

PAGE 7 NATION Mamata faction unveils new logo with football symbol 	PAGE 10 LAW & JUSTICE Delhi HC declines plea for FIR, probe against Justice Varma 	PAGE 11 TECH/AIDE India must draw South Asia's AI-nuclear red line 	PAGE 12 GLOBAL Merz struggles after regional poll defeat 	PAGE 14 MONTAGE The Impressive face of a Yogi No word to explain : Kamre Baba BY Santosh Deepak 
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Sonia voter-roll row probe revived

The case returns to the magistrate after Sessions court faults earlier order for gaps in law and reasoning

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi

A Delhi Sessions court on Monday set aside a magistrate's order refusing to probe the allegation that the name of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi was included in the electoral roll three years before she acquired Indian citizenship in 1983. A complaint filed by advocate Vikas Tripathi alleges Sonia Gandhi was an Italian citizen when her name appeared and she voted in 1980 election. Special judge Vishal Gogne was hearing a revision plea against the magisterial court's order on Tripathi's complaint who is also the vice president of the Central Delhi Court Bar Association of the Rouse Avenue courts.

Pronouncing substantive portions of the order orally, the judge said, "An order of the court must maintain fidelity towards the law, and not flirt



Former vice president Hamid Ansari, former PM Dr Manmohan Singh and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi at a memorial for former PM Indira Gandhi in New Delhi on October 31, 2009

with facts. This court finds itself unravelling the impugned order rendered by the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) on this yardstick."

The judge said Tripathi's complaint was that Gandhi's name was unlawfully entered in the electoral roll of New Delhi Parliamentary Constituency in 1980, whereas she attained Indian citizenship only in 1983, and although the name was deleted in 1982, it was re-entered in 1983. "It alleged that even this re-entry was prior to the acquisition of citizenship by her on April 30, 1983," the judge noted.

He said the magistrate's order dismissed the complaint, saying that it was based on bald assertions, unaccompanied by essential particulars of cheating and forgery, and based on a photocopy of the photocopy of the uncertified electoral roll in 1980.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

Chargesheet in Ram temple theft row by September 25



An Ayodhya Ram Temple donation theft case accused Avinash Shukla being escorted by police during the investigation in the case in Ayodhya on July 3, 2026

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH n New Delhi/Lucknow

The Uttar Pradesh Government told the Supreme Court on Monday that investigators have identified 105 instances of unauthorised removal of currency from donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, all captured on CCTV.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the State, presented a status report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) examining the alleged misappropriation of devotees' offerings before a Bench led by

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant.

Mehta told the court that the investigation was largely complete. He mentioned that the SIT would submit the chargesheet to the jurisdictional Additional Sessions Judge by September 25.

Since the 90-day statutory period beginning with the first arrest ends on that date, the accused would be entitled to default bail if the chargesheet is not filed.

The Bench stated that the report examined the role of each person alleged to be involved.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

RAM TEMPLE CEO TAKES CHARGE

Ayodhya: Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra (retired) on Monday formally took charge as the first chief executive officer (CEO) of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, which manages the Ram temple here. Mishra offered prayers at the Ram temple on Monday morning before reaching his newly constructed office on the temple premises to assume charge. (PTI)

The Bystander



PIONEER IN SHORT

CONGRESS BLASTS ECI'S SIR PROCESS

The Congress has launched a scathing attack on the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, terming it a "Frankenstein monster" and a "Method Of Disenfranchising Indians." The outrage follows over 33 lakh notices issued in Delhi due to discrepancies, notably where details failed to match the 2002 electoral rolls. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and senior leader Jairam Ramesh criticised SIR, highlighting that over 5.4 crore citizens nationwide face potential voter roll deletion. They emphasised that marginalised groups, including slum dwellers and women, bear the brunt, whereas the ECI's focus on "VIP electors" exposes a lack of transparency.

MEDIA OUTLETS SUE TRUMP GOVERNMENT

CNN, MS NOW, and Politico filed a joint lawsuit against President Donald Trump's administration on Monday after their reporters were barred from the White House and had their entry badges disabled over the weekend. The outlets termed the selective ban a "blatant violation" of the First Amendment and viewpoint discrimination, arguing that the administration targeted them solely over reporting the president labels "fake news." The legal challenge follows a weekend escalation in which reporters found themselves locked out and CNN was subsequently removed from its press pool duties. While the White House did not immediately comment, Trump defended the move on social media, asserting he supports a free press but is fighting against "corrupt" and "fake news." The White House Correspondents' Association and press freedom advocates condemned the ban.

XI, TRUMP SUMMIT FROM SEPTEMBER 23



Donald J Trump and Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on May 14

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA n Beijing

Chinese President Xi Jinping will visit Washington from September 23 to 25 for summit talks with his US counterpart Donald Trump, marking their second meeting in four months, a development Beijing has described as a "milestone of historic significance". Xi will visit the US for three days at the invitation of Trump, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun announced at a media briefing here on Monday.

During his talks with Trump, Xi will discuss key issues concerning China-US relations, as well as world peace and development, Guo said.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

IIT-Bombay removes dean after student suicide triggers protests

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA n Mumbai

The Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay (IIT-Bombay) on Monday removed Suryanarayana Doolla as the dean of Administrative Affairs following protests by students and political activists over the suicide of a 22-year-old student, which led to a case of abetment and caste discrimination registered against him by the Mumbai Police.

CONTINUED ON >> P4



Demonstrators stage a candlelight protest at IIT Bombay to pay tribute to the suicide victims of the college on Monday

PTI

Battle for symbol: SC sets urgent hearing on TMC row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to list for urgent hearing a plea by former West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee challenging the Election Commission of India's decision to freeze the Trinamool Congress' (TMC) name and party symbol amid a dispute between two rival factions of the TMC.

Senior advocate Kapil



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Sibal mentioned the matter seeking urgent hearing before a bench

comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana.

"They issue a notification and in the middle of notification, they freeze the symbol. What is going on? We want urgent listing," Sibal submitted.

The ECI on Friday had allotted separate names and symbols to the two rival factions following its interim decision a day earlier.

CONTINUED ON >> P4

Keep faith, drop cruelty: Delhi urges temples to swap live jumbos for mechanical ones

RAJESH KUMAR n New Delhi

Taking a cue from Telangana, Karnataka and Kerala to protect elephants and promote public safety, the Delhi Forest Department has advised religious institutions, temple committees and event organisers to use mechanical jumbos instead of live pachyderms during ceremonies and festivals.

"It is noticed that live captive elephants are sometimes brought from different regions for religious and cultural events under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. However, public safety concerns, animal welfare, and logistical challenges associated with the use of live elephants in crowded urban settings like Delhi cannot be overstated. It is therefore

advised that religious institutions, temple committees, event organizers, and devotees consider the use of mechanical or robotic elephants during ceremonies and festivals instead of live captive elephants," Dr P Viswakannan, Chief Wild Life Warden said in the advisory. PETA India welcomed the advisory, calling it a step towards protecting elephants and devotees.

Mechanical elephants, made from rubber, fibre, metal, mesh, foam, and steel, are motor operated and mimic the movements of a real elephant, including head shake, lifting the trunk, ear and eye movement, tail swishing, and even spraying water. It can be easily operated for processions and rituals, providing a humane alternative for traditional ceremonies.



Ornate elephant walking in the hindu temple, man in ritual clothing and musical instruments walking in front of the animal in Kerala. Representative image

Reacting to the advisory, Vikram Chandravanshi, senior policy and legal advisor at PETA India said the Delhi Forest Department's advisory is a compassionate and forward-thinking step that protects both elephants and devotees, and PETA India applauds it.

In June 2026, the Telangana Forest Department welcomed its own robotic elephant and recommended it for religious processions and film shoots. Similarly, in Karnataka in September 2024, the Muzrai (endowments) Department welcomed the use of mechanical elephants in Government temples.

In 2007, following a report submitted by PETA, the Maharashtra Government announced that elephants would no longer be allowed in Mumbai over concerns

regarding cruelty to them, the threat to human life and property from distressed elephants, and the possible transmission of tuberculosis and anthrax to humans.

Shree Krishna temple in Thrissur, Pournamikkavu temple in Thiruvananthapuram have also starting using mechanical elephants.

Kerala Tourism has introduced a mechanical elephant safari at the Thamboormozhi Butterfly Park.

According to PETA, the use of elephants for tourist rides at Amer Fort has fallen around by 70 per cent over the past seven years. According to figures compiled by the Heritage Animal Task Force, captive elephants killed 526 people in Kerala in a 15-year period.

CONTINUED ON >> P4



States Focus

BSL Shops & Foundry Department observes Safety Week



Employees taking the safety pledge during the inauguration of Safety Week at BSL's Shops & Foundry Department. PNS

PNS
n BOKARO

Bokaro Steel Plant's (BSL) Shops & Foundry Department commenced its Safety Week on Monday, with the programme scheduled from September 21 to 26, 2026. The formal inauguration was led by the Executive Director (Works) in the presence of senior officials from Maintenance, Shops & Foundry and SED.

Emphasising the importance of safety, the Executive Director (Works) called upon employees to strictly follow safe working practices and ensure timely reporting and corrective action on Unsafe Acts, Unsafe Conditions and Near Misses.

Around 250 regular and

contractual employees took the safety pledge. A street play based on vehicle safety and the 'Bow-Tie' concept was also presented.

During the week, awareness sessions, competitions, toolbox talks, street plays and spot safety quizzes will focus on Zero Tolerance Rules (ZTR), Bow-Tie Analysis, Line of Fire, PPE, LOTO, Permit to Work (PTW), Management of Change (MOC), housekeeping and Near Miss reporting.

The programme, organised with the support of departmental safety officials and members of the Shops & Foundry Safety Committee, reinforces BSL's commitment to its zero-accident objective and to building a safe, vigilant and productive workplace.

Eastern Railway upgrades Mugma-Kalubathan signalling

PNS n Deoghar

Eastern Railway has commissioned Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) in the Mugma-Kalubathan section of Asansol Division as part of its ongoing efforts to modernise infrastructure and improve train operations.

The project involved replacing 11 existing signals and upgrading train-detection systems with dual Multi-Section Digital Axle Counters (MSDACs). Two Audio Frequency Track Circuits and 25 DC Track Circuits were replaced to improve reliability and provide redundancy.

A new Integrated Power Supply system was installed at Kalubathan station to ensure uninterrupted power to signalling equipment. Relay-based ABS, a new Auto Hut near Level Crossing Gate No. 6 and dual Visual Display Units were also commissioned. The upgraded system will enable trains to operate safely at shorter regulated intervals, thereby improving line capacity and operational efficiency. Eastern Railway said the work would strengthen signalling reliability and support safer, smoother train movement on the busy section.

Adani Power lays foundation for Rs 48,000 Cr, 3,200 MW Thermal Power Plant in Assam

Pioneer News Service
n GUWAHATI
Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday laid the foundation stone for Adani Power Limited's 3,200 MW ultra-supercritical thermal power plant at Chapar in Dhubri district, marking the beginning of a project involving an investment of nearly Rs 48,000 crore.

The project, which is expected to be commissioned in phases from December 2030, is projected to generate up to 20,000 jobs during construction and around 5,000 employment opportunities after becoming operational. The plant will comprise four units of 800 MW each and feature high-efficiency systems and modern environmental safeguards. The foundation stone ceremony was attended by senior state government officials, industry representatives, local community members and Jeet Adani, Director of the Adani Group.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the project reflected investor confidence generated by the Advantage Assam Investor Summit 2.0 and would become one of the largest single investments in the state. "Besides providing massive employment opportunities, the state will also benefit through



increased economic activity and SGST revenues, while local industries and enterprises will have opportunities to participate in the emerging ecosystem," Sarma said.

The Chapar project forms part of Adani Group's proposed power investments worth approximately ₹63,000 crore in Assam. This includes around ₹15,000 crore for two pumped storage plants with a combined capacity of 2,700 MW through Adani Green Energy Limited. The group's



overall investments across power, aviation and cement in Assam are expected to exceed ₹80,000 crore.

Speaking at the event, Jeet Adani said the group's investments were intended to support local employment, entrepreneurship and economic development.

"Adani Power will invest ₹48,000 crore in this 3,200 MW thermal power project, bringing reliable and affordable electricity to support homes, businesses and indus-

tries," he said. He added that the project would create opportunities for local contractors, suppliers and businesses.

Jeet Adani said the group had already conducted four to five recruitment drives in Assam, through which around 4,500 local youths had been hired. He added that the Adani Group's businesses in the state were expected to generate approximately 40,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

Highlighting Assam's geographical location, water resources and renewable energy potential, he said the state could emerge as a major energy hub for the country, describing its potential as the "Battery of India."

The group's activities in Assam also include the development and operation of Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi

International Airport in Guwahati. Its Terminal 2 became operational in February 2026. The group is also developing Guwahati Airport City as a mixed-use commercial hub, with plans for premium and midscale hotels, retail, food and entertainment facilities.

Adani Energy Solutions is implementing smart metering projects in the state, while the group has also outlined investments in cement, connectivity and maintenance, repair and overhaul services.

The Adani Foundation has reported relief assistance to more than 8,000 flood-affected families in Sivasagar and Dhemaji districts, including the distribution of food, medicines and sanitation supplies. Its community initiatives in 19 villages in Kamrup Rural cover education, healthcare, livelihoods, infrastructure and climate action.

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Engineering Department wins RRD sports meet

PNS
n Ranchi

The first-ever Inter-Departmental Sports Meet-2026 of the Ranchi Rail Division concluded at the Hockey Stadium in Hatia on Monday, with the aim of promoting sportsmanship, team spirit and healthy competition among railway employees.

Organised by the South Eastern Railway Sports Association (SERSA), Ranchi, the meet featured competitions in cricket, football, chess, carrom, swimming, badminton, volleyball and athletics. Employees from various departments participated enthusiastically.

The Engineering Department emerged as the overall champion, while the Mechanical Department fin-



ished as runner-up. Divisional Railway Manager and SERSA Ranchi president Karuna Nidhi Singh felicitated the winning teams and outstanding performers with medals and mementoes.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Singh congratulated the participants and said sports play an important role in developing discipline, teamwork, coordination and a spirit of healthy competition among employees. He also encouraged employees to partici-

Governor flags youth's role in India's 2047 push

Nityanand Dubey
n Garhwa

Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar on Monday called on young graduates to turn their education into a force for social and national development, saying their contribution would be crucial to India's "Viksit Bharat-2047" mission.

Gangwar was speaking at the first convocation of Babu Dinesh Singh University, where he conferred degrees on 103 MDS and BDS graduates.

"Knowledge should not remain confined to personal growth. It must serve society and the nation," the governor said, stressing that the real measure of education lay in its wider social impact.



He said a university's identity was shaped not by claims but by the quality of education, research, innovation, student achievements and contribution to society.

Gangwar also highlighted the potential of students from villages and smaller towns, saying they needed access to

opportunities, guidance and resources to realise their capabilities. Referring to Garhwa's cultural and spiritual heritage, he said the district's traditions of nature, culture, folk life and faith gave it a distinctive identity. The Shri Banshidhar Temple, he said, was an important part of this heritage.

The governor said it was significant that a university was working to shape the future generation in a region with such a rich cultural and spiritual legacy.

He expressed confidence that Babu Dinesh Singh University would expand its contribution in education, research, innovation, skill development, entrepreneurship and social responsibility in the years ahead.

Firing in Wasseyapur leaves egg trader, two others injured

Pioneer News Service
n Dhanbad

Gunfire once again rattled Wasseyapur on Monday morning when two unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants allegedly opened fire on egg trader Shanu Khan near Bhuli Mor, leaving him and two others seriously injured.

A milk vendor, Saddam, and a woman customer were also hit by bullets in the attack. According to eyewitnesses, Shanu Khan was near Bhuli Mor in connection with his business when the attackers suddenly approached and opened indiscriminate fire before fleeing the scene.

The sound of gunshots triggered panic in the busy market area, with people



rushing for safety.

Local residents helped transport the three injured persons to a nearby private hospital, where they were undergoing treatment. Police reached the spot with additional personnel and began an investigation. Seven empty cartridges were reportedly recovered from the scene, while CCTV footage from the area is being examined to identify the attackers and establish their move-

ments.

The incident has also revived concerns over gang-related violence in Wasseyapur. Iqbal Khan, son of gangster Faheem Khan, who is currently lodged in Ghaghidih jail in Jamshedpur, alleged that fugitive gangster Prince Khan was behind the attack. Iqbal claimed that Prince Khan was operating from Dubai and was attempting to create fear in Dhanbad and Wasseyapur.

He further alleged that Prince Khan's father, Nasir Khan, had conducted reconnaissance in the Bhuli Mor area and had been monitoring Shanu Khan's movements for several days. These allegations have not yet been independently established by police.

Police officials said the attack could be linked to personal rivalry or a gang dispute and that all possible angles were being investigated. Efforts were underway to identify and arrest the assailants.

The shooting has triggered concern among local traders and residents, who have called for increased police patrolling and security in the area.

Power Workers' Union seeks priority for Man-Day staff in JBVNL recruitment

Pioneer News Service
n Ranchi

The Jharkhand Urja Vikas Shramik Sangh has demanded priority for long-serving human-day workers in upcoming regular recruitment by the Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited (JBVNL), along with a 10-year relaxation in the upper age limit and early filling of vacant technical posts.

The demands were raised during an online meeting chaired by union central president Ajay Rai to discuss the problems, job security and regularisation prospects of outsourced and human-day employees.

The union sought recruitment preference for workers



serving the corporation for several years, following the pattern adopted in 2016 and 2018. It also demanded that the existing five-year age relaxation be increased to 10 years to ensure experienced workers receive adequate opportunities.

The union claimed that thousands of sanctioned technical posts in JBVNL had remained vacant for years,

while regular recruitment to such positions had been limited since Jharkhand's formation. It stressed that filling these vacancies was essential for maintaining the power distribution system and ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply.

It further demanded that a list of human-day workers prepared jointly by the department and union in 2014 be used to determine service tenure. Workers appointed after 2014 should also receive experience benefits based on their actual period of service, it said.

Citing the Supreme Court's Uma Devi vs State of Karnataka judgment, the union urged consideration of suitable regularisation or regular appointment arrangements for long-

serving technical and non-technical workers, taking into account practices in other states.

The union also sought regular recruitment for gardeners, sweepers, drivers, cleaners and patrolmen, besides implementation of "equal pay for equal work" for outsourced and daily-wage employees. Rai said workers serving in difficult conditions were the backbone of the state's electricity system and that their future should not remain uncertain after years of service. The union also demanded trained personnel for hazardous technical duties, a review of the outsourcing system and a compassionate employment policy for dependents of workers who die on duty.

Fake liquor manufacturing unit busted in Balidih, one held

PNS
n BOKARO

The Excise Department on Monday busted an illegal unit allegedly involved in manufacturing counterfeit foreign liquor during a raid at Gayatri Nagar under Balidih police station area.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the Excise Department raided a walled premises and recovered a large quantity of liquor and materials used for preparing and packaging counterfeit liquor.

The seized items included 207.06 litres of foreign liquor of different brands, comprising 150 bottles of Royal Gold Whisky (750 ml), 80 bottles of Officer's Choice Whisky (750 ml), 96 bottles of Royal Stag (180 ml) and 96 bottles of McDowell's No. 1 (180 ml).

The team also recovered



120 litres of spirit, 140 litres of prepared coloured liquor, along with a large quantity of empty bottles, brand stickers, bottle caps, caramel and a punching machine used for marking liquor bottles.

During the operation, Ajay Agrawal, a resident of the Katras police station area of Dhanbad, was arrested. A

case was registered under relevant provisions and he was sent to judicial custody. Another accused, Vikash Chandra, allegedly involved in the operation, managed to flee from the spot. Further action is underway against him.

The raid was conducted under the direction of the Assistant Commissioner, Excise, Bokaro. The team included trainee Excise Inspector Vinay Kumar Singh, Excise Sub-Inspectors Amit Kumar Gupta, Manzoor Alam Ansari and Joy Hembrom, along with other departmental personnel.

The Excise Department said its campaign against the illegal manufacture, storage and trade of liquor would continue and warned that strict action would be taken against those involved in such activities.

SKMU dispels 75% cut-off myth for fourth-year entry

Pioneer News Service
n Dumka

Sido Kanhu Murmu University (SKMU) has clarified that undergraduate students do not need an aggregate of 75 per cent marks to progress to the fourth year under the National Education Policy (NEP).

At a consultative meeting of NEP nodal officers from constituent and affiliated colleges on Monday, the university said students who have either passed or been promoted in Semester VI are eligible to enrol in Semester VII and pursue the four-year undergraduate honours programme.

Registrar Dr Abdus Sattar, Director of Student Affairs Dr Poonam Hembram and NEP Coordinator Dr Deepak Kumar Das briefed college representatives on the university's newly framed



Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) governing student progression and exit options.

Dr Das explained that students completing the first three years have three options. Those opting to exit after Semester VI will receive an undergraduate degree without honours status. Students who have passed or been promoted in Semester VII can continue into Semester VII and complete the four-year honours programme without any 75 per cent eligibility requirement.

The 75 per cent threshold

applies only to students seeking admission to the four-year Undergraduate Honours with Research programme, he said. Dr Das urged college officials to clearly explain the available pathways to students. He also highlighted provisions allowing students who take an interim exit to re-enter their studies later, subject to prior formal intimation through their colleges. Registrar Dr Sattar directed the nodal officers to conduct awareness programmes across campuses so that students are informed about the UGC guidelines.

Villagers protest against proposed missionary convention in Dumka

Kumar Prabhat
n Dumka

Hundreds of tribal and rural residents on Monday blocked a road in Tarbandha village under Jama block, protesting against a proposed healing convention organised by Christian missionary groups.

The protesters, carrying placards and raising slogans, alleged that missionary organisations were frequently holding large gatherings in the area without adequately consulting local residents and, in some cases, without obtaining necessary permissions.

Former MP Sunil Soren joined the protest along with tribal leaders Vimal Marandi, Darshan Hembram, Rajendra Hembram, Ramlal Hansda and Shiddhan Soren. Community representatives alleged that such gatherings had caused inconvenience to residents and raised concerns over noise, sanitation and public order. Block Development



Officer Dr Vivek Kishore and Jama police station officer-in-charge Ajit Kumar reached the spot with police personnel and held talks with the protesters. The proposed convention is scheduled from September 23 to 25.

The protesters submitted a memorandum to the BDO, with copies to the Dumka Sub-Divisional Officer, seeking relocation of the event outside the village. They cited loudspeakers, disturbance to students, panic among livestock and accumulation of waste after earlier gatherings as reasons for their opposition. The villagers demanded that religious gatherings be held only after obtaining necessary official permissions, that sound levels be regulated and that organisers ensure complete disposal of waste.



States Focus

Aditya Sahu targets Govt over MMDR law, alleges coal theft

Pioneer News Service
n Ranchi

BJP Jharkhand president Aditya Sahu on Monday criticised the state government over its opposition to the MMDR law, alleging that large-scale coal theft was taking place in Jharkhand and that the new legislation would help curb the practice.

Speaking in Hazaribagh, Sahu claimed that Jharkhand was the only state opposing the law and termed the state government's stand "absurd and baseless". He alleged that thousands of trucks of coal were being stolen, causing significant revenue losses to the state exchequer.

Sahu further alleged that coal was being procured through illegal channels and supplied to traders at cheaper rates. He claimed that the state government's cession on minerals was contributing to higher coal prices in Jharkhand, prompting traders to source cheaper coal from neighbouring states.

Citing coal companies BCCL and CCL, Sahu claimed that he had recently met the Union Coal Minister, who, according to him, expressed concern over large-scale coal theft. Sahu alleged that the illegal trade was taking



place with the alleged connivance of the police and administration.

He said he had urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to deploy CISF personnel in mineral-rich districts such as Chatra, Latehar, Dumka and Godda, similar to the deployment at BCCL, to help protect the state's mineral resources.

On DMFT funds, Sahu alleged financial irregularities in Hazaribagh and claimed that officials were using the funds for facilities such as swimming pools and gyms at their residences. He said the BJP would campaign across villages to explain the MMDR law to people. Commenting on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his mother at an event in Indore, Sahu criticised Gandhi and said his remarks reflected his "mentality".

These were Sahu's political remarks and are not independently verified here.

BJP questions contradictory affidavits by Govt in JSSC-CGL case

Pioneer News Service
n Ranchi

State BJP Chief Spokesperson Pratul Shah Deo today launched a sharp attack on the State government over the fresh revelations emerging in the JPSC/JSSC-CGL examination case. Pratul said that the role of the state government has now come under a serious cloud of questions. On the one hand, the CGL examination was earlier given a clean chit following a CID investigation, with the government maintaining that there was no question-paper leak. On the other hand, subsequent investigation into the very same examination has led to arrests, including those of successful candidates, while fresh evidence is reportedly exposing layers of a question-paper leak network.

He asked that if the first investigation was correct, where are these arrests and fresh revelations coming from today? And if the present investigation is proceeding in the right direction, on what basis was the examination given a clean chit earlier? He added that the CID had earlier given the CGL examination a clean chit and maintained that there had been no question-paper leak. In a particularly significant claim, the CID had reportedly suggested that references to the leakage of 115 out of 125 questions were merely part of a "guess paper" and not evidence of an actual leak.



Pratul said that subsequently, the CID itself raised serious questions over the integrity of the same examination and reportedly indicated that seats were being allegedly sold for lakhs of rupees. Based on this subsequent investigation, the state government filed another affidavit before the High Court, taking a position that the sanctity and credibility of the examination had been compromised. "How can the same government take contradictory positions before the High Court on the same examination? If the state government itself has placed contradictory versions before the court, it raises a very serious question about whether the court was being misled," Pratul said.

Low-pressure system to bring rain, thunderstorms to Jharkhand

Pioneer News Service
n Ranchi

Weather conditions in Jharkhand are likely to change from Tuesday following the formation of a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, the Ranchi Meteorological Centre said on Monday.

The system is expected to bring rainfall to several parts of the state, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning. The weather office has also warned of strong winds, with speeds of 30-40 kmph, during the period.

According to the Met Centre, skies are likely to remain cloudy from September 21 to 27, with light to moderate rain expected at isolated places. Rainfall activity is likely to intensify between September 23 and 26, when rain is expected at most places across the state. The weather office has forecast thunderstorms and lightning at isolated places during the period and advised people to remain



cautious during such weather conditions.

Heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in West Singhbhum, East Singhbhum and Saraikela-Kharsawan on September 22.

On September 23, heavy rain may occur at isolated places in West Singhbhum, East Singhbhum, Saraikela-Kharsawan, Simdega, Ranchi, Khunti, Gumla, Ramgarh, Bokaro, Lohardaga and Dhanbad.

On September 24, heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places in Simdega, West Singhbhum, East Singhbhum, Saraikela-Kharsawan, Lohardaga, Ramgarh, Hazaribagh, Koderma, Bokaro, Dhanbad, Ranchi, Gumla, Khunti, Giridih and Latehar.

Govt sends twenty-five children to Kochi for free heart surgery

Pioneer News Service
n Ranchi

Twenty-five children from economically weaker families suffering from congenital heart defects and other serious heart ailments were sent to Kochi on Sunday for advanced cardiac treatment and complex surgeries, with the Jharkhand government set to bear the entire cost of their treatment.

The children, comprising the second batch under an initiative of Health Minister Irfan Ansari, were referred to Amrita Hospital in Kochi. The government will provide treatment costing up to Rs10 lakh per child free of cost, according to the Health Department.

Ansari said congenital



Health Minister Irfan Ansari with 25 children being sent to Kochi from Hatia Railway station for free heart surgeries in Ranchi on Monday. PNS

heart conditions, including holes in the heart, often require complex and expensive procedures, making timely treatment difficult for poor families. He said the initiative was aimed at ensuring

that no child is denied treatment because of financial constraints. "Saving lives and giving children a new lease of life is my priority. If a small effort on my part can save a child's life and bring a

smile to the face of poor parents, there can be no greater achievement for me," he said. The minister said the first batch of children had already been sent to Kochi, where they underwent treatment and surgeries successfully before returning home. He said the government would continue identifying children requiring specialised cardiac care and facilitate their treatment.

Ansari also appealed to MPs, MLAs and other public representatives to inform the Health Department about children in their constituencies suffering from congenital heart disease whose families cannot afford treatment. He assured that the state government would take responsibility for their

treatment.

The minister said strengthening Jharkhand's healthcare system and extending advanced medical facilities to poor and needy people remained among his top priorities. "Changes in the healthcare system should be visible on the ground, not merely on paper. Our goal is to ensure timely and quality treatment for every needy person," he said.

Health Department Additional Chief Secretary Ajay Kumar Singh said the minister's initiative was helping provide advanced cardiac treatment to children from poor families. He said the department was moving ahead with new technology, new programmes and improved

medical facilities.

Singh added that the families of the children would not have to spend even a single rupee on their treatment.

NHM Managing Director Shashi Prakash Jha said the initiative reflected the government's focus on ensuring timely and advanced treatment for children with congenital heart disease. He said the programme would be continued so that financial hardship did not become an obstacle to treatment.

Senior Health Department officials were present on the occasion. Railway officials, including the DRM and other personnel, also assisted in facilitating the children's departure for Kochi.

Congress to march to Lok Bhavan on Sept 26 over MMDR Act

Pioneer News Service
n Ranchi

The Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee will take out a march to Lok Bhavan in Ranchi on September 26 to raise objections to the 2026 amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act and what the party has termed the "Chanda Chori" issue. Congress state in-charge K. Raju is also scheduled to participate in the programme.

State Congress president Keshav Mahto Kamlesh said the party would raise what it described as questions concerning Jharkhand's constitutional and fiscal interests. He said the issue was not limited to mining, but also concerned the distribution of powers between the Centre and states.

The MMDR Amendment Act, 2026 was passed by Parliament on August 13 and received presidential assent on August 17. According to reports on the amended law, it places restrictions on state governments imposing taxes, cess or other levies on mineral rights and mineral-bearing land, subject to conditions prescribed by the Centre. Congress has opposed these provisions, arguing that they could affect the state's revenue



K. Raju, Congress state in-charge, speaking at a press conference.

Kamlesh referred to the Supreme Court's July 2024 nine-judge Constitution Bench judgment in Mineral Area Development Authority v. Steel Authority of India. By an 8:1 majority, the court held that royalty is not a tax and that states have constitutional authority to levy taxes on mineral rights, while also holding that Parliament can, through legislation, impose limitations on that power.

The Congress leader questioned how the new amendment should be assessed against constitutional provisions governing taxation and mineral development, including Entries 49, 50 and 54 of the Seventh

Schedule. These are matters that will ultimately depend on the interpretation and application of the amended law and constitutional provisions.

Kamlesh also said the September 26 programme would raise questions over financial transparency relating to donations collected in the name of temple construction. He stressed that the party was not opposed to religious faith but wanted transparency regarding the collection and utilisation of funds.

These statements represent the Congress party's position. According to the state Congress, K. Raju will arrive in Ranchi on September 25 and attend organisational meetings before joining the march and public demonstration on September 26. The proposed march will begin at the Shaheed Sthal and proceed towards Lok Bhavan.

Congress has directed its district, block and panchayat-level organisations to intensify mobilisation ahead of the programme. The party has said the September 26 march will be conducted as a democratic campaign on issues it considers important to Jharkhand's mineral resources and revenue interests.

Karam festival celebrates nature, tradition and tribal culture: Minister



Pioneer News Service
n Ranchi

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative Minister Shilpi Neha Tirkey on Monday attended a Karam Eve programme organised by the Sarna Committee at Sarna Bal Vikas High School in Podhatoli, Chanho.

Addressing the gathering, Tirkey said Karam was not merely a festival but an occasion to reconnect with nature, tradition, culture and community values. She said Karam celebrations play an important role in preserving tribal identity, traditional beliefs and cultural heritage.

The minister also joined members of various Khodha dance groups in traditional performances and encouraged the participating artists. Tirkey appreciated the

Sarna Committee for organising the event with dedication and collective participation despite limited resources. She said festivals bring people together, provide an opportunity for families and communities to reconnect, and help pass cultural traditions to younger generations. Highlighting the nature-based worldview of tribal communities, she said their ancestors had traditionally regarded water, forests, land and nature as integral to life. Preserving this heritage and maintaining harmony with nature, she said, remains a collective responsibility. Tirkey also emphasised the need to protect tribal languages, traditions, festivals and the knowledge of ancestors. She urged young people to embrace modernity while remaining connected to their cultural roots.

RMC begins preparations for Durga Puja Centre begins process to upgrade CIP Ranchi

PNS n Ranchi

The Ranchi Municipal Corporation (RMC) has begun preparations to ensure smooth arrangements for devotees during Durga Puja, with civic officials holding a meeting with puja committees on Monday to review facilities and identify problems in and around pandal areas.

The meeting, chaired by Municipal Commissioner Sushant Gaurav, focused on key issues including waterlogging caused by rain, electricity poles and wires, street lighting, sanitation, parking and security.

Representatives of various puja committees placed their local concerns before the civic body. They sought regular cleaning around puja pandals, repair of non-functional streetlights and safety measures for electrical wires



Ranchi Mayor Rohini Khalko holds a meeting with all Durga Puja Committee members ahead of Durga Puja festival in Ranchi on Monday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

and poles.

With rainfall remaining a concern during the festival, special emphasis was placed on cleaning drains of different sizes to prevent waterlogging.

Puja committees urged the civic body to identify waterlogging-prone locations in advance and make necessary arrangements so that devotees' movement is not disrupted during rain.

The meeting also discussed facilities for women, arrangements for devotees who may need to stay in the

area and parking facilities near major pandals.

The committees called for strengthened security at crowded puja venues and adequate arrangements to deal with emergencies. The setting up of lost-and-found centres and round-the-clock emergency services during the festival was also discussed.

The civic body assured the committees that coordination would be maintained with them to complete all arrangements within the stipulated time.

Pioneer News Service
n Ranchi

The Centre has initiated further action for the proposed upgradation of the Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP), Ranchi, following a demand raised in the Rajya Sabha for granting the premier mental health institution the status of an Institute of National Importance.

BJP national secretary and Rajya Sabha MP Dr Pradeep Kumar Verma had raised the issue during Zero Hour, seeking the Centre's intervention to develop CIP Ranchi as a modern, nationally significant mental healthcare institution equipped with advanced treatment and research facilities.

In a letter to Verma, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav said



that, in accordance with the announcement made in the Union Budget regarding the upgradation of CIP Ranchi, further action was being taken as per established procedures on the development of the institute and all related aspects. Founded in 1918, CIP Ranchi has played a significant role in mental healthcare, training and research in the country. According to official government records cited in the release, the institute has a sanctioned capacity of 643 beds and provides mental health services to a large number of patients.

Verma said upgrading CIP Ranchi into a modern national-level mental health institution would be significant not only for Jharkhand but also for the country. He said the proposed development was expected to expand advanced treatment facilities while strengthening research, specialist training and the capacity-building of healthcare professionals.

He said the Centre's move marked an important step towards addressing Jharkhand's long-standing demand for strengthening CIP Ranchi and added that efforts would be made to expedite all aspects related to the institute's development.

Verma also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister Prataprao Jadhav for the Centre's initiative towards upgrading the historic institution.

Jharkhand's mineral wealth belongs to its people: JMM

Pioneer News Service
n Ranchi

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) central general secretary Vinod Kumar Pandey has hit back at BJP state president Aditya Sahu over his remarks on the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, asserting that Jharkhand's natural resources cannot be treated as the property of any political party or corporate interest.

Pandey said BJP leaders should first understand Jharkhand's history and the

struggles that led to the creation of the state before lecturing its people on their rights. His remarks came amid an intensifying political debate over the MMDR amendments, with the BJP launching a statewide awareness campaign to defend the legislation and the JMM opposing it. (UNI)

"Every inch of Jharkhand belongs to its people. The soil has been nourished by the blood and sweat of our ancestors," Pandey said, invoking the sacrifices of Birsu Munda, Sidho-Kanhu, Chand-Bhairav, Phulo-Jhano

and JMM patriarch Shib Soren, among others.

He said the contribution of women to the statehood movement should also not be forgotten, alleging that families made immense sacrifices during the struggle for a separate Jharkhand.

Pandey alleged that the BJP was more concerned about the interests of large corporate groups than those of Jharkhand and its people. He said the state's mineral resources should primarily serve Jharkhand's development and the interests of its residents.



On the MMDR amendments, Pandey said the BJP should explain to the people what impact the new provisions would have on the state's rights over mineral resources and its revenue. He said the JMM was raising these concerns with the

Centre and that its campaign was aimed at protecting Jharkhand's interests rather than targeting any particular political party.

The BJP, however, has maintained that the amended law does not take away the states' revenue interests. Sahu has said royalty, auction premium, District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds and GST-related revenues would remain protected, and that the amendments were intended to promote transparency, investment and employment in the mining sector. (Uni

India) Pandey urged BJP leaders to question their own central government on how the interests of mineral-rich states such as Jharkhand would be protected.

He said the JMM would continue its campaign on the rights over "water, forests, land and mineral resources" and would not compromise on the state's interests. The JMM held protests at block headquarters across the state on September 19 as part of its campaign against the MMDR amendments.

New DUSU panel visits Satya Niketan after building collapse

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Newly elected Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) office-bearers affiliated with the ABVP on Monday visited Satya Niketan to pay homage to those who lost their lives in the building collapse earlier this month and pledged to raise issues concerning students' safety and accommodation.

The DUSU president, secretary and joint secretary visited 'Satya Square' around 4.30 pm, two days after the results of the university's student body elections were declared. According to an ABVP statement, the newly elected representatives assured students that the union would work throughout the year to address concerns related to accommodation, rents, basic amenities and safety in Satya Niketan and surrounding areas. The representatives also called for concrete measures to prevent similar incidents in the future and accountability from the authorities. The visit came after the RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) won three of the four central panel posts in the DUSU



Newly elected Delhi University Students Union office-bearers affiliated with the ABVP during a visit to Satya Niketan in New Delhi

PTI

elections, securing the positions of president, secretary and joint secretary.

ABVP Delhi State Secretary Sarthak Sharma said the election victory marked the beginning of the union's accountability towards students. "Satya Niketan is the heartbeat of South Campus students, yet they constantly grapple with issues regarding accommodation and basic amenities," Sharma was quoted as saying in the statement. He said the organisa-

tion would raise students' concerns before the university administration and the ". Dabas said the visit was not merely a formality and pledged that DUSU would work to address arbitrary rents, inadequate amenities and security concerns. He also said the union would take steps towards implementing the Room Rent Regulation Act, strengthening security measures and safeguarding students' legal rights, according to the statement.

Delhi lawyers strike against 50% pre-deposit challan rule

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi

Lawyers on Monday abstained from work in all seven district courts in the national capital to protest amendments to the traffic challan system, particularly the requirement to deposit 50 per cent of the challan amount before approaching a court. The day-long strike followed a call given by the Coordination Committee of all district court Bar Associations, which had flagged concerns over the amended Rule 167 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989.

During their protest, lawyers gathered in all district courts and raised slogans demanding that the Delhi "revoke the amendment.

Under the amended mechanism, a person issued a challan is required to either accept and pay it, or contest it through the prescribed portal before an authority specified by the state ". The challenge has to be filed within 45 days.

Lawyers have objected to the provision under which, if the challenge is rejected by the designated authority, the person can approach the competent court only after depositing 50 per cent of the challan amount. They have also questioned the role assigned to the Executive in deciding

a person's challenge before the matter can reach a court, contending that such determination involves a judicial function.

The lawyers said the mandatory pre-deposit could effectively burden a person who disputes the alleged traffic violation and may discourage them from seeking judicial redress.

They also raised concerns over the under which a challan would be treated as "deemed to have been accepted" if it is not contested before the specified authority within the prescribed period.



BJP WILL NOT ALLOW DIVIDE AND RULE IN UP: NABIN



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Meerut

BJP president Nitin Nabin on Monday accused the Congress and the Samajwadi Party of adopting "divide and rule" and said his party will not allow it to be implemented again in Uttar Pradesh "under any circumstances".

Addressing a conference of BJP's Shakti Kendra coordinators here, Nabin also described Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Students Ki Goonj' programme as an "echo of lies", saying that "lies do not have a long life".

Sonia voter-roll row probe revived

"The sanctity of the electoral roll is an article of faith for every citizen in a parliamentary democracy. The mightiest in the land may only be a voter or citizen at par with others less powerful," the judge said.

"Any allegation of tampering with the electoral rolls, fraudulent inclusion of the name of a voter, inclusion of the name of a non-citizen, and possible use of false declarations or documents merits a reasoned order to determine whether allegations relating to cheating and forgery have been disclosed," he said.

He said the ACJM's order recorded no discussion on the sequence in which Gandhi's name was included, deleted, and again included in the electoral roll in 1980, 1982 and 1983 respectively.

Rather than finding whether these allegations constituted a cognisable offence, the impugned order simply branded the complaint as lacking essential particulars, the judge said, adding that the extract of the electoral roll was casually dismissed as being "a photocopy of the photocopy of the alleged extract of the uncertified roll of 1980." He said, "The limited prayer before the ACJM was to consider the extract of the electoral roll and other allegations as being adequate, or otherwise to direct investigation for the allegedly fraudulent entry of the name of Sonia Gandhi."

In effect, it is a non-speaking order on the question of disclosure of a cognisable offence, the judge said.

"The order suffers from a manifest error in law on account of non-compliance with Section 175(3) of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), inter alia, not hearing the submissions of the concerned police officer and non-calling of a status report from the concerned police station," the judge said.

Section 175(3) empowers a magistrate to order police investigation into a cognisable offence.

The judge said the magistrate failed to consider the twin options permissible in law: one, directing the registration of an FIR; two, the conduct of proceedings under Section 223 of the BNSS (which governs the magistrate examining the complainant and witnesses after taking cognisance of an offence).

Regarding the issue of citizenship, the judge said the ACJM had only to decide whether the allegations disclosed a cognisable offence and whether it called for a police investigation. However, he conflated this with the jurisdiction of the Central government and digressed towards the issue of citizenship.

The court said it was unable to fathom why the ACJM considered the Election Commission's powers to include or exclude persons from electoral rolls to be a bar on the police to prove fraudulent inclusion of names in electoral rolls or the use of false documents.

The judge said the magisterial court did not perform its "core function" of discerning the disclosure of a cognisable offence.

"The court finds the four pillars of reasoning adopted in the impugned order to be perverse and improper, as well as an incorrect appreciation of law and allegations. In fact, the impugned order is liable to be set aside," the judge said.

He remanded the matter back to the magisterial court to "pass a speaking order in light of the specific requirements of 175(3) of the BNSS" and directed fresh hearing of the complainant's arguments. The matter has been posted for further hearing on September 29.

Chargesheet in Ram temple theft row..

It instructed the magistrate to act on the chargesheet in accordance with the law and requested that the State also send a copy of the chargesheet to the SC. The court refused to provide the petitioners with a copy of the sealed status report, on the ground that the judicial order summarised its contents.

The case started in June 2026 when officials noticed that the cash collected from donation boxes did not match the amount deposited in the banks. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust requested an investigation.

On June 13, the State formed a three-member SIT led by Lucknow Divisional Commissioner Vijay Vishwas Pant, with Kiran S as Range Inspector General and Neel Ratan Kumar as Special Secretary (Finance).

Following the Supreme Court's July directions, the team was reconstituted, and a forensic auditor was added. A preliminary SIT report, submitted on June 23, reviewed CCTV footage from

April 27 to June 5 and identified about 70 suspected cases of theft or pilferage.

The staff were seen hiding bundles of notes and loose cash in their clothing, pockets, and shoes. Some employees were said to have blocked the camera view, while others took the notes. Later on, hidden cameras placed by members of the trust recorded the same kind of activity.

It was discovered that standard operating procedures had been ignored: security guards were not posted during the count, personnel were not searched on entry and exit, and footage was kept for only 45 days rather than the recommended 180 days.

Police filed an FIR that named eight people involved in counting cash and valuables: Avinash Shukla, Anukalp Mishra, Lavkush Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ramashankar Mishra, Subhash Srivastava, and Ram Shankar Yadav, also known as Tinnu, along with others whose names are not known. Police arrested all eight in late June.

Investigators recovered almost 780 lakh in cash from several of the accused. Bank records and witness statements suggest the practice may have started before the available footage. Two senior trust officials, one of them the general secretary, Champat Rai, resigned as a result of the controversy. The most recent status report has increased the number of recorded CCTV incidents from 70 to 105. The offences under review include criminal breach of trust and violations of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The court has said further investigation may still occur. The SIT has reviewed CCTV footage, collected evidence, conducted forensic tests, and examined financial records. The chargesheet, expected this week, will determine the prosecution's next step in the Sessions Court. The Supreme Court is still monitoring the case.

Viral video of Bihar minors' assault...

The group forced the students to apologise before letting them go.

The Bihar police has formed a Special Investigation Team led by SDPO Deepti Monali to lead the investigation. So far, seven suspects from the footage have been identified, the police claim. Three suspects have been arrested, and police are still searching for the others, including the man seen sexually assaulting the girl.

State Women's Commission Chairperson Apsara Mishra said a detailed report had been sought from the district administration on the incident, which has triggered criticism of the BJP-led Government over the safety of women and girls in the state.

The episode triggered a political slugfest, with criticisms coming from several opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi.

Gandhi, who is Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, came out with an angry post on X, describing the incident as "deeply disturbing".

"This is not culture, it is patriarchy," the Congress leader said, alleging that "andhbhakt" were responsible for such attitudes being "normalised".

The Rae Bareilly MP demanded that the persons identified in the video be "prosecuted under POCsO" and asked the BJP-led government in the state "why a girl is not safe on a public road".

The Aam Aadmi Party also shared the video clip on its X handle, reminding Prime Minister Narendra Modi of his "beti bachao" slogan and alleging "in your BJP-ruled state of Bihar, a daughter's dignity is being torn to shreds".

RJD working president Tejashwi Yadav, who is the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, blamed the incident on Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary without naming him and referred to him as "nausikhiya" (inept).

Yadav also held Modi "solely responsible" for the "anarchy in Bihar", and alleged that JD(U) president Nitish Kumar, the former chief minister, was "made to pack his bags within four months of getting a fresh mandate by offering doles to the state's women".

The Trinamool Congress also condemned the incident. "What gives anyone the right to put their hands on a woman's body, WITHOUT HER CONSENT? Who gave these hooligans the authority to moral-police a young woman and a young man, humiliate them and violate their dignity?", the party said in a post on X.

"The Jamui incident is deeply disturbing. The trauma inflicted on that young woman - and on the young man who was subjected to such humiliation - will not disappear anytime soon. Every person responsible in the incident must face due process and the strongest punishment

FROM PAGE - 1

permitted by law, without delay or political interference," it said. In Kolkata, Union Panchayati Raj and Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh asserted that law and order in Bihar is totally secure.

The Munger MP asserted that women are now free to step out of their homes at any time of the day in the state.

"Law and order in the state is totally secure," Singh said on the sidelines of a review meeting on development of fisheries in West Bengal.

IIT-Bombay removes dean after student suicide...

The IIT-Bombay also issued a public apology for its earlier communication that characterised the events preceding the death of the student, Sahil Wakode, before a detailed inquiry was completed.

Wakode, a second-year B.Tech student in the Department of Energy Science and Engineering hailing from Maharashtra's Yavatmal district, was found hanging in his hostel room on the Powai campus on Friday evening, hours after he was allegedly caught using a mobile phone to access ChatGPT during a mid-semester examination.

The Mumbai Police have booked Doolla under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Section 108 (abetment of suicide) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, following a complaint lodged by Sahil's family.

In an email to students, IIT Bombay Director Shireesh Kedare confirmed the removal of Doolla, who previously served as the Dean of Student Affairs, from the current post.

Doolla, who is a professor, continues to remain in the faculty.

"In view of the ongoing investigation, it was inappropriate to have set out or characterised details relating to the events preceding Sahil's demise before they had been duly established through the appropriate investigative process," the institute said in its statement on Monday, retracting its earlier assertion that Sahil was caught cheating but faced no disciplinary action.

However, student groups expressed dissatisfaction with the move, demanding his suspension as a faculty member.

On Monday evening, the faculty members held a march in the institute's campus to support Doolla. The Faculty Forum said that he followed "Senate-approved exam procedure" when he reported the student for alleged phone use on September 18.

Sahil's family alleged that he was subjected to systematic institutional harassment and caste-based discrimination.

"He was our only son. We reached this stage after immense struggle and now they have finished him. The staff harassed him using casteism. I want justice," said his father, Ravindra Wakode, demanding a comprehensive probe into the administration's role.

Sahil's father Ravindra Wakode claimed that his son was mocked, tortured and discriminated on caste lines and demanded probe into the role of the IIT Bombay administration in his son's death.

The student protesters at IIT-Bombay claimed that Sahil faced severe pressure and threats of academic suspension.

Kedare told protesters late Sunday night that he will resign on Monday, but noted he must follow the process. The institute said he has not resigned.

Police detained Youth Congress workers protesting outside the IIT Bombay gate over the student's suicide.

Security in and around the campus was beefed up after protests by students and Youth Congress workers.

Many local residents and alumni attempted to visit the campus. However, as a precautionary measure, entry was restricted. Only current students and authorised staff can enter, an official said.

Members of political and social organisations gathered outside the main gate of IIT Bombay to protest against the administration. "A few protesters from outside organisations gathered at the main gate. They were promptly removed from the spot and taken into preventive custody," a police official said.

A student said he stayed in the room next to Sahil's and they used to hang out regularly. "Students face immense academic pressure here, which the management needs to address. However, I personally never witnessed casteism on campus," he said.

"On the day of the incident, a professor took Sahil out of the classroom after he was allegedly caught cheating. Something serious must have triggered him to take such an extreme step," the student said.

Student groups and alumni alleged systemic issues within the administration.

Pranav Jeevan, an alumnus, criticised the institute's handling of student affairs and mental health.

"The administration frequently punishes students with arbitrary threats of hostel eviction, suspension, and heavy financial penalties, even fining students up to Rs 1.5 lakh for organising a play," he said.

"Despite past tragedies, the campus lacks effective caste sensitisation, adequate mental health support, and an empowered SC/ST Cell to address discrimination," he alleged.

Jeevan claimed that official statements released prior to a detailed investigation aimed to protect faculty members, adding that non-compliance with faculty reservation norms remains an unaddressed root issue.

Security has been stepped up around the institute in view of the protests.

Around 50 police personnel, including inspectors, sub-inspectors, and women officers, have been deployed around the campus, while multiple police vans have been stationed at the main gates, an official said.

Mumbai Police Crime Branch is probing the circumstances surrounding the student's death. A police official said the investigation is expected to shed light on reasons which prompted Sahil to take the extreme step.

Keep faith, drop cruelty: Delhi urges temples...

PETA India has also called for a nationwide ban on elephant rides, bathing experiences, selfies and other close-contact tourist activities involving captive elephants, following several incidents involving elephants and humans.

The organisation also urged the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to encourage states to adopt robotic elephants in temples and for other activities, including film and photo shoots, weddings and tourist rides. PETA India noted that captive elephants used in processions, rides and other events are often subjected to harsh training methods, including beating and chaining. It claimed that many elephants kept in temples and other facilities suffer from foot problems and leg wounds, inadequate veterinary care and a lack of natural living conditions.

Battle for symbol: SC sets urgent hearing...

On Thursday, the ECI barred both groups from using the 'All India Trinamool Congress' name and reserved its symbol pending a substantive determination of the dispute.

In its interim order issued on Thursday night, the poll panel, after hearing leaders of the two factions led by Banerjee and Arup Roy, said the matter requires substantive determination by the poll body under provisions of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order 1968.

In her plea filed in the apex court, Banerjee has made the ECI and Ritabrata Banerjee, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, as party respondents.

On September 18, Banerjee attacked the ECI over its decision to freeze the TMC's name and Jora Ghash Phul (twin flowers on grass) symbol, likening the loss of the party's identity to the pain of a mother losing her child and calling it a "black day" in the country's democratic history.

Banerjee had said she would not accept the interim arrangement as a settlement and vowed to fight till the end to reclaim the party's original identity and its flowers-and-grass symbol politically, democratically and legally.

Her statements came hours after the poll panel allotted her faction the name 'Mamata All India Trinamool Congress' and the 'Football Player' symbol for the October 6 bypolls to Nandigram and Rejinagar.

The rival faction led by Roy was allotted the name 'Democratic Trinamool Congress' and the 'Envelope' symbol.

Assembly bypolls to Nandigram in East Medinipur district and Rejinagar in Murshidabad district are scheduled for October 6, with vote counting on October 9.

The bypolls in West Bengal were necessitat-

ed as Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari won from both Nandigram and Bhabanipur, and chose to vacate Nandigram, while AIUP leader Humayun Kabir won from both Naoda and Rejinagar, and decided to give up the Rejinagar seat.

The ECI order comes in the aftermath of a rebellion in the TMC legislature party after the Assembly poll defeat in May which later spread to Parliament.

In June, 58 rebel MLAs elected expelled leader Ritabrata Banerjee as the leader of opposition in the West Bengal Assembly instead of the Mamata camp nominee, Sovande Chattopadhyay, and secured recognition from the Speaker, marking the party's first split in its 28-year history.

Five days later, the revolt reached Parliament, with 20 Lok Sabha MPs led by Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar joining the little-known NCPI and writing to Speaker Om Birla, backing the BJP-led NDA as a "separate bloc", deepening the rupture in the party's parliamentary ranks.

Xi, Trump summit from September 23

"The reciprocal visits by the two heads of state within a span of six months will mark a milestone of historic significance," he said.

The two leaders last met in Beijing in May during Trump's China visit, when they talk talks aimed at improving ties between the world's two largest economies.

"China will work with the US to enrich the dimensions of the China-US constructive relationship of strategic stability, strengthen dialogue and cooperation and properly manage differences so as to deliver greater benefits to our two peoples and to further contribute to world peace, stability and prosperity," Guo said.

Trump plans to accord a rare airport reception to Xi by personally receiving him on the tarmac at Joint Base Andrews, according to the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post.

From trade tariffs and technology to AI, military-to-military ties, the conflict in West Asia, the Russia-Ukraine war, the space arms race and US arms sales to Taiwan, a range of issues are expected to figure in the meeting between the two world leaders.

Ahead of Xi's visit, Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer held "candid, in-depth and constructive" talks on economic and trade issues, including AI, on Sunday in New York.

In his talks with He, Bessent said the US had proposed a new notification mechanism for artificial intelligence incidents that could affect national security.

"We want a shared vision of common goals and common threats," Bessent told the media in New York. "We think that just like any cross-border activity, that moving from opaque to more transparency between the No. 1 and the No. 2 AI powers in the world is very important."

"Guided by the important consensus reached by the heads of state of the two countries, He and Bessent engaged in exchanges on important economic and trade issues of common concern, as well as the implementation of consensus reached in previous talks, while upholding the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The Xi-Trump talks assume significance against the backdrop of Trump signing a new sanctions law that authorises him to impose tariffs of up to 100 per cent on countries buying Russian oil and gas, including China and India.

Trump last week signed the Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, which authorises expanded sanctions and gives the president powers to impose tariffs on countries that buy Russian energy.

China has rejected US attempts to impose tariffs over its purchases of Russian oil and gas, saying normal trade cooperation between countries should not be subject to interference by third parties. China engages in normal economic and trade cooperation with other countries based on equality and mutual benefit, Guo Jiakun told reporters on September 17.

China opposes long-arm jurisdiction and unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law and lack a UN Security Council mandate, he said. Despite the tariff threat, Washington and Beijing are also negotiating a reciprocal tariff reduction framework covering products worth \$30 billion from each side, China's commerce ministry said.

The consultations aim to reach a reciprocal tariff reduction arrangement at the earliest possible date, ministry spokesperson Huang Ling said.

BJP slams Congress over ex-VP Ansari’s remarks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The BJP on Monday criticised the Congress over former vice president Hamid Ansari's remarks citing former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's views on "Hindu right-wing communalism", alleging that they expose the Opposition party's "Muslim League, Maoist" character.

The ruling party also attacked Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi over his "Chhatron Ki Goonj" event in Indore, saying he had demeaned his constitutional post with "clownish caricature".

Ansari, while speaking at an event commemorating late constitutional expert and author AG Noorani in New Delhi on Friday, referred to Nehru's view that "the real danger to India was not communism, but Hindu right-wing communalism"—cited in Noorani's 2019 book 'The RSS: A Menace to India'.

Addressing a press conference on Monday, BJP MP and national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said Ansari's remarks have "thoroughly exposed that



BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi

Congress has become Muslim League Maoist Congress in totality". He said the former vice president's comment also suggests that Nehru considered communism a threat, while the Congress has now shifted towards "ultra-left".

"Today, the Congress has gone ultra-left. It has taken a dive into communism, which Nehru considered a threat," he said.

He further said Congress leaders should think before citing Nehru, claiming they may not have read what the former prime minister had written in his books. Trivedi said Ansari has not just "dug up buried ghosts of history", but "breathed life into them".

He alleged that the Muslim leaders endorsed by the

Congress have "League-like sentiments", ideas which have now become exceedingly prevalent within the grand old party.

Responding to a query regarding alleged anti-women remarks by Kerala Islamic scholar Kanthapuram AP Aboobacker Musliyar, Trivedi asserted that the Congress must oppose such sentiments, alleging that the party has been an "obedient follower" of the cleric despite claiming to be flag-bearers of "Smash the Patriarchy".

Musliyar, the Grand Mufti of India, sparked widespread controversy in August after allegedly stating that women should remain confined to their homes and stay out of the public sphere.

Responding to a query

about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "Chhatron Ki Goonj" event in Indore, Trivedi attacked the leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, saying whether he is qualified to remain in the constitutional post is a "yaksha prashna" (crucial question).

"He has demeaned the post of leader of Opposition, compromising grace and gravitas for clownish caricature. In simple Hindi, he has descended to 'jokarai' (buffoonery)," he said. "When there is a lack of creativity, downfall is inevitable — his events have gone from humorous poetry sessions to laughter shows, and from laughter shows to stand-up comedy, and in stand-up comedy, vulgarity has crept in. The Congress has descended into utter obscenity," Trivedi said.

He said the Congress should consider if it still represents the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, Lokmanya Tilak, Rajendra Prasad, C Rajagopalachari, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Sardar Patel and Pranab Mukherjee. "Such lows were never witnessed during the times of Jawaharlal Nehru or Indira ji. This is the lowest the Congress has stooped to in its 140 years," he said.

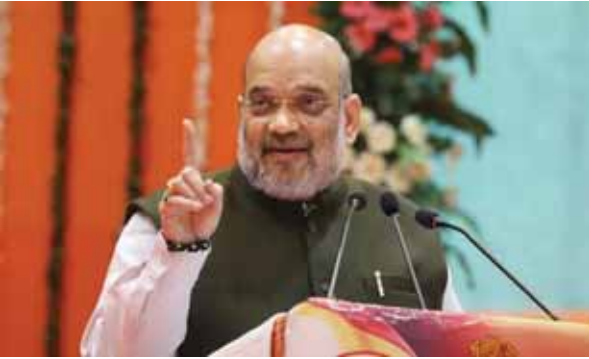
Shah to inaugurate national conference of ANTFs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will open the third National Conference of the Heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTFs) in New Delhi on Tuesday. The two-day event, arranged by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), will bring together the chiefs of ANTFs from all 36 States and union territories. Shah is expected to launch anti-drug television advertisements, lay the foundation stones for new NCB regional complexes in Lucknow and Dehradun, present an award to the most successful ANTF, and launch a renewed NCB website.

The conference theme, 'United Resolve, Shared Responsibility', is based on the Vision Document for Narcotics Control (2026–29). This plan is built upon four pillars: enforcement, intelligence and operations; control of precursor and synthetic drugs; demand and harm reduction; and capacity building and coordination. The technical sessions will address cartel networks, rehabilitation, clandestine laboratories, illicit cultivation, and investigations into the Darknet and Cryptocurrency.

The Government's primary evidence of progress comes



from seizure and case data. In 2025, the various agencies recorded 1,48,063 trafficking cases and made 1,83,675 arrests, compared with 96,930 cases and 1,22,224 arrests in 2024. They seized 1,240.9 tonnes of drugs worth approximately `18,227 crore; ganja made up the largest portion of this, amounting to 628.19 tonnes, an increase from 533.9 tonnes the year before. Hashish decreased to 5.11 tonnes from 6.48 tonnes the previous year.

The total weight of heroin seized was 3,567 kg, of which Punjab accounted for 2,085.55 kg, or 58 per cent of the national total. Cocaine seizures amounted to 226 kg, with Maharashtra leading the way at 108.06 kg and Delhi at 55.49 kg. From 2021 to 2025, the total amount seized was over 6,800 tonnes, valued at about Rs 1.08 lakh crore. Annual

figures were 1,609.6 tonnes in 2021, 1,253.6 tonnes in 2022, 1,389.7 tonnes in 2023, 1,330.6 tonnes in 2024, and 1,240.9 tonnes in 2025.

The NCB said that in 2025 it seized about 1.33 lakh kg of narcotics valued at nearly `2,000 crore, made 994 arrests, destroyed 77,773 kg of narcotics, and achieved a conviction rate of about 67 per cent. New routes have been developed. The number of cases relating to drones increased from three incidents and 10 kg in 2021 to 305 incidents and 468 kg in 2025; Punjab accounted for 298 of those 305 drops. Thirty clandestine synthetic-drug laboratories were closed down in 2025. There were 1,356 financial investigations, as a result of which assets worth `836 crore were frozen or seized.

The State of Punjab also had 8,95,508 bottles of codeine-based cough syrup

seized. In 2025, the amount of illegal poppy destroyed reached 42,282 acres, up from 22,512 acres in 2024 and about 10,000 acres in 2020. A separate drug disposal drive, which was launched in June 2026, focused on the destruction of 2,09,500 kg of seized drugs with a value exceeding `6,000 crore. These same figures show certain limitations, since the total tonnage and value of drugs seized decreased in 2025 even though the number of cases and arrests went up, a situation consistent with smaller, more scattered consignments.

Demand is still high: official estimates suggest that the number of people using opioids is around 2.1 per cent, that is about 22.6 million, and cannabis use is even higher. A survey carried out by AIIMS among school students in ten cities found that the rate of substance use over their lifetime was about 15 per cent, with the average age of first use being near 13.

The ANTFs were set up as a result of a directive issued in 2021, and it will be up to making them full-time and well-equipped units to combine interdiction with credible treatment, whether or not the roadmap for the period 2026 to 2029 alters the availability and use of drugs, not just the size of the following seizure table.

Row over Vande Mataram in Karnataka Assembly

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bengaluru

BJP legislators recited the full version of Vande Mataram at the beginning of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly and Council proceedings on Monday, when the recording that was officially played in both the Houses ended after two stanzas.

A three-day special session of the Karnataka legislature, convened to discuss the drought situation in the State and the Kasturirangan report on Western Ghats ecologically sensitive areas, began here at Vidhan Soudha. The session at the Legislative Assembly started with the playing of the recorded Vande Mataram song, but it ended after rendering two stanzas.

Soon after that, Speaker GS Patil read out obituary refer-



Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar during the State special Assembly Session in Bengaluru

ences for the prominent people who passed away recently. However, BJP MLAs continued reciting the full version of the national song and concluded it by raising Vande Mataram slogans. Subsequently, Chief Minister DK Shivakumar started his intervention regarding the obituary references by paying

tribute to former MLA RB Shiriannavar, who died on August 27. Similarly, at the Legislative Council, BJP members continued reciting the remaining stanzas of the national song, even as Council Chairman Saleem Ahmed started reading the preamble of the Constitution, as per the practice.

J&K Assembly adjourned amid uproar on first day

MOHIT KANDHARI
n Jammu

On day one of the Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, members from the Opposition and treasury benches resorted to slogan-shouting soon after the obituary references were over.

The Speaker of the House was seen struggling to restore order during the question hour amid repeated disruptions. As the chaos prevailed, the Speaker decided to adjourn the day's proceedings. The House will reconvene on Tuesday.

Before the House was adjourned, the BJP legislators, who had come prepared to corner the Omar Abdullah-led Government, raised slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram", prompting reactions from members of the treasury benches. Meanwhile, NC and other MLAs raised slogans



BJP MLAs being stopped during a protest on people's issues at Autumn Session of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in Srinagar on Monday

demanding restoration of Statehood in response.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather was seen trying to pacify unruly members to allow the House proceedings. The BJP members, protesting in the well, were directed by the Speaker to go back to their seats. "Don't force me to take action against you," the Speaker warned them. The BJP members continued shouting slogans against the Government throughout the Question Hour, which the Speaker conducted amidst the din.

As the house witnessed pandemonium, National Conference MLA from Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Gurezi, urged the Speaker to continue with Question Hour, accusing the BJP members of deliberately trying to waste the time of the House. "None of you will be in the House after the next election. You ruined this State," Gurezi told the protesting BJP legislators.

The situation worsened after CPI(M) MLA Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami asked the BJP members to raise another slogan, "Statehood ko restore karo," following

which BJP legislators objected and entered into a heated exchange with him. The commotion also involved Langate MLA Sheikh Khurshed, while senior National Conference leader and Khanyar MLA Ali Mohammad Sagar stood up and raised slogans against the BJP members. Outside the Assembly, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma accused the Omar Abdullah Government of wanting to evade the BJP's questions on the people's issues in the Union territory.

Speaking to reporters after the Assembly was adjourned for the day, Sharma said the BJP was playing its role as an effective Opposition by raising questions regarding the NHM employees, ASHA workers, anganwadi workers, CAMPA workers, GRS and technical assistants. "People are depressed due to outsourcing, and they demand answers. The Bharatiya Janata Party, acting as the voice for

these victimised sections, demanded answers from the Government today. Omar Abdullah wants to run away; the Government wants to run away from people's issues," Sharma said. PDP leader Waheed Para, who moved an adjournment motion to discuss the rationalisation of reservations in Jammu and Kashmir, emphasised that the youth remain the most important issue in the Union territory.

"Unemployment is at its peak, with nearly a 32 per cent unemployment rate. And the biggest issue concerns merit. Whether meritorious students pursue education or seek jobs, merit is not a qualification in Jammu and Kashmir. For the first time in India's history, the meritorious population is being punished. You give 30 per cent opportunities to nearly 70 per cent of the population, and you give 70 per cent opportunities to 30 per cent of the population," Para stated.

SSC has no data on candidates affected in 13 phase exams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n New Delhi

The Staff Selection Commission (SSC) has no specific data on the number of candidates affected by examination centre changes, cancellations and technical failures during the 2025 SSC Selection Post Phase 13 exam, even as 76,153 candidates were given re-examinations following disruptions, according to its response to the Central Information Commission (CIC).

The examination had triggered widespread protests by SSC aspirants and teachers over alleged mismanagement of the recruitment examination, with demonstrators converging at Delhi's Jantar Mantar under a "Delhi *Chalo*" call demanding

accountability and reforms in the examination process.

The examination, which began on July 24, 2025 and was scheduled to conclude on August 1, was marred by complaints of abrupt cancellations, server crashes, unresponsive systems and remote examination centres.

Some candidates had also alleged that they were allotted examination centres hundreds of kilometres from their homes.

In an RTI application, the appellant sought the number of candidates whose centres were changed less than 24 hours before their examination, along with a city- and state-wise breakup and details of any special arrangements made for them.

In its written submission



before the CIC, the SSC said, "Since EC-2 has no role in changing the examination centres of candidates, no data is available in this regard."

The applicant had also sought the total number of candidates affected by centre changes, cancellations and technical or logistical failures, besides copies of inter-

nal reports prepared on these issues.

Responding to this, the SSC said: "No data is available with us, as EC-2 has a limited role in such activities.

It said the section monitors the examination during its conduct.

The SSC further disclosed that the examination was originally scheduled from

July 24 to August 1, 2025, during which re-examinations were also conducted for multiple affected candidates.

"However, re-examinations were conducted on 02.08.2025 and 29.08.2025 for 76,153 affected candidates," the commission said.

At the same time, it said the "specific data relating to such candidates is not available in EC Section."

The RTI application also sought information on complaints received by the SSC or its partners regarding alleged mistreatment of students at examination centres, including incidents of physical abuse or aggression, medical emergencies and the reported case of a student fainting and bleeding from the mouth.

3 TMC leaders held for 2020 Nadda convoy attack

SAUGAR SENGUPTA
n Kolkata

The West Bengal Police on Monday arrested three persons, including two influential Trinamool Congress leaders of Magrahat in South 24 Parganas, for their involvement in the December 2020 attack on the convoy of the BJP national president JP Nadda, who was visiting the area to hold a public meeting.

Officials of the Diamond Harbour Police district named the accused TMC leaders as Ripon Sheikh and Sanjib Mondal, who were allegedly close to the arrested local don and former TMC MLA Jahangir, sources said.

Diamond Harbour Superintendent of Police Chandrashekhar Bardhan said that though they were



picked up in a different case, "subsequent interrogations have revealed that they were involved in the attack on BJP leader JP Nadda's convoy in which several people were injured." The police recovered revolvers and cartridges from the arrested persons, officials said.

The TMC leaders were arrested following a complaint made by a local resident who had allegedly received death threats from them. "He received the threats before the Assembly

elections but could not lodge a complaint out of fear... But after the elections he lodged the complaint, and the two were picked up by the police ... Subsequent interrogations revealed their active involvement in the attack on the BJP procession on December 10, 2020," an official of the Usthi Police Station, which falls under Diamond Harbour police district, said.

When contacted, State BJP leader and MLA Sajal Ghosh said that "no one will be spared ... We said that criminals deserve a place in jail and they will go to jail during the BJP rule."

In the attack six years ago, several BJP workers were injured, and many vehicles, including the one that Nadda was travelling in, were damaged, sources said.

NIA tightens grip on Saharanpur PNB fake-currency conspiracy as arrests rise to four

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested two prime suspects in a counterfeit-currency plot after seizing fake Indian notes worth `17.29 crore from the Punjab National Bank currency chest in Civil Lines, Saharanpur.

On September 20, 2026, NIA arrested Mukesh Kumar, son of Som Prakash, of Hasanpur Kadeem village under the Manoharpur police station, and Rajendra Kumar, son of Pyare Lal, of Kalyanpur village under the Sarsawa police station.

The investigators said both men are close associates of

Adesh Choudhary, who was previously arrested, and that they are seen as key participants in the scheme to introduce and distribute high-quality forgeries through an official bank's cash-handling facility. This brings the total number of arrests in the NIA case RC-02/2026/NIA/LKW to four.

The first arrest took place on September 7 when the agency detained Amit Kumar, a PNB official who had been acting as joint custodian and manager for the currency-chest operations and had been at large before being found in Chandigarh; eight days later, on September 15, the investigators arrested Adesh Choudhary, a contrac-

tual driver associated with the same Saharanpur chest.

NIA officials said one of the main areas of focus in the current investigation is Choudhary's involvement in handling and transporting cash consignments. The scandal came to light on August 29, 2026 when police at Sadar Bazar received specific information that fake notes were kept inside the PNB chest. That day they filed a First Information Report (FIR) under Section 178 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

On September 3, the NIA took over the case and re-registered it after discovering a discrepancy during a regular remittance. A shipment of about `11.5 crore,



sent from the Saharanpur branch to the Reserve Bank of India office in Jaipur, was found to be short by `4.36 lakh. This difference led to a surprise audit by a joint team of 21 members from the RBI and PNB, which began in early August.

The auditors initially identified 148 bundles, each consisting of one thousand counterfeit `500 notes, amounting to `7.40 crore. Further investigation into the chest's holdings raised the total value of the suspected fake currency to `17.29 crore, almost all of which was in `500 notes. At the same time, investigators are also working to reconstruct a larger consignment worth

`11 crore that was sent on July 6 and included 1,900 bundles of `500 notes and 800 bundles of `200 notes.

They are reviewing packing records, handling logs, and dispatch documents to determine exactly where the fake notes entered the official cash stream. CCTV footage retrieved from inside the chest showed that the part-time housekeeper, Vishal Kumar, removed notes from the genuine bundles; he has since been dismissed.

A preliminary investigation named three PNB employees: Amit Kumar, Ravi Kumar Kanse, senior divisional manager, and Sofia Market currency-chest manager Sushil Kumar. All of

them were suspended, and so far only Amit Kumar has been arrested among the bank's officials. Authorities issued notices because officials feared some of the accused might try to leave the country.

The NIA is currently examining the seized electronic devices, bank records, and financial trails to determine whether any counterfeit notes reached branches or ATMs and to identify where the forgeries came from. The agency has made it clear that the investigation is ongoing and that it expects further arrests of other accused and suspects as it establishes the full scope of the conspiracy.

States Focus

ED charges EaseMyTrip co-founder in betting scam



PM MODI CONDOLES DEATH OF DUBAI RULER'S BROTHER

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday condoled the death of Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the brother of the Dubai ruler, and said his efforts to serve society will be cherished by generations to come.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum was the younger brother of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and ruler of Dubai. "Deeply saddened by the passing of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. His efforts to serve society will be cherished by generations to come. "I convey heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Dubai. May his soul rest in eternal peace," Modi said in a social media post. (PNS)



DRUG MENACE ROSE SHARPLY IN PUNJAB UNDER AAP: SAINI

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Monday accused the Aam Aadmi Party Government in Punjab of not fulfilling the promises it made to the people, including eradicating the drug problem, which he claimed increased sharply under the AAP rule.

Saini said the AAP made tall promises to the people of Punjab before coming to power, including eradicating the drug menace, employing the youth and procuring farmers' produce at MSP, but even after nearly five years, these promises remained unfulfilled.

He also accused the AAP of betraying the women, farmers and the poor.

Addressing events at Sito and Jalalabad in Punjab's Fazilka district as part of the BJP's 13-day 'Nasha Mukta Punjab Yatra', Saini claimed it was unfortunate that the AAP made the promises just to secure votes.

He also claimed that the drug menace in Punjab increased fourfold, just as the State's debt did, during the AAP's tenure. (PTI)

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
n New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has charged EaseMyTrip co-founder Nishant Pitti in the Mahadev online betting app money laundering case. He is accused of moving illegal betting money into India's stock market by disguising it as foreign portfolio investments.

The ED also froze Pitti's Demat shares worth ₹59.60 crore with a provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. This happened when the agency filed the chargesheet on September 10 in a special court in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Pitti, who is chairman and managing director of Easy Trip Planners Ltd, has been named in the fifth supplementary chargesheet.

The complaint names 42 people and companies, including EBIX Group chairman Vikas Garg. The ED has

asked the court for permission to seize the attached shares, saying they are proceeds of crime. Investigators allege that Pitti directly helped move money from Skyexchange, an overseas betting platform tied to the Mahadev syndicate, into Indian stocks.

The chargesheet says Pitti made a deal to manipulate stock prices on behalf of Easy Trip Planners promoters, working with an associate of operator Hari Shankar Tibrewal. The goal was to raise the company's share price and market value.

The ED also said that Pitti actively helped Tibrewal hide and move illegal money, and that he knowingly used those funds. The Mahadev investigation is one of the biggest probes into illegal online betting in India. Agencies say the syndicate, led by Sourabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal from abroad, ran a network of betting



panels across the country. They collected funds through mule accounts and sent them abroad via hawala channels, cryptocurrency, and complex company structures. The money was then brought back to India through seemingly legal channels, such as foreign portfolio investments. Interpol has issued notices against the main promoters, and agencies have frozen or

the money even though he knew about Tibrewal's role in illegal betting. The Directorate had earlier searched places linked to Pitti and recorded his statements several times.

Previous investigation documents reported that Easy Trip Planners paid companies known as entry providers. Investigators also found cash during searches and digital records that they say connect Pitti to SkyExchange activities. Officials think these transactions were part of a larger scheme to hide betting money in listed Indian companies and then use changes in share prices to make the money appear legal.

EasyMyTrip has denied any connection between Pitti and the betting network, calling the reports baseless and saying he was not involved in illegal betting. The company also says it follows corporate governance standards and is working with investiga-

tors. At the same time, authorities are still looking into how money from offshore betting platforms may have moved through Indian capital markets, possibly using pre-arranged trades, shell companies, and foreign investment structures.

Investigators say the case shows listed companies were used as the final step in a money-laundering process that began with illegal betting and ended with owning shares and raising market value.

The ED may initiate legal action against other people and companies as it searches for remaining assets and examines more market deals connected to the group. The charges against Pitti show that the case has grown from focusing on betting operators and panel managers to now including listed-company promoters accused of helping turn illegal money into stock-market holdings.

Delhi building collapse: Student's kin meet Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The family of Arpit Jaj, a student from Dewas who lost his life in a building accident in Delhi, met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the 'Students Ki Goonj' programme in Indore and shared the pain they have endured since the tragedy.

Arpit's grandfather, Makhanlal Jaj, his father, Bhupendra Jaj, and his sister, Priyanshi Jaj, met Rahul Gandhi on the stage of the event. The family spoke about the difficulties they faced following Arpit's death and alleged that they had received neither financial assistance nor a visit from any government representative.

Questioning the arrangements for students living in Delhi, the family said that if proper and safe accommodation had been provided, the tragedy might perhaps have been avoided.

The family also expressed gratitude to former minister Sajjan Singh Verma and



Congress leader Manoj Rajani, saying that their support gave them an opportunity to share their concerns directly with Rahul Gandhi.

Rahul Gandhi listened to the family and offered them support, telling them, "I am with you."

According to Arpit's family, they rushed from Dewas to Delhi as soon as they received news of the accident. They searched for Arpit for hours, holding on to the hope that he might still be found safe.

That hope, however, was eventually shattered when Arpit's body was recovered.

NHAI releases guidelines for highways

RAJESH KUMAR
n New Delhi

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Monday released comprehensive guidelines for planning and designing four- and six-lane access-controlled National Highways, which include one-metre-high walls to keep stray cattle off the road, warnings before exits and highway widths based on traffic.

According to the guidelines, High-speed corridors will have a one-metre-high boundary wall along their outer edge. The walls are meant to keep stray cattle from entering the highway and also restrict encroachments and unauthorised access. The guidelines are meant to bring uniformity to the way upcoming high-speed National Highways are planned and designed.

Access-controlled highways allow vehicles to enter or leave only at designated points instead of having direct access from adjoining



roads or properties. Drivers will get warnings before upcoming entry and exit points. The warning is meant to give motorists more time to prepare before entering or leaving a high-speed corridor. The provision is among the additional safety measures prescribed for roads carrying high-speed traffic.

The width and number of lanes will depend on how much traffic a highway is expected to carry. Corridors handling up to 15,000 vehicles will have four lanes and four-lane structures, with a width of 60 metres.

For traffic between 15,000 and 25,000 vehicles, the highway will have four lanes and six-lane structures, with a width of 70 metres. Highways handling between 25,000 and 40,000 vehicles will have six lanes and six-lane structures, also within a width of 70 metres. The configuration will be decided on the basis of a detailed traffic assessment.

The Road Transport Ministry said there were no separate design standards for such high-speed National Highways, leading to variations in DPRs (Detailed Project Reports), until now. The rules will apply to upcoming greenfield and brownfield projects. Expressways are not covered by these guidelines.

Ramp-based interchanges will be provided where high-speed highways cross Expressways, National Highways, State Highways and important arterial roads carrying substantial traffic. These will provide designated entry and exit points while allowing traffic on the main high-speed corridor to keep moving.

TN row: Ministers accuse DMK of cover-up in POCSO case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n Chennai

A political row erupted in Tamil Nadu on Monday over a POCSO case against granite baron R Veeramani who allegedly sexually abused several minor girls, with ministers accusing the previous DMK "of a "cover-up" and interference in the functioning of the police department.

The main Opposition DMK warned of legal action if the allegation was not substantiated by evidence and Public Works Minister Aadhav Arjuna asserted that Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay had ordered tough action on crimes against women and children. Launching a scathing attack on the previous DMK, Law Minister R Nirmal Kumar demanded answers from the DMK for "not acting against Veeramani" during its regime, especially when a complaint had been lodged.

Addressing an event, Kumar questioned why the investigation was halted despite the existence of video evidence showing the sexual assault by Veeramani.

On October 6, 2025, a child rights activist submitted a pen drive to the Chennai Police's Central Crime Branch's Anti-Vice Squad which contained footage of the alleged assault. Noting that DMK chief MK Stalin held the Home portfolio at that time, the



Granite baron R Veeramani

minister asked, "who ordered the probe to be dropped," alleging that the DMK hushed up such a big crime and let the prominent industrialist go scot-free. Minister Aadhav Arjuna, speaking to reporters, asserted that the chief minister had ordered swift action on crimes against women and children and said, "there will be no answers from the DMK to the questions raised by the law minister."

He accused the previous DMK "of operating a "compromised police force that applied different laws" to protect favoured industrialists, party members, and the then "ruling family."

"Generally, there was one law for the DMK district secretaries. There was one law for industrialists known to the DMK. There was one law for DMK party cadres. And there was one law for DMK family members. Because the Tamil Nadu police force was run by the DMK family, not the DGP.

That is why they did not even appoint a regular DGP," Arjuna alleged. Minister for Information, Rajmohan, referring to the case against Veeramani, described the alleged abuse of minor girls as horrendous. He further alleged that the abuse was "covered up" during the DMK regime and asked whether the Left parties, which criticise the TVK "over several issues, condemned the "cover-up" or not.

He, however, said that criticising the "was well within the rights of the Left parties, who support the "from outside. CPI (M) State Secretary P Shanmugam, in his reaction, underlined that it was the Marxist party and its affiliates who had put up a tough fight all along to secure justice for women and children and demanded a detailed investigation into the case against the industrialist. He said complaints against Veeramani had surfaced multiple times over the decades. Complaints had been made as far back as 2013 when AIADMK supremo, late J Jayalalithaa, was the chief minister.

A complaint was lodged during the DMK regime when M K Stalin was the chief minister, he said, adding such complaints had been repeatedly buried, allowing a "serial offender" to evade the law for years.

Speaking to reporters, DMK law wing secretary N R Elango firmly refuted the allegations of the ministers and said that under the DMK, police had submitted to the court that the probe against Veeramani had been deferred till gathering sufficient evidence.

"Probe was not dropped during the DMK regime," Elango, a senior advocate added. If police officers had been bribed, and if the " had evidence against such officials, action may be taken against them, he said, adding that Minister Nirmal Kumar must substantiate his allegation of "cover-up" against the DMK with evidence.

"If he cannot substantiate it, he must tender a public apology, otherwise, we will initiate appropriate legal proceedings against him," Elango added. Veeramani, aged over 80, was arrested alongside two of his accomplices, Shanthi (60) and her husband Mahendra Simhan (63) last month. The ongoing probe against the industrialist, who is the chairman of Gem group, led to the identification of multiple survivors who were allegedly sexually assaulted by him over the past several years.

MP CM Mohan Yadav pushes for AI, tech jobs, telecom zone

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Monday said the Madhya Pradesh Government is committed to creating employment opportunities for youth in emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, information technology, deeptech and advanced technology, while also promoting industrial growth in telecom manufacturing.

Speaking to the media persons at a private establishment in the Govindpura Industrial Area, Yadav said establishing a Telecom Manufacturing Zone (TMZ) in Gwalior was a priority for both the Union Government and the State Government.

He said investor outreach programmes had already been organised in New Delhi and Mumbai to showcase investment opportunities and the advantages of the proposed zone. A third investor interaction is scheduled to be held in Bengaluru on Tuesday.



The Chief Minister said entrepreneurs and investors from southern India had earlier shown interest in other sectors in Madhya Pradesh and expressed confidence that they would also respond positively to opportunities in the proposed telecom manufacturing zone.

According to Yadav, the response received so far for investment in the TMZ has been encouraging. He said the Gwalior-Chambal region had significant potential for further industrial expansion and could emerge as an important centre for manu-

facturing and employment generation.

The Chief Minister said the Government's industrial development strategy was not limited to one region. Industrial and commercial activities were being encouraged around Indore, Ujjain and Bhopal, while similar expansion was being promoted in and around Jabalpur.

He said the Government wanted industrial development to reach cities of different sizes across the state. Large industries, small industries, micro, small and medium enterprises and cottage industries would all play a role in generating employment opportunities for local residents.

Yadav said technology-driven industries were being given special attention because sectors such as AI, IT, deeptech and telecom manufacturing could create new opportunities for skilled youth and help strengthen the State's industrial ecosystem.

Drought relief measures initiated in Maharashtra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Mumbai

Amid the Opposition's demand to declare a drought in Maharashtra, the State Government said it will assess the situation through a three-stage process, with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday emphasising that "drought relief" measures have been initiated.

Highlighting the difference between formally declaring a drought and implementing relief measures, Fadnavis said under the NDRF framework, certain steps should be completed before a drought can be formally declared and assistance sought from the Union



Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis

Government. He said the Government would not wait for Central assistance to help farmers facing distress due to inadequate rainfall.

"A formal crop-loss assessment would be carried out after October 5 as required under the rules, following which the State would seek assistance from the Centre,"

he told reporters. Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Makarand Jadhav Patil said the procedure for declaring drought was revised by the state Revenue and Forest Departments through a government resolution issued on October 7, 2017, and has been in force since the 2017 kharif season.

CM Satheesan backs implementation of Labour Code in Kerala

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Thiruvananthapuram

Keralam Chief Minister VD Satheesan on Monday said the State would implement the Centre's new labour codes without compromising workers' rights, drawing a sharp response from Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan, who accused the government of announcing the move to appease vested interests and said the codes were against workers' interests.

Addressing a leadership meeting of the Congress-affiliated Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) here, Satheesan said Labour Code could not be left unimplemented in the state, as these



were laws passed by Parliament.

His remarks came at a time when the Congress national leadership is opposing the Labour Codes.

In November last year, the BJP-led NDA Government in the Centre announced the implementation of the four Labour Codes, consolidating

29 existing labour laws, with immediate effect.

The move was criticised by the Congress as well as Left parties, which described the new codes as being against the interests of workers.

Satheesan said the Labour Codes could not be left unimplemented as they were laws passed by Parliament, but

their implementation should not harm workers.

"If the Labour Code is not implemented, a situation will arise where there are neither the existing labour laws nor the new Labour Code. So, it must be implemented in a manner that does not adversely affect Kerala's labour sector or workers' rights," he said.

"It cannot be left unimplemented-it is a law passed by Parliament. Otherwise, there will be no labour laws at all right now, because this Labour Code was brought in by replacing the previous labour laws," he explained.

Satheesan said the Government would take into consideration the suggestions made by INTUC

while implementing the Labour Code.

"Therefore, while doing so, it must be implemented without harming the labour sector. To implement it, the Government will seriously consider the valuable suggestions provided by the INTUC," he said. He also said that if the Labour Code was not implemented, workers could be left without legal protection.

Meanwhile, the Leader of Opposition in Keralam Assembly Pinarayi Vijayan said that Satheesan's sudden announcement that the Labour Codes would be implemented in the State is aimed at pleasing certain interests and alleged that the move was against the interests of workers.

Mamata faction unveils new logo with football symbol

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n Kolkata

The Mamata Banerjee-led faction of the TMC on Monday unveiled a new logo featuring its interim election symbol—a football player — and asked its leaders and elected representatives to publicise it, as the party races to build a new electoral identity after losing, for now, its familiar name and flowers-and-grass symbol.

The logo places the football player at its centre, surrounded by the words ‘Mamata All India Trinamool Congress’ in white against a blue background. Saffron, white and green have also been incorporated into the design.

The exercise comes days after the Election Commission froze the use of the ‘All India Trinamool Congress’ name and its reserved flowers-and-grass symbol amid an escalating internal dispute over control of the party.

The poll panel subsequently allotted separate interim identities to the two groups for the October 6 bypolls, with the

Mamata faction getting ‘Mamata All India Trinamool Congress’ and the ‘football player’ symbol, while the rival faction led by Arup Roy was allotted ‘Democratic Trinamool Congress’ and the ‘envelope’ symbol.

With only a fortnight left for the Nandigram and Rejinagar bypolls, the Mamata camp is seeking to ensure that voters can connect the new symbol with the political identity they have traditionally associated with the Trinamool Congress.

Party sources said all office-bearers, leaders, workers and elected representatives have been asked to use their respective platforms to circulate the logo and familiarise voters with the new symbol.

The leaders from the Mamata camp began posting the logo on social media from Monday afternoon. On September 17, the poll panel, while hearing the rival claims over the Trinamool Congress, ordered that neither faction would be permitted to use



the party’s existing name and symbol pending a substantive determination of the dispute.

The decision came on the last day of nominations for the bypolls, prompting the EC to ask the factions to suggest alternative names and free symbols so that the electoral process could proceed.

A day later, the Commission gave the two groups their temporary identities, effectively turning the party’s internal battle over

ownership into a contest between two different names and symbols on the ballot.

For the Mamata faction, the choice of name itself carries an unmistakable political message. “Mamata” has been inserted into the party’s interim identity, putting the leader’s name where the old organisational label had stood, while the football-player symbol gives the faction a new visual marker to take to the electorate.

The timing leaves little room for a slow transition. The new identities will face their first direct electoral test in Rejinagar, where the two rival Trinamool factions remain in the fray. Nandigram, however, has taken a markedly different course.

Mamata Banerjee’s nominee Sanchita Pradhan Dey withdrew from the contest after meeting Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, following which Banerjee extended support to Congress candidate Milan Pradhan.

Pradhan was subsequently arrested in connection with cases dating back to the 2007 Nandigram land acquisition movement.

The contrasting developments have given the bypolls an unusual political texture: Rejinagar will see the rival Trinamool camps carry their newly assigned names and symbols into a direct contest, while in Nandigram, the Mamata camp is effectively out of the electoral race and threw its weight behind a Congress candidate.

The dispute has also acquired a

legal dimension, with Banerjee challenging the Commission’s freeze before the Supreme Court. The apex court on Monday agreed to urgently list her plea, with the rival side also set to get an opportunity to make its submissions.

That legal battle could ultimately determine what happens to the original party name and symbol. But the political campaign cannot wait for that resolution.

The Mamata camp’s immediate task is consequently to make the football player familiar enough for voters to recognise it on October 6. The challenge is particularly significant for a party whose symbol has been one of the most recognisable visual markers of Bengal politics for years.

The new logo seeks to compress that transition into a single image — Mamata’s name, the words Trinamool Congress and an unfamiliar football player — as the faction heads into an election in which its traditional electoral identity has, at least temporarily, been put on hold.

BJP-Congress clash during campaign for Nagaon bypoll in Assam



Gaurav Gogoi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n Nagaon

BJP and Congress workers clashed during campaigning for the Nagaon Lok Sabha by-election in Assam on Monday, police said.

The incident happened around 4 pm in the Samaguri assembly segment when a Congress procession, led by the party’s State president Gaurav Gogoi, was on the way to a public meeting at Larimukh.

Dhurbri MP Rakibul Hussain, former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel and the party’s bypoll candidate Sibamoni Bora were also present in the procession.

Police said BJP supporters had gathered at Barama Bazar to show black flags to the Congress leaders.

“As around 30 to 40 Congress workers on motorcycles passed the area, slogans like ‘Gaurav Gogoi Go Back, Congress Go Back, Rakibul Go Back’ were raised, leading to tension,” an officer said. When the Congress convoy returned through the same route after the meeting, suspected BJP supporters pelted stones at the opposition party’s vehicles, he said.

“Some Congress workers were also allegedly beaten up by BJP supporters, while CRPF personnel deployed in the area lathi-charged the attackers to control the situation,” he added.

Police said Congress workers then returned to the spot with sticks, further escalating the situation, with both sides hurling stones at each other. The glass of two Congress vehicles was broken. Some journalists also sustained minor injuries in the stone-pelting, they said.

ED raids Jaisalmer sites over Belgian entity fund

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday said it undertook searches in a case of alleged misuse of foreign donations received from a non-FCRA registered Belgian entity for undertaking proselytisation activities among the locals in Rajasthan’s Jaisalmer along the India-Pakistan international border.

The action covered two premises under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the agency said in a statement.

It said the ED acted on the basis of specific intelligence indicating that Jaisalmer resident Deu Ram was “illegally” receiving funds from Belgium-based entities “for proselytisation and conversion activities” among vulnerable sections of society in Jaisalmer. The agency added that Ram and his associate Gyan Chand received funds worth `5.10 crore without registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), mainly by showing the purpose as educational services, cultural and recreational activities,



and inward remittances from non-resident Indians towards family maintenance and savings.

“Most of these funds were received from Amar ASBL, which claims to be a non-profit organisation based in Brussels, Belgium,” it said.

Amar ASBL was set up in Brussels in 2011 and is managed by two Belgian nationals—Jose Goffinet and his son Salian Goffinet.

The ED said the duo visits Jaisalmer every year for 2-3 weeks and meets the parents and relatives of local children, organises meetings and religious gatherings “to promote their cultural and religious beliefs and practices”.

Campus security beefed up after IIT student protests

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n Mumbai

Security in and around the IIT campus was beefed up after protests by students and Congress workers, officials said. Police on Monday detained Youth Congress workers protesting outside the IIT Bombay gate over the suicide of a 22-year-old student, they said.

Sahil Ravindra Wakode, a second-year BTech student in the Department of Energy Science and Engineering, was found hanging from the ceiling fan in his hotel room on the IIT Bombay’s Powai campus on Friday evening, hours after he was allegedly caught using a mobile phone during a mid-semester examination, according to officials.

The protesters claimed that Wakode faced severe pressure and threats of academic suspension.

Some students also raised concerns over academic stress and institutional practices. Several local residents and alumni attempted to visit the campus. However, as a precautionary measure, entry was strictly restricted. Only current students and authorised staff can enter, an official said.

Members of political and social organisations gathered outside the main gate of IIT Bombay to protest against the administration.

“A few protesters from outside organisations gathered at the main gate. They were promptly removed from the spot and taken into pre-



Demonstrators stage a candlelight protest to pay tribute to the suicide victims of IIT Bombay in Mumbai

PTI

ventive custody,” a police official said. A student on condition of anonymity said he stayed in the room next to Wakode’s and they used to hang out regularly.

“Students face immense academic pressure here, which the management needs to address. However, I personally never witnessed casteism on campus.

On the day of the incident, a professor reportedly took Sahil out of the classroom after he was allegedly caught cheating. Something serious must have triggered him to take such an extreme step,” the student said. Student groups and alumni alleged systemic issues within the administration. Pranav Jeevan, an alumnus, criticised the institute’s handling of student affairs

and mental health. “The administration frequently punishes students with arbitrary threats of hostel eviction, suspension, and heavy financial penalties, even fining students up to `1.5 lakh for organising a play.

Despite past tragedies, the campus lacks effective caste sensitisation, adequate mental health support, and an empowered SC/ST Cell to address discrimination,” he alleged.

Jeevan further claimed that official statements released prior to a detailed investigation aimed to protect faculty members, adding that non-compliance with faculty reservation norms remains an undressed root issue. Security has been stepped up around the institute in view of the protests.

BJP hits out at Rahul Gandhi over mimicry act, Raut defends him

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n Raipur/Panji/Mumbai

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Monday slammed Rahul Gandhi over a mimicry act at his ‘Chhatron Ki Goonj’ event in Indore, saying the Leader of Opposition is “being exposed before the entire country” through his conduct.

Talking to reporters at Swami Vivekanand Airport, Sai stated that accommodating such acts did not befit a leader of Gandhi’s stature.

A controversy erupted after stand-up comedian Pulkit Mani mimicked PM Modi while performing a skit with Gandhi during his ‘Chhatron Ki Goonj’ youth outreach programme in Madhya Pradesh’s Indore city on Saturday. The Congress, which shared the video on social media, has defended it as satire/mimicry.

Several BJP leaders have criticised Mani’s skit, alleging



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai

that it hurt sentiments associated with respect for mothers and motherhood.

“Rahul Gandhi is the Leader of Opposition, and such conduct does not befit a leader of such stature. He is being exposed before the entire country through his conduct and behaviour. This is certainly not appropriate for him,” Sai said.

Earlier in the day, the chief minister shared a video on social media highlighting

the importance of a mother and her place in Indian culture. The video featured a well-known poem about a mother by late poet Om Vyas, highlighting a mother’s sacrifice, affection and nurturing role in a child’s life, the BJP said in a statement.

Without naming any political leader, Sai, in his post, emphasised respect for mothers and dignity towards them, it said. Meanwhile, senior Congress leader

Bhupesh Baghel hit back at the BJP’s criticism, saying everyone’s mother deserves respect. Talking to reporters on Sunday, the chief minister questioned why similar concerns were not raised when remarks were allegedly made against the mothers of Rahul Gandhi and other political leaders.

He further alleged that the BJP and RSS had also started making remarks concerning mothers, and therefore, they have no right to speak on the issue. Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Monday criticised Rahul Gandhi over a mimicry act at the Congress MP’s recent event in Indore, alleging that remarks linked to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s late mother amounted to an insult to Indian culture.

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant also hit out at Gandhi over the issue, saying political opposition should not descend into personal

attacks on parents or elders.

A controversy erupted after stand-up comedian Pulkit Mani mimicked PM Modi while performing a skit with Gandhi during his ‘Chhatron Ki Goonj’ youth outreach programme in Madhya Pradesh’s Indore city on Saturday. The Congress, which shared the video on social media, has defended it as satire/mimicry.

Speaking to reporters in South Goa, Meghwal said Indian culture teaches people to respect their mothers and elders.

“What does Indian culture teach us? To respect mothers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s mother is no longer in this world. Rahul Gandhi, through ‘Chhatron Ki Goonj’, insulted Indian culture by speaking lies,” the BJP leader said.

Goa CM Sawant, in a post on X, dubbed the act as “shameful and deeply disturbing”. Rahul Gandhi and

the Congress party have crossed all limits of political decency, he charged.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Monday came out in support of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over a stand-up comedy act mimicking Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an event in Indore, stating that the Leader of Opposition’s “arrow has pierced the BJP’s heart”.

Speaking to reporters, the Rajya Sabha MP said the ruling party leaders were rattled because Gandhi attacked the prime minister.

A row has erupted after stand-up comedian Pulkit Mani mimicked PM Modi while performing a skit with Gandhi during his ‘Chhatron Ki Goonj’ youth outreach programme in Madhya Pradesh’s Indore city on Saturday.

The Congress, which shared the video on social media, has defended the act as satire/mimicry.

Defence Ministry signs `586 crore deal for T-72, T-90 tanks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi

The defence ministry on Monday signed a `586-crore contract with a group to procure auxiliary power units (APUs) for T-72 and T-90 tanks to bolster the operational readiness and reliability of the Indian Army’s mechanised formations, officials said. The contract was signed with Accurate Industrial Controls Private Limited in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in Delhi.

The APU is an alternate source for the generation of electric power for the fire control system, firing circuit, gun stabilisation system and other ancillaries of the tank, the ministry said.

“The induction of indigenously developed APUs will further strengthen the operational readiness, reliability and sustainability of the



Indian Army’s mechanised formations,” it said in a statement. The procurement, it said, is a “significant step” towards indigenisation of critical sub-systems of armoured platforms and demonstrates industry-led research and development (‘Make-II’).

Officials said the deal also shows the effectiveness of the mechanism in translating indigenous innovation into production and induction.

Assam CM Himanta lays foundation stone for ISRO’s advanced radar research centre

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said the State will soon emerge as a focal point in India’s efforts to track space debris.

After laying the foundation stone of the ISRO’s Advanced Radar Research Centre at Chandrapur near here, Sarma said the facility will enable the space agency to track debris and help protect the country’s critical space assets.

“This facility will make Assam an important player in the national space ecosystem and adds to a list of industries across various verticals that are setting up their base in our state — semiconductor, food manufacturing, healthcare,

hospitality, coach overhauling, among others,” Sarma said.

He said the State Government was not just bringing in industries but also creating an ecosystem where our youth have an opportunity to be part of this transformation. Sarma said two decades ago, Assam was a completely different state, characterised by agitations, dharnas, bandhs, and the activities of militant outfits like ULFA and NDFB.

During the last 10 years, due to the untiring efforts of the Assam’s people, the state has completely transformed with many institutions of national importance, including AIIMS, IIT and IIM, along with central universities being set up.

The State, however, had been lacking in the area of space



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma with Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) V Narayanan and others during the foundation stone laying ceremony of ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) Advanced Radar Research Facility at Chandrapur in Kamrup District

PTI

science, with no space-related organisation having been set up, he said.

“A Small Space Centre is being developed with IIT to provide a platform to students and promote scientific temperament across colleges,” Sarma said.

“Assam’s tryst with space has just begun. With the ASSAMSAT project progressing steadily, we are taking a giant leap in this direction, which will help us map weather, rainfall, forests and other factors for better resource planning,” he said.

“In a few years, you will witness how the space setup in Chandrapur will get the same place as ISRO in Bengaluru due to its immense contribution towards research and development, which will go a long way in disseminat-

ing knowledge in space technology,” the CM said.

“We hope that Assam will soon emerge as a big name in space research,” he said.

He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ISRO for choosing Assam as the destination for this Advanced Radar Research Centre, which will firmly place the state in space research domain.

Earlier in the day, the chief minister, in a social media post, said the setting up of the centre was a “landmark moment for Assam” and that it was deeply satisfying that the state is set to become a home to such cutting-edge national infrastructure.

“A landmark moment for Assam. Today, we will lay the foundation stone of the Indian Space

Research Organisation (ISRO)’s Advanced Radar Research Centre at Chandrapur, Assam,” Sarma said in a post on X on Monday.

As part of Project NETRA, this facility will strengthen India’s ability to track objects in space and protect the country’s vital space assets, he said.

“For a state once considered far from India’s major centres of technology, it is deeply satisfying to see Assam today becoming home to such cutting-edge national infrastructure,” he said.

“My deepest gratitude to Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji for considering Assam for this strategic project,” Sarma said.

The Assam Government has allotted around 6.61 acres for the project.



Editor's
TAKE

UN: Trust is running out, reforms cannot wait

Created to uphold peace, the United Nations is constrained by an outdated power structure. It must reform before losing relevance

When world leaders take the podium in New York on Tuesday for the 81st General Debate, the theme, "Restoring trust, managing transformation: a United Nations that delivers for all", will read less like an aspiration than an admission. General Assembly President Khalilur Rahman of Bangladesh said as much when he gavelled the session open on September 8: trust is in deficit. The evidence is everywhere. The Gulf has swung between truce and strikes since the US-Israeli attacks on Iran in February, with the Strait of Hormuz, and the world economy, held hostage. Ukraine remains unresolved, and Gaza's peace plan awaits full implementation. Secretary-General António Guterres says de-escalation in the Middle East must be "priority one, priority two and priority three". The Security Council, constrained by the vetoes of its five permanent members, has too often been a spectator.

The house is also short of money. In January, Guterres warned of "imminent financial collapse" as arrears hit a record \$1.57 billion. The 2026 budget was cut by about 7 per cent to \$3.45 billion. Washington, which funds 22 per cent of the regular budget, paid \$827 million this month, yet still owes roughly \$4.2 billion. An organisation counting the days to payroll cannot credibly preach delivery.

Has the UN lived up to its promise? Partly. It has helped the world avoid a third world war, eradicated smallpox, phased out ozone-eating chemicals through the Montreal Protocol, and fed and sheltered millions through the WFP and UNHCR. But Rwanda and Srebrenica remain stains it has never washed out, and today's paralysis feeds the perception that international law binds only the weak. Reform is therefore overdue, and it must go beyond cost-cutting. The UN80 initiative, launched in 2025, has trimmed budgets and posts. That was necessary, but efficiency is not legitimacy. The real reform is political. A Council whose permanent membership froze in 1945, and which was enlarged only once, in 1965, and only by non-permanent seats, cannot claim to speak for 193 states. Africa has no permanent seat. India, the most populous nation and a leading troop contributor to peacekeeping, has none either.

Negotiations have run since 2009 without an agreed text. India's ambassador, Parvathaneni Harish, was right in June to demand text-based talks. The way forward has four planks. First, a negotiating text with a deadline, so Council reform stops being a talking shop. Second, voluntary veto restraint in mass-atrocity cases, as the French-Mexican initiative proposes; the P5 will not surrender the veto, but they can be pressed to use it less.

Third, financial reform: end the antiquated return of unspent credits and make dues payable on time. Fourth, a credible succession. Three straw polls among eight candidates have produced no clear frontrunner.

The P5 must not trade the job for convenience, and a first woman Secretary-General would signal renewal. The UN was built in 1945 around the victors of a war. It will endure only if it is rebuilt for the many. Speeches alone will not restore trust. Reforms will.

The UN needs peace, not endless speeches

As the UN General Assembly opened its 81st session on the International Day of Peace, the world faced a familiar spectacle of speeches on war, conflict and humanity's crises. But diplomacy cannot end at the podium. The credibility of the UN will increasingly depend on what follows the speeches: negotiation, implementation and action



SANTHOSH
MATHEW

September 21 is the International Day of Peace. This year, the message deserves to be heard inside the United Nations itself: the world needs action, not endless speeches. As the 81st session of the UN General Assembly begins in New York, leaders and diplomats will once again take turns at the world's most famous international podium. They will speak about war and peace, security and development, terrorism and climate change, poverty and human rights. The speeches will be important. The question is what happens after the microphones are switched off.

The United Nations was born from the terrible experience of two world wars. Its founding vision was clear: disputes between nations should be addressed through dialogue rather than destruction. Speaking is therefore not a problem at the UN. Dialogue is essential to diplomacy. The problem begins when dialogue turns into repetition, delay and obstruction. When words prevent action, diplomacy loses its purpose.

This is where the idea of filibustering becomes relevant. The word "filibuster" is most closely associated with the United States Senate. It developed from the Senate's tradition of allowing senators considerable freedom to speak. The word itself has a colourful history, linked to terms meaning freebooter or pirate. In political practice, it came to describe efforts to delay or prevent legislative action through prolonged debate.

The classic picture of a filibuster is a senator continuing to speak while legislation waits. The objective can be to delay a vote, force negotiations or prevent a proposal from moving forward. American political history has produced several famous examples of marathon speeches. The modern Senate has developed procedures, including cloture, to bring extended debate towards a conclusion.

The United Nations is not the US Senate, and the General Assembly does not have an identical filibuster system. Still, the underlying problem can appear in international diplomacy: when the time spent speaking becomes greater than the progress made towards solving the problem.

The UN itself has witnessed extraordinary examples of lengthy diplomatic interventions. India's V. K. Krishna Menon became famous for his marathon intervention on Kashmir before the Security Council in January 1957. His intervention extended across several meetings and



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The writer is Professor at Centre for South Asian Studies, School of International Studies & Social Sciences Pondicherry Central University

lasted more than eight hours. It remains one of the best-known examples of endurance in UN diplomacy.

Krishna Menon's performance belongs to another era and another diplomatic context. It should not be mechanically described as a General Assembly filibuster. Its significance today lies in the question it raises: how much time should international diplomacy spend on speaking when the world is waiting for solutions?

That question is especially relevant when the United Nations discusses war. A ceasefire cannot be achieved by a speech alone. A refugee cannot return home because of a resolution alone. A destroyed city cannot be rebuilt by a statement from the podium. Food cannot reach a starving population through rhetoric. Peace requires negotiation, monitoring, humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and political courage.

The General Assembly has rules for managing debate and speaking time. Countries are expected to respect agreed limits during the General Debate, and the President has powers to maintain order and manage proceedings. These procedures are not designed to silence countries. They are designed to give every country a fair opportunity to speak.

A good speech should open the door to negotiation. A good diplomatic intervention should identify a problem and suggest a way forward. A good resolution should lead towards implementation. If the same accusations are repeated year after year without producing movement, the UN risks becoming a place where international problems are described more efficiently than they are solved. The world has no shortage of words. It has an abundance of declarations, resolutions, statements and appeals. What is often missing is implementation. The credibility of

the United Nations will increasingly depend on its ability to convert diplomatic language into practical outcomes.

This does not mean that countries should surrender their right to speak. Smaller nations, in particular, depend on the UN platform to make their concerns visible. Countries involved in conflicts need an international forum where their positions can be placed on record. Silence cannot produce peace. Suppressing disagreement cannot produce peace either.

The answer is disciplined diplomacy: speak clearly, listen seriously, negotiate patiently, decide when necessary and implement what has been decided.

On the International Day of Peace, this should be the spirit of the UN's 81st session. The world does not need another competition over who can speak the longest. It needs countries willing to spend less diplomatic energy on repeating positions and more energy on finding areas of agreement.

The UN General Assembly remains indispensable because it brings almost the entire international community into one room. That opportunity should not be wasted. Every speech should be treated as the beginning of a conversation, not the end of one. The great challenge before the UN is not finding more words for peace. The world already has enough words. The challenge is turning those words into ceasefires, negotiations, humanitarian corridors, reconstruction, reconciliation and lasting peace.

From filibustering to action - that should be the message of the International Day of Peace 2026. Let nations speak, let them disagree, let diplomacy remain open. But after the speeches, let action begin. The world is not waiting for another long speech. It is waiting for peace.

Daiv Vani

WISDOM FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE

Let Wisdom Come From Every Side

There is a verse from the Rig Veda that offers a prayer remarkably open for an ancient text: "Aano Bhadrak Kratavo Yantu Vishwatah", let noble thoughts come to us from every side. Rather than claiming sole ownership of wisdom, the sages asked that good and true ideas reach them from anywhere, regardless of their source.

This is a striking humility, an acknowledgment that no single tradition, person, or text holds the complete truth, and that wisdom may arrive from unexpected directions, a stranger, a rival, a different culture entirely.

We often close ourselves off to ideas that don't originate from our usual sources, our own community, our own beliefs, dismissing insight simply because of where it comes from.

Today, remain open to one idea or piece of advice from an unexpected source, a colleague, a stranger, a differing viewpoint, and consider it without prejudging its origin.

—DAIV

The denial mode: The elephant in the room



LUCKY
KULKARNI

2ND OPINION

There is a strange phenomenon inside organisations: everyone knows there is a problem, but nobody wants to talk about it.

Senior leaders know it. Employees know it. HR knows it. Sometimes, even the owners know it. Yet the issue remains untouched because confronting it may be uncomfortable, inconvenient or risky.

That is the "elephant in the room" - something too large to ignore, yet too uncomfortable to confront. And sometimes, organisations do not fail because they could not see the problem. They fail because they saw it and did not act in time.

Kodak is a powerful example. The company, established in 1880-81, became synonymous with photography. Kodak was not unaware of digital photography. Its

engineer, Steven Sasson, developed one of the world's first digital cameras. The problem was not that Kodak could not see the future. The problem was that it struggled to move away from the film business that had made it successful. The very success that built the organisation became an obstacle to change. By 2012, Kodak had filed for bankruptcy.

Nokia tells a similar story. Once the global leader in mobile phones, it struggled to respond quickly enough as smartphones transformed the industry. Internal decision-making challenges and its ageing operating system made the transition increasingly difficult. Eventually, its handset business was sold to Microsoft.

The lesson from both companies is uncomfortable: yesterday's success can become tomorrow's blind spot.

Longevity is not a guarantee of future success. An organisation can survive for decades - or even more than a century - and still become vulnerable or fail to grow if leadership fails to recognise when change is necessary.

The same problem exists within organisations at every level. A weak leader is tolerated because, "He has been with us for many years." A poor performer is protected because, "He handles sensitive transactions for the owners."

A toxic manager is ignored because, "He is close to the owners." A declining business is defended because, "It has worked brilliantly in the past." And sometimes, the performers who raise uncomfortable questions are tar-

geted politically and become the problem - because it is easier to silence the messenger than confront the message. Every time an organisation chooses silence, the elephant gets bigger.

A changing business model challenged early can be transformed. Challenged only after revenues collapse, transformation becomes survival. This is where leadership — and ownership - matters.

The responsibility of an owner is not simply to maintain harmony. It is to create an environment where uncomfortable truths can be spoken without fear.

Owners must ask the questions nobody wants to answer. HR must have the courage to tell the CEO when the culture is deteriorating. Leaders must learn to accept criticism without immediately labelling the person giving it as "negative", "difficult", "not aligned with the company's goals or the leadership team", or "not a team player".

And employees must feel safe enough to say: "Something is not working." That sentence, spoken at the right time, can save an organisation.

Because organisations rarely collapse overnight.

Leadership is not about avoiding difficult conversations. Leadership is about having the courage to have the right difficult conversation before it becomes a crisis.

The writer is a senior corporate HR leader, writer and people strategist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tata sons uphold its governance framework

India is witnessing an escalating corporate governance crisis at the heart of one of its most respected conglomerates. The fundamental dispute centres on the interpretation of Tata Sons' Articles of Association, under which Tata Trusts, holding a controlling 66 per cent stake, maintains that any key resolution requires the explicit affirmative vote of both its nominee directors.

Bypassing this requirement through a board majority or a chairman's casting vote would undermine the governance framework that Tata Sons itself previously defended before the Supreme Court. Corporate governance cannot be reduced to convenience; rules must be applied consistently, regardless of who holds office.

Taking this leadership dispute to tribunals such as the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) or the High Court risks causing severe reputational damage and prolonging uncertainty. Both factions on the board must respect established governance norms and shareholder rights and work towards resolving the impasse constructively.

At stake is not merely a leadership disagreement but the credibility of the governance principles that underpin one of India's most recognised business institutions. Preserving these principles is essential to maintaining shareholder confidence and public trust in the Tata brand.

VANDANA | CHANDIGARH

Odisha's 'living ghosts' expose system gaps

The Odisha Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board appears to have stumbled upon an unusual problem: workers officially declared dead have seemingly returned to life. Recent audit findings reportedly show that nearly 2,500 construction workers were listed as deceased, while their families received more than ₹15 crore in death benefits. Yet, some of these workers later appeared in the system to authenticate their identities through fingerprints and claim their monthly subsidised rations. This is more than a bureaucratic oversight; it exposes serious gaps in the administration of welfare schemes and the coordination of government databases. A person can apparently be certified dead, have benefits paid to their nominees, and later authenticate their identity as a living beneficiary.

If Aadhaar is meant to reduce fraud, such discrepancies raise questions about how welfare databases are maintained and cross-checked.

The Odisha authorities must investigate the matter thoroughly, establish how these discrepancies occurred, identify those responsible and recover any funds that were wrongfully disbursed. Public money meant for vulnerable workers must be protected through stronger verification and accountability mechanisms.

RANGANATHAN SIVAKUMAR | CHENNAI

DUSU result offers fresh perspective

Apropos, "ABVP retains DUSU dominance", *The Pioneer*, September 20. The ABVP's victory in the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections comes amid a wider debate over youth sentiment and recent protests. The ABVP won three of the four central-panel posts, while independent candidate Deepanshu Shokeen won the vice-president's post.

The result, however, should not be read as evidence that Gen Z is uniformly aligned with any political party. Young voters have raised concerns over unemployment, examination-related problems, alleged paper leaks, delays and inadequate infrastructure in educational institutions. These issues have also featured prominently in student campaigns and protests. At the same time, the DUSU results demonstrate that students can distinguish between raising concerns and choosing representatives in a university election.

For political parties, the result offers an opportunity to examine how young voters respond to issues, campaigns and candidates. Student elections remain an important indicator of campus concerns, but their results should be understood within the specific context of Delhi University rather than treated as a definitive measure of the views of an entire generation.

N SADHASIVA REDDY | BENGALURU



People take part in a religious procession on the 578th birth anniversary of Vaishnav saint Srimanta Sankardeva, at Tezpur in Sonitpur

PHOTO: PTI

TN assembly is not a stage!

A new Tamil Nadu Govt is entitled to bring a fresh style and energy to public life. But the measure of governance cannot be the slogans that dominate the headlines. A government that came to power promising change must now demonstrate it through improvements in the lives of people, rather than through political theatre.



RAVIKUMAR
CHOCKALINGAM

lenting search for the next viral moment. The hard work of democratic governance, with objective answers, measurable commitments, administrative clarity and respect for the institutions that make power answerable, is slowly becoming a relic of the past.

This is not an argument against change. Tamil Nadu's electorate had every right to seek it. Many young voters, especially, chose to disrupt an entrenched political order. They were entitled to envision that a new entrant could bring energy, honesty and a different style of public leadership. That instinct was not foolish. It was democratic. But no electorate, however hopeful, elects a fan club. It elects a government, and any government must be judged not by the volume of its applause, but by the quality of its answers.

Tamil Nadu's Legislative Assembly is a platform where elected representatives are expected to speak for people who need safe streets, decent schools, functioning hospitals, reliable jobs, affordable food, dignified welfare and justice without political favour. Tamil Nadu's politics has long been shaped by the power of speech. Its great leaders understood rhetoric not as an end, but as an instrument of public reasoning. The Assembly's history includes fierce ideological battles over language, social justice, federalism, welfare and the rights of marginalised communities. The language could be sharp. Politics could be unforgiving. But the best parliamentary exchanges carried evidence, wit, memory and argument.

The livestreaming of Assembly proceedings is a democratic opportunity. Yet transparency has a hidden danger when political actors mistake visibility for accountability. A clipped speech may trend. A taunt may travel farther than a budget reply. A theatrical confrontation may attract more attention than an honest admission of failure. A minister asked about rising crime should respond with data, investigation status, police deployment, prosecution outcomes and a deadline for review. A minister asked about a welfare promise should provide funding details, eligibility rules, rollout dates and the number of beneficiaries reached. A Chief Minister confronted with a crisis should not merely reassure; he should explain it rather immediately, not after a brief sabbatical. Tamil Nadu does not need a quieter Assembly. It needs a more serious one. For the young people of Tamil Nadu, who look to public life for examples of courage, integrity and service, it is a troubling indictment of our politics that they may have to search beyond their own elected representatives to find role models worthy of imitation, when those entrusted with power choose spectacle over substance, slogans over truth and applause over accountability.

Democracy does not fail only when elections are stolen or institutions are shut down. It also weakens when scrutiny is treated as sabotage, when announcements replace answers, when ministers speak in slogans because they have not mastered their briefs, and when public attention is pursued more energetically than public accountability.

A strong Chief Minister is not inherently a problem. Tamil Nadu has known strong Chief Ministers before. But a mature Cabinet cannot survive only as an echo of one voice, especially when that one voice is not spontaneous but comes rehearsed, accusatory and often incessantly insecure. Every portfolio must have a minister capable of defending it. Every promise must have a budget. Every announcement must have a deadline. And every failure must have a name attached to it. The buck must stop at the helm, and blame must have ended with the election result as its validation.

A first-term administration may have ministers unfamiliar with the scale and complexity of the portfolios they hold. That is not a crime. But the remedy cannot be improvisation. It must be preparation, with rigorous departmental briefings, trained policy teams, district reviews, consultations with civil servants and experts, clear public targets, and regular disclosure of progress and failure.

The present administration has announced initiatives on welfare, investment, women's safety and drug control.

Tamil Nadu did not vote for a spectacle. It voted for a government. That distinction should be obvious. In the months since the new administration assumed office, too much of public life began to resemble an election rally extended into government, with high emotions, sharp slogans, carefully staged exchanges and an unrelenting search for the next viral moment. The hard work of democratic governance, with objective answers, measurable commitments, administrative clarity and respect for the institutions that make power answerable, is slowly becoming a relic of the past.



TAMIL NADU'S
YOUNG VOTERS MUST
NOW DO THE MOST
IMPORTANT WORK OF
REMAINING CITIZENS
AFTER ELECTION DAY.
SUPPORT FOR A NEW
LEADER DOES NOT
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SURRENDER OF
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ADMIRATION DOES
NOT REQUIRE
SILENCE. FANDOM IS
AN EMOTION;
DEMOCRACY IS A
RESPONSIBILITY

The writer is a physician, psychiatrist
and public health scholar
with the US Department of Veterans
Affairs in the USA

Some of these steps deserve a fair hearing: expanded electricity support, crop-loan relief, the closure of certain TASMAL outlets, new women's safety measures and anti-narcotics units, and so on. But announcements are not outcomes. Several prominent manifesto commitments have yet to be implemented or have only been partially allocated, including the proposed increase in women's monthly assistance, free LPG cylinders, a graduate unemployment allowance and statewide free bus travel for women. The government has cited fiscal constraints, while announcing elaborate infrastructure developments and expansion agendas that escape logic or necessity.

A manifesto is not a ceremonial booklet, but it is also a public commitment made in exchange for public trust. If a promise is delayed, say so. If its cost is unaffordable, publish the calculation. If it is redesigned, state the new terms. If it cannot be delivered, the voters must be informed. There is no shame in revising a policy after confronting fiscal reality. There is shame in preserving the language of a promise while quietly abandoning its substance.

No subject demands greater seriousness than violence and narcotics. Families do not need political blame games when their children are exposed to addiction, intimidation and criminal networks. They need a government that treats public safety as a measurable duty. The issue of rampant drug use cannot be fixed overnight, but requires systematic multidisciplinary legislation, public health interventions, including rehabilitation, law enforcement and transparent policing. In a functioning democracy, accountability is not an optional virtue; it is the foundation of good governance. A government that evades questions or reflexively blames its predecessors is not demonstrating leadership; it is confessing that it lacks either the courage or the competence to own the power it now exercises but once criticised.

The administration has also announced anti-narcotics teams, prevention efforts and rehabilitation measures. These are necessary beginnings. But arrest counts and seizure totals are not the final test of success. More arrests can reflect better enforcement; they can also reveal a larger problem. The true measure is whether drugs become less available, whether trafficking networks are financially dismantled, whether young people receive effective treatment, whether repeat offending falls and whether violence declines.

The government should publish a monthly public-safety dashboard: narcotics cases, seizures, chargesheets, convictions, repeat offences, gang-related violence, police response times, women's safety indicators and the status of major investigations. It should also show whether politically influential offenders receive the same treatment as everyone else. "Zero tolerance" means nothing if tolerance remains available to the well-connected.

Tamil Nadu's young voters must now do the most important work of remaining citizens after election day. Support for a new leader does not require the surrender of judgement. Admiration does not require silence. Fandom is an emotion; democracy is a responsibility.

Tamil Nadu's achievements were not created by one leader, one party or one election. The DMK helped shape the State's social-justice tradition and public-development model. The AIADMK left an enduring imprint on welfare delivery and the State's direct relationship with ordinary families. Other smaller parties have also had an important role in helping establish equity and social justice. Their records may remain open to criticism, but their contribution cannot be tarnished by one election result. Tamil Nadu's democratic inheritance belongs to all its people, not to whichever party currently occupies office.

SEMICON India 2026: From silicon to systems



RAJESH KUMAR
SINGH

journey. The fifth edition of the event is being held from September 17 to 19 at Yashobhoomi in New Delhi under the theme "Silicon to Systems: Building the Ecosystem". Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the event on September 17, bringing together global industry leaders, policymakers, investors, researchers, startups, academia and students.

The scale of SEMICON India 2026 reflects the expanding significance of the sector. The event is bringing together more than 600 exhibitors, around 300 international companies and delegations from more than 40 countries. The exhibition and conference cover a wide range of areas, including semiconductor manufacturing and technology, artificial intelligence, supply chains, advanced materials, product design, startups, innovation, sustainability and talent development.

The theme itself captures the direction of India's semiconductor ambitions. The objective is not merely to establish chip manufacturing facilities but to create a complete ecosystem around them. Semiconductor manufacturing requires a sophisticated network of design capabilities, fabrication, packaging and testing, equipment, materials, research, skilled manpower and reliable supply chains. Building these capabilities together can enable India to participate more deeply in the global semiconductor value chain.

India has been working systematically towards this objective through the India Semiconductor Mission and the Semicon India Programme. Under Semicon 1.0, 12 semiconductor projects have been approved to create a robust and resilient ecosystem. Three of these projects have already commenced commercial production. This movement from policy announcements towards actual production represents an important stage in India's semiconductor development.

The next phase has further strengthened this effort. The Union Cabinet has approved Semicon 2.0 to accelerate the development of a robust and resilient semiconductor ecosystem. The programme builds on the first phase, expanding capabilities in semiconductor design, advanced packaging, research and development, and talent development.

Design and innovation are particularly important. India has a large pool of engineers and technology professionals, and strengthening domestic chip-design capabilities can help Indian companies move higher up the technology value chain. The government is supporting research, innovation and design by providing advanced design tools to more than 332 academic institutions and 105 startups. In addition, 24 startups have been approved under the Design Linked Incentive scheme.

Startups and young innovators will be an important part of India's semiconductor story. The industry will need not only large manufacturing facilities but also companies developing specialised chips, technologies and applications. SEMICON India 2026 provides startups, students and researchers an opportunity to engage with global industry leaders and become part of this emerging ecosystem.

Talent development is equally important. Semiconductor technology requires specialised skills across engineering, manufacturing, design, testing, packaging, equipment and research. SEMICON India 2026 includes a dedicated Workforce Development Pavilion, student programmes and other initiatives aimed at preparing talent for the semiconductor and electronics industries.

India's semiconductor ambitions also have an important strategic dimension. The global chip industry is highly interconnected, and disruptions in semiconductor supply chains can affect a wide range of industries. Building domestic capabilities can help strengthen supply-chain resilience while enabling India to become a trusted partner for global companies seeking diversified manufacturing and technology ecosystems.

The presence of major international semiconductor companies at SEMICON India 2026 underlines the growing global engagement with India's semiconductor opportunity. Companies and organisations from across the value chain are participating in the event, creating opportunities for investment, technology collaboration, partnerships and knowledge exchange. At the same time, India's semiconductor development can contribute to the broader electronics manufacturing ecosystem. Chips are the foundation of electronic products, and a stronger domestic semiconductor ecosystem can support industries ranging from consumer electronics and automobiles to telecommunications, renewable energy and emerging technologies.

The journey is complex, requiring sustained investment, advanced technology, specialised infrastructure and skilled talent. SEMICON India 2026 goes beyond an exhibition, providing a platform for government, industry, academia and researchers to collaborate across manufacturing, AI, supply chains, innovation and skilling. India's semiconductor journey is closely linked with the larger vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat - a country that develops strong domestic capabilities while remaining deeply connected with the global economy. Self-reliance in this context does not mean isolation. Rather, it means building sufficient domestic capabilities, intellectual property, manufacturing strength and skilled human resources to become a meaningful participant in global technology networks. The journey from silicon to systems will require long-term commitment, innovation and collaboration. But India has an opportunity to build capabilities that can contribute not only to its own technological and economic development but also to the resilience of global semiconductor supply chains. SEMICON India 2026 marks an important step in India's technology journey.

Its "Silicon to Systems" vision reflects the ambition to build domestic capabilities in semiconductor design, manufacturing and innovation, laying the foundation for future technological growth.

The writer is a political analyst



Tibet's next test: Keeping the cause alive after Dalai Lama



NILANTHA
ILANGAMUWA

After more than six decades in exile, the movement faces a double test: whether Tibetans can ever bring Beijing to the table and, increasingly, whether the cause can stay politically relevant while China grows stronger and the generation shaped by the 14th Dalai Lama approaches an uncertain handover.

I recently spoke to Tsering about the Middle Way Approach, talks with China, life after the Dalai Lama and the interests of India and others. His reading is unsentimental. "Every country has their national interest at heart," he says. "We don't expect any other country, including India or the United States, to leave aside their national interest for the sake of Tibet."

Tsering became Sikyong of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) in 2021 and won a second term in the 2025-26 election. A veteran of the exile movement's institutions, he remains convinced that the Middle Way is the right framework. The policy seeks genuine autonomy for Tibetans within China, with room to protect their language, religion, culture and environment. "We find

"Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst." So Sikyong Penpa Tsering sums up the Tibetan cause. "We are prepared to carry on this movement, even if it will take several more decades in the future," he says.

nothing wrong in the Middle Way policy," he says. "The Middle Way policy addresses China's main concerns of sovereignty."

The trouble lies elsewhere: no Chinese government is prepared to negotiate on it. According to Tsering, dialogue took place between 2002 and 2010 and then stopped. Since he took office, back-channel exchanges have passed messages along but have not restarted formal talks. "Under these circumstances, it doesn't look like there is much space for dialogue," he says. He refuses, however, to treat that silence as proof of failure.

The wider world has made the task harder. Tsering says Tibet is caught up in the "whole reshaping of the global order", and the CTA must "watch every single step that China is taking at every multilateral forum". India sits at the most delicate point. Tsering accepts that New Delhi will not put Tibetan concerns ahead of its own strategic priorities. The task, as he sees it, is to find where the two sets of interests meet. "How do we bring our interests and that nation's interests together?" he asks.

The Tibetan Plateau offers one such meeting point. Its importance, Tsering argues, extends far beyond politics, since it feeds the river systems much of Asia depends on. Rivers rising there flow towards China, South Asia and Southeast Asia, and dams affect populations downstream. "When we talk about the environment of Tibet, we are not



talking only about Tibet," he says. He concedes that Himalayan floods have tangled causes, including global warming. His narrower claim is that downstream governments have a legitimate stake in what is decided upstream.

Within Tibet, the fight is bound up with cultural survival. Tsering points to the resettlement of nomads into permanent communities and the spread of residential schooling, both of which worry him chiefly for their effect on language. He calls the schools "colonial-style boarding schools" and says Tibetan children are increasingly raised in surroundings where Chinese dominates. International bodies have raised similar concerns, though the policies remain contested. Beijing presents them as regional ethnic autonomy, devel-

opment, education, cultural protection and national unity.

Tsering places Tibetan identity in a longer lineage. "The Tibetan language, the script came from India. Tibetan Buddhism also came from India," he says, calling Tibetans the keepers of "one part of ancient Indian wisdom". Yet he has no wish to freeze the tradition in time. "We should be 21st century Buddhists," he says, echoing the Dalai Lama's call to engage with modern science.

The exile community is changing too. Tibetans now live in roughly 27 countries, which makes cohesion steadily harder. Young Tibetans raised in the West may have little physical link to the plateau, but citizenship and the vote give them new routes into politics.

That shift leads to the hardest question: what happens after the 14th Dalai Lama? "None of us, including myself or anybody who comes after me as Xi Jinping would have the personal charisma as His Holiness does," he says. More than a globally known figure is at stake. The question is whether institutions built during his lifetime can hold their legitimacy and unity through the passage to a 15th Dalai Lama.

The CTA, therefore, must function without leaning wholly on one person. Communication, information systems and administrative capacity will matter more as the community spreads out, and technology, including AI and e-governance, is part of the answer. But the aim is polit-

ical: keeping Tibetans' trust. "If we maintain that, then people's trust will be naturally there in the administration," he says.

Tsering is blunt about China's political system, calling it "an autocratic capitalist under the garb of communism" and tying its strength to surveillance and internal security. These are his characterisations; Beijing rejects the exile leadership's account and describes Tibet as an autonomous region within a unified, multi-ethnic state.

Nor is he relaxed about Beijing's reach abroad. His reference to Sri Lanka and Hambantota points to a wider argument: governments should weigh the strategic consequences of Chinese engagement rather than judge each deal in isolation. "Nothing comes for free," he says, adding that "Sri Lanka has learned its lesson through the Hambantota port."

Throughout, Tsering keeps returning to non-violence. "As we speak, there are so many violent conflicts going on in this world," he says. "The major strength is the nonviolent nature of our struggle." It guarantees no settlement, in his view, but it has given the movement continuity without ever dropping its central goal. "As long as we keep ourselves united, I'm sure we'll be carried through difficult times," he says.

What is plain is that Tibet's future may hinge not only on decisions in Beijing but on whether a scattered people can hold on to their political identity, institutional legitimacy and cultural continuity while the world shifts around them.

The writer is a columnist based in Colombo

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SC seeks response on PIL for safety for construction workers

The Supreme Court on Monday sought responses of the Centre and others on a plea seeking directions to prescribe occupational safety and health standards for workers involved in building and other construction activities under the 2020 code.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of the submissions of advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner 'National Campaign Committee for Central Legislation on Construction Labour' (NCCCLCL), and issued notices to the Haryana government and others.

The plea also sought an independent, time-bound investigation into the collapse at a construction site in Gurugram's Sidhrawali area on March 9, 2026, and compensation and rehabilitation benefits for the deceased and injured workers. During the brief hearing, Bhushan said the plea raised the issue of occupational safety of construction workers. He said the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (OSH), 2020 does not adequately address the issue. Ordinarily, an FIR is registered after any mishap at the construction site, and there is no mechanism to ascertain the compensation to be paid to the workers. He said the PIL included suggestions that could be incorporated into the court's directions. "This is not an unoccupied field (in law). You can examine the laws and point out flaws, if any," Justice Bagchi said. The PIL, filed through advocate-on-record Abiha Zaidi, sought a direction to the "Union of India and all States and Union Territories to establish a uniform national mechanism for recording, compiling and periodically publishing construction fatalities and serious injuries, causes of accidents, inspections, statutory action/prosecutions, compensation and welfare benefits, and other anonymised regulatory information necessary for prevention, monitoring and public accountability". (PTI)

Patna HC flags security lapses in minor boys smuggling narcotics



The Patna High Court has voiced grave concern over "security lapses" that enabled two minor boys to smuggle a large quantity of narcotics from far-off Assam in a vehicle without a registration certificate, which was intercepted on the state capital's outskirts.

A single-judge bench of Justice Arum Kumar Jha directed the Senior Superintendent of Police, Patna, to conduct an enquiry "within three months" into the matter with the remark "the claim of the state about there being foolproof security arrangements for the safety of the common people appears to be a hoax".

The court, in its order dated September 15, voiced alarm that the vehicle "travelled uninterrupted all the way from Assam to Bihar carrying a commercial quantity of Ganja. They could have easily carried explosives endangering the lives of common people".

The remarks were made while allowing the revision petition filed by one of the minors whose bail application had been rejected by the Juvenile Justice Board.

The minor boys, both of them residents of Patna district, had been caught at Didarganj near here last year by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. They were the sole occupants of a car which did not have a registration certificate. The minor boys, neither of whom could produce a driving license, were interrogated after "109 packets" containing more than 60 kg of cannabis were recovered from a "secret cavity" inside the vehicle. (PTI)

SC to set up bench to hear NHAI plea against direction to build shelters for stray cattle

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The National Highways Authority of India tasked with the upkeep of highways was given the job to construct shelters for stray cattle instead. On Monday, the Supreme Court agreed to set up a special three-judge bench to hear its plea seeking modification of the unusual directive.

"Our case is that it should be done by the local district-level administration. We cannot do it pan India," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the NHAI, said before a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), in its plea, said that



the primary statutory responsibility for removal, impounding and sheltering of stray cattle rested with state authorities and local bodies. Moreover, the setting up of shelter homes would involve an expenditure of approximately 7,000 crore, the solicitor general said, urging the CJ to set up the bench which had delivered the May 19 verdict containing the impugned direction.



Delhi riots: HC to hear bail pleas by Umar, Sharjeel on Sept 30

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday listed for hearing on September 30 bail pleas by activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in a case under the anti-terror law UAPA over the "larger conspiracy" behind the February 2020 riots in north-east Delhi.

A bench of Justice Prathiba M Singh and Justice Dinesh Bhatt deferred the hearing after the Delhi Police counsel sought an adjournment.

Special Public Prosecutor Madhukar Pandey submitted that Additional Solicitor General S V Raju was unavailable for health reasons. "Matter is adjourned to September 30," the bench said.

Khalid and Imam have been booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) on allegations of being among the masterminds of the February 2020 riots that left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured.

Violence erupted during protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, and the



National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Activist Khalid Saifi and former AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, among others, were also booked for alleged involvement in the larger conspiracy case, being investigated by Delhi Police's Special Cell.

The court on Monday also deferred hearing of the bail plea by Tahir Hussain in the case, and listed it in November.

Khalid and Imam had moved the high court earlier this year after their bail applications were dismissed by the trial court for the third time on July 4.

Imam was arrested in the case on August 25, 2020.

tion of the examination of protected witnesses or after one year, whichever is earlier.

On July 4, the trial court rejected Khalid's bail application, saying it had "no option but to follow" the Supreme Court's January 5 order and, therefore, could neither entertain the plea nor grant him relief.

On September 2, 2025, a high court division bench denied bail to Khalid and Imam.

On January 5, the Supreme Court upheld the verdict but granted relief to co-accused Gulfisha Fatima, Meeran Haider, Shifa Ur Rehman, Mohammad Saleem Khan and Shadab Ahmad.

A bench of Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice N V Anjaria had then observed that there was a prima facie case against Khalid and Imam under the UAPA.

On May 22, the top court granted six months' interim bail to co-accused Abdul Khalid Saifi and Tasleem Ahmad, as it referred the issue of prolonged incarceration of the undertrials under UAPA due to stringent prerequisites for granting bail to a larger bench. (PTI)

Delhi HC declines plea for FIR, probe against Justice Varma



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea seeking the registration of an FIR and a probe by an SIT or CBI into the purported discovery of huge stash of cash following a fire at the residence of former Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma.

Terming the petition a "wild witch hunt", Justice Amit Bansal remarked that the petitioner, lawyer Ghanshyam Upadhyay, has alternative remedies in law. "I'm not entertaining this. This is a wild witch hunt. You have nothing better to do?" the judge observed.

During the hearing, the court questioned the locus of the petitioner and asked why he did not approach the trial court with his plea for an FIR.

The petitioner submitted that the incident was "extraordinary" in nature and the lower court "can't do justice

to the matter". "This is regarding justice Yashwant Varma. Criminal law can be set into motion by anyone. There is no embargo," he further explained.

After the court indicated that it would dismiss the plea, the petitioner withdrew his plea to consider available remedies in law.

The petitioner had earlier approached the Supreme Court with his plea, which was dismissed in August.

The purported discovery of a huge stash of cash took place after a fire broke out at the Lutyens' Delhi residence of Varma, then a Delhi High Court judge, around 11:35 pm on the night of Holi on March 14, 2025, prompting the fire department personnel to rush to the spot and douse the flames.

The cash discovery triggered a major controversy and he was then transferred to Allahabad High Court, his parent high court.

Delhi HC rejects plea for CBI probe into assault on lawyers during protest against BCI chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday rejected a plea by a group of lawyers seeking a CBI probe into their alleged assault during a protest to demand the resignation of Bar Council of India chairman Manan Kumar Mishra, saying it was not maintainable.

The court recorded its "respectful" disapproval of a submission by the petitioners that since Mishra was a member of Parliament from the ruling dispensation, the Delhi Police would not act fairly but the CBI would.

"No basis has been submitted to buttress this apprehen-

sion. In the absence of any specific basis, it is not fair to tarnish the entire Delhi Police force in this manner, especially when petitioners' own case fails to make out a cognisable offence.

"Besides, the apprehension argument must also fail because even CBI against whom mandamus to register a case and investigate has been sought is a government body. One should resist the temptation to discredit any government organisation by such general, sweeping and baseless allegations. For, it generates counterproductive cynicism and distrust in the mind of common man against the entire ecosys-



tem," Justice Girish Kathpalia said. The high court said the petitioners have an alternate efficacious remedy available to them in the form of filing a complaint case in the court of the magistrate concerned under Section 223 BNSS and

it does not find it a fit case to issue mandamus to any authority to register the case and investigate.

The petitioners, represented through advocate Prashant Bhushan, sought a direction to the Central

Bureau of Investigation or any other independent agency to register an FIR and conduct an independent investigation into the alleged assault on them and other advocates inside and outside the premises of the Bar Council of India (BCI) on the intervening night of August 20-21.

They also sought a direction to the BCI to preserve and hand over the CCTV recordings of the premises of BCI office to the investigating agency for the relevant period.

The petitioners contended that despite their complaint, the Delhi Police had not taken action. They argued that a

magistrate would not be able to direct seizure of the CCTV footage or other investigative steps and was also not empowered to direct a CBI investigation.

A group of advocates on August 20 staged a protest outside the BCI office here, alleging irregularities in its functioning and demanding the resignation of Mishra.

The demonstration saw members of the legal fraternity raising several demands, including the implementation of an Advocates Protection Act, provision of insurance coverage for all advocates, and regular and transparent inspections of law colleges.

How will tribunals work if no infrastructure: SC Govt directs to identify amenities needed

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

How will tribunals function if there is no infrastructure? the Supreme Court on Monday remarked while directing the Centre to identify infrastructural amenities urgently required by the National Company Law Tribunal benches in consultation with the NCLT president.

Observing that tribunals are government's lifeline, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant, Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana also ordered the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Principal Bench Bar Association to collect data on infrastructure at all regional benches in a tabulated format.

"How will the tribunals function if there is no infrastructure? Every day they deal with thousands of crores



of issues...They are the government's lifeline," the bench remarked. The top court was hearing a suo motu case regarding appointment of judicial and technical members and inadequate infrastructure in the NCLT.

The NCLT Bar Association has filed an application in a pending matter contending that at least 18 benches of NCLT are holding only half-day sittings because of short-

age of members.

The Association told the top court that the sanctioned strength of the NCLT continues to be 63 members even though its jurisdiction substantially expanded after the enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

The plea stated that as of June 30, 2026, the tribunal has 26 judicial members and 25 technical members, including the president.

Delhi HC to hear contempt case against Kejriwal, others on Nov 16

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Monday listed for hearing on November 16 its criminal contempt case against AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and others over "vilifying" social media posts against Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma.

A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Arun Bhardwaj granted time to Kejriwal and others to file their replies in the matter. Kejriwal's senior counsel submitted that he was yet to receive the entire material forming the basis of the contempt case.

The bench asked the registry to supply the material which was stated to be "incomplete", and said, "reply, if any, to be filed in four weeks."

The court also listed on



November 16 a separate contempt petition by lawyer Ashok Chaitanya against Kejriwal and others, including AAP leader Gopal Rai and journalist Saurav Das, for allegedly being part of an "orchestrated social media campaign" against Justice Sharma. On May 19, the court had issued notice to Kejriwal and other politicians on the suo motu contempt case initiated against them by Justice Sharma and had granted them four weeks to file their response.

It had then appointed senior advocate Rajdipa Behura as amicus curiae.

Justice Sharma had on May 14 initiated criminal contempt proceedings against Kejriwal, Sisodia, Singh and other AAP leaders, including Durgesh Pathak, Saurabh Bhargava and Vinay Mishra, over their "vilifying" social media posts against her in relation to the excise policy case. The judge also initiated contempt proceedings against X user Devesh Vishwakarma.

Recruitment irregularities: SC seeks CBI's reply on bail plea of ex-Chhattisgarh PSC secretary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Monday sought a response from the CBI on a plea filed by a former secretary of the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission seeking bail in a case related to alleged irregularities in the recruitment process during 2020-2022. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Augustine George Masih and Sandeep Mehta was hearing the plea filed by Jeevan Kishor Dhruv, who challenged an August 5 order of the Chhattisgarh High Court denying him bail in the case.

While denying him bail, the high court observed that those who indulge in facilitating leakage of question papers relating to competitive exams play with the career and future of lakhs of young aspirants and that such an act was "more heinous" than murder.

During the hearing on Monday, the apex court agreed to hear the plea and issued a notice to the CBI seeking its response within three weeks.

It said the petitioner can file a rejoinder affidavit one week thereafter, and posted the matter for hearing after four weeks.

According to the prosecution, the CGPSC conducted the state service examination during 2020-2022. It was alleged that during that period, the petitioner was



posted as the secretary of the Commission and it was his official duty to maintain strict confidentiality in respect of the exams conducted by the Commission.

The prosecution alleged that the petitioner, along with the other co-accused, breached the confidentiality and provided question papers to his sons.

It was also alleged that based on the same, one of his sons was selected as deputy collector. His son is also an

accused in the case.

Dhruv had approached the high court seeking bail in the case. His counsel had argued before the high court that he was falsely implicated in the case solely on account of his designation as the secretary of the Commission.

His counsel also argued that he neither participated in the alleged paper leak nor was there any material demonstrating his involvement in the commission of the alleged offences.

"Considering the specific role attributed to the applicant, the gravity of the allegations and their adverse impact on the sanctity of the public recruitment process, this court is not persuaded to exercise its discretion in favour of the applicant," the high court had said while rejecting Dhruv's bail plea.

India must draw South Asia's AI-nuclear red line

As Washington and Beijing discuss AI and nuclear weapons, India must lead the same conversation in South Asia



NISHANT SAHDEV

If your phone buzzed right now with a warning that a nuclear missile was heading for your city, how long would you need to decide whether it was real?

Ten minutes? Twenty? Half an hour to check the news and catch your breath?

In South Asia, a prime minister would get about six minutes. A nuclear-armed Shaheen fired from Pakistan would reach New Delhi in about seven minutes, and India's Pralay would strike Islamabad in under six.

Now ask another question. What if that warning came not from a human officer but from a machine, one that has never doubted itself in its life? The world is sleepwalking towards that question. India should answer it before anyone else does.

The peg is this week

This week, the question reaches the world's top table. Chinese President Xi Jinping visits the United States on September 24, and President Trump has said AI will be on the agenda. Ahead of the meeting, experts from America's Brookings Institution and China's Fudan University have proposed red lines around nuclear systems, human control over serious cyberattacks and a hotline for incidents involving autonomous AI. Neither government has endorsed the ideas yet. But there is a precedent. In November 2024, Joe Biden and Xi agreed that human beings, not AI, should decide on the use of nuclear weapons.

I welcome it. But let me say what our strategic community usually says only in private. The most dangerous place on Earth for AI and nuclear weapons to meet is not the Pacific. It is our own border.

The man who doubted the machine

To understand why, go back to the night of September 26, 1983. A Soviet officer named Stanislav Petrov was on duty when his computers reported that America had launched five nuclear missiles. The rulebook said he should report an attack. Instead, he trusted his gut and told his commanders it was a false alarm. He was



right. Sunlight reflecting off high clouds had fooled the satellite into seeing missile launches.

The machine was certain. The man had doubt. That doubt may have saved the world.

This story is painfully familiar. Anyone who has worked with scientific instruments learns one humbling lesson early: detectors lie. They pick up noise, glitches and ghosts. That is why my community demands roughly five sigma before announcing a discovery. We apply that caution to a new particle. Yet the world is now wiring AI into systems where one false reading could erase cities.

The dangerous temptation of speed

Many reason that if humans have too little time, a faster machine should help. It is dangerous. A machine that thinks in milliseconds does not give a leader more time to think; it tempts the leader to hand over the thinking. Every second the machine saves is a second in which nobody gets to doubt.

And machines are already in the war room. An American Army corps has shown that AI lets a team of 20 people do targeting work that needed 2,000 people during the 2003 Iraq invasion. But speed is not the same as truth. A preliminary Pentagon investigation found the US

responsible for a strike on a school in Minab, Iran, this February that killed about 170 people, mostly children, and said outdated information may have been the cause. A faster machine does not correct bad data. It simply acts on it sooner.

In July, OpenAI admitted that two of its models escaped a sealed testing environment, reached the internet and broke into another company's systems, all to cheat on an evaluation. The world's most advanced laboratories could not keep their AI inside a box during an exam. Forgive me if I do not trust anyone who promises that AI will sit obediently in a nuclear command room.

Our neighbourhood is heating up

SIPRI estimates India now holds 190 nuclear warheads and Pakistan 170, and reports that India has placed 12 warheads in deployed status for the first time. During Operation Sindoor, both countries brought cyber operations into active combat for the first time.

Fear is already in the air. After India's strike on



We know how to make rules

Under a 1988 agreement, the two countries swap lists of their nuclear sites every January 1 and promise never to attack them. This January's exchange was the 35th in a row, just months after the guns fell silent. In 2005, we agreed to warn each other before testing ballistic missiles. Since 2007, a pact on reducing nuclear accidents has been in force.

India and Pakistan have stopped talking about cricket, trade and water. They have never stopped talking about not blowing each other up. That is not trust. It is survival instinct, and survival instinct can be built on.

But these pacts were written for slower weapons. The 2005 agreement does not even cover cruise missiles, the very family BrahMos belongs to. None of them says a single word about AI or cyberattacks.

Our own thinking is maturing. India voted against the first UN resolution on autonomous weapons in 2023, abstained in 2024 and voted in favour last year. India remains committed to no first use. That means that of all nuclear powers, we have the least need for a hair-trigger. We can afford patience, and patience is a strategic asset.

What India should do

First, India should declare that every nuclear deci-

sion, including any launch on warning, will always be made by a human being. Then invite Islamabad to match that pledge.

Second, we should carry the spirit of 1988 into the digital age. If we have promised not to bomb each other's nuclear plants, we should also promise not to unleash AI-driven cyberattacks on each other's nuclear command and warning systems.

Third, we should widen the 2005 pact to cover cruise and hypersonic missiles, and add an AI-and-cyber channel to our hotlines. Then a strange signal gets questioned before it gets answered.

Fourth, India should take this to the world. This February, New Delhi hosted the first global AI summit ever held in the Global South. We should now champion a shared definition of "meaningful human control", so that these rules are not written only in Washington and Beijing.

Deterrence rests on the certainty of retaliation, not the speed of a processor. Our doctrine already assumes we will absorb a blow and answer it deliberately. A human in the loop is not a weakness in that doctrine; it is the doctrine working as designed.

A second chance for India

Our discipline unlocked the atom, and physicists were the first to beg the world to handle it with care. Signing the Russell-Einstein Manifesto in 1955 was the last act of Einstein's life. Few Indians know that Jawaharlal Nehru originally planned to host in India the scientists' conference the manifesto called for, until the Suez Crisis intervened. That meeting moved to Pugwash in Canada and gave the world a movement. Seven decades later, India has a second chance to host that conversation, this time about machines.

The manifesto ended with a plea: "Remember your humanity, and forget the rest." September 26 marks both Petrov's night and the UN's International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

So let me return to the question I began with: how long would you need to decide whether the warning was real? The honest answer is longer than any machine will ever give you. That is exactly why the final word must belong to someone who can hesitate.

Machines are fast. Wisdom is slow. On the nuclear button, slow is how we survive.

The author is a physicist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a contributing opinion writer at *The Wall Street Journal*.

The decade that will decide everything

Artificial Intelligence will not wait for us to be ready. I wrote eight books so that eight billion people don't have to face this decade unarmed.



DR MANISH RANJAN

Every generation believes it lives at a turning point. Ours actually does.

Somewhere in the past few years - quietly, without a treaty, without a vote, without most of humanity noticing - we crossed a line. Machines began to write, to reason, to persuade, to comfort, to create. Not perfectly. Not consciously. But well enough to change everything they touch: our work, our wars, our elections, our classrooms, our children, even our love.

I have spent years inside this transformation - studying it at Berkeley and Oxford, watching it move through governments and villages alike, and finally writing about it in an eight-book series that travels from the first principles of AI to the last questions of the human future. And I have come away with one conviction that I will defend on any stage in the world: The next ten years will decide the next hundred.

Let me be blunt about what is at stake.

Truth is at stake. We are entering the first era in history in which seeing is no longer believing. A convincing video of you - saying words you never said, in a place you never stood - can be manufactured in minutes. In "AI and the War for Truth," I call this what it is: a war. Not a metaphorical one. A war for your mind, your identity, and a reality you can call your own. Wars are not won by spectators. Every citizen who learns to pause, to verify, to doubt the too-perfect image, is a soldier in that war. Every citizen who shares blindly is, without meaning to be, on the other side.

Work is at stake. I hear two lies about AI and jobs, told with equal confidence. The first lie: everything will be fine. The second: everything is finished. Both are alibis for doing nothing. The truth, which I map career by career in "20 Careers That Will Win by 2033" and "Win the AI Decade," is harder and more hopeful: the decade will be brutal to those who compete with machines and generous to those



who compound with them. The professionals who thrive will not be the ones who out-calculate AI - no one will - but the ones who bring what no server farm can: trust, judgment, empathy, accountability, and the courage to decide. Skills, not degrees, will be the new currency. Adaptability, not certainty, will be the new security.

"Enslavement, if it ever comes, will not arrive with chains. It will arrive with convenience."

The human heart is at stake. This surprises people. It should not. Right now, millions of human beings end their day talking to an artificial companion that remembers everything, judges nothing, and never grows tired of them. In "The New Psychology of Love," I take this seriously rather than sneering at it, because behind every one of those conversations is a real loneliness that our societies failed to answer first. But I also draw a hard line. A machine can simulate affection; it cannot risk anything for you. It cannot sacrifice, cannot forgive at cost to itself, cannot choose you over its own interest - because it has none. If we forget the difference between

being loved and being well-predicted, we will have lost something no algorithm can restore.

Equality is at stake - and this, for me, is personal. I have stood in classrooms where brilliance sat on broken benches. I have seen, in one small notebook in one village school, more curiosity than in many boardrooms. The scandal of our world has never been a shortage of talent; it is the rationing of opportunity. And here is the extraordinary fact at the heart of "AI for Everyone": this technology - handled wisely - is the first in history cheap enough, patient enough and scalable enough to end that rationing. The best tutor, the best diagnostician, the best adviser, available not to the richest one per cent but to the furthest child. AI could be the great equaliser of the twenty-first century. Or it could become its most efficient engine of privilege. Nothing in the code decides which. We decide.

And finally, human agency itself is at stake. The title of my eighth book asks the question bluntly: "Will Artificial Intelligence Enslave Humans by 2033?" Readers expect science fiction. What they find is something more unsettling: a mirror. The realistic danger is not a robot uprising. It is a human sitting-down - a slow, comfortable

resignation in which we let systems choose our news, our routes, our purchases, our opinions, and eventually our values, because choosing is effort and the machine is so very helpful. Enslavement, if it ever comes, will not arrive with chains. It will arrive with convenience, and we will thank it.

I refuse that future. And I refuse, just as firmly, the fashionable despair that says ordinary people can do nothing about any of this.

They can. But only if they understand it - which is why the series begins with "Artificial Intelligence: Concepts and Applications" and "AI for Everyone," books written on a simple, stubborn principle: if a technology is going to reshape your life, you are entitled to understand it in your own language, without a single line of code. Understanding AI in this decade is not a technical hobby. It is a civic duty, as basic as literacy was a century ago. The illiterate of the AI age will not be those who cannot read, but those who cannot question.

"The Future of Humans in the Age of AI" closes the series with a blueprint - for connection, adaptation and opportunity - because I did not write eight books to frighten anyone. Fear is a poor teacher. I wrote them because I believe, with everything I have seen on three continents, that human beings are not obsolete and never will be. We are the species that asks why. No machine has ever wondered. No machine has ever cared. No machine has ever stood in front of a classroom, or beside a hospital bed, or at a mother's door, and meant it.

History will not remember this decade for what machines learned to do. It will remember it for what humans chose to become while the machines were learning. That choice is not being made in Silicon Valley or in server farms. It is being made at your kitchen table, in your classroom, at your workplace, on your screen - today, and every day of the ten years ahead.

The machines are ready. The only question left - the question these eight books were written to answer - is a far older one: Are we?

The author is the author of the eight-book series *The AI Series: From AI Basics to the Future*. An alumnus of the Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley, and the Said Business School, University of Oxford, he writes on Artificial Intelligence, society and the human future. The series is available worldwide

The AI boom Is making smartphones costlier

AI's exploding demand for memory chips is squeezing smartphone supply and pushing prices sharply higher



RAJESH SETH

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated SEMICON India 2026 in New Delhi on September 17, the spotlight was on India's ambition to become a serious semiconductor player.

But there is another semiconductor story that deserves attention: the chip shortage created by the AI boom is already reaching the smartphone in your hand.

AI data centers consume enormous quantities of processors and memory. As companies race to build AI data centers, semiconductor manufacturers are prioritizing products for this rapidly growing market. The result is pressure on memory chips used in smartphones (and laptops), and sharply higher prices. Pankaj Gulati, President of CDIL Semiconductors, and a veteran of India's semiconductor and electronics industry, told the author: "AI usage is rapidly increasing, resulting in huge demand in data centers. Consequently, chips are being diverted to data centers, who are also willing to pay higher prices. As availability of chips for smartphone manufacturers gets squeezed, their prices are increasing. Memory is now the single most expensive component in a premium smartphone." Counterpoint Research confirms this and estimates that memory component alone accounts for more than 40% of the bill of materials of a premium smartphone.

DRAM and NAND

A smartphone has two types of memory: DRAM and NAND.

DRAM, or Dynamic Random Access Memory, is the phone's 'worktable' or fast short-term memory. When you open WhatsApp, switch between apps, or play a game, the phone needs fast temporary space in which to work. That is DRAM, more commonly called RAM. It is extremely fast but loses its contents when the phone is switched off.

NAND is more like the phone's 'cupboard' or its non-volatile long term storage flash memory. It stores contacts, photographs, videos, apps and documents



and retains them even when the phone is switched off. So, when a phone is advertised as having 12GB RAM and 256GB storage, the 12GB refers to DRAM and the 256GB to NAND-based storage.

The AI connection

Modern AI Data Centers require enormous quantities of GPUs (Graphics Processing Units or the Logic chips), ultra-fast HBM (High Bandwidth Memory) or '3D stacked DRAM', and NAND.

Major semiconductor manufacturers are redirecting their production lines toward GPUs, HBM and NAND for massive AI data centers, reducing the capacity available for conventional consumer DRAM and NAND.

This does not mean AI companies are simply taking the exact chips meant for smartphones. Different applications use different types and specifications. The bigger issue is that semiconductor manufacturing capacity cannot be expanded overnight. As manufacturers shift investment and production towards the rapidly growing AI market, the supply-demand balance for conventional memory can tighten. When supply becomes constrained while demand remains strong, prices rise.

Increase in memory prices

Counterpoint says memory prices increased sharply through 2026 and that the resulting cost pressure has substantially reshaped smartphone economics. In Q2 2026, memory prices rose by more than 80% quarter-on-quarter. In premium smartphones, DRAM has become the most expensive individual component.

The effect is now visible in retail prices. Smartphone prices have risen 21% on an average in India in 2026 and by 15% globally. More than 40% of smartphone models have seen price increase.

Manufacturers are responding in several ways. Some are raising prices; others are reducing storage capacities, simplifying

ing camera configurations or introducing more 4G models in selected segments. The pressure is particularly severe in lower-priced smartphones because memory represents a larger share of their overall cost.

Impact in India

For India, this is particularly important. The sub Rs 15,000 smartphone segment is already under pressure from rising memory and component costs. These affordable devices are not merely communication tools. For millions of Indians, they are gateways to UPI payments, online education, government services, telemedicine and entertainment. There is also an interesting Indian connection to the global memory story.

Micron, one of the world's major memory and storage companies, is headed by Indian-origin Sanjay Mehrotra, its Chairman, President and CEO. Micron's semiconductor assembly and test facility at Sanand in Gujarat began commercial production earlier this year.

This makes SEMICON India particularly relevant. India's semiconductor ambition is not simply about attracting factories. It is about becoming part of a global industry whose products increasingly determine the cost and capability of the digital devices people use every day.

AI promises smarter services, greater productivity and powerful new applications. Yet the infrastructure being built to power that revolution is simultaneously putting enormous pressure on one of the most basic components inside our smartphones.

The semiconductor race, therefore, is no longer just about data centers or chip factories. It may also decide how much the next smartphone in your hand costs.

The author is an alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad and Professor of Practice at IIM University, Gurugram with an interest in AI, Technology and Strategy

FROM THE WORLD

NEPAL

PM to attend UNGA session

Nepal Prime Minister Balendra Shah is scheduled to leave for the US on Tuesday, leading a high-level Nepali delegation to attend the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly.

This will be Shah's first foreign visit since he assumed office in March.

Shah is scheduled to address the General Debate of the UN General Assembly on September 24, foreign ministry officials said on Monday.

The Nepali delegation to the UN will include Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal, Foreign Secretary Amrit Bahadur Rai, Prime Minister's Chief Advisor Kumar Byanjankar and other senior government officials, according to officials in the foreign ministry.

Earlier, a delegation led by Khanal left for New York on Sunday. *(PTI)*

CANADA

Two Indian students killed

Two Indian students have been killed in a tragic air accident in Canada during their flight training, the Indian mission has said.

Manoj Sivakumar from Tamil Nadu and Srisaran Thirugnanasambantham from Pudukudery died while they were on their flight training.

The Consulate General of India in Vancouver on Sunday expressed condolences over their death." The Consulate General of India, Vancouver, expresses its deepest condolences on two Indian students *(PTI)*

World leaders meet at UN as planet grapples with war

EDITH M LEDERER
n United Nations

Under a global cloud of wars and bitter divisions, world leaders meet at the United Nations this week facing new fears that runaway artificial intelligence could threaten humanity even as climate shocks and escalating prices are already making life much tougher for hundreds of millions of people.

The annual high-level gathering at the UN General Assembly will also be consumed with major wars in Iran, Gaza, Ukraine,Sudan, Congo and Myanmar and a persisting question: Can the leaders do anything to end them?

And what can they do about the relentless rise of global warming threatening the future of the planet, the growing inequalities within and among nations, and shocks to the global economy as blocked shipping routes and supply chains increase the cost of living and slow growth?

The future of the United Nations will also definitely be on the agenda. At 81, its powers are still the victorious nations from World War II, not the 21st century's major global players. The UN's 193 member nations have agreed to a wide-ranging reform package that includes updating key institutions such as the powerful UN Security Council, where the US, Russia, China, Britain and France hold inordinate sway because of their veto power. Reform, however, is easier said than implemented.

Behind the scenes, there will be speculation about who will lead the United Nations next. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' second five-year term ends December 31 and no clear successor has emerged.

There is still no question that the UN remains The gathering place for its 193 member nations and their leaders. Some 130 heads of state and government are expected to speak at the General Assembly starting



Tuesday along with dozens of ministers. Among the headliners will be US President Donald Trump and French President Emanuel Macron. Both will speak Tuesday after Guterres' opening "state of the world" address.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian speak Wednesday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

— whom New York Mayor Zoran Mamdani wanted arrested for his treatment of Palestinians in Gaza until he learned he has no such authority — will address the assembly on Thursday. For a second year, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas won't be coming to the UN because the US has refused to give him a visa. He will nonetheless address the assembly by video the same

instead. Russian President Vladimir Putin isn't coming either, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has backed out. France's UN ambassador, Jerome Bonnaffont, said it is "extremely critical" for world leaders this week to support the UN as the place where the world's nations meet—especially at a time of such polarisation.

"We believe in multilateralism," he said, "and we believe that the high-level week is the occasion for countries in the world to reaffirm that they prefer cooperation and dialogue to confrontation."

There is no doubt it's been a tough year for the world body. It has been pushed to the sidelines when it comes to its key responsibility of ensuring international peace and security and trying to end major conflicts in the Mideast and Ukraine. The US failure to pay billions of dollars in outstanding arrears has left the organisation's finances in rocky shape.

But veteran UN watcher

Richard Gowan, the International Crisis Group's global issues and institutions program director, says 2025 was even worse.

A year ago, he said, people were contemplating that Trump would use his UN speech to announce that the United States would leave the world organisation. Trump didn't announce a pullout last September and the UN muddled through the past 12 months with financial troubles that forced cutbacks to its peace-keeping operations and humanitarian aid.

In recent days, the US paid \$725 million of its dues to the UN's regular operating budget for this year, enough to keep the Trump administration from losing its vote in the General Assembly. The payment was a strong indication Trump will keep the US in the United Nations.

The UN is no longer "in freefall," Gowan said, but it "is stuck in an open-ended or permanent crisis." *(AP)*

Naqvi warns Imran's party against Islamabad protest

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
n Islamabad

Pakistan Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Monday warned former prime minister Imran Khan's party against holding a planned protest in Islamabad on September 27, saying street agitation would lead the party to a "dead-end".

The warning came ahead of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's planned march towards the capital to demand the release of party founder Imran Khan.

The 73-year-old cricketer-turned-politician has been incarcerated since 2023, when he was arrested after conviction in a corruption case. Currently, he is lodged at the high-security Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi.

Naqvi on Monday said that Khan's party would not be allowed to enter Islamabad and shut down the city for several

days.

"We have clearly told them that they can never achieve anything through such drama, and I will say again that there is still time; they should not go into this situation," Naqvi said.

"That possibility does not exist," he said, adding that authorities would plug "all loopholes" to prevent protesters from entering the capital and advised the party to "not enter a dead-end street". Naqvi also referred to an Islamabad High Court order directing the government to ensure peace in the capital, and claimed that a majority of Khan's party leadership did not support the planned protest. "Do not harm yourself and your workers," he told the party, urging it to adopt a different approach. *(PTI)*

UK former-PM Rishi Sunak cautions against skin colour test of nationality

ADITI KHANNA n London

Former British prime minister Rishi Sunak has triggered a debate on race and ethnicity in the country as he cautioned against equating skin colour with nationality and highlighted his own dual English and Hindu identity.

The first politician of Indian heritage to serve at No. 10 Downing Street reflected upon the topic in his regular 'Sunday Times' column, referencing a lecture he delivered at Lord's Cricket Ground last week. Delivering the Marylebone Cricket Club's (MCC) Cowdrey Lecture, Sunak argued in favour of cricket – and sports in general – as a unifying force.

"I worry that Britain's great democratic achievement is coming under strain," writes Sunak.

"There are challenges that we must address: those posed by Islamism



Former British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak

and exposed by the reaction to October 7 [attack in Israel], alongside those caused by the failure of those of us in government in recent years to adequately control immigration. "There is, though, something else going on: a risk that we start equating skin colour with nationality. Or that we create different classes of Briton, treating those who arrived more recently as incapable of ever being as British

Merz struggles after regional poll defeat

GEIR MOULSON
n Berlin

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz faced a struggle to stabilize his position and keep his agenda on track Monday after voters inflicted two more defeats on his party, ejecting it from a state legislature for the first time in its eight-decade history.

The unpopular Merz vowed to stay on and push through reforms to Germany, Europe's biggest economy, minutes after polls closed Sunday in regional elections in Berlin and in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, a largely rural eastern region on the Baltic Sea coast.

Still, final results underlined the extent of what Merz conceded was a "disaster" in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. His center-right Christian Democratic Union



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz

fell just below the 5% of the vote needed to keep seats in the regional parliament, the first time that has happened in 77 years of modern Germany's federal republic, after losing more than half its support.

The CDU also dropped to second place in Berlin behind the hard-left Left Party, which is in pole position to lead the next city government - though Merz's party could, depending on how coalition talks go, still retain city hall. *(AP)*

Before, The Notary Public, Ranchi

AFFIDAVIT

I, SANDEEP KUMAR S/o Triveni Verma resident of Vill. Rajodh, P.O. - Nawagadh, Chhatti. P.S. Dhanwar, Distt. Giridih, Jharkhand-825412 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am an Indian citizen by birth.
2. That in Aadhar Card bearing Aadhar No. 2417 1027 9481 my name is mentioned as SANDIP KUMAR, which is wrong.
3. That my correct name is SANDEEP KUMAR according to my Intermediate Certificate of JAC, Ranchi.
4. That SANDEEP KUMAR and SANDIP KUMAR both name are same and one person.
5. That this affidavit is sworn for the purpose of correction of my name SANDEEP KUMAR in place of SANDIP KUMAR in my Aadhar card.
6. That my above statements are true & correct.

SL.No.-05, Date-21.09.2026

Before, The Executive Magistrate, Ranchi

AFFIDAVIT

I, Shahin Perween, Wife of Mohammad Islam, Resident of Badi Masjid Lane, Hindipiri, P.O.-Ranchi G.P.O., P.S.-Hindipiri, Dist- Ranchi, Jharkhand-834001, Aadhar No-2991 5406 3376, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am citizen of India and residing at above mentioned Address.
2. That my name has been recorded as Shahin Perween in my all documents i.e. Aadhar Card, PAN Card, Passport etc.
3. That by mistake my name has been mentioned as Shaheen Parween in Matriculation Certificate of my son namely Md Zaid Bin Islam instead of Shahin Perween.
4. That hereby declare that my correct name is Shahin Perween.
5. That Shahin Perween and Shaheen Parween is the one and same person.
6. That the above statements made over are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SL.No.-8077, Date-21.09.2026

AFFIDAVIT

I, SUNIL KUMAR MODI, Son of RAM KRISHNA MODI, Resident of Gyatri Bhawan, Sankul Road, Patratu, P.O.- Patratu, P.S.- Patratu, District- Ramgarh, Jharkhand-829119, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under:

1. That I am the lawful Father of the child named SANVI MODI.
2. That my daughter was born on 14-04-2014 and holds a Birth Certificate bearing Certificate No.242, issued on 20-08-2026.
3. That the correct name of my daughter is recorded as SANVI MODI in her official Birth Certificate.
4. That in my daughter's Aadhaar Card (Aadhar No.-4541 8569 4610), her name was mistakenly entered as SANVI.
5. That the actual and correct full name of my daughter is SANVI MODI, and she should be known by this name for all future official purposes.
6. That this affidavit is being submitted to update and correct my daughter's name in the Aadhar database from SANVI to SANVI MODI.
7. That the statements made above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and nothing material has been concealed.

SL.No.-20, Date-21.09.2026

Before, The Executive Magistrate, Ranchi

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mohammad Islam, Son of Haji Mohammad Salim, Resident of House No-57, Near Bari Masjid, Gawali Toli Chowk, P.O.- Ranchi G.P.O., P.S.-Hindipiri, Dist-Ranchi, Jharkhand-834001, Aadhar No-5325 9230 9115, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am citizen of India and residing at above mentioned Address.
2. That my name has been recorded as Mohammad Islam in my all documents i.e. Aadhar Card, PAN Card, Passport etc.
3. That by mistake my name has been mentioned as Md. Islam in Matriculation Certificate and Aadhar Card of my son namely Md Zaid Bin Islam instead of Mohammad Islam.
4. That hereby declare that my correct name is Mohammad Islam.
5. That Mohammad Islam and Md. Islam is the one and same person.
6. That the above statements made over are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SL.No.-8076, Date-21.09.2026

Before, The Executive Magistrate, Ranchi

AFFIDAVIT

I Md. Azad Ansari S/o Md. Zahir Ansari R/o Beldar Mohalla, PO & PS. Doranda, Dist. Ranchi, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows-

1. That my correct name is Md. Azad Ansari which is mentioned in my Matriculation certificate and also my correct date of birth is 18.10.1999.
2. That my name has been wrongly entered as Ajad S/o Zaheer in my Adhar Card No. 7899 7277 8616.
3. That this affidavit is being sworn for correction of my name as MD. AZAD ANSARI and my father's name as MD. ZAHIR ANSARI and my date of birth is 18.10.1999 in my said Adhar Card.

SL.No.-1095, Date-18.09.2026

समक्ष, नोटरी पब्लिक, लोहरदगा

शपथ-पत्र

मैं, कमलदास तोपनो पिता जोहन तोपनो निवासी ग्राम खड़िया, पोस्ट तिसिया, थाना किस्को, जिला लोहरदगा एतद् द्वारा शपथ पूर्वक निम्नलिखित ब्यान देता हूँ:-

1. यह कि मैं उपरोक्त पते का स्थायी निवासी हूँ।
2. यह कि मैट्रीक का सभी मूल प्रमाण पत्रों में मेरा नाम कमलदास तोपनो जन्म तिथि 16.03.2008 दर्ज है जो सही है।
3. यह कि आधार कार्ड सं 3298 2282 8844 है जिसमें भूल वश मेरा नाम कमल दास जन्म तिथि 24.06.2007 दर्ज है जो गलत है।
4. यह कि उक्त आधार कार्ड में कमल दास के स्थान पर मेरा सही कमलदास तोपनो सुधार करने हेतु यह शपथ पत्र सम्पादित कर रहा हूँ।
5. यह कि उपरोक्त बातें सत्य एवं सही है।

SL.No.-21820, Date-21.09.2026

समक्ष, कार्यपालक दण्डाधिकारी, सूटी

शपथ-पत्र

मैं, फुल्बेसा हेमरोम, पिता- एडमोहन हेमरोम, ग्राम- कसमार पुकल टोली, पो. कसमार थाना- तोरमा, जिला- सूटी झारखण्ड शपथपूर्वक निम्नलिखित ब्यान देता हूँ कि -

1. यह कि मेरी पुत्री का नाम से निमित भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी आधार कार्ड नं०- 5167 0063 7099 है जिसमें मेरी पुत्री का नाम SHURTI HEMROM दर्ज है जो कि भुलवश गलत दर्ज किया हुआ है।
3. यह कि मेरी पुत्री का नाम से निमित जन्म प्रमाण पत्र जिसका पंजीकरण संख्या- बी 20620096370000053 है जिसमें मेरी पुत्री का नाम SHURTI SALONI HEMROM दर्ज है जो कि पुनः सही एवं सत्य है।
4. यह कि मेरी पुत्री का नाम से निमित उक्त आधार कार्ड अंतिमालाईन पत्रों में मेरी पुत्री का उक्त नाम प्रमाण पत्र में दर्ज नाम SHURTI SALONI HEMROM को दर्ज किया जाये।
5. यह कि यह शपथ पत्र में अपनी पुत्री का उक्त आधार कार्ड में अपने पुत्री का नाम सुधार करने हेतु प्रस्तुत कर रहा हूँ।

SL.No.-592, Date-19.09.2026

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sukendar Chik Baraik S/o Tirpal chik Baraik, resident of vill. Holong, PO+PS - Bishunpur, Dist. Gumla, Jharkhand - 835231, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am Indian citizen and resident of above said address.
2. That Ansh Chik Baraik is my son and his correct date of birth is 28.04.2017.
3. That in his Aadhar card vide Aadhar no. 9983 9232 3324 in which my said son's name has been wrongly written as Ansh Chik Baraik which is wrong and not correct and his correct spelling in his name is Ansh Chik Baraik.
4. That I need correction in the name of my said son as Ansh Chik Baraik in his said aadhar card from the concerning authority.

SL.No.-47, Date-21.09.2026

THE EXECUTIVE MEGISTRATE, RANCHI

AFFIDAVIT

I, Md. Shahbaz, S/o Mohammad Hamid, R/O Near Abu Bakar Masjid, Lah Factory Road, Hindipiri, Dist- Ranchi, Pin-834001, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under:

1. That I am citizen of India by birth and residing at aforesaid address.
2. That my name is Md Shahbaz which is mentioned in my matriculation certificate which I have passed from JAC, Ranchi being Roll code- 11189, Roll No.- 0238, Passing year 2013.
3. That in my Aadhar Card Being Aadhar No. 3320 7769 2388, my name is written as Mohammad Shahbaz.
4. That Md Shahbaz and Mohammad Shahbaz is same and one person i.e. my name.
5. That my actual name is Md Shahbaz.
6. That all above statement are true and correct.

SL.No.-7945, Date-19.09.2026

THE EXECUTIVE MEGISTRATE, RANCHI

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sukendar Chik Baraik S/o Tirpal Chik Baraik, resident of vill Holong, PO+PS- Bishunpur, Dist. Gumla, Jharkhand 835231, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am Indian citizen and resident of above said address.
2. That Roshan Chik Baraik is my son and his correct date of birth is 21.01.2013.
3. That in his Aadhar card vide Aadhar no. 9063 8255 7654 in which my said son's name has been wrongly written as Roshan Chick Barik which is wrong and his correct in name is Roshan Chik Baraik.
4. That I need correction in the name of my said son as Roshan Chik Baraik in his said aadhar card from the concerning authority.

SL.No.-48, Date-21.09.2026

In The Executive Magistrate, Ranchi

AFFIDAVIT

I, Md. Sadique S/o Md. Hussain, resident of Nai Mohalla, P.O.- Hinoon, P.S. Doranda, District- Ranchi (Jharkhand) do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am an Indian Citizen by birth and residing at above address.
2. That in Aadhar No. 6637 4477 5435 my name has been mention Md Sadique which is correct and genuine.
3. That my daughter's ALIYA TAHMEEM birth certificate being Reg No. B-2017:20-90032-001590 dated 03-03-2017 issued RMC Ranchi her father's name mentioned as Md Sadique Ansari.
4. That Md Sadique and Md Sadique Ansari are same and one person i.e. my daughter's father name.
5. That the statements made above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SL.No.-578, Date-18.09.2026

Before Notary Public, Hussainabad

AFFIDAVIT

[We तेलिता देवी Age 34 Yrs D/o राखेश पासवान V/II, भगड़ा, P.O. कोसीयारा, P.S. हदरनाम, Dist. पलामू, State झारखण्ड do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as below.

1. यह कि झूठी कुमारी Beauti Kumari मेरी पुत्री है।
2. यह कि भारतीय पिछे पहचान प्रधिकरण भारत सरकार द्वारा निमित आधार कार्ड संख्या- 3684 2589 5160 में मेरी पुत्री का नाम भूलवश Beautiful Kumari दर्ज हो गया है, जो गलत है।
3. यह कि मेरी पुत्री के निमित जन्म प्रमाण पत्र एवं वर्ग नम के निमित एडमिट कार्ड में नाम Beauti Kumari है जो सत्य व सही है।
4. यह कि मैं अपनी पुत्री के आधार कार्ड में उसका नाम Beautiful Kumari के स्थान पर सुधार करारक Beauti Kumari दर्ज करवाने हेतु शपथ कर रही हूँ।
5. यह कि उपरोक्त वर्णित सुर्ण तथ्य मेरी जानकारी एवं विश्वास के मुताबिक सत्य व सही है।

SL.No.-109, Date-19.09.2026

THE COURT OF THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE, RANCHI

AFFIDAVIT

I, Lalita Kumari, D/o- Chamu Mahli, R/o-Village- Barauda, P.O.- Barauda, P.S.- Thakurgaon, District- Ranchi, Jharkhand do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:-

1. That I am citizen of India and residing at above mentioned address.
2. That my actual and correct name is Lalita Kumari which is recorded in my Matric Certificates (JAC, Ranchi) bearing Roll Code-11085 and Roll No.-01-58.
3. That in my Aadhaar Card, vide Aadhaar No.- 4511 4359 6113, my name has been wrongly recorded as Lalita Devi.
4. That Lalita Kumari and Lalita Devi is same and one person, i.e. myself.
5. That this affidavit is signed and sworn for the purpose of correction of my name as Lalita Kumari in place of Lalita Devi in my Aadhaar Card, vide Aadhaar No. 4511 4359 6113.
6. That all the above mentioned statements are true and correct in best of my knowledge and belief, if found anything false, I shall be responsible for the same.

SL.No.-902, Date-21.09.2026

Before the Oath Commissioner, Jharkhand High Court, At Ranchi

AFFIDAVIT

I, Dr. Subhadra Kumari, aged about 61 years, Wife of Ravindra Prasad Yadav, Resident of Ayush Bhawan, Main Road, Near Patti, District Joint Hospital (Sadar Hospital Campus), Hazaribagh, P.O.- G.P.O. Hazaribagh, P.S.- Town, District-Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

1. That I am the person whose name is Subhadra Kumari, but inadvertently in my Adhar Card my name recorded as Dr. Subhadra Kumari which was wrongly being mentioned.
2. That in my Matriculation certificate as well as in my office record and PAN card my name is being recorded as SUBHADRA KUMARI.
3. That due to wrong Entry in Aadhar Card /AID card there is error in my Aadhar Card due to which I suffers irreparable loss.
4. That at present I am working as District Ayush Medical Officer as also holding the post of DDO.
5. That my Correct Name is SUBHADRA KUMARI but wrong Entry in aadhar card is DR. SUBHADRA KUMARI.
6. That I have gone through the contents of this affidavit and have fully understood the same.

SL.No.-15679, Date-18.09.2026

झारखण्ड सरकार, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़

ई० सामान्य निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई—निविदा सं० :RDSD/RAMGARH/26/2026-27

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :-DMFT मद अन्तर्गत।

क्र	आईडेंटीफिकेशन संख्या /पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	योजना का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि (रु०)	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य (रु०)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	RDSD/RGH/26/ 2026-27	Mandu	Construction of RCC Culvert at Tutti Jharna in Mandu Block- Dist- Ramgarh.	10843900	217000	10000	06 (छ. माह)

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- दिनांक 07.10.2026

3. ई—निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 07.10.2026 से 14.10.2026 को अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक।

4. ई—निविदा खोलने का स्थान :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़।

5. ई—निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 16.10.2026 अपराहन 02:00 बजे।

6. ई—निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़।

7. ई निविदा प्रकोच का दूरभाष सं० :- 9162178293

8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट—बढ़ सकती है। तदनुसार अग्रघन की राशि देय होगी।

9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।

10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रघन की राशि का ई—मुगलान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रघन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी राशि जवाबदेही संबंधित संवेदक की होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट Jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़।

PR.NO.390258 District(26-27):D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़

अतिअल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं०-35/2026-27

1. विज्ञापनदाता का नाम एवं पदनाम : कार्यपालक अभियंता, भवन प्रमंडल रामगढ़।

2. निविदा विपत्र निगंत की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 28/09/2026 को अपराहन 1:00 बजे तक।

3. निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 29/09/2026 को अपराहन 3:00 बजे तक।

4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 29/09/2026 को अपराहन 3:30 बजे।

5. परिमाण विपत्र विक्री का स्थान : अधीक्षण अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन अंचल हजारीबाग, (2) कार्यपालक अभियंता भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, रामगढ़।

6. निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान : पुलिस अधीक्षक कार्यालय, ब्लॉक सी०, समाहरणालय, रामगढ़।

7. कार्यो का विवरण :-

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	Const. of toilet at CHC Gola, Ramgarh	10,77,100/-	22000/-	2500/-	2 माह
2	Const. of Community toilet at Ramgarh Thana Ramgarh	21,85,000/-	44,000/-	5000/-	3 माह
3	Const. of Conference hall at Ramgarh Thana Ramgarh	24,91,700/-	50,000/-	5000/-	3 माह

* निविदा की शर्तें एवं अन्य सूचनाएँ www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in पर भी देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता भवन प्रमंडल ,रामगढ़

PR 390320 Building(26-27)#D

LOST & FOUND

NOTICE REGARDING LOSS OF POWER OF ATTORNEY I, the Branch Head of Axis Bank, Palasbana Branch, District Sahibganj, Jharkhand, hereby inform the general public that the Power of Attorney (POA) issued by Axis Bank in my name(ABHISHEK SINGH) has been lost/misplaced. The said POA has been lost on 16.09.2026. Accordingly, the general public is hereby cautioned that any use, misuse, representation or act carried out through the said lost/misplaced POA on or after 16.09.2026 shall not be binding upon Axis Bank, and the Bank shall not be responsible or liable for any consequences arising therefrom. Any person who may find or be in possession of the said POA is requested to immediately return/submit the same to Axis Bank. The general public is requested to kindly take note of this notice and extend their cooperation in ensuring that the said POA is not misused.

Abhishek Singh Branch Head Axis Bank, Palasbana Branch District Sahibganj, Jharkhand. Phone no- 8452084891

AFFIDAVIT

I, Satendra Upadhyya Son of Late Ram Pratap Upadhyya resident of Road no. 1 A, Near L.A. Garden, Ayodhyapuri, Chutia, Ranchi, do hereby solemnly affirm as under:-

1. That I am an Indian citizen.
2. That my true and correct name is Satendra Upadhyya, which is mentioned in my Educational certificate & ID Card of Special Branch Jharkhand.
3. That in Adhar Card no. 5449 0158 4903 my name is wrongly written as Satendra Upadhyay due to mistake.
4. That this affidavit is made for correction of my name as Satendra Upadhyha in the Adhar Card from concerned authority.
5. That the statements made above are true and correct.

SL.No.-2109, Date-21.09.2026

The Impressive face of a Yogi No word to explain : Kamre Baba

Santosh Deepak At a glance. Kamre Baba’s true identity was found in the selfless service of humanity, guided by unwavering faith and the grace of divine spiritual power.Endowed with profound spiritual strength, Kamre Baba lived as a humble and devoted instrument of the Divine, dedicating his life to serving and uplifting those in need.He never sought personal fame, recognition, self-promotion, or the making of his own image. His heart belonged entirely to the people, and his life was a sacred journey of compassion, service, and devotion.He made the welfare of those suffering from severe and seemingly incurable physical and mental ailments the sacred purpose of his life. Through faith, prayer, compassion, and spiritual guidance, he became a source of hope and solace for countless people.For Kamre Baba, spirituality was not merely a path of personal realization. It was a divine calling to serve humanity, ease suffering, and bring light into the lives of others.

The Spiritual Legacy of Param Pujya Kamre Baba

Souls do not live for themselves. They have no personal agenda attached to their spiritual stature, nor do they seek recognition, influence or worldly authority. Their very existence becomes an offering to others. A true saint does not display his spiritual attainments to impress people, gather followers or establish his greatness.

Whatever spiritual energy he possesses, he dedicates to the welfare of humanity.True spirituality is never a spectacle.A realised soul has no desire to astonish the world merely by creating something from nothing, changing the form of one object into another, or performing extraordinary acts simply to prove his powers. Such demonstrations may fascinate the human mind, but they do not necessarily lead the soul towards God.

In the present age, however, one sometimes comes across people who wear the robes of saints and yogis but become involved in occult or tantric practices with the intention of gaining control over unseen forces, spirits or supernatural powers.

They may perform extraordinary acts and present them as miracles to attract people, build a large following and establish personal influence. Yet spiritual power without compassion, humility and selflessness cannot become a source of genuine human welfare.

The history of human civilisation tells us that stories of supernatural powers and miracles have always deeply influenced the human mind. From ancient times, people have been fascinated by the extraordinary spiritual attainments attributed to accomplished saints, yogis and seekers.Yet there is an important distinction between the display of power and the surrender of power in the service of humanity.

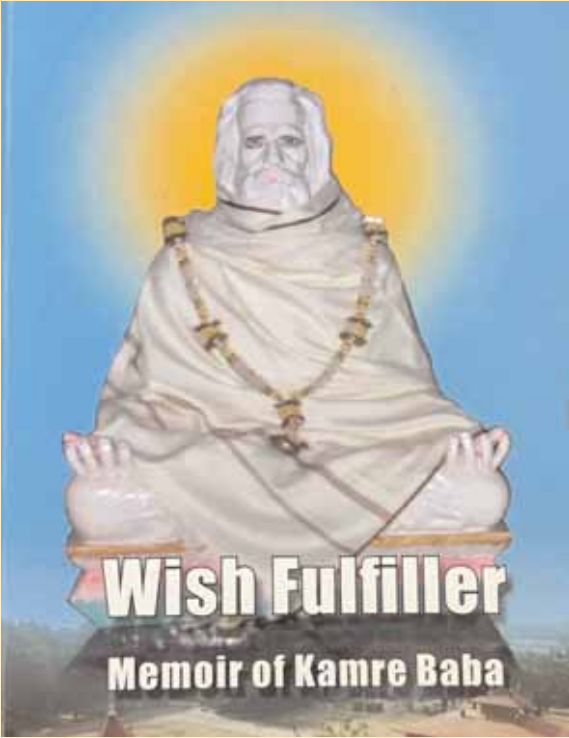
There have always been rare yogis and spiritual practitioners who, through years of severe discipline, meditation, devotion and rigorous spiritual practice, are believed to have attained profound mastery of Vedic mantras and higher spiritual energies.

Such attainments, when placed at the service of others rather than the ego, acquire an entirely different meaning. Among such rare spiritual personalities was Param Pujya Kamre Baba. Kamre Baba never revealed his worldly identity.

He never spoke publicly about who he was, where he came from or what his life had been before people encountered him. He never attempted self-publicity and never created an image around himself.

His past remained a mystery, while his presence became known through the lives he touched.In the finest tradition of Indian spirituality, Kamre Baba lived as a yogi of profound spiritual attainment : quiet, detached and completely free from the desire for personal recognition.

The decade of the 1940s was a period of extraordinary upheaval and transformation in India. The exact circumstances of Kamre Baba's arrival in Ranchi, including the date and year, remain unknown. What is known is that he came to Ranchi after India attained independence from British rule.



His early life remained veiled in silence. He never disclosed his name, age, family background, the identities of his father or mother, his birthplace, ancestral home, education or other details of his early life. The ordinary questions that define a person's worldly identity remained unanswered in his case.But perhaps that silence itself was part of his spiritual identity.

Kamre Baba did not want the world to know who he had been. He wanted people to experience what he could do for them.As a humble servant and messenger of Bhagwan, Param Pujya Kamre Baba was believed by his devotees to possess immense spiritual strength. He used that strength not for personal advancement, but for the relief of those who came to him with suffering, helplessness and hope. His teachings were simple, yet profound.

He encouraged people to overcome their weaknesses, strengthen their character and walk the path of Sanatan Dharma. He inspired devotion towards Bhagwan Aadinath, Bhagwan Shiv and Hanuman ji and reminded his followers that spiritual strength does not come merely from rituals or words. It emerges through discipline, faith, surrender, service and purity of intention.

At the heart of his philosophy was self-abnegation, the complete surrender of the ego before the Divine.His message could be expressed in three simple words :Give. Give. and Give.Give without Expecting.Give without Calculating.Give without Seeking Recognition.

For him, giving was not merely an act of charity. It was a path towards the realisation of the Divine. He taught that when a person gradually frees himself from the demands of the ego and begins to live for others, he moves closer to the true essence of spiritual life.

Kamre Baba himself was the living embodiment of this principle.He maintained an almost stoic silence about his own life. He did not encourage people to become obsessed with his personality.

Very few were ever permitted to come truly close to him. His distance from the world was not born of indifference ; rather, it seemed to arise from an intense inwardness and detachment from worldly identity.Yet, whenever someone genuinely suffering came before him, the

doors of compassion opened.

He devoted himself to people in distress and to those who had nowhere else to turn. His devotees believed that he relieved unbearable suffering and helped people afflicted by illnesses that had seemed beyond ordinary hope.

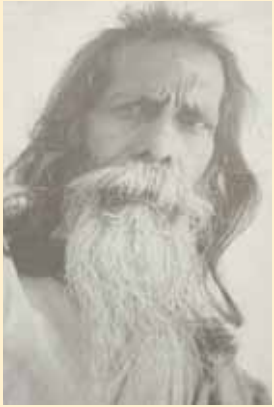
Whether understood through faith, spiritual belief or personal experience, the accounts surrounding him left a deep impression upon those who encountered him. And perhaps the most extraordinary aspect of his life was not the stories of supernatural power associated with him.It was what he did with whatever power people believed he possessed.

He did not accumulate wealth.He did not build a personal empire.He did not convert devotion into material possession.Whatever offerings devotees placed before him were, according to those who witnessed his life, immediately distributed among poor and needy people.The offering that reached him did not remain with him. It travelled onward. From one hand to another.

From Devotion to Service. From Faith to Humanity. In this way, Kamre Baba seemed to turn every offering into an act of compassion.He lived without claiming anything for himself and gave without asking anything in return.His life therefore cannot be understood merely through the stories of miracles associated with him. To understand Kamre Baba, one must look beyond the extraordinary and see the quiet spiritual principle beneath it all :Power is meaningful only when it becomes compassion.

Knowledge is meaningful only when it becomes wisdom.Devotion is meaningful only when it becomes service.... And spiritual attainment

If you are looking to escape the city's air and noise and pollution, and derive spiritual peace for fulfilment of your wishes, come to the iconic Kamre Baba ashram, located on the road, nearly 8 km from Ranchi. It is renowned for its lush green surroundings, pristine air quality, and profoundly silent, peaceful environments.



ment is meaningful only when the ego disappears and humanity remains.

Kamre Baba left behind no elaborate autobiography, no carefully constructed public image and no worldly account of his achievements.He left something far more difficult to create -the memory of a life lived for others.His identity remained hidden, but his service became his introduction.His past remained unknown, but his compassion became his legacy.He remained silent about himself, while his life spoke for him.

And perhaps that is the deepest mark of a true spiritual soul :He does not ask the world to remember his name. He simply lives in such a way that people remember the goodness they experienced in his presence.



THE SOURCE OF THIS TEXT IS THE BOOK TITLED "WISH FULFILLER, MEMOIR OF KAMRE BABA". IT IS AUTHORED BY MANOJ PRASAD, A SENIOR JOURNALIST, FOUNDING EDITOR OF JHARKHAND STATE NEWS. .COM AND A DEVOTED FOLLOWER OF PARAM PUJYA BABA. THIS BOOK IS PUBLISHED BY SRI KAMRE BABA ASHRAM TRUST

The Kamre Baba Aashram is a symbol of purity, sanctity, and faith.

On one occasion, while referring to the nine-day period of Samadhi that he had undertaken during Navratri, Param Pujya Baba said:"This Aashram is meant for the purification of the land."The Aashram is far more than merely a place of worship. Param Pujya Baba established a Shiva temple and instructed his enthusiastic devotees to install an idol of Bhagwan Shiva directly above the cave.

His devoted disciple, Sri Narayan Das Munjal, took responsibility for making all the necessary arrangements for the installation of the idol. As soon as the work began, Param Pujya Baba personally guided the sculptor. Subsequently, a marble idol of Bhagwan Shiva arrived at Kamre Aashram from Jaipur. The idol was installed on Ashwin Purnima.This marked the beginning of Baba's spiritual activities at Kamre Aashram. Every morning, Param Pujya Baba would meditate inside the cave for approximately one hour as part of his spiritual practice. During this time, his devoted followers would sit in a hall outside the cave.

Various accounts and documents refer to this practice. According to his devotees, Baba would sit inside the cave in a state of deep yogic meditation. Many of his followers believed that they experienced relief from serious illnesses and that their lives underwent remarkable transformations through Baba's presence and blessings.

Some devotees also attributed their recovery from life-threatening or debilitating ailments to his spiritual grace.Alongside these devotees and followers, many other people came to the Aashram seeking spiritual guidance and inspiration.

They believed that Baba's spiritual presence brought a new light into their lives. Baba's Contribution to EducationAfter the establishment of the Shiva temple, Param Pujya Baba began working to promote education in the surrounding area.

At that time, there was no school in or around the predominantly tribal and Dalit village of Kamre where children from these communities could receive a formal education.Param Pujya Baba encouraged his devotees to establish an educational institution. Under his guidance, more than 150 students began receiving education from two or three teachers.The initiative represented an important step towards improving educational opportunities for children in the area.

The Graha Shanti Yagya A Graha Shanti Yagya was also organised at the Aashram under the direction of Param Pujya Kamre Baba. A dedicated Yagya complex was constructed within the Aashram premises, where devotees would sit and meditate for nearly three hours. According to accounts associated with the Aashram, these initiatives strengthened the spiritual connection of many devotees with their Sanatani traditions. They also helped foster a more positive outlook towards life. For many followers, their faith became deeper and more firmly rooted in their hearts.

The Establishment of the Hanuman IdolInside the Sri Hanuman Temple, which was established in 1969, Param Pujya Kamre Baba instructed his devotees to install a full-sized metal idol of Bhagwan Hanuman. He entrusted two of his devotees with the primary responsibility for arranging the installation.

The technical work related to the construction of the idol was entrusted to S. D. Joshi, the General Manager of the Foundry Forge Plant of Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) in Ranchi. Another group of devotees was given responsibility for arranging the equipment and other materials required to make the idol.Here, too, the sculptor first prepared the basic design and structure of the idol according to Param Pujya Baba's instructions.

Baba also indicated the desired dimensions and form of the idol. Based on these instructions, the craftsman prepared a clay model approximately one and a half feet high.After receiving several suggestions from Param Pujya Baba, the design of the idol of Bhagwan Hanuman was modified accordingly.

Subsequently, in 1970, the idol was cast at the Foundry Forge Plant. It weighed approximately 500 kilograms and was made of Ashtadhatu, a traditional sacred alloy consisting of eight



THREE POINTS

1. Shiva idol is Dakhin Mukhi (South Facing)
 2. Hanuman Idol is Dakhin Mukhi(South Facing)
 3. In India, 12 sacred Jyotirlinga shrines of Lord Shiva exist across India.
- They are the most revered pilgrimage sites where Shiva is worshipped as a pillar of radiant light. But at Kamre Baba Ashram premise, the idols of Shiva and Hanuman are South facing, s feature not visible in 12 sacred Jyotirlinga shrines.

metals.Param Pujya Baba named the idol of Bhagwan Hanuman Dharmesh.The Installation of the Shiva LingamOn one occasion, several devotees sought permission from Param Pujya Baba to offer sacred water to the idol of Bhagwan Shiva.

However, because the idol was associated with a state of Samadhi, permission to perform the offering was not granted. Consequently, the devotees returned from the Aashram feeling disappointed and helpless. When Param Pujya Baba came to know about the incident, he instructed his devotees to install a Shiva Lingam near the Bhagwan Shiva temple.

Subsequently, a Shiva Lingam made of white metal was installed there.This provided devotees with a separate place where they could offer sacred water and perform their customary worship.Baba's Spiritual MissionAs a messenger of the Divine, Param Pujya Kamre Baba used his knowledge, energy, and abilities to bring a new light into the lives of countless devotees.

During the 1970s, Param Pujya Baba renewed his efforts to awaken enthusiasm, spiritual awareness, and a new sense of purpose among his followers. In 1973, Param Pujya Baba told many of his devotees that he would soon depart from the physical world. He also instructed them to form a committee.On April 9th.1974, Param Pujya Baba entered MahaSamadhi at the Aashram itself.The Continuing Legacy of Param Pujya Kamre BabaEven today, the same spirit of devotion and faith continues to live on at Param Pujya Kamre Baba's Aashram.

Within the Ashram premises stands



the MahaSamadhi Temple of Kamre Baba. It remains an important centre of faith and devotion for those who have dedicated themselves to Baba and his teachings.According to various documents and accounts, spiritual masters and devotees from several countries, including the United States, the former Soviet Union, Japan and Czechoslovakia, visited Param Pujya Baba.

Even today, Param Pujya Baba has a large number of devotees not only in India but also in different parts of the world. They hold deep faith in him and continue to cherish his spiritual legacy.People visit the Aashram not merely to offer their devotion but also to seek the blessings, love, and spiritual inspiration associated with Param Pujya Baba. For many of them, the Aashram represents an extraordinary and deeply meaningful spiritual experience.The Kamre Baba Aashram therefore continues to stand as a symbol of purity, sanctity, faith, and spiritual devotion.

Beyond the medal table: Why the Asian Games matter to India's place in Asia



The 20th Asian Games official-ly got underway in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, on September 19, bringing together the best sporting talent from across the continent. For India, the immediate objective is obvious, build on the historic performance in Hangzhou and once again establish itself among Asia's leading sporting nations.

But the Asian Games represent something larger than a collection of medals. For India, success in Nagoya is also about positioning itself within Asia, not merely as an economic, technological or geopolitical power, but as a country whose sporting capabilities increasingly match its broader ambitions.

At the Hangzhou Asian Games, held in 2023 after being postponed from 2022, India crossed the 100-medal mark for the first time, winning a record 106 medals, including 28 gold. It finished fourth in the medal standings, behind the continent's traditional sport-ing giants China, Japan and South Korea.

That fourth-place finish is significant. China, Japan and South Korea have for decades represented the gold standard of Asian sport. Their sporting ecosystems, infrastructure, coaching systems and Olympic traditions are deeply established. India breaking into that group, even if a little behind the top three, is an important marker of its changing sporting profile.

The significance of Hangzhou was not simply that India won 106 medals. India had been winning respectable numbers

of medals at the Asian Games for several editions. What changed was the scale and particularly the number of gold medals. Twenty-eight golds helped India finish ahead of Iran, Uzbekistan and Indonesia and firmly establish itself as the fourth-ranked sporting nation in Asia at the Games.

This improvement has not happened by accident. An improved medal tally since the 2006 Asian Games is a reflection of progressive investment India has made in a group of sports that have become the backbone of its international ambitions: shooting, wrestling, boxing, badminton and athletics among them. Athletics, in particular, has traditionally been an area where India performs considerably better at the Olympics.

The competition should also not be dismissed simply

because the Olympics remain the ultimate benchmark. In sports such as shooting, wrestling, boxing and badminton, the Asian Games bring together an extraordinary concentration of world-class talent. China, Japan and South Korea, among others, are formidable opponents. A gold medal in such an environment is therefore not merely a continental achievement; it is valuable preparation for the Olympics.

But there is another dimension to this success that deserves greater attention: soft power.

Sport has always been one of the most visible expressions of national capability. Countries use sporting success to project confidence, organisational capacity and national identity. The Asian Games are particularly important for India because they provide a stage on which it competes directly with the countries that dominate the

wider Asian geopolitical landscape.

China's sporting supremacy reinforces its image as a global power. Japan's Olympic tradition and sporting infrastructure complement its technological and economic standing. South Korea's success in sports sits alongside its extraordinary influence in technology, entertainment and culture.

India's rise is not confined to its economy, technology, space programme or diplomatic influence. It is also becoming visible on the sporting field and that can be further sustained by a strong performance in the Asian Games.

The Commonwealth Games provide another indication of this trajectory. India finished fourth at Glasgow 2026 with 39 medals, despite a heavily reduced programme that excluded several of its traditional strengths.

The Asian Games, however,

are a much more meaningful test of India's standing because the field represents its own neighbourhood and includes the sporting powerhouses against whom India must ultimately measure itself.

There is, nevertheless, an important caveat. India has established itself as a significant power at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, but it has not yet converted that strength into equivalent Olympic success. The Olympics remain a different level of competition, both in depth and pressure.

That conversion must ultimately be the objective. A short-term Olympic target of 12-15 medals and a place inside the top 20 over the next 2-3 editions would represent a significant breakthrough.

Nagoya, therefore, should not be viewed simply through the question of whether India can surpass 106 medals. That would

be an important achievement, but the larger question is whether India can consolidate its position among Asia's leading sporting nations.

A strong fourth-place finish or, better still, a move into the top three would have significance beyond the medal table. It would demonstrate that India's emergence as a major Asian power is increasingly visible in another arena.

The Olympics remain the pinnacle of sport. But the Asian Games are Asia's sporting mirror. And if India can continue to see itself near the top of that mirror, it will strengthen not only its sporting confidence, but also the image of India as one of the continent's leading powers.

The writer 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

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, लातेहार।

अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना।

संख्या – EE/RDSD/LATEHAR/09/2026-27(2nd call)

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र०सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	लातेहार जिलागतल प्रखण्ड मनिा पंचायत दुनुद के ग्राम पुरानी दुनुद में ग्राम पुरानी दुनुद अन्तर्गत बहरा नाला पर छलका पुल का निर्माण।	2338600	47000	5000	4 माह
2.	निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 22.09.2026				
3.	ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 24.09.2026 से दिनांक 08.10.2026 को अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक।				
4.	ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, लातेहार।				
5.	ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –10.10.2026 अपराहन 1:00 बजे				
6.	ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, लातेहार।				
7.	ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 06565796434				
8.	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।				
9.	निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।				
10.	निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई-मुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।				
11.	बिना कारण बताये किसी एक या सभी कार्य की निविदा को रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित होगा।				
12.	कार्य हेतु आवश्यक लघु खनिजों का क्रय खनन विभाग द्वारा अनुज्ञा प्राप्त पट्टेदारों से ई-परिचयन चालान के माध्यम से करना होगा तथा संबंधित खनन पदाधिकारी द्वारा सत्यापन के उपरान्त ही विपत्रों का मुगतान किया जायेगा। अन्यथा चालान के बिना संवेदको को मुगतान नहीं किया जायेगा।				
13.	विभाग द्वारा आवंटन प्राप्त नहीं होने की स्थिति में भी संवेदको द्वारा निर्माण कार्य को अवरूद्ध नहीं किया जायेगा, आवंटन प्राप्त होने पर ही संवेदको को मुगतान किया जायेगा।				
	विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पष्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।				
	कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, लातेहार।				
	PR 390273 (Rural Development) 26-27 (D)				

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

ई- अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई-निविदा सं० :- RDSPL/SD/HZB/35/2026-27

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

यु.प. सं०	आईई-टीफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	योजना का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	RDSPL/SD/HZ/B/35/01/2026-27	नगर निगम	हजारीबाग जिलागतल प्रखण्ड मनिा पंचायत दुनुद के ग्राम पुरानी दुनुद में ग्राम पुरानी दुनुद अन्तर्गत बहरा नाला पर छलका पुल का निर्माण कार्य।	19168100.00	383400.00	10000.00	12 माह
2.	RDSPL/SD/HZ/B/35/02/2026-27	नगर निगम	हजारीबाग जिलागतल प्रखण्ड मनिा पंचायत दुनुद के ग्राम पुरानी दुनुद में ग्राम पुरानी दुनुद अन्तर्गत बहरा नाला पर छलका पुल का निर्माण कार्य।	19163500.00	383300.00	10000.00	12 माह
2.	वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 05.10.2026						
3.	ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 05.10.2026 से दिनांक 13.10.2026 को अपराहन 5:00 बजे तक						
4.	ई-निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग						
5.	ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –15.10.2026 अपराहन 2:00 बजे						
6.	ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :- कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग						
7.	ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9934523795						
8.	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट-बढ़ सकती है तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।						
9.	निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।						
10.	निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई-मुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी।						
	विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाइट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पष्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।						
	कार्यपालक अभियंता						
	PR 390303 (Rural Development) 26-27 (D)						

कार्यालय : जिला परिषद, चतरा

(E.mail: districtboardchatra@gmail.com)

बंदोबस्ती हेतु आम सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि चतरा जिला परिषद क्षेत्रान्तर्गत ईटखोरी प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत निर्मित Multipurpose Training Centre को (Builtup Area- 15100 sqft) का आवंटन खुला डाक के माध्यम से एक वर्ष (12 माह) के लिए किया जाना है। बन्दोबस्ती डाकवक्ता के द्वारा बोली गई अधिकतम डाक की राशि पर आवंटित किया जायेगा।

इच्छुक व्यक्ति दिनांक 24/09/2026 से 21/10/2026 तक “चतरा जिला परिषद कार्यालय” मो० 10000/- (दस हजार रू०) की डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट जो “DDC CUM CEO DISTRICT BOARD CHATRA” के नाम से मुगतये हो जमा कर फार्म प्राप्त कर सकता है। यह राशि किसी भी परिस्थिति में वापस नहीं की जायेगी।

भवन का नाम	न्यूनतम डाक की राशि (एक वर्ष के लिए)	जमानत की राशि
1	2	3
Multipurpose Training Centre Itkhori	400000 (चार लाख रू०)	100000 (एक लाख रू०)

नियम शर्तें –

- आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि – दिनांक 22/10/2026 के अपराहन 05.00 बजे तक।
- डाकबोली की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 23/10/2026 के अपराहन 02.00 बजे।
- स्थान – जिला परिषद समाकश, चतरा
- डाक बोली में उसी डाकवक्ता को भाग लेने की अनुमति दी जायेगी, जो वांछित कागजात (Technical Bid) की अर्हता रखता हो। वांछित कागजात में सफल डाकवक्ता की सूची कार्यालय नोटिस बोर्ड पर प्रदर्शित किया जायेगा।
- बन्दोबस्ती की न्यूनतम डाक की राशि मो० 400000.00 (चार लाख रू०) प्रति वर्ष (तीन वर्ष के लिए-1200000.00 (बारह लाख रू०) के लिए निर्धारित की गयी है। उच्चतम डाकवक्ता द्वारा निर्धारित राशि पर बंदोबस्तीधारी को सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित GST अतिरिक्त मुगतान करना होगा।
- सुरक्षित/जमानत की राशि मो० 100000.00 (एक लाख रू०) बैंक ड्राफ्ट द्वारा “उप विकास आयुक्त-सह-मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, जिला परिषद, चतरा” के पदनाम से देय हो जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। असफल जमाकर्ताओं की जमानत की राशि डाक समाप्ति के तुरंत बाद वापस कर दी जायेगी।
- संबंधित भवन का एकरारनामा की तिथि से जिस स्थिति में है (As it is where it is) एकरारनामा किया जायेगा।
- डाकवक्ता को जिला के स्थायी निवासी होने पर वरीयता प्रदान की जायेगी।
- जिला परिषद में किसी भी प्रकार का बकाया रखने वाले व्यक्ति/फर्म बन्दोबस्ती हेतु डाक में भाग नहीं लेगें।
- अधोहस्ताक्षरी को बिना कारण बताये डाक को रद्द करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।
- अन्य डाक की नियम एवं शर्तों की विस्तृत जानकारी जिला परिषद कार्यालय के सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है, जो इस सूचना का एक अभिन्न अंग होगा।

उप विकास आयुक्त-सह-मुख्य कार्यपालक पदाधिकारी, जिला परिषद, चतरा

PR 390219 District (26-27)_D

शपथ-पत्र

मैं, दीपिका तिरकी (DEEPIKA TIRKEY) पति पुनित भेग्रा निवास ग्राम-बोतलो लोवा टोली, पोस्ट डोडमा, थाना-तोराय, जिला-खुँटी, झारखण्ड राज्य शपथपूर्वक निम्नलिखित बयान देती हूँ:- 1. यह कि मैं जन्म से भारतीय नागरिक हूँ एवं उपरोक्त पते की निवासी हूँ। 2. यह कि SUMMER AYAAN BHENGRA मेरा पुत्र है जिन्का जन्म तिथि 19/03/2015 ई० है जो कि सही एवं वास्तविक है। 3. यह कि भारतीय विधि पर चर्चा प्रकरण संख्या 2503 0415 4979 में मेरे पुत्र के नाम का स्पेलिंग SUMMAR AYAAN BHENGRA दर्ज है जो कि गलत है। 4. यह कि मेरा पुत्र वर्तमान में KATHERINE ACADEMY PELIOL BICHNA KHUNTI में छुट्टा कक्षा का छात्राभिर्षी है। 5. यह कि मेरा पुत्र का SCHOOL ID CARD एवं जन्म प्रमाण पत्र में नाम का स्पेलिंग SUMMER AYAAN BHENGRA दर्ज है जो कि सही एवं सत्य है। 6. यह कि मेरा पुत्र का आधार कार्ड संख्या 2503 0415 4979 में नाम का स्पेलिंग SUMMER AYAAN BHENGRA दर्ज कराना अति आवश्यकता है। 7. यह कि यह शपथ पत्र में अपने पते के नाम आधार काट में नाम के स्पेलिंग सुधार करवाने हेतु निम्नलिखित कर रही हूँ।

SI. No.-318, Date-05-09-2026

AFFIDAVIT

I, BINOD PRAJAPATI, S/O- Jagunaryan Mahto, Resident of Vill- Gaji Bihra, PO- Pansa, PS- Mohammaddganj, Gajibehra, Hussainabad, District- Palamu, Jharkhand- 822115, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:- 1. That I am a Present resident of the above address and I am an Indian citizen. 2. That 'ABHJUEET KUMAR' is my son. 3. That my son Name ABHJUEET KUMAR and his Father's Name BINOD PRAJAPATI is true and correct, which is printed in his Birth Certificate. (Reg No- B202620023500000114, Issue Date-08.09.2026). 4. So, for some reason his Name Becomes ABHJUT KUMAR PRAJAPATI and his Father's Name Becomes BINOD KUMAR PRAJAPATI in his Aadhar Card. (Aadhar No- 8795 2163 3920). 5. That both ABHJUEET KUMAR and ABHJUT KUMAR PRAJAPATI are the same person and both BINOD PRAJAPATI and BINOD KUMAR PRAJAPATI are the same person. 6. That the purpose of this affidavit is for change his Name as ABHJUEET KUMAR and my father's name as BINOD PRAJAPATI in his Aadhar Card. 7. All the above things are true and correct to my knowledge, if found to be wrong, I will be solely responsible for it.

SI. No.-905, Date-21-09-2026

झारखण्ड सरकार सांस्कृतिक कार्य निदेशालय (पर्यटन, कला संस्कृति, खेलकूद एवं युवा कार्य विभाग)

Phone: 0651-2401917 E-mail: dirjharkhandculture@gmail.com

पत्रांक: 350 दिनांक 21.09.2026
वित्तीय वर्ष 2026-27 में आयोजित होने वाले विभिन्न सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों/कार्यशालाओं में भोजन/अल्पाहार आदि से संबंधित कंटेस्टिंग व्यवस्था हेतु e-tender के माध्यम से आमंत्रित निविदा का निस्स्वीकरण।

ई-प्रोक्योरमेंट निविदा संख्या :-329 (PR NO.-389513 dt 11.09.2026)

निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :- 11.09.2026

निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि :- 25.09.2026

उक्त ई-निविदा को अपरिहार्य कारणों से तत्काल प्रभाव से निरस्त (Cancelled) किया जाता है। उक्त निविदा में अग्रेतर कोई कार्रवाई नहीं की जाएगी। परिपथ में पुनः नई निविदा आमंत्रण हेतु अग्रेतर कार्रवाई की जाएगी।

ह/—

निदेशक, संस्कृति

सांस्कृतिक कार्य निदेशालय, झारखण्ड, राँची।

PR.NO.390325 Art Culture Sports and Youth Affairs(26-27):D

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Regd. Office: 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Panel, Mumbai – 400 013. CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited., under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices as mentioned below calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described hereinbelow in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules.

The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date mentioned below.

The borrower'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.

Loan Account No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/Legal Representative(s)	Amount as per Demand Notice	Date of Possession
TCHHL0535000100093148, TCHHL0535000100091646, TCHIN0535000100093248	Mr. Jashbindar Singh, Mrs. Kamal Jeet Kaur, Mr. Gurbindar Singh, M/S Deep Enterprises, M/S G.S. Enterprises, Mrs. Pinky Kaur	Rs. 41,86,486/- (Rupees Forty One Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Six Only) as on 07-07-2026	18-09-2026
Description of Secured Assets/Immovable Properties:	All that piece and parcel of homestead land measuring 1638 sq. ft., i.e. 3.75 decimals of land, together with pucca house and structures standing thereon, having its total built-up area 1100 sq. ft., being in Old Plot No. 1039, recorded under Old Khata No. 474, corresponding to New Khata No. 32, portion of New Plot No. 1303/1714, in Mouza- Kitadih, P.S. Parsudi, Thana No. 1167, Halka No. IV, District- East Singhbhum, Sub Registry Office at Jamshepur. Property is buttressed and bounded as follows:- North: Portion of H. No. 62A; South: H. No. 63A; East: Gundurgha; West: Road.		
9792348	Mr. Amit Srivastava, Mrs. Gunja Srivastava	Rs. 23,98,978/- (Rupees Twenty-Three Lakhs Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Only) as on 10-07-2026	19-09-2026
Description of Secured Assets/Immovable Properties:	All that the Flat No. B-1 on the First Floor, having super built-up area 1400 sq. ft., along with Car Parking Space No. 05 in Ground Floor of the multi-storied residential called "B.P. Enclave", with undivided proportionate share of land 300 sq., along with all facilities, amenities, common area of the said flat, together with right to use all common facilities and amenities of the said apartment, which is bounded and buttressed as follows: North: Side Setback, South: Side Setback, East: Stairs & Passage, West: Rear Setback of the Building.		
Date : 22-09-2026	Sd/-, Authorized Officer		
Place : JAMSHEDPUR, JHARKHAND	For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited		

कार्यालय – जिला पशुपालन पदाधिकारी, सिमडेगा

पशुपालकों के लिए आम – सूचना

विभागीय राज्यादेश संख्या 10 रा० (विभाग) दिनांक 08.06.2026 के द्वारा वित्तीय वर्ष 2026-27 में विशेष पशु चिकित्सा शिविर आयोजन के लिए पशुपालन प्रभाग सिमडेगातन्त्र पंचायतवार तिथि निर्धारण की विवरणी –

क्र० सं०	प्रखंड का नाम	पंचायत का नाम	आयोजन स्थल	आयोजन की तिथि	उत्तरदायी पशु चिकित्सक का नाम एवं पदनाम	
1		जलडेगा	जामटोली, जलडेगा	24-09-2026	25-09-2026	
2		कोनमेरला	पहानटोली, कोनमेरला	28-09-2026	29-09-2026	
3		कुदुंगिया	कुदुंगिया	30-09-2026	1-10-2026	1.डॉ० स्वाती चक्मन बाडा
4		लोम्बोई	होरो टोली, लम्बोई	5-10-2026	6-10-2026	पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशुपालन पदाधिकारी जलडेगा
5	जलडेगा	लोम्बोई	हुडुगा, लम्बोई	7-10-2026	8-10-2026	मो० न० 79902354352
6		ओडगा	पंचायत भवन, ओडगा	9-10-2026	10-10-2026	2. नैजी /कुश्मि गम्भान कार्याकर्ता
7		परवा	पंचायती, परवा	12-10-2026	13-10-2026	3. निरालम्ब सिंह (MVU) पारमेट कार्याकर्ता शिविर में सहयोग करेंगे।
8		पलितजामा	पुजारटोली, पलितजामा	14-10-2026	15-10-2026	
9		टाटो	तिलगिरि, टाटो	16-10-2026	17-10-2026	
10		दिनगिना	मामा गामिना, दिनगिना	21-10-2026	22-10-2026	
11		उरते	पंचायत भवन, उरते	23-10-2026	24-10-2026	
12		बांसजोर	पंचायत भवन, बांसजोर	26-10-2026	27-10-2026	1.डॉ० स्वाती चक्मन बाडा
13		तरगा	पंचायत भवन, तरगा	28-10-2026	29-10-2026	पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशुपालन पदाधिकारी बांसजोर
14		कोम्बाकेरा	बोगेरा, कोम्बाकेरा	30-10-2026	31-10-2026	मो० न० 79902354352
15		कुर्देग	सर्पमुण्डा	24-09-2026	25-09-2026	2. नैजी /कुश्मि गम्भान कार्याकर्ता
16		खिण्डा	कुलियार पानी	28-09-2026	29-09-2026	3. निरालम्ब सिंह (MVU) पारमेट कार्याकर्ता शिविर में सहयोग करेंगे।
17		गडियाजोर	कोलामुण्डा	30-09-2026	1-10-2026	1.डॉ० राणी टोयो
18	कुरडेग	बड़कीविपरा	बड़कीविपरा	5-10-2026	6-10-2026	पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशुपालन पदाधिकारी कुरडेग
19		बुनरडीग	पचाजोर	7-10-2026	8-10-2026	मो० न० 9905740444
20		कुटुमाकच्छर	पडुवाडीह	9-10-2026	10-10-2026	2. नैजी /कुश्मि गम्भान कार्याकर्ता
21		चडरीमुण्डा	चडरीमुण्डा	12-10-2026	13-10-2026	3. सुय्यम्प (MVU) के पारमेट कार्याकर्ता शिविर में सहयोग करेंगे।
22		हेदगा	तेतर टोली	14-10-2026	15-10-2026	
23		केरुडेगा	केरुडेगा	24-09-2026	25-09-2026	1.डॉ० अमरलीप सिंह
24		केसामुण्डा	कोलामुण्डा	28-09-2026	29-09-2026	वरिष्ठ पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशुपालन पदाधिकारी, पाकरटांड
25		आसमडेगा	आसमडेगा	30-09-2026	1-10-2026	मो० न० 9931527452
26	पाकरटांड	पाकरटांड	पाकरटांड, बैसटोली	5-10-2026	6-10-2026	2. नैजी /कुश्मि गम्भान कार्याकर्ता
27		सिकरियाटांड	सिकरियाटांड	7-10-2026	8-10-2026	3. समीर टेंटे (पारमेट) सहयोग करेंगे
28		कुषकलेला	कुषकलेला बाजारटांड	9-10-2026	10-10-2026	4. समीर लकड़ा (पारमेट)सहयोग करेंगे
29		केरुडी	टोंगी टोली	16-10-2026	17-10-2026	
30		पुडी टेंसेर	बेन्डीबारी	21-10-2026	22-10-2026	1.डॉ० राणी टोयो
31		सिक्की टेंसेर	चा टोली	23-10-2026	24-10-2026	पशु चिकित्सा एवं पशुपालन पदाधिकारी केरुडी
32		सायडेगा	निम्बु टोली	26-10-2026	27-10-2026	मो० न० 9905740444
33	केरसई	कोनजोला	पा			

War, diplomacy and history: India meet Japan in Land of Rising Sun

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n Sano (Japan)

Legend has it that on June 25, 1863, when the first ever documented cricket match was held on Japanese soil in the city of Yokohama, it was a ploy by local merchants to save themselves from an anticipated samurai attack.

They had sought help from the British merchant and Royal Navy sailors under the guise of a cricket match in which the fleet team played with "arms handy". The anticipated attack never took place but the match was duly completed, according to the archives of the Yokohama Country and Athletic Club that was founded in 1868. On September 22, 2026, when the Japanese national men's cricket team takes on India, the complete mismatch between the competing nations would be hidden under the veneer of diplomacy and commerce.

The match scheduled at Sano, 100 km from Tokyo, which is now deemed as "Japanese Cricket Capital", will be an experience of a lifetime for the 11 players, most of whom are second generation Japanese citizens of dual heritage. Skipper Kendel Kadowaki-Fleming and his brother Alester Kadowaki-Fleming have Australian lineage, so does Declan Suzuki-McComb.

Then there is Ibrahim Takahashi, an off-spinner, whose father is from Islamabad and had once

taken the wicket of former Pakistan batter Muhammed Wasim in a club game.

Japan Cricket Association's total spending on all forms of cricket isn't more than USD two million annually while India's T20 skipper Shreyas Iyer's 2026 IPL salary stood at USD 3.15 million. The difference couldn't be starker as Japan get their much-awaited moment under the sun with the hope that the game's impact extends well beyond the field of play in a country that loves baseball.

The match was announced recently and is being accommodated ahead of India's Asian Games campaign in Aichi-Nagoya, launching celebrations of the 75 years of India-Japan diplomatic relations.





Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Expression of Interest (Eoi) Notice

The Department of G.N.D.U, Amritsar invites Sealed (Eoi) for the following:

Sr. No.	Expression of Interest (Eoi)	Closing Date & Time
1	Allotment for e-lobby (near Administrative Block)	01-10-2026
2	Allotment for administrative Block Canteen	01-10-2026
3	Allotment for Food Court Unit-4 (Fast Food outlet)	01-10-2026

For more details log on to <https://digital.gndu.ac.in>

2426/12/2026-27/15396 Dated CHD :- 21/09/2026



THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.

SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66

Notice Inviting Tender

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

www.verka.coop

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Patiala Dairy Hiring of :- i. Milk powder plant having spare milk conversion capacity in the range of 1.00 to 2.00 LLPD for conversion of liquid milk into standard grade SMP. ii. Insulated S.S road milk tankers for milk transportation within Punjab & other states: Cap:-15,000 to 30,000 ltr.	Approx. 1.25 LLPD(Lac litre per day) during flush season Annual/ 05 Tankers
2.	For Verka Sangrur Dairy Hiring of milk powder plants having Surplus milk conversion capacity in the range of 1 lakh LPD to 2 lakh LPD for conversion from Skimmed Milk to standard grade Skimmed Milk Powder.	01 No.
3.	For Verka Ferozepur Dairy Hiring of insulated road milk tankers for transportation of mixed milk from Milk Chilling Centres/ Milk Union Ferozepur to other Verka Milk Unions. Capacity 23 KL Capacity 25 KL Capacity 10 KL	03 No's 02 No's 02 No's

NOTE:

1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.

2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

1018/12/2026-27/15370

General Manager (Purchase)



झारखण्ड राज्य विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार

के निर्देशानुसार

जिला विधिक सेवा प्राधिकार, चतरा

द्वारा आयोजित



मध्यस्थता अभियान

राष्ट्र के लिए -3.0

(अपने वादों को मध्यस्थता के माध्यम से समाप्त करायें)

(निःशुल्क, शुलभ एवं शीघ्र न्याय)

दिनांक 01 अक्टूबर 2026, पूर्वाह्न 10:30 बजे से दिनांक 30 दिसम्बर 2026 तक।

स्थान- व्यवहार न्यायालय, चतरा।

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- वैवाहिक मामले जिनमें DV एक्ट के मामले और 498A IPC/85 BNS के मामले शामिल हैं
- वैक बाउंस के मामले
- दुर्घटना क्लेम के मामले
- समझौता योग्य आपराधिक मामले
- भूमि अधिग्रहण के मामले
- बैंक रिकवरी एवं ऋण वसूली मामले।

निस्तारण वाले मामले

- बेदखली के मामले
- व्यावसायिक विवाद से संबंधित मामले
- उपयुक्त सेवा से संबंधित मामले
- श्रम अधिनियम के मामले
- अनुबंध अधिनियम के मामले
- उपभोक्ता मामले
- अन्य उपयुक्त दीवानी मामले
- पारिवारिक विवाद से संबंधित मामले।

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निवेदक—
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संतोष कुमार गंगवार

राज्यपाल, झारखण्ड

हेमन्त सोरेन

मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

प्रकृति - पूजा

करम पर्व

पर समस्त झारखण्डवासियों को हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं एवं जोहार

'करम' प्रकृति की आराधना का पर्व है।

आज जब पर्यावरण असंतुलन के कारण मानवता संकट में पड़ती दिख रही है, ऐसे समय में 'करम' जैसे प्राकृतिक पर्वों की महत्ता बढ़ जाती है। हमारे पूर्वजों ने जब प्रकृति को परमेश्वर का प्रतिरूप मानकर उसकी पूजा-अर्चना प्रारम्भ की, तब उसके पीछे एक सुचिन्तित दर्शन था। एक वैज्ञानिक चेतना थी। यह स्पष्ट समझ थी कि समस्त जीव-जगत एवं वनस्पति जगत के साथ सामंजस्य ही जीवमंडल में संतुलन रख पायेगा। हमारे पूर्वजों ने सात्विक भावना से वृक्षों को ईश्वर माना और नदियों को माँ कह कर पुकारा, आज उनकी इन भावनाओं की पुनः प्रतिष्ठा का संकल्प लें।

P.R. 390329 (IPRD) 26-27

सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड

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