

From 2020 to 2023, over 180 criminal provisions in economic laws were decriminalised, and 29 labor laws were merged into four codes.



# Guidelines issued to improve quality of education and school environment

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

A review meeting of the Education Department was organized in the General Assembly Auditorium under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Karna Satyarthi. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner gave several important directions aimed at improving the quality of education and ensuring better infrastructure and academic outcomes in government schools across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed officials to ensure 100 percent enrollment in residential schools and Chief Minister Utkrishta Vidyalayas. He instructed the Education Department to initiate the process of advertising and filling all vacant posts in residential schools at the earliest. Concerned over irregular

student attendance and dropout cases, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized maintaining an accurate track record of every child to ensure 100 percent retention. He expressed dissatisfaction over the poor performance of several schools in urban areas in the recent Class 10 and 12 examinations and asked the District Education Officer to reassess the quality of teaching in these institutions. Instructions were also issued to provide special coaching and support to students appearing for compartmental exams in low-performing schools.

To improve administrative monitoring, the Deputy Commissioner instructed that attendance of teachers in all government and government-aided schools be regularly recorded through the e-Vidya Vahini app. He made it clear



that teachers and wardens must not be assigned non-academic duties during school hours to allow them to focus entirely on educational activities. Encouraging support for

students preparing for competitive exams, the Deputy Commissioner said that efforts should be made to motivate and guide students aspiring to clear exams like NEET and JEE, so that they

can pursue higher education and professional careers. On the issue of the Mid Day Meal Scheme, the Deputy Commissioner directed that the food served must be in accordance with the pre-

scribed menu, including fruits and eggs. He also emphasized that kitchens and stores should be kept in hygienic and safe conditions and that schools should maintain proper drinking water and toilet facilities. He instructed that the cooks working in the school kitchens be linked with relevant government welfare schemes, including pension benefits.

Health and hygiene in schools were another key point of discussion. The Deputy Commissioner instructed that monthly health check-ups be conducted for all students and that records of their eyesight, hearing ability, nutrition levels, and height-weight data be maintained systematically.

To address infrastructure challenges, the Deputy Commissioner called for a status report on under-construc-

tion school buildings, dilapidated structures, and schools operating without buildings. He asked for updates on availability and usage of resources such as libraries, smart classrooms, science and ICT labs, language labs, and STEM labs. He emphasized that all available resources should be utilized effectively in the interest of students.

Additionally, reports were sought on the condition of open gyms, bench desks, electricity supply, drinking water systems, and separate toilet facilities for boys and girls. The Deputy Commissioner said that proper school infrastructure is essential for a safe and positive learning environment.

To bring qualitative improvement in classroom teaching, the Deputy Commissioner directed the District Education Officer to

form a team of enthusiastic and innovative teachers who can make learning more engaging and practical in other schools through a 'Parivartan Dal' initiative.

He also reviewed the status of distribution of books, uniforms, stationery, bags, and shoes provided by the government.

He emphasized that these materials must reach students on time to avoid disruption in their learning process. Regarding scholarships, he directed officials to resolve issues related to Aadhaar and bank account linking in coordination with banks so that students receive the benefits without delays.

District Education Officer Manoj Kumar, District Education Superintendent Ashish Pandey, BEEOs and other departmental officers were present in the meeting.

## Bokaro's growth tied to BSL capacity boost, delay may cost City and Nation

R SHARMA : BOKARO

The long-planned capacity expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL), the flagship unit of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), has slipped into uncertainty following recent incidents that have disrupted the local investment climate. Once heralded as a cornerstone of the National Steel Policy and the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the project now faces an indefinite pause—casting a shadow over Bokaro's ambitions of evolving into a modern industrial hub.

Sources, who did not wish to be named, said that the investment—now on hold—could have a prolonged impact on Bokaro's economic trajectory. Without the infusion of fresh capital, the city risks missing a rare opportunity to diversify its economy, attract allied industries, and generate thousands of new jobs.

India's crude steel-making capacity has nearly doubled in the past decade, growing from 109.85 million tonnes in FY 2014 to 200.3 million tonnes in FY 2024. BSL's



expansion was seen as critical to sustaining that growth, especially in producing flat steel products essential for infrastructure, automotive, oil & gas, and renewable energy sectors. Beyond boosting output, the expansion was also set to bring in modern

technology aimed at reducing emissions and enhancing efficiency.

However, recent unfortunate incidents have created an atmosphere of uncertainty, undermining investor confidence in committing to a multi-billion-rupee project.

As funding stalls, Bokaro risks losing competitive ground to private and global players, just as demand surges for high-grade steel in sectors like electric vehicles and solar equipment. Prolonged delays could also push India to depend more on

imports, potentially weakening the country's self-reliance agenda.

Sources further said that the stakeholders' confidence—among investors, employees, and the local community—is beginning to waver. Continued deadlock could lead to operational bottlenecks at BSL, stagnant revenues, and a fading vision of Bokaro as a diversified industrial economy.

The biggest irony, sources say, is that while other SAIL units have seen smooth coordination and investment flow, the company's premier unit—BSL—finds its expansion plans indefinitely stalled. This disparity not only raises concerns about regional investment priorities but also weakens Bokaro's relative position within India's steel sector.

Thus all stakeholders of the city must raise a joint hand to restore investor confidence and bring the stalled investment back, ensuring the BSL expansion delivers on its promise of jobs, infrastructure, and long-term prosperity for Bokaro and the region.

## Relationships are not related to the number of meetings



DR. MAYANK MURARI

Sometimes a stranger suddenly comes into our life and leaves his indelible impression. Can we be able to undergo that beautiful time! This is the moment of completeness of life. Relationships are amazing, if we identify the moment, then they are together for the infinite moment. Our relationships are like clock needles. We meet for a few moments but join a divine relationship forever. It is not necessary in the relationship that how many times we meet, we see each other or together. When an indelible impression on the heart falls, that identity becomes timeless. It is hard to understand such relationships. It is impossible to obey him, but when someone is associated with a solution for a moment in life, his light can be a luxury with that wave. This situation comes in our life, when we do not connect with the person but to that person with a waved sense. Life in this existence is not just to meet a person, if we are completely connected to a person, then we start the path of completeness.

In the love of his wife, Tulsidas could not be patient overnight, then his brother-in-law Ratneshwar, his wife Ratna made fun of Tulsidas's rage. Tulsidas had to listen to



the friend's talk.

These things touched Tulsidas's heart and that mind started considering himself as Kami. He started dying in his mind. After that, in the midst of many attempts by Ratnavali, he said after looking at the uninterrupted form of love, "Now the flame is no longer, no, Ram Kripa Bhav Nisa Sirani, Jagte Puni Na Dasyah". In the middle of the night, after leaving the wife and child sleeping in deep sleep, Tulsidas closed the door of the house slowly and went out. While visiting, he reached Valmiki's ashram. At the same time, when Sita Mata saw in the dream, Tulsidas had said- Show me my path, Amba. Sita Mata replied- Go to Ayodhya, the baby shower will be completed. Then he sees Hanuman ji who has become Kavishwar (Valmiki) from Kapishtar. He said to create a Ramayana in public language. Amritlal Nagar, as a true literary successor of Premchand, made his independent and unique identity as a litterateur and is considered one of the most important and versatile creative writers of Indian literature.

His immortal work is a great attempt to bring out the life of Goswami Tulsidas. It has such a simple description of Tulsidas ji that contains such a serious important mes-

sage in us. This classical work of Amritlal Nagar successfully depicts the internal struggle of India's most famous poet. Goswami Tulsidas emerges as a person in this novel who attains greatness by facing unimaginable sufferings. The most notable thing is that the way the questions related to religion and devotion are introduced in the clear description are exemplary.

A very unique medium of the story has been found in the novel. Saint Benimadhav, a disciple of Tulsidas, searches for him at every place. He has said many times that he can never be Rammay with his teacher, so he does not expect Shri Ram's blessings and similarly he makes Tulsidas the center of his devotion. Thus, throughout the novel, Benimadhav, Tulsidas himself also interrogates Tulsidas and his acquaintances about various events in various stages of life and thus we know the whole life story from the birth of Tulsidas to his death. It is worth noting that Saint Benimadhav is accepted as the author of "original Gosain character" through which we know Tulsidas. Of course, the journey to become Tulsi from Rambola and Tulsi to Goswami Tulsidas will be very difficult for Tulsi. The decision to renounce the son and wife who was the central basis of his life, (the news of the son's death, the lonely wife's request to stay with him) can distract any human being, also, but the firm vows to get Rama and love become their power, which surely he is simpleMake extraordinary. "The human mind is very amazing Benimadhav. As long as that rite does not dominate the disorder and once he decides, it changes his vision and becomes something else. " The form of man, the beauty of nature is all mortal. Then, what is the benefit of giving it on such a basis, which has not taken concreteness of faith.

## Dr Ambedkar's statue unveiled on Bar Association premises



PNS : BOKARO

A life-size statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, was unveiled on Saturday at the District Bar Association premises in Bokaro. The unveiling was jointly conducted by Principal District and Sessions Judge Anil Kumar Mishra, Judge of the Lok Adalat, and Deputy Commissioner Ajay Nath Jha.

Speaking at the occasion, Justice Anil Kumar Mishra noted that this long-awaited installation of Dr Ambedkar's statue marks a significant moment for the legal fraternity.

"This event should have taken place much earlier, but it is indeed a matter of pride and satisfaction that it has finally happened," he said,

extending congratulations to the District Bar Association and its members.

Deputy Commissioner Ajay Nath Jha paid tribute to Dr Ambedkar and emphasized the importance of upholding constitutional values. "It is through the Constitution drafted by Baba Saheb that the laws of our country function. We must ensure that the rights guaranteed by the Constitution are actually accessible to the common people," he said. He called upon everyone to embrace the ideals shown by Dr Ambedkar in their personal and professional lives.

Notably DC Bokaro also appreciated the organizers for honouring senior advocates and past presidents of the Bar Association during the ceremony.

## School principal accused of sexual harassment in Garhwa

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

A disturbing incident from Garhwa district's Sagma block has sparked such a reaction, where serious allegations of sexual harassment have emerged from Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya, Uttari Sondhiha.

According to a written complaint, the school's Rasoighar Sanyojika (midday meal coordinator), Sushma Kumari, has accused the school principal, Lalit Kumar, of sexual misconduct. Sushma alleges that on Wednesday around 11 AM, while she was counting rice sacks in the store room as part of her daily routine, the principal entered from behind, grabbed her saree, and attempted to touch her inappropriately. When she resisted, he allegedly covered her mouth and threatened to have her husband killed if she spoke out, warning that he would publicly

ruin her reputation.

The complainant further stated that this was not an isolated incident. According to her, the principal had made previous advances, often attempting to show her obscene videos and threatening to remove her from her position if she did not comply with his demands.

Initially, fearing social stigma and the loss of her job, Sushma remained silent. However, when the harassment escalated, she confided in her husband and then lodged a formal complaint with the local police.

In a statement to the press, she said, "I was only doing my duty. At first, I thought maybe this was just his behavior, but when he began speaking inappropriately and tried to show me obscene videos in private, I became suspicious of his intentions. When I resisted, he threatened to defame me." Her written complaint

details repeated instances of inappropriate physical contact, mental harassment, and threats of job termination.

The incident has caused widespread outrage in the region. Parents of students at the school have expressed deep anger and demanded the immediate suspension of the accused headmaster.

Responding to the allegations, principal Lalit Kumar has denied all charges, calling them baseless and unfounded.

Dhurki Police Station in-charge Upendra Kumar confirmed receipt of the complaint and stated that a thorough investigation is underway. "Strict legal action will be taken if the allegations are found to be true," he said.

This troubling episode has once again raised questions about the safety and dignity of women working within the education system — institutions meant to uphold the highest moral standards.

## DFO, DDC,GIS TEAM VISIT SITES OF BATANE RIVER IN PALAMU

PNS : DALTONGANJ

Palamu administration led by the DC Sameera S has set before it a task so far unheard of which is to relieve a dying and decaying river Batane.

Sameera S has put in place an IFS officer Satyam Kumar DFO Medininagar forest division and Shabbir Ahmad DDC Palamu to do this job.

The team is both young and experienced. The GIS technician is Akancha for the Batane river, only engaged since last week.

A small crowd of people followed this team which vis-

ited the Batane dam where Satyam Kumar asked for building dykes, check dams and barriers on the hillocks to save rain water from going astray.

The team saw illegal haphazard mining of sand under the Batane bridge. Such was the mining of sand that it had exposed the underground portion of this huge pillar of this bridge to open. Its iron bars which ought to have been beneath the bed are fully exposed.

DDC Shabbir Ahmad told this correspondent "The DC has taken it as a task to



rebuild and revive this Batane river. And we will show the

DC it is done."

Satyam Kumar on the other hand said "For such a gigantic task there is no time line. Every day counts for it like this Saturday when we are out doing eye surveys of the locale and topography of the Batane river."

"This rainy season we will watch where our water goes down. We will also see where our water comes in. We will restore our down streams. After all, a river depends on the down stream." added Satyam Kumar.

The small crowd of the villagers was curious to know

what the GIS means in regard to the river. There came the block pramukh at the Batane dam site asking if there would be any check dam.

Batane river is a victim of haphazard mining of stones and boulders. Such is the haphazard mining of sand that stone mafiosi have damaged and destroyed the underground water table. Its adverse impact is on the river and streams.

Satyam Kumar and Shabbir Ahmad both are hopeful of reliving the Batane river with people's support and Nature's proximity.



CRPF inspector killed in IED blast on Jharkhand-Odisha border



Chief Minister Hemant Soren offering tributes to 133 Battalion CRPF ASI Satyawar Kumar Singh martyred in an IED blast triggered by CPI (Maoist) in Chaibasa on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Amidst the ongoing intensified anti-Naxal operations, a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer was killed on Saturday following an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast triggered by Naxalites in the dense forests located along the Jharkhand-

Odisha border. According to official sources, the incident took place during a coordinated combing operation jointly carried out by CRPF, Odisha Police's Special Operations Group (SOG), and Jharkhand Police. The objective of the operation was to track and dismantle Naxal hideouts and to disrupt their logistics and movement in

the forest and hilly regions near K. Bolang Police Station area in Rourkela district of Odisha.

During the course of the operation, the security personnel encountered a pressure-triggered IED blast laid by the Naxals with the intent to inflict casualties on the advancing forces. In the explosion, Assistant Sub-

Inspector (General Duty) Satyawar Kumar Singh, a valiant jawan of the CRPF's 134 Battalion, suffered critical injuries.

He was swiftly rescued by fellow personnel and evacuated under tight security to Rourkela Hospital, where he succumbed to injuries.

The blast took place around 6am at a locality

under the K Balang police station in Saranda forest, close to Odisha-Jharkhand border. ASI Singh hailed from Kushinagar district in Uttar Pradesh.

Authorities said the operation in the area is ongoing, with security forces continuing efforts to neutralise Maoist activity in the region

A senior CRPF official

Guv, CM pay tributes to martyred officer

PNS : RANCHI

Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar and Chief Minister Hemant Soren today reached Shaheed Memorial Garden located at 133 Battalion, Sector-2, Dhurva, Ranchi and paid floral tribute to the mortal remains of CRPF martyr Satyawar Kumar Singh and

prayed to God for peace of the soul of the martyr and to give strength to his family to bear this moment of grief.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren expressed deep condolences to the family of martyr Satyawar Kumar Singh. It is known that this morning during a search operation against Naxalites

in the border area of Jharkhand and Odisha located in Chaibasa, ASI Satyawar Kumar Singh of CRPF, 134th Battalion was seriously injured after being hit by an IED blast.

He was taken to a hospital in Rourkela for better treatment where he attained martyrdom during treatment.

said, "The courage displayed by SI Satyawar Kumar Singh and his team is exemplary. Despite facing life-threatening situations, our forces continue to execute their duties with utmost dedication.

This cowardly attack will not deter our resolve to uproot Naxalism from the region."

The operation was part of a broader anti-Naxal initiative launched jointly by the security forces of Jharkhand, Odisha, and central paramilitary units.

The K. Bolang region,

with its dense forest cover and rugged terrain, has long served as a strategic corridor for Naxalites to move between safe zones in the two states.

Intelligence inputs received over the past few weeks had indicated increased Naxal movement and possible attempts to regroup in these areas. Acting on this, the joint team launched a search and area domination drive, which led to Saturday's encounter.

The forested terrain, coupled with the threat of hidden

IEDs and booby traps, continues to pose a significant challenge to forces conducting counter-insurgency operations.

Security officials have confirmed that combing operations will continue in the affected area over the next several days.

Additional reinforcements have been deployed, and the use of drone surveillance, mine-protected vehicles, and sniffer dogs has been intensified to detect further explosive devices and track down the perpetrators.

Buyer & Seller Meet 2025 organized for the first time in Jharkhand

PNS : RANCHI

For the first time in Jharkhand, buyer and seller meet 2025 was organized with the idea of promoting organic products and providing a market. In this program organized by the courtesy of OFAZ, representatives of companies from Kenya as well as many states of India participated and made it successful.

The buyer and seller meet was inaugurated by the state's Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative Minister Shilpi Neha Tirkey. She said on this occasion that there is a huge market for organic products in the country and there is a possibility of growth of up to 20 percent in the organic market in the next 10 years.

It is definitely a small beginning but its purpose is very big, she added.

"OFAZ has provided a platform to connect organic products of Jharkhand with buyers. Buyers, sellers and the government have an important role in this.

In a state like Jharkhand, where 70 percent of the population is dependent on agriculture, the immense potential of organic farming cannot be denied. The purpose of



Agriculture Minister Shilpi Neha Tirkey addresses during Buyer and Seller Meet 2025 in Ranchi on Saturday. PNS

organizing the meet is to understand the current status, challenges and market of organic products and to prepare a plan for the future," Tirkey said. The minister said that Sikkim has registered its name as an organic product state.

"Many other states are already doing good work in this direction. An SOP should be prepared for the farmers of Jharkhand and a tour of such states should be organized. OFAZ needs to work in this direction. Farmers need to change their mindset regarding organic farming and this will be possible only when farmers will closely see

and understand the nuances of organic farming," she added.

Tirkey said that there is a need to take a long leap in the field of organic products and this work is possible only through FPO. "Organic products should not be limited to the farmer's house, but work will have to be done to take it to the market and get maximum economic benefit from it. OFAZ will have to make an action plan to provide processing units to FPOs. In which FPOs can be helped to set up processing units under subsidy," she added.

The Minister said that in a state like Jharkhand, where

there are many types of constraints regarding land, such small industries will prove to be helpful for the economic strength of the farmers. Work will have to be done in this direction.

On this occasion, Departmental Secretary Abu Baqar Siddiqui said that organic farming is necessary to protect the environment and the fertility capacity of the soil. "Even in the modern era, people want to consume organic products to keep themselves healthy. Organic products are a better option for economic benefits for farmers. The price of organic products in the market is

higher than other products," he added.

Siddiqui said that if there is a need, then it should be better packaged and the product should be made available in the right market. OFAZ has started it today.

OFAZ CEO Vikas Kumar, Director of Land Conservation Department Ashok Samrat, Rakesh Kumar from Apex Society, Abhinav Mishra and other departmental officials were present on this occasion.

An exhibition of mangoes and organic products was organised on the occasion. Stalls from Malda to Amrapali were present in this exhibition. There was a long queue of people to buy juicy mangoes at the stall. On the other hand, the stall of organic products also attracted people.

The participation of buyers and sellers in the meet confirmed the success of the programme. MD Dr Selban Daniel of Ecology Fort, Kenya, Alom K P from Kerala, Atul Pandit from Dehradun, Rahul Mathur from Jaipur, Anand Sandali from Jaipur, Sudha Reddy from Hyderabad, besides representatives from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh were present.

Jharkhand recognised among best organisers of National School Games



PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand has once again proved its organizational capacity and commitment towards sports. Jharkhand has been declared the "second best organizing state of the country" in the evaluation of the events held across the country in the year 2024-25 under the National School Sports Competition (SGFI). This honour has been given to the Department of School Education and Literacy, Government of Jharkhand for its excellent management, dedicated teamwork and efforts towards giving a platform to sports talents.

This achievement has given Jharkhand a new identity on the national map in the field of education and sports. During the competition, the accommodation of the players, food, health security, quality of grounds, technical arrangements and overall coordination were described as of high level by experts and officials from across the country. On behalf of Jharkhand, State Program Officer of Sports Division, Dhirasen Soreng and Chandradev Singh from Sports Cell were given this honour at the Annual General Meeting of SGFI in New Delhi.

This achievement of the Jharkhand government is a proof of the state's sports policies, ground implementation and administrative firmness. This honor will inspire the youth of the state to move forward in sports and will prepare Jharkhand to host more big events in the future.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Indian National School Games held in Delhi, SGFI Director Deepak Kumar praised

Jharkhand and said that Jharkhand is the only state in the country, which made the guest players realize Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. The state welcomed the players in cultural and traditional ways at the railway station, airport and bus station, which had never happened before. The state organized cultural evenings for the players every day, which further increased the enthusiasm of the players.

On this proud honour received by the state, Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Departmental Minister Ramdas Soren, Departmental Secretary Umashankar Singh, State Education Project Director Shashi Ranjan, State Program Officer Dhirasen Soren have congratulated all the officials, personnel of the Sports Cell and the talented players of the state.

On this achievement, Minister Ramdas Soren said that this honour is a symbol of the hard work and dedication of the entire state.

The state government is committed to make Jharkhand a stronghold of sports. Many programs and schemes are going on here for the promotion of sports and players. The School Education and Literacy Department is also constantly engaged in ensuring the players of Jharkhand in the field of sports, development of sports infrastructure here and promotion of sports at the rural level under the leadership of the Chief Minister.

Departmental Secretary Umashankar Singh said that this proud moment is a source of inspiration for Jharkhand and will pave the way for the state to reach greater heights in the world of sports in times to come.

CMPDI commences Yoga Boot Camps ahead of International Yoga Day

PNS : RANCHI

CMPDI has commenced a week-long Yoga Boot Camps on 14th, June 2025 at its headquarters, Ranchi and across its Regional Institutes situated in various states as a run up to International Day of Yoga 2025 (IDY-2025). Yoga Boot camp runs from 14th to 20th, June 2025, aimed at promoting wellness among employees and their families, and is aligned with the International Day of Yoga 2025 (IDY-2025) theme: "Yoga for One Earth, One Health."

The purpose of these camps is to encourage employees and their families to practice yoga and adopt a healthy lifestyle.

In these Yoga boot camps, yoga sessions will be conducted to encourage employees and their family members to embrace yoga and its holistic benefits. On the Inaugural day, at CMPDI's Regional Institute-I, Asansol, children actively participated in the yoga sessions, while the Singrauli Exploration Camp saw enthusiastic involvement from camp employees and their children. At CMPDI Headquarters, Ranchi and Regional Institute-VII, Bhubaneswar, and RI-II, Dhanbad employees and their family members joined together to embrace yoga and its holistic benefits.

CMPDI is proud to organize these Yoga Boot Camps as part of our ongoing efforts to foster a culture of health and well-being within our organization and remains committed to spreading the message of yoga and a healthy lifestyle, supporting the vision of International Day of Yoga 2025.



501 units of blood collected in BNI Ranchi's 2-Day Camp

PNS : RANCHI

In a powerful display of community spirit and humanitarian commitment, BNI Ranchi organized a two-day Mega Blood Donation Camp on 13th and 14th June 2025 at Firayalal Banquet Hall, in collaboration with Life Savers, Jharkhand Thalassemia Foundation, and Sadar Hospital Blood Bank.

This large-scale drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from citizens across the city, marking a significant contribution to the State's healthcare system.

On the first day 166 units of blood were collected and a large number of first-time donors stepped forward to contribute. Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Deepika Pandey Singh, SDM Ranchi, Utkarsh Kumar and Civil Surgeon, Dr. Prabhat Kumar graced the event with their presence.

Marking the global celebration of World Blood Donor Day, the second day saw an overwhelming turnout with approximately 335 units collected. The cumulative total over the two days reached 501 units, reflecting a heartening response from the public.

Around 70 first-time donors, 20 couple donors, 60 women donors contributed over the course of the event.

SDO Utkarsh Kumar donated blood alongside his brother, ADG Sanjay Anand Rao Lathkar and Julie Neeta Sokey (Assistant Director, VBDA JSACS) also donated, the latter alongside her son Shanon.

SSP Ranchi, Chandan Sinha and DC Ranchi, Manjunath Bhajantri also graced the event with their presence.

The Mega Camp was spearheaded under the guidance of Ankit Jain, Executive Director of BNI Ranchi, who shared the details of the event and thanked all donors and supporters for making the drive a resounding success.

BNI members Atul Gera, Mohit Chopra, Nishant Ahuja, and several other dedicated individuals were present throughout the two-day camp, ensuring smooth coordination and encouraging donors.



Coalition Govt dividing people in the name of language: BJP

PNS : RANCHI

Making a scathing attack on the coalition government of Jharkhand, Bharatiya Janata Party's state spokesperson and former MLA of Godda Amit Mandal said in a press conference today that the government is making the people of the state fight in the name of language. He said that the government does not intend to give jobs to the unemployed youth of the state. He said that this government is not Abua but Babua government as it is playing with language and identity of people. Mandal said that the coalition government is conspiring to eliminate the original culture, languages and tribal identity of Jharkhand.

He said that the local languages of Jharkhand were



Former BJP MLA Amit Mandal addresses media persons at the party office in Ranchi on Saturday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

ignored and removed, Mundari from Khunti, Bhojpuri from Palamu-Garhwa, Angika and Kurukh from Godda, these languages were removed from the census form without counting the population. He said that BJP is not against any language, but we strongly oppose this

act of removing languages like Angika, Bhojpuri and Mundari. He said that when Kurmali was removed, why did JLM remain silent? It clearly means that their movement was only a means of electoral gain and helping the grand alliance.

He said that there was injustice on the basis of language in J-TET 2025 too, earlier when the BJP government was in power, Bhojpuri was added to the regional language with the efforts of Minister Mithilesh Thakur and MP Nishikant Dubey, but today again injustice was done to the youth by removing it. He said that the Cabinet did not listen to the representatives, Minister Radha Krishna Kishore and MLA Deepika Pandey Singh also said in writing to add Angika, but the Cabinet ignored it.

NEET UG 2025: State students excel with remarkable results

PNS : RANCHI/ BOKARO

The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced results for the NEET UG 2025 on June 14. Students who have appeared for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) can check their results on the official website neet.nta.nic.in. NEET is a single entrance exam for students seeking admission in undergraduate medical and dental courses like MBBS, BDS and other related fields.

Several schools from across the State have reported to have achieved outstanding performances with many students securing commendable All India Ranks (AIR).

At Delhi Public School,



Ranchi, more than 20 students cleared the NEET exam. The highest scorer from the school is Armaan Ahmed with AIR 3369 and a category rank of 1766 while the second high scorer is Kumar Manasvi with AIR 12797 and a category rank of

5570. Principal Dr Jaya Chauhan congratulated all the achievers and wished them luck for their future endeavours.

Students of Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi excelled in NEET UG - 2025. As per the information



received, Jaiwardhan Jaiswal scored a category rank of 2626 while other notable performers included Simran, Bhumi Keshri, Shanvi Nehal, Kritika and Vaishnavi Singh. Principal Paramjit Kaur, congratulated the successful candidates and said that the

best preparation for tomorrow is to do the best today and it is the sheer hard work of all the stakeholders that has borne such sweet fruits.

Students of Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Bokaro, have excelled in NEET UG 2025, with more than 15 students



securing All India Ranks within the top 12,000. Tanisha emerged as the school topper with AIR 3106 and a category rank of 1612. Principal Suraj Sharma expressed pride in the students' achievements and praised the guidance of teachers. He extended congratulations to all successful students, their parents, and the faculty. School officials including resident Acharya Swamini Sanyuktananda Saraswati, president Bishwaroop Mukhopadhyay, secretary Mahesh Tripathi, treasurer R.N. Mallik, vice principal Narmendra Kumar, and headmaster Gopal Chandra Munshi also conveyed their best wishes and lauded the students' success.



# 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.

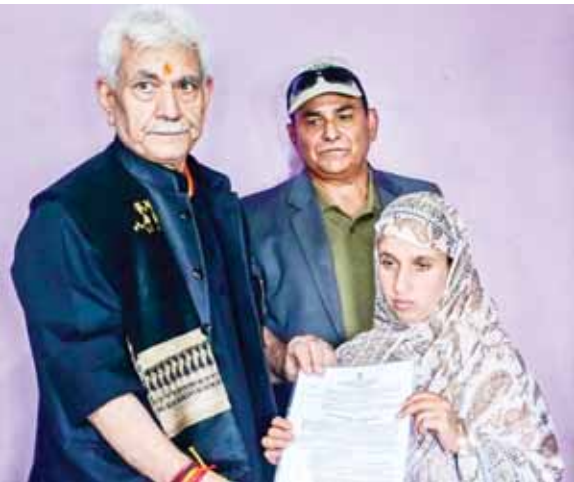
# J and K LG hands over Government job appointment letter to Adil Shah's Wife

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/IIPA-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/IIPA-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

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 Santa 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

King Charles leads minute's silence for crash

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 HELPPDESK: +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.
- (6) 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.
- (7) 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-II, 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-33, Mount Everest CGHS Ltd. Plot No. 17, Sector-09, Dwarka, New Delhi, an FIR No. 2639431/2025 dated 04/03/2024.

Declared that these documents are in possession of my client YUPAI 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 Vihar, Mustafabad, Village Namdara, Delhi vide Gift Deed Dt. 26.06.2023 executed by Mrs. Tamizhan, Now Mohd Ibrahim is the undisputed owner of the said property.

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 Mehraj 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 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

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(2251)C I, Sakuntala Devi, Mother of No.10136602L, Hav Surjeet Singh R/o- Vill- Barota, Dist- Karnal, Haryana- 132037, have changed my name from Sakuntala Devi to Shakuntala, vide affidavit dated 14/06/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2251)C I, Rahul Singh S/o- No.2895684X Hav Hazari Singh, R/o- Vill- Amarpura, PO- Kishanpura, Via- Kabraa, Teh- Beawar, Rajasthan- 305927, have changed my name from Rahul Singh to Rahul Rawat, vide affidavit dated 14/06/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2252)C I, Kirti Kumari, D/o JC-812221A Nb/Sub Kalyan Singh, Presently residing at VPO- Palsera, Teh- Khair, Dist- Aligarh, U.P.- 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 I, Vikas Kumar, S/o. Balbir Singh. R/o. Near Balaji Mandir. Khandsa, 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(2256)C I, Vikas Kumar, S/o. Balbir Singh. R/o. Near Balaji Mandir. Khandsa, 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

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)

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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 North: Road West: Other's Property South: Other's Property

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



# 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 tour- nament,” 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 unabologetically 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 hook-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 ruin 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

Get in touch at vivacity@dailypioneer.com



# 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-



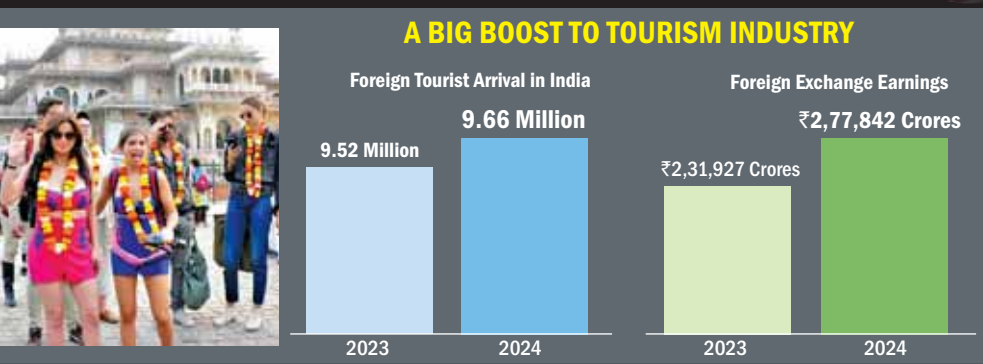
PAWAN KHERA  
Chairman, Media & Publicity Department, AICC, Member, Congress Working Committee

**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**

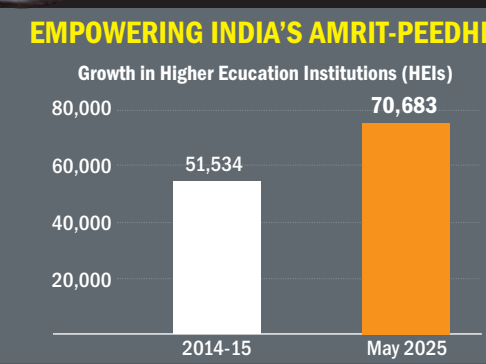
ing a sharp turn towards electoral authoritarianism.

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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**PRIME MINISTER 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**



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



**VIJENDER GUPTA**  
Speaker of Delhi Legislative Assembly

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.

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**Development is reaching every corner**

As a result, India has risen from the 11th largest economy in 2014 to the 4th largest in 2025. In just 11 years, India received 70 per cent of the total FDI it attracted over the past 25 years. Global businesses see India as a stable, democratic, and scalable alternative in a fractured global economy. With our youth power, robust infrastructure, and leadership in tech, India is where the future is being built.

Even in climate leadership, India has stepped up. Renewable energy capacity has seen exponential growth, with solar energy playing a central role. PM Surya Ghar Yojana has received tremendous response. Within two years, 52 lakh households have enrolled. Delhi assembly too is going to go fully solar in July this year.

The International Solar Alliance, led by India, has garnered global participation. At the same time, schemes like Ujjwala Yojana have distributed LPG connections to over 9 crore women, drastically reducing indoor pollution and improving health outcomes.

Electric mobility has been encouraged under the FAME scheme, and the country's growing focus on green hydrogen, ethanol blending, and sustainable urban development indicates a strong commitment to long-term environmental health.

**The world is realising that it is indeed India's century**

If these 11 years have shown us something is that India is capable of anything it puts its collective mind to. No hurdle is big enough, no threat in the world could halt its rise. It has also made us realise that more we are closer to our roots, higher is our jump to our future.

**India cannot stop**

What we've achieved is historic. But what lies ahead, till 2047, will lay the foundation for the next 1000 years. From space to startups, from digital to defence, India is no longer a spectator to a changing world. We are the force driving it.

## 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 ।  
इतिवैशम्पैयानाश्रुद्-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,



**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 cow dung 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,



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.

## 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.

### 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.

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



# Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar: India’s Spiritual Voice to the World

BY PRASHANT TEWARI

“A violence-free society, disease-free body and a stress-free mind is the birthright of every individual.”  
— Gurudev

In a world grappling with rising anxiety, polarisation, and ecological fragility, few voices have echoed the ancient wisdom of India with as much clarity and universal appeal as *Gurudev*. A spiritual leader, humanitarian, and global peace envoy, Gurudev has spent over four decades reviving meditation, yoga and Ayurveda — not just through discourse, but through tangible transformation across communities and continents. He has been honoured with the Padma Vibhushanin India and with the highest civilian awardsby 6 countries. Gurudev was born in a small town in Tamil Nadu, Papanasam. But it was in Shimoga, Karnataka, in 1981, that he entered a period of silence during which the Sudarshan Kriya was revealed to him — a powerful rhythmic breathing technique now practiced by millions to reduce stress and restore mental clarity. From this transformative moment was born The Art of Living Foundation, now one of the world’s largest volunteer-driven NGOs, with a presence in 180+ countries and over 35,000 teachers trained under Gurudev’s vision.

## Globalising Inner Peace

Gurudev’s mission transcends religious, cultural, and geographic boundaries. At a time when Indian spirituality was often confined to intellectual or academic circles, he presented it as a direct experience that can be practically integrated into modern life. This brought its essence to global mainstream, with impactful applications in public health, prison reform, education, and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts.

His interventions have reached the most unlikely frontiers: from brokering peace in Colombia, to de-radicalising youth in Jammu and Kashmir, and from launching trauma relief in war-torn Iraq to introducing yoga and pranayama in US prisons and military veteran communities.

In India, he was instrumental in resolving the 500-year-old Ram Mandir-Babri Masjid dispute through decades of quiet dialogue and community outreach. His initiatives with Kashmiri youth and martyrs’ families, including the emotionally resonant “Paigam-e-Mohabbat” event, created a bridge between those torn apart by years of conflict — through shared pain, healing, and humanity. “When I saw the mother of a slain militant embrace the widow of a soldier, I realised peace begins with the courage to see pain — not just our own, but each other’s.” — A volunteer recounts



India’s Eternal Voice in a Restless World: Gurudev’s Global Legacy

“THE ART OF LIVING IS NOT JUST AN ORGANISATION. IT’S A GLOBAL MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE COMMITTED TO JOY, TO SERVICE, TO PEACE. ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN THESE VALUES IS ALREADY PART OF IT” — GURUDEV

the event. Gurudev has sent teachers to militant groups in various parts of India, persuading them to give up violence and successfully reformed them to be contributing citizens.

## Voice of the World on Yoga and Meditation

In recent years, Gurudev has played a pioneering role in World Meditation Day and International Yoga Day observances. Gurudev led the first ever World Meditation Day celebrations at the United Nations, with millions from over 150 countries tun-

ing in live — united in breath, silence, and intention. In his words: “Meditation is the vaccine for the mind. It brings strength to the spirit, clarity to the intellect, and joy to the heart.”

His contribution to International Yoga Day celebrations is equally profound. Gurudev has been a leading voice in framing yoga not just as a physical practice, but as a tool for inner transformation, harmony, and global peace.

Under his leadership, the Art of Living Foundation organises free yoga sessions across the globe, reaching underserved communities, urban

youth, corporate professionals, and refugees alike.

## Grassroots to Global: Real Change

The ripple effect of Gurudev’s philosophy is perhaps best seen in the lives it has transformed.

Over 100,000 students study in 1,300+ free schools set up by Art of Living — many of them first-generation learners. One such student, Priyanka, became Bangalore’s first female Metro driver, a role model for her entire village.

River rejuvenation projects have revived 14 rivers and tributaries, bringing drinking water back to drought-stricken districts.

The Prison Program has transformed over 800,000 inmates in 65 countries, replacing aggression with introspection.

His environmental movement spans tree plan-

tation drives, chemical-free farming, and climate resilience programs, all rooted in Vedic principles of harmony with nature.

## A Messenger Beyond Borders

Gurudev’s influence extends far beyond India’s shores — not just as a spiritual guide, but as a global peace ambassador. He has addressed world parliaments, engaged with religious leaders from every major tradition, and continues to be an invited speaker at the United Nations, European Parliament, World Economic Forum, and various interfaith summits. Whether speaking to policymakers in Washington or meditating with tribal elders in remote Africa, Gurudev carries the universal message of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — “One world family.”

One of his most significant international contributions came in Colombia, where a 52-year-long armed conflict between the government and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) had claimed over 220,000 lives.

When formal peace talks were floundering, Gurudev visited Colombia and engaged directly with both government officials and FARC leaders. Through his dialogues, he introduced the principles of non-violence, reconciliation, and emotional healing to former combatants and victims alike.

His intervention helped build trust, open communication channels, and lay the emotional foundation for what would eventually become a historic ceasefire agreement.

He later addressed FARC members personally in Havana and Bogotá, encouraging a path of peace and reintegration. Gurudev’s work in Colombia is now cited by peace scholars as a rare example of spiritual diplomacy complementing formal negotiations.

For these efforts, he was awarded Colombia’s highest civilian honor, and continues to be regarded as a key catalyst in the nation’s healing journey.

## The Way Forward

What began as a moment of silence in Karnataka has now become a revolutionary global spiritual movement. In a divided world, Gurudev’s call for peace, compassion, and shared humanity resonates more than ever.

“The Art of Living is not just an organisation. It’s a global movement of people committed to joy, to service, to peace. Anyone who believes in these values is already part of it.” — *Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar*

In echoing the Shanti Mantra — “*Sarve bhavan-tu sukhinah, sarve santu niramayah*” — Gurudev has ensured that the eternal wisdom of India is not a forgotten relic of the past, but a living, breathing force shaping the future of the world.

## Your Week Ahead

(By Madhu Kotiya, a tarot card reader, spiritual healer and Founder of MShezaim Institute of Tarot and Divination)

### ARIES

March 21-April 19



This week, your focus shifts to discipline and follow-through. While the opportunity have been circling for a while, now is the time to act with strategy. Someone around you may test your patience, don’t get pulled into distractions. Think long-term and avoid temptation to cut corners. A personal connection may require reassurance.

Number: 11, Colour: **Crimson**, Day: **Tuesday**

### TAURUS

April 20-May 20



This week invites you to evaluate your sense of worth and how it aligns with your current choices. You’ve been giving your energy freely—now it’s time to check who truly reciprocates. A financial or work-related opportunity might arise early in the week, but it needs careful review. Avoid rushing into anything that feels too good to be true.

Number: 8, Colour: **Pine Green**, Day: **Friday**

### GEMINI

May 21-June 20



This week puts you will have take a decision which is long pending. Your natural adaptability is your strength, but now it’s time to choose a clear direction. Early in the week, a task may require your full focus—complete it before jumping to the next. Emotions may tug at you from multiple directions, particularly when it comes to relationships.

Number: 14, Colour: **Lemon Yellow**, Day: **Wednesday**

### CANCER

June 21-July 22



This week stirs your nurturing instincts—but don’t forget to direct some of that care inward. Someone may seek your emotional support, but it’s okay to say no if you’re feeling depleted. Early in the week, a domestic or family issue may resurface—handle it with calm honesty, not guilt. Financially, it’s a good time to clear small debts.

Number: 6, Colour: **Ivory**, Day: **Monday**

### LEO

July 23-Aug 22



You step into this week with renewed clarity. Your thoughts crystallize, guiding you to make strong, conscious choices. If you’ve been procrastinating on a decision, now’s the time to act. Professionally, your voice carries weight—use it to lead, not dominate. Someone may admire you from afar—be aware.

Number: 10, Colour: **Burnt Orange**, Day: **Thursday**

### VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22



This week pushes you to release the pressure of being perfect. You’ve been overextending in silence, and your body might show signs of fatigue. Start the week by saying no more often—it’s not selfish; it’s survival. A colleague or peer may not meet your standards, but patience builds better outcomes than constant correction.

Number: 3, Colour: **Olive Green**, Day: **Saturday**

### LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22



This week highlights your ability to restore balance in places where harmony has slipped. You may find yourself mediating between people or situations—but don’t take on what isn’t yours to fix. Early in the week, a surprising shift in your environment or routine will demand flexibility. Stay calm, and trust that change.

Number: 22, Colour: **Rose Gold**, Day: **Sunday**

### SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21



This week demands emotional honesty—especially with yourself. You’ve been pushing down something far too long, and now it asks to be seen. Don’t rush to flee; allow yourself to feel what’s rising; clarity lies beneath it. Early in the week, someone may offer support or insight you didn’t expect—accept it.

Number: 16, Colour: **Deep Maroon**, Day: **Thursday**

### SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21



Adventure calls, but this week asks you to redefine what freedom means. You’ve outgrown a certain path—and now it’s time to move differently. Early in the week, a conversation might spark this realization. Instead of reacting, observe your patterns. Professionally, new ideas gain traction if you pitch them with humility, not haste.

Number: 5, Colour: **Cobalt Blue**, Day: **Friday**

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19



You enter the week grounded in the tangible—focused on what needs to get done. Whether it’s finances, deadlines, or health—your inner manager takes the lead. Structure will serve you well, but don’t lose sight of emotional balance. Someone close might be craving your attention; slow down and offer it. At work, you gain respect by solving a complex issue.

Number: 2, Colour: **Charcoal Grey**, Day: **Tuesday**

### AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18



Your mind buzzes with fresh ideas this week, but your energy needs grounding. Your mental energy spreads thin when you’re trying to hold it all at once. Early in the week, pause and prioritize. One clear idea is more powerful than ten unfinished ones. In relationships, you’re craving intellectual connection—don’t settle for surface-level chatter.

Number: 19, Colour: **Aquamarine**, Day: **Saturday**

### PISCES

Feb 19-March 20



This week pulls you into emotional depth, but you’re more prepared than ever. A strong intuitive nudge at the start of the week helps you sense what needs healing or release. Don’t overthink it—trust the first feeling. A relationship, possibly from the past, may resurface. This is your chance to close a chapter with compassion, not regret. At work, creativity flows.

Number: 12, Colour: **Moonstone White**, Day: **Wednesday**

## Lakshmi Puri gets Pandit Hari Dutt Sharma Award for Swallowing the Sun

In a ceremony filled with warmth, pride and literary celebration, Lakshmi Puri was honoured with the *Pandit Hari Dutt Sharma* Award, recognising her impactful entry into the world of fiction with her debut novel *Swallowing the Sun*. The award is named after Pandit Hari Dutt Sharma, a respected scholar, poet and cultural visionary whose life was dedicated to the promotion of Indian literature, thought and tradition. It continues to honour individuals whose contributions enrich society through words and ideas.

Lakshmi Puri is no stranger to distinction. A seasoned diplomat, she served for nearly 28 years in the Indian Foreign Service before moving to the United Nations, where she rose to become Assistant Secretary-General and played a leading role in establishing UN Women. She has long been a global voice for gender equality and human rights. She is the wife of Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas and a diplomat himself.

Now, she adds a new title to her name, author. Her debut novel, *Swallowing the Sun*, published in 2024, is an evocative tale set during one of the most stirring chapters in India’s modern history. The books captures the soul of a generation that dared to dream big, for personal freedom, equality and dignity. It draws the reader into the soul of a young woman whose journey mirrors the heartbeat of a nation on the brink of transformation.

Lakshmi Puri presents a protagonist who lives through a time of upheaval, but the real revolution unfolds within her a subtle, yet powerful evolution of voice, agency and identity. Malati’s life is introduced in a small village in Maharashtra, but her spirit refuses to remain confined to its boundaries. From standing up to a school bully to walking into a college classroom where women are barely seen, she begins to challenge her world long before she understands the scale of her rebellion. Her father’s support allows her to push through limits, but it is her own drive and sense of justice that keeps her moving.

What makes this narrative compelling is its honesty. Malati is never portrayed as perfect or extraordinary. Her thoughts are flawed, her actions impulsive at times, but her courage lies in her willingness to keep going, even when the path is unclear. The story moves with her from the village to the city, from girlhood to womanhood, never letting go of the emotional texture that defines her journey.

The political movements in the background, the fight for India’s independence, the protests, the hope, the confusion are always present, but the focus remains on the private world of a young woman try-



Lakshmi Puri receiving the Pandit Hari Dutt Sharma Award at a function for literary contribution on June 10

**LAKSHMI PURI IS NO STRANGER TO DISTINCTION. A SEASONED DIPLOMAT, SHE SERVED FOR NEARLY 28 YEARS IN THE INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE BEFORE MOVING TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WHERE SHE ROSE TO BECOME ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL AND PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN ESTABLISHING UN WOMEN**

ing to shape her own life. Bombay it transforms into a character of its own, mirroring the chaos, beauty and urgency of the times. One of the most poignant aspects of the book is the bond between Malati and her sister Kamala. Their relationship is one of shared dreams, disagreements, protective love and mutual dependence. Their connection brings warmth and depth to the novel, allowing readers to feel the quiet power of sisterhood in an era that rarely acknowledged women’s inner lives.

The writing flows with grace and assurance. Author draws on her vast experience in international diplomacy, women’s rights and policymaking, but lets those insights sit quietly beneath the surface. The result is a novel that offers historical perspective without turning into a lecture, and emotional resonance without sentimentality. The personal struggles Malati faces, heartbreak, betrayal, uncertainty, hope never feel

separate from the political turmoil around her. They are part of the same story, told through the lens of someone finding her place in a rapidly changing world. It gives space to the voices of women who contributed to India’s freedom with strength and grace, often outside the spotlight. Puri’s work honours those inner battles that shaped outer revolutions, leaving readers with characters they can carry with them long after the final page.

Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister, shared his pride on social media, “Talking of Love... Proud of my batchmate, former colleague, a dotting mother of our daughters & affectionate grandmother, steadfast friend and spouse Lakshmi M Puri on receiving the prestigious Pandit Hari Dutt Sharma Award for her epic love story & bestselling literary magnum opus ‘Swallowing the Sun’. Like all other causes she associates with and battles which she fights to win, I am witness to the painstaking research and effort with which she created this masterpiece. Happy for the love which readers, litterateurs and critics are showing for her book.”

The award ceremony was coordinated by Dr HN Sharma, Shailendra Sharma, Smt. Chitra Sharma, Dr Ashok Chakradhar, Adv Alok Krishna Agrawal, Dr Raju Vyas, Dr Naresh Sharma, Sahu Akhilesh Jain, Manoj Sharma, Monica Sharma, Ajay Sharma and Rajkumar Sharma, under the banner of Pandit Hari Dutt Sharma Puraskar Samiti.



### ABOUT THE BOOK

**Book:** Swallowing the Sun  
**Author:** Lakshmi Puri  
**Publisher:** Aleph book Company  
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