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Four tigers found dead in Karnataka

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Bengaluru

In what has emerged as one of the most alarming wildlife incidents in recent years, four tigers-including an adult tigress and her four cubs-were found dead in a single day in Karnataka. The incident has sent shockwaves across conservation circles, wildlife departments, and policy forums, sparking calls for urgent action as well as introspection.

The carcasses were discovered in the Hoogyam Range of the Male Mahadeshwara Hills Wildlife Division, Chamarajanagar circle-a region long regarded as critical tiger habitat. Karnataka, home to 563 tigers according to the last All India Tiger Estimation, is often lauded as a flagship success story of Project Tiger. Yet this very success comes with its own complexities: as populations recover and densities rise, tigers inevitably move beyond protected area boundaries into human-dominated landscapes, where the risks of conflict, poisoning, and electrocution are all heightened.

Initial field assessments suggest that at least some of the deaths may have been caused by electrocution from illegal fencing or power lines, while others could be linked to deliberate poisoning. However, the precise causes will only be confirmed after detailed postmortemand forensic analysis.

Taking serious note of the matter, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) issued an Office Memorandum dated June 26, 2025, constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the circumstances comprehensively. The SIT comprises Harini V, Assistant Inspector General (NTCA), Regional Office Bengaluru, and Thenmozhi V, Additional Inspector General of Forests, Regional Deputy Director (South Region) of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau.

Student raped by seniors in Kolkata law college

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

In this combo of three pictures, the accused who were arrested in connection with the alleged 'gang-rape' of a first-year student of a law college in south Kolkata, being produced at a city court, in Kolkata PTI

The Kolkata Police in the small hours of Friday arrested Manojit Mishra a Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad leader and a newly graduated lawyer on charges of raping one of his juniors inside the guard room of the South Calcutta Law College, barely 500 metres from the Kasba Police Station. Mishra is a student leader, allegedly serving as a link between the college and the TMC leadership.

Apart from Manojit police arrested two of his associates Pratim Mukherjee and Jahid Ahmed, both third year students, who stood guard at, when Mishra committed the dastardly act.

They were on Friday produced before the Alipore Police Court where they were remanded to four days' police custody.

The incident took place late on Wednesday evening, sources said. "She was called by her seniors in the college at about 12 in the noon - all in the name of helping him in out on some issues," sources in the police quoting the victim said.

"Inside the Union Room she was first proposed marriage by the accused. When she spurned the offer saying she already had a boyfriend, she was further made to sit till 8 in the evening. She was first molested by Monojit near the washroom. When she resisted he beat him up. She went into a panic attack and had to be stabilised with an inhaler," sources quoting her complaint said adding, "After her condition improved she was raped by the accused while the two other students stood guard outside. She was also asked not to reveal the matter outside failing, which her parents would be framed in false cases and her boyfriend would be murdered."

Noida horror: Elderly locked up in dungeons

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

In a shocking and deeply disturbing incident, at least 42 elderly people were rescued from an "illegal" old-age home after a police raid at the institution found living in inhuman and abusive conditions. Some women tied up and many of the residents holed up in "basement-like" rooms without clothes. While most of the elderly men were not wearing clothes, the women were given partial clothing. Many of them were found with urine-stained or feces-stained clothes.

A joint team of the Uttar Pradesh State Women Commission (UPSWC), Noida Police, the Social Welfare Department, and the District Probation Welfare Department carried out a surprise inspection, found the old-age home was found in a deplorable condition and subsequently sealed the premises. The rescue operation was launched after a disturbing video surfaced on social media, showing an elderly woman tied up inside the facility.

A video of the poor state of the old-age home, which went viral, was also recently sent to the Social Welfare Department of Lucknow. The short clip showed an elderly woman kept in a room with her hands tied. Soon after, the State Women's Commission and the Noida police raided the home on Thursday and rescued 39 senior citizens.

When the officials reached the spot, they found many elderly people tied up in their clothes and locked in rooms. Meenakshi Bharala, a women's commission member, said the Anand Niketan Vridha Seva Ashram at C-5, Sector 55, Noida was an illegal old-age home.

> During the raid, an elderly woman was found tied up while other elderly people were locked in basement-like rooms
> — MEENAKSHI BHARALA, A WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEMBER

"During the raid, an elderly woman was found tied up while other elderly people were locked in basement-like rooms," she said. Some men were found locked in rooms resembling basements, many without clothes. Women were also found barely dressed. It felt like they were living in conditions worse than hell," Bharala said.

This old age home is completely illegal. There were 42 elderly people living in the ashram, out of which three elderly people will be shifted to an old-age home run by the social welfare department on Friday and the rest will be shifted to other Government-approved old-age homes in the next five days, she added. Bharala said the old-age home will be sealed with the help of the administration.

Additionally, officials found there was no proper staff to take care of the senior citizens.

During the inspection, it was revealed that there were no qualified medical or caregiving staff on duty.

India rejects arbitration ruling on IWT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

India has rejected a Court of Arbitration ruling that issued a "supplemental award" on its competence concerning the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir. The dams are being built on the Indus river system, and the development came after India had paused the Indus Waters Treaty following the Pahalgam terror attack in April.

Calling the move a "charade at Pakistan's behest," India called the ruling another desperate attempt by Pakistan to escape accountability for its role as the global epicentre of terrorism.

> Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that India never recognised the existence of the Court of Arbitration

A statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that India never recognised the existence in law of the so-called Court of Arbitration and that the body is in itself a violation of the Indus Waters Treaty, a key water-sharing agreement between India and Pakistan, which was brokered by the World Bank and consequently any proceedings before this forum and any award or decision taken by it are also for that reason illegal and per se void.

"Today, the illegal Court of Arbitration, purportedly constituted under the Indus Waters Treaty 1960, albeit in brazen violation of it, has issued what it characterises as a 'supplemental award' on its competence concerning the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects in the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir," it said.

The ByStander

India-China discuss de-escalation, border row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi/Qingdao(China)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a meeting with Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dong Jun on the sidelines of the SCO Defence Ministers Meeting, in Qingdao PTI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has proposed that the lingering border dispute between India and China should be solved under a structured roadmap comprising steps to deescalate tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and rejuvenate the existing mechanism to demarcate the borders.

He mooted these suggestions to his Chinese counterpart Admiral Dong Jun during bilateral talks on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conclave in Qingdao, China on Thursday. The talks were held with a focus on maintaining peace and tranquility at the LAC.

Rajnath Singh said both the countries should solve the "complex issues" under a structured roadmap comprising steps to de-escalate tensions along the frontiers and rejuvenate the existing mechanism to demarcate the borders. He emphasised the need to create "good neighbourly conditions" to achieve the best mutual benefits and called for "taking action on the ground" to bridge the "trust deficit" resulting from the 2020 eastern Ladakh border standoff, according to an Indian readout.

Rajnath Singh also briefed Dong on the Pahalgam terror attack targeting innocent civilians, and India's Operation Sindoor to dismantle the terrorist networks in Pakistan, the defence ministry said in New Delhi.

The two ministers agreed to continue consultations at various levels to achieve progress on issues related to disengagement, de-escalation, border management and eventual delimitation through existing mechanisms, it said. The meeting came amid efforts by both New Delhi and Beijing to reset their ties following an understanding last October to end the military standoff along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

In a social media post, Rajnath Singh described the talks with Dong as "constructive". "We had a constructive and forward-looking exchange of views on issues pertaining to bilateral relations. Expressed my happiness on the restarting of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra after a gap of nearly six years," he said.

"It is incumbent on both sides to maintain this positive momentum and avoid adding new complexities in the bilateral relationship," he added.

The defence ministry said both the leaders held in-depth discussions on the need to maintain peace and tranquility along the Indo-China border.

It said Rajnath Singh acknowledged the work being undertaken by both sides to bring back a semblance of normalcy in the bilateral relations.

"He highlighted the necessity of solving the complex issues through a structured roadmap of permanent engagement and de-escalation," it said in the readout.

FILE PHOTO

90-day mediation camps across India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

To settle pending cases across the nation, National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) to start 90 day long pan India mediation campaign titled 'Mediation for the Nation'. Mediations will start from July 1 and continue till September 30. The campaign has been conceptualised under the guidance of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice Surya Kant, who is also the Executive Chairman of the NALSA and Mediation and Conciliation Project Committee (MCPC).

"Mediation for Nation campaign is being launched across India to settle the pending cases and make people believe that mediation as a mechanism for dispute resolution is peoples' friendly, cost effective and speedy with ability to save relationships, time and money", said NALSA and MCPC in a joint statement.

"This Special Pan India Mediation campaign begins on July 1 and it will continue till September 30. It is being organised with the objectives to settle suitable matters pending in the Courts right from the Taluka Courts to the High Courts of India and taking mediation to every nook and corner of the country as people's friendly mode of dispute resolution", said the statement.

High alert in J and K

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

With the annual Amarnath Yatra set to commence on July 3, security forces in Jammu and Kashmir are on high alert, intensifying search operations in the Bihali area of Basantgarh, Udhampur district, to neutralise a group of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists.

One highly trained JeM terrorist, identified as Haider, alias Maulvi, from Pakistan, was killed in a fierce encounter with security forces on Thursday, while three of his associates remain trapped in the dense, forested terrain of the Basantgarh belt.

The dead body of the terrorist could not be retrieved from the encounter site on Thursday due to adverse weather conditions in the upper reaches.

Despite challenging weather conditions, including incessant rain and dense fog, which temporarily halted the operation late Thursday evening, the search operations resumed on Friday morning.

Security forces have deployed advanced drones, sniffer dogs, and additional reinforcements to tighten the cordon and eliminate the remaining three terrorists, who are believed to be heavily armed and trained in jungle warfare.

MP CM motorcade stranded at night over adulterated fuel

GIRISH SHARMA ■ Bhopal

A motorcade arranged to take Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to an industrial conclave in Ratlam, faced an unexpected and troubling setback late on Thursday night, 15 hours before the event was scheduled to begin.

The convoy, consisting of 19 SUVs, was stranded just meters from a petrol pump in Dosigaon after adulterated diesel, mixed with water, was filled into the vehicles. This caused widespread panic among the officials and raised serious concerns over the situation.

The convoy was part of the arrangements made to take CM Yadav, who was expected to arrive by air in Ratlam on Friday for the much-anticipated industrial conclave. However, the vehicles ground to a halt shortly after refueling at Bharat Petrol Pump, rendering them immobile and unable to proceed further.

> The convoy was part of the arrangements made to take CM Yadav, who was expected to arrive by air in Ratlam on Friday

The officials reached the spot confirmed that the vehicles had been filled with diesel mixed with water into the vehicles at Bharat Petrol Pump. As a result, the vehicles got stranded, and repairs were immediately initiated. A driver, Shubham Parmar, who was part of the convoy, expressed his shock, saying, "It's unprecedented to find water in diesel, and this caused an immediate breakdown of the vehicles."

Mechanics worked throughout the night, with fuel tanks being removed and emptied, and repairs were carried out under intense pressure to get the convoy operational again. Despite the technical setbacks, authorities quickly arranged alternative vehicles to ensure the Chief Minister's convoy could be transported from the airstrip to the industrial conclave venue in time.

However, questions have arisen regarding how such a situation occurred in the first place.

No fuel, fines soon for overage vehicles in Capital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Anti-smog gun is used to spray water droplets to curb air pollution

Brace yourself for long queues and chaos from July 1 at fuel stations. Beginning next month, fuel stations are prohibited from dispensing fuel to diesel vehicles older than ten years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years, regardless of their State of registration. This measure is aimed at reducing air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Given the challenge of implementing this strict measure, Delhi Transport Department, Delhi Police and Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)on Friday held a meeting to ensure smooth roll out.

Vehicle owners found violating the regulation will face strict penalties with a fine of ₹10,000 for four-wheelers and ₹5,000 for two-wheelers, in addition to towing and parking charges. Additionally, owners will be required to sign an undertaking stating that the vehicle will no longer be used or parked in any public place in Delhi and will be removed from the National Capital Territory. According to officials, End-of-life vehicles detected at fuel stations or found parked at public places will be impounded and a penalty of ₹10,000 imposed on four-wheeler owners and ₹5,000 on two-wheeler owners starting July 1.

As per the VAHAN database, Delhi alone has over 62 lakh End-of-Life vehicles, including 41 lakh two-wheelers and 18 lakh four-wheelers.

BIS urges industries to align with new certification norms

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In a significant move to strengthen the culture of quality and standardization among regional industries, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jamshedpur Branch Office, organised an Industry Meet-cum-Sensitization Programme on Friday at Bistupur.

The event drew an impressive turnout, with 110 industry representatives from across sectors gathering to discuss the expanding ambit of mandatory BIS certification and the roadmap for compliance.

The programme was inaugurated by Kunal Kumar, Director and Head of BIS Jamshedpur Branch Office, who underlined the urgency for industries—both uncertified and partially certified—to align with national standards. He informed participants that over 750 products are now covered under mandatory certification, spanning categories such as Cast Iron, Aluminium, Copper, Footwear, Toys, Electrical Appliances, and Furniture, for which compliance will be obligatory from next year.

"Quality control and standardization are not just regulatory requirements; they are essential for consumer safety, market credibility, and long-term business sustainability," he said, while also encouraging attendees to watch BIS's weekly 'Standard Watch' bulletin to stay updated. The gathering was graced by special guests Braj Bihari Prasad, Quality Head, Tube Division, Tata Steel Ltd., and Santokh Singh, Vice President, Adityapur Small Scale Industrial Area Association.

Sharing Tata Steel's experience, Prasad highlighted the company's collaborative journey with BIS and pledged support to MSMEs seeking guidance on compliance. "Tata Steel is ready to help regional industries adopt Quality Control Orders smoothly," he assured.

Santokh Singh called upon non-licensee manufacturers, particularly in Cast Iron and Ferro Alloys, to secure their BIS licences promptly amid tightening regulatory frameworks.

The technical sessions were highly informative and interactive: Kaushalendra Kumar, Scientist-E, presented an overview of BIS's role, certification schemes, and the broader benefits of standardization. Prabhunath Yadav, Scientist-D, detailed how to identify products under mandatory certification, navigate the licensing procedure, and use the Manakonline portal—demonstrating the application process live. Dilip Chattar, Scientist-D, outlined licensing guidelines, terms, and conditions applicable to manufacturers.

Participants engaged enthusiastically, raising queries on certification timelines, testing protocols, and fee structures. Around ten industry representatives confirmed their intent to apply for BIS certification in the immediate future, reflecting the programme's impact.

Among the key topics discussed were the ISI Mark licensing process, the role and functions of BIS, and the importance of aligning production practices with sustainability-focused standards.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks, with organisers and participants alike describing it as a timely and constructive step toward reinforcing quality culture in the region's industrial landscape.

Vatsalyam-2 organised at SBPS

PNS : RANCHI

Sarala Birla Public School, Ranchi, celebrated Vatsalyam 2025-Grandparents Day with great enthusiasm, on the theme 'Empoweria – The Saga of Indian Women', along with the auspicious Rath Yatra Celebration. The event was marked by vibrant performances and heartfelt tributes by the students of Std. I, who showcased tales of courage, devotion, and leadership by great Indian women. Prof. (Dr.) Gopal Pathak, Director General, Sarala Birla University graced the occasion with his dignified presence.

The celebration began with a warm welcome, followed by a spirited Rath Yatra Celebration and a live Welcome Song & Dance, setting a devotional and energetic tone. The Annual Report was presented by the Vice Head Boy, highlighting the school's achievements. The students who exhibited phenomenal performance in the board examination of 2025 were also felicitated and their success stories were shared. The performances by the tiny tots reflected the valour of iconic women in Indian history. Students narrated and enacted Meera Bai's devotion towards Shri Krishna, Naiki Devi's courage, Rani Rashmoni's contributions, Jija Bai's leadership, Rani Gaidinliu's patriotism and Mata Bhago's bravery. These were followed by a special performance celebrating Rath Yatra and season of Sawan, filling the atmosphere with tradition and festivity. The event concluded with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks, the School Song, and the National Anthem.

Prof. (Dr.) Gopal Pathak, Director General, Sarala Birla University expressed his gratitude for being invited on the pious occasion of Rath Yatra and Vatsalyam. He also emphasised on character building and shaping personalities which are combined responsibilities of the parents and the teachers to nurture the students. It shapes the next generation and helps them to continue the legacy left behind by the brave women of our nation.

Principal, Paramjit Kaur, appreciated the efforts of the young students and teachers for bringing alive the stories of India's brave daughters. She emphasized the importance of instilling values of courage, devotion, and service among children from a young age. She encouraged the students to be thankful to those who shape their characters by correcting their mistakes. They do so because they care for them and want them to be a perfect version of themselves.

AUTHORITIES KEEP A KEEN EYE ON 'SILLI TIGER' IN PTR

PNS : DALTONGANJ

The Silli tiger is the latest cynosure of all. Its movement is under close monitoring. All positive feelings are that this tiger plays a major role here instead of just making a guest appearance.

The rescued cum released male adult tiger had a 'cool and calm first day' in the Palamu tiger reserve.

It sat and watched perhaps to reassure itself that it's in no alien land but in a familiar habitat where last year it had had a long stint here in the PTR.

"It spent its day sitting in the bushes and shrubs." said the deputy director south division of PTR Kumar Ashish.

"We got the information that leopards have begun to avoid going to the location where this tiger is," he added.

Leopards immediately withdraw and disengage themselves where the tiger comes.

On being asked as to how long this tiger will be living here in the PTR to which this officer said "It's a big question. We are also cross fingered. There is no guarantee that it will not push off from here to some other destination."

A tiger's push off is hastened by either deficient prey base, human disturbance or poor water availability to which Ashish said "There is a definite prey base. It's another thing that cattle that intrude to the jungles of the PTR for grazing also double up as our prey base. So we can't say there is any deficiency in the prey base."

As for human disturbance PTR's trackers and guards are 24 x7 working here to minimise it to the last extent.

PTR has an abundance of water. Its water holes and check dams are bursting with water.

Again asked as there is no tigress here in the PTR so the male tiger goes out of this reserve in frustration and dejection. "Very rightly pointed out. There is no tigress here. A male tiger feels bad and frustrated not to find a tigress around." the PTR officer said. PTR needs at least two tigresses. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has to salvage the PTR running sans any tigress over the last twenty or more years. NTCA does permit translocation of tigers from one reserve to another. There is a very strict SoP for it.

122nd ACVOs Meet begins at SAIL corporate office

CMD Amarendu Prakash stresses proactive vigilance

PNS : BOKARO

The 122nd Meeting of Associate Chief Vigilance Officers (ACVOs) of SAIL began at the company's Corporate Office in New Delhi. Held over two days (26–27 June), the meet brings together ACVOs from across SAIL plants and units to review and strengthen vigilance mechanisms within the organization.

SAIL Chairman and Managing Director Amarendu Prakash addressed the inaugural session, emphasizing that vigilance is not just about detection but prevention. He urged officers to act as facilitators of transparency, plug systemic loopholes, and serve as agents of positive change. He also highlighted the importance of educating employees to avoid vigilance-related lapses and promote a culture of integrity.

The meet, conducted under the guidance of SAIL's Chief Vigilance Officer, includes deliberations on vigilance practices, reviews of ongoing initiatives, and discussions aimed at enhancing ethical governance and accountability across all units.

BLOOD DONATION CAMP ORGANISED IN BOKARO

PNS : BOKARO

Reinforcing its commitment to community welfare, ESL Steel Ltd., in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society (Bokaro Chapter) and Citizens Foundation, organized a voluntary Blood Donation Camp at the Occupational Health Centre, Bokaro. The initiative was held under "V for Society", Vedanta ESL's employee volunteering programme. The camp witnessed participation from 60 volunteers, including ESL employees, business partners, and local citizens. Chief guest Kunal Daripa, Head CSR, ESL, was joined by dignitaries Suresh Kumar Bhudiya (Head, Disaster Management), D. N. Choubey (Chairman, Red Cross Bokaro), and Dr. Praveen Pitta, Chief Medical Officer, ESL. Kunal Daripa highlighted the power of collective effort in building a compassionate society. Dr. Pitta appreciated the volunteers, noting that blood donation reflects ESL's broader commitment to inclusive growth. The Red Cross Society ensured safe and supervised collection, while the Citizens Foundation, active across Jharkhand and other states, co-hosted the event. The camp marks another step in Vedanta ESL's vision of "Transforming for Good."

Admin cracks whip against illicit liquor in Garhwa

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

A major crackdown on illegal country liquor was carried out in Jarhi village of DandaI block on Friday. Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Sanjay Kumar, along with DandaI police station in-charge Animesh Shantikary, led a comprehensive search and raid operation in the area. During the raid, two active illegal liquor distilleries, resembling small-scale factories, were found in operation. Both were dismantled on the spot with assistance from local police personnel. Additionally, the team discovered raw materials, liquor-making equipment, and a gallon of prepared liquor stored in the basement of a house. All of it was destroyed on-site. The SDO instructed the Excise Department and local police to take consistent and stringent action, as frequent complaints have been received regarding illegal liquor production and sale in Jarhi. He noted that substance abuse is a persistent challenge to maintaining law and order. He also issued a warning to local elected representatives (Mukhiya) and village watchmen (Chowkidars), stating that if organized liquor manufacturing units are found in any village under their jurisdiction, they too would be held accountable. He emphasized their duty to report such criminal activities to the police and administration.

Rath Yatra celebrated with fervour in Lohardaga

VINOD PRASAD : LOHARDAGA

A huge crowd of devotees, full of religious sentiments, gathered in various Jagannath Dhams of the district on Friday for the Rath Yatra of Mahaprabhu Jagannath, Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra. Mahaprabhu Jagannath reached Mausibari from Dham riding on the chariot. All the rituals including worship, aarti were performed by Mahant Ram Naresh Sharan of Ayodhya Lal Saheb Darbar, Mahant Om Prakash Sharan of Shri Ram Janaki Tapovan Temple, priest of Thakurbari Temple Mohan Das, Manoj Das, Ayodhya Das, Sarvesh Pathak, Piyush Sharan, Aditya Goswami etc. on the chariot that started from Shri Shri 1008 Shri Jagannath Mahaprabhu Thakurbari Temple.

During this time, there was a continuous flow of devotees in the Jagannath temples from the city to the rural areas. On the day of Rath Yatra, special worship of the deities was done in Jagannath Dhams and Mausibari. The Rath Yatra started from Thakurbari located in Gudri Bazaar of the city, which reached Mausibari via Mahavir Temple, East Gola Road. Rath Yatra started from three Jagannath Dhams Thakurbari, Tetartar and Tiwari Dura temple in the city, which reached Mausibari via various squares and intersections of the urban area. On the day of Rath Yatra, thousands of male and female devotees reached Thakurbari temple located in Gudri Bazaar and took darshan of Lord Jagannath, Balabhadra and Subhadra. Special arrangements were made by the temple management for the Rath Yatra. Thousands of people participated in the historic Rath Yatra organized in Bhandra block. The grand Rath Yatra of the Lord started from Thakurbari located near the police station premises, which concluded by reaching Mausibari located in Akhileshwar Dham temple.

Grand Rath Yatra organised with devotion in Bokaro

R SHARMA : BOKARO

The steel city of Bokaro witnessed a grand and spiritually vibrant Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath, celebrated with traditional rituals and community participation. The procession began from the Jagannath Temple at Janvrit-4, where the deities were ceremonially brought out and placed on the chariot after devotional puja.

BSL Director In-Charge Birendra Kumar Tiwari performed the sacred Chera Panhara ritual, symbolizing humility and service. The event was graced by senior BSL executives including Chitta Ranjan Mohapatra, Suresh Rangani, Rajashree Banerjee, Vikas Manvati, and C. R. Mishra.

The Rath Yatra passed through key locations including Bokaro General Hospital, Gandhi Chowk, Pattharkatta Chowk, and Ram Mandir Chowk, drawing large crowds of devotees who took turns pulling the chariot.

Notably Bokaro Mahila Samiti, led by President Anita Tiwari, provided refreshments such as water, sherbet, and sweets along the route. Committee members including Alka Manvati, Devjani Mishra, and others actively participated and are now preparing for the return journey of the deities.

THE 'HEARTIST' I'LL NEVER FORGET: MY TIME WITH SAUMITRA CHATURVEDI OF NOVOTEL NEW DELHI CITY CENTRE

BY ANTARA MOHAN

If a hotel were a living being, its walls breathing stories, its corridors pulsing with quiet energy, then the General Manager would be its heart. At Novotel New Delhi City Centre, that heart beats with steady warmth and quiet strength, embodied in one remarkable man: Saumitra Chaturvedi.

Some people build careers with meticulous plans. Others find their calling by happy accident. Chaturvedi humbly calls himself an "accidental hotelier," Yet his journey reads more like a story of fate, talent, and a deep love for people. Having worked with some of the most prestigious hospitality brands for the likes of Taj Hotels, The Leela, Hyatt, and Radisson, he has spent over two decades strategizing seamless guest experiences, building efficient teams, and learning the inner workings of hotelier life from the ground up.

What struck me most wasn't just his experience though impressive, but how deeply he reflects on the why behind what he does. He shared how the hospitality industry is ever-evolving. From traditional room keys to sleek key cards, from manual systems to tech-driven operations, the world of hotels keeps changing. But through all these upgrades, one thing remains unchanged, the human connection. In every decision, interaction, and moment of challenge, he leads not with authority, but with empathy, also where his favourite word comes in, The Heartist inspired by Accor's 'People first, always' initiative. A heartist is more than a hotel professional. It's someone who blends heart and artistry, serving not just guests, but colleagues and oneself, with sensitivity and soul.

This philosophy has shaped how he manages stress, especially in an industry where long hours and high stakes can strain team dynamics. When tensions arise between departments, he doesn't rush to control or correct. He pauses, listens, talks it out, always reminding others not to take things personally. For the younger generation stepping into hospitality, his advice is golden: Don't carry emotional baggage. Be open. Be kind. Be curious! During our conversation, I saw a rare mix of humility and self-awareness. He reflected on how far hospitality has come—from room keys to smart apps, from formalities to personalisation—but also how the essence remains unchanged: making people feel seen, welcomed, and cared for. It's not something that can be trained; it has to be lived.

Chaturvedi doesn't just preach us this but he also lives it. He has led by example throughout his time at Accor, where he steadily rose from Director of Food & Beverage to General Manager. In 2018, he completed the International Hospitality Management Program (IHMP), a prestigious leadership course designed to shape the future heads of global hotels. Even now, he continues to learn every day, believing that humility is a strength and growth is a lifelong commitment. His love for cricket brought a beautiful metaphor into our conversation. For him, cricket isn't just a game, it's a way of life. It teaches teamwork, timing, patience, and sportsmanship, qualities essential not just on the pitch but in running a hotel, leading people, and managing crises with calmness.

Before we ended the light hearted conversation, he invited me to stay with the hotel and experience its hospitality, on my very next trip to New Delhi. Those words meant more than he might ever know. Because in today's world, the one thing we all crave is genuine human connection, someone who truly sees you and makes you feel at home. Chaturvedi is not just a hotelier. Not just a GM. He is a heartist, and for me, the one I'll never forget.

The Pioneer
RANCHI | SATURDAY | JUNE, 28 , 2025

Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath celebrated with fervour in Ranchi

Priests perform rituals during Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra at Jagannath Temple in Ranchi on Friday. PNS

PNS : RANCHI

On the auspicious occasion of Rath Yatra, a crowd of devotees gathered at the historic Jagannath temple in Dhurwa on Friday. The grand Rath Yatra(Chariot) of Lord Jagannath, his brother Lord Balabhadra and sister Goddess Subhadra was taken out from the temple premises. Thousands of devotees reached the temple to pull the chariot and have darshan of the Lord filling the area with devotion and spiritual energy. A crowd of devotees started gathering on the temple premises this morning. As soon as the doors of the temple were opened at the scheduled time, the idol of Lord Garuda was first brought out of the temple in the afternoon. After this, Lord Balabhadra, Goddess Subhadra and Lord Jagannath were brought out by the priests with special rituals. Amid the sound of drums, bhera and conch, all the three idols were duly seated on the chariot with the cheers of the devotees. A huge chariot was standing about 200 meters away from the temple, where the idols of the Lord were taken to the chariot and installed amid the cheers of the devotees and the echo of traditional music. There was chanting of mantras and special worship for about an hour. After this, as soon as the Rath Yatra started, the sky resonated with the slogans of 'Jai Jagannath' and thousands of devotees marched towards Mausibari. Special enthusiasm was seen among the devotees about pulling the chariot. Many devotees were seen pulling the chariot barefoot. Seva camps were set up at various places along the Yatra route. Where water, sherbet and prasad were distributed to the devotees. On reaching Mausibari, the Lord was welcomed with special worship and aarti. Here all the three idols will rest for a week and then return to the temple again on July 6.

The Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath in the capital Ranchi (Jagannath Rath Yatra 2025) is a very important festival from a historical and religious point of view. This Rath Yatra is organized on the lines of the world famous Jagannath Rath Yatra held in Puri, Odisha and its tradition is more than 334 years old. It is the second largest Rath Yatra in India.

Jagannathpur temple situated on Nilanchal hill in Dhurva area of Ranchi is a symbol of religious faith, historical pride and social harmony of Jharkhand. Established in 1691 AD by Nagavanshi king Aninath Shahdev, this temple is not just a place of worship, but a heritage that keeps alive the tribal culture of Jharkhand, the vision of Nagavanshi rule and inclusive traditions even today. This temple is built on the lines of Puri Jagannath temple of Odisha, but its soul is deeply connected to the soil and folk traditions of Jharkhand.

CM WISHES FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF STATE

PNS : RANCHI

Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who is in Delhi due to ill health of his father Shibu Soren sent a video message through social media and said that he could not attend the holy Rath Yatra due to illness of his father. However, he wished for peace and prosperity for the people of the State from Lord Jagganath on the occasion. He said that Lord Jagannath shall fulfil the aspirations of people of the State and keep them in peace and provide contentment.

Devotees accept 'Prasad' during Lord Jagannath Rath Yatra at Jagannath Temple in Ranchi on Friday. PNS

JMM, CONG, BJP LEADERS WISH SHIBU SOREN'S SPEEDY RECOVERY

Soren is admitted in Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi since June 19

PNS : RANCHI

Former Jharkhand chief minister Shibu Soren has been hospitalised in a private hospital in the national capital for the past week, sources said.

Soren, 81, is receiving treatment at the Ganga Ram Hospital, a source said, adding that it is not just a routine check-up, as he has been admitted for the past three days. He is currently stable, the source added. As soon as the news of Shibu Soren's ill health was received, the President of the country Draupadi Murmu on Thursday reached the hospital. She met 'Dishom Guru' Shibu Soren and enquired about his health and wished him a speedy recovery. During this, Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife Kalpana Soren were also present there.

On Friday, senior leaders from JMM and Congress went to Delhi to enquire about Soren's health. Congress leader and Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari, Jharkhand Congress co-incharge Siri Bela, RJD leader and Labour Minister Sanjay Prasad Yadav left for Delhi from Deoghar Airport on Friday. Before leaving for Delhi, Health Minister Irfan Ansari said that the creator of Jharkhand Shibu Soren is unwell. He said that our state in-charge K. Raju was having a meeting. During this, the state in-charge said that you all should go to Delhi immediately and update about Shibu Soren's health. He said that Shibu Soren is the guardian of all of us. Therefore, we have a responsibility towards

him. That is why we are going to Delhi to know about his condition.

It is worth noting that former Chief Minister of Jharkhand and currently Rajya Sabha MP Shibu Soren is admitted in Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi since June 19, where he is being treated under the leadership of Dr. A.K. Bhalla, head of the Nephrology Department in the hospital. The hospital administration says that his condition is stable. A team of specialist doctors is taking care of him.

BJP state president and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Babulal Marandi also wished Shibu Soren for his speedy recovery. He said that BJP leaders are worried about former Chief Minister Shibu Soren's health. "I pray to God for his speedy recovery and long life," Marandi tweeted.

On the other hand, regarding Guruji's health, Bharatiya Janata Party's state spokesperson Pradeep Sinha said that Shibu Soren is not only the former Chief Minister of the state and currently a Rajya Sabha MP, but he is also the head of the coordination committee of the Jharkhand government, in such a situation, the government, PIB should issue an authorized medical bulletin regarding his health. He said that people are worried about Guruji's health, so people are going to meet him. In such a situation, if no information is given from the government level, then people will fall prey to misunderstanding. Therefore, the government or PIB should issue a medical bulletin regarding his current condition.

State-of-the-art mammography machine to be installed in Sadar Hospital on June 30

Breast cancer will be detected through the machine provided by Rotary club

PNS : RANCHI

Giving top priority to women's health, Rotary Club Ranchi will install a state-of-the-art digital mammography machine - Venus DRV Plus in Sadar Hospital Ranchi on June 30.

In a press conference held at Rotary Club Ranchi on Friday, club spokesperson Praveen Rajgarhia said that this machine is being installed by Rotary Club of Ranchi under its Project Arogyaam - Battling Breast Cancer. It has also received support from Rotary Club Suwon-Nosong D-3750 of South Korea. The cost of the machine is around Rs 45 lakh. Rotary Club Ranchi President Gaurav Bagroy said that this digital mammography machine will be inaugurated on June 30, 2025. After the installation of the machine, the facility of breast cancer screening will be available at a very low rate in Sadar Hospital. The beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Yojana will get this service completely free of cost. The aim of this initiative is not just to install a machine but to encourage women to get tested on time and spread awareness about breast cancer. He informed that the machine will be inaugurated by the chief guest DG Rotarian Bipin Chachan, First Lady Rotarian Shilpi Chachan, Civil Surgeon Ranchi Dr. Prabhat Kumar.

He said that Sadar Hospital, Ranchi is not only the main health center of the district headquarters but is also a lifeline for the surrounding rural areas. Our aim is that every needy patient gets quality medical facility on time. Therefore, Rotary Ranchi has decided to install the machine in Sadar Hospital Ranchi keeping in view the interest of the common people. Rotary Ranchi will also organize a training program for mammography machine for the doctors and para-medical staff working in Sadar Hospital along with the maintenance of the machine for three consecutive years.

Women above 40 years of age have a higher risk of breast cancer. Detection of cancer in the early stage not only makes treatment easier but can also save lives. Mammography is an effective technique. It can detect even the smallest lump, tissue change or abnormal structure, that too before clinical symptoms appear. This facility will contribute significantly in the early detection and prevention of breast cancer.

The state-of-the-art mammography Venus DVR Plus has many features. It is based on Full Field Digital Mammography (FFDM) technology. Its smart AEC technology gives the exact amount of X-ray dose to the patient as per the requirement. It gives high quality imaging-image on the screen in just 10 seconds. There are specially designed compression paddles for low pressure and painless examination. Clear identification facility is available even in dense breast tissue.

Rotarians are contributing to install this machine worth Rs 45 lakh. The main ones among them are Bipin Chachan, Suresh Sabu, Vinod Saraogi, Ravinder Singh Chaddha, Sumit Agarwal, Ramesh Dharnidharka, Lalit Tripathi, Pawan Jaiswal, Aditya Malhotra, Rajesh Nath Shahdev, Sandeep Munjal, Khyaati Munjal, Ajay Sabu, Jasdeep Singh, Sudha Dhandhania, Deepak Shrivastava, Girish Agarwal, Harminder Singh, Rajat Behal, Aastha Behal, Ashwani Gupta, Gaurav Bagroy, Praveen Rajgarhia.

Chatra achieves top ranking in Aspirational District Program

District to get a reward of Rs 10 crore from NITI Aayog

PNS : RANCHI

According to the Delta Ranking of March 2025 in the online review meeting organized by NITI Aayog, Chatra district has performed remarkably and secured first place among the 112 aspiring districts of the country. This achievement is the result of joint efforts, innovations and effective implementation of schemes of the district administration and various departments.

This information was shared by NITI Aayog through an online meeting on Friday, in which the multidimensional progress of Chatra district was appreciated especially in the areas of health, nutrition, education, agriculture, financial inclusion and infrastructure. It is noteworthy that the top performing district will be awarded a prize money of ? 10 crore by NITI Aayog, which aims to give more impetus to developmental initiatives at the district level. On this achievement, Deputy Commissioner Kirti Shri congratulated the entire administrative team of the district, departmental officers, public representatives and the public and said that this honour is a matter of pride for the district and we all are committed to maintain it.

This success is a proof of the strong initiative and continuous effort of Chatra district towards realizing the objectives of the Aspiring District Program.

Apart from this, Garhwa has also been selected for its best performance in the field of education.

Cleanliness Drive at Chhath Ghat, Kanke Dam

Shankar Nagachari, Director (Tech./ CRD) and Ajay Kumar, Director (Tech./ P&D/ RD&T), CMPDI led the Cleanliness drive at Chhath Ghat, Kanke Dam, Ranchi as part of Swachhata Pakhwada. GM/HoDs, employees participated in the Cleanliness drive, cleaned and sanitized the ghat and disposed of the collected garbage. CMPDI and its Regional Institutes are actively observing Swachhta Pakhwada from 16th to 30th June, 2025, under the theme," Swachhata is Everyone's Business". This initiative supports the Swachh Bharat Mission and Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a clean India. CMPDI urges all employees and communities to join hands in making cleanliness a shared responsibility.

BJP's communal politics will not work in Jharkhand: JMM

PNS : RANCHI

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) General Secretary cum Spokesperson Vinod Kumar Pandey gave a strong message to Union Minister Giriraj Singh and said that he should keep his communal politics away from the soil of Jharkhand. Jharkhand will not be affected by this. Pandey said that the people of Jharkhand have given a befitting reply to the conspiracies of BJP in the last elections and now they have no moral basis to make baseless allegations like appeasement. Citing the poor condition of BJP ruled states, he said that the people there are distressed, yet BJP leaders point fingers at others. Pandey termed the objectionable comments of BJP leaders regarding the Emergency as inappropriate. He alleged that the BJP has turned constitutional institutions into its pocket institutions, which are being used to misuse power and suppress opponents. He said that there is a situation of undeclared emergency in the country, where some people are running the entire system at their behest. This is a threat to democracy. The people of Jharkhand are aware and will never accept the divisive policies of the BJP. He said that attempts to weaken the culture and social fabric of Jharkhand will not be tolerated. Pandey appealed to Giriraj Singh to put his energy into the development of the country and Jharkhand, and not in spreading communal tension. He also said that the policies and rhetoric of the BJP are weakening the constitutional values and unity of the country. The JMM warned that if the BJP does not change its strategy, the people of Jharkhand will not shy away from teaching them a lesson in the future too.

IMD predicts Heavy showers till July 1

State records 86% above- normal rainfall till date

PNS : RANCHI

Ever since the onset of the southwest monsoon in Jharkhand on June 17, monsoon has been active across the State. As per the latest prediction, heavy to very heavy showers are expected to occur at various places till the beginning of July.

As per the information shared by the Meteorological Centre, Ranchi on Friday, in the last 24 hours, light to moderate rainfall with thunder occurred at almost all the places in the State while heavy rainfall was also recorded at some places. The highest rainfall was 105 mm which was recorded in Khunti. It also stated that under the influence of an upper air cyclonic circulation, a low pressure area has formed over northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining coastal areas of Odisha and West Bengal and it is likely to move west- northwestwards across Odisha and adjoining Gangetic West Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. This is likely to impact parts of Jharkhand in the coming days. The bulletin stated that on June 28, parts of the southern, central and north central regions of the State are likely to witness heavy showers. Thunderstorm activity along with gusty winds with a speed of up to 30 to 40 km per hour may also occur. The MET Centre, Ranchi has issued an orange alert signifying very heavy rain for June 29 for the north central and adjoining areas while the southern, central and northwest regions may witness heavy showers.

The northwestern parts and adjacent regions are likely to receive heavy rain on June 30 while a prediction with heavy showers for the south western and nearby central parts has been made for July 1. A warning for thunderstorm activity with wind speed of up to 30 to 40 km per hour has been issued for all the days as well. The statistics released by the Department highlighted that from June 1 to June 26 the State has received a total of 289.2 mm of rainfall as against the normal amount of 160.2 mm and has recorded a surplus of 86%. During this period, the maximum rainfall in the State has been recorded in Ranchi which is 534.3 mm as against a normal of 168.6 mm. This is followed by Saraikela- Kharsawan which has received 438.6 mm as against 179.4 mm while Latehar received 436.7 mm as against the normal amount of 149.6 mm.

From June 28 to July 1, the maximum temperature in the State capital and its surrounding areas will be around 28 degree Celsius while the minimum temperature will be around 23 to 24 degree Celsius.

Forces recover arms, ammunition after encounter with extremists

PNS : RANCHI

JJMP eExtremists fleeing from Harkattha forest of Lohardaga had an encounter with the pursuing security forces at Kedli in Latehar, 12 km away. However, seeing the police overpowering them, they took advantage of the forest and fled. During the search, the security forces recovered one SLR magazine, 51 bullets of 7.62 mm, 2 shells, 2 shells of INSAS, one shell of A.K.-47, one magazine pouch, 8 mobiles, 1 walkie-talkie, 1 power bank, Rs 3100 cash, Naxal pamphlets, diary and items of daily use.

Lohardaga SP said that during the campaign being run against the Naxalites, secret information was received that JJMP supremo Ravindra Yadav, Sachin, Vishal, Kaleshwar Kherwar, Shivji are roaming in the forests of Harkattha village of Peshrar police station area with their squad and are planning to carry out a major militant incident. On the information, an expedition team was formed with Kisko SDPO along with the company commander of G Company SSB, Jobang, Caro, Peshrar, Bagru, technical branch personnel, QRT, SAT. When the expedition team moved ahead of Peshrar, it was found that the squad had gone ahead of Harkattha.

While searching the route of the expedition team, when it reached Kedli Toli of Latehar, about 12 km away, it was found that the squad was there. When the expedition team was alerted and started moving towards the squad with caution, the JJMP squad started firing at the police force. After this, the security forces retaliated and fired. Due to the retaliation of the expedition team, the JJMP militants took advantage of the darkness and the forest and fled.

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Rajnath Singh talks upgrading Sukhoi with Russian counterpart

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meeting Kazakhstan Defence Minister Lieutenant General Dauren Kosanov on sidelines of the SCO Defence Ministers Meeting in Qingdao PTI

Upgrading India's Sukhoi-30MKI fighter fleet, production of air-to-air missiles and expeditious supply of two batches of S-400 missile systems figured prominently in Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's talks with his Russian counterpart Andrey Belousov in the Chinese city of Qingdao.

The two defence ministers held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on Thursday. The Indian Air Force is operating around 260 Sukhoi 30-MKI jets and it is looking at upgrading the fleet under an ambitious plan.

The Russian-origin Sukhoi jets played a key role in Operation Sindoor last month.

Rajnath Singh and Belousov held in-depth discussions on a range of subjects covering current geopolitical situations, cross-border terrorism and Indo-Russian defence cooperation, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

The Russian Defence Minister highlighted the long-standing Indo-Russian relations and expressed solidarity with India on the horrendous and cowardly Pahalgam terrorist attack, it said. "Supply of S-400 systems, Su-30 MKI upgrades and procurement of critical military hardware in expeditious timeframes were some of the key takeaways of the meeting," the ministry said in a statement.

"It was one of the most important recent meetings between the leaders of the two nations, being held in the backdrop of Operation Sindoor and the consequent necessity of augmenting defence production, especially in critical items such as air defence, air-to-air missiles, modern capabilities and upgrades of air platforms," it said. In his talks with Belousov, Rajnath pressed for expediting the supply of two remaining units of S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile systems to India, it is learnt.

Russia has already supplied three units of the long-range missile systems to India under a $5.5 billion deal. The missile systems were used extensively by the Indian Air Force during the May 7-10 military conflict with Pakistan.

Rajnath Singh also held separate bilateral talks with his counterparts from Belarus, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan on the margins of the SCO meet.

"In his interaction with the ministers, Raksha Mantri highlighted the importance of continued engagement in defence cooperation and exploring new opportunities for collaboration in areas of technical collaboration," the Defence Ministry said.

He highlighted the rapid advances made by India in the field of defence production.

India slams SCO statement; Jaishankar calls it unacceptable

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Friday PTI

Union External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday said India wanted a reference to terrorism in the outcome document of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) defence ministers' meeting, but it was not acceptable to one member country, an oblique reference to Pakistan.

Jaishankar said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's view on the matter was right since the main purpose of SCO was to fight terrorism and without a reference on it (on India's concerns on terrorism), he would not accept the outcome document.

Rajnath Singh on Thursday refused to sign a joint communiqué of the SCO following the omission of the Pahalgam terror attack and not explicitly addressing India's concerns over Pakistan-backed cross-border terrorism.

At a conference of SCO, Singh demanded inclusion of the terror attack in the communiqué while the Pakistani side pressed for having a paragraph on militant activities in Balochistan in an apparent attempt to blame New Delhi, top sources said.

The objective of SCO that runs through consensus was to fight terrorism, Jaishankar said in a press conference when asked about Singh's stand. "In the discussion on outcome document of the defence ministers' meeting, one country — you can guess which one — said 'no we don't want reference to that'," he said.

The SCO runs by unanimity, Jaishankar said, but when one country said it will not accept any mention of terrorism, Singh communicated that the outcome document was not acceptable to India.

President, PM, extend greetings on Jagannath Rath Yatra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday greeted citizens on the occasion of Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath.

During the annual yatra, chariots of Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath are pulled from Shri Jagannath temple to Shree Gundicha temple in Puri, Odisha. Lakhs of devotees gather there to be part of the grand festival. Similar yatras are also taken out in other parts of the country.

"On the occasion of the holy Rath Yatra, I extend my heartfelt best wishes to the devotees of Mahaprabhu Jagannath living in India and abroad," President Murmu said in a social media post.

Lakhs of devotees get divine experience by seeing Lord Balabhadra, Lord Jagannath, Devi Subhadra and Chakraraj Sudarshan seated on the chariot, she said.

"The human play of these divine forms is the specialty of Rath Yatra. On this auspicious occasion, it is my prayer to Mahaprabhu Shri Jagannath that there should be an atmosphere of peace, friendship and affection in the entire world," President Murmu said.

Prime Minister Modi greeted people on the occasion of Lord Jagannath's annual Ratha Yatra and wished happiness, prosperity and good health to everyone on the auspicious occasion.

Bangladesh's proximity with Pakistan-China discussed at parliamentary meet

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

In reply to a question about infiltration from Bangladesh, Shashi Tharoor said one figure that has come up before the committee suggests that its number has gone down

Bangladesh's perceived growing proximity with Pakistan and China and implications of India's strained ties with its eastern neighbour were discussed at a parliamentary committee meeting on Friday amid suggestions by some experts on engagement with the country, sources said.

"Former foreign secretary and ex-National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon, Lt General Syed Ata Hasnain, former High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das and well-known academician Amitabh Mattoo appeared as experts and "gave us very good insights and excellent ideas," Standing Committee on External Affairs Chairman Shashi Tharoor said.

In reply to a question about infiltration from Bangladesh, he said one figure that has come up before the committee suggests that its number has gone down.

An MP said some members flagged concerns about the strain in ties with Bangladesh under the interim Government of Muhammad Yunus after Sheikh Hasina was deposed last year.

An expert said despite concerns about radicalisation of youths in the country its army is not extremist like Pakistan's.

That China is getting a foothold in the country which is strategically important for India was another issue for some MPs of the panel, sources said, noting that Pakistan is also trying to strengthen its ties with Bangladesh.

BJP MP Kiran Choudhry, sources said, recalled India's role in liberating Bangladesh, noting that her father Brigadier Atma Singh of 17 Kumaon Regiment had played a heroic role in the 1971 war and had suffered bullet injuries. Singh was called the "founding father" of the regiment and his unit battle honours.

An MP asked if South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation can be revived to counter Chinese bid to grow its influence in the region and also floated the idea of exchange of journalists to boost people to people engagement with Bangladesh.

The law-maker flagged the implications of India-Bangladesh ties on West Bengal, which shares a long border with the country and has been at the received end of suspected large-scale infiltration.

Opposition slams RSS view on Constitution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Several opposition parties on Friday denounced RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale's call to review the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble, terming it a "deliberate assault" on the soul of the Constitution. The attack came a day after the RSS proposed reviewing the two words, saying they were included during the Emergency and were never part of the Constitution drafted by BR Ambedkar.

While the Congress saw it as a "deliberate assault" on the soul of the Constitution and claimed the RSS-BJP had never accepted Ambedkar's Constitution, the CPI(M) said the demand exposes the RSS' long-standing objective of subverting it.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the mask of the RSS has come off again as they want *Manusmriti*. "The Constitution irks them because it speaks of equality, secularism, and justice," he said in a post in Hindi on X.

"The RSS-BJP doesn't want the Constitution; they want *Manusmriti*. They aim to strip the marginalised and the poor of their rights and enslave them again. Snatching a powerful weapon like the Constitution from them is their real agenda," he alleged.

"The RSS should stop dreaming... We will never let them succeed. Every patriotic Indian will defend the Constitution until their last breath," the former Congress chief asserted. CPI(M) leader and Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Hosabale's call is a "brazen attempt to dismantle the core ideals of our Republic".

"Invoking the Emergency to discredit these principles is a deceitful move, especially when the RSS colluded with the Indira Gandhi government during that time for its own survival. To use that period now to undermine the Constitution reflects sheer hypocrisy and political opportunism.

"Secularism and socialism are not additions; they define India. Every citizen who believes in democracy must raise their voice against this communal agenda," Vijayan said on X. The Left parties and RJD alleged that Hosabale's proposal was part of a conspiracy to change the Constitution.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the BJP/RSS attacked Ambedkar, Nehru, and others involved in the framing of the Constitution from November 30, 1949, onwards. "In the RSS' own words, the Constitution was not inspired by Manusmriti," he said in a post on X.

"The RSS and the BJP have repeatedly given the call for a new Constitution. This was Mr (Narendra) Modi's campaign cry during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The people of India decisively rejected this cry. Yet the demands for changing the basic structure of the Constitution continue to be made by the RSS ecosystem," Ramesh said.

Sharing the Supreme Court's November 25, 2024, judgment on the issue, he said, "Would it be asking too much to request him to take the trouble to read it?"

In a post on X from its official handle, the Congress alleged the RSS-BJP's ideology stands in direct opposition to the Indian Constitution.

"RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale has openly called for the removal of the words 'socialist' and 'secular' from the Preamble. This is not just a suggestion — it is a deliberate assault on the soul of our Constitution," it said.

"It is part of a long-standing conspiracy to dismantle Babasaheb Ambedkar's vision for a just, inclusive and democratic India — something the RSS-BJP has always been plotting. Let us not forget: when the Constitution was adopted, the RSS rejected it. They didn't just oppose it, they burnt it."

The Congress said the people saw through their agenda and gave them a resounding answer. "Now, they have returned to their old playbook. But let it be known: The Congress will stand as an unbreakable wall against any attempt to undermine the Constitution. Jai Samvidhan," it asserted.

RJD president Lalu Prasad, who claimed that social justice and communal harmony are his guiding principles, voiced his anguish on X by terming the RSS a "casteist" outfit.

BJP appoints State election officers to oversee organisational polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Harsh Malhotra and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad have been assigned the task for the three States, respectively

The BJP on Friday appointed 'State election officers' to oversee its organisational elections in Maharashtra, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Harsh Malhotra and former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad have been assigned the task for the three States, respectively.

The three MPs will be the central leaders in charge of the elections of presidents and national council members from these States, K Laxman, the national returning officer for organisational elections, said in a statement.

The appointment is likely to give a fresh push to complete the already drawn-out exercise for organisational polls in the party, which will culminate with the election of a new national president to replace incumbent JP Nadda, who is also a Union Minister.

A source said there is a possibility that the party may have a new national president next month.

He said the presidents of a few state units, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, are likely to be elected next week and some others may follow suit soon after.

The ruling BJP has 37 organisational States in total and the electoral process must be completed in at least 19 of them before the official procedure to elect the national president begins. So far, the exercise is complete in 14 of them.

However, the BJP is yet to elect its presidents in a number of key States, including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat. It had appointed 'state election officers' for these states in January.

The exercise, in line with the party's constitution, had begun with a nationwide membership drive in September last year and was expected to end early this year.

The tenure of the national president is three years, and Nadda assumed the office in January 2020. His term was extended due to the Lok Sabha elections in 2024, and he will continue in office till the election of his replacement.

Man gets ₹5 lakh for jail delay in release

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

Following Supreme Court's reprimand, the UP Government on Friday said a man, whose release from prison was delayed for about a month after getting bail, has been compensated with ₹5 lakh. The man, booked under the provisions of the state's anti-conversion law, was granted bail by the top court on April 29 but released from Ghaziabad district jail only on June 24 — indicating a delay of 28 days.

On June 25, the top court while pulling up the state authorities over the delay, ordered a ₹5 lakh compensation and asked UP Government to report on compliance. On Friday, the state's counsel informed a bench of Justices KV Viswanathan and N Kotiswar Singh that the state had complied with the direction and paid the compensation. The man's counsel confirmed having received the amount.

The top court granted bail to the accused on April 29 and subsequently on May 27, a trial court in Ghaziabad issued his release.

On June 25, when the top court was informed about the man's release the previous day, it said liberty was a "very valuable and precious" right guaranteed under the Constitution.

The man, the top court said, had lost his liberty for at least 28 days due to a "trivial non-issue".

The bench also took strong exception over the delay on the ground that a sub-section of a provision of Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021 was not mentioned in the bail order.

It had passed the order on a plea by the accused seeking a modification of the April 29 order to specifically include clause (1) of section 5 of the 2021 Act. The bench then ordered an enquiry into the matter by the principal district and sessions judge, Ghaziabad.

The enquiry's focus was directed to be on the reason behind the delay. On June 25, the state's counsel said the trial court's May 27 order mentioned all details except Sub-Section (1) of Section 5 of the Act and, therefore, a plea for correction was filed by the jail authorities on May 28.

Since the application was not disposed of earlier, she said, the petitioner was not released.

India evacuates 4,400 Indian nationals from Iran, Israel

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
New Delhi

India has evacuated more than 4,400 Indian nationals from Iran and Israel so far in 19 special flights under Operation Sindhu launched on June 18 to bring home its citizens amid the ongoing conflict between the two countries, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

A fresh batch of 173 Indians evacuated from Iran reached Delhi late Thursday night in a flight from Armenian capital Yerevan, the MEA said in a post on X. At his weekly media briefing a day before, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in response to queries on Operation Sindhu, said New Delhi was assessing the situation on the ground and a decision on the future course of action would be taken based on it.

Over 3,400 Indian nationals have been evacuated so far in 14 flights from Iran since the start of Operation Sindhu, according to data shared by him during the briefing.

Jaiswal later shared updated evacuee figures in the post on X after the arrival of the flight from Yeravan. "A special evacuation flight from Yerevan, Armenia landed in New Delhi at 22:30 hrs on 26th June, bringing home 173 Indian nationals from Iran," he wrote.

"As part of #OperationSindhu, a total of 4415 Indian nationals (3597 from Iran and 818 from Israel) have been evacuated so far using 19 special evacuation flights including 3 IAF aircraft. 14 OCI card-holders, 9 Nepali nationals, 4 Sri Lankan nationals and 1 Iranian spouse of an Indian national were also evacuated from Iran," he added.

On June 24, India said while it remained "deeply concerned about the prospects for overall and sustained regional security and stability", it welcomed reports of a ceasefire between Iran and Israel.

Hours after US President Donald Trump's claims of an Iran-Israel ceasefire, the MEA in a statement had said "India stands ready to play its part" to resolve the situation and insisted on "dialogue and diplomacy" as the way forward. Jaiswal on Thursday was asked if India would continue Operation Sindhu after the Iran-Israel ceasefire, and about the total number of India nationals evacuated from the two countries so far.

"We launched Operation Sindhu on June 18. We have around 10,000 people. Indian community members in Iran. And, around 40,000 people in Israel who are Indian nationals," he had said.

One Iranian woman, who is the wife of an Indian national has also been evacuated, he added. The MEA spokesperson had said, "In all, we mounted, 14 flights to bring back Indian nationals from Iran. These flights flew from Mashhad, as also from Yeravan in Armenia, and Ashgabat in Turkmenistan. I understand that one more flight is on its way from Armenia, and it will land later this evening. With that we would have completed.. All those people who wish to be evacuated from Iran."

A special flight carrying 272 Indian and three Nepalese nationals from Iran arrived in Delhi a little past midnight (June 26) from the Iranian city of Mashhad, Jaiswal had posted on X earlier. India on Wednesday evacuated 296 Indian citizens and four Nepalese nationals from Iran.

"As far as Israel is concerned, we have so far evacuated 818 Indian nationals in four flights. As you are aware the airspace in Israel was closed, so we had to take our people to bordering countries, i.E., Jordan and Egypt, and from both these countries they were put on special flights, and they came back home," he told reporters.

The MEA spokesperson said, "We are thankful to the government of Egypt and Jordan for their support." Indian embassies in Israel, Jordan and Egypt "collaborated very closely" with the MEA headquarters in Delhi, in mounting the evacuation operation.

"But, we would also like to thank Government of Iran, as you would know that we made our requests, they opened their airspace for us to evacuate, our nationals. We are grateful to the government of Iran for this special gesture," he said.

The Pioneer
RANCHI | SATURDAY | JUNE 28, 2025

Thackeray cousins to walk together against MahaYuti Government

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

The stage is now set for the two Thackeray cousins — Uddhav and Raj — to take out a joint morcha to the Azad Maidan on July 5 in protest against the BJP-led MahaYuti Government's decision to make Hindi as a "third language" for the 1st to 5th standard students in Marathi and English medium schools in the state.

A day after they announced their plans to take separate morchas on the Hindi "imposition" issue, Uddhav and Raj reconsidered their earlier plans and announced that their parties would come together to take one single morcha to Azad Maidan in south Mumbai on July 5 to force the Devendra Fadnavis government to thrust Hindi as the third language in schools in the state.

Making an announcement by the joint morcha, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Rajya Sabha member and party's chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut, on Friday morning took to twitter to announce: "Jai Maharashtra… There will be a single and united march against compulsory Hindi in Maharashtra schools. Thackeray is the brand"

> There will be a single and united march against compulsory Hindi in Maharashtra schools
> — SANJAY RAUT, UBT SPOKESPERSON

Hours earlier, Raj Thackeray took to "X" to announce that there is a small charge in the earlier plan and that the morcha will be held on July 5 (Saturday).

"For the Marathi people, a march was announced for the upcoming 6th of July. There is a slight change in that plan; the march will now take place on Saturday, July 5, at 10 AM instead of Sunday, July 6. The location and all other details remain unchanged. Therefore, the media and the people of Maharashtra should take note of this change"

"There will be no flags in that march. The entire march will be taken out by the Marathi people. The Marathi agenda will be the only focus. The leadership of that march will be by a Marathi person. Let the Government understand once and for all what is in the hearts of Maharashtra."

"I also want to see who participates in this march and who chooses not to come. We will speak with educationists and linguists. We will invite all students and parents to the march. Let the Government understand once and for all what is in the hearts of Maharashtra. Everyone will participate in the anti-Hindi march. We will speak with all political parties in Maharashtra. Maharashtra is bigger than any dispute and you will realize this on the morcha day," Raj wrote.

Both the Shiv Sena (UBT) chief and MNS president have appealed to all Marathi-speaking citizens, writers, artists, actors, and sportspersons—to support the initiatives.

On his part, Uddhav said: "The BJP is trying to divide people on the basis of language. The BJP is imposing a language Emergency in the state. They are making Hindi compulsory in the predominantly Marathi speaking state. We are not against Hindi but such an imposition"

Castigating the Devendra Fadnavis-led government for "imposing" Hindi on students in schools in the state, Uddhav said the Hindi language decision had stemmed from "linguistic emergency" declared by the ruling BJP.

"What is happening is nothing but a `linguistic emergency'. India's federal structure is built around linguistic states, but the government is not implementing policies to promote Marathi despite many pleas and efforts as part of the BJP's covert agenda," the Sena (UBT) chief said.

"We are not against Hindi or any other language. It's an issue of Marathi pride. The Hindi film industry was born in Maharashtra, but forcibly implementing the decision is not acceptable. This is a move to impose 'one language, one party'. So we are taking it to the streets. The matter can be resolved in two minutes if the chief minister rolls back the decision," Uddhav said.

It may be recalled that in its circular dated June 17, 2025 which amended its earlier order issued on April 16, 2025, the State Education department stated that Hindi would "generally" be the third language, instead of being "mandatory", but gave an option to opt out of Hindi if 20 students per grade in a school expressed the desire to study any Indian language other than Hindi.

"If the students want to opt for any other Indian language other than Hindi as a third language, the class strength should be at least 20 and those students would be taught the language they selected, either in school by appointing a teacher or through online mode," the circular had said.

Assam to tighten Aadhaar issuance rules to check infiltration: Himanta

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during the 2nd North-East Mining Ministers' Conclave, in Guwahati PTI

The Assam Government is mulling stricter Aadhaar card issuance rules for adults as part of its efforts to curb illegal immigration from Bangladesh, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Friday.

Toughened Aadhaar card issuance rules will also further boost the state government's efforts in detecting and deporting illegal foreigners, he added.

"Today, we discussed a proposal where Aadhaar cards for adults will be issued only after thorough verification. The Cabinet will take a decision in this regard soon," he said while addressing a press conference after chairing a Cabinet meeting.

Highlighting that nearly 100 per cent of adults in Assam already have Aadhaar cards, Sarma added, "If any adult applies for an Aadhaar card, we will conduct a thorough check. Only the District Commissioner will be authorised to approve its issuance once the new rules come into effect." "This will ensure that no illegal immigrant can obtain an Aadhaar card, and we can track and deport them easily," he said.

Sarma also maintained that tightening of rules will help in its deportation efforts.

"Last night we deported 20 more Bangladeshis as part of our ongoing efforts to detect and push back illegal infiltrators. The decision to toughen Aadhaar issuance rules will only aid our efforts in this direction," he added.

Among the decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting are approval for allotment of land under 'Basundhara 3.0' to various temples, 'namghars' (Vaishnavite place of worship), clubs, educational institutions and socio-cultural organisations.

The council of ministers also okayed the reservation of zilla parishad president and vice-president seats for women, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons on basis of lottery.

The Cabinet gave its nod for amendment of existing provisions of autonomous councils for Moran and Matak communities, which will henceforth allow only people of these communities to vote in the council elections.

ONGC well in Assam capped after 16 days of gas leakage

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Guwahati

ONGC on Friday successfully capped the blowout of its crude oil well in Assam's Sivasagar district after 16 days of gas leakage from there, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said. Petroleum and Natural Gas minister said the capping was done without any injury, casualty or fire.

"ONGC has successfully capped the blowout of well RDS#147A at 1115 hours hrs today. This blowout started on 12th June and has been capped successfully within shortest possible time following all the best practices," Puri said in a post on X.

He said the crisis management team of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) along with the international well control experts "finally brought the curtains down on the gas well blowout through meticulous planning and concerted efforts in a safe manner, without any injury, casualty or fire, testifying the competency of crisis management".

Puri also thanked Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and State Government officials for their support to the team on the ground.

The blowout took place on June 12 at Well No RDS 147A of Rig No SKP 135 of Rudrasagar oil field of ONGC at Barichuk in Bhatiapar. A private firm, SK Petro Services, was operating the well on behalf of the state-run Maharatna company.

Around 350 families were evacuated from the neighbouring areas as a safety measure, with the State Government announcing exgratia of Rs 25,000 to each of the affected families.

Sarma, thanking Puri and ONGC for their capping efforts, also acknowledged the perseverance and cooperation of local people in the operation.

"Thank you Hon'ble Minister Shri @HardeepSPuriJi for your exceptional leadership and persistence in sealing the gas leak at #RDS147A, Sivasagar- which has been a great cause of concern for all of us," he said in a post on X.

He also acknowledged the tireless efforts put in by the ONGC team and members of the state administration.

"But above all, my deepest gratitude to the brave men and women of Sivasagar, especially those residing in the affected areas, for displaying extraordinary levels of perseverance and extending unstinted cooperation with all concerned agencies over the last two weeks," the chief minister added.

Sharing details of the capping process, an ONGC statement said, "At the break of dawn, ONGC's Crisis Management Team (CMT), along with experts from Cudd and local operations teams, commenced the critical operation to safely remove the damaged Blowout Preventer (BOP) from the wellhead."

The effort was carried out with high precision and coordination to ensure stability and prevent any imbalance or toppling during the lifting process.

Once the BOP was safely removed, the pre-positioned capping stack, prepared at the staging area, was carefully and accurately placed onto the wellhead. This pivotal action redirected the gas flow securely to the top of the capping stack, ensuring containment and control, the statement said. The capping stack was firmly installed and secured, following which the BOP was successfully closed, effectively bringing an end to the gas discharge from Well RDS#147A, it added.

Subsequent steps in the well control roadmap will now be taken up as per operational protocols.

The operation was executed with utmost safety, without a single injury, fatality or incident of fire, and ONGC maintained full transparency throughout the operation, issuing daily press releases over the fortnight to keep all stakeholders informed, the statement said.

The corporation extended its gratitude to the district and state administrations, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the local community for their support and cooperation.

Mamata inaugurates Jagannath Rath Yatra

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

With State elections barely a year away the 'Rath Rajniti' gained momentum in Bengal — keeping pace with the Hindutva narrative — as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday inaugurated the first Jagannath Rath Yatra from the newly constructed ₹200 crore Jagannath Temple — at beach town of Digha — a grand and exquisite replica of its ancient Puri alter ego.

This, whereas Opposition Elder Suvendu Adhikari — who earlier called Banerjee's devotion towards Jagannath a "fake" one and only to pull the wools before the eyes of the Sanatani Hindus "for all that sin she has committed by appeasing and inviting the Bangladeshis and Rohingyas in Bengal," — celebrated the festival in Kolkata and his hometown Tamluk by pulling at the ropes of the Lord's chariot.

Banerjee along with her cabinet colleagues pulled the ropes of the Lord's chariot and those of his two siblings Balabhadra and Subhadra amid loud chanting of "Joy Jagannath" by thousands of pilgrims, including foreigners.

After Odisha, Jagannath Rath Yatra is largely celebrated in Bengal with the 600-year-old Rath Yatra at Mahesh in Hooghly district being the second oldest such tradition after Puri in the country.

Banerjee who was accompanied by the sadhus of International Society of Krishna Consciousness began around 2 pm with the ceremonially sweeping of the road — with specially designed a golden broom — on which the three chariots rolled.

This even as thousands of people gathered on the two sides of the road in the beach town celebrating the festivities.

Meanwhile, Adhikari who pulled the Lord's ropes both in Kolkata and Tamluk called the Rath Yatra inaugurated by the Chief Minister a sham.

CBI nabs cyber crime kingpin fleecing Canadian, US citizens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Mumbai

In a crackdown against a cybercrime syndicate, the CBI has arrested the alleged kingpin of the "Royal Tiger Gang", a transnational racket accused of fleecing victims in the United States and Canada through cyber posing as Government officers, officials said Friday.

The agency arrested Prince Jasvantlal Anand from Mumbai on Thursday after a coordinated search operation that began the previous day across the bustling metropolis and Ahmedabad, officials said.

Anand, alleged to be the gang's prima donna, had been living an opulent lifestyle that ultimately betrayed his trail. The searches at his hideout blew the lid off a sophisticated organised system used for committing cyber frauds with a telecom infrastructure, pre-drafted scam scripts, and forged identification paraphernalia -- including forged ID badges of Canadian law enforcement officers.

The searches at Anand's premises laid bare the indulgences of a high-flying conman with luxury cars, designer accessories, frequent international travel records, and significant unaccounted wealth.

"Further, Virtual Digital Assets worth approximately $ 45,000 were seized from the possession of the accused (Anand)," a CBI spokesperson stated. The operation was part of 'Operation Chakra V', the CBI's ongoing action against cybercriminal networks.

The CBI said that the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC) had earlier identified the "Royal Tiger Gang", operated by the accused (Anand) as a significant Consumer Communication Information Services Threat (C-CIST).

"The gang is accused of generating and transmitting unlawful robocalls impersonating Government agencies, banks, and utility service providers in a systematic manner, aimed at deceiving and defrauding US consumers," the spokesperson said.

Investigators allege that Anand and his associates preyed on fear and confusion by impersonating officials from government institutions and financial bodies, then extorting money from their victims under the pretext of fabricated criminal allegations.

The ill-gotten proceeds were largely funnelled through cryptocurrencies to mask the financial trail. Anand was presented before a Special Court which sent him to four days for CBI custody for further interrogation.

ARRWA accuses officials of illegally targeting them

PARVESH SHARMA
■ Gurugram

In a strong protest against a demolition by the Sohna Municipal Corporation, members of the Aravali Retreat Welfare Association (ARRWA) have accused administration officials of illegally targeting them.

In a detailed statement, ARRWA president Rajesh Vats condemned the repeated illegal actions and harassment faced by the residents of Aravali Retreat, a farmhouse society developed by Ansal Properties and Infrastructure Limited.

"Aravali Retreat was developed in the years 1988-90, after obtaining all requisite approvals and No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the Director General, Town and Country Planning, Haryana, and the Forest Department, Government of Haryana.

The developer undertook massive infrastructure development, including internal roads, water pipelines, tree plantation, tube-well installation, farmhouse construction, and the establishment of electricity and telephone lines and connections.

> ARRWA president Vats condemned the repeated illegal actions and harassment faced by the residents of Aravali Retreat

"An official inquiry was also conducted pursuant to the Chairman, HSPCB's letter bearing Memo No. HSPCB/08/2036 dated 29/01/2009. The inquiry was conducted by a team of senior revenue officials, including the Revenue Commissioner, Gurugram Division; the District Collector, Gurugram; the Tehsildar, Sohna; and the Halqa Patwari, Village Raisina, Sohna," the statement read.

"The findings of this comprehensive inquiry unequivocally confirmed that Ansal's associate companies had legally purchased land in the year 1987–88 in Khewat Nos. 28 and 29 of the revenue estate of Village Raisina."

The statement went on to note that it was further verified that the developer had invested heavily in developing the area into a full-fledged farmhouse society by constructing roads, laying water supply pipelines, installing tube wells, planting trees, building houses and boundary gates, and establishing electricity and telephone lines. Aravali Retreat Welfare Association, in accordance with established legal procedures.

"Despite these clear and conclusive findings, the residents of Aravali Retreat continued to face harassment. Starting from 2006, the Haryana State Pollution Control Board filed nearly 600 criminal complaints against residents of the "Aravali Retreat" society before the Hon'ble Special Environment Court, Faridabad. However, every single complaint has resulted in acquittal, confirming the baseless nature of the allegations. Only 9 complaints remain pending as of today," Vats said.

"Further distress was caused during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, when on May 27, 2020, the Municipal Council, Sohna, issued notices to residents. The matter was taken to court, and the Hon'ble Civil Court granted injunction orders against the Municipal Council after considering all relevant facts and documents," he added.

"Yet, in a shocking development, in June 2020, the District Collector, Gurugram, passed an arbitrary five-line order reclassifying the nature of the land from "Gair Mumkin Farm House" to "Gair Mumkin Pahar," without any notice or legal hearing. The ARRWA immediately approached the Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court, which granted a stay on the collector's order," he asserted.

"However, despite the stay and judicial directions, officials went ahead and illegally changed the land classification in violation of court orders and established law. The authorities continue to harass residents under the guise of false classifications and baseless actions."

The "ARRWA" is now preparing to file a formal criminal complaint before the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Haryana, against all officials involved in these unlawful actions.

"All residents of the Aravali Retreat society/members of ARRWA have followed every legal procedure and proven our lawful rights at every stage through government inquiries, revenue records, and court verdicts," Vats emphasised.

"Yet, some officials continue to act with total impunity. This fight is now not just about land, but it is about the rule of law and the dignity of every law-abiding citizen."

Apple farmers oppose import duty reduction in upcoming Indo-US trade deal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Srinagar/Shimla

The Apple Farmers Federation of India (AFFI) has appealed to MLAs and MPs of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to send their Chief Ministers in a joint delegation to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and demand that changes to the import duty on Washington apples be non-negotiable in the on-going discussion on the India-US trade deal.

A delegation led by MY Tarigami MLA and Convenor of AFFI and Rakesh Singha, former MLA and Co-convenor of AFFI met Jagat Singh Negi, Horticulture Minister of HP in Shimla. He assured the delegation that he will speak with Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu.

MY Tarigami also met the Jammu and Kashmir Agriculture/Horticulture Minister Javid Ahmad Darand Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister of J and K Omar Abdullah in Srinagar on the same issue.

They too extended support on opposing the tariff reduction and also conveyed that the Union Minister for Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan on his upcoming J and K visit will be asked to protect the interests of

domestic apple growers over the US, said AFFI in a Statement.

"Both the Government representatives have responded positively to the suggestion of a joint Chief Ministerial delegation. It is relevant here to note that imports are forecast this year to reach six lakh metric tonnes (MT) from the actual five lakh+MT in 2023/24 season as shipments from the US continue to grow from last year's record (even without the tariff reduction). Since 2001, our apple imports have climbed from 0.2.lakh MT to 6 lakh MT, from 1.7 per cent of domestic production to 22.5 per cent," said AFFI leaders.

Death toll reaches six in HP flash floods

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Shimla

The death toll in Wednesday's flash floods in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district has gone up to six as one more body has been found, officials said.

The body was found at a hydro-project site near the Manuni Khad area in Khaniyara village, taking the total number of victims in the tragic incident to six, Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Kangra, Aditi Singh, said on Friday evening.

Rains hampered the search-and-rescue operations jointly undertaken by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), police and home guards. The search for two more persons would resume on Saturday morning, Singh said.

Lovely from Chamba district, who was rescued by the search teams from a forest area near the project site on Thursday, said there were 13 labourers at a camp, five of whom ran towards the hills while the rest were swept away by the gushing waters.

Editor's TAKE

India refuses to sign SCO joint declaration

India's strong stand at SCO underlines its approach to terrorism signalling its assertive foreign policy posture

There has been a paradigm shift in India's approach to foreign policy post Pahalgam massacre. The country has taken and rightly so, a zero tolerance policy towards terrorism. It is unflinching in its approach to condemn terrorism on all international fora. It was once again at display in China. At the recently concluded Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting held in Qingdao, China on June 26, 2025, India refused to sign the joint declaration — a move that underscores its principled stance on terrorism and regional security. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, representing India, chose not to endorse the final communiqué, citing the deliberate exclusion of India's terrorism-related concerns from the draft; an issue India considers critical to regional peace and stability. This lack of consensus made it impossible for the declaration to be adopted unanimously. The SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting brought together representatives from major regional powers, including China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, and several Central Asian nations.

It was expected to culminate in a joint declaration reinforcing collective commitment to peace, security, and cooperation in the region. However, the talks stumbled when India pressed for strong language condemning terrorism, particularly cross-border terrorism and the threat of non-state actors accessing weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). One member state's opposition to these inclusions — especially the reference to the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir, which killed several tourists — led to a diplomatic impasse.

In his address, Rajnath Singh made India's position clear. He called for accountability for "perpetrators, organisers, financers, and sponsors" of terrorism and insisted that no compromise should be made when it comes to combating this menace. He warned about the risks of WMDs falling into the hands of terrorist organisations, stressing the urgent need for collective, decisive action. India's objection also stemmed from what it considered a clear imbalance in the draft declaration.

While it allegedly included references to terror incidents in Pakistan, it omitted any mention of the Pahalgam attack in India. This, New Delhi argued, undermined the credibility of the statement. India maintained that a credible security declaration must address all instances of terrorism without exception or political convenience. The failure to do so prompted India to withhold its signature. India's refusal to toe the line reflects its increasingly assertive foreign policy . Rather than yielding for the sake of consensus, New Delhi chose to send a clear message: counter-terrorism cannot be diluted or selectively applied in regional diplomacy. While this move might strain relations with some member countries, particularly Pakistan and possibly China — the host of the event — it also positions India as a nation willing to take principled stands even on contentious multilateral platforms. As the SCO continues to grapple with internal divides and conflicting priorities among members, India's position may act as an catalyst, a much-needed conversation on the need for integrity and unanimity in confronting the global threat of terrorism.

PIC TALK

A glimpse of traditional fishing practices in Manipur, where sustainable methods continue to thrive.
PHOTO: PANKAJ KUMAR

Resurgent fundamentalism in Bangladesh

Fundamentalist groups in Bangladesh are positioning to enter Parliament through street mobilisation and polarising rhetoric — posing serious threat to the country's minority rights and secular governance

Militant fundamentalist Islamist parties and organisations are growing and becoming more strident in Bangladesh under the interim Government headed by Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus. They hold processions, demonstrations and mega rallies.

The Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh's massive gathering in Dhaka on May 3, 2025, is an example. They are gearing up to contest the country's 13th general elections which seem likely to be held in February. According to a report by Salman Tareque Sakil published in the *Dhaka Tribune* on June 25, 2025, under the heading "Five religious parties on path to electoral compromise," the Islami Andolan Bangladesh (IAB), Khilafat Majlish (KM), Bangladesh Khilafat Majlish (BKM), Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUeI) and Nezam-e-Islam (NI), have formed a liaison committee to push unity among themselves in the context of the forthcoming elections. What form electoral cooperation among the five will take — whether the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami (Jamaat) will be a part of it — remains undecided. The JUeI's secretary general, Maulana Manjurul Islam Afendi, told Sakil on June 24, 2025, "We have taken the initiative to make the five Islamic parties float one candidate and one ballot box. That initiative is ongoing. The entire process has not been officially finalised yet." He had added, "We have formed a liaison committee. There has been no clear decision on the election process. There are differences of opinion on how we will unite, where we will all go together, whether we will join a large alliance. This is where we are."

A number of things are not clear. According to the *Dhaka Tribune's* report, the Jamaat, which opposed the Liberation War in 1971, has not been included in this probable electoral compromise.

Nor are the five parties ready to say definitively whether it will be part of it. But then the electoral impact of a successful alliance between the five Islamist parties and the Jamaat may not be earth-shaking. Even if one ignores the outcomes of the 2024, 2018 and 2014 elections which were allegedly rigged, the results of four preceding elections are revealing. The Jamaat won 18 of the 300 parliamentary seats and 12.13 per cent of the votes polled in 1991. The corresponding figures for the elections in 1996, 2001 and 2008 are three seats and 8.6 per cent, 17 seats and 4.28 per cent, and two seats and 4.70 per cent. It had an alliance with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party in 2001 and 2008. The figures for the Islami Oikya Jote were: one seat and 0.79 per cent in 1991, one seat and 1.09 per cent in 1996 and one seat and 0.68 per cent in 2001. It did not get a single seat in 2008 and received 0.15 per cent of the votes. Even if the Islamist parties do significantly better in the next elections, they can only hope to get a toehold as a junior partner in a coalition Government to be formed.

The danger lies in their trying to impose their agenda through intimidation and violence, as the Jamaat had done when it was a part of a coalition Government with the BNP from 2001 to 2006. The question arises: what is the agenda of the Islamist parties? An AFP report published in the *Dhaka Tribune* of May 3, 2025, under the heading "Influential Islamists promise sharia as they ready for polls," quotes Muhammad Mamunul Haque, BKM's ameer, as saying, "We will implement sharia," and adding, "Everything will be guided by the Koran." A look at what Islamist parties and organisations are doing in Bangladesh now gives an idea of what will happen under their rule.

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

The AFP report states, "Islamists have demanded an end to a swath of activities, including cultural events deemed "anti-Islamic" — from music to theatre festivals, women's football matches and kite-flying celebrations." A report by Mujib Mashal and Saif Hasnat, datelined April 1, 2025, and published in The New York Times, states, "As Bangladesh tries to rebuild its democracy and chart a new future for its 175 million people, a streak of Islamist extremism that had long lurked beneath the country's secular facade is bubbling to the surface." It added, "In interviews, representatives of several Islamist parties and organisations — some of which had previously been banned — made clear that they were working to push Bangladesh in a more fundamentalist direction, a shift that has been little noticed outside the country."

Women's rights are among the main targets. Islamist fundamentalists have viciously attacked forward-looking recommendations of the Women Affairs Reforms Commission, such as recognising forced sex within marriage as rape under the criminal code and ensuring the labour rights and dignity of sex workers by amending the country's labour laws. A report bylined Tribune Report and published in the *Dhaka Tribune* of April 30, 2025, under the heading "Islamic parties reject proposals of the Women Reform Commission" quoted Mamunnul Haque, KM's secretary-general as saying, "We make a clear appeal: grant women their just rights. Do not push them into prostitution or turn mothers into symbols of disgrace." Dr Shafiqur Rahaman, Jamaat's ameer, said, "We reject the commission outright as it stands against the values and laws of Allah and the thoughts and beliefs of the nation."

There is resistance from a section of the civil society and the media. An editorial in the *Dhaka Tribune* of February 22, 2025, stated, "Time and again, the interim Government has proven itself utterly incapable when it comes to reining in extremists who now feel emboldened to carry out their intolerant and regressive agendas — not only has the void in comprehensive law enforcement paved the way to a sharp rise in crime, but it now appears the threat of agitating extremists is also an element that must be dealt with." The same paper had said in another editorial on March 20, 2025, "While the overwhelming majority of Bangladesh still subscribes to communal harmony, the void in law enforcement has certainly resulted in fringe right-wing groups trying to make their presence known." It added, "The onus, then, lands squarely on the interim Government to call a spade a spade and brand such groups for what they are: Extremists." Six women, including three leaders of the National Citizen Committee sent, through their lawyer, a legal notice on May 5, 2025, demanding an explanation within seven days from the Hefazat for using abusive language against members of the Women Affairs Reform Commission.

There have been civil society protests on a number of other issues as well. And the interim Government? If it has taken any action against Islamist fundamentalists for their relentless persecution of Hindus and the destruction of their temples, homes and businesses, it is of a special kind whose results are not visible.

The same applies in the case of those disrupting sporting events and cultural performances. Rather, it is doing other things. According to a BSS report published on February 28, 2025, in the *Dhaka Tribune* under the heading "Khalid: Govt takes diverse initiatives to promote Islamic culture, values," the Religious Affairs Adviser, Dr AFM Khalid Hossain, said while speaking as a chief guest at an event in Dhaka, that the Government was undertaking various initiatives to promote and develop Islamic culture and values. The Religious Affairs Adviser is a Nayeb-e-Ameer of Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh and an advisor to Islami Andolan Bangladesh. Can one expect the Muhammad Yunus-led Interim Government to act resolutely against fundamentalist Islamist violence?

(The writer is a Consulting Editor at *The Pioneer*. Views are personal)

Mental health and the power of identity

SECOND Opinion

In today's hyper-connected, fast-paced world — where social media, societal expectations, and external achievements often dictate how we see ourselves — the quest for inner peace and authentic mental well-being can feel like navigating a noisy, confusing maze. Amid this clutter, one overlooked yet profoundly transformative principle offers a clear path forward: the Law of Identification.At its core, this law states that we become what we most consistently and deeply identify with. Our thoughts, emotions, behaviours, and eventually, our life outcomes are shaped by the version of ourselves we believe in. When this principle is applied with conscious intention, it becomes more than an abstract idea — it becomes a potent tool for mental and emotional transformation.

The Law of Identification is rooted not just in philosophy but in psychology. It suggests that our sense of self is not rigid or permanent, but formed through repeated patterns of thought, emotion, and behaviour linked to how we see ourselves. If you constantly think of yourself as anxious, broken, or not enough, your behaviours and habits will often reinforce that identity. But if you begin to see yourself — even tentatively — as calm, strong, and evolving, your actions start aligning with that vision. Over time, a new mental blueprint takes shape. Mental health struggles are real, serious, and deserve compassion, support, and often professional treatment. But there's a subtle danger in fully fusing our identity with our struggles. Phrases like "I am depressed" or "I am anxious" may feel like honest descriptions, but repeated often enough, they hardwire the brain to see those states not as experiences, but as truths. The key lies in shifting from fixed identity language to growth-oriented statements — like "I'm learning to manage my anxiety" or "I'm healing from emotional wounds."

These reframes don't deny reality; they open up possibility.This principle finds resonance in the science of neuroplasticity — the brain's proven ability to change and adapt based on repeated patterns. In a time of widespread stress, emotional fatigue, and digital overload, the Law of Identification offers a timely counterforce.

SAKSHI SETHI

Many, especially younger generations, are overwhelmed by curated social media personas and societal ideals, internalising harmful beliefs about who they are or should be.The pandemic years further disoriented our sense of self. Locked in survival mode, many lost touch with deeper aspects of their identity. In such a climate, choosing to identify with your ideal self — one that is resilient, balanced, and capable — is no longer just a motivational idea; it becomes a survival skill. When the outside world feels uncertain, the internal world becomes the one place where transformation is still possible. This law also plays a critical role in the current mental health discourse. As conversations around mental well-being become more open and destigmatised, the Law of Identification offers a next step. It bridges the gap between awareness and active change. It urges people not just to name their struggles, but to begin imagining who they want to become. In a world quick to highlight what's broken, choosing to identify with what's possible becomes a revolutionary act of healing. Language is a powerful lever in this process. How we speak about ourselves becomes the scaffolding for how we think and feel. Saying "I'm terrible with stress" repeatedly wires the brain to accept that limitation. But saying "I'm learning to stay calm" or "I'm becoming more mindful" sends the brain a different message — one of growth and renewal. These are not empty affirmations; they are mental instructions. Identity is shaped not just internally, but by the people and media we surround ourselves with. Immersing yourself in content, conversations, and relationships that reinforce your desired identity — ones that affirm peace, confidence, and resilience — can radically shift your mental and emotional baseline. Books, podcasts, and communities that support this identity are not luxuries; they are lifelines. The Law of Identification isn't magic, nor is it a replacement for therapy. It reminds us that while we may not control everything about our circumstances, we do have agency over the identity we choose to strengthen. And from that chosen identity, a new life can begin to take shape. Even when setbacks occur, a grounded self-image becomes an anchor — holding us steady, reminding us who we are becoming, and guiding us back to our truest self.

(The writer is an educator and councillor. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

ECI delisting 345 unreconised parties

The Election Commission of India on Thursday, June 26, said it has started proceedings for delisting of 345 registered unrecognised political parties (RUPPs) which have failed to fulfil the essential condition of contesting even a single election in the last six years since 2019.

The offices of these parties could also not be physically located anywhere, the ECI claimed.These RUPPs are from different states and UTs across the country. The Supreme Court had earlier barred EC from "derecognising" political parties noting that it was not prescribed under law. However, the EC has found a way to "delist parties". Parties delisted can be listed again by the poll authority without getting into the process of giving them fresh recognition, a former EC functionary pointed out.

Apart from over 2,800 RUPPs, there are six national and 67 state-recognised political parties in the country. The move comes ahead of Bihar elections later this year. Parties delisted cannot field their candidates to contest elections. While the Supreme Court barred "derecognition," delisting offers an alternative.

Delisted parties cannot contest elections but may be re-listed without fresh recognition. The move precedes Bihar polls. It streamlines the political landscape, ensuring that only active and accountable parties feature in the democratic exercise.

BHAGWAN THADANI MUMBAI

National Insurance Awareness Day

Insurance is the foundational element of a sound financial strategy. It is about protecting your health, income, property, and loved ones against the financial consequences arising from unexpected and often costly events.

While no one can predict the future, the right insurance policies can help reduce the financial impact of accidents, natural disasters, illness, or other claims. Insurance can help individuals rebuild after loss, and allow families to maintain financial security during difficult times. Without adequate insurance coverage, a single event — like a car accident, house fire, or medical emergency — can have devastating financial consequences.

To bring awareness about the importance of insurance in an individual's life, "National Insurance Awareness Day" is observed annually on June 28. Different types of insurance are: health, life, homeowners, auto, flood, vehicle, property, and many more other insurances.

National Insurance Awareness Day is a great occasion to help families navigate life's uncertainties with great grace and confidence. Whether you're an individual seeking peace of mind, a parent securing your family's well-being, or a business owner looking to safeguard your livelihood, insurance can be a proactive and important risk management tool to help ensure stability.

MADHUSUDHAN REDDY BURRA | KARIMNAGAR

A great moment of pride for India

India rejoices on being able to send its Air Force Fighter pilot — a Group Captain — onto the "International Space Station" to conduct experiments in microgravity. It's a moment of great achievement and pride for the country and Shubhanshu Shukla from Lucknow.

The results and takeaways of 60 experiments to be carried out in a span of 14 days by the team will enlighten and enrich space science in a big way. Experiments on whether human life can live and thrive in outer space will form part of their space odyssey. Whether human life can be transported to outer space, the living conditions which are required to sustain life there, and whether human beings in large numbers can be lifted off from Earth using gigantic spacecrafts is a curious quest which these astronauts will experiment with.

The science and technology related to this adventurous field of science learning and high-end experimentation should kindle school students to take up the study of space, albeit in their small way. The syllabus in science should include a lesson or two in space and its science at least from the 8th standard onwards.

This can ignite students to embark on taking up a future career in space science depending upon the inclination shown by them. Suitable lessons can be devised and introduced.

NR RAGHURAM | HYDERABAD

WHY THE LANGUAGE DEBATE IS A DANGEROUS DISTRACTION

The Union Home Minister is continuing his attack against foreign languages and his impulsive push for Hindi is visible in his message (news - 27 June 2025). Already in his over-enthusiastic speech he has mentioned that those who speak English will feel shame soon. This has been rightly answered by many from all over the country. Again, under the cover of glorifying native languages, he has spoken in favour of Hindi.

Actually, imposing Hindi is divisive, as seen in the sixties. It is also a fact that those who are proficient in a foreign language are equally good at their mother tongue also. Even those who are able to gain employment abroad mainly by virtue of their ability to communicate in the foreign language form forums of native languages in the countries they live, that display their love and affection for their mother tongue. The present set-up is going on smoothly and using English has not created any serious problems. Those who learn to communicate better in the foreign language gain employment in our country and abroad, and those youth who can communicate only in their local tongues end up as migrant labourers. If speaking a foreign language is called a slavery mentality, what about seeking jobs and education in foreign countries? Many students studying automobile engineering prefer to learn German language, for which they need to be appreciated. The Home Minister repeatedly stirring the language issue under the guise of glorifying the native tongues seems to have some hidden agenda, like removing English and placing Hindi in its place as a link language in due course. If English has to be replaced, will Tamil be considered by virtue of it being the oldest living language with rich literature and being a native tongue? The Home Minister has many pressing issues like Manipur, Kashmir, Arunachal, etc., to focus attention on. The language issue is avoidable.

AG RAJMOHAN | ANANTAPUR

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

The Pioneer
RANCHI | SATURDAY | JUNE 28, 2025

Beyond the blackboards: Future-proofing skill education for the Gen next

The Central Government's decision to introduce vocational education from Grade 6 under the 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' signals a long-overdue shift towards skill-based learning. However, unless this reform is backed by robust infrastructure and industry collaboration its purpose may be defeated

FIRST Column

The Union Government's initiative to integrate vocational education starting from Grade 6 under the 'Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan' is a progressive step aimed at addressing the ongoing gap between academic learning and employability. As India strives to become a $5 trillion economy, it is essential to equip its youth with skills early on. However, without a solid strategy, strong alignment with industry needs, and adequate infrastructure, this initiative risks becoming another well-intentioned yet poorly executed reform.

The Stark Skills Gap

The India Skills Report 2024 indicates that only 47.2 per cent of Indian youth are deemed employable, primarily due to a mismatch between the skills taught in educational institutions and those needed in the job market. A mere 4.1 per cent of individuals aged 15 to 59 have received any formal vocational training, compared to over 75 per cent in Germany and 50 per cent in China. This highlights the urgent need for a comprehensive overhaul of India's vocational education system, from early integration in schools to the development of market-relevant skill training programs.

Learning from Global Leaders

India has the opportunity to learn valuable lessons from the German Dual System, which effectively combines classroom education with practical apprenticeships in various industries. Approximately 50 per cent of German students opt for vocational pathways after completing secondary school. Similarly, China boasts 11,300 vocational institutions and nearly 31 million enrolments, producing 10 million skilled graduates each year.

These graduates support sectors ranging from services and manufacturing to artificial intelligence (AI). South Korea's impressive 96 per cent employment rate among vocational graduates is a result of rigorous standardisation and quality assurance. These examples serve as replicable blueprints, particularly in terms of industry collaboration and co-creating curricula.

Patchy Progress Across States

DINESH SOOD

West Bengal's Utkarsh Bangla Scheme, which offers vocational courses in nearly 2,000 schools, is an ambitious model. Annually, over 600,000 students are trained across various sectors, including electronics, hospitality, information technology, and healthcare. However, limited engagement with industry partners diminishes job placement opportunities.

In contrast, states like Punjab, Haryana, and Tamil Nadu maintain close collaboration with industries and polytechnic institutes, facilitating smoother transitions from school to work.

States such as Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have taken a step further by aligning their vocational courses with future-oriented fields, including renewable energy, AI, robotics, and wellness. This initiative aligns with the Skill India Digital Vision 2024.

Infrastructure and Implementation

The National Education Infrastructure Survey 2023 reveals that 38 per cent of Government secondary schools still lack essential laboratory and workshop facilities. In Punjab, urban areas generally perform better, while rural regions continue to struggle with faculty shortages and outdated equipment.

The poor effectiveness of previous initiatives, such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), highlighted that high enrollment numbers did not necessarily lead to employment, primarily due to inadequate training quality. A phased implementation model — starting with urban centres and gradually expanding to rural districts — can ensure that infrastructure, faculty, and educational content develop in tandem.

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Bystander to Stakeholder

A 2023 survey by FICCI and EY reveals that 70 per cent of employers in India are facing skill shortages, yet only a small percentage are actively participating in vocational training programs. In Gujarat, effective Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) have successfully developed demand-driven courses and updated curricula.

Karnataka's collaboration with major tech companies, such as Infosys, Wipro, and Bosch, to train high school students in coding, data analytics, and mechatronics serves as a scalable model for other states. On the other hand, West Bengal remains dependent on Government-led initiatives and needs to enhance industry collaboration, not only for curriculum design but also for internships, apprenticeships, and certifications.

Quality Through Accountability

Since 2015, the Skill India Mission has certified over 1.3 crore individuals; however, only about 50 per cent of these individuals have secured employment. One of the main challenges is inconsistent quality. There is an urgent need for third-party audits, employer-validated certifications, and real-time tracking of placements to ensure transparency and accountability.

Singapore's Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) system is considered a benchmark, as industry councils update training modules quarterly in response to labour market needs. India must invest in similar National Skill Registries and adaptive learning platforms aligned with the vision outlined in the National Education Policy.

A Five-Point Reform Agenda for the Future

1. Curriculum Modernisation: Shift the focus from traditional trades to high-growth sectors such as electric vehicle (EV) maintenance, renewable energy, robotics, artificial intelligence (AI), and healthcare technology.
2. Mandatory Industry Partnerships: Each school offering vocational courses must partner with an industry or sector skills council to co-design the curriculum and conduct evaluations.
3. Digital-First Infrastructure: Utilise the upcoming Skill India Digital Platform to provide virtual labs, remote mentorship, and modular learning opportunities, even in rural areas.
4. Quality Assurance Mechanisms: Establish a National Vocational Education Quality Council (NVEQC) to oversee standards, conduct audits, and implement employer feedback systems.
5. Incentivising Adoption: Offer tax benefits to companies that provide apprenticeships and performance-linked grants to schools based on their placement records.

Need for Deeper Reforms

India boasts one of the youngest populations globally. To transform this demographic dividend into a developmental advantage, practical skills must start early. Integrating vocational education from Grade 6 is a positive step; however, without significant reforms, it risks repeating past mistakes.

Vocational education should not be considered a fallback option for students who struggle academically. With the right policy initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and strong corporate partnerships, vocational education can lead India's human capital revolution. It is time to move from intention to implementation, as skills will become the new currency in the future of work.

(The writer is Co-Founder and MD of Orane International, a Training Partner with the NSDC. Views are personal)

Thailand on the brink: Border crisis with Cambodia fuels fears of imminent coup

While global attention remains riveted on the recently halted conflict between Israel and Iran-ignited by President Trump's provocative assaults on purported nuclear sites — a far more seismic and overlooked upheaval is unfolding in Southeast Asia, heralding the spectres of Governmental disintegration, regional turmoil, and the re-emergence of virulent ultranationalist authoritarianism. At the heart of this crisis lies the embattled Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, caught between the unforgiving gears of royalist militarism and an inflammatory border dispute with Cambodia that has become less about territorial delineation and more a proxy war for the soul of Thai democracy. To view the Thailand-Cambodia border standoff merely through the lens of cartographic claims over temples and ancient ruins would be to profoundly underestimate its broader implications. The border is merely the stage.

The actors — the Thai military, the royalist aristocracy, the remnants of the Shinawatra political dynasty, and Cambodia's enduring autocracy — are embroiled in a deeper conflict over legitimacy, memory, and geopolitics. The roots of the current impasse lie in the historical ambiguities left unresolved by the Franco-Siamese treaties of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The contentious zones surrounding the Ta Moan Thom, Ta Krabei, and the Preah Vihear temples have, for over a century, oscillated between national pride and imperial cartographic error. The 1962 International Court of Justice ruling, which awarded Preah Vihear to Cambodia, never fully settled the Thai military's grievance — and in many ways, enshrined a mythos of loss that nationalists have continually resurrected to justify belligerent posturing.

Yet, what is occurring in 2025 cannot be explained merely by revisiting colonial maps. This is a crisis deliberately escalated — a choreography of confrontation designed to reinvigorate military influence within a faltering Thai polity. The fatal clash on May 28, which left a Cambodian soldier dead, may have been spontaneous in execution but was the predictable outcome of months of nationalist agitation, thinly veiled threats from mid-level Thai army commanders, and the re-militarisation of border provinces under the guise of sovereignty defence. Paetongtarn's beleaguered premiership, marked by populist inexperience and elite antipathy, has provided the ideal vacuum for this crisis to metastasise. It is no coincidence that her leaked 17-minute phone call with former Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, now Senate President and once again donning military fatigues as the "Senior Logistics Officer", has become the fulcrum of a political maelstrom.

That conversation — intended as a gesture of diplomatic candour — was met not with gratitude, but with fury. Within Thailand, it was perceived by the military and conservative establishment as an unforgivable trespass on hierarchical protocol, not least because Paetongtarn appeared to denounce a regional Thai commander and supplicate before a foreign autocrat. The fact that it was leaked by a Cambodian official only highlights the performative nature of this outrage: it served as both a domestic scandal and a geopolitical warning. The response from Bhumjaithai, a pivotal coalition partner, to exit the governing alliance under the pretext of defending Thai sovereignty is performative no less — a carefully calibrated manoeuvre designed to prelude a no-confidence motion and probable parliamentary collapse. Their claim that the Prime Minister's leaked conversation compromised national security conveniently elides the fact that Thai military officers have themselves engaged in far more clandestine — and often destabilising — operations across the Cambodian border for decades, including support for anti-Vietnamese insurgents and alleged interference in Cambodian domestic affairs.

Paetongtarn's position is now untenable. Her coalition is haemorrhaging credibility, the military has shuttered land borders under the guise of "national security," and conservative senators have launched judicial petitions against her. The spectre of a constitutional court dismissal — Thailand's now-traditional soft coup method — looms ever larger. Meanwhile, the military has revived its Cold War-era national security discourse, linking the border issue to broader narratives of sovereignty, moral decay, and the need for military stewardship. But history offers chilling parallels.

NILANTHA ILANGAMUWA

The October 1976 Thammasat massacre, followed by an immediate coup, was preceded by similar nationalist fervour and royalist mobilisation against student demonstrators accused of harbouring communist sympathies. The 2006 coup that deposed Thaksin Shinawatra, Paetongtarn's father, was couched in identical rhetoric — the moral failings of a populist demagogue, the threat to the monarchy, and the need for intervention. Even the 2014 coup, conducted by then-General Prayuth Chan-ocha, was justified on the grounds of restoring order and "rebalancing" foreign relations.

Indeed, Thailand's military has mastered the art of coup legitimation, consistently invoking border crises, alleged threats to the monarchy, or judicial irregularities to sanctify its usurpation of power. The judiciary, long infiltrated by royalist ideologues, has become a reliable accomplice, dissolving political parties and annulling elections with antiseptic legalese. Paetongtarn's potential removal by either court or coup is not a question of "if" but "when." In this complex interplay of power, Cambodia plays its part. Hun Sen's re-entry into military affairs — symbolically announced in uniform from the frontlines — is less about logistics and more about symbolism. His historical disdain for Thai military adventurism, combined with a shrewd understanding of domestic optics, makes his posture politically advantageous. By invoking "an enemy that has invaded Cambodia," he galvanises nationalist fervour at home while drawing Thailand deeper into a diplomatic quagmire. Cambodia's filing of a case at The Hague over the disputed zones is not merely legal posturing but geopolitical provocation — an invitation for international adjudication that Thailand will likely reject, reinforcing Cambodia's narrative of victimhood.

Beneath these tensions lie deeper regional anxieties. China's increasing influence in Cambodia, through infrastructure projects and military agreements, unnerves Thai strategists who fear encirclement. Simultaneously, Thailand's drift from democratic norms has strained its relations with Western allies, giving Beijing further room to manoeuvre. The border crisis, thus, becomes more than a bilateral squabble — it is a proxy terrain where great power interests intersect with local authoritarianism.

The bottom line is that what is at stake is not merely Paetongtarn's premiership or the fate of a few kilometres of disputed land, but the broader architecture of Thai political life. The resurgence of military assertiveness, the weaponisation of nationalism, the suppression of civil society, and the systematic dismantling of electoral legitimacy represent a retreat from the democratic aspirations of the 1997 constitution — itself long dead in spirit if not in name.

Thailand teeters on the precipice of yet another putsch — an outcome both banal in its predictability and tragic in its implications. And yet the international community remains inert, transfixed by conflicts elsewhere, blind to the slow strangulation of Southeast Asia's once-promising democracy. The coming coup, whether judicial, parliamentary or military, will not just remove a prime minister. It will reaffirm the militarised state as the ultimate arbiter of power in Thailand, further ossifying a regime where ballots are tolerated only when they yield the correct result.

And as the borders close, both physically and ideologically, the spectre of armed conflict with Cambodia offers the military not only an external adversary but the ultimate alibi — the eternal justification for suspending liberty in the name of order.

(The writer is Colombo based journalist. Views are personal)

Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford political uncertainty

Everything comes with an expiry date and so does my patience: Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister Jammu and Kashmir

Only police under me, development domain of the elected Government: Manoj Sinha, LG Jammu and Kashmir

These are the warring comments by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Mr Omar Abdullah. They made the observations on separate occasions but with the same intent of one-upmanship in the fragile constitutional framework of Jammu and Kashmir. More so after August 5, 2019 when the special status of the Jammu and Kashmir was done away with, and made a powerless Union Territory with confusing lines of power-sharing between an elected Government and the Raj Bhawan. Is the eight-month-long truce between the self-effacing chief minister and all empowered Lt Governor, being the sole representative of the Centre, over? Is Mr Abdullah's discomfiture manifested in his "expiry date" expression outcome of the increasing public pressure reminding him of his poll promise on reinstating statehood and subsequent restoration of Article 370 in its old form?

Jammu and Kashmir, particularly Kashmir, is not a static entity, both strategically and politically.

Are the observations made by the two constitutional authorities in Jammu and Kashmir, an indication of yet another political turmoil and the related uncertainty?

ANIL ANAND

At a time when the Union Territory has been trying to come to terms with the fallout of the latest round of Indo-Pak armed confrontation in the aftermath of Pahalgam terrorist attack in which 26 innocent peopole were killed by the gun-totting terrorists, this is the last thing anyone not only in Jammu and Kashmir but the entire nation will expect. Jammu and Kashmir cannot afford yet another round of political uncertainty only to satisfy the urges of powerful groups in New Delhi and J and K. A realisation must dawn on all that such a situation is least in the national interest.

The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir shares its status with Delhi and Puducherry, UTs with assembly, with limited powers to the elected Government. Realistically speaking, as the one who has witnessed developments in Delhi from a reporter's prism, through close quarters since 1993 when it acquired its current constitutional status, this model is flawed and unworkable. This model was born more out of political expediency rather than the well-being of the people.

Nevertheless, all three cases should be viewed and reviewed differently by the powers that be. At least J&K with its strategic location and sensitivity did not deserve this treatment.

Unfortunately, the main stakeholders (the people) had no say when this model of UTs was formulated. This is entirely true of Jammu and Kashmir where a progressive state — the national parameters would bear this out despite three-decade-long terrorism and political instability from time to time to satisfy the whims and fancies of the political leaders in New Delhi and J and K, was unceremoniously divested of its status. Never ever the people were taken on board when this decision of far-reaching dimensions was taken.

It is a reality that Jammu and Kashmir is a Union Territory with a lame-duck elected Government and a powerful Raj Bhawan lording over it. Holding assembly elections, the first in five years after the UT status, was certainly a welcome move as it reflected the Centre's will to bring people back into the democratic process and elect their representatives, which they did with utmost enthusiasm. This spirit needed to be taken forward through greater understanding between what Mr Abdullah has now described as "two power-centres" without introducing any political element to it.

Unfortunately, this spirit seemed to be beginning to lose steam and was in danger of getting evaporated. Carrying forward this spirit would entail exhibiting, more so on the part of the Centre and Raj Bhawan, a sense of adjustment and mutual trust while bearing in mind that pressure all the time will be on the elected Government being directly answerable to the people.

Jammu and Kashmir assembly in its present form is a well-balanced House. On one side is the National Conference-led ruling alliance with a strong majority and on the other hand there is a strong opposition primarily the BJP. This balanced formulation, in terms of the number game, of the assembly was a perfect platform for the Centre — Raj Bhawan combo, to take the democratic processes forward with elected representatives of both ruling and opposition varieties becoming the show window.

Under the circumstances, Mr Abdullah citing the expiry date of his patience is but natural as he seems to be under growing pressure from not only the electorates but also his party. The situation would have eased or at least not reached a situation where the chasm between the Lt Governor and the CM threatens to become open, had the Centre engaged the UT Government on the issue of restoration of statehood. Barring an occasional observation from the BJP's central leadership and the Centre that this would be done at an "appropriate time", there is nothing to show intent and give people a ray of hope. And a face-saver to Mr Abdullah.

(The writer is political and national affairs analyst. Views are personal)

Thailand starts banning sale of cannabis without prescription

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Bangkok

Thailand has started banning the sale of cannabis to those without a prescription, three years after becoming the first country in Asia to decriminalise the plant. The new order, signed by Health Minister Somsak Thepsutin earlier this week, came into effect Thursday after it was published in the Royal Gazette. It bans shops from selling cannabis to customers without a prescription and reclassifies cannabis buds as a controlled herb. A violation could result in a maximum one-year jail term and a 20,000-baht ($614) fine, according to the order.

The Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine, in charge of enforcing regulations related to cannabis, held a meeting Friday with officials across the country to prepare them for the change. The move to decriminalise in 2022 had boosted Thailand's tourism and farming industries, and spawned thousands of shops. But the country has faced public backlash over allegations that a lack of regulation made the drug available to children and caused addiction.

Treechada Srithada, spokesperson for the Health Ministry, said in a statement Thursday that cannabis use in Thailand would become "fully for medical purposes".

She said shops that violate the order will be closed and the ministry will also tighten requirements for approval of a new license in the future. She said there are currently 18,000 shops that hold a licence to sell cannabis. The ruling Pheu Thai Party previously promised to criminalise the drug again, but faced strong resistance from its former partner in the coalition government, the Bhumjaithai Party, which supported decriminalisation.

German lawmakers vote to suspend family reunions for migrants

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Berlin

German lawmakers voted Friday to suspend family reunions for many migrants, part of a drive by the new conservative-led government for a tougher approach to migration.

Parliament's lower house voted 444-135 to suspend the possibility of family reunions for two years for migrants who have "subsidiary protection", a status that falls short of asylum. At the end of March, more than 388,000 people living in Germany had the status, which was granted to many people fleeing Syria's civil war.

New Chancellor Friedrich Merz made tougher migration policy a central plank of his campaign for Germany's election in February. Just after he took office in early May, the government stationed more police at the border and said some asylum-seekers trying to enter Europe's biggest economy would be turned away.

The bill approved Friday is the first legislation on migration since Merz took office. It will suspend rules dating to 2018 that allowed up to 1,000 close relatives per month to join the migrants granted limited protection, with authorities making case-by-case decisions on humanitarian grounds rather than granting an automatic right for reunions.

Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt told lawmakers that the change would result in 12,000 fewer people being able to come to Germany each year and "break a business model" for smugglers.

People often know they won't get full recognition as refugees, "but they set off for Germany because it is known that, even without asylum recognition ... You can have your family follow", Dobrindt said. "That is a significant pull effect and we are removing this pull effect today."Dobrindt said "our country's capacity for integration simply has a limit".

Liberal opposition lawmakers decried the government's approach. Marcel Emmerich, of the Greens, described the legislation as "an attack on the core of every society, on a truly central value — the family".

Anyone who wants integration must bring families together," he said. The far-right, anti-migration Alternative for Germany described the move as a very small step in the right direction. German Governments have for years faced pressure to curb migration as shelters across the country filled up.

Bangladesh interim Government forms panel to probe over last three elections

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Dhaka

The interim government of Bangladesh has formed a committee to investigate allegations of irregularities, corruption and administrative involvement in the 2014, 2018, and 2024 general elections and make recommendations on ensuring fair elections in the future, a notification said.

The five-member panel led by former high court justice Shamim Hasnain will submit a report by September 30 on allegations that the three elections were manipulated to secure victories for the then-ruling Awami League party by systematically depriving citizens of their voting rights, BD NEWS 24 quoted the cabinet division notification as saying on Thursday.

The notification said the rule of law, democracy, and fundamental human rights were reportedly undermined during the elections, which faced widespread criticism both domestically and internationally.

It said the committee would analyse reports from election observers, domestic and international monitoring bodies, civil society organisations, and media regarding the 2014, 2018, and 2024 elections and collect and review expert opinions on the overall integrity and acceptability of these elections.

The committee will also assess the role of the then-ruling party and associated entities in restricting political participation and obstructing the exercise of voting rights, evaluate the functions of the election commissions, their secretariats, and the administration during those elections, and examine the roles played by law enforcement and intelligence agencies, it said.

Additionally, it will investigate financial irregularities reportedly committed by the respective election commissions and determine accountability for the irregularities observed in those elections, the notification said.

It will then provide recommendations regarding necessary reforms in laws, regulations, the role of the election commission, and administrative arrangements to ensure free, fair, and credible elections in the future.

The notification further said the committee may also summon documents from any office and interrogate relevant individuals, and if necessary, co-opt additional members to support the investigation.

Talks with US complicated by US strike: Iran's diplomat

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Dubai

FILE PHOTO

Iran's top diplomat said the possibility of new negotiations with the United States on his country's nuclear programme has been "complicated" by the American attack on three of the sites, which he conceded caused "serious damage".

The US was one of the parties to the 2015 nuclear deal in which Iran agreed to limits on its uranium enrichment program in exchange for sanctions relief and other benefits.

That deal unravelled after US President Donald Trump pulled the US out unilaterally during his first term. Trump has suggested he is interested in new talks with Iran and said the two sides would meet next week.

In an interview on Iranian state television broadcast late Thursday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi left open the possibility that his country would again enter talks on its nuclear program, but suggested it would not be anytime soon.

"No agreement has been made for resuming the negotiations," he said. "No time has been set, no promise has been made, and we haven't even talked about restarting the talks."

The American decision to intervene militarily "made it more complicated and more difficult" for talks on Iran's nuclear program, Araghchi said.

In Friday prayers, many imams stressed Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's message from the day before that the war had been a victory for Iran.

Cleric Hamzeh Khalili, who also is the deputy chief justice of Iran, vowed during a prayer service in Tehran that the courts would prosecute people accused of spying for Israel "in a special way".

During the war with Israel, Iran hanged several people who it already had in custody on espionage charges, sparking fears from activists that it could conduct a wave of executions after the conflict ended. Authorities reportedly have detained dozens in various cities on the charge of cooperation with Israel.

Israel attacked Iran on June 13, targeting its nuclear sites, defense systems, high-ranking military officials and atomic scientists in relentless attacks.

In 12 days of strikes, Israel said it killed some 30 Iranian commanders and 11 nuclear scientists, while hitting eight nuclear-related facilities and more than 720 military infrastructure sites. More than 1,000 people were killed, including at least 417 civilians, according to the Washington-based Human Rights Activists group.

Iran fired more than 550 ballistic missiles at Israel, most of which were intercepted but those that got through caused damage in many areas and killed 28 people.

Israeli military spokesperson Brig. Gen Effie Defrin told reporters Friday that in some areas it had exceeded its operational goals, but needed to remain vigilant.

Wildfire prompts evacuations near Athens as heat wave hits Greece

A firefighting airplane sprays water on a hill in Thymari, south of Athens on Thursday PTI

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Athens (Greece)

A large wildfire broke out south of Athens on Thursday, triggering authorities to issue evacuation orders and shut down parts of the coastal road linking the Greek capital to Sounion, location of the ancient Temple of Poseidon, a major tourist attraction.

The fire came as temperatures approached 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in Greece's first heatwave of the summer.

"Right now, strong land and air forces are fighting a huge battle against the flames, mainly among homes," fire department spokesman Col. Vassilis Vathrakogiannis said during a press briefing Thursday afternoon.

Twelve water-dropping planes and 12 helicopters were providing air support to 130 firefighters, backed up by volunteer firefighters in the Palaia Fokaia seaside area south of Athens, Vathrakogiannis said. A coast guard firefighting vessel doused the flames from the sea. The fire, which reportedly broke out within a populated area, was fanned by strong winds that frequently changed direction, sending plumes of smoke fanning out across the sky. Television footage showed at least one home burning.

Local mayor Dimitris Loukas said on Greece's state-run ERT television that several houses were believed to have been damaged by the blaze, but added that exact information on property destruction was not immediately available.

The coast guard said two patrol boats and nine private vessels were on standby in the Palaia Fokaia area in case an evacuation by sea became necessary. Ambulances were also on standby but had not been required by Thursday afternoon, authorities said.

"We're telling people to leave their homes," local town councilor Apostolos Papadakis said on Greece's state-run ERT television. Parts of the coastal road connecting Athens to Sounion were closed in both directions, with people urged to take alternate routes to leave the area.

Fire department spokesman Vassilis Vathrakogiannis said 40 people had been evacuated by police, while evacuation orders were issued for a total of five areas.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known, but the fire department spokesman said that an arson investigation unit had been sent to the area.

The entire wider Athens area, as well as several Aegean islands, were on Level 4 of a 5-level scale for the danger of wildfires due to the weather conditions, with the heatwave expected to last until the weekend.

Earlier in the week, hundreds of firefighters took four days to bring a major wildfire under control on the eastern Aegean island of Chios. More than a dozen evacuation orders had been issued for Chios, where the flames devoured forest and farmland. The fire department said one woman had been arrested on suspicion of having contributed to that fire's start - reportedly by discarding a cigarette.

Wildfires are frequent in Greece during its hot, dry summers. In 2018, a massive fire swept through the seaside town of Mati, east of Athens, trapping people in their homes and on roads as they tried to flee. More than 100 died, including some who drowned trying to swim away from the flames.

Starmer waters down planned welfare cuts after revolt in Labour Party

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ London

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer gave way to political pressure on Friday, watering down planned welfare reforms to avoid defeat by his own party's lawmakers. It's the latest forced U-turn for a centre-left Government caught between conflicting goals of cutting spending and improving public services.

The government planned to bring a bill to Parliament next week that would tighten eligibility for a key disability benefit, removing the Personal Independence Payment from hundreds of thousands of people with long-term physical or mental health conditions. Another health-related benefit received by people on low incomes would also be reduced under the plans.

The Government said the proposed changes would help people find jobs while preserving a safety net for those who can never work. It would also save an estimated 5 billion pounds ($7 billion) a year from a welfare bill that has ballooned since the COVID-19 pandemic. But many Labour lawmakers balked at the changes, which the Institute for Fiscal Studies think tank estimated would cut the income of 3.2 million people by 2030.

More than 120 of the 403 Labour legislators signed a motion that would effectively kill the bill if it were to be passed. Defeat at the hands of his own party in the vote planned for Tuesday would have seriously damaged Starmer's authority. To avoid that, the government said it would ensure no one who currently receives the PIP benefit will lose it.

Starmer was elected a year ago in a landslide victory, winning a commanding majority of seats in the House of Commons. Since then his popularity has plunged as a sluggish economy and stubbornly high inflation resist efforts to raise living standards and ease a cost-of-living squeeze.

Even as Starmer enjoyed success on the world stage — charming US President Donald Trump and securing a trade deal to exempt Britain from some US tariffs — Labour lawmakers have grown restive at the party's sagging poll ratings and the rise of the hard-right Reform UK party led by Nigel Farage.

Pakistan records one more poliovirus case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Peshawar

Pakistani authorities on Friday confirmed one more case of poliovirus in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, taking the total countrywide tally to 13.

The case was detected in an 18-month-old child from the Union Council Amakhel in Tank district, the Regional Reference Laboratory for Polio Eradication at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) said in a press release.

"With this latest detection, the total number of polio cases in Pakistan in 2025 has reached 13, including seven from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, four from Sindh, and one each from Punjab and Gilgit-Baltistan," it said. Pakistan is one of the last two countries in the world, alongside Afghanistan, where polio remains endemic. Despite global efforts to eradicate the virus, challenges such as security issues, vaccine hesitancy, and misinformation have slowed progress.

This year, Pakistan has undertaken three nationwide polio campaigns so far — in February, April, and May. Polio eradication efforts in Pakistan routinely face security issues. The case comes only a week after Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, bordering Afghanistan, recorded its sixth case of the year in Bannu in a 33-month-old baby, while another two cases were recorded in the province last month.

Israel-Iran tensions wake-up call for Asia

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Hanoi (Vietnam)

Asia's dependence on Middle East oil and gas — and its relatively slow shift to clean energy — make it vulnerable to disruptions in shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic weakness highlighted by the war between Israel and Iran.

Iran sits on the strait, which handles about 20 per cent of shipments of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas, or LNG. Four countries — China, India, Japan and South Korea — account for 75 per cent of those imports.

Japan and South Korea face the highest risk, according to analysis by the research group Zero Carbon Analytics, followed by India and China. All have been slow to scale up use of renewable energy.

In 2023, renewables made up just nine per cent of South Korea's power mix — well below the 33 per cent average among other members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD. In the same year, Japan relied more heavily on fossil fuels than any other country in the Group of Seven, or G7.

A truce in the 12-day Israel-Iran war appeared to be holding, reducing the potential for trouble for now. But experts say the only way to counter lingering uncertainty is to scale back reliance on imported fossil fuels and accelerate Asia's shift to clean, domestic energy sources.

"These are very real risks that countries should be alive to — and should be thinking about in terms of their energy and economic security," said Murray Worthy, a research analyst at Zero Carbon Analytics.

Japan and South Korea are vulnerable

China and India are the biggest buyers of oil and LNG passing through the potential chokepoint at the Strait of Hormuz, but Japan and South Korea are more vulnerable.

Japan depends on imported fossil fuels for 87 per cent of its total energy use and South Korea imports 81 per cent.

Using TikTok could be making you more politically polarised: Study

THE CONVERSATION
■ United States

People on TikTok tend to follow accounts that align with their own political beliefs, meaning the platform is creating political echo chambers among its users.

These findings, from a study my collaborators, Yanlin Li and Homero Gil de Zúñiga, and I published in the academic journal New Media & Society, show that people mostly hear from voices they already agree with.

We analysed the structure of different political networks on TikTok and found that right-leaning communities are more isolated from other political groups and from mainstream news outlets. Looking at their internal structures, the right-leaning communities are more tightly connected than their left-leaning counterparts.

In other words, conservative TikTok users tend to stick together. They rarely follow accounts with opposing views or mainstream media accounts. Liberal users, on the other hand, are more likely to follow a mix of accounts, including those they might disagree with.

Our study is based on a massive dataset of over 16 million TikTok videos from more than 160,000 public accounts between 2019 and 2023. We saw a spike of political TikTok videos during the 2020 US presidential election.

More importantly, people aren't just passively watching political content; they're actively creating political content themselves.

Some people are more outspoken about politics than others. We found that users with stronger political leanings and those who get more likes and comments on their videos are more motivated to keep posting. This shows the power of partisanship, but also the power of TikTok's social rewards system. Engagement signals — likes, shares, comments — are like a fuel, encouraging users to create even more. Why it matters

People are turning to TikTok not just for a good laugh. A recent Pew Research Centre survey shows that almost 40 per cent of US adults under 30 regularly get news on TikTok.

One killed, 11 wounded in Israeli strikes on Lebanon

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Nabatieh

Israel's air force carried out intense airstrikes on mountains overlooking a southern city in Lebanon on Friday, in an attack that the Israeli military said targeted underground assets of the Hezbollah militant group.

Shortly afterward, an apartment building in the nearby city of Nabatieh was struck, killing one woman, wounding 11 and knocking out the building's top floor, according to Lebanon's state news agency.

The state-run National News Agency reported that the woman killed lived in Germany and had come back to Lebanon less than a month earlier to visit family. It wasn't immediately clear if she was a German citizen. The woman's apartment was hit by an Israeli drone strike, according to the report.

The Israeli army, in a statement posted on X, denied targeting a civilian building. The statement said the building was hit by a Hezbollah rocket that had been stored at another location that was targeted by an airstrike and "launched, and exploded as a result." It blamed Hezbollah for storing weapons near residential areas.

Since the 14-month Israel-Hezbollah war ended with a US-brokered ceasefire in November,

Airstrikes on hills overlooking Nabatieh came in two waves, and bunker busters were used, Lebanon's state-run NNA reported

Israel has carried out almost daily airstrikes on southern Lebanon. Friday's strikes were more intense than usual.

"We are steadfast no matter how much you bomb us with your fighter jets and drones," Hassan Ghandour, a Shiite cleric from Nabatieh, told The Associated Press at the scene of the building.

Lebanon's president and prime minister condemned the Israeli strikes on south Lebanon, saying they violated the ceasefire deal.

The airstrikes on the mountains overlooking Nabatieh came in two waves, and bunker busters were used, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported. NNA said that four people were slightly wounded in the airstrikes outside the city.

The Israeli military said in a statement that its fighter jets struck a site used by Hezbollah to manage its fire and defense array in the area and is part of a significant underground project that was completely taken out of use.

The Israeli army said that it identified rehabilitation attempts by Hezbollah beforehand and struck infrastructure sites in the area.

There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah.

Hezbollah suffered significant losses on the battlefield during the war, which left more than 4,000 people dead in Lebanon and caused destruction amounting to USD 11 billion. In Israel, 127 people died, including 80 soldiers.

As part of the ceasefire deal, Hezbollah was pushed away from areas bordering Israel in south Lebanon and isn't allowed to have an armed presence south of the Litani River.

UK military base break in: Four arrested

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ London

British counter terrorism police said Friday that they have arrested four people in connection with a break-in at a military base last week, during which two planes were vandalised.

Counter Terrorism Policing South East said in a statement that two men, 24 and 36, from London were arrested Thursday along with a 29-year-old woman of no fixed address "on suspicion of the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism". A 41-year-old woman, of no fixed address, was also arrested on suspicion of assisting an offender.

They remain in police custody

The arrests relate to a break-in at the Royal Air Force base in Brize Norton, during which two planes were damaged with red paint. The pro-Palestinian activist group Palestine Action subsequently released video footage appearing to show one of the two activists who entered the base spraying the paint into a jet's turbine engines.

The group alleged that Britain was continuing to "send military cargo, fly spy planes over Gaza and refuel US/Israeli fighter jets," and condemned the country as "an active participant in the Gaza genocide and war crimes across the Middle East".

Earlier this week, the British government said it will ban Palestine Action under anti-terrorism laws. The measure means it will be a criminal offense to belong to or support the group, with a maximum of

Britain's government has proscribed about 80 organisations, including Hamas and far-right groups such as National Action

14 years in prison.The group has sought to press its point with high-profile direct action, perhaps most notably in March when it targeted one of US President Donald Trump's golf resorts in Scotland, painting "Gaza is Not For Sale" in giant letters on the lawn in response to his proposal to empty the Gaza Strip of its Palestinian population. The government said a draft order for the ban will be laid in Parliament next week. Lawmakers still need to approve it.

Britain's government has proscribed about 80 organisations, including Hamas and al-Qaida, and far-right groups such as National Action.

Pardon letters being crafted with a man in mind: Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Ashland (US)

Pounding away on a prison typewriter, Chad Scott seemed worlds apart from President Donald Trump.

But when the disgraced narcotics agent wrote the White House seeking clemency for his corruption conviction, Scott sought to draw Trump's attention to what they have in common.

Both men had survived a bullet wound to the ear, Scott wrote, and had been convicted of falsifying records. They were also each a victim of "political persecution," the type of catchphrase the former agent hoped would resonate with a man who has long complained of witch hunts.

By helping him, Scott argued, Trump would be showing he had "the back of law enforcement."

"Chad Scott is a hero in this country's war on drugs," his attorney wrote in a clemency petition reviewed by The Associated Press, adding it would be a "gross waste of taxpayer money" to house and feed the former US Drug Enforcement Administration agent for six more years.

Scott's application is hardly unique, according to prisoners, defense attorneys and officials. The White House and the Justice Department have received a wave of such requests - all carefully crafted to capture the attention and fancy of Trump or those who know his inclinations.

The flurry, legal experts said, has been sparked by Trump's frequent and eyebrow-raising grants of clemency since retaking office in January. The Republican president has pardoned and commuted the sentences of more than 1,600 people, including many political allies, former GOP officeholders and hundreds charged or convicted in the 2021 Capitol riot. He even pardoned a pair of reality TV stars who were serving time for bank fraud and tax evasion.

In doing so, Trump has largely cast aside a process that historically has been overseen by nonpolitical personnel at the Justice Department who spent their days poring over clemency applications - thick packets filled with character references attesting to applicants' atonement and good deeds. Only those meeting strict criteria were then passed along to the White House.

Those procedures appear to have been replaced by the caprice of a president known for his transactional approach to governance, his loyalty to supporters and his disdain for perceived enemies.

It's created "a free-for-all" for those seeking clemency, said Liz Oyer, the Justice Department's former pardon attorney, who was fired in March. "The traditional process and practices," she told the AP, "all seem to have fallen by the wayside."

Inmates believe Trump might hear them out

That has left an opening for prisoners like Eric Sanchez Chaparro, who is seeking a commutation for a drug and weapons conviction that carries a 19-year prison sentence. The optimism, he said, has never been higher for those behind bars.

"In many ways I feel like he has the same point of view that we've got," Chaparro said in a telephone interview, noting that both he and the president were convicted of felonies. Trump was convicted last year on New York state charges of falsifying business records related to hush money payments to a porn star but was sentenced to no punishment.

"Even though people try to put him down," Chaparro added, "he kept on pushing for his goal."

The Trump administration did not disclose how many people have reached out to Trump or White House officials to seek clemency, though some have boasted of doing so in colourful ways. Last week, Joe Exotic, the former zookeeper known as the "Tiger King," posted a song he said he wrote for Trump on social media, claiming he was "paying the time for a crime I didn't do." He's serving a 21-year sentence for the failed murder-for-hire of an animal-welfare activist.

Wave of pardon applications lands at Justice Department

Since Trump retook office five months ago, his Justice Department has received more than 9,300 petitions seeking commutations of sentences or pardons. At that pace, the tally would blow past the approximately 15,000 petitions filed during the four years of President Joe Biden's Democratic administration. The Justice Department received about 12,000 petitions in Trump's first term.

Clemency is perhaps the most unchecked power enjoyed by a president, as actions cannot be undone by courts or other officials. Presidents can commute sentences - reducing or eliminating them - or bestow a pardon that wipes away convictions or criminal charges.

Trump is hardly the first president to generate controversy over how he has handled such powers. Biden prompted bipartisan outrage in December when he pardoned his son Hunter, sparing him a possible prison sentence for felony gun and tax convictions. And Biden was sharply criticized - mainly by Republicans - for issuing preemptive pardons to protect lawmakers, former officials and his family members from what he described as a potentially vindictive Trump administration.

Trump's handling of pardons is unprecedented, experts say

Even so, legal scholars say, Trump's approach to clemency has veered into unprecedented territory.

The president, for example, tapped a vociferous political supporter, Ed Martin Jr., to be the Justice Department's pardon attorney. Martin is a former defense lawyer who represented Jan. 6 rioters and promoted false claims that the 2020 election had been stolen by Democrats. Trump gave Martin the post after pulling his nomination to be the US attorney for the District of Columbia in the face of bipartisan concerns over his divisive politics. Martin did not respond to requests for comment.

Much of Trump's mercy has gone to political allies, campaign donors and fraudsters who claimed they were victims of a "weaponised" Justice Department. The pardons that have drawn the most attention include one issued to a tax cheat whose mother raised millions of dollars for Republican causes.

There was the pardon of a prolific straw donor for foreign contributions who gave USD 900,000 to Trump's first inaugural committee. Trump voided the conviction of Scott Jenkins, a Virginia sheriff and vocal Trump supporter, sentenced to 10 years for deputizing several businessmen in exchange for cash payments.

"What these pardons signal - together with everything else - is that all bets are now off," said Frank Bowman, a legal historian and professor emeritus at the University of Missouri School of Law who is writing a book on pardons. "It's a grotesque misuse of constitutional authority of a kind that has never been seen in American history."

Administration officials say Trump decides on clemency requests after they're vetted by the White House Counsel's Office, the White House pardon czar and the Justice Department. Reviewers have been focusing on nonviolent, rehabilitated criminals with compelling references, the officials said. The White House is also considering petitions from those serving unjustified sentences and what the administration deems "over-prosecution."

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	**06-2025-26-WV**
Name of work with its location : 1. Balance work for Provision of new line between line No. 2 and South line in Delhi Sarai Rohilla station yard in the section of SSE/P.Way/DEE.	
Approx. Cost of work	**1.** Rs. 4931816.92
Earnest Money Deposit	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025//CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)
1. Rs. 98600.00	
Completion period of Work	**1.** 06 Months
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs. on 18.07.2025 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. On 18.07.2025.
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in**

No. 128-W/280/OET/2025-26/W-V Dated: 27.06.2025 **1950/2025**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S MRG GROUP INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
(CIN: U74999HR2018PTC117957)
Registered Office: 9th Floor, IREO Grand View Tower, Golf Course Extension Road, Sector 58, Bhondsi, Gurgaon-122102
Email: compliances@mrggroupindia.com

Whereas **M/s MRG Group India Private Limited** (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing a project known as **"MRG Crown"** over an area measuring 3.8022 acres, Independent Residential Floors under DDJAY situated at Sector-106, Gurugram under License No 192 of 2022 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having RERA Registration No. 50 of 2023 dated 29.03.2023.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in only 30% Bank Account in the same bank i.e. Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly, vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

Particulars	Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts
Bank Name	Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited	Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited
IFSC Code	KKBK0000289	KKBK0000289
Master Collection Account No.(100%)	1547365003	1547365003
RERA Account No. (70%)	1547363931	1547363931
Promoter Free Account No. (30%)	1547352386	8947707280

Place: Gurugram **M/s MRG Group India Private Limited**
Date: 21.06.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of **Mr. Lal Chand** to inform to the public at large that **Mrs. Treveni** is the owner of **Residential Plot of land area measuring 60 Sq. Yds., out of Mu. No. 133, Killa No. 21, 22 & 23, Situated at waka mauza Sinhi, Tehsil Ballabhgarh District Faridabad, Haryana,** vide **Transfer of Lease Deed dated 24.03.2025 (Doc. No.9640)** and same to be finance & mortgage by **Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHIL).** That, **Lease Deed (for 99 years), dated 31.07.1985 executed by Mr. Nihal Singh in favour of Mr. Harish Chand S/o Mr. Mohar Singh, but further in Lease Deed dated 09.01.2025, Mr. Harish Chand S/o Mr. Mohar Singh name wrongly mentioned as Mr. Hari Chand S/o Mr. Mohar Singh.** So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/ creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within **7 days** from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. **Lucem Legal LLP**
B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2,Noida,UP-201301Contact#0120-4269379

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of **RAHUL TANWAR** with respect to FRONT SIDE UPPER GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, PART OF BUILT-UP PROPERTY NO. D-2/152, LAND AREA MEASURING 100 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 16/2, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE ASALATPUR KHADAR COLONY KNOWN AS JIWAN PARK, PANKHA ROAD, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110059, the subject property is currently owned by Mrs. Kela Devi who had purchased the same from Mrs. Saroj Bala on the basis of Notarized General Power of Attorney, Notarized Agreement to sell and Will dated 15.02.2013, **RAHUL TANWAR** intend to purchase the subject property and mortgage it to obtain financial assistance from **ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED.** To comply with the requirements of the Bank/NBFC, this public notice is issued. If any person has any claim, right, title, interest, or has created a mortgage over the said property, they are requested to inform us in writing at the address mentioned below about their objections **within 7days from today**. Failure to do so will result in the presumption that the said property is free from all encumbrances, liens, etc. **Lucem Legal LLP**
Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that **Mrs. Meenu Chauhan** is the GPA Holder of Built-Up Property no. A -173, (old no. 75), area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., i.e. 83.61 Sq. Mtrs, out of Khasra no. 335/1, situated at Village Mustafabad, in the abadi of Nehru Vihar, Dayal Pur, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi – 110094. They are in Possession through Notarized GPA, ATS, WILL dated 26.02.2024 executed by Mr. Anil Kumar in favour of Mrs. Meenu Chauhan in respect of said Property.

Kamal Kant Chauhan on Behalf of **Meenu Chauhan** intends to transfer the ownership of above-mentioned Property by way of Sale Deed to **Mohammad Shahid.** Subsequently, **Mohammad Shahid** is in the process of mortgaging the said Plot with **SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd.** Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client

If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting **Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +91012-04499711,e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of **AKANSHA GUPTA** with respect to Property No. A-2/131, area measuring 261 Sq. Yds., Situated in the area of Village Basai Darapur colony known as Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027 the subject property is currently owned by Mrs. Neera Mehra w/o late Som Nath Mehra vide Relinquishment Deed dated 28.09.2017 bearing document no.9190, Book no.I, Volume no.23365, pages no.25-29, dated 28.09.2017 earlier Mrs. Neera Mehra and her husband Mr. Som Nath Mehra were joint owner of the subject property vide Sale Deed dated 12.11.2008, bearing document no.25169, Book no.I, Volume no.16511, pages no.31-36, dated 12.11.2008, unfortunately Mr. Som Nath Mehra expired and after his death, Mr. Rohit Mehra and Mr. Mohit Mehra both ss/o late Mr. Som Nath Mehra released their respective shares out of the subject property to Mrs. Neera Mehra vide Relinquishment Deed dated 28.09.2017. In this manner Mrs. Neera Mehra became absolute owner of the subject property, **AKANSHA GUPTA** intend to purchase the subject property and mortgage it to obtain financial assistance from **ADITYA BIRLA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED.** To comply with the requirements of the Bank/NBFC, this public notice is issued. If any person has any claim, right, title, interest, or has created a mortgage over the said property, they are requested to inform us in writing at the address mentioned below about their objections **within 15days from today**. Failure to do so will result in the presumption that the said property is free from all encumbrances, liens, etc. **Lucem Legal LLP**
Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Digvijaysinh, Father Of No.15794303K L/Hav(DS) Gohil Ravirajsinh Digvijaysinh R/o- Vill/Po- Kuhad, Teh-Ghogha, Distt- Bhavnagar, Gujarat- 364120, have changed my name from Digvijaysinh to Digvijaysinh Godubha Gohil, vide affidavit dated 27/06/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(2345)C

I, Gaja Raba, Mother of No.15794303K L/Hav(DS) Gohil Ravirajsinh Digvijaysinh R/o- Vill/Po- Kuhad, Teh-Ghogha, Distt- Bhavnagar, Gujarat- 364120, have changed my name from Gaja Raba to Gajaranba Digvijaysinh Gohil, vide affidavit dated 27/06/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(2346)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed that my client namely Mr. Ranjeet Singh s/o Shiv Bhadur Singh R/o H. No. 76 R Block part-2, Vikas Nagar Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059 disowned his son namely Dhiraj Singh and his wife Anjali Singh from their all moveable and immoveable properties and have also severed all their social relationship from him due to his disobedient behavior and misconduct and went out of control of my client. If anybody deals with them in any respect, he/she himself/herself shall be responsible for own risks, cost and consequences. My client and his/her other family members shall not be liable for his/her conduct and responsibility for the same in any manner whatsoever in future.
RAKESH GOLA (Advocate), Office: Plot No.2, New Sainik Vihar Balaji Chowk, Mohan Garden, New Delhi-59

PUBLIC NOTICE

My husband Late Sh. **Swapan Bose S/o Sh. Nand Dulal Bose R/o**, House No-296, MIG DDA, South End Apartment, Pul Pehladpur, PO: Jaitpur, DIST*: South Delhi Delhi-110044, had purchased flat no **0808, in tower A2, Eco Village-1 project, situated at Plot No-08, Sector-1, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201303**, After his death, I requested to M/s Supertech Limited to transfer the said flat to my name along with our son **Mr. Saurav Bose**, 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. Tuku Bose W/o late Sh. Swapan Bose R/o House No-296, MIG DDA, South End Apartment, Pul Pehladpur, PO: Jaitpur, DIST*: South Delhi Delhi-110044.
DIWAKAR JHA (Advocate) M-9711299949

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that Mr. Ashok Bansal, is the owner of the Built up Three Side Open Property No-RZ-1/84, Gali No-2, area measuring 185.46 Sq. Yds., i.e., 154.542 Sq. Meters, out of Khasra No. 459, Situated at Tughlakabad Extn New Delhi, through Sale Deed dated 24.04.2025, vide Document No. 2025/10/1/3071 Regd. at SR- South East Mehrauli. Mr. Ashok Bansal is selling the above said property to Mr. Sultan Ahmad. The same has to be financed & mortgaged with my client i.e., Piramal Finance Ltd formerly known as Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Ltd.

If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 7 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property.
Raghav Tiwari (Advocate)
Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi - 110001
Mob.: +91-8383020294

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Mahander Kumar, son of Late Shri Madan Lal (Retired Pump Operator, New Delhi Municipal Council), currently residing at S-2, Sector-12, Noida, District Gautam Buddh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, hereby publicly announce that I have submitted the necessary claims and documents for the reimbursement of ₹3,81,000.79 (Rupees Three Lakh Eighty-One Thousand and Seventy-Nine Paisa Only), spent by me on the treatment of my father, Late Shri Madan Lal (Pump Operator, NDMC), during his COVID-19 infection. These have been submitted to the office of the Chief Medical Officer, Charak Palika Hospital, Moti Bagh, New Delhi.In this regard, if any individual or organization has any objection, they may submit their written objection, along with authentic evidence, to the Chief Medical Officer, Charak Palika Hospital, Moti Bagh, New Delhi, within 10 (ten) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period will be considered.
Akhilesh Kumar Dubey, Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to Inform The General Public that my client Mr Gagandeep Singh, S/o Sh. Kawaljit Singh, R/o House No. G-37, Ashok Vihar Phase - I, Delhi -110052 (UID No. 3305 1547 9312), has SOLD the Immovable Property Bearing: Undivided 1/2 Share of Built up Industrial Property No. L- 4, with Bottom to Top, with Roof Rights upto Sky, Area Measuring 250 Sq. Mtrs., in Pocket-B, Sector-2, situated at in The Layout Plan of Bawana Industrial Area, Bawana, Delhi-110039, under The Relocation Scheme, with The Lease Hold Rights of The Land Under The Said Property to Mr. Satinder Singh, S/o Amrik Singh R/o House No. 1-A, Gali No.1, Virat Nagar, Phase - 2, Panipat, Haryana-132103. (UID No.5288 6402 6963), through a Registered General Power of Attorney Dated 20/05/2025, Registered Before The Sub Registrar Baddi, District Solan (H.P.) under Registration No. 1554/2025. My client has no further right, Title or Interest in the said Property from the date of Execution of The Sale Deed and The Buyer is now The Absolute Owner. Any Person(s) having any claim, Objection, Right or Interest in The Said Property is hereby required to contact the Undersigned Within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of Publication of this Notice. Failing which, Such claims (if any) Shall be Deemed to have been waived and the Purchaser will proceed without any further reference.
Hemant Kumar (Advocate)
En. No.D/4447/2016

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all, **SHAIL NIDHI DHINGRA W/O SH. SHIRAZ DHINGRA R/O SFS FLAT NO. 38-D,THIRD FLOOR,CAT-II,POCKET-B, SIDDHA-RTHA EXTENSION,NEW DELHI-110014 purchaser/ owner of DDA SFS FLAT NO. 38 -D, Third Floor CAT-II, POCKET-B,SIDDHARTHA EXTENSION, New Delhi-110014, have applied for certified copies in DDA.The original documents i.e. ALLOCATION LETTER, FIFTH AND FINAL DEMAND-CUM-ALLOTMENT LETTER, POSSESSION LETTER, NOC FOR WATER AND ELECTRICITY CONNECTION & OTHER DOCUMENTS of the above said flat has been lost.** An LR NO.29540 90/2025 dated 27/06/20 25 to this effect has been lodged in P.S.Crime Branch,Delhi.Any person(s) claiming any right,interest,having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No. 9599875902 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to **Deputy Director (Housing) or Director (Housing),Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.**

CLIX CAPITAL SERVICES PVT. LTD.
Registered Office : W2/14, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008

CORRIGENDUM

Sale Notice was published by **CLIX CAPITAL SERVICES PVT. LTD.** in the newspaper i. e., Pioneer (English+Hindi) in Delhi NCR edition on 05.06.2025 in the Borrower : **NOOR MOHAMMD,** Wherein the Reserve Price and EMD to be read as **Rs. 50,00,000/- and Rs. 5,00,000/-** instead of a Rs. 60,00,000/- and Rs. 6,00,000/-.
Other content of THE SALE NOTICE will remain same.
Authorized Officer
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PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP-754142, ODISHA (INDIA)
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PPA/PR/23/2025-26 **Sd/- Sr. Asst. Secretary,**
Dt. 25.06.2025 **Paradip Port Authority**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त,
लोक निर्माण विभाग, रूद्रपुर (ऊधमसिंह नगर)
फोनः 05944–240921 ईमेलः sepwdusn@gmail.com

पत्रांक : 1489/23 एम–04/2025 दिनांक : 27/06/2025

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा (e-tendering)

महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लो०नि०वि० रूद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर) द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई–टेण्डरिंग द्वारा टू–बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचनायें वेबसाईट **http://www.uktenders.gov.in** पर दिनांक 02.07.2025 से उपलब्ध रहेगी।

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The Pioneer
RANCHI | SATURDAY | JUNE 28, 2025

Trump signs trade deal with China

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Bangkok

The US and China have signed an agreement on trade, President Donald Trump said, adding he expects to soon have a deal with India.

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick told Bloomberg TV that the deal was signed earlier this week. Neither Lutnick nor Trump provided any details about the agreement.

"We just signed with China the other day," Trump said late Thursday.

Lutnick said the deal was "signed and sealed" two days earlier.

It was unclear if the latest agreement was different from the one Trump announced two weeks earlier that he said would make it easier for American industries to obtain much-needed magnets and rare earth minerals. That pact cleared the way for the trade talks to continue, while the US agreed to stop trying to revoke visas of Chinese nationals on US college campuses.

China's Commerce Ministry said Friday that the two sides had "further confirmed the details of the framework".

But its statement did not explicitly mention US access to rare earths, minerals used in high-tech applications that have been at the centre of the negotiations.

"China will approve the export applications of controlled items that meet the conditions in accordance with the law. The United States will cancel a series of restrictive measures taken against China accordingly. It is hoped that the United States and China will meet each other halfway," it said.

The agreement follows initial talks in Geneva in early May that led both sides to postpone massive tariff hikes that were threatening to freeze much trade between the two countries. Later

talks in London set a framework for negotiations and the deal mentioned by Trump appeared to formalise that agreement.

"The president likes to close these deals himself. He's the dealmaker. We're going to have deal after deal," Lutnick said.

China has not announced any new agreements, but it announced earlier this week that it was speeding up approvals of exports of rare earths, materials used in high-tech products such as electric vehicles. Beijing's limits on exports of rare earths have been a key point of contention.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry said Thursday that Beijing was accelerating review of export license applications for rare earths and had approved "a certain number of compliant applications".

Export controls of the minerals apparently eclipsed tariffs in the latest round of trade negotiations between Beijing and Washington after China imposed permitting requirements on seven rare earth elements in April, threatening to disrupt production of cars, robots, wind turbines and other high-tech products in the US and around the world.

China also has taken steps recently on the fentanyl issue, announcing last week that it would designate two more substances as precursor chemicals for fentanyl, making them subject to production, transport and export regulations.

Trump has demanded that Beijing do more to stop the flow of such precursor ingredients to Mexican drug cartels, which use them to make fentanyl for sale in the US.

ESIC expands scheme to raise coverage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday announced renewal of a scheme to promote registration of employers and employees to expand Employees' State Insurance (ESI) coverage across India.

Originally introduced in 2016, SPREE (Scheme to Promote Registration of Employers/Employees) has facilitated the registration of over 88,000 employers and 1.02 crore employees.

The renewed SPREE will be open from July 1 to December 31, 2025, offering a one-time opportunity for unregistered employers and left-out workers, including contractual and temporary staff, to enrol under the ESI Act, a labour ministry statement said.

Under the scheme, employers registering during this period will be treated as covered from the date of registration or as declared by them, while newly registered employees will be covered from their respective dates of registration.

By focusing on voluntary compliance rather than penalisation, the scheme will seek to ease the litigation burden, encourage formal registration, and foster improved engagement and goodwill among stakeholders.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh on Friday.

The Corporation also approved Amnesty Scheme – 2025, a one-time dispute resolution window from October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026 aimed at reducing litigation and promoting compliance under the ESI Act.

For the first time, disputes along with cases involving damages and interest regarding coverage are included.

Regional Directors have been empowered to withdraw cases where contributions and interest have been paid, and also to withdraw cases filed against insured persons over five years ago where no notices were issued.

The scheme aims to reduce the number of litigations by providing a mechanism for the resolution of disputes outside the court, offering employers an opportunity to come forward for a mutual settlement to promote ease of doing business, and earn the goodwill of all stakeholders.

ESIC also decided to simplify its damages framework by replacing the earlier framework of graded rates in favour of straight forward fixed rate.

AYUSH Policy of ESIC was also approved, which focuses on integrating traditional medicines into the network

Further, the maximum rate of damage in the earlier framework was 25 per cent per annum, which has now been reduced to 1 per cent for every month on the amount payable by the employer.

This change will promote compliance, minimise disputes and foster a more conducive regulatory environment.

The Corporation also approved a proposal to delegate powers to the Director General, ESIC, to grant relaxation in submission of applications beyond the 12-month limit from the date of job loss under Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana (RGSKY) on case-to-case basis.

It also approved the revised AYUSH Policy of ESIC. This policy focuses on integrating traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy into the ESIC healthcare network.

The Corporation has approved the engagement of Yoga therapists and Panchakarma technicians/attendants in ESIC hospitals.

New portal to resolve payment delay cases concerning MSEs: President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu said the online dispute resolution portal launched on Friday will help expedite hearings and decision-making in cases related to delayed payments to micro and small enterprises (MSEs).

Speaking on the occasion of World MSME Day, President Murmu outlined the key challenges faced by MSME, such as access to finance, competition with big corporations and delayed payments.

She said the number of registered MSMEs has grown rapidly as a result of the Government's efforts. "The online dispute resolution portal launched today (Friday) will prove significant in expeditious hearing and decision-making in cases related to delayed payments," the President said.

She appealed to young women to take advantage of Government schemes to establish businesses and become self-reliant. The President observed that the world today is grappling with challenges emanating from climate change and rapid-

ly evolving technology.

Asserting that India is committed to climate change and sustainability goals, she said promoting green technology in MSMEs was the need of the hour.

"This (green technology) will not only improve the sustainability of MSMEs and their competitiveness but also help achieve the country's climate goals," Murmu said.

She emphasised that innovation is critical for sustainability of MSMEs, and shared that the Government was promoting a culture of innovation by startups in various ways.

Rupee rises to 85.48 against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Mumbai

The rupee rose 24 paise to close at 85.48 (provisional) against the greenback on Friday on the back of strong FII inflows and firm domestic equity markets.

Lower level of American currency index also favoured the Indian currency though an uptrend in crude oil prices capped its gain, forex traders said.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) purchased equities worth ₹12,594.38 crore on a net basis on Thursday, according to exchange data.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.50 against the dollar and traded in the range of 85.43-85.65 before settling at 85.48 (provisional), up 24 paise from its previous close.

The local unit rose 36 paise to close at 85.72 against the US dollar on Thursday.

"FII inflows and falling dollar index allowed the rupee to move higher. The RBI is also buying the dips to liquidate its month-end positions," Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

"The Trump tariff's date of July 9 is fast approaching and... Market remains gripped with uncertainty. Therefore, there is a chance of rupee hitting 86 next week," he said.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, inched up 0.10 per cent to 97.24 after declining earlier in the day.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, went up 0.72 per cent to USD 68.22 per barrel in futures trade after declining in the previous session.

Soon, find routes with least toll

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

NHAI's Rajmargyatra app will have a new feature from next month to inform motorists about the route attracting least amount of toll between two destinations, a senior Government official has said.

Rajmargyatra provides travellers with comprehensive information about national highways and also offers them an efficient grievance redressal mechanism.

Citing an example, Amrit Singha, Chief Product officer, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) of Indian Highways Management Company (IHMCL) said there are three routes to travel to Lucknow from Delhi and the app will help commuter choose the best one.

"You can travel to Lucknow from Delhi via Yamuna Expressway, or travel by crossing Ghaziabad-Aligarh-Kanpur-Lucknow or Moradabad-Bareilly-Sitapur-Lucknow...The app will inform motorists about the route which will attract least amount of toll between Delhi and Lucknow," Singha said.

As per ATMS sample data, between June 21 and June 23, 1.73 lakh violations were recorded most were related to banned vehicles

He rued that two and three-wheeler riders are illegally entering the access-controlled Delhi-Gudgaon and Dwarka Expressway, citing the data compiled by NHAI's Advanced Traffic Management System(ATMS).

As per the ATMS sample data, between June 21 and June 23, 1.73 lakh violations were recorded and more than one lakh of these were related to banned vehicles.

Singha said NHAI is likely to open a 67-km-long spur connecting Bandikui to Jaipur via the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, which will reduce travel time.

NHAI Rajasthan regional officer Pradeep Atri said this new four-lane access-controlled Bandikui-Jaipur stretch, built at a cost of ₹1,368 crore, is expected to open for traffic trials by mid-July.

According to Pushpendra Singh, NHAI Manager, this road was constructed in about 2.5 years, and is expected to shift a major chunk of traffic from the old Delhi-Jaipur highway.

Currently, it takes around 4 hours to drive from Delhi to Jaipur — 2.5 hours to reach Bandikui via the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway and another 1.5 hours to cover the last 67 km.

With the new spur, this journey could be completed in about 3 hours.

Hindustan Zinc reports growth in queer workforce

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ Udaipur

Hindustan Zinc Limited, the country's largest zinc producer and part of the Vedanta Group, announced a significant 44 per centyear-on-year increase in its LGBTQIA+ workforce across operations, reinforcing its push toward inclusivity in the traditionally male-dominated metals and mining sector.

Coinciding with Pride Month, the company launched its #CallHZLYourHome campaign, aimed at celebrating diversity and reaffirming its commitment to creating a safe and inclusive workplace. The initiative highlights the organisation's industry-leading policies and efforts to normalise LGBTQIA+ inclusion in core business roles.

Hindustan Zinc currently employs 23 transgender individuals in various functions including finance, supply chain, marketing, and medical services-roles not commonly associated with LGBTQIA+ participation in the industrial sector. This integration has been enabled through the company's tech-first approach, utilising Industry 4.0, automation, and robotics to standardise operations and reduce labor-intensive tasks.

"Our aim is to make Hindustan Zinc a place where every employee, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, feels seen, valued, and respected," said Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Chairperson of Hindustan Zinc and Non-Executive Director of Vedanta Ltd. "We are not just building careers here-we are creating a workplace that feels like home."

Being Human backs India's global vision as oxford forum 2025 sponsor

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
■ New Delhi

Being Human Clothing is proud to have served as the Headline Sponsor for the Oxford India Forum 2025, one of the most prestigious student-led conferences at the University of Oxford. Held at the University of Oxford, the forum brought together some of the brightest minds across disciplines to engage in meaningful dialogue on India's evolving global identity, placing purpose, compassion, and social impact at the heart of the conversation. This partnership highlighted the strong synergy between academia and philanthropy. Being Human, known for its commitment to education, healthcare, and empowerment, supported the forum's mission to inspire critical thought, inclusive dialogue, and cross-cultural engagement across themes like public policy, entrepreneurship, sustainability, and the creative economy. Rooted in the values of Love, Care, Share, Hope, Help, and Joy, Being Human's involvement amplified the spirit of the event. With impactful sessions featuring global leaders, policy experts, and changemakers, the Oxford India Forum 2025 reinforced its role as a hub for thoughtful leadership and global collaboration—further elevated by its partnership with a purpose-driven brand.

Gold rates plunge by ₹930

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Gold prices plunged ₹930 to ₹97,670 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday as traders rushed to selling amid easing off Middle East tensions and favourable reports about a trade deal between the US and China.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at ₹98,600 per 10 grams on Thursday.

On Friday, gold of 99.5 per cent purity declined by ₹850 to ₹97,200 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes).

"Gold prices continue to correct as strong profit booking sets in, with safe-haven demand easing due to the lack of fresh geopolitical triggers," said Chintan Mehta, CEO, Abans Financial Services.

Working on rare earth magnets issues: Meity

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

The Government, industry and academia are working to resolve the issues concerning rare earth magnets, which are used in the automobile sector and other devices, a senior Meity official said on Friday. The technology exists to make rare earth magnets but to produce them at a commercially competitive rate is a challenge, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Additional Secretary, Amitesh Sinha said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Tec-Verse event showcasing PSU technology research, Sinha said that to solve the issues concerning rare earth, all three partners — Government, industry and academia — are doing their work.

"Technology is there, but we have to see how commercially we can do it at a competitive price. So that is the main challenge. The Government will surely work because these things are now becoming strategic and important," Sinha said.

"Technology is there, but we have to see how commercially we can do it at a competitive price. So that is the main challenge. These things are becoming strategic
— AMITESH SINHA, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY, MEITY

The Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET), a research unit under Meity, at the event signed a transfer of technology agreement with Ahmedabad-based firm Somal Magnets for the production of rare earth magnets.

Sinha said the work on the technology development has been going on for some years as the Government realises the importance of material technologies.

"It is an effort of the last few years. So they (C-MET) have already been working on it, but suddenly the focus has come on this rare earth material. For such things, first we will have to develop a capability which, at the time of crisis, can be easily scaled. So that kind of infrastructure or capability we are aiming for now," Sinha said.

He, however, said Meity is not directly engaged in the production of rare earth magnets but only in some technologies that are important for their production.

In April 2024, China implemented strict export licensing on rare earth elements like terbium and dysprosium — key inputs for high-level performance NdFeB (Neodymium-Iron-Boron) magnets used in consumer electronics.

The country's oldest electronics industry body, Elcina, said that the move has disrupted global supply chains, hitting India's fast-growing hearables and wearables sector hard, and the device makers are switching to import fully assembled speaker modules from China.

Elcina estimates that the rare earth metal-based magnets account for around 5-7 per cent of the Bill of Materials, and India imports nearly 100 per cent of its NdFeB magnet requirement, with China accounting for 90 per cent of the total imports.

The industry body said prices of China-origin magnets have increased due to tightened supply and administrative bottlenecks, and alternate sources, such as Japan, the European Union and the US, are 2-3 times more expensive and also lack sufficient capacity to meet India's rising demand.

Rare earth magnets include neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB). It is used for high-performance automotive applications such as traction motors in electric vehicles (two-wheelers and passenger vehicles) and power steering motors (in passenger vehicles) in both electric vehicles and internal combustion engine vehicles.

Markets extend winning run on fresh foreign fund inflows; Sensex gains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Mumbai

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty advanced for the fourth straight session on Friday, supported by buying in blue-chips ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries amid fresh foreign fund inflows.

A strengthening rupee against the US dollar and softening crude oil prices in international markets also boosted investor confidence, according to traders.

The BSE Sensex climbed 303.03 points or 0.36 per cent to reclaim the 84,000 level and settle at 84,058.90. During the day, it jumped 333.48 points or 0.39 per cent to 84,089.35.

On the similar lines, the 50-share NSE Nifty rose 88.80 points or 0.35 per cent to 25,637.80.

From the Sensex pack, Asian Paints, UltraTech Cement, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Hindustan Unilever, Bharat Electronics and Sun Pharma were among the major gainers.

In contrast, Trent, Eternal, Axis Bank and Titan were among the laggards.

An article published in the Reserve Bank's June Bulletin stressed that the financial conditions remained conducive to facilitating an efficient transmission of rate cuts

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth ₹12,594.38 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data.

"Key catalysts like the ceasefire in the Middle East and optimism on easing trade tensions ahead of the deadline have cleared the clouds in the minds of investors. After consecutive days of selling, FIIs have turned into net buyers in the domestic market, contributing to improved market stability in the near term.

"Moreover, benign oil prices and a strengthening rupee influenced investors to focus on domestic growth themes," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

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

European markets were trading in the green in afternoon trade.

US markets ended in positive territory on Thursday.

Meanwhile, an RBI report has suggested that all banks should bring down their lending rates for speedy transmission of the policy rate, which was lowered by 50 basis points earlier this month.

An article published in the Reserve Bank's June Bulletin stressed that the financial conditions remained conducive to facilitating an efficient transmission of rate cuts.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.72 per cent to USD 68.20 a barrel.

On Thursday, the Sensex had jumped 1,000.36 points, or 1.21 per cent, to settle at 83,755.87. The Nifty rallied 304.25 points, or 1.21 per cent, to 25,549.

The Pioneer
RANCHI | SATURDAY | JUNE 28, 2025

Inside the mind of...

Kay Kay Menon, Neeraj Pandey and Vinay Pathak on Stillness, Scripts and the nuanced challenge of truly surviving the camera's unblinking gaze, rather than just performing for it

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

In a quiet room away from the flashbulbs and high-security sets, the core team of **Special Ops 2**, gathered for a freewheeling conversation. If the series throws you into a world of cyber surveillance, coded messages and geopolitics, the conversation behind it was one of clarity, stillness and sharp personal memory. What happens when some of India's sharpest creative minds sit across from each other, not on a high-octane set, but in a quiet room, away from the lens and lights? The conversation takes on a life of its own. That's exactly what happened during an interaction with the trio behind Special Ops 2, Kay Kay Menon, Neeraj Pandey and Vinay Pathak. What was meant to be a quick interview turned into a masterclass in acting, writing and creative conviction.

FROM SCREEN TO SOUL: THE IMPACT

Kay Kay Menon returns with more grit, more restraint and even more shadows behind his eyes. Vinay Pathak reprises his beloved Abbas Sheikh with his signature blend of humour and steel. And Creator Neeraj Pandey remains the understated mastermind of it all, still insistent that "we're just telling the story, what you take away is up to you." Special Ops 2 stars a powerhouse cast including Karan Tacker, Shivam Nair and Tahir Raj Bhasin alongside Menon and Pathak. From regret over not killing a character to refusing to impress the camera, this was storytelling stripped of vanity. And that is perhaps what makes both Special Ops 2 and this conversation worth coming back to. Streaming July 11. But the dialogue begins now.

The Unseen Depths

There's espionage, a world built not just on plot twists and shootouts, but on complex characters, silent stares and the weight of choices made in the shadows. If season one was about establishing the universe, season two pushes it into emotionally richer and technically sharper terrain. With returning favourites like Himmat Singh (Kay Kay Menon) and Abbas Sheikh (Vinay Pathak), along with new additions, the series explores the personal costs of operating in a world that thrives on deception. Neeraj Pandey, as always, remains committed to authenticity: "We don't customise any messaging for any audience. It's for you to take away. If it's a film or a series, it's up to you what you want to take away from it. I'm just telling the story. I'm just trying to speak what the characters are feeling, what they're going through."

From that space of lived experience came a conversation both intense and wildly entertaining. Neeraj Pandey, when asked about the most difficult scenes to shoot? "We can talk about some locations which were like a logistical nightmare. But still, the crew managed to hang in and complete those sequences."

Kay Kay Menon shared his admiration for the writing, saying, "All the actor needs to do is to follow and understand the subtext behind those lines and the way he is writing it. So, that makes my job easy."

Character Evolution

The interview began with the question of character evolution. "So how did it grow or challenge you as an actor?" Vinay responded in his trademark comic irony: "What I understood of the question is that you're saying that looking at me, it seems like everything is challenging that comes my way… I think you should ask this question to the creator who makes it challenging every time. Why can't he keep things simple?"

He continued, drawing a comparison to real-life hierarchy, "So I know if you go higher in the rank, you will realise how things become a little more intense. But on my level, even though I'm on a two-wheeler, things are not as simple." On a deeper note, when I asked if there was one role that had changed his approach to acting, Vinay paused, reflected and said: "I don't think of it as a role. But I think of it as a story. Because that's what got me excited in the very beginning, to become the storyteller. So I think that's what, Theatre, I would say.. For me, it started there."

Leaving Characters Behind

It was actor Kay Kay Menon's candour that brought another level of gravity to the exchange. When asked what remains of his character Hemant Singh after filming, he replied with simplicity and honesty: "Nothing." Would any character follow home?" That's dangerous, no? And on self-critique:" Before, initially, a long time ago, I did it like this. Now I can't do anything. So we accept our incompleteness." These actors do not just perform, they think about the craft, the process, the 'why'. Kay Kay recalled how one book, accidentally left behind in a green room, completely reoriented his understanding of camera performance. "The camera is like your girlfriend. It watches you very closely. Never ever try and impress the camera. That kind of opened it for me. That kind of opened it for me. And since then, I don't take an entry, I enter."

As we continued, Kay Kay offered something surprisingly tender: "To express real joy is very joyous… Even if you're not a method actor, it makes you joyous. So I find that very gratifying." It's the kind of insight that lets you see the actor as a person and makes you think twice about what it takes to create such nuanced characters.

Wisdom for Younger Selves

In closing, the question turned philosophical, what would they say to their younger selves? Vinay, ever wry: "What should I say to him? I'll say, sorry… I keep telling him, I'll grow up. Give me two more days. Next year, I'll be a saner, much more serious guy." Kay Kay's reply mirrored that with calm acceptance: "Exactly the opposite, Not sorry." And Neeraj? "Nothing." Sometimes, silence really does speak volumes.

Vinay Pathak returning to his role as Abbas Sheikh: "Once you've done the work, for example, you've eaten, the plate is broken. If you're told to eat from the same plate in the evening, your hard work has increased."

Cybersecurity and cyber threats are present-day reality. A lot of what you see this season is inspired by real interactions and insights from people in the intelligence world. That authenticity has always been at the heart of our storytelling. — NEERAJ PANDEY

IMPACT ON HIS ACTORS

When asked what stands out about working with Neeraj Pandey, both actors didn't hold back in their admiration for his writing. "There's something very surrealistically wonderful about his writing which just falls into the right place," said Kay Kay. Vinay echoed this, calling the writing "authentic" and "precisely what makes the actor's job easier." Neeraj Pandey, modest as ever, refused to be drawn into compliments. "What people think of me is none of my business. What's more important is the work that we are doing, in order to make something which is of some resonance, something that can stand the test of time, you have to bring your best foot forward." And as for regrets? "I regret not killing a character... Originally, Abbas was supposed to die. In the seventh episode. But we took the right decision not to kill him." That creative restraint, knowing when to step back for the sake of the narrative's future.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

A Hundred Strings and One Soul

BY TEAM VIVA

The Santoor is an instrument of devotion, rooted in Kashmir's spiritual and cultural history. At the Chinmaya Mission Auditorium in New Delhi, the second edition of **World Santoor Day** was a heartfelt tribute to that rich tradition. Organised by SaMaPa, the evening honoured the birth anniversary of the legendary Pandit Bhajan Sopori, known as the Saint of Santoor and the King of Strings. A Santoor ensemble in Raga Charukeshi brought together disciples of Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori including Daniel Aakash Brunner from Germany, Suman Patra from Finland, and Indian artists Anoushka Majumdar, Poushali Dutta, Nairanjana Radhika and Dheeraj Vaishnav.

They were accompanied by Chanchal Singh on Jodi Pakhawaj and Tabla. Their performance was precise and expressive, with each note arriving gently, as though aware of its place in a larger tradition.

THE 77TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT SANTOOR LEGEND PANDIT BHAJAN SOPORI JI. MUSICIANS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD HAVE GATHERED TO PAY THEIR MUSICAL TRIBUTE

Young Divyansh Srivastava from Delhi gave a compelling solo in Raga Megh, accompanied by Anand Mishra and Chanchal Singh. His performance showed both skill and sincerity. It was followed by a Santoor duet by Vidushi Shruti Adhikari and her son Ninad Adhikari from Madhya Pradesh. Together, they presented Raga Madhukauns with Pt Durjay Bhaumik on Tabla, balancing control and grace in equal measure.

The evening culminated with a special solo recital by Pandit Abhay Rustum Sopori, accompanied by Pt Ram Kumar Mishra on Tabla. His rendering of Raga Sohni carried the weight of memory and devotion. It was both personal and profound. Prof Aparna Sopori described the celebration as a cultural movement aimed at repositioning the Santoor as a symbol of India's spiritual and musical heritage. Pandit Abhay Sopori reflected on the growing global recognition of the instrument, with performances this year extending to Argentina, China, Colombia, and various parts of India.

The auditorium remained packed throughout. Listeners were part of a rare musical moment, where strings told stories, and silence sang between the notes.

Art's Emotional Resonance

Where colours question the soul and bronze breathes silence, a journey into the unseen self, says SAKSHI PRIYA

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

There's something meditative about standing in front of art that speaks in silences, contradictions, and layered whispers. **Atmanaveshana**, an evocative exhibition of paintings and sculptures, felt like that quiet conversation one has not with the world but with the self. The name, which translates to "Self-Exploration," was a fitting threshold to step through. The show brought together the emotionally resonant abstract works of Dr Amrit Kapoor and the contemplative bronzes of sculptor Suresh Kumar.

Walking into the gallery, the immediate impression was not of looking at art but of being looked at. Visitors stood stilled, some in front of colour-drenched canvases, others surrounding bronzed bulls, pointing gently and absorbing slowly. One older couple stood arm in arm before a painting from the *Dichotomy series*, exchanging glances, visibly moved. A young artist scribbled something into a sketchpad in front of a sculpture titled *Third Face*.

Kapoor's works require time. They yield meaning gradually. The word "harmony" is often associated with music, but in these works, it takes on a visual cadence. In contrast, Dichotomy offers more tension. Here, Kapoor explores the conflict between heart and mind, a philosophical premise that unfolds through dissonant brushwork and disrupted symmetry. Lines clash, colours argue. One canvas in particular had deep strokes of crimson colliding with pale turquoise, a metaphor perhaps for emotional entanglement. There is discomfort in some of the works, but not despair, an honest admission that the self is not always at peace with itself.

Her final collection, *Utopian World*, turns outward, imagining a space where soul, morality, and happiness find equilibrium. These paintings are lighter, less conflicted, but still thoughtful, like the pause after a long conversation, when all that remains is reflection. Across the room, Suresh Kumar's bronzes provided an earthier gravity. Kumar's sculptures feel grounded, tactile, and elemental. His *trilogy of bulls*, each cast in bronze, yet distinct in patina and energy, dominated the central floor space. Though static, there was nothing still about them. The posture, curvature and surface texture of each sculpture conveyed a subtle motion, as if these beasts, emblematic of strength and resilience, had paused momentarily before resuming their journey.

KAPOOR'S CANVASES AND KUMAR'S SCULPTURES FELT ORGANIC, THIS IS NOT ART THAT EXPLAINS ITSELF. IT ALLOWS SPACE FOR INTERPRETATION, EVEN FOR CONTRADICTION

In Indian culture, the bull holds layered meaning, symbolising both raw power and deep spiritual rootedness. Kumar's series embraces that duality. The largest bull had a matte, weathered texture, like it had emerged from centuries of earth. The smallest gleamed with a smoother surface, youthful yet stoic. His piece *Life of Nature* echoed the same sentiment, Then came *Third Face*, a human visage sculpted in bronze, deeply meditative. Its expression was not mournful, but contemplative. This exhibition felt like the rare quiet room where one could hear their own thoughts.

The Pioneer
RANCHI | SATURDAY | JUNE 28, 2025

Bumrah absence to rob control of Indian bowling unit

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Bengaluru

Jasprit Bumrah's possible absence from next week's second Test against England in Birmingham will rob India's bowling unit of control, not an ideal element to miss when the visitors are trying to go level at a ground where they have never won a red-ball match.

The passage between overs 65 and 82 of the first Test at Leeds, which England won by five wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series, will offer further validation to that grim fact.

England were 286 for four when India's pace talisman ended that spell with overall figures of 19-3-57-0, and he was not summoned for another over.

Perhaps, skipper Shubman Gill wanted to preserve him for the second new ball which was due in 15 overs and it also aligned with India's workload management plan for their premier pacer.

England were still 85 runs away from a win and some tight overs, probably dotted with a couple of wickets, would have set the stage perfectly for Bumrah's return in the 80th over. But by the time that mark arrived, England were 349 for five, rattling up 63 runs in 15 overs, in excess of four runs an over and a mere 22 runs separating them from an incredible victory.

It was beyond even Bumrah to salvage the situation. Now, India might just have to make peace with the reality of not having the 31-year-old in their ranks at Edgbaston.

Mohammed Siraj was distinctly unlucky in the second innings not to have a wicket despite hitting better lines, but his effort in the first essay left a lot to be desired when he eased the pressure Bumrah built from the other end while giving away plenty of boundary balls.

Siraj has considerable Test experience to find some quick remedy, but Prasidh Krishna and Shardul Thakur — India's third and fourth pacers — only have a combined experience of 16 Tests. They went over 6 and 5 runs per over across the first Test and it reduced the impact of the wickets they took.

Prasidh, who had a five-wicket match haul at Headingley, was quite disappointing as he followed the hard lengths strategy that he adopted in Australia but England demanded much fuller lengths from him, and he could deliver the, only in periods. Can he challenge England batters more meaningfully in Birmingham?

Former India pacer Dodda Ganesh believes Prasidh can produce a heftier effort provided he makes some minor tweaks to his approach.

"Prasidh has always been a wicket-taker, but he needs to bowl with some consistency, and needs to focus on the areas he bowls. It will help him bowl more maidens especially when the ball gets older. He can't bowl on both sides of the wickets," Ganesh said.

"In England, the ball swings around a bit because of the conditions. He just needs to watch Bumrah on how to bowl consistent lines, lengths. He just needs to concentrate more on the channel outside (off-stump), and he will be better," he added.

There is a growing clamour to bring Kuldeep Yadav in place of Shardul Thakur for the second Test, but the left-arm wrist spinner has just played one traditional format match in England.

Even in the last Test he played against New Zealand at Bengaluru in 2024, the 30-year-old had spells of 18.3-1-99-3 (Economy: 5.3) and 3-0-26-0 (Economy: 8.6), failing to make much impression in blustery conditions, not very unlike England. In contrast, Ravindra Jadeja produced figures of 20-1-72-3 (3.6) and 7.4-1-28-0 (3.6) against the Kiwis, and if the left-arm spinner can rediscover that stifling length then Ben Duckett or Ben Stokes might just find it tough to play those unsettling reverse sweeps.

Ganesh feels that replacing Thakur, if that is indeed the plan, with Washington Sundar rather than Kuldeep would make more sense.

"Washington can also take the ball away from left-handers, and of course, he is a much better batsman too and can be slotted in various positions. He has that flexibility," he noted.

It's evident that this Indian attack, even without Bumrah, has oodles of quality in it, but can they refocus on their lengths?

Indian women look to snap six-match losing streak; avoid relegation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Berlin

The Indian women's hockey team would look to break its six-match losing streak and avoid relegation from the FIH Pro League with positive results against China, starting with the first match here on Saturday.

The Indian women are currently placed at the bottom of the nine-team table with 10 points from 14 games and are in danger of relegation to the second tier FIH Nations Cup in 2026.

It's not what Hockey India had in its mind when Harendra Singh was brought back on board as the head coach. After a relatively good outing at home leg earlier this year, the Indian women lost six consecutive matches against Australia, Argentina and Belgium (two matches against one opponent) in the European leg of the tournament.

India will be determined to sign off their Pro League campaign with valuable wins in back-to-back matches against fourth placed China on Saturday and Sunday here.

"It is a very crucial double header for us over the weekend. But we will draw inspiration from the Indian men's team who finished with an inspiring win against Belgium," said captain Salima Tete.

"This Pro League outing has been a learning experience with several grey areas that we need to work on as a team.

We will be introspecting on this performance when we go back home but for now our focus is on doing well against China," she said.

India will take confidence from their last outing against China where they beat them 3-0 in the pool stage and from a closely-fought final (1-0) to win the Asian Champions Trophy in Bihar in November last year. However, in the previous season of the Pro League, India had lost 1-2 in the double header.

"They are a known opponent to us, from our regular outings in the continental championships we are aware of their potential. They are a tough team to beat but we will play to our strengths," Tete said.

The Indians might have suffered six straight defeats, but they played good, attacking hockey here. But their inability to utilise their chances upfront and convert penalty corners did them in.

There was too much pressure on Deepika to score from penalty corners and she fumbled under pressure on quite a few occasions.

The Indian midfield though impressed with the likes of Salima Tete, Lalremsiami, Sharmila Devi, Vaisnavi Vitthal Phalke and Neha creating enough chances for the forward line. Sunelita Toppo, in particular, was a live wire in the midfield, and threatened the opposition defence with her brilliant stick work and runs.

But the strikers let India down as the likes of Navneet, Deepika, Baljeet Kaur and others struggled to get the decisive final touch.

The backline comprising Sushila Chanu, Jyoti, Ishika Chaudhary, Jyoti Chatri and Suman Devi Toudam too were guilty of committing silly mistakes under pressure.

But with relegation looming, the Indian women can't afford to commit any mistakes in their last two matches.

Harendra too would be under immense pressure to help his wards to deliver for two complete performances this weekend.

Before the European leg, Harendra roped in Dutch great Taeke Taekema to work with the drag-flickers but that move hasn't translated into results.

The Indians have literally struggled to convert their chances besides being sloppy at the back.

AITA EC removes Dhupar; Sunder Iyer made interim Secretary General

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

The Executive Committee of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) on Friday removed Anil Dhupar as the Secretary General of the federation, saying his position has become untenable after attaining the age of 70 and that he has already completed his four-year term.

Attended by 17 of the 25 members, the EC passed a resolution by 3/4th majority to make joint secretary Sunder Iyer as interim secretary, empowering him to file a reply to the writ petition filed in the Delhi High Court by Somdev Devvarman and Purav Raja, who challenged the validity of the elections conducted in September 2024.

Dhupar, 72, was elected for a four-year term in 2020. While he did not file his nomination for any office bearer's post in last year's polls, he was continuing in his position since the court did not declare the results of the elections.

"We passed a resolution today and removed Mr Dhupar as Secretary General. We have appointed Sunder Iyer as interim secretary. He will also look into (players') petition, till the results are declared," AITA Vice President (Sports) Hironmoy Chatterjee said.

"The Executive Committee is supreme but the President and Secretary General are taking decisions without consulting the EC, which is the highest body. Mr. Dhupar has already crossed the age of 70 and he can't continue as per the Sports Code which bars continuation of office bearers beyond 70.

"The appointment of the lawyers in matters concerning AITA is a decision that needs to be taken by the EC. The President did not consult anyone before filing the reply. The Federation can't run on someone's whims and fancies, it's a democratic institution."

When reminded that the AITA Constitution allows an office bearer to complete their term, if they are elected before the age of 70, Chatterjee said, "They made that change to continue in their positions. We have to follow the Sports Code. And he has completed his term of four years, so why is he continuing?"

Reacting to the development, Dhupar said that he remains the Secretary General of the Federation since the matter related to new elections is still sub-judice.

Twinkle Chaudhary suspended for doping

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ New Delhi

Multiple National Games medal-winning middle distance runner Twinkle Chaudhary has been provisionally suspended by Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) after testing positive for a prohibited steroid.

The 28-year-old Chaudhary had clinched a gold in 4x400m women's relay competition at the Uttarakhand edition of the National Games earlier this year. She had also won a silver in the 800m race and a bronze in the 4x400m mixed relay.

Chaudhary tested positive for Methyltestosterone, a banned anabolic steroid.

In its update, the AIU stated that the runner has been issued a "notice of allegation". The next step would be a hearing in which Chaudhary will get a chance to explain herself.

Chaudhary, who hails from Jalandhar, set a new meet record with a time of 2:00.71sec in the 800m event of the 28th National Federation Senior Athletics Championships in Kochi in April. Earlier this month, she won an 800m silver medal at the Taiwan Open with a timing of 2:06.96s. In May, she had finished fourth in the same event during the Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea.

The latest suspension continues to add to the woes for the country, which has a poor doping record internationally.

In May, quarter-miler Sneha Kolleri was suspended after testing positive for Stanazolol, also an anabolic steroid.

Kolleri was a member of the Indian contingent for the Asian Championship but had to be withdrawn after the failed dope test.

In the recently-released 2023 testing figures among countries which analysed 5,000 or more samples, India had the worst adverse findings rate of 3.8 per cent.

Globally, 204,809 tests were conducted by the World Anti-Doping Agency in 2023, of which 1,820 came positive for banned drugs.

Minimum seven-day stand-down for concussed players, rules ICC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ Dubai

The ICC on Friday announced new playing conditions across formats including a minimum seven-day stand-down period for players diagnosed with concussion, trialling a new wide-ball rule in limited-overs cricket, besides changes with regards to boundary catches.

Cricket's global governing body said on its website that the new playing conditions for Tests were implemented with the start of the new World Test Championship cycle for 2025-2027 with Sri Lanka taking on Bangladesh in first Test at Galle from June 17-21.

The upcoming limited-overs series between the two countries will mark the start dates for new playing conditions for ODIs and T20Is.

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh will play a three-match ODI series from July 2 and then move on to a three-match T20I rubber from July 10.

In context of concussion protocols, the ICC said there are two changes.

Teams will now have to nominate designated concussion replacements for every match, which is being brought in to curb the home team's advantage of being able to

select from a larger group of players.

The ICC also announced a "minimum seven-day stand-down" period for any player diagnosed with concussion.

"A player diagnosed with a concussion during a match must observe a minimum stand-down period of a minimum of seven days before returning to play. This change has been recommended by the ICC Medical Advisory Committee to support players' safety and well-being," the ICC said.

The ICC said two new rules will be trialled by full members for a period of six months starting from October 2025. It includes a new wide-ball rule for ODIs and T20Is, and is being brought in to offer a degree of leniency to a bowler who sees batter moving around "prior or during" a delivery.

"The position of the batter's legs at the point of delivery will now be used as the reference point for a wide, even if the batter subsequently moves across to the off side," the ICC said.

"The trial will see a ball that passes the popping crease between the leg stump and the protected area marker not being called a wide. To help with this, the protected area marker line will be extended to the popping crease and act as a guide for the umpires."

Former South Africa captain Shaun Pollock, the media representative of ICC's cricket committee, had said in January this year that the governing body is "working on something" to give bowlers "a bit more leeway on wides."

Cricket trailer to promote India-England women's series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
■ London

More than two decades after she made a girl 'bend' the rules to reach her goal in professional football, acclaimed British-Indian filmmaker Gurinder Chadha is now ready to rock with her work on cricket.

Chadha, who reshaped cultural conversations in the UK with her blockbuster 'Bend It Like Beckham' in 2002, has created a film trailer to promote England's series against the visiting Indian women's team after agreeing to a collaboration with the host board (ECB). The series features five T20Is followed by three ODIs beginning Saturday.

The three-minute film celebrates the fierce rivalry and also the cultural unity between the two teams and their fans, as well as "spotlighting the evolution of women's cricket into the sporting spectacle" it is today, the ECB said in a press release.

On working with the ECB, director Chadha said: "I was delighted to be asked to work on this project with England Women. I'm a huge fan of women in sport and I grew up

Filmmaker Gurinder Chadha has created a film trailer to promote England's series against the visiting Indian women's team

with this tumultuous series as my dad was a huge cricket fan.

"So I was inspired by his love of the game to champion yet another women's sport that's so important to me. "The current England squad has a great energy, and I wish them the best of luck in the upcoming series against India - but India also has a great squad so I'm sure it will be fantastic moment for the game and fans whomever you support! I'll be there watching." The first T20 International will be played at Trent Bridge in Nottingham. The film, which features English stars Danni Wyatt-Hodge, Heather Knight and Lauren Filer alongside fans, seeks to depict the on-field rivalry and off-field camaraderie between the two great cricketing nations, and uses some legendary moments from past England-India matches across genders.

Max Verstappen heads into Red Bull's home race

ASSOCIATED PRESS
■ Spielberg (Austria)

Max Verstappen at the Red Bull Ring is usually a recipe for success.

The defending Formula 1 champion has an upgraded car for his team's home race in Austria — where he's won five times — on the back of an encouraging second place in Canada, where his two McLaren rivals collided.

Zoom out, though, and the situation is much more uncertain.

Verstappen remains at risk of a one-race ban for too many penalty points, Red Bull teammate Yuki Tsunoda is usually too far adrift to help him, and Verstappen's own future is far from clear. "I don't think we need to talk about that," Verstappen said Thursday when asked to confirm whether he'll stay with the team for 2026. "It's not really in my mind. It's just driving and trying to push the performance, you know. And then we focus on next year."

What are Verstappen's options?

Verstappen has a long-term contract through 2028, so in theory his Red Bull seat should be one of the safest on the grid. However, the deal has performance-related clauses which could reportedly allow

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, RANCHI
5TH FLOOR, RRDA BUILDING, KUTCHERY ROAD, RANCHI - 01
APPEAL NO. 02 of 2025
(R.C. No. 177/2015 (Arising out of O.A. Case No. 217 of 2012)
BETWEEN
MANOJ KUMAR SINGH .....APPELLANT
VS
BANK OF INDIA, BOKARO & OTHERS ..... RESPONDENTS
SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993

SR NO.	DEFENDANTS	ADDRESSS
1.	M/S SRI RAM ENTERPRISES PROP: SMT. SHAIL KUMARI CHOUDHARY	AT- SONATAND, RITUDIH, B.S. CITY, DIST. BOKARO 827001
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3.	SRI SUBHDARA CHOUDHARY S/O SRI SATYA NARAYAN CHOUDHARY	
4.	BHARAT SINGH CHOUDHARY S/O TARAPAD CHOUDHARY SINGH	P.O. & P.S. PINDRAJORA, TUPRA, DIST. BOKARO 827013

Whereas the above named Appellant has preferred an Appeal under section 30 of RDB Act, against the order passed by the of Recovery Officer in R.C. No. 177/20215.

The above mentioned Respondent(s) is/are therefore directed to **appear before the Registrar** in person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of his/their defence to show-cause on **1st August, 2025 at 10.30 A.M.** as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted and to file show-cause in the matter.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **10th day of June, 2025.**

REGISTRAR

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