

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southwest) Amit Goel said, "The child was subjected to extreme humiliation and physical abuse. One of the men held him tightly by his hands and belt, while another poured water into his pants. Yet another man kicked him and abused him."

Newlywed woman held for poisoning husband to death in Garhwa

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

In what appeared to be a stark reminder to the residents of Garhwa, Jharkhand of the Sonam-Raja Raghuvanshi case, a newlywed woman was arrested for allegedly poisoning her husband to death. The accused, Sunita Devi, is said to have mixed pesticide into her husband's food on the night of June 15. The following morning, 22-year-old Buddhath Singh was found dead in his home.

According to police, Sunita had reportedly convinced her husband to buy the pesticide under the pretext of needing it for crop protection. Buddhath's mother, Rajmati Devi, filed an FIR on Monday, accusing her daughter-in-law of murdering her son by poisoning his meal. The Ranka police have taken the woman into custody and sent her to judicial remand, while the post-mortem report is awaited to confirm the exact cause of death.

Ranka SDPO Rohit Kumar

Singh confirmed the arrest, stating that Sunita was never interested in living with her husband and only returned to her in-laws' house under pressure from relatives and community elders. Buddhath's mother alleged that her daughter-in-law had expressed disinterest in the marriage right from the beginning.

As per the FIR, Buddhath Singh, a resident of Bahokundar village in Ranka police station limits, had married Sunita, daughter of Raghunath Singh from Bishunpur village in Chhattisgarh's Ramchandrapur police station area, on May 11, 2025. The day after her arrival at her marital home, Sunita returned to her parental house, stating that she did not like Buddhath and would not live with him.

Despite this, both families wanted to preserve the marriage and held a community meeting on June 5.

Following the talks, Sunita returned to Garhwa with her husband.

IIM Bodh Gaya's RISE Programme sparks social impact across 13 states



PNS : RANCHI

The Indian Institute of Management Bodh Gaya is scaling new heights in community engagement through its flagship Rural Immersion for Social Engagement (RISE) programme.

In its latest edition, 145 students from the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) partnered with 20 leading development organisations to drive social impact across 13 Indian states.

What began as a grass-

roots initiative in Bihar has evolved into a nationwide effort.

From tribal settlements in the Nallamala forest of Telangana to aspirational districts in Uttar Pradesh, students tackled real-world challenges spanning education, water, sanitation, clean energy, and livelihoods.

Partnering with renowned organisations such as Tata Trusts (Cln), Bharti Airtel Foundation, Piramal Foundation, BAIF, Tata Steel Foundation, and Ramky

Foundation, students were embedded in on-ground projects—auditing rural schools, conducting health surveys, supporting digitisation of SHG-run businesses, and advancing renewable energy adoption in remote households.

In Bihar, IIM Bodh Gaya continued its deep-rooted engagement in its five adopted villages—Mahudar, Bapunagar, Turi Khurd, Turi Buzurg, and Rampur. Activities included baseline surveys, menstrual health drives, school evaluations, and expansion of institute-led initiatives like Sparsh and Happy Period, in collaboration with Glad Bharat Foundation and Jeevika.

RISE has grown into more than just a field-based learning programme. It's a platform where management education meets purpose, where students not only learn from the grassroots but contribute to them. With each passing year, RISE continues to shape empathetic, action-driven leaders ready to create meaningful change.

Flights likely to begin from Bokaro Airport in Nov: DC

R SHARMA : BOKARO

Passenger flights from Bokaro Airport are likely to commence by November 2025, said Deputy Commissioner Ajay Nath Jha during his visit and review meeting on the airport premises today. Speaking to media persons after the inspection, Jha said that he has already discussed the matter in detail with the Principal Secretary of the department and all necessary updates have been shared. The administration has now begun addressing the core issues that have stalled the airport's operation—lighting on the nearby hill, relocation of the slaughterhouse, enhancing airport security, and other pending tasks.

The DC said, "There is no challenge too big. What's needed is coordination and commitment—both of which are now in motion. The state government is fully determined, and our role is to bridge the gaps between responsible agencies."

He further announced that structured weekly review meetings will now be conducted to ensure transparent and timely progress. Highlighting a targeted timeline, he said that flights are expected to begin by Kartik Purnima, which coincides with the annual Lugu Pahad fair and religious gatherings in November. The DC's swift and focused action marks a shift from previous delays to a results-driven approach—bringing renewed hope to the people of Bokaro, who have long awaited the launch of air connectivity in the region.



Beyond the Runway: Yoga routines every Model and everyone else should try



BY RACHNA TIWARI

After my last article on how yoga has been my anchor in the fast-paced world of modeling, many of you wrote in asking: But where do I start? What routines do you actually follow?

So here it is — a guide to my go-to yoga flows. These are not just for models, by the way. These are for anyone who deals with long hours, high pressure, or simply wants to reconnect with their body and mind.

You don't need to be flexible. You don't need fancy leggings. All you need is 20-30 minutes and the willingness to listen to your body.

I break my routine into three parts: Morning Wake-Up, Midday Reset, and

Evening Unwind. Feel free to mix and match based on your needs.

1. The Morning Wake-Up Flow (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: Activate your body, stretch out stiffness, and energize your mind.

This routine is like a natural espresso shot — only without the crash.

Sequence:

1. Cat-Cow (Marjaryasana-Bitilasana) – 1 minute

Gently warms the spine and wakes up the nervous system.

2. Sun Salutations (Surya Namaskar A) – 3 to 5 rounds

A full-body stretch and light cardio. Perfect to get the blood flowing.

3. High Lunge to Warrior II (Virabhadrasana

II) – 3 breaths each side

Builds strength and improves posture — especially helpful for those who stand for long periods.

4. Chair Pose (Utkatasana) – 30 seconds

Fires up the legs, core, and balance. A prep for long shoots or casting lines.

5. Tree Pose (Vrikshasana) – 30 seconds per side

Grounding and calming, while helping with posture and poise.

Optional Add-on:

• Breath of Fire (Kapalabhati Pranayama) – 1 minute

Excellent for mental clarity and metabolic boost.

2. The Midday Reset (10-15 minutes)

Purpose: Undo screen-time stress, restore calm, and recharge focus.

Ideal for lunch breaks or between meetings/shoots. You can do this in a quiet corner — no mat needed.

Sequence:

1. Neck Rolls + Shoulder Rolls – 1-2 minutes

Releases built-up tension from posing, typing, or scrolling.

2. Seated Forward Fold (Paschimottasana) – 1 minute

Calms the nervous system, stretches the back and hamstrings.

3. Seated Spinal Twist

(Ardha Matsyendrasana) – 30 seconds each side

A gentle massage for the spine and internal organs.

4. Legs Up the Wall (Viparita Karani) – 5 minutes

A must-do for models! Reduces leg fatigue and swelling from heels or travel.

5. Box Breathing (4-4-4-4 count) – 2-3 minutes

A powerful technique for managing anxiety and returning to the present.

3. Evening Unwind Flow (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: Decompress the body, release emotional residue, and prepare for deep rest.

Whether your day ended with applause or rejection, this flow brings you back to equilibrium.

Sequence:

1. Child's Pose (Balasana) – 2 minutes

Safe space for surrender. A full-body hug.

2. Low Lunge + Side Stretch – 1 minute per side

Opens hips, releases tension from sitting or standing too long.

3. Supine Twist – 1 minute per side

Detoxifies and resets the spine.

4. Reclining Bound Angle (Supta Baddha Konasana) – 2-3 minutes

A beautiful heart opener. Emotional release happens here.

5. Savasana (Corpse Pose) + Body Scan – 5-7 minutes

The most underrated pose. Lie down, close your eyes, and scan your body from head to toe. Let go.

Tips for Sticking with It:

• Don't aim for perfection. Aim for presence.

• Use music or silence — whatever helps you tune in.

• Repeat one flow daily for a week, then switch.

• Model or not, your body deserves maintenance, not punishment.

Yoga has been my quiet superpower — helping me stay poised on the outside and strong on the inside.

Whether you're a student, a CEO, a teacher, or walking a ramp at Fashion Week, these routines can transform how you show up in the world.

This International Yoga Day, let's not just talk about yoga. Let's live it — one breath at a time.

WITH A CAREER SPANNING TEN YEARS, THE WRITER HAS SOLIDIFIED HER EXPERTISE IN HR, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM DEVELOPMENT. SHE IS A PRINT AND RAMP MODEL, WHO WAS ALSO FEATURED IN VOGUE AND GLADRAGS MAGAZINES.

AN ADVERTISEMENT ETCHED IN MEMORY

The Whisper That Spoke Volumes



BY AMBRISH SRIVASTAVA

This is a true story—one that my close friend shared with me not long ago. It's his memory, vivid and unshaken by time, that I now recount here exactly as he told it. Because sometimes, the quietest moments leave the deepest impressions.

The Simplicity That Stood Out

More than forty years ago, when my friend was a curious Class 10 student, he stumbled upon something in The Economist that would leave a mark—not an article, not a headline, but an advertisement. It was discreetly tucked away on the back page. It didn't clamour for attention, didn't boast with fanfare. And yet, it found a permanent place in his memory—refusing to fade even after decades.

This was the 1980s—an era untouched by the internet, when television commercials were loud, exaggerated, and formulaic. Magazines like The Economist offered a window to a wider, subtler world. One such day, flipping through an issue, he noticed a full-page image of a truck slowly climbing a rugged, mountainous road. At first glance, the ad seemed entirely unremarkable—no catchy slogans, no bold colours, no celebrity faces. Just a truck, a road, a landscape.

At the bottom of the page, in plain print, was the expected health disclaimer: "Consumption of alcohol is injurious to health."

But then, almost hidden—painted on the side of the truck itself, in minuscule font—were the words:

"CARLSBERG. World's Best Beer."

That was it. No pitch. No call to action. Just a whisper. Almost as if it wanted to be discovered—not declared.

Elegance in Restraint

What made the ad unforgettable was not what it showed, but what it withheld. It didn't try to sell. It trusted the intelligence of its audience. The message didn't scream—it invited. It made the viewer work for it—and in doing so, made them feel

something. The joy of discovery. The thrill of a whisper overheard.

That subtlety became its strength. The ad didn't just rely on design—it relied on restraint. It taught, in the simplest of ways, that silence too can be persuasive.

A Quiet Lesson in Storytelling

At that age, my friend didn't know the first thing about branding or consumer psychology. But what he instinctively grasped was that this wasn't just an advertisement—it was a story. A story told without shouting. A story that rewarded attention.

In that moment, he learned something profound: that great storytelling doesn't demand the spotlight—it earns it. The Carlsberg ad became, for him, a kind of silent mentor. It showed how imagination, suggestion, and trust in your audience can achieve far more than a flood of information ever could.

That tiny inscription on the truck said more than entire pages of ad copy.

When Images Speak Louder Than Words

A similar moment of silent impact occurred in my own life—one that still resonates with clarity.

I was a student of journalism at the time, eager to learn from the legends of the field. One of my most influential teachers was Dileep Padgaonkar Sir, a man whose memory and insight turned every lecture into a masterclass.

He often spoke about the power of visual storytelling. There was one photograph he used to recall repeatedly—a snapshot taken during India's Emergency era. In his words, it captured the very spirit of that turbulent time.

The image, which had once appeared on the front page of The Times of India, showed a woman sprinting through a rain-soaked Connaught Place, trying to catch a moving bus. In one hand, she clutched an umbrella; in the other, the bus's rear handle. Her handbag swung precariously. One foot was still on the wet pavement, the other barely on the step. A single misstep, and she could have met with grave injury.

The caption read: "The Fearful Grip of the Emergency."

The photograph, he said, held a viewer's gaze longer than any headline ever could. It didn't just depict a woman running—it mirrored an entire nation's urgency, anxiety, and submission to routine under authoritarian discipline. It was, in every sense, a front-page-worthy image. Not just because of its technical brilliance, but because it

made people stop. Reflect. Feel.

The "First Pick" Principle

Sir would often build on this lesson with another powerful illustration.

Picture a man arriving at a railway station early in the morning. As his train approaches, he realizes he forgot his newspaper—a part of his daily ritual. He spots a vendor with multiple newspapers laid out. Which one will he choose?

The answer, Padgaonkar Sir would explain, lies in the photograph. Before layout or headlines, it's the image that draws the eye. A compelling visual speaks directly to the subconscious. If the photo engages, the layout invites, and the headline connects—the reader buys. This spontaneous instinctive act, he termed the "First Pick."

That lesson stayed with me. Just as the Carlsberg ad whispered its message through silence, that Emergency-era photograph screamed through stillness. Neither needed explanation—both relied on presence. On how they made the viewer feel, not what they told them to think.

Advertising That Becomes Art

If I were to describe both these moments—the ad and the photograph—I'd call them poems in invisible ink, meant for those who pause long enough to notice. The truck on the mountain, the woman in the rain—both symbols of effort, of grace under pressure, of stories waiting quietly to be discovered.

Neither demanded attention. They earned it.

Final Thoughts

These two seemingly unrelated memories—one from a magazine, the other from a classroom—now sit side by side in my mind. And they remind me of a deeper truth: that the most powerful messages in life, whether in advertising or journalism, often speak in whispers, not roars.

That old Carlsberg ad may never win an award. That Emergency-era photograph may never be framed in a gallery. But both endure—etched not just in memory, but in meaning.

Because sometimes, the stories that stay with us are not the ones that shout the loudest.

They are the ones that never leave you.

The writer is a senior journalist with a deep interest in creative communication and memory-driven storytelling. He believes that stories are not just told—they're felt. E-mail: ambrish.srivastava@gmail.com

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow!

PNS : RANCHI

Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Season 4 has made its presence felt across the country, and the message is clear — innovation is not just limited to big cities; it belongs to every youth who wants to solve a problem.

After generating enthusiasm in schools and colleges across the north, south and northeast, the programme has now reached Bihar and Jharkhand, where hundreds

of students are coming together to create new and useful things. At the centre of this new chapter were three prestigious institutions of Ranchi — Gossner College, St. Xavier's College and Marwari College, where the Design Thinking Open House transformed classrooms into ideation labs.

Meanwhile, students from IIT Patna participated virtually, proving that geographical boundaries are no longer a barrier in shaping India's

future. For Suraj, a student of Marwari College, the workshop was an eye-opening experience. "This was the first time for me to see that problems around me can be turned into real projects with the right kind of thinking," he said. I was always aware of local problems — lack of sanitation and waste management — but now I felt I could do something about it. His notebooks were filled with initial sketches of waste sorting solutions for small towns.

WHY SICKLE CELL DISEASE DEMANDS URGENT ATTENTION



BY DR. KANINIK MITRA

For Jharkhand's tribal and vulnerable children, access to timely diagnosis and treatment is a right, not a privilege.

Every year, June 19 marks World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, drawing attention to a disease that affects thousands of children in India and Jharkhand but remains wide-

ly misunderstood and rarely discussed. Despite its prevalence, limited awareness and inadequate access to care mean that its impact continues to pose serious challenges, particularly among tribal and marginalised communities.

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is a significant inherited blood disorder, particularly prevalent in tribal, marginalized, and underserved communities in India and other parts of the world. A child can inherit Sickle Cell Disease if both parents carry the sickle cell trait. Children living with SCD often face debilitating pain, repeated hospitalisations, continued medication and blood transfusions from time to time. Many are unable to attend school consistently or live active lives. Although SCD is manageable,

it continues to cause avoidable illness and even death, especially in resource-constrained settings. Recent advances in early diagnosis and genetic counselling offer new possibilities for reducing the burden of SCD, provided they are implemented with cultural sensitivity, care, and a people-first approach.

I recently met an 18-year-old girl from Bedo, Ranchi, currently in her first year of college. She was undergoing a blood transfusion and had low haemoglobin levels. She looked Pale, visibly fatigued, and weak, she shared how she needs to visit the hospital almost every month for medicines and sometimes for blood transfusions. These frequent hospital visits often cause her to miss classes, making it difficult to meet the minimum attendance

requirement her college mandates for appearing in exams.

In addition to the physical toll, those affected with Sickle Cell Disease often experience social stigma and discrimination. Due to widespread myths and misconceptions, such as the false belief that SCD is contagious, social acceptance remains low, further isolating them from their communities.

India bears the second-highest burden of SCD globally, after Africa. According to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, sickle cell is widespread in many tribal groups of India. About 1 in 86 births among tribal population have SCD, the prevalence being higher in Central, Western, and Southern India. However, SCD is found across all ethnicities and communities. In

Jharkhand, the launch of the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission on July 1, 2023, marked a significant turning point in the state's public health efforts. Jharkhand is taking decisive and inclusive action, especially for its vulnerable and tribal populations who are disproportionately affected by the disease.

The state is undertaking universal sickle cell screening for all individuals between the ages of 0 to 40, aiming for early detection and timely intervention. For those diagnosed, Jharkhand is ensuring access to comprehensive support through free regular check-ups, medicines, and counselling services. Health workers are being trained to identify, and manage SCD effectively at the grassroots level, enabling a responsive

and informed healthcare system.

In addition, the government is facilitating access to disability certificates and Ayushman Bharat health cards for eligible individuals, further reducing barriers to treatment. Awareness campaigns are also being rolled out to dispel myths and misconceptions that contribute to stigma and social exclusion of those living with the condition. These multifaceted efforts reflect Jharkhand's deep commitment to breaking the cycle of suffering, empowering communities through knowledge, care, and early intervention.

However, we still have a long way to go. The healthcare system must address long-standing barriers by increasing awareness, regularity of point-of-care testing

tools and medical supplies and ensuring adequately trained personnel. To improve early diagnosis and outcomes, targeted screening is essential, particularly for priority groups such as undiagnosed antenatal mothers, newborns and individuals with symptoms including those with a history of multiple transfusions, low haemoglobin levels, or a family history of SCD. Strengthening community awareness, healthcare worker training, robust supply chains, and integrating SCD services into school health and public health programmes are vital steps forward.

UNICEF supports a public health response to SCD that prioritizes early detection, access to care, and supportive services for affected families. Our engagement is guided

ed by values of equity, compassion, inclusion, and community engagement. In Jharkhand, UNICEF supports government efforts to combat sickle cell disease by strengthening health systems, training healthcare workers, for promoting early detection and management. This also includes generating awareness and supporting social and behaviour change communication to reduce stigma.

On this World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, let us commit to a future where no child suffers in silence, where early detection is the norm, and where every person with SCD receives the care, dignity, and opportunity they deserve.

THE AUTHOR IS THE CHIEF, FIELD OFFICE FOR UNICEF JHARKHAND.

BJP slams Congress for false propaganda on census 2027

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

The BJP on Tuesday alleged that the Congress is carrying out false and misleading propaganda on census 2027 because its hope of gaining power by creating division in society is falling apart with the Narendra Modi-led Government's decision to include caste enumeration in the nationwide exercise.

Terming the government's notification on the 16th census a "damp squib", the Congress on Monday said it is silent on the inclusion of caste in the exercise and asked whether this is another "U-turn" by the Government.

The Home Ministry noted that some misleading information, which stated that there was no mention of caste count in the gazette notification, was being spread and later asserted that the Census 2027 would include caste enumeration.

Lambasting the Congress for "misleading" people with false claims, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi alleged that the prime



BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi

FILE PHOTO

objective of the Opposition party by resorting to such a "petty" act is to create confusion in society and gain power.

Since it is witnessing its objective falling apart, the Congress has resorted to spreading "falsehood, deception and lies", he told reporters at the BJP headquarters.

Trivedi said the press releases issued by the Government had clearly mentioned that along with the census, a socio-economic assessment and caste census would also be conducted.

"Marred by its myopic view

and blurred vision, rather a motivated nefarious vision, however, they (Congress) are unable to see what is categorically explained in the Modi Government's decision to conduct the census," he charged.

They are running completely false and misleading propaganda because they feel that their hopes are not being fulfilled, the Rajya Sabha MP added.

Trivedi alleged that the Congress has always resorted to vote bank politics in the name of caste but did nothing for the backward communi-

ties.

"The party decided to stop the caste census (enumeration) in 1951 and did not allow the Kaka Kalekar Commission report and the Mandal Commission report to be released," he said.

With the 'Sabka saath, sabka vishwas' mantra, Trivedi said, the NDA Government under Prime Minister Modi's leadership wants to conduct a census with caste enumeration to ensure "recognition of all castes, respect for all castes and upliftment of the most backward castes".

On the contrary, the leaders of the Congress and "INDI Alliance" only want the upliftment of their families by creating division in the society on caste lines, the BJP leader charged.

"In 2022, our alliance Government in Bihar decided to conduct a caste survey in the state," the BJP leader said.

Trivedi also raised questions over the Congress government's decision to conduct a fresh caste survey in Karnataka and asked whether the previous survey conducted with an expenditure of ₹165 crore was erroneous.

PK Mishra urges States to focus on high impact DRR plans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, PK Mishra, on Tuesday said that states should focus on low cost but high impact interventions to mitigate disaster risks. Addressing the valedictory session of the two-day Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Mishra said the potential of loss in certain disasters is found to be more than estimated which needs re-calibration of mitigation efforts to tackle them.

Observing the nature of disasters is changing, he said that we must accept this reality that hazards are interconnected, impacts are multiplying and risks are evolving faster than we are adapting.

"In view of the emerging challenges of extreme events and uncertainties, states need to recalibrate and re-activate their institutions, processes and systems for equipping themselves to be ready to handle such situation by preventing loss of life and property," he added.

Mishra said that states should focus on low cost but

high impact interventions to mitigate disaster risks.

"Preparedness and awareness is crucial for tackling increasing uncertainty on disaster occurrence. The hazard and vulnerability landscape are changing and so should enhance the preparedness level of the states," said Mishra, according to an official statement.

"For better transition from relief and response approach to preparedness and mitigation approach, states need to institutionalise the lessons learnt. This is essential, so that insights from the past disasters are not forgotten," he added. Mishra said India's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) financing model has been acknowledged at the global platform on DRR held in Geneva on June 4 to June 6, 2025, states should ensure for proper utilisation of recovery and mitigation funds.

Highlighting India's vast geography, which mandates a robust national disaster response force, he said that states should assess and invest in capacity augmentation of agencies involved in the disaster relief operations.

"Disaster preparedness is

not a matter of hours but is a matter of minutes, as every minute taken in mobilisation and starting relief operation counts. Thus, the speed of response should be improved. There is still a lot to be done on the early warning from for certain disasters," added Mishra.

Giving example of drought having the potential to severely affect lives and livelihood, the principal secretary said the potential of loss in certain disasters is found to be more than estimated.

"These days lightning is coming forth as one of the largest-fatality disasters. Hence, our mitigation efforts should be re-calibrated to tackle these kind of disasters. States should focus on low cost but high impact interventions to mitigate disaster risks," he added.

Mishra said that urban flooding solutions need to keep in mind the local geographical and climatic conditions.

The principal secretary further said the Aapda Mitra scheme for volunteer mobilisation like community involvement is very important for enhancing the effectiveness of disaster response.

'Thug life' film must be released in Karnataka, guns can't be put to people's head: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Tuesday came down heavily on the Karnataka government over actor Kamal Haasan's film "Thug Life" not being released in the state, saying mob and vigilantes cannot be allowed to take to the streets. A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan said rule of law has to be established and guns cannot be put to people's head to stop them from watching the movie.

The top court gave one day time to the Karnataka government to apprise it about release of the movie in the state, saying once a film has got the Central Board of Film Certification clearance, it has to be released in all the state.

The bench said if Haasan has said anything inconvenient it cannot be taken as a gospel truth and the enlightened people of Karnataka should have debated and said he was wrong.

The top court was also critical of the high court's recent observations seeking an apology over Haasan's remark over Kannada language, and said it has not business to seek apology. The bench transferred to the apex court, the case related to the movie pending before the high court and posted the matter for further hearing on Thursday.

"Thug Life" released in cinema halls across the country on June 5. The Tamil movie, which reunites Haasan with filmmaker Mani Ratnam after 1987's "Nayakan", could not be released in Karnataka after the 70-year-old's comments about Kannada language sparked a major controversy.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by one M Mahesh Reddy challenging the non release of the movie in Karnataka. The high court had strongly criticised Haasan for his remark suggesting that "Kannada was born out of Tamil", and observed that a "single apology could have resolved the situation."

Robert Vadra skips ED summons again

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

Robert Vadra, the businessman husband of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, skipped his scheduled deposition before the Enforcement Directorate for the second time in a money laundering case linked to UK-based arms consultant Sanjay Bhandari, official sources said on Tuesday.

He was asked to appear on Tuesday (June 17) after he failed to do so on June 10.

Sources close to Vadra said he has communicated his travel plan to the UAE and UK for this week in advance to the agency and that he would join the probe once he is back in India.

He skipped the June 10 summons saying he had flu-like symptoms on June 9 and had undertaken a COVID test as per protocol.

His lawyer had then said that Vadra had no intention of avoiding summons and was ready to appear before the ED anytime before or after his travel abroad later this month.

The agency is understood to be summoning Vadra to record his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and subsequently file a chargesheet in the case. The federal probe agency had questioned the businessman for three consecutive days in April in a separate money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in a 2008 land deal in Haryana. He is being investigated in three money laundering cases by the ED.

Bhandari (63) fled to London in 2016, soon after the Income Tax Department raided him in Delhi. A UK court earlier this month refused an application filed by the Indian government seeking permis-

sion to appeal in Britain's Supreme Court against the discharge of Bhandari in an extradition case, virtually ruling out chances of him being brought to the country to face the law.

The ED filed a chargesheet in this case in 2023, alleging that Bhandari acquired the 12, Bryanston Square house in London in 2009 and got it renovated "as per the directions of Robert Vadra, who provided the funds for the renovation".

Vadra has denied that he owns any London property directly or indirectly.

Terming the charges a "political witch hunt", Vadra said he was being "hounded and harassed" to subserve political ends.

The ED is also investigating Vadra in a separate money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in a land deal in Rajasthan's Bikaner.

Environment Minister urges *matri* vans for Aravalli Green Wall Project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Tuesday urged people to create forests in the name of their mothers as part of the Aravalli Green Wall Project, an ambitious plan to build a 1,400-km long and five-km wide green buffer around the Aravalli mountain range.

Launching the 'National Workshop on Strategies for Combating Desertification and Drought' in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Yadav said that unsustainable farming practices, excessive use of urea and pesticides, and overuse of groundwater are some of the key reasons for land degrada-

tion worldwide. He warned that fast-paced desertification is threatening the human food chain.

Yadav said India is taking several steps to tackle land degradation and desertification, including interlinking of rivers, distribution of soil health cards to farmers and plantation programmes.

The Government has now decided to restore degraded land in the Aravalli range, which stretches from Delhi to Gujarat, he said.

The minister encouraged people to develop *matri van* (forests named after one's mother) on degraded forest land under this initiative.

He also said that under the Green Credit Programme, companies could be asked to

help restore such degraded areas. Inspired by Africa's 'Great Green Wall' that spans from Senegal in the west to Djibouti in the east, the Aravalli project aims to establish a 1,400-km long and five-km wide green belt across 29 districts in Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi.

Yadav said the project will be a turning point in the careers of divisional forest officers in these districts.

According to the government, the Aravalli Green Wall will help fight air pollution in the region, support India's climate goal of creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent, and help restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

Centre's intention to take control of judges' appointments: Sibal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Tuesday alleged that the real motive of the government in moving towards bringing an impeachment motion against Justice Yashwant Varma for alleged corruption is to take control of appointment of judges by doing away with the Collegium system and bringing in the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC).

Sibal, who is also a senior advocate, also accused the government of having a selective approach in handling the cases of Justice Varma and Justice

Shekhar Yadav, against whom Opposition MPs have submitted a notice in the Rajya Sabha for moving an impeachment motion for making allegedly "communal" remarks last year.

Law Minister Kiren Rijiju has underlined the government's resolve to take all political parties on board in moving the impeachment motion against Justice Varma. A fire incident at Varma's residence in the national capital in March, when he was a judge at the Delhi High Court, had led to the discovery of several burnt sacks of cash at the outhouse.

Addressing a press conference, Sibal said the intention of the government is to finish the

Collegium system and to take control of the appointment of judges.

Talking about Justice Varma, Sibal said, "I can say with utmost responsibility that he is one of the finest judges that I have argued before. You ask any lawyer in the High Court or Supreme Court, there is not a whiff of any wrongdoing by this judge. You ask any lawyer in Allahabad." "It is shocking that you (the government) are targeting a judge against whom there is no evidence and you are protecting a judge against whom there is no evidence required because his statement is in the public domain and there is an impeachment

motion pending before the Chairman and he has been sitting on it for verification of signatures," Sibal said.

Rijiju wants to bring a motion on the first day of Parliament's Monsoon session to put the Supreme Court's in-house inquiry report in Justice Varma's case in the public domain, he said.

"For what? Why are you protecting Shekhar Yadav?" Sibal added.

Why isn't the opposition not realising that the game plan is to take away the power to appoint judges from the Collegium and give it to the NJAC, Sibal alleged, adding "That is the whole purpose of

this exercise". Slamming the government, he said it took a decision against a high court judge without any inquiry and procedure.

"The judge was not even heard. This is absolutely shocking...Unfortunately, the political class is brought into the act," he said.

Sibal last week had questioned why Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has not taken any action on the notice for moving an impeachment motion against Justice Yadav of the Allahabad High Court and alleged the government was trying to save the judge who made "totally communal" remarks last year.

Four states lead low birth weight: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

Cases of a low weight at birth from four States — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and West Bengal — account for nearly half of India's cases, despite an overall progress in lowering rates over the last 30 years, an analysis of the National Family Health Survey shows.

The findings are published in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) Global Health.

Having a low birth weight — under 2.5 kg — can often signal a mother's underlying health issues and poor nutrition, and has been linked with problems in the child's cognitive development and a vulnerability to chronic conditions in later life.

Analysing data gathered from all five waves of the national survey, researchers from Duke and Harvard universities in the US and institutes in South Korea found that overall, the prevalence of low birth weight in India fell by eight percentage points — from 26 in 1993 to 18 in 2021.

State-wise, the average prevalence was seen to decline across the five waves of the



survey from 25 per cent in 1993 and 1999 to 20 per cent in 2006, and 16 per cent in 2021, when the last wave concluded.

Analysis of data from the fifth wave (2019-21) suggests that 42 lakh babies were born with a low weight in a single year, almost half (47 per cent) of which came from only four states — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Prevalence in 1993 was found to be the highest in Rajasthan (48 per cent), while in 2021, Punjab and Delhi saw the highest prevalence at 22 per cent.

States such as Mizoram and Nagaland had the lowest

prevalence of low birth weight in 1993 and in 2021 as well.

The authors wrote, "The overall prevalence of low birth weight in India declined from 26 per cent to 18 per cent during the period. The 2019-21 survey revealed that four states, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, and West Bengal, accounted for almost half of all low-birth-weight births in India."

The data from the fifth wave also showed that babies having both a lower weight and a smaller-than-average size at birth were "considerably more likely" to be born to women with little or no formal education and from the poorest households.

DRDO, IIT-Delhi demonstrate experimental progress in quantum communication

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

India has successfully demonstrated an experimental advancement in quantum communication domain that paves the way for real-time applications in quantum cyber security, according to the defence ministry.

"The free-space quantum secure communication using quantum entanglement over a distance of more than one km was achieved via a free-space optical link established on the

IIT-Delhi campus," it said in a statement on Monday.

With this, India has entered a "new quantum era", officials said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated the DRDO and IIT-Delhi for this landmark achievement, stating that India entered a new quantum era of secure communication which will be a "game-changer" in future warfare.

"This entanglement-assisted quantum secure communication paves the way for real-time applications in quantum

cyber security, including long-distance Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), the development of quantum networks, and the future quantum internet," the statement said.

The experiment attained a secure key rate of nearly 240 bits per second with a quantum bit error rate of less than 7 per cent, the ministry said.

These efforts align with India's broader objectives to advance quantum technologies for national development.

Under the project 'Design and development of photonic

technologies for free space QKD', sanctioned by Directorate of Futuristic Technology Management (DFTM), DRDO, the demonstration was given by Prof Bhaskar Kanseri's research group in the presence of several senior officials of the DRDO, Dean (R&D) IIT-Delhi, Director (DIA-CoE) and DRDO laboratory scientists.

"Quantum entanglement-based QKD offers several significant advantages over the traditional prepare-and-measure

method by enhancing both security and functionality. Even if devices are compromised or imperfect, the use of quantum entanglement ensures the security of key distribution.

"Any attempt to measure or intercept the entangled photons disturbs the quantum state, allowing authorised users to detect the presence of an eavesdropper," the statement said.

Quantum communication provides fundamentally unbreakable encryption, mak-

ing it a dual-use technology with applications in securing data in strategic sectors such as defence, finance, and telecommunications, as well as in protecting national security-related communications, it said.

"Free-space QKD eliminates the need to lay optical fibers, which can be both disruptive and expensive, especially in challenging terrains and dense urban environments," the statement said.

Earlier, India's first intercity quantum communication

link between Vindhyachal and Prayagraj in 2022, using commercial-grade underground dark optical fiber was demonstrated by DRDO scientists along with Prof Bhaskar's team, it said.

More recently, in 2024, the team successfully distributed quantum keys using entanglement over a 100 km spool of telecom-grade optical fiber in another DRDO-supported project.

These technologies are being developed through DRDO-Industry-Academia -

Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoEs) — an initiative of the DRDO.

Where 15 Centres of Excellence have been established at premier academic institutes like IITs, IISc and universities for development of cutting-edge defence technologies.

Department of Defence R&D Secretary and DRDO Chairman, Samir V Kamat, and IIT-Delhi Director, Prof Rangan Banerjee, also congratulated the team for these key achievements.

J and K: Tensions rise between Omar, LG’s office

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

Tensions between Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha have intensified, with Abdullah expressing frustration over the lack of clarity in the division of responsibilities between their offices.

Speaking at an event in New Delhi on Monday, Abdullah highlighted the issue, stating that the presence of “two Governments” in Jammu and Kashmir is undermining effective governance.

The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference escalated the matter on Tuesday by sharing Abdullah’s remarks on

Fact is, today there are two Governments in J and K, which should not be the case. It is the worst form of governance

social media.

“Fact is, today there are two Governments in J and K, which shouldn’t be the case. It is the worst form of governance,” Abdullah said, emphasising the need for a clear delineation of roles. He noted that while he is not inclined to issue threats, “everything comes with an expiry date,” signaling growing impatience within his Government.

Abdullah criticised the Lieutenant Governor for over-

stepping his stated role, which Sinha has publicly limited to law and order and security.

“The fact is, he does dabble in governance-related matters,” Abdullah said, pointing to Sinha’s involvement in laying foundations for factories in industrial estates and distributing job orders, both managed by the elected Government.

He urged Sinha to endorse the business rules framed by the Cabinet, which Abdullah said align with the J and K Reorganisation Act and do not encroach on the LG’s authority over security, law and order, or officer transfers.

The Chief Minister also referenced the recent Pahalgam attack, suggesting that Sinha’s

assertion of a limited role might be an acknowledgment of security lapses under his watch. “Pahalgam happened under his watch, and it seems that is his way of putting his hand down,” Abdullah remarked. He cautioned, however, that public anger over the attack should not be misconstrued as support for the events of August 5, 2019, when the region’s special status was revoked.

Abdullah stressed that the business rules proposed by his Government aim to eliminate confusion and ensure smooth governance.

“We just want to ensure that the distribution of responsibilities is clear cut and there is no confusion,” he said.

Raja Raghuwanshi murder was not solely result of love triangle: Meghalaya DGP

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

The investigation into the sensational murder of Indore’s transporter Raja Raghuwanshi has taken a deeper turn, with Meghalaya Director General of Police Idashisha Nongrang on Tuesday stating that the crime was not solely the result of a love triangle.

The DGP, speaking during a scene recreation exercise conducted by the police at the crime site in Sohagpur, said that investigators have found multiple underlying motives behind the killing, beyond just a failed romantic relationship.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Mayank Awasthi echoed the same, stating that while a romantic angle is one aspect, the investigation has



Forensic team arrives for crime scene reconstruction in connection with the Raja Raghuwanshi murder case in Meghalaya

uncovered compelling evidence pointing to broader motivations. Authorities remain confident about the strength of evidence collected across all dimensions of the case.

Raja Raghuwanshi had

recently married Sonam Khushwanshi, but their relationship quickly soured. Police believe Sonam conspired with her brothers — Govind, Deepak, and Mohar — to kill Raja. On May 23, they alleged-

ly lured him to Sohagpur on false pretenses, strangled him with a mobile phone charger cable, and suffocated him by stuffing a ten-rupee note in his mouth. Forensic and crime scene investigation teams from Bhopal have assisted in collecting vital evidence from the scene. All four accused have been arrested and formal charges have been filed.

During interrogation, Raja’s brother Sachin revealed that Sonam had confessed to the murder, admitting her brothers helped execute the plan. One of the most disturbing revelations in the case came from Sachin’s testimony — Sonam reportedly manipulated Raja into believing that offering his life as a sacrifice would cure her ailing father. Shockingly, Raja is said to have agreed.

Amarnath yatra route declared No Flying Zone

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Jammu

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has declared the routes of the annual Amarnath Yatra a ‘No Flying Zone’ from July 1 to August 10, 2025, as part of enhanced security measures for the pilgrimage.

The order, issued by the J and K Home Department on the directives of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, prohibits the operation of all aviation platforms and devices, including drones, UAVs, and balloons, along the traditional Pahalgam and shorter Baltal routes.

The Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to commence on July 3, 2025, attracts thousands of pilgrims annually to the holy cave shrine in the Himalayas.

The ‘No Flying Zone’ restriction aims to ensure the safety and smooth conduct of the pilgrimage amid heightened security concerns.

The order follows discussions with stakeholders, who assessed the prevailing security scenario in the Union Territory and proposed additional logistical measures.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has also recommended declaring the entire yatra route a ‘No Flying Zone’ for the duration of the pilgrimage. However, exemptions will be permitted for medical evacuations, disaster management, and surveillance operations by security forces.

A detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for these exceptions will be issued separately, the order stated.

AI plane crash: Grieving father, mourners bid tearful farewell to Captain Sumeet Sabharwal

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

Captain Sumeet Sabharwal — who was commanding the Air India flight AI-171 Boeing 787 Dreamliner that crashed last week in Ahmedabad killing 241 passengers and several others — was cremated here on Tuesday, as his 88-year-old Pushkaraj Sabharwal led a large number of mourners in bidding a tearful farewell to his son.

Hours after his body was brought to his Powai home in Mumbai where he had lived most part of life, Sumeet’s mortal remains were consigned to the furnace at the nearby Chakala electric crematorium in north Mumbai.

Captain Sumeet (56), who



Pushkaraj Sabharwal, father of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, who was the pilot of the Air India plane which crashed in Ahmedabad last week

was single, was a resident of the F Block of JalVayu Vihar in the upscale Hiranandani Gardens area of Powai. Capt. Sabharwal is survived by father Pushkaraj Sabharwal. Sumeet’s mother

had passed away two years ago.

Earlier, his octogenarian father Pushkraj, who was in tears but maintained a stoic silence, led the prayers held near a building temple, stand-

ing beside his son’s coffin with folded hands amid chants of ‘Om Namah Shivay Mantra Har Har Bhole Namah Shivaya’.

His family members, friends, neighbours, colleagues and people from different parts of Mumbai had turned out to bid a goodbye to Sumeet, who was among those killed in the Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad on Thursday last.

Apart from Sr Sabharwal, Sumeet’s aunt and his two nephews, who too are pilots, were present at the prayer meeting. Sr Sabharwal placed flowers at the casket and stood in silence and then chanted prayers with others with family members and friends. He broke down while chanting ‘Om Namah Shivay Mantra Har Har Bhole Namah Shivay’ in front of the casket, which

had a photo of the late ace pilot in a Captain’s uniform. He was helped by close family members.

Hiranandani Group co-founder and Managing Director Niranjan Hiranandani and Shiv Sena MLA Dilip Mama Lande were among those who visited Sumeet’s house to have a last glimpse of him.

“Very sad, a young life was taken away (in the crash). This is a thoughtful moment, we need to study this thoroughly. We cannot afford to go like this again. The family is devastated. The only justice now is to ensure this moment leads to answers, to reforms. Safety and security must be a priority, not just in aviation, but in every sector,” Hiranandani said.

Assam Government announces ₹25,000 aid each to 350 families affected by blowout

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Guwahati

The Assam Government on Tuesday announced a financial aid of Rs 25,000 each to about 350 families affected by a blowout at an ONGC crude oil well in Sivasagar district, with the release of gases continuing for the sixth day.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while announcing the aid, said Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri held a meeting with top officials in Delhi earlier in the day regarding the blowout, and both the state and central Governments were seized of the matter.

The blowout began on June 12 at well no. RDS 147 of rig no. SKP 135 of Rudrasagar oil field of ONGC at Barichuk of Bhatipara. A private firm, SK Petro Services, was operating the well on behalf of the state-



CM Himanta inaugurating the newly built Lakhimpur Zila Parishad office. Dr Ranajo Pegu, Minister of Education and Tribal Affairs, Manab Deka MLA of Lakhimpur were also present at the event

run Maharatna company.

Sarma, who had on Monday evening visited the people affected by the incident, said, “There are about 350 families in the camp and they are anxious... Compensation will be worked out later. For immediate relief, we will be providing Rs 25,000 each to the families from the

Chief Minister’s Relief Fund.”

He said Puri held a meeting at his office to discuss the matter. “I will have a video conference with him once I reach Guwahati,” Sarma said.

Sarma said the state’s chief secretary spoke to the ONGC chairman in the morning regarding the matter and the top boss of the company will

be personally visiting Sivasagar.

“ONGC has said that they have already invited a specialist from the US and they are hopeful that the leakage will be stopped soon. Our chief secretary has spoken to the Union petroleum secretary as well and he has assured of taking all steps,” he added.

The chief minister said the details of compensation to the affected people will be worked out later, with stopping the leakage being the top priority now.

“If required, the state Government will provide more financial assistance and I will also visit the place again,” he added.

Meanwhile, members of regional organisation Bir Lachit Sena gheraoed the office of SK Petro Services in Sivasagar on Tuesday and demanded compensation for the affected people.

Sharad Pawar rules out two NCP factions’ merger

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

Setting at rest intense speculation about the merger of the two factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday vehemently rules out the possibility of his party hands with the party led by his nephew Ajit Pawar whom he called an “opportunist”.

Addressing a rally at Pimpri-Chinchwad near Pune, Sr Pawar said: “We do not want to join hands with opportunists who went with the BJP for power. We will along with us those who share the thoughts of Gandhi, Nehru, Phule, Shahu, Ambedkar.”

“However, if someone is going with the BJP for the sake of power, then you cannot say that they practise the ideology of the Congress. One may align with anyone but joining

hands with the BJP is not in sync with the Congress ideology,” the NCP (SP) chief who played a key role in the formation of the Congress-led Opposition front INDIA bloc, said. Sr Pawar exhorted his supporters not to bother about those who left the party, but concentrate on the forthcoming local body elections.

“I have seen these kinds of developments on several occasions in my career. Please don’t worry or bother about those who deserted the party,” he said.

Responding to his uncle and NCP (SP) chief’s remarks, deputy chief minister of Sr Pawar’s nephew Ajit Pawar said: “Everyone has the right to present his or her view.”

The remarks by Sr Pawar and Ajit Pawar came a week after the two factions of the NCP held parallel 26th foundation day celebrations, in

which the both leaders had not spoken anything about the possible merger.

Speaking at the foundation day foundation day function, Sr Pawar had said: “A split took place in our party. We never thought that such a thing would happen in the party, but it happened. Some people went with other ideologies. If some people remained loyal to the party, it is because of our party’s ideology.”

On the other hand, Ajit Pawar responded to his uncle’s statement by saying: “Couple of years ago, we had to make a decision...we are not sadhusant being in politics. We took the decision (to split) to ensure that we address the issues of people.”

It was Sr Pawar’s cryptic statement made in May this year that led to the speculation about the possible merger of the two NCP factions.

Plan to transform Aravalli region into hub of ecotourism announced

PARVESH SHARMA ■ Gurugram

Haryana Environment, Forest, and Wildlife Minister Rao Narbir Singh has announced an ambitious plan to transform the Aravalli region into a hub of ecotourism through the proposed Jungle Safari Project and Aravalli Green

Wall Project.

These initiatives aim to promote sustainable tourism, conserve biodiversity, and generate employment for local communities.

Speaking to the media, Minister Singh emphasised the ecological and economic significance of the initiative.

“The central Government has entrusted Haryana with

the responsibility of implementing the Aravalli Green Wall Project and Jungle Safari, which will be a milestone from an environmental perspective,” he said.

The Aravalli mountain range, considered the oldest in India, spans across Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi, covering approximately 1.15 million hectares.

Adhikari pulls large crowd in Trinamool Congress den

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

In what could be considered a frightening scene for Mamata Banerjee a BJP delegation led by Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari on Tuesday managed to galvanise a large crowd --- at Khiderpore a veritable Trinamool Congress den adjacent to the Muslim dominated Kolkata Port area -- nearly twice as big as the one that came to hear out the Bengal Chief Minister for her

version of the devastating fire at Khiderpore locality that engulfed more than a thousand shops.

On Monday afternoon Banerjee came to inspect the extent of devastation caused by a mid-Sunday night fire at the colonial Orphananj market and allegedly had to digest some dissenting voices from the crowd that claimed the fire was a sabotage.

Adhikari received thunderous applause from the over-

whelming crowd that assembled in no time as he said that the “fire was man made because the interests of TMC politicians are involved here.”

He said “the TMC Government had decided to accommodate the rich who would open shopping malls here by setting ablaze the dreams and livelihood of the poor businessmen who have been running their shops for generations ... and all this for a meagre Rs 1 lakh,” when

many of the traders complained that they had lost not only lakhs but crores to the blaze.

The Chief Minister on Monday visited the area and said that “a place has already been earmarked for your rehabilitation with proper fire fighting system ... besides we will provide Rs 1 lakh to the affected shopkeepers,” leading to a furor among the local traders hitherto known for their unflinching allegiance towards

the Chief Minister.

“We are by your side ... the BJP will fight your cause both legally and otherwise and will not let their conspiracy materialise at the cost of your interest,” Adhikari on Tuesday said followed by loud cheers from the crowd that had gathered.

Incidentally it has been the same Khiderpore Garden Reach area that had been voting for the Chief Minister and her party for the past 15-16 years.

District coordination meeting of all departments held in Gurugram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Gurugram

The first district coordination meeting of all departments in Gurugram was held under the chairmanship of DS Dheshi, Principal Advisor, Urban Development, Government of Haryana, on Tuesday.

In the meeting, various issues and matters requiring inter-departmental coordination and action were discussed. The meeting was attended by CEO GMDA Shyamal Misra,

Divisional Commissioner R.C. Bidhan, and Deputy Commissioner Gurugram Ajay Kumar.

The principal advisor took stock of various projects being undertaken in the city by the local authorities to enhance infrastructure development & uplift the civic amenities for the citizens.

In the meeting, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) officials submitted that the plan of shifting the relocation of Gurugram’s Kherki Daula toll plaza from Delhi-

Jaipur National Highway (NH-48) to Panchgaon has been approved, and the toll will be shifted within three months’ time.

Meanwhile, works pertaining to the enhancement of road infrastructure were also discussed in the meeting, and GMDA officers submitted that 95 kilometers of master roads have been upgraded by the authority this year, while the MCG team said that 44 kilometers of internal roads have been repaired by the corporation.

Dheshi outlined that new

roadworks may be identified and estimates may be prepared timely in order to undertake repair of the next set of roads in the city.

Additionally, the flood protection measures being undertaken by GMDA, MCG, and MCM to ensure a safe monsoon in the city were also briefly discussed in the meeting.

GMDA officers said that the setting up of a flood control center is in progress, which will support on-the-ground requirements of labor, machinery, and pump sets during periods of

heavy rainfall. Mock drills have been carried out at all underpasses in the city, and the necessary remedial measures to be taken have been communicated to the concerned departments.

Additionally, desilting of drains is also being carried out by all local authorities in their respective areas. DS Dheshi further directed all departments to intensify their action plans in order to curb issues of waterlogging in the city during the monsoon season and ensure regular coordination between all

local authorities.

Moreover, to resolve water-logging issues at Narshinghpur, GMDA is constructing a kachcha naala, which will be connected to the Badhshahpur drain to channelise the storm water from the service road of Narshinghpur during monsoon season.

It was further directed to NHAI officials that the cleaning of the 3 culverts across the national highway and its connection with the Badshahpur drain must be completed on priority.



Assam Information and Public Relations Minister Pijush Hazarika distributed assistive devices like wheelchairs, hearing aids and smart canes to several beneficiaries at a programme organised by Department of Social Justice and Empowerment Assam

PIONEER PHOTO

Editor's TAKE

A turning point for India-Canada ties

Prime Minister Modi's Canada visit could mark a new chapter in India's diplomatic engagement with the West

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Canada for the G7 Summit has captured global attention — not merely for its diplomatic weight but for its potential to recalibrate several key international relationships. This visit, his first to Canada since 2015, marks a crucial inflection point in India's foreign policy, Canada's outreach under a new leadership, and possibly, even in the broader Indo-Pacific dynamics that include China. This visit assumes heightened significance as it comes on the heels of a major diplomatic fallout between India and Canada.

In 2023, ties hit rock bottom following the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia, with then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau suggesting Indian involvement — a claim India flatly denied. The recent change in Canadian leadership, with Mark Carney taking office after Trudeau's exit, seems to signal a new willingness to repair and rebuild the ties. Carney's invitation to PM Modi to attend the G7 Summit in Alberta was more than just protocol — it was an overture of trust, diplomacy, and re-engagement. Modi's acceptance of the invitation, and his public emphasis on "mutual respect and shared interests," underscores India's readiness to reset the relationship. On the sidelines of the two-day summit PM Modi is expected to hold bilateral meetings not only with PM Carney but also with several other world leaders. With India and Canada both being vibrant democracies with strong people-to-people ties — bolstered by a diaspora of over 1.6 million Indo-Canadians — the scope for strategic cooperation in areas like education, technology, climate change, and trade remains vast. In 2024, bilateral trade in goods stood at \$8.6 billion, nearly evenly split between exports and imports. Services trade was even more significant, at \$14.3 billion. Modi's visit could serve to unlock stalled trade discussions, revitalise strategic partnerships, and perhaps even set the stage for a long-pending Free Trade Agreement. Although India is not a formal member of the G7, Modi has been a regular invitee since 2019 — a testament to India's rising geopolitical and economic influence. This year's G7 deliberations are especially charged, focusing on intensifying global crises: the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, fresh conflict in West Asia following Iran-Israel strikes, and economic instability triggered by geopolitical realignments and trade tensions. India's position as a neutral but influential voice on many of these issues — particularly the Ukraine conflict — places it in a unique spot. Modi's presence offers the West a crucial bridge to the Global South, while allowing India to assert its values of multilateralism and peaceful diplomacy.

This visit may offer an indirect way to resolve tensions with China as well. With rising anti-China sentiment in several G7 countries and a growing Indo-Pacific strategy that seeks alternatives to Chinese hegemony, India's role becomes pivotal. A recalibrated India-Canada axis, especially under a more globally nuanced leader like Carney, could act as a soft diplomatic channel for India to manage its competitive yet critical relationship with Beijing. Modi's 23-hour tour may well be the catalyst for a series of long-overdue resets, not just with Canada, but with the world.

A Quiet Revolution in Indian Politics

The Modi Government's announcement of the 2027 Census date has set the stage for a transformative political shift: The implementation of the long-awaited 33 per cent reservation for women in 2029 elections

The Modi Government's recent announcement of the Census date as March 2027, before the implementation of a 33 per cent quota for women in Parliament and State legislatures in 2029 polls, has been welcomed by women. This is not just a step but a monumental leap for women's empowerment and gender justice — a cause that women have long championed.

The introduction of a women's quota in legislatures, preceded by a Census and delimitation, is a significant milestone that must come sooner than later. This process is closely tied to the concepts of delimitation and the Census. Delimitation will follow the Census, followed by the implementation of the one-third quota for women.

Why is this topic coming up now, considering that the 2029 elections are still some time away? It seems that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) aims to keep this issue in the spotlight to attract women voters in the interim.

All political parties are making efforts to court women voters in the upcoming elections, whether for the Lok Sabha or state assemblies. State assembly elections, such as those in Bihar, are scheduled for later this year, with more set to occur next year. The Congress party and other Opposition parties have been criticising the Modi government for the delay in conducting the national Census.

Two key issues need to be addressed before the Government can implement the women's quota: Census and delimitation. Both are sensitive issues. Once the data from the Census is available, Parliament will need to pass a Delimitation Act to establish a commission for overseeing the redrawing of constituency boundaries. Women's empowerment is a long-standing effort to provide one-third reservation for women. This goal has been on the agenda of previous Governments. However, the Modi Government successfully passed the law in 2023, with implementation scheduled for 2029. Historically, despite facing Opposition from parties such as the Samajwadi Party and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), the bill was passed in both houses of Parliament in 2023.

Many male representatives expressed concerns about possibly losing their seats due to the redistribution, which favoured women. Nevertheless, the Government pushed the bill through, and members adhered to the party whip. The nationwide Census, scheduled for March 2027, will include caste enumeration for the first time, and the results will significantly influence



the delimitation process. Delimitation is not just a technicality but a crucial process as it redraws the boundaries of parliamentary and assembly constituencies, particularly when the population has increased more than five times since Independence. The anticipation and uncertainty surrounding this process are palpable.

Most politicians are closely monitoring how these constituencies will be redrawn. Delimitation can create more constituencies based on the latest Census data. Media reports say that it could increase the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 888 and the number of Rajya Sabha seats from 250 to 384, according to a Government response to the Supreme Court. This increase could lead to a more representative and diverse Parliament. Envisaging this, the new

Parliament building has adequate seating capacity to accommodate the increased number of members. While central states such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan could gain approximately 31 seats, southern states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala might lose around 26 seats.

Currently, the Lok Sabha's representation is based on population figures from the 1971 Census. The delimitation of seats was frozen in 1976 and again in 2001 to promote family planning, and this freeze will remain in effect until after the first Census post-2026.

Southern states are concerned that reliance solely on population figures may not accurately reflect their representation, as they have successfully controlled population growth. They worry about getting fewer seats compared to northern states. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin stated on X, "The Indian Constitution mandates delimitation after the first Census post-2026. The BJP's delay of the Census to 2027 reveals their intention to reduce Tamil Nadu's parliamentary representation.

We need clear answers from the Union Government." Home Minister Amit Shah has assured that southern states will not lose any seats on a pro-rata basis. These changes could not only alter the numbers but also shake the existing power base. Political dynasties, particularly in some northern states, which are deeply rooted, could lose their traditional seats of power. Political parties may need to reassess their strategies.

The women's quota may quietly usher in one of the most significant political realignments in decades — challenging not only regional balance but also entrenched power hierarchies. Ultimately, the women's quota could become a game changer if it parallels the earlier initiative that empowered women's sarpanches through a bill in 1992. That effort was so successful that today, there are 1.45 million women sarpanches. The success of the present initiative largely depends on women's commitment to entering politics.

(The writer is a popular columnist. Views are personal)

PICTALK



Tourists bathe at Kemptly Falls in Mussoorie to beat the scorching heat. PTI

Canada's Car-nama: Modi invite marks strategic shift

SECOND Opinion

The new Canadian Government has brought with it a summer of hope. The Indo-Canadian troubles of last year seem to be melting into the past.

Though not out of the woods yet, both camps are making the right noises. Carney's G7 invitation to India's PM Narendra Modi has brought about mixed reactions across Canada, with Poilievre accepting that India was a necessary invitee and the Khalistani supporters' meltdown.

This is the Canada's CAR-NAMA moment for Carney and Narendra Modi (Namo) which could help turn the page on Indo-Canadian relationships. Carnama in Hindi translates to miracle or brave act.

Mark Carney's Liberal Government has been eager to distance itself from Trudeau's image and policies, whilst silently working back channels with global players, like India.

Anita Anand and Dr S Jaishankar's phone diplomacy facilitated Modi's acceptance for the G-7 after other partners felt it imperative for India to be present.

India and Canada have moved a step further, with an intelligence-sharing understanding, to combat the rising threat of international crime and extremism. This

came out of the left field and has truly set the cat amongst the pigeons in Canada, in the wake of Justin Trudeau's allegations against India last year. Canada's headache has been the US tariffs against Canadian exports to the USA, making all things Canadian, more expensive. This in turn has driven prices up, affected jobs, and brought in higher inflation in Canada.

It is rumoured that a back-channel trade deal between India and Canada may not be far away, signalling Canada's return as an Indian frontline trading partner, not merely as America's 51st state, but as a proud nation rich in heritage and the world's largest natural resources.

India is an insatiable consumer of minerals, fuels, pulses, fertilisers, steel, pearls & precious stones, oil & gas, and nuclear fuel.

India's earliest nuclear reactors were built with Canada's help in the early 1970s and this could kickstart a new wave of mini-reactor technology across India.

There are also products like lumber, organic chemicals, plastics and foreign students across Canada.

According to the COMTRADE database on international trade, India's imports from Canada were US \$6.26 Billion during 2024, this was as against 7.5 billion in 2023 when the Trudeau allegations hit trade. Given the jump from US 2.7 billion in 2022 to US\$ 7.5 billion in 2023, there

is ample scope to increase that number to US\$10 billion in the coming years by 2026/2027.

As per an Agriculture Canada report, in 2022, India imported Can \$35.4 billion worth of processed food and beverages, with Canada supplying only Can \$20.9 million (0.1 per cent) of that total. There is a case for Canada to increase that by 10x within the next year or two. India's largest imports from the world were palm oil, soya bean oil, and sunflower oil, and Canada's share was negligible or non-existent.

Defence, Nuclear, automobile and housing are just a few of the sectors for Indo-Canadian cooperation, with India being one of the major QUAD players in the Pacific security region.

With the Nijjar case locked into the Canadian legal system, the gaze now moves to India's concerns about Khalistani terror within Canada, and their transnational terror and extortion plots in India.

Car-Nama will have to learn to hyphenate their relationships with the USA, as both nations India and Canada, learn to deal with the American tariffs and maintain their happy positions of strength in the relationship. This is a moment of reckoning for the Mark Carney Government to seize the initiative and he will find Modi's India a very willing ally.

(The writer is an Analyst, Lawyer, Author & commentator, who writes on International relations, Aviation and law. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Do not damage communal harmony

The statement made by Hemant Biswa Sarma is false and entirely fabricated. Muslims hold deep respect for Hindu temples, as instructed in the Holy Quran. Why would they desecrate a temple by throwing beef near it? This allegation is baseless and only reflects Sarma's longstanding anti-Muslim stance.

He has already ordered the demolition of 600 madrasas in Assam. Being a Brahmin by caste, it seems he is seeking undue political credit from the BJP by promoting violence and targeting Muslims through police actions, including reported firing orders. This is not governance — it is political overaction designed to boost his image as an anti-Muslim hardliner. Meanwhile, he turns a blind eye to more pressing tragedies, such as the plane crash in Ahmedabad; the helicopter crash that claimed 13 lives, and the drowning of five youths in Basar, Godavari.

I personally served as a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon in Basar, bathed in the sacred Godavari River, and witnessed the harmony of the region. I also spent three months in Assam and saw firsthand the cordial relations between Hindus and Muslims, who make up 42 per cent of the population. Under Congress rule, a Muslim even rose to become the President of India. Sarma himself was once a part of Congress. When the BJP falls, he won't hesitate to return to Congress.

ABDUL HAMEED MAQDOOMI | HYDERABAD

India's maternal mortality rate improves

In India, the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), which signifies the number of maternal deaths per one lakh live births, has improved to 88 in 2020-22 from 93 in 2019-21.

However, six states saw an increase in maternal mortality ratio: Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. The Office of Registrar General, working under the Ministry of Home Affairs, released the data this month.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines maternal death as the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of her pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and site of pregnancy. The maternal mortality ratio in India has consistently been declining over the past few years. It stood at 130 deaths per one lakh live births in 2014-16, whereas it stood at 88 in Unlike maternal mortality ratio, the maternal mortality rate is the maternal deaths in women aged 15-49 years (reproductive age) per lakh of women in that age group. The maternal mortality ratio is declining in India overall, but a few.

One factor that can increase the complications among pregnant women is anaemia. The National Family Health Survey-5 results showed that 52.2 per cent of pregnant women aged 15-49 years have anaemia.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

The first martyr of freedom: Rani Laxmi Bai

Remembering Rani Lakshmibai on her death anniversary is not a mere ritual; it is a moment of introspection. Are we truly the heirs of the freedom for which she gave her life? Her life teaches us that independence is not a gift but a right earned through sacrifice, struggle, and perseverance. She exemplified the power of Indian womanhood, a force that, when awakened, can reduce empires to ashes. Her sword's gleam still shines through the pages of history, her voice still calls to every soul that lives for pride. Rani Lakshmibai may have left this world, but she became immortal. Her saga is not just Jhansi's story; it is the saga of India's very consciousness.

Whenever Mother India calls, whenever pride faces peril, the name of Rani Lakshmi will resound like a battle cry. She was not just a queen; she was the soul of India — and she will remain so forever. Rani Lakshmibai's life is not merely a story of battles; it is a living lesson in leadership, resilience, and strategy. A young queen who blended political diplomacy, administrative skill, and military organisation with fearless decisions, she was not just a battlefield heroine but a pioneer of national awakening. Her indomitable spirit, therefore, transcends history, offering a timeless blueprint for courage and self-determination. It is a profound legacy that continues to inspire generations to uphold justice and national pride.

RITESH KUMAR JAIN | BARWANI

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IS THE ESSENCE OF DEMOCRACY

This refers to the news 'Kommineni out' (17-6-25). It is said dictatorship begins with control over media and suppression of freedom of expression. This has been witnessed during the Emergency period in India. Newspapers used to have some blank space indicating that the news meant for the space had been censored by the Government.

Voice of dissent was dealt with too harshly. The present scenes resemble the same. Hundreds of dissenters and journalists are lodged in prison for a long time, even without framing charges. The very role of the media is to present the facts and expose the mistakes and misdeeds of the Government. Most in the monopolised media are seen singing in praise of the rulers in a subjugated tone. Articles glorifying the economy reaching fourth place and GDP growth are repeatedly appearing.

But very rarely do articles or editorials appear highlighting the growing disparity, growing unemployment, social issues,

efforts to prop up communal divide to cover up the failures, etc. Even courts convey their displeasure over such turns of events that suppress the freedom of expression but fail to sensitise the Government.

The latest one is the arrest of journalist Mr Kommineni, a well-known name in Andhra Pradesh; his release was ordered by the Court. But history is very clear with its message that such suppression cannot last for a long time and when the people understand the facts, they react accordingly to restore democracy and normalcy in a democratic manner.

This is also witnessed in India. Promoters of the Emergency were defeated and the massive movement for democracy won. Suppression of dissent is an expression of fear of getting exposed for deliberate misdeeds. Positive corrections will go a long way in strengthening democracy.

AG RAJMOHAN | JANANTAPUR

G7 Summit in Canada: Diplomacy Tested, Alliances Strained

Prime Minister Mark Carney’s invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi – despite ongoing tensions over Khalistani extremism and human rights concerns – signals a bid to recalibrate relations

FIRST
Column

From Ground Zero Alberta (Canada)

The leaders of the G7, comprising the world’s wealthiest democracies, convened in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, from June 15 to 17. The meeting served as a significant demonstration of the G7’s resolve to maintain unity during challenging circumstances. The most recent G7 meeting took place in Canada in 2018, during which President Donald Trump, in the early stages of his presidency, departed from the summit in a state of anger. He declined to endorse the concluding joint statement, issued threats regarding tariffs against his fellow leaders, and characterised the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, as “very dishonest and weak.”

However, on this occasion, Trump departs from the G7 summit prematurely to address the Israel-Iran conflict. It is now widely recognised that Trump’s second presidency is significantly more controversial than the first. The fractures within what can scarcely be referred to as the “Western family” have now been thoroughly exposed. In the interim, European initiatives have predominantly concentrated on preventing a severe rupture with the United States rather than attempting to mask the unease stemming from division. Given this new reality, a successful summit is characterised by the absence of melodrama or significant confrontation. Mitigating the damage has emerged as a goal in its own right.

While Mark Carney has found himself in the unusual position of hosting a US president who has repeatedly claimed that his country, Canada, should be the 51st US state, he has had to explain to him that his country is not for sale. For this year’s summit amid a perilous escalation in the Middle East and Mr. Trump’s reshaping of global alliances. Also, as soon as Indian PM Narinder Modi lands at Calgary airport, some Sikhs and MPs oppose his G7 attendance, citing India’s human rights record. Despite this, the new information-sharing pact is a major step toward normalising relations and addressing internal security challenges in both nations.

While the advocacy group Sikhs for Justice held a day of protests Monday, Modi landed at the Calgary airport in the evening and then made his way to the summit in the nearby wilderness retreat of Kananaskis. Then on Tuesday, condemning Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he visits the G7 leaders’ summit.

The protest in downtown Calgary included posters of the leader handcuffed in a prison jumpsuit and another depicting him behind bars. The relationship between the two nations has worsened since Canada accused Indian Government agents



SURJIT SINGH FLORA



of assassinating Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a 45-year-old naturalised Canadian citizen and prominent advocate for a separate Sikh homeland in India. New Delhi calls the claims “absurd” and “preposterous.” Punjab is uneasy about India-Canada tensions over the Sikh slaughter. The controversy damaged India-Canada ties, prompting diplomatic expulsions in 2023 and 2024.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney is open-minded and forward-thinking. He warmly invited Modi to attend the summit, despite India’s economic, commercial, market, and strategic importance. In this digital technology era, the G7+5, an informal alliance of major developing economies, has invited India, Mexico, Brazil, and South Africa as guests in previous years. India, Brazil, South Africa, Russia, and China founded the BRICS alliance of developing countries, which some see as a mirror of the G7’s geopolitical and economic competition.

The G7 and invited parties reached a wide consensus on these invitations. The data shows India’s 50-year exit from the G7, while the invitations emphasise the guests’ economic might outside. With less than 1 per cent of the world’s GDP, Russia first visited the G7 in 1992. Meanwhile, the five original

WHILE MARK CARNEY HAS FOUND HIMSELF IN THE UNUSUAL POSITION OF HOSTING A US PRESIDENT WHO HAS REPEATEDLY CLAIMED THAT HIS COUNTRY, CANADA, SHOULD BE THE 51ST US STATE, HE HAS HAD TO EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT HIS COUNTRY IS NOT FOR SALE. FOR THIS YEAR’S SUMMIT AMID A PERILOUS ESCALATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND MR. TRUMP’S RESHAPING OF GLOBAL ALLIANCES

BRICS nations had less than 9 per cent of world GDP. The G7 accounted for 63 per cent of global GDP. The G7 currently accounts for 44 per cent of global GDP, whereas the original BRICS have quadrupled to 25 per cent. Since becoming the 47th President of the United States for the second time on January 21, 2025, Trump’s aggressive, capitalist, and expansionist policies have caused turmoil in the US and across the globe. Trump’s terror tariffs and immigration crackdowns have sparked violent demonstrations in several US states for the second time. On April 5, 2025, 1400 sites in 50 US states conducted the first anti-regime protests.

Now violent demonstrations against immigration deportation continue. Canada joined in 1976. The G-8 group included Russia, but it ejected it in 2014 for annexing Crimea. These gatherings often include other major nations. France hosted this organisation’s 2019 conference and welcomed India for the first time. Invitations have continued since.

The world’s fourth biggest economy is India. India has a greater economy than France, Italy, Canada, and Japan. Canada needs new trustworthy partners to address global peace, law, and order issues. After Justin Trudeau’s Liberal Party beat Stephen Harper’s Conservatives in 2015, Canada was in high demand worldwide. Now things have changed. At the summit today (Tuesday), Prime Minister Modi will

address energy security, technology, and innovation, particularly the AI-Energy Alliance and quantum challenges, with G7 leaders, invited outreach nations, and international organisation leaders.

Canada spent \$300 million and \$600 million hosting the G-7 meetings in Huntsville, Ontario, in 2010 and Charlevoix, Quebec, in 2018. This meeting should deliver important outcomes.

The Indian Prime Minister may have a chance to address national interests, diplomatic, trade, economic, and military problems with G-7 and other leaders, as well as Pakistan’s role in worldwide terrorism.

While Indian political observers say Modi’s visit may allow Canada and India to rebalance ties. As Canada’s prime minister since March, Carney has raised hopes of a thaw. According to former Indian envoy to the US Meera Shankar, Modi’s trip will “hopefully mark the beginning of a reset in India’s relations with Canada, which have plummeted over the Canadian allegations regarding the Nijjar case and India’s belief that Canada indulges Sikh extremism directed against India.”

She said both sides gain “if the relationship is stabilised, particularly in a volatile world. With bilateral trade hitting \$9 billion in 2023 and Canadian pension funds investing \$55 billion in India, India and Canada have strong commercial and interpersonal ties. About 5 per cent of Canada’s population is Indian, with roughly 2 million living there. The US and North America are the top choices for Indian students pursuing higher education.

Outstanding issues and relationship implications

New Delhi and Ottawa are trying to repair their ties, but Nijjar’s murder remains unsolved. The group supports “Khalistan,” a fringe separatist movement seeking an independent Sikh state from India. New Delhi wants stricter steps against India’s banned Khalistan movement.

On the other hand, Senator Baltej Singh Dhillon, a former member of the Mounted Police, wrote in a public essay on Sunday that “inviting Prime Minister Modi currently represents a troubling departure from our principles.” He also stated that “prioritising short-term strategic calculations over long-term democratic values” “sends the message that trade and geopolitical interests matter more than sovereignty, justice, and public trust” and that “there are no real consequences for foreign interference in our democracy.” In the end, the meeting will test Canada’s global leadership and Carney’s diplomacy. Canada has a unique opportunity to establish a host. If this summit goes well, Canada might become a more vital Western partner amid high tensions and risks. Canada may lose credibility for years if it doesn’t.

(The writer is a senior journalist and a regular columnist with The Pioneer, based in Canada.)

Hydro-Politics in Boil: India Wiolds Water as Weapon After Pahalgam Massacre

Modi and Carney poised to bury the bilateral hatchet

When Ismail Serageldin, then Vice President of the World Bank, warned in 1995 that “the wars of the next century will be fought over water,” few took him seriously. Today, that foresight reverberates across the fault lines of Asia’s geopolitical map.

As glaciers shrink, river flows diminish, and populations swell, water is no longer a shared life source — it has become a potent geopolitical lever. Former UN Secretary — General Boutros Boutros — Ghali too had warned that water, especially in arid, densely populated regions, could spark future conflicts.

This warning is materialising in South Asia, where India, Pakistan, and China — three nuclear powers — are tangled in an uneasy hydrological balance. What was once theoretical is now dangerously real.

China’s infrastructural build-up along the Brahmaputra, India’s tougher stance on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) — especially after the Pahalgam carnage — and Pakistan’s worsening drought fears are all interwoven in a complex new theatre of hydro-politics. As diplomacy erodes and climate extremes escalate, Asia’s river systems may well become tomorrow’s battlegrounds.

The Pahalgam Massacre

The gruesome terror attack in Baisaran meadows near Pahalgam on April 22, 2025 — where 26 Indian tourists and one Nepali national were gunned down by Islamist extremists — has deeply unsettled India and shaken the very foundations of South Asia’s oldest water-sharing pact: the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960.

India’s subsequent decision to suspend its operational commitments under the IWT marks a sharp departure from its long-held water diplomacy ethos — where rivers once symbolised cooperation, they now represent coercion.

Though framed as a temporary measure, India’s move is already yielding disruptive consequences across Pakistan’s farming belt, dependent as it is on the Indus system.

By halting hydrological data sharing and beginning regulatory moves to prioritise its water rights, India has pushed Pakistan toward an impending agricultural disaster and a humanitarian dilemma.

Pakistan’s Fields Are Run Dry

India’s withdrawal from routine data sharing and its upstream recalibrations have left Pakistan’s breadbasket provinces — Punjab and Sindh — grappling with acute water stress just as their Kharif sowing period begins.

Agrarian Distress

According to Pakistan’s Ministry of National Food Security, the Kharif cycle (April-July) contributes roughly 65 per cent of total crop yield annually, and over 85 per cent of it is irrigation — dependent via Indus canals. In Punjab, which supplies over 70 per cent of Pakistan’s wheat and half of its sugarcane, planting of water-intensive crops like rice and cotton is already lagging by nearly a month. In Sindh, where cotton, sugarcane, and paddy dominate, the Indus River System Authority (IRSA) estimates a 30 per cent drop in canal water flow. Remote sensing and NDVI (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index) analysis from early May show a 14 per cent drop in vegetation density versus last year’s average.

Farmers from regions such as Okara, Multan, Bahawalpur, Jacobabad, and Larkana are holding street protests, citing failing crops, shrivelling seedlings, and vanishing groundwater tables as tube wells run dry without river seepage.

India’s Tactics

New Delhi hasn’t completely choked the river flows — an act that would violate the IWT and risk global condemnation. Instead, it is exercising its treaty — sanctioned rights with strategic precision.

Long-term Blueprint

The Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Central Water Commission are pursuing a multi-pronged plan: construction of seven mini hydropower projects (adding up to 1,800 MW) on the Chenab and Jhelum; expansion of irrigation in Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab; real-time satellite surveillance to ensure no surplus flow enters Pakistan during low-flow months. A senior official confided, “Water is now a pillar of our national security calculus.”

Steps already taken | India has stopped sharing real-time river data and flood alerts — a move that has left Pakistan’s National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) operating in the dark during monsoon months.

Historically, India’s telemetry inputs were responsible for nearly 90 per cent of Pakistan’s flood warnings.

Reservoir action

The pace of filling reservoirs like Tulbul (Jhelum), Baglihar, and Ratle (Chenab) has been accelerated, causing delays of 15-20 days in downstream flow.

Diverting flow | Projects like Shahpur-Kandi on the Ravi and the Ujh multipurpose project have seen renewed momentum. These aim to



KS TOMAR

store water previously flowing into Pakistan, allowing India to finally utilise its entitled 3.6 million acre-feet (MAF) that often went untapped.

A New Water Doctrine Emerges

India’s recalibration signals a break from its earlier posture of moral restraint. The new policy is predicated on conditional reciprocity: that continued cross-border terrorism will be met with escalating economic and ecological costs.

This is not without precedent. After the 2016 Uri attack, India considered revisiting the treaty. Following the 2019 Pulwama bombing, it initiated a water diversion on the Ravi. But the post-Pahalgam suspension of the IWT represents the most decisive stance yet — clearly articulating that terrorism and treaty sanctity cannot run on parallel tracks.

Collaboration to Confrontation

The Indus Waters Treaty, brokered in 1960 with World Bank mediation, allocated 80 per cent of the total river waters (Indus, Chenab, Jhelum) to Pakistan and the remaining 20 per cent (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India.

India retained restricted, non-consumptive rights over the Western Rivers, mainly for hydropower, irrigation, and navigation. Traditionally, New Delhi chose under-utilisation to avoid regional escalation.

But patience has worn thin. Years of terror attacks traced to Pakistan-based outfits have forced a rethink.

The freeze in water cooperation — especially real-time data sharing and advance flood warnings — is not just administrative friction; it marks a structural shift. India’s approach has turned kinetic: the battle is no longer verbal, but hydraulic.

Water Wars on the Horizon?

Through a calculated manipulation of the Indus flow, India has touched Pakistan’s most vulnerable nerve — its water-reliant agrarian economy, already fragile under political and economic stress. This pressure tactic highlights not only Pakistan’s food and water insecurity but also the unsustainable costs of sponsoring cross-border terrorism.

If Islamabad does not reassess its approach to Kashmir and terrorism, its dream of uninterrupted Indus waters could be headed toward a terminal drought.

What began as a diplomatic freeze may evolve into a full-spectrum hydro-strategic doctrine. India has drawn a clear line: terrorism and treaty privileges cannot coexist in perpetuity.

(The writer is a strategic affairs columnist and senior political analyst. Views expressed are personal)

The long-drawn bitterness in New Delhi-Ottawa bilateral ties is beginning to show signs of a rapprochement with PM Narendra Modi expected to meet his new Canadian counterpart Mark Carney on the margins of the upcoming G-7 Summit in picturesque Kananaskis in the Canadian province of Alberta from June 15 to 17.

Both sides will need to ensure that a major irritant in the bilateral relationship — Khalistani extremism in Canada — is not allowed to derail efforts to normalise ties.

That India’s perennial bugbear Justin Trudeau is no longer the Canadian PM has contributed in no small measure to the initiation of efforts to end the chill in bilateral relations.

Modi swiftly accepted an invite from Carney to participate in the gathering of the world’s advanced economies — US, Canada, UK, France, Italy, Germany and Japan — even though it came just a few days ahead of the meet. As “vibrant democracies”, the two countries will “work together with renewed vigour guided by mutual respect and shared interests”, Modi affirmed.

It was Trudeau’s policy of appeasement of the Khalistani elements based on Canadian soil that saw bilateral relations nose-dive since he became PM in 2015.

The ties deteriorated even further in 2023-24 after the Trudeau Government’s accusations that the Indian Government was behind the killing of Khalistani separatist Kuldeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in June 2023.

Both sides are hoping to turn a new chapter under the new Canadian PM. It’s perhaps the reason why Carney invited Modi even though he’s facing domestic criticism, including within his party, in the backdrop of charges by Canadian security that Indian agents were behind Nijjar’s killing.

Carney, on his part, said India is the world’s most populous nation and with the fifth largest economy, besides being “central” to several supply chains.

For the economist turned politician who never held any political office till he became the PM, the outreach to India is driven by pragmatism and realpolitik.

Having succeeded Trudeau as the Liberal Party leader and PM, Carney not only has to deal with the challenges of a world in geopolitical and economic flux but also the harsh reality of his country no longer being treated as a valuable ally by its all-powerful neighbour, the US.

Instead, Donald Trump in his second term as US President has unleashed a trade war on Canada. Furthermore, in what is even more



PARUL CHANDRA

galling for Ottawa, Trump has questioned Canada’s sovereignty by threatening to annex it.

As Carney negotiates a new path and shapes an economy wherein the US is no longer its largest trading partner, it has become imperative for his Government to look for new trading partners.

It’s in this backdrop that Carney is seeking to bury the hatchet with the two Asian giants, India and China — countries with whom Ottawa’s ties have been extremely fraught in recent years.

Carney has also reached out to Beijing with a recent phone call to Chinese premier Li Qiang, where they agreed to “reset” ties. Beijing, of course, has been engaged in its trade war with Washington, though the two sides have reached a delicate truce for now.

India, facing its share of troubles with Trump’s trade war, too is looking to closer economic ties with other partners. The normalisation of ties with Canada could, therefore, see the two sides revive discussions for a trade pact, talks on which were halted by Canada in September 2023 as tensions mounted after the Najjar killing.

It’s noteworthy that trade ties have remained quite stable despite the turbulence in bilateral relations. In 2023, bilateral trade in goods between the two countries was 12.65 billion Canadian dollars, while in services it was 13.49 billion Canadian dollars.

Canada also sees India as a key partner in its efforts to enhance economic links with the Indo-Pacific in its strategy for the region.

The two also have shared interests in cooperating on security matters in the Indo-Pacific amid China’s expansionist muscle-flexing. Security will be one of the important items on the G-7’s agenda as well as energy. For India, Canada can be an important ally in its campaign against Pakistan on the issue of cross-border terrorism.

However, as India and Canada prepare to bury the hatchet, it will require some deft diplomatic manoeuvring from both to ensure the Najjar killing as well as the broader issue of activities by Khalistan separatist elements is not allowed to bedevil ties.

Ottawa would do well to remember that it was these secessionist elements who were behind the deadly bombing of AI-182 ‘Kanishka’ in 1982 that exploded over the Atlantic Ocean, killing 329 passengers. As former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton once warned Pakistan — you cannot keep snakes in your backyard and expect them only to bite your neighbours.

(The writer is a senior journalist. Views expressed are personal)

Mehul Choksi takes kidnapping allegations against India to UK court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Mehul Choksi, the businessman wanted in India to face charges in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case, is suing the Indian government and five individuals in the High Court in London as conspirators for his alleged kidnap, torture and attempted rendition.

The Indian authorities have denied the allegations and objected to the UK jurisdiction on the basis of state immunity and also sought permission for expert evidence on Indian law and the Indian Constitution to be taken into account.

During a case management hearing listed before Justice Freedman on Monday, the court was told that Choksi claims to have been tortured back in May 2021 as part of a kidnap attempt orchestrated



ed by the government of India.

For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in these submissions is intended to waive or should be interpreted as waiving India's state immunity, the court was told this week by the Indian side.

Choksi was accused of making extremely serious

allegations against India, alleging it masterminded an international plot to kidnap and harm him.

It is India's position that the present claim is being pursued principally with the (misguided) intention of attempting to cause embarrassment to India and obtain leverage in the Claimant's

international attempts to avoid extradition, barrister Harish Salve argued on behalf of the Indian authorities.

Choksi's lawyers, led by barrister Edward Fitzgerald, allege that there was a collusion between five individuals in the attack on him in Antigua to be forcibly taken to Dominica in the Caribbean with the purpose of being rendered to India.

The Defendants thereby entered into an unlawful means conspiracy whereby the Defendants agreed to, and then did, inflict unlawful and injurious acts on the Claimant by means of assault, battery, false imprisonment, unlawful detention and/or unlawful restriction of liberty, Choksi's legal claim reads.

The businessman, meanwhile, remains in custody in Belgium, fighting against his extradition to India.

He is wanted in India along with his nephew, Nirav Modi,

who remains behind bars in London after repeated attempts at bail have been denied by the English courts.

There are three sets of criminal proceedings against Nirav in India — the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) case of fraud on PNB, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) case relating to the alleged laundering of the proceeds of that fraud and a third set of criminal proceedings involving alleged interference with evidence and witnesses in the CBI proceedings.

In April 2021, then UK home secretary Priti Patel had ordered his extradition to face these charges in the Indian courts after a prima facie case was established against him. But recent court hearings in London have alluded to a confidential impediment to his extradition, believed to be an asylum application.

Trump says all of Tehran should evacuate immediately

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

Authorities within Iran's Government continued to insist everything was under control and did not offer any guidance for public on what to do

US President Donald Trump posted an ominous message on his social media site Monday calling for the immediate evacuation of Tehran but later denied reports he had rushed back to Washington to work on a ceasefire.

Israel's air campaign on the Iranian capital appeared to broaden on the fourth day of an intensifying conflict after it issued warnings on Monday for about 300,000 people in Tehran to evacuate ahead of airstrikes.

People were seen leaving the city Tuesday morning as shops and the historic Grand Bazaar were closed. Iranian authorities insist everything is under control and no guidance has been issued.

Here's the latest: People seen leaving Tehran

As the sun rose Tuesday on Iran, the downtown area of Tehran, the country's capital,

appeared to be beginning to empty out.

Many shops in the capital stood closed. The city's ancient Grand Bazaar was closed, something that's rarely done, like during demonstrations or during the height of the coronavirus pandemic.

On the roads out of Tehran to the west, traffic stood bumper to bumper. Many appeared to be heading to the Caspian Sea area, with local reports suggesting there were some diversions.

Long lines also could be seen at gas stations operating in Tehran. Iran's capital, Tehran, is home to some 10 million people. That's roughly the same population for the

entirety of Israel.

It remained unclear how the city could be evacuated.

Authorities within Iran's government continued to insist everything was under control and did not offer any guidance for the public on what to do. G7 leaders call for de-escalation but insist Iran must not get nukes

Leaders of the Group of Seven countries meeting in Canada signed a joint statement calling for de-escalation of fighting between Israel and Iran while reaffirming that Iran cannot be allowed to have a nuclear bomb.

The statement reads: We, the leaders of the G7, reiterate our commitment to peace and stability in the Middle East. In this context, we affirm that Israel has a right to defend itself.

We reiterate our support for the security of Israel. We also affirm the importance of the protection of civilians. Iran is the principal source of regional instability and terror.

Trump rejects intelligence assessment on Iran nukes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

US President Donald Trump insisted that Tehran was very close to building a nuclear weapon despite congressional testimony from his top intelligence adviser earlier this year.

Back in March, National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard told lawmakers that spy agencies have assessed that Iran is not building a nuclear weapon and the country's supreme leader has not authorised the nuclear weapons program that he suspended in 2003.

Trump dismissed that when speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One during an overnight flight back to Washington after leaving the G7 summit early. I don't care what she said, Trump said. I think they were very close to having it.

Trump not in the 'mood to negotiate' Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon, it's very simple, Trump told reporters on Air Force One during his overnight flight back to Washington.

He accused Iranian leaders of being unwilling to reach an agreement over their nuclear programme, and suggest-

ed he was now less interested in talking with them.

They should have done the deal. I told them, do the deal, Trump said. So I don't know. I'm not too much in the mood to negotiate.

The Republican president, who said he plans to meet with advisers in the Situation Room, appears to be gradually building the public case for a more

Iran cancels leave for medical personnel in Tehran on Tuesday, placards and boards calling for a severe response to Israel could be seen everywhere

direct American role in the conflict.

His shift in tone comes as the US has repositioned warships and military aircraft in the region to respond if the conflict between Israel and Iran further escalates. Iran cancels leave for medical personnel in Tehran on Tuesday, placards and boards calling for a severe response to Israel could be seen everywhere.

US Congress to mark Dalai Lama's 90th birthday as Day of Compassion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

Two influential congressmen have introduced a bipartisan resolution in the US Congress to designate July 6 as A Day of Compassion in honour of the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama's 90th birthday.

The resolution was introduced on Monday by Republican Michael McCaul and Democrat Jim McGovern.

McCaul, chairman emeritus of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, introduced a resolution alongside McGovern designating July 6th, 2025, as 'A Day of Compassion' in honour of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's 90th birthday, according to a press release issued by McCaul's office.

Despite having faced persecution, oppression, and unspeakable violence at the hands of the CCP (Chinese

Communist Party), His Holiness the Dalai Lama has maintained inner peace and continues to preach compassion - inspiring not only his own people, but the entire world, McCaul said.

Ahead of His Holiness's 90th birthday, I am proud to introduce this resolution calling for 'A Day of Compassion' and affirming Tibetans' fundamental human rights as we look forward to the day the Dalai Lama and his people can return to their homeland in peace, he said. The Dalai Lama has been living in India since 1959, after fleeing Tibet during the 1959 Tibetan uprising.

McGovern said the Dalai Lama is an inspiration to millions of people around the world.

His teachings on religious tolerance, non-violent responses to conflict and violent extremism, and peace-building are both timeless and urgent-

ly needed in the present circumstances.

He has been a passionate advocate for the freedom and dignity for the Tibetan people.

It is appropriate for Congress to honor the 14th Dalai Lama and his countless accomplishments on his 90th birthday.

May his next one be celebrated in Lhasa (Tibet), the Democratic leader said.

This resolution also recognises the Dalai Lama's lifelong commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights and the preservation of Tibetan culture.

It reaffirms bipartisan US support for the Tibetan people's right to self-determination, opposes Chinese government interference in Tibetan practices, and expresses deep respect for the Dalai Lama's moral leadership and humanitarian contributions to the international community, the press release said.

European leaders push for de-escalation



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot discussed the developing situation in the Middle East on Monday

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Paris

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot spoke with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Monday night and then in the ensuing hours with the Iranian, British and German foreign ministers about the situation in the Mideast.

The French, British and German ministers passed on joint messages to the Iranian foreign minister about the need for a de-escalation and a return to diplomacy, according to a French diplomatic official. They urged Iran to return to negotiations as soon as possible, without conditions, the official said.

They urged Iran to avoid any threats to Western interests, any extension of hostilities elsewhere in the region and any nuclear escalation including leaving the Non-Proliferation Treaty, stopping cooperation with the IAEA or pursuing further enrichment, the official said.

The ministers also passed along messages to Israel on the need to not target Iranian authorities, infrastructure and the civilian population, the official said. The official was not authorised to be publicly named in accordance with Foreign Ministry policy. Italy's Meloni reiterates negotiations with Iran Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni reaffirmed the opportunity to reopen the

road of negotiations with Iran during a bilateral meeting with President Trump on the sidelines of the G-7 meeting in Canada, her office said in a statement Tuesday. She also underlined the necessity in this moment of reaching a ceasefire in Gaza. More than 40 Palestinians killed while waiting for aid in Gaza. At least 45 Palestinians were killed in the Gaza Strip while waiting for UN and commercial trucks to enter the territory with desperately needed food, according to Gaza's Health Ministry and a local hospital.

The circumstances of the killings were not immediately clear. Palestinians say Israeli forces have repeatedly opened fire on crowds trying to reach food distribution points run by a separate US and Israeli-backed aid group since the centres opened last month.

Local health officials say scores have been killed and hundreds wounded.

In those instances, the Israeli military has acknowledged firing warning shots at people it said had approached its forces in a suspicious manner. Egypt, Jordan and others call for a halt to the conflict Twenty countries denounced in a joint statement the escalating tensions in the Middle East caused by what they term Israel's aggression against Iran and called for diplomacy and dialogue to restore stability in the region.

Czech coalition Government faces no-confidence vote over bitcoin scandal

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Prague

The Czech coalition government on Tuesday faced a parliamentary no-confidence vote over a bitcoin-related scandal.

The main opposition centrist ANO (YES) movement led by populist billionaire Andrej Babiš requested the vote after the Justice Ministry accepted a donation of bitcoins and sold them for almost 1 billion Czech koruna (\$47 million) earlier this year.

The three opposition parties, including ANO, the anti-migrant Freedom and Direct Democracy movement and the liberal Pirates party, are unlikely to oust the four-party coalition government led by conservative Prime Minister Petr

Fiala, which has a majority in the lower house of Parliament.

Justice Minister Pavel Blažek resigned from his post over the issue on May 30 and was replaced by Eva Decroix on June 10.

Blažek said he wasn't aware of any wrongdoing, but didn't want the coalition to be harmed by the scandal. Fiala said he appreciated his resignation and believed Blažek acted with goodwill.

Blažek was a close ally of Fiala in the government and also in his conservative Civic Democratic Party. The new minister is from the same party. Decroix said she will order an independent probe into the ministry's activities in the case. The scandal focuses on the fact that the bit-

coins were donated to the ministry by a person who was previously convicted of drug dealing and other crimes, while it was not clear why he did it.

The opposition has accused Blažek of possible money laundering, because it wasn't clear where the bitcoins originated, and demanded the resignation of the entire government. The issue has been investigated by the national police's organised crime unit. Czech lawmakers were debating the no-confidence motion, the fourth since the government took over after a 2021 election, with a vote expected late Tuesday or Wednesday.

The scandal comes just months before the Oct 3-4 parliamentary election.

Trump warns Iran, US may back Israel with military aid

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Washington

President Donald Trump in about eight hours Monday went from suggesting a nuclear deal with Iran remained achievable to urging Tehran's 9.5 million residents to flee for their lives as he cut short his visit to an international summit to return to Washington for urgent talks with his national security team.

He was expected to arrive at the White House early Tuesday at a moment of choosing in his presidency. Israel, with five days of missile strikes, has done considerable damage to Iran and believes it can now deal a permanent blow to Tehran's nuclear programme - particularly if it gets a little more help from Trump.

But deepening American involvement, perhaps by providing the Israelis with bunker-busting bombs to penetrate Iranian nuclear sites built deep underground or offering other direct US. Military support, comes with enormous political risk for Trump.

Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon, it's very simple, Trump told reporters on Air Force One during his overnight flight back to Washington.

He accused Iranian leaders of being unwilling to reach an agreement over their nuclear programme, and suggested he was now less interested in talking with them.

They should have done the deal. I told them, do the deal, Trump said. So I don't know. I'm not too much in the mood to negotiate.

The Republican president, who said he plans to meet with advisers in the Situation Room, appears to be gradually building the public case for a more direct American role in the conflict. His shift in tone comes as the US has repositioned warships and military aircraft in the region to respond if the conflict between Israel and Iran further escalates.

Trump made an early departure from G7

The White House announced Monday, while Trump was at the Group of Seven summit in the Canadian



Rockies, that the president would be cutting his trip short.

Simply stated, IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON, he wrote on social media. I said it over and over again! Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran!

Asked about his evacuation comments aboard Air Force One, Trump told reporters that I just want people to be safe.

He also insisted French President Emmanuel Macron was wrong to say the US Was working on a ceasefire.

We're looking at better than a ceasefire. We're not looking for a ceasefire, Trump said, adding that Macron is a nice guy but he doesn't get it right too often.

Trump said he wasn't ruling out a diplomatic option, and he could send Vice President JD Vance and special envoy Steve Witkoff to meet with the Iranians. It depends on what happens when I get back, he said.

He also dismissed congressional testimony from National

Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard, who told lawmakers in March that U.S. Spy agencies did not believe Iran was building a nuclear weapon.

I don't care what she said, Trump said. I think they were very close to having it.

Speculation grows that Trump may be tilting toward more direct involvement

The Israelis say their offensive has eviscerated Iran's air defences and they can now strike targets across the country at will. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the Israeli bombardment will continue until Iran's nuclear programme and ballistic missiles are destroyed.

So far, Israel has targeted multiple Iranian nuclear programme sites but has not been able to destroy Iran's Fordo uranium enrichment facility.

The site is buried deep underground - and to eliminate it, Israel may need the 30,000-pound GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator, which uses its weight and sheer kinetic force to reach deeply buried targets and then explode. But

that could escalate in dangerous and uncontrollable ways. Israel launched an aerial bombardment campaign against Iran on Friday, and Iran has hit back with missiles and drones.

Trump left the summit in the Canadian Rocky Mountain resort of Kananaskis a day early late Monday, saying: "I have to be back, very important." It came as conflict between Israel and Iran intensifies and the US leader declared that Tehran should be evacuated "immediately" — while also expressing optimism about a deal to stop the violence.

Before leaving, Trump joined the other leaders in issuing a statement saying Iran "can never have a nuclear weapon" and calling for a "de-escalation of hostilities in the Middle East, including a ceasefire in Gaza."

Israel does not have the munition or the bomber needed to deliver it - the penetrator is currently delivered by the B-2 stealth bomber.

Israel's own defenses remain largely intact in the face of Iran's retaliatory strikes, but some of Tehran's missiles are getting through and having deadly impact.

The White House, soon after announcing Trump was returning to Washington, dispatched Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth for a prime-time Fox News appearance as speculation grows about whether Trump could be tilting toward more direct US. Involvement.

Hegseth told Fox News' Jesse Watters that of course Trump wanted to see a deal made to curb Iran's nuclear programme.

His position has not changed, Hegseth said. What you're watching in real time is peace through strength and America first. Our job is to be strong. We are postured defensively in the region to be strong in pursuit of a peace deal. And we certainly hope that's what happens here.

China to commission third aircraft carrier 'Fujian' later this year: Official media

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Beijing

China plans to operationalise its third aircraft carrier 'Fujian' this year as it has completed nearly three years of sea trials, setting the stage for the Chinese navy for the first time to operate three carrier groups, official media reported on Tuesday.

Fujian, stated to be China's most advanced aircraft carrier possessing the electromagnetic aircraft launch system (EMALS) similar to that of the American aircraft carrier USS Gerald R Ford, was launched in 2024 and since then completed multiple sea trials, accumulating more than 100 days of sea trials. The entry of the carrier with more than 80,000 tons carrying a wide variety of carrier-borne aircraft, including fighter jets, early warning aircraft, and drones

will enable China to enter a new era of three aircraft carriers, state-run CCTV reported. The official daily, Global Times, quoted Wei Dongxu, a Chinese military affairs commentator, as saying that Fujian has been making steady progress in sea trials, and is expected to be commissioned within this year.

China currently has two aircraft carriers in operation - the Liaoning, a refit of the Soviet-era ship commissioned in 2012, and Shandong, which is an indigenously built 2nd aircraft carrier commissioned in 2019.

Ahead of its operationalisation, Fujian flexed muscles joining Shandong in conducting exercises north of the Philippines this month, while Liaoning has led exercises in the Pacific waters of Japan's exclusive economic zone drawing protests from Japan.

According to the official media, China plans to have four to five aircraft carriers, includ-

ing a nuclear-powered one, making them the frontline force of its navy as Beijing seeks to expand its global influence with deployments in the South China Sea, the Taiwan Strait and the Indian Ocean in future.

Fujian is the first fully domestically developed and constructed aircraft carrier with EMALS while the other two aircraft carriers are equipped with ski-jump take-off ramps. The Fujian features a flat-top flight deck.

Simultaneously, China is developing a new fighter aircraft that can operate from its carrier groups. Early this year, President Xi Jinping issued fresh orders revising rules to transform the country's military into world-class armed forces, focusing on combat readiness and war preparation amid growing rivalry with the US and tensions over Taiwan and neighbours. On Monday, Stockholm International Peace Research

Institute (SIPRI) Yearbook 2025 revealed that China, which has 600 nuclear weapons, is rapidly growing its nuclear stockpile adding 100 warheads a year in an apparent attempt to match with stockpiles of the US and Russia.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client (i.e. HFC Bank Ltd.) that M/s. V.R. Developers UP (earlier known as M/s. V.R. Developers Pvt. Ltd.) is claiming to be the owner of Property bearing Municipal No. 11/A, Area Measuring 204.22 sq. yds., situated at Industrial Area, Najibgarh Road, New Delhi vide different Sale Deeds dt. 05.04.2006, 23.10.2013, 17.01.2014, 03.06.2006, 27.12.2006, 15.10.2006 & 27.04.2017. It has been informed by the Owner that original documents i.e. Original A/Ts dated 24.04.1992 (Document No. 1017), Original Conveyance dt. 16.04.1996 (Doc. No.8077), Original Sale Deed dt. 09.06.1999 (Doc. No.7753), Original Partition Deed dt. 08.05.1976, Original Release/Assignment Deed dt. 02.12.2005 (Doc. No.2893), Original Partition Deed with stamp duty & additional duty each dated 06.02.2006, Original Release/Assignment Deed dt. 18.10.2005 (Doc. No.3470) in respect of said property are lost & not traceable. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned Owner wants to mortgage & intends to obtain a loan from our client (i.e. HFC Bank Ltd.) against the said property, if anybody has any objections on the ownership of above owner or the said property, its mortgage/repayment, & any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address situated at: 11/A, Area Measuring 204.22 sq. yds., Najibgarh Road, New Delhi-110019. (Smt. & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 202, 2nd Fl., 23, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110048, India) (Doc. No. 11/25/2025)

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
Advertisement No.05/2025
Online applications are invited for the post of Director for Sikh Studies Chair in the University. Online registration of application for this post will start w.e.f. 18-06-2025 and end on 27-06-2025. Last date for submitting hard copy of the Online submitted application is 30-06-2025. For further details visit University Website: <http://www.gndu.ac.in>
Amritsar Registrar
16-06-2025
2426/12/2025-26/255
Dated CHD - 17/06/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that Axis Bank Limited, having its branch at First Floor, Himalaya House K.G. Marg, New Delhi-110001, is proposing to extend a loan facility in favour of Smt. Sobhagawati (Borrower) against a Freehold Built-up Property bearing Municipal No. 18/2, and measuring approximately 105 square yards, situated at Kirti Nagar, near Ram Road, New Delhi-110017, Sing Road, Delhi-110007 (hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property"). As per the available records, Smt. Kamla Rani, wife of Sh. Shori Lal, was the recorded owner of the Said Property by virtue of a Sale Deed dated 18.12.1985, registered under Document No. 15256, and the Said Property was subsequently sold to Mr. Kapil Kumar by way of a Sale Deed dated 25.05.2007, registered under Document No. 3654. The Said Property is now intended to be sold to Smt. Sobhagawati (Borrower) who has submitted the said original Sale Deed(s) pertaining to the Said Property have been lost or misplaced vide NCR/LR No.29/9832/2025. Any person(s) who may be in possession of, or who may have found, the aforementioned original documents are requested to contact the undersigned within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which, Axis Bank Limited shall proceed with the proposed loan transaction and shall not be held responsible or liable for any claims, objections, or liabilities arising in respect thereof.
Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate)
Contact No.: 011-41830049
E-mail address: ahojagmail@gmail.com

Israel strikes on Tehran as Trump issues ominous warning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Khan Dubai

Israel appeared to be expanding its air campaign on Tehran five days after its surprise attack on Iran's military and nuclear programme, as US President Donald Trump posted an ominous message warning residents of the capital to evacuate.

IRAN CAN NOT HAVE A NUCLEAR WEAPON, Trump wrote Monday night before returning to Washington early from a Group of Seven summit in Canada. Everyone should immediately evacuate Tehran! he added.

Trump later denied he had rushed back to work on a ceasefire, telling reporters on Air Force One during the flight back to Washington: I'm not looking at a ceasefire. We're looking at better than a ceasefire.

Asked why he had urged for the evacuation of Tehran, he said: I just want people to be safe.

Earlier, the Israeli military had called for some 330,000 residents of a neighborhood in downtown Tehran to evacuate.

Tehran is one of the largest cities in the Middle East, with around 10 million people, roughly equivalent to the entire population of

Israel. People have been fleeing since the hostilities began. Israel says its sweeping assault on Iran's top military leaders, nuclear scientists, uranium enrichment sites and ballistic missile programme is necessary to prevent its longtime adversary from getting any closer to building an atomic weapon. The strikes have killed at least 224 people in Iran and wounded 1,277 since Friday.

Iran has retaliated by launching more than 370 missiles and hundreds of drones at Israel. So far, 24 people have been killed in Israel and more than 500 wounded. The Israeli military said a new barrage of missiles was launched on Tuesday, and explosions could be heard in northern Israel.

Shops closed, lines for gas in Iran's capital

Downtown Tehran appeared to be emptying out early Tuesday, with many shops closed.

The ancient Grand Bazaar was also closed, something that only happened in the past during anti-Government demonstrations or at the height of the corona virus pandemic.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My, Wife Smt. Stuti Nanolia, R/O. Hasanpur, Samtipur, Bihar-84820, had purchased flat no-07-1002, Project Eco Village - 3, in the housing scheme, named SUPERTECH ECO VILLAGE-3, situated at Plot No. GH-06, Sector -16B, Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, (U.P.)-201303. After her death, I requested to M/s. Supertech Limited to transfer the said flat to my name alone, if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact M/s. Supertech Limited office, SuperTech E-Square, Plot No. C2, Sector-58, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India 201303 within 15 days of the Published notice. Ashish Kumar S/o. Sh. Arun Kumar Drolia, R/o. Hasanpur, Samtipur, Bihar-848205.
DIWAKAR JHA (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE
My son Sh. Anurag Mishra S/o Sh. Poon Chandra Mishra, had purchased flat no-003, Lower B4, Project Eco Village-2, Situated at GH-01, Sector-16 B, Greater Noida-201301. After his death, I requested to M/s. Supertech Limited to transfer the said flat to my name alone, if anybody has any objection, he/she may contact M/s. Supertech Limited office at SuperTech E-Square, Plot No. C2, Sector 96, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India 201303 within 15 days of the published notice. Sudha Mishra W/o. Sh. P. C. Mishra R/o. 127, God Shepherd Colony, Kolar Road Huzar, Kolar Road, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh-462049.
DIWAKAR JHA (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that the following original documents belonging to my client Mrs. Meera Mahotra have been lost/misplaced: Sale Deed dated 27-4-2005 vide vaskia no. 1934 regd at Gurgaon for property bearing plot no. 939 and measuring 250sqyds situated at Saraswati Nagar, Village Wazirabad Tehsil Gurgaon. Any person or institution in possession of these documents or who has knowledge of their whereabouts is requested to immediately contact Adv. Avijith Patro (No. D/204/2002), T301, BPTT PF-1, Sector 77 Faridabad or call on 8800903978 within 15 days from the date of this notice. Furthermore, any individual or entity dealing with these documents without the express permission of my Client will be deemed as at their own risk and peril.
Avijith Patro (Advocates & Consultants) D/204/2002, Office: T-301, BPTT PF-1, Sector-77, Faridabad, Haryana. Ph: 8800903978

PUBLIC NOTICE
The Rosemary Apartment C.G.H.S. Ltd. H.No. W-551/A, Top Floor, Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, Rani Bagh, Delhi-34. In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that the following members of The Rosemary Apartment Co-Op G.H.S. Ltd. have resigned from their membership. The names of the resigned members are as follows: 1. Devendra Gupta (M. No.206) 2. Ms. Rajni Kumar (M. No.161) 3. Ms. Manjeet Kaur (M. No.204) 4. Sh. Aditya Aggarwal (M. No.218) 5. Ms. Shrutti Rai Gupta (M. No.219) 6. Sh. Naman Rai Gupta (M. No.224) 7. Ananta Wali (M. No.230) 8. Sh. Pawan Kumar Sharma (M. No.123) and 9. Ms. Rupali Diwan (M. No.199). Any person having any objection to the resignation of the above mentioned members may file their objections in writing at the office of the Registrar Cooperative Societies (RCS), Parliament Street, New Delhi or at the office of the society at H.No. W-551/A, Top Floor, Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, Rani Bagh, Delhi-34 within 7 (Seven) days from the date of publication of this notice. sdr/President-Rosemary Apartment CGHS Ltd.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Name of work and its location:- 30-Elect-10-T-2025-26-E3. Electrical work regarding provision of Centralized control and command center (C-4) at BRSD Railway Station.
Approx cost of the works in:- Rs. 8966875.00
Address of the office:- Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money:- Rs. 179300.00
Last Date & time of submission of tender:- 10.07.2025, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender:- 10.07.2025, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board:- www.irops.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1802/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Ravinder Kumar Mittal (Mob No.7206653409) s/o Mahabir Prasad Mittal r/o 1981-B, Sec-17, HUDA, Jagadhri, Distt. Patna Nagar, had instructed me to give a legal Public Notice as under:- 1. That said Ravinder Kumar Mittal is having every legal interest in the Shri Balaji Educational & Charitable Trust (Registration No.3689 of 2007-2008) which is irrevocable Public Charitable Trust & Shri Balaji Polytechnic, which owned & possessed a building & land measuring 48Kanal 2 Marlas bearing Khewat No.379/354, 94/82, Khelauli No.430, 113, Khassa No. 107, 108, 110, 111, 114/1, 114/2, 115, HB No.45 situated at Rubia Road, Radour, Distt Yamuna Nagar (Haryana) & other properties approx more than Eighty (80) Crore of Rupees. 2. That there are serious litigations pertaining to the said Trust, college & its properties pending in the courts at Jagadhri, District Yamuna Nagar, bearing No.CS45/1/2012-2013 & CS46/2012-2013 filed for dated 02/08/2025 & one CR499/2021 is pending before the Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh & an FIR No.0144 dt. 14.06.2024, PS: Radour, District Yamuna Nagar under various sections of IPC is also lodged by the order of JMJC, Jagadhri which is under investigation. My client Ravinder Kumar Mittal has come to know that some persons with mala fide & dishonest intentions & by committing the acts of forgery, cheating etc. & by misrepresenting the facts & by adopting the illegal means are going to alienate & disposing off the movable & immovable properties as detailed above and they are illegaly doing the secret negotiations in this regard and through this Public Notice, I hereby intimate on behalf of my client Ravinder Kumar Mittal to the General Public that kindly not to do or participate in any such illegal dealings regarding the movable & immovable properties of the said trust in any manner whatsoever by amending & changing the trust deed & its constitution by adding oneself as a member of the said trust and not to indulge in purchasing, selling, gifting, lease, mortgage, by merger and amalgamation or transferring any manner whatsoever of the movable & immovable properties of the said trust & college and if any person, class of persons, any other trust or any other institutions do any illegal transactions of dealing regarding the said trust & college and its said properties then he/she shall be liable & face the consequences. Civil & Criminal actions/directions as per law.
MAYANK BHARDWAJ, Advocate District Court Compound, Jagadhri District Yamuna Nagar (Haryana)

PUBLIC NOTICE
Reg: Residential First Floor, without terrace/roof rights, covered area measuring 1130 sq. ft (104.98 sq. mtrs), built up on Plot No. 55, situated at Residential Colony known as Jaipuria Enclave, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad, Tehsil and Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010; hereinafter referred to as "said property". It is known to all that our clients, Mr. Ujjwal Kant, Mahato and Mrs. Nupur Mahato (hereinafter called the "Purchasers") intends to purchase the said property from Mr. Niraj Kumar (hereinafter called the "seller") who owned the said property vide Gift Deed dated 19.12.2024, Document No. 15893. Further Seller has informed us that initially Mrs. Nimrala Roy and Mr. Ram Kishore Prasad Singh owned the said property vide Prasad Singh's registered sale Gift Deed dated 14.06.2004 was executed by M/s Rashree Builders & Promoters Pvt. Ltd. And after unfortunate death of Mrs. Nimrala Roy on 28.04.2022, her shares have been devolved upon her legal heirs Mr. Ram Kishore Prasad Singh, Mr. Niraj Kumar and Mrs. Madhulika and out of them Mr. Ram Kishore Prasad Singh and Mrs. Madhulika gifted their respective shares in favour of Mr. Niraj Kumar. Thus, Mr. Niraj Kumar has become the owner of the said property. The title of the owner is not mortgaged anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said property.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Any person including Banks, Financial Institutions, relatives having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said property is hereby called upon to make the same known in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered Ad Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the owner in respect of the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our clients/purchaser, in any manner whatsoever.
Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intelective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shobhit S/o Satish Chandra Srivastava R/o H-707, Supertech Icon, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Shobhit Srivastava for all future purposes.

PD(2270)A I, Shikha W/o Shobhit Srivastava R/o H-707, Supertech Icon, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Shikha Srivastava for all future purposes.

PD(2271)A I, POOJA RAO alias KAVITA RAO, D/o Sh. Mafat Lal Rao residing at H.No. C-63/B, Near Durga Pur Mandir, Janta Garden, Pandav Nagar, Shamas Pur, Delhi-110091, have changed my name from POOJA RAO to KAVITA RAO and shall henceforth be known as KAVITA RAO for all purposes.

PD(2272)A I, Manju W/o Mukteshwar K - 381 Jahangirpuri, Delhi-110033, I have changed my name to Nankana urf Manju permanently. That Manju and Nankana urf manju is same Person.

PD(2273)A

REGD A/D/ DASTI/AFFIXATION/BEAT OF DRUM
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI,
4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI - 110001
SALE PROCLAMATION
T.R. C. No. 121/2023

AXIS BANK VS. URMILA THAPLYAL
PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULE 38, 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS DUE TO BANK AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ACT,1993.
CD1) URMILA THAPLYAL, 988, GALI NO. 2, NEAR RAJ MANSA RAM SCHOOL, KAPASHERA, NEW DELHI - 110037, ALSO AT: ROYAL SUNDARAM ALLIANCE, RIDGE HOUSE, PLOT NO. 136, SEC - 44, GURUGRAM - 122008, HARYANA
(CD2) TARUN THAPLYAL, 098, GALI NO. 2, NEAR RAJ MANSA RAM SCHOOL, KAPASHERA, NEW DELHI - 110037 ALSO AT: DIRECT DOORDARSHAN KENDRA, NEW DELHI, DIRECT DOORDARSHAN BHAWAN PERCUS MARG, NEW DELHI - 110001
(CD3) COSMOS INFRA ENGINEERING (INDIA) LIMITED, RISHI APARTMENT, 4 BATTERY LANE, RAJPURO ROAD, CIVIL LINES, DELHI - 110054, ALSO AT: 314 & 316, ANSAL CHAMBERS - II, BHIKAJI CAMA PLACE, NEW DELHI - 110066

1. Whereas Transfer Recovery Certificate No. 121/2023 in OA No. 691 of 2015 directed by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-I for the recovery of a sum of Rs. 17,13,030.00, together with costs and future interest @ 12.00% p. a., from the date of filing of OA I-13.2015 till its realization and also to pay cost as per the Certificate debtors together with costs and charges as per recovery certificate.
2. And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of the property mentioned in the Schedule before the sale certificate.
3. And whereas there will be due to the said R.C. No. 121/2023, together with costs and future interest @ 12.00% p. a., from the date of filing of OA I-13.2015 till its realization and also to pay cost, Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the property/properties as under shall be sold by e-auction and bidding shall take place through "On line Electronic Bidding" through the website <https://www.bankauctions.com> on 01/08/2025 between 12.00 pm and 01.00 pm with extensions of 5 minutes duration after 01.00 pm, if required.

S. No.	Description of property	Reserve Price	EMD
1.	PROPERTY BEARING FLAT NO. 306, THIRD FLOOR, BLOCK NO. 23, PALM APARTMENT, COSMOS GREEN, BHIWADI, RAJASTHAN - 310019	Rs. 19,00 LAKHS	Rs. 1,90 LAKHS

5. The EMD shall be paid through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of Recovery Officer, DRT-I, Delhi- A/c T. R. C. No. 121/2023 along with self-attested copy of Identity V-card/Driving/License/passport which should contain the address for future communication and self-attested copy of PAN Card must reach to the Office of the Recovery Officer, DRT-I, Delhi latest by 30/07/2025 before 5.00 PM. The EMD received thereafter shall not be considered. The said deposit be adjusted in the case of successful bidders. The unsuccessful bidder shall take return of the EMD directly from the Registry, DRT-I, Delhi after receipt of such report from e-auction service provider/bank/financial institution on closure of the e-auction sale proceedings.
6. The envelope containing EMD should be super-scribed "T. R. C. No. 121/2023" along with the details of the sender i.e. address, e-mail ID and Mobile Number etc.
7. Intending bidders shall hold a valid Login Id and Password to participate in the E-Auction email address and PAN Number. For details with regard to Login Id & Password, please contact M/s C 1 INDIA PVT. LTD Udyog Vihar, Phase 2, Building No. 301, Gurugram, Haryana (India) Tel. 91 7291981124/25/26, 9948182222, E-MAIL : andhra@c1india.com, support@bankauctions.com, WEBSITE <https://www.bankauctions.com>.
8. Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain user ID/password well in advance, which is mandatory for bidding in above e-auction, from M/s C 1 INDIA PVT. LTD
9. Details of concerned bank officers/Help-line numbers etc. are as under:-

Name & Designation	Email & Phone Nos.
Ms. POONA (DEPUTY MANAGER)	Email: poonm21@axisbank.com

10. What is proposed to be sold are the rights to which the certificate debtors are entitled in respect of the properties. The properties will be sold along with liabilities, if any. The extent of the properties shown in the proclamation is as per the Recovery Certificate schedule. Recovery Officer shall not be responsible for any variation in the extent due to any reason. The properties will be sold on 'as is where is' and 'as is what is condition'.
11. The property can be inspected by prospective bidder(s) before the date of sale for which the above named officer of the bank may be contacted
12. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.
13. EMD of unsuccessful bidders will be received by such bidders from the Registry of DRT-I, on identification/production of Identity proof viz., PAN Card, Passport, Voter's Id, Valid Driving License or Photo Identity Card issued by Govt. and PSUs. Unsuccessful bidders shall ensure return of their EMD and, if not received within a reasonable time, immediately contact the Recovery Officer, DRT-I, Delhi/for the Bank
14. The sale will be of the property of the above named CDs as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities & claims attaching to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule attached each lot.
15. The property will be put up for the sale in the lots specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale also be stopped if, before any lot is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.
16. No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, however, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.
17. The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961 and the rules made there under and to the further following conditions: The particulars specified in Annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.
18. The amount by which the biddings are to be increased shall be in multiple of Rs. 50,000 (Rs. Fifty Thousand only). In the event of any dispute arising as to amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put up to auction.
19. The Successful/Highest bidder shall be declared to be the purchaser of any lot provided that further that the amount bid by him is not less than the reserve price. It shall be in the discretion of the undersigned to decline acceptance of the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so.
20. Successful highest bidder shall have to prepare DD/Pay order for 25% of the sale proceeds favouring Recovery Officer, DRT-I, Delhi, A/c T. R. C. No. 121/2023 within 24 hours after close of e-auction and after adjusting the earnest money (EMD) and sending/depositing the same in the office of the Recovery Officer so as to reach within 3 days from the close of e-auction failing which the earnest money (EMD) shall be forfeited.
21. The Successful/Highest Bidder shall deposit, through Demand Draft/Pay Order favouring Recovery Officer DRT-I, Delhi A/c T. R. C. 121/2023, the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the Recovery Officer, DRT-I on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs. 1,000 and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs. 1000/- in favour of Registrar, DRT-I Delhi. (In case of deposit of balance amount of 75% through post the same should reach the Recovery Officer (s) above.)
22. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after deducting the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

Lot No.	Description of the property to be sold with the names of the co-owners where the property belongs to the defaulter and any other person as co-owners.	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims, if any, which have been put forward to the property, and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value.
1.	PROPERTY BEARING FLAT NO. 306, THIRD FLOOR, BLOCK NO. 23, PALM APARTMENT, COSMOS GREEN, BHIWADI, RAJASTHAN - 310019		No Information received	

Given under my hand and seal on 03.06.2025.

NIRANJAN SHARMA
Recovery Officer-I
Debts Recovery Tribunal - 1, Delhi.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGER!

ADDITIONAL SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run Additional Summer Special Trains between Haridwar-Delhi Jn.-Haridwar and Haridwar-Lucknow-Haridwar as per schedule given below:-

04328/04327 Haridwar-Delhi Jn.-Haridwar						06
Summer Reserved Special Exp. Train (Daily)						Trips
Train No. 04328	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 04327	ARR.	DEP.
---	15:45		Haridwar	04:50	----	
16:25	16:27		Roorkee	03:35	03:37	
17:13	17:15		Tapri Jn.	02:50	02:52	
17:55	17:57		Muzaffarnagar	02:00	02:02	
18:35	18:37		Meerut City Jn.	01:15	01:17	
18:52	18:54		Modinagar	00:30	00:32	
19:50	19:52		Ghaziabad	00:02	00:04	
20:14	20:16		Delhi Shahdara	23:15	23:17	
20:45	---		Delhi Jn.	---	23:00	

Days of Run : 04328 Ex. Haridwar and 04327 Ex. Delhi Jn. from 18.06.2025 to 20.06.2025 (Daily)

Accommodation : 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General

04330/04329 Haridwar-Lucknow-Haridwar						04
Summer Reserved Special Express Train						Trips
Train No. 04330	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	Train No. 04329	ARR.	DEP.
---	22:45		Haridwar	20:20	---	
23:18	23:20		Laksar Jn.	19:18	19:20	
00:05	00:07		Najibabad Jn.	18:30	18:32	
00:35	00:37		Nagina	18:05	18:07	
01:05	01:07		Dhampur	17:43	17:45	
01:28	01:30		Seohara	17:26	17:28	
02:30	02:32		Kanth	17:10	17:12	
03:32	03:40		Moradabad	16:30	16:40	
04:06	04:08		Rampur	15:00	15:02	
05:03	05:05		Bareilly	14:00	14:02	
06:14	06:16		Shahjehanpur	13:00	13:02	
07:14	07:16		Hardoi	12:55	12:57	
07:46	07:48		Balamau Jn.	12:25	12:27	
08:08	08:10		Sandila	12:00	12:02	
09:25	---		Lucknow	---	11:30	

Days of Run : 04330 Ex. Haridwar on 18.06.2025 & 20.06.2025 and 04329 Ex. Lucknow on 19.06.2025 & 21.06.2025

Accommodation : Sleeper & General

For any kind of information and detailed time-table etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Please join us on

NORTHERN RAILWAY

India’s largest Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal inaugurated in Gurugram

PARVESH SHARMA ■ Gurugram

Haryana has achieved a historic milestone in the field of logistics and industrial infrastructure. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, along with Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, inaugurated the country’s largest automobile Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal at Maruti Suzuki India Limited, Manesar, Gurugram, on Tuesday.

During the event, the Union Minister and Chief Minister, Saini, flagged off the first cargo train from the new Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal. Located at the IMT Manesar-based Maruti Suzuki plant, this terminal has been developed under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Gati Shakti National Master Plan, a visionary initiative aimed at creating a world-class logistics network across India.

The total cost of this project is ₹1 lakh 17 thousand 91 million. Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited has a 55.4 percent share, HSIIDC has a 19 percent share, and Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) has a 5 percent share in the project. While



welcoming the Union Minister at the inauguration of Haryana’s first and India’s second Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal, CM Saini said that the launch of India’s largest such terminal marks the beginning of a golden chapter in Haryana’s growth story.

He emphasized that this is not merely a steel structure but a milestone in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Viksit Bharat’. “The terminal will not only transport vehicles manufactured at the Manesar and Gurugram plants to 17 hubs and 380 cities across

India but also export vehicles to ports such as Pipavav and Mundra—thereby directly integrating Haryana into the global supply chain,” said the Chief Minister.

He expressed pride that the Haryana Government is a key partner in bringing this historic project to life. During the event, the Chief Minister also highlighted that today Haryana has become one of India’s leading automobile manufacturing hubs, producing nearly 50 percent of all cars made in the country.

“The development of an

internal railway yard by the Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation at Maruti underscores the state’s commitment to ‘Ease of Doing Business’ and infrastructure development,” he said.

Reaffirming its vision to emerge as a logistics hub, the state has also partnered with various industry bodies and educational institutions to enhance workforce skills across Haryana, he said. Saini said that this project is an outstanding example of PM Modi’s visionary Gati Shakti initiative—more than a scheme, it repre-

sents a revolution and a commitment to transform India’s approach to infrastructure development.

He further shared that the PM Gati Shakti platform brings together key sectors such as railways, roads, ports, airports, waterways, and logistics under one integrated vision. The railway siding at Maruti Suzuki is a living example of this, allowing cars manufactured at the plant to be directly loaded onto cargo trains and shipped to destinations across India, he added.

Addressing the gathering, Union Minister Ashwini

Vaishnaw highlighted the significant transformation Indian Railways has undergone over the past decade under the leadership of the prime minister.

He said that before 2014, the Railways’ annual budget hovered around ₹24,000-25,000 crore. Now, it has been increased to ₹2.5 lakh crore. Basic passenger amenities like toilets were absent in many stations and coaches. In the last two and a half years, a focused campaign has been launched to increase the number of general coaches. More than 1,200 general coaches were added in just the past year, he said. The minister added that a major decision was taken recently to upgrade passenger train services. 100 new Mainline EMU (MEMU) trains will soon be introduced.

“These new MEMU trains, designed for short-distance travel, will feature 16 to 20 coaches (compared to the older 8-12 coach trains). Additionally, 50 new Namo Bharat passenger trains will also be added to the rail network,” he said.

The Railway Minister also shared plans to modernize the rail factory in Sonapat, with work to begin soon. Highlighting growth in the past 11 years, Vaishnaw said that before 2014, Haryana received a railway budget allocation of ₹315 crore.

SEBI board to meet to discuss regulatory reforms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Markets watchdog SEBI’s board is likely to discuss a series of regulatory reforms during its upcoming meeting on Wednesday.

Several of these proposals have already been floated for public consultation, indicating a broader push towards refining the regulatory landscape.

This would mark the second board meeting under the chairmanship of Tuhin Kanta Pandey, who assumed office on March 1.

One of the key agenda items is the simplification of rules and regulatory compliance for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) investing exclusively in Indian Government Bonds (IGBs) through the Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) and the Fully Accessible Route (FAR). This move is aimed at attracting more long-term bond investors to the Indian market, people aware of the development said.

Currently, foreign investors can invest in Indian debt through three routes—General, VRR, and FAR. The VRR and FAR routes are comparatively liberal, as they allow investments without many of the restrictions, such as security-wise or concentration limits that apply under the General route.

To further streamline this, SEBI proposed creating a new FPI category, IGB-FPIs, focused solely on Government bond investments, according to the consultation paper issued last month.

Under this, the regulator recommended easing registration and other compliance requirements for these entities.

Notably, SEBI suggested that IGB-FPIs should be

Currently, foreign investors can invest in Indian debt through three routes—General, VRR and FAR

exempt from disclosing investor group details, since bond investments under VRR and FAR are not subject to such caps.

Typically, FPIs are required to disclose their group structures for monitoring investment limits, but this requirement may no longer apply to IGB-focused investors.

In addition, the board may discuss a proposal to rationalise the content of the placement document of Qualified Institutions Placement (QIP) by prescribing only the relevant information regarding the issue, people aware of the development said.

India oil demand to grow by one million barrels per day by 2030: IEA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India, the world’s third-largest oil-consuming and importing nation, will lead global oil demand growth by a large margin, adding a steep 1 million barrels per day by 2030 on the back of stellar economic expansion, IEA said on Tuesday.

The global oil demand is expected to grow by 2.5 million barrels a day by the end of the decade, reaching a plateau near 105.5 million barrels per day (bpd) by 2030, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in its latest report released Tuesday.

Barring any major disruption to the oil market, the world is expected to remain well supplied through the end of the decade, the global energy watchdog said, though rising geopolitical risks in the Middle East and unresolved trade tensions could cast a shadow over the outlook.

IEA forecast India’s demand for crude oil, which is converted into fuels like petrol and diesel in refineries, to rise from 5.64 million bpd in 2024 to 6.66 million bpd by 2030.

The country meets over 95 per cent of its oil needs through imports as domestic production is declining.

“India’s oil demand will increase by a steep 1 million bpd over the forecast period—more than any other country—in the wake of stellar GDP expansion, at an average annual



rate of 2.8 per cent,” it said.

The United States, the world’s top oil consumer, may see demand peaking at 20.47 million bpd in 2025 (20.42 million bpd) to lead global oil demand growth, add 1 mn bpd by 2030: IEA Demand for industrial-linked products will only marginally lag the growth rate for retail-oriented transport fuels, with annual increases in gasoline, naphtha and LPG/ethane of 3.3 per cent, 2.0 per cent and 2.5 per cent, respectively.

For gasoil (diesel), making up around one-third of India’s total oil use, this amounts to an aggregate gain of 3,80,000 bpd

over the forecast period, buoyed by secular trends such as urbanisation, industrialisation and the building out of the country’s infrastructure.

Expansion in the petrochemical feedstocks tracks the launch of new projects coming on stream with the widespread adoption of clean cooking acting as an additional boost to LPG demand.

Government subsidy programmes have been instrumental in this respect, in particular, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana scheme launched in 2016 that aims to provide LPG connections across the country, replacing

traditional cooking methods, IEA added.

The report, Oil 2025, stated that while global demand growth continues, structural changes in supply and consumption patterns are expected to reshape the oil market over the coming years.

While production capacity is forecast to rise by more than 5 million bpd to 114.7 million bpd by 2030, electric vehicles are projected to displace 5.4 million bpd of oil demand globally by 2030.

Electric car sales reached a record 17 million in 2024 and are expected to surpass 20 million in 2025, the report said.

Welfare schemes benefitted over 50 lakh informal workers: Ministry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The labour welfare schemes have benefitted more than 50 lakh unorganised workers across the country, particularly those engaged in beedi, cinema and mining sectors, the Ministry of Labour and Employment said on Tuesday.

These workers do not have access to social security schemes run by other bodies like Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), which is under the administrative control of the labour ministry.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, through the Directorate General of Labour Welfare (DGLW), is implementing a range of welfare schemes dedicated to improving the lives of unorganised workers in India, particularly in the beedi, cine, and mining sectors, said a labour ministry statement issued on completion of 11 years of the Modi Government.

With a direct impact on over 50 lakh workers and their families, these schemes form a cornerstone of the Government’s inclusive and compassionate labour welfare strategy, it added.

The Labour Welfare Organisation (LWO), functioning under DGLW, administers these schemes through a network of 18 Welfare Commissioners, who oversee their implementation at the regional levels.

The overarching goal of these welfare schemes is to provide social protection, health services, financial assistance for education, and housing support to workers often located in remote and underserved regions.

One of the key components of the welfare framework is the Education Assistance Scheme, which provides annual scholarships ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹25,000 for the wards of beedi, cine, and non-coal mine workers.

The scheme, implemented via the National Scholarship Portal (NSP), receives over 1 lakh applications every year, with direct benefit transfer (DBT) ensuring transparent and timely disbursement.

Healthcare support under the Health Scheme includes outpatient services through a national network of dispensaries, as well as reimbursement for specialised treatments for critical illnesses such as heart disease, kidney transplantation, cancer, tuberculosis, and minor surgeries.

The financial assistance ranges from Rs 30,000 for minor surgeries to Rs 7.5 lakh for cancer treatment, ensuring access to life-saving healthcare for low-income workers.

Although the Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS), introduced in 2016, has now been sunset and merged with Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), the ministry disbursed pending installments to eligible beneficiaries until March 31, 2024.

Mahindra to acquire stake in Isuzu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Tuesday cleared Mahindra & Mahindra’s proposed acquisition of a nearly 59 per cent stake in commercial vehicle maker SML Isuzu for ₹555 crore. Mahindra & Mahindra in April announced

the acquisition of a 58.96 per cent stake in SML Isuzu for ₹555 crore. “The proposed combination relates to acquisition of SML Isuzu Ltd (Target) by Mahindra and Mahindra Limited (acquirer),” CCI said in a release. Mahindra & Mahindra is the flagship company of the Mahindra group. It is engaged in the automotive, farm equipment, agricultural products and

services sector, etc.

“CCI approves the proposed combination involving acquisition of SML Isuzu Ltd by Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd,” the regulator said in a post on X.

In April, the Mumbai-based automaker Mahindra & Mahindra said it would acquire the entire stake of 43.96 per cent held by Sumitomo Corporation, promoter of SML.

Plans afoot to repeal explosives act to bring new law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The Government has proposed to repeal the 141-year-old Explosives Act of 1884 and introduce a new law stating that the existing legislation is based on the old British pattern and is not adequately meeting the country’s growing requirements.

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has sought comments and suggestions from the general public, industry associations and other entities concerned on the proposal before July 17 this year.

It said the Explosives Act, 1884 is a pre-constitutional act and it was comprehensively modified in 1978.

Many large and small companies began to manufacture high explosives after independence.

“It is observed that the Explosives Act, 1884, which is based on the old British pattern and is not adequately meeting the country’s growing requirements and development in the explosive sector thereby resulted in difficulties for the industry,” the DPIIT’s note for public and stakeholder consultations said.

Dedicate zones for startups in industrial corridors: Goyal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has directed officials to earmark dedicated zones for MSMEs and startups within the industrial corridors under development in Andhra Pradesh, an official statement said on Tuesday.

The minister suggested this during a review meeting on June 15 to assess the progress of NICDC-led industrial nodes.

The National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) is the nodal body for these corridors.

The commerce and industry ministry said the review focused on the development of three major nodes in the State—Krishnapatnam Industrial Area under the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (CBIC), Orvakal Industrial Area under the Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor (HBIC), and Kopparthi

Industrial Area under the Visakhapatnam—Chennai Industrial Corridor (VCIC).

Goyal also directed officials to focus on attracting anchor investors and startups by building innovation-friendly ecosystems within each industrial

He stressed the need to establish dedicated incubators to nurture early-stage enterprises and facilitate a robust startup ecosystem

node.

He stressed the need to establish dedicated incubators to nurture early-stage enterprises and facilitate a robust startup ecosystem.

“The minister also instructed officials to earmark zones within each node for MSMEs and startups, offering subsidised rates and equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and technological support,” it added.

Indian standards on toys better than global standards, helping local units in exports: BIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Indian quality standards on toys are better than global benchmark, helping domestic manufacturers in exporting their products in overseas markets, according to a senior BIS official.

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has developed and published Indian standards for toys that encompass physical, chemical, and electrical safety requirements.

These standards are aligned with international benchmarks set by ISO and IEC, ensuring global harmonisation in toy safety practices.

To enforce compliance, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) issued the Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020, which came into effect on January 1, 2021.

This order mandates that all toys sold in India, whether manufactured domestically or



imported, must conform to seven specific Indian standards and bear the ISI mark under a valid BIS licence.

It is prohibited to manufacture, import, store, distribute, sell, or even exhibit for sale any toy that does not comply with these standards.

“Indian standards on toys are better than global stan-

dards,” said Adbhut Singh, Scientist E/Director, Western Regional Office Laboratory (WROL), BIS, Mumbai.

Singh said the BIS standards have helped in increasing sales of Indian toys in both domestic and global markets.

“Indian standards have been made as per our weather conditions and other domestic

requirements,” he said in an interaction with media here.

According to GTRI report, India’s toy exports declined marginally to \$152.34 million in 2023-24 from \$153.89 million in the year before.

As per the latest figures, there are 1,640 BIS-certified toy industries in India, of which 1,165 licences are for non-electronic toys and 475 for electric toys.

Moiz Gabajiwala, CEO of Zephyr Toymakers Pvt Ltd—which has a manufacturing plant in Bhiwandi near Mumbai—said the BIS standards has fostered innovation and created a “level playing field”, enabling them to compete more effectively with established players.

“Our turnover has increased substantially after the BIS standards came into effect. The company clocked a revenue of ₹25 crore last fiscal year and is aiming for 20 per cent growth in 2025-26,” he said.

INBRIEF

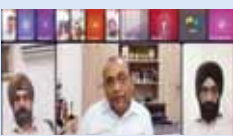
HINDUSTAN ZINC APPROVES ₹12,000 CRORE INVESTMENT TO EXPAND CAPACITY

Hindustan Zinc Limited has approved a ₹12,000 crore investment to expand its metal production capacity by 250 KTPA, including a new smelter in Rajasthan. The move aligns with rising zinc demand and infrastructure growth.



FACULTY INDUCTION PROGRAMME CONCLUDED AT GNDU

The Faculty Induction Programme at UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Guru Nanak Dev University, concluded on June 17, 2025, with a valedictory session. Led by Prof. (Dr.) Karamjeet Singh, the programme equipped new faculty with pedagogical and policy insights, reaffirming the university’s commitment to academic excellence and faculty development.



BEL OFFERED JOBS TO 8 GNDU STUDENTS AT ₹13 LAKH PER ANNUM

Under Vice Chancellor Dr. Karamjeet Singh’s leadership, GNDU hosted a successful campus placement drive by Bharat Electronics Ltd, offering 713 LPA packages to eight BTech (ECE) students. The recruitment included tests and interviews. University officials praised the achievement, highlighting GNDU’s strong industry ties and commitment to professional excellence.



Boca Juniors, Benfica draw 2-2 in Club World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Miami Gardens (US)

Benfica overcame a two-goal deficit, getting Ángel Di María's penalty kick in first-half stoppage time and Nicolás Otamendi's 84th-minute goal for a 2-2 draw against Boca Juniors in a heated Club World Cup match that included three red cards, four yellows and 22 fouls.

Boca Juniors played in a home-like environment with the Argentine club's supporters making up most of the 55,574 crowd at Hard Rock Stadium against one of Portugal's premier teams.

Both teams finished a man down and one Boca player was sent off after he was substituted from the match due to injury on Monday night.

Heavily armed police were present at checkpoints to ensure order for a Boca supporters' group that is extremely fierce and passionate.

But, most of the rough action was on the field, not in the stands, as the game included red cards for Boca's Ander Herrera in the 44th, Benfica's Andrea Belotti in the 72nd and Boca's Nicolás Figal in the 88th. Boca built its lead on goals by Miguel Merentiel in the 21st minute and Rodrigo Battaglia in the 27th.

Referee César Ramos awarded the penalty after a video



review for Carlos Palacios' kneeing Otamendi.

Herrera, who was taken out after 20 minutes, got a red card for protesting the decision.

Belotti was sent off for a foul when a high kick caught Ayrton Costa on the back of the head and Figal for knocking over Florentino.

Key moment

Otamendi's front post header helped Benfica salvage a point.

Boca Juniors, after under-

performing last season in the Argentina first division and disappointing in the Copa Libertadores, used the support of their fans to fuel them and earn a point in group play.

Their second match, against Bayern Munich in Miami on Friday night, will prove to be a more challenging game.

Benfica, which was impressive in its play and gave the ball away many times unprovoked, will play Friday as well and take on the only semi-profes-

sional team in the Club World Cup, Auckland City, which was badly beaten by Bayern.

What they said

"This was a game where there's two really big teams and they're gonna leave it all out there on every ball." — Alan Velasco, Boca Juniors midfielder.

"It will be a new experience (playing against Auckland City FC), of course we saw the result against Bayern and we will have to do the same.

Chelsea 2-0 win over Los Angeles FC in Club World Cup



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Atlanta (US)

Pedro Neto scored in the first half and Enzo Fernández in the 79th minute to give Chelsea a 2-0 win over Los Angeles FC in Group D's Club World Cup opener.

Chelsea put pressure on LAFC goalkeeper Hugo Lloris early in the match. Neto scored in the 34th minute, picking up a pass from Nicolas Jackson and cutting onto his left foot for a near-post finish on Monday.

There were 22,137 fans in attendance at the 71,000-capacity Mercedes-Benz Stadium, many of them backing LAFC. The Black and Gold had positive sparks of energy and possession

throughout the first half, but struggled to find any real opportunities in front of goal.

LAFC almost got one back just before the 60-minute mark, but Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sánchez came up with a save to keep Denis Bouanga off the scoresheet. The Black and Gold aimed to get some more experience onto the pitch at the half, bringing on former Chelsea man Olivier Giroud.

Giroud made a stir as he subbed on when he had to wait on the sidelines for a matchday shirt with his name and number. The mixup led to a delay in the start of the second half.

Coming in off the bench, Fernández made no mistake finishing Liam Delap's cross, adding an insurance goal for The Blues.

Chelsea's day was made even more positive by the debut of Delap, a promising 22-year-old English striker signed from Ipswich Town.

Takeaways

While Chelsea is the favorite to top Group D, LAFC's next two matches become essential to moving on to the knock-out rounds. LAFC vs Flamengo will prove to be an entertaining game, with the two sides most likely battling it out for the group's second spot.

What They Said

"It's a high level against a quality team. If you give them a moment, they'll punish you. They had two chances, and they punished us." — Marky Delgado, LAFC midfielder.

Flamengo 2-0 beats Esperance de Tunis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Philadelphia (US)

Luiz Araujo and Giorgian de Arrascaeta each scored a goal and Flamengo beat Esperance Sportive de Tunis 2-0 in the Club World Cup.

After dominating possession for 17 minutes, de Arrascaeta opened the scoring after finishing off a cross from Araujo on Monday night.

Araujo capped an amazing performance in the 70th minute by scoring Flamengo's second goal. This came from an assist by Jorginho, Flamengo's new signing and former Club World Cup Champion.

The Lincoln Financial Stadium brimmed with energy for the entire 90 minutes thanks to the 25,797 Flamengo and Esperance's fans present. The attendance was far from the stadium's 67,594 maximum capacity.

Key Moment

In the 66th minute, Esperance had a chance to tie the score with a counter-attack led by Youcef Belaili, but Agustín Rossi made a crucial save to keep Flamengo in the lead. This allowed Araujo to put the game out of Esperance's reach four minutes later.

Flamengo could earn a first-place finish in Group D if they continue playing like they did in this one.

Drogheda barred from Conference League by UEFA ownership rules

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Geneva

Irish Cup winner Drogheda lost its appeal against being removed from the Conference League next season for breaking UEFA rules when investors own multiple clubs.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said its judges gave an urgent decision dismissing Drogheda's appeal that was heard on Monday.

On Tuesday, UEFA will start making the draws for qualifying rounds in the third-tier European competition.

Drogheda and Silkeborg of Denmark qualified for the Conference League second preliminary round but are owned by the Trivela Group from the United States.

UEFA rules to protect sporting integrity do not allow teams from a multi-club network to enter the same competition if

one owner has "decisive influence" over management of both. Drogheda apologized to fans in a statement for the situation leading to a decision that caused "great heartbreak and disbelief" and will cost the club at least hundreds of thousands of euros (dollars) in UEFA prize money.

The American-back club missed a March 1 deadline set by UEFA to anticipate a pending problem and make changes to the ownership or executive structure.

CAS said the three judges agreed UEFA communicated key information which Drogheda "knew or ought to have known about."

A 2-1 majority of the judges "rejected (the club's) submissions on alleged unequal treatment by UEFA," the court said.

Other cases involving Manchester City, Manchester United, AC Milan, Brighton

and Aston Villa in the past two years were resolved by one of the ownership stakes being placed into a blind trust for the season. A UEFA expert panel also imposed transfer bans and limited cooperation between clubs in question.

The UEFA panel is also assessing if Crystal Palace and Lyon can both enter the next Europa League. Lyon's American owner John Textor has a 43 per cent stake in Palace though with limited decision-making power.

In the latest case, Silkeborg took priority with UEFA to get the Conference League place because it finished higher in the Danish league this season than Drogheda did in the Irish league last year.

Drogheda loses prize money of 350,000 euros (\$406,000) that UEFA pays for playing in the Conference League second qualifying round.

Death threats, abuse highlight dark side of tennis betting: Katie Boulter

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

British tennis player Katie Boulter has told the BBC she received death threats targeting her and her family during the French Open, saying in an interview that online abuse has become the norm and that she is worried about the impact it will have on younger players.

Boulter, who is 28-year-old and ranked number 39 in the WTA, said she believes many of the abusive messages are sent by people who are placing bets on tennis matches.

The messages threatening her loved ones were sent during her French Open first-round match against Carole Monnet on May 29. After losing the first-set tie-break, Boulter won the match 6-7 (4), 6-1, 6-1.

But the loss of the tiebreaker prompted the outrage. "Hope you get cancer," said one message. Another men-



tioned damaging her "grandmother's grave if she's not dead by tomorrow" and "candles and a coffin for your entire family." A third said: "Go to hell, I lost money my mother sent me."

Boulter, who shared with the BBC screenshots of the

messages, said she is worried about the toll the widespread abuse takes on younger players.

"At the very start of my career, it's probably something I took very personally... Getting comments about the way you look," she said. "It

becomes more apparent every single time you go on your phone.

"I think it increases in number and it also increases in the level of things that people say. I don't think there's anything off the cards now."

Many other players have

previously reported online abuse. In a bid to try to protect athletes from that sort of abuse, the International Tennis Federation (ITF), Women's Tennis Association (WTA), All England Lawn Tennis Club and United States Tennis Association in 2023 launched the Threat Matrix. The program monitors public-facing social accounts for abusive and threatening content on social networks. It also provides support for players.

Despite years of reporting online abuse, Boulter said the volume has become overwhelming - and her concern now lies with protecting those coming up behind her.

"I think that by the end of where I am right now, I think there is just too many to almost do that," she said.

"As a tennis player, I just want to see and protect some of the younger players that come through and try to find a way around this whole situation."



'F1' movie mirrors his rivalry with Piastri: Norris

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York

Lando Norris says the new Formula 1 movie contains some reminders of his own rivalry with McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri after their collision at the Canadian Grand Prix.

Speaking Monday at the Times Square premiere of "F1," starring Brad Pitt, Norris said his rivalry with Piastri remains friendly, even if they sometimes run into "roadblocks and chicanes."

"You always want to be the top dog and you always want to be on top - of everyone, not just your teammate. You want to be on top of the grid, right?" Norris said. "The interesting part, and I think the thing that the F1 movie gets into a little bit more, is how teammates have to be teammates but also how they want to beat one another, and how do you get that balance right? Because if it's too much one way, it's not good. If it's too much the other way, it's not good. It's a difficult balance, but that's part of the sport."

Roadblocks in the relationship

Norris apologised immediately for colliding with Piastri in Sunday's race as he tried to overtake. The contact caused Norris to hit the wall, ending his race. Piastri was able to finish fourth and extend his standings lead over Norris to 22 points ahead of next week's Austrian Grand Prix.

"We've always known we want to beat each other, but I think one thing we've done very well is work together as a team," Norris said. "Of course there's always going to be some little roadblocks and chicanes and things to navigate through, but in the end of the day, I think, as long as we pull through the other day together, that's the most important."

Russell hopes for more Mercedes wins

George Russell's victory in Canada on Sunday made him the only driver other than Norris, Piastri and defending champion Max Verstappen to get a win this season.

Inter Kashi win first appeal at CAS against AIFF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York

Inter Kashi on Tuesday won their first appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the All India Football Federation (AIFF) after the Varanasi-based side were deducted three points for a contested I-League match earlier in the year.

The CAS ruling, though, will not hand Inter Kashi the I-League title yet. The AIFF's appeals committee had on April 18 ruled against Inter Kashi in a case relating to their match against Namdhari FC — who were alleged to have fielded an 'ineligible player' — on January 13, setting aside a decision given by the national federation's disciplinary committee.

After the appeals committee ruling, Inter Kashi finished the I-League at second spot with 39 points, while Churchill Brothers of Goa were declared champions on 40 points.

Inter Kashi filed an appeal at the



Switzerland-based CAS on April 24 against the decision of the AIFF appeals committee and the world's apex sports tribunal ruled in favour of the club on Tuesday.

There is another Inter Kashi appeal pending at the CAS and that may decide who will be the 2024-25 I-League champions, though the AIFF

had already handed the trophy to Churchill Brothers on the basis of its appeals committee decision.

"The appeal filed on 24 April 2025 by Inter Kashi FC against the decision issued on 18 April 2025 by the Appeal Committee of the All-India Football Federation is upheld. The decision issued on 18 April

2025 by the Appeal Committee of the All-India Football Federation is set aside," the CAS said in its ruling on Tuesday.

"The terms of the decision issued on 24 February 2025 by the All-India Football Federation Disciplinary Committee in the matter IL 2024-25/102 are hereby confirmed," said the CAS award delivered by three arbitrators.

Frans de Weger of the Netherlands presided over the bench, with Michele AR Bernasconi of Switzerland and Jeffrey G. Benz of United Kingdom being the other members.

"(1) On the basis of the complaint received the Committee is of the view that the defendant club Namdhari FC has fielded an ineligible player resulting out of a failure to make the player serve the suspension in Match number 45 of the I-League 2024-25 against Inter Kashi FC in accordance with Article 12.3.2 of the I-League 2024-25 Regulations for accumula-

tion of 4 cautions in the given season.

"(2) The said match shall result in a forfeiture (0-3 loss) for the defendant club Namdhari FC in accordance with Article 57 read with Article 26 of the Code of fielding an ineligible player," the court explained.

Inter Kashi said on their social media handles that they welcomed the CAS ruling. The costs of the arbitration, to be served to the parties by the CAS Court Office separately, shall be borne 20 per cent by Inter Kashi, 40 per cent by the AIFF, 20 per cent by Churchill Brothers FC Goa and 20 per cent by Namdhari FC.

The CAS directed the AIFF to pay two thousand Swiss francs (₹2.12 lakh approx) to Inter Kashi while Churchill Brothers and Namdhari FC will have to pay one thousand Swiss francs (₹1.06 lakh) to the Varanasi-based club "as legal contribution towards its legal costs and other expenses incurred during these arbitral proceedings".

India gear up for Tajikistan test ahead of U-23 Asian Cup qualifiers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

India men's football team will take on hosts Tajikistan in a friendly match on Wednesday, kicking off a crucial two-match tour that serves as preparation for the AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers later this year.

The match will be played at the Hisor Central Stadium near Dushanbe, with the second fixture against Kyrgyz Republic scheduled for Saturday.

Drawn in Group E alongside

Bahrain, Qatar and Brunei Darussalam, India will be aiming to qualify for the continental event for the first time when the qualifiers are held in September.

The ongoing tour is seen as a vital tune-up in terms of acclimatisation, team cohesion, and tactical fine-tuning.

The Naushad Moosa-coached 23-member squad had been in camp in Kolkata since June 1 before flying out to Dushanbe.

After arriving in the Tajik capital on Monday evening, the team held a mobility session



Tuesday morning and followed it up with a 90-minute evening training session at the venue, which is located around 25 kilometres from the city.

Tajikistan U23s were last in action in November 2024 when they lost two friendlies against United Arab Emirates, both by a 0-3 margin.

At the AFC U23 Asian Cup 2024, Tajikistan were knocked out in the group stage after defeats to Iraq and Saudi Arabia and a win over Thailand. Moosa, however, is not reading too much into past results and is focused on the

task at hand.

"We know Tajikistan are a strong team. They qualified for the U23 Asian Cup last year and also did well at the senior Asian Cup," Moosa stated in AIFF website.

"The players will, of course, be different tomorrow. The coach has changed. We just have to go out there and do our job right," added Moosa.

Despite Dushanbe being located 700 metres above sea level, the weather is hot at this time of the year, soaring to almost 40 degrees during the day.

Shubman Gill is mix of both Rohit and Kohli as captain: Jos Buttler

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
Mumbai

India's new Test captain Shubman Gill is a mix of his predecessors Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli but he will be "very much his own man" in the middle when he leads the national side in the eagerly-awaited five-Test series against England starting on Friday, feels Jos Buttler.

Buttler, the former England limited-overs captain who played under Gill in this year's IPL, said the 25-year-old will need to find a balance between his captaincy role and his own batting.

"He is a really impressive player and an impressive young man," Buttler said on his podcast 'For The Love of Cricket' alongside former England pacer Stuart Broad.

"He's pretty calm and measured when he speaks, but (it's) interesting, I feel like on the field he's got a bit of fight about him, a bit of intensity, quite passionate. I think he will be a mix of Kohli and Rohit.

"Kohli (was) that sort of real



aggressive (character), really transformed the Indian team, in your face, up for the contest. Rohit was a bit on the other side, a bit more laid back, very cool, calm, collected customer, but with that sort of fight," he added. Buttler expects Gill to "be a bit in the middle".

"He is obviously learned from those two guys, but he'll

be very much his own man."

Buttler said the job of captaining India in Test cricket is like being a "third or fourth-most influential people" in the country

"He talked about compartmentalising batting and captaining; so when he's batting he just wants to be a batter and then he will try and work on

his captaincy and try and separate the two roles," he said.

"I don't think we can quite understand the level of interest and the stardom that these guys have. You see it around the IPL, you're aware of it, but actually living that yourself, I think they say the Indian Test captain is like the third or fourth-most influential person

in India, behind the Prime Minister, so you really are put up on that pedestal.

"(There are a) one-and-half billion people, all cricket-mad, so it's going to be a huge job for him. Kohli is the king, Shubman is the prince; that's the narrative that they spin out there, and I feel that he's the coming man... Stepping into that No. 4, it's big shoes, isn't it?" "IPL teams as good as international teams"

Buttler said the level of competitiveness in IPL, given its unique window, makes some of the teams in the competition as good as international teams. "I would say some teams would compete well, they are just as good as international teams. I think (a) Mumbai Indians XI had nine or 10 players who had played international cricket and they are just not any odd internationals either.

"Obviously, the window the IPL has, there is no competition from international cricket, it has got its own designated window. All the best players in the world are available,

all the local Indian talent where the depth is just growing and growing and growing," he said.

"Suryavanshi's ton was inspiring and deflating"

Buttler said 14-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi's 38-ball 101 for Rajasthan Royals against Gujarat Titans, which was the second-fastest IPL ton and fastest for any Indian in T20 cricket, was both "inspiring and deflating".

"This guy is (about) 20 years younger than me, and he is just smashing us all around the park. Absolutely (sent) shockwaves throughout the cricket world," he said.

"...The first ball, he gave himself a bit of room and smacked it over wide long on for a six... that fearlessness. I love these guys out there; there are so many brilliant players. They almost want to make a statement as in 'look at me'."

Buttler also recalled Suryavanshi's knock of 57 against Chennai Super Kings and said, "I'm like 'this guy is the best player I have ever seen,'" he said.

ICC ready for 4-day Tests in 27-29 WTC cycle: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
London

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is ready to sanction four-day Tests for smaller nations in the 2027-29 World Test Championship cycle but India, Australia and England can still play the traditional five-day matches, according a report.

The move to reduce matches by one day would be a significant change and can help smaller nations to play more Tests and longer series.

"During discussions last week at the WTC final at Lord's, the ICC chair, Jay Shah, is understood to have expressed his support for four-day Tests, with a view to sanctioning them in time for the 2027-29 WTC cycle," *The Guardian* reported.

"England, Australia and India would still be permitted to schedule five-Test series of five-day matches for the Ashes, the Border-Gavaskar Trophy and the newly named Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, the first iteration of which begins with the first Test between England and India at Headingley on Friday."

The ICC first sanctioned four-day Tests for bilateral contests in 2017.

England played Zimbabwe over four days at Trent Bridge last month after four-day Tests against Ireland in 2019 and 2023.

According to the report, "many smaller nations are reluctant to host Tests due to the time they take out of the schedule and the cost, but a move to four-day cricket would enable an entire three-Test series to be played in less than three weeks."

"In four-day Tests the playing hours are extended to mandate a minimum of 98 overs per day rather than 90 overs to mitigate the time lost," it said.

"South Africa's threadbare itinerary despite being crowned world champions in the thrilling final against Australia at Lord's last week has further highlighted the issue, and focused minds on the need for change," it added.

The 2025-27 World Test Championship will, however, will continue under the existing format of five-day matches. It begins with Sri Lanka hosting Bangladesh in a two-Test series on Tuesday.

Sophie Devine to retire from ODIs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
Auckland

New Zealand women's team captain and prolific all-rounder Sophie Devine will retire from the ODIs after the World Cup in India and Sri Lanka later this year.

The 35-year-old is widely regarded as one of the most prolific all-rounders in women's cricket, having amassed 3990 runs from 152 ODIs at an average of 31.66 with the help of eight centuries. She has also scored 3431 runs from 146 T20Is with one century. She has also taken 107 and 119 wickets in the ODIs and T20Is respectively. She, however, has not played in any Test. "It feels like the right time for me to start stepping away. I feel very fortunate to have NZC's support in finding a solution that means I can still give to the WHITE FERNS," said Devine in a statement issued by New Zealand Cricket on Tuesday.

Devine's statement came ahead of the announcement of the 17 centrally contracted players by New Zealand Cricket (NZC) on Wednesday. She will remain available for T20I cricket on a "casual playing arrangement" but will not be centrally contracted.

"It's important that everyone knows I'm focused and dedi-

cated to giving this group everything I can before I step away. I'm really excited by where this young group's going and I'm looking forward to playing my part in the next six to nine months."

The 35-year-old is widely regarded as one of the most prolific all-rounders in women's cricket, having amassed 3990 runs from 152 ODIs at an average of 31.66 with the help of eight centuries

Her decision to retire after the ODI World Cup in India and Sri Lanka from September 30 to November 2 came after Devine took a break from cricket to prioritise her mental health in January. She will lead the team in the ODI World Cup in September.

Devine was permanent captain of the White Ferns in 2020, and has since led the team to new heights, including a bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in 2022 and a maiden ICC Women's T20 World Cup victory last year.

NZC's head of women's high performance Liz Green said Devine had the organisation's full support.

Tharindu Ratnayake takes two wickets on debut for Sri Lanka

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
Galle (Sri Lanka)

Offspinner Tharindu Ratnayake took two wickets in his test debut for Sri Lanka on Tuesday as Bangladesh struggled to 90 for three in the first session of the series.

Bangladesh won the toss and elected to bat in the first match of the new World Test Championship cycle but the morning session belonged to 29-year-old Ratnayake, who got his test cap after churning out wickets in the domestic circuit.

It was right-arm seamer Asitha Fernando who set the tone early. Still riding the bounce from a productive county stint with Glamorgan, he had Anamul Haque caught behind for a duck.

Then came Ratnayake, the ambidextrous bowler who can turn the ball both ways, and he made his mark in just his fourth over. Shadman Islam, with rigid feet and hands hard, poked at a delivery that spun away and only succeeded in feathering it to Dhananjaya de Silva at slip.

Ratnayake wasn't done yet. Mominul Haque, who had



been settling in nicely, edged a ball that bounced a shade more than expected. De Silva flew to his left and took a brilliant catch.

Just when Bangladesh appeared to be teetering, captain Najmul Hossain Shanto and the experienced Mushfiquur Rahim dug in. Their 45-run fourth-wicket stand helped steady the innings somewhat, but their work is far from done.

Mushfiquur, unbeaten on 20 at the lunch interval, has gone 13 innings without passing 50, a lean patch by his standards. Shanto looked

composed at the other end, stroking three boundaries and a six in his 25.

Sri Lanka also handed a first test cap to Lahiru Udara, the seasoned runscorer from the domestic arena, in what will be Angelo Mathews' 119th and last test match for his country.

The match at Galle is the first in the 2025-2027 cycle of the World Test Championship, starting just days after South Africa won the title for the first time with a victory over defending champion Australia at Lord's on the weekend.

Bumrah has excellent balance in delivery, says Stuart Broad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
Mumbai

Star India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah's ability to deceive batters and his excellent balance in delivery stride makes him the player to watch out for in the upcoming marquee Test series against England, feels fast bowling great Stuart Broad.

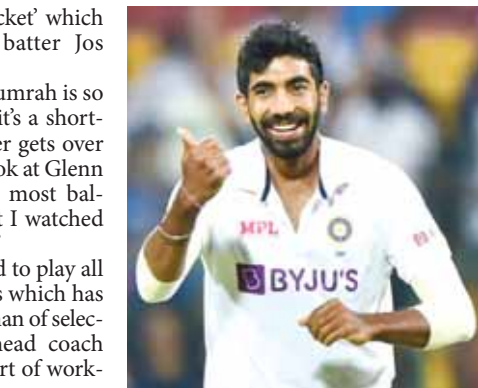
Broad compared Bumrah with the legendary Australia fast bowler Glenn McGrath in having the "most balanced delivery stride" in world cricket. "He (Bumrah) jogs in, you will be thinking 'this will be 70 miles an hour' and it hits you at 90 and you don't get a real flow. When I faced Shoaib Akhtar, he sprint in at a hundred miles an hour and delivered at a hundred miles an hour," Broad said in the pod-

cast 'For the Love of Cricket' which also featured England batter Jos Buttler.

"You were ready, but Bumrah is so balanced, in his run-up, it's a short-stride pattern, so he never gets over stride and of balance. I look at Glenn McGrath (who) had the most balanced delivery stride that I watched and Bumrah is the same."

Bumrah is not expected to play all the five-Tests of the series which has been confirmed by chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir as a part of workload management.

Broad, who took 604 wickets from 167 Tests before retiring in 2023, said Bumrah will take a "shedload of wickets" if he plays in all the five matches of the series starting in



Leeds on Friday.

"He is going to be certainly one to watch and certainly someone that England won't want to play five Tests, because if he does, he's going to pick

up a shedload of wickets, isn't he?"

"There was that great bit of play in Australia wherein he got in a scrap in the last over with (Sam) Konstas and (Usman) Khawaja was on strike. He nicked Khawaja off, got him out. He was screaming and roaring.

"He has definitely got that; every fast bowler has to have that emotion in him, but there is a real sharpness to his competitive spirit (and) that he has grown up in that (Virat) Kohli (captaincy) era."

Buttler said there isn't a bigger superstar in the touring Indian side than Bumrah. "I don't think there's a bigger star in that touring squad than Jasprit Bumrah," he said.

"But facing him, he creates awkward angles, the run-up is unique, the action is unique. I think it have seen

the side-ons (bowlers) but he delivers the ball from about a foot or even a bit more closer to the batsman than the average bowler so the ball feels quicker even than the pace he is actually bowling at."

Buttler said Bumrah's action could make one feel like a sitting target.

"For me as a right-hander, it always felt like it was coming in, but he could beat me on the outside, and you sort of find yourself in a horrible position, squared up and a bit of a sitting target," said the former England white-ball captain.

"He is a superstar bowler, and that's what you expect in international cricket, you are going to come up against great players and certainly someone England will need to play well to have good success," he said.

Hosting 2036 Olympics will be win-win for India in every aspect: MoS sports

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
New Delhi

India's bid to host the 2036 Olympics is not merely an attempt to make a statement internationally but also a well thought out plan to create world-class infrastructure, bolster the economy and tackle pressing social issues affecting the country's youth, says Minister of State for Sports Raksha Khadse.

In an exclusive interview, the 38-year-old three-time Lok Sabha MP from Maharashtra's Raver constituency, dismissed criticism from some quarters that the country needs to focus more on becoming a sporting powerhouse before aiming for something as expensive as hosting the Olympics.

"Preparing to host events like the 2036 Olympics or the 2030 Commonwealth Games is about creating world-class infrastructure, economic investment and legacy systems that directly benefit athlete development," she asserted in the interaction at her office here.

"Sports is also a way to deal with so many issues such as depression and even drug



Minister of State for Sports Raksha Khadse

FILE PHOTO

addiction. And keeping all this in mind, when you bring an event like the Olympics to the country, it becomes a galvanising force even socially. It creates a fitness movement of its own and enhances the output of a nation. It's a win-win for all," explained the deputy to union minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

India's bid to host the Games will pick up pace next month when a delegation

comprising officials from the sports ministry, and the Indian Olympic Association heads to Lausanne for discussions with the International Olympic Committee after submitting its letter of intent last year.

"There is no denying that by hosting an Olympics, we will make a statement. It's a sign that you are a developed country. But at the same time, it also gives the youth an opportunity to take the lead as

nation-builders."

To drive home the point that hosting the Games and developing Indian sports need not be seen in isolation, she cited the World Para-Athletics Championships in Delhi later this year because of which the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium is being renovated with a MondoTrack, the most advanced surface for track events currently in use globally.

"We are ensuring that every rupee spent has a long-term multiplier impact," Khadse, only the second woman and the youngest to be assigned the sports ministry, assured.

The 2024 Paris Olympics cost over \$9 billion while the upcoming 2028 Games in Los Angeles are estimated to require a spending of more than \$7 billion. More often than not, the projected cost exceeds the final expenses by a significant margin.

The 2016 Rio Summer Games have been the most expensive so far, costing \$23.6 billion. NSF's aligning with Ministry's vision

The ambitious Olympics bid would also require a cohesive administrative system to work seamlessly, but India's National Sports Federations (NSFs) have often been mired in turf wars and one-upmanship, leading to court cases that end up hurting the prospects of athletes.

Khadse said the ministry is focussing on accountability without compromising on autonomy of the administrators to ensure better coordination. "There should not be politics and athletes should be the focus, their growth should be

priority. The federations should have their autonomy but there should also be greater harmony between NSF's and the ministry," she said. "It is very important to achieve this given that we are aiming to host the 2036 Olympics. It would require a cohesive approach. The ministry, NSF's and the IOA cannot pull in different directions, their goal has to align," she added.

The ministry and the IOA have differed on the subject of autonomy.

IOA President PT Usha has stated that plans to have a regulatory body to oversee NSF functioning, as proposed by the draft sports bill, would undermine the IOA and be construed as government interference by the IOC.

"Mansukh bhai has spoken to all NSF's, and tried to understand their difficulties and issues. We are also working towards reducing litigation so that administration does not suffer. Our aim is to ensure that athletes get the best. The ministry is guiding the NSF's on this goal and they are responding positively to it."

Another thorny issue for Indian sports is the menace of

doping. The country continues to rank high in the global list of dope offenders and has struggled to tackle the problem despite increased awareness.

Khadse said while she supports penal action against those who encourage doping among minors, it is not prudent to criminalise it.

"Agreed that those doing it at the elite level are probably aware of the various aspects of doping but those who are at a much junior level or have not reached the elite level are not as aware. They buy things without realising the consequences or on the advice of coaches," she pointed out.

"The recently amended National Anti-Doping Act, 2022 already empowers the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) with legal authority and investigative powers similar to law enforcement bodies.

"We want to start Compulsory Anti-Doping Education for athletes, coaches, and parents as well as randomised testing at State and Junior Levels. Those who facilitate drugs or doping to minors should be penalised under a strict law," she said.

Pataudi Medal for India-England series' winning captain

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
New Delhi

The Pataudi name will remain a part of the India-England cricket rivalry with the winning captain of the upcoming five-Test series set to be presented with a medal named after the royal family that has a rich connect with the game in both countries.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Sarita Devi, wife of Ashok Kumar Prajapati, Village-Nathpur, P.S. Sarango, Thana- Ghaghra, District-Gumla, Jharkhand. That in my daughter's Aadhaar card number- 3846 8807 6454, by mistake the name ARPIT and date of birth- 24.01.2015 has been recorded, which is wrong. That I am editing this affidavit to correct the above Aadhar card of my daughter and enter the name ARPITA KUMARI (Arpita Kumari) and date of birth- 26.01.2015. Vide affidavit no. 18949, dated- 17 June 2025.