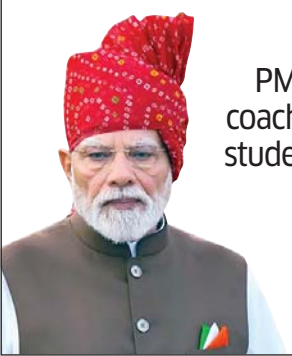


PAGE 7

NATION

PM Modi: Free coaching to reduce student fee burden



PAGE 10

LAW & JUSTICE

SC dismisses BDPL's plea, brings one of India's longest-running corporate disputes to end



PAGE 11

AVENUES

Perspective turns knowledge into wisdom



PAGE 12

GLOBAL

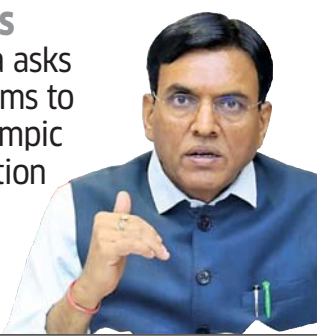
Indian envoy Trivedi meets Bangladesh president



PAGE 15

SPORTS

Mandaviya asks hockey teams to target Olympic qualification



Freight corridors driving growth: PM

Taking aim at his critics in Vadodara, the PM said the Opposition will invent fresh objections even as infrastructure grows

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Vadodara

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday underlined the robustness of the Indian economy and growth despite global turbulence and took a dig at the Opposition terming it *naraz fufa* (grumpy uncle).

Speaking at the inauguration of three key sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, connecting Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Navi Mumbai with Dadri in Uttar Pradesh, and marking the project's completion, the PM praised the administration's pace of execution and called the former Congress-led UPA regime's working speed sluggish.

"After 2014, India built 50,000 modern rail coaches. The previous regime could not build even 50,000 toilets in 10 years," he said. Making these assertions at a public programme, including a large number of youth at Vadodara



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the gathering during the 'NaMo for Viksit Bharat' event, in Vadodara, Gujarat on Tuesday

after launching and laying foundation stone of projects worth over ₹35,000 crores, he took a jibe at the Opposition over the newly inaugurated dedicated freight corridor.

Targeting senior Rahul Gandhi without naming him, the PM said the opponents would always find fault with

major infrastructure milestones such as the newly inaugurated freight corridor. The PM said critics would still complain like a *naraz fufa* and manufacture grievances. "Now, the *naraz fufa* will start shouting: What will happen to the truck drivers? Where will the trucks go?

What about the trucks people have purchased? Now, he has found something new to complain about," the PM said. The cultural reference to the *fufa* (uncle) was apparently used because in several parts of the country the paternal aunt's husband is often portrayed as a senior person who

is easily offended, is hard to please at family events, and perpetually complains about innocuous things.

Attacking the Congress, the Prime Minister charged the Opposition with misguiding the youth and said "Saathiyo, *jhooth ki goonj se bharmane wale toh har chauraha par mil jayenge, Jekin Bharat ka naujawan sach ki hunkaar se chalta hai... Satya ki hunkaar ke liye chalta hai* (At every nook and corner, you will find people who will try to mislead you through lies, but today's youth will stand with the truth)," PM Modi said.

A double-stack container freight train, where containers are stacked one atop the other, was operated from the JNPT port in Mumbai to Vadodara recently and with the operation of that train volume of cargo equivalent to over 250 trucks was transported between the two cities in a single trip, PM Modi said.

CONTINUED ON >> P4



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2026, in Mumbai

Expand UPI, save on remittance cost: PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday exhorted the fintech ecosystem to further expand the global reach of India's unified payments interface (UPI), connect it with other countries' local systems and help the diaspora save on remittance costs.

In his address after inaugurating the 7th edition of the Global Fintech Fest, Modi said the Indian economy's 7.8 per cent real GDP expansion gave confidence to the world at large because the performance came in a challenging quarter when the impact of the West Asia conflict was the highest.

Urging the fintech (financial technology) ecosystem to not rest on the

laurels of the past decade that saw real-time payments using UPI rise to 24.51 billion transactions, as of August this year, the PM said the next aim should be to expand UPI's global reach.

He said the focus should be on countries that are home to a large Indian diaspora, have high trade volumes with India or are willing to partner with New Delhi in connecting their systems.

"This is essential because Indians work in large numbers in foreign countries. They are the largest remitters of money. A part of the remittances goes away as transaction costs; UPI can help in saving on these costs and the money can also reach families faster," he said.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

Security scare before PM's Mumbai visit

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
■ New Delhi/Mumbai

A major security scare was averted on Monday evening, hours before the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit, to the Bandra-Kurla Complex in Mumbai after two men were arrested for allegedly forcing their way into a shopping mall in the area while carrying a firearm and fake identity card of the PMO. The PM was scheduled to open the Global Fintech Fest



Accused Rohan Parekh in white mask in Mumbai

2026 on Wednesday at the adjacent Jio World Centre.

Mumbai Police have identified Rohan Parekh, a 24-year-old man from Khar who runs a drone technology business, as the main suspect. He was accompanied by Dilip Kunde, who is said to have acted as his bodyguard. Together with a third person who is still missing, the two attempted to enter the plaza using what appeared to be an official document; however, security prevented them when the document could not be verified.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

The Bystander



Seven foreigners face NIA charges

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
■ New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against seven foreign nationals, including US citizen Matthew Aaron Van Dyke. They are accused of entering, staying and moving around India illegally. They face charges under Sections 21 and 23 of the Immigration and Foreigners Act.

Although the case was first registered as a terror conspiracy with alleged links to

Modi-Putin meet before BRICS

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday, ahead of the BRICS Summit, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said.

The meeting will be the second interaction between the two leaders in recent weeks. Modi and Putin met last month on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. During that meeting, Modi called for an end to the prolonged war in Ukraine.

According to Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov,



PM Modi and the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin during the 6th World Nomad Games at Bishkek Arena Stadium, in Kyrgyzstan on August 31, 2026.

speaking at a press conference organised by Sputnik News for Indian journalists in Delhi, the upcoming talks are expected to focus on strengthening bilateral cooperation,

with discussions covering development, security, counterterrorism, efforts to combat drug trafficking, and cooperation in the space sector.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

Hanuman idol in MP stays put after four relocation attempts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ujjain

A temple dedicated to Hanuman in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, has created a buzz over social media after repeated attempts to remove the idol failed as the temple was pulled down for road widening.

The Khade Hanuman temple is located along the Kanchal Chauraha-Chhatra Chowk road in Ujjain,



An idol of Hanuman in Gwalior. Representative image

where road-widening work is under way. The road work is underway as part of preparations for Simhashta 2028, when Ujjain is expected to see a big inflow of pilgrims. Simhashta is a major festival held in Ujjain, once every 12 years. It is one of the four Kumbh Mela gatherings, where millions of devotees visit Ujjain to take a holy dip in the Shipra River.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

PIONEER IN SHORT

MEA DISTANCES FROM EIFFEL TOWER ROW

The Ministry of External Affairs on Tuesday said the controversy over a BAPS delegation's visit to the Eiffel Tower was a matter between the organisations directly involved. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India was aware of the inauguration of a BAPS Hindu temple near Paris but declined to comment on the specific dispute at the landmark. The controversy followed reports that female Eiffel Tower employees were moved from their regular work areas during a visit by around 100 people associated with Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS). French unions protested the reported arrangements, under which some duties were temporarily assigned to male employees. The Eiffel Tower was closed for a day before reopening.



Six Ukrainians and a US national being produced before the Patiala House Court, in New Delhi on Monday, March 16, 2026

ethnic armed groups, the agency did not invoke the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on the seven. The agency submitted the chargesheet before the court of the Special Judge Prashant Sharma.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

HIMACHAL RECORDS 99.55% LITERACY

Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday received a national award on International Literacy Day for achieving a 99.55 per cent literacy rate under the New India Literacy Programme (ULLAS). Education Minister Rohit Thakur received the honour in Delhi and credited teachers, students and government officials for the achievement. Himachal, declared fully literate on September 8, 2025, with a literacy rate of 99.3 per cent, now ranks second nationally behind Goa, which has 99.7 per cent literacy. Thakur said ULLAS, launched nationally in 2022-23 and implemented in Himachal Pradesh from 2023-24, has covered all 12 districts. As many as 94,930 learners have been identified and registered on the ULLAS portal, while 19,232 volunteer teachers have been registered and trained.

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
■ New Delhi

The elite National Security Guard in India has brought its anti-terror measures into the open. On Tuesday, as part of Operation BRICS Kavach, almost 100 commandos carried out a series of simulated drills at four locations in the national Capital -- Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Rajghat, Bharat Mandapam and the Army Polo Ground -- as New Delhi tightens security around the 18th BRICS Summit this weekend.

The exercises ran from 11.30 am to 2 pm, about four hours, and each was timed so each location could be treated as a live situation, not merely a demonstration. At JLN Stadium and Rajghat, the commandos exited the hovering helicopters, descended via ropes, and took control of

the ground within seconds. At Bharat Mandapam, the real summit venue at Pragati Maidan, the other teams carried out drills involving room clearance, casualty extraction and crisis command.

At the Army Polo Ground, they carried out the same sequence of attack-and-rescue drills. After the 26/11 attacks on Mumbai, the Delhi Police SWAT units also conducted their operations there. Officials said the aim was not to put on a show, but to activate the integrated terrorism crisis system while foreign leaders were in the city.

The current method has the Delhi Police and other agencies take the first position, with the NSG last. The exercises simulated hostage situations, armed intrusions and rapid insertion; these are the three tasks for which



NSG during Republic Day parade in 2021. Representative image

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The Satya Niketan building collapse has reached the Supreme Court in the proceedings arising from the Loknathan vs Government of Tamil Nadu case, with court-appointed Amicus Curiae Senior Advocate Ajit Kumar Sinha placing the incident report. The report flagged a serious concern over recurring structural failures in the area and sought directions from the SC to expand its ongoing court-monitored inspection drive against illegal construction to cover PG accommodations, private hostels and similar student housing across Delhi.

Sinha in his report highlighted that Satya Niketan had not been covered under the SC's earlier inspection directions, which were confined to Lajpat Nagar, Saket and Malviya Nagar amid con-



NDRF, Fire department officials at the site after a boys' hostel collapsed Delhi on Sunday

cerns over unsafe and unauthorised buildings. The report noted that Satya Niketan, located near Delhi University's South Campus and home to a large number of PGs, private hostels, and student accommodations, has witnessed similar incidents in the past,

the force was established. The most noticeable moment of the day was a helicopter making a high-risk descent, a technique used when roads are blocked or a building must be attacked from above; similar manoeuvres are planned this week.

Someone familiar with the operation said a separate playbook would be prepared for each scenario so that, if anything goes wrong during the summit, there would be no need to improvise. Bharat Mandapam is where the leaders will sit, and Rajghat and JLN Stadium sit on the ceremonial and movement grid of central Delhi.

The Polo Ground provides open space for air-land exercises, and together they cover the venue, the memorial, the stadium, and the insertion zone. The political calendar determines the pace.

India will host the two-day leaders' summit on 12 and 13 September at Bharat Mandapam. Prime Minister Narendra Modi leads the group in a year that also marks 20 years of BRICS.

The official theme is Humanity First, focusing on building resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. Leaders from member and partner countries, as well as those invited to the event, are expected to reach the Capital this week. Although India has held the chairmanship since 1 January, authorities say more than 350 meetings have already taken place in over 25 cities, covering three standard areas: political and security issues, economic and financial matters, and people-to-people links.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

STF arrests two brothers in cheating and fraud case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force has arrested two brothers who were wanted in connection with a cheating and fraud case registered in Budaun, the police said on Tuesday.

The accused have been identified as Shashikant Maurya and Suryakant Maurya, sons of Narayan Singh and residents of Chand Khan near Isaai Ki Pulia in

Baradari area of Bareilly. Both carried cash rewards of ₹50,000 each.

Acting on a tip-off, a field unit team of Noida STF raided Mansarovar in Krishnanagar area of Lucknow and apprehended both fugitives on Monday evening. During interrogation, the accused revealed that they ran fake financial companies to dupe the public.

Shashikant previously worked as a field agent for a finance company before

launching his own private firms in 2016. These companies lured the public by assuring high returns and promising to double the money in short periods and offering loans to those who opened fixed deposit accounts.

They collected a huge amount from people in Bareilly and Budaun, but instead of returning the money, they closed their offices and fled.

The brothers had been

changing locations and hiding to evade arrest. They initially hid in Uttam Nagar, Delhi, for about eight months before shifting to Krishnanagar area in Lucknow. Several criminal cases involving cheating, forgery and criminal breach of trust have been registered against them in Budaun and Bareilly police stations.

Following their arrest in Lucknow, both accused were handed over to the Kotwali police of Budaun.

Head constable held for murdering wife

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

A head constable of Uttar Pradesh Police was arrested for allegedly murdering his 38-year-old wife during a domestic dispute at their rented accommodation in the Paper Mill colony under the Mahanagar police station.

The victim, Rashmi Srivastava, had sustained fatal head injuries after being repeatedly struck with an iron pestle. The accused, identified as 40-year-old Himanshu Srivastava, a 2011-batch head constable currently posted at the police

office in Daliganj, had attacked his wife following an argument. The matter came to light after the victim's family became anxious as Rashmi did not answer phone calls, prompting her brother, Saurabh Srivastava, to visit the house where he found her body in a pool of blood. The police reached the spot after being informed and apprehended the accused. An FIR was registered under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita based on a complaint filed by the victim's brother. Police recovered the murder weapon, mobile phones and

a blood-stained T-shirt from the spot. The accused was presented before a court which sent him to judicial custody.

Minor held

A minor involved in a series of thefts was held by the Lucknow Police and stolen articles were recovered from him during a raid in the Ashiyana area on Tuesday. Mewalal Saroj of LDA Colony on Kanpur Road had reported that copper electric wires had been stolen from his under-construction house on March 27 night. The 17-year-

old minor was apprehended after the Ashiyana police raided a place at PWD Road area near Bangla Bazar and recovered a bundle of copper wire and a half-burnt black cable bundle from his possession. During questioning, the minor admitted to his involvement in theft and confessed that earlier he had stolen cash from the donation box of the Dakshinmukhi Hanuman Temple in Ashiyana. Police said that the juvenile has a history of prior criminal offences.

Man assaulted, threatened over dues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

A man was assaulted with an iron rod and threatened with death after he went to ask for pending payments for construction materials in the Para area here.

Mohammad Saif of Wazirbagh filed a complaint stating that his brother, Nasruddin, runs a cement and steel shop. According

to the complainant, a customer named Pintu Sharma had previously purchased building materials from the shop on credit but failed to clear the dues.

On September 7 between 6:30 pm and 7 pm, Nasruddin went to Pintu Sharma's house accompanied by Mohammad Salman to collect the pending

payment. When Nasruddin asked for the money, Pintu Sharma reportedly began hurling abuses, came out of his house and struck Nasruddin on the head with an iron rod, causing a head injury. Mohammad Salman intervened and managed to rescue him.

The victim also alleged that the attacker threatened him with death before fleeing. Nasruddin was

rushed to a hospital for treatment. Based on the complaint, the Para police have registered a case under relevant sections of the BNS, including provisions for voluntarily causing hurt with a dangerous weapon and criminal intimidation. Sub-inspector Vibhor Singh has been assigned to investigate the matter and officials are currently

gathering evidence to take further legal action.

Shopkeeper assaulted

A shopkeeper was assaulted and stones were pelted at the shop after he asked for payment for almond milkshake from the costumers in Para. The attackers also allegedly looted around ₹3,000 from his shop. The shopkeeper informed the police by calling the 112 emergency number and later submitted a complaint to the Para police station late at night. In his complaint, Mukesh Gurjar stated that he is a native of Kanpura in Bhilwara, Rajasthan. For the past 15 years, he has been living in a rented house in the Buhar Phatak area under the Para police station and runs a stall at Buddheshwar Mahadev Temple gate. The police stated that an investigation is underway based on the complaint.

Light and sound show kicks off at Smritika War Memorial

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

Light and sound show kicked off at the Smritika War Memorial here on Tuesday. A narrator's voice filled the amphitheatre, beams of light travelled across the memorial walls and stories of soldiers unfolded through music, projection and cinematic sound.

For 35 minutes, military history moved beyond plaques and textbooks to become something visitors could watch, hear and feel.

Officials said that with fixed weekly timings now in

place, Lucknow residents and tourists could more easily include the laser, light and sound show at Smritika War Memorial in their evening plans. The schedule also provides two presentations on weekends, offering more options to families, students and visitors exploring the state capital.

The show will run every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 pm to 7:35 pm. On Saturday and Sunday, two shows will be held – from 7 pm to 7:35 pm and from 8 pm to 8:35 pm. The show will remain closed on Monday and Thursday.

Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh said, "Under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state government is creating tourism experiences that allow people to engage with history in a more direct and memorable way. The fixed schedule at Smritika will make it easier for families, students, young people and tourists to plan their visit."

He added that the courage and sacrifice of our soldiers should reach every generation, and this show presents that legacy in a form that people can see, hear and remember.

Factory worker killed in accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

A factory worker was killed after being hit by a speeding vehicle in Bindauva area of Mohanlalganj on Monday evening. The speeding vehicle hit the woman who worked at a gutkha (chewing tobacco) factory. She was initially taken to a private hospital from where she was referred to Community Health Centre but she died on the way.

The victim was identified as Nazia Khatoun of Jiyamau in Sitapur.

Woman loses life in mishap

A 21-year-old woman died after being hit by an unknown vehicle in Telibagh market under PGI police station.

The accident occurred around 6 am in front of the Vardani Hanuman Temple on Tuesday. After being hit,

the woman fell onto the road severely injured.

On receiving information, a 108 ambulance reached the spot and rushed the injured Tahseen Bano (21) of Brij Vihar Colony in Telibagh to the Apex Trauma Centre in PGI. Doctors there declared her dead after examination. Her family rushed to the hospital on learning about the accident. According to her family, Tahseen worked at a call centre in Gomti Nagar. She was the eldest of three sisters. The police have sent the body for post-mortem examination. The police are searching for the unknown vehicle and its driver.

Girl rescued, reunited with family

The Lucknow police rescued a six-year-old girl who had wandered away from her home and reunited her with her family on Tuesday. The Dial-112 control

room received an emergency call reporting that a child had gone missing from her house in the Kakori area. The police formed a team led by S-Is Shailendra Kumar Gupta, Shivam Vidhuri and Vikas Yadav to launch an immediate search. Officers scoured the surrounding neighbourhoods and gathered information from locals, who reported seeing a little girl heading towards Raipur locality. Acting on the tip off, the police team rushed to the Raipur-Dubagga area.

They located the child sitting near a tent shop close to Raipur crossing. Witnesses noted that she had been sitting there alone and crying for a long time. Upon questioning, the girl stated that she lives near the canal in Narauna village under the Kakori police station. Police took her into custody, completed necessary legal formalities and handed her back to her family.

Man hangs self in Bakshi Ka Talab

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

A 48-year-old man allegedly hanged himself to death in his house in Bhaismau under Bakshi Ka Talab police station on Tuesday morning. The deceased was identified as Arvind of Bhainsamau. According to police, Arvind was suffering from liver infection and took the extreme step due to distress caused by his illness.

On seeing him hanging from the ceiling of the room, the family members rushed him to the Ram Sagar Mishra 100-Bedded Hospital in Sadhamau, where doctors declared him dead.

Theft

Thieves stole bundles of electric wire from an under-construction flat in Para, Lucknow.

The theft came to light

on the Tuesday.

Acting on a complaint from the victim, the police have registered a case and initiated an investigation. The theft has been captured on a nearby CCTV camera.

Rajendra Shukla of Para informed the police that his shop is located opposite Sai Temple.

Construction work for a flat is underway above the shop. Electric wires were installed in this under-construction flat about three days ago.

It is alleged that thieves entered the flat at night and

cut away all the installed electric wires.

Rajendra discovered the theft on Tuesday morning.

He checked the CCTV footage from cameras installed nearby, which showed three youths entering the under-construction flat around 12:45 am on Tuesday.

A short while later all three youths were seen exiting the premises carrying the electric wires.

Based on the complaint, the Para police have registered a case and started an investigation.

डी.ए.वी. कॉलेज, कानपुर

आवश्यकता

महाविद्यालय में चतुर्थ श्रेणी कर्मचारी- कारपेंटर (बढ़ई) का एक पद (एकल पद) रिक्त है। उक्त रिक्त पद हेतु न्यूनतम शैक्षिक अर्हता, तेतनमान एवं आयुसीमा आदि उ.प्र. शासन द्वारा समय-समय पर निर्गत शासनादेशों एवं विश्वविद्यालय पत्रिनियमावली में दिये गये प्राविधानों के तहत लागू होंगे।

इच्छुक एवं अर्ह अम्यर्थी सचिव-प्रबन्ध समिति के कार्यालय- 15/96, सिविल लाइन्स, कानपुर से दिनांक 30 सितम्बर, 2026 तक निर्धारित आवेदन पत्र प्राप्त व जमा कर सकते हैं।

प्राचार्य

The Pioneer CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I have changed my name from RAHIM to MOHD RAHEEM S/o Mohd Shameem R/o H.No 90/14, Itfikharabad, Kanpur, for all future purposes.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from MAHATAB ALAM to MAHTAB ALAM S/o Shahjadey R/o H.No.17/82, Colonel Ganj, Kanpur, for all future purposes.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from RIZWAN HASEEB to RIZWAN HASIB S/o Haseeb Ahmed R/o H.No.100/180, Nawab Compound Telegraph Road, Kanpur, for all future purposes.

NOTICE

This is to Inform The General Public That the name 'Kratika' has been erroneously recorded in the Aadhaar card, which is incorrect. The correct and actual name is 'Kritika' and her date of birth is 16.05.2012. Therefore, my daughter should be known and addressed by this name. Gurmeet Kumar Baba S/o Shrawan Kumar Baba Resident of : House No. 267, Feroze Gandhi Colony, Police Station - Kotwali, Tehsil and District Raebareli -229001.

NOTICE

My name has inadvertently been recorded as "Pushpa Pandey" in the service records of my late son, Havaldar Shailendra Kumar (Service No. 15434274-X), whereas my correct and actual name is "Pushpa Devi." Henceforth, my name should be recorded in all documents strictly as "Pushpa Devi, wife of Shri Rajendra Kumar." Pushpa Devi Wife of Shri Rajendra Kumar Address: Village Dandamau, Bighapur, District Unnao, Uttar Pradesh.

NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my daughter's correct name is Anjali (daughter of Anant Kumar), as recorded in her educational documents. Due to an error, her name was recorded as Anjani Kumari on her Aadhaar Card (No. 883943277406), which is incorrect. Henceforth, my daughter should be known and recognized by her correct name, Anjali (daughter of Anant Kumar). It is hereby certified that I have personally completed all legal formalities regarding this matter. Applicant: Anant Kumar, son of Baiju Resident of: Village Karmav, Post Narokhar, Robertsganj Sonbhadra, U.P. 231216

NOTICE

My name is recorded as Pallavi Sharma in my LIC Policy No. 234927036, whereas it is recorded as Sapna in my Bank and Aadhaar records. Both names refer to me, and henceforth I shall be known as Sapna for all future purposes. Sapna, D/o Rakesh Kumar, R/o Naraura, Palhepur, Kanpur Nagar.

NOTICE

I Army No: 15430529P Rank: Nk/ NASST Name: Ghodke Shivshankar Sheshrao Resident of 144 maruti mandir parisar dan bhag bag bachoti dist nanded pin 431714 Have changed my mother name and date of birth from : Bhagirathbai to Bhagirathabai sheshrao Ghodke DOB: 05/04/1949 to 01/01/1951vide Affidavit dated 18/07/26

NOTICE

I Army No: 15430529P Rank: Nk/ NASST Name: Ghodke Shivshankar Sheshrao Resident of 144 maruti mandir parisar dan bhag bag bachoti dist nanded pin 431714 Have changed my father's name and date of birth from : Sheshrao to sheshrao sopan Ghodke DOB: 03/07/1945 to 01/01/1962 vide Affidavit dated 18/07/26

NOTICE

I, Army No. 10199570H, Rank NK, Jagjeet Singh, Unit 112 INF BN (TA) DOGRA, C/o 56 APO, resident of Village Diara, P.O. Diara, Tehsil Amb, District Una (H.P.), Pin 174316, declare that my father's name and DOB are wrongly recorded as Mohinder Singh, DOB 13-10-1962. Correct name and DOB is Mohinder Singh, DOB 13-03-1962.

NOTICE

I, Army No. 10199570H, Rank NK, Jagjeet Singh, Unit 112 INF BN (TA) DOGRA, C/O 56 APO, resident of Village Diara, P.O. Diara, Tehsil Amb, District Una (H.P.), Pin 174316, declare that my mother's name and DOB are wrongly recorded as Jasveer Kaur, DOB 14-11-1968. Correct name and DOB is Jasbir Kaur, DOB 11-11-1967.

NOTICE

My name is Vijay Kumar; however, the name 'Sumer Chandra' has been erroneously recorded on my Aadhaar card (Number 912294163252). My name is correctly recorded as 'Vijay Kumar' in my High School mark sheet, which is the accurate and authentic record. I wish for my correct name, Vijay Kumar, to be reflected on my Aadhaar card and other documents. Vijay Kumar, son of Shri Hari Prasad, 440/32 Malihabad Road, Balaganj, Chowk, Lucknow - 226003.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from SHAHNAZ to SHAHNAZ BANO W/o Shahenshah Alam R/o H.No 131/5 -B Begum Purwa, Kanpur, for all future purposes.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from KAHKASHAN KHAN to KAHKASHAN ASHRAF W/o Ashraf Iqbal R/o 89/209, Bewis Compound, Bansmandi, Kanpur, for all future purposes.

NOTICE

It is hereby informed all of you to that I have changed my name from Haidar Ghulam Ansari to Gulam Haidar, S/o Ghulam Mohd, for all future purposes. R/o 37E/3/11, Gaus Nagar, Kareli, Prayagraj.

NOTICE

I, Prince Savita S/o Shiv Kumar Resident of A- 580, World Bank Colony, Barra, Kanpur Nagar - 208027, have changed my name from Prinsh Kumar Saveeta to Prince Savita Vide Affidavit No-46AA273679 dated 04/09/2026

NOTICE

I, Saksham Singh, R/o 1629/3, Rajendra Nagar, Baktauri Purwa Road, Naubasta, Kanpur, UP-208021, declare that my father's name in my PAN, 10th & 12th marksheets is Mahendra Singh and in Aadhar Card is Mahendra Singh Sengar. Both names belong to one and the same person, my father.

AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 15-09-2026 प्रातः 11:00 बजे ए.एम.सी. सेक्टर एण्ड कालेज (आफिसर्स मेस), सरदार पटेल मार्ग, लखनऊ में आफिसर्स मेस फ़न्द के निष्पयोग्य घोषित सामग्रियों की नीलामी होगी, सिक्वोरिटी 5,000/- का बैकड्रॉप्ट "PMC OFFICERS MESS" के नाम, फ़र्म के जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण, आधार, पैनकार्ड के साथ प्रातः 11:00 बजे तक जमा होगी। आई. पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that my name is recorded as TANISH KATARIA in my High School Marksheet, whereas my name is recorded as GURVIR SINGH in all other documents. Both names refer to one and the same person, i.e., me. Henceforth, I shall be known and recognized as TANISH KATARIA for all future purposes. TANISH KATARIA S/o Ravinder Pal Singh residing at 117/245 O Block Geeta Nagar, Kanpur Nagar UP- 208025

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that I have changed my name from Rajiv Kumar Yadav to Rajiv Yadav S/o Late Ram Sewak Yadav R/o 1/13 W-S Colony U Block, Govind Nagar Kanpur Nagar for future purposes.

NOTICE

It is hereby informed all of you to that I have changed my name from Hamza Haidar Ansari to Hamza Haidar, S/o Gulam Haidar, for all future purposes.R/o 37E/3/1M, Gaus Nagar, Kareli, Prayagraj.

NOTICE

It is hereby informed all of you to that I have changed my name from Mohammad Saiful Hayat to Mohammad Saiful Hayat Khan, S/o Mohammad Hayat Khan, for all future purposes. R/o Near Bhakku Kuwan, Upraus, Maudaha, Hamirpur.

NOTICE

I, Mirdul, son of Arun Kumar, resident of Village Bhagauti, Post Shamsherganj, District Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh, hereby declare that the correct spelling of my name is Mradul. My name has been incorrectly mentioned as Mirdul in some of my documents. Henceforth, my name shall be read, treated, and recognized as Mradul. All my present and future records and documents shall bear the name Mradul.

NOTICE

I, Pallavi Singh, wife of Pushparaj Singh, resident of Village Rajapur Indaura, Post-Indaurabagh,Tehsil Bakshi Ka Talab, Lucknow, am getting the name of my son, as recorded in his Birth Certificate bearing Registration No. B-2022-9-91147-003452, corrected from "Viraj Singh Tomar" to "Aarvik Singh (AARVIK SINGH)". It has been deemed appropriate to change the name of the deponent's son due to his poor health following his birth.

NOTICE

It is hereby informed that my husband, Shri Dileep Kumar Singh, is a former Air Force personnel (Service No. 763022-T, Rank – J.W.O., Trade – P.M.F. (Elect). In my husband's Discharge Book and Pension Payment Order, my name has been written as Rani Singh as the nominee, whereas my correct name is Rani Chauhan. My name is also recorded as Rani Chauhan in my Aadhaar Card and PAN Card, which is correct. Rani Chauhan, W/o Shri Dileep Kumar Singh, R /o175/A, Paschim Vihar Colony, Salempur Pataura, Shakuntala Mishra University, Mohan Road, Kakori, Lucknow- 227107.

This is to inform you on behalf of PNB Housing Finance Limited, Roshni Branch Office: City Centre First Floor, near S.O. Office, Eye Hospital Road, Sitapur (U.P.), that Mr. Manoj Rastogi S/o Mr. Bhagvandas Rastogi R/o- Mohalla- Nai Basti, Sitapur, Pargana- Kharabad, Tehsil & Distt. Sitapur, (U.P.) The said residential house bearing old number 208 and new number 118/B, situated within the inhabited area has an area of 474 square feet i.e., 44.05 square meters and is located in Mohalla Nai Basti, Pargana Khairabad, Tehsil and District Sitapur, (Uttar Pradesh). I am the owner of the said residential house. Purchased via a sale deed executed by Mr. Sanjeev Agarwal son of Dr. Shyam and Mrs. Madhu Agarwal wife of Mr. Sanjeev Agarwal R/o- Mohalla Olanganj, Nai Basti, Sitapur Pargana- Kharabad; Tehsil & District: Sitapur, U.P.) and registered at the office of the Sub-Registrar Sadar, Sitapur, on 14.08.2015 Book No. 1, Volume No. 5683, Pages 349/370, Serial No. 772. A loan is being extended by PNB Housing Finance Limited against the aforementioned residential property. Therefore, regarding this matter, if Mrs. Kirti Agarwal wife of Mr. Sanjay Agarwal, any legal heir, or any other person has any objection or claim concerning the property whether related to sale, mortgage, or any other issue they are requested to contact the undersigned in writing, along with relevant documents, within a period of 7 days. No claim or objection will be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period. Furthermore, in this regard, the loan amount is to be paid to Mr. Manoj Rastogi, son of Mr. Bhagvandas Rastogi, R/o- Mohalla- Nai Basti, Sitapur Pargana- Kharabad, Tehsil & District: Sitapur, U.P.) Any having any objection may contact the Company's Learned Counsel, Sandeep Kumar Sharma, at mobile numbers 9452696600 or 9696657481.

BJP govt restored investor confidence in UP, says CM Yogi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday asserted that the state has undergone a major transformation since 2017, moving from an era which saw 'one district, one mafia', riots, policy paralysis to one characterised by rule of law, investor confidence and rapid industrial growth.

Addressing the inaugural session of the two-day UP Textile Conclave-2026 at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan here, Yogi also said that the state government was committed to creating an integrated ecosystem covering the entire textile value chain with UP becoming the state of "Unlimited Potential".

The two-day UP TEX-2026 is being held with the aim of giving a new identity to the state's handloom and textile sector and positioning UP as a global textile hub. "Nobody is

unaware of what the situation in UP was before 2017. The law and order situation had collapsed. In every district, a parallel government run by mafias operated; it was almost like 'one district, one mafia'," the chief minister said in an apparent attack on the then Samajwadi Party government.

He alleged that murder, extortion, illegal land occupation, "goonda tax" and kidnapping had become an industry, while professional criminals and mafias operated their networks with political patronage.

"Neither daughters were safe, nor traders. Investors previously came to the state with investment proposals but returned with extortion demands, while traders and ordinary citizens faced insecurity," he said

He also recalled frequent riots, prolonged closures of schools, colleges, shops and factories, and inadequate infrastructure.

Comparing the situation



with the present, he said UP today had "rule of law" and a "zero-tolerance policy" towards crime, criminals and corruption.

"Today, Uttar Pradesh is curfew-free, riot-free and mafia-free. No mafia can openly roam around in an open jeep waving a pistol. No one can dare threaten the safety of a daughter, trader or investor. If someone does, there are only two places for him? jail or hell. There is no third place," he said.

The chief minister said the government had restored confidence among citizens, traders, and investors and had framed sector-specific policies to accelerate eco-

nom ic growth. He said the state had remained revenue-surplus for the last six years and asserted that promises made to investors were being implemented in full.

"Whatever commitments and announcements we make to investors, we ensure 100 per cent implementation in Uttar Pradesh. Monitoring is done directly from the Chief Minister's Office, and I personally monitor it," he said.

According to the chief minister, the state has received investment proposals worth Rs 50 lakh crore over the last nine years, of which proposals involving Rs 15 lakh crore have reached the ground.

Investment proposals worth another Rs 7.5 lakh crore are ready for implementation, he said.

The government has also succeeded in providing employment to more than 65 lakh youth, he claimed.

Yogi said the government had strengthened the state's MSME ecosystem through branding initiatives such as One District One Product (ODOP) and social-security support. "Uttar Pradesh today has 96 lakh MSME units, the largest network of MSMEs among all states in the country," he said.

He said single-window clearances and platforms such as Nivesh Mitra, Nivesh Sarathi and Udyami Mitra were helping investors navigate the state's industrial ecosystem. Urging participants at the conclave to deliberate on ways to strengthen the sector, the chief minister said the government would incorporate useful suggestions into its textile policy. The chief minister also launched the UP

Tex Mitra portal, the Handloom Weaver Samridhhi Yojana and the Uttar Pradesh Textile Sector Training and Skill Development Scheme, besides distributing letters of comfort (LoCs) and incentives under the UP Textile Policy. During the conclave, the textile sector MoUs were signed for new investment proposals worth Rs 5,196 crore, while Letters of Comfort worth Rs 163 crore and subsidies worth Rs 60 crore were distributed, an official statement issued here later said.

Uttar Pradesh Minister for Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises and Khadi and Village Industries Rakesh Sachan said the state was organising the UP Textile Conclave for the first time on the lines of Bharat Tex.

Sachan said UP had more than two lakh handloom weavers, who made a significant contribution to exports. Under the Sant Kabir Textile Park initiative, the state plans to establish

10 textile parks. Work has already begun at five locations, including Amroha and Bareilly, Sachan pointed out.

He also announced plans

for a dedicated textile manufacturing park in UP, with an emphasis on developing domestically the machinery that is currently imported.

Form No. 1

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW

(Area of jurisdiction of Uttar Pradesh)

Summons for filing Reply & Appearance by Publication

O. A. No.285/2026

Date: 21/08/2026

(Summons to Defendant Under Section 19(3), of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rules 12 and 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules, 1993)

O. A. No.285/2026

NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 290F OF DEBTS RECOVERY ACT 1993

INDIAN BANK

Applicant Bank

BO: Maharishi Vidhya Mandir (MVM), III Road, Lucknow (U.P.) (DIB000M540)

Versus

M/S. A.G. TRADERS & Ors

DEFENDANTS

To,

1. M/S. A.G. TRADERS

(A Proprietorship Firm) GSTIN: 09CCSPG2648Q1Z0

Through its Proprietor MR. AKHILESH GUPTA

Registered Office: KHA No. 464, Gaurbhit, Faizullaganj, Lucknow (U.P.) 226022

M: 7985392158 / 9696150901

2. MR. AKHILESH GUPTA S/o Shree Prakash Gupta

Proprietor of M/S. A.G. TRADERS

R/o 538/10, Adarsh Puram, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow (U.P.) 226020M: 79853921582nd Address: KHA No. 464, Gaurbhit, Faizullaganj, Lucknow (U.P.) 226022, M: 7985392158

In the above noted Application, you are required to file reply in Paper Book form in Two sets along with documents and affidavits (if any), personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner in this Tribunal, after serving copy of the same on the Applicant or his counsel/duly authorized agent after publication of the summons, and thereafter to appear before the Tribunal on 06.11.2026 at 10.30 A.M. failing which the application shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Recovery Officer-I

Debts Recovery Tribunal

Lucknow.

Form No. 1

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW

(Area of jurisdiction of Uttar Pradesh)

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER

600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-226007

DRC No.724/2022/Lko

NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH SECTION 290F OF DEBTS RECOVERY ACT 1993

INDIAN BANK

Applicant Bank

Versus

M/S BAGISH TRADERS & OTHERS

Defendants

To

1- M/S Bagish Treders, Through Its Proprietor Sri Dhananjay Pandey, S/O Late Markandey Pandey, Registered Address : 629/1 Naubasta Kalam, Chinhat, Lucknow-226028.

This is to notify that a sum of Rs.46,45,956/- (RUPEES FORTY SIX LACS, FORTY FIVETHOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX ONLY) together with pendentelitte and future interest@ 12% per annum from the date of filing of the Original Application i.e. 06/11/2019 till the loanis fully liquidated and costs and is hereby allowed succeeds and is hereby allowed exparty against defendant no. 1 & 2 jointly and severally.

2- You are hereby directed to pay the sum within 15 days of the receipt of this notice failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

3- You are hereby ordered to declare on Affidavit the particulars of asset on or Before 23/12/2026.

4- You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 08.09.2026 at 10:30 AM.

Details of Costs:

Application fees

-Rs. 49,000/-

Counsel fees & Clerkage

-Not Claimed

Publication charges

-Not Claimed

Miscellaneous Expenses

-Not Claimed

Clerical Charges

-Not Claimed

5- Given under my Hand and Seal on this 10 day of September 2026

Recovery Officer-I

Debts Recovery Tribunal

Lucknow.

Higher honorarium, cashless healthcare for Anganwadi workers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Ayodhya

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday announced a significant increase in the monthly honorarium of Anganwadi workers and helpers, along with cashless healthcare benefits and other facilities for the state's 2.91 lakh Anganwadi personnel.

Addressing a ceremony to honour Anganwadi workers and helpers, organised under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme in Ayodhya Dham, the chief minister announced that the monthly honorarium of Anganwadi workers would be increased from ₹8,000 to Rs 12,000.

The honorarium for Anganwadi helpers will rise from Rs 4,000 to Rs 6,000 per month.

In another major welfare measure, Anganwadi workers, helpers and their families will be provided cashless medical treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh every year. The facility will be available at empanelled hospitals as well as government hospitals and

medical colleges.

The chief minister said the decision was taken in response to the long-standing demand of Anganwadi workers and helpers for access to the same healthcare benefits recently extended to around 15 lakh teachers, shiksha mitras and instructors in the state.

He also announced an additional sari for Anganwadi workers and helpers. While they were earlier provided two saris, they will now receive funds for a third sari, with an additional Rs 500 allocated for the purpose.

The state government will bear an estimated additional expenditure of around Rs 20 crore under the initiative.

The government is also working to make Anganwadi centres more technology-driven.

The chief minister said 1.28 lakh smartphones had already been provided in the first phase. Smartphones will enable workers to record programme-related data in real time, help in improving monitoring and reduce their workload.

Highlighting the importance of Anganwadi workers in child devel-

opment, the chief minister said their role extends beyond delivering nutrition services.

He recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comparison of Anganwadi workers with Mata Yashoda, saying that after mothers, they are among the first people to interact with young children.

The chief minister said more than 70,000 Anganwadi centres in UP had been given an improved and organised infrastructure over the past nine years.

The government's goal, he said, was to provide every Anganwadi centre with its own building, with construction to be funded through the State Finance Commission or a separate budgetary allocation.

The chief minister also criticised previous governments over the condition of Anganwadi centres before 2017. He alleged that centres were poorly maintained, lacked basic facilities and that the distribution of supplementary nutrition was affected by vested interests.

He said the government had now freed the nutrition programme from such interference,

Mohsin Raza new chairman of UP Minority Commission

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

Former MLC and minister of state Mohsin Raza was on Tuesday appointed chairman of the Uttar Pradesh State Minority Commission, with cabinet rank.

Associated with the Bharatiya Janata Party for a long time, Raza previously served as Minister of State for Minority Welfare, Muslim Waqf and Hajj in the Yogi Adityanath government, which assumed office in 2017.

Along with the chairman, eight members have also been appointed by the government.

The members are Sandip Jain, Anshuman Kumar Singh Mesih, Sardar Harpreet Singh, Mohammed Aslam, Sardar Parvinder Singh, Neha Khan, Syed Abbas Rizvi and

Rumana Siddiqui.

Shortly before assuming his new responsibility, Raza met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and raised the issue of alleged irregularities in the state's Waqf Boards.

Raza demanded a district-level Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the properties of both Waqf Boards and called for a special audit.

According to Raza, there were previously more than two lakhs registered Waqf properties in the state, but their number has now declined to around 1.27 lakh.

Raza joined the BJP ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and was subsequently appointed as a party spokesperson.

Following the formation of the Yogi Adityanath government in 2017, he was inducted in the council of ministers as minister of state.

Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak congratulated Raza on his appointment. He said, "Hearty congratulations to Shri Mohsin Raza ji on being appointed as the Hon'ble Chairman of Uttar Pradesh State Minority Commission and best wishes for a bright tenure."

Rahul begins two-day Rae Bareilly visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Lucknow

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi arrived in his parliamentary constituency, Rae Bareilly, on Tuesday for a two-day visit, with a packed schedule that includes meetings with party workers and participation in the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting.

Earlier in the evening, Rahul reached Lucknow airport, where he was accorded a grand welcome by Uttar Pradesh Congress president Ajay Rai, Rajiya Sabha MP Pramod Tiwari, Congress Legislature Party leader Aradhana Mishra, former MLC

Deepak Singh and several other senior party leaders. Rahul then proceeded towards Rae Bareilly. On the way, Congress workers gave him a warm welcome in Maharajganj. On Wednesday, Rahul will participate in the DISHA meeting, where the progress of various development schemes and implementation of government programmes in Rae Bareilly are expected to come under scrutiny. His two-day visit assumes significance as the state gears up for the next Assembly elections and comes amid efforts by the Congress to strengthen its organisational presence and connect with workers and voters at the grassroots level.

FORM No. 1

(Paper Publication)

HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, LUCKNOW

(Area of Jurisdiction and part of Uttar Pradesh)

600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman SetuMandir, Lucknow-226007

DRC No. 338/2023

(NOTICE UNDER RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT,1961 READ WITH SECTION 29 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANKS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ACT,1993)

ICICI Bank Ltd.

Versus

Mr. Vineet Mittal& Others.

1) Mr. Vineet Mittal, son of Shri. B.M Mittal,Resident of House No.3/256, Vinay Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010.

ALSO- 12, Eldeco Green Gombi Nagar, Rafi Ahmaddikwai Nagar U.P. Lucknow-226010.

ALSO- Sahara India Chairmans Office, Gomti Nagar, U.P. Lucknow-226010.

ALSO- 2/1, Vishal KhandGomti Nagar,U.P. Lucknow-226010

ALSO- 12, Eldeco Green Gombi Nagar, Rafi Ahmaddikwai Nagar U.P. Lucknow-226010.

ALSO- Sahara India Chairmans Office, Gomti Nagar, U.P. Lucknow-226010

ALSO- 2/1, Vishal Khand Gomti Nagar, U.P. Lucknow-226010

1. Whereas a Recovery Certificate, in Original Application No.1287 of 2018 dated 06/06/2022 has been issued for recovery of the sum Rs.27,80,262.00 (Rupees Twenty Seven Lacs Eighty Thousand, and Two Hundred Six Two Only) together with pendentelitte and future interest @10% per annum with monthly rest from the date of filing of the Original Application i.e. 05/11/2018 along with costs, till full realization is made from the defendants jointly and severally.

2. You are hereby directed to pay the same within 15 days of the receipt of this notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with Recovery of the Debts Due To Banks and Financial Institution Act, 1993.

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on affidavit the particulars of assets on or before 06/11/2026

4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 06/11/2026 at 10.30 A.M.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay the following costs.

DETAILS OF THE COST:

Amount of Application Fee

Rs. 42,000.00

(i) Advocate Fee

Rs. Not Claimed

(ii) Publication Charges

Rs. Not Claimed

(iii) Misc. Expenses

Rs. Not Claimed

(iv) Clerkage

Rs. Not Claimed

Total

Rs.42,000.00/-

Given under my hand and SEAL at Lucknow on this 4th day of July, 2026

Recovery Officer-II

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Lucknow

इंडियन बैंक

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)

Indian Bank

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Zonal Office Lucknow, New Building, 2nd Floor, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001

POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)

[Under Rule-8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 [54 of 2002] and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3, 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed here in below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules.

The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charges of the Indian Bank.

The Borrower's / Guarantor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

This Possession Notice is being served to the Borrower (s), Guarantor (s) & Mortgagor (s) to deposit the said dues.

Details as under:

S. N.	Name & Address of the Borrower (s)/Guarantor (s)/ Proprietor / Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Property	Dt. of Demand Notice Dt. of Possession Outstanding Amount
Branch : Indira Nagar B Block Branch			
1.	M/s M V Enterprises, Partners: 1. Manoj Kumar Srivastava S/o Murlil Prasad Srivastava, Address: 40, Shivpuri Colony, Picnic Spot Road, Faridi Nagar, Indra Nagar Lucknow-226015.	Mortgage Assets: All that part and parcel of equitable mortgage of land and building at 40 Part of Gata No. 15, Village: Khargpur, Faridi Nagar, ward- Babu Jagjeevan Ram Dist: Lucknow area 1800 Sqft as given in the schedule hereafter belonging to 5th of you in the name of Mrs. Poonam Srivastava W/o Manoj Kumar Srivastava, Boundaries as per the Sale Deed: East: Road 20 ft, West: Bhukhand Seller, North: Bhukhand Seller, South: Road 20 ft	29.06.2026 07.09.2026 Rs. 27,35,914.49 further interest at the agreed rate from 29.06.2026 along with costs, other charges and other expenses
Date : 07.09.2026		Place: Lucknow	Authorised Officer Indian Bank

इंडियन बैंक

Indian Bank

Zonal Office Lucknow, New Building, 2nd Floor, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001, Ph. 0522-2286272, 2287283, Fax: 0522-2288033, E-mail id: zolucknow@indianbank.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE U/S 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized officer of Indian Bank Issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 to the Borrower's/Guarantor's herein below mentioned, Consequent upon the dispatch of such Notices through Post And returned Bank undelivered from the Borrower's/Guarantor's addresses. Through this Publication they are hereby called upon to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of publication of said notice failing which the bank will take the possession of the immovable and movable property will sell it through the process in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount Date of NPA	Description of the Property
Branch : Manas Nagar Branch, Ayodhya			
1.	1. The estate of deceased Late Mr. Prabhu Nath Jaiswal S/o Late Mr. Munnu Lal (Borrower/ Mortgagor) deceased on 05.11.2024 represented by legal heir/ Mr Deepak Jaiswal s/o Late Mr. Prabhu Nath Jaiswal, House No. 9/5/242 Arya Kanya Road, Kandhari Bazar, Ayodhya - 224001	Rs. 6,92,046.00 as on 31.08.2026 + Interest & Other Charges	All that part and parcel of Land and Building at Plot No 70 min, Mohalla- Shastri Nagar, Mauja- Niyawa (ANP), Pargana- Havelli Awadh, Tehsil- Sadar, Dist- Ayodhya measuring 1125 sq ft in the name of Late Mr. Prabhu Nath Jaiswal, Mr. Ram Nath Jaiswal, Mrs. Ram dulari Jaiswal, Mr. Janak kumar Jaiswal & Mr. Som Nath Jaiswal. Boundaries as per sale deed: East: Nala, West: Rasta kachha 12 ft wide, North: Land of Rama Shankar Tiwari, South: Land of Smt Malti Devi
2. Mr. Ram Nath Jaiswal s/o Late Mr. Munnu Lal (Guarantor/ Mortgagor), House No. 9/5/242 Arya Kanya Road, Kandhari Bazar, Ayodhya- 224001		Date of NPA: 29.08.2026	C E R S A I A s s e t I D : 200085214633, Security ID: 400083380259
3. Mrs. Ram dulari Jaiswal w/o Late Mr. Munnu Lal (Guarantor / Mortgagor), House No. 9/5/242 Arya Kanya Road, Kandhari Bazar, Ayodhya- 224001			
4. Mr. Janak kumar Jaiswal s/o Late Mr. Munnu Lal (Guarantor / Mortgagor), House No. 9/5/242 Arya Kanya Road, Kandhari Bazar, Ayodhya- 224001			
5. Mr. Som Nath Jaiswal s/o Late Mr. Munnu Lal (Guarantor/ Mortgagor), House No. 9/5/242 Arya Kanya Road, Kandhari Bazar, Ayodhya - 224001			
Date of Demand Notice: 31.08.2026			
Date: 09.09.2026		Place: Lucknow	Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

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

PTI

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

ISTOCK

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 Jawaharlal 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 pressurised 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
COMMONS

WIKIMEDIA

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

PTI

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.

Freight corridors driving growth: PM

Describing the dedicated railway freight corridor as the lifeline of a rapidly developing nation, the PM noted that India's economic transformation was accelerating due to the modern freight structure.

Earlier, passenger and goods trains were forced to run on the same tracks, which severely hampered both passenger travel and freight movement, but the dedicated corridor altered that dynamic, he explained.

Modi said that the Eastern and Western Freight Corridors are now emerging as the main backbone of the nation's trade and commercial activities. He said the 2,800-km Dedicated Freight Corridor serves as a testament to how the country's work culture has been fundamentally transformed over the past 12 years.

Criticising the administrative delays under the previous government, he pointed out that though the concept originated in 2004 and a special purpose vehicle was set up in 2006, files remained stuck without progress until 2014.

India is scripting a new saga of manufacturing, spanning "chips to ships", with components, final products and the supply chain for self-reliance being set up in the country, Modi said.

He said India had emerged as a major manufacturer of railway coaches, metro coaches and locomotives in the last decade.

A 100-km journey that earlier took 6.5 hours for a freight train can now be covered in less than half the time, while a 30-hour journey by truck can be completed in 10-12 hours on the Dedicated Freight Corridor, the PM noted.

Earlier, the PM walked on an elevated ramp to arrive on stage, and was greeted by the audience, mostly young people. He reciprocated with folded hands and waved back. PM Modi later inaugurated the BJP's newly built Namo Kamalam office in Navsari town of south Gujarat.

Expand UPI, save on remittance cost: PM

Modi said the UPI platform is now live in 11 countries and has been connected with the local system in Singapore, which has brought transactions between the two countries on a par with payments done between two local neighbourhoods.

He said global card payments currently run on systems designed in other countries, but underlined that India now has the alternative.

"We can set our own rules and standards and connect them with the world," he said.

Reiterating French President Emmanuel Macron's words, Modi said UPI is not only a tech story but also a civilisational one.

Modi said after the high number of successes on the payments front over the past several years, the next chapter for the Indian fintech industry should be non-payment transactions such as enabling access to saving products, pensions, insurance and other financial services.

He said the PM-SVANidhi initiative of support-

ing street vendors with working capital credit was made possible by UPI, which helped increase the average annual income of the beneficiaries by 20 per cent.

Technology makes it possible to have curated models targeted keeping in mind a particular person's needs, the PM said, adding that the fintech sector should address the same by making non-payment transactions as easy as undertaking a payment transaction by scanning a QR code.

Modi said upcoming technology sector developments such as agentic artificial intelligence, tokenisation, quantum tech, etc open doors of new possibilities and urged the fintech sector to focus on them by setting specific goals.

"As we go about doing that, the fintech community should ensure that cyber security is top notch in India, the industry has its own ethical data protection standards and also a fintech consumer protection index to rate every company transparently," Modi said.

India also needs to create a strong fintech-regulator-industry-innovation ecosystem, the PM said. On the geopolitical front, Modi said the world is going through conflicts and uncertainties, energy and commodities supply chains are under pressure, and there are challenges regarding oil. He underlined that India's performance on economic growth should be seen in that context.

Japan Credit Rating Agency's upgrade of India to 'A-' from 'BBB+' illustrates the confidence the world has in India, Modi said, noting that the upgrade was the first such action in three decades.

"This shows that India's growth momentum, macroeconomic stability and the structural reforms of the last few years are giving the world comfort," Modi said.

Seven foreigners face NIA charges

It lists Van Dyke and six Ukrainian nationals: Petro Hurba, Taras Slyviak, Ivan Sukmanovskiy, Marian Stefankiv, Maksim Honcharuk, and Viktor Kaminskyi.

Van Dyke was arrested at Kolkata airport. Hurba, Slyviak, and Sukmanovskiy were detained at Lucknow airport on March 13, while Stefankiv, Honcharuk, and Kaminskyi were arrested at Delhi airport the same day. Investigators have called the group alleged mercenaries.

The case was first registered under Section 18 of the UAPA, which covers conspiracy, as well as parts of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

In the chargesheet filed on Tuesday, the agency said much of the investigation into UAPA offences is done, but it still needs more time. This is because they are looking into the import and recovery of many drones and accessories sent through India, and they are still examining a large number of seized digital devices.

The chargesheet noted that further investigation could "indicate their possible involvement in acts affecting/threatening the unity, integrity, security and sovereignty of India or strike terror in any section of the people of India in a

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.

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Launch of 9th



Rashtriya
Poshan Maah
(9 September-8 October, 2026)

Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari

by

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister,
Uttar Pradesh

Annpurna Devi
Minister, Women & Child Development,
Government of India

In the august presence of

Savitri Thakur
Minister of State, Women and
Child Development,
Government of India

Baby Rani Maurya
Minister, Women's Welfare,
Child Development
and Nutrition, Uttar Pradesh

Anil Rajbhar
Minister, Labour and
Employment, Co-ordination,
Uttar Pradesh

Ravindra Jaiswal
Minister of State (Independent Charge), Stamp
and Court Fee, Registration, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu'
Minister of State (Independent Charge),
Ayush, Uttar Pradesh

Pratibha Shukla
Minister of State, Women's Welfare,
Child Development & Nutrition, Uttar Pradesh

Hans Raj Vishwakarma
Minister of State, Micro, Small
& Medium Enterprises, Uttar Pradesh

Ashok Kumar Tiwari
Mayor, Varanasi

Poonam Maurya
Administrator, District Panchayat,
Varanasi

Ray Dharmendra Singh
MLC

Saurabh Srivastava
MLA, Varanasi Cantt.

Dr. Neelkanth Tiwari
MLA, Varanasi South

Dr. Awadhesh Singh
MLA, Pindra

Tribhuvan Ram
MLA, Ajagara

Dr. Sunil Patel
MLA, Rohaniya

and other dignitaries

9th September, 2026 @ 10:30 AM @ Rudraksh International Cooperation & Convention Centre, Varanasi

Proposed Themes for Rashtriya Poshan Maah-2026

Dietary Diversity & Adequate Protein

Fresh Hot Cooked Meals (HCM) at Anganwadi Centres

Community Ownership & Accountability

Nutrition, Early Stimulation and Education for
Childhood Development

10 Years of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
(PMMVY): Expedite Direct Benefit Transfers for eligible
women & launch a PMMVY Toolkit

Nourished Families. Healthy Uttar Pradesh

1.90 Lakh+ Anganwadi centres operational across Uttar Pradesh

6,500+ Anganwadi centres adopted by public representatives
and officials

4 types of growth-monitoring devices and mobile phones made
available at Anganwadi centres

Upgradation of Anganwadi centres into pre-schools

Recipe-based Take-Home Ration for 7 categories of beneficiaries,
in accordance with the Government of India's revised norms.

Chief Minister Helpline



1076

Women Helpline

181

Child Helpline

1098

Women Powerline

1090

PMMVY Helpline

1515

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Information and Public Relations Department, U.P.
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Department of Women Welfare and Child Development,
Uttar Pradesh



Vikas Ki Gati Apaar
Double Engine Sarkar

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 Raghupur 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 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

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



BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia

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 main 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.

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.

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.

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.

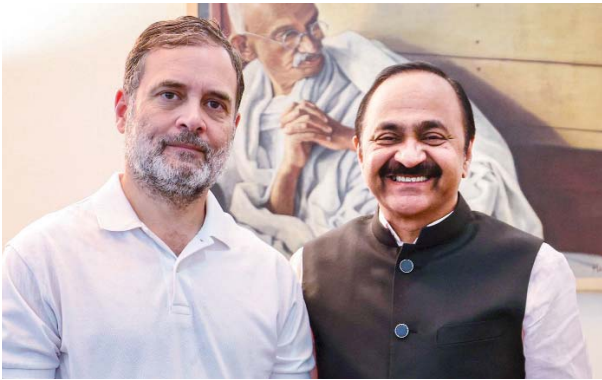
Rahul questions Amit Shah over Manipuri musician's death

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



LoP in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi meets Kerala Chief Minister V.P. Satheshan 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.

Singh's son Yaiphaba rushed him to Holy Family Hospital, where he later succumbed to his injuries, they said. Police initiated an investigation into the circumstances leading to the assault and Singh's death.

The North East Students Society, Delhi University (NESSDU) condoled Singh's death and described him as a "respected Manipuri musician". "According to reports, Singh went downstairs from his residence in Kilokari, New Delhi, after a group of six men were allegedly drinking and creating a disturbance outside his apartment. When he requested them to lower the noise, he was reportedly attacked by the group and sustained severe injuries, to which he later succumbed," the students' body said.

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



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,

God has his door open for all of us

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



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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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

member of the party since 2018, Justice Borkar said.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a prominent face of the BJP, and any remarks made against him therefore cannot be said to be incapable of affecting those who are members of the party," the court said.

The court added that whether the remarks made by Gandhi were of a personal nature intended against PM Modi alone could be determined only during the trial after examination of evidence and witness statements.

After the court passed its order, Gandhi's counsel Sudeep Pasbala urged it to

extend the interim order passed in 2021 for eight weeks so that the Congress leader could appeal in the apex court.

Shrishrimal's lawyer, however, opposed this and said the trial in the case has been at a standstill since 2021. Justice Borkar continued the interim order for six weeks. Gandhi had challenged a Girgaum magistrate's order of August 28, 2019, for a process against him on Shrishrimal's complaint. The complaint had alleged that Gandhi defamed PM Modi in a public speech on September 20, 2018, in Rajasthan.

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-founded space-tech company Digananta, 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



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.

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

monthly startup revenue, grants received, private investment raised and intellectual property granted - a venture earning above 78 lakh a month or attracting 710 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)

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 Bandaranaike International Airport, in Colombo, Sri Lanka

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 Bandaranaike 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

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 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, called 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.



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.

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 1 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, speciality 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 Sukhvir 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

Harmanpreet 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. (PTI)



Women's hockey team departs for Asian Games



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

Fresh from a historic fifth-place finish at the World Cup, the Indian women's hockey team on Tuesday departed for the Asian Games in Japan, with their sights firmly set on winning the gold medal and securing a direct berth at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

Led by captain Salima Tete and coached by Sjoerd Marijne, India produced one of its finest performances in decades as the team finished fifth, its best World Cup result since the inaugural edition in 1974. The attention now shifts to the Asian Games, where the stakes are even higher.

Under the FIH's LA 2028 qualification system, the highest-placed eligible team in the women's hockey competition at the Asian Games will earn an Olympic quota place, provided it has not already qualified through another pathway.

"We are going into the Asian Games with a lot

of confidence, but we also know that every tournament brings a new challenge," said Tete, who has led India to the Nations Cup title and the historic World Cup fifth-place finish this year, in a release. "The Nations Cup and the World Cup have given us belief in what we can achieve together, and now our focus is on taking that one step further. "Our goal is very clear - we want to fight for the gold medal and earn direct qualification for the Los Angeles Olympics. We know it will require consistency, discipline and giving our best in every match, and as a team we are ready for that challenge," Tete said.

India has been placed in Pool B alongside Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, and Uzbekistan. The team will open its campaign against Uzbekistan on September 20, followed by matches against Indonesia on September 21, Thailand on September 23, Japan on September 25, and Singapore on September 27.

India enter quarterfinals with 7-0 win over Japan in Women's Junior Asia Cup



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Moqi (China)

The Indian junior women's hockey team continued their dominant run at the Asia Cup, cruising to a commanding 7-0 victory over Japan in their third elite pool match to secure a place in the quarterfinals here on Tuesday. With nine points from three matches, India currently sit at the top of the Elite Pool. They will face China on Wednesday in their final pool match, which will determine the top position in the pool. China currently have six points from two matches.

Having opened their campaign with a 4-1 win over Korea before registering an 11-1 victory against Malaysia, India carried their attacking momentum into the clash against Japan and took control of proceedings right from the start.

India's early pressure was rewarded in the fifth minute when Krishna Sharma found the back of the net for a 1-0 lead. India doubled their advantage in the ninth minute after a foul by a Japanese defender inside the circle resulted in a penalty stroke. Supriya stepped up and made no mistake from the spot to put India 2-0 ahead.

India continued to dominate proceedings and

added a third goal just before the end of the opening quarter. Purnima Yadav scored a field goal in the 14th minute as India finished the first quarter with a commanding 3-0 lead.

Japan came out with greater attacking intent in the second quarter as they looked to find a way back into the contest, while India continued to search for opportunities to extend their advantage. However, neither side was able to add to the scoreline, and India went into the half-time break with a comfortable 3-0 lead.

Japan began the third quarter with renewed attacking intent, looking to register their first goal of the match. However, the Indian defence remained resolute and effectively nullified Japan's attempts. India then shifted the gears once again, scoring three goals in the space of five minutes. Geeta Yadav smashed a field goal in the 41st minute to make it 4-0 before completing her brace in the 45th minute, further strengthening India's commanding position.

India added another goal just a minute later. Purnima found the back of the net in the 46th minute to complete her brace and take the lead to 6-0 at the end of the third quarter. (PTI)

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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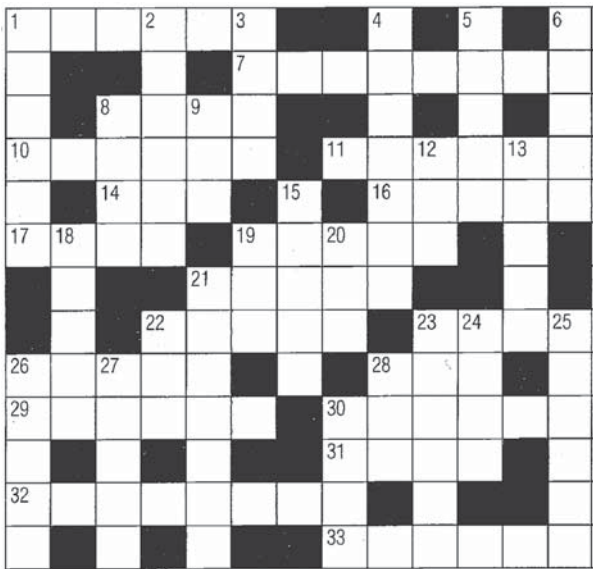


SOLUTION (8.9.26)

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 (6)
- 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

- Pleas
 - Bingo
 - Sh-opp-ed
 - Hussy
 - SE-N-SE
 - Knots
 - Florins
 - He-M
 - Eyot
 - Can-Ada
- DOWN

- Damon
 - Le-ere-d
 - A-ire
 - Sa-d
 - Jousted
 - SI-MO-n
 - Stea-L
 - Put in
 - Iron out
 - Truly
 - Penny
- H-AB-it
 - Mate-d
 - Colon
 - D-evil-ry
 - O-pens
 - Best man
 - I'd-ES
 - G-ashed
 - Knead
 - F-uels
 - O-ozed
21. E-aster
 22. Ast-u-te
 23. Region
 25. Joint
 26. Sail
 28. Pup (rev.)



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.

Shaik 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 upcoming

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.

The body will also consider putting the other clubs for sale under the "self-determination" model, "which allows each state to make its own



decision if and when to sell stakes in their BBL clubs," the report added.

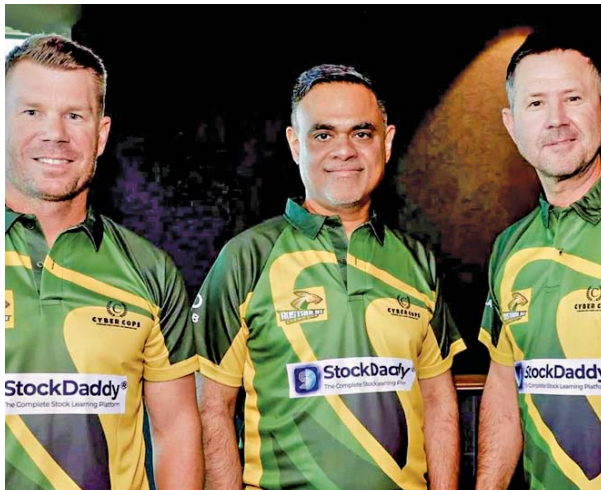
Hobart Hurricanes, Perth Scorchers and Melbourne Stars are the other clubs believed to be interested in private investment.

But others such as Sydney Sixers, Sydney Thunder, Brisbane Heat, and Adelaide Strikers, are not interested in private investment at the moment. Cricket Australia chairman Mike Baird said the governing body will continue to have control over international scheduling, availability of the players, salary caps as well as media rights.

While CA will retain power

to approve or veto investors and set reserve price, any changes to club names, colours and branding would need approvals. In case of Melbourne Renegades, CA will be the approving party while for other teams, the same would be the relevant state body. "By opening the door to private investment in the Big Bash Leagues, Cricket Australia is taking a deliberate step to strengthen and secure the long-term future of the game, accelerate growth and ensuring we can keep investing in community cricket and grassroots participation, domestic and international pathways and elite level," Baird added.

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.

"There's nothing better than getting back out there,

playing alongside some greats of the game and giving the fans plenty to cheer about," Warner said in a statement.

Ponting said, "I'm excited to be part of Australia Champions and the World Championship of Legends. With Puneet and the team, and David leading from the front, we have a great opportunity to build something special for Australian cricket fans."

Puneet Singh expressed, "Having Ricky join us and David take on the captaincy gives us incredible experience, leadership and firepower. We're ready to build something truly special."

NZ batter Chapman opts for casual contract but open for India series



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Auckland

New Zealand batter Mark Chapman has opted for a "casual contract" instead of a formal central deal with New Zealand Cricket to "pursue an opportunity" in the Australian Big Bash League but will remain available for the upcoming home series against India. New Zealand Cricket announced Chapman's decision with a statement on Tuesday.

"Black Caps batter Mark Chapman has made the decision to shift to a casual contract with New Zealand Cricket for the 2026-27 season to pursue an opportunity in the Australian Big Bash League.

"Chapman remains available for selection for the upcoming India tour of New Zealand alongside the four other casually contracted players in Finn Allen, Lockie Ferguson, Adam Milne and Tim Seifert," the NZC stated.

Japan to field Asian Games squad in one-off T20I against India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

Japan's leading run-scorer Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming will lead his country in the historic one-off T20 International against India on September 22 in Sano with the hosts opting to field the same squad that will play in the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya.

Ibrahim Takahashi and Declan Suzuki-McComb are the other two players with the experience of more than 50



T20Is, stated the International Cricket Council (ICC). To be played under the banner of the Suzuki Cup, it will commemorate the 75th anniversary of

India-Japan diplomatic relations. "As part of their Asian Games preparation, the side

have opted not to include players who are eligible to play T20Is under ICC regulations but ineligible under Asian

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. (AP)

Naomi exits US Open, displays one more swaggy fashion ensemble

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ New York

Naomi Osaka may not have gone out of the U.S. Open with much of a bang. But she surely went out with a burst - of color, and a bit of swag.

The two-time U.S. Open champion lost a lopsided fourth-round match on Monday to Elena Rybakina. But she continued to make her mark as the undisputed fashion queen on tour. Osaka, already known for her walk-on fashion reveals at tournaments, has been upping her game at the year's final major with a series of dramatic ensembles - all with a basketball theme, as her sponsor, Nike, honors the New York Knicks' championship win.

For her last look, she arrived on court Monday in a coat of many colors: a fur-trimmed cloak designed by Brooklyn-based label KidSuper.



"I felt really swaggy when I put it on," Osaka said after the match. "I feel like it embodied New York a lot."

For her increasingly dramatic looks the past week or so, Osaka has worked with celebrity stylist Law Roach - also known as Zendaya's stylist - displaying the work of multiple designers. (AP)

Abhishek shines as Amritsar Soormas beat Fazilka Falcons



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mohali

Abhishek Sharma's blitz outshined Shubman Gill's fifty as Amritsar Soormas registered a four-wicket win over Fazilka Falcons in the Sher-E-Punjab T20 League, keeping their semifinal hopes alive.

Batting first, Fazilka Falcons posted a competitive 191/6 in their 20 overs. The Falcons were in early trouble after losing two wickets for just 20 runs, but skipper Shubman Gill and Pranshu Pratap joined hands, adding 72 runs for the third wicket, putting Fazilka back on track. Gill scored a brisk 67 off 35 balls.

After Gill's departure, Pranshu (40 off 33) continued to hold the innings together and was joined by Sanvir Singh (40 off 21), whose aggressive knock took Fazilka to 191/6.

For Amritsar, Mayank Markande conceded just 26 runs in his four overs.