raw-material inspection and segregation, cleaning, drainage, pest control, calibration of equipment and food-handler hygiene and training. Its licence was suspended with immediate effect on September 7.

JNU student alleges language harassment



Representative image

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Fresh allegations of academic misconduct have emerged at Jawaharlar Nehru University (JNU) after the Progressive Democratic Students Union (PDSU) accused an assistant professor at the Centre for Japanese Studies of harassing a non-Hindi-speaking student through "linguistic discrimination and public humiliation".

The student body has demanded an impartial inquiry by the university administration, alleging that the faculty member, created a "suffocating environment" that violated JNU's code of conduct and pedagogical standards.

According to a detailed statement issued by the PDSU, the assistant professor pressured a female student from South India to speak and write in Hindi during classes, despite her not being a Hindi speaker. The organisation claimed that the professor mocked her accent and encouraged other students to laugh at her, causing severe mental and emotional distress.

"The student was made to repeat in class -- 'I will try my best to study Hindi' -- and was frequently asked to write, read or translate complex Hindi and Sanskrit words, phrases and verses," the PDSU said, adding that the student has since suffered anxiety, nausea and panic attacks.

Rahul flight safely lands after scare

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

An Air India flight carrying Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi had to abandon its first landing attempt at Lucknow airport on Tuesday after gusty winds affected landing conditions, before touching down safely on a second attempt minutes later.

Air India flight AI-1717, operating from Delhi to Lucknow, initiated a go-around at around 3:45 pm, after the flight crew assessed the weather con-



Representative image

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ditions and decided not to proceed with the initial landing.

The aircraft circled before making another approach and landed safely at approximately 3:55 pm, sources said.

All passengers were able to disembark normally after the aircraft reached the terminal. There were no immediate reports of any injuries or disruption among those on board.

A go-around is a standard aviation procedure in which pilots discontinue an approach when landing conditions are not considered suitable and make another attempt once it is safe to do so.

Air India has not issued an official statement on the incident so far.

Kerala MLAs walk out of NCW meet over Hindi-only sessions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi/Thiruvananthapuram

A group of women MLAs from Kerala walked out of an NCW workshop on Tuesday before its conclusion, protesting that the programme was conducted largely in Hindi, which they found difficult to follow.

A two-day capacity-building workshop for women legislators was organised by the National Commission for Women in Faridabad.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the workshop on Monday. The women legislators from Kerala alleged that conducting the programme



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla during the inaugural session of the two-day Capacity Building Programme for Women Legislators. She is a Change Maker organised by the National Commission for Women (NCW) in Faridabad

in Hindi made it difficult for participants from non-Hindi-speaking states to understand and follow the sessions.

"We attended the programme expecting that, as legislators, we would get some new suggestions and practical guidance on how to effectively participate in legislative proceedings," Deputy Speaker Shanimol Osman said. Besides Osman, the women representatives from Kerala were Ministers Bindhu Krishna and K A Thulasi, and MLAs K K Rema, Fathima Thahliya, Vidya Balakrishnan and Usha Vijayan.

The sessions were conducted entirely in Hindi, Osman said, adding that participants from Kerala could not

understand the language.

"Normally, when national-level conferences are held, considering that India is a diverse country, some arrangements are made to accommodate participants from South India and the Northeast.

But here, there was no such arrangement," she told reporters in New Delhi.

There was no immediate reaction from the NCW to their allegations.

Speaking to PTI, Fathima Thahliya said there was little scope for interaction as the programme proceeded through a series of classes without even an open-house discussion.

FROM PAGE - 1

manner affecting India's interests." The NIA requested the court's permission to continue investigating under Section 193(9) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita so that "all the aspects of the larger conspiracy" involving the accused and others can be uncovered.

Ukrainian nationals entered India in December 2025 after obtaining tourist visas. They later crossed the Myanmar border and reached Victoria Camp to provide training to Ethnic Armed Groups of Myanmar. Before leaving Indian territory, they travelled to Guwahati on different dates and stayed in different hotels.

Investigators said the accused planned their movement in India and Myanmar "in such a way that it does not seem suspicious to anybody."

The NIA said the men were arrested to investigate the larger conspiracy and to look into their possible links with Indian insurgent groups in the northeast. The use of tourist visas, hotel stays in Guwahati, crossing into Myanmar, alleged training of armed groups, and the recovery of drones and electronic devices have kept the terror angle in focus, even though the first chargesheet only covers immigration offences.

Meanwhile, forensic checks of seized devices and investigations into drone shipments are ongoing. Officials say these findings will determine if the foreigners are later charged under the anti-terror law.

Security scare before PM's Mumbai visit

Police later confirmed the gun seized from Kunde was licensed. Mumbai Police filed a First Information Report (FIR), and Parekh was produced before the concerned court and subsequently remanded to police custody until 11 September.

Sources in the security establishment attempted to downplay the incident. They stated that the incident occurred one day before the Prime Minister's timetable and that it has no connection with it.

Crime Branch investigators are focused on three questions: who made the identity card and how, why a private businessman had an armed escort in a closely watched mall, and who the third man is. Police are checking phones, documents, and CCTV footage.

The Global Fintech Fest, held from 8 to 11 September, brings together regulators, banks, and foreign delegations to discuss topics like agentic AI, tokenisation, and quantum technology.

Modi-Putin meet before BRICS

Defence cooperation is also likely to feature prominently, with the proposed sale of Russia's Su-57 fighter aircraft expected to be discussed. Peskov said Moscow was prepared to consider India's request for technology transfer.

The Modi-Putin meeting will take place a day before the BRICS Summit, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday. Putin is expected to join other leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, South

African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Peskov also highlighted the growing significance of BRICS, describing the grouping as having developed beyond an organisation into a bloc. Speaking about India's BRICS presidency, he said cooperation among member countries was based on mutual trust, respect and shared interests.

He further said the global order was undergoing a transformation, with the influence of a unipolar system declining. According to Peskov, BRICS represents countries seeking a more balanced international system in which nations have equal standing.

The meeting comes shortly after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visits to Ukraine and Russia. During his diplomatic engagements, Jaishankar said India was exploring ideas that could help reduce tensions and contribute to ending the Ukraine conflict.

India has consistently advocated dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward on the Ukraine war and has expressed its willingness to assist efforts aimed at finding a peaceful resolution.

Hanuman idol in MP stays put after four...

The festival is particularly associated with the worship of Lord Shiva and Ujjain's temples.

The Ujjain Municipal Corporation and district administration had reportedly planned to safely relocate the idol at a new site near Tanki Chowk.

While much of the temple structure around the idol has been brought down, the Hanuman idol has remained in its original position. Officials and workers have reportedly made multiple attempts to shift it using heavy machinery, but without success.

Reportedly, four attempts over the last few days failed, following which the use of heavy machinery was halted. Authorities are now looking at scanning the idol's base and surrounding structure before deciding how it can be safely moved.

The development has triggered considerable interest on social media. A video showing a large group of monkeys gathering near the site has also added to the buzz. Temple priest Mahesh Bairagi, speaking to a local television channel, said the repeated failures should be seen as a possible indication that the deity is meant to remain at the site.

"Baba [Lord Hanuman] is giving us signs every day that he wants to remain here. I humbly request the administration to understand these signs. Even if the idol still needs to be removed, I want the deity to be shifted safely, in the same form and manner as it is now. Until the administration can ensure its complete safety, no attempt should be made to move the idol," Bairagi said.

Temple priest Bairagi also said the administration had initially approached the issue in a straightforward manner, but experts, including those associated with archaeology, have since suggested further examination before another

attempt is made. The temple is believed to be around 170 years old, with local accounts linking its history to the period around 1857.

There are also claims that the idol could have older historical links, including to the Paramara period, though those claims have not been conclusively established.

For now, the idol remains at the site, protected under a temporary canopy as authorities await expert assessment.

Safety of PGs in Delhi under SC lens

On Monday, the Delhi High Court had ordered a high-level MCD inquiry into the incident and made it clear that the Government cannot evade responsibility. The Bench said the issues dealt with by the HC are serious and overlap with the case already considered by the SC on a pan-India basis.

"We have something in mind. We will consider this issue day-after-tomorrow. This is a serious issue. The issues dealt with by the high court are overlapping with one considered by this court on a pan-India basis," the bench said.

The Bench was dealing with issues related to unauthorised constructions in residential areas, fire safety and conversion of residential into commercial establishments in violation of norms across India.

The amicus has sought a time-bound inspection and safety audit of PGs, private hostels and similar student-accommodation establishments around colleges and universities across Delhi, including checks on sanctioned building plans, actual construction and number of floors, basement construction and alterations, land use, structural and fire safety, ingress and egress, and dangerous or ruinous conditions.

The report also points to construction-related activity reportedly underway in or around the basement of the collapsed structure, along with reports of water logging in the basement in the period immediately preceding the collapse; details that may bear on the eventual determination of what caused the building to come down.

Ahead of BRICS, Delhi's anti-terror response...

India has now had four opportunities to hold the position, following 2012, 2016 and 2021. For this reason, security preparations are being treated as operational rather than ceremonial. Since the BRICS schedule has been expanded, there will be more motorcades, more hotels, more roads closed, and more buildings suddenly considered high value. The traffic police have already started planning routes for the convoy rehearsals.

The NSG's drills take place on civilian infrastructure; this way, if a meeting place or route is affected, the last responders will already be on the ground. The force is not saying the city is sealed, but rather that the crisis procedure has been carried out in full view of the public, with the involvement of other agencies.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Haridwar

works are proceeding according to the timeline set and would be completed on schedule. She further said that the administration's priority is not only completing the construction, but also ensuring quality, timeliness, convenience, safety, accessibility and orderliness. "Works related to roads, bridges, ghats, parking, drinking water, electricity, medical facilities, sanitation, transportation, and beautification are being undertaken for the Kumbh. Several important infrastructure projects, including five major bridges, are underway. Special emphasis is also

The Mela officer stated that a multi-layered system has been installed to monitor the quality and progress of the work. "Furthermore, under the concept of Green Kumbh, special attention is being paid to environmental protection, water conservation, energy efficiency and waste management," Sonika informed.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Cabinet minister Khajan Das, MLA Savita Kapoor, founder of Kusum Kanta Foundation Vidushi Nishank, Aryan Dev Uniyal and others attended the programme.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

was only the first step and that protecting them until they grow into trees was the main responsibility. He said Dehradun's identity was linked to its greenery and natural beauty and that development should take place along with environmental protection.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jyotirmath

people only learned about the incident in the morning," the village pradhan Kunwar Lal said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Uttarkashi

trained in advanced agricultural techniques, soil health management, crop diversification, improved seed selection, organic and natural farming, pest and disease management, water conservation, agriculture mechanisation and agriculture-based innovations. Experts will also provide farmers with practical information on scientific farming, which will help reduce production costs and increase agricultural productivity. The district chief agriculture officer S S Verma said that this programme, conducted under the direction of the district magistrate Prashant Arya, aims to empower farmers through a better balance between traditional agricultural knowledge and modern technology, empowering them to become self-reliant and capable. "Along with developing agriculture as a more profitable business, special emphasis is also being placed on connecting women farmers with new technologies and agriculture-based livelihood opportunities," he added.

PNB distributes school bags to children under CSR

Manbar Negi elected IIA U'khand chairman



tember 1 to 3. In the new executive committee, Akhilesh Kumar has been elected vice-chairman, Subodh Dobhal treasurer and Kanav Kumar Aggarwal joint secretary. After his victory, Negi said the new team would focus on increasing the participation of young and women architects, promoting professional development and strengthening coordination with government institutions. Following the election, Negi is representing Uttarakhand at the ARCASIA Conference being held in Agra. He has also been given the responsibility of the observer in the ARCASIA committee on social responsibility.

21	जाखणीधार	वि०खं० जाखणीधार के
22	जाखणीधार	वि०खं० जाखणीधार के टाईल्स एवं रेलिंग निर्मा
23	जाखणीधार	वि०खं० जाखणीधार व पुलिया का पुर्ननिर्माण
24	जाखणीधार	वि०खं० जाखणीधार के

	जाखणीधार	विंखं जाखणीधार के
26	मिलंगना	विंखं मिलंगना के
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28	मिलंगना	विंखं मिलंगना के तक इन्टरताक मार्ग नि
29	मिलंगना	विंखं मिलंगना के इन्टरलोक रास्ते का नि
30	मिलंगना	विंखं मिलंगना के
31	मिलंगना	विंखं के ग्रायणं प्रा तक मार्ग निर्माण
32	मिलंगना	विंखं मिलंगना के
33	मिलंगना	विंखं मिलंगना के सी०एन० एव० टाईल्व नि
34	मिलंगना	विंखं के ग्रायणं मॉ
35	कीर्तिनगर	विंखं कीर्तिनगर के पडिहार के घर तक इ

॥ श्रीगणेशाय नमः ॥

Tा०पंच सांघवार न साउसाउ एव रलग नमार्ण ।
Tा०पंच तिपरी के पंचाघर घर प्रांगण में इन्दरलौकिंग
ग्यामपंच खण्ड के दुग्ढा नामो तोक में क्षतिग्रस्त
Tा०पंच भटवाडा में सार्वजनिक शौचालय निर्माण ।
Tा०पंच मन्दार, जौवाल में सी०सी० मार्ग निर्माण
Tा०पंच तितरोणा कालिका नाम देवता मन्दिर मार्ग निर्माण

लेख्यलगाव के अन्तर्गत सी०सी० मार्ग निर्माण
००० ग्राम० भद्र गांव में रा०इ०का० भद्र गांव से सडक
००० कुण्डी बणसू में मुख्य सडक से चौतरे तक
रा०इ०का० घोषडघार में भवन मरम्मत कार्य ।
कोट हिदाव के महरगाव तल्ला से कफोल्डी तोक
होल्ला से थोलघार नामे तोक में इन्टर लाक मार्ग निर्माण
००० मोलनों में पीछाल से भद्रेश्वर मन्दिर तक
में देवरी तोक में पंचायत भवन मरम्मत कार्य
००० मंगसू चौरास में डैम नहर से श्री अजय
लीकिय कार्य ।

5555.55	555-1234567	5-1111	45-1234
5555.55	555-1234567	5-1111	45-1234

[illegible]

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

garding the take-home ration (THR) for the fiscal year 2025-26. She highlighted that various difficulties in obtaining the THR from the Government of India are causing financial problems. She requested the Union minister to resolve this issue promptly.

Additionally, Arya addressed the lack of progress in the FRSS child census for the financial

She requested the Union minister to grant permission and provide support for upgrading Anganwadi centres in other districts of the State, ensuring they have adequate buildings and space to become capable facilities. The Union minister expressed a positive attitude toward this issue and assured that it would be considered at the appropriate level.

Arya also raised concerns re-

year 2026-27, noting that approximately 60 per cent of children have been left out of the census due to various adverse circumstances. She requested necessary solutions and further action regarding this matter.

Arya emphasised that the state government is continually striving to strengthen the Anganwadi system, provide better nutrition and facilities to children and equip Anganwadis with modern amenities.



PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Poonam Singh W/o Shri Surendra Thabira, R/o H.No. 2, Govind Residency, Govind Nagar, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, have changed my name from Poonam Singh Rana to Poonam Singh. My correct name is Poonam Singh as per my PAN, Aadhar, and other documents. Future correspondence should recognize me by this name.

I, Surendra Singh father of Daksh Bisht resident of 26 Upasna Enclave, Panditwari, Dehradun have changed my son's name from Daksh to Daksh Bisht as per aadhar card. In future, for all purposes, including 10th class records my son shall be known as Daksh Bisht.

In the birth certificate of my child Vinayak Semwal, my name Rameshwar Prasad Semwal and my wife's name Anjali Semwal has been mistakenly recorded while correct name are Rameshwar Prasad and Anjali it should be updated. Rameshwar Prasad S/O Late Shri R. D Semwal bala wala near bhagwan Das chowk, dehradun

I have changed my name from Anil Semwal (old name) to Naitik Semwal (new name). Henceforth, I shall be known by my correct and legal name as Naitik Semwal, S/O Sundar Lal Semwal R/o H.No. 292 Sant Vihar Adhawal Raipur Road Dehradun

I, CHANGUBAI M/o No. 2808998L NK KARADE RAMCHANDRA GUNDIBA Vill: & Post - KASEGAON, The: Walwa, Distt: Sangli, Maharashtra: 415404. That I have changed my name CHANGUBAI to CHANGUBAI GUNDIBA KARADE as per Aadhar No. 6520 6526 7209 vide affidavit sworn before Notary & Advocate Sanjeev Kumar Dt.07.09.2026 Gol-UK.

मेरे नाबालिक पुत्र के आधार कार्ड नं. 3009 XXXX 0556 में त्रुटिश्च उसका नाम लकी कुमार (LUCKY KUMAR) गलत दर्ज हो गया है। जबकि उसका वास्तविक नाम लकवेंद्र कुमार (LAKVENDRA KUMAR) है। जो उसके जन्म प्रमाण-पत्र पंजी सं० UK26SE0100299863 व हाई स्कूल प्रमाण पत्र संख्या 10404922 में भी दर्ज है। भविष्य में मेरे पुत्र को लकवेंद्र कुमार (LAKVENDRA KUMAR) पुत्र मुकेश कुमार के नाम से जाना पहचाना व पुकारा जाए। निवासी- भात्तारा टिहरी गढ़वाल, राजचौक उत्तराखण्ड।

मैं, सौरभ F/o अदिति, ग्राम व पोस्ट - सारंगपुर, तह - खुर्जी, जिला - बुलंदशहर, उत्तर प्रदेश - 203132, ने अपना पुत्री का नाम अदिति से अदिति सिंह कर लिया है। द्वारा शपथ पत्र सं. IN-UK959089638105119Y दिनांक 08.09.2026 समक्ष रुड़की कोर्ट UK

मैं, सौरभ F/o अभिनव, ग्राम व पोस्ट - सारंगपुर, तह - खुर्जी, जिला - बुलंदशहर, उत्तर प्रदेश - 203132, ने अपना पुत्र का नाम अभिनव से अभिनव चौधरी कर लिया है। द्वारा शपथ पत्र सं. IN-UK959089638105119Y दिनांक 08.09.2026 समक्ष रुड़की कोर्ट UK

मैं, दया वती देवी M/o श्रीमान, ग्राम व पोस्ट - सारंगपुर, तह - खुर्जी, जिला - बुलंदशहर, उत्तर प्रदेश - 203132, ने अपना नाम दया वती देवी से दयावती कर लिया है। द्वारा शपथ पत्र सं. IN-UK95907799925964Y दिनांक 08.09.2026 समक्ष रुड़की कोर्ट UK

COURT NOTICE

Before the Court of Civil Judge (CD), Vikas Nagar, District Dehradun.
Case No. 16 of the year 2025

Mohammad Ehsan Ahmed son of Shri Irfan Ahmed resident of village Nawabgarh, Tehsil Vikasnagar, District Dehradun

..... Petitioner

versus

1. Smt. Hima Devi alias Hema Devi wife of Shri Prakash Chand 2. Shri Rajesh Kumar son of Late Govind Singh alias Govind Ram 3. Shri Sanjay Kumar son of Late Govind Singh alias Govind Ram, residents of 339village Enfield Line Vikasnagar, Tehsil Vikasnagar, District Dehradun 4. Shri Zubair Ahmed son of Shri Gulam Ahmed, resident of Vidyaapeeth Marg, Tehsil Vikasnagar, District Dehradun

..... Respondents

Sir, that a suit for permanent injunction has been filed against you by the petitioner. Defendants No. 2 and 3 are summoned to appear in this Court on 11.09.2026 at 10:00 am to answer the call. Defendants No. 2 and 3 may appear in the Court in person or through a pleader/advocate duly instructed to answer all material questions relating to this suit. The date fixed for your appearance in court is the date fixed for the final disposal of this case. You should therefore be prepared to produce all your witnesses and documents on which you intend to rely in your defence on that day.

You are hereby informed that if you do not appear in this Court on the date above mentioned, the suit will be heard and disposed of in your absence. This is given under my hand and seal to the Court this day 12.8.2026.

**Manager, Civil Judge (CD)
Vikasnagar, District Dehradun.**

सूचना

मेरे सैन्य अभिलेखों में मेरी पुत्री का नाम KIPIKA व जन्मतिथि 01.03.2000 गलत दर्ज है, जबकि मेरी पुत्री का सही नाम DEEPIKA RAWAT व सही जन्मतिथि 08.09.2000 है।

तथा मेरे पुत्र का नाम DIPAK KUMAR गलत दर्ज है, जबकि मेरे पुत्र का सही नाम DEEPAK RAWAT है। तथा मेरी पत्नी लक्ष्मी देवी की जन्मतिथि मेरे सैन्य अभिलेखों में दर्ज नहीं है। मेरी पत्नी की सही जन्मतिथि 01.01.1970 है। मेरे सैन्य अभिलेखों में सभी का नाम व जन्मतिथि सही दर्ज कि जाए।

हस्ताक्षर पीठडीओ ववन सिंह पुत्र खंडू खंडू सिंह 10 असम राइफल सॉर्गमेन्ट नं० 104190 निवासी नरथनपुर, जिला देहरादून, उत्तराखण्ड।

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Mrs. Shabnam, wife of Mr. Mehtob Ali, resident of Gali No. 2, Azad Colony, Dehradun, has informed me that the original Sale Deed pertaining to her property has been lost/misplaced. The said property is recorded under Land Khata No. 593, Khasra No. 1151 MN, measuring 56.11 square metres, situated at Mauza Majra, Pargana Pachhwadun, Dehradun. The original Sale Deed was duly registered and recorded in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Dehradun, in Book No. 01, Volume No. 9005, Pages 173 to 196. Document/Registration No. 14366, dated 11.12.2024. The original document has been lost and is not traceable. Any use, transaction, or reliance upon the said original document by any person shall be treated as illegal and unauthorized. If any person has any objection or claim in respect of the aforesaid document/property, the same may be communicated within 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice to the undersigned Advocate at the following address:

**Advocate Geeta Mehta
Chamber No. 53, First Floor Hall,
Opp. Bar Association, District Court,
Dehradun, Mob.: 9410776142**

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my class 10 and class 12 mark sheet and certificate Unique ID- 6424666 Name-Samarveer Singh Panwar, s/o Uttam Singh Panwar, Vill- Dharkot Post-Dharkot, Tehsil-Tehri, Tehri Garhwal, Pin-249130, my father's Uttam Singh and mother's name Leela have been incorrectly recorded. My father's correct name is UTTAM SINGH PANWAR and mother's correct name is LEELA PANWAR as mentioned in all other documents. The correct name of my father and mother should be recorded in my mark sheet and certificate of class 10 and 12 for all future.

Disclaimer

The Pioneer does not take responsibility for the content for the advertisement (Display/Classified) carried in this newspaper. The paper does not endorse the same. Readers are requested to verify the contents on their own.

■ States Focus ■



VP PAYS TRIBUTES TO BOSE AT INA MEMORIAL IN MANIPUR

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Tuesday paid tributes to legendary freedom fighter Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at the INA Martyrs' Memorial Complex in Manipur's Bishnupur district, an official said.

Radhakrishnan visited the historic flag-hoisting site at Moirang Kangla, where the Indian National Army (INA) under the leadership of Bose hoisted the Tricolour for the first time on Indian soil on April 14, 1944, he said.

"The vice president also toured the INA War Museum gallery commemorating the valour and sacrifice of the INA. He also paid floral tributes to the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at the complex," the official said.

Earlier in the day, the vice president was accorded a guard of honour upon his arrival at the Imphal airport. (PTI)



BHUPEN HAZARIKA'S VOICE CARRIES ASSAM'S SOUL: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the voice of eminent singer-composer Bhupen Hazarika carried the soul of Assam and the spirit of the Northeast to the entire nation.

The Prime Minister, in a tribute to Hazarika on his birth centenary, said that his songs brought people closer. "On his 100th birth anniversary, remembering the legendary Dr Bhupen Hazarika Ji. His voice carried the soul of Assam and the spirit of the Northeast to the entire nation," Modi said in a post on X. "Through his music, he beautifully gave expression to the thoughts and spirit of countless people. His songs brought people closer," he said. (PTI)

Bihar floods worsen: Over 34 lakh people affected

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Patna

The Bihar flood situation worsened as over 34 lakh people across 13 districts have been affected, with the authorities sounding an alert in downstream areas after the water level of the Ganga crossed the "flood mark" at Sultanganj in Bhagalpur district on Tuesday, officials said.

A small boat capsized in a flood-hit area of Kharik Raghapur in Bhagalpur district this morning. State Disaster Relief Force (SDRF) personnel rescued all 10 people aboard the boat, officials said.

Floods have affected

around 34.31 lakh people across 480 gram panchayats in 13 districts of Bihar, including Patna, Bhagalpur, Vaishali, Saran, Begusarai, Khagaria and Munger.

Around 29.13 lakh people have been impacted by floods as overflowing rivers inundated large swathes in 13 districts on Monday.

According to the Bihar Meteorological Service Centre, the State has recorded 79.6 mm of rainfall in September so far, which is 31 per cent above normal.

The Disaster Management Department in a statement said, "The Ganga at Sultanganj in Bhagalpur recorded 36.80 metres at 8 am on September 8, sur-



passing its previous Highest Flood Level (HFL) of 36.75 metres recorded on August 17, 2021. The trend, however, remains stable.

Several rivers, including the Gandak, Kosi, Budhi Gandak, Ganga, Punpun,

Bagmati and Ghaghra, are flowing above danger levels at multiple locations.

The water levels of the Gandak river at Dumriaghat and Hajipur, Kosi at Baltara and Kursela, Budhi Gandak at Khagaria, Ganga at Digha,

TN Assembly passes resolution urging Union Govt to ensure official names of OBCs in Census

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Chennai

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution urging the Centre to collect details related to OBCs during the second phase of the 2027 census only on the basis of the official lists of the State and Union Governments that specifically identify such castes.

Minister for Backward Classes Welfare V Sampathkumar moved the resolution and briefly traced the history of the census in India.

The minister said that if people used different names to denote the same caste, including regional variations, the data collected could become unclear.

This could lead to difficulties in enumeration and may also prevent the full benefits of the census exercise from being realised.

"Hence, the exercise must stick to official names alone as per the notifications of the



State and Union Governments to ensure social justice and equal justice," he said.

The Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities notified by the State and Union Governments should be pre-loaded into the census enumeration portal/application, he said.

Selecting a caste from the pre-loaded data using a 'drop-down menu' would be the appropriate method,

the minister noted.

The resolution said data must be collected solely based on the names contained in the official lists, and the ambiguous 'open-column method' for enumerating BCs, MBCs and DCs must be completely dispensed with.

It said: "In order to ensure social justice for all sections of society, this Assembly unanimously resolves to urge the Union Government to

collect the caste details of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities during the second phase of the 2027 census of India, in the same manner as followed for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

The collection of caste-wise details of OBCs has been omitted from censuses conducted after Independence.

Hence, it is essential to obtain accurate data based on the lists of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities notified by the state and Union Governments in accordance with the Constitution, the resolution said.

DMK MLAs were not present when the resolution was debated and passed, as they had been evicted following a ruckus.

After legislators, including those from the AIADMK and PMK, spoke in support of the resolution, it was passed unanimously.

No share cut from other communities: Fadnavis over Maratha quota row



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

With activist Manoj Jarange's fast for Maratha quota entering its 11th day, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said the Government would grant whatever is permissible under the Constitution but would not take from one community's share to give another.

He was replying to questions on the issue of Maratha reservation and reports that a late-night meeting was held by the Government to discuss Jarange's agitation.

Jarange, who began his latest hunger strike at Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district on August 29, has been demanding reservation for the Maratha community under the OBC category, including implementation of the Hyderabad and Satara Gazette records and issuance of Kunbi caste certificates to eligible members of the Maratha community. Kunbi is a traditional agrarian (farming) community that officially falls under the OBC category, making them eligible for reservation benefits in education and

Government jobs.

Activists from the Other Backward Classes had also staged an agitation in the village to safeguard the constitutional rights and reservation share of the OBC community.

Fadnavis said the ruling alliance had taken all major decisions concerning the (Maratha) community so far and would take any further decisions required within the framework of the Constitution and subject to court orders.

"Whatever is permissible under the Constitution will certainly be given. Whatever is subject to the court's decision will be dealt with accordingly. We are not going to take from one community's share and give it to another," he told reporters at Uran in Navi Mumbai.

The Government had not merely taken decisions on paper, but the actual benefits of these decisions were visible to the Maratha community, he stressed.

"We will do everything that is possible. We have never closed the doors for dialogue. A Government finds a solution through discussions, and the entire process is moving forward in that spirit," Fadnavis said.

ED finds ₹60 crore discrepancy in TMC MP-linked newspaper raids

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Kolkata

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) detected alleged financial irregularities of around ₹60 crore in an Urdu newspaper linked to TMC Rajya Sabha MP Nadimul Haque, during searches for over 24 hours, officials said on Tuesday.

The marathon searches at premises linked to Haque and his media entity began on September 7 morning and were completed early Tuesday.

"Financial records and digital documents are being examined to establish the trail

of the transactions and determine the nature and source of the funds under investigation," an ED official said.

The central probe agency is probing alleged illegal financial transactions involving the newspaper and is examining whether some of the funds were routed through hawala channels, sources said.

During the searches, ED officials examined bank transaction records, financial documents and digital material, and questioned Haque at his residence and office in Kolkata, he said.

The ED investigators are



also looking into the alleged movement of funds linked to the TMC, he said.

According to ED sources,

investigators found discrepancies relating to transactions worth around ₹60 crore for which they could not

immediately find satisfactory supporting records.

The central probe agency is now examining whether the transactions were genuine business dealings or whether the funds were moved through informal channels, including hawala, the official said.

Similar searches were conducted at seven other locations in Delhi and Ranchi, including the newspaper's office in the city's Park Circus area and premises linked to Haque.

The TMC MP was in Ranchi when the operation began and was subsequently

brought to Kolkata on Monday night, following which he was questioned during the search at his residence and office, the official said.

The investigation stems from an FIR registered by the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate and the subsequent registration of an Enforcement Case Information Report by the ED. The case includes allegations of illegal and unaccounted financial transactions and receipt of funds from suspicious sources. The ED has so far not made any arrest in connection with the case.

MP hooch tragedy: Death toll rises to 15

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Sagar (MP)

The death toll in the spurious liquor tragedy in Madhya Pradesh's Sagar district rose to 15 on Tuesday after two more victims succumbed during treatment, police said on Tuesday.

One of the deceased men is an accused in the bootlegging network, while nearly 40 people remain hospitalised, three of them in critical condition, an official said.

Talking to media, Sagar Superintendent of Police (SP) Anurag Sujania said that a total of 15 people have died so far in the spurious liquor case, including one of the accused.

He said that the police



have so far arrested 14 of the 30 accused in the case and a search is on for the others.

Meanwhile, a pall of gloom has descended on Gugra Khurd village in the district, where five people have died so far after consuming poisonous liquor.

The deceased include three men from the same family - two brothers and a cousin.

Villagers claim that 30 people from the village are

still hospitalised.

Jasrath Lodhi, a villager, told media that Ujiyar Singh and Bhagwan Singh Lodhi worked in a factory in Indore and had come home for Raksha Bandhan.

The duo had returned home after a long time, went to party with friends and got drunk.

Suman Singh Lodhi, the wife of the deceased Bhagwan Singh Lodhi, is expecting another child.

"My dreams are over now. There is nothing left in life. We only demand from the Government administration that they help us and ban the sale of liquor so that such a tragedy does not befall anyone else," a distraught Suman said.

BJP demands resignation of Mann over Punjab villager's suicide

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The BJP on Tuesday demanded Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's resignation over the alleged suicide of a man, who was pressured by local AAP leaders to apologise for questioning Minister Harpal Singh Cheema over the drug menace in his village.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia also demanded the resignation of Cheema and the lodging of an FIR under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections related to abetment of suicide.

According to media reports, a 47-year-old daily

wager, identified as Gulzar Singh, a resident of Dirba in Sangrur district, died after consuming poison on Monday night after some local leaders of the ruling party allegedly pressured him to apologise for questioning Cheema during an event in the village on September 6.

"Gulzar Singh raised the issue of drug menace during Cheema's visit to his village. Singh told Cheema that his son takes chitta and urged the minister to take action on its supply," Bhatia said.

"After the minister left, an AAP leader, who is the sarpanch of the village, visited Gulzar Singh's home and asked him to apologise to the minister for his



remarks," the BJP leader added.

Neither the ruling party nor the Punjab Government has responded to the BJP's charge.

"When the protector turns the predator, he has no right to remain in office. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann must immediately resign

from his post," Bhatia said.

Before Singh died at a hospital, he narrated the entire episode and took the names of those who threatened him for raising the drug issue before Cheema, the BJP spokesperson said, showing video footage of it.

He demanded that all those named by Singh in the

video be booked for abetment of suicide under BNS.

"Cheema must also resign immediately," Bhatia demanded, adding, "Since he (Gulzar Singh) belonged to a Scheduled Caste, action should also be taken under provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act."

Some BJP leaders took to X condemning the death and demanding action.

BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari alleged that the ruling party in Punjab has become a "gangster party".

In a video post on X, he pointed to the induction of Gurpreet Singh Sekhon, one of the man accused in the 2016 Nabha jailbreak case, into the AAP two days ago.

6 killed as speeding truck collides with SUV in Maharashtra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Gondia

As many as six people, including a three-year-old boy, were killed and seven others were injured after a speeding truck collided with an SUV in Maharashtra's Gondia district, police said on Tuesday.

The victims were labourers from neighbouring Madhya Pradesh and were travelling to Karimnagar in Telangana for work, an official said.

The grisly crash occurred on Monday night near Nagra village, about 4 km from the district headquarters, Inspector Vaibhav Pawar of Gondia Rural police said.



The truck driver, Mohsin Khan (32), a resident of Gondia, crashed into the SUV coming from the opposite

direction, he said.

Pawar said that the victims were extricated from the mangled vehicle, with the impact killing six of them on the spot, while seven sustained injuries and were shifted to a Government hospital.

The deceased were identified as Kiran Santosh Vaidhy (26), Santosh Matre (38), Sushila Matre (35), Rupsen Tejpal Satyakar (35), Jyoti Rupsen Satyakar (32) and three-year-old Aarush Matre, all residents of Kirnapur tehsil of MP's Balaghat district.

A case under sections 281 (rash or negligent driving) and other relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Motor Vehicle Act has been registered against the truck driver.

People of Manipur suffering both within and outside State under Modi Govt, says Kharge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday alleged that the "incompetence" of the Modi Government has left the people of Manipur suffering both within the State and outside it. His attack came after the alleged lynching of well-known Manipuri musician Chongtham Vikram Singh by a mob in Delhi.

"The merciless lynching of Chongtham Vikram Singh ji, a well-known musician from Manipur, by a mob is yet another chilling reminder of the utter lawlessness



under the BJP," he said in a post on X. "Students are unsafe. Women face atrocities every day. People from Northeast India face discrimination. Dalits, Adivasis

and minorities remain highly vulnerable.

"Under HM Amit Shah's watch, Delhi has become a crime capital, with the NCRB recording highest levels of crimes in the national capital year after year," the Congress chief alleged.

Expressing his condolences to the bereaved family, Kharge said, "They deserve justice, and those responsible must face the strictest action."

"The incompetence of the Modi Sarkar has left the people of Manipur suffering both within their state and outside it," the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha alleged.

PM Modi: Working to provide free online coaching to students

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Vadodra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the Government was working to reduce the burden of fees faced by the families of students preparing for competitive examinations by providing free online coaching. Speaking at the 'NaMo for Viksit Bharat' programme here where he inaugurated or laid foundation stones for ₹35,000 crore-worth development projects, the PM referred to the announcement he had made in this regard in his August 15 Red Fort speech. "You are aware that lakhs of young people prepare for competitive examinations. Every year, a significant



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the inauguration and foundation stone laying of ₹35,000 crore development projects at an event, in Vadodra, Gujarat

PTI

portion of our families' earnings is spent on coaching for these students," Modi said. "We aim to save money for the families of poor and middle-class students. Consequently, the Government is moving towards providing free online coaching, allowing our youth

to prepare under the guidance of India's best teachers. The Government itself will oversee this coaching arrangement," he added. Changing global needs had also changed the approach to education, with skills being given equal importance alongside degrees, the prime minister noted. Hence, the Government was reshaping the education policy and institutions, he said. Artificial Intelligence expertise would not be limited only to the IT sector and it could be used in agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing and robotics startups, he noted. India was witnessing an "extraordinary era," Modi said, and called upon the youth to prioritise the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Congress seeks FIR over purification ritual at UK Haldwani rally venue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

A Congress leader on Tuesday sought registration of an FIR against Shri Ram Dharmarth Seva Nyas president, Girish Chandra Pandey and 15 others over an alleged "purification" ritual performed at Ramila Maidan in Uttarakhand's Haldwani after the party president Mallikarjun Kharge's address. In his complaint at Parliament Street police station, MP Mallu Ravi alleged that Pandey and 15 unidentified persons entered into a "criminal conspiracy" and performed a yajna and sprinkled Gangajal at the venue on August 10, two days after Kharge addressed the meeting there on August 8. Ravi alleged that the act was aimed at insulting and



Police stop Congress leaders during a protest march towards the Uttarakhand CM's residence over an FIR filed against Rahul Gandhi in Haldwani over the 'purification' row, in Dehradun

PTI

humiliating members of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities and was contrary to constitutional guarantees of equality and the abolition of untouchability. He said the incident had deeply hurt his feelings and those of his community, adding that he had received calls from several people expressing concern over the alleged practice. Ravi urged the police to register a case, arrest those responsible and take strict legal action under the SC/ST Act, the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act and relevant provisions of the BNS.

Rahul questions Amit Shah over Manipuri musician's death

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday lashed out at the Modi Government over the beating to death of a musician from Manipur here, asking what Home Minister Amit Shah's ministry is doing to stop this "growing lawlessness" and demanding a swift investigation into the incident. Vikram Singh, a 54-year-old Manipuri musician, died after a group of delivery workers and dhaba staff allegedly assaulted him when he objected to their shouting and drinking alcohol outside his Kilokari village apartment early Monday, officials said. Police arrested seven men and apprehended one juvenile in the case. "Chongtham



VP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi meets Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at 10 Janpath, in New Delhi

PTI

Vikram Singh ji, a renowned musician from Manipur, went downstairs to ask some men to lower the noise outside his home. He was beaten to death for it," Gandhi said on X. A father, killed outside his

own home, in his own country's capital, he said. "After many such incidents, every Northeast family in Delhi is asking the same question today - are we safe here?" the Leader of

Opposition in the Lok Sabha said. "What are Shah's MHA and Delhi Police doing to stop this growing lawlessness, especially against people from the Northeast?" Gandhi said. There must be a swift investigation, and the culprits must be brought to justice, he asserted and expressed condolences to Vikram's family, he said. The Sunlight Colony police station received a PCR call regarding the beating of Singh, who has been residing in Kilokari village for several years. A preliminary enquiry revealed that Singh, who belonged to the Meitei community, objected to men creating a nuisance outside his house. He sustained injuries during the attack, in which the men rained blows and punches on him, police said.

Election petition, SIR delay bypolls to 2 LS seats

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

An election petition and the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls have delayed bypolls to two Lok Sabha seats, while a by-election to another parliamentary constituency has already been announced. The Basirhat seat in West Bengal, the Shillong seat in Meghalaya and the Nagaon constituency in Assam fell vacant on different dates. The Election Commission on Monday announced a bypoll to the Nagaon Lok Sabha seat but not to the other two. Responding to a query on why bypolls to the Shillong and Basirhat parliamentary seats were not announced, senior EC functionaries said the ongoing SIR in Meghalaya and a pending election petition in the Calcutta High Court were behind the deci-



sion. An election petition was filed challenging the election of TMC's SK Nurul Islam from Basirhat. But months after taking the oath as a Lok Sabha member, he died on September 25, 2024. Despite his death, the petition challenging his election remains pending. An election petition can be filed against the victory of a candi-

date in the concerned high court within 45 days of the declaration of results. EC officials said an "election petition with second prayer" is pending. The second prayer in an election petition usually asks the high court to declare the petitioner or another candidate as duly elected, after the first prayer declaring the

winning candidate's election as void. The Shillong Lok Sabha seat was vacated following the demise of Voice of the People's Party MP Ricky Andrew Syngkon on February 19 this year. Poll authority functionaries said the SIR is in progress in Meghalaya, where the final electoral rolls will be published on October 21. The lone Lok Sabha bypoll will be held in Assam's Nagaon constituency, which was vacated by Pradyut Bordoloi. Votes will be cast on October 6, and counting will take place on October 9. Bordoloi had won Nagaon on a Congress ticket in 2024 but quit the party in March this year and joined the BJP ahead of the Assam assembly elections. He subsequently resigned from the Lok Sabha, contested the assembly polls as a BJP candidate from Dispur and won.

CWMA directs Karnataka to release 6,000 cusecs to TN

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) on Tuesday upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) recommendation directing Karnataka to ensure a flow of 6,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days. The decision was taken at the 57th meeting of the CWMA held in Delhi under the chairmanship of SK Haldar. Officials from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka among others participated in the meeting. "Karnataka has released 33 TMC of Cauvery water towards Tamil Nadu's Biligundlu border point so far in accordance with the directions issued by the CWMA and CWRC," Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited Managing Director Mahesha told reporters after the meeting. He added that



despite Karnataka being in a "distress situation", the state has been following the orders of the CWMA and CWRC and there has been no violation so far. "If the situation were normal, it would be different. But now that we are in a distress situation, we have to follow the distress-sharing proportion as per the orders

issued by the CWMA and CWRC. We have been following those orders so far and, accordingly, have released water," Mahesha told reporters. Earlier in the day, the CWRC had recommended that Karnataka release water to Tamil Nadu at a rate of 6,000 cusecs for the next 15

days. The recommendation was upheld by the CWMA later in the afternoon, Mahesha said. "The people of Tamil Nadu are demanding nearly 20,000 cusecs. They made this demand at the meeting, but at the same time, the CWMA's direction is restricted to 6,000 cusecs," he added. This

follows the CWMA's earlier order on August 25 when, upholding the CWRC's recommendation, it had directed Karnataka to ensure a flow of 9,000 cusecs of water to Tamil Nadu for 15 days. The meeting was held following the Supreme Court's direction to the Tamil Nadu Government a day earlier to raise before the CWMA its grievance over the release of its proportionate share of Cauvery water by Karnataka. At its 141st meeting on August 24, the CWRC had directed Karnataka to release water from its reservoirs and ensure a flow of 9,000 cusecs at the Biligundlu border point. The flow had to be maintained continuously for 15 days, during which Tamil Nadu was expected to receive approximately 11.66 TMC of water. The release is expected to benefit Kuruvali cultivation and meet Tamil Nadu's drinking water requirements.

MP CM Yadav visits BEEAH HQ in Sharjah to discuss waste management

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Dubai

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday visited the headquarters of BEEAH in Sharjah during the three-day Annual Investment Meeting (AIM Congress) 2026 and held a high-level bilateral meeting with BEEAH Group CEO and vice-chairman Khalid Al Huraimel. The discussions focused on environmental protection, smart city development, circular economy and advanced waste management solutions, with particular emphasis on their potential implementation in Madhya Pradesh. During the visit, Yadav inspected BEEAH's facilities for the treatment of industrial waste, sewage waste, waste reprocessing and disposal of inert material. Experts briefed him on the advanced technologies being used at the facility. Yadav invited BEEAH to explore investment and technology partnerships in municipal solid waste management and waste-to-energy projects across Madhya Pradesh. He said the State was moving rapidly towards clean energy and sustainable urban development and that BEEAH's digital, AI-enabled and circu-



MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav visits the BEEAH waste management facility in Sharjah

PIONEER PHOTO

lar-economy capabilities could complement Madhya Pradesh's smart city and clean-energy initiatives. The Chief Minister also discussed the potential for collaboration in electric vehicle-based fleets and renewable energy projects. Highlighting Indore's waste management model, Yadav said the city had established an exemplary model in solid waste management and bio-CNG. He proposed that BEEAH work with the Indore model to develop advanced solutions aimed at improving waste management and achieving the goal of zero-waste landfills. Yadav also formally invited Al Huraimel to the Global Investors Summit 2027, scheduled to be held in Bhopal next year. He urged BEEAH to consider Madhya

Pradesh as a priority destination in its future global expansion plans. During the visit, Yadav toured BEEAH's AI-enabled and net-zero-ready headquarters, designed by renowned architect Zaha Hadid, and appreciated its sustainable design and advanced facilities. Established as a public-private partnership in 2007, BEEAH has expanded from a waste management company into a diversified group operating in environmental services, renewable energy, technology, healthcare and sustainable real estate. According to the information shared during the visit, the group has more than 13,000 employees representing 46 nationalities and operations across the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

MPSC aspirants protest in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Scores of MPSC aspirants staged a protest in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on Tuesday, alleging widespread corruption and paper leaks, and demanded a high-level probe into the recent recruitment examinations. Protesters gathered at the Kranti Chowk area of the city, demanding the immediate appointment of officers with a "clean image" to the top posts in the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC). A similar march was held in Pune on Monday.

ED action against Haque part of Operation Lotus 2.0: TMC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Trinamool Congress on Tuesday said the Enforcement Directorate's search of its Rajya Sabha MP Nadimul Haque's Delhi residence was part of "Operation Lotus 2.0" to put pressure on party lawmakers who do not cross over. TMC sources claimed a former leader of the party had been in touch with



Haque as part of an attempt to pressure him, but the MP refused to "strike a deal". The ED on Monday searched seven premises linked to Haque and his Urdu newspaper Akhbar-E-Mashriq in Kolkata, Delhi and Ranchi as part of a money-laundering probe. Officials had said the probe relates to allegations concerning the publication and dissemination of material promoting communal disharmony.

NGT orders replacement of dead saplings and tighter waste control in Bhopal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bhopal

National Green Tribunal's (NGT) Central Zone Bench in Bhopal has directed authorities to replace all saplings that died during compensatory plantation undertaken over the past five years and ensure 100% survival of the new plantations. The direction came during the hearing of a petition filed by Nitin Saxena concerning tree felling and compensatory plantations linked to development projects in Bhopal. The bench, comprising judicial

member Justice Shyo Kumar Singh and expert member Sudhir Kumar Chaturvedi, expressed serious concern over the extremely low survival rate reported by the Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Forest Department's Environmental Forestry Division. The tribunal observed that compensatory plantation is intended to offset the environmental impact of trees felled for development works. However, the death of planted saplings due to inadequate maintenance defeats the purpose and results in



environmental loss. The NGT directed the authorities to immediately replace saplings that have died over the last five years and ensure regular watering and protection until the plants are fully established. It also sought details of the

average height and girth of saplings planted during the period, rejecting reliance solely on plantation figures recorded on paper. The tribunal has sought site-wise photographs of 10,000 trees planted along roadsides and medians and 70,000 trees on land allotted by the Bhopal Collector in Huzur tehsil. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board have been given 30 days to submit the required information. In a separate matter, the NGT issued directions for

stricter management of biomedical waste in Bhopal. The case involved alleged dumping and burning of expired medicines, medicine strips, syrup bottles and injection vials at an open site in Rani Avantibai Transport Nagar behind the RTO premises. A joint committee reported that the waste had been removed and handed over to an authorised Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility (CBWTF). The facility confirmed receiving 5.2 kg of expired medicines, which were disposed of through incineration. A sub-

sequent inspection on August 27 found the site clear of biomedical waste and related residues. The tribunal directed that biomedical waste transport vehicles have GPS-based online real-time tracking, separate cabins for staff and colour-coded waste containers, leak-proof waste compartments and bio-hazard markings. The NGT directed that biomedical waste must be collected, transported and treated within 48 hours of generation. The MP PCB was asked to ensure that healthcare establishments have the

required authorisations and memberships of authorised CBWTFs and take action against violators. The municipal corporation was also directed to strengthen source-level segregation and separate collection of household healthcare waste and ensure its regular handover to authorised facilities. It was asked to prevent mixing, unauthorised disposal and open burning or dumping of waste. The next hearing in the tree plantation matter has been scheduled for October 6. Advocate Harpreet Singh Gupta represented Saxena.

Editor's

TAKE

When negligence turns into a death trap

A five-storey hostel in Delhi collapsed after years of regulatory neglect and dangerous construction. Once again, it took a collapse for authorities to wake up

On Sunday afternoon, a five-storey building in Delhi's Satya Niketan collapsed. It housed a private student hostel, incongruously named Hostel Daze, packed with young men who had left home to study. At least seven are confirmed dead as rescue teams dig through the debris; the toll is still climbing, and dozens more spent the night trapped or in intensive care.

This was not an act of God. It was the foreseeable consequence of a system that has normalised looking away. The proximate causes are already visible. The structure was roughly fifty years old, built as a residential property and then quietly converted into paying-guest accommodation without the clearances that conversion demands. It reopened to tenants in August even as renovation work continued around them – labourers were reportedly excavating the basement, removing load-bearing walls, while students slept two floors above.

Two days of monsoon rain had pooled in that same basement. Delhi's chief minister said waterlogging and ongoing repairs likely triggered the collapse. Each of these facts, alone, is a violation.

Together, they describe a building that should never have held a single tenant, let alone dozens. But blaming the collapse on one absentee landlord, now arrested and charged, lets everyone else off too lightly. Somebody had to license this hostel, or fail to notice it operated without one. Somebody had to inspect this building, or sign off without inspecting it. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has suspended five officials from its safety wing – a tacit admission its oversight regime existed on paper and nowhere else.

This is not the first ageing structure Delhi has lost to a monsoon season that arrives, with its casualties, like clockwork. The complacency here is not incidental; it is the system's steady state, interrupted only by the occasional funeral.

What follows a collapse like this is depressingly scripted: condolences, an arrest, a magisterial inquiry, promises of audits. Delhi's government has already announced mandatory structural audits and safety certificates for hostels, nursing homes and schools. That is necessary and overdue, and worthless if enforcement fails the same way again.

Audits mean little without independent inspectors insulated from the bribery that residents in Satya Niketan already allege. Certification means little without a public registry that a student or parent can check before signing a lease. And suspension cannot be the ceiling of accountability – officials who cleared or ignored illegal conversions must face the same liability as the men who built them. Delhi does not lack rules for who may run a hostel. It lacks the will to enforce them before, rather than after, the bodies are counted. Nor is this a Delhi problem alone - millions of students across India's university towns live in hostels converted the same way, licensed loosely if at all, and inspected on the same schedule: never, until something falls down. Seven families now know the cost of that gap. The only honest tribute is to close it before the next monsoon, not after the next collapse.

—DAIV



Delhi: A bipartisan record of neglect

In Delhi, illegal construction, ignored safety norms and regulatory complicity have become a deadly cycle. From Uphaar and Lalita Park to Mundka, Old Rajinder Nagar, Hauz Rani and now Satya Niketan, the names change but the story remains the same: buildings fail because enforcement does



KUSHAN MITRA

The death toll in the Satya Niketan building collapse has touched seven. Seven young lives snuffed out in an instant when a decades-old, code-violating building simply gave way. It came down barely a few metres from where a near-identical collapse killed two workers in 2022, in a structure the civic corporation had already declared dangerous, a warning nobody acted on. And every few years the story repeats: building-code violations and entrenched corruption killing Delhi's own citizens, with no political will to fix it.

Three UPSC aspirants drowned in July 2024 in an Old Rajinder Nagar basement the MCD's own inspection found had been illegally converted from parking into a coaching-centre library. In 2022, investigators found the Mundka building where 27 workers burned to death had no fire clearance and one exit for roughly a hundred employees.

Delhi Police told the Delhi High Court that at least 43, by some counts 45, died in the 2019 Anaj Mandi fire, in a factory that had deliberately avoided a legal power connection. Officials attributed the 2010 Lalita Park collapse, which killed around 65 people, to an unauthorised construction the civic body had cleared without scrutiny. And court records from the Uphaar Cinema case found illegally installed extra seating blocked exits during the 1997 fire that killed 59.

Earlier this year, fire tore through an illegally expanded bed-and-breakfast in Hauz Rani, killing at least 22 people — among them members of two Indian families and medical tourists from Africa, Central Asia and Bangladesh who had come to Delhi's hospitals for treatment. The building was licensed for six rooms and was running twenty-five, with a single entry-exit point. Delhi's building-safety failures are no longer a domestic story alone; foreign embassies are now watching too.

Seven documented disasters across three decades — Uphaar, Lalita Park, Anaj Mandi, Mundka, Old Rajinder Nagar, Hauz Rani and Satya Niketan — now account for well over 200 deaths tied, on the official record, to unauthorised or non-compliant construction. No party can be credibly absolved of a share, based on who held power when each regulatory failure occurred.

Congress-led governments ran Delhi for fifteen consecutive years under Sheila Dikshit, during which unauthorised colonies climbed into the thousands and regularisation became routine policy. When the Supreme Court ordered sealing of illegally-used premises in



DELHI POLICE TOLD THE DELHI HIGH COURT THAT AT LEAST 43, BY SOME COUNTS 45, DIED IN THE 2019 ANAJ MANDI FIRE, IN A FACTORY THAT HAD DELIBERATELY AVOIDED A LEGAL POWER CONNECTION. OFFICIALS ATTRIBUTED THE 2010 LALITA PARK COLLAPSE, WHICH KILLED AROUND 65 PEOPLE, TO AN UNAUTHORISED CONSTRUCTION THE CIVIC BODY HAD CLEARED WITHOUT SCRUTINY

The writer is Director and the Printer & Publisher of *The Pioneer*

2006, a Congress-led central government pushed the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act through Parliament to stay those orders - legislation the Court itself later held was beyond the legislature's competence.

The civic bodies that were BJP-controlled for the fifteen years before the 2022 municipal unification whose engineers issue, or fail to withhold, building and fire clearances, were in charge when both Anaj Mandi and Mundka occurred. Successive central governments, including BJP-led ones, kept re-enacting the same "special provisions" shield in 2014, 2017, 2021 and 2023, and the current BJP-led Delhi government has launched yet another "as-is-where-is" regularisation drive rather than a safety audit.

The AAP governed Delhi from 2013 and took charge of the unified MCD from December 2022. On AAP's watch, over both the state government and the civic body, the Old Rajinder Nagar basement - per the MCD's own findings — had been operating in violation of building bylaws for some time before the deaths occurred.

None of this requires speculation about motive: across three decades, Congress, BJP and AAP administrations have each presided over enforcement systems that repeatedly failed to prevent buildings that later killed people. A plausible reason is on the record too - when the MCD tried to seal illegal premises under Supreme Court orders in September 2006, trader protests turned violent and four died in police firing during a bandh.

That episode is widely cited as the moment enforcement became politically costly enough that governments have since preferred renewable moratoria to sustained implementation — a pattern the Supreme Court itself called a "cat and mouse game... to protect the vested interests of those having little or no respect for the rule of law". Delhi's own disaster management author-

ity does not dispute the scale of this unaddressed risk. The DDMA states plainly that the National Capital Territory falls in Seismic Zone IV, where shaking of intensity up to VIII on the Medvedev-Sponheuer-Karnik (MSK) scale is "quite probable," with two active fault systems — the Delhi-Haridwar Ridge and the Delhi-Moradabad fault — running through the territory .

The Ministry of Earth Sciences told Parliament this "severe intensity zone" rating stems from Delhi-NCR's proximity to the Himalayan seismic belt and its Main Central Thrust, Main Boundary Thrust and Himalayan Frontal Thrust systems, where the Indian and Eurasian plates continue to collide.

On what this means for buildings, the DDMA's own assessment is unambiguous: "till date there is no legal framework to require that all constructions in Delhi must implement seismic code provisions," so "most buildings in Delhi may not meet codal requirements on seismic resistance". A gap the authority itself says leaves "a real potential for a great earthquake disaster in Delhi".

Even where the government tried, follow-through fell short: the NDMA told Parliament in 2025 that a structural safety audit it commissioned for Delhi's public buildings "could not be continued further due to the unsatisfactory quality of reports submitted by the implementing agencies". This is not a hypothetical for dramatic effect; it is the Delhi and central governments' own documented assessment of a risk a fire department can contain and a seismic event will not.

Three decades, seven documented mass-casualty events, and one official, unresolved seismic warning have outlasted every administration that has governed Delhi. That is public record, not partisan conjecture — and it is one voters and courts alike are entitled to keep asking every party in office to answer for.

Daiv Vani

WISDOM FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE

The Limits of Self-Reliance

We live in a time that celebrates self-sufficiency, teaching us to solve every problem through our own effort, strategy, and willpower, often treating the need for help as a kind of failure. The story of Gajendra, king of elephants, offers a gentler truth.

Gajendra was bathing in a lake when a crocodile seized his leg, dragging him toward the depths. For years, he fought with all his strength, using every trick his herd and instincts offered. Nothing worked. Exhausted, defeated, and finally without any strategy left, he stopped struggling and called out to Vishnu in total surrender, not as a king, but as a being with nothing left to offer except his faith. Vishnu appeared instantly and freed him.

We often try to fix our deepest struggles through sheer effort alone, control, planning, willpower, refusing to admit when we are simply out of strength. Gajendra's rescue came not when he fought hardest, but when he surrendered completely, without conditions.

Surrender is not weakness; it is the recognition that some battles are not won by grip, but by letting go. Today, identify one struggle you have been trying to control entirely on your own, and allow yourself, just once, to ask for help without holding back.

—DAIV



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

2ND OPINION

Sanjaya of the Mahabharata fame summarised at the end of the Bhagavad-Gita, "Where there is the Yogeshwara Shri Krishna and where there is the archer Arjuna, there will be opulence, victory, wealth and morality" (18.78). Don't we want all these? I certainly do and much more.

Lord Krishna has offered a lot in the Gita. Sample these. In verse # 18.54, the Lord offers supreme devotion to Him to get started.

This will ensure supreme peace (18.62), which we all crave desperately; I do. Additionally, we can become 'jeevan mukta', that is, liberated while living in the present body (5.28). Liberation will follow at the end of the present life (18.62), if we stay focused. All troubles will come but go due to generous help from God (18.58).

We will experience eternal bliss (5.21). We will be

God has his door open for all of us



appointed to a very special position as a God's 'nimitta' (instrument), as Arjuna was (11.77), empowered to do big tasks. There will be nothing to fear (18.66); life will run smoothly ('theek chalegi').

How did Arjuna become so deserving? The very first step he took was to accept the position of a disciple of God (2.7). Additionally, he took shelter of Lord Krishna (2.7). In the same verse, he prayed for guidance. This culminated in Arjuna accepting what Lord Krishna had instructed him to do (18.33). Such devotion to the Lord had qualified him to receive the most confidential knowledge (9.1).

And Arjuna was wise enough to keep on enquiring,

asking questions throughout the course of the Gita. Arjuna had good lineage. Most importantly, he was born with divine qualities (16.5). He was respectable (2.33). Arjuna was a follower of dharma - a necessary quality required to fight for it. Thus, he became very dear to Lord Krishna, Who called him His friend.

This is a lot. Still, we don't have to get discouraged; I am not. Therefore, I started on this divine path. Before I give a brief description of it, let me brief you about my status then. I was confused and depressed. I had lots of attachments, especially to my material body. I was ignoring my duty towards my own self - a soul. I was not realising the real position of the Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent and really everything God (7.19).

Now good sense prevailed, and I cut a large photo of Lord Krishna from a calendar, got it framed, and hung it on the right side of my bed. The spiritual journey had started in the right earnest.

I began to pray for guidance and help. It was a humble, sincere and hopeful practice. I was prepared to learn and practise what I was learning. Intuitions began to come. Reformations followed. I began to get what I really needed; protection was being granted to what was valuable to me (9.22). To cut a long story short, now I feel liberated (5.28). I am hopeful of getting liberated in this life itself (18.62).

The writer is a spiritual teacher and columnist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When negligence costs lives

The tragic collapse of a five-storey building housing college students in Delhi is a chilling reminder of how casually human safety can be compromised. Five lives are lost and several people got injured, not because risks were unforeseeable, but amid repair work in the basement of an ageing building.

When students living away from home for education become victims of unsafe accommodation, the issue goes far beyond one building; it raises serious questions about regulatory vigilance, accountability and the value we attach to human life.

If safety norms were violated, responsibility cannot end with the property owner. The role of municipal authorities, engineers, inspectors and other agencies entrusted with ensuring structural safety must also be examined.

Delhi urgently needs a time-bound audit of buildings being used as paying-guest accommodation, hostels and student housing. Structural safety certification, fire preparedness, safe electrical systems and periodic inspections should be mandatory, with violations attracting stringent penalties. Young students come to cities to build their future, not to lose their lives under unsafe roofs. Preventing the next tragedy must become a regulatory responsibility, not just a post-disaster reaction.

BJRI BHUSHAN GOYAL | LUDHIANA

Biogas can strengthen energy security

This refers to the article "How are India and Japan reimagining energy security?" (September 8).

The proposal to develop 1,000 compressed biogas plants in India by 2030 is a welcome step towards a more secure and diversified energy system. The partnership with Japan is particularly useful because it combines India's abundant biomass with Japanese technology and financing. However, the success of this initiative will depend less on the number of plants announced than on how reliably they operate.

India's agricultural and municipal waste is widely dispersed, and collecting it economically remains a challenge. Small farmers may also find it difficult to supply feedstock regularly unless they are offered fair prices and timely payments. The government should therefore support local collection networks, transparent procurement systems and long-term supply agreements. Cooperative models can help ensure that the benefits reach farmers and rural communities. The programme should avoid becoming another infrastructure scheme where plants remain underused. Authorities must assess feedstock availability, transport costs, water requirements and the market for biogas and digestate. The partnership deserves support, provided its promises are matched by sound planning.

SM JEEVA | CHENNAI

ISRO must evolve, not retreat

It is with reference to the editorial "ISRO must evolve, not retreat" — September 8.

The Indian Space Research Organisation is a source of pride for India as it drives technological self-reliance, boosts socio-economic growth and establishes the country as a cost-effective leader in global space exploration. ISRO builds rockets and spacecraft at a very low cost compared to other nations. Launching Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 to study the Moon and the Sun are scientific milestones in the history of ISRO.

ISRO has also launched hundreds of satellites for other countries. Very recently, ISRO successfully launched EOS-05 aboard the GSLV-F17 rocket, marking an important milestone in Indian Earth observation programmes. The success of the 2,037-kg EOS-05 has put behind the failures ISRO encountered in August 2021 and in subsequent launches.

ISRO has scripted history by achieving a soft landing on the Moon through Chandrayaan and advancing space-docking technology through SpaDeX. The Indian Human Spaceflight Programme is an ongoing project to develop the technology needed for crewed spaceflight into low Earth orbit.

P VICTOR SELVARAJ | TAMIL NADU

PIC TALK



Devotees take part in the religious procession of Lord Mahakal, in Ujjain

PHOTO: PTI

Himalayan Day: Guarding the roof of the world

Himalayan Day is a reminder that the mountains are more than a symbol of natural beauty. Emptying villages, climate-driven instability, unchecked tourism and fragile infrastructure are reshaping the region, turning an environmental and demographic crisis into an urgent national security challenge



KRIPA NAUTIYAL

Every year on Himalayan Day, we pause to celebrate a mountain system that has shaped civilisations, sustained economies, and defined the northern edge of the Indian subcontinent for millennia. Yet this year, celebration alone feels insufficient. Behind the

postcard images of snow-capped peaks and terraced valleys lies a quieter, more urgent story - one of emptying villages, sinking towns, warming glaciers, overwhelmed hill stations, and a national security question that has crept up on us largely unnoticed.

The Himalayas are part of a vast highland arc running nearly four thousand kilometres from Kyrgyzstan to Myanmar, encompassing the Pamir, Hindukush, and Karakoram ranges. Every one of the roughly four hundred mountains on earth that exceed seven thousand metres, including all fourteen that top eight thousand, lies within this system. Far from being an uninhabited wilderness, the Himalayas support around fifty million people, spanning an extraordinary range of ethnicities, languages, and faiths, with Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam all converging across its length.

In India, the Himalayas cover Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and the northeastern states, extending into Tibet, Bhutan, and Nepal. In Uttarakhand, communities like the Jaunsari trace their lineage to the ancient kingdom of Kuninda, remembered even in the Mahabharata — a reminder that these mountains have never simply been geography. They have been home, sanctuary, and civilisation, sustained by generations of traditional knowledge in farming, ethno-medicine, and reading the land itself. There is now a warming of crumbling mountains. Nowhere was this made clearer than on 26 August 2026, when a section of glacier atop Langtang Lirung in Nepal collapsed without warning, sending a catastrophic surge of ice, rock, and water nearly a hundred kilometres down the Trishuli River. More than 390 people were killed and 1,500 reported missing after the glacial collapse triggered catastrophic flooding across the Nepal-Tibet border region, with entire settlements in Nepal's Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts buried or swept away, and the strategic Gyirong border crossing with China destroyed. Satellite analysis showed the glacier moving at an accelerating rate in the months before it finally gave way - a pattern scientists link directly to warming temperatures and thawing permafrost in the high Himalaya. This was not an isolated freak event. Uttarakhand's own history includes the 2013 Kedarnath disaster and repeated glacial lake outburst warnings across Chamoli, Pithoragarh, and Uttarkashi. As glaciers retreat and permafrost weakens, the mountains that sustain a fifth of humanity are becoming measurably less stable - and the communities living closest to them are the first to pay the price. Joshimath's case is a warning from within.

Instability is not confined to remote glaciers. In early 2023, the town of Joshimath — gateway to Badrinath and home to around 20,000 people — began visibly sinking, with cracks spreading through homes, hotels, and roads until construction had to be banned across the area. Experts at the time stressed that resettlement must balance risk, impoverishment, and reconstruction carefully, with fair compensation so displaced families are not left destitute. Joshimath was a warning that unplanned construction and disregard for fragile mountain geology can turn any Himalayan town into a slow-motion disaster. The Himalayas are also being affected by the weight of too many feet visiting them. Char Dham pilgrimage numbers and hill-station visits have surged into the millions annually, straining water supplies, waste systems, and roads never designed for such volume. Even international pilgrimage routes are exposed: the Gyirong crossing destroyed in the 2026 floods carried over 100,000 crossings in just the first half of the year, much of it tied to the Kailash pilgrimage. Unregulated construction for resorts and homestays, hillside deforestation, and vehicles idling for hours on narrow roads add further pressure to a landscape already destabilised by climate change — turning affection for these mountains into one more force degrading them.

There is a crisis behind the celebration as well. Over the past two decades, Uttarakhand has lost lakhs of people from its remote hill districts to outmigration. State records now classify more than 1,800 villages as



HIMALAYAN STATE, DEMOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY ARE BOTH DESTINY. RECOGNISING THAT TRUTH — THROUGH SUSTAINED INVESTMENT, DISCIPLINED REGULATION, AND GENUINE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN DEFENCE, DEVELOPMENT, SCIENCE, AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES — IS NO LONGER OPTIONAL. IT IS A NATIONAL SECURITY AND SURVIVAL IMPERATIVE THAT CAN NO LONGER BE IGNORED

The writer is an anthropologist and defence and strategic studies expert. He has undertaken research on a unique Himalayan tribe

“ghost villages” — completely abandoned - with another 1,000 having lost more than half their population. Villages once celebrated for their crafts, such as one in Pithoragarh once renowned for wood carving, now stand hollowed out. The causes are painfully mundane: no roads, no schools within reasonable distance, no healthcare, and no reliable livelihood.

What makes this crisis different from ordinary rural-to-urban migration elsewhere in India is geography. These are not interior villages - they sit along India's most sensitive and contested frontiers with China and Nepal. That is where a demographic and developmental issue becomes a national security one.

Empty borders indeed are dangerous borders

Inhabited border villages perform functions no technology can fully replace. Locals have traditionally served as the eyes and ears of security forces, offering ground-level intelligence, informal early warning, and logistical support that satellites cannot replicate — a role documented as far back as the 1962 war and the 1999 Kargil conflict. As villages empty, this human network collapses, forcing security forces to stretch thin resources across larger, uninhabited zones, while depopulated areas also weaken India's claims of effective territorial control, a principle central to resolving border disputes.

The contrast with China is stark. Beijing has invested heavily in Tibet's border regions — new settlements, roads, military infrastructure, and deliberate population-settlement programmes — while comparable Indian forces are often based near sea level and require lengthy acclimatisation before deployment. Where China is repopulating its side of the Line of Actual Control as a strategy, India's border districts are demographically retreating. Outmigration further erodes the recruitment base for regiments like the Garhwal and Kumaon Rifles, prized for natural acclimatisation to altitude, while removing the community vigilance that has long helped monitor smuggling and trafficking along the open Nepal border, and the local knowledge and manpower that disaster response depends on most when a crisis strikes. None of this is irreversible. India's own experience during COVID-19 showed that reverse migration is possible when circumstances demand it, and mountain regions in Switzerland, Japan, Austria, South Korea, and Norway have all confronted similar decline and found ways to stabilise or reverse it - models Uttarakhand can adapt.

Addressing this requires treating border regions as both a developmental and a security priority, together. Practical steps include: creating “strategic border development clusters” with concentrated investment in roads, connectivity, healthcare, and schools; strengthening delivery of the Border Area Development Programme and Vibrant Villages Programme, which currently suffer gaps between allocated and released funds; adapting Japan's “Furusato” hometown-tax model, advocated by me in a number of forums, so migrants can direct part of their income tax to their ancestral villages; and mobilising retired soldiers as formal village defence volunteers. Equally urgent is building climate and disaster resilience directly into this agenda - glacial lake monitoring, stricter enforcement of seismic building codes, and an independent technical review of construction in towns like Joshimath and Dehradun — alongside regulating tourism growth through visitor caps, waste management mandates, and genuine enforcement of environmental clearances on the Char Dham and other pilgrim routes, so that the mountains are not loved to death even as they are repopulated. Himalayan Day should be more than a commemoration of natural beauty. It is a reminder that these mountains are inhabited, living, and fragile strategic spaces, where every abandoned village is a quiet retreat of India's presence at its most sensitive frontier, every unregulated tower and overcrowded pilgrim route is a disaster waiting to happen, and every warming glacier is a warning we can no longer treat as distant.

In this Himalayan state, demography and geology are both destiny. Recognising that truth — through sustained investment, disciplined regulation, and genuine partnership between defence, development, science, and local communities — is no longer optional. It is a national security and survival imperative that can no longer be ignored.

When parents need a break, society must step in



ARCHANA DATTA

A news story highlighted a recent initiative by New York City offering four hours of free, supervised childcare for children aged six to 13, to enable parents to do whatever they choose to do. Many consider it a radical shift in public policy stance in recognising the idea of leisure as a parental right, as against the conventional public policies that implement structurally supportive facilities for relieving their financial, temporal, and social pressures.

NYC's pilot project highlights the importance of parental wellbeing, emotional fulfilment, and the need for personal joy and rest, as ingredients of a happy

society, going beyond the concept of affordability or efficiency. Globally, in the face of falling fertility rates, many governments resorted to cash incentives to check the trend which threatened long-term economic stability. However, empirical evidence revealed that cash benefits alone cannot remove ‘invisible liabilities’, the recurring burdens of modern parenting, and bring in long-term societal changes, but can generate only short-term demographic bumps or the ‘tempo effect’. Countries with massive outlays like South Korea and Singapore continue to struggle with record-low birth rates despite multi-billion-dollar packages. While studies indicated that comprehensive structural support-affordable universal childcare, flexible parental leave for fathers, and job security-moderates the decline better.

The IMF and UN research also confirmed that expanding physical childcare infrastructure has roughly five times the positive impact on long-term fertility compared to equivalent spending on direct cash transfers. While parenting, from the perspective of sociology, is not merely a private or biological act of raising a child, but a socially constructed role and institutional practice. Parents, as agents of socialisation, act as primary links between the newborn and society. Parenting has come under intense focus as smartphones, algorithmic social media feeds, and immersive online gaming environments proliferate and completely rewrite the playbook for child development and family dynamics.

According to research, a staggering 66 per cent of parents state that parenting is harder today than it was two decades ago due to the onslaught of social media in everyday life. Many parents also encounter reverse socialisation as the rapid technological change flips the traditional family relationship, more so in developing countries because of structural inequalities, rapid infrastructure shifts and massive generational gaps.

Global scientific research confirms that ‘digital parenting’-which encompasses how parents manage their children's screen habits as well as their own device usage-has evolved into a critical public health concern. The US Department of Health and Human Services found that nearly half of all parents feel completely overwhelmed by daily stress because of a multitude of unique factors which include not only financial strains, children's health, safety and future, technology and social media, but also parental isolation and loneliness. While a new study based on 42 countries found that parents in the developed world often experience higher rates of mental health strain and burnout largely due to cultural individualism and lack of communal support. On the other hand, meta-analyses of data between 2010 and 2021 from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), comprising about 54 per cent of the world population, found that the children of parents with mental health problems were nearly twice as likely to have social-emotional development problems, compared to children of parents without them.

While India's rapid shift from traditional joint families to nuclear household structures has fundamentally altered the landscape of parenting, leaving modern parents to navigate unprecedented levels of psychological, financial, and emotional stress. Over the last few decades, urbanisation, professional migration, and a rising desire for individual autonomy have eroded the informal welfare networks that once shared the heavy lifting of childrearing. A research study from the Indian Journal of Paediatrics validated that nuclear families in India report the highest initial parenting stress levels, primarily because parenting has become a closed loop with no built-in safety net of grandparents or the extended kin.

Parental well-being, undoubtedly, forms the crucial foundation for a child's holistic growth. When caregivers experience high stress, poor mental health, or physical exhaustion, their capacity to nurture and stimulate the child diminishes (UNICEF). On the other hand, strong parent-child relationships act as a vital buffer against stress, and parents directly support the child's relational health (Van Leer Foundation). Multiple sociological and public health studies demonstrated that structured, guilt-free free time directly reduces parental burnout, strengthens couple dynamics, and fosters healthier parent-child relationships. When a society, workplace, or family ecosystem actively protects a parent's personal time, it sets off a positive chain reaction across the entire household. The right to leisure for parents is far more than a nice gesture; it is a fundamental necessity for parental welfare and sustainable family health. The state and society must stop viewing parenting as a purely private and individual responsibility, but look at it as a collective priority. The public policy interventions should go beyond alleviating primary logistical and financial stressors of raising a family, and must also support evidence-based community programmes that teach child development, stress management, and emotion regulation to help build parental resilience. Societal institutions and social networks must also evolve to reduce parental isolation and foster shared responsibility.

The writer is a former Director General of All India Radio, a retired Indian Information Service officer, and a media educator



The NCRB numbers challenge Akhilesh's crime narrative



VIKRAM SINGH

the process, he appears determined to dismiss or downplay the official figures released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). This approach is unbecoming of a former chief minister. In India's democratic system, institutions perform their mandated roles, and senior political leaders are expected to respect them. Selectively accepting or rejecting institutional data based on political convenience runs counter to the spirit of democracy.

Clear improvement in crime rates

The NCRB's *Crime in India 2024* report presents unambiguous numbers. The national average crime rate under BNS/IPC cases stood at 252.3 per lakh population. Uttar Pradesh recorded a substantially lower rate of 180.2-nearly 28.5 per cent below the national average. Given that the state accounts for roughly 17 per cent of India's population, a higher absolute number of cases is only to be expected. The meaningful metric for comparison remains the crime rate per lakh popu-

lation. On that basis, Uttar Pradesh ranked 18th among all states and Union territories. This ranking reflects a tangible improvement in the law-and-order situation.

In 2024, a total of 35,44,608 cognisable crimes were registered across the country. Uttar Pradesh accounted for 4,30,552 of them. Relative to its population share, this figure is proportionate and lower than expected. The state's murder rate stood at 1.3 per lakh population against the national average of 1.9, placing it 29th in the country. Rates for dacoity, robbery and kidnapping for ransom were also well below the national averages. These are not abstract statistics; they reflect ground realities.

Stronger police performance on chargesheets

Registering cases is only one part of the picture. A key measure of police efficiency is the chargesheeting rate. Uttar Pradesh Police achieved a chargesheeting rate of 76.7 per cent, higher than the national average of 75.6 per cent. This indicates that investigators are completing inquiries and taking cases to court at a better rate



than the national norm. The chargesheeting rate in crimes against women has also remained robust.

Highest conviction rate in crimes against women

The most striking figure concerns convictions in cases of crimes against women. According to the NCRB 2024 report, Uttar Pradesh recorded a conviction rate of 76.6 per cent-the highest among major states. Of the thousands of cases that reached completion in the courts, the majority ended in conviction. This outcome is the result of sustained zero-tolerance policing, Anti-Romeo

rejection

When a leader of Akhilesh Yadav's stature continues to attack the policing system while ignoring or rejecting NCRB data, it undermines democratic norms. The NCRB is a central government agency that compiles figures supplied by the states. No data set is perfect, but dismissing official statistics for political reasons is neither constructive nor responsible. As a former chief minister, he should respect institutional findings. If he disagrees with the numbers, the proper response is to present alternative credible evidence or rigorous analysis-not blanket denial.

squads, dedicated women's help desks at police stations, fast-track courts and a strengthened prosecution system.

The rate of crimes against women itself remained below the national average. In 2024, it stood at 58 per lakh female population. The rape rate was 2.8, compared with the national average of 4.3. The data show not only better control over crime but also greater success in securing punishment for offenders.

Institutions deserve respect, not political

The Yogi government's zero-tolerance approach towards crime, decisive action against organised mafias, modernisation of the police force, expanded CCTV networks, the UP-112 emergency response system, and focused measures for women's safety have together produced measurable results. The downward trend in crime rates has continued over successive years. Even in the 2023 data, Uttar Pradesh remained well below the national average.

The numbers speak for themselves

The NCRB figures clearly endorse the improvement in Uttar Pradesh's law-and-order situation under the Yogi government. A lower overall crime rate, a stronger chargesheeting performance, and the country's highest conviction rate in crimes against women among major states together present a coherent and positive picture. Achieving this in India's most populous state was never going to be easy. Opposition parties have every right-and indeed a duty-to-raise questions. Those questions, however, must be grounded in facts. Rejecting institutional data does not strengthen democracy or public trust. The evidence shows that law and order in Uttar Pradesh is better than it was. Accepting that reality and building on it is the more democratic course. Political rhetoric is no substitute for respect for facts.

The writer is a former Director General of the Uttar Pradesh Police and is currently the Chancellor of Noida International University



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Order Order

LG Saxena to administer oath to J&K, Ladakh HC CJ

For the first time since Ladakh became a Union Territory in August 2019, its Lieutenant Governor, Vinai Kumar Saxena, will administer the oath of office to Dr Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati as Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh on September 9, highly placed official sources said on Tuesday. The ceremony will take place at 11 am at the Convention Centre in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, the sources said.

On September 5, President Droupadi Murmu had appointed Justice Bhati, a judge of the Rajasthan High Court, as Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court, with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office.

He will succeed Justice Sanjeev Kumar, who has been serving as the Acting Chief Justice since June 2.

(PTI)



Plea to review duration of law courses: SC bats for expert body

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said there should be an expert body on legal education while terming as “important” the issue raised in a plea seeking setting up of an education commission to review the curriculum and duration of law courses. “This is an era of expert bodies and there should be an expert body on legal education,” a bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said.

“This is an important issue and the Union of India has an important role in this. They should come out with something,” the bench observed. The top court was hearing a plea filed by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay.

The plea said that the New Education Policy 2020 promotes four-year graduation courses in all professional and academic courses but the Bar Council of India has not taken appropriate steps to review the existing syllabus, curriculum and the duration of the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Master of Laws (LLM) courses.

It said the five-year duration of the BA-LLB and BBA-LLB courses was “disproportionate to the course material” and the long duration put an excessive financial burden on the students and their families. It has sought a direction to the Centre to set up a legal education commission or an expert committee consisting eminent educationists, jurists, retired judges, advocates and professors to review the syllabus, curriculum and duration of the LLB and LLM courses.

(PTI)



Graham Staines murder: SC asks Odisha to decide Dara’s remission plea

“You can’t keep it lingering like this,” the Supreme Court on Tuesday told the Odisha government, asking it to take a decision on the remission plea of Ravindra Pal alias Dara Singh, who is serving a life sentence for the murder of Australian missionary Graham Stuart Staines and his two minor sons in 1999.

A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Vijay Bishnoi expressed displeasure over the state government’s failure to inform the court whether a decision has been taken on Singh’s remission plea.

“You want to reject it, you do it. You take a decision. We will deal with it. You can’t keep it lingering like this,” the bench said. The counsel



appearing for the State told the bench that a letter seeking adjournment has been circulated in the matter as the advocate-on-record was unwell.

Referring to its August 19 order passed in the matter, the bench said it had directed the State Sentence Review Board to take a decision and apprise the court of it.

“Last time also, time was

HC refuses to quash summons to Rahul over PM remarks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday refused to quash the summons issued to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in 2019 by a magistrate court in a complaint over his alleged defamatory comments against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A single bench of Justice N R Borkar dismissed Gandhi’s petition against the magistrate court’s order, but extended by six weeks an earlier directive to the lower court to defer hearing on the defamation plea.

Gandhi, the Leader of

Opposition in the Lok Sabha, sought the extension so that he can file an appeal in the Supreme Court.

The direction to defer the hearing on the defamation complaint meant that Gandhi would not be required to appear before the magistrate.

Justice Borkar said it did not find any “perversity and illegality” in the magistrate’s order and hence no reason to interfere. “This court finds no infirmity in the order. Hence, the petition is dismissed,” the HC said.

The complainant, M H Shrishrimal, had opposed Gandhi’s plea in the High



Court, claiming that being a member of BJP, he too was aggrieved by the remarks made against his leader.

The court refused to accept Gandhi’s contention that the complainant was not an

aggrieved party as the remarks were against a person and not the political party. BJP is a “determinate body with a class of members”, and complainant Shrishrimal is an active

SC rejects proposal of Parsvnath Developers for homebuyers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected the proposal of Parsvnath Developers specifying details about handing over possession of flats or repaying monies with interest to hundreds of hassled homebuyers, saying that it seemed like “another device” to delay the proceedings.

The top court cautioned that unless a fresh proposal satisfying the claims of all the “allottees or homebuyers” in companies and their subsidiary firms is placed on record, it will be “constrained to appoint a High-Powered Committee for entrustment of all the responsibilities.”

The homebuyers’ claims



refer to the refunds, compensation for delayed possession, and non-execution of RERA orders. Taking the proposal of Parsvnath on record, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said, “We are satisfied that the proposal is nothing but another device to delay the compliance of possession of (flats) and

delay the repayment of monies (to homebuyers.”

The bench permitted the firm to file another proposal which may be acceptable to homebuyers who are waiting endlessly for their homes.

It observed that state authorities, which should have worked to secure the interests of homebuyers, apparently conspired with the builder, which did not even follow the orders of a quasi-judicial forum like Haryana RERA. The bench also refused to entertain a plea of the Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP), appointed in the insolvency proceedings against the real estate firm, that at least one of the frozen bank accounts be allowed to be operated by him for running affairs of the firm.

Tenure of 248 members of tribunals extended under new law: Govt to SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Centre on Tuesday informed the Supreme Court that 248 members of different tribunals have been found eligible for extension under the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2026 and their services are being extended. The government said that eligible tribunal members would continue in office until they completed the five-year tenure prescribed under the new law or attained the applicable maximum age limit.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of the submissions that three



members, two judicial and one technical, of the National Green Tribunal are demitting offices during the day and it will have adverse impact on the functioning of the green tribunal.

The bench, as an interim measure, extended the

tenure of three NGT members till appointments are made to their posts.

“We have heard with respect to three members of NGT, whose term is expiring today. Even though these members may not be entitled to further extension in view

of age embargo. However, the Attorney General states that the selection process for appointment of new members will be completed very soon.

“To ensure that day-to-day functioning of NGT is not hampered, we direct that

three members continue as an interim measure till fresh appointments are made in their place,” the bench said.

With regard to other tribunals, the bench asked the Centre to take up the issue of appointment in accordance with 2026 Act without any delay. During the hearing, the attorney general informed the bench that 248 members of different tribunals had been found eligible for extension under Section 24 of the new law.

Of these, extension orders had already been issued for 229 members, while orders in respect of the remaining 19 were being issued on Tuesday, he said.

The bench recorded that

eligible members would continue in office until they completed the five-year tenure prescribed under the new regime or attained the applicable maximum age limit.

“In view of this, let a formal order granting extension subject to these two conditions be issued by the Government of India,” the bench said.

The issue had arisen against the backdrop of the earlier order of May 19, when the top court had extended until September 8 the tenure of tribunal chairpersons, presidents and members whose terms were due to expire before that date to ensure that the functioning of tribunals was not disrupted.

Prefer death to being called coward: Judge in 23rd capital punishment verdict in 4 months

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Muzaffarnagar (UP)

Additional District and Sessions Judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar, while pronouncing his 23rd capital punishment in the last four months in a dowry death case on Monday, said in his verdict that he would prefer death to being called a “coward judge”.

In his judgment awarding the death penalty to a man who burnt his wife over dowry demands, the fast-track judge asserted that he would not discharge his judicial duties “under pressure from mafias, gangsters or criminals”.

Diwakar observed that his parents had taught him to fear God and no one else, and



that if he performed his judicial duties out of fear of strongmen, mafias, gangsters or criminals, public faith in the judiciary would erode.

In his judgment, Diwakar said he would prefer death to being known as a coward judge and would continue serving as long as he could follow his principles.

The judge also stated that

he had been receiving threats from mafias and criminals, and alleged that about 100 serious cases had been withdrawn from his court, allegedly to benefit mafias and criminals.

It is learnt that Diwakar has sought protection from senior officers, alleging that his security cover in Muzaffarnagar has been reduced.

‘Confidential’ label alone not enough to deny mine maps, CIC orders disclosure of permissible info

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Central Information Commission has directed the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) to revisit the denial of Digital Elevation Model (DEM) maps of three limestone mines in Telangana, observing that merely classifying the information as confidential was not sufficient to deny its disclosure under the Right to Information Act.

Information Commissioner Sudha Rani Relangi directed the IBM’s Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) to provide relevant permissible information after



severing portions exempt from disclosure under the RTI Act.

If the information cannot be disclosed, the CPIO has been asked to incorporate relevant justification in a revised reply.

The RTI application sought certified DEM maps of three limestone mines in Suryapet district of Telangana from 2017 to 2025.

The mines identified in the application were Sulthanpur Reserved Forest Mine, Gundlapally Limestone Mine and Pedaveedu Limestone Mine. The CPIO, in its reply, said DEM maps from 2017 to 2022 were not available with the office.

It said data after 2022 was available but could not be disclosed under Section 8(1)(d) of the RTI Act, which exempts information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual

property where disclosure could harm the competitive position of a third party.

The First Appellate Authority upheld the denial, stating that the information could not be disclosed under Section 8(1)(d) as it contained “commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property”, disclosure of which could harm the competitive position of the third party.

During the hearing, the appellant said the DEM maps were sought from the IBM to corroborate evidence in a court case in support of a claim of illegal mining carried out by a third-party company.

Religious bodies cannot assume authority of courts: HC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bilaspur

A religious institution or private body cannot assume the authority of a court established by law or use religious belief to determine or enforce an individual’s rights, the Chhattisgarh High Court observed while nullifying a divorce order passed by a private Sharia body.

A bench of Justice Amitendra Kishore Prasad set aside an order issued by ‘Idara-E-Shariya Islami Court’ in Raipur declaring a 38-year-old woman divorced, holding that fatwas or decisions passed by such extra-judicial forums have no binding legal authority.

The court had reserved its



order on August 12 and pronounced it on Monday.

The petitioner, Nirosh Abbasi, had challenged an order dated January 18, 2022, issued by the ‘Idara-E-Shariya Islami Court’, by which it had purportedly declared that she had been divorced through ‘triple talaq’.

She also challenged the very existence of the body,

contending that it was functioning in violation of the Constitution and had no legal authority to determine her marital status.

Abbasi’s first husband died in 2015, and she subsequently married Mohammed Abid Khan of Raipur in 2020.

Khan claimed that Abbasi’s children from her first marriage were unable to adjust

with the new family and, on that purported ground, she was subjected to ‘triple talaq’.

Abbasi had contested the purported divorce, asserting that religious law could not override the law applicable in India. She had also alleged harassment, cruelty and ill-treatment by Khan and his family members and submitted a complaint to the Raipur Superintendent of Police in October 2021, following which a first information report was registered.

The High Court noted that despite the registration of the FIR and pendency of proceedings before competent authorities, the ‘Idara-E-Shariya Islami Court’ proceeded to issue its January 18, 2022 order.

INTERVIEW



A DEGREE MAY TELL EMPLOYERS WHAT A GRADUATE KNOWS, BUT IT DOESN'T ALWAYS SHOW HOW THEY WILL PERFORM AT WORK. THE REAL GAP IS JUDGMENT. WHEN FACED WITH INCOMPLETE DATA, UNCLEAR BRIEFS AND COMPETING DEMANDS, MANY GRADUATES STRUGGLE. INDUSTRY EXPOSURE CAN HELP BRIDGE THAT GAP



Universities prepare students for industry

As Indian higher education moves towards a more industry-aligned, flexible and employability-focused future, the relationship between universities and the world of work is undergoing a significant transformation. In conversation with *The Pioneer*, Vikas Rai Bhatnagar, Group Vice Chancellor, Chandigarh University, shares his perspective on the gaps between education and industry, the role of experiential learning, the impact of NEP 2020 and the changes needed to prepare students for an evolving professional landscape

India has expanded access to higher education significantly. Why is that still not translating into enough employable graduates?

Access used to be the biggest challenge for students outside Tier 1 cities. Online education has changed that in ways a physical campus never could on its own. But access without industry connection only creates more degree-holders, not more employable professionals. That is the real gap today: at Chandigarh University Online, we have expanded reach faster than we have built the bridge between education and industry.

Much of what is called industry-academia collaboration today is still limited to a guest lecture that is rarely revisited. What is actually missing is industry being involved in curriculum design from day one, helping decide what students learn, not simply commenting on it after the fact. When that connection is built properly, the difference is visible. Students stop asking, "What will be on the exam?" and start asking, "Would this solution hold up in a real client meeting?"

If higher education is serious about employability, the answer is not simply more access, more courses, or more degrees. It is building a system where industry shapes what is taught, assessment measures how students think and solve problems, and faculty are continuously equipped to teach what the market actually demands.

What are graduates still missing when they step from the classroom into the workplace?

Judgment. Employers aren't complaining that graduates don't know enough, most of them know plenty. The complaint I hear most is that graduates can't operate with

ambiguity. Give them a well-defined problem with a textbook method and they'll execute it well. Give them a messy brief, half the data missing, three stakeholders wanting different things, and they freeze. That's not a knowledge gap, it's an exposure gap, and the only way to close it is to stop treating industry exposure as a guest lecture and start treating it as a co-taught module.

That's the thinking behind bringing organisations like KPMG, Microsoft, PwC and PMI directly into the classroom at Chandigarh University Online, not as one-off speakers but as people who help shape what's taught and grade what students produce against a live brief. When a PMI-certified practitioner working on building a curriculum, the classroom stops being a simulation of work and starts being an early draft of it

Industry-academia partnerships have existed for years. Why have they largely failed



to deliver the kind of industry exposure students actually need?

Stop calling it "collaboration" and start calling it "co-ownership." Most industry-academia partnerships I've seen are a guest lecture, a signed MoU, a photo, and then silence for a year. Nobody's job depends on the partnership succeeding, so it doesn't.

What works is when a company puts a real business problem on the table with a real deadline, and a faculty member's course grade depends on how well students solved it, not how well they memorised the theory behind it. We've run this model with corporate partners on some of our online postgraduate programmes: students work in teams against a live brief and get evaluated by people who must live with decisions like that in their own jobs. It changes the tenor of the classroom completely.

The other change needed is longer commitment windows. A one-semester partnership barely lets you calibrate the brief. Three years in, you start seeing which students the model actually transforms.

Five years after NEP 2020, has the policy genuinely

changed the way Indians access and experience higher education?

For online degree education specifically, NEP has done more than any single policy before it. Multiple entry and exit, the academic credit bank, and the formal recognition of ODL and online programmes at par with on-campus ones have together made it legitimate and not a fallback option for a working adult to build a degree over time instead of in one uninterrupted stretch. I've watched learners in their thirties and forties, already employed, resume an education they'd abandoned a decade earlier so that they could move up in their careers. That's the policy doing exactly what it was designed to do.

If you could redesign Indian higher education from scratch, what are the three changes you would make first?

First, make industry-embedded, evaluated project work a mandatory graduation requirement for every degree not an optional internship a student can skip, a live external brief with real accountability built into the grade. Second, give online and on-campus degrees genuine parity in the eyes of employers and regulators, not just on paper - same rigour, same recognition, no asterisk. Third, build a funded national infrastructure for continuous faculty upskilling, with protected time attached, not another circular asking colleges to "encourage" it.

If I had to rank them, I'd start with the industry-embedded requirement, because it forces the other two to happen anyway. You can't run a mandatory live-project model without faculty who are current enough to supervise it credibly. Change what a degree requires students to actually do, and the rest of the system has no choice but to catch up.

Perspective turns knowledge into wisdom

D PARTHASARATHY

Dean, Office of Academics and Professor, Nayanta University

Imagine a city announces a new flyover to reduce traffic congestion. The traffic engineer is pleased: traffic will move faster. The economist calculates the savings in travel time. The politician points to a visible symbol of development. Pollution experts measure the reduced emissions due to smoother flow of traffic.

Now ask the shopkeeper whose storefront will disappear beneath the flyover. Ask the pedestrian who now has to cross six lanes of traffic. Ask the bus commuter who wonders why the money was not spent on public transport, as flyovers serve a minority of the population. Ask the residents of the neighbourhood who will live with the noise and pollution.

Suddenly, the problem looks very different. This is the paradox of complex problems: the more we know about them, the more we may discover that there is to know. Expertise tells us how to solve a particular problem; perspective provides clarity on what the problem actually is.

Universities trying to improve student learning, governments tackling inequality, companies managing organisational change or challenges posed by AI, and societies responding to climate change-all confront problems that cannot be adequately understood from a single vantage point.

A traffic engineer sees traffic, usually only vehicular traffic. A sociologist may observe patterns of inequality and access. An economist perceives incentives and trade-offs. A political scientist sees institutions and power. An environmental scientist sees ecological costs. The commuter, pedestrian,



shopkeeper and resident see something else again: the consequences of decisions made by others with little consideration for their well-being. Perspective begins with a deceptively simple question: Who is affected, and in what ways? Perspective is not merely about collecting different opinions. It requires empathy-the ability to imagine what a problem looks like from somewhere other than where we happen to stand. What is a solution to one group of stakeholders may actually be a problem to another.

And empathy alone is not enough. Different perspectives come with different amounts of power to serve populations and to design specific solutions.

Hence, we must also ask: Whose perspective is heard? Whose is missing? Who gets to define the problem? Who benefits from a solution, and who bears its costs? This is where perspective becomes a question of justice and equity.

That is also why education should be more than the accumulation of specialised knowledge. History, economics, sociology, political science, philosophy, liter-

ature and the sciences offer not merely different information but different ways of seeing. A broad education should teach us to move between these ways of seeing-and to recognise the limits of our own.

Diverse experiences-through fieldwork, community engagement, collaborative projects, literature, case studies and encounters with people whose lives differ from their own-can deepen this process. Classroom discussions, field experiences, community engagement, collaborative projects and encounters with unfamiliar social worlds can all become occasions for this kind of learning.

This requires the classroom to become a space where a diversity of experiences becomes a source of evidence, rather than merely something students are invited to mention. The teacher can deliberately design questions for which students' different locations, family backgrounds, social experiences, disciplines or observations produce genuinely different answers. That is a powerful moment of learning about perspective. The classroom becomes a small laboratory of perspective.

From classrooms to startup founders

RASHMI MITTALI

Pro-Chancellor, LPU

In 2014, India counted a few hundred startups. By January 31, 2026, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade had recognised 212,283 of them; the count has since crossed 2.40 lakh, with over 23.36 lakh direct jobs created by the close of the financial year - enough to make India the world's third-largest startup ecosystem. FY26 alone added more than 55,200 recognised startups, the highest in any year since Startup India was launched in 2016, and a rise of nearly 52 per cent over the previous year. The Union Budget for 2026-27 has backed this trajectory with capital rather than applause: a further ₹20,000 crore for the ₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund; a ₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund; and a sharpened focus on deep tech, semiconductors and frontier sectors.

Behind that arithmetic lies a question higher education has not yet answered at scale: where do founders actually come from? They come from classrooms. Almost every founder in that 2.40 lakh was, a few years earlier, a student being prepared, quite deliberately, for employment rather than enterprise. That is the gap. India has built world-class instruments for funding a startup once it exists. What it has not built, uniformly, is a university system that treats the making of one as a legitimate academic outcome.

This is a design problem, not a resource problem - and design problems have solutions that can be copied. For instance, institutional case studies from universities illustrate the impact of long-term academic restructuring around enterprise building. Students have earned over ₹20 crore through startups, freelancing, consultancy, paid internships and innovation grants, resulting in over 400 student-launched ventures. Additionally, more than 15,000 students now participate in experiential learning models rather than traditional classroom routes.

During a campus investor event, student-led startups raised ₹2.65 crore, while enterprises such as Femora AI and Macbease were featured at the India AI Impact Summit 2026. Notably, alumnus Anirudh Sharma co-funded space-tech company Digantara, securing \$12.5 million in venture funding to build space-surveillance satellite infrastructure.

None of that is accidental, and none of it came from motivational lectures. It came

from changing the rules of the degree itself. A student can now earn up to half of their academic credits through experiential learning. Attendance is relaxed for founders whose ventures cross Technology Readiness Level Six, and academic relaxations follow DPIIT registration. Scholarships are calibrated not to examination marks but to

not to examination marks but to



FOR THIS APPROACH TO BECOME NATIONAL PRACTICE RATHER THAN AN INSTITUTIONAL EXCEPTION, FOUR THINGS MUST CHANGE:

- **Academic Credit for Enterprise:** Entrepreneurship must carry academic credit as a matter of course - a registered venture, a granted patent, or a shipped prototype should count towards a degree exactly as an examination does.
- **District-Tied Incubators:** Every institution should operate a functioning incubator tied to the industry of its own district, not a nameplate on a corridor.
- **Early Campus Risk Capital:** Risk capital must reach the campus at the stage where ₹5 lakh decides more than ₹5 crore later; the Budget's new funds need an explicit academic channel.
- **Academic Fail-Safes:** Failure must be made academically survivable so that a student whose venture folds in the sixth semester loses a company, not a year.

monthly startup revenue, grants received, private investment raised and intellectual property granted - a venture earning above 78 lakh a month or attracting 70 lakh in investment can carry a full programme fee waiver. Three incubators, from a NIDHI Technology Business Incubator to an MSME-supported facility, sit on the same campus as the classrooms. In short, the university stopped treating a company as a distraction from the degree and started treating it as evidence of one.

The return here is measurable. A generation trained to build rather than only to apply will create employment instead of queuing for it - and India's demographic advantage, the youngest large workforce in the world, will convert into an entrepreneurial one only if its campuses are wired for it.

A cap table is a short document listing who owns what and who was willing to build it. The task before Indian higher education, between now and 2047, is straightforward: make certain that the names on those documents are increasingly the students' - and that they got there because their university helped, not despite it.

India's examination system enters a new era of trust

SUMAN CHAKRABORTY

Director, IIT Kharagpur
Institute Chair Professor and JC Bose National Fellow

India's public examination system is not merely an administrative mechanism for conducting tests. It is one of the largest exercises of institutional trust and social mobility anywhere in the world. For a young person in a metropolitan coaching centre, a student in a village with intermittent connectivity, or a first-generation learner, the examination hall represents something profoundly democratic: the belief that where I come from should matter less than what I can demonstrate. That belief is precious, and it must be protected.

This is the larger context in which the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026 needs to be understood. The original 2024 legislation created a statutory framework against organised unfair practices in public examinations. The 2026 amendment, which received Presidential assent on July 31, 2026, strengthens that framework substantially. But its significance goes beyond punishment. It recognises that the architecture of examination malpractice has changed, and therefore the architecture protecting

examinations must change as well.

Today, vulnerability can exist anywhere along a complex chain-question preparation, digital storage, printing, transportation, examination centres, communication networks and organised intermediaries. Technology has made examinations more scalable and attacks more sophisticated. Artificial intelligence (AI) adds another dimension. AI can improve question-bank management, detect anomalies, strengthen cybersecurity and identify suspicious patterns. But the same ecosystem can amplify organised misconduct.

The answer cannot be technological retreat, nor can algorithms manufacture integrity. The principle for the AI era is clear: humans must set the rules; technology must strengthen their implementation. AI should be a value enhancer, not a value setter. An algorithm may identify an anomaly, but human institutions must determine what constitutes misconduct. AI may flag a suspicious pattern, but due process must decide culpability. Technology may strengthen surveillance and authentication, but society must determine the boundaries of fairness and justice.

For India, the consequential question is not what a perfect examination system looks like, but what is the fairest, most secure and humane system that can work reliably for millions of



people. National deployment must account for bandwidth limitations, power interruptions, language diversity, accessibility, geographical remoteness and digital preparedness. India must resist both the romanticism that technology can be avoided and the techno-utopianism that technology can solve everything.

A law intended to protect examinations

cannot depend only upon the severity of punishment. Deterrence also depends upon the probability and speed of consequences. But deterrence is not punishment alone; deterrence is consequence made credible. Speed must never replace fairness; it must support it. The amendment retains an appellate pathway to the High Court, including appeal against orders granting or refusing bail, while providing timelines for such appeals. Confidence comes not from severity alone, but from severity bounded by due process.

Every paper leak has consequences far beyond the leaked paper. It penalises the student who refused shortcuts, disadvantages families that invested scarce resources in preparation, damages confidence in merit and, when an examination is cancelled or repeated, disrupts preparation, travel, expenditure and emotional energy. Examination integrity is therefore fundamentally about protecting the honest candidate. The strongest message should not merely be, "Be afraid to cheat." It should be: "If you play fair, the system will protect your effort."

India now has the opportunity to move from examination security to examination resilience. Security asks how we prevent a question paper from leaking. Resilience

asks whether we can anticipate vulnerabilities, detect breaches early, contain their spread, establish responsibility quickly and recover without imposing disproportionate costs on innocent students. This requires secure-by-design infrastructure, controlled access privileges, cryptographic authentication, auditable chains of custody, intelligent anomaly detection, cybersecurity stress-testing and rapid-response protocols.

India is entering an era in which AI will increasingly participate in learning, assessment, administration and decision support. The question is therefore larger than whether examinations become more digital. It is whether they become more trustworthy while becoming more technological. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Act, 2026 is an important step in that direction because it recognises that organised attacks on examination integrity require stronger deterrence, specialised investigation and time-bound adjudication. Its ultimate success should not be measured by how many people are punished, but by how rarely these provisions eventually need to be invoked. Ultimately, an examination is not a test of our technology. It is a test of our collective commitment to fairness.

FROM THE WORLD

CHINA

Climate change behind flood

The massive flash flood that struck the Tibet-Nepal border on August 26 has put China's numerous hydropower projects in the region, including the mega dam on the Brahmaputra River, under renewed scrutiny, as Chinese experts said global warming and accelerating glacier retreat may have contributed to the recent gigantic mudslide.

The disaster was likely the result of a combination of factors, including rising temperatures and accelerated glacier melt according to Chinese climate experts.

"According to our monitoring, we can see the short-time rain days, or the imbalance of the rain pattern and the rising of the temperature in Tibet," said Sun Xiaoguang, head of the Meteorological Observatory of the Tibet Autonomous Region. (AP)

PAKISTAN

Hate banners target Ahmadis

Extremist elements on Tuesday displayed banners carrying derogatory and hostile messages against Ahmadis outside a university in Punjab province, a day after UN experts expressed grave concern over continuing discrimination, violence and legal restrictions targeting the minority community. Several banners, displayed along Sargodha University Road, called for the exclusion and social boycott of Ahmadis.

Some described Ahmadis as "disloyal to Pakistan", demanded their removal from key positions and called for their complete boycott. "We hate Qadianiyat," read one banner, referring to the community. Jamaat-i-Ahmadiyya condemned the display of banners, saying that differences in religious beliefs must never become a basis for spreading hatred against any sect or community. (PTI)

Houthi attacks on Saudi ignite fires at oil facilities, 70 hurt

SAMY MAGDY ■ Cairo

The Iranian-backed Houthi rebel group in Yemen launched a wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, wounding more than 70 people and igniting fires at oil facilities and utilities in the kingdom, authorities said.

The attack was a major escalation in renewed fighting between an important US ally and the Iranian proxy group. It also threatened to further destabilise a region rocked by nearly three years of wars and deliver a new blow to the global economy.

Weeks of clashes have



added pressure to limited global oil supplies as the Houthis target a shipping route Saudi Arabia has used to transport oil to world markets while the Strait of Hormuz is throttled due to the US-Iran war. Tuesday's attacks hit Saudi oil facilities connected to the alternative route, the Bab el-Mandeb, a strategic waterway off the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula that connects the

Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden.

The conflict between Saudi Arabia, one of the US's closest Middle East allies, and the Houthis, a Shiite militant group armed and trained by Iran, goes back years.

The new fighting has threatened to reignite the country's civil war, which began in 2014 when the Houthis seized the capital, Sanaa, and much of northern Yemen and forced the Government into exile. A Saudi-led coalition intervened the following year to try to restore the Government to power. Fighting has greatly died down since a truce was reached four years ago. (AP)

Eiffel Tower shut as staff strike over controversial Hindu group visit

ADITI KHANNA ■ London/New Delhi

The Eiffel Tower was closed for a day after its staff went on strike over female employees being "moved away" for a visit by a Hindu religious group, according to the iconic Paris monument's management and staff.

The incident that triggered the strike took place on Saturday during a visit by around 100 people associated with BAPS (Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam) Swaminarayan Sanstha, Euronews reported.

When asked about the controversy, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at a media briefing in New Delhi: "We are aware of the opening of a temple by the BAPS Sanstha in the Paris area. As to the particular issue pertaining to the Tower, this is a matter purely between the entities concerned."

Diane Davoine, a union representative in France, said in a statement that female workers had been "moved away from their workstations as the delegation passed by". Eiffel Tower employees condemned what they described as "professional instructions that led to female employees being sidelined, replaced and made invisible because of their sex", the report said.

In a statement issued by the CGT trade union, the staff condemned "workplace instructions that led to female employees being sidelined, replaced and rendered invisible on the basis of their gender". "Some were asked to



leave their posts and withdraw to other areas. In some posts they were replaced by men," according to the statement quoted by France24.

"And all female employees were instructed not to go through or cross certain areas while the delegation was present." The popular tourist hub in the French capital, which witnesses nearly seven million visitors a year, opened as usual on Tuesday, after the operating company, Societe d'Exploitation de la tour Eiffel (SETE), acknowledged that limited "interactions with women" had been requested by a BAPS delegation, and that the "conditions should not have been accepted".

Paris Mayor Emmanuel Gregoire said the Eiffel Tower staff's anger was legitimate, said the reported conditions unacceptable and said an investigation would be launched to establish what happened. "I am taking note of the anger expressed by the employees of the Eiffel Tower,

and I want to tell them that their discontent is legitimate," Gregoire said on X.

"It is not acceptable that such conditions can be tolerated. These are neither my values, nor those that the Eiffel Tower should uphold, where everyone - regardless of gender - should be able to move about and act freely, without distinction between women and men.

It is urgent that full light be shed on the facts that led to this mobilisation." "Equality between women and men will never stop at the foot of our historical monuments, nor anywhere in this city.

It must be applied everywhere, for everyone," he added. "I will ensure this, everywhere and without exception. An investigation will be launched as quickly as possible." The BAPS Hindu temple in Paris has issued an apology and said it understood the concerns raised over the incident, adding that they took them "very seriously". (PTI)

Indian envoy Trivedi meets Bangladesh president

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dhaka

Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi on Tuesday met Bangladesh President Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, in his first meeting with the newly elected head of State, and discussed strengthening the "deep-rooted" and multifaceted ties between the two countries.

Alamgir was sworn in as President on August 21. Trivedi paid a courtesy call on Alamgir at Bangabhaban and conveyed warm greetings to the president, wishing him success in his continued service to the people of Bangladesh, the



Indian High Commission said in a social media post. "The discussion underscored the deep-rooted bonds between India and Bangladesh, built on shared history, close cultural ties

and strong people-to-people relations," it said. They emphasised the importance of strengthening the bilateral partnership for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries, the mission

said. Later in the day, Trivedi met Minister of Shipping, Railways, Road Transport and Bridges Sheikh Rabiul Alam. State Minister for Road, Highways and Railways Habibur Rashid was also present.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a range of issues of mutual interest relating to railways, shipping, connectivity and bilateral development projects.

"They underscored the importance of strengthening connectivity between India and Bangladesh as a key enabler of economic engagement and closer people-to-people ties," the mission said in another post.

Flights to Indonesia's Capital resume after volcano activity

NINIEK KARMINI/EDNA TARIGAN ■ Jakarta

Flights to and from Indonesia's Capital and nearby regions resumed Tuesday after ash from a volcanic eruption forced two days of airport closures that halted nearly 3,000 flights. Soekarno-Hatta International Airport and Halim Perdanakusuma Airport serving Jakarta and three other regional airports reopened just after midnight, Transportation Minister Dudy Purwagandhi said. Two resumed normal operations by late morning after one reopened Monday.

Purwagandhi said the airports were allowed to resume operations only after authorities determined conditions were safe for aviation. He said airport authorities and airlines were required to inspect all aircraft before flights resumed.

"Pilots and flight crews were also instructed to remain aware of restricted airspace zones established around areas affected by



volcanic ash," Purwagandhi said. Aviation authorities temporarily restrict aircraft from areas where ash has been detected because volcanic particles can damage engines and other critical systems.

The continuous eruption of Anak Krakatau with lava fountains and loud booms ended on Sunday but the volcanic island remained active Tuesday, with four eruptions recorded between dawn and midday. (AP)

Bangladesh SC warns ICT prosecutor over sub judice remarks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dhaka

Bangladesh's Supreme Court on Tuesday warned the chief prosecutor of the country's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) against making public comments on matters pending judicial review, a day after he said deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina had no scope to appeal against her death sentence.

"The apex court has warned the chief prosecutor (Aminul Islam) for speaking openly about a pending matter in the media, and he has been asked to refrain from commenting on it," a court official said.

Islam acknowledged the warning, saying, "I will not make any comments in advance from now on."

The warning came during the hearing of an appeal filed by death row convict Abul Kalam Azad, also known as Bachchu Razakar, against his conviction by the ICT-BD in absentia. A four-member bench of the Appellate Division adjourned the hearing for four weeks after a brief hearing, with Islam appearing for the state.



Rajnath arrives in Sri Lanka on three-day visit



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is welcomed by Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha upon his arrival at Bandaranaik International Airport, in Colombo, Sri Lanka PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Colombo

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh arrived in Sri Lanka on Tuesday for a three-day visit aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and expanding cooperation in defence and regional maritime security.

"Looking forward to a productive engagement with the leadership of Sri Lanka during the visit," Singh said ahead of his visit to the island nation.

He will also be interacting with the Indian diaspora.

"Besides our longstanding partnership as well as deep historical and civilisational ties, Sri Lanka is one of our most important partners under the Neighbourhood First and MAHASAGAR initiatives," he added. Singh was received at the Bandaranaik International Airport by Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister of Defence Maj Gen (Retd) Aruna Jayasekara and Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka Santosh Jha, the Ministry of

Defence said. He received a warm and traditional welcome from the Sri Lankan side, reflecting the close and enduring ties between India and Sri Lanka, it added.

According to the ministry, Singh is leading a high-level delegation comprising senior officials from the ministries of Defence and External Affairs. This is the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Sri Lanka in 38 years. Coinciding with his visit, the Indian Navy's INS Udaygiri, an advanced indigenous stealth guided-missile frigate, arrived at the Colombo port on Tuesday.

The frigate was received in accordance with naval traditions, the Sri Lanka Navy said.

Sri Lanka Navy personnel will also visit the frigate for capability familiarisation, knowledge sharing and onboard training, it said.

The crew of INS Udaygiri will participate in goodwill events with the Sri Lanka Navy and visit tourist and cultural sites.

Nepal death toll climbs to 1,357 as rescue efforts continue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Kathmandu

The death toll from the devastating flash floods in Nepal rose to 1,357 on Tuesday as more bodies were recovered from the affected areas, authorities said.

Rescue teams continued to search for 5,326 people, while 13,583 people have been rescued so far, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) said on Tuesday.

The death toll from the devastating flash floods reached 1,357 after more bodies were recovered from different affected areas. The joint command of security forces have recovered 363 bodies from Chitawan district, 223 from Nawalparasi East, 222 from Nawalparasi West and 197 from Nuwakot. Similarly, 169 bodies were recovered from Rasuwa, 75 from



Gorkha, 70 from Dhading and 38 from Tanahu. So far, 102 bodies have been handed over to the family members after identification and fulfilling due legal formalities,

according to NDRRMA.

The floods, triggered by an ice-rock avalanche near the Nepal-Tibet border, sent the Bhotekoshi River raging downstream, washing

away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects across northern and central Nepal.

The disaster also killed at least 43 people on the Chinese side, while more than 500 people remain missing in Tibet, according to Chinese media reports.

Around 3,500 people were staying in Government-run holding centres across Rasuwa, Nuwakot and Dhading as of Monday, according to the NDRRMA. But many others displaced by the floods have sought shelter wherever they could, including schools, temples, monasteries, empty office buildings, community buildings and tents set up in forested areas.

Major rescue operations are also underway at hydropower projects in flood-affected districts, where 121 men are believed to be trapped in underground tunnels.

El Nino effect leaves over 115,000 in Sri Lanka facing drinking water shortage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Colombo

Over 115,000 people in Sri Lanka are facing drinking water shortages as an emerging El Nino condition, coupled with high temperatures and scant rainfall, intensified dry weather across parts of the island, officials said on Tuesday.

Meteorology Department Director General Ajith Wijemanna said an El Nino condition was developing and could be contributing to the prevailing weather pattern. El Nino, a periodic warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, can alter tempera-



ture patterns across the region. Its development is being closely monitored for its possible impact on Sri Lanka as the dry spell continues.

The island nation, surrounded by the Indian Ocean, is likely to feel the effect more intensely, experts opine. According to the Disaster Management Centre (DMC), 115,586 people have been affected by the El Nino weather pattern across seven of Sri Lanka's 25 administrative districts.

The severe heat and lack of rainfall have affected many areas, creating serious challenges for the availability of water, it said in a

press release. Pragith Danansuriya, a DMC official, said 115,534 people are currently affected by the shortage of drinking water.

In the north-central Anuradhapura district, the water level in Eruwewa reservoir, which has a capacity of about 3,500 acre-feet, has fallen to around 1,000 acre-feet, irrigation officials said. Water levels have also declined in areas, including Matale in the central region and Nandikadal in the north-east, officials said.

The prolonged dry conditions are also affecting aquatic life and wildlife. Thousands of small fish have

been found dead in the Mullaithivu lagoon in the northeast, with officials attributing the deaths to the mixing of seawater and freshwater.

Natural water sources are drying up in several areas, forcing wild animals to move in search of alternative sources of water.

The drought has also affected agriculture, with crops including paddy, coconut, banana and guava facing damage due to lack of water.

Wijemanna said some rainfall could be expected from the end of September, raising hopes of relief from the prevailing conditions.

expecting a decrease in hiring activity.

Around 65 per cent of employers in India plan to increase staffing between October and December compared with 11 per cent anticipating reductions.

Among the participants 24 per cent expect staffing levels to remain unchanged

DCC approves TRAI’s satcom spectrum recommendations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The Digital Communications Commission (DCC), the apex decision-making body at the Department of Telecom, has approved most of the recommendations made by sector regulator Trai to allocate spectrum for satellite communications services, according to sources.

Elon Musk-led Starlink, Bharti Group-backed Eutelsat OneWeb and Reliance Industries Ltd’s Jio Satellite Communications have received permission to start satcom services in India. The services, however, cannot be rolled out without spectrum allocation and the second stage of security clearance from security agencies. “DCC in its meeting held on September 3 has approved the majority of recommendations made by Trai on satcom spectrum,” a source aware of the development said.

The Department of Telecom will now approach the Cabinet for final approval on the pricing and allocation process of radio waves for



the satellite communications (satcom) services. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) in May 2025 recommended that satellite broadband spectrum be allotted for five years, which can be extended by another two years.

The regulator had recommended a levy of 4 per cent of annual revenues as a fee on satcom service providers like Elon Musk’s Starlink, but sources said that DoT was of the view to levy 5 per cent instead of 4 per cent suggested by the regulator. Elon Musk’s Starlink and Amazon Inc’s subsidiary Kuiper Systems had, during con-

sultations with the Trai, urged it to keep spectrum charge below 1 per cent of AGR with no other charges.

The four per cent of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) spectrum charge would be for both geostationary orbit (GSO) and NGSO (non-geostationary orbit) operators. These would be subject to a minimum annual spectrum charge of ₹3,500 per MHz.

Trai, in its recommendations to the Department of Telecommunications, had said that operators offering services in urban areas would have to shell out an additional ₹500 per subscriber annually. No addition-

al levy would be applicable to services in rural areas.

The regulator has also favoured a subsidy for satcom user terminals in unserved/underserved regions of rural and remote areas (typically one-time hardware cost ranges between ₹20,000-50,000). It said high cost could be a barrier to adoption, potentially impeding the adoption of such services in difficult-to-reach areas. Once approved, a single satellite constellation can offer just 10,000-20,000 connections in areas like Delhi against a requirement of 50 lakh broadband connections.

The satellite spectrum pricing as a percentage of AGR is for both non-geostationary satellite orbit (NGSO) and Geostationary satellite orbit (GSO) based fixed-satellite service (FSS) and mobile satellite service (MSS).

NGSO refers to satellites occupying either a low-earth orbit (LEO) or medium-earth orbit (MEO). Unlike geostationary GSO satellites, LEO and MEO satellites do not occupy a stationary position but move in relation to the Earth.

Coal output rises 4.5%, enough stocks for power plant, says G Kishan Reddy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday said India has witnessed 4.5 per cent year-on-year growth in dry fuel production and assured that there is no need to worry about the stocks for power plants.

However, he admitted that there were issues related to coal production due to weather conditions (monsoon) for around ten days, but now there is no problem.

“We have 123 million tonnes of coal available with us, which is (sufficient) for 51 days (reserve) in the country. Therefore, there is no problem with power plants having critical coal stock,” he said on the sidelines of Coal India’s CSR Initiative event.

About the coal gasification scheme, the minister told reporters that September 7 was the last day to submit bid and as many as seven applications were received.

According to a Coal Ministry statement issued on Tuesday, bids were submitted by NTPC, Adani



Enterprises, Talcher Fertilisers, Gallantt Ispat and Shyam Sel & Power.

He also informed that the coal companies have 100 million tonnes of coal in transit, and power companies have 23 days of coal stock. The production of coal has increased with a reduction in rains in the country, he added.

There is no need to worry about coal stock in the country as the ministry is monitoring the situation, along with dry fuel firms, Reddy noted.

Coal production can be increased further if the weather continues to be

favourable. There is growth of 4.5 per cent in coal production so far compared to last year, the minister said.

However, according to the latest report by the Central Electricity Authority on coal stocks at power plants, there are 58 plants with a critical stock situation.

These 58 plant include 53 (domestic coal based), four imported coal-based plants and one plan based on washery rejects. Thermal power plants are shown as critical (in the report) if coal stock is less than 25 per cent of normative coal stock.

The round I of the ₹37,500-crore Scheme for Promotion

of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects has closed with an overwhelming response from industry, with seven (7) applications received from some of India’s largest corporate houses and premier public sector undertakings, decisively vindicating the Ministry of Coal’s confidence in the scheme, the statement said.

The response underscores growing industry confidence in coal gasification as a key pillar of India’s energy security, import substitution and industrial development strategy, it stated.

A request for proposal was issued on July 7, 2026.

These projects have the potential to contribute significantly to the development of a robust domestic coal gasification ecosystem, with eight gasification projects already under implementation under the earlier ₹8,500 crore Financial Incentive Scheme.

The Scheme for Promotion of Surface Coal/Lignite Gasification Projects was approved by the Cabinet on May 13, 2026, with a total financial outlay of ₹37,500 crore.

IGDTUW, DMA sign MoU for academia-industry collaboration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW) and the Delhi Management Association (DMA) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marking an important step towards strengthening academia-industry collaboration and creating greater opportunities for professional exposure, skill development, knowledge exchange and experiential learning for students.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Professor Ranjana Jha, Vice Chancellor, IGDTUW, and NK Sharma, President, Delhi Management Association. The occasion was also graced by Neelam Gupta, Vice President, DMA; Professor Brijesh Kumar,

Registrar, IGDTUW; and Meha Joshi, Head, Department of Management, IGDTUW, along with Deans and Heads of Departments, faculty members, staff and representatives of DMA. The department of Management spearheaded the MoU.

Welcoming the collaboration, Meha Joshi, Head, Department of Management, IGDTUW, highlighted the importance of translating partnerships into meaningful learning and professional opportunities for students. She expressed confidence that the DMA Student Chapter would create sustained engagement between students and the professional management community.

Professor Ranjana Jha, Vice Chancellor, IGDTUW, expressed her happiness at



the collaboration and extended her best wishes for the success of the DMA Student Chapter and the Department of Management. She emphasised that meaningful academia-industry partnerships should promote two-way learning and knowledge sharing, bringing together

industry’s practical insights and contemporary challenges with academia’s research, fresh perspectives and young talent.

NK Sharma, President, DMA, expressed his happiness at the collaboration and encouraged students to actively participate in DMA

initiatives and make full use of the opportunities offered through the association. He also invited students to attend an upcoming DMA seminar at the India Habitat Centre, providing them with an opportunity to interact with professionals and broaden their exposure beyond the classroom.

The MoU reflects IGDTUW’s commitment to strengthening industry engagement and providing students with opportunities that complement academic learning. The collaboration will create avenues for expert interactions, professional development, experiential learning, and knowledge exchange and industry exposure, while fostering meaningful engagement among faculty, researchers and industry professionals.

Samsung India begins job cuts; trims workforce at senior level

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Noida

Samsung India Electronics, a leading player in the mobile phone and consumer appliances space, has laid off 8-10 mid-to-senior-level employees and plans to let go of another 40-50 staff in the coming weeks as part of a cost-rationalisation exercise amid rising input costs and muted consumer demand. The layoffs are taking place in the Consumer Electronics (CE) division of Samsung India, which houses its televisions, digital appliances, and home electronics businesses, said industry sources.

In the first phase, the company has laid off around



8-10 employees from the CE division, ranging from general manager, team lead and branch/area manager to even director level. In the second round, Samsung Electronics India may lay off another 40 to 50 people, industry sources told PTI.

The move is aimed at trimming the workforce and driving efficiency as

Samsung India faces stiff competition in the CE business from rival Korean and Chinese players, with competitive intensity running high in the segment. The team has around 500 to 600 executives. A query sent to Samsung India over the development remained unanswered till the time of filing of the story.

HDFC MF showcases Pharma and Healthcare Fund

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

HDFC Asset Management Company Limited (HDFC AMC), the investment manager of HDFC Mutual Fund (HDFC MF) and one of India’s leading mutual fund houses, referred to the performance of HDFC Pharma and Healthcare Fund, which delivered a CAGR of 30.19% since inception and a return of 19.01% over one year, as of July 31, 2026. The fund was launched on October 4, 2023, and seeks to generate long-term capital appreciation by investing predominantly in equity and equity-related instruments of pharma and healthcare companies.

The fund is diversified across pharmaceuticals, hospitals, healthcare service



providers, biotechnology, and medical equipment and supplies. India’s pharmaceutical and healthcare sector presents a structural growth opportunity, supported by rising domestic demand, increasing healthcare expenditure, expanding export opportunities, and India’s position as a global pharmaceutical manufacturing hub. The sector is also witnessing opportunities across complex generics, biosimilars, specialty drugs, contract devel-

opment and manufacturing, hospitals, diagnostics, and medical technology.

Longer-term trends, including an ageing population, a rising incidence of lifestyle-related diseases, increasing per capita income, and growing insurance penetration, are further supporting healthcare spending and creating opportunities across the broader healthcare ecosystem.

Commenting on the fund’s performance, Navneet Munot, Managing Director &

Chief Executive Officer, HDFC Asset Management Company Limited, said, “At HDFC Mutual Fund, our focus remains on identifying businesses that are well positioned to participate in these long-term trends. HDFC Pharma and Healthcare Fund follows a research-led, bottom-up approach that provides the flexibility to identify opportunities across the breadth of the healthcare ecosystem and across market capitalisations.”

HDFC Pharma and Healthcare Fund is managed by Nikhil Mathur. The fund’s performance underscores HDFC AMC’s focus on identifying and offering investment opportunities across emerging and long-term structural themes.

CM Sukhu meets Manohar Lal, discusses key issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu met Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal in New Delhi on Tuesday and discussed several important pending issues concerning Himachal Pradesh’s power sector. He urged the minister to facilitate their early resolution in the interest of the State.

The Chief Minister strongly raised the issue of providing Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) against Himachal Pradesh’s free power entitlement. He said the State should receive due benefits against its free power share and sought necessary clarification and an early resolution in the matter.

He also raised the issue of nominating two Independent Directors from Himachal Pradesh on the Board of Directors of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) and urged that the process be completed at the earliest, keeping the



interests of the State in view. The transfer of the Shanan Hydropower Project to Himachal Pradesh was another key issue discussed during the meeting. The CM said necessary action should be taken keeping in view Himachal Pradesh’s rights over the project and the interests of the State. The matter is presently sub judice.

The Chief Minister reiterated the State’s demand for providing one per cent additional free power after commissioning as Local Area Development Fund (LADF) for Central Sector hydropower projects commissioned

prior to the Hydropower Policy, 2008.

He said that as per the assessment of the State Government, the proposed arrangement is expected to provide Himachal Pradesh a gross annual benefit of approximately ₹29.34 crore, while the estimated annual burden on other beneficiary states would be around ₹96.57 crore. He further raised the issue of land acquired by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) in Himachal Pradesh that is presently not being utilised.

Union Power Minister Manohar Lal assured him of positive consideration of matters concerning Himachal Pradesh’s power interests. He also assured that necessary directions would be issued to the concerned officials and that all possible cooperation would be extended for the early resolution of the pending issues.

Chief Secretary Kamlesh Kumar Pant, Principal Advisor to the Chief Minister Ram Subhag Singh, Principal Secretary (Finance) Devesh Kumar and Secretary to the Chief Minister Rakesh Kanwar were also present in the meeting.

Ghaziabad development gets boost with property auction

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ghaziabad

Amid the rapidly expanding development activities and growing investment opportunities in Ghaziabad, the Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) has achieved a significant financial milestone through the auction of its properties.

The Authority conducted an auction of properties belonging to various categories on 7 September 2026 at Hindi Bhawan, Lohia Nagar, in which successful bids were received for a total of 10 properties.

The successful auction is expected to generate approximately ₹105.65 crore in revenue for the Authority. This achievement not only reflects the growing interest of investors in GDA properties but also clearly indicates the increasing demand for residential, commercial and institutional develop-



ment in Ghaziabad’s rapidly evolving urban landscape.

The auction included one residential plot in Indirapuram Extension Scheme; one shop and one residential plot in Indirapuram Gyan Khand-3; one residential plot in Gyan Khand-2; one group housing plot and one primary school plot in Koyal Enclave; one community centre plot in Vaishali Sector-3; two shop plots in the UP Border (Chikamberpur) Scheme; and one constructed community centre in Brij Vihar Scheme.

The successful bids received for these properties

demonstrate the continued strengthening of investor confidence in residential, commercial and institutional activities across Ghaziabad’s established as well as emerging growth areas. The entire auction process was conducted in a transparent, fair and competitive manner.

The GDA continues to work towards the effective and transparent disposal of its properties, while simultaneously focusing on the expansion of modern infrastructure and planned urban development across the city.

SBI plants 200 trees in Shahdara, Surajmal Vihar



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

The State Bank of India’s (SBI) Home Loan Centre East Delhi (15811) has planted 200 trees/saplings at CBD Shadara and Surajmal Vihar areas on Tuesday. It is one of the key focus areas under the Bank’s CSR initiatives. Plantation has been done at suitable, identified places in coordination with DDA and local authorities.

Adequate arrangements for post-plantation care, including watering, protection and regular monitoring, have been assured by the respective authorities.

The event was graced by AGM Rao Anil Singh, Chief Manager Nidhi, Manju and all staff members of HLC East Delhi (Karkardooma) unit. The event was successfully organised by Chief Manager VPS Rawat.

Tata Power Solarroof crosses five lakh rooftop solar installations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Tata Power Solarroof has surpassed 5 lakh rooftop solar installations across India and facilitated over ₹8,500 crore in solar financing in the country. According to a statement on Tuesday, the company has completed 5,19,673 installations (as of July 31, 2026), representing a 14 per cent market share, and is targeting 30 lakh installations by 2029.

Tata Power Solarroof has so far facilitated financing worth over ₹8,500 crore through a network of more than 25 financing partners, helping more consumers and businesses access rooftop solar solutions, it added.

Tata Power Solarroof, part of Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL), a subsidiary of Tata Power Company Ltd, has crossed the milestone of 5 lakh rooftop solar installations across India, marking a sig-



nificant step in the adoption of distributed renewable energy across residential, commercial and industrial segments.

With rooftop solar emerging as an increasingly attractive solution for reducing electricity costs and enhancing energy resilience, Tata Power Solarroof is expanding access through its nationwide ecosystem of over 700 channel partners and more than 250 authorised service partners.

This network enables the company to provide

localised support across the customer journey, from consultation and system design to installation, commissioning and after-sales service.

Under its ‘Quality Lifelong’ promise, Tata Power Solarroof combines high-efficiency solar modules with comprehensive warranties, financing options, insurance protection and service support.

Its solar modules come with 25/30-year performance warranties, while systems are backed by a minimum five-year warranty.

BRIEFLY

Junior hockey: India men beat South Korea in Asia Cup



Captain Anmol Ekka struck twice as the Indian junior men's hockey team ripped through South Korea's defences in a late surge for a 7-3 triumph that left it within touching distance of a semifinal berth in the Asia Cup here on Tuesday. The contest remained finely balanced for much of its duration, with South Korea matching India goal for goal, but the defending champions raised the intensity with a decisive three-goal burst in the final quarter.

The victory took India's tally to seven points from three matches, including two wins and a draw. India will face Chinese Taipei in their last pool match on Wednesday, knowing that a victory will seal their place in the last-four stage. Anmol once again led India's scoring effort, netting twice to take his tournament tally to eight goals. The match was an even battle in the opening three quarters. (PTI)

Mumbai City FC rope in Lazar Cirkovic on one-year deal



Mumbai City FC on Tuesday roped in Serbia's Lazar Cirkovic on a one-year deal for the 2026-27 Indian Super League season. The 34-year-old defender has previously played for Chennaiyin FC and Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League, apart from spending time at various clubs in Serbia. Cirkovic began his journey at Serbian SuperLiga club Rad in 2010 and later on moved to Palic on a loan. In 2014, Cirkovic joined FK Partizan and went on to make his debut at the UEFA Europa League fixture against Tottenham Hotspur.

During his four-year stint at FK Partizan, Cirkovic was a member of the sides which won two Serbian Superliga titles and one Serbian Cup. He has also represented FC Luzern in Switzerland, Maccabi Netanya FC in Israel and Kisvarda FC in Hungary, before moving to India to play for two different ISL teams. (PTI)



SHAKYA MITRA

There is perhaps no more difficult decision in sport than knowing when to walk away. For an ordinary athlete, retirement is often dictated by declining performance, injury or the emergence of a better player. For the truly great, however, the equation is considerably more complicated. When you have spent two decades redefining your sport, winning almost everything there is to win and becoming an institution rather than merely an athlete, when exactly are you supposed to say enough is enough?

Lionel Messi's decision to retire from international football brings that question sharply into focus.

At 39, Messi has decided that his journey with Argentina is over, following a 2026 World Cup in which Argentina reached the final before losing to Spain. Remarkably, his decision does not come because he can no longer compete. Messi was Argentina's standout player in the tournament.

His international career once appeared destined to be defined by disappointment. He lost the 2014 World Cup final and the Copa América finals of 2015 and 2016. After the latter defeat, at just 29, he even announced his international retirement.

He returned, of course, and what followed transformed his legacy. Argentina won the Copa América in 2021, the World Cup in 2022 and another Copa América in 2024.

Knowing when to go: The hardest decision for sporting greats

At 35, Messi arguably produced the finest international tournament of his career in Qatar.

Should he have retired then? Perhaps. It would have been a perfect ending. But Messi was still good enough to continue, and the desire to keep playing remained.

Four years later, at 39, he helped Argentina reach another World Cup final. His decision now is therefore less about an inability to compete and more about recognising that his journey with the national team has reached its natural conclusion.

Novak Djokovic finds himself facing a different version of the same dilemma.

Djokovic has achieved virtually everything tennis could offer him. In 2023, at 36, he won his 23rd and 24th Grand Slam titles, establishing himself as the record holder for singles grand slam titles in the

Open era. In 2024, he finally added the Olympic singles gold medal that had eluded him.

Yet the last two years have been different. Djokovic has not won a Grand Slam since 2024, while his 2026 US Open ended in extraordinary fashion with a first-round defeat, his first opening-round loss at a Grand Slam since 2006. Physical problems have also increasingly become part of the story.

At 39, the question is no longer whether Djokovic can still produce flashes of his old brilliance. Of course he can. The question is whether he can sustain the physical demands required to win seven matches at a Grand Slam.

That is a subtly different question, and one that another sporting giant confronted more than a decade ago.

Before the 2011 World Cup, Sachin Tendulkar was

still one of the most complete cricketers in the world. He had recently scored his 50th Test century, an unprecedented landmark, and yet one significant trophy remained missing from his cabinet: the ODI World Cup.

The 2011 tournament provided what seemed like the perfect ending. Tendulkar was India's leading run-scorer and, on April 2, 2011, India won the World Cup in Mumbai, his hometown. A few days short of turning 38, Tendulkar had finally achieved the dream that had eluded him through five previous World Cups.

It would have been almost cinematic had he announced his retirement that night.

But he didn't. And who could really have told him to?

Tendulkar was still good enough to play international cricket. He continued for another two and a half years, scoring his 100th international century in 2012 before eventually playing his 200th and final Test in Mumbai in November 2013.

More than a decade later, the retirement question will increasingly confront India's two modern batting giants, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli.

Rohit is already 39, while Kohli turns 38 in November. Both have retired from Test and T20I cricket, leaving ODI cricket as their remaining international stage.

And, much like

Tendulkar in 2011, there is a major unfinished chapter ahead: the 2027 ODI World Cup.

Rohit has never won an ODI World Cup, while Kohli was part of India's victorious 2011 squad, albeit as one of its younger players, long before he became the batting giant he is today. The 2027 tournament (subject to selection) could therefore become their equivalent of Tendulkar's 2011 moment, a final challenge that makes continuing worthwhile.

What connects Messi, Djokovic, Tendulkar, Rohit and Kohli is not simply longevity. All were identified as exceptional talents remarkably young and have spent close to two decades operating at the highest level. Their longevity is a product not only of extraordinary ability but also of an almost obsessive competitive instinct.

And therein lies the paradox. The mentality that makes champions great can also make retirement almost impossible. They have spent their entire lives refusing to accept decline, constantly searching for another challenge, another record, another trophy.

For sporting immortals, the hardest part of retirement is not knowing whether they can still compete. It is knowing when they no longer need to.

The author is a sports management consultant with over a decade of experience in sports promotion and development. His work across both the private and government sectors gives him a well-rounded view of India's sports ecosystem.

Mandaviya asks hockey teams to target Olympic qualification

MONA PARTHSARATHI ■ New Delhi

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has asked the Indian hockey teams to focus on identifying and rectifying their shortcomings rather than dwelling on World Cup performance, with the Asian Games now the priority to secure qualification for the Los Angeles Olympics.

Mandaviya held a review meeting on Monday with men's team coach Craig Fulton, captain Hamanpreet Singh, women's team coach Sjoerd Marijne and

captain Salima Tete and Hockey India officials following India's campaign at the recently concluded FIH World Cup. According to a ministry source, the meeting at the SAI headquarters lasted around an hour and was attended by captains and coaches of both teams. Sports Secretary Hari Ranjan Rao, Hockey India president Dilip Tirkey, secretary general Bholanath Singh, TOPS CEO NS Johal and senior officials of SAI were present. "The Sports Minister told both teams to forget the disappointment of the World Cup and aim to qualify for the Los Angeles Olympics with a strong performance at the Asian Games," the source said.



DAILY SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

HOW TO SOLVE IT

Sudoku is a logic puzzle where you fill a 9x9 grid so that numbers 1 to 9 appear once in every row, column, and 3x3 box, using elimination and logical deduction—no maths involved.

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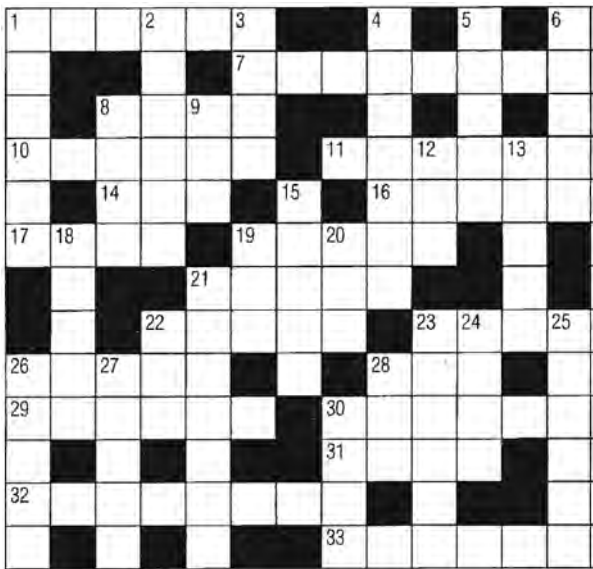


SOLUTION (8.9.26)

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

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DOUBLE CROSSWORD
WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 9, 2026



ACROSS

- On the road, it's an honour to be in a car (6)
- There's nothing Oriental about it (8)
- Attorney given thanks for the facts (4)
- Out to succeed, Ted was a twister! (6)
- Hate having only half a side for a match (11)
- Give extra publicity to the grand finale (3)
- Drive the enemy out! (5)
- As expected, rather like Julie (4)
- A heady trophy (5)
- Take over (5)

DOWN

- Took a broken crate to the trading centre (6)
- Drink that goes snappily with a biscuit (6)
- Dora's eccentric way (4)
- At night, is seen to be a bright little thing (7)
- No, and that's final (5)
- Stipulate the condition (5)
- Face the possibility of being laid up (4)
- Just the chap to make hay? (3)
- It's best worn above the waist (3)
- Hit ten again? (5)
- For which cars can be broken up - at a

- Not a goldfish, but maybe silver or bronze (5)
- Finish work during September, making a beehive (4)
- African river longer than an English one (5)
- Fierce word of reproach? (3)
- Complete in diplomacy (6)
- His Pilgrim was Christian (6)
- Spheres in which one's little brothers circulate (4)
- Agrees the competition is dishonest (8)
- Makes edgy progress with boys (6)

- parking place? (5)
- Such guerrillas are less than urbane (5)
- Understand the sense (3)
- Member of a popular movement (3)
- Spot that's a bit ticklish in a permissive way (7)
- Every brazen hussy has one (3)
- Sailor whose crime is serious (6)
- To the House? (4)
- Are their tails specially hairy? (6)
- The nothing we get from America (5)
- Pieces written in difficult times? (5)
- It may fly somewhat furiously (3)
- An outstanding leader (4)

SOLUTION (8.9.26)

ACROSS	19, Damon	DOWN	15, H-AB-it
1, Pleas	20, Le-ere-d	2, Loudly	16, Mate-d
6, Blago	22, A-ire	3, Assert	18, Colon
9, Sh-opp-ed	24, Sa-d	4, Shy	19, D-evil-ry
10, Hussy	25, Jousted	5, O-pens	21, E-aster
11, SE-N-SE	26, SI-MO-n	6, Best man	22, Ast-u-te
12, Knots	27, Stea-L	7, I'd-ES	23, Region
13, Florins	28, Put in	8, C-ashed	25, Joint
15, He-M	29, Iron out	12, Knead	26, Sail
17, Eyot	30, Truly	13, F-els	28, Pup (rev.)
18, Can-Ada	31, Penny	14, O-ozed	

Duleep Trophy final: Shami, Mukesh lead East Zone’s charge, restrict South to 242/6

G UNNIKRISHNAN ■ Chennai

Veteran pacer Mohammad Shami’s decisive blows while operating in short spells helped East Zone close in on the Duleep Trophy title, reducing South Zone to 242 for six on the third day of the final here on Tuesday.

Skipper Tilak Varma (56, 133b) and CV Milind (0) were batting at stumps after Shreyas Gopal (26) got out in the closing minutes of the day. South still trail by 466 runs and overhauling East’s humongous 708 is nearly impossible from this point.

Shami’s three spells on the day were - 3-2-1-0, 4-1-10-1 and 4-1-6-1 - for an overall 11-4-17-2 and the short bursts were, perhaps, prompted by the humid Chennai conditions.

While the numbers do not look intimidating, they offered ample evidence of Shami’s control over his craft and the ability to crank up when it mattered.

When the South Zone bowlers struggled for impact in the first two days on a docile pitch, Shami bowled a lovely stump-to-stump line, bringing back the memories of some of his remarkable Test match spells.

The right-arm pacer was incredibly persistent with his lengths, seldom



giving any room for batters to play their shots.

Shaikh Rasheed (29) and Devdutt Padikkal (62) were involved in a 56-run stand for the third wicket, looking good for something bigger.

But Shami intervened at that juncture, trapping Rasheed in front of the wicket with a peach which came in that little bit to avoid the forward prod

of the batter. The 36-year-old was summoned 20 overs later by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, who wore the captain’s band for a while in the absence of Ishan Kishan, and made an immediate impact.

The pacer jettisoned Ravichandran Smaran, whose partnership with South skipper Tilak had swollen to 45 by then.

The set up was impeccable. Shami started with a fuller delivery on the stumps and then followed it up with two deliveries that came in to the left-hander.

The fourth one moved away from Smaran, who feathered it to stumper Kumar Kushagra, who nudged Sooryavanshi into taking the DRS and the TV umpire upheld the appeal for a caught behind. Before that Padikkal looked set for another big knock while tackling East bowlers with characteristic solidity.

Fresh from his fruitful tour to Sri Lanka, the Karnataka batter cruised to a fifty in 65 balls, reaching the little landmark with a drilled four through third man off pacer Mukesh Kumar.

But the Bengal pacer had his revenge very soon. Mukesh bowled one on the pads of Padikkal, knowing the left-hander’s penchant to play the pick-up flick.

He indeed played that shot but did not time it that well, only to give substitute DP Das an easy catch in the deep. (PTI)

Important season for me: Mukesh after impressing in Duleep Trophy

G UNNIKRISHNAN ■ Chennai



Mukesh Kumar has boosted his India comeback efforts, taking 11 wickets so far in the ongoing Duleep Trophy and the pacer said the upcoming domestic season carries a lot of “importance” for him.

The Bengal pacer’s last appearance in India colours was in 2024, quietly getting pushed behind in the rush of some new-gen pacers like Prasidh Krishna and Gurnoor Brar.

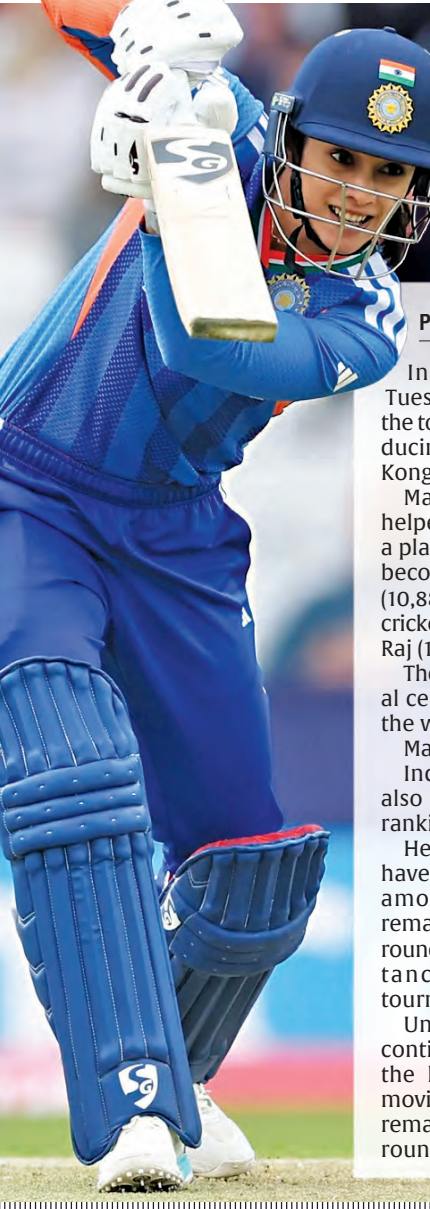
“This is a very important season for me because the Duleep Trophy is the first tournament of the season, and we are currently playing the final. To prepare for this, I arrived at the BCCI CoE some four days ahead of the Duleep Trophy,” East Zone’s Mukesh said after the third day of the Duleep Trophy final against South Zone here.

“I was focusing on how I wanted to bowl, training with the red ball, and working on fitness. Hopefully, the upcom-

ing Ranji Trophy season goes well too,” he said.

That red-ball preparation did not go in vain as Mukesh played a big role in East’s victory over Central Zone in the semifinal at the Centre of Excellence grounds, taking seven wickets. He carried that form onto the title clash here as well, already plucking the important wickets of in-form Devdutt Padikkal and Narayan Jagadeesan.

“Yes, the plan against Devdutt was to bowl stump-to-stump because if I bowled outside off, we knew he was coming off two centuries in Sri Lanka. On wickets like this, if you offer width to batters, runs will leak. “Our plan as fast bowlers was to stay as consistent as possible and bowl dot balls, letting them take the risks. They would try to force the pace and get out because they need to score runs,” he said. The South Zone pacers were trying to purchase wickets through short-pitched deliveries but that strategy did not yield any results as East piled up 708 runs in their first innings. (PTI)



Mandhana strengthens her position in T20 rankings

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

India opener Smriti Mandhana on Tuesday strengthened her position inside the top five of the ICC T20 rankings after producing a remarkable 124 against Hong Kong in the ongoing Women’s Asia Cup.

Mandhana’s 64-ball innings not only helped India secure a 137-run victory and a place in the semi-finals but also saw her become the all-time leading run-scorer (10,880 runs) in women’s international cricket across all formats, surpassing Mithali Raj (10,868).

The innings was also her 18th international century, moving her clear at the top of the women’s international centuries list.

Mandhana is ranked fifth in the standings. India all-rounder Deepti Sharma has also made notable progress in the T20I rankings.

Her contributions with both bat and ball have lifted her two slots into sixth position among the leading bowlers and she remains strong in fifth place among the all-rounders, underlining her continued importance to India’s success in the tournament.

United Arab Emirates captain Esha Oza continues to underline her status as one of the leading Associate Member players, moving to 39th among the T20I batters and remaining just outside the top 20 in the all-rounders’ rankings.

Cricket Australia approves privatisation in BBL, Melbourne Renegades up for sale

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Melbourne

Cricket Australia on Tuesday approved private investment in its flagship T20 event, the Big Bash League, clearing the decks for Melbourne Renegades sale in full even though the country’s players’ body said “significant issues remain unresolved” in the new plan. CA announced that it would invite bids from private owners for a 100 per cent stake in Melbourne Renegades. But the

Australian Cricketers Association (ACA) CEO Paul Marsh said the two bodies remain a “long way apart on a new agreement” which includes a renegotiated pay deal with the players.

The new ownership in the franchise will be in place for the 2027-28 Big Bash League and Women’s Big Bash League seasons, and the sale process will have no impact on the upcoming seasons of the BBL and the WBBL this Australian summer, reported cricket.com.au. The

Melbourne Renegades is being run in a caretaker mode by CA.

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We understand your world

Registered Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Panel (West), Mumbai - 400 013 and having one of its office as Retail Portfolio Management at HDFC Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjurmarg (East), Mumbai - 400042.

SALE INTIMATION AND NOTICE FOR SALE OF SECURITIES PLEDGED TO HDFC BANK LTD.

The below mentioned Borrowers of HDFC Bank Ltd. (the "Bank") are hereby notified regarding the sale of securities pledged to the Bank, for availing credit facilities in the nature of Loans/Overdraft/Against Securities.

Due to persistent default by the Borrowers in making repayment of the outstanding dues as per agreed loans / facilities terms, the below loan / facilities accounts are in delinquent status or classified as NPA (Non-Performing Asset). The Bank has issued multiple notices / loan recall notice to these Borrowers, including the final sale notice on the mentioned date whereby, Bank had invoked the pledge and provided 7 days' time to the Borrower to repay the entire outstanding dues in the below accounts, failing which, Bank would be at liberty to sell the pledged securities without issuing further notice in this regard. The Borrowers have neglected and failed to make due repayments, therefore, Bank in exercise of its rights under the loan agreement as a pledgee has decided to sell / dispose off the Securities on or after **16th September 2026** for recovering the dues owed by the Borrowers to the Bank. The Borrowers are hereby notified to treat this as a notice of sale in compliance of section 176 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872. The Borrowers are, also, notified that, if at any time, the value of the pledged securities falls further due to volatility in the stock market to create further deficiency in the margin requirement then Bank shall at its discretion sell the pledged security within one (1) calendar day, without any further notice in this regard. The Borrower(s) shall remain liable to the Bank for repayment of any remaining outstanding amount, post adjustment of the proceeds from sale of pledged securities.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Borrower's Name	Outstanding Amount as on 06 th Sep 2026	Date of Sale Notice
1	XXXXXXXXXXXX1960	AMIT MADAN	3,45,468.13	07-09-2026
2	XXXXXXXXXXXX3426	SANJEEV KUMAR JOSHI	4,00,824.38	07-09-2026
3	XXXXXXXXXXXX8130	NITIN MEHRA	7,444.75	07-09-2026
4	XXXXXXXXXXXX1340	ANKIT CHOCHAN	2,140.00	07-09-2026
5	XXXXXXXXXXXX7615	MANISHA GUSAIN	2,13,907.99	07-09-2026
6	XXXXXXXXXXXX3768	HIMANSHU SAHNI	5,15,208.63	07-09-2026
7	XXXXXXXXXXXX7905	SHIVAM SHARMA	4,68,383.02	07-09-2026
8	XXXXXXXXXXXX8581	SHIVANGI JOSHI	7,00,627.66	07-09-2026
9	XXXXXXXXXXXX2480	NEHA SAHAY	1,45,632.17	07-09-2026
10	XXXXXXXXXXXX4771	MAMTA ARYA	94,852.82	07-09-2026
11	XXXXXXXXXXXX9329	ROHIT GROVER	1,92,708.00	07-09-2026
12	XXXXXXXXXXXX3300	CHAARVI SINGHAL	11,07,732.50	07-09-2026
13	XXXXXXXXXXXX5701	ARPITA VATSAL	1,09,325.12	07-09-2026
14	XXXXXXXXXXXX3754	PRAVEEN SAHU	12,02,277.00	07-09-2026
15	XXXXXXXXXXXX9842	POONAM ARORA	7,54,613.83	07-09-2026

Date : 09.09.2026 | Place : UTTARAKHAND Sd/- HDFC BANK LTD.

Warner captain of Australia Champions in WCL Season 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Melbourne

David Warner was on Tuesday named captain of the Australia Champions team, now owned by Ricky Ponting, for the third season of the World Championship of Legends. Ponting



was also revealed the owner of the franchise along with Puneet Singh as the team unveiled a new identity ahead of the third season. Warner was named as the latest marquee addition to the squad in an event here.

Real Madrid faces Inter Milan in Champions League as Mourinho aims for another title

JAMES ROBSON ■ Madrid

Real Madrid kicks off its Champions League campaign against Inter Milan on Tuesday, with new coach Jose Mourinho aiming to win the trophy for a third time. Mourinho is back at Madrid for a second spell after last managing the club in from 2010-13. He won a league title and the Spanish cup during that time, but not the Champions League. Since then Madrid has gone on to dominate European club soccer’s biggest trophy, winning it six more times and extending its record to 15 titles.

And while another Champions League would see Mourinho join Pep Guardiola, Luis Enrique, Zinedine Zidane and Bob Paisley on three wins, he doesn’t feel the need to make up for the fact that he was unable to lift the trophy when he was last at Madrid.

“I finished my work here in 2013. We won what we won, and we lost what we lost. We gave everything, but it’s a closed chapter,” Mourinho said. “This has nothing to do with the past -



absolutely nothing. These are two different moments in Real Madrid’s history.

“In 2010, they hadn’t reached the quarterfinals in years, nor had they played a semifinal in many years. Now, it’s a Real Madrid that has won in the last 10 years. These are two different moments, but it doesn’t change my way of thinking. If you ask me if I’m excited about winning the Champions League with Real Madrid, obviously yes, but completely separate from any context of not having achieved it previously.” Madrid hosts Mourinho’s former club Inter at the Santiago Bernabeu. (AP)

**इण्डियन ओवरसीज बैंक**

Shivalk Nagar Branch (2901) D-17, Elysium Hotel, Ground Floor, Shivalik Nagar, Haridwar- 249402, E-mail: lob2901@iob.in

E-AUCTION (SALE NOTICE) FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Borrower & Mortgages- Mr. Utkarsh Veer Rana S/o Pankaj Pundir Khasra No-625/2, Ward no-58, Anand Vihar Colony, Behind The Advent School, Football Ground Road, Village- Jagjitpur Mustekam, Pargana Jwalapur, Distt- Haridwar- 249408, Uttarakhand. Borrower 2- Mr. Vardhman Rana S/o Pankaj Pundir Khasra No-625/2, Ward no-58, Anand Vihar Colony, Behind The Advent School, Football Ground Road, Village- Jagjitpur Mustekam, Pargana Jwalapur, Distt- Haridwar-249408, Uttarakhand. Also at, Mr. Utkarsh Veer Rana S/o Pankaj Pundir, 203/1, Near Main Road, Village- Akaudha Aurangzebpur Haridwar, Laksar, -247663, Uttarakhand. Mr. Vardhman Rana S/o Pankaj Pundir, 203/1, Near Main Road, Village- Akaudha Aurangzebpur, Haridwar, Laksar, -247663, Uttarakhand. Guarantor: Mr. Gourav Tyagi S/o Satyavir Singh Tyagi Ramdham Colony, Rawali Mahdood, Haridwar, Uttarakhand-249402, Also at, Gourav Tyagi S/o Satyavir Singh Tyagi Vard No-58, Anand Vihar Colony, Village- Jagjitpur Mustekam, Pargana Jwalapur Distt- Haridwar-249408.

S. No.	Name of the Branch & Name & Address of Borrowers /Mortgagors/ Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Property/ies	Outstanding Amount	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amount	Date and Time of e-Auction & Type of Possession	A/C, I FSC Code for Bid Submission & Name of the A/C
1.	Branch: Shivalik Nagar (2901) Borrower & Mortgages- Mr. Utkarsh Veer Rana S/o Pankaj Pundir Khasra No-625/2, Ward no-58, Anand Vihar Colony, Behind The Advent School, Football Ground Road, Village- Jagjitpur Mustekam, Pargana Jwalapur, Distt- Haridwar- 249408, Uttarakhand. Borrower 2- Mr. Vardhman Rana S/o Pankaj Pundir Khasra No-625/2, Ward no-58, Anand Vihar Colony, Behind The Advent School, Football Ground Road, Village- Jagjitpur Mustekam, Pargana Jwalapur, Distt- Haridwar-249408, Uttarakhand. Also at, Mr. Utkarsh Veer Rana S/o Pankaj Pundir, 203/1, Near Main Road, Village- Akaudha Aurangzebpur Haridwar, Laksar, -247663, Uttarakhand. Mr. Vardhman Rana S/o Pankaj Pundir, 203/1, Near Main Road, Village- Akaudha Aurangzebpur, Haridwar, Laksar, -247663, Uttarakhand. Guarantor: Mr. Gourav Tyagi S/o Satyavir Singh Tyagi Ramdham Colony, Rawali Mahdood, Haridwar, Uttarakhand-249402, Also at, Gourav Tyagi S/o Satyavir Singh Tyagi Vard No-58, Anand Vihar Colony, Village- Jagjitpur Mustekam, Pargana Jwalapur Distt- Haridwar-249408.	Residential Building belonging to Khasra No-625/2 situated at Anand Vihar Colony, Village-Jagjitpur Musthakam, Pargana Jwalapur, Distt- Haridwar owned by Sri Utkarsh Veer Rana & Sri Vardhman Rana Extent & Boundaries:- 920 Sq. Ft. i.e. 85.50 Sq. Mt. of Total Land area and Building Constructed thereupon.East: 23.0 Ft. adjoining CC road 20' Wide,West: 23.0 ft. adjoining with house of Himanshu Joshi, North: 40.0 ft.adjoining House of Subh -ash Adlakha, South:40.0 ft adjoining with CC Road 25 feet Wide	Rs. 33,79,302.06/- as on 07.09.2026 along with further interest from	Rs. 40,30,000/- Rs. 4,03,000/- Rs. 15,000/-	24.09.2026 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM with Auto extension of time by 10 minutes if the bid is placed in the last minutes	A/C No.29010113035001 Branch Code: 2901 IFSC: IOBA0002901
2.	Branch: Shivalik Nagar (2901) Borrower: M/s Big Shoe Bazaar, A-1 C/o Big Shoe Bazar New Shopping Complex Shivalik Nagar Haridwar Uttarakhand- 249403. Proprietor: Mr. Avaneesh Kumar resident of H.No. 16, Type-3, Medical Colony, Sec.-1 BHEL Haridwar- 249403, Uttarakhand and Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mrs.Rekha W/o Sri Ranjeet Kashyap, Resident of 365 Maliyan, Jwalapur,Haridwar- 249403, Uttarakhand	Equitable mortgage of Residential Property situated at Khasra No.1095 Mohalla Maidaniyan (within limits of Nagar (Nigam Haridwar) Tehsil- Jwalapur, Distt- Haridwar admeasuring 92.907Sqmtr situated in the name of Mrs. Rekha w/o Ranjeet Kashyap Bounded as On the North by:10 ft road On the South by:Property of Others On the East by: Property of Seller On the West by:Plot of Swarnp Das	Rs. 10,04,019.35/- as on 07.09.2026 along with further interest from	Rs. 15,00,000/- Rs. 1,50,000/- Rs. 15,000/-	24.09.2026 From 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM with Auto extension of time by 10 minutes if the bid is placed in the last minutes	A/C No.29010113035001 Branch Code: 2901 IFSC: IOBA0002901

Known Encumbrance to the best of our Knowledge, Outstanding dues as Applicable of Local, Self, Government (Property Tax, Water Sewerage, Electricity Bill etc.)

Submission of online application for bid with EMD : 09.09.2026 to 23.09.2026 onwards

Last date for submission of online application for BID with EMD : 23.09.2026 (Before 05.00 PM)

For further details regarding inspection of property / e-auction, the intending bidders may contact Indian Overseas Bank, D-17 Ground Floor Hotel Elysium Shivalik Nagar Haridwar Uttarakhand -249403 Contact No.01334- 8755307876 during office hours, or the Bank's approved service provider e-bkay having Registered office at Unit 1, 3rd Floor, VIOS Commercial Tower, Near Wadala Truck Terminal, Wadala East. Mumbai-400 037 (contact Phone & Toll-free Numbers +91 8291220220 and email id support.ebkay@psballiance.com.Bidders/Purchasers are required to participate in e-auction process at e-auction Service Provider's website https://ebkay.in For Term and Conditions please visit (Web Portal) https://ebkay.in or www.iob.in

For Term and Conditions please visit (Web Portal) https://ebkay.in or www.iob.in

Date: 08.09.2026

Authorized Officer, Indian Overseas Bank