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DEHRADUN, FRIDAY JULY 4, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹3

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PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR RANCHI CHANDIGARH DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYAWADA

(Left) Justice Yashwant Varma. (pright) Piles of burnt cash found at his former Delhi residence FILE PHOTO

Opposition for Justice Varma impeachment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

Rijiju said since the matter involves corruption, the Government wants all political parties to be on board

Prominent opposition parties have given their in-principle approval to support the motion to remove Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma and the process of collecting signatures could begin soon, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Thursday.

He said the Government is yet to decide whether the motion would be brought in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.

For Lok Sabha, signatures of a minimum 100 MPs is required. For the Rajya Sabha, the requirement is the support of at least 50 MPs.

He said the signatures will be collected after the Government decides on the House where the motion will be brought.

The Monsoon session will commence from July 21 and end on August 21.

According to the Judges (Inquiry) Act of 1968, once a motion to remove a judge is admitted in any of the houses, the speaker or the chairman, as the case may be, will constitute a three-member committee to investigate the grounds on which the removal (or, in popular term, impeachment) has been sought.

The committee consists of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) or a Supreme Court judge, the chief justice of one of the 25 high courts and a "distinguished jurist."

Rijiju said since the matter involves corruption in the judiciary, the Government wants all political parties to be on board.

On being asked about the report of the in-committee which proved the cash discovery incident at Justice Varma's official residence here, he said the report of the three-judge panel had not indicted Justice Varma and was meant to recommend future course of action as Parliament can only remove a judge

Continued on » P4

Help murders employer, son in Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

The Delhi Police have arrested a domestic help on Thursday for allegedly killing his employer and her son at their home in Delhi's Lajpat Nagar area after the woman allegedly scolded him, police said.

The accused, identified as 24-year-old Mukesh, is a native of Bihar's Hajipur and was nabbed by police from a train at Uttar Pradesh's Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Railway Station when he was on a run allegedly after committing the crime.

Mukesh, who is currently residing in nearby Amar colony, has reportedly confessed to the killings. He told investigators that a recent scolding by her employer, Ruchika triggered the violent act. As per police, the incident incident came to light when a PCR call was received at 9.43 pm on Wednesday from Kuldeep Sewani, a resident of Lajpat Nagar-I. He informed police that his wife Ruchika (42) and son were not answering his calls and that there were bloodstains on the staircase of their house.

The murder took place in Lajpat Nagar (Inset) Victims RANJAN DIMRI

"A PCR van and an investigation team rushed to the spot where Kuldeep reported that the main gate of the house was locked from outside. Bloodstains were seen on the staircase leading to the house.

"Police forcibly opened the door and found the bodies of the woman and her son inside," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Hemant Tiwari.

The body of Ruchika was found with the throat slit in the bedroom, while the body of her 14-year-old son was recovered from the bathroom. Both of them were killed with a sharp weapon, he said.

According to police, Mukesh was working with the family for the past 3-4 years. Though he was employed as a domestic help, he also assisted Kuldeep and Ruchika at their garment shop in the Lajpat Nagar market and worked as their driver.

"Kuldeep and Ruchika jointly ran the business and their son was a class 10 student," said DCP Tiwari.

Another police officer privy to the investigation said, "Prima facie the incident took place between 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm on Wednesday. The accused was scolded by the woman during the day, which appears to have triggered the act of revenge. It seems that he first slit the throat of the woman and then killed the boy." After the information about the double murder was received, multiple teams were formed and the photo of the accused was shared with police and railway police of other States, the officer said.

Continued on » P4

Eight, including four minors, murder 14-year-old

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Believing the boy to be an informer, Krishna, along with his associates, began planning the murder weeks in advance

In a shocking case of brutality, eight people, including four juveniles, kidnapped, stripped and stabbed a 14-year-old boy multiple times to death and dumped his body into a canal in Delhi's Haiderpur area, police said on Thursday.

The police said among eight people who were involved in the murder, six have been apprehended, while a search is on for the remaining two accused. As per police, the incident came to light on Tuesday when a PCR call was received around 3.10 pm about a body lying near the Delhi Jal Board water treatment plant along the Munak Canal. A police team rushed to the spot and found the boy's partially-decomposed naked body, bearing several stab wounds and a scarf tied around his neck.

The deceased was later identified as a resident of Jeevan Park in Siraspur. Police said he had been missing since the night of Sunday. His body was recovered two days later, raising suspicions of a planned and deliberate attack.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North) Hareshwar V Swami said a case of murder was registered and multiple police teams were formed to investigate the matter. Technical surveillance and local intelligence helped in tracking the suspects.

Among the first to be caught were Krishna alias Bhola (19) and a juvenile. Both were known to the victim and lived in the same neighbourhood. During interrogation, Krishna revealed that he had been assaulted last year by two local criminals, Monu and Sonu, and he suspected that the deceased had tipped them off. Believing the boy to be an informer, Krishna held a deep grudge and, along with his associates, began planning the murder weeks in advance.

Continued on » P4

Pakistani celebrities blocked again

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Social media accounts of several prominent Pakistani celebrities were once again blocked in India on Thursday as the Government cited 'technical error' for the restoration of social media accounts, just a day after the restrictions were lifted amid the backlash .

This comes after the All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) on Wednesday issued a formal appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding a complete and permanent ban on the digital and media presence of all Pakistani nationals and entertainment-related entities in India. In a statement shared through its official X account, the association expressed concern over the reappearance of Pakistani actors and media channels on Indian platforms.

Sources said the temporary visibility was due to a technical error that caused the accounts to be inadvertently unblocked. Instagram and Twitter profiles of Pakistani celebrities such as Hania Aamir, Mahira Khan, Shahid Afridi, Mawra Hocane and Fawad Khan once again became inaccessible to Indian users by Thursday morning. YouTube channels such as Raftartv, ARY Digital HD, Har Pal Geo are still visible here.

The move follows a brief window on Wednesday when many Pakistani YouTube channels and Instagram accounts started reappearing.

Continued on » P4

The ByStander

PIONEER IN SHORT

Pakistan hockey team to play in India

Pakistan's hockey teams will not be stopped from competing in next month's Asia Cup and the junior World Cup in India. "We are not against any team competing in India in a multi-national competition. If we try to stop Pakistan it would be seen as a violation of the Olympic Charter. Likewise, we will also show up for any multi-national event that features Pakistan. But bilateral is different and there will be no relaxation on that front," the source said. The ministry's decision also clears the decks for Pakistani participation in the junior World Cup of shooting, scheduled here in September, and the World Para-Athletics Championships, also in the national Capital in September-October. The Charter is akin to the constitution of the Olympic movement and stresses on sport as a tool for promoting international peace and cooperation.

FULL STORY ON P12

UN, QUAD condemn Pahalgam attack

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Operation Sindoor conveyed to the world with great clarity that India will act against terrorism. This assertion was in line with the UN Security Council calling for those responsible for the Pahalgam attacks to be brought to justice. A joint statement issued by Quad Foreign Ministers - Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Foreign Minister of Australia Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya -unequivocally condemned all acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism. The Quad foreign ministers condemned in the "strongest terms" the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, which left 26 people dead.The Security Council statement condemned the Pahalgam attack.

CAQM urged rethink on EoL vehicle ban

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Sirsa addressed a press conference and said people were unhappy with the move and the Government stood with them

Raising strong objections to the recent decision to stop fuel supply to End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs), the Delhi Government has urged the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to reconsider the fuel ban on overage vehicles view of the widespread difficulties being faced by residents of the Capital, which is not feasible due to technological challenges.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday said the Delhi Government will make "all out efforts" for the resolution of the problems related to the ban on end-of-life vehicles. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa has also written to CAQM, highlighting the grave impact of the abrupt restriction. The letter States that the daily lives and livelihoods of lakhs of citizens are dependent on these vehicles. The sudden denial of fuel supply has disrupted transportation, trade and personal mobility, causing significant inconvenience.

Speaking at a Van Mahotsav programme organised by the Delhi Government, the chief minister said that some people are emotionally attached to vehicles if they are gifted by a close person, like a father. Such vehicles are just keepsakes, and often they have not been driven many kilometres. "This pain of Delhi people is understandable. Delhi Government will make all out efforts for the resolution of this problem. We will raise the voice of people wherever necessary," CM Gupta emphasised.

Sirsa also addressed a press conference and said that there was discontent among people due to the move and the Government stood with them. Sirsa also said the Delhi Government is trying to find out a solution to the ban on end of life vehicles (EOL) including 10-year and older diesel and 15-year-old petrol vehicles.

Continued on » P4

Grounded F-35 to be airlifted

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

British Royal Navy F-35 fighter jet that made an emergency landing in Kerala on June 15 may be airlifted to UK for repairs, it was learnt here on Thursday. The jet will be dismantled and then ferried in a C-17 transport aircraft.

The F-35 fighter jet made an emergency landing at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. Despite multiple attempts to repair the aircraft on site, the fifth-generation stealth jet has remained grounded due to an unresolved engineering malfunction, sources said. They added efforts to restore flight readiness have so far been unsuccessful.

With no timeline for the aircraft's recovery, British officials are now working on alternative plans to retrieve the jet. Partial dismantling has emerged as the most viable option to enable its return by military transport.

Continued on » P4

India snubs China on Dalai Lama succession plan

SANJAY KAW
New Delhi

FILE PHOTO

A day after China said that the Dalai Lama's successor would be chosen following its seal of approval, India on Thursday made its position clear on the issue, stating it was only the current spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhists and the conventions established by him who could determine the next incarnation.

Union Minister for Minorities Kiren Rijiju, himself a practicing Buddhist, said this, in what is being seen as an apparent snub of the Chinese position on it. "The Dalai Lama is the most important and defining institution for Buddhists," he said, adding that, "All those who follow the Dalai Lama feel that the incarnation is to be decided by the established convention and as per the wish of the Dalai Lama himself. Nobody else has the right to decide it except him and the conventions in place."

Rijju along with along with his Cabinet colleague Rajiv Ranjan Singh Lallan, who is an MP from Bihar, a State which has the most important Buddhists sites in the world and is also home to Nalanda, whose Buddhist tradition is followed by the Tibetan spiritual leader, will represent the Government at the Dalai Lama's 90th birthday event in Dharamshala on July 6.

Continued on » P4

BKTC to act against pilgrims for raising ruckus at Badrinath

Devotees asked to maintain decorum, click photographs at designated site

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) chairman Hemant Dwivedi has said that mischievous elements who behave in a rowdy manner in Badrinath will be identified and that action will be taken against them. He said this after taking cognisance of a video clip going viral on social media which shows an altercation between some persons at the Sinh Dwar of Badrinath temple reportedly on the issue of clicking photograph near the entrance of the temple.

The BKTC chairman said that any type of photography, videography or making reels is banned within 50 metres of Badrinath and Kedarnath temples. The BKTC has put up information boards informing visitors about this while the temple committee and police also relay this information on loudspeakers. The BKTC chairman also appealed to the pilgrims to click photographs in the open space before Sinh Dwar instead of clicking photographs near the Sinh Dwar. The pilgrims have also been asked to maintain the dignity and sanctity of the Dham as such unruly behaviour sends the wrong message to the general public.

Uttarakhand STF and Maharashtra Crime Branch arrest international arms supplier

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Uttarakhand Special Task Force (STF) and Maharashtra Crime Branch arrested an accused arms supplier from the Clement Town area in a joint raid conducted in Dehradun on Thursday. The arrested accused Kamran Ahmad had been supplying illegal weapons to international wildlife poaching gangs. He had previously served time in jail after being caught with 2,000 illegal cartridges in Delhi, the senior superintendent of police of STF Navneet Singh Bhullar said. He informed that Ahmad, currently residing in Keshavkunj area of Dehradun had been allegedly booking orders online and delivering illegal arms and ammunition to gangs in Maharashtra through public transport and courier services. His name surfaced during the investigation of a case registered in Yavatmal, Maharashtra, where a large cache of illegal weapons and ammunition was recovered from members of a wildlife poachers' gang. The seized weapons included rifles, revolvers, crossbows, live cartridges and a bulletproof jacket, as per Bhullar. He said that the Maharashtra Crime Branch informed the Uttarakhand STF about Ahmad's involvement, leading to coordinated efforts to locate and arrest him. Acting on the input, a team formed under the supervision of STF officers verified Ahmad's identity and background. Investigations confirmed that he was a known arms dealer and had previously been arrested under the Arms Act in 2022 by the Pratapganj Industrial Area police station in Delhi. The SSP said that the joint team arrested Ahmad from his residence in Clement Town on Wednesday. During questioning, he revealed details about his international connections and other networks, which are now being investigated further by the STF. Bhullar informed that Ahmad is 30 years old and originally from Yamuna Vihar, Delhi. He currently faces charges under multiple sections of the Arms Act and Maharashtra Police Act for his involvement in supplying illegal weapons to criminal gangs across State borders.

Congress objects to detention of DAV college students union president

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The leaders of Uttarakhand Congress have expressed anger at the detention of president of DAV college students union Siddharth Agarwal. The members of the National Students Union of India (NSUI) led by Agarwal were prevented by the police when they tried to burn the effigy of the Technical Education minister Subodh Uniyal near his official residence in Yamuna Colony on Thursday. Agarwal wanted to protest against alleged corruption by the vice chancellor of Uttarakhand Technical University (UTU) Onkar Singh and tampering with the future of the students.

The Congress leaders alleged that the police took Agarwal and other students into detention even as they were trying to register their protest in a peaceful manner. The chief spokesperson of Uttarakhand Congress Garima Dasauni said that the police registered a case under section 151 of BNS.

She said that when the senior leaders were informed about the incident they arrived in the Garhi Cantt police station and registered their protest.

Dasauni said that the president of Mahila Congress Jyoti Rautela, Mahanagar president Jaswinder Singh Gogi, Vineet Bhatt, Robin Tyagi, Mohit Kumar Moni, Ritesh Chetri and others sat on a dharna in the police station.

The Congress leaders also started a march towards the residence of the CM when a case was registered against Agarwal. Dasauni claimed that the police and administration yielded under the pressure of the Congress leaders and unconditionally released Agarwal.

Dasauni said that the incident shows that efforts are being made to stifle the voices in support of students. She said that the Congress is standing shoulder to shoulder with the students and will continue its agitation against corruption in universities.

STF arrests rape accused hiding on island like patch in flood hit Bihar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

A rape accused who had been hiding on an island-like patch of land surrounded by floodwaters in Bihar was arrested by Uttarakhand's Special Task Force (STF) after the team crossed a one-kilometre-wide river in a boat. The accused had been living in isolation in the flood-affected area to evade arrest since last August, after a rape case was registered against him in Dehradun's Premnagar police station, the STF SSP Navneet Singh Bhullar said. He informed that the arrest was carried out during a joint operation by the STF and police. The accused, Nitish Chaudhary (22), a resident of Vil Sirwar village under Mahishi police station in Saharsa district of Bihar, had a Rs 15,000 reward on his head. A permanent arrest warrant had also been issued against him by the Dehradun district court. Bhullar said that a team had been gathering technical and on-ground intelligence for over a month about the accused and found out where he had been hiding. He stated that in Bihar, where flood conditions prevail during this season, the team travelled in local attire, walked through difficult terrain and used boats to reach the location where the accused was hiding. The SSP said that after sustained effort over four to five days, the accused was arrested from the flood-isolated region in the Kanaria police station area of Saharsa. Following his arrest, he was presented before the local court in Saharsa and brought to Premnagar police station on transit remand on Thursday. The SSP said that STF constable Riyaz Akhtar and surveillance expert Kishan Chandra played key roles in the operation, which is part of a Statewide drive to track and arrest wanted criminals involved in serious offences.

Municipal commissioner inspects ongoing work at Park in IT Park area

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The municipal commissioner of Dehradun Namami Bansal conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing development work at the Devbhoomi Rajat Jayanti Park in the IT Park area on Thursday. The park is being developed over an area of approximately 2,400 square metres. During the visit, the commissioner reviewed progress on several components including pathway construction, plantation, fountains, seating arrangements, children's play equipment, lighting and other beautification works. She directed officials and the executing agency to ensure quality in all aspects of construction and to complete the work within the given timeline. Considering the monsoon season, Bansal asked for an accelerated pace of work so that residents can access the park's facilities at the earliest. She stated that the park is being developed by the municipal corporation as a clean and green public space for residents of the IT Park and nearby areas. She stated that the park is expected to serve as a space for recreation for children, rest and yoga for senior citizens and health related activities for the general public. It is also intended to contribute to the environmental quality of the area. The corporation aims to provide urban facilities and public spaces to improve the living conditions of citizens, Bansal added.

IN BRIEF

Kedarnath Yatra suspended following landslide in Sonprayag

RUDRAPRAYAG: The Kedarnath Yatra was temporarily suspended on Thursday after the road in Munkatiya sliding zone near Sonprayag was blocked due to landslide debris. The administration said that the pilgrimage would resume once the stretch is cleared of the blockage. Besides, some passengers, who were stuck midway while returning from Gaurikund in the sliding zone area, were rescued by the SDRF team and they were brought safely to Sonprayag. The process of opening the road here is underway, the district administration officials said.

2 IAS, one secretariat services officers assigned new responsibilities

Dehradun: The State government has assigned responsibilities to two Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and one officer of secretariat services awaiting posting orders. In an order on Thursday, IAS Rohit Meena was assigned responsibility of additional secretary, Medical Health and Medical Education department. Similarly IAS Narendra Singh Bhandari has been given charge of additional secretary, Planning department while Santosh Badoni, an officer of secretariat services has been given charge of additional secretary, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. All the officers were awaiting posting orders.

KU declares final semester exam results in time

NAINITAL: Kumaun University, Nainital stated that it has declared the final semester examination results of undergraduate programmes conducted under the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) through a timely, transparent and consistent process. Senior KU officials said that the university had not only conducted the examinations on time but also completed the evaluation process in a very short period and provided the results to the students before time. Notably, KU, Nainital has become the first university in the State to declare the final semester examination results in accordance with NEP-2020. The KU vice- chancellor, Diwan Singh Rawat said that the OMR technology had been used for the first time there due to which the process of entry of marks after evaluation had become fast and error- free. "This not only saved time but also brought unprecedented improvement in the quality and accuracy of the results," he added.

DSO urges people to cooperate for dengue awareness & survey activity

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The newly appointed Dehradun District Surveillance Officer (DSO), Dr Pradeep Rana urged the public to cooperate with Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers and volunteers during their visits to homes for dengue awareness and survey activities. He said this while outlining his priorities after taking on the role of DSO. It is important to note that Dr CS Rawat recently retired from this position and Rana officially took over on July 1, with a commitment to diligently fulfill his responsibilities.

Rana said that upon assuming his new position, he had recently convened a meeting with ASHA workers and volunteers to discuss the current status of their efforts aimed at preventing dengue cases in the Dehradun district. He highlighted that considering the increasing number of dengue cases and the onset of the monsoon season, he instructed volunteers and ASHA workers to increase their hours dedicated to dengue awareness activities in the field.

For instance, if they are currently spending two to three hours in the field for dengue awareness and survey, this time should be increased to four to six hours. During the meeting, he was informed by the ASHAs and volunteers that 50 per cent of the population restricts them from conducting dengue awareness and survey activities in their locations. In light of this, he urged the public to cooperate and refrain from such behaviour. Additionally, he informed that, considering the monsoon season, he will ensure that schools in the Dehradun district adhere to the previously issued dengue guidelines. These guidelines recommend that students wear full-sleeved clothing, avoid stagnant water, and conduct assemblies that include dengue prevention tips, among other measures. He said that he has planned for the Health department team to visit schools in the coming days to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

He emphasised that by taking on this responsibility, he intended to manage the dengue cases and prevent any increase, particularly with the arrival of the monsoon season.

The DSO further urged the public to adhere to preventive measures for dengue, which include wearing long-sleeved clothing, using repellent, utilising mosquito nets and eliminating stagnant water in their surroundings.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून

पत्रांक:–341 / सा0नि0वि0 / न0नि0 / दे0दून / 2025–26, दिनांक 03.07.2025

ई–निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम देहरादून द्वारा राज्य अथवा केन्द्र सरकार के शासकीय / अर्द्धशासकीय विभागों / निगमों में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार / फर्मों को वार्ड नं0–4. राजपुर रोड, चन्द्रलोक बस्ती में श्री विजय सिंह पंवार के घर के पास सी०सी० सडक एवं श्री किशन सिंह क्षेत्री के घर के पास सुरक्षा दीवार निर्माण कार्य की निविदा टू–बिड सिस्टम के तहत ई–टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन वेबसाईट http://www.uktenders.gov.in पर दिनाक 05.07.2025 से 22.07.2025 तक सायं 5:00 बजे से आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा प्रपत्र एवं शर्ते तथा तत्सम्बन्धित जानकारी ऑनलाईन वेबसाईट http://www.uktenders.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। उक्त कार्य हेतु शुद्धि पत्र ऑनलाईन वेबसाईट http://www.uktenders.gov.in पर ही प्रकाशित किये जायेंगे।

नगर आयुक्त
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Ministry of Culture
Government of India

Tender Notice

Request for proposal for digitization of manuscripts for Gyan Bharatam Mission floated on **30 June 2025** by Ministry of Culture.

Interested bidders may see details on **eprocure.gov.in**
Last date for bid submission is **21 July 2025.**

CBC 09101/11/0008/2526

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DEHRADUN
Paras Tower, 2nd Floor, Majra Niranjanpur, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun

R.C. No. 552/2023 Date: 25.06.2025
Uttarakhand Gramin Bank — Certificate Holder
Versus
Suraj Prakash & Ors — Certificate Debtor

DEMAND NOTICE

To,
CD No. 1. Suraj Prakash S/o Sh. Keemti Lal, R/o 89, Mannuganj, Dehradun Uttarakhand.
CD No. 2. Manoj Kumar S/o Sh. Keemti Lal, R/o 89, Mannuganj, Dehradun Uttarakhand.
CD No. 3. Sanjay Arora S/o Sh. Nand Lal Arora, R/o C-343, Nehru Colony, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A. No. 157 of 2021** passed by the Presiding Officer, DRT, Dehradun an amount of **Rs. 24,49,845/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Forty Nine Thousands Eight Hundred Forty Five Only)** along with pendente-lite and future interest **@ 8.99%** simple interest yearly w.e.f. **19.05.2021** till realization and costs of **Rs.1,07,750/-** (Rupees One Lakh Seven Thousands Seven Hundred Fifty Only) has become due against you (Jointly and severally).

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice,failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on **16.09.2025** at 10.30 a.m. for further proceedings.

In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay.

a. Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

b. All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal Dehradun

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

In my husband Army Record my daughter name mistakenly recorded as SANCHARI NEGI and whereas her correct name is SANCHARIKA NEGI as mentioned in all other documents. I BABITA W/O LATE HARISH CHANDRA SINGH NEGI ARMY NO. 15464538H Rank EX DFR Name LATE HARISH CHANDRA SINGH NEGI R/O BHAGIRATHI ENCLAVE LOWER TUNUWALA DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND. I want to changed my daughter correct name in my husband army record vide IN UK-03980680976252X Affidavit 03.07.2025 before Dehradun.

In my daughter's school documents, mother's name is written as Maheshwari Rawat. Which is wrong. The correct name Maheshwari Negi has to be entered. Rajendra Rawat son of P.S. Rawat resident of D-3/70 Vinodpuri, Vijay Enclave, Palam New Delhi, Presently resident of House No- 30 Ram Vihar Dehradun.

I have changed my name from Kanthimathinathan Muthusamy to Ramanananda Tirtha after Sannyasa Diksha. In future I should be known and recognised as Ramanananda Tirtha, resident of Gyana Ganga Ashram, Ravada Village, Uttarkashi - 249193

General public informed that In the Class 10th mark sheet my name is Poonam Lakhotra while now removed my surname Lakhotra. Both the Names Poonam or Poonam Lakhotra belong to me. Poonam D/o Darshan singh, 56/13 Ashoka Talkis, Jawalapur, Haridwar.

In my husband army record my daughter name is SWATY whereas her correct name is SWATI as mentioned in other all documents. In future she should be known as SWATI. Seema Devi w/o Naik Late Satendra Singh 4080919M Vill khandra, PO Maikot Teh & Distt Chamoli Uttrakhand

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed that before marriage my name was Manju Tatrari D/o Shri Harish Singh Tatrari. After marriage my name has become Manju Dasila W/o Shri Vivek Singh Dasila. Manju Tatradi and Manju Dasila both names belong to the same woman. In future I should be known and recognised as Manju Dasila wife of Vivek Singh Dasila resident of village Suklayari P.O./Teh. Berinag District Pithoragarh Uttarakhand

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For advertisement booking
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ICICI Home Finance | Corporate Office: ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri - Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India
Branch Office: 3rd Floor, Shop no. 21/42, Rajpur Road-2, Near Cross Road Mall, Dehradun UK- 248001.
Branch Office: ICICI Home Finance Co. Ltd, Shri Gajanand Tower, 2nd Floor, Bareilly Nanital Road, Haldwani- 263139
[See proviso to rule 8(6)] Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs. Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)
1.	Gagandeep Singh Chandok (Borrower) Harjinder Kaur Chandok (Co-Borrowers) Loan Account No. LHDEH00001454206 & LHDEH00001454292	MPL No. 283/307/4 Old No. 103 and 379/283 Situated at Moti Bazar District Dehradun Uttrakhand- 248001	Rs. 32,40, 352.00/- June 26, 2025	Rs. 25,72, 996/- / Rs. 2,57, 300/-	July 29, 2025 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	August 05, 2025 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	August 04, 2025 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
2.	Manpreet Singh Chandok (Borrower) Harvinder T Chandok (Co-Borrowers) Loan Account No. LHDEH00001477116 & LHDEH00001477170	House On Property No. 136 New No. 248 Vartman No. 323/248 Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001	Rs. 26,01, 562.00/- June 28, 2025	Rs. 29,97, 000/- / Rs. 2,99, 700/-	July 29, 2025 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	August 05, 2025 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	August 04, 2025 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
3.	Sudhir Poojari (Borrower) Kavita., (Co-Borrowers) Sandeep Pujari, (Co-Borrowers) Preeti Vishnoi (Co-Borrowers) Loan Account No. LHCTD00001503692 & LHCTD00001503745 & LHCTD00001541598 & LHCTD00001541884	Property No. 201 (New No. 265), Omkar Road Chukkuwala, Distt Dehradun, Uttarakhand- 248001	Rs. 22,93, 512.32/- June 28, 2025	Rs. 24,57, 200/- / Rs. 2,45, 720/-	July 29, 2025 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	August 05, 2025 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	August 04, 2025 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
4.	Shamshuddeen. (Borrower) Bilkish., (Co-Borrowers) Nijamuddin. (Co-Borrowers) Loan Account No. LHKAP00001543435	Property Situated At Dimand No. 2893 Year 2022- 2023 Wake Moh- Nai Basti Jaspur Tehsil Jaspur Distt Udham Singh Nagar Uttarakhand- 244713	Rs. 21,92, 241.00/- June 28, 2025	Rs. 34,64, 800/- / Rs. 3,46, 480/-	July 29, 2025 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	August 05, 2025 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	August 04, 2025 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
5.	Krishan Kumar (Borrower) Rekha (Co-Borrowers) Loan Account No. LHVIK00001599537 & LHVIK00001599541	Freehold Residential Proeprty Situated at First Floor Without Rights With Common Stairs Khasra No. 373 Min Mauza Banjarawala Mafi Pargana Pachwadoon Distt Dehradun Dehradun ok Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248171	Rs. 38,04, 850.00/- June 28, 2025	Rs. 36,38, 250/- / Rs. 3,63, 825/-	July 29, 2025 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	August 05, 2025 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	August 04, 2025 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
6.	Tajinder Singh (Borrower) Harjeet Kaur (Co-Borrowers) Loan Account No. LHDEH00001478052 & LHDEH00001478287	2 Bhk Flat On Ground Floor Khasra No. 123/2 Mauaj Karanpur Pargana Pachwadoon Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001	Rs. 44,07, 349.00/- June 28, 2025	Rs. 48,19, 500/- / Rs. 4,81, 950/-	July 29, 2025 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	August 05, 2025 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	August 04, 2025 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession
7.	Kundan Singh (Borrower) Sangeeta Devi (Co-Borrowers) Loan Account No. LHDEH00001498093 & LHDEH00001498106	Bhumi Khasra No. 55 Ka Bhag, Mauza Harchawala Parag, Maja Harchawala, Pargana Parwadun, Tehsil and Distt Dehradun, Uttarakhand- 248001	Rs. 13,11, 543.00/- June 28, 2025	Rs. 13,38, 570/- / Rs. 1,33, 857/-	July 29, 2025 11:00 AM To 03:00 PM	August 05, 2025 02:00 PM To 03:00 PM	August 04, 2025 Before 05:00 PM	Symbolic Possession

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- https://BidDeal.in) of our auction agency ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till August 04, 2025 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before August 04, 2025 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before August 04, 2025 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. – Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article.
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.
The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit https://www.icicihfc.com.

Date: July 04, 2025
Place: Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar

Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited",
CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

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The Pioneer
DEHRADUN | FRIDAY | JULY 04, 2025

Health department terminates 234 bonded medical officers for absenteeism

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Taking a stern note of the absenteeism of a large number of the bonded medical officers, the State Health department has terminated the services of 234 such doctors. The department has also started the process of recovery from these doctors. The Health minister

Dhan Singh Rawat said that the officers have been directed to remove 234 bonded medical officers who are absent from their hospitals without information. He said that these medical officers had entered into a bond with the government at the start of their studies in the government medical colleges of the State. As per the conditions of the contract they had to serve in the State Health services for a period of five years. After completion of their studies they were posted in the hospitals located in the mountainous areas of the State. However, many of them have been absent from their assigned place of work for a long period. Rawat said that as per the contract these doctors have to submit a specific sum of money in lieu of being free from the bond and get a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the department. The minister said that the director of Medical Education has been directed to recover the money mentioned in the bond from these doctors. Rawat has also directed the Health department to terminate the services of the absentee bonded medical officers. The chief medical officers of the districts and the officer in-charge of the hospitals where these doctors were deployed have also been directed to submit explanations for the long absence of these doctors and for initiating action against them.

As per the department, 29 of such doctors were deployed in Tehri district, 25 in Uttarkashi, 14 in Rudraprayag, 10 in Bageshwar, 25 in Pithoragarh, 26 in Pauri, 16 in Almora, 46 in Chamoli, 11 in Champawat, 41 in Nainital and one in Dehradun district. The State Health department will also send a list containing the names of these absentee medical officers to the National Medical Council (NMC).

Make app to enable smooth Kanwad Yatra this year: CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Haridwar

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has directed the administration to create a Kanwad Yatra Sewa App for the smooth conduction of the Kanwad Yatra this year.

The CM gave the order while chairing a meeting held to review preparations for the Kanwad Yatra -2025 in Haridwar on Thursday. In the meeting, the CM said that all the details of Kanwadias should be provided for the App. He expressed confidence that the application will help the administration in making the Kanwad Yatra safe and accessible. He directed the district administration, Police and other departments to work in coordination and complete all the preparations. Dhami said that the administration should coordinate with the states from where the maximum number of Kanwadias arrive and share real time data and other inputs needed for security and safety purposes. Terming the Kanwad Yatra as a trial for next year's Kumbh, the CM said that the experience will also help during Kumbh.

He directed that there should be no encroachment on Kanwad Yatra route and all the eateries and hotels on the Yatra route should compulsorily paste their food licences and rate lists on counters. He added that all the hotels should compulsorily display the names of the owners. The SOP for liquor and meat should also be followed strictly.

Dhami said that the Kanwad Yatra should give a message of clean and green Yatra this year and focus should be on maintaining sanitation during Yatra. He said cleaning of the Yatra route should be done on an hourly basis. Special vehicles for waste disposal and mobile toilets should be stationed at Haridwar, Roorkee and Rishikesh. He said that availability of health facilities, ambulances and medical staff should also be ensured on every two to three km on the Yatra route. The CM also directed for setting up night shelters and tent cities for stay of Kanwadias and arrangement of water tankers, RO and water ATMs should be made for the Yatris. Dhami directed that special arrangements of security should be made and regular monitoring with CCTV and drones should be done during the Yatra. A traffic plan based on GIS mapping should be prepared for the Yatra and a traffic monitoring system should be developed. He added that special preparation should be made to meet the challenge of natural disasters.

Haridwar district magistrate Mayur Dixit said that the Kanwad Mela will be organised between July 11 to 23 this year and the entire area has been divided into 16 super zones, 37 zones and 134 sectors.

The meeting was also attended by Rajya Sabha MP Kalpana Saini, MLAs Madan Kaushik, Adesh Chauhan, Mamta Rakesh and the officers of administration, police and other departments.

Authorities clear illegal encroachments on Kanwad Yatra route

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

In preparation for the upcoming Kanwad Yatra, the joint team of police and the Municipal Corporation of Rishikesh (MCR) carried out an operation against temporary encroachments along the Yatra route on Thursday. The teams issued challans to 25 individuals and collected

a fine of Rs 12,500 under the Police Act. The Dehradun senior superintendent of police Ajai Singh said that the operation targeted encroachments between Natraj Chowk and Shyampur Railway crossing. The action aimed to address traffic disruptions caused by shopkeepers placing goods on roadsides and vendors operating handcarts in public spaces. The team removed illegal encroachments from over 32 locations during the operation, he said. Singh said that encroachers were warned against repeating such actions stating that legal proceedings will be taken against them if violations continued. The operation will continue on the route as part of the administration's preparations to ensure an obstruction-free route for Kanwad Yatra, he added.

UJS gears up for Kanwad Yatra arrangements

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan (UJS) has begun preparations for the Kanwad Yatra, which is scheduled to commence on July 11. The secretary (Appraisal) at the UJS, Maneesh Semwal informed that the preparations are currently underway and will be completed soon before the start of the Yatra. Earlier, the Kanwad Yatra followed highway routes; however, over time, it has transitioned to a dedicated walking path known as the Kanwad Patri. This route begins in Haridwar and concludes in Modinagar. To accommodate the needs of approximately two to three crore Kanwadiyas, arrangements for drinking water are being put in place. Semwal said that directives have been issued to all officials concerned to ensure smooth operations.

Additionally, plans are in motion to hire water tankers and the process of installing standposts for the Kanwadiyas is also underway. It is expected that these installations will be completed shortly at the designated locations. Water tanks, each with a capacity of 3,000 litres, are being installed, with provisions made for refilling the tankers as needed. Water arrangements are also being made at the Kanwad Bazaar, he added.

Semwal further said that besides drinking water, facilities for liquid waste management, washrooms and other amenities are also being ensured. The water arrangements at public toilets, along with the installation of pipelines connecting to these washrooms, have been prioritised. Additionally, suction vehicles have been hired to empty waste from toilets.

Semwal also informed that in areas including Haridwar, Roorkee, Piran Kaliyar, Manglaur, Rishikesh, Lakshman Jhula, Swargashram, Muni Ki Reti, Dhalwala, Tapovan and Neelkanth, water and sewage systems are being established for the Kanwad Yatra. This includes the deployment of 94 tankers, 130 standposts and 67 Tank Type Stand Posts (TTSPs), while also addressing the need for filters, labourers, drivers and field staff, totaling 79 personnel. Further, 48 suction vehicles are required for liquid waste management in areas such as Haridwar, Roorkee, Piran Kaliyar and Manglaur. The preparations are currently underway, and it is expected that they will be completed soon, he added.

5 illegal Mazars demolished in Kundeshwari, Kashipur

Govt continues action against land Jihad in State

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

In a major action against the encroachers the district administration of Udham Singh Nagar demolished five illegal Mazars built on government land in Kundeshwari

area of Kashipur on Thursday. The demolition of these illegal structures were done on the orders of the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami who had categorically said that any encroachment on government land in the name of religion will not be tolerated. A team of the district administration and police led by sub divisional magistrate (SDM) Abhay Pratap Singh arrived on the spot in the wee hours of Thursday and demolished these structures. These five Mazars were illegally built inside a mango orchard on government land. The district administration had served notices on these structures and when no documents were produced by the encroachers within the stipulated time period, the demolition action was initiated against them.

It is pertinent to mention here that CM Dhami has initiated a drive against illegally constructed Mazars in the State. As of now a total of 537 such illegal religious structures have been demolished in the State. This is part of the government's efforts to tackle what it has referred to as land Jihad in different parts of the State.

BJP leaves 39 seats without candidates in Panchayat polls, calls it political strategy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Bharatiya Janata Party has not announced candidates for 39 out of 358 seats in the upcoming Uttarakhand Panchayat elections, calling it a part of its political strategy. The party released a list of its supported candidates for 319 district Panchayat seats on Wednesday, leaving several areas without an official nominee. This decision caused confusion among local residents, especially in areas where multiple BJP workers were reportedly competing for party support.

The party has avoided naming supported candidates in several key districts. In Chamoli, no names were announced for six seats, while in Pauri, four seats remain without candidates. Other districts with unannounced seats include Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Dehradun (Rural), Tehri, Rishikesh, Uttarkashi, Champawat, Ranikhet, Udham Singh Nagar and Nainital. Internal sources in the party suggest internal competition within the party led to the absence of candidate declarations in these areas. BJP decided not to support any one candidate to reportedly avoid dissatisfaction among other potential contenders. Party leaders believe that whoever wins these seats will ultimately align with BJP, as most contenders are already associated with the party. However, many also speculate that many potential candidates of Panchayat elections do not want to be associated with any political party. Responding to these speculations, the BJP's State media in-charge Manveer Chauhan said that the decision to withhold candidate announcements on these 39 seats was deliberate and forms part of the party's wider political plan. He expressed confidence that BJP workers will win across the State regardless of official endorsements. According to him, the party will welcome any winning candidate who has worked in BJP's interest, even without formal support. It appears like by taking this approach, BJP hopes to avoid internal conflict and maintain unity ahead of upcoming state elections. The move is seen as an attempt to balance competing interests within the party without risking future electoral losses.

It is pertinent to mention here that the filing of nomination for the Panchayat polls began on July 2 and will end on July 5.

Villagers to cast vote for the first time in Panchayat polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Ramnagar

Residents of Rampur, Leti and Chopra villages will cast their votes for the first time in the Panchayat elections since the nation gained independence. These villages, which were previously classified as forest settlements under the Ramnagar block, have now been declared revenue villages after sustained efforts. Due to this major change, the villagers will be able to participate in the Panchayat elections for the first time, casting their votes to elect their Gram Pradhan and block Panchayat members.

A new Gram Panchayat has been created by merging Rampur and Leti villages, while Chopra village has been included under the Patkot Gram Panchayat. In addition, a separate block Panchayat seat under Chopra has also been created.

Newly formed Chopra comprises 416 voters. Leti has 367 voters, Rampur has 519 voters and Patkot has 1,481 voters. For the villagers of Chopra, Leti and Rampur, this will be their first experience of voting in the Panchayat elections since independence.

According to Panchayat ADO Hem Chandra Arya, the total number of Gram Pradhan seats in the Ramnagar block had earlier been reduced from 53 to 49. However, with the addition of the new Chopra seat, the number has now risen to 50. Similarly, the number of block Panchayat member seats, which had decreased from 33 to 30, has increased to 31 following the inclusion of Bhalon and the creation of the new Chopra seat.

Heavy rain, intense spells likely in Dehradun & two other districts

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Most parts of the State may experience relief from heavy rains today though there is a possibility of heavy rain in some parts o the State. The State Meteorological Centre has issued a yellow warning (watch) regarding the possibility of heavy rain/thunderstorms accompanied by lightning/intense to very intense spells of rain likely to occur at isolated places in Dehradun, Tehri and Bageshwar districts on Friday. Further thunderstorms accompanied by lightning/intense spells of rain are likely to occur at isolated places in the remaining mountainous districts of the State. Apart from this, light to moderate rain/thunderstorms are likely to occur at most places in Pithoragarh and Bageshwar districts and at many places in the remaining districts of the State today.

The provisional State capital Dehradun is forecast to witness a partly to generally cloudy sky. One to two spells of light to moderate rainfall/thundershowers are likely to occur which may be intense in some areas. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be about 33 degrees Celsius and 24 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today.

Meanwhile, light to moderate rain was reported in various parts of the State on Thursday with 45.8 millimetres in Jolly Grant, 19 millimetres in Dehradun, 17.5 millimetres in Rudraprayag, eight millimetres in Tanakpur, 6.5 millimetres each in Chamoli and Thalisain, six millimetres in Narendranagar and 5.5 millimetres in Ramnagar.

CEO emphasises on special facilities for PwD in Panchayat polls

Issues discussed by State level steering committee on accessible voting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), BVRC Purushottam stressed on providing special attention to the Assured Minimum Facility (AMF) for voters identified as Persons with Disabilities (PwD) by identifying them based on their polling booths. He said this while chairing a meeting of the

State level steering committee on accessible voting held here on Thursday. Various points were discussed in detail during the meeting, which included members from the commissioner for disabled people, director of Social Welfare, director of Education, chief engineer of the Public Works department and others.

Purushottam highlighted that every effort must be made to ensure that all polling booths in the State meet the minimum facilities mandated by the Commission. He instructed the Social Welfare department to provide the Election department with updated lists every three months, based on the eligibility deadlines of January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. This will ensure that 100 per cent of the disabled pensioners registered with the department are included in the PwD category on the voter list. He also stressed the need for special attention in the upcoming Special Summary Revision Programme (SSR).

Further, he asked that the District SVEEP PwD icons be identified at the district level and directed the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) to prepare Braille-based voter awareness materials.

Further, in the meeting, additional CEO Vijay Kumar Jogdande provided a detailed presentation on the State steering committee on accessible election. He informed that, following the commission's instructions, three types of committees have been formed in the State since 2018, with regular meetings held at the state, district and assembly levels. He reported that the highest percentage of disabled individuals is found in the 30-39 age group in the State. The main goal of the Commission is to eliminate the shortcomings in facilities available to disabled voters at polling booths, such as ramps, wheelchairs, accessible toilets, drinking water, shade and seating facilities.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Home Finance | Registered office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051

Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Office: Showroom no. 301, 3rd floor, Shri Ram Arcade, Old Municipal No. 74, Rajpur Road, Dehradun Pin: 248009
Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, 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 upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.
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.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-borrower/ Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Reeta (Borrower), Manish Kumar (Co-Borrower), LHDEH00001547677	Land Bearing Khasra No 1108 Mauja Sherpur Vikasnagar Pargana Pachhwadoon Dehradun Dehradun-Dehradun Uttarakhand 248197. Bounded By- North: House of Bhandari Ji 16.50, South: 15 Ft Wide Road/22.06 Ft, East: House Of Surjeet/ 101 Ft, West: Land Of Suraj Singh/101 Ft./ Date of Possession- 01-07-2025	14-09-2024 Rs. 8,87,038.94/-	Dehradun
2.	Reeta (Borrower), Manish Kumar (Co-Borrower), LHDEH00001548001	Land Bearing Khasra No 1108 Mauja Sherpur Vikasnagar Pargana Pachhwadoon Dehradun Dehradun-Dehradun Uttarakhand 248197. Bounded By- North: House of Bhandari Ji 16.50, South: 15 Ft Wide Road/22.06 Ft, East: House Of Surjeet/ 101 Ft, West: Land Of Suraj Singh/101 Ft./ Date of Possession- 01-07-2025	14-09-2024 Rs. 57,852.84/-	Dehradun

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantors(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date : July 04, 2025
Place: Dehradun
Authorized Officer,
ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

The Pioneer
DEHRADUN | FRIDAY | JULY 4, 2025

India eyes third economy spot: Puri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ new delhi

Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri FILE PHOTO

- India's GDP grew from $2.1 trillion (2014) to $4.3 trillion (2025)
- Foreign Direct Investment totaled $748 billion (2014–2025)
- Ayushman Bharat provides 5 lakh insurance to over 70 crore people
- UPI handles 50 per cent of global real-time digital

Outlining India's remarkable economic transformation over the past 11 years, crediting bold policy reforms and robust governance, Union Petroleum minister Hardeep Puri said that the country which has recently overtaken Japan is now poised to become the third-largest economy, overtaking Germany.

In the past 11 years, India has risen from 11th to the fourth largest economy in the world. "Our GDP has more than doubled — from $2.1 trillion in 2014 to $4.3 trillion in 2025" said Puri while addressing the 77th Foundation Day of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) in Delhi. The minister highlighted the nation's resilience during global headwinds and the critical role played by bold policy reforms, extensive social welfare schemes, and sound financial management.

Puri also underscored India's ability to attract foreign investment, citing $748 billion in foreign direct investment inflows between 2014 and 2025—an increase of 143 per cent over the previous decade—and the rise in source countries from 89 to 112.

Landmark economic measures such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, Production-Linked Incentive schemes, Goods and Services Tax, and Direct Benefit Transfers, along with the removal of over 25,000 compliances and 1,400 outdated laws, have further strengthened India's business environment.

The Minister pointed to significant improvements in tax administration, with the number of annual income tax returns filed more than doubling from 3.6 crore in FY 2013–14 to 8.5 crore in FY 2024–25. He noted that 95 per cent of these returns are now processed within 30 days, helping ensure that every tax rupee translates into social benefits such as LPG connections for households, medicines for the underprivileged, rural electrification, pensions for senior citizens, and jobs for the youth.

Highlighting the resilience of India's banking sector, Puri said gross non-performing assets of scheduled commercial banks have fallen from 14.58 per cent in FY 2017–18 to below 3 per cent in FY 2024–25. He also noted that India's digital economy continues to expand rapidly, with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) handling nearly 50 per cent of the world's real-time digital transactions and serving over 500 million active users. India's fintech adoption now stands at 87 per cent , compared to a global average of 67 per cent , driven by widespread access to digital identity and mobile connectivity.

The transformation in tax administration underscores India's evolving financial culture. Annual Income Tax returns filed grew from 3.6 crore in FY 2013–14 to 8.5 crore in FY 2024–25, with 95 per cent processed within 30 days.

"Each return, each rupee of tax collected, translates into tangible benefits — LPG connections for mothers, medicines for the poor, electricity for rural homes, pensions for the elderly, and employment opportunities for youth," Puri highlighted.

Under the flagship social initiatives, Puri noted, over 27 crore citizens have been lifted out of multidimensional poverty, nearly four crore houses have been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and 15.4 crore rural households now enjoy piped water through the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The minister said, "Ayushman Bharat has expanded health coverage to over 70 crore individuals with a Rs 5 lakh insurance benefit, reinforcing India's commitment to inclusive development." He emphasised India's success in attracting global investment, with $748 billion of foreign direct investment inflows between 2014 and 2025 — an increase of 143 per cent over the previous decade — and the expansion of source countries from 89 to 112.

Looking ahead, the minister called on chartered accountants to embrace artificial intelligence and advanced analytics, automating routine tasks to focus on strategic advisory roles and harnessing data-driven insights for more effective decision-making.

"Embracing AI is no longer optional — it is essential for staying competitive and innovative in today's evolving financial world," he noted.

EC clarifies Bihar voter roll drive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

With political parties flagging their concerns over the ongoing special intensive revision of Bihar's electoral roll, the Election Commission, in an effort to allay apprehensions over the ongoing electoral roll revision, said it has decoded the entire exercise to a group of opposition parties and reiterated that the exercise is being conducted in a transparent, planned, structured and a phased manner to facilitate the inclusion of all eligible citizens.

This assurance was given to representatives of various political parties by the EC here on Wednesday. The EC heard the concerns, issues and queries raised by the party representatives and decoded for them, the entire Special Intensive Revision (SIR) which is well underway in Bihar and is progressing smoothly.

Representatives of the Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party, DMK, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar), Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) Liberation, Communist Party of India and Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackrey) had met the poll panel.The delegation dubbed the exercise as "Votebandi" and claimed that this will put democracy in the state "under threat"

The EC told the parties that the exercise is being held in a planned, structured and phased manner to facilitate the inclusion of all eligible citizens.

In the first phase, from June 25 to July 3, enumeration forms

Electoral registration officers and assistant electoral registration officers will scrutinize the forms against the eligibility criteria laid down in Article 326 of the Constitution

are being printed and distributed to the approximately 7.90 crore electors in Bihar. Electoral registration officers are making available partially pre-filled forms, based on existing records through the nearly 78,000 booth level officers (BLOs) pressed into action.

The BLOs are delivering the enumeration forms door-to-door to all the electors whose names are on the electoral roll as on June 24. Booth level agents (BLAs) appointed by political parties can also submit up to 50 certified forms per day.

In the second phase, the enumeration forms will be filled and are to be submitted before July 25. To support this process, nearly four lakh volunteers are available to assist voters alongside the BLOs. Electors whose names exist in the electoral roll as on January 1, 2003 are only required to submit the enumeration forms along with an extract of the roll. They don't have to submit any other document. Those not listed in the 2003 roll will need to submit one of 11 documents for their date of birth/place of birth.

These physical forms will be submitted to the respective electoral registration officers or assistant electoral registration officers. A facility for online submission of enumeration forms has been developed to ease the process.

In the third phase of the exercise, running parallelly from 25th June to 26th July 2025, the completed Enumeration Forms will be collected by the BLOs along with the selfattested documents and also will upload the data through the BLO App/ECINET on a daily basis. These physical forms will be submitted to the respective EROs or Assistant EROs (AEROs).

In the fourth phase, the draft electoral roll will be published on August 1. The list will include all electors whose forms have been received by the deadline. Names for which no enumeration form has been submitted before July 25 will not appear in the draft roll.

Grounded F-35 to be airlifted

Continued from » P1

The F-35, a multi-role combat aircraft used by the Royal Navy, had been part of a fleet transiting the region when it was forced to land due to a technical issue.

The F-35B, a short take-off and vertical landing (STOVL) variant of the Lockheed Martin-built fifth-generation aircraft, had diverted to the Kerala airport after being unable to return to HMS Prince of Wales, the Royal Navy's flagship aircraft carrier currently deployed in the Indo-Pacific.

According to a statement issued by the British High Commission last week, the emergency diversion was prompted by "adverse weather conditions," which prevented the aircraft from safely landing back on the carrier. The pilot safely landed the aircraft at Thiruvananthapuram on June 15. Since landing, however, the aircraft has developed what UK authorities have termed "an engineering issue" that has rendered it unable to fly.

"A UK F-35 aircraft was unable to return to HMS Prince of Wales due to adverse weather conditions. Prioritising safety, the aircraft diverted to Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in India, where it landed safely. The aircraft has subsequently developed an engineering issue whilst on the ground which precluded its return to the Carrier," the High Commission said. Sources said initial assessments were conducted, but subsequent attempts to remedy the issue fell short. The Royal Navy has since deployed a team of specialised engineers from the United Kingdom who arrived with advanced diagnostic and repair equipment. According to sources, airport officials, in coordination with the Indian Air Force (IAF), were preparing to move the jet into a Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) hangar on the airfield. The High Commission acknowledged that while a forecast for the aircraft's repair timeline is unavailable, efforts are underway to ensure minimum disruption to local operations. The aircraft made its emergency landing around 9:30 am local time on June 15, after a routine Indo-UK naval exercise. The aircraft had lower-than-expected fuel levels, which contributed to the urgency of the diversion.

A Royal Navy AW101 Merlin helicopter landed at the airport the following day to extract the pilot, who was transported back to HMS Prince of Wales. The jet, meanwhile, has remained under continuous guard. Indian Air Force sources confirmed logistical support was extended at the request of the Royal Navy. The F-35 programme is the largest and costliest weapons development initiative in military aviation history. Globally, the F-35 fleet has flown over 800,000 hours across multiple services and combat theatres.

Three Indians abducted in Mali

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

India has expressed deep concern over the abduction of three Indian nationals in Mali amid a series of terrorist attacks in various parts of the West African country.

A day after the Indians were abducted, New Delhi on Wednesday called upon the Mali government to take all necessary measures to secure their "safe and expeditious" release. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed its "deep concern" regarding the abduction of Indians, employed at the Diamond Cement Factory in Kayes.

"The incident occurred on July 1, when a group of armed assailants carried out a coordinated attack at the factory premises and forcibly took three Indian nationals as hostages," the MEA said.

There has been no claim of responsibility for the kidnappings.

Al-Qaeda affiliate Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) has claimed responsibility for coordinated attacks across Mali on Tuesday.

The Ministry of External Affairs expressed its "deep concern" regarding the abduction of Indians, employed at the Diamond Cement Factory in Kayes

The MEA said the Indian embassy in Bamako is in "close and constant" communication with the relevant authorities, local law enforcement agencies as well as the management of the Diamond Cement Factory.

It said the mission is also in touch with the family members of the abducted Indian nationals.

"The government of India unequivocally condemns this deplorable act of violence and calls upon the government of the Republic of Mali to take all necessary measures to secure the safe and expeditious release of the abducted Indian nationals," the MEA said in a statement. "Senior officials of the ministry are closely monitoring the evolving situation and remain engaged at various levels to facilitate safe and early release of Indian nationals," it said.

The MEA also advised all Indians currently residing in Mali to exercise utmost caution, remain vigilant and stay in close contact with the embassy in Bamako for regular updates and necessary assistance.

10 river sites report warning water levels: CWC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The flood situation across the country showed a marginal improvement on Thursday, with 10 river stations reporting water levels above the warning mark, down from 12 such sites a day earlier, according to the Central Water Commission's (CWC) daily flood-forecast bulletin.

No locations were in the "severe" or "extreme" flood category. However, several rivers in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu continued to remain under close observation, with levels breaching warning thresholds and showing rising or steady trends.

Help murders employer, son in Delhi

Continued from » P1

He said that after killing the two, Mukesh locked the house from outside and fled with his belongings. He was traced with the help of technical surveillance and arrested from a train at Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction by Uttar Pradesh railway police while he was heading towards Bihar.

"The accused will be brought to Delhi for questioning and formal arrest. We are also checking CCTV footage from nearby locations to verify whether the accused also stole any valuables from the house before fleeing," the officer said.

Meanwhile, the neighborhood residents said that they did not get to know about the incident until police came.

"They both run a garment shop at Lajpat Nagar market, therefore, I have not interacted with them much. Today we did not have any hint about the incident until her husband came at around 9:30 pm and asked about her whereabouts." Said a lady living opposite to victim's house.

Sunil Varma, a local resident, said, "I live across the park and came when I heard that there had been a murder. I later got to know that the family ran a kurta shop and had been living here for the past 10 to 15 years. The shop was quite old. I did not know them personally."

A case has been registered in the matter and further investigation is underway.

Jangpura MLA Tarvinder Singh Marwah visited the area and said he spoke to senior police officers soon after the incident.

"When I got a call about the incident, I spoke to the DCP and other senior police officers. The SHO, ACP, and DCP have been working since last night and the accused was apprehended overnight. Everything should be investigated thoroughly," he said.

Police cordoned off the area as curious residents and onlookers gathered near the Sewanis' residence.

Opposition for Justice Verma...

Continued from » P1

A fire incident at Justice Verma's residence in the national capital in March, when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court, had led to the discovery of several burnt sacks of banknotes in the outhouse. Though the judge claimed ignorance about the cash, the Supreme Court-appointed committee indicted him after speaking to a number of witnesses and recording his statement. Then-CJI Sanjiv Khanna is believed to have prodded him to resign but Justice Verma dug in his heels.

The apex court has since repatriated him to his parent court, the Allahabad High Court, where he has not been assigned any judicial work.

Justice Khanna had written to the president and the prime minister, recommending the removal, which is the procedure for axing members of the higher judiciary from service.

Eight, including four minors, murder...

Continued from » P1

According to police, on the intervening night of June 29 and 30, the group spotted the boy near Veer Chowk bazaar. He was walking with friends when the attackers abducted him in full view. They took him to a secluded area near the Munak Canal, where the boy was gagged with a scarf, stripped, and repeatedly stabbed by each of the eight attackers. His body was then thrown into the canal.

Further investigation led to the arrest of another adult, Ashmit alias Ashwani (18), along with three more juveniles. Police have recovered a motorcycle used in the crime. The remaining two accused - Monu and Mohit - are still absconding and are believed to have fled to Haridwar. Police teams have been dispatched to Uttarakhand to track them down.

"The crime was brutal and disturbing. All efforts are being made to ensure that the remaining accuseds are caught at the earliest," DCP Swami said.

Further investigation in the case is underway.

India snubs China on Dalai Lama...

Continued from » P1

The exiled spiritual leader, who is the most important institution for Tibetans and all those who follow the Nalanda tradition of Buddhism, had on July 2 said that only the Gaden Phodrang Trust will have the authority to recognise his future reincarnation. The statement from Tenzin Gyatso was made in the run-up to his 90th birthday, amid growing concerns about succession issues, particularly China's claims to authority over selecting his successor due to its control of Tibet. The Dalai Lama was only 23 when he fled Lhasa in 1959 as Chinese troops took control of Tibet. He has long been termed a "separatist" by China.

Asserting that a non-profit trust created by him in 2015 will be the sole authority to recognise his reincarnation, the Dalai Lama had said : "I hereby reiterate that the Gaden Phodrang Trust has sole authority to recognise the future reincarnation; no one else has any such authority to interfere in this matter." The Dalai Lama's statement put to rest speculation that the institution of the Dalai Lama would end with him, or that China would have a free run to decide the next incarnation. "The process by which a future Dalai Lama is to be recognised has been clearly established in the 24 September 2011 statement, which states that responsibility for doing so will rest exclusively with members of the Gaden Phodrang Trust," the Dalai Lama's office said in a statement on Wednesday. After the Dalai Lama asserted control on the important decision, China criticised his remarks and rejected his succession plan. It said that the Chinese Government would approve the decision after choices were made by drawing lots from a golden urn.

"The reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, the Panchen Lama and other great Buddhist figures must be chosen by drawing lots from a golden urn (procedure started by the 18th century Qing dynasty), and approved by the central Government," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said.

Mao stated that the Chinese Government which otherwise "implements a policy of freedom of religious belief," reserved the right to impose "regulations on religious affairs and methods for managing the reincarnation of Tibetan living Buddhas."

CAQM urged rethink on EoL vehicle...

Continued from » P1

"We are trying to ensure that the vehicles are not banned according to their age rather on the basis of pollution caused by them," Sirsa said. The minister citing various challenges and problems faced in implementing the ban on refuelling of overage vehicles since July 1, said, "We have told CAQM that we are not able to implement this."

The Delhi Government from July 1, banned fuel for end-of-life vehicles -- 10 years or older for diesel vehicles and 15 years or older for petrol vehicles -- that are deregistered and not allowed to ply on the roads, following a court order.In his letter to the CAQM chairperson, Sirsa also suggested that fuel ban on overage vehicles should be implemented across the National Capital Region (NCR).

The transport department and traffic police since July 1 have been impounding end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) stopping at fuel pumps.

Sirsa, writing to the CAQM on the behalf of the Delhi Government, urged the Commission to put on hold enforcement of its April 23 direction.As far as the implementation of fuel ban, there are several critical operational and infrastructural challenges, and it will not be "feasible to implement this order at this juncture," Sirsa said in his letter. The move could even be potentially counterproductive, he said.

"Because of the technological inconsistencies of this extremely complex system and lack of integration with neighbouring states, there is public discontent and outcry and in the said circumstances, it is not feasible to implement this system to end of life vehicles identified through ANPR cameras installed at Petrol pumps in Delhi," said the minister.

He said that the automated number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras have been installed at most of the fuel stations, but the system is facing problems like technological glitches, camera placement, sensor and speaker malfunction, which prevent identification of the overage vehicles without high security registration plates.

Moreover, the system is also not yet fully integrated with the databases of neighbouring NCR states. These issues require proper trial and error corrections before the same can be implemented in Delhi, Sirsa said. The minister said the ban in Delhi will not serve its purpose as owners of overage vehicles may get fuel from NCR cities like Gurugram, Faridabad, and Ghaziabad, where there's no such imposition.

The ANPR camera system is also not implemented in the neighbouring states which will again be an issue when the fuel ban is implemented there. The minister in his letter listed several steps taken by the Delhi Government to combat air pollution, including implementation of a new pollution under control (PUC) certificate regime to ensure stricter compliance, particularly for out of state vehicles

The Government is also trying to create a system which sends an SMS to the owners of overage vehicles 2-3 months ahead to plan a phase-out. "We strongly urge the Commission to put the implementation of its direction on hold with immediate effect till the ANPR system is seamlessly integrated across the entire NCR," he said.

Sirsa also blamed the previous AAP Government in Delhi for enforcing the overage vehicle ban instead of challenging it before the court and the National Green Tribunal.

Pakistani celebrities blocked again

Continued from » P1

However, now if users search for the profiles of Pakistani celebrities on Instagram, a pop-up message appears stating: "Account not available in India. This is because we complied with a legal request to restrict this content." sources said that the accounts were reflecting due to a technical glitch. "If you can see some accounts either on X, YouTube and Meta, they will be inaccessible in a few hours. Some technical glitch led to the unblocking. Rectified now," claimed the source.

AICWA cited the active social media presence of Pakistani celebrities such as Mawra Hocane and Yumna Zaidi, along with several Pakistan-based entertainment outlets, calling it "an emotional assault" on the families of victims of terrorism.

"This is not merely a digital appearance, it is a direct insult to the sacrifice of our martyred soldiers," the association said. It referenced terror attacks including 26/11, Pulwama, Uri, and Pahalgam as part of its appeal, reiterating its long-standing position that Pakistan is responsible for continued cross-border terrorism. The organisation called for a nationwide digital blackout of Pakistani social media accounts and media channels, a ban on all future collaborations involving Pakistani citizens across Indian media, OTT platforms, advertising and a permanent cultural disconnect with Pakistan, as a tribute to India's armed forces and martyrs. Right after the Pahalgam incident, the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) announced a "blanket boycott" of Pakistani artists in light of the attack. Fawad Khan-starrer Abir Gulaal , a Bollywood film, was the first casualty of the boycott.

In May this year, the Government had blocked several Pakistani YouTube channels and social media accounts for spreading anti-India propaganda and provocative content. They include Instagram accounts of actors Saba Qamar, Ahad Raza Mir, Yumna Zaidi, and Danish Taimoor and YouTube channels of cricketers Shahid Afridi and Shoaib Akhtar. YouTube channels Dawn News Pakistan, Samaa TV, Irshad Bhatti, Ary News, Bol News, Geo News, Samaa Sports, GNN HD official, among others were banned by the Government after the April 22 Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir which killed 26 tourists. It was also directed to all OTT platforms, media streaming services and digital intermediaries to discontinue web series, films, songs, podcasts and other media content originating from Pakistan.

The Pioneer
DEHRADUN | FRIDAY | JULY 4, 2025

Jharkhand's infrastructure to get major overhaul: Gadkari

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Garhwa (Jharkhand)

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the Centre is committed to augment Jharkhand's infrastructure and would implement projects worth ₹2 lakh crore in the State.

The Union Road Transport and Highways Minister asserted that Jharkhand, which is rich in mineral resources, would see unprecedented growth in the highways sector.

"I am committed to bolster Jharkhand's infrastructure. I assure the people of implementing ₹2 lakh crore-worth national highway projects in the state," he said, while addressing a public meeting here.

"We have completed ₹40,000-crore national highway projects in the State. At present, we are implementing highway projects worth ₹70,000 crore, while projects worth ₹75,000 crore are in the pipeline," Gadkari added. He said the ₹36,000-crore Varanasi-Ranchi-Kolkata greenfield corridor will be completed by March 2028, while the ₹12,800-crore Ranchi-Varanasi economic corridor will be built by January 2028.

Besides, the Delhi-Kolkata ₹31,700-crore six-lane corridor will be completed by June 2026, he said, adding the Ranchi-Patna four-lane economic corridor, being built at a cost of ₹8,900 crore, will be completed by December 2029.

Also, the ₹16,500-crore Raipur-Dhanbad four-lane economic corridor will be completed by January 2028, he added.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari addressing a public meeting in Garhwa, Jharkhand PTI

Gadkari said till elections, there should be politics but after the polls, there should be "development politics", hinting at populist measures by Jharkhand's JMM-led Government. He also urged the Jharkhand government to address bottlenecks pertaining to land acquisition, clearance from the forest department and other issues in the State. "We will ensure better connectivity between Jharkhand and other States, including Bihar," the minister said.

Comparing the water crisis in parts of Jharkhand with Maharashtra, Gadkari said there is a small mantra to change the scenario. "We have changed the situation. NHAI built 1,000 ponds free of cost in Maharashtra. We utilised earth excavated from ponds in building roads and it also led to water conservation. I urge the Jharkhand Government to issue a similar order for constructing ponds and we will do it free of cost," he said.

A strong infrastructure here will boost employment for the local masses, he added. Gadkari said the State, which had a national highway network of 2,600 km in 2014, now has 4,470-km network.

Nineteen aspirational districts of the State are linked with the national highway network now, he said.

CM Himanta dares Congress to speak against 'qurbani' of cows by Muslims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Udalguri (Assam)

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday took a dig at opposition Congress, accusing it of lacking the courage to speak out against the slaughter of cows by Muslims during *qurbani* and the alleged throwing of beef near religious places.

Speaking on the sidelines of a meeting, Sarma said the BJP is the only party that can request the Muslim community to perform *qurbani* with animals other than cows.

"I can challenge the Congress that they don't have the courage to speak on *qurbani*. BJP can openly say that Islam does not recognise *qurbani* of cows. *Qurbani* can be of any animal. BJP has the courage to request the public not to carry out *qurbani* of cows next time, but to do it with goats," Sarma said.

"Can Congress do it? They will have to take birth seven times to say this line. So, who is the well-wisher of cows?" the CM asked. He further questioned whether the Congress ever protested the selling of beef openly in shops and throwing of meat in front of Namghar.

"Has the Congress condemned the Dhubri incident? Or will they condemn the Hajo case, in which beef was found today? Should they not speak about dead cows to find out who killed them? The Congress operates in reverse order. Where it should play, it is silent and it is silent where it should raise its voice," he said.

> **BJP has the courage to request the public not to carry out *qurbani* of cows next time, but to do it with goats**
> — HIMANTA BISWA SARMA, CM

According to police, around 80 people have been arrested across Dhubri, Hojai, Goalpara and Lakhimpur districts for allegedly throwing beef parts during Eid celebrations last month. On Thursday, parts of meat suspected to be beef were also found in Hajo in Kamrup district. "Opposition parties don't raise their voice where they should. Thousands of cows are killed for *qurbani* in Assam. Should we raise our voices for living cows or the dead ones?" Sarma questioned.

Sarma also slammed the Congress and other opposition parties for repeatedly raising allegations of corruption regarding the Gorukhuti Multipurpose Agriculture Project in Sipajhar, Darrang district. "The aim of Congress is to shut down the Gorukhuti project and bring back the evicted encroachers to the same land. Now, people in Gorukhuti have taken a vow not to allow anyone in the area. People have given answers to the Congress," Sarma said.

The Gorukhuti project was set up after a massive eviction drive was carried out in 2021 to clear 77,420 bighas from alleged encroachers, belonging mostly to Bengali-speaking Muslims, in which two persons, including a 12-year old boy, were killed in police firing.

The CM also said, "After the Narengi-Kuruwa Bridge is ready, the valuation of Gorukhuti land will soar and indigenous people will benefit as land rights are with them. If there was no eviction, the benefit of land prices would not be available to our own people."

Later this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to lay the foundation of a Rs 7500-crore Guwahati ring road project, including a bridge over Brahmaputra connecting Narengi and Kuruwa.

Developed Haryana can be achieved through cities: CM

PARVESH SHARMA
Gurugram

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, while addressing the inaugural National Conference of Chairpersons of Urban Local Bodies in Manesar on Thursday, expressed pride in Haryana being chosen to host the prestigious event. He said that it is our good fortune that Haryana has been entrusted with the responsibility of hosting this national conference.

Saini said that urban local bodies are the foundational institutions the "first school and nursery" of democracy. "The deeper the roots of democracy at the local level, the stronger our nation becomes," he remarked.

He added that when modern infrastructure delivers quality services to citizens, people feel confident that they have entrusted their local governance to capable hands. "A developed India and a developed Haryana can only be achieved through developed cities. The CM outlined the State's ambitious Vision-2047, which includes the goal of building a one trillion-dollar economy and generating 50 lakh employment opportunities in Haryana.

Saini said that Cyber City Gurugram is a model of urban development. Along with this, 5 such ultra-modern cities are being set up under the Panch Gram Yojana along the 180 km long KMP corridor. This plan has been made for a population of 75 lakhs by the year 2050. He highlighted that Parivar Pehchan Patra for all families in the State have been prepared and all welfare schemes have been integrated with this system.

New Bengal BJP chief calls to end Mamata rule

SAUGAR SENGUPTA
Puri/Kolkata

The newly nominated Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya on Thursday called out for a 'flagless' unity of opposition for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's "Visarjan" (immersion in water) "and for Parivartan (change of political power)."

Bhattacharya said, "There has been an all-round collapse in Bengal, so in order to restore our State where no IT worker or an engineer will be rendered into a majdoor (manual worker) and no educated person will have to become a migrant labourer, a time has come to make Parivartan (political change) but Visarjan (immersion) of corrupt rule."

"In Bengal, we started from a scratch. Today, the people of this State have given us a position and from here it is clearly evident that the defeat of the TMC is imminent. The people of the State have made up their minds to end the misrule of this corrupt TMC

> **The newly nominated Bengal BJP president Samik Bhattacharya was elected in presence of central party observer and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad**

Government," he said. Indira Gandhi's humiliation in Bangladesh, Bhattacharya appealed to the Congress men saying, "She was my Prime Minister also though I have different political ideology. I cannot tolerate the humiliation that her name is subjected to in Bangladesh, so a time has come when the BJP's hands to be strengthened. I appeal to all to unite in order to end corrupt regime of criminals and anti-socials in State."

"The BJP has never been against the Muslims. The BJP is against violence and communalism, we want the processions of both Durga Puja and Muharram to be organised together," he said.

Bhattacharya was elected in presence of central party observer and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Sate Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari who was also present during the felicitation programme at the Science City auditorium in Kolkata, however, maintained that, "It is the Hindus who will decide the fate of the State's politics in the next year's elections," adding that the saffron party will "definitely come to power if 80 per cent Hindu votes are polled in favour of BJP."

BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad with the newly elected West Bengal BJP President Samik Bhattacharya during a felicitation ceremony in Kolkata PTI

Amarnath Yatra begins as pilgrims set out for cave shrine in Kashmir

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR

The first batch of Amarnath Yatra pilgrims set off on Thursday from the Baltal and Nunwan base camps towards the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

The yatra started early in the morning from the traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route and the 14-km Baltal route. Pilgrims left from the Nunwan base camp in Pahalgam, in south Kashmir's Anantnag, and Baltal base camp in Sonamarg area of central Kashmir's Ganderbal, at the first light of the day, officials said.

Chants of 'Bam Bam Bhole' and 'Har Har Mahadev' heralded the march of the pilgrims', whose faces bore marks of happiness despite the arduous trek ahead, not to speak of the weather's vagaries.

"Baba has blessed us and there is tremendous excitement and enthusiasm around," a pilgrim from Gujarat said.

Pilgrims wait in queue for the annual Amarnath Yatra at a registration centre in Jammu PTI

He urged the wary to come for the yatra without any fear and asserted there was no need to be scared with all the security around.

"There are very good arrangements. Security forces are deployed in large numbers. There is stringent security. Other arrangements also are up to the mark," another pilgrim said. Among the pilgrims was Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje, who took the Baltal route for the yatra.

On Wednesday, the first batch of 5,892 yatris was flagged off from the yatra base camp in Jammu's Bhagwati Nagar by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The pilgrims reached the Kashmir Valley in the afternoon and received a rousing welcome from the administration and locals.

The devotees are on their way to the cave shrine, the site of an ice-formation widely revered as a shivling that lasts only for a brief period, before it melts.

Akhilesh opens new SP base in Azamgarh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Azamgarh (UP)

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday invoked the "historic" coming together of party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) architect Kanshi Ram, saying it reflected the power of ideological alliances for social justice.

Speaking at the inauguration of the party's new residence and office complex in Azamgarh, Akhilesh referred to a photo shown by a young party worker in the crowd. "That photo has Netaji (Mulayam Singh Yadav) and Kanshi Ram together. Think how significant that time was — when two ideologies stood side by side," he said.

Dalit icon Kanshi Ram and Mulayam Singh had joined forces in the early 1990s against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which was on the rise at that time.

Marking a strategic expansion of the party's eastern Uttar Pradesh presence ahead of the 2027 state polls, Akhilesh said Azamgarh held a special emotional connection for his father Mulayam Singh.

"The kind of love and respect Azamgarh gives is rare. Netaji had a deep emotional bond with this place and the people here always stood by him," he added.

Mulayam Singh was popularly and fondly addressed as 'Netaji'. Reflecting on his political journey, the former chief minister said, "A fourth of a century of my life has been spent in politics. I remember how the people of Azamgarh ensured Netaji's victory in elections."

Taking a dig at the BJP, Akhilesh said, "They have offices with multiple floors but nothing like this. Their office here is small because they know they won't win from here."

Pointing to infrastructure gains made under his tenure, he said, "It takes the same time to reach Azamgarh from Lucknow as it does to reach Etawah's Saifai now, thanks to the expressways we built."

All 10 Assembly seats in Azamgarh and both its Lok Sabha constituencies are currently held by the SP. Akhilesh represented Azamgarh in Parliament from 2019 to 2024, after his father held the seat in 2014. The constituency is now held by his cousin Dharmendra Yadav.

The newly inaugurated site, still under construction, spans 68 biswa (approximately 82,960 sq ft) along the Azamgarh-Faizabad highway in Anwarganj.

SP officials said it would serve as Akhilesh's second permanent base after Saifai in Etawah. A training centre for party workers will also be developed on the premises, with a foundation stone laid during the visit.

Speaking further, Akhilesh launched a scathing attack on the BJP, alleging that the ruling party was attempting to dismantle the core principles of social justice enshrined in the Indian Constitution.

Taking a jibe at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Akhilesh said, "They accuse us of having links with the 'D company', but the truth is that those sitting in Lucknow are terrified of 'D', which stands for Delhi (the central leadership). In fact, they're even scared of the two 'Ds' in their government — the deputy chief ministers."

Akhilesh accused the BJP of strategically targeting the ideals of reservation, socialism and secularism, especially when elections approach.

"Whenever elections in Bihar come close, they start speaking against reservation, the Constitution and secularism. When they fear a backlash from their vote base, they attack these values indirectly by undermining social justice," he said.

Referring to the early days of the BJP, Akhilesh reminded the audience of its foundational debates. "At their first convention, the BJP deliberated on what ideological path to adopt. Some wanted to stick with their original (RSS-driven) ideology but many knew that India would never accept that path."

Therefore, he said, the BJP chose socialism and secularism but they have forgotten that resolution today.

Hotels, restaurants must show owner information in Ujjain

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

In the sacred city of Ujjain, a fervent demand is rising from the heart of its religious community. With the holy month of Shravan approaching, a call for transparency echoes through the bustling streets, focusing on the very signboards that welcome devotees and travellers.

For long, a subtle deception has troubled the faithful. Many hotels and eateries, especially those catering to the influx of pilgrims, have been operating under names that evoke a sense of spiritual belonging, often Hindu in nature. Yet, beneath these familiar facades, the ownership often lies with individuals from different communities, particularly Muslim proprietors. This discrepancy has led to confusion and a growing unease among devotees, who seek genuine spiritual immersion in this ancient city.

This isn't a new concern. Back in 2023, Ujjain's Mayor, Mukesh Tatwal, had attempted to address this very issue. He had pushed for a mandate requiring all commercial establishments — hotels, restaurants and shops — to clearly display the owner's name, operator's name and contact details. However, his efforts were met with resistance from various business organisations and the initiative, unfortunately, never fully materialised.

Now, religious organisations, spearheaded by the venerable Pujari Mahasangh, are reigniting the demand. Their plea is clear and urgent: implement these transparency measures before the upcoming Shravan month. With over 500 hotels and restaurants dotting Ujjain's landscape, they argue, it's not just about religious sentiment, but about fundamental consumer rights and administrative integrity.

The local regulations, specifically the Gumasta licence conditions, already stipulate that an establishment's name and owner's name must be clearly written in Hindi on its nameplate. Violations of this rule carry a potential penalty of licencse cancellation and a hefty fine of up to ₹5,000.

This renewed push for public disclosure aims to achieve several crucial objectives: to enhance transparency for both customers and devotees, to bolster administrative oversight and ultimately, to ensure that all businesses, particularly those nestled along the revered Mahakal route, operate with the utmost honesty and integrity. The spirit of Ujjain, a city steeped in faith, seeks a reflection of that purity in every corner, starting with the names on its doors.

Hydro *ganja* proving to be a challenge: Fadnavis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Thursday that 'hydro' *ganja* is proving to be a big challenge for the Government and asserted that the Centre and State have intensified their fight against the drug business.

Replying to a calling attention motion in the legislative council, he also raised concerns over synthetic drugs and said that even terminal cancer patients are being used as drug carriers.

The number of cases has increased because of the Government's anti-drug crackdown, he said. It was found that ports in Gujarat and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), the country's largest container port located in Maharashtra's Raigad district, were used to bring in drugs concealed in cargo consignments, he said.

"Scanners that can detect concealed drugs have been installed in Gujarat and Maharashtra. Randomised checking of shipments from certain countries, where there is a possibility of drug supply, is being done," he said.

Five days ago, two Indonesian nationals were arrested with 21 kg of hydroponic *ganja* valued at ₹21.55 crore in Mumbai, he said.

Hydroponic *ganja* refers to cannabis plants grown without soil. This method gives growers precise control over the plant's environment, which can result in faster growth and higher yields.

Since drug peddlers secure bail and again resort to similar activities, the State Government is amending the laws to book them under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, he said. Under MCOCA, it is difficult to get bail.

"Hydro *ganja* is proving to be a challenge. Thailand and the US have made it legal. So, hydro *ganja* is being pushed into the country through courier services and other routes," Fadnavis said.

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis and others arriving at Vidhan Bhavan for the Monsoon session of the State Assembly in Mumbai PTI

The CM highlighted the deportation of alleged drug cartel operator Naveen Chichkar from Malaysia to India in May. He said Chichkar had bought an island in Australia and acquired its citizenship.

Chichkar used to send hydroponic *ganja* from Thailand and the US through courier. He was arrested along with a few associated with the postal and Customs departments and two policemen, who have since been sacked," said the CM.

"The policy (of the Government) is of zero tolerance (towards drugs)," Fadnavis said.

He said drug peddling is not only an interstate but an international racket. States have been coordinating in the fight against drugs. He said the police are not only arresting drug peddlers but have also made probes into the forward-and-backwards linkage compulsory.

"Even last-stage cancer patients are being used (as carriers). There were three cases where they were battling cancer," he said.

"We have intensified the fight against drugs. Courier companies have been told to ensure that drug transportation does not happen through them, or they will be named as accused in the case," Fadnavis added.

The Pioneer
DEHRADUN | FRIDAY | JULY 4, 2025

Editor's TAKE

Faith, politics and reincarnation

The search for the next Dalai Lama is mired in a deepening dispute between the Tibetan spiritual leader and the Chinese Govt

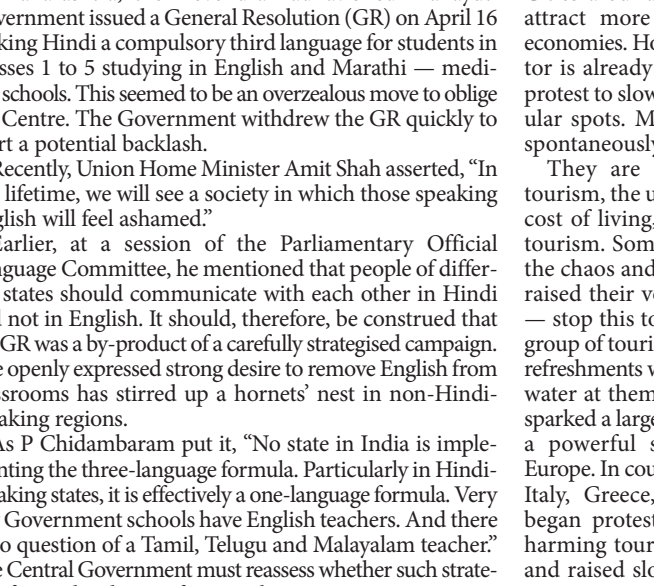
A new chapter in the Tibetan struggle for autonomy and religious freedom is about to be added, as both the Chinese Government and the 14th Dalai Lama have locked horns over the search for the next Dalai Lama, the religious and temporal head of Tibet. The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, has made his stand clear that the institution of the Dalai Lama would continue after him, and his successor would be chosen by a Zurich-based foundation established by him in accordance with Tibetan traditions. Thus, the Tibetan leadership intends to maintain full autonomy over the sacred process.

This announcement has stirred a hornets' nest, as the Chinese Government wants the process to be done by 'a golden urn' — a Qing dynasty relic that Beijing insists must be used in the selection of the next Dalai Lama. Present Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso was named as the 14th Dalai Lama in 1940, at the age of four, following traditional Tibetan religious practices that involve visions, signs and sacred consultations — not urns or lottery draws. China annexed Tibet in 1951. Thereafter, in 1959, following a failed uprising against Chinese rule, the Dalai Lama fled Tibet and settled in India, establishing a Government-in-exile in Dharamshala. Since then, he has remained the face of the Tibetan cause, advocating for non-violence, religious freedom, and cultural preservation. Now, on July 6, he would turn 90. Thus, the question of succession has become urgent, not just for Tibetans but for the wider Buddhist community. The Dalai Lama has long held that the reincarnation process is a matter of religious tradition.

As early as 2011, he declared that any successor would be chosen solely by his spiritual office, the Gaden Phodrang Trust, based in Zurich, dismissing any role for Beijing or its 'Golden Urn' process. Yet, China's position remains firm. In recent remarks foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning reiterated that any reincarnation must be validated through the urn and approved by the Chinese Government. Beijing sees this not just as tradition but as a mechanism of control over Tibetan religion and identity — a core part of its broader assimilation strategy. This isn't the first time the reincarnation issue has erupted into international controversy. In 1995, the current Dalai Lama identified a six-year-old, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, as the 11th Panchen Lama — the second-most important figure in Tibetan Buddhism. But days later, the child disappeared and has not been seen since. In his place, China installed another boy of its choosing, a decision rejected by the Tibetan community.

The current Dalai Lama's wish to delegate the search to a Zurich-based foundation must be respected by the Chinese Government, as they call themselves 'people's republic,' so people's sentiments must be honoured . More so, the Dalai Lama is not a threat to China in any way — at best, an embarrassment. China is almost certain to anoint its own Dalai Lama, drawing on the urn to lend an aura of historical legitimacy. Thus, a situation is sure to come when it would be resisted and protested by Tibetans. The quest for the next Dalai Lama has become a collision point between faith and the State — between a centuries-old spiritual lineage and a 21st-century authoritarian regime. It remains to be seen how the situation would develop and be resolved, as the 15th Dalai Lama would inherit not just the title of Dalai Lama, but the burden of history and an uphill task to fight for the justice of his people.

PIC TALK



Forest Department officials and doctors conduct a health check-up of elephants ahead of their selection for the Mysuru Dasara celebration, in Karnataka. PTI

Uniform Civil Code and Gender Justice

The Telangana High Court has corrected gender-based inequality rooted in religious personal laws — an inequality that contradicts Article 15 of the Indian Constitution, which forbids discrimination on the basis of religion, sex or caste

In recent weeks, the Telangana High Court has significantly corrected a major inequality, which happens to be prohibited by the Constitution's Article 15, i.e., discrimination on the grounds of sex, religion, caste, etc.

The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on the grounds only of religion, caste, sex, place of birth, so states our Constitution. For those who were born much later, it bears iteration that since 1950, when the national document was adopted, discrimination between every Muslim man and every Muslim woman, ironically sanctioned by the statute, has been in practice.

This has continued for decades and is still in force. Defending the Hindu Code Bill during the parliamentary debate on the matter in 1955, when it was passed to become a law in the form of the Hindu Marriage Act — while completely ignoring a similar demand to reform the Muslim Personal Law and bring in a Uniform Civil Code — Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first Prime Minister, had said:

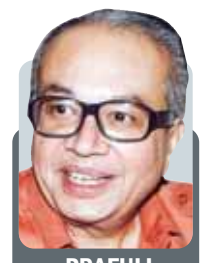
"Well, I should like a Civil Code which applies to everybody, but wisdom hinders. If the member or anybody else brings forward a Civil Code Bill, it will have my extreme sympathy. But I confess I do not think that at the present moment time is ripe in India for me to try to push it through. I want to prepare the ground for it."

(Uniform Civil Code and Gender Justice by Dinanath Raina, pp. 1–2) This statement of Nehru was the first blunder — of both omission and commission — which made the Uniform Civil Code the victim of perverse secularism and emboldened the perverted communalists to ensure that this constitutional commitment is not enforced. Surely, Nehru was aware that it was the strong political will of leaders like KM Munshi and Dr BR Ambedkar that ensured Article 44 was pushed through.

As things stand today, a Muslim man can divorce or give talaq in a maximum course of three months.

Whereas, his wife hitherto did not have a right to *talaq*. If a wife was harassed to the wall, she could move for what is called *khula* — first by returning the mehr she received, if she did receive any, to her husband, and then proceed with the long procedure required by the Sharia law of *khula*, wherein several members of the clergy usually have the final say.

In the bargain, the husband would have ample opportunity to intervene officially or behind the scenes. So far, in my experience, I have come across nobody who has witnessed *khula* taking place successfully, amicably, and in favour of an unfortunate lady. Does this not mean that the procedure for *khula* must be so cumbersome that disgruntled women do not have the gumption to try to obtain liberty?



PRAFULL GORADIA

Think about it; the very existence of polygamy is *ultra vires* Article 15 of the Constitution.

For the simple reason that the *Sharia* does not permit equal rights to women and allows a man to have four wives — but not vice versa. How is it that it did not occur to anyone to challenge polygamy in a court of law?

How blasé is the fact that an obscurantist body like the All India Muslim Personal Law Board — or for that matter, medieval religious laws like Sharia — exists in modern, 21st-century India?

How can polygamy, itself a blatant mockery of Article 15 of the Constitution, be plugged? I had, some years ago, written an article pleading that Articles 25 to 30 of the Constitution violate Article 15 in the matter of equality.

As we have quoted above, Article 15 clearly says there shall be no discrimination on the grounds of religion — meaning that all religions will be equal before the State. How, then, were we tolerating the very existence of these six Articles?

Article 30 also states that all minorities shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice, including the acquisition of property without any special permission.

Whereas, the majority community cannot think of starting any school without obtaining the sanction of the State education department. One would like to know how many schools or colleges Muslims have founded in the last 75 years, and how many have been opened by Hindus — from primary schools to universities?

If this information is made available on an all-India basis, one would hear howls of sowing discord among communities — i.e., spreading communal disharmony. A number of the clauses of the Constitution were drafted during 1946–47 to persuade the Muslim politicians of the day not to insist on the Partition of the country.

Thereafter, even though Partition did take place and became a reality, these very Articles were smuggled into the Constitution.We are encouraged to sing *Vande Mataram*, which is a song stirring enough to arouse in most young people an emotion of nationalism.

However, this emotion will become a lasting sentiment provided, over time, only if all Indians are enabled in their souls to breathe together. Instead, as we have said above in this article, the current state of affairs only discourages us from doing so. It only drives Indians to act separately and randomly.

(The writer is a former Member of Rajya Sabha and a well-known columnist. Views are personal)

Leisure and connection: What millennials want

SECOND Opinion

The traditional notion of transactional consumerism is now being replaced by immersive and leisure-led engagement. As per the report titled Retail Level-up — The Entertainment Edition, on average, over 65 per cent of respondents preferred to focus solely on entertainment experiences or combine them with food and beverages (F&B). This highlights how consumers today are not merely walking into malls to shop; they're coming to explore, unwind, and connect. The post-pandemic era has brought a significant cultural transformation, evolving lifestyles, and a desire for exclusive experiences. Consumers now seek retail destinations that serve as social meeting places.

This has led to a growing demand for retail developments that provide a comprehensive offering of food, shopping, daily needs, and entertainment — all in one location. Notably, *Family Entertainment Centres* (FECs) are outpacing other segments with their ability to pull crowds and bring huge traction. What was once considered a peripheral add-on, tucked into a corner of the mall, these centres have now paved their way into the spotlight as a primary anchor. In these centres, Indoor Amusement Centres (IACs) are scaling fast and emerging as the core expectation in retail. According to JLL, indoor amusement centres are becoming popular in India, with more than 500 such facilities currently operational in 83 cities, covering 66 lakh sq ft of retail space. These centres feature a combination of games and attractions to provide recreational and leisure experiences. Almost half of the operational IACs in the country are in the gaming zone format, followed by trampoline parks and the emerging entertainment format. The report further shows that by 2028, indoor amusement centre stock is expected to reach 11 million square feet.

Larger retail developments and malls are expected to accommodate more expansive and innovative centres. Moreover, mall developers are rethinking and strategising on how these centres can be designed and activated. Developers are no longer treating FECs as isolated attractions; they're building around them. As these centres grow in scale and sophistication, mall zoning is being recalibrated to amplify their impact. FECs are now deliberately positioned next to high-traffic zones, such as food courts, cafés, and children's stores, creating a seamless loop of entertainment and indulgence. Further, with consumer preferences evolving at breakneck speed, agility has become a competitive edge.

JATIN GOEL

Mall blueprints are being torn up and redrawn to accommodate the new reality — where experience trumps everything. Larger floor plates are being carved out for sprawling FECs, while entire levels are being transformed into dedicated entertainment decks, complete with immersive zones, themed attractions, and interactive tech. This evolution is being led by developers who understand that the future of retail lies in orchestrated, high-impact experiences. Even globally, the Family Entertainment Centre (FEC) market is forecast to grow from $15 billion in 2024 to $27 billion by 2034, representing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.1 per cent. The newly released report by Exactitude Consultancy positions FECs as a key sector within the broader leisure and attractions industry, with growth being fuelled by rising demand for immersive, socially inclusive entertainment options across global regions.

This market evolution reflects a shift in consumer behaviour, with increased emphasis on shared experiences across age groups, particularly in urban areas where families, teenagers, and adult groups are actively seeking high-quality recreational venues. As developers recognise the importance of IACs in attracting visitors, the entertainment category is increasingly being integrated into initial mall design phases.From high-energy gaming arcades to immersive VR/XR zones, the offerings are as varied as the audiences they attract. Add to that the edutainment segment and the adrenaline-fuelled appeal of trampoline parks and bowling alleys, and developers are constantly reinventing malls and retail spaces. Hence, the future of FECs is already shifting gears — from pure play to purposeful play. As consumer expectations evolve towards immersive, interactive, and emotionally rewarding experiences, the centres have firmly established themselves as both crowd-pullers and revenue drivers.

(The writer is an expert on urban landscapes an emerging trends. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Backlash over implementation of Hindi

In Maharashtra, the Devendra Fadnavis-led Mahayuti Government issued a General Resolution (GR) on April 16 making Hindi a compulsory third language for students in Classes 1 to 5 studying in English and Marathi — medium schools. This seemed to be an overzealous move to oblige the Centre. The Government withdrew the GR quickly to avert a potential backlash.

Recently, Union Home Minister Amit Shah asserted, "In our lifetime, we will see a society in which those speaking English will feel ashamed."

Earlier, at a session of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee, he mentioned that people of different states should communicate with each other in Hindi and not in English. It should, therefore, be construed that the GR was a by-product of a carefully strategised campaign. The openly expressed strong desire to remove English from classrooms has stirred up a hornets' nest in non-Hindi-speaking regions.

As P Chidambaram put it, "No state in India is implementing the three-language formula. Particularly in Hindi-speaking states, it is effectively a one-language formula. Very few Government schools have English teachers. And there is no question of a Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam teacher." The Central Government must reassess whether such strategies foster the claims of national integration.

HARIDASAN RAJAN | KOZHIKODE

The water gun protest in Europe

Cities around the world strive to boost local tourism, attract more tourists, and thereby strengthen their economies. However, in Barcelona, where the tourism sector is already booming, locals have launched a unique protest to slow it down and push tourists away from popular spots. Many residents participated in this protest spontaneously.

They are troubled by the unchecked growth of tourism, the unruly behaviour of tourists, the increasing cost of living, and the growing unrest caused by mass tourism. Some locals have even left their homes due to the chaos and moved to quieter places. Frustrated, they raised their voices with the slogan: "Enough is enough — stop this tourism and tourists." During the protest, a group of tourists was relaxing outside a hotel with tea and refreshments when a protester, a woman, suddenly sprayed water at them using a plastic water gun. That small act sparked a larger movement. The "water gun" soon became a powerful symbol of anti-tourism protests across Europe. In countries like the Netherlands, Croatia, Austria, Italy, Greece, France, Portugal, and others, citizens began protesting tourism using water guns. Without harming tourists, they sprayed water in their direction and raised slogans. This unique form of protest — the water gun movement — has now caught global attention.

DATTAPRASAD SHIRODKAR | MUMBAI

Safety audit of industry is a must

The devastating industrial blast at the pharmaceutical unit near Hyderabad is probably the worst ever industrial blast to have rocked India's pharma manufacturing industry in the last several decades in terms of fatalities. The death toll from a powerful explosion at the chemical factory has risen to 36, which is a grim reminder that there is an urgent need for stringent safety protocols and a robust enforcement mechanism in place. This accident should serve as a wake-up call for India as a nation, as it has embarked on the path towards becoming a developed nation — which will include massive industrial projects.

The incident provides an opportunity not only for pharma industrial plants, but also other industries, to reflect and act upon what needs to be done to avoid the recurrence of such painful incidents.

The Government should take lessons from the blast and take punitive measures to stop such incidents in future, with annual safety audits at these plants.

Though no amount of money can compensate for the loss of life, the Telangana Government's announcement of an ex gratia payment of ₹1 crore for victims is praiseworthy. Efforts should be made to ensure this compensation amount reaches the victims' families at the earliest.

RAMESH G JETHWANI | BENGALURU

THE GOVERNMENT MUST REMOVE THE LACUNAE IN GST

At last, the ruling dispensation could understand the lacunae in the GST and prepared itself to address them to some extent, at least. Cheering the middle class by effecting some tinkerings in the GST is out of an inevitability. Right from its launch, the Government has been seen as highly confused over the number of slabs, the quantum of tax, and the items to be taxed. There are criticisms and suggestions regarding the number of slabs. The suggestion to have only three slabs has been in the air for a long time.

Among the four slabs, it is the slab with items used by the middle class that fetches 70–75 per cent of the revenue. The slab with the minimum items — on the 28 per cent tax rate — fetches only 15 per cent revenue. The Government's confusion or wantonness is displayed by removing the Wealth Tax on one hand and imposing tax on essentials like even salt, rice, notebooks, and pencils on the other. Even falling sick and seeking healthcare are taxed. Exempting condoms but taxing medicines speaks of glaring confusion.

The demands to exempt medicines, medical devices, and life insurance premiums fall on deaf ears. The policy of pampering the rich and producing billionaires could perhaps help take the Indian economy to fourth place in the world and achieve desirable growth in the GDP. But India's place at the bottom line in most global reports points to the inevitability of all such achievements collapsing like a house of cards. A thorough revamping of the entire tax system — to relieve the middle class and the poor from constantly tightening their belts due to the increasing imposition of taxes, tariffs, and fares, while inflation remains untamed and upward wage revisions are squeezed amid declining real wages — is badly needed.

A small relief in personal tax extended in the last Budget could not yield the desired results, signalling the need for more tangible changes.

AG RAJMOHAN | ANANTAPUR

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words. We appreciate your feedback.

Jamaat-e-Islami: Apologies, Amnesia and the Shadow of 1971

In the wake of the 2024 July Uprising that unseated Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh is attempting a political resurrection, branding itself as a progressive and tolerant Islamic party. But the past is not easily shed

FIRST Column

Following the 2024 July Uprising that toppled Sheikh Hasina's 15-year rule, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh has embarked on a journey of political resurgence by rebranding itself as a progressive and tolerant Islamic party. However, this political comeback has not been smooth so far.

The ghost of the past continues to linger on the Jamaat, especially for its controversial role in the 1971 Liberation War. Recently, Shafiqur Rahman, the Ameer (chief) of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, offered a public apology for all past wrongs since 1947, including the Liberation War. This is not the Jamaat chief's first apology, although certainly one in direct reference to the Liberation War.

Let's briefly revisit Jamaat-e-Islami's role in the 1971 War. Decades of West Pakistan's colonial gaze towards East Pakistan birthed the sentiments of liberation among ethnic Bengalis in the East. Going against this common wave, Jamaat-e-Islami (founded in 1941) sided with West Pakistan in opposing East Pakistan's demand for complete independence. The reason is that the Jamaat's pan-Islamist ideological vision is based on the unity of the Muslim Ummah, whereby East Pakistan's secessionist aspiration, rooted in (secular) Bengali nationalism, was perceived as a threat to that very vision.

However, leaders and members of Jamaat did not just pledge their allegiance to West Pakistan after the launch of Operation Searchlight, but also became active collaborators of the Pakistan Army, aiding in the latter's military operations against Bengalis in East Pakistan. Jamaat's then chief Ghulam Azam, a Bengali himself, was one of the organising members of the East Pakistan Central Peace Committee (Shanti Committee), which became a vital agent (of the Pakistan Army) in compiling a list of liberation fighters and their supporters. Jamaat also played a significant role in the creation of paramilitary anti-liberation forces (Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams) and unleashed relentless violence against its people — the Bengalis.

Together, they had been complicit in the genocide of about three million ethnic Bengalis (includes liberation fighters, Bengali intellectuals, professionals, supporters of liberation fighters), besides the systemic mass rape of about 200-400,000 Bengali women and girls, and pogrom of Hindus.

In post-1971 Bangladesh, Jamaat has had a tumultuous political journey — from its initial ban from 1971-75, subsequent emergence as the third largest political party in the 1990s, to its senior leaders being tried for their involvement in 1971 war crimes under the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) Act. When its prominent leaders Ghulam Azam and ATM Azharul Islam were arrested and sentenced to the death penalty for 1971 war crimes, Jamaat-e-Islami called it foul play as 'politically motivated'.

Like Pakistan, the Jamaat refrained from issuing a public apology for its role in 1971. Rather, it denied its institutional involvement in the 1971 War and downplayed allegations of war crimes and human rights violations, despite the documented evidence. Jamaat's political career came to a halt following a High Court's decision to declare its registration at the Election Commission illegal for its party charter not conforming to the constitutional principles, barring the largest Islamic party from contesting polls since.

ANKITA SANYAL

It was also the year when Dhaka witnessed the Shahbag protest, a peaceful demonstration by civil society, demanding the death penalty for Jamaat leader Abdul Qader Molla (sentenced to life imprisonment for 1971 war crimes by the ICT) and a complete ban on Jamaat. In 2020, many former Jamaat activists broke away from the party and established a new political party — Amar Bangladesh — for Jamaat's persistent refusal to apologise for its role in the Liberation War.

> IN POST-1971 BANGLADESH, JAMAAT HAS HAD A TUMULTUOUS POLITICAL JOURNEY — FROM ITS INITIAL BAN FROM 1971-75, SUBSEQUENT EMERGENCE AS THE THIRD LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY IN THE 1990S, TO ITS SENIOR LEADERS BEING TRIED FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN1971 WAR CRIMES UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMES TRIBUNAL (ICT) ACT

Jamaat's political resurgence came about after Sheikh Hasina's deposition when Dr Yunus-led interim Government lifted the ban imposed on Jamaat-e-Islami by the Awami League Government on the allegation of instigating violence in July 2024. The party has been rebranding itself as a tolerant, moderate, progressive party which believes in the independence and sovereignty of Bangladesh and aims to transform Bangladesh into an Islamic welfare state, a calculative step to moving away from its earlier hardliner ideological stand and to keep in line with the spirit of the 2024 Uprising.

Since Sheikh Hasina's deposition, Bangladesh witnessed a complete political ostracisation of the Awami League (now banned) along with attempts at erasing Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's legacy. The political discourse, too, shifted to the Liberation War, many vying for its redefinition.

Many in Bangladesh call the student-led 2024 July Uprising as 'second liberation', one that aspires to fulfil the aspirations of 1971, still unfinished. Jamaat, too, joined the bandwagon and claimed that the country's 'true independence' was achieved in 2024, not in 1971. The party has also been at the forefront to call the July Uprising as a 'genocide' committed by the Awami League, although the Chief Prosecutor of the ICT had recently cleared the air and called it as mass killing.

Whenever its role in 1971 was brought up, Jamaat showed its usual restraint. Last November, the Jamaat chief stated that he is ready to apologise only "if 1971 mistakes are proven beyond doubt". Moreover, he defended the party's stand in 1971, justifying it as a 'political stance' instead of a criminal act and reiterated its doubt on the legitimacy of war crime trials against Jamaat leaders. This February, the Jamaat chief called former party chief Ghulam Azad a 'victim of oppression' who suffered and died under the tyranny of the 'fascist' Awami League.

The party also organised a mass sit-in demonstration to demand the release of ATM Azharul Islam, Jamaat's assistant secretary general, sentenced by the ICT to the death penalty in 2014 for his crimes against humanity in the 1971 War. The party chief maintained that Azharul has been locked in prison for over 13 years "due to false and fabricated cases by the then fascist Government." When ATM Azharul Islam was acquitted following a Supreme Court verdict in May, then came Jamaat chief's first apology to anyone who "might have been harmed due to the party or any of its activists anywhere in the country", while also maintaining that ICT war crime trials against Jamaat leaders were a 'deliberate purge' aimed at party leadership.

The whitewashing of recorded war criminals reflects that Jamaat-e-Islami's apology is one without repentance, the rebranding a mere electoral move. The largest Islamic party has been making efforts to make an alliance with other Islamic parties, following its public fallout with its previous political ally Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). However, Islamic parties have shown hesitancy not just because of ideological differences but also because of the former's historical baggage concerning the 1971 War.

Jamaat was kept aside when five Islamist parties in April decided to field a single candidate in the next national election. The same parties have now reached an electoral compromise, still excluding Jamaat.

Without a doubt, the Jamaat chief's recent apology, now with direct reference to the Liberation War, exudes the party's vulnerability in the electoral field. Perhaps it is to win the confidence of Islamist parties for an electoral alliance of Islamic Unity and to win over public trust, now that the Election Commission has reinstated Jamaat's registration.

No apology, however, would help Bangladesh's oldest Islamic party to achieve its much-awaited political comeback if its actions continue to echo the same historical amnesia about the party's controversial role in 1971.

(The writer is a Research Fellow at International Centre for Peace Studies (ICPS), New Delhi. View are personal)

Ministry of Cooperation: Steering India's grassroots economy with reform and reach

When the Ministry of Cooperation was created in July 2021, it marked more than just administrative restructuring. It was a clear signal that India's vast cooperative sector, with over 8 lakh societies spanning agriculture, dairy, fisheries, housing, and credit, would finally have a national-level representation and platform for growth and reform. Four years later, it is evident that the Ministry has functioned as both a set of signposts, offering long-term direction, and a collection of weathervanes, responsive to immediate needs and evolving realities. The cooperative sector has long been a key yet silent backbone of the country's rural economy.

From dairy collectives to credit societies enabling small-scale entrepreneurship, cooperatives have expanded livelihoods, enhanced market access, and supported economic inclusion across the country. Yet, for decades, policy approaches to the sector remained fragmented, often confined to state boundaries and disconnected from national priorities. The creation of the Ministry changed that dynamic, bringing with it both structural intent and operational agility. In its first four years, the Ministry has moved beyond intent to delivery. A series of 60 major initiatives has defined this period, reinforcing its role as both a guiding force and an adaptive institution.

One of the most significant signposts is the ₹2,516 crore programme to computerise over 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). These grassroots credit institutions are vital to rural livelihoods, and their digital transformation is enhancing transparency, operational efficiency, and service delivery. With implementation progressing steadily across states, it is a clear marker of systemic reform, backed by on-ground responsiveness. Another milestone is the rollout of model bylaws for PACS in 2023, enabling these institutions to diversify beyond credit operations.

Under the new framework, PACS can operate petrol pumps, manage grain storage, distribute affordable medicines through Jan Aushadhi outlets, and provide a range of essential rural services. Trials in Gujarat's Panchmahal and Banaskantha districts have already demonstrated how policy intent can quickly evolve into practical, community-level solutions, an ideal interplay of signposts and weathervanes.

Legal reform has been another area of focused action. The Multi-State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Act, 2023, introduced transparent election processes, independent governance mechanisms, the Cooperative Ombudsman system, and structured pathways for rehabilitating sick cooperatives. These measures addressed long-standing governance concerns, ensuring that cooperatives function with both autonomy and accountability.

The Ministry has also taken steps to strengthen scale, market access, and sectoral competitiveness. The creation of national umbrella cooperatives such as Bhartiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Ltd. for the distribution of quality seeds, National Cooperative Organics Ltd. for organic produce, and National Cooperative Exports Ltd. reflects efforts to consolidate producer groups, enhance market linkages, and boost India's rural export potential. Tax incentives, including reduced surcharges of 7 per cent from the earlier 12 per cent on cooperative incomes in the ₹1 to ₹10 crore bracket, further demonstrate the Ministry's responsiveness to the sector's financial needs.

RAKESH ARRAWATIA

Equally significant is the investment in human capital and institutional capacity. The establishment of "Tribhuvan" Sahkari University (TSU), India's first university dedicated exclusively to cooperative education, training, and research, marks a structural signpost for the sector's future. Declared an Institution of National Importance, TSU is designed to nurture professional leadership, embed modern governance practices, and promote cooperative research and development to attain standards of global excellence.

These initiatives demonstrate that the Ministry has not been a static entity. It has provided durable signposts in the form of structural reforms, legal clarity, technology integration, and institution — building, while retaining the flexibility of a weathervane, adjusting course in response to grassroots realities and emerging challenges.

Looking ahead, the role of cooperatives in value addition, agri-marketing, rural enterprise, and inclusive economic growth is only set to expand along with initiatives like White Revolution 2.0. The coming years will demand not only strong institutions but also empowered leadership, modernised systems, and continued responsiveness to the needs of millions of cooperative members.

SATYENDRA PANDEY

As the Ministry of Cooperation enters its fifth year, it carries the promise of consolidating these early gains and translating them into widespread impact. The foundation is visible, the computerisation of PACS, legal reforms, umbrella cooperative formations, tax incentives, and the establishment of Tribhuvan Sahkari University stand as clear signposts of structural direction. Simultaneously, the Ministry's ability to function as a weathervane attuned to shifting rural dynamics, economic demands, and member aspirations has been its defining strength.

The fifth year is not just another milestone for the ministry; it is an opportunity to deepen cooperative-led development as a cornerstone of rural prosperity, grassroots participation, and inclusive growth. If the Ministry sustains this balance of direction and adaptability, India's cooperative movement is poised to play an even greater role in the nation's economic and social progress.

(Rakesh Arrawatia is a Professor of Finance at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). Satyendra Pandey is Associate Professor of OB-HR at the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA). Views are personal)

Beyond the edge: The aesthetic urban death traps

As India's urban landscape reaches new heights — literally — its cities are filling up with apartment towers that define modern skylines from Pune to Noida. Yet this rapid vertical growth has come with a heartbreaking cost, especially for the youngest and most vulnerable residents. Balconies, once viewed as spaces of openness, calm, and leisure, are now emerging as hidden zones of danger-spaces where small oversights and structural compromises can quickly turn fatal.

At the heart of this crisis lies a mistaken belief: that objects placed on balconies are safe so long as they are heavy or sit snugly on a ledge. Most people assume gravity is the only force at play. But the built environment is subject to a far more complex reality. Wind gusts, seismic vibrations, thermal expansion, and even minor shifts in load can introduce lateral movements. When these movements meet poorly welded joints, rusted railings, or aging parapets, disaster becomes inevitable.

The preventable tragedies

In April 2025, a child in Pune was fatally struck by a falling flowerpot. The death was not a random accident. It was the result of an unsecured object placed on a high parapet and an absence of regulatory oversight. Gravity may have delivered the final blow, but human neglect enabled it. In the wake of the tragedy, municipal authorities in Noida, Gurugram, and Ghaziabad issued emergency advisories banning heavy items from balconies and mandating inspections. But in many other cities, these directives failed to gain traction. The inconsistency of enforcement across state lines continues to put countless lives at risk. A month later, in Ghaziabad, a five-year-old boy and his uncle were crushed when an old balcony gave way.

EILIA JAFAR

Aesthetics and Hidden Hazards

The average balcony appears serene and secure-hanging plants, iron railings, artistic grilles. Yet behind this aesthetic charm lie hidden risks. Iron corrodes, welds weaken, and structures deteriorate — especially in buildings constructed rapidly or with compromised material quality. Most of these flaws remain invisible until it's too late.

Children are especially at risk. Research from AIIMS and PubMed Central highlights that falls from balconies rank among the most fatal types of trauma for children aged 1 to 5. Over 60 per cent of trauma injuries in this group are linked to falls from height. Children lean on railings, climb ledges, or treat parapets as play zones. A loose railing, an unsecured planter, or a rickety shelf can become a fatal hazard in seconds. Reactive measures — enacted only after tragedies — cannot replace proactive, nationwide safety standards. While cities like Lucknow and Noida have implemented fines and enforcement for unsafe balcony practices, such policies need to be institutionalised across all urban centers. Building codes today remain heavily focused on structural foundations and load-bearing calculations. There is little to no regulatory clarity on post-handover modifications like planter installations, railing reinforcements, or the integrity of welding work. The issue is more than technical — it's cultural. People trust that their balconies are safe. They believe that what was built will last, regardless of weathering or wear. This mindset urgently needs to evolve.

A Culture of Structural Safety

To prevent further tragedies, India needs a shift in both policy and perception. Periodic, mandatory inspections should focus on balconies, railings, and parapet stability — much like elevator checks in high-rise buildings. These inspections should be routine, not dependent on complaints or media attention. Revised building codes must define clear specifications for railing height, railing spacing, and weight limits. Builders should be made liable for the quality of welds and materials, not only during construction but after handover through periodic audits. These rules must apply to both new constructions and older buildings through phased compliance.

There also needs to be a strict prohibition on placing heavy, unsecured objects on narrow balcony ledges. Items like planters, AC units, and satellite dishes should either be permanently anchored to stable frames or relocated indoors. Decorative or storage use of parapets should be banned altogether in high-rise buildings. Real change requires public awareness.

Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) must lead internal campaigns on balcony safety. Workshops, posters, and parenting guides about childproofing high-rise homes can foster community vigilance. Developers should provide post-handover structural audits and be required to disclose maintenance protocols transparently. Municipal bodies must empower citizens to anonymously report unsafe balconies, cracked railings, or overloaded ledges. A centralised database tracking structural collapses and balcony-related injuries can help identify patterns, inform urban policy, and prevent future tragedies. Every time a child falls, or a balcony collapses, it is a brutal reminder of a system that failed to act. These deaths are not just accidents — they are the result of ignored warnings, absent policies, and dangerous assumptions. As India's cities continue to rise higher, the responsibility to make every floor, every railing, and every ledge secure grows exponentially.

(The writer is an expert on urban development and architecture. Views are personal)

House GOP clears key hurdle on Trump's big bill

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Washington

Up all night, House Republicans voted before dawn on Thursday to advance President Donald Trump's tax and spending cuts package after GOP leaders worked almost around the clock trying to persuade sceptical holdouts as they race to send the bill to his desk by the Fourth of July deadline.

A roll call that started late Wednesday finally closed almost six hours later, a highly unusual stall on a procedural step.

Trump, who had hosted lawmakers at the White House earlier, lashed out at the delay. Once the gavel struck, 219-213, the bill advanced to a last round of debates toward a final vote, which is expected later Thursday morning.

"Our way is to plow through and get it done," House Speaker Mike Johnson said, emerging in the middle of the night from a series of closed-door meetings. "We will meet our July 4th deadline."

The idea of quickly convening to for a vote on the more than 800-page bill after it passed the day before in the Senate was a risky gambit, one designed to meet Trump's demand for a holiday finish. Republicans have struggled mightily with the bill nearly every step of the way, often succeeding by the narrowest of margins - just one vote. Their slim 220-212 majority leaves little room for defections.

Several Republicans are balking at being asked to rubberstamp the Senate version less than 24 hours after passage. A number of moderate Republicans from competitive districts have objected to the Senate bill's cuts to Medicaid, while conservatives have lambasted the legislation as straying from their fiscal goals.

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson in Washington PTI

"What are the Republicans waiting for? What are you trying to prove?" Trump railed in a post-midnight vote. He also warned starkly of political fallout from the delay "COSTING YOU VOTES!"

It fell to Johnson and his team to convince them that the time for negotiations is over. They needed assistance from Trump to close the deal, and lawmakers headed to the White House for a two-hour session Wednesday to talk to the president about their concerns. Trump also worked the phones.

"The president's message was, We're on a roll,'" said Rep. Ralph Norman, R-SC "He wants to see this."

Republicans are relying on their majority hold of Congress to push the package over a wall of unified Democratic opposition. No Democrats voted for bill in the Senate and none were expected to do so in the House.

"Hell no!" said House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries, flanked by fellow Democrats outside the Capitol.

In an early warning sign of Republican resistance, during a first procedural vote that also stalled out as GOP leadership waited for lawmakers who were delayed coming back to Washington and conducted closed-door negotiations with holdouts. The bill would extend and make permanent various individual and business tax breaks from Trump's first term, plus temporarily add new ones he promised during the 2024 campaign. This includes allowing workers to deduct tips and overtime pay, and a $6,000 deduction for most older adults earning less than $75,000 a year. In all, the legislation contains about $4.5 trillion in tax cuts over 10 years.

The bill also provides about $350 billion for defense and Trump's immigration crackdown. Republicans partially pay for it all through less spending on Medicaid and food assistance. The Congressional Budget Office projects the bill will add about $3.3 trillion to the federal debt over the coming decade.

The House passed its version of the bill in May by a single vote, despite worries about spending cuts and the overall price tag. Now it's being asked to give final passage to a version that, in many respects, exacerbates those concerns. The Senate bill's projected impact on the nation's debt, for example, is significantly higher.

Johnson is intent on meeting Trump's timeline and betting that hesitant Republicans won't cross the president because of the heavy political price they would have to pay.

They need only look to Sen. Thom Tillis, R-NC, who announced his intention to vote against the legislation over the weekend.

Haiti gangs nearly control capital amid violence: UN

ASSOCIATED PRESS
United Nations

An estimated 90 per cent of the capital Port-au-Prince is now under control of criminal groups who are expanding attacks

Haiti's gangs have gained "near-total control" of the capital and authorities are unable to stop escalating violence across the impoverished Caribbean nation, senior UN officials warned Wednesday.

An estimated 90 per cent of the capital Port-au-Prince is now under control of criminal groups who are expanding attacks not only into surrounding areas but beyond into previously peaceful areas, Ghada Fathy Waly, executive director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, told the UN Security Council.

"Southern Haiti, which until recently was insulated from the violence, has seen a sharp increase in gang-related incidents," she said.

"And in the east, criminal groups are exploiting land routes, including key crossings like Belladere and Malpasse, where attacks against police and customs officials have been reported."

Waly said the state's authority to govern is rapidly shrinking as gang control expands with cascading effects. Criminal groups are stepping into the vacuum left by the absence or limited delivery of public services and are establishing "parallel governance structures," and gang control of major trade routes has paralysed legal commerce, leading to soaring prices for cooking fuel and rice, Haiti's staple food, she said.

UN Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav Jenca told the council "the ongoing gang encirclement of Port-au-Prince" and their strengthened foothold in the capital and beyond is "pushing the situation closer to the brink."

"Without increased action by the international community, the total collapse of state presence in the capital could become a very real scenario," he warned.

Gangs have grown in power since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021 and previously were estimated to control 85 per cent of the capital.

Haiti has not had a president since the assassination. A UN-backed mission led by Kenyan police arrived in Haiti last year to help quell gang violence, but the mission remains understaffed and underfunded, with only about 40 per cent of the 2,500 personnel originally envisioned.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' proposal in February to have the UN provide drones, fuel, ground and air transport and other non-lethal support to the Kenya-led mission has languished in the council.

In response to the gangs, the UNODC's Waly said there has been a rapid growth in the number and activities of private security companies and vigilante self-defence groups, with some trying to protect their communities while others act illegally and collude with gangs.

"Over the last three months," Jenca said, "these groups reportedly killed at least 100 men and one woman suspected of gang association or collaboration."

He said the last three months have also seen an increase in sexual violence by gangs with the UN political mission in Haiti documenting 364 incidents of sexual violence involving 378 survivors just from March to April.

CIA criticises Russia-Trump probe of 2016

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Washington

A declassified CIA memo released Wednesday challenges the work intelligence agencies did to conclude that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election because it wanted Republican Donald Trump to win. The memo was written on the orders of CIA Director John Ratcliffe, a Trump loyalist who spoke out against the Russia investigation as a member of Congress.

It finds fault with a 2017 intelligence assessment that concluded the Russian government, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin, waged a covert influence campaign to help Trump win.

It does not address that multiple investigations since then, including from the Republican-led Senate Intelligence Committee in 2020, reached the same conclusion about Russia's influence and motives.

The eight-page document is part of an ongoing effort by Trump and close allies who now lead key government agencies to revisit the history of a long-concluded Russia investigation, which resulted in criminal indictments and shadowed most of his first term but also produced unresolved grievances and contributed to

CIA Director John Ratcliffe departs a classified briefing for senators at the Capitol on Capitol Hill in Washington AP

the Republican president's deep-rooted suspicions of the intelligence community. The report is also the latest effort by Ratcliffe to challenge the decision-making and actions of intelligence agencies during the course of the Russia investigation.

A vocal Trump supporter in Congress who aggressively questioned former special counsel Robert Mueller during his 2019 testimony on Russian election interference, Ratcliffe later used his position as director of national intelligence to declassify Russian intelligence alleging damaging information about Democrats during the 2016 election even as he acknowledged that it might not be true. The new, "lessons-learned" review ordered by Ratcliffe last month was meant to examine the tradecraft that went into the intelligence community's 2017 assessment on Russian interference and to scrutinise in particular the conclusion that Putin "aspired" to help Trump win.

The report cited several "anomalies" that the authors wrote could have affected that conclusion, including a rushed timeline and a reliance on unconfirmed information, such as Democratic-funded opposition research about Trump's ties to Russia compiled by a former British spy, Christopher Steele.

The report takes particular aim at the inclusion of a two-page summary of the Steele dossier, which included salacious and uncorroborated rumours about Trump's ties to Russia, in the intelligence community assessment.

It said that decision "implicitly elevated unsubstantiated claims to the status of credible supporting evidence, compromising the analytical integrity of the judgment."

But even as Ratcliffe faulted top intelligence officials for a "politically charged environment that triggered an atypical analytic process," his agency's report does not directly contradict any previous intelligence.

Russia's support for Trump has been outlined in a number of intelligence reports and the conclusions of the Senate Intelligence Committee, then chaired by Sen.

Marco Rubio, who now serves as Trump's secretary of state. It also was backed by Mueller, who in his report said that Russia interfered on Trump's behalf and that the campaign welcomed the aid even if there was insufficient evidence to establish a criminal conspiracy.

"This report doesn't change any of the underlying evidence - in fact it doesn't even address any of that evidence," said Brian Taylor, a Russia expert who directs the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs at Syracuse University.

Taylor suggested the report may have been intended to reinforce Trump's claims that investigations into his ties to Russia are part of a Democratic hoax.

Sean Diddy' Combs gets bail denied

ASSOCIATED PRESS
New York

Sean "Diddy" Combs dropped to his knees and prayed in the courtroom after he was acquitted of sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put one of hip-hop's celebrated figures behind bars for life. The rapper was convicted of lesser prostitution-related offenses and denied bail as he awaits sentencing.

His lawyer Marc Agnifilo called the verdict on Wednesday a "great victory" and said the jury "got the situation right - or certainly right enough" as he stood outside Manhattan federal court at a stand of microphones. "Today is a victory of all victories." The mixed verdict capped a sordid legal odyssey that shattered Combs' affable "Puff Daddy" image and derailed his career as a Grammy-winning artist and music executive, fashion entrepreneur, brand ambassador and reality TV star.

"I'll see you when I get out," Combs told family members including his mother and children just before leaving the courtroom to return to jail. "We're going to get through this."

Combs stands convicted of two counts of a crime - transportation to engage in prostitution - that carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. But jurors cleared him of three charges, two of which carried a mandatory 15 years and a maximum of life.

He was convicted of flying people around the country, including his girlfriends and male sex workers, to engage in sexual encounters, a felony violation of the federal Mann Act.

Combs' lawyers said that under federal sentencing guidelines, he would likely face about two years in prison. Prosecutors, citing Combs' violence and other factors, said the guidelines would call for at least four to five years. Locked up since his September arrest, Combs has already served nine months.

"We fight on and we're going to win," Agnifilo said. "And we're not going to stop until he walks out of prison a free man to his family."

In a triumph for Combs, the jury of eight men and four women acquitted him of racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges related to allegations that he used his money, power and frightening physical force to manipulate girlfriends into hundreds of drug-fuelled sex marathons with men.

1847 document shows US Baptists' anti-slavery stance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Groton

Jennifer Cromack was combing through the American Baptist archive when she uncovered a slim box among some 18th and 19th century journals. Opening it, she found a scroll in pristine condition.

A closer look revealed the 5-foot-long (1.5-metre-long) document was a handwritten declaration titled "A Resolution and Protest Against Slavery", signed by 116 New England ministers in Boston and adopted March 2, 1847.

Until its discovery in May at the archives in Groton, Massachusetts, American Baptist officials worried the anti-slavery document had been lost forever after fruitless searches at Harvard and Brown universities and other locations. A copy was last seen in a 1902 history book.

"I was just amazed and excited," Cromack, a retired teacher who volunteers at the archive, said. "We made a find that really says something to the people of the state and the people in the country. ... It speaks of their commitment to keeping people safe and out of situations that they should not be in."

The document offers a glimpse into an emerging debate over slavery in the 18th century in the Northeast. The document was signed 14 years before the start of the Civil War as a growing number of religious leaders were starting to speak out against slavery.

It was signed two years after the issue of slavery prompted southern Baptists to split from northern Baptists and form the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination. The split in 1845 followed a ruling by the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society prohibiting slave owners from becoming missionaries. The northern Baptists eventually became American Baptist Churches USA.

"It comes from such a critical era in American history, you know, right prior to the Civil War," said Rev. Mary Day Hamel, the executive minister of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts.

"It was a unique moment in history when Baptists in Massachusetts stepped up and took a strong position and stood for justice in the shaping of this country," she said.

"That's become part of our heritage to this day, to be people who stand for justice, for American Baptists to embrace diversity."

Deborah Bingham Van Broekhoven, the executive director emerita of the American Baptist Historical Society, said many Americans at the time, especially in the North, were "undecided" about slavery and weren't sure how to respond or were worried about speaking out.

"They thought it was a southern problem, and they had no business getting involved in what they saw as the state's rights," Van Broekhoven said. "Most Baptists, prior to this, would have refrained from this kind of protest. This is a very good example of them going out on a limb and trying to be diplomatic."

The document shows ministers had hoped "some reformatory movement" led by those involved in slavery would make their action "unnecessary", but that they felt compelled to act after they "witnessed with painful surprise, a growing disposition to justify, extend and perpetuate their iniquitous system".

"Under these circumstances we can no longer be silent," the document states. "We owe something to the oppressed as well as to the oppressor, and justice demands the fulfilment of that obligation. Truth and Humanity and Public Virtue, have claims upon us which we cannot dishonour."

The document explains why the ministers "disapprove and abhor the system of American slavery".

"With such a system we can have no sympathy," the document states. "After a careful observation of its character and effects and making every deduction with the largest charity can require, we are constrained to regard it as an outrage upon the rights and happiness of our fellow men, for which there is no valid justification or apology."

Rev. Diane Badger, the administrator of the American Baptist Church of Massachusetts who oversees the archive, teamed up with Rev. John Odams of the First Baptist Church in Boston to identify what she called the "Holy Grail" of abolitionist-era Baptist documents. Her great-grandfather was an American Baptist minister.

Since its discovery, Badger has put all the ministers' names on a spreadsheet along with the names of the churches where they served. Among them was Nathaniel Colver, of Tremont Temple in Boston, one of the first integrated churches in the country, now known as Tremont Temple Baptist Church. Another was Baron Stow, who belonged to the state's anti-slavery society.

Badger also is working to estimate the value of the document, which is intact with no stains or damage, and is making plans to ensure it is protected.

Three European mountaineers paraglide in PoK peak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Islamabad

Three European mountaineers accomplished a daring feat by paragliding off and skiing down the formidable Nanga Parbat peak in Gilgit-Baltistan of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, a media report said on Thursday.

German mountaineer David Göttler paraglided off the Nanga Parbat, while the French duo of Tiphaine Duperier and Boris Langenstein etched themselves into the history books by skiing down the peak, Dawn News reported.

The CEO of Adventure Tours Pakistan, Naiknaam Karim, said the three foreign climbers began their summit attempt on Nanga Parbat,

which is at 8,126 metres in height, via the Schell route.

The trio climbed from the approximately 3,600-metre-high base camp via the difficult Rupal Face between June 21 and 24.

Göttler, 47, had planned to descend from the top by paraglider. However, upon reaching the summit, strong winds forced him to launch his paraglider from 7,700 metres instead.

Göttler flew back to the base camp on June 24 while the other two climbers skied back on June 27.

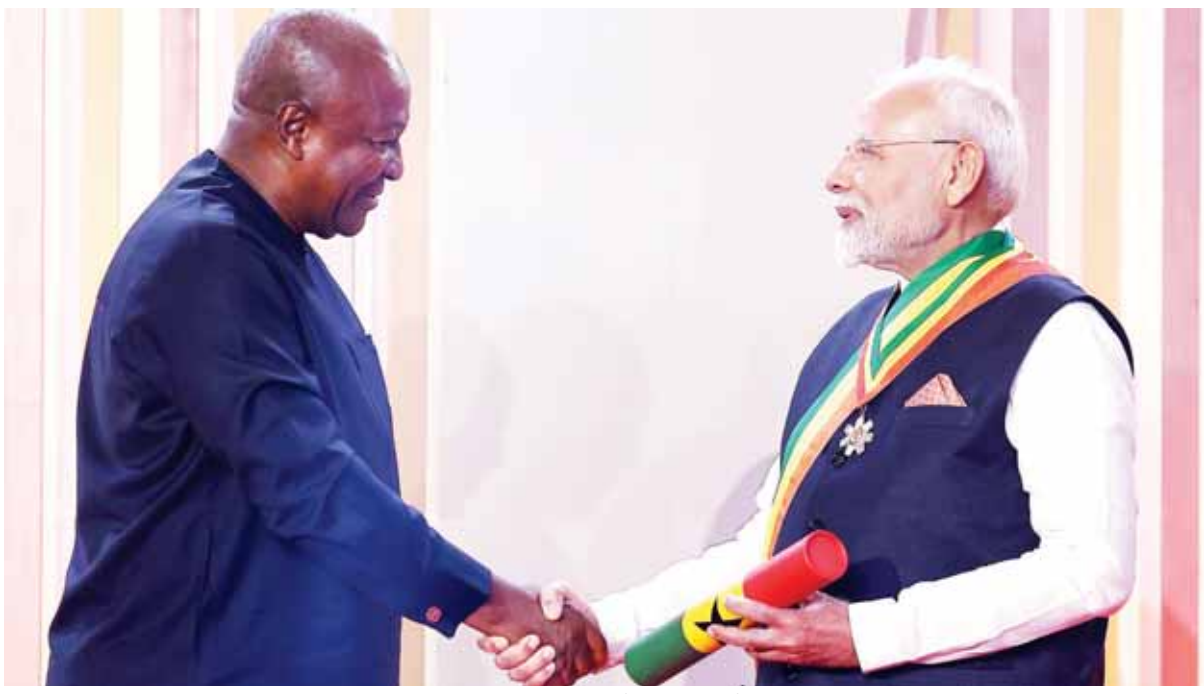
Michael Beek, a German tour operator, mountain guide, and paragliding instructor, congratulated Göttler in a Facebook post, writing that Göttler had made a historic first.

"Summiting Nanga Parbat in alpine style with Tiphaine Duperier and Boris Langenstein was incredible, but to be able to fly down from 7,700m all the way back to base camp on the same day has brought my joy to the next level," he said.

It is being considered as the first ski descent from the Rupal Face and the summit of Nanga Parbat, the report said.

Gilgit-Baltistan is considered a mountaineers' paradise as five out of its total 14 peaks rise above 8,000 meters. K2, Nanga Parbat, Gasherbrum I, Broad Peak, and Gasherbrum II are five of its highest peaks. K2 is the world's second-highest mountain after Mount Everest.

PM gets Ghana's top honour



PM Narendra Modi being conferred with the Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana by the Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama in Accra PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Accra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Wednesday conferred with 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana', the country's national honour, for his "distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership".

Modi received the award from the Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama.

"Honoured to be conferred with 'The Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana,'" the prime minister said in an X post. In his acceptance speech, Modi said the award was a matter of great pride and honour for him. "I humbly accept the award on behalf of the 140 crore Indians," he said, dedicating it to the aspirations and bright future of the youth of India, its cultural traditions and diversity, and the historical ties between Ghana and India. The award was conferred on the prime minister in recognition of his "distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a press release.

Thanking the people and government of Ghana for the special gesture, the prime minister noted that the "shared democratic values and traditions of the two countries would continue to nurture the partnership".

He said the award "further deepens the friendship between the two countries and places new responsibility on him to embrace and advance bilateral ties." Modi asserted his confidence that his "historic" state visit to Ghana would impart a new momentum to India-Ghana ties, according to the MEA.

94 Palestinians killed in Gaza

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Tel Aviv

Airstrikes and shootings killed 94 Palestinians in Gaza overnight, including 45 who were attempting to get much-needed humanitarian aid, hospitals and the Health Ministry said on Thursday. Israel's military did not immediately comment on the strikes.

Five people were killed while outside sites associated with the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, the newly-created, secretive American organisation backed by Israel to feed the Gaza Strip's population, while 40 others were killed waiting for aid in other locations across the Gaza Strip.

Dozens of people were killed in airstrikes that pounded the Strip Wednesday night and Thursday morning, including 15 people killed in strikes that hit tents in the sprawling Muwasi zone, where many displaced Palestinians are sheltering.

A separate strike on a school in Gaza City sheltering displaced people also killed 15 people. Gaza's Health Ministry said the number of Palestinians killed in Gaza has passed 57,000, including 223 missing people who have been declared dead, since the war began on October 7, 2023.

The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its death count but says that more than half of the dead are women and children.

The deaths come as Israel and Hamas inch closer to a possible ceasefire that would end the 21-month war.

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION,
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Building Section)
E-Tender Notice 2025-2026

Tel.no (0240) 2333536-40
Fax .no. (0240) 2331213

Address:Municipal Corporation, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
Executive Engineer (Building Section)
Head Office: Town Hall Pin 431001
E-Tender Call CSMC (For Help) Cell no. 9922509697
Out .no./CSMC/EE/Bldg./125/2025
Date:03/07/2025

Tender Notice

Sr. no	Name of Work	Tender Amount Rs.	Last Date of Tender Submission
1	Development of Working Women's Hostel at kancvhanwadi Gut No.8 Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Tender ID-2025_AMCA_1195871_1	16,94,41,542/-	07/07/2025
2	Development of Working Women's Hostel at Chikalthana weekly market Gut NO.410 Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Tender ID-2025_AMCA_1195888 1	16,94,41,542/-	07/07/2025
3	Development of Working Women's Hostel at Kotla Colony CTS NO.17367 Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Tender ID-2025_AMCA_1195903_1	16,94,41,542/-	07/07/2025
4	Development of Working Women's Hostel at 7 Hill Cidco Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. Tender ID-2025_AMCA_1195912_1	16,94,41,542/-	07/07/2025
	Note :Details of the above stated work is available on web site www.mahatenders.gov.in		

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Building Section)
Municipal Corporation Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Vipul Aggarwal is the owner of Entire Second Floor & Third Floor with roof rights, (the said floor) of property No.67, area measuring 48 sq. mtrs, in Pocket-12, Sector-20, Rohini, Delhi "the said property", by virtue of Sale deed dated 01.05.2024, Registration No. 17724, executed by Mrs. Ritu, has lost/misplaced Original Sale Deed dated 27.01.2005 registration No. 2935 and Original Sale Deed dated 20.02.2009 registration No. 1314, with respect of the above said floor. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the above missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carrying out any transaction, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, 2nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar New Delhi-15 legal@knalegal.com Ph: 011-41112527-28

STATE BANK OF INDIA,
Home Loan Centre (15653) A-5, Pearls Best Heights -I, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi- 110034

Appendix-IV UNDER [RULE - 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **State Bank of India,** Home Loan Centre (15653), A-5, Pearls Heights-1, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034, under the securitization and reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 23/12/2024 calling upon the **Borrowers:- MRS. RAKHI GUPTA, MR. MUKESH KUMAR GUPTA & MR. SAMARTH GUPTA,** all residents of H. No.A-2/390, Block A, Pocket 2, Sector 8, Rohini, Near Ganesh MRI Centre, Delhi-110085, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.32,82,839.46 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Nine and Forty Six Paisa Only)** as on 23/12/2024, with further interest, incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower, above said, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this **1st Day of July, 2025.**

The Borrower above said in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of **State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre (15653), A-5, Pearls Heights-1, Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 for an amount of Rs.32,82,839.46 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Nine and Forty Six Paisa Only)** as on 23/12/2024, together with further interest thereon at the contractual rate of interest till the date of payment & expenses thereon.

The Borrower 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.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Property owned by: Mrs. Rakhi Gupta, Mr. Mukesh Kumar Gupta and Mr. Samarth Gupta (Borrowers)

(PROPERTY DESCRIPTION)

DDA Flat No.133 C, 2nd Floor, Block UU, Pitampura, Delhi-110034.

Date: 01.07.2025 Place: DELHI Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

MORE SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Railways have decided to run of following additional **Summer Special Trains** as per schedule given below:-

Train No. 05317/05318 Chhapra Jn.-Anand Vihar T. -Chhapra Jn. Unreserved Special Train — 04 TRIPS

Train No. 05317 ARR.	Train No. 05317 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 05318 ARR.	Train No. 05318 DEP.
----	19:45	Chhapra Jn.	10:00	--
12:30	----	Anand Vihar T.	----	15:00

Days of Run : 05317 Ex Chhapra Jn. on 05.07.2025 & 12.07.2025 **and 05318 Ex Anand Vihar T.** on 06.07.2025 & 13.07.2025.
Stoppages : Siwan Jn, Deoria Sadar, Gorakhpur Jn, Basti, Gonda Jn, Sitapur, Shahjahanpur, Bareilly Jn & Moradabad Jn. stations
Accommodation: General

Extension of Train No. 05062/05061 Tanakpur-Mathura Jn. Tanakpur Special Express Train upto Achhnera Jn. — 40 TRIPS

Train No. 05062 ARR.	Train No. 05062 DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 05061 ARR.	Train No. 05061 DEP.
----	04:35	Tanakpur	23:35	--
06:55	06:57	Bareilly Jn.	20:35	20:37
12:30	----	Achhnera Jn.	----	15:50

Days of Run : 05062 Ex Tanakpur and 05061 Ex Achhnera Jn. upto 31.07.2025 (5 days a week Except Wednesday & Sunday)
Stoppages : Khatima, Pilibhit Jn, Bhojipura Jn, Izzatnagar, Bareilly City, Bareilly Jn, Badaun, Ujhani, Soron, Kasganj Jn, Sikandra Rao, Hathras City, Mathura Cantt & Mathura Jn. stations
Rest of all information will hold good.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

Please join us on

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Your Convenience-Our Concern
Visit us at: www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in
2010/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

कार्यालय वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (वि0), विद्युत खण्ड-द्वितीय
उ0प्र0 राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्रशासनिक भवन, सेक्टर बी-3, ट्रांस दिल्ली सिग्नेचर सिटी, लोनी, गाजियाबाद

शुद्धिपत्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 13.06.2025 को समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित निविदा (कार्य का नाम Design, fabrication, supply and installation of flage type service QR code signage board at different IA. UPSIDA Ghaziabad (IA. Sikandra A, Sikandra B, Sikandra C, Mathura site A, Mathura site B, EPIP Agra, Foundary Nagar, Kosi Kotwan, Kosi Kalan.) से सम्बन्धित निविदा मुहरबंद आमंत्रित की गयी है, जो दिनांक 13.06.2025 से दिनांक 03.07.2025 तक खण्डीय कार्यालय से प्राप्त की जानी थी एवं दिनांक 04.07.2025 को खोली जानी है, अपरिहार्य कारणों से अब उक्त आमंत्रित मुहरबंध निविदा दिनांक 11.07.2025 की सायं 6:00 बजे तक निविदा प्रपत्र अपलोड किए जाने हेतु विस्तारित किया जाता है, जिन्हें दिनांक 14.07.2025 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। शेष नियम व शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी हेतु श्री प्रवेश गिरी, प्रब-धक (वि0), दूरभाष नं0 9927030700 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते है।

वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक, उ0प्र0रा0औ0वि0प्रा0, गाजियाबाद

कार्यालय वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक, विद्युत खण्ड-द्वितीय
उ0प्र0 राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
टीडीएस सिटी, गाजियाबाद। E-Mail- ed2@upsida.co.in

ई-निविदा सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के विभिन्न जनपदों में स्थित औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में विद्युत विकास/अनुरक्षण कार्य हेतु सरकारी विभागों/सार्वजनिक उपकमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणो/परिषदों/नगर निकायों में पंजीकृत फर्मों/ठेकेदारों से अल्पकालीन ई-निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	जमा की जाने वाली धनराशि (लाख में)
1.	Providing LED street light newtork along with 03 years AMC at IA. Sector 22 Meerut Road, Ghaziabad.	72.81
2.	Supply and Installation of decorative pole 120 watt along with 01 years AMC at IA. Site 4 Sahibabad Ghaziabad.	80.68
3.	Shifting of 11 KV at 33/11 KV Sub Station No. 1 Bulandshahar Road Ghaziabad.	64.95
4.	Providing LED street light network along with 03 year AMC at IA. Udyog Kunj Ghaziabad.	84.40

निविदा दिनांक 04.07.2025 को 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 11.07.2025 को 17:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिसे दिनांक 14.07.2025 को 11:00 बजे या इसके पश्चात् खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा अपलोड शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियों निविदा खोलने के बाद 03 कार्य दिवस में पंजीकृत डाक/व्यक्तिगत रुप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है।

नोटः 1. निविदादाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर सहित दरें अंकित करें, अलग से मात्र जी0एस0टी0 देय होगा। 2. विद्युत कार्यों हेतु निविदादाताओं को निविदा अपलोड करते समय "विद्युत सुरक्षा विभाग" उ0प्र0 शासन, लखनऊ में 'क' श्रेणी, अनुमोदित लाइसेन्स एवं Eligibility Criteria के अनुसार समस्त प्रपत्र अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा, अन्यथा निविदा को Consider नहीं किया जायेगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी website: www.onlineupsida.com पर स्थापित लिंक यूपीएलसी की website: https://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अधिक जानकारी हेतु श्री प्रवेश गिरी, प्रबन्धक (वि0), दूरभाष नं0 9927030700 पर सम्पर्क कर सकते है।

वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक, उ0प्र0रा0औ0वि0प्रा0, गाजियाबाद

verka
Har Din Da, Har Dil Da

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

Notice Inviting e-Tender www.verka.coop

Sr. No.	Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative Qty
1.	For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Dairy whitener Plastic Jars	Annual/ 450 gm: 150 cases x 24 packs 01kg:150 cases x 12 packs

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.

1018/12/2025-26/829 General Manager (Purchase)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Lal Singh S/o Late Mr. Bhagwat Dayal is the owner of Property Bearing No. C-77, Built on Plot No. 77, land area Measuring 47 Sq. Yds., out of Killa No. 11, Mu. No. 10, situated in the area of Village Matiala, Colony Known as Mansa, Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59., by virtue of Regd. GPA dated 12.11.2009, as Doc. No. 10497, ATS & Regd. Will dated 12.11.2009, as Doc. No. 8257, executed by Mrs. Basmati Devi is intending to sell the same to intending borrower, and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Company Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. **Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate**
SG Associates (Law Firm)
FF 18, Lotus Pond Plaza,Vaibhav Khand,Indirapuram,Ghaziabad U.P.
E-mail: sgassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph: 8130309204, 01204440300

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that **Mrs. Munni Devi** was the owner of Property no. 4245-46, ward no. XIII, area measuring 118 sq. yds., situated at Gali Bahuji, Pahari Dhiraj, Delhi-110006 through Sale Deed dated 24.04.1968 as doc. No. 2668 executed by Mr. Kanwal Kishor. She executed Will dated 30.09.2004 in favour of Mr. Vinod Kumar in respect of Said Property. Unfortunately, Mrs. Munni Devi expired. Other Legal heirs of Munni Devi are Jai Bhagwan, Mrs. Rani, & Mrs. Madhubala relinquished their shares in favour of Mr. Vinod Kumar vide Relinquishment Deed dated 28.04.2015 as Doc no. 3424 in respect of said property.
Mr. Vinod Kumar is in the process of mortgaging the said Unit with **SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd.** Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 14 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 14-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client.
If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 14-days period by contacting **Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120- 4499711, e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for General Public at hereby that my client Rahi Chand S/o Kalyan R/o H.No-1743, Gali No 9, L-1 Block, Church Colony, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi, due to misdemeanour, misbehaviour by my sons are namely Rajesh Singh S/o Rahi Chand with his wife and children & Rakesh Kumar S/o Rahi Chand with his children disown and severed all relations of my client. My client further disowned and debarred them from his property bearing no/ address is H.No- 1743,Gali No 9, L-1 Block, Church Colony, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi and other all his moveable and immoveable properties with the immediate effect from today onwards (03/06/2025). Anybody dealing with above named persons shall do so at their own risk and costs, my client shall not responsible in any manner whatsoever.
Deepak Kumar (Advocate)
Ch No 244, Patiala House Court, New Delhi 110001, Mobile No- 8750626668

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. 27/2025-2026 Dated: 02/07/2025
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi - 110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items :-

S.No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	08255313	SUPPLY, TRANSPORTATION OF MULTI SECTION	480 NOS	24-07-25
02	02250004	HIGH VOLTAGE FUSE (WITHOUT HOLDER)	4325 NOS	28-07-25
03	02251299	MEASURING MONITORING RELAY (HT MMR)	1644 NOS	28-07-25
04	09252141	ROTARY BOTTOM OPERATED ARTICULATED	13736 NOS	02-09-25
05	19250563	OIL COOLING RADIATOR	24 NOS	08-09-25

Note : 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. **2001/2025**

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NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. **230-TRS-GZB-2024-25-29-RT**. The details are as under:-

1	**Name of the work**	'Changing of Transformer of WAP5/WAP7 locomotives' for the period of 12 months at Electric Loco Shed Ghaziabad.
2	**Approx. Cost of Work**	Rs. 48,82,250.00
3	**Earnest Money to be Deposited**	Rs. 97,700.00
4	**Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender bid of Tender**	31.07.2025 (11:00 Hrs.)
5	**Date & Time of Opening of Tender Document**	31.07.2025 (After 11:00 Hrs.)
6	**Website particulars where complete details of Tender Documents can be seen**	www.ireps.gov.in

Note: (i) The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for participating in e-tender system. **(ii)** For all terms and conditions, please refer tender document. **(iii)** No manual offers are acceptable. **(iv)** Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No.: 230-TRS-GZB-2024-25-29-RT Dated: 02.07.2025 2005/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

पशु आहार निर्माण शाला, रूद्रपुर
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)
किछा बाईपास रोड, रूद्रपुर (उधम सिंह नगर) फोन नः 05944–242552
ई–मेलः aanchalcattlefeed@gmail.com Website: www.ucdfaanchal.org

पत्रांक : 1261–66/निविदा सूचना/2025–26 दिनांक: 03/07/2025

UCDF-E-Tender Notice No.: 10(1-10) /UCDF/2025-26, Date-03.07.2025

Following E-tenders are invited by the undersigned, from experienced, reputed and financially sound Manufacturers/Firms/Authorized Dealers for the following works so as to reach office Of Uttarakhand Co-Operative Dairy Fedration Mangalparao Haldwani on or before **19.07.2025 up to 5.00 PM,** which will be opened on **21.07.2025 at 11.00 AM** in UCDF Mangalparao Haldwani.

S.N.	Name of work
1.	S.I.T& C of Slat conveyor, Batch Chain conveyor, in take Chain conveyor, Distribution conveyor, Grinding Hooper, Batch Mixture, Hammer Mill and Paddle Conveyor, Pallet Mill with Twin Rotor Conditioner and Feeder, High Molasis Mixture, off Line cream separator screw air compressor with air dryer and receiver vertical milk storage tank.

On line tender - E-Tender documents may be seen and downloaded /uploaded from E-tender portal **http://www.uktenders.gov.in** **Managing Director UCDF**

OFFICE OF THE NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD HATTA -DIST DAMOH
(Fifth Call)
Notice Inviting e-Tenders

NIT No. 605 Dated: 03-07-2025

Online lumpsum bids for the following works under "sbm (u) - 2.0" (estimated on uadd issr (w.e.f - 02.08.2021) are invited from registered contractors and firms of repute fulfilling eligibility criteria

Tender	ID Scope of the work	Probable amount of contract (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (In Rs)	Cost of Bid Document (In Rs)	Time of Completion including rainy season
2025_UAD_434765_1	1. Design and build sewage treatment plant of installed capacity 3.60 MLD and all appurtenant structures and allied works; 2. Survey, review the designs, redesign where necessary, and diversion works of Nallahs with interception sewer of about 1.10 Km length including survey, design, construction of 2 No. of Pumping stations and all appurtenant structures and allied works; and 3. Operation & maintenance of the complete works of sewage treatment plant, Intercepting sewer and/or interception & diversion works of Nallahs and pumping stations for a period of 05 years after completion of works, including defect liability period (DLP) of 5 year, starting from the date of commission of the project	690.75	345375/-	20000/-	12 months

1. Interested Bidder can view the NIT on website **www.mptenders.gov.in** and **www.mpurban.gov.in**
2. The Bid Document can be purchased only Online **from 10:30 Hrs** of **03-07-2025** to **17:30 Hrs.** of **19-07-2025**
3. Amendment to NIT, if any, would be published on web site only, and not in Newspaper.
4. GST shall be payable extra as per Govt. rules.

CHIEF MUNICIPAL OFFICER
NAGAR PALIKA PARISHAD HATTA
DIST DAMOH

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL TO UNDERTAKE DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TWO STAGE QUALITY CUM COST BASED SELECTION (QCBS) FOR PROVIDING HEMODIALYSIS SERVICES UNDER PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (PPP) IN HARYANA STATE	02.07.2025 22.07.2025	Rs. 2,40,00,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com
2	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF RADIOLOGY IMAGING DIAGNOSTIC CENTERS FOR CT AND MRI SCAN SERVICES IN SELECTED CIVIL HOSPITALS OF HARYANA ON PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP BASIS	01.07.2025 21.07.2025	Rs. 86,00,00,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com
3	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 2 YEARS RATE CONTRACT OF PURE TONE AUDIOMETER AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT.	02.07.2025 22.07.2025	Rs. 1,44,00,000/-	www.hmscl.org.in	8929299829 equipmentdgm2020@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 36199-I-27-7

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences
Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236

E-tender are invited for the procurements of following items upto 18-07-25

1) Replacement of car door set, linding, door with panel, header and skill, ARD with batteries for 2 nos. Lifts make ECE 8 person at BFUHS,FDK 2) Comprehensive maintenance contract (CMC) for 1.5 ton window & 1.5 ton & 2 ton split Air Conditioner for Faridkot site under BFUHS,FDK Aproximate 750 No) 3) Construction of Building to set up Medical Gases and laundry plant at TCCC, Fazilka 4)Construction of Additional Block for University College of Nursing, FDK. 5) Construction of Pharmacy Block Building in Hospital Complex in GGSMH, FDK.6) Special Repair of Radiation Oncology Department(Cancer Department) of GGSMH, FDK.

E-tender are invited for the procurements of following items upto 25-07-25

1) Construction of 50 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant in Advance Cancer Institute Bathinda, under BFUHS, FDK. 2) Construction of 20 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant in State Institute of nursing & Para Medical Science, Badal under BFUHS, FDK. 3) Contraction of 100 KLD Treatment Plant in TCCC, Fazilka under BFUHS,4) Construction of 100 KLD Sewage Treatment Plant in TCCC, Fazilka under BFUHS, Faridkot.5) Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of 60x3=180 ton scroll Chiller AC Plant (Blue Star Make) installed at Modular OT (Super Specialty Block) at GGSMCH, FDK.6) Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of 100x3=300 ton flooded Chiller AC Plant (Blue Star Make) installed at MCH Block at GGSMCH, FDK.7) Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of 170x3=510 ton Chiller AC Plant (Daikin make) installed at Advance cancer Institute, Bathinda under BFUHS. 8)Special Repair of Ortho Ward in GGSMH, FDK.9) Supply & Installation of Main LT Panel, Main Cable from main sub-station to Ramp Panel in Main OT at GGSMH, FDK.

Note:- Tender Document can be downloaded from **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in** and **www.bfuhs.ac.in**

Registrar

3108/12/2025-26/809 Dated CHD :- 03/07/2025

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Priority Sector Department, East Delhi Regional Office, Ph. : 011-23448773

APPOINTMENT OF FINANCIAL LITERACY COUNSELLORS ON CONTRACT BASIS

Bank of Baroda, a Government of India Enterprise, invites Online/Offline application from interested candidate who are an ex-banker(Officer Cadre) with minimum 5 years of experience in any Nationalised Bank/RRB/Pvt. Bank or Business correspondent/BC Coordinator with minimum 5 years of experience or Ex RSETI Director with minimum 3 years of experience/Faculty with minimum 5 years of experience or persons having minimum 5 years experience in banking/with related fields, NBFCs/FIs etc and age at the time of application should not exceed 64 years, for appointment as Financial Literacy Counsellor on contract basis at the Shahdara, (Shahdara District) center in Delhi State.

For full details visit our Bank's website: www.bankofbaroda.in

Last Date of application received at our office: 15.07.2025

Date : 03.07.2025 Regional Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client **Sh. Anuj Aggarwal owner of the SECOND FLOOR WITH ROOF, PROPERTY NO.C-29,AREA 75SQ.YDS. KHASRA NO.372,SANJAY ENCLAVE,UTTAM NAGAR and Sh. Anuj Aggarwal Purchase property from Sh. Shankar Sharma vide notarized GPA, ATS and Will dated 14.01.2025, Now Sh. Anuj Aggarwal wants sell aforesaid property.** And it is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 15 days of this publication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION
Ch. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75
Mobile :- 9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENTIRE BUILT-UP PROPERTY BEARING NO. 23-C PART OF OLD PLOT NO. 372), PART OF KHASRA NO. 64, ACHARYA NIKETAN, MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-1, IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE KOTLA, ILLAQA SHAHDARA, DELHI-110091.

That my Client Mr. Vinod Kumar Jajodia and Mr. Kapil Kumar Singhal jointly propose to purchase the above property from Mrs. Neena Kumari Garga W/o Shri Ashok Kumar Garga, who has assured our clients that she is absolute owner in possession of the said property vide Gift Deed, duly registered as Registration No. 6482, in Addl. Book No. 1, Volume No. 10747, on pages 17 to 27, on dated 12/07/2023, in the office of Sub-Registrar-VIII, New Delhi/Delhi and she has acquired the above mentioned Property as Donee from her husband Mr. Ashok Kumar Garga S/o Shri Shukdeva Krishan Garga alias Sukhdev Krishan Garga, who has acquired the Said Property, vide Registered will of Shri Devinder Kumar Aggarwal S/o Shri Ramji Dass Aggarwal had died on 21/05/2021 and his Last Will/Testament is duly registered as Registration No. 3575, in Addl. Book No. 3, Volume No. 291, on page No. 49, on dated 05/10/1984, in the office of Sub-Registrar-III, Delhi.

Under the circumstances, notice is hereby given to the General Public, Bank/Financial institutions or other person/s, organization/s, company/ies, government authority/ies, having any claim, rights, title, or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the above mentioned property, is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 15 days of the publication of this notice and in the event no response having been received to the notice, the title of Mrs. Neena Kumari Garga W/o Shri Ashok Kumar Garga to the above mentioned property shall be deemed to be clear of any claim, charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client in any manner whatsoever.

Advocate Udyan Vats
Office No. 1, Building No. 10
Near Ahlcon International School
Patpar Ganj Village,
Delhi-110091
9711597050

Date: 03.07.2025

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kishan, Father of- No. 15755457A Signalman Udham Singh R/o- Vill- Selothi, Teh & Dist- Palwal, Haryana- 121102, have changed my name from Kishan to Kishan Chand, vide affidavit dated 03/07/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(2386)C

I, Deepa W/o- Ravi Kumar Tanwar R/o- WZ- 1420, Second Floor, Left Side, Nangal Raya, South West Delhi, Delhi - 110046, declare that Vedansh Tanwar (DOB 20/08/2012) is my son, in his Birth Certificate & Hospital Records, my name (Child's Mother Name) is erroneously mentioned as Deepa Tanwar whereas my correct name is Deepa.
PD(2387)C

I, Pravat Kumar Ghorai F/o- No.14877581A Hav/Skt Satyajit Ghorai R/o- Vill- Joshibar, PO- Itaberia, Teh- Contai, Dist- Purba Medinipur, W.B.- 721456, have changed my name from Pravat Kumar Ghorai to Prabhat Ghorai vide affidavit dated 03/07/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(2388)C

I, Nilanjana Shee Ghorai W/o No.14877581A Hav/Skt Satyajit Ghorai R/o- Vill- Joshibar, PO- Itaberia, Teh- Contai, Dist- Purba Medinipur, W.B.- 721456, have changed my name from Nilanjana Shee Ghorai to Nilanjana Shee, vide affidavit dated 03/07/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(2389)C

The Pioneer
DEHRADUN | FRIDAY | JULY 4, 2025

India, Ghana look to boost ties in defence, food security

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Accra

India and Ghana have elevated their ties to the level of comprehensive partnership, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama resolving to expand the bilateral ties in a range of areas, including defence, food security and pharmaceuticals.

In his media statement shortly after the talks with Mahama on Wednesday, Prime Minister Modi said both sides have set a target of doubling the two-way trade in the next five years and that India is not just a partner but a co-traveller in Ghana's development journey.

The delegation-level meeting between the two leaders took place hours after Modi arrived in this capital city of the West African country on the first leg of his five-nation tour.

In a special gesture, the Prime Minister was received at the airport by President Mahama and was accorded a ceremonial welcome. It is the first prime ministerial visit from India to Ghana in three decades.

In their talks, the two leaders resolved to accelerate cooperation in key areas such as defence cooperation, food security and pharmaceuticals, especially vaccines.

Following the Modi-Mahama talks, the two sides inked four pacts that will provide for cooperation in several areas, including culture and traditional medicine.

"Today, the president and I have decided to elevate our bilateral partnership to a comprehensive partnership," Modi said, adding, "India is not just a partner but a co-traveller in Ghana's journey of nation-building."

"In agriculture, it will be our pleasure to lend support towards President Mahama's 'Feed Ghana' programme," Modi said.

"We've discussed cooperation in vaccine production," he noted.

Mahama said Ghana is keen to sign formal agreements with India on defence cooperation, vaccine production and supply of agricultural machinery. "Both countries will work to deepen economic and investment relations at a time that Ghana is undergoing economic restructuring due to the debt treatments we are undergoing in the IMF programme," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with the President of Ghana John Dramani Mahama in Ghana PTI

Prime Minister Modi said both sides were unanimous that terrorism is the enemy of humanity and that it was decided to further strengthen mutual cooperation in countering the menace.

"We are unanimous that terrorism is the enemy of humanity. We thank Ghana for its cooperation in our fight against terrorism," he said.

"In this context, we have decided to further strengthen mutual cooperation in counter-terrorism," he said.

In the field of defence and security, we will move forward with the mantra of "security through solidarity", he added.

India-Ghana cooperation will be enhanced in areas such as training of armed forces, maritime security, defence supply and cyber security, he added.

The prime minister also highlighted the upswing in trade relations between the two countries.

"Indian companies have invested nearly two billion dollars in about 900 projects. Today, we have set a target to double our mutual trade in the next five years," he said.

"In the field of FinTech, India is ready to share its experience of UPI digital payments with Ghana," he noted.

The prime minister also said that Indian companies will cooperate in the exploration and mining of critical minerals.

At a media briefing, Secretary (Economic Relations) in the External Affairs Ministry Dammu Ravi said President Mahama pitched for cooperation in the areas of agriculture, food security, pharmaceuticals, vaccines and defence.

"President Mahama is very clearly interested in creating Ghana a hub for vaccines, and some development has already taken place in collaboration with the Global Vaccine Alliance and in that context," Ravi said.

The senior diplomat said Ghana is also interested in boosting defence cooperation with India.

"Here again there are concerns for Ghana in terms of security, terrorism from the northern region, the Sahel region and the piracy in the seas are of concern," he said.

In his remarks, the prime minister said both sides expressed serious concerns over the conflicts in West Asia and Europe and called for finding solutions to the problems through dialogue and diplomacy.

"This is not the era of war; problems should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy," Modi said.

The two leaders also touched upon issues facing the Global South.

"We are both members of the Global South, and are fully committed to its priorities. We thank Ghana for its positive participation in the Voice of Global South Summit," Modi said.

"It is a matter of pride for India that the African Union got permanent membership of the G20 under our G20 presidency," he added.

The bilateral relations between India and Ghana, one of the fastest-growing economies in West Africa, are marked by a robust trade and investment partnership.

India is among the top trading partners of Ghana and is the largest destination for Ghanaian exports, driven largely by India's import of gold.

India-US FTA to leave tricky sectors for later: CII president Rajiv Memani

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Newly appointed CII President Rajiv Memani on Thursday underlined the need for a "balanced and reasonable" free trade agreement (FTA) between India and the US in the initial phase, saying the tricky areas having political ramifications could be tackled at a later date.

India is negotiating an FTA with the United States, and a team of commerce ministry officials is currently in Washington trying to secure an early agreement ahead of the July 9 deadline set by President Donald Trump for imposition of higher tariffs.

Industry lobby CII is expecting a "balanced, reasonable FTA which will be done in tranches... Those areas which are more tricky, which require more consultation, have greater political ramifications, maybe dealt with later on," said Memani, who took over as CII President recently.

India is reluctant to open access to sensitive agriculture and dairy sectors to the US industry, as opening the farm sector could jeopardise the interest of farmers. Also, India does not want to open the dairy sector because of religious sensitivities.

"I do know that the level of preparation that the Ministry of Commerce has done, and the engagement that they have had with industry, the engagement

Rajiv Memani addressing a press conference after taking over as the President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) FILE PHOTO

that they have had with various industries, in Ministry of Agriculture has been very limited... And I feel very confident that the challenges that Indian industry, and particularly some sectors mentioned, agriculture... Those will be adequately addressed.

"Also from an industry standpoint, there are issues and concerns that have been raised, in all these things you will not always have 100 per cent winners...," the CII President said.

On reports of Foxconn Technology Group asking Chinese engineers and technicians to return home from its iPhone plant in India, the CII President, in an apparent reference to China, said that "when a Quad meeting is happening, there is some action that we see from some countries, and there are (certain) messages in a way".

The four-nation Quad grouping includes India, US, Australia, and Japan.

Responding to another question on China restricting exports of rare earth magnets and its impact on India's auto sector, as well as other sectors like electronics, the CII sector said it was a "big concern" for the auto sector and there was a need to look at areas where India has "critical supply chain dependencies", including active pharmaceutical ingredients.

India is heavily reliant on China for APIs, the raw materials for drug manufacturing.

"In auto, I would say a concern is more serious than what's come out till now. In fact, some of the most conservative companies are already starting to give some guidance on lowering their production levels going forward," Memani said.

Services sector growth touches 10-month high: PMI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

The Indian services sector growth touched a ten-month high in June aided by robust expansion in international sales and job creation, amid positive demand trends and ongoing improvement in sales, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 58.8 in May to 60.4 in June, driven by sharp upturn in new business orders.

In the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below 50 denotes contraction.

"The Services PMI business activity index was up to a ten-month high, led by a sharp rise in new domestic orders. New export orders also expanded, albeit at a softer pace. Margins improved, as the rise in input costs was below that seen for output charges," Pranjul Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, said.

New orders expanded at the quickest rate since August 2024. Services companies benefited most from the continued strength of the domestic market, alongside a marked increase in new export business. Overseas demand particularly improved from the Asian, Middle Eastern and US markets, according to panel members.

Services companies benefited most from the strength of the domestic market, alongside a marked increase in exports

The ongoing expansion of the Indian service sector had a positive impact on recruitment. Employment rose for the 37th consecutive month in June, with the rate of job growth outpacing its long-run average despite slowing from May's record.

On the price front, the survey said, cost pressures were most intense in the consumer services category, while the fastest upturn in output charges was noted in the finance and insurance segment. As per the survey, optimism regarding the outlook for output levels in one year time was sustained, with 18 per cent of service providers forecasting growth. This proportion of upbeat firms was, however, the lowest since mid-2022. Hence, the overall level of confidence fell and was below its long-run average.

"Service providers remained optimistic about future growth, though their confidence faded a tad," Bhandari added. Meanwhile, the HSBC India Composite PMI Output Index rose from 59.3 in May to 61 in June, indicating the fastest rate of expansion in 14 months.

Composite PMI indices are weighted averages of comparable manufacturing and services PMI indices. Weights reflect the relative size of the manufacturing and service sectors according to official GDP data.

Banga family sells 2.1% stake in Nykaa for ₹1,213 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Harindarpal Singh Banga and his wife Indra Banga on Thursday divested a 2.1 per cent stake in FSN E-Commerce Ventures, the parent company of fashion and beauty retailer Nykaa, through bulk deals worth ₹1,213 crore.

Following the stake sale, shares of Nykaa declined by 4 per cent to ₹203.50 apiece on the BSE, and by 3.82 per cent to ₹203.50 per piece on the NSE.

Harindarpal Singh is a commodities billionaire and Chairman and CEO of Hong Kong-based Caravel Group. Banga was an early investor in Nykaa, which went public in 2021.

As per the deal, up to 6 crore equity shares of FSN were sold at a final price of ₹202.25 per share. This represents a discount of about 4.4 per cent to FSN's closing price of ₹211.59 on NSE on Wednesday.

Goldman Sachs (India) Securities and J P Morgan India were the brokers for the deal.

The transaction comprises a sale of approximately 6 crore shares amounting to around 2.1 per cent stake in FSN.

At the final price, the total deal size is estimated at ₹1,213.5 crore ($141.9 million), which is executed in one or more bulk deals on the BSE and NSE. The offer is entirely secondary in nature.

After the latest transaction, Harindarpal's holding in Nykaa has come down to 2.87 per cent from 4.97 per cent.

Last month, FSN said it has set a break-even target of FY26 for its cash-burning fashion arm on account of marketing efficiencies, overhead leverage, and own-brand growth.

Nykaa is also making a foray into the quick-commerce arena with "Nykaa Now", which offers delivery time of 30 to 120 minutes across seven major cities. The service is backed by a network of beauty warehouses, physical retail stores and rapid stores across the country.

The fashion vertical, which generated about ₹3,800 crore in GMV (Gross Merchandise Value), is currently a drag on consolidated profitability, posting a EBITDA margin of (-) 8.3 per cent for FY25. In May, Nykaa reported over threefold increase in consolidated net profit to ₹20.28 crore for the March quarter.

The fashion and beauty retailer had logged a profit (attributable to equity shareholders of the parent) of ₹6.93 crore in the year-ago period, according to a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations was 23.6 per cent higher at ₹2,061.76 crore during the quarter, against ₹1,667.98 crore a year earlier.

However, seen sequentially, profit and revenue fell 22.3 per cent and 9 per cent, respectively.

In 2024-25, profit more than doubled to ₹66.08 crore, from ₹32.26 crore in the previous fiscal year. Revenue from operations stood at ₹7,949.82 crore, 24.4 per cent higher than ₹6,385.62 crore in FY24.

In FY25, Nykaa saw its cumulative customer base grow 28 per cent year-on-year to over 42 million.

In August last year, Harindarpal Singh Banga divested over 4 crore shares, or 1.43 per cent stake, in Nykaa for Rs 851.50 crore.

Rupee rises 31 paise to close at 85.31 against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The rupee pared initial losses and jumped 31 paise to close at 85.31 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday, following a weak greenback against major crosses overseas and a decline in US treasury yields.

Forex traders said the dollar declined on weaker-than-expected ADP Non-Farm Employment data from the US.

A decline in global crude oil prices also supported the local unit, they added.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the domestic unit opened at 85.69 against the American currency and touched an intra-day high of 85.19 and a low of 85.70 during the session.

The local unit finally settled at 85.31 (provisional), 31 paise higher than its previous closing price.

On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated 3 paise to close at 85.62 against the US dollar.

"The Indian rupee rose sharply on Friday on a weak US Dollar and a decline in US treasury yields. A decline in crude oil prices also favoured the rupee. However, weak domestic markets capped sharp gains," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.05 per cent to 96.82.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.05 per cent to 96.82.

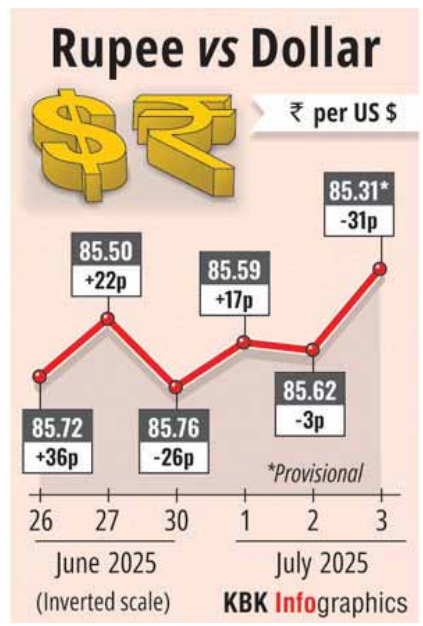
Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell by 1.01 per cent to $68.41 per barrel in futures trade.

"We expect the rupee to strengthen on a weak US Dollar and rise in risk appetite in global markets. Overall, a weak tone in crude oil may also support the domestic currency. However, uncertainty over trade tariffs may cap sharp gains," Choudhary said.

Going ahead, traders may take cues from the Non-Farm payrolls report from the US. "$/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 84.90 to 85.60," Choudhary said.

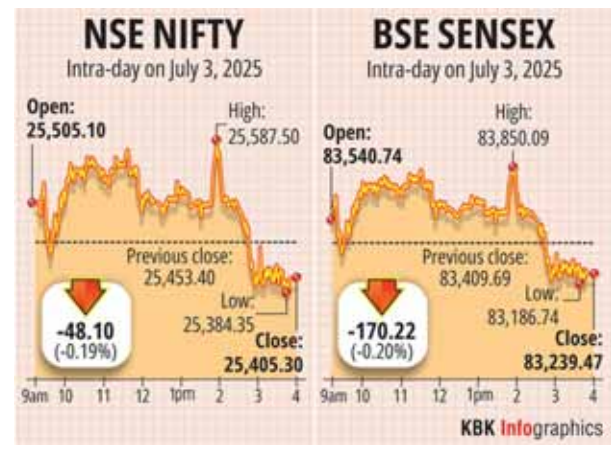
Meanwhile, in the domestic equity market, the Sensex declined 170.22 points or 0.20 per cent to 83,239.47, while Nifty fell 48.10 points or 0.19 per cent to 25,405.30.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹1,561.62 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data.



Stock markets decline on fag-end selling; financial stocks drag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Mumbai



Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty pared intra-day gains to close lower on Thursday due to last-hour selling in financial and metal shares.

The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped by 170.22 points or 0.20 per cent to settle at 83,239.47. The index opened higher and rose further by 440.4 points or 0.52 per cent to hit a high of 83,850.09. However, profit taking emerged in the last hour of trade dragging the barometer to a low of 83,186.74 in the pre-close session.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined by 48.10 points or 0.19 per cent to 25,405.30.

Among the Sensex firms, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Adani Ports, Trent, State Bank of India, Titan and Tata Consultancy Services were the laggards.

However, Maruti, Infosys, NTPC, Asian Paints, Eternal and Hindustan Unilever were among the biggest gainers.

"Markets traded volatile on the weekly expiry day and ended marginally lower, continuing the ongoing consolidation phase," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd said.

Sector-wise, the trend remained mixed — auto and pharma posted gains, while metal and realty were among the top losers, he added. The broader indices also mirrored this movement and closed on a flat note.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.47 per cent while midcap index dipped 0.06 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, services dropped the most by 1.08 per cent, followed by metal (0.77 per cent), realty (0.61 per cent), telecommunication (0.55 per cent), utilities (0.48 per cent) and bankex (0.48 per cent).

Healthcare, consumer discretionary, auto, consumer durables and oil & gas were the gainers.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said that investors remain watchful of developments surrounding the potential US-India trade agreement, with the 90-day pause nearing its end. FIIs have turned cautious in the recent days due to premium valuation.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index and Shanghai's SSE Composite index settled higher while Hong Kong's Hang Seng ended lower.

European markets were trading on a mixed note. The US markets ended mostly higher on Wednesday.

The Indian services sector growth touched a ten-month high in June aided by robust expansion in international sales and job creation, amid positive demand trends and ongoing improvement in sales, a monthly survey said on Thursday.

The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 58.8 in May to 60.4 in June, driven by sharp upturn in new business orders.

ONGC signs pact with Japan's Mitsui for ethane carriers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed an agreement with Japan's Mitsui OSK Lines to enter into a partnership to build two very large ethane carriers that will be used to import petrochemical feedstock for its subsidiary.

In a regulatory filing, ONGC said it signed a Heads of Agreement on Thursday with Mitsui "to enter into a partnership to build, own and operate two very large ethane carriers (VLECs).

It, however, did not give financial details of the partnership, including the equity stake the two firms would hold.

"The VLECs shall be shipping imported ethane to ONGC Petro Additions Limited (OPaL), a subsidiary of ONGC, for captive use as feedstock," the filing said. "This arrangement is subject to Board approval and further details shall be shared after signing of the partnership agreement.

ONGC plans to import ethane starting in mid-2028 to compensate for the altered composition of LNG from Qatar

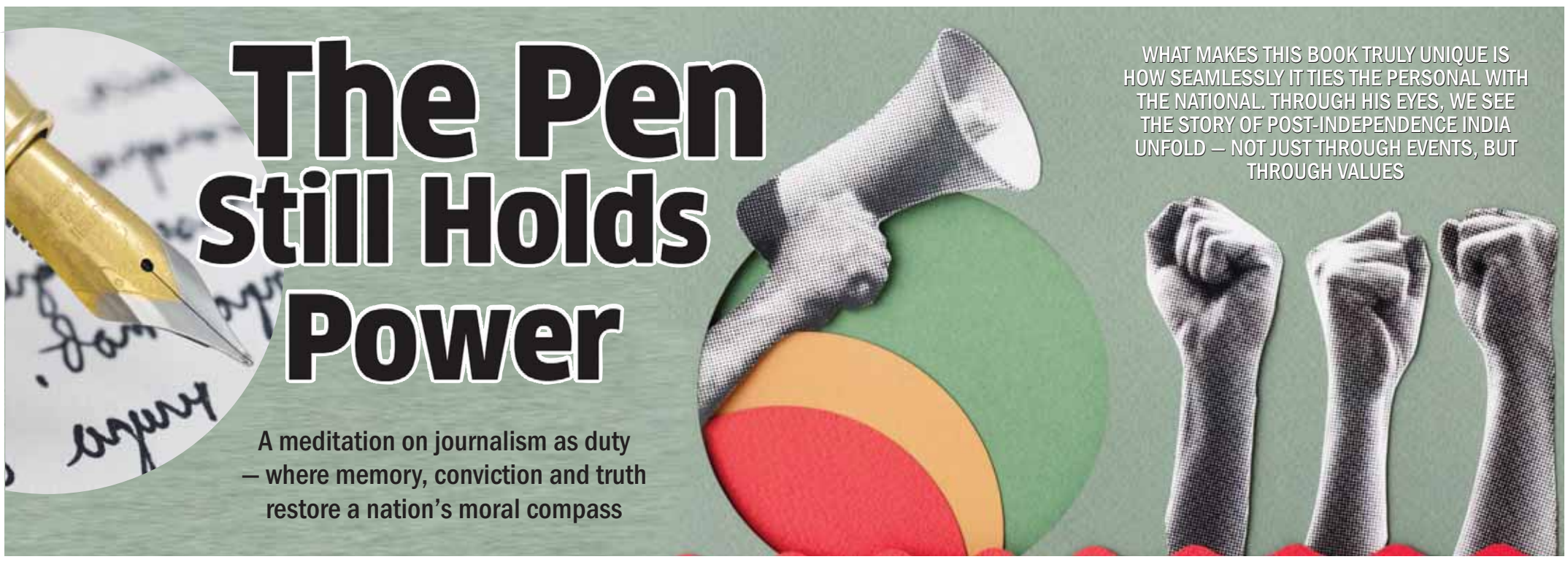
ONGC plans to import ethane starting in mid-2028 to compensate for the altered composition of liquefied natural gas (LNG) sourced from Qatar, according to a tender that the state-owned firm floated in March this year for selecting a partner for building the VLECs.

India imports 7.5 million tonnes per annum of LNG from Qatar. Under the deal, QatarEnergy supplies 5 million tonnes a year of LNG that contains methane (used to produce electricity, make fertiliser, converted into CNG or used as cooking fuel) as well as ethane and propane — feedstock to make LPG and petrochemicals — on a firm basis and the rest on best endeavour basis.

This contract is coming to an end in 2028 and the revised contract signed last year envisages QatarEnergy supplying 'lean' gas (one that is stripped of ethane and propane).

ONGC had spent about ₹1,500 crore in setting up a C2 (ethane) and C3 (propane) extraction plant at Dahej in Gujarat. The C2/C3 so extracted was used as a feedstock in its petrochemical subsidiary, OPaL.

With the changed composition of LNG, the company is now looking at importing ethane.



The Pen Still Holds Power

A meditation on journalism as duty — where memory, conviction and truth restore a nation's moral compass

WHAT MAKES THIS BOOK TRULY UNIQUE IS HOW SEAMLESSLY IT TIES THE PERSONAL WITH THE NATIONAL. THROUGH HIS EYES, WE SEE THE STORY OF POST-INDEPENDENCE INDIA UNFOLD — NOT JUST THROUGH EVENTS, BUT THROUGH VALUES

BY ANIL GOEL

In times where journalism is being commodified and polarised beyond recognition, *Ink, Saffron and Freedom* is a powerful reminder of what journalism once was — and what it still can be. It is a reminder that truth is not a trending topic; it is a lifelong commitment. It gives me great pleasure — and an even greater sense of pride — to celebrate the life and words of my senior colleague and editor, Kedar Nath Gupta ji. I have known Kedar ji for many decades. We've shared more than just a profession — we've shared a purpose. We've walked the same lanes of New Delhi, chased the same stories in Delhi's corridors of power, and together watched this country find its voice, sometimes painfully, sometimes triumphantly.

Reading *Ink, Saffron and Freedom* is like walking down memory lane, but it's much more than that. It is a testimony to a life lived with integrity, courage, and relentless commitment to the nation. Kedar ji's voice — firm but never flamboyant — has always carried weight, not because it sought the limelight, but because it reflected.

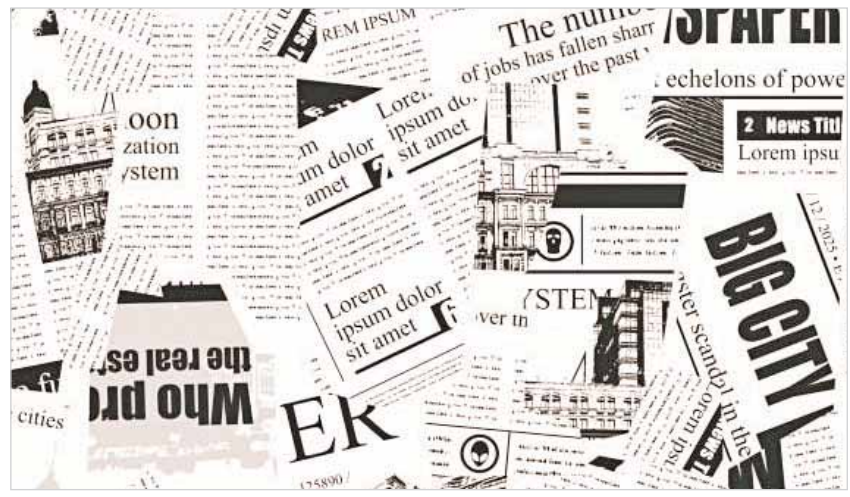
This book bears the same stamp. We both come from a generation of journalists who saw the newsroom not as a career platform, but as a battlefield — where facts were weapons and words were responsibility. And it is no surprise to me that Kedar ji has chosen to document this journey in a manner that is fearless, unfiltered, and deeply rooted in service to our motherland, Bharat. I remember the early days when we would often meet in the offices of *Hindusthan Samachar* and *The Times of India*. Gupta ji always brought with him the same meticulous energy and clarity of thought that he has brought to every aspect of his life.

He was instrumental not just in crafting narratives, but in upholding the dignity of the newsroom. But our connection wasn't just personal — it was political in the best sense of the word. Kedar ji has always stood for a brand of journalism that upholds the sovereignty of India, questions power with integrity, and never allows anti-India forces to hijack the narrative. This book is a continuation of that legacy. Kedar ji very aptly warns about the increasing influence of foreign consultancies and interests, which seem to be increasingly embedded in policy decisions; his warning against the creeping influence of global corporations is not just timely — it is essential, particularly in the present era of the increasing importance of Information Technology and data security. What makes this book truly unique is how seamlessly it ties the personal with the national. Through his eyes, we see the story of post-Independence India unfold — not just through events, but through values. His lifelong association with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is presented not as dogma, but as a deeply philosophical commitment to the idea of nationhood, discipline, and cultural self-confidence.

ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Ink, Saffron & Freedom
Author: Kedar Nath Gupta
Publisher: Prabhat Prakashan
Price: ₹800/-

The author's reflections on the present leadership are particularly significant. He acknowledges the historical mandate given to Prime Minister Modi but also calls for introspection. Has this mandate translated into a true cultural and civilisational revival? Or does it need a revisit amid the noise of electoral victories and policy compromises? These are hard questions, but they are asked from a place of love — not bitterness. His call to Hindus to unite, to rise above petty divisions, and to reclaim the civilisational soul of this country is urgent — especially in light of the tragic events in Pahalgam recently, where innocent Hindu pilgrims were targeted in an act of terror. Kedar ji's life — and this book — are both reminders that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. We cannot afford to be bystanders anymore — not in journalism, not in society, and certainly not in matters of national integrity. The book was released recently at a crowded, houseful gathering at the Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi by RSS Sah-Sarkaryavah Dr Krishna Gopal ji and ANI Chairman Shri Prem Prakash ji. The launch function was attended by about 800 people, including celebrities from all walks of life. Being an author myself, I know how difficult it is to write with honesty. It requires not just facts, but reflection. Not just memory, but meaning. Kedar ji has done that with grace. This book is a "love letter to Delhi", but also a call to arms for young journalists. To those just beginning their journey in media, I urge you to read this book not as nostalgia, but as instruction. It will teach you that the role of a journalist is not merely to inform, but to elevate public discourse.



"WE CAME FROM A TIME WHEN NEWSROOMS WERE BATTLEFIELDS — FACTS WERE WEAPONS, WORDS WERE DUTY. IT'S NO SURPRISE KEDAR JI CHOSE TO DOCUMENT THIS JOURNEY WITH FEARLESS HONESTY AND DEEP SERVICE TO BHARAT"

To question, yes — but also to uphold. In times when journalism is being commodified and polarised beyond recognition, this book is a powerful reminder of what it once was — and what it still can be. It is a reminder that truth is not a trending topic; it is a lifelong commitment. To the author, I would like to say a big thank you. Thank you for making the effort at the age of 94 to tell your story. Thank you for reminding us of ours. And thank you for proving that no matter how many years pass, the pen still holds power — when it is wielded with courage, clarity, and conviction. Ink, Saffron and Freedom is not just a book. It is an offering. A piece of national memory. A call to conscience. Let us accept it with the seriousness it deserves — and pass it on to generations who must now carry this story forward! It is a rare privilege to witness a senior and worthy colleague — a father figure to many of us — encapsulate a lifetime of experiences into a memoir. Kedar Nath Gupta ji's *Ink, Saffron and Freedom* is such a work — a reflection of his unwavering dedication to journalism and India's progress. Our paths crossed decades ago when I was 19 and a new entrant to journalism, sharing stories, challenges, and a vision for a free and robust press. I must say that the author's narratives in this book — from the tumultuous post-Independence era to the present day — offer readers a front-row seat to India's evolving political and social landscape. His commitment to ethical journalism and national service resonates deeply with me. As a journalist and author myself, I understand the weight of responsibility journalists bear in shaping public discourse. Gupta ji's memoir is a testament to that responsibility carried with honour.

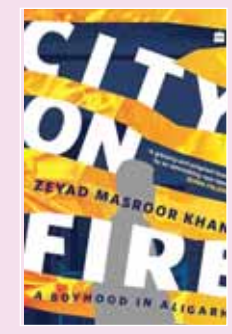
I would also like to thank Manoranjana, a senior journalist and media entrepreneur, for editing the book. She has done a remarkable job. I invite all lovers of Indian journalism and history to read this book.

- The writer is a Senior Journalist & Author. Views are Personal

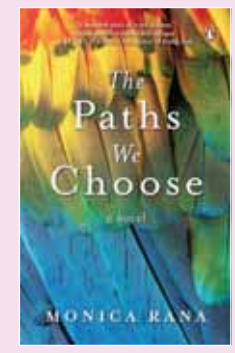
PHILOSOPHY IN PRACTICE

What makes Ink, Saffron and Freedom truly unique is how seamlessly it ties the personal with the national. Through his eyes, we see the story of post-Independence India unfold — not just through events, but through values. His lifelong association with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is presented not as dogma, but as a deeply philosophical commitment to the idea of nationhood, discipline, and cultural self-confidence.

JULY READS

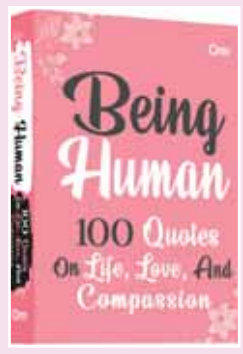


Book: City on Fire
Author: Zeyad Masroor Khan
Publisher: HarperCollins
Price: ₹499



Book: The Path We Choose
Author: Monica Rana
Publisher: India Penguin
Price: ₹499

Book: The StartUp Sprit
Author: Shreeram Iyer, Sridhar Seshadri
Publisher: Rupa
Price: ₹295



Book: Being Human **(OBI)**
Publisher: Om
Price: ₹295

BOOK REVIEW

IS TSUNDOKU A SIGN OF QUIET HOPE ?

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

Bookstores remain one of the few retail spaces where people consistently buy more than they consume. In an age of digital minimalism and Marie Kondo–led purging, it's curious, comforting, even — that readers continue to acquire books they may not read for months, or perhaps ever.

The phenomenon is so common in Japan it has its own word: *tsundoku* — the practice of buying books and letting them pile up unread. But if this habit were just about accumulation, it would not carry such emotional weight. Unread books are not failed intentions. They are quiet declarations of hope. Every unread book on a shelf is a placeholder for a future version of the self, someone who finally has time, who returns from the noise of daily life to sit still and read.

A book on political theory bought during an election season, a novel purchased during heartbreak, a travel memoir unopened during lockdown, each is connected not just to an intellectual desire but to an emotional moment. Publishing data reflects this tendency. According to *NPD BookScan*, a data provider for publishing industry, the US book market saw record-breaking sales in 2021, even as surveys showed that overall reading time declined slightly. For many readers, shelves of unopened books form a quiet autobiography, markers of who we were, what we believed in.

We may forget the details of a particular season, but we recall the paperback impulsively bought in a foreign city, the novel acquired during a time of loss, or the collection of essays chosen in a moment of quiet searching. These volumes, still untouched, speak not of neglect but of a staying desire to engage more deeply with ourselves and the world. Occasionally, we return to one of them, not by plan but by instinct, only to discover its contents align perfectly with our present state of mind. The resonance feels less like coincidence than quiet orchestration.

These unread books carry a quiet conviction — that there will be time, that attention can be recovered, and that the version of ourselves able to fully receive them is still within reach. Buying books is a quiet way of affirming we haven't given up on ourselves, even when daily life gets the better of us. And sometimes, unexpectedly, we open one and find it is exactly what we needed.

Uniting Mind, Body, Spirit Through Pranic Intelligence

Reviving the art of conscious breath, this yogic science bridges ancient insight and modern wellbeing through mindful transformation

BY TEAM VIVA

Datta Kriya Yoga is more than a system of exercises — it is a profound spiritual technology developed for the modern world. At its heart lies the ancient truth: life is measured not in years but in breaths. The slower and deeper one breathes, the longer and more consciously one lives. This principle, known to ancient yogis for millennia, now finds scientific backing, and it is this very insight that forms the cornerstone of Datta Kriya Yoga. Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji, the living torchbearer of the Dattatreya tradition, has revived and refined this sacred science for today's humanity. Through decades of experiential wisdom and divine guidance, Sri Swamiji has created a comprehensive yet simple practice that brings balance to our fragmented lives. This system, called Datta Kriya Yoga, has now received official recognition as a certified 'Yoga Training Centre' by the Yoga Certification Board under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India — a testament to its authenticity, effectiveness, and global relevance.

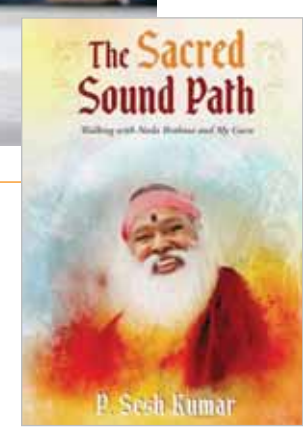
INNER PEACE PRACTICE

Over the years, Sri Swamiji has conducted workshops, retreats, and training sessions across continents, bringing this gift to schools, corporate offices, medical institutions, and spiritual gatherings. Whether in India or abroad, the message remains the same: breath is life, and conscious breath is divine life. With Datta Kriya Yoga, breath bridges suffering and serenity, chaos and clarity, wholeness.

The practice itself is deeply rooted in the breath. Pranayama — the art of conscious breathing — takes centre stage. Practitioners are taught to regulate inhalation, exhalation, and breath retention with awareness and precision. Each pranayama session is followed by a specific kriya — a subtle energy movement that purifies the mind and settles the nervous system. Mudras — yogic gestures — are used to redirect pranic energy to various parts of the body, enhancing immunity, digestion, circulation, and even emotional well-being. These techniques, when practised consistently, cleanse the nadis (energy channels), awaken dormant energy, and slowly guide the practitioner to a deeper awareness of the self.

The brilliance of Datta Kriya Yoga lies in its accessibility. It is designed to suit people from all walks of life, regardless of age, fitness level, or background. Whether one is a busy professional, a student, or a retiree, the methods can be adapted to any schedule and physical condition. It is non-sectarian, inclusive, and respects all spiritual paths, functioning as a universal bridge that connects body, mind, and spirit. What distinguishes this system even more is its deeply personal lineage. Sri Swamiji's understanding of Kundalini and pranic energy is not merely theoretical — it is a living, breathing realisation inherited from his own Guru and mother, Sri Jayalakshmi Mata. A master of Sri Vidya and Raja Yoga, she was the force behind his spiritual awakening, transferring her energy to him through Shaktipat.

This descent of energy shaped Sri Swamiji's yogic journey and allowed him to design a method that merges the subtle with the practical. This is followed by asanas (postures) to tone the muscles and open the body, and then pranayama to bring the breath into a conscious rhythm. Mudras are introduced to fine-tune the pranic flow. The practice culminates in dhyana — meditation — where the inner silence deepens, and the seeker meets the still centre within. The benefits are wide-ranging and profound. Physical strength and flexibility improve, chronic ailments like blood pressure and diabetes stabilise, and stress levels drop.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: The Sacred Sound Path
Author: P Sesh Kumar
Publisher: The Browser
Price: ₹599/-

At a subtler level, the mind becomes clearer, the focus sharpens, and the will strengthens. Most importantly, there is a growing inner joy — unshaken by circumstances and radiant from within. In a world overrun by anxiety, disconnection, and imbalance, Datta Kriya Yoga offers not just a remedy but a revolution — one breath at a time. Datta Kriya Yoga is not just about personal well-being — it is a call to unity in diversity. For those who seek not just health but wholeness, not just peace but purpose, Datta Kriya Yoga is a sacred answer drawn from the breath of the Divine.

IN EVERY BREATH, EVERY MOVEMENT OF DATTA KRIYA YOGA, ONE CAN SENSE THE PLAY OF HER DIVINE INSPIRATION AND SRI SWAMIJI'S BOUNDLESS COMPASSION. IT BEGINS WITH NADI SHUDDHI VYAYAMA — SUBTLE YOGIC MOVEMENTS TO PREPARE THE BODY AND CLEAR THE ENERGY PATHWAYS

The Pioneer
DEHRADUN | FRIDAY | JULY 4, 2025

Gill's strategy traits of world class player, says Trott

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai

India captain Shubman Gill's clearly thought-out strategy and body language on the opening day of the second Test against England are traits of a world-class player with a bright future, says former cricketer Jonathan Trott. Gill stood tall with a second consecutive ton in the five-Test series, reaching 114 not out (216 balls, 12 fours) at stumps to take India to a sturdy 310/5 on the opening day of the second Test in Birmingham.

The former England batter and incumbent Afghanistan coach heaped praise on the Indian skipper, who held the innings together on a tricky opening day wherein England threatened to cause more damage than they did.

"What also stood out was his body language and the way he scored his runs. His control against the English bowlers sent a message to the dressing room that he was taking charge (and) leading from the front," Trott said in 'JioHotstar'.

"His intent was clear: "I'll be there, I'll be not out, and I'll resume tomorrow. I'll make sure we get into a winning position'. (It was) very impressive from such a young man — a world-class player with a bright future." "Having the confidence to execute a plan that's not necessarily textbook, but gives you an edge over the

India's captain Shubman Gill plays a shot on day two of the second cricket test match between England and India at Edgbaston in Birmingham, England on Thursday PTI

> His control against the English bowlers sent a message to the dressing room that he was taking charge (and) leading from the front
> — JONATHAN TROTT, EX-CRICKETER

opposition, is remarkable. As captain, that has a significant impact not just out in the middle, but also for those watching from the team balcony," he added.

Trott pointed out the difference in Gill's approach while facing England pacers Brydon Carse and Chris Woakes as one of the highlights of his innings.

"Carse has a bit more pace than Chris Woakes, but what's impressive is Gill's understanding of how to counter both," he said.

"He knows Woakes will try to attack the stumps, and without express pace, Gill formulated a plan to handle that — not something he came up with on the day, but a strategy clearly thought out well in advance. This is what separates good players from average ones and world-class players from the rest."

While Gill crossed the triple-figure mark, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal missed his second hundred when he fell for 87 but his performances in England so far have impressed the former batter. "There was a bit of a contrast — some play and misses, but also some exquisite cricket shots. We've spoken about how he tends to chase the ball outside off at times, but when he plays straight, he times the ball so well."

"He doesn't need to over-hit. We've seen him dismantle bowling attacks before, and he's shown he can hit sixes almost at will. But across these three innings in England, he seems to be in much better control."

Trott added, "He has developed a game plan; he knows where and when to score. England will try to challenge that with tricky field placements, testing his patience and ego. But overall, (he is) very impressive. He is a fantastic player for India."

U19 ODI: Vaibhav Suryavanshi helps India beat England

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Northampton

Teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi continued his rich vein of form by smashing a record nine sixes as India defeated England by four wickets in the rain-truncated third U19 Youth ODI to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series here. The 14-year-old Suryavanshi, who had come close to striking half-centuries in the previous two games before getting dismissed in his 40s, finally made his innings count as he clobbered the home team bowling on way to 86 off just 31 deliveries as India chased England's 268/6 in 34.3 overs on Wednesday.

Suryavanshi's knock was studded with six boundaries and nine maximums.

In fact, nine sixes by Suryavanshi is the highest number of maximums hit by an Indian batter in an U-19 ODI eclipsing the previous record of eight sixes by Mandeep Singh. India suffered a slump in the middle overs with the team reduced to 199 for 6 in the 24th over. But bowling all-rounder Kanishk Chouhan (3/30), who had taken three England wickets earlier, hit an unbeaten 43 (42 balls) and shared an unbroken 75-run stand with RS Ambrish (31 not out) to guide the team to victory.

Suryavanshi ravaged every single bowler that bowled to him and made his intentions clear when he smacked right-arm pacer Sebastian Morgan for two consecutive sixes in the third over.

Morgan came in for some harsh punishment again in his subsequent over when he was hit for two more sixes and a boundary by the 14-year-old batting sensation, who has been on a roll since showing his precocious talent in the IPL for Rajasthan Royals.

England left-arm pacer James Minto bore the brunt of Suryavanshi's fury in the sixth over, going for 23 runs, which included three sixes and a boundary.

Liverpool player Diogo Jota, brother killed in car accident

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Madrid

Liverpool player Diogo Jota and his brother were killed in a car accident in Spain when the Lamborghini they were in veered off a road and burst into flames, police said Thursday.

The Spanish Civil Guard confirmed to The Associated Press that the 28-year-old Jota and his 25-year-old brother, André Silva, were found dead near the northwestern city of Zamora. Police were investigating the causes of the accident that happened past midnight local time. They said there were no other vehicles involved. The bodies were undergoing forensic analysis.

Fire fighters were called in as the fire spread into the nearby vegetation, authorities said.

It wasn't clear who was driving the car. Police were looking into the hypothesis that the accident happened because of a blown tire while they tried to overtake another vehicle.

The accident occurred while they were driving eastward along an isolated stretch of highway about an hour west of

Zamora. Video images of the aftermath published by Spanish media showed braking tire marks veering off the road toward torn-apart guardrails. The burnt-up car was seen several meters ahead, with some of the local vegetation around it destroyed by the fire.

Jota and Silva, both Portuguese players, were the only ones in the car, police said.

Jota's death comes weeks after he married Rute Cardoso and in a social media post wrote, "Yes to forever." They had three children, the youngest born last year. Jota also played for Portugal's national team and helped it win the Nations League last month.

Silva played with Portuguese club Penafiel in the lower divisions. Liverpool said the club was "devastated by the tragic passing."

"Liverpool FC will be making no further comment at this time and request the privacy of Diogo and Andre's family, friends, teammates and club staff is respected as they try to come to terms with an unimaginable loss. We will continue to provide them with our full support." Jota joined Liverpool from Wolves in 2020 and won three major trophies with the Merseyside club — including the Premier League title last season. The Portuguese soccer federation released a statement lamenting the deaths. Federation president Pedro Proença said Portuguese soccer was "completely devastated."

"More than a fantastic player, with almost 50 appearances for the national team, Diogo Jota was an extraordinary person, respected by all his colleagues and opponents. He had a contagious joy and was a reference in his community," Proença said in the statement.

The Portuguese federation said it has requested a minute of silence before Thursday's match between Portugal and Spain at the Women's European Championship being played in Switzerland.

"We lost two champions," Proença said. "Their deaths represent an irreparable loss for Portuguese soccer and we will all do our best to honor their legacy daily."

Portugal's Prime Minister Luís Montenegro commented on the "unexpected and tragic" deaths. He said Jota was "an athlete who greatly honored Portugal's name."

"I extend my deepest condolences to their family," he said. "It is a sad day for soccer and for national and international sports."

Reaction also started pouring in from across the world, including from non-soccer players such as NBA star Lebron James — a minority owner at Liverpool — and tennis legend Rafael Nadal.

"It doesn't make any sense," Jota's Portugal teammate Cristiano Ronaldo said. "Just now we were together in the national team, just now you had gotten married. My condolences to your family, to your wife and to your children. I wish them all the strength in the world. I know that you will always be with them. Rest in peace, Diogo and André. We will all miss you."

Former club Porto and former teammates lamented the deaths and sent condolences, as did other clubs, federations and leagues. The Premier League said it was "shocked and devastated."

Pakistan gets Government nod to be in India for hockey's Asia Cup, Junior World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi

Pakistan's hockey teams will not be stopped from competing in next month's Asia Cup and the subsequent junior World Cup in India as any move to block the arch-foes from multi-lateral competitions in the country would be a violation of the Olympic Charter, a sports ministry source said on Thursday.

While the Asia Cup is scheduled to be held in Rajgir, Bihar from August 27 to September 7, the junior World Cup will be organised in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10.

"We are not against any team competing in India in a multi-national competition. If we try to stop Pakistan it would be seen as a violation of the Olympic Charter. Likewise, we will also show up for any multi-national event that features Pakistan. But bilateral is different and there will be no relaxation on that front," the source said. The ministry's decision also clears the decks for Pakistani participation in the junior World Cup of shooting, scheduled here in September, and the World Para-Athletics Championships, also in the national Capital in September-October.

The Charter is akin to the constitution of the Olympic movement and stresses on sport as a tool for promoting international peace and cooperation. As a result, any attempt to block a rival country from a multi-national event adversely impacts the host country's prospects of getting future hosting rights.

When asked whether this means India will be allowed to play against Pakistan in the Asia Cup of cricket in September, the source said, "The BCCI is yet to reach out to the ministry on this. We will address this query when they approach us." Speculation is rife that India and Pakistan

will play each other in a round robin match during the continental tournament, which is set to be held in the UAE or Sri Lanka even though the original host is India. India and Pakistan have been avoiding bilateral sporting engagements after the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks but even multi-lateral face-offs were in doubt after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists were gunned down in April.

In May, India retaliated with Operation Sindoor, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan, leading to a tense military showdown that de-escalated on Pakistan's request for a ceasefire.

"International sports demands that we cannot back out from competing in multi-national competitions. Take for instance, Russia and Ukraine, they are at war but they show up at multi-national events and compete as well," the source said.

Raúl Jiménez's goal sends Mexico to final

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Santa Clara (USA)

Raúl Jiménez scored in the 50th minute off an assist from 16-year-old Gilberto Mora and Mexico advanced to its 12th CONCACAF Gold Cup final with a 1-0 victory over Honduras on Wednesday night.

El Tri advanced to play the United States in the final Sunday night in Houston for the eighth meeting in the title game between the two countries with Mexico owning a 5-2 edge. Mexico has won nine Gold Cups, the US Seven and Canada one. Mexico broke through early in the second half on a play started by Alexis Vega with a pass to Mora near the top of the box. Mora slid a pass to Jiménez, who beat Edrick Menjívar with a right-footed shot for his 42nd career international goal.

Number 17 ranked Mexico appeared to add to that lead a few minutes later when Edson Álvarez tapped in a goal off a set piece but that was negated when video review ruled he was offside. But El Tri managed

to hold onto that lead as 75th ranked Honduras was unable to generate an equaliser.

Honduras reached this stage for the first time since 2013 despite losing the opener of the tournament 6-0 to Canada. The Hondurans haven't made the final since the inaugural tournament in 1991 when they lost in penalty kicks to the U.S. There were few good chances in the first half with Mexican goalie Luis Malagón making an easy save on Dixon Ramírez's shot from outside the box after not facing any shots on goal the past two games.

El Tri's had two good opportunities late in the half. Johan Vásquez's shot in the box deflected off Honduran defender Denil Maldonado and right into the hands of goalie Menjívar.

Pro-visitor crowd in St Louis like to play in Guatemala: Mauricio

ASSOCIATED PRESS
St Louis (USA)

Mauricio Pochettino got a feel for what the US Men's national team still faces at times during home games: a crowd rooting for the opposition.

"It was like to play in Guatemala," the coach said after his team got two early goals from Diego Luna and hung on for a 2-1 win Wednesday night that advanced the Americans to the CONCACAF Gold Cup final. "That was good for our players because it was an atmosphere that we didn't expect." The US Will play Mexico or Honduras on Sunday in Houston, the Americans' last competitive match before next year's World Cup. A sell out crowd of 22,423 at Energizer Park energized Los Chapines, who outshot the US 20-12 and got an 80th-minute goal from Olger Escobar. "That is football," Pochettino said. "When we say the connection in between the fans and the team, that is the connection that we'd like to see in the World Cup. That connection that makes you fly, because (of) the energy that translates."

US Players are used to some home matches where the support is overwhelmingly for the opponent. "We're a country full of immigrants, so it was kind of expected for tonight," defender Chris Richards said. "It was good for some of the younger guys to kind of experience that tonight, but for us experienced guys, we went through World Cup qualifiers with the exact same stuff, so I think that was a good lesson that the team needed to learn."

An Argentine who played for his nation 20 times, Pochettino comes from a culture where soccer dominates life. "I saw player of the Guatemala crying," he said. "That is the way that we need to feel, and our fans need to feel the same. It's not to come here and to enjoy f the spectacle and if you lose, nothing happens. Yes, it happens a lot. Things happen because you play for your pride, you play for many, many things that I think I cannot tell you tonight. But I think it's good for our players.... I came from Argentina and in Argentina it's not the same win or lose. The consequences are massive."

"The rest of the opponents and the different countries," he added, "you play for survival, you play for food, you play for pride, you play for many things. It's not to go and enjoy and go home and laugh and that's it." Luna has showed the hunger Pochettino wants. The 21-year-old impressed the coach when he continued playing with a broken nose during a January friendly against Costa Rica in which the Americans used a B team after training sessions with mostly Major League Soccer players that some fans nicknamed Camp Cupcake. He's become a regular in the Gold Cup and has three goals in his last two games. "Diego was the example from January, how he is desperate to play for this shirt, for the national team and that is why now he is in the level that he showed," Pochettino said. Striker Patrick Agyemang also has emerged from January camp to gain a starting berth at the Gold Cup, where many regulars are absent. Sometimes you say it's useless, people say it's useless," Pochettino said of the January camp. "It's not useless. I think it's important, important for the national team, important for the team and very important for the country."Luna scored in the fourth and 15th minutes, the first with his left foot and the second with his right. "I loved it. It was awesome, man," he said of the environment.

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

1. Approval under Regulation-86 of CERC (Conduct of Business) Regulations'1999 and CERC (Terms and Conditions of Tariff) Regulations'2019 i) Truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 tariff block and ii) Determination of Transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for Petition-1: for asset: 1x500MVA, 400/220kV ICT (3rd) at 400/220kV Sohawal (PG) Substation under **"1x500MVA, 400/220kV ICT Augmentation (3rd) at Sohawal (PG) under System Strengthening".**
2. The beneficiaries of the above-mentioned Transmission systems are: (a) Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (b) Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (c) Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. (d) Punjab State Electricity Corporation limited (e) Haryana Power Purchase Centre (f) Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Ltd. (g) Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd. (h) BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. (i) BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd. (j) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd. (k) Chandigarh Electricity department (l) Uttaranchal Power Corporation Ltd. (m) North Central Railway (n) New Delhi Municipal council. (o) Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board
3. Tariff details:

a) 2019-24 block — Rs in Lakhs

Asset detail	DOCO	Completion Cost as on 31.03.2024		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Asset-1	08.07.2023	2786.19	AFC approved	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	469.25
			Revised AFC based on truing up	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	487.46

b) 2024-29 Block — Rs in Lakhs

Asset detail	Completion Cost as on 31.03.2029		2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Asset-1	3031.29	AFC	637.38	655.93	673.82	672.12	671.68

4. A copy this notice and of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at **www.powergrid.in.**
5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th, 7th & 8th floor, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Naoroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Place: Gurgaon
Date: 03.07.2025
Sd/-
Sr. General Manager (Regulatory Cell)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Corp. Office: Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurugram -122 001 (Haryana) Tel.: 0124-2571700-719
Reg. Office: B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110 016 Tel : 011-26560112, 26560121
www.powergrid.in CIN : L40101DL1989GOI038121
A Maharatna PSU

PG/CC/Notice-24/Advt-28/2025-26 Concept