



Health dept gears up for possible monsoon spike in dengue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Anticipating further dengue surge with the onset of monsoon, the Health department has directed Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) and health volunteers to remain on high alert. This year, dengue cases have been reported earlier than usual, starting in April. A total of 102 cases have been reported in Dehradun district



with some patients hailing from other states and districts.

The additional chief medical officer, Dehradun, Dr C S Rawat stated that it was difficult for them to predict

how things will shape in the monsoon. "While dengue cases have been reported earlier this year, the situation is not yet that alarming. The experts anticipated that this year might see a peak in the number of the vector-borne cases. But till now things are not grave," he said.

Dr Rawat further noted that many positive cases of dengue have been detected

when individuals visited hospitals for other ailments and were found dengue positive during routine tests. "Interestingly, most of these patients did not come to the hospital specifically

for dengue testing," he added.

According to Dr Rawat, if there is continuous rainfall in the upcoming days, the chances of dengue surge will be minimal. "However, if the rainfall is intermittent, a sharp spike in dengue cases is likely," he noted.

The health department is currently conducting combative activities with 100 volunteers in Dehradun and 40 in Rishikesh while 551 ASHAs have been conducting surveys and awareness activities across Dehradun district. Further, these teams have been instructed to stay on alert mode for the remainder of June and the whole of July. Fogging activities are being carried out by the teams and the civic body of Dehradun alike regularly. The department said that they are redoubling their current dengue prevention activities across the district, leaving nothing to chance with the monsoon approaching. "I urge the residents to be vigilant and follow essential precau-

tions. They should under no circumstances allow water to accumulate in their surroundings," Dr Rawat said.

Further, queried on the possible dengue spike in monsoon, the former medical superintendent at Deen Dayal Upadhyay District Hospital, Dr V S Chauhan said that based on current dengue cases, an increase is expected during the rainy season. "The Health department is fully alive to the situation, taking every step required to prevent dengue outbreak, but the common people should cooperate, too. They should use mosquito nets and repellents and remain vigilant about stagnant water around their homes. If any stagnant water is found, bleaching powder or chlorine oil should be poured to destroy potential larvae. Besides, if individuals experience symptoms such as headache or fever, they should consult a doctor as soon as possible rather than self-medicating," he advised.

PACA demands remuneration hike for exam-related works

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Provincial Aided College Association (PACA), the association of the teachers of the aided colleges of the State, has demanded an immediate revision of remuneration rates for examination duties and the implementation of a transparent payment mechanism in the interest of higher education faculty.

Flagging concerns over these issues, the general secretary, PACA, Parshant Singh said that Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal (Central) University, along with other regional institutions such as Srinagar-based Sridev Suman Uttarakhand University, New Tehri; Kumaun University, Nainital and Soban Singh Jeena University, Almora, have not revised their remuneration rates for examination tasks—such as question paper setting and evaluation—for the last 15 years. "These rates have remained unchanged de-

spite significant inflation and increasing technical requirements," he said.

Singh stated lamentingly that this undermines the value of the pains the teachers take and their expertise. "Further, it adversely affects the overall work culture within the universities located across Uttarakhand. We are all the more concerned over delayed payment for these tasks, which often take more than a year, and in many cases, payments are

not made at all," he said.

Stating that the current remuneration rates are based on the Sixth Pay Commission while it is the time for the Eighth Pay Commission implementation, he said that this amounts to injustice to and discrimination against such teachers.

Singh further noted that tasks such as evaluation, moderation, question paper preparation, digital communication, privacy maintenance and record-

keeping have become highly technical, sensitive and time-consuming. "We demand an update to the examination remuneration rates in accordance with the Eighth Pay Commission. Besides, there must be a maximum payment deadline of 90 days for examination work and an online portal-based payment tracking system should be introduced," he said, adding warningly that if their demands remain unaddressed, they would be compelled to adopt a non-cooperative stance toward examination work.

UVSP asks districts to identify centres for result improvement exams

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Uttarakhand Vidyalaya Shiksha Parishad (UVSP) has asked administrations of all the districts of the State to identify and prepare locations for conducting the result improvement examination for classes X and XII in 2025. The results of the board examinations for 2025 were announced on April 19. In light of these results, the UVSP offers an opportunity for students who did not achieve satisfactory grades to improve their scores. Consequently, registration for this improvement examination commenced on May 2 and has recently ended.

Speaking of the status and scheduling of the improvement examination, UVSP secretary Vinod Simlati said that a specific date for the examination is yet to be determined. The registration period for the result improvement examination has concluded with a total of 8,405 students from class X signing up for this year's exam which includes students from both the 2024 and 2025 batches. For class XII, 10,711 students also registered, covering both these years. Although registration has ended, the col-

lection of hard copies from the respective districts is still ongoing. All districts have been instructed to submit the registration forms of the applicants to the UVSP headquarters in Ramnagar by June 30.

Further, the district administrations have been tasked with identifying suitable locations for setting up centres where the improvement exams will be conducted. Following this process, the UVSP will hold a meeting with the officials concerned to finalise and announce the date for the examination.

It is worth highlighting that this opportunity is available not only to the students of 2025 but to those from 2024, too. The examinees from 2024 will be participating in the improvement examination for the third time this year whereas the 2025 students will be doing it for the first time. The Class X students who have failed in two subjects are mandated to take improvement examinations while the Class XII students who have failed in one subject will also be required to take part in the improvement exams.

IN BRIEF

Blood donation camp & seminar held at Venkateshwara University

DEHRADUN: Under the joint aegis of Shri Venkateshwara University, Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences and Venkateshwara Group of Institutes, a blood donation camp and blood donation seminar



were held on Saturday. A large number of students, teachers, police personnel and voluntary blood donors from various voluntary organisations donated 126 units of blood. Lauding blood donation as the noblest of donations, the chairman of Venkateshwara Group of Institutions,

Guv reviews KU's academic, administrative progress

NAINITAL: The Governor who is also the chancellor of Kumaun University, Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd) reviewed the ongoing academic and administrative activities in various faculties of the university with the directors and deans at its DSB campus. During the meeting, they gave a detailed presentation on the research, innovation,



with small achievements but should strive to achieve more and more excellence. "Kumaun University has a unique identity, which needs to be strengthened further," he said, adding that the self-help groups who are producing excellent products should be connected to the market.

Crocodile attacks an elderly villager in Laksar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Haridwar

A crocodile attacked a villager called Suresh at Dungarpur under Laksar tehsil on Saturday morning, leaving him seriously injured. He was later sent to the district hospital while the attack left an atmosphere of panic in the village. Notably, Laksar tehsil is surrounded by Ganga, Solani and Pathri rivers on its three sides due to which crocodiles keep entering the villages. Apart from pets, they also attack the villagers.

Villagers Ishwar Chand and Joginder said that Suresh's house is located near a pond. On Saturday morning, as he had gone near it for some work, an adult crocodile came out and grabbed his hand. But Suresh managed to free his hand from the animal's jaws.



As he screamed, other villagers rushed in and the crocodile

sprang back into the pond. Suresh's veins were cut off and he was bleeding profusely. He was transported to the district hospital.

Villagers further said that crocodile attacks had happened in their village in the past as well. They demanded the administration to catch the crocodile.

The range officer, Shailendra Singh Negi said that as soon as the information about the crocodile attack was received, a team was sent to the spot. "Soon the crocodile will be caught and released at a safe place away from the village," he assured. Some villagers, however, alleged that the forest department team had failed to catch the crocodile.

1753 fined in one week under 'Operation Lagaam' in Doon

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Dehradun police fined a total of 1,753 individuals in one week under 'Operation Lagaam' which targets boozing in public, influence of alcohol, reckless driving and performing stunts. "Further, actions have been taken against those installing modified sil-

encers on their vehicles as well as those using unauthorised hooters and nameplates," he said, adding that the police station in-charges



have been instructed to conduct continuous campaigns in their respective jurisdictional areas following the outlined guidelines. During this operation, a total fine of Rs 5.5 lakh was collected and 126 individuals were arrested in the week.

DSO to organise competition to mark International Olympic Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The District Sports Office (DSO) in Dehradun will organise various competitions to mark the International Olympic Day on June 23. According to the officials, teams interested in participating can submit their entry details two days prior to the competitions by contacting the appropriate officials via mobile.

The competitions will take place from June 20 to June 23. A hockey competition will be held for open boys and girls at the Pavilion Ground. For this event, candidates can contact Amit Kataria at 9557077786.

During the same dates, competitions for handball, football, volleyball and judo will also be organised. The handball competition will be cate-

gorised for under 15 boys while the football competition is for under 15 boys as well. Volleyball is open to all boys and girls and the judo competition is for under 18 boys and girls.

The officials further said that handball and football matches would take place at the Pavilion Ground while volleyball would be held at the Parade Ground and judo would be played in the multipurpose hall of the Parade Ground.

To make entries prior to the competitions, teams can contact Vinod Mangain at 9997501480 for handball, Deepak Kumar at 9897149315 for football, Bobindr at 9756502332 for volleyball and Sohan Singh at 8557939746 for judo.

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Kumud Rani w/o Subhash Chandra Rathore r/o 13, Engineers Enclave, Phase II, Dehradun.

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CM Dhami flags off ITBP Himadri trekking expedition- 2025

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The chief minister, Pushkar Singh Dhami flagged off the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Himadri Trekking Expedition -2025 on Saturday. During the event, he paid tribute to the victims of the recent Ahmedabad plane crash and offered condolences to their families. A two-minute silence was observed in honour of those who had lost their lives in the tragedy.

In his address, Dhami lauded the officers and personnel of ITBP, stating that this expedition exemplifies courage and determination while also being a crucial step toward enhancing strategic security and preserving the cultural heritage of border areas.

The campaign will see a 45-member ITBP team undertake a challenging journey of approximately 1,032 kms from Uttarakhand to Ladakh passing through Himachal Pradesh. "This initiative aims not only to monitor strategically significant locations but also to identify religious, historical and cultural sites while promoting local traditions," Dhami said, adding that ITBP has been playing a vital role in safeguarding the country's borders as well as providing relief and rescue operations during disasters since 1962.



CM also highlighted his government's unwavering commitment towards the welfare of soldiers and their families.

The IG, ITBP, Sanjay Gunjyal said that the Himadri Trekking Campaign will cover a total distance of 1,032 kms, crossing 27 valleys and 27 passes. "A total of 84 vibrant villages are included along the trekking route and the campaign team will also distribute 3.5 lakh fruit plants to locals," he added.

The programme was attended by chief secretary Anand Bardhan, secretary Shailesh Bagauli, director general of Police Deepam Seth and others.

10 more new cases reported positive for Covid-19 in Dehradun

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The cumulative number of positive Covid-19 cases in Dehradun has risen to 54 following the report of 10 new cases reported on Saturday. Informing this, the chief medical officer (CMO), Dehradun, Dr Manoj Kumar Sharma con-

11 are migrants while one case originated in Haridwar. "Currently, there are nine active Covid-19 cases in the district. Six individuals are receiving care at home while one is being treated at Shri Mahant Indresh Hospital and two at Subharti Hos-

pital," he stated.

Dr Sharma also said that 20 samples were tested for Covid-19 on Saturday, bringing the overall number of samples tested to 440. Importantly, there have been no reported deaths from Covid-19 in Dehradun so far.

In the light of the rising cases, the Health department has recently issued an advisory regarding Covid-19. Earlier, the Health secretary, R Rajesh Kumar informed that the Health department plans to launch a special campaign aimed at raising public awareness about Covid-19. This initiative will provide information on the 'Dos' and 'Don'ts'.

The 'Dos' include covering the nose and mouth with a handkerchief or tissue while sneezing or coughing, avoiding crowded places and washing hands thoroughly with soap and water. On the other hand, the 'Don'ts' include not reusing used tissues or handkerchiefs, avoiding handshakes and maintaining distance from individuals who exhibit symptoms of illness, among other precautions.

Dhami government's land law effective on ground: Chauhan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The media in charge of Uttarakhand BJP, Manvir Singh Chauhan has said that the positive effects of the stringent land law enacted by the BJP government of Uttarakhand is clearly visible on the ground. He said the fact that thousands of bighas of land has already been vested in the government proves that the land laws are very effective.

Interacting with the media persons at the headquarters of the State BJP, Chauhan said in Dehradun district more than

900 bigha of land has been vested in the government and investigation in other cases is underway. He said that the government has banned purchase of agricultural land in the mountainous districts and the cases where sale and purchase of lands have occurred against the norms investigations are underway.

The BJP leader added that the chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has given clear orders to the district magistrates in this regard.

based on the census of 2011.

The elections for Village Pradhan, village, block and district Panchayat members in all the districts of the State barring Haridwar are to be held probably next month. A total of 47.73 lakh voters in these districts will elect 66,415 Panchayat representatives. The elections will be held for 7,499 posts of village Pradhans, 55,583 village Panchayat members, 2,975 block Panchayat members and 358 district Panchayat members.

The tenure of the Panchayati Raj bodies in 12 districts of the State ended in November last year following which the government appointed administrators in these bodies. The six month tenure of these administrators ended in May this year after which their term was again extended by the State government.

Mahara demands high level inquiry in Agriculture dept scams

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara has said that scams are surfacing in the Agriculture department of the State with alarming regularity. He claimed large scale irregularities in the auction process of the Tarai Seed Development Corporation (TSDC) and said that favouritism oc-

given a new identity to the Terai region of Uttarakhand State by providing high quality seeds not only to Uttarakhand but also to the border areas of Uttar Pradesh.

He said that the corporation is in a situation of crisis due to the apathy of the government.

Mahara also demanded a



curring in the awarding of the contract for Krishi Mela in Dehradun.

Mahara said that last year a scam worth crores of rupees was reported in the Horticulture department in Ranikhet but no investigation was done by the authorities. He said that now in the name of airport expansion, a scam of crores has occurred in the auction process of the assets of TSDC.

Demanding immediate cancellation of the auction of TSDC, the PCC president said that Ganesh Joshi and scams have had a long association. Demanding the resignation of Joshi and chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, he said that TSDC is a major institution for farmers, which has

high-level inquiry in the award of contract for the Krishi Mela which was to be organized at Mahindra Ground in Dehradun.

He said that as per the tender process issued by the State Agriculture department for fair, the allotment of the contract was to be done on June 11 but the contractor started work at the site on June 9 itself which clearly shows that the tender process was a mere eyewash and that the favourite contractor would have received the contract.

Demanding high level inquiries in the TSDC auction and Krishi Mela contract scams, Mahara said that both chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and minister Joshi should tender their resignations.



firmed that among the 10 new cases, six were local residents while four were migrants.

With this, out of the cumulative total of 54 cases, 42 are local residents and

Night stay facility stops in Corbett National Park

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Ramnagar

In view of the approaching monsoon season, the night stay facility has been stalled in Corbett National Park. Informing this, the director of Corbett Tiger Reserve, Saket Badola said that starting from June 15, overnight accommodations would not be available in the Dhikala, Bijrani and Dhela zones of Corbett National Park. However, day safaris can still be enjoyed in all these zones, he added.

It is pertinent to mention that these zones will be closed entirely from

June 30 and are scheduled to reopen on November 15.



Youth killed, another injured in group clash in Ramnagar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Ramnagar

A youth was killed and another was seriously injured when two groups clashed here late Friday night. The father of the deceased identified as 23-year-old Mohamad Sarim, resident of Bedajhal, lodged a complaint at the police station. The injured was identified as Sikandar, the station house officer at Ramnagar police station, Arun Kumar Saini said, adding that the violent clash had happened near the Truck Union office at around 11 PM on Friday. Revealing details, he said that one Avinash alias Chui, resident of Lootabarh, had been allegedly

stalking and harassing Sikandar's girlfriend, resident of Gularghati. Sikandar and Avinash had been fighting over it for several days and on Friday night, things took a violent turn as the two groups came face to face. "There was a fierce fight with both groups using freely sharp-edged objects in their attacks. Sikandar was seriously injured while Sarim who belonged to Avinash's group died," he said. As per police, the deceased's body bore marks of attacks by some sharp weapons on his chest. A case was registered and police are on the lookout for the accused.

Spectacular passing out parade held at IMA Dehradun

419 Indian, 32 foreign cadets pass out of the portals of IMA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The Indian army received a boost on Saturday when 419 youngsters joined its ranks as fine young officers after passing out from the portals of the famed Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun. The passing out contingent of 156 Regular Course (RC) and 45 Technical Entry Scheme and 139 Technical Graduate Course (TGC). A total of 32 officer cadets from nine friendly foreign countries were also part of the spectacular passing out parade (PoP).

The parade which commenced with the marker's call made from the top of the Chetwode building marched in coordination on the symphony of the military tunes of 'Sare Jahan Se Acchha' and Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja'. At the end of the parade, the passing out contingent crossed the Antim Pag (the last step) which heralded the start of their career in the armed forces.

The reviewing officer (RO) of the parade was the Commander

of training and discipline imbibed by the young leaders.

The parade presented a ceremonial guard of honour to the RO who presented awards to the outstanding performers.

Addressing the passing out course, the RO, Lt Gen Rodrigo said that the core values of a soldier's character are focusing on discipline, integrity, loyalty, and honour. Discipline, he said, is about self-mastery; integrity is doing right when unseen; loyalty extends beyond rank, and honour is the sacred trust the uniform represents - one to be guarded with utmost pride.

The general officer reminded the officer cadets that they now belong to an unbroken chain of patriots and warriors, urging them

to wear the uniform not just with pride, but with purpose. Congratulating the award winners, he praised their exceptional effort and encouraged others to keep striving. He also acknowledged the foreign officer cadets, calling them ambassadors of IMA's values like discipline, integrity, loyalty, honour, and brotherhood -

with a commission, it's earned daily through conduct, character, and choices," he said.

Quoting the IMA Credo, the general officer highlighted the three unshakable responsibilities that every officer must uphold. First, to the nation - second, to their soldiers and third, to the families of our brave hearts.

After reviewing the parade the RO presented awards to the outstanding performers of the course. The coveted sword of honour and the silver medal for standing second in the order of merit was presented to Anni Nehra while the gold medal for the GC standing first in the order of merit was presented to Ronit Ranjan Nayak. The bronze Medal for standing third in the order of merit was presented to Anurag Verma. The RO presented the silver medal for the GC standing first in the order of merit from TGC to Akash Bhadouriya. The silver medal for the GC standing first in the order



of the Army, Sri Lanka, lieutenant general Lasantha Rodrigo. He congratulated the GCs on successful completion of their training at IMA. The RO complimented the instructors and GCs for the excellent parade, immaculate turnout as well as the crisp, synergised drill movements indicating high standards

you as the first IMA alumnus to return as the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army and review this parade. Looking at your faces, I see my younger self. This place doesn't just train officers; it forges bonds that last a lifetime."

"Being an officer is all about earning the quiet respect of those they lead. Respect isn't granted

of merit in TES was presented to Kapil. The medal for standing first in the order of merit from foreign country was presented to Nishan Balami from Nepal.

The chief of army staff banner was awarded to Keren Company for standing overall first amongst 12 companies for the Spring Term 2025.



Green activists registering protest at alleged attempt to grab Forest land in Khalanga area of Dehradun on Saturday. Pioneer photo

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ

punjab national bank

Branch: Roshnabad, Haridwar

(NOTICE UNDER 13 (2) OF SARFAESI ACT 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 OF SECURITY INTEREST ENFORCEMENT RULES 2002

I being an Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor Bank has a reason to believe that all of you the under mentioned notices cannot be served ordinarily as attempted earlier except through this substituted service. As such, all of you the under mentioned noticees are hereby informed and called upon through this public DEMAND NOTICE under section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002 to make payment of the amounts due against each of you, as mentioned below, within 60 days, or the bank will proceed U/s 13 (4) of the said Act for taking possession of the secured property/ies/Assets mentioned against account and thereafter to sell the same to realize its dues with further interest till realization along with costs as contemplated under the said Act. **Needless to mentioned here that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to bank for recovery of its dues, against you.** 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.

S. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Details of Security/Property	Date of Demand Notice	Due Amount
1.	Branch: Roshnabad, Haridwar M/s Atlantix Brightbar Industries (Borrower) (Through its Partners 1. Sh. Sanyam Mittal s/o Arvind Kumar Mittal. 2. Ravi Kumar S/o Late Sunder Lal), Behind Block Division Office, Hydol Colony Road, Salempur Rajputan, Roorkee, District-Haridwar, Uttarakhand- 247667. Sanyam Mittal S/o Arvind Kumar (Partner), H.No. 76, Hydol Colony Road, Opp. Block Office, Ramnagar, Roorkee- 247667. Ravi Sharma S/o Late Sunder Lal (Partner), H.No. 143, Ramnagar Camp, Gali No. 3, Ramnagar Roorkee-247667. Smt. Meenakshi Sharma W/o Sh. Ravi Sharma (Guarantor and Mortgagor), H.No. 143, Ramnagar Camp, Gali No. 3, Ramnagar, Roorkee- 247667. Arvind Kumar Mittal S/o Ishwar Dutt (Guarantor), H.No. 76, Hydol Colony Road, Opp. Block Office, Ramnagar, Roorkee -247667.	A Residential Plot land measuring in East- 45 feet, West- 38 feet, North- 58 feet, South- 59 feet having total area 2428 sq. feet i.e. 225.65 sq. meter, Belonging to Khasra No. 148, Situated at Village sunehra, Pargana and Tehsil Roorkee & District Haridwar, Registered Sale Deed, at Bahi No. 1, Jild No. 3274 in Pages 121 to 140, Serial No. 3237, Dated 28.03.2014 in the office of Sub-Registrar Roorkee- I, in the favour of Smt. Meenakshi Sharma W/o Sh. Ravi Sharma R/o H.No. 143, Ramnagar, Roorkee, Pargana & Tehsil Roorkee, District Haridwar which is bounded as: East: way 15 feet wide, West: Hydol Colony, North: House of kaushalya Devi, South: Plot of Preetpal Kaur.	29.05.2025	Rs. 53,01,225/- as on 30.04.2025 with further interest & other charges and Legal Expenses w.e.f. 30.04.2025, until payment in full.

Date: 14.05.2025

Place : Haridwar

Authorised Officer

PM Modi's tour to cover Cyprus, Canada and Croatia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a three-nation tour starting Sunday, during which he will take part in the G7 Summit in Canada and visit Cyprus and Croatia to shore up India's bilateral cooperation with these two countries.

"This will be the first ever visit by an Indian prime minister to Croatia, marking an important milestone in the bilateral relationship," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Saturday.

Modi will first visit Cyprus on June 15 to June 16 at the invitation of the country's president, Nikos Christodoulides.

"This will be the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Cyprus in over two decades," the MEA said in a statement.

While in Cyprus capital Nicosia, the prime minister will hold talks with President Christodoulides and address business leaders at Limassol, it said. "The visit will reaffirm the shared commitment of the two countries to deepen bilateral ties and strengthen India's engagement with the Mediterranean region and the European Union," the statement said. In the second leg of



his visit, Prime Minister Modi will travel to Kananaskis in Canada on June 16-17 to participate in the G7 Summit at the invitation of Canada Prime Minister Mark Carney.

This would be the prime minister's sixth consecutive participation in the G7 Summit.

"At the Summit, the Prime Minister will exchange views with the leaders of G7 countries, other invited outreach countries and heads of international organisations on crucial global issues, including energy security, technology and innovation, particularly the AI-energy nexus and quantum-related issues," the MEA

said. The Prime Minister will also hold several bilaterals on the sidelines of the Summit.

The Group of Seven (G7) consists of seven of the world's advanced economies — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the US, and the UK — and the European Union.

Carney, an economist and political newcomer, took charge as Canada's Prime Minister in March following the exit of Justin Trudeau from the top office.

Modi received a call from Carney earlier this month, during which the latter invited the Prime Minister to attend the G7 meeting. The call was

also an occasion for the two prime ministers to reflect and talk about India-Canada relations and how they can be taken forward, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told reporters on June 12.

Describing India and Canada as "vibrant democracies", the MEA had also said that New Delhi believes the forthcoming meeting between the prime ministers of the two countries on the sidelines of the G7 Summit will offer an important opportunity to exchange views and "explore pathways" to reset bilateral ties.

The MEA spokesperson also asserted that the "reset" of the relationship is based on mutual respect, shared interests and sensitivity to each other's concerns. The MEA statement said that in the final leg of his tour, PM Modi will undertake an official visit to Croatia on June 18 at the invitation of the prime minister of the European country, Andrej Plenkovic.

PM Modi will hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Plenkovic and also meet the President of Croatia, Zoran Milanovic.

"The visit to Croatia will also underscore India's commitment to further strengthening its engagement with partners in the European Union," the statement said.

BJP slams Congress as fake news factory over UN vote on Gaza ceasefire

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

Hitting back at the Congress, the BJP on Saturday said the Opposition party has become a "fake news factory" after it attacked the Union Government for India abstaining from voting on the UN General Assembly resolution for a ceasefire in Gaza.

BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari accused the Congress of spreading "half-truths" on the issue, saying India's abstention was not a deviation but a continuation of "past votes", based on "unwavering belief" in dialogue and diplomacy as the only sustainable path forward.

"Congress, before unleash-

ing theatrical outrage, should take a moment to read India's official Explanation of Vote at the UN on June 12," he wrote on social media posting a screenshot of the purported document.

"The Congress and its intellectually dishonest ecosystem has become nothing but a fake news factory," he charged. The 193-member UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to adopt the resolution introduced by Spain that demanded an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire.

India was among the 19 nations that abstained, while 12 countries voted against the resolution, which got 149 votes in favour. Reacting to the development, Congress pres-

ident Mallikarjun Kharge said in a post, "It is now increasingly evident that our Foreign Policy is in shambles. Perhaps, PM Modi must now take a call on his EAM's repeated blunders and set some account ability. Have we abandoned India's consistent stand advocating for a ceasefire, peace, and dialogue in the Middle East and West Asia?" he asked.

Echoing similar sentiments, AICC general secretary, organisation KC Venugopal said India always stood for peace, justice and human dignity and called on the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to explain what had changed in the last six months that led India from supporting a ceasefire to abstaining from the vote. Congress leader Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra expressed her disappointment at India's stance at the UN calling it a "tragic reversal" of the country's anti-colonial legacy.

BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari accused the Congress of spreading "half-truths" and wrote on X, "Our abstention is not a deviation, but a continuation of past votes (A/RES/77/247 & A/RES/79/232), based on our unwavering belief in dialogue and diplomacy as the only sustainable path forward."

India unequivocally condemned the loss of civilian lives and the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza and called for the protection of civilians, humanitarian access and the release of remaining hostages, he said.

CBI arrests two for NEET UG fraud

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

The CBI arrested two men from Maharashtra for allegedly deceiving NEET UG 2025 aspirants and their families by claiming they could manipulate scores, and charging ₹90 lakh per candidate, officials said on Saturday.

Sandeep Shah and Salim Patel, residents of Solapur and Navi Mumbai, respectively, allegedly hoodwinked candi-

dates by posing as middlemen with access to non-existent officials of the National Testing Agency (NTA).

The CBI is on the trail of a third suspect, who is absconding, understood to be the mastermind of the scam.

They allegedly demanded up to ₹90 lakh per candidate, later reducing the amount to ₹87.5 lakh during negotiations for ensuring ranks in the merit, the CBI said.

Shah allegedly held clandestine

meetings with anxious parents at the upscale ITC Grand Central hotel in Mumbai's Parel locality.

During these meetings, he allegedly assured clients that their children's scores could be inflated and that the revised marks would be disclosed a full six hours before the official announcement of results.

The CBI investigation showed that Shah was in touch with Patel, who operates an admission consultancy firm in

Navi Mumbai, and another individual who runs a similar consultancy in Pune.

"A forensic examination of the mobile phones of the arrested individuals uncovered incriminating chats containing details of prospective candidates, their roll numbers, admit cards, OMR sheets and evidence of financial transactions through Hawala networks," a CBI Spokesperson said in a statement.

Law Minister pitches for institutional arbitration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Saturday pitched for institutional arbitration, saying it was part of Indian culture after the ONGC chairman urged making arbitration proceedings timely and not "timeless".

Addressing a conference on institutional arbitration here, the minister also said that organisations should be ready to be flexible and rigid, depending on the need of the hour, to ensure that its interests remain protected and it contributes towards national building.

Meghwal felt that officers should be willing to take risk and not follow the beaten track to ensure financial interests of their organisation. Meghwal lamented that while arbitration was part of Indian culture, the concept got "disturbed" somewhere and other countries became hub of international arbitration. He hoped that India will soon emerge as the new hub of international arbitration. Speaking on the occasion, ONGC Chairman Arun Kumar Singh said time is money, and hence there was a need to make the procedure of arbitration timely and not "timeless".

He said settlement of commercial

disputes in a time-bound manner was quintessential for the business ecosystem.

He also felt that there was a need to make arbitration "more corporate and less legal". Singh said disputes largely arise out of three reasons: executives being excessively conservative who pass the buck to save their skin; excessive optimism of vendors who take contracts at low bids and subsequently fail to complete the job and create disputes to wriggle out of the situation and rigidity in contracts, which make completing tasks difficult.

Law Secretary Anju Rathie said the government has been consistently trying to make arbitration and mediation processes faster and easier. She recalled a recent directive from the Department of Legal Affairs, which pushes for reducing judicial interventions and using institutional and not ad hoc arbitration.

The chairman of India International Arbitration Centre, Justice (ret'd) Hemant Gupta, said the mindset has to change for parties to go for institutional arbitration, rather than an ad hoc system to settle commercial disputes.

He said people will have to choose institutional arbitration to understand its benefits over court-appointed arbitration.

NIA chargesheets 17 in CRPF camp attacks in Chhattisgarh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has chargesheeted 17 accused, including 16 absconders, in a 2024 case of attacks on CRPF camps in Chhattisgarh by CPI (Maoist) terror operatives, officials said on Saturday.

One of the chargesheeted accused is under arrest, who has been identified as Sodi Baman alias Deval, they said.

The absconders include two each central committee members and special zonal/state committee members, and other top cadres of the People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion No. 1, Telangana state committee, and Pamed area committee of CPI (Maoist), the officials said.

The PGLA is the armed wing of CPI (Maoist).

The chargesheet filed on Friday before an NIA special court in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, has charged all the accused under various sections of Indian Penal Code, Arms Act, Explosive Substances Act, and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, an official statement said.

The case relates to the attack on the Central Reserve



Police Force's (CRPF) new camp at Dharmavaram and two adjacent CRPF/CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) camps at Chintawagu and Pamed in Bijapur district on January 16, 2024, it said.

Armed with automatic weapons and barrel grenade launchers (BGLs), the attackers attempted to loot weapons and other belongings of the security forces from the camps, the statement said.

"Twelve CRPF personnel at the Dharmavaram CRPF camp, which was set up on December 17, 2023, were injured in the attack," it said.

The NIA took over the case from the local police on February 9, 2024, and registered it against 21 named and 250-300 unknown armed cadres of proscribed terrorist

organisation CPI (Maoist), the statement said.

Investigations revealed that the chargesheeted accused had been involved in the recruitment of youth, as part of a criminal conspiracy to wage war against the democratically-elected government of India, the probe agency said. They were in possession of prohibited arms, ammunition and explosive materials, and had organised and attended conspiracy meetings, it said.

They also established a dummy training camp as replica of the target camps, imparted training and gave motivational speeches to their armed cadres to carry out an armed rebellion, besides conducting recce of the said camps and executing the final attacks, the statement said.

Israel sees India as key mediator in Iran conflict

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
New Delhi

Israel's Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, on Saturday expressed optimism about India's potential to mediate in the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran following a telephonic conversation between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"India has avenues for dialogue with both sides. It can indeed play a role. We are happy to have this sincere dialogue with India, which is a very good friend, we listen carefully to your concerns. I think they are legitimate," Azar said in an interview.

The remarks came amid heightened tensions in West Asia, with both Israel and Iran launching strikes against each other. Netanyahu called Prime Minister Modi on Friday to brief him on Israel's actions, which the ambassador described as defensive measures to counter an "existential threat" posed by Iran's nuclear ambitions and ballistic missile programme.

"No country in the world is interested in this kind of situation," Azar said, emphasising that Israel had "no choice" but to act decisively.

He claimed that a clandestine group of Iranian officials was attempting to develop nuclear weapons, with the intent to "exterminate" Israel, as repeatedly stated by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei.

"We had to remove an imminent threat and took decisive action against their nuclear installations and ballistic missiles," Azar said, noting Iran's "plans" to build a massive arsenal of ballistic missiles in the coming years.

"They are planning to build 10,000 ballistic missiles in the next three years and 20,000 in the next six years. They have a huge arsenal, which creates this ring of fire against Israel. They can attack us from the Southern Front, so we had no choice but to act on this nuclear threat and we are determined to finish the job," the ambassador emphasised.

Azar also said that Israel's ongoing operations aim to ensure that Iran cannot enrich uranium, a goal Israel is determined to achieve — diplomatically or militarily.

He referenced US President Donald Trump's 60-day negotiation window, stating that Israel acted on the 61st day after Iran failed to comply.

Air India announces interim aid for crash victims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi/Mumbai

Air India on Saturday announced that it will provide an interim payment of ₹25 lakh to the families of the deceased and survivors of the Ahmedabad plane crash. This interim payment is in addition to the ₹ one crore compensation already announced by the parent company, Tata Sons, Air India said in a statement.

Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner carrying 242 passengers, including 12 crew members, crashed in the Meghaninagar area shortly after takeoff from the Ahmedabad International Airport on Thursday afternoon, killing 270 persons, including 241 passengers on board.

"To provide immediate financial support, Air India will be making an interim payment of ₹25 lakh or approximately 21,000 British pounds to each of the families of the deceased and also to the survivors," Air India CEO and managing Director Campbell Wilson said in a video message.

This, he said, is in addition to the ₹ one crore or approximately 85,000 British Pounds already committed by Tata Sons. On Thursday, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran had announced that the Group will provide ₹one crore to the families of each person who has lost their life in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad.

Campbell said that over 200 trained caregivers are now in place, adding "with each family assigned dedicated assistance along with access to counseling and other services."

"The process of reuniting next of kin with their loved ones and personal effects has begun. Our teams are working closely with the families and authorities to help the reunification process," Air India chief said.

Death toll rises to 270, Centre forms panel to examine causes of plane crash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
New Delhi/Ahmedabad

The Centre on Saturday set up a high-level multi-disciplinary panel to ascertain the "root cause" of the crash of the London-bound Air India plane in Ahmedabad and assess any contributing factors including mechanical failure, human error and regulatory compliances even as the death toll in the disaster rose to 270.

As the panel headed by Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan was mandated

to give its report in three months, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said aviation regulator DGCA has ordered "extended surveillance" for the Tata-owned airline's Boeing 787 Dreamliner series planes. The Civil Aviation ministry said the committee will not be a substitute to other probes being conducted by relevant organisations.

In a post on X, Air India said it has done one-time safety checks on nine of its Boeing 787 Dreamliners and is on track to complete the checks

on the remaining 24 such planes as directed by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). The carrier now has 26 Boeing 787-8s and seven Boeing 787-9s in its fleet.

All but one of the 242 passengers and crew on board the Boeing 787-8(AI171) and another 29 persons including five MBBS students on the ground were killed when the aircraft came down on Thursday moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport before falling inside

the nearby campus of the state-run BJ Medical College in Meghaninagar area and going up in flames.

As investigators pore over wreckage at the BJ Medical College hostel and canteen complex for clues after the crash, Air India officials said the ill-fated airplane underwent comprehensive maintenance checks in June 2023 and was due for the next scheduled comprehensive checks in December this year.

The right side engine of the nearly 12-year-old aircraft was overhauled and installed in

March 2025, while an inspection of the left side engine was done as per the engine manufacturer's protocol in April 2025, the officials said. The aircraft was powered by GENx engines, manufactured by GE Aerospace.

The officials, who did not want to be named, also claimed there were no issues with the engines or the aircraft.

"Around 270 bodies have been brought to the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital so far from the plane crash site," President of Junior Doctors association of BJ Medical

College, Dr Dhaval Gameti, said. The death toll in the country's worst ever air disaster in three decades was earlier put by authorities at 265.

With probe agencies looking into all possible causes for the crash, including loss of thrust in both engines of the aircraft, multiple bird strikes, or a potential flap issue, Naidu told reporters in Delhi that decoding of the Black box is going to give "in-depth insight" into what happened moments before the tragedy.

The Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR), commonly

known as Black box, was recovered from the "roof" of the hostel building at the crash site on Friday.

There was no word yet on recovery of another Black box — the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR).

This instrument records radio transmissions and other sounds in the cockpit, such as conversations between the pilots and engine noises.

Naidu said India has very strict aviation safety standards and robust protocols, and everything will be done to further improve safety.

According to the FIR, the bank alleged that the company and its directors submitted forged documents to secure credit facilities under false pretences.

The loan account was subsequently declared a wilful default and categorised as fraudulent, allegedly resulting in wrongful losses totalling ₹126.07 crore to IDBI Bank Ltd, the CBI said.

Axiom-4 mission to launch on June 19

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

The much-delayed Axiom-4 commercial mission to the International Space Station, carrying Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and three others, is now targeting a launch on June 19, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced on Saturday. The Axiom Space mission was to blast-off from

NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on June 11, but had to be delayed first due to a fuel leak in SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket and then due to a leak in the Russian section of the International Space Station (ISS).

"During a follow-on coordination meeting between ISRO, Axiom Space and SpaceX, it was confirmed that the liquid oxygen leak observed in the Falcon 9 launch vehicle has been suc-

cessfully resolved," the ISRO said in a statement.

"Separately, Axiom Space informed that they are working closely with NASA to assess the pressure anomaly in the Zvezda Service Module on board the International Space Station," it said.

"Axiom Space is now targeting June 19, 2025, for the launch of the Ax-04 mission," ISRO said. The astronauts were originally scheduled

for lift-off on May 29, which was put off to June 8, June 10 and June 11, when SpaceX, the providers of the launch rocket and the space capsule, detected a liquid oxygen leak in the Falcon-9 rocket.

Former NASA astronaut and director of human spaceflight at Axiom Space, Peggy Whitson, will command the commercial mission, while ISRO astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla will serve as the pilot.

CBI FIR against Supertech, promoter Arora for allegedly defrauding IDBI Bank

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

The CBI has registered an FIR against Noida-based construction firm Supertech Limited and its promoter RK Arora among others for allegedly defrauding IDBI Bank of ₹126.07 crore, officials said Saturday.

Arora has been named in the FIR alongside whole-time

directors Sangita Arora, Mohit Arora, Parul Arora, Vikas Kansal, Pradeep Kumar, Anil Kumar Sharma and Anil Kumar Jain, in addition to the Noida-based company, they said.

On Saturday, the CBI conducted coordinated search operations at five locations linked to the accused? including official and residential premises in Noida and

Ghaziabad,? in connection with the case.

During the raids, agency officials seized cash amounting to ₹28.5 lakh, CBI's spokesperson said in a statement.

The case was initiated following a complaint from IDBI Bank, which alleged that the accused had conspired to misappropriate sanctioned loan funds through fraudulent means.

According to the FIR, the bank alleged that the company and its directors submitted forged documents to secure credit facilities under false pretences.

The loan account was subsequently declared a wilful default and categorised as fraudulent, allegedly resulting in wrongful losses totalling ₹126.07 crore to IDBI Bank Ltd, the CBI said.

Six plane crash victims identified on basis of DNA samples: Officials

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Ahmedabad

Authorities of the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital have so far identified six victims on the basis of the DNA samples and initiated the process to hand over the bodies to the relatives, officials said on Saturday. Earlier, eight victims, who were identified by their relatives and did not need DNA profiling as their bodies were not damaged, had been handed over to their families by the hospital, they said.

Doctors on Saturday said around 270 bodies have been brought to the hospital from the air crash site so far.

A London-bound Air India flight from Ahmedabad crashed into a medical college hostel complex in the Meghaninagar area of the city moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Thursday afternoon.

The victims included 241 of the 242 passengers and crew members on board the flight.

One passenger miraculously escaped. In order to expedite the DNA matching exercise,



Ratheesh G Nair, brother of Air India plane crash victim Ranjitha G Nair, leaves a hospital after giving his DNA sample to identify his sister's body in Ahmedabad

PTI

Gujarat Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi held a meeting with the officials of the state Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) on Saturday. Talking to reporters, Additional Civil Superintendent of the civil hospital, Dr Rajnish Patel, said the results of six DNA samples have arrived and relatives of those six victims have been informed over the phone

to collect the mortal remains. "DNA profiling is underway to ascertain the identity of other victims as their bodies were charred beyond recognition. Till now, results of six DNA samples have arrived after the matching process. We have informed the family members of these six persons to collect the bodies from the civil hospital," Patel said.

While the family of one victim will claim the body today, that of another one will reach the hospital on Sunday morning to collect the mortal remains, he said. Sanghavi said after holding a meeting at the FSL in Gandhinagar that it was the priority of the state government to finish the DNA matching exercise as early as possible.

"Apart from forensic experts from all over Gujarat, several experts sent by the Centre are working round the clock to match DNA samples. As soon as the results come, we send them to the civil hospital so that families can claim the bodies," he said.

DNA profiling is underway to ascertain the identities of those dead bodies which were charred beyond recognition. After the collection of DNA samples from the kin at the civil hospital, these samples are sent to the FSL in Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar for matching.

"Till Friday, relatives of nearly 220 deceased persons had approached the police to give their samples," said police inspector Chirag Gosai, who is handling the affairs at the post-mortem room. Details are collected from relatives arriving at the post-mortem room, and these people are then sent to BJ Medical College to provide their DNA samples, he said.

"It will take nearly 72 hours to complete the exercise of matching the DNA samples. Once they match, bodies will be handed over to the relatives from the post-mortem room," the inspector had said.

IMA writes to Tata Sons seeking financial support for college victims

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Mumbai

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Saturday said it has written to Tata Sons urging the company to extend financial support to the injured and deceased students of BJ Medical College affected by the Ahmedabad plane crash.

The letter addressed to Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran said, the loss of precious lives and the pain suffered by the families of the deceased and injured is truly beyond words.

"In the wake of the Air India tragedy, we humbly request you to consider extending similar compensation and assistance to the families of the deceased and the injured students and doctors of BJ Medical College. Such a gesture would go a long way in showing solidarity with the medical fraternity, especially at a time when they need compassion and reassurance," the letter added.

The Tata Group on Thursday announced that it will provide ₹1 crore compensation to the families of each person who lost their lives including passengers,

crew members and individuals on the premises.

"Tata Group will provide ₹1 crore to the families of each person who lost their lives including passengers, crew members and individuals on the premises. Medical expenses of all those injured will also be covered while ensuring necessary care and support," Tata Sons reiterated in a statement.

The IMA in a letter to the Tata Sons urged to extend financial support to injured and deceased students of BJ Medical College affected by the Ahmedabad plane crash

The IMA lauded the Tata Group's announcement of ₹1 crore compensation to the families of the passengers who tragically lost their lives in the recent incident.

"We stand in solidarity with you and the Tata Group during this moment of national mourning. We also take this opportunity to appreciate your leadership in promptly announcing compensation for the victims and extending support

to their families. Such humane actions uphold the compassionate values that the Tata name has always been associated with," said the letter.

Meanwhile, the IMA, Gujarat State Branch, in a separate letter to the Tata Sons urged to extend financial support to the injured and deceased students of BJ Medical College affected by the Ahmedabad plane crash.

"These individuals were not only victims but also future pillars of our healthcare system, and their Families deserve similar care and support. Accordingly we earnestly request you to immediately declare similar help to the medical students injured who had lost their life," the IMA letter added.

The death toll in the London-bound Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad rose to 270 on Saturday.

All but one of the 242 passengers and crew on board AI171 and another 29 persons including five MBBS students on the ground were killed when the aircraft came down moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport.

Crashed AI plane's comprehensive check was due in December

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Air India's ill-fated Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner that crashed soon after take off from Ahmedabad airport on June 12 underwent comprehensive maintenance checks in June 2023 and was due for the next scheduled comprehensive checks in December this year, according to airline officials.

The plane enroute to London Gatwick crashed into the residential quarters of BJ Medical College in Ahmedabad. Apart from 241 people onboard the plane, many others on the ground also died.

Officials said on Saturday that the aircraft VT-ANB underwent C checks or comprehensive checks in June 2023 and the next such scheduled checks were to happen in December this year. The C checks were done by AIESL (AI

Engineering Services Ltd). The right side engine of the nearly 12-year-old aircraft was overhauled and installed in March 2025, while an inspection of the left side engine was done as per the engine manufacturer's protocol in April 2025, the officials said. The aircraft was powered by GENx engines, manufactured by GE Aerospace.

The officials also claimed that there were no issues with the engines or the aircraft. There was no official statement from Air India.

Aviation watchdog DGCA on Friday ordered enhanced safety checks of Air India's Boeing 787-8/9 planes. Air India, on Saturday, said the one-time safety checks of the aircraft are on track and the checks have been completed for nine planes. The airline has 26 legacy Boeing 787-8s and seven Boeing 787-9s in its fleet.

On Friday, GE Aerospace said it supports the action

being taken by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for enhanced safety inspections of the Air India 787-8/9 fleet.

"We continue to work closely with the appropriate regulatory and investigative agencies, and we are committed to providing all technical support necessary to understand the cause of this accident," a GE Aerospace spokesperson had said in a statement.

Meanwhile, former Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel on Friday said after three-and-a-half years of the takeover of Air India by the Tatas, the management needs to fine-tune various aspects of running a world-class airline, including maintenance.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is probing the crash and a high-level multi-disciplinary committee has also been set up to examine the causes for the accident.

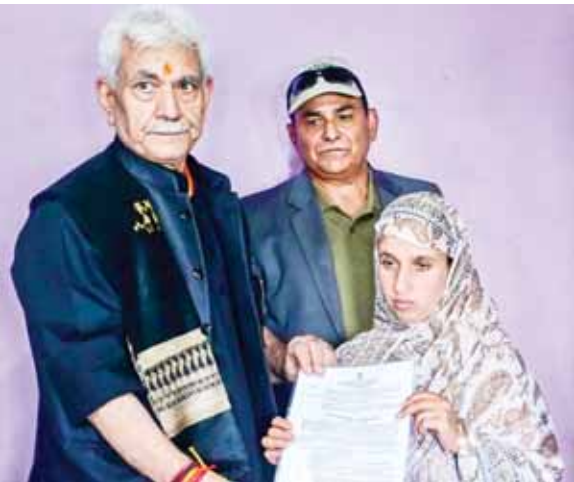
J and K LG hands over Government job appointment letter to Adil Shah's Wife

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jammu

In a heartfelt gesture recognizing the extraordinary bravery of Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a local pony ride operator who sacrificed his life protecting tourists during the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the martyr's family on Saturday.

At their home in the Hapatnar area of Pahalgam, Anantnag district, Sinha handed over a Government job appointment letter to Shah's widow, Gulnaz Akhter, as a symbol of gratitude for her husband's selfless service.

The visit, accompanied by senior police and civil officials, underscored the administration's commitment to supporting the families of those who make the ultimate



J and K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha hands over an appointment letter to Gulnaz Akhter, wife of Syed Adil Hussain, a pony ride operator who was killed in the Pahalgam terrorist attack in Anantnag district

PTI

sacrifice in the face of terrorism.

"The Government job to martyr Adil's wife symbolises our deep gratitude. I have

assured his family members of concrete measures and continuous support so that they may live a life of dignity," Sinha told reporters after

interacting with Akhter, Shah's family, and local villagers.

Syed Adil Hussain Shah, a 32-year-old pony ride operator, was among the 26 victims killed in the brutal terror attack at Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025. Shah, a father of two young children, was hailed as a hero for his courageous attempt to shield tourists from the attackers, sacrificing his life in the process.

His bravery earned widespread admiration, with the nation mourning his loss and celebrating his valor.

"Adil's sacrifice is a testament to the courage of ordinary citizens who stand up against terror. The whole country is proud of his bravery," Sinha said in a post on X, sharing images of the emotional moment when he handed over the appointment letter to Akhter.

Priyanka calls for corrective measures after plane crash

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Wayanad/Malappuram

Congress general secretary and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said once the reason for the Ahmedabad plane crash is found, corrective measures need to be taken to protect lives in the future.

Vadra, who is on a two-day visit to Kerala to inaugurate various developmental projects in her Lok Sabha constituency, told reporters here that the whole nation was grieving over the lives lost in the crash.

"We should be united in our grief and provide as much solidarity as we can to the families of the passengers and others, including medical students, who lost their lives in the incident," she said.

Congress committed 'historic blunder' by letting Pakistan become nuclear state, says Himanta

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday alleged that the Congress had committed a 'historic blunder' by letting Pakistan become a nuclear state instead of taking any action during the 1980s.

Pakistan has been using "nuclear blackmail" to deter international action, the chief minister claimed.

"At a time when nations today act decisively to neutralise nuclear threats, India's tragic inaction during the 1980s remains a cautionary tale of what could have been—and what wasn't," the chief minister said in a long post on X. He said that it was a 'missed moment' though the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) had solid intelligence confirming Pakistan's uranium enrichment activities at the Kahuta facility.



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

FILE PHOTO

In the post titled "Congress's Historic Blunder: How India Let Pakistan Become a Nuclear State", Sarma claimed Israel had offered to help—from actionable intel to joint strike planning. Jamnagar Air Base was shortlisted as a potential launchpad and the Indian military gave full backing to a pre-emptive airstrike on Kahuta. "India had the capability and consensus to eliminate the threat before it became a real-

ity. Yet at the last minute: Indira Gandhi hesitated, fearing international fallout," the Chief Minister alleged.

Sarma further claimed that Rajiv Gandhi had 'shelved the plan, prioritising diplomacy over deterrence under foreign pressure'.

Its fallout was that in 1988, Rajiv Gandhi signed a no-strike nuclear agreement with Benazir Bhutto, the then prime minister of Pakistan, pledging

mutual restraint on attacking each other's nuclear installations, he said.

"A decade later, Pakistan tested nuclear weapons in 1998. India was pulled into a costly nuclear arms race. Kargil, proxy terror wars, and cross-border strikes have since occurred under Pakistan's nuclear shield," Sarma claimed.

"To this day, Pakistan uses nuclear blackmail to deter international action and legitimise its rogue behaviour," he added. The chief minister also alleged that the key INDIA bloc ally CPI(M) had promised in its manifesto in 2024 to roll back India's nuclear deterrent if it comes to power.

"Where strong leadership demands resolve and foresight, Congress offered caution and delay. A historic window to safeguard India's long-term security was squandered—for short-term diplomatic comfort," Sarma said.

UT Administration to open tourist places from June 17: J and K LG Manoj Sinha

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

The Jammu and Kashmir administration, led by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, has announced the phased reopening of tourist destinations in the Kashmir Valley starting June 17, 2025, following a gradual increase in tourist footfall spurred by the recent launch of the Vande Bharat Express.

The move aims to revive the region's vital tourism sector, which faced significant disruptions after the deadly April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam that claimed 26 lives and led to the closure of 48 out of 87 tourist spots across the Valley.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the Nunwan Base Camp of the annual Amarnath Yatra in Pahalgam, located in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, LG Sinha outlined the administration's plan to gradually

reopen tourist sites.

"Some places were closed after April 22, given security considerations. The divisional commissioners and Inspectors General of Police (IGPs) of Kashmir and Jammu have taken reports from every district, and it has been decided to reopen some destinations in a phased manner," he said.

In the first phase, eight tourist destinations in the Kashmir region and eight in the Jammu region will be accessible to visitors starting June 17, 2025.

Referring to security challenges, Sinha expressed optimism about the gradual return of tourists. "The tourists are coming. There is a new enthusiasm among people after the launch of Vande Bharat (train). Railway people have told me that all tickets have been booked for the next 10-12 days. The number of tourists is increasing gradually," he said. The introduction of the Vande Bharat

train, a high-speed rail service, has boosted connectivity and accessibility, encouraging visitors to return.

In Kashmir, the UT administration has decided to reopen Betab Valley and parks near Pahalgam market in Anantnag district, a popular tourist hub often referred to as the "Switzerland of India."

Verinag, Kokernag, and Achabal gardens in Anantnag, known for their scenic beauty and historical significance.

Badamwari Park, Duck Park near Nigeen, and Taqdeer Park near Hazratbal in Srinagar, offering serene urban recreational spaces.

In the Jammu region, the following destinations will reopen: Sarthal and Dhaggar in Kathua district. Devipindi, Siyad Baba and Sula Park in Reasi district. Guldanda and Jai Valley in Doda district. Pancheri in Udhampur district.

The decision follows a com-

prehensive security audit conducted by a committee comprising the divisional commissioners and IGPs of both Kashmir and Jammu regions.

The committee reviewed reports from all districts to assess the feasibility of reopening tourist sites while ensuring robust security measures. "The committee will continue to take reports from districts, and in consultation with the Tourism Department, more places will be reopened," Sinha said.

Security forces, including the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and paramilitary units, have been redeployed to secure access to these destinations. Checkpoints have been established, and anti-fidayeen squads from the Special Operations Group of the Jammu and Kashmir Police are stationed at sensitive locations such as Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and Dal Lake, which remain open to tourists.

Madhya Pradesh grapples with administrative crisis

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh is currently grappling with a serious administrative crisis as several districts remain without key officials, leading to a noticeable vacuum in governance.

In Datia, for instance, it has been over 14 days since the district has had a formally appointed Collector. Following the retirement of Collector Sandeep Kumar Makin on May 31, the responsibilities of the post have been

temporarily handed over to the Chief Executive Officer, Akshay Temrwal.

This dual burden has disrupted the routine functioning of the district, as managing both administrative duties and developmental work simultaneously is proving to be unsustainable.

The situation is not limited to Datia alone. Nine other districts — Harda, Sidhi, Singrauli, Sheopur, Maunanj, Dindori, Dewas, Chhindwara and Jhabua — are functioning without appointed Additional

District Magistrates (ADMs).

These officials play a crucial role in maintaining law and order, overseeing revenue matters and ensuring timely grievance redressal.

In their absence, the workload on district collectors has increased significantly, leading to delays and administrative stagnation.

The root of the crisis lies in the delay of a major transfer and reshuffling of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers, a process that has been postponed repeatedly.

Initially, it was deferred due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit, then further delayed by Eid celebrations and the BJP's training camp in Pachmarhi.

Now, the state government has indicated that the transfer list may finally be issued after June 17.

Until then, critical administrative posts will remain vacant, and normal functioning in many districts is expected to remain sluggish.

In districts like Shahdol, the problem is compounded fur-

ther. The departure of CEO Anjali Ramesh, who has returned to her cadre in Maharashtra, has left the office without leadership, severely affecting the implementation of rural development programmes.

The consequences of these administrative gaps are already visible — revenue cases are piling up, public grievances are not being addressed in a timely manner and several development projects are either delayed or functioning without

proper oversight.

This ongoing administrative paralysis is not just a bureaucratic issue; it is affecting the daily lives of citizens.

Essential services are slowing down, governance is becoming increasingly ineffective, and public trust in the administration is beginning to erode.

Unless swift action is taken to appoint the necessary officers and restore full administrative capacity, the state risks deeper governance challenges in the weeks to come.



DG CRPF GP Singh undertook a comprehensive review of the security landscape in the jurisdiction of 32 Battalion at Loktak during his visit to Manipur

PIONEER PHOTO

Cities brace for large crowds at anti-Trump No Kings demonstrations across the US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Philadelphia

Cities large and small were preparing for major demonstrations Saturday across the US against President Donald Trump, as officials urge calm, National Guard troops mobilize and Trump attends a military parade in Washington to mark the Army's 250th anniversary.

A flagship "No Kings" march and rally are planned in Philadelphia, but no events are scheduled to take place in Washington, DC, where the military parade will take place on Trump's birthday.

The demonstrations are gaining additional fuel from protests flaring up around the country over federal immigration enforcement raids and Trump ordering National Guard troops and Marines to Los Angeles where protesters blocked a freeway and set cars on fire.

Police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades while officials enforced curfews in Los Angeles and Democratic governors called Trump's Guard deployment "an alarming abuse of power" that "shows the Trump administration does not trust local law enforcement."

Governors and city officials vowed to protect the right to protest and to show no tolerance for violence.

Republican governors in Virginia, Texas, Nebraska and Missouri are mobilizing National Guard troops to help law enforcement manage demonstrations.

There will be "zero tolerance" for violence, destruction or disrupting traffic, and "if you violate the law, you're going to be arrested," Virginia Gov Glenn Youngkin told reporters Friday.

In Missouri, Gov Mike Kehoe issued a similar message, vowing to take a proactive



approach and not to "wait for chaos to ensue."

Nebraska's governor on Friday also signed an emergency proclamation for activating his state's National Guard, a step his office called "a precautionary measure in reaction to recent instances of civil unrest across the country."

Organisers say that one march will go to the gates of Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, where Republican Gov Ron DeSantis warned demonstrators that the "line is very clear" and not to cross it.

Governors also urged calm.

On social media,

Washington state Gov Bob Ferguson, a Democrat, called for peaceful protests over the weekend, to ensure Trump doesn't send military to the state.

"Donald Trump wants to be able to say that we cannot handle our own public safety in Washington state," Ferguson said. In a statement Friday, Arizona Gov Katie Hobbs, a Democrat, urged "protestors to remain peaceful and calm as they exercise their First Amendment right to make their voices heard."

Pennsylvania Gov Josh Shapiro, a Democrat, said his administration and state police

are working with police in Philadelphia ahead of what organisers estimate could be a crowd approaching 100,000 people.

Philadelphia's top prosecutor, District Attorney Larry Krasner, warned that anyone coming to Philadelphia to break the law or immigration agents exceeding their authority will face arrest. He invoked the civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr as a guide for demonstrators.

"If you are doing what Martin Luther King would have done, you're going to be fine," Krasner told a news conference.

Some law enforcement agencies announced they were ramping up efforts for the weekend. In California, state troopers will be on "tactical alert," which means all days off are cancelled for all officers.

Why is it called No Kings? The "No Kings" theme was orchestrated by the 50501 Movement, to support democracy and against what they call the authoritarian actions of the Trump administration. The name 50501 stands for 50 states, 50 protests, one movement. Protests earlier this

year have denounced Trump and billionaire adviser Elon Musk. Protesters have called for Trump to be "dethroned" as they compare his actions to that of a king and not a democratically elected president.

Why are they protesting on Saturday? The No Kings Day of Defiance has been organised to reject authoritarianism, billionaire-first politics and the militarization of the country's democracy, according to a statement by organisers.

Organisers intend for the protests to counter the Army's 250th anniversary celebration - which Trump has ratcheted up to include a military parade, which is estimated to cost USD 25 million to USD 45 million that the Army expects to attract as many as 200,000 people.

The event will feature hundreds of military vehicles and aircraft and thousands of soldiers. It also happens to be Trump's 79th birthday and Flag Day.

"The flag doesn't belong to President Trump. It belongs to us," the "No Kings" website says. "On June 14th, we're showing up everywhere he isn't - to say no thrones, no crowns, no kings."

Israeli strikes on Gaza kill at least 16



An explosion seen during a missile attack in Tel Aviv, Israel on Friday. PTI Deir al-Balah (Gaza Strip)

At least 16 Palestinians were killed in Israeli strikes on the Gaza Strip overnight and into Saturday, according to local health officials. The 20-month war with Hamas has opened a new front with heavy strikes on Iran that sparked retaliatory drone and missile attacks.

Another 11 Palestinians were killed overnight near food distribution points run by an Israeli- and US-supported humanitarian group in the latest of almost daily shootings near the sites since they opened last month. Palestinian witnesses say

Israeli forces have fired on the crowds, while the military says it has only fired warning shots near people it describes as suspects who approached its forces.

The military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the latest shootings. The sites are located in military zones that are off limits to independent media.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a private contractor that operates the sites, said they were closed Saturday. But witnesses said thousands had gathered near the sites anyway, desperate for food as Israel's blockade and military campaign have driven the territory to the brink of famine.

FORM A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016) FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF M/S DEVIKA UNIVERSAL LANDS PRIVATE LIMITED

RELEVANT PARTICULARS

1. Name of corporate debtor	DEVIKA UNIVERSAL LANDS PRIVATE LIMITED
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	03rd January, 2014
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Delhi
4. Corporate Identity No./ Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U45200DL2014PTC263039
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	Registered Office: 780-A-7, G/F, F/P Govindpuri, Kalkaji, South Delhi, New Delhi-110019, Delhi, India
6. Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	12th June, 2025 (However, uploaded on NCLT Website on 13th June, 2025)
7. Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	9th December, 2025
8. Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Name : Sudhanshu Gupta Registration Number: IBB/IPA-002/IP-N00216/2017-18/10068
9. Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Address: 311, Agarwal Chamber-2, Plot No. 30, 31, Veer Savarkar Block, Opp. Metro Pillar No. 58, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092 Email Address: sg_1973@rediffmail.com
10. Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Address: 311, Agarwal Chamber-2, Plot No. 30, 31, Veer Savarkar Block, Opp. Metro Pillar No. 58, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092 Email Address: sg_1973@rediffmail.com
11. Last date for submission of claims	27th June, 2025
12. Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	Yet could not be identified due to insufficient information at present
13. Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorized Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	Refer Para-12
14. (a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	Web link : https://ibbi.gov.in/home/downloads Physical Address : 311, Agarwal Chamber-2, Plot No. 30, 31, Veer Savarkar Block, Opp. Metro Pillar No. 58, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal has ordered the commencement of a corporate insolvency resolution process of the M/s. Devika Universal Lands Private Limited on 12th June 2025.

The creditors of M/s. Devika Universal Lands Private Limited are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 27th June 2025 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No. 13 to act as authorised representative of the class (specify class) in Form CA. * Yet could not be identified due to insufficient information at present.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Sd/- Suchanshu Gupta Interim Resolution Professional of Devika Universal Lands Private Limited Regn. No. IBB/IPA-002/IP-N00216/2017-18/10068 Address: 311, Agarwal Chamber-2, Plot No. 30, 31, Veer Savarkar Block, Opp. Metro Pillar No. 58, Shakarpur, East Delhi, Delhi-110092 Email Address: sg_1973@rediffmail.com Contact No. : +91-9811547321

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIED

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hemlata W/o JC-304028W Sub(OPR) Satish Chandra, R/o- RZH-296, Palam Vill, PO- Raj Nagar-11, Teh- Palam, Dist- South West Delhi, Delhi - 110077, have changed my name from Hemlata to Hemlata Sharma, vide affidavit dated 14/06/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2254)C I, Sufhedee, Mother of JC-707424L Nb Sub/DVR Sher Singh Gurjar, R/o- Vill- Bhupur Shaypur, PO- Gahanoli, Teh- Mahwa, Dist- Dausa, Rajasthan- 321612, have changed my name from Sufhedee to Sufedi vide affidavit No. IN-DL01121560955742X dated 14/06/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2255)C I, Armarjeet Kaur W/o- Balvinder Singh, R/o- 370, Ground Floor, Chand Nagar, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018, declare that in my husband's Passport (No. F0103849), my name has been written as Amarjit Kaur, whereas my correct name is Armarjeet Kaur, which may be amended accordingly.

PD(2256)C I, Vikas Kumar, S/o. Balbir Singh. R/o. Near Balaji Mandir. Khandas, Distt. Gurugram. Haryana -122004. That the surname, " Raghav " is add - on in my minor Daughter's Name as Ishika to Ishika Raghav (DOB - 11/9/2009) Ishika and Ishika Raghav is the same person.

PD(2260)C

PD(2253)C I, Kirti Kumari, D/o JC-812221A Nb/Sub Kalyan Singh, Presently residing at VPO- Palsera, Teh- Khair, Dist- Aligarh, U.R.- 202137, have changed my name from Kirti to Kirti Kumari for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 14/06/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2253)C

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Central Bank of India

1911 से आपके लिए "सेन्ट्रल" "CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911

BRANCH OFFICE: 1/7 DESHBANDHU GUPTA ROAD, PAHAR GANJ, NEW DELHI

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) (Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Central Bank of India, Paharganj Branch, New Delhi under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) and 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 18/02/2025, calling upon the Borrower: MS. JASVINDER PAL KAUR, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.9,86,508.33 (Rupees Nine Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Eight and Thirty Three Paise Only) (which represents the principal plus interest due as on the 18/02/2025), plus interest and other charges from 19/02/2025 to till date within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to pay the entire dues of the bank, notice is hereby given to the borrower, the Guarantor 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 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002 on this 11th Day of June 2025. The borrower and the Guarantor 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 Central Bank of India, Paharganj Branch, New Delhi, for the amount of Rs.9,86,508.33 (Rupees Nine Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Eight and Thirty Three Paise Only) (which represents the principal plus interest due on the 18/02/2025), plus interest and other charges from 19/02/2025.

The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Western Portion of Property No.B-112A, measuring 150 Sq.Yards out of 300 Sq.Yards of Khalsa No.1930 situated at Janta Colony, Shivaji Vihar, New Delhi-110027. Bounded by: East: Portion of said plot West: Others Plot North: Road South: Road

PLACE: NEW DELHI (Authorised Officer) DATE: 11/06/2025 Central Bank of India

सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Central Bank of India

1911 से आपके लिए "सेन्ट्रल" "CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911

BRANCH OFFICE: 1/7 DESHBANDHU GUPTA ROAD, PAHAR GANJ, NEW DELHI

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) (Under Rule 8(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Central Bank of India, Paharganj Branch, New Delhi under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) and 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 01/03/2025, calling upon the Borrower: MR. AMIT KOHLI, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.32,43,390.97 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Forty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety and Paise Ninety Seven Only) (which represents the principal plus interest due as on the 01/03/2025), plus interest and other charges from 02/03/2025 to till date within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower having failed to pay the entire dues of the bank, notice is hereby given to the borrower, the Guarantor 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 Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule 2002 on this 11th Day of June 2025. The borrower and the Guarantor 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 Central Bank of India, Paharganj Branch, New Delhi, for the amount of Rs.32,43,390.97 (Rupees Thirty Two Lakh Forty Three Thousand Three Hundred Ninety and Paise Ninety Seven Only) (which represents the principal plus interest due on the 01/03/2025), plus interest and other charges from 02/03/2025.

The borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Entire Second Floor without Roof Right, Built up Property Bearing No.WZ-1738 Measuring 75 Sq.Yards, Built on Plot No.17, Killa No.11/3 Situated at Ranibagh, Shakur Basti, Delhi-110034. Bounded by: East: Remaining Portion West: Other's Property North: Road South: Other's Property

PLACE: NEW DELHI (Authorised Officer) DATE: 11/06/2025 Central Bank of India

King Charles leads minute's silence for crash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Britain's King Charles III on Saturday led a minute's silence in memory of the Ahmedabad-London Air India plane crash victims after making last-minute amendments to his annual Trooping the Colour birthday parade, with black armbands commemorating the victims. Buckingham Palace said the 76-year-old monarch

wanted the alterations "as a mark of respect for the lives lost, the families in mourning and all the communities affected by this awful tragedy."

It saw all members of the royal family in uniform sporting black armbands as a mark of respect to the 241 passengers and crew who lost their lives in Thursday's London-bound plane crash in Ahmedabad.

"Following the Air India incident this week, His Majesty

has requested that members of the Royal Family in uniform at Trooping the Colour should wear black armbands, as will mounted Officers in the Procession and all liveried Mews staff," Buckingham Palace said in a statement.

"The parade will also incorporate a minute's silence, to be observed after Their Majesties [King Charles and Queen Camilla] have exited the carriage and joined The Princesses

of Wales [Kate Middleton] on the dais, following the inspection of the parade," the statement said. "The silence will be signalled by the sounding of a Last Post and Reveille. This will be as a mark of respect for all the lives lost, the families in mourning and the communities affected by the tragedy," it added. In an earlier statement, King Charles had said he and Queen Camilla were "desperately shocked by the terrible events in Ahmedabad."

"Our special prayers and deepest possible sympathy are with the families and friends of all those affected by this appallingly tragic incident across so many nations, as they await news of their loved ones," a Buckingham Palace statement noted in the wake of the tragedy. "I would like to pay a particular tribute to the heroic efforts of the emergency services and all those providing help and support at this most heartbreaking and traumatic time," the statement added.

Election of the Executive Committee of Shri Ram Mulakh Darbar (Regd.no. 17882) held on 06.04.2025 at Sanyas Road, Kankhal, Haridwar, for the year 2025-26.

The General Public and all the concerned Government Departments are duly hereby informed that the following valid members of Shri Ram Mulakh Darbar were elected on 06.04.2025 in the AGM of SRMD, as the newly constituted Governing Body of Shri Ram Mulakh Darbar Society for the year 2025-26 under the chairmanship of, a social worker, Mr. B. S. Rawat Ji.

President: Guru Maa Smt. Prabha ji unanimously elected as The President, Senior Vice-President: Param Pujya Acharya Bal Krishna ji and Shri C. D. Grover ji, General Secretary: Shri Rachit Rawat ji, Secretary: Dr. Neha Sharma ji and Shri Deepak Kumar Garg ji, Treasurer: Smt. Smarika ji.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: - Sadhvi Dev Shruti ji, Sadhvi Dev Sudha ji, Swami Haridev ji, Swami Mitraddev ji, Shri B.S. Rawat Ji and Shri Jagmohan Ji were elected as EC MEMBERS of SRMD (Regd. No. 17882)

Guru Maa Smt. Prabha Ji, President: Shri Ram Mulakh Darbar, Sanyas Road, Kankhal, Haridwar

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

BRANCH OFFICE: HOME LOAN CENTRE KARKARDOOMA (15811) UNITY ONE MALL, FIRST FLOOR, CBD, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032

NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE ON 15.07.2025 FOR MOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable 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 movable property hypothecated / charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is" and "Whatever there is" on 15.07.2025, for recovery of bank due to the secured creditor as under:-

Interested bidder may deposit Pre-Bid EMD with BAANKNET before the close of e-Auction. Credit of Pre-Bid EMD shall be given to the bidder only after receipt of payment in BAANKNET's Bank Account and up-dation of such information in the e-auction website. This may take some time as per banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest, are advised to submit the pre-bid EMD amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem.

Date / Time of E-Auction on 15.07.2025 for 6 Hours from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM with unlimited extn. of 10 minute each.

FOR VEHICLE INSPECTION AND ANY QUERY PLEASE CONTACT: MR. AMIT KUMAR, MOBILE: 9205101634

S. No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which Property/ies / are being Sold	Vehicle Description	Reserve Price (Rs.) (below which property could not be sold) Earnest Money (EMD) 10% of the Reserve Price Bid Increment Amount	Name of the Authorised Officer
1.	MR. ISHU PAL S/o MR. PRAMOD PAL Car Loan A/c No. 40810803237 H. No.287, Gali No.4 Near Rajiv Gandhi Hospital, Tahirpur, Jhilmil, Delhi-110095.	Rs.8,03,499/- as on 12.12.2023 plus future Interest and other Charges etc. thereon	Make & Model: HONDA CITY 1.5 VMT (1-VTEC) Regn. No.: DL-5CT-6802 Engine No.: L15217111222 Chassis No.: MAKGM653AN4405703 COLOUR: SALOON	₹ 8,40,160/- ₹ 84,016/- ₹ 1,000/- (Including GST 18%)	Mr. Arvind Kumar Aggarwal (Chief Manager) Mobile: 8218049846 AND Mohd. Asif 9315631722

Last Date of EMD Deposit on or before 14.07.2025 upto 4:00 PM

Account/ Wallet in which EMD to be remitted : Bidder's own wallet Registered with BAANKNET on its e-auction site: https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/eproc-listing by means of NEFT/RETS. EMD of Reserve Price to be transferred by bidders by means of challan generated on his/her/his bidder account maintained with BAANKNET on its e-auction site: https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/eproc-listing by means of NEFT from his /her/his bank. For any assistance, please call please call BAANKNET HELPDOESK: +91 8291202220, support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com and/or Authorized Officer.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:

(1) E-Auction is being held on "As is where is", "as is what is basis" and "whatever there is basis" and will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider BAANKNET at its web portal: https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/eproc-listing

(2) Bank shall reserve the right to cancel/postpone the auction.

(3) The Vehicle are available for inspection during banking hours, Contact: Mr. Amit Kumar, Mobile: 9205101634, M/s Pechan Professional Services Pvt. Ltd. (Resolution Agent).

(4) Successful bidder to pay GST as applicable on the successful bid amount, viz sale value.

(5) To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However the intending bidder should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of the property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property prior to submitting their bid.

The e-Auction Advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorized Officer shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues.

(6) The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration and the EMD of the unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price, immediately on acceptance of bid price by the Authorized Officer and the balance of the sale price on or before 15th day of the sale. Default in deposit of amount by the successful bidder would entail forfeiture of the whole money already deposited and property shall be put to the e-auction and the defaulting bidder shall have no claim/right in respect of property / amount.

(7) For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link at the Bank's Service Provider's web portal: https://baanknet.com/eauction-psb/eproc-listing & e-auction website: https://BAANKNET.com

Date: 14.06.2025 Place: New Delhi Authorized Officer, State Bank of India, Home Loan Centre, Karkardooma, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all concerned that "Devesh Gupta S/o Shri Deepak Gupta R/o KH-88 Block-H, Kavi Nagar, Ghazabad, Uttar Pradesh-201002 through his Advocate Shri Pushpendra Kumar had published a notice on 07/03/2025 in the Lost & Found block of Pioneer newspaper regarding loss/misplacement of all original documents of Flat No. B-53, Mount Everest CGHS Ltd. Plot No. 17, Sector-09, Dwarka, New Delhi, an FIR No. 2639431/2025 dated 04/03/2024.

Decared that these documents are in possession of my client YUPRI S/o Shri Nagesh Ram under the terms and conditions of Agreement to Sell dated 10/05/2024 and for about it he has already informed to all concerned parties within the ambit of the above notice. Anyone dealing with them now may be responsible for all consequences and legal action at his own cost and in all cases at his own expense.

SHUBHAM (ADV) Phone: 70 655 38 399 202. Plot No.1, MLU Sector-10, Dwarka New Delhi-75 202, Plot No. 1, MLU Sector-10, New Delhi-75

LOST AND FOUND

The General Public is hereby informed that the Original Sale Deed dated 18.12.1965 pertaining to Property bearing Municipal No.18/2, having land area measuring 105 Sq.Yds. (approx.) pertaining to the Kheawat Khatri No. 220/238, Sub Plot No. 810/808, 471 & 472 situated at Kishan Gali, Near Rama Park, on Bhagat Singh Road, Delhi-110007 has been lost and/or misplaceed. Any person(s) having any information or knowledge regarding the same, shall produce the same before me immediately without any fail. The General Public is also hereby informed at large that no person(s) shall deal with the said property without my written permission/consent. Any person dealing with title, interest of the said property without the said permission/consent shall be solely held responsible for the consequences of the same.

Kapil Kumar +91 9811346008

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed that One Original Sale Deed dated 31.03.1966 registered in the Office of Sub-Registrar Mawana at block No. 1 and 1680 on page 627/634 of Mawana number 1839 is related with a Plot area 167.24 Sq. meter Situated at Village Bisaula Dist. Meerut. The present owner of the land Smt. Farana Khatun W/o Mehtraj R/o Village Bisaula Dist. Meerut is applied for a financial facility form VASTU HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION LTD. Thereafter said Smt. Farana Khatun will mortgage the said the said land in favour of the bank. If any person/institution have any objection regarding the said Sale deed or proposed mortgage, can place his/its objection through the below mentioned mobile number within seven days from the date of this publication. Beyond this period no objection will be admitted.

(MANISH VERMA) ADVOCATE No. No. 9259311480

PUBLIC NOTICE

"It is to inform to the public at large Mohd Ibrahim had acquired Property No. D-3/422, area measuring 100 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 32/41, situated at in the area of Village Mustafabad, in the abadi of D-3-Block, Nehru Vihar, Mustafabad, Ilaga Shamara, Delhi vide Gift Deed Dt. 26.06.2023 executed by Mrs. Tamizan, Now Mohd Ibrahim is the undisputed owner of the said property.

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/his share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated null and void and also treated as waived and not binding on our client.

Ajay Kumar Gili (Advocate) at No. 26/161, Basement, Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi 110024

It is important to know when to switch on: Prasidh Krishna

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
Beckenham (UK)

India pacer Prasidh Krishna says he has learned to “switch on” as per the team’s requirements and is now looking to carry his rich IPL form on to the tour of England.

Having come back from a long injury layoff, Prasidh displayed excellent form in the IPL 2025 and emerged as the league’s highest wicket-taker and the winner of the Purple Cap.

He is now chuffed about the five-match Test series against England, beginning at Leeds on June 20, for which the touring party is currently engaged in an intra-squad match here. “(You have to) make sure you are focussed when your chance is coming. But you can’t really be focussed for a long time, especially when you are sitting outside, so you make sure you have a bit of fun.

“When you know you can sense situation, you make sure you support your team at particular situations, making sure you are being switched on because anything can happen in the game, that’s the beauty



of cricket in itself.

“I think all of us are experienced to know when you must switch on and switch off,” Prasidh said.

He has come back to crick- eting action reinvigorated after a long and frustrating wait on the sidelines due to recurrent injuries, which also forced him to go under the knife.

One of Gujarat Titans’ most influential players in the last IPL, Prasidh said the game time in UK before the big Test series will benefit the team immensely, as players from different franchises and state

sides converge for a common cause with the Indian team.

“It’s really important for all of us to get this game time. Because some of them are coming from the ‘A’ game. Getting some time on field is really important. That’s what has happened today as well.”

“Looks like a good, nice, hard pitch. Bowlers have been in the game all throughout, have been bowling some really good spells. Batsmen also showed some character. It’s always good when you are competing against each other as well.”

“All of us are excited and enjoying what’s happening. All of us are getting together after a while, so a lot memories, a lot of cricket each one has played with different teams, coming here, have spent a lot of time before. Just try and make sure you keep the environment light,” he said after the open- ing day’s play on Friday.

As per an update by the BCCI, skipper Shubman Gill and senior player KL Rahul scored half-centuries, while Shardul Thakur was among the wickets on the first day of the match.

FIH Pro League: Late goals sink India again, Australia wins 2-3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
Antwerp (Belgium)

There was no end to Indian men’s hockey team’s woes in the FIH Pro League as the side slumped to its fifth straight defeat, losing 2-3 to Australia despite leading the contest by two goals after Abhishek’s brace, here Saturday.

The Indian team has already lost twice to Netherlands and Argentina in the tournament.

Starting strong, India took a 2-0 lead by the 35th minute through Abhishek’s (8th, 35th minutes) brace.

But the Kookaburras came out all attacking after the change of ends, scoring through Nathan Ephraums (42nd) and two penalty corner conversions by Joel Rintala (56th) and Tom Craig (60th) to secure the win.

After suffering four close defeats against Netherlands and Argentina in the their first four matches of the European leg of Pro League, the Indians looked a motivated lot against Australia and dominated the share of exchanges in the first two quarters.

The Indians were without



skipper and ace dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh as he has been rested due to a injury suffered in the last match against Argentina. The Indians showed intent from the word go and took lead in the eighth minute through Abhishek, who flicked from top of the circle after receiving a pass from Manpreet Singh.

In the 11 minute, Australia secured a penalty corner but goalkeeper Suraj Karkera made a good save to deny the opposition. Abhishek nearly put India two up with some sen- sational play in the opposition defensive area but his back- hand flick just went inches

wide off the goal. In the 19th minute, Karkera made a fine save to deny Joel Rintala from close range.

India had another chance in the form a penalty corner in the 22nd minute but Jugraj Singh could not go past the first rusher in Tim Brand.

After the change of ends, India doubled the lead when Sukhjeet Singh disposed an Australian player in front of their circle and passed it it on to Abhishek, who slapped a reverse hit into the goal past the opposition goalkeeper to score his second of the day.

Australia earned a penalty corner in the 37th minute but

Karkera made a fine save. Australia pulled a goal back when Tom Craig’s reverse hit was saved by Karkera but Ephraums scored from rebound.

India secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 48th minute but could to covert.

The Australians pressed hard in the final 10 minutes, earning four penalty corners in quick succession, the last of which was converted by Rintala. Just 42 seconds from the hooter, India conceded another penalty corner and Craig deflected in Jeremy Hayward’s flick to hand Australia the win.

Arya Borse-Arjun Babuta pair wins gold in ISSF World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIAN ■ Munich

India’s Arya Borse and Arjun Babuta dished out a thoroughly dominant performance and outplayed China’s reigning Olympic and world champion duo Zifei Wang and Lihao Sheng 17-7 to win the gold medal in the 10m air rifle mixed team event of the ISSF World Cup here on Saturday.

Arya and Arjun were in fine fettle when it mattered the most to win the top prize in the prestigious tournament, not giving the Chinese an inch.

The Indian duo entered the gold medal round after aggregating 635.2 in the qualifications, just .7 behind Wang and Sheng (635.9), which is also the qual- ifications world record.

Arya had paired with Rudranksh Patil to win the 10m air rifle mixed team sil- ver in the World Cup in Lima, Peru, earlier this year.

The other Indian pair in the event, Elavenil Valarivan and Ankush Jadhav finished sixth in the qualifications with 631.8. Norway’s Jeanette Hegg Duestad and Jon-Hermann Hegg bagged the bronze medal with a 16-14 victory over the UAS’s Sagen Maddalena and Peter Matthew Fiori.

This is India’s fourth medal and second gold in the ongoing World Cup after Suruchi Singh’s yellow mettle and the two bronze won by Sift Kaur Samra and Elavenil in their respective individual events earlier this week.

In the 10m air pistol mixed team event, the combo of Manu Bhaker and Aditya Malra ended sixth with a combined total of 577 in the qualifications, while the Suruchi Singh and Varun Tomar was



Arya Borse and Arjun Babuta

placed 10th with 576.

Unstoppable Borse-Babuta

Taking aim on the concluding day of the tournament, Arjun (317.7) and Arya (317.5) shot a combined 635.2 to finish second behind Sheng and Wang, who topped the 58-team field with a world record (also junior) score of 635.9.

In the final, Arya began with a 9.8 to give the Chinese pair an early lead (0-2), but in the next seven series of single shots, the Indians shot only one shot below 10.5 (a 10.2) to take a huge 13-3 lead after the eighth series.

The top Chinese pair then managed to win the next two narrowly in the race to 16, but it was again business as usual from the 11th series, as Arya and Arjun fired a couple of 10.5 and 10.7s respectively, to get to match point.

In the final 12th series, while Arjun cancelled out Sheng with identical 10.1s, Arya outgunned Wang 10.6-10.4, to give India a memorable gold medal.

MCC outlaws ‘bunny hop’ boundary catches, new rule to come into effect

PRESS TRUST OF INDIAN ■ London

Boundary catches involving ‘bunny hops’, or multiple air- borne touches outside the rope, have been deemed illegal by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), with the new ruling set to be integrated into ICC’s playing conditions this month and the MCC’s laws from October next year. Spectacular catches like the ones pulled off by Michael Nesar during BBL 2023 and Tom Banton, with Matt Renshaw’s help in 2020, will not be considered legal once the updated rule comes into force.

According to an MCC note circu- lated to member boards by the ICC, while the existing law “led to some spectacular” fielding efforts, it also allowed “some unusual-look- ing catches that, to the majority of the cricketing public, feel unfair.”

Describing Nesar’s catch for Brisbane Heat to dismiss Jordan Silk, the MCC said the fielder “bunny hopped” before completing the catch inside the boundary. While the act complied with the law at the time, the note added it “felt like the fielder had — quite literally — gone too far.”

Both instances triggered wide- spread debate, prompting the ICC and MCC to review Law 19.5.2, which was last updated in 2010.

As part of its revision, the MCC clarified that any fielder making a second contact with the ball after jumping from beyond the bound-



ary must land inside the field of play, or else a boundary will be awarded.

“MCC has devised a new word- ing where the ‘bunny hop’ wholly beyond the boundary is removed, but these catches where the field- er pushes the ball up from inside the boundary, steps outside and then dives back in to catch the ball, are permitted,” the note said.

“Our solution has been to limit any fielder who has gone outside the boundary to touching the ball while airborne only once and then, having done so, to be wholly grounded within the boundary for the rest of the duration of that delivery.”

The rule will also apply to relay catches. If a fielder parries the ball while airborne outside the bound- ary and fails to return inside the

field before the catch is completed — even by a teammate — it will be ruled a boundary.

“Even if the ball is parried — to another fielder or inside the field of play - if the fielder lands outside the boundary, or subsequently steps outside, then a boundary will be scored.

“For clarity, that means the fielder gets one chance, and one chance only, to touch the ball hav- ing jumped from outside the boundary. After that point, the boundary becomes a hard line — and any time they touch the ground in that delivery, whatever else happens, they must be inside.”

The revised rule will be enforced starting June 17, when the new World Test Championship (WTC) cycle begins with Sri Lanka taking on Bangladesh in Galle.

Chopra aims top spot at Paris DL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Paris

Neeraj Chopra will be eyeing the first major title of the season after finishing second in back-to- back competitions as the superstar Indian javelin thrower returns to the Paris Diamond League (DL) after eight years to compete in a top-class field on June 20.

The 27-year-old Indian had skipped the Paris DL last year in order to focus on the Olympic Games in the French capital. He last competed in the Paris DL in 2017 as a junior world champion and had finished fifth with a throw of 84.67m.

The Paris organisers are yet to publish the full list of com- petitors but they announced that Chopra and two-time world champion Anderson Peters of Grenada would be among five entrants who have already crossed the 90m mark.

“Javelin throwers Neeraj Chopra, a double Olympic medalist and Anderson Peters, a double world cham- pion, are among the five entrants who have already crossed the 90m line in a competition that promises to be a crazy one,” the organisers said.

Peters had finished third

behind Chopra in both Doha Diamond League on May 16 and Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet in Poland on May 23.

Chopra began the 2025 season with a title in an invi- tational meet at Potchefstroom, South Africa, which was a minor — category F — event with a throw of 84.52m. He then finally breached the elusive 90m mark with a throw of 90.23m at Doha Diamond League on May 16 though German Julian Weber won the top spot with 91.06m.

A week later, the double Olympic medalist again fin- ished second behind Weber at the Janusz Kusocinski Memorial meet in Poland with a best throw of 84.14m, which was a below-par show considering his high stan- dards, though the competi- tion was held under chilly and overcast conditions.

Chopra would be looking to make amends in his second DL outing of the season in Paris on June 20 at the venue where he had won his second Olympic medal — a silver — in August last year.

Four days after the Paris DL, Chopra will compete at the Golden Spike 2025 athlet- ics meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic on June 24.

Club World Cup to take Inter Miami to global stage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
Antalya Miami

The Club World Cup will take Inter Miami from start-up to the global stage.

Just five years after its MLS debut, the team co-owned by David Beckham and starring Lionel Messi will have the eyes of the world on it as it kicks off soc- cer’s newest competition with the chance to be crowned world champion. It’s been a wild ride.

“This is a competition that will let us see where we are standing as a team,” coach Javier Mascherano said Friday as Miami enters the unknown in a com- petition featuring 32 of the best teams from around the globe.

“No one expects us to go far, but this should be an advantage. We don’t have that in our nation- al league when people expect Miami to be the winning team.”

Up first for Miami at the Hard Rock Stadium on Saturday is Africa’s most successful team — Al Ahly from Egypt, which has won a record 12 African cham- pionships.

When it comes to winning her- itage, there is no competition. Al Ahly, founded in 1907, has won a record 45 national league titles and 39 domestic cups — another record. It qualified for the Club World Cup three times over by winning three of the last four African Champions League titles.

Questions over Miami’s place Miami, meanwhile, is taking part



in the tournament by more ques- tionable means.

Its place was secured as a result of winning the MLS Supporters’ Shield, a decision that was greeted with some sur- prise when announced by FIFA president Gianni Infantino last year, and looked even more curi- ous when Miami failed to go on and lift the MLS Cup that season.

A tournament devised to deter- mine the best team in the world by largely bringing together con- tinental champions managed to shoehorn in a team that hadn’t even managed to win its own national title.

No wonder questions were raised. Miami, however, has made a habit of pulling off the unlik- ely and setting its sights high.

“Our club will have a global vision,” managing owner and CEO Jorge Mas said when Miami was launched in 2018 - at that time without a team or even a name.

Led by Messi

Miami has lived up to that billing — luring star players like former Real Madrid forward Gonzalo Higuain and eventually landing the biggest of them all two years ago when signing Messi.

It is no surprise Infantino wanted the Argentine great in his inaugural tournament.

The presence of the eight-time Ballon d’Or winner adds glam- our and interest, and boosts the chances of FIFA selling out more stadiums like the 65,000-seat

Hard Rock. “Everyone’s talking about Messi 24/7 every day,” said former Italy striker Christian Vieri, who is an analyst for broad- caster DAZN.”

“The whole world’s going to be watching the first game and everyone wants to watch Messi, so it’s just going to be an incredible night.”

Messi has not just raised the profile of Miami, but also MLS, with clips of his goals shared around the world on social media.

“The league was growing before, but ever since his arrival it’s grown a lot faster. What he’s done for this sport in the States is huge,” said Miami teammate Benjamin Cremaschi.

With him in the team, Miami

won the Leagues Cup in 2023 and the Supporters’ Shield last year, setting an MLS record for the most points in a single season.

Optimism in South Florida

And it is the presence of arguably the greatest player of all time, along with other star names like Luis Suarez, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba, that is driving belief Miami can make a statement over the next month.

“This club has had a short life, but this is the most important competition in the history of our club,” Mascherano said.

“It is only normal that a European team should win the competition, but these tourna- ments can spring a surprise. Why can we not be excited that we can spring a surprise?”

Miami is likely to have to win its opening game to have a real chance of advancing beyond the first stage, with Brazilian giant Palmeiras and Portuguese side Porto also in Group A.

For Messi, the tournament presents him with the unusual experience of being an underdog. “The expectations I have are different to the ones I had when I played for other teams, but I’m eager and I look forward to com- peting against the best and doing well,” he said.

Win or lose, Suarez believes Miami’s rapid rise is just the beginning. “We know how the club is improving now,” Suarez said.

Palmeiras faces uphill battle to win FIFA Club World Cup crown

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Sao Paulo

Brazil will have four teams, more than any other country, in the expan- ded Club World Cup kicking off this weekend in the United States. But for Palmeiras, the competition holds a special meaning: winning it would provide some redemption.

Under coach Abel Ferreira since 2020, Palmeiras lifted two Copa Libertadores titles, plus Brazilian league, cup, and state championships. Even before Ferreira, it boasted another South American crown and 11 league titles.

The only major trophy missing is a world champions’ title.

Other Brazilian clubs like Fluminense and Botafogo, also in the tournament, have never won it either. But the problem for Palmeiras and its 16 million fans stems from its three local rivals, Corinthians, Sao Paulo, and Santos, having all won it at least twice. That has led to over two decades of memes, jokes, and insults. It could all come back for the third time in five years for Palmeiras. “It’s true that we have a 10per cent chance of winning this tourna- ment,” Ferreira said in early May.

“So we’ll fight for these 10 per cent starting with our first goal, getting through the group stage. We deserve to be there.”

Tough group rivals

Palmeiras qualified as 2021 Copa Libertadores winners. Its group stage rivals are Portugal’s Porto, Egypt’s Al Ahly, and Lionel Messi’s Inter Miami.

Fans like Matheus Flor sees a better chance of “ending the world title curse” later this year in the FIFA Intercontinental

PREVIOUS CHANCES

Palmeiras has had three earlier shots at a world title. In 1999, they lost the Intercontinental Cup 1-0 to Manchester United. Twenty-two years later, they suffered a 1-0 semifinal defeat to Mexico’s Tigres in the Club World Cup, finishing fourth. A year later, more heartbreak came with a 2-1 extra time loss to Chelsea. Many Palmeiras fans cling to the 1951 Copa Rio title as world champion status, though FIFA doesn’t officially equate it with the Intercontinental Cup and modern Club World Cup. That tournament saw Palmeiras beat Juventus 3-2 on aggregate. Palmeiras finished the current Copa Libertadores group stage with the most points and is also contending for the league title. Its first Club World Cup match is Sunday against Porto in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Most soccer fans in Sao Paulo will likely be watching. Ever- hopeful Palmeiras fan Flor is pleased his team is once again the focus of rivals. “Of course we want to end the joke forever, but no club’s greatness depends on lifting this title. We’re already great, the biggest winner in Brazil for a very long time,” Flor said.

Cup, a shorter format with fewer teams, if Palmeiras wins its fourth Copa Libertadores title. “The shortened version is more feasible; playing a European team just once in a final gives us more hope,” Flor said. “I’d spend money to go to Dubai, Tokyo, wherever, if I saw a chance of win- ning. This time, I think we’re not too excit- ed because we know the joke will likely continue.”

Key Palmeiras players, like 18-year-old winger Estêvão, midfielder Raphael Veiga, and defender Gustavo Gómez, might not remain after the tournament.

Floral All Over

Florals return in full swing this summer, from bold blooms to soft vintage garden prints, says SAKSHI PRIYA

Florals are having a moment. Again. And this season, the print is bigger, bolder and unapologetically in full bloom. The floral dress has become the undisputed hero of summer wardrobes, offering ease, elegance and endless possibilities. And if you've ever listened to Taylor Swift's *Daylight* or felt the ache of *August*, you'll understand it instantly. Wearing florals right now feels like catching August in June, warm, nostalgic, a little romantic, and full of something you can't quite name but don't want to let go of.

Designers have leaned into petals, vines, buds and full bouquets with a fresh eye. Think oversized hibiscus sprawled across cotton maxis, delicate wildflowers trailing down sheer layers and painted peonies gracing flowing chiffons. Every print feels intentional, every silhouette crafted to move with the breeze and mood of summer.

Daisy motifs remain at the forefront scattered across airy day dresses with ruched waists or gathered skirts. There is a retro sweetness to them, balanced by modern shapes like square necklines, asymmetrical hems, and clean tailoring. The daisy dress is versatile.

YOU CAN THROW A FLORAL SLIP OVER DENIM SHORTS. YOU CAN WEAR A SUNFLOWER DRESS WITH A MESSY BUN AND LIP BALM. YOU CAN LAYER MIXED FLORALS LIKE YOU'RE BUILDING YOUR OWN GARDEN

Roses return in dramatic fashion. Whether in vintage wallpaper-inspired clusters or abstract brushstroke interpretations, rose-printed dresses make a statement. Silk slips with deep crimson blooms or structured shirt dresses covered in soft blush roses feel romantic, but never precious. Tropical florals bring an entirely different energy. Vivid hibiscus, coral orchids and banana leaf prints offer a sense of escape. These dresses often come in relaxed silhouettes halter maxis, tiered kaftans or cut-out midis. Then come the meadow-inspired prints. Tiny lavender buds, buttercups, and climbing ivy stretch across pastel cottons and gauzy voiles. Often seen on prairie cuts-think high necklines, puff sleeves and smocked bodices, these dresses feel like a romantic nod to nature.

Black dresses with ivory lilies, navy with pale blue lilacs, olive green backgrounds dotted with cream wildflowers, all offer a more restrained take. The wrap dress, a perennial favourite, has been refreshed this season with climbing florals and new cuts. Florals remind us that softness is powerful too. One that's dressed in colour and blooming before it's even begun. Florals, this season, are the soundtrack. And yes, they sound a lot like August.

LET YOUR WARDROBE BLOOM LOUDLY, QUIETLY, JOYFULLY

Colour palettes range from washed-out lilacs and pistachio greens to marigold, poppy red and punchy pinks. They highlight the print's detail, adding vibrancy without excess. The beauty of the floral dress lies in its range. You might wear a tiny spring print for a slow morning café visit, a citrus-palette, bloom for an afternoon lunch or a sweeping maxi with oversized botanicals for evening plans.

The floral dress charm lies in how little it asks and how much it offers. This summer, the floral dress is less about blending in with seasonal trends and more about embracing personal rhythm. Even the colours speak differently. There's a move away from sugary pastels to something moodier florals in deep blues, rust, mustard, forest green and dusky rose. These dresses feel more like mood boards than outfits. You can wear one and say everything without speaking a word.

LIKE REMEMBERING A VERSION OF YOURSELF THAT'S PLAYFUL, TENDER AND NOT PERFORMING FOR ANYONE. THEY FEEL LIKE DANCING ALONE IN YOUR KITCHEN. LIKE WRITING YOUR NAME IN WET SAND. LIKE SUNLIGHT FALLING THROUGH LEAVES AT 4 PM

SHAPES THIS SEASON REFLECT THAT SHIFT

The easy-breezy tea dress now comes with strong shoulders or an open back. Wrap dresses in wildflower prints are being cinched with metal-buckle belts. Mini dresses with giant painted florals have puffed sleeves and clean lines. Everything is breezy, but nothing is forgettable. Even the colours speak differently. These dresses feel more like mood boards than outfits.



Lagaan still strikes a chord

BY GYANESHWAR DAYAL

Time flies. It is 25 years of 'Lagaan,' the iconic Aamir Khan's film that was India's entry for the Oscars. Though the film did not make it there but has left a lasting impression on the people back home. The film is a feel good factor for millions of cricket lovers who saw a disheveled Indian village team cobbled together by the protagonist Bhuvan (played by Aamir Khan) takes on well groomed cricket team of British officers in a fictitious town of champaran. The Indian team, predictably though beats the british team and wins the bet of forgoing lagan or (revenue) for three years. Had they lost they would have give to give three times the stipulated lagan.

The film though fiction struck the cord with the masses and was super hit, its song became chart toppers and its director and writer Ashutosh Gowarekar an instant hit. The best part of the film was that it touches upon various facets of Indian life — caste system, innate nature to turn to Gods above for help and resilience of Indian people all woven aesthetically into the film. The director producer though did not castigate the whole British people as normally is the practice. Rose the sister of the British officer who happens to

LAGAAN AT 25

Lagaan, released on June 15, 2001, is a landmark film in Indian cinema, marking 25 glorious years since it first bowled over audiences worldwide. Directed by Ashutosh Gowariker and produced by Aamir Khan, who also played the lead role. The screenplay took over five years to write, and the movie was shot extensively in Bhuj, Gujarat, with the cast and crew facing real-life hardships including an earthquake during production. The film ran for 223 minutes, one of the longest mainstream Indian films at the time, and broke several conventions by combining sport, drama, patriotism, and a powerful human story. With AR Rahman composing a timeless soundtrack and Javed Akhtar penning evocative lyrics, songs like *Ghanan Ghanan*, *Mitwa* and *O Rey Chhori*.



Madhav Mishra's magic returns; slow release disappoints

Criminal Justice offers enough intensity to keep loyal viewers hooked but weekly releases are spoiling the fun, writes ABHI SINGHAL

With new episodes airing every Thursday, the fourth season of *Criminal Justice: A Family Matter* has returned with high expectations only to leave its loyal fans slightly annoyed by the staggered weekly release.

The initial drop of just three episodes made it difficult to form a complete opinion, as the tightly-woven narrative demands a fuller watch to be appreciated in its entirety.

By 15 June, five episodes have been released, setting the stage with a tragic murder at the centre of a tangled family dynamic. Roshni played by Asha Negi, a woman entangled in an extra-marital affair, is found dead in the arms of her lover, Raj Nagpal played by Zeeshan Ayyub.

Raj's estranged wife, Anju portrayed by Surveen Chawla, steps in and seeks the help of none other than Madhav Mishra — the sharp, ever-humble lawyer portrayed once again with effortless charm by Pankaj Tripathi.

Season 4 shows Madhav as a seasoned legal heavyweight, now sought after by high-end corporate clients. Tripathi's portrayal remains the heart of the



series which perfectly balances wit, empathy, and sharp courtroom presence. From the start joining Madhav is his

assistant Shivani Mathur played by Barkha Singh, who brings both spark and intelligence to the role. The added tension of her being the daughter of

Madhav's old courtroom rival, Mandira Mathur (Mita Vashisht), adds a hooking layer to their dynamic.

The case is assigned to Inspector Gauri Karmarkar (*Kalyanee Mulay*), who lends a grounded, no-nonsense presence to the investigation. What initially appears to be an open-and-shut case quickly complicates due to a missing murder weapon.

The dialogues continue to carry the series' signature blend of emotional depth and dry humour.

The supporting cast delivers with equal force with Asha Negi, Zeeshan Ayyub and Surveen Chawla.

While viewers may critique the delayed episode releases, *Criminal Justice: A Family Matter* has certainly started on a strong note.

With a solid storyline, stellar performances, and the familiar charisma of Pankaj Tripathi anchoring it all. The other episodes might be worth the wait or might totally riun the blasting end. But you can watch it for the great acting, the great humour carried by Madhav Mishra and the storyline that might unfold in the future.



RATING
★★★

SUGGESTED BINGES



Underdogs
OTT – JioHotstar
Cast – Ryan Reynolds
Genre – Docuseries



Titan: The OceanGate Disaster
OTT – Netflix
Cast – Mark Monroe, Lily Garrison, Jon Bardin, Jake Swantko



Deep Cover
OTT – Amazon Prime Video
Cast – Bryce Dallas Howard, Orlando Bloom, Nick Mohammed, Sean Bean



The Traitors
OTT – Amazon Prime Video
Cast – Uorfi Javed, Raj Kundra, Raftaar, Jasmin Bhasin, Karan Kundrra



Rana Naidu Season 2
OTT – Netflix
Cast – Rana Daggubati, Arjun Rampal, Venkatesh Daggubati

Vantage Modi 3.0 @ 11

The Amrit Kaal Chronicle: Eleven Years of Empowered India

When Prime Minister Modi assumed office in June 2014, India was engrossed in sentiments of disappointment, disillusionment, and disenchantment. However, a new India, one that is assertive, aspirational, agile, audacious, and aware, has arisen in these eleven years. Under the mantra of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas,” the Modi Government has made development the new political idiom. For the first time, “Vikasvaad”, the politics of development, has become the central narrative, replacing decades of divisive appeasement and short-sighted populism.

Realising Deendayal Upadhyay’s idea of Antyodaya, the Government has been empowering the last mile for the last 11 years and has taken the marginalised from patronage to aspirations. Delhi, like much of India, has felt the profound impact of the Centre’s targeted welfare policies. Over 15 crore households across India now have tap water connections under the Jal Jeevan Mission, an aspiration once considered too ambitious. In slums and unauthorised colonies across Delhi, Swachh Bharat toilets and LPG connections under Ujjwala have restored dignity to millions of women.

In my own outreach across North and East Delhi, I have met women who are now small entrepreneurs, thanks to MUDRA Yojana, which has disbursed over ₹14.72 lakh crore in loans, 68 per cent of which have gone to women. From tailoring units in Seelampur to food stalls in Shahdara, this silent economic revolution is changing lives and the face of our society.

PM Modi’s governance model did not just deliver services. It redefined delivery itself. The JAM Trinity (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile), which revolutionised welfare by cutting out middlemen, ensured direct benefits to over 80 crore citizens, including free food grains under the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. This wasn’t charity, it was dignity restored.

India has also risen from a fragile economy to a global powerhouse. India today is not merely the world’s largest democracy; it is one of the fastest-growing major economies. Our exports touched \$824.9 billion in 2024-25, up from \$466 billion in 2013-14. This is not just a number; it reflects a shift in India’s self-confidence. Initiatives like Make in India, PLI schemes, and the Start-up India movement have created lakhs of new jobs, with over 1.6 lakh start-ups now driving innovation and employment.

Even in Delhi, start-up culture has flourished. Young tech entrepreneurs from localities like Dwarka and Rohini are now part of India’s global digital story. The rollout of 5G in 99.6 per cent districts and the surge in UPI transactions to 1830 crore per month showcase how India has leapfrogged into a digital future, democratising access to services and opportunities.

Honourable Prime Minister has also taken Nari Shakti from tokenism to leadership. Under PM Modi, women’s empowerment has moved from token slogans to institutional transformation. Policies like Mission Shakti, paid maternity leave extension, law against Triple Talaq, and reservation for women in politics have laid a foundation for women-led development. Today, 73 per cent of rural home ownership under PMAY is in the name of women, 10 crore women are active in Self Help Groups, and over 35 crore MUDRA loans have been given to female entrepreneurs.

Delhi, which once witnessed women struggling for safety and opportunity, is now seeing a resurgence of confidence, from women athletes breaking barriers to young coders joining India’s start-up wave.

Youth and farmers have been the new vanguard of progress under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. Empowering the Amrit Peedhi, India’s youth, has been a cornerstone of this Government.



REKHA GUPTA
Chief Minister of Delhi

The National Education Policy 2020, the expansion of IITs, IIMs, and AIIMS, and schemes like PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana and Rojgar Mela have provided both education and employment. Over 1.6 crore youth have been skilled, and more than 8.59 crore new EPFO subscribers indicate formal job creation at a record scale.

Equally significant is the respect and recognition now given to our farmers. The PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi has provided ₹3.7 lakh crore in direct income support, while schemes like Fasal Bima Yojana, Krishi Sinchayee yojana, and e-NAM have transformed agriculture into a sustainable and tech-driven sector. India is now a leader in foodgrains, milk, and millet production, with a strong cooperative backbone revived under “Sahkar se Samridhi.”

Delhi lies at the heart of the ‘Idea of India’. As Delhi’s Chief Minister, I can state with confidence that the effects of the Modi Government are felt here. Previously not entitled to subsidies, the urban middle class today enjoys the benefits of tax reductions, inexpensive housing, metro expansions, and digital public infrastructure. Because of enhanced access to Government services, healthcare, sanitation, and connection, the ordinary Delhiite now enjoys a higher quality of life.

Delhi’s development, however, is not isolated; rather, it both benefits from and reflects India’s overall progress. Our administration is aware of the ambitions and worries of every Indian, from our youth’s aspirations to the elderly’s use of their Ayushman Bharat cards for medical care.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has led to a super secure nation and an engaged world. India’s rise has not been limited to its borders. The past 11 years have seen a strong and strategic foreign policy, with India emerging as a global player. Whether it was Vaccine Maitri, Operation Ganga, or hosting the G20 Summit, India is now not just participating; it is leading.

At home, Article 370 and 35A have been abrogated, sending a clear message: India’s unity and integrity are non-negotiable. Terrorism is no longer met with words but with firm responses, as seen in Surgical Strikes, Air Strikes, and most recently, Operation Sindoor. Our soldiers today are backed by the resolve of a Government committed to national security and Atmanirbharta. The road ahead leads to the journey from Amrit Kaal to Viksit Bharat. Prime Minister Modi’s leadership has lit a fire of ambition in every Indian heart. In this Amrit Kaal, we are not content with incremental growth. A Viksit Bharat that is just, strong, and firmly anchored in its civilisational values is what we envision as Viksit Bharat. As India’s spirit and emblem, Delhi will remain a lively companion on this adventure. We use the lessons, principles, and accomplishments of the previous 11 years as a compass as we gaze into 2047. This is not merely a government narrative. The tale of a New India is told here. An India that leads from the front, listens to the voiceless, and serves the last individual.

Every individual is the protagonist in this tale of development, from the housewife in Najafgarh to the programmer in Nehru Place.



Democracy in Retreat: The Real Legacy of Modi’s Rule

Eleven years after Narendra Modi’s rise in 2014, with promises of “Achhe Din” and a transformed India, the nation stands at a crossroads. Expectations of a global powerhouse and inclusive democracy have been replaced by broken promises, manipulated data, and a Government obsessed with optics over outcomes. Governance has become a performance, announcements eclipse achievements, and the nation has plunged into a crisis of credibility.

Modi’s legacy hinges on poor economic decisions. Demonetisation, announced in November 2016, was a disruptive failure. With 99.3 per cent of demonetised currency returning to banks, it missed its goal of curbing black money. On the contrary, the cash crunch obliterated 9.5 million informal-sector jobs, with 4.77 crore workers.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST), launched in July 2017, aimed to unify taxation but stumbled due to complexity. Its multi-rate structure, technical glitches, and exclusion of fuel and real estate burden small businesses and consumers. The March 2020 COVID lockdown triggered an economic and humanitarian crisis. With workplaces shuttered, 12.2 crore Indians lost jobs in April 2020, per CMIE. Migrant workers faced income loss, food shortages, and uncertainty, exacerbated by inadequate Government support. This, accompanied by the mismanagement in the health sector that caused widespread deaths, deepened distress and eroded trust, as the Government prioritised narrative control over relief.

Since 2014, the Government has also prioritised revenue over reform through aggressive privatisation like Air India’s sale, the LIC IPO, and attempts to privatise BPCL and CONCOR. The National Monetisation Pipeline, leasing ₹6 lakh crore in public infrastructure, raises concerns about transparency, cronyism, and loss of public control. This approach sidelines jobs, equity, and accountability, deepening economic inequality.

Simultaneously, India’s employment crisis is dire, with less than half of its 95 crore working-age population employed, far below the 70 per cent average of ‘Asian Tiger’ economies. Many are self-employed or in unpaid family work, masking underemployment. Only 32.7 per cent of working-age women were employed in 2023, and just half of college graduates are employable. Over 10 crore youth are NEET, per ILO, with educated unemployed youth rising from 35 per cent in 2000 to 66 per cent in 2022. Unfilled Government vacancies and the Agnipath scheme’s unpopularity among armed forces aspirants has fueled discontent.

The most chilling impact of the BJP, however, is their communalisation of public life. Through dog-whistle rhetoric, anti-Muslim laws like the CAA-NRC, the party has normalised religious discrimination. Hate speech by BJP leaders is ignored, while Muslim representation in public life has sharply declined. Festivals and law enforcement are weaponised to portray Muslims as threats, and pro-BJP media amplifies fear and misinformation. The 2020 riots killing 53 in the national capital, lynching of Muslims in various states, and divisive tactics like love-jihad have exposed the ruling party’s hateful politics. Yogi Adityanath’s “Bulldozer Raj” in UP has unleashed a governance model marked by extrajudicial demolitions and collective punishment, often targeting Muslims, Dalits, and political dis-

senters. This deliberate strategy has entrenched everyday communalism, eroding India’s secular and constitutional foundations.

The farm laws, passed without debate, sparked massive protests, resulting in the death of 700 farmers. The Government labeled peaceful protesters as “anti-national” and “Khalistani” in a bid to discredit the movement. The Government eventually did repeal the laws under pressure but still failed to alleviate concerns about MSP or compensation.

High-profile rape cases like Hathras, Kathua and Unnao highlight failures to protect women. Women wrestlers accusing a BJP MP of harassment found no justice, nor did trailblazers like Colonel Sofia Qureshi, facing tokenism. Caste-based violence — from the Dangawas lynching to Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadv’s suicides — reveals systemic rot that this Government has refused to rectify. The murder of Dalit child Indra Meghwal for touching a water pot underscores persistent caste hierarchies. Low conviction rates and prolonged impunity to perpetrators expose the Government’s complicity.

Since 2014, India — once celebrated as the world’s largest democracy — has witnessed a steady erosion of its democratic institutions. Constitutional checks have weakened, institutions have been co-opted, and dissent has been increasingly criminalised, mark-

MODI’S LEGACY HINGES ON POOR ECONOMIC DECISIONS. DEMONETISATION, ANNOUNCED IN NOVEMBER 2016, WAS A DISRUPTIVE FAILURE. WITH 99.3 PER CENT OF DEMONETISED CURRENCY RETURNING TO BANKS, IT MISSED ITS GOAL OF CURBING BLACK MONEY

ing a sharp turn towards electoral authoritarianism.

Civil liberties have declined since 2014. Freedom House rated India “Partly Free,” and V-Dem calls it an “electoral autocracy.” The 2025 World Press Freedom Index ranks India 151st of 180, citing journalist harassment. The ED registered 193 cases against political leaders from 2015 to 2025, with 95 per cent of CBI probes targeting opposition figures. The NIA’s questionable evidence in Bhima Koregaon, coupled with low UAPA (3 per cent) and PMLA (0.4 per cent) conviction rates, shows detention over justice. Over 20,600 NGO licenses, including Amnesty International’s, were canceled under FCRA, silencing dissent. Far from being a neutral arbiter, the ECI is increasingly seen as an enabler of electoral authoritarianism under the Modi regime. The Electoral Bonds scheme, introduced in 2018, legalised secret corporate funding. The BJP received ₹6,060 crore — nearly 48 per cent of all bonds — before the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional on February 15, 2024, for violating voters’ rights and enabling quid pro quo. The abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, the absolute media and communications blackout and legal changes that promised peace have failed to deliver. Militancy persists, economic growth lags, and Ladakhis demand statehood amid marginalisation fears, highlighting political disempowerment. Simultaneously, the Government has categorically failed to secure Jammu and Kashmir despite its chest-thumping posture. Security failures like Pathankot (7 killed), Uri (19 soldiers), Amarnath Yatra (8 civilians), Pulwama (40 jawans), and recent Pahalgam attacks (26 civilians) highlight intelligence lapses and the incapacity of this Government to pre-empt, identify and prevent such threats. Modi’s inconsistent Pakistan policy, from visits to airstrikes, lacks coherence, and is failing to curb cross-border threats.

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SOURCE: PIB

Renaissance or a Reckoning

BY TEAM AGENDA

He is charismatic, he is decisive, he means business — he is Modi. Rising from humble beginnings to becoming the longest-serving non-Congress Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi’s political journey is one of the most significant and controversial in contemporary Indian history. Mr Modi’s ascent has been shaped by a blend of grassroots political work, unmatched oratory skills, unapologetic Hindu nationalism, and a polarising legacy that continues to evoke both admiration and strong criticism. Mr Modi’s story has two defining phases — his tenure as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, marred by the 2002 riots, and his transformation into a national leader who redefined the Indian political landscape. The man who was once denied a US visa is today celebrated on the global stage as a “Vishwaguru.” Not only did Mr Modi propel India to the forefront of

all-round development, but he also reaffirmed his image as a strong, bold and decisive leader through “Operation Sindoor” — India’s swift military response to the Pakistan sponsored Pahalgam terror attack. Mr Modi again sent a clear message that under his leadership, India does not hesitate to act. Born on September 17, 1950, in Gujarat’s Vadnagar, Mr Modi came from a modest background.

An article in Commonwealth and Contemporary Politics states: “Mr Modi has turned his humble beginning into a great asset in his performance of ordinariness since 2014. Mr Modi often refers to his youth spent selling tea with his father at a small train station and has amplified this aspect of his life...” In a powerful symbol of his journey, Mr Modi filed his 2014 nomination papers alongside a local tea vendor. That vendor was later among the 4,000 guests invited to his swearing-in ceremony

— a reminder of his rise from a tea seller to the Prime Minister of India. Mr Modi’s association with the RSS from an early age deeply influenced his ideological and political outlook. As an RSS “pracharak”, Mr Modi honed his oratory and organisational skills. And these skills marked his rise within the BJP and in 2001, he was appointed the chief minister of Gujarat following internal reshuffling in the party. His early tenure as CM, however, was overshadowed by the 2002 communal carnage in Gujarat. The state Government’s response drew sharp criticism not only from national and international observers but also from the then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who asked Mr Modi to uphold his “raj dharm.” However, subsequent investigations and even the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team found no prosecutable evidence against him. Economically, Mr Modi’s tenure has been a blend of bold strokes and mixed outcomes.

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Glorious 11 years: Civilisation Course Correction

India we see today is far beyond what many imagined in 2014, when the nation placed its trust in Narendra Modi's leadership. Dejected and disheartened by the flurry of corruption cases, policy paralysis, lack of national security or a cohesive vision for the future, people of India put their faith in the proven track record of Modi and his commitment to give India what it deserved. A clean, transparent Government, that rose above vote bank considerations.

This alternative shifted India's governance from short-sighted, politics-driven, and bereft of accountability to a long-term, policy-driven, targeted-delivery, action-oriented governance model. And the national consciousness rose to the occasion. Eleven years later, the results are for all to see.

India has unshackled itself from the weight of historical baggage, tackled long-standing, complex challenges head-on, and carved out a fresh path for its youth to take the nation forward.

With the wall of Article 370 shattered, Jammu and Kashmir is finally healing. Tourism is booming. Youth are seeking opportunities to build their future, and infrastructure development is happening at a rapid pace. For the first time since independence, the Kashmir Valley has been connected to the rest of India by rail. The Chenab Bridge, standing taller than the Eiffel Tower, showcases the ingenuity of Indian engineering. It is now the new identity of J&K.

All this happened without bloodshed

And then came the moment that touched the soul of a billion Indians. For centuries, Hindus across the world awaited the return of Ram Lalla to his birthplace. When the moment approached, many tried to stoke fear, warning that India would burn, that violence was inevitable. But the Government resisted pressure from vested interests and allowed the judiciary to take its own course, firmly and independently. And when the verdict finally

came, it was accepted gracefully by all sides. What followed was the grand Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya, something we never imagined we would witness in our lifetime.

Another major shift has been the movement from a politics of scarcity to a politics of saturation. Resources are no longer rationed to certain vote banks, they are delivered to all who need them most.

The results are extraordinary

In the last 11 years, over 12 crore toilets have been built. More than 10 crore households have received LPG connections. Over 4 crore homes have been constructed. More than 60 crore Ayushman Bharat cards have been distributed.

These initiatives of the Modi Government have assured security, dignity and access to health to crores of Indians. Conditions that once pushed the poor into generational poverty have been systematically addressed and reversed. As a result, more than 25 crore in just 11 years have successfully beaten poverty. According to the World Bank, India witnessed a significant decline in extreme poverty, dropping from 27.1 per cent in 2011-12 to 5.3 per cent. The way PM Modi has tackled poverty proves that such chronic problems are not India's legacy. They are challenges of leadership, intent, and will.

India's digital revolution has further transformed governance. E-governance platforms now bring essential services-land records, tax filings, education, and grievance redressal-right to citizens' fingertips.

Digital India has set off a fin-tech revolution. We have more than 55 crore new bank accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana. This number is more than the population of entire European Union. With UPI, India is dominating global digital payments. In fact, every second digital transaction in the world is happening in India.

From the days of 2G scams, today India is the fastest nation in the world to adopt 5G. It has surpassed even the developed world.

India has also made giant strides in defence. From waiting on life jackets, we are now manufacturing and exporting defence equipment to over 100 countries.

The commitment to building a self-reliant defence industry is evident in initia-



tives like the Defence Acquisition Procedure and the Defence Production Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. These corridors have encouraged domestic manufacturers, start-ups, and global companies to invest in defense production within India.

Major milestones like the commissioning of INS Vikrant, India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier, reflect the strengthening of the Navy's blue-water capabilities. Alongside, platforms like the Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas', the Akash missile systems, and DRDO-developed equipment have provided the armed forces with cutting-edge technology.

Moreover, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has accelerated the pace of construction in difficult terrains, especially in areas bordering China and Pakistan. Roads, tunnels, and bridges in strategic areas like Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, and the Northeast not only serve military purposes but also integrate isolated regions into the national fold.

When it comes to national security, we've drawn a new line. Gone are the days of empty condemnations and diplomatic appeals. Now, we strike deep inside enemy territory, take down terror camps and tell the world exactly when and how we did it.

We've shown that terror has a cost and it's swift, precise, and disproportionate.

Infrastructure has seen a historic leap. Road networks have doubled. The number of airports has surged. Indian Railways is nearing complete electrification. Vande Bharat trains have redefined rail travel. Remote towns and villages now have access to markets across India, fuelling the startup boom in Tier 2 and 3 cities and not just metros.

In every sector, the change is visible. India has picked up the scattered fragments of post-Independence history and pieced them together to rebuild itself as a confident, civilisational power.



Narendra Modi, the Crusader and Conqueror



To depict the exploits of Prime Minister Modi, ever since he assumed office, in a few words, would be like trying to put an ocean in a small vessel. In the decades to come, his exemplary contribution to saving India, which otherwise would have slipped into an abyss that the Congress and its cronies had ensured, will be duly recognised. Prime Minister Modi exhibits a mindset, and pursues a governance ethos, enshrined in our Vedic philosophy. Before his appearance on the Indian panorama, the ruling elite had a colonial and subservient mindset, too timid of taking bold decisions.

Indian scriptures outline numerous attributes of an ideal ruler — one who is competent, compassionate, and capable of reconciling differences while maintaining a firm stance against injustice. These are among the thirty-six virtues of an ideal king described in the Mahabharata. Mahabharata hero Bhishma proclaimed that whether it is the era that shapes the king, or the king who shapes the era, there is no doubt — it is the king who determines whether the times will be good or bad.

कालोवाकारंराजोराजावाकाल-कारणम् ।
इतिवैशंशयोमाश्रुद्-राजाकालस्यकारणम् ॥

Mr Modi has demonstrated his unequivocal support to these ancient and time-tested attributes by imbuing these in his personal life and conduct. The construction of Ram Temple and the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor stand as testimony to his commitment to preserve the Vedic pillars of our civilisation without offending the sentiments of other faiths. His initiative to launch International Yoga Day was globally welcomed, even by the United Nations and marks as a significant step in the revival of India's spiritual renaissance.

It would require volumes to describe the complete account of his achievements. In this brief account, we throw light on four sectors that he transformed: the economy, the social sector, the environment and health.

Despite rapid industrialisation, agriculture still remains the largest source of employment. Around 40 per cent of workers get employment in agriculture, while only 20 per cent work in manufacturing and other services. Schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai aim to boost productivity by expanding irrigation facilities. Farmers are also being trained on modern irrigation techniques which will promote the 'Per Drop More Crop' initiative. Additionally, ini-

tiatives like the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana support sustainable and organic farming practices.

Government Programs and Initiatives like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana — National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), and other schemes have significantly contributed to poverty alleviation. According to the World Bank, there was a decline in extreme poverty from 27.1 per cent in 2011-12 to 5.3 per cent in 2022-23.

In the social sector Mr Modi has placed a strong emphasis on women's empowerment and the welfare of the girl child. Historically, women have faced inadequate access to education, healthcare, employment, and decision-making-particularly in rural and marginalised communities. Since 2014, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, the scenario has transformed.

The Modi Government initiated scores of schemes for women's welfare. Schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Mission Shakti, Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, have contributed to women-led development. Schemes such as PM Awas Yojana, DAY-NRLM, and agricultural support initiatives have helped women achieve greater financial and social independence.

On the environmental front, air pollution remains a major concern in India. Urban residents in many cities are exposed to hazardous pollution levels. What is less widely recognised is the severe impact of household air pollution from burning crop residues, wood, and other solid fuels. In 2020 alone, household air pollution was responsible for over 2,37,000 deaths of children under the age of five. Women and children are the worst affected, and this crisis went largely unaddressed for decades.

To combat the scourge of household air pollution, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched in May 2016. PMUY focused on providing deposit free LPG connections to adult women from poor households,



DR HARSH VARDHAN,
Senior BJP leader, former Union Health Minister, Environment, Science and Technology, Earth Sciences.



PRIME MINISTER MODI EXHIBITS A MINDSET, AND PURSUES A GOVERNANCE ETHOS, ENSHRINED IN OUR VEDIC PHILOSOPHY. BEFORE HIS APPEARANCE ON THE INDIAN PANORAMA, THE RULING ELITE HAD A COLONIAL AND SUBSERVIENT MINDSET, TOO TIMID OF TAKING BOLD DECISIONS

promoting health and environmental sustainability by replacing traditional cooking fuels like firewood and cowdung cakes.

Over these nine years, the scheme has transformed the lives of millions across the country. As of 01.03.2025, there are 10.33 crore PMUY connections across India.

In recognition of India's efforts to restore its natural heritage, the United Nations honoured the Indian Government with a special award for its initiative to rejuvenate the Ganges River.

Pollution of major rivers remains a serious concern in India, but the Ganges basin — home to over 520 million people and nearly 25,000 plant and animal species — is showing signs of revival. The Gangetic plain contributes to 40 per cent of India's GDP, and its forests play a vital role in carbon capture.

Indian Government initiated an ambitious scheme known as the 'Namami Gange Programme'. The resulting reduction in pollution has helped reverse deforestation; 1,500 kms of the river's 2,525 stretch have been rejuvenated and 30,000 hectares of forests restored. The United Nations has recognised the initiative to rejuvenate India's sacred Ganges River as one of the ten pioneering efforts to revive the natural world.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also recognised for his environmental leadership with a Champions of the Earth Award in Delhi. His advocacy for the International Solar Alliance — aimed at scaling solar energy in solar-rich nations-demonstrates India's global environmental vision.

On the health front, the Prime Minister Modi in his address to the 76th Session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland emphasised that "India's traditional wisdom says that the absence of illness is not the same as good health". The Prime Minister noted that one must not only be free from ailments but

also take a step towards wellness. Highlighting the benefits of traditional systems such as Yoga, Ayurveda and meditation, the Prime Minister explained that it addresses physical, mental and social aspects of health and expressed pride that the WHO's first Global Centre for Traditional Medicine is being established in India. He also celebrated the global recognition of 2023 as the International Year of Millets, promoting awareness of this vital and nutritious grain.

During the G20 Summit he announced India's holistic philosophy of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'. He mentioned India's vision of 'One Earth One Health'. He emphasised that India's vision is not restricted to just humans, but extends to the entire ecosystem including animals, plants and the environment stressing that human health is interconnected with the wellbeing of the biosphere.

Highlighting India's commitment to provide accessible and affordable healthcare, the Prime Minister announced the world's largest health insurance scheme — Ayushman Bharat, the massive ramping up of health infrastructure, and the drive to provide sanitation and drinking water to millions of families in the country.

In summary, Narendra Modi exemplifies democratic governance as espoused by our revered ancestors. When King Dasharatha, in his old age, wished to abdicate the throne, he sought the counsel and consent of his royal court before handing the crown to Sri Ram. This tradition of humility and duty continues today. When Sri Ram was informed of his coronation by Sage Vashishtha, he and Mata Sita calmly returned to their palace, bathed, and worshipped the Almighty in accordance with Vedic tradition. Similarly, Prime Minister Modi's visits to temples, spiritual institutions, and revered gurus are expressions of devotion, not mere ceremony. His leadership reflects deep cultural roots and spiritual grounding. India's future is secure in his hands, and the country's stature on the global stage continues to rise. It may not be long before the world looks to India as a Vishwa Guru-a teacher of nations.

Democracy in Retreat ...

Continued from >> P1

The Manipur crisis, starting May 2023, with Meitei-Kuki clashes, claimed over 250 lives and displaced 60,000. Modi's indifference and Amit Shah's inaction, backing a discredited chief minister, has orphaned an entire state.

Beyond the democratic wreckage Modi has presided over, his foreign policy record is another can of worms that demands detailed scrutiny. But even a cursory look exposes the regime's incompetence. The 2017 Doklam standoff allowed China to entrench its presence. The 2020 Galwan clash, killing 20 Indian soldiers, saw China seize LAC territory. The China-Pakistan axis has deepened militarily and diplomatically, with China shielding Pakistan-based terror groups and blocking India's efforts at the UN.

Since Modi's arrival in Delhi, India has lost ground in its immediate neighbourhood, with countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Bangladesh

drawing closer to China through infrastructure and defense partnerships. Modi's downplaying of the crisis prioritised optics over accountability. In the process, he exposed the flaws in their approach towards maintaining India's global standing and integrity.

This list is far from exhaustive and only highlights the most visible cracks in a much deeper collapse. Eleven years on, the Modi era has laid bare a governing philosophy that substitutes spectacle for substance, control for care, and division for development. What began as a promise of transformation has instead hollowed out the republic — from its economy and institutions to its social fabric and moral compass. From Kashmir to Manipur, from Dalits to wrestlers, to youth, to farmers and the crores of marginalised Indians, the cry for justice has met only criminal indifference.

Modi promised Achche Din. He delivered a democracy in retreat.

Renaissance or a Reckoning

Continued from >> P1

Even as Mr Modi pushes India to the broader growth narrative, issues of unemployment, agrarian distress and inflation continue to persist.

However, on the international stage, Mr Modi has transformed India's diplomatic posture. India is no longer the quiet participant but the confident interlocutor. His personal diplomacy, extensive travel and strategic balancing — from Washington to Riyadh to Moscow — have positioned India as a pivotal voice in a multipolar world. But Mr Modi's legacy is also deeply polarising.

Admirers hail him as a modern-day architect of national resurgence, while his detractors talk of democratic regression, authoritarian drift, subversion of institutional frameworks and marginalisation of minority voices. In 11 years, Mr Modi has repeatedly demonstrated that he is not just a master strategist but the BJP's singular vote magnet. The slogan "Modi hai toh mumkin hai" has, for many, moved from political rhetoric to perceived reality. Towering above every political rival within India, Mr Modi has also emerged as one of the most recognisable and popular leaders on the global stage. Mr Modi's journey has been one of audacity, ambition, and relentless momentum. He arrived in Delhi as an outsider — unpollished by the protocols of Lutyens' elite, untouched by the networks of privilege. A man from a backward caste, with no pedigree from the corridors of elite universities, he was dismissed in

2014 by the likes of Mani Shankar Aiyar with sneers that only fuelled his rise. But the slights, the barbs and the sustained opposition could not slow him down. As his critics fumed, Mr Modi quipped, "I have become gaali-proof." He bared his political armour, impervious to contempt and showed he is driven by conviction.

The Congress has termed the last 11 years of the Modi Government as an example of failures and anti-people policies, as the BJP's politics focused on creating divisions in society. Congress general secretary and former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel argues that Mr Modi's entire political journey has been one of disintegration and division. Under his leadership — if a section of economists are to be believed — India has surged to a \$4.2 trillion economy, poised to overtake Japan and soon Germany to become the world's third-largest.

His emphasis on "Nari Shakti" has reframed the national conversation on women's empowerment. For Mr Modi, governance is spectacle, politics is narrative, and the nation is both stage and subject. Whether history casts his era as a renaissance or a reckoning remains to be seen — but few would dispute that he has irreversibly redrawn the contours of India's polity, its public life, and its place in the world.

The twin shocks of demonetisation and GST shook the country's economy. The Covid-19 pandemic tested his governance acumen — marked by stringent lockdowns, a massive vaccination drive, and significant welfare outreach.

Nature in a

Photo Frame



Nature
Photography Day

Every photograph tells a story of survival, silence and the soul of the natural world, says SAKSHI PRIYA

What can a single photograph do? Can it stop time, shift perspective, or change how we see the planet we call home? Long before the rest of us noticed the empty trees, the quiet skies or the vanishing calls at dusk, someone was already there, camera in hand,

heart wide open, still enough to feel the hush settle over the world.

Every year, **June 15**, is marked as **Nature Photography Day**, a powerful reminder to look closer at the world around us. Started in 2006 by the North American Nature Photography Association (NANPA), the day encourages everyone, from passionate professionals to curious onlookers, to pick up a camera and see the natural world with fresh eyes. A photographer waits sometimes in cold, rain or silence, for that one moment. A leopard crouched in golden grass, an eagle slicing through fog or a

WHAT'S LEFT WHEN NATURE GOES QUIET? ASK THE PHOTOGRAPHER WHO STAYED LONG ENOUGH TO FEEL THE SILENCE

drop of rain caught on a spider's web. It shows truth. And when that truth is captured, it speaks louder than any words. The world is changing. Forests are shrinking, glaciers are retreating and animals once common are disappearing from view.

Amid this, a single photo can spark awareness. Think of the image titled, *Ice Bed*, by British photographer Nima Sarikhani, a lone polar bear adrift on a fragment of melting ice, surrounded by endless

grey sea. The photo won Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award and struck a nerve, opening up conversations on climate change across countries and platforms. Some photographers dedicate their lives to such moments. Thomas Mangelsen's iconic image *Catch of the Day*, a brown bear plucking a leaping salmon from mid-air, stands as a tribute to timing and deep understanding of wildlife. Mangelsen's work continues to inspire action for conservation. Cristina Mittermeier and Paul Nicklen have taken nature photography into the depths of the oceans.

Their images reveal what lies beneath the waves marine life in danger, disappearing ice and communities fighting to protect fragile waters. These are real, often harsh moments, captured in natural light and unpredictable settings. Nature photography connects people without needing translation. It moves across screens, gallery walls, books and minds. Photographers may spend days following a trail, hiding in the undergrowth or floating in freezing waters, all for that one shot that might shift how people think. The world offers these moments freely, but it takes a patient, open heart to notice them. And sometimes, all it takes is a single image to remind us that the wild is still here, waiting to be seen, respected and remembered.

With the Lens Along

Pictures of nature go beyond visuals and are testimonies of silence, beauty and need to protect, says ABHI SINGHAL

Nature photography connects us with the planet's beauty and more importantly its vulnerability. Nature photography is an essential bridge between humanity and the natural world. It allows us to witness what many may never directly see. It may be a tiger's stare in the wild, a misty forest or a flower untouched by pollution.

At its heart, nature photography is a visual celebration of our environment. It is all the landscapes, flora and fauna, and within it lies the powerful niche of wildlife photography. Wildlife photography brings raw moments of animal life to the forefront, raising awareness and often stirring much-needed conversations about conservation and coexistence. "Photographing wildlife is my way of making people aware of the wonders of our natural world," says Joydeep

Mondal, a nature and wildlife photographer from the past 12 years. "Many animals are misunderstood and hence not cared for. Through my documentation, I hope to bring out these aspects to the rest of the world."

Challenges Behind the Perfect Shot

This work comes with its own set of challenges that are physical, technical and emotional. "Photographing nature and wildlife is always at the vagaries of the elements," says Joydeep. The weather and lighting conditions are unpredictable, and you have to be quick and proficient with your gear.

IN ESSENCE, NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY IS NOT JUST ABOUT CAPTURING BEAUTY BUT IT IS ABOUT SPARKING CHANGE. IT URGES US TO PAUSE, TO SEE, AND TO CARE — BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

PATIENCE AND TECHNICAL ACUMEN

Nature photography also demands immense patience. "Waiting patiently for an animal or the perfect shot gives me the time to soak in the environment," he explains. But patience isn't the only requirement. Also needed along is resilience and presence of mind, especially when danger strikes. As they say that there are technical hurdles also. In the wild and nature, you get no re-takes. The correct lens, fully charged batteries, sufficient memory, and accurate settings for varying light conditions must all come together for that one decisive shot.

Nature does not warn in headlines. The lens often catches what words cannot: a bird not returning, a glacier sighing as it crumbles, a forest holding its breath.

Maintain a distance from the wildlife while you click. Don't cross the safety boundary and remember, if the animal is looking right at you in the photo, you're too close.

The most important rule is always let the wildlife do what it will do and be a passive bystander. Don't intrude into the territory making them uncomfortable.



Clicked by Ioannis Pavlos Evangelidis — Traditional stilt fishermen try their luck with the changing tide at sunset in Koggala, Sri Lanka. It showcases the water movement in contrast to the stillness of the fishermen. Traditional, artisanal fishing methods do not pose significant threats to the ocean's natural resources.

Major Nature Photography Awards

Wildlife Photographer of the Year
Organised by: Natural History Museum, London
Celebrates images that combine scientific integrity with artistic vision. Focuses on biodiversity, animal behaviour and fragile ecosystems.

BigPicture Natural World Photography Competition
Organised by: California Academy of Sciences
Encourages powerful visuals that provoke reflection on conservation and environmental responsibility.

World Nature Photography Awards (WNPA)
Global platform
Showcases striking images that champion sustainability, ethical photography, and the fragile beauty of Earth's diverse habitats.

European Wildlife Photographer of the Year
Organised by: German Society for Nature Photography (GDT)
Recognises creative, emotional, and technically strong photography featuring European species and landscapes.

Nature TTL Photographer of the Year
Organised by: Nature TTL (The TTL stands for Through The Lens)
Rewards innovative compositions and exceptional outdoor imagery. Encourages both emerging and professional photographers to share their vision of nature's quiet power.

These prominent photography competitions collectively celebrate the artistry and impact of nature and wildlife photography, highlighting its crucial role in conservation and environmental awareness. From showcasing scientific integrity and animal behavior to inspiring reflection on sustainability and championing ethical practices, these awards provide global platforms for photographers to share their unique visions of Earth's diverse and fragile beauty. They encourage both established professionals and emerging talents to capture compelling images that provoke thought and ultimately, inspire action for the planet. Beyond recognition, these competitions encourage a deeper connection between humanity and the natural world, transforming how we perceive and protect our shared environment.



Cruising through the majestic Svalbard archipelago, Tom Nickels observed three polar bears feasting on dolphin carcasses. One bear began to playfully bat a stick. This behaviour offered a rare glimpse into the unexpected lightheartedness of the wild

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY IS A QUIET ACT OF PRESERVATION, A WITNESS TO WHAT STILL REMAINS. IN A WORLD WHERE WE'RE CONSTANTLY MOVING, CLICKING AND CONSUMING, THESE IMAGES ASK US TO PAUSE AND PAY ATTENTION. THEY SHOW US BEAUTY, YES, BUT ALSO URGENCY

