

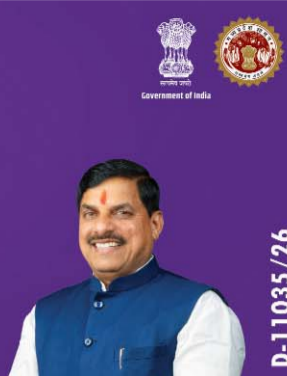
## Giving Wings to Aspirations of Youth



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## Third ship attack sparks India fury

Second summons in two days to US envoy signals rising concern in New Delhi

ASHOKE RAJ ■ New Delhi

India on Friday summoned the US' Chargé d'Affaires, Jason Meeks, to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to register a strong protest against repeated strikes on commercial ships in the Gulf of Oman endangering Indian seafarers.

The diplomatic demarche marks the second time in two days that New Delhi has called in the senior American diplomat over the safety of Indian crew members operating in the volatile region.

Additional Secretary (Americas) Nagaraj Naidu conveyed India's deep concern over the use of lethal force against unarmed merchant vessels, describing such actions as "unacceptable" and a serious threat to the safety and stability of international maritime trade.



US Chargé d'Affaires Jason Meeks leaving the MEA after being summoned to protest attacks on commercial vessels

The MEA urged Washington to ensure that US forces in the area exercise maximum restraint to prevent any further loss of civilian lives and to safeguard the lives of Indian

nationals serving aboard these ships.

The latest incident occurred on Thursday when the Guinea-Bissau-flagged bitumen tanker MT Jalveer, carrying 20 Indian

crew members, came under attack near Shinas port in Oman. Indian authorities confirmed that all 20 seafarers were safely evacuated and are out of harm's way.

According to reports, the vessel was targeted by US forces after allegedly attempting to breach a naval blockade related to Iranian oil exports. US Central Command (CENTCOM) acknowledged the action, stating that a military aircraft struck the engine room following non-compliance with warnings.

This was the third vessel with Indian crew to be hit in the past four days. Earlier incidents included the MT Settebello, where three Indian seafarers lost their lives, triggering widespread concern across India.

India has asked the US to convey its strong concerns to the highest levels in Washington and to take immediate steps to avoid recurrence of such dangerous confrontations in busy international sea lanes.



US President Donald Trump pointing to a reporter during an event at the White House, Thursday

## Trump blames Iran for ship strikes

SAGAR KULKARNI ■ Washington

US President Donald Trump on Friday accused Iran of carrying out drone attacks against Indian ships leaving the Strait of Hormuz, saying it was "totally unacceptable."

Three vessels with Indian crew came under attack off the Oman coast this week.

One of them resulted in the death of three Indian seafarers on Wednesday.

"Their (Iran's) totally rebuffed Drone attack last night against Indian Ships leaving the Hormuz Strait is TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE," Trump claimed in a post on Truth Social.

In the same post, Trump also accused Iran of leaking

the terms of the peace deal to the media that had nothing to do with the points under discussion.

Trump's remarks came after India summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in New Delhi to protest against US attacks on commercial ships carrying Indian nationals near the Oman coast. (PTI)

## Govt issues stern warning for NEET

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Union Government on Friday issued a written warning that the "full might and weight of law" will fall on anyone who tries to distort, disrupt, or tamper with the integrity of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) re-exam scheduled to be held on June 21. NEET-UG was held on May 3, but was cancelled on May 12 amid allegations of a paper leak. The CBI is investigating the case and has made several arrests.

Sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been in a routinely following and reviewing the preparedness for the Re-NEET. Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan at a meeting on Friday reviewed



Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan

the preparedness for NEET, which is the basis for admission to undergraduate medical courses in all medical institutions. During the meeting, Somanathan emphasised the need for ensuring a smooth, transparent and secure conduct of the re-examination through close coordination among all concerned stakeholders, a Government statement said.

"The Union Government, State Governments and district administration are working together in close coordination to ensure smooth conduct of the NEET re-examination. The full might and weight of law will fall on any person trying in any manner to distort, disrupt, or tamper with the integrity or smooth conduct of the re-examination," the statement quoted the cabinet secretary as saying.

Last week the Cabinet Secretary reviewed with the chief secretaries of the State Governments to assess the preparedness and progress of the arrangements.

Officials said the Ministry of Home Affairs has asked the CRPF and the CISF to provide security during transportation of the question papers.

## Timeline for AI-171 crash report declined

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on Friday refused to make public a definitive timeline for the final report on the causes of the air crash in Ahmedabad on June 12, 2025.

"The final report will be released upon completion of all investigative activities and the requisite international review and consultation processes prescribed under ICAO Annex 13," it said. ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) Annexure 13 refers to investigations into aircraft accidents.

The probe agency's statement came as families of victims, friends and members of the aviation



Family members of victims of the Air India AI-171 plane crash attending an event organised on the first anniversary of the tragedy in Ahmedabad on Friday

community gathered in Mumbai to mark the first anniversary of the Air India AI-171 crash. It offered condolences to families and assured the probe is being conducted in a comprehensive manner to ensure blame or liability is not assigned inappropriately.

Air India's Boeing 787-8 or Dreamliner with registration VT-ANB en route to London Gatwick crashed soon after

takeoff on June 12, 2025, killing 241 people onboard and 19 on the ground. A lone passenger survived. Victims included citizens of India, the UK, Portugal and Canada.

Civil Aviation Minister K Rammoohan Naidu paid tribute to the victims, saying the investigation into the tragedy was continuing with "diligence and professionalism." "The investigation continues with diligence and professionalism in accordance with established national and international procedures. We remain committed to a thorough and objective determination of the causes of the accident and to further enhancing aviation safety," he said.

RELATED REPORTS ON >> P7

## SC rejects Natarajan plea

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's plea against rejection of her nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh while granting her liberty to raise the challenge in an election petition. A bench comprising justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Atul S Chandurkar rejected the argu-



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ment by senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Natarajan, that Article 32 can be invoked to cure "glaring and manifest" errors in the rejection of her nomination.

The top court said whenever an attempt has been made to invoke the jurisdiction of this court under Article 32, or that of the High Courts under Article 226, during the process of elections, it has repeatedly declined interference due to the constitutional mandate contained in Article 329(b) of the Constitution. DETAILED REPORT ON >> P10

## The Bystander



## India defends energy choices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Helsinki

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday stressed the need for resilient and diversified supply chains, sustained diplomatic efforts and greater international cooperation to deal with the fallout of ongoing conflicts, saying their impact extends "far beyond the regions" where they occur.

Participating in a discussion on "Emerging Powers and the New Geopolitical Competition" at the Kultaranta Talks in Finland, Jaishankar joined Finnish Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen and UAE Assistant Foreign Minister Lana Nusseibeh in deliberations on shifting global power dynamics and contemporary security challenges. "Noted that ongoing conflicts are



EAM S Jaishankar taking part in a discussion during the 14th edition of the Kultaranta Talks

imposing costs and triggering changes far beyond the regions," Jaishankar said in a social media post after the discussion. CONTINUED ON >> P4

## Security intensified for Amarnath Yatra

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH ■ New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting on Friday to review preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra and directed Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), the Jammu and Kashmir Police and all security agencies along the route and at tourist places to establish a multi-layered security grid. The pilgrimage, which draws hundreds of thousands of pilgrims, is scheduled to begin on July 3 and last 57 days.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Intelligence Bureau Chief Tapan



Home Minister Amit Shah chairing a meeting to review preparations for the Shri Amarnath Yatra 2026 in New Delhi on Friday

Kumar Deka, CRPF Director General GP Singh, and other senior officials attended the meeting. Central and Union Territory agencies are coordinating closely for a massive yet seamless security deployment.

Officials said that over 670 companies of the CAPF, or about 67,000 personnel, will be deployed. Apart from CAPF, personnel from the Army, including women's units, will be deployed. CONTINUED ON >> P4

## SHOOTING LEGEND JASPAL RANA PASSES

Former Indian pistol shooter and coach Jaspal Rana, aged 49, died at Max Super Speciality Hospital, Delhi, on Thursday night following a sudden cardiac rupture, the National Rifle Association of India confirmed. Rana had been admitted on June 1 after suffering a delayed acute heart attack while travelling, which required emergency stenting. Doctors said he initially responded well to treatment and was even preparing for discharge before his condition abruptly worsened during sleep. One of India's most accomplished shooters, Rana was a Dronacharya Awardee (2020) and former Arjuna Award and Padma Shri recipient. As high-performance coach for India's 25m pistol squad, he played a pivotal role in rebuilding the country's shooting program and mentoring a new generation of elite athletes.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Varanasi

On Friday morning, a woman named Vandana Gupta entered the District Judge's courtroom at the Varanasi District Court. She sat in the judge's chair, looked through official case files, banged the gavel several times, and claimed to be the presiding judge. She told the lawyers to call witnesses and present evidence, saying she would handle the day's hearings.

This happened while the District Judge was on leave, revealing serious security gaps in one of Uttar Pradesh's busiest courts. Vandana Gupta, who lives in Shivpur, Varanasi, and is married to

Buj Gupta, first asked about the judge's arrival. She then went to the judge's dais, where staff had already placed the day's case files. After sitting in the judge's chair, she looked through the files, banged the gavel several times, shouted "Order! Order!" and confronted anyone who came near.

Eyewitnesses and reports say she declared, "Today, I am the District Judge. Present the witnesses and evidence before me. I will hear all the cases." She told everyone to stay seated and refused to leave the chair, even after being asked several times. Some lawyers filmed her on their phones, which made her more upset. The situation



Representative image

SCREENGRAB FROM COURT (2014)

caused panic in the courtroom. Reports vary on how long it lasted; some say the most disruptive part was about five minutes, while others say she stayed in the chair and kept up the act for nearly an hour until police arrived around 9 a.m.

As the situation escalated, police were called. Female officers entered the courtroom, helped her down from the dais, and took her into custody. She was taken to Cantt Police Station for questioning and a medical check. Officials said they are looking into her mental health as part of the investigation. Additional District Judge Yajuvendra Vikram Singh arrived soon after and

expressed concern about the lack of security at the courtroom entrance. He asked for a detailed report on the incident. Court authorities have now told security staff at all entry gates to stop Vandana Gupta from entering the premises.

Local lawyers confirmed that Vandana Gupta has no pending cases in the Varanasi court. They also mentioned that she had entered the court complex several times before and had similarly sat in the judge's chair. The reason for her actions on Friday remains unknown, as do the events inside the Varanasi District Court complex. CONTINUED ON >> P4



## Chief Minister unveils roadmap for modern, technology-led policing

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that the Madhya Pradesh government is seriously considering introducing an investigation allowance for police officers involved in criminal investigations, while also focusing on strengthening the force to deal with emerging challenges such as cyber crime, artificial intelligence-based offences and organised criminal activities.

Reviewing the Home Department's performance at the Mantralaya on Friday, the Chief Minister said investigating officers often incur expenses related to crime scene visits, security arrangements, collection of evidence, transportation of accused persons, witnesses and victims, photography, videography, digital evidence collection and court-related procedures. He said the state has studied systems implemented in other states and is examining the possibility of introducing a similar allowance in Madhya Pradesh.

Yadav directed senior police officers to remain vigilant and proactive in maintaining law and order across the state. Emphasising the growing threat of cyber crime, he instructed the department to prioritise hiring IT consultants and experts to strengthen cyber investigations and analyse crimes linked to artificial intelligence and social media misuse.



The meeting also reviewed preparations for Simhastha 2028 in Ujjain, including crowd management, traffic regulation, VIP security and disaster management. The Chief Minister stressed the need for permanent infrastructure instead of temporary arrangements, ensuring long-term benefits for pilgrims and residents.

He praised police personnel for their handling of recent law-and-order situations, including arrangements related to Basant Panchami celebrations and the Bhojshala issue. He also commended the force's efforts in anti-Naxal operations, disaster management, road safety, fire services support, air ambulance assistance and soldier welfare initiatives.

The Chief Minister directed officials to take strict action against land mafias, organised criminals and drug traffickers. He also emphasised women's safety, particularly around educational institutions, protection of cattle,

expansion of e-challan and evidence systems, and public awareness campaigns promoting helmet use.

Discussions were also held on forming a Madhya Pradesh Police Recruitment Board, strengthening counter-terrorism units, enhancing specialised training facilities, deploying district-level mobile crime scene units and using AI-based technologies for the safety of senior citizens, women and vulnerable individuals.

The government also reviewed measures to improve housing facilities for police personnel and reward outstanding performers within the force.

The review meeting also highlighted several technology-driven initiatives aimed at improving policing efficiency. Officials discussed expanding the use of digital tools for crime detection, strengthening forensic capabilities, enhancing surveillance systems and improving coordination among specialised units.

## Man sets himself on fire at finance company office

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Sagar

A man allegedly set himself on fire inside the office of a finance company in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh on Friday, leaving himself critically injured and causing burn injuries to the branch manager who attempted to save him.

The incident took place at the Mahindra Finance office in the Makronia area. According to police, the injured man, identified as Nilesh Kumar Jain, a resident of Jaisinagar, had financed a car through the company. The vehicle was reportedly repossessed in Damoh after two loan instalments remained unpaid.

Officials said Jain visited the company's office on Friday to seek the release of his vehicle. During a heated argument

with company employees over the issue, he allegedly poured petrol on himself and set himself ablaze.

The sudden incident triggered panic in the office. Staff members and officials rushed to extinguish the flames, during which the branch manager also suffered burn injuries.

Jain was initially taken to Bundelkhand Medical College for treatment but was later shifted to a private hospital due to the severity of his condition. Both injured persons have subsequently been referred to AIIMS Bhopal for advanced treatment.

Family members alleged that the company had been pressuring Jain for the past 10 days despite only two instalments being overdue. They claimed the outstanding amount had been deposited a day earlier.



Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan during BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on Friday. Pioneer photo

## ATS examines digital trail of detained city youth

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Bhopal

The Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has detained a youth from Bhopal on suspicion of involvement in activities considered detrimental to national security. The accused, identified as Mohammad Faraz, was picked up during a pre-dawn operation conducted in the city's Qazi Camp area near Nanne Bi Mosque.

According to sources, Faraz was employed at a doctor's clinic and had come under the scanner of security agencies following specific intelligence inputs. Investigators are currently examining his activities, contacts and digital footprint to determine the nature and extent of his alleged involvement.

Preliminary findings suggest that the accused was allegedly preparing to travel to Afghanistan for specialised training. ATS officials

have reportedly recovered documents described as jihad-related PDFs from his mobile phone, which investigators claim were sent from Pakistan. The authenticity and significance of the material are being verified as part of the ongoing probe.

Agencies are also investigating reports that the accused had been undergoing martial arts training. Officials are examining his online interactions, social media activity and possible foreign links. During the investigation, certain contacts reportedly linked to Deoband in Uttar Pradesh have also come under scrutiny.

An FIR has been registered against the accused under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and other charges related to anti-national activities. A court has remanded him to custody until June 16,

during which investigators will continue questioning him regarding his alleged network, associates and activities.

Sources said the accused was allegedly connected to suspicious groups through encrypted and dark-web-based applications. Investigators are also analysing his social media accounts, chats and digital records. Preliminary scrutiny has reportedly revealed several posts and comments related to Gaza, which are being examined as part of the broader investigation.

The operation was conducted in a highly confidential manner, with details reportedly withheld even from local police officials until after the detention. ATS officials have stated that the investigation remains ongoing, and a clearer picture will emerge once all evidence has been thoroughly examined.

## Digvijaya seeks ESB probe

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Bhopal

Former Chief Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh has written to Chief Minister Mohan Yadav seeking an impartial investigation into alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations conducted by the Madhya Pradesh Employees Selection Board (ESB).

Singh claimed that a delegation of unemployed youth had raised concerns over technical failures in recent recruitment exams and alleged irregularities in the tendering process.

According to the allegations, tenders issued in 2023 and 2024 were repeatedly cancelled before being awarded after changes in eligibility conditions. He said technical glitches during examinations caused significant inconvenience and losses to candidates. Citing concerns over transparency, Singh demanded a CBI inquiry or a high-level SIT probe into the matter.

He urged the government to conduct a thorough investigation and take strict action against those found responsible.



Artists perform Bharatanatyam during a cultural event 27th Kalanjali Kalotsav, at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal on Friday. Pioneer photo

## Niaz Khan's X posts trigger fresh controversy

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Bhopal

Retired IAS officer and author Niaz Khan has sparked a fresh controversy after making remarks on population growth and governance in a series of posts on social media platform X. Khan, known for his books including Abu Salem's Love Story and Brahmin the Great, called for stringent population-control measures and made comments specifically referring to the Muslim community.

In a post shared on Friday morning, Khan said India's population of nearly 1.5 billion had become a serious challenge for the country. He argued that the government should consider enforcing compulsory sterilisation as a means of population control. He further stated that people should either voluntarily undergo sterilisation or the

government should make it mandatory.

The retired bureaucrat's comments drew attention after he specifically mentioned the Muslim community, claiming that higher birth rates within the community required stricter population-control measures. He warned that failure to address population growth could have adverse consequences for the country's future.

In another post on the same day, Khan expressed concern over corruption and the state of public discourse in the country.

He alleged that widespread corruption was weakening institutions while citizens remained indifferent. He also criticised voters for electing allegedly corrupt leaders and questioned claims about India's emergence as a global superpower. Earlier, in a separate post

on Thursday, Khan raised concerns about what he described as an ideological crisis in Indian politics. He claimed that political leaders often change their ideological positions for the sake of power, adding that secular leaders can quickly adopt hardline positions when politically convenient.

The remarks have triggered debate on social media, with users expressing sharply divided opinions. While some supported his call for stronger population-control policies, others criticised the comments, particularly those targeting a specific community.

No official response had been issued by the government regarding Khan's statements at the time of writing. However, the remarks have once again brought discussions on population policy, governance and political discourse into the spotlight.

## Two get life for friend's murder

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Ujjain

A court in Mahidpur tehsil of Ujjain district has sentenced two men to life imprisonment for the murder of their friend in a case linked to an unpaid loan. A juvenile involved in the crime has been sent to a correction home.

The case dates back to August 15, 2023, when a decomposed body was found stuffed inside a sack in a field in the Raghvi police station area. The victim was later identified as Narendra Rajput, a resident of Kheda Khajuria village.

During the investigation, police found that Narendra had lent Rs 1.5 lakh to a friend and was repeatedly demanding repayment. The dispute eventually led to his murder. Following trial, the court convicted the accused and awarded life imprisonment

## Rare sighting of tigress and three cubs thrills tourists

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Bhopal

A rare and captivating wildlife sighting at Pench Tiger Reserve has drawn widespread attention after a tigress was seen moving through the forest with her three cubs. The remarkable encounter, witnessed by tourists during a safari, was captured on camera and has since gone viral across social media platforms.

The sighting occurred in the reserve's buffer zone, where visitors were treated to an unobstructed view of the tigress leading her cubs along a forest track. The young cubs closely followed their mother, creating a memorable scene that left tourists thrilled and wildlife enthusiasts excited.

According to eyewitnesses, the tigress appeared calm and confident as she crossed the route, while the cubs displayed natural curiosity as they navigated the terrain under their mother's watchful eye. The family remained visible for several moments before disappearing into the surrounding forest.

Wildlife experts consider such sightings significant, as

tigresses with multiple cubs are an encouraging indicator of a healthy breeding population. The presence of three cubs suggests successful reproduction and highlights the effectiveness of conservation measures being implemented in and around the reserve.

Tourists who witnessed the scene described it as a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Many quickly recorded videos and photographs, which have since been widely shared online. The footage has attracted thousands of views, with nature lovers praising the reserve's rich biodiversity and successful tiger conservation efforts.

Pench Tiger Reserve, spread across Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, is one of India's most celebrated tiger habitats and is known for its thriving population of big cats. The reserve regularly attracts wildlife photographers and safari enthusiasts from across the country and abroad.

Forest officials continue to urge visitors to maintain a safe distance from wildlife and follow all safari guidelines to ensure both visitor safety and the well-being of the animals.

## Preparations on for President visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Indore

Divisional Commissioner Sudam Khade on Friday reviewed preparations for President Droupadi Murmu's proposed visit to Omkareshwar on June 18 and 19. The inspection was carried out along with senior police officials and district administration officers.

During the visit, the officials inspected the proposed programme venue, helipad and Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga Temple to assess arrangements and security measures. The commissioner directed concerned departments to ensure proper barricading at the helipad and event site, smooth drinking water supply, sanitation facilities and road repairs.

Instructions were also issued for issuing photo identity cards to all officers and employees deployed on duty during the President's visit. Health authorities were directed to deploy specialist doctors and ensure adequate medical arrangements at the venue.

## 49-year-old woman conceives after complex IVF procedure

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Bhopal

In a significant achievement in reproductive medicine, a 49-year-old postmenopausal woman has successfully conceived through in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) on her first attempt at Sagar Multispecialty Hospital (SMH), a NABH-accredited healthcare facility on Narmadapuram Road in Bhopal.

According to the hospital's IVF and Fertility Centre, the case was medically challenging due to the woman's age and postmenopausal condition. She had stopped menstruating several years ago, and the inner lining of her uterus was severely compromised, making embryo implantation difficult.

Dr Poornima Tiwari, Consultant at the IVF and Fertility Centre, said the team adopted a highly personalised treatment strategy to address the complications. Specialists first performed hysteroscopic adhesiolysis to restore and prepare the uterine cavity for embryo transfer. To improve the uterine environment and enhance implantation prospects, Platelet-Rich Plasma

(PRP) instillation was also carried out.

The fertility team used the Testicular Sperm Aspiration (TESA) technique to retrieve sperm, followed by Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI) for fertilisation. Embryos were subsequently transferred at both Day-3 and Day-5 developmental stages as part of the treatment protocol. The woman successfully conceived following the procedure, marking a notable success in a case considered highly complex by fertility specialists.

Dr Tiwari said advanced planning, customised treatment, and coordinated efforts by an experienced medical team played a key role in achieving the outcome. She noted that the patient's age remained one of the biggest challenges throughout the process. Hospital officials described the case as an example of how modern fertility treatments can help address difficult infertility conditions. The successful pregnancy highlights advances in assisted reproductive technology and offers hope to individuals facing age-related fertility challenges.

## Mahakal temple row over viral video

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Ujjain

A fresh controversy has erupted at the Mahakaleshwar Temple after a video allegedly showing a scuffle between devotees and security personnel inside the temple premises went viral on social media. The incident has reignited concerns over crowd management and the conduct of security staff.

According to reports, the incident occurred on the morning of June 11 in the Ganesh Mandapam area of the temple. Two young devotees allegedly attempted to bypass the regular darshan queue by crossing barricades and entering the Sheeghra Darshan line. Security personnel intervened to stop them, leading to a heated argument that soon escalated into a physical altercation.

The viral footage appears to show security staff restraining and pushing the devotees during the confrontation. While the video has drawn criticism from several devotees, temple authorities have maintained that the individuals had violated established darshan protocols and queue management rules.

## Cab drivers stage begging protest against low fares

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Bhopal

Drivers associated with app-based taxi services staged an unusual protest in Bhopal on Friday, accusing ride-hailing companies of pushing them into financial distress through low fares and unfair policies.

Under the banner of the Bhopal Taxi Drivers' Association, dozens of drivers gathered at Board Office Square wearing torn clothes and carrying begging bowls to symbolically highlight their economic struggles.

The protesters raised slogans against cab aggregators such as Ola, Uber and Rapido, alleging that declining earnings and rising operational costs have made it increasingly difficult for drivers to sustain their livelihoods. Several participants claimed that current fare structures are no longer viable in the face of rising fuel prices and vehicle maintenance expenses.

One driver said the situation had become so severe that many drivers were struggling to meet even basic personal expenses. According to the association, drivers currently

receive an average fare of around Rs 9 per kilometre, while the actual operating cost of running a taxi, including fuel and maintenance, has risen to nearly Rs 11 per kilometre.

Acting Association President Shrawan Kumar Sharma said drivers are being forced to choose between supporting their families and paying vehicle loan instalments. "It has become impossible to manage both," he said.

The association also accused both the government and ride-hailing companies of ignoring their concerns. General Secretary Rajesh Kumar Nagle alleged that fare guidelines issued by the Regional Transport Office (RTO) are not being properly implemented. He claimed that when app-based taxi services began operating in Bhopal around 2014-15, prescribed fare norms were largely followed, but companies later started reducing payouts.

Drivers said they have repeatedly raised the issue with authorities but have received only assurances without any concrete action. The association has demanded strict implementation of government-approved fare structures.



## Storms, rain claim four lives in Madhya Pradesh

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

Severe thunderstorms, strong winds and widespread rain-fall battered several parts of Madhya Pradesh on Friday, leaving four people dead and causing extensive damage to property. The worst-hit district was Sheopur, where three members of a family were killed after a wall collapsed during a powerful storm, while a woman lost her life in a separate accident involving an overturned auto-rickshaw.

According to police officials, the tragic incident occurred in Rajpura village of Sheopur district, where strong winds and heavy rain caused a wall to collapse on a family. Four people were trapped under the debris. Three of them died on the

spot, while another family member sustained serious injuries and was referred to a hospital in Rajasthan for advanced treatment.

Authorities identified the deceased as a man, his wife and their daughter-in-law. The injured survivor remains under medical care. Local administration teams rushed to the spot and initiated relief efforts following the incident.

In another weather-related tragedy, a woman died after an auto-rickshaw overturned amid strong winds in Sheopur. The incidents underline the intensity of the weather conditions that swept across the region during the day.

Apart from the loss of life, storms caused significant damage in several districts. In Dindori, powerful winds blew

away tin sheds from houses, while heavy rain and gusty winds disrupted normal life in Guna and several other areas.

The spell of rain and thunderstorms also brought a sharp decline in temperatures across the state. Sheopur received nearly one inch of rainfall, while Sagar recorded around half an inch. Thunderstorms and showers were reported from Jabalpur, Narsinghpur, Seoni, Sagar and several neighbouring districts.

According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), temperatures dropped significantly in many regions due to the change in weather. Gwalior recorded a fall of 5.8 degrees Celsius, bringing the maximum temperature down to 36.2 degrees Celsius. Datia witnessed a drop of 4 degrees, while Rewa saw one of the

steepest declines, with temperatures falling by 7.3 degrees Celsius to settle at 35.2 degrees Celsius. Satna recorded a decrease of 6.6 degrees, while Seoni and Khajuraho also experienced noticeable cooling.

Despite the relief from heat in many districts, Damoh remained the hottest location in the state, recording a maximum temperature of 41.5 degrees Celsius. Other districts reporting temperatures above 40 degrees included Umaria, Guna, Rajgarh, Narsinghpur, Mandla, Khandwa, Ratlam, Tikamgarh and Khargone.

Among the state's major cities, Jabalpur recorded 40.6 degrees Celsius, Bhopal 39.4 degrees, Indore 38.5 degrees, Ujjain 39 degrees and Gwalior 36.2 degrees Celsius.

Weather experts attributed

the changing conditions to multiple active weather systems, including a trough passing through eastern Madhya Pradesh, a cyclonic circulation and another active trough influencing atmospheric conditions over central India.

The IMD has also indicated that the southwest monsoon has resumed its advance after a brief pause and has reached parts of Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. If conditions remain favourable, the monsoon is expected to move rapidly northward and could enter Madhya Pradesh around June 17 or 18.

Meteorologists have forecast continued rain, thunderstorms and gusty winds in several districts over the coming days, urging residents to remain cautious during severe weather conditions.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, BJP State President Hemant Khandelwal and other leaders celebrate the victory of newly elected Rajya Sabha members Rajnish Agarwal and Mahesh Kevat, at BJP State headquarters in Bhopal on Friday.



An artist dressed as Lord Hanuman in a Kalash yatra on the first day of the beginning of weeklong Srirad Bhagwat Katha of spiritual leader Devkinandan Thakur, in Bhopal on Friday.

## Woman held captive, raped and robbed; two arrested

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Sidhi

Police in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district have arrested two men accused of gang raping a 20-year-old woman and extorting money from her after allegedly holding her captive inside her home.

According to police, the incident took place on Thursday afternoon in the Jamodi police station area. The accused had reportedly come to the house for painting and whitewashing work. Finding the woman alone at home, they allegedly threatened her, confined her and forcibly transferred Rs 40,000 from her mobile phone through an online payment application.

Police said the accused then allegedly locked the woman inside a room and sexually assaulted her. When she resisted, they allegedly assaulted her before fleeing the spot.

The victim informed her family about the incident after they returned home in the evening. A complaint was subsequently lodged with the police, following which a case was registered.

Sidhi Superintendent of Police Santosh Kori said police teams were immediately deployed after receiving information about the crime. Raids were conducted at multiple locations during the night, leading to the arrest of both accused within hours of the complaint being filed.

## Massive fire near petrol pump shuts Lalgathi road

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Bhind

A massive fire broke out at a firecracker shop located dangerously close to a petrol pump in the Sant Hriday Nagar area early Tuesday morning, triggering a series of explosions and sending flames soaring up to 70 feet into the night sky.

The incident occurred around 3:30 am, prompting authorities to shut down the road connecting Lalgathi to Sant Nagar while firefighting operations were underway.

The fire is suspected to have originated from the firecracker shop itself, situated barely 50 feet away from an operational petrol pump — a proximity that immediately raised alarm given the catastrophic potential of fire spreading to fuel storage tanks. As flames engulfed the

shop, the stored firecrackers began exploding continuously, with loud blasts echoing through the locality and lighting up the sky. Witnesses said the explosions continued intermittently for a considerable period as the fire intensified.

More than 20 fire tenders were rushed to the scene from across the city to bring the blaze under control. Firefighters battled intense heat and repeated explosions before finally managing to douse the flames. The scale of the firefighting response reflected the severity of the situation and the real danger the fire posed to the nearby petrol pump and surrounding establishments.

The shop where the fire broke out was reportedly operating illegally, set up in the open behind tin sheds in a market area. Such makeshift firecracker

shops, often erected without proper licences or safety clearances, have become a recurring concern across the city, particularly during festival seasons when demand spikes and enforcement tends to be lax.

Local residents raised serious questions about how such illegal shops continue to operate near petrol pumps and residential colonies despite the obvious fire hazard, expressing anger that repeated warnings have gone unheeded until disaster strikes.

Officials are expected to investigate how the fire started and why the shop was permitted to operate so close to a petrol pump in violation of safety norms. The incident has renewed calls for a citywide crackdown on illegal firecracker shops in densely populated areas.

## Lokayukta nabs two in Rs 20,000 bribery case

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Indore

The Indore Lokayukta Police on Friday caught two employees of a cooperative society re-handled while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 from a farmer for renewing a loan under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme.

According to Lokayukta Indore Superintendent of Police Rajesh Sahay, the farmer had availed a KCC loan of Rs 2 lakh in 2024. To become eligible for a fresh loan, he was required to repay the principal amount along with interest, taking the total payable amount to around Rs 2.30 lakh.

Despite this, the cooperative society employees allegedly demanded an additional Rs 20,000 to process the loan renewal.

The farmer approached the Lokayukta office in Indore and lodged a complaint. Following verification of the allegations, the anti-corruption agency formed a special trap team to investigate the matter.

On Friday, the trap was executed at the cooperative society's office in Gautampura area of Depalpur tehsil in Indore district. During the operation, the accused employees were allegedly caught while accepting the bribe amount from the complainant.

After the successful trap, Lokayukta officials initiated legal action against both accused under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018. Further investigation is underway.

The operation was carried out by a team of Lokayukta officers and personnel as part of the agency's ongoing drive against corruption in public institutions.

Lokayukta officials urged citizens to report instances of bribery and corruption, assuring prompt action against public servants found demanding illegal gratification.

## BOI reviews branch performance

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Sidhi

Bank of India organised a Business Promotion Meet 2026 in Jabalpur to review the performance of its branches and outline strategies for business growth in the current financial year. The meeting was chaired by Field General Manager Sanjay Srivastava of the Bhopal Field General Manager's Office and conducted under the leadership of Zonal Manager Ramesh Kumar.

The meeting was attended by branch heads from all 52 branches under the Jabalpur Zone. A detailed review of business performance during the previous financial year was undertaken, and branch managers were provided with guidance and targets to accelerate growth across key banking segments in FY 2026-27.

During the review, the Field General Manager assessed the progress of individual branches across various business parameters and issued directions aimed at strengthening performance and expanding the bank's customer base. Heads of various departments and processing centres also participated in the meeting and assured full support to branches in achieving business objectives and improving operational efficiency.

## Bhagwa Party stages protest against Waqf Board in Bhopal

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Bhopal

The Bharatiya Gan Varta Party (Bhagwa Party) staged a protest in Bhopal on Friday against the Waqf Board, demanding its abolition and calling for what it described as a uniform legal framework for all citizens. The demonstration was organised under the banner of the party's "Waqf Board Bharat Chhodo" campaign.

A large number of party workers participated in the protest, which began at Board Office Square and proceeded to DB Mall. During the march, activists carried a symbolic funeral procession of the Waqf Board, burned an effigy and raised slogans against the institution.

Shukla additionally criticised the BJP, alleging that the party had drifted from its original ideological positions on certain issues. The party described the protest as part of a broader nationwide campaign and appealed to the public to support its movement.

The demonstration remained peaceful and was held under police supervision. Party leaders said similar protests would be organised in other cities as part of the campaign. They maintained that their movement seeks a review of laws and institutions they believe require reform, and urged the government to initiate a broader public discussion on the issue.

the institution, saying that laws and systems must be periodically reviewed in the national interest.

During his address, Shukla also expressed concerns about what he described as potential divisive trends in society. Referring to Pakistan on multiple occasions, he warned against situations that, in his view, could create social divisions in the future.

The party leader also raised questions regarding Waqf properties, calling for greater transparency in their management and utilisation. He argued that there should be greater public accountability regarding how such properties are administered and whether they benefit the broader public.

Shukla additionally criticised the BJP, alleging that the party had drifted from its original ideological positions on certain issues. The party described the protest as part of a broader nationwide campaign and appealed to the public to support its movement.

The demonstration remained peaceful and was held under police supervision. Party leaders said similar protests would be organised in other cities as part of the campaign. They maintained that their movement seeks a review of laws and institutions they believe require reform, and urged the government to initiate a broader public discussion on the issue.

## PM SVANidhi gains pace in MP

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh has secured the second position in the country in collecting applications for credit cards under the PM SVANidhi scheme, a major initiative aimed at strengthening the financial inclusion and economic empowerment of street vendors.

According to the Urban Development and Housing Department, more than 10,000 credit card applications have been forwarded to various banks across the state. Of these, over 900 applications have been successfully verified, while more than 500 credit cards have already been issued to eligible beneficiaries.

Under the scheme, urban street vendors who have successfully repaid the second instalment of their PM SVANidhi loan and are eligible for the third instalment can apply for the credit card facility. Vendors who have already availed the third loan instalment are also eligible, irrespective of whether their loan account is active or fully repaid.

Applicants must be between 21 and 65 years of age and should not have any non-performing asset account with financial institutions. However, accounts classified under the SMA-0 category may be considered by banks. No minimum credit bureau score has been prescribed for eligibility.

## CM greets Class 12 qualifiers

**Bhopal:** Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has congratulated students who successfully passed the Higher Secondary (Class 12) Second Opportunity Examination-2026. He described the initiative as a historic step by the Madhya Pradesh Board of Secondary Education, introduced in place of the traditional supplementary examination. The Chief Minister said the new system provides students an additional chance to improve their results, division and overall performance.

## Welfare camps draw strong public response

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Bhopal

Bhopal Municipal Corporation on Friday launched a three-day Jan Kalyan Camp campaign to ensure the effective delivery of government welfare schemes and public services to eligible beneficiaries. The camps were organised at all 21 zonal offices, the Nagar Jan Seva Kendra at Atal Bhavan, and special locations in the Narela and Huzur Assembly constituencies.

According to officials, a total of 2,096 applications related to various welfare schemes

and public services were received on the first day of the drive. Of these, 1,821 applications were approved on the spot, enabling beneficiaries to receive immediate assistance. Authorities said efforts are underway to dispose of the remaining applications at the earliest.

The camps witnessed significant public participation, with citizens seeking benefits under a range of schemes, including social security pensions, birth and death certificates, NOCs, PM SVANidhi, Sambal cards, labour welfare cards, Chief Minister Unmarried Pension

Scheme, ex gratia assistance, Ladli Laxmi Yojana and Kisan Credit Card facilities. Applications related to education and civic services were also received and addressed.

A special welfare camp was organised at the zonal offices in Kolar under Huzur Assembly constituency. Local MLA Rameshwar Sharma visited the camp, reviewed arrangements and interacted with beneficiaries. During the visit, he distributed benefits to eligible recipients under various government schemes and gathered feedback regarding public services.

## Land dispute protest turns violent

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Ratlam

Tension erupted in Madhya Pradesh's Ratlam district on Friday when villagers allegedly pelted stones at a police and administrative team carrying out an anti-encroachment drive in the Palsodi area. Four police personnel, including a woman constable, were injured in the incident, prompting authorities to use mild force and tear gas shells to disperse the crowd.

According to officials, the administration had launched the operation to remove encroachments from land earmarked for a proposed investment zone. Villagers from Palsodi and four to five nearby villages have been opposing the project for a long time, claiming that it would affect agricultural land, residential areas and could lead to displacement.

The anti-encroachment drive began around 11 am when administrative officials, accompanied by a heavy police force, reached the site with bulldozers, excavators and other machinery. As the operation commenced, a large number of villagers gathered and protested against the action.

Officials initially attempted to persuade the protesters, but tensions escalated after police detained around 15 to 20 people. During the subsequent demolition drive, some members of the crowd allegedly began throwing stones at police personnel and government officials, creating chaos at the site.

A woman police constable suffered a head injury, while three other police personnel were also hurt.

## Britain unveils £1.1 billion AI hardware plan

**SARMAN NAGELE** ■ London

The second day of London Tech Week 2026 at Olympia London showcased the United Kingdom's ambitious AI strategy. The UK Government announced one of the largest commitments to Artificial Intelligence in the nation's history, unveiling a £1.1 billion AI Hardware Plan. From Technology Secretary Liz Kendall to Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy, the message from every speaker was clear: "Britain will win the global AI race."

During her address, Liz Kendall, Secretary of State for the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), said that the United Kingdom is uniquely positioned to lead the AI era, driven by British innovation, entrepreneurship, and ambition.

Presenting details of the government's £1.1 billion AI Hardware Plan, Kendall announced: £750 million for a new National AI

one." **Sovereign AI Britain's New Identity** Kendall also elaborated on the concept of Sovereign AI.

She said: "AI sovereignty does not mean going it alone. It means building the best and using the best. When nearly 70 percent of global AI compute capacity is concentrated in the hands of just five companies, the UK must strengthen its strategic control over this technology."

"AI Will Revolutionize the Justice System as Well" **David Lammy, Deputy Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor** Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy announced the broader adoption of AI within the justice system, stating that AI-powered Legal Assistants will help legal professionals manage routine casework more efficiently.

He explained that the Justice Transcribe system will save the equivalent of approximately 18,750 probation officer days every year, helping to reduce court backlogs and improve judicial efficiency.



**Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.**  
Corporate Office: Office Nos. 501 & 503, 5th Floor, Lightbridge, Saki Vihar Road, Andheri East, Mumbai Suburban (Dist.), M.H. 400072  
Sagar Branch: 1st Floor, Sakhi Baba Matrix, Makronia Road Sagar-470004, (MP).

DEMAND NOTICE			
UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.			
The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. (AHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) (the "said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to AHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to AHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.			
S. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower & Guarantor	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured assets (immovable property)
1	(Loan Code No. 02300001703/ Sagar Branch) Gajendra Kumar Ahirwar (Borrower) Brajlal Ahirwar & Laxmi (Co-Borrowers)	08-06-2026 & ₹ 10,18,938/-	All that piece and parcel of the property bearing, Khasra No. 239/4, Patwari Halka No. 72, Ward No. 15, Gopeshwar Ward Makronia Bujurg, Tehsil Sagar, Dist Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. <b>Boundaries</b> : East -Kaccha Rasta, West - Other'S Plot, North - House Of Hema Rawat, South - Plot Of Pratap Singh
If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to AHFL as aforesaid, AHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of AHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.			
Place : Madhya Pradesh, Date : 13.06.2026			Sd/- Authorised Officer For : Aadhar Housing Finance Limited



## IN FOCUS



A woman holding a placard thanking commuters for opting public transport during the Weekly Public Transport Day campaign launched by Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority in Mumbai

# IMD confirms El Niño onset, warns of monsoon impact

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The India Meteorological Department on Friday declared the onset of El Niño conditions over the equatorial Pacific Ocean. It also said these conditions are expected to strengthen further during the southwest monsoon season.

"The atmosphere has responded to the warming sea surface temperatures, and the coupled ocean-atmosphere system now exhibits characteristics consistent with El Niño conditions," the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

The last time El Niño conditions developed was in 2023. Since 2000, these conditions have emerged in 2002, 2009 and 2015.

El Niño is one of the three phases of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), a climate phenomenon characterised by changes in sea temperatures along the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, accompanied by fluctuations in the atmosphere overhead. While El



SDRF personnel at the spot after a 15-member trekking team, which had set out from Badrinath, lost its way due to dense fog and adverse weather while crossing the Saraswati river near Musa Pani in Chamoli, Uttarakhand

Niño is known to have a warming effect over the planet, its opposite phase, called La Nina, usually results in a cooling effect. ENSO also has a neutral phase. El Niño leads

to less rainfall in India, and its emergence could be one of the reasons why the country this year is expected to receive below-normal rainfall during the monsoon season,

according to experts. On May 29, the IMD said rainfall this monsoon is likely to be about 90 per cent of the long-period average (LPA) with a model error of 4 per cent. LPA

refers to the rainfall recorded over a particular region for a given interval, such as a month or season, averaged over a long period, typically 30 to 50 years.

The LPA of seasonal rainfall over India, based on data from 1971 to 2020, is 87 cm. If the monsoon season sees less than 90 per cent of the LPA rainfall, the IMD classifies it as 'deficient'. India receives more than 70 per cent of its annual rainfall during the monsoon months, making the season critical for farming, drinking water supply, hydroelectric power generation and groundwater replenishment. This year, the arrival of monsoon got delayed, as its onset over Kerala occurred on June 4.

Typically, it takes place on June 1. On Friday, the IMD said that conditions are favourable for the monsoon to advance into some more parts of the central Arabian Sea, Maharashtra, the remaining parts of Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal over the next two to three days.

# TMC rebel MPs to seek recognition as main party from LS Speaker

**PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH**  
■ New Delhi

The Trinamool Congress ran into more trouble on Friday as dissident MPs, claiming support from 19 Lok Sabha members, said they would seek recognition from Speaker Om Birla next week as the main TMC parliamentary group. The party, led by Mamata Banerjee, dismissed the move, citing the anti-defection law.

Rebel MP Jagdish Chandra Barma Basunia said the group had already sent a letter to the Speaker and would officially present its claim on Monday.

Basunia said the group has already submitted the letter and will present its claim to the Speaker on Monday. He said they started collecting signatures on



Jagdish Chandra Barma Basunia

June 8, and 19 MPs have signed the letter. Sources said the exact time for the meeting with the Speaker was still undecided.

The TMC said the dissidents' claim is not legally valid. Party MP Mahua Moitra said the 91st Amendment to the Constitution removed the option for a split, so

lawmakers who want to leave a party must merge with another political party.

This situation comes as the TMC continues to face internal problems that started after its loss in the West Bengal assembly elections and have now reached Parliament. During the turmoil, a list reportedly including 19 TMC Lok Sabha MPs was shared online.

The letter to Birla has not been made public, and while dissident TMC leaders say it backs their claim, it has not been independently verified.

The list is said to include Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Satadbi Roy, Bapi Haldar, Sharmila Sarkar, Prasun Bandyopadhyay, Jagdish Barma Basunia, Asit Kumar Mal, Arup Chakraborty, Rachna Banerjee, Saayoni Ghosh, Khalilur Rahaman,

Abu Taher Khan, Yusuf Pathan, Mitali Bag, Mala Roy, Kalipada Soren, Deepak Adhikari, June Malia, and Partha Bhowmick.

TMC MP Kirti Azad alleged that the BJP is trying to cause defections through Operation Lotus and said attempts to split the party have failed.

He cited a visit by Rajya Sabha MP Prakash Chik Baraik to BJP leader Nishikant Dubey's residence, a meeting of dissident MPs at Union minister Bhupendra Yadav's residence, and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari's visit to TMC MP Satadbi Roy's residence as evidence of an organised effort to weaken the party.

Baraik became the third TMC parliamentarian this week to quit both the party and the Rajya Sabha, after Sukhendu Sekhar Ray

and Sushmita Dev. The crisis has also revealed divisions within the party.

On Thursday, senior TMC leader Kalyan Banerjee criticised national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and said he would remain in the party only if Abhishek is removed from all leadership positions.

At the same time, Basunia supported Kalyan Banerjee's criticism of Abhishek Banerjee and pushed back against Azad's claim that dissident MPs were being paid to change sides.

Basunia called Kirti Azad a liar and said it was wrong to make such allegations. He said there are 19 MPs and that Azad is also an MP, so the claim is unjustified.

The turmoil has also led to changes in the party's setup in

Delhi. The TMC has moved its operations from 20, Rajendra Prasad Road back to the residence of Rajya Sabha MP Md Nadimul Haque at 61, South Avenue.

Bhowmick, one of the MPs linked to the dissident group, gave up his bungalow and asked for a flat instead, according to sources. The West Bengal-based party has seen several departures this week, with three Rajya Sabha MPs — Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Sushmita Dev, and Prakash Chik Baraik — resigning from the party.

However, Lok Sabha MPs Sougata Roy, Shatrughan Sinha, and Pratima Mondal, along with Rajya Sabha MP Babul Supriyo, have denied being part of any dissident group and said they will stay with the party.

# TN CM announces ₹134.83 crore Kuruvai package for paddy farmers



**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Chennai

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Friday announced a ₹134.83 crore Kuruvai special package for paddy growers to mitigate the impact of the delayed southwest monsoon, which has deferred the customary opening of the Mettur dam on June 12 for irrigation.

The package covers the Cauvery delta districts—Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, and Nagapattinam—as well as non-Cauvery delta districts, to help farmers raise the Kuruvai, a short-duration paddy crop sown in June and harvested in September.

It would also help farmers raise the 120-day crop during the Kar and Sornavari seasons, which begin in April and May, respectively. Normally, the Mettur reservoir is opened on June 12 every year to facilitate agricultural operations. However, with the weather office forecasting below-normal rainfall due to the El Niño phenomenon, the southwest monsoon has been severely delayed.

"The water level in the Mettur dam currently stands at 79.56 feet, and as a result, there is no possibility of opening the sluice gates today," a government release said. While the delayed water release has restricted the standard cultivation of five lakh acres in the Cauvery delta.

# District administration releases route map of Kozhikode Nipah patient

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Kozhikode

The district administration on Friday released the route map of a 43-year-old man infected with the Nipah virus and admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital, officials said.

The Ramanattukara native is currently on ventilator support. The district administration has taken preventive measures, including quarantining people who came into contact with him.

According to the route map, the patient remained at home on May 30 and June 1. On June 2, he visited a private hospital in Feroke, where he stayed in the OP waiting area, visited the laboratory and day-care ward, and returned home by car at 12.50 pm.

On June 3, 4, 5, and 6, he visited a post office near Feroke College by car and returned home.

He again visited the private hospital on June 7, travelling by autorickshaw. He was first admitted to the casualty department and later shifted to a private room. On June 8, he was discharged from the Feroke hospital and shifted to a private healthcare facility in Kozhikode.

He was admitted to a ward there, underwent several tests, and was shifted to an isolation ward at 4.30 pm on June 9. On June 10, after preliminary tests indicated a Nipah infection, he was shifted to Kozhikode



Government Medical College Hospital at 11.30 pm.

The district administration has so far identified 77 persons on the contact list. Of these, 58 are healthcare workers, 14 are family members, and five are friends and colleagues. Among the 77 contacts, two have been classified in the highest-risk category, 13 in the high-risk category, and 62 in the low-risk category. All those in the highest-risk and high-risk categories have been placed under quarantine, a statement said.

A document on the Kerala Directorate of Health Services website states that the Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus capable of transmission between animals and humans. Fruit bats, also known as flying foxes, are its natural reservoir. The virus can also cause illness in pigs. Nipah virus infection is associated with encephalitis (swelling of the brain) and can cause mild to severe illness and even death. Outbreaks occur almost annually in parts of Asia, primarily Bangladesh and India, the document said. The doc-

ument states that Nipah virus infection can be prevented by avoiding contact with sick pigs and bats and by not consuming raw date palm sap, which may be contaminated.

Standard infection-control practices can help prevent transmission in hospitals during outbreaks, it added.

The Animal Husbandry Department has set up a district-level control room in Kozhikode following the confirmation of the Nipah case to prevent animal-to-human transmission and coordinate surveillance and preventive measures.

The control room has been established at the Animal Disease Control Project Office under the District Animal Husbandry Office on Bank Road, Kozhikode, officials said. Authorities have intensified surveillance in Ramanattukara municipality, where the infection was reported, and in nearby areas. Special monitoring and field-level inspections have been launched, focusing on locations with bat populations, domestic animals, and pig farms.

# Ayodhya waited centuries for air connectivity after Lord Ram's return in Pushpak Viman : Adityanath

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Lucknow

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said while Lord Ram returned to Ayodhya in the *Pushpak Viman*, the ancient city had to wait for thousands of years to regain air connectivity.

Addressing an event in Lucknow organised for the flag-off of electric buses for Gautam Buddha Nagar and inauguration of the Noida Electric Bus Depot, Adityanath said the situation had now changed, with an airport dedicated to Maharishi Valmiki becoming operational in Ayodhya.

"Perhaps Lord Shri Ram came to Ayodhya in the *Pushpak Viman*, but after that the residents of Ayodhya did not get air services for thousands of years. Ayodhya remained neglected for thousands of years and even after independence it contin-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath flags off 45 electric buses of Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSTRC) operating jointly from Noida, Greater Noida and areas of Gautam Buddha Nagar to Jewar Airport in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

ued to face neglect," he said.

He said the "new Uttar Pradesh of New India" is witnessing transformation, with the state emerging as a destination for world-class road and air connectivity. Recalling the situation before 2017, Adityanath said Uttar

Pradesh was grappling with poor road infrastructure, issues of law and order and security concerns.

"Before 2017, talking about investment in Uttar Pradesh was like a distant dream," he said. Adityanath said the "double-engine government"

had significantly expanded infrastructure over the last nine years. Referring to global challenges such as climate change, he said the world was facing the consequences of environmental degradation and geopolitical tensions.

# Pradhan releases two strategic documents on Bharat Innovates

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
■ New Delhi

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday released two strategic documents on Bharat Innovates, showcasing India's emerging innovation and startup ecosystem rooted in higher education and research institutions. The documents were released



ahead of Bharat Innovates 2026, to be held in Nice, France, from June 14-16 under the aegis of the India-France Year of Innovation.

Speaking on the occasion, Pradhan said that one of the core objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is to transform India from a system of knowledge consumption to a system of knowledge cre-

ation and innovation.

He noted that the startups featured in the Bharat Innovates Strategic Documents are emerging from India's premier institutions, incubators and research ecosystems, reflecting the growing innovation capacity of the country's higher education sector. "Bharat Innovates reflects the vision articulated

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to take India's innovation capabilities to the global stage," Pradhan said, adding that the initiative is aligned with the PM's larger mission of building an innovation-led Viksit Bharat.

The minister said that Bharat Innovates is creating opportunities for Indian startups to engage with global investment firms.

# Timeline for AI-171 crash report declined

AAIB urged all stakeholders, including the media and the public, to refrain from speculation or premature conclusions while the investigation remains in progress. In its preliminary report on the crash that was released on July 12 last year, AAIB said the fuel supply to both engines of the plane was cut off within a gap of one second, causing confusion in the cockpit soon after takeoff. "In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cut off. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," it had said.

# Security intensified for Amarnath Yatra

Several checkpoints will be set up along the two routes to the shrine through the Pahalgam and Baltal. Drones will be used for aerial surveillance;

CCTV cameras will be placed at camps and key locations; and advanced screening will include X-ray baggage systems, metal detectors, explosive detectors, RCIED jammers, and sniffer dogs. Senior officers from CAPFs and J&K Police will continuously monitor camp sites.

The area will be a "No Flying Zone" from July 1, 2026, until the pilgrimage ends. Locals and animals involved in the pilgrimage must register with a QR code. Screening at entry points will include thorough checks to prevent contraband or threats.

These protocols ensure a secure and welcoming environment for pilgrims. Because of the high altitude, Medical Aid Centres are set up about every 2 km along the routes. These centres have oxygen cylinders, life-saving medicines, and trained staff.

There will be 4x4 ambulances, shuttle services, and emergency response teams available at key points, including Pissu Top, Zoji Bal, Panchtarni, and Domail. While real-time weather forecasts will guide the movement of pilgrim batches.

Pilgrims have two main routes to the shrine. The traditional 48-km Nunwan-Pahalgam route in Anantnag district is gradual. It passes through

# FROM PAGE - 1

Chandanwari, Pissu Top, Sheshnag Lake, Mahaganas Pass (Ganesh Top), and Panchtarni before reaching the Amarnath cave. This route usually takes three-five days one way with night halts at organised camps. The alternative 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district is shorter but steeper. Fit pilgrims can complete it in a single day.

# India defends energy choices

He said there was broad agreement that the international community must continue efforts to mitigate the consequences of conflicts and create conditions conducive to diplomacy.

Jaishankar also emphasised the importance of "de-risking and diversifying" supply chains and "building greater resilience and redundancy in an increasingly volatile world".

On energy security, he reiterated that India's energy choices are guided by national interest and that purchases are based on considerations of affordability and availability.

Referring to India's engagement with West Asia, Jaishankar underscored the centrality of the Gulf region in New Delhi's foreign policy, "underpinned by strong people-to-people ties, energy cooperation, and growing strategic and defence partnership". The minister also observed that the nature of warfare is undergoing rapid transformation, with emerging technologies, new weapons systems and evolving tactics coexisting with conventional forms of conflict.

He said these developments were opening new avenues for defence and strategic cooperation between India and Europe.

Highlighting the growing momentum in India-Europe ties, Jaishankar noted that India and the European Union had this year concluded negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement, signed a Strategic and Defence Partnership, and finalised a Comprehensive Mobility Cooperation Framework. He said these developments reflected the "growing depth" of the relationship.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar arrived in Finland from Bulgaria on the concluding leg of his twonation tour to participate in the Kultaranta Talks.

The annual dialogue, hosted by Finnish President Alexander Stubb, brings together senior leaders and policymakers to discuss global and regional security challenges.

# All rise! She walked in, slammed the gavel...

How an unauthorised person was able to access a restricted area, reach the judge's dais, and handle official case files has become a major talking point. Videos of the incident, showing Vandana Gupta on the bench giving orders and banging the gavel, have gone viral on social media. As of Friday evening, she is still in police custody at Cantt Police Station. No formal FIRs or charges have been confirmed yet, but authorities are looking into possible offences, including trespass and disruption of court proceedings. More details are expected as the investigation continues. The incident points out weaknesses in court security, especially when judges are on leave.

## Modi Govt model advancing respect, safety of women: Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Modi Government's "women-led development" model is advancing the respect, safety and empowerment of 'nari shakti'.

In a post on social media, Shah highlighted a range of welfare and empowerment measures undertaken during the tenure of the NDA Government, which completed 12 years in office this week.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi became India's longest continuously serving elected PM this week.

"From 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' to over 10 crore gas



connections under the Ujjwala scheme and more than 12 crore toilets, the dignity and convenience of women have been accorded the highest priority," Shah said.

A large share of beneficiaries under the Mudra scheme are women entre-

preneurs, he said.

"Through the Mudra scheme, 70 per cent of women have been linked to self-employment by providing loans without collateral. 'Lakhpatti Did', 'Crorepati Did', and self-help groups have made them economically self-reliant. Meanwhile, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam has paved the way for 33 per cent participation of women in politics," he added.

Shah said the impact of these initiatives is visible across diverse fields.

"The result of this is that today women are playing leading roles in every field, including the Army, space, sports, research and industry," he said.

## Suvendu to meet rebel TMC MPs in Delhi



PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH  
■ New Delhi

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari plans to meet a group of rebel Trinamool Congress (TMC) Lok Sabha MPs in Delhi on Sunday. The group is scheduled to meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday to claim recognition as the "real TMC" parliamentary group.

This meeting comes as the TMC's parliamentary wing faces a crisis after the

party's heavy defeat in the May 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. The loss ended TMC's 15-year rule and made Suvendu Adhikari the State's first BJP Chief Minister. Sources say that about 19 of the TMC's 28 Lok Sabha MPs have joined the rebel group, which is led by senior MPs such as Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia from Cooch Behar. The group has already sent a representation to Speaker Om Birla.

Rebel MP Jagadish Chandra Barma Basunia told reporters that the group began collecting signatures on June 8, and plans to push for recognition as the legitimate TMC parliamentary group. "We have submitted the letter... On Monday, we will go to the Speaker and stake our claim," he said. The rebels say their actions reflect the public's will after TMC's election loss. They have denied any inducement or involvement in "Operation Lotus," and Basunia called loyalist MP Kirti Azad's accusations baseless.

Sunday's meeting with Suvendu Adhikari comes after earlier talks, including one at Union Minister Bupender Yadav's home, where several rebel MPs met the West Bengal Chief Minister and BJP leaders. The rebels have named Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar as their Chief

Whip and Shatabdi Roy as deputy. These moves are a major challenge for Mamata Banerjee's TMC, which has already been weakened by several resignations in Parliament, including those of Rajya Sabha MPs Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, Sushmita Dev, and Prakash Chik Baraik in recent days.

Political observers view Sunday's meeting as a strategic move by the new BJP-led State Government to build support in Parliament and put more pressure on the TMC leadership. With almost two-thirds of TMC's Lok Sabha MPs said to be with the rebels, the party could soon face a formal split in Parliament. In the next few days, it will become clear whether the rebels gain separate recognition from the Speaker and whether this split leads to further political changes in West Bengal and at the national level.

## BJP demands Rahul Gandhi's apology over RS nominee row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

The BJP on Friday launched a sharp attack on the Congress after the Supreme Court rejected Meenakshi Natarajan's plea challenging the rejection of her Rajya Sabha nomination papers in Madhya Pradesh, saying Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the people of India.

During the hearing on Friday, the top court said that once a candidate's nomination is rejected by the returning officer, the only remedy available is to approach the Election Commission.

In a post on social media, BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari alleged that the episode exposes infighting within the opposition party and accused Gandhi of playing the "victim card".

"After Supreme Court's rejection of Natarajan's plea, Rahul Gandhi should apologise to the people of India," he said.

The BJP spokesperson claimed that Gandhi's "own house is not in order" and alleged that his preferred candidate is defeated because of rivalry within the Congress.

Bhandari also alleged that the Congress government in Telangana facilitated the defeat of the party's candidate and accused Gandhi of repeatedly portraying himself as a victim.

"His own Government in Telangana facilitated the defeat of Congress candidate; Rahul should stop over playing the 'victim card'. Even Congress workers are bored of it; can see through it," he said.

Claiming that the developments have exposed divisions within the Congress, Bhandari said, "The only truth is: Congress defeats Rahul Gandhi's Rajya Sabha candidate nominee."

Another BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla called the court's decision a "huge slap" for the Congress and alleged that the party seeks to create doubts about constitutional bodies.

"This is a Supreme slap for the Congress party. It is a huge setback for them," he said in a video statement.

Claiming that the Congress has repeatedly targeted institutions, Poonawalla said, "The Congress is constantly trying to create an atmosphere against constitutional institutions. They claimed the Election Commission was wrong and accused it of stealing seats. Will they now say the verdict has been stolen as well?"

"The Supreme Court has categorically rejected the allegations being made by the Congress party and its ecosystem. The Congress must introspect. Why did Meenakshi Natarajan not disclose details of the case against her?" he said.



BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari

## Nation Focus



### NO SINDHU WATER FOR TERROR PATRONS: RAJNATH SINGH

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday condemned Pakistan's support for terrorism and said the NDA Government would not allow the waters of the Sindhu river to reach those who sponsor it.

Addressing an 'Intellectuals Meet' organised in Hyderabad by Telangana BJP, he said that through Operation Sindoor, the government had shown the world that it knows how to respond to those who do not understand the language of peace and harmony, in their own language.

He criticised Congress and other Opposition leaders for questioning Operation Sindoor and the bravery of soldiers, saying the Government had stated it would stop the supply of grain and water to Pakistan if terror attacks were carried out against India. (PTI)



### INDIA SPACE CONGRESS TO BEGIN IN NEW DELHI FROM JUNE 15

Policy makers, diplomats, and industry leaders from several countries will gather in New Delhi for the India Space Congress (ISC) 2026 from June 15 to June 17 to deliberate on the future of India's space sector. The three-day event, organised by Satcom Industry Association (SIA)-India, will host over 600 participants, including 200 speakers and moderators, from over 25 countries. Representatives from Government agencies, international organisations, private industry, research institutions, and strategic stakeholders are expected to take part in the event. The congress comes at a time when the global space economy is moving towards the trillion-dollar mark, and India has set a target of building a \$44-billion space economy by 2033. (PTI)

## CPI(M) hails Delhi HC verdict quashing cases against NewsClick



CPI (M) General Secretary MA Baby, NewsClick Editor-in-Chief Prabir Purkayastha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

The Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Friday welcomed the Delhi High Court judgement quashing the FIR registered by the Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police and the subsequent Enforcement Directorate (ED) case against news portal NewsClick and its Editor-in-Chief, Prabir Purkayastha.

Terming the verdict a major victory, the CPI(M) stated that the high court's ruling serves as a "stern warning" against the targeted misuse of Central Government agencies to carry out political vendetta.

In a press statement issued by the party's Central Committee Office, the left party claimed that indepen-

dent media platforms like NewsClick have come under severe attack from the establishment for refusing to align with corporate-political interests.

"It was their fearless reporting of people's movements that resulted in the concocted charges that have now been quashed," the CPI(M) statement said, adding that the portal became a "thorn in the side" of the BJP-led Union Government due to its relentless coverage of the year-long farmers' struggle.

The party further noted that the relentless journalism of the portal had led to an intensified state crackdown, culminating in the invocation of the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the prolonged imprison-

ment of Purkayastha. "Right from the outset, it was clear that the action against NewsClick and Purkayastha by agencies under the Union Government was nothing but a plot to target critical journalism and suppress dissent," the statement added, hailing the judicial outcome as a triumph for the freedom of the press and the democratic rights of citizens.

Citing the observations of the Delhi High Court, which categorised the ED case against the news portal as a "gross abuse of the process of law," the CPI(M) demanded that the Union Government and its investigation agencies immediately withdraw and quash all other pending cases foisted upon NewsClick and its Editor-in-Chief.

## Vaishnav calls for greater accountability in railway recruitment system

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Friday held a high-level review meeting with senior officials on the functioning of the Railway Recruitment Board and underlined the need for a more transparent, accurate and technology-driven system.

Vaishnav noted that the annual recruitment calendar, coupled with quarterly notifications of vacancies, has been well received by candidates, the railway ministry said in a statement.

He said the calendar-based recruitment framework has enabled aspirants to plan their preparation more effectively as it brings greater predictability to the recruitment process.

Emphasising the need for continuous improvement, Vaishnav stated that the railway recruitment system must keep evolving through the use of technology, faster processes and greater accountability, the statement said.

Vaishnav also reviewed the progress made in shifting departmental examinations to Computer-Based Test (CBT)



mode and stressed that more and more tablet-based examinations should be introduced wherever feasible, so that recruitment becomes faster, more efficient and user-friendly.

The Union minister also directed the Railway Recruitment Boards to strengthen communication with candidates and stakeholders.

He further underlined that misinformation must be countered promptly with correct information, so that candidates receive accurate updates and confidence in the recruitment process remains strong.

"Indian Railways has recruited 43,781 candidates in FY 2025-26 through completed recruitment cycles covering 47,084 vacancies across six major categories, reflecting the ongoing acceleration of its recruitment process," he said.

## CBI files charge sheets in ₹657 crore bank fraud cases

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH  
■ New Delhi

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday filed two separate charge sheets over the alleged siphoning of funds belonging to the Haryana Government and Chandigarh Smart City Limited (CSSL) from IDFC First Bank, officials said.

Officials said the funds, cumulatively worth ₹657 crore, were siphoned off.

The case concerns a scheme in which Government funds were allegedly funnelled through fictitious transactions into accounts linked to shell entities.

According to a CBI spokesperson, the loss is ₹504 crore in the Haryana Government case and ₹153 crore in the CSSL case.

In the Haryana government's case, the CBI filed a chargesheet before the Special Court in Panchkula. The case involving eight departments of the Haryana government was transferred to the CBI from the State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Two private individuals, both recipients of the ill-got money, were accused in the case.

"This is the second



chargesheet in the Haryana Government case. The CBI has already charged 15 accused persons and companies, including three Government servants, six bankers, two companies and four private persons," the spokesperson said.

In the CSSL case, the chargesheet was filed before the Special Court in Chandigarh against seven people, including five bank officials, one CSSL official and one private person. This is the first charge sheet in this case.

The CBI had taken over two cases from the Economic Offences Police Station in Chandigarh, one relating to CSSL and the other to CREST Chandigarh. "Offences cited in the chargesheets relate to criminal conspiracy, criminal

breach of trust, forgery and cheating, along with offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act," the CBI spokesperson said. The agency will file more charge sheets in these cases, officials said.

The probe shows that huge funds were transferred to shell companies and minor jewellery entities, and then siphoned off under the guise of gold purchases and real estate investments, sources said.

They said a significant number of cash withdrawals were also noted in this money trail.

The role of a Chandigarh-based hotelier involved in real estate projects in the Tricity is also under the scanner. AU Small Finance Bank is also under the scanner.



Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel exchange greetings with Jordan Ambassador to India, Youssef Abdelghani, during the 80th Independence Day celebrations of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in New Delhi on Thursday. PANKAJ KUMAR

## FIR against Mamata over provocative remarks during Bengal poll campaign

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Kolkata

An FIR has been registered against former West Bengal chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee for allegedly making provocative remarks during the last Assembly poll campaign, a senior officer said on Friday.

A person lodged a complaint at the Netaji Nagar Police Station, alleging that Banerjee's comments at a party programme at the Metro Channel in Kolkata's Esplanade area on March 9 were "capable of promoting



enmity between communities", he said.

The case was initially registered as a "zero FIR", and later transferred to the Hare Street Police Station as the place where the TMC supremo had allegedly made the comments comes

under its jurisdiction, the officer said.

"The complainant alleged that Banerjee's statements had the potential to disturb peace and adversely affect communal harmony and democratic norms," he said.

## ABRSM seeks PM's help to protect pre-2010 teachers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

A national-level teachers' organisation on Friday said it will seek legislative and policy protection for teachers appointed before the TET was notified as a mandatory qualification in 2010.

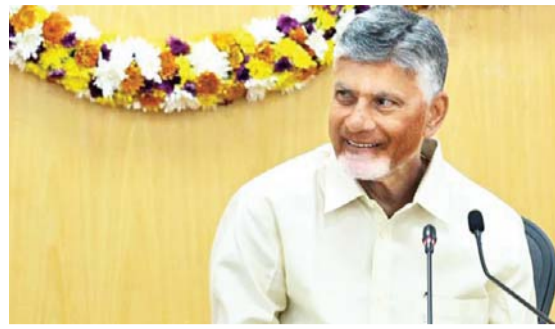
A letter in this regard will be submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, the Delhi unit of the Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) said in a statement.

Over 25 lakh teachers across the country are facing anxiety and uncertainty following the Supreme Court's May 29 order disposing of review petitions related to TET eligibility requirements, the organisation said.

It further said the National Council for Teacher Education notified the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) as a minimum qualification for teachers on August 23, 2010. Before that, appointments in various states had already been made in accordance with the rules.



## States Focus



### CM NAIDU ASSURES SUPPORT TO SLAIN ANDHRA SAILOR'S FAMILY

Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday expressed grief over the death of chief engineer Patnaala Suresh from Visakhapatnam in a missile strike on a commercial vessel off the Oman coast and directed officials to extend all possible assistance to his family. Suresh was among three Indian crew members killed in the attack on an oil tanker off the Oman coast. Officials said the vessel is currently stranded about 30 nautical miles offshore, and Omani authorities have initiated measures to bring it to port. As per the chief minister's directions, Andhra Pradesh Bhavan in New Delhi is closely monitoring the situation and is in constant touch with the Centre, the Oman Government and the Indian Embassy to expedite the repatriation process. Bhargavi, Suresh's wife, said she had received a call from the Indian Embassy in Oman informing her that officials were continuously following up on the matter and would keep the family updated as developments emerged. (PTI)



### KARNATAKA CM SHIVAKUMAR CALLS ON VP RADHAKRISHNAN

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday called on Vice President CP Radhakrishnan in New Delhi. This is Shivakumar's first meeting with the vice president after taking over as the chief minister. Shivakumar took charge as the state chief minister on June 3, replacing Siddaramaiah. Separately, governor of Punjab and administrator of Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria, called on the vice president in New Delhi, the Vice President's Secretariat said. (PTI)

## J&K Minister Sakina Itoo calls for revocation of armed forces Act

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

A senior woman Cabinet minister in the Omar Abdullah-led council of ministers on Friday called for the revocation of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) from the Union Territory, arguing that if the Centre believes the security situation has improved elsewhere, the same principle should apply to Jammu and Kashmir.

The statement made by Health and Education Minister Sakina Itoo has once again brought the contentious issue of the revocation of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act to the centre stage after a long gap.

During his previous tenure as Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah aggressively pursued the partial withdrawal of AFSPA from specific districts where the army had no active operational role. Reacting to the recent statement by Union Home Minister Amit Shah that the AFSPA would be withdrawn from the entire Northeast next year, except for one or two states, Sakina Itoo said Jammu and Kashmir also deserves similar consideration if the Government main-



tains that the situation on the ground has improved.

"If it is better, then it should be removed from here too. If they say that the situation has improved, now there is nothing here. Now there are no stones, nothing is happening. After that, I think it should be removed from here first," Itoo told reporters.

The minister also reiterated the demand for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, saying the elected Government has consistently raised the issue with the Centre.

"We have been trying for two years. Our Chief Minister

## Suwendu warns of stringent action against vandalism

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Friday issued a stern warning against incidents of vandalism and attacks on police personnel, declaring that "no one will be worse than me" if anyone attempts to disturb law and order in the State.

Projecting his Government as one pursuing a policy of "zero tolerance" towards unrest and anti-social activities, Adhikari said the stringent legal action would be taken against those who indulge in violence or take the law into their own hands.

Addressing a press conference organised by the state BJP to mark 12 years of the Narendra Modi-led Government at the Centre, the chief minister sought to draw a sharp distinction with the previous TMC regime, asserting that maintaining peace and public order remained a top priority of his administration. "After we came to power,



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari exchanges greetings with BJP state General Secretary Locket Chatterjee during a press conference in Kolkata

there have been certain incidents, and we tackled them firmly, thus giving a clear message that there will be zero tolerance towards this kind of unrest, hooliganism and anti-social activities. We will not allow such things to continue," he said. Issuing a

stern warning, the chief minister said, "If such incidents happen again, no one will be worse than me."

The strictest action will be taken against those involved in vandalism and taking the law into their own hands." Referring to recent distur-

bances in parts of the State, he claimed that except for isolated incidents in areas such as Park Circus and Asansol, where protests took place over the use of loudspeakers at religious places and the use of bulldozers against illegal buildings, the

overall law-and-order situation in Bengal remained under control.

The remarks assume significance against the backdrop of recurring political clashes and allegations of violence that have long dominated Bengal's political discourse, with the BJP frequently accusing the previous TMC Government of being soft on anti-social elements and political intimidation.

Seeking to reinforce the BJP's governance narrative, Adhikari also highlighted what he described as the benefits of the "double-engine Government" model, asserting that coordination between the Centre and the State was already delivering tangible results.

"We will work under Modi ji's leadership and guidance. Even in this short period, we have already accomplished some work. The public has started to see the benefits of the double-engine Government, and these benefits will become even more

apparent in the days to come," he said.

On national security, the chief minister said his Government was expediting the transfer of land to the Border Security Force (BSF) for strengthening border infrastructure.

"Regarding national security, we have handed over land to the BSF. This process is continuing. In north Bengal, particularly in areas adjoining the Chicken's Neck corridor, fencing work has already begun," he said.

The strategic Siliguri Corridor, popularly known as the Chicken's Neck, connects the northeastern states with the rest of the country and has long been viewed as a sensitive national security zone.

CM Adhikari said his Government was committed to completing the border infrastructure projects in a time-bound manner, describing them as essential for safeguarding national security.

## CID summons Abhishek again on June 14

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Kolkata

West Bengal CID on Friday issued fresh summons to TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee for a second round of questioning on June 14 in connection with the alleged signature forgery case after investigators were reportedly dissatisfied with his responses during questioning at the department headquarters a day ago, an officer said.

Banerjee, who appeared before the state investigating agency on Thursday after skipping three earlier summonses and following directions from the Calcutta High Court, was questioned for several hours by a team of senior officers.

Banerjee replied "I do not know" to several questions relating to the disputed res-



olution submitted to the Assembly, and allegedly lost his temper at certain stages, the officer claimed.

"Several questions relating to the resolution, the signatures appearing on it, and the supporting documents could not be conclusively addressed during questioning. Certain records sought

by the investigating team are yet to be produced. He has, therefore, been asked to appear again on Sunday with relevant documents," he said. Investigators sought clarification on how signatures of legislators who were allegedly absent from the party meeting appeared on the resolution, who had signed the document, and where the original copy was located, he said.

"The investigation is focused on establishing the authenticity of the documents and the circumstances under which they were prepared and submitted. Further verification is required before any conclusion can be drawn," the officer added. On Thursday night, after leaving the CID headquarters, the TMC national general secretary

went to party supremo Mamata Banerjee's Kalighat residence, where he attended a meeting with several senior party leaders.

He later left the residence without speaking to reporters.

On May 6, TMC legislators met at Banerjee's Kalighat residence and proposed the name of Sovandeb Chattopadhyay for the post of Leader of the Opposition. Legislators present at the meeting reportedly expressed support by a show of hands.

The formal proposal, however, was not immediately submitted to the Assembly. Following the swearing-in of TMC MLAs on May 13 and 14, the Assembly Secretariat sought a resolution from the party naming its nominee for the post.

## Debate on real TMC settled; ex-CM Mamata represents fake one: BJP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The BJP on Friday claimed that a document carrying the signatures of 20 Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha MPs establishes that the "real TMC" is led by Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, and not by Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

The remarks came amid reports that 19-20 Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs have signed a letter addressed to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

In a video statement, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla alleged that the TMC is witnessing an "implosion" due to dynastic politics and Mamata's preference for her nephew over the party. "Proof is now out in the open. A document carrying the signatures of 20 Lok Sabha MPs of the real TMC

under Kakoli Ghosh's leadership shows that the real TMC is different from what Mamata and Abhishek are representing. They are now the fake TMC," he said.

TMC plunged into a crisis following the party's defeat in the West Bengal Assembly elections in 2026, as the BJP ended Mamata's 15-year rule in the State. This included former chief minister Mamata losing her seat to Suwendu Adhikari in Bhabanipur by a margin of 15,105 votes, and a rebellion by a large section of its legislators. The turmoil later spread to



Shehzad Poonawalla

Parliament, with dissident MPs claiming the support of more than 20 Lok Sabha members.

Poonawalla alleged that around 65-70 TMC MLAs, as well as several Rajya Sabha MPs, are also with the "real TMC". "In the Vidhan Sabha too, around 65-70 MLAs have come together under the real TMC. Rajya Sabha MPs are also with the faction. It is a complete implosion of TMC. It is now called tukdo mein Congress," he said.

"Because she puts her nephew first and not the party, the party has moved away from her. This is what happens when you push dynastic politics. Those who have the numbers are the real TMC. Unfortunately, Mamata has very few options left. She may want to merge her party with the Congress," Poonawalla said.

Drawing parallels with other regional parties, Poonawalla alleged that leaders who promote dynastic politics eventually lose control of their parties.

## TN Speaker issues disqualification notices to 4 ex-AIADMK MLAs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Chennai

Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker JCD Prabhakar on Friday said he had initiated legal proceedings against four former AIADMK legislators who quit the party and joined the TVK.

The notices seeking an explanation from them over a petition by the AIADMK to disqualify them under the Anti-Defection Law, were issued on June 9, he said.

The four former legislators — Maragatham Kumaravel, S Jayakumar, P Sathyabama and Esakki Subaya — joined the ruling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam barely hours after resigning as AIADMK MLAs. They were among the 25 rebel leg-



Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker JCD Prabhakar

islators who voted in favour of the TVK Government during the floor test in the Assembly on May 13.

The members have been provided a window of seven days to provide an explanation, Prabhakar told reporters.

## BJP, SAD target Mann over Golden temple sacrilege

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Chandigarh

BJP and Shiromani Akali Dal on Friday condemned the sacrilege attempt at Shaheed Baba Gurbaksh Singh Ji within the Golden Temple complex, where a man allegedly picked up a 'Sri Sahib', or sacred sword, placed in front of the Guru Granth Sahib.

The incident occurred on Wednesday night, when a man entered the sanctum during an Akhand Path and, after a 'parkarma' (circumambulating) of the Guru Granth Sahib, he suddenly picked up the Sri Sahib placed before it.

However, sewadars present at the gurdwara overpowered the man and handed him over to the police. The



BJP National spokesperson RP Singh

accused is currently in police custody.

BJP national spokesperson RP Singh called the incident a direct attack on the Sikh community's religious sentiments. "Such an act is not merely an

incident of misconduct or a security breach; it is a direct attack on the religious sentiments, faith and collective consciousness of the Sikh community," he said on X.

Singh urged the Punjab Government and law enforcement agencies to conduct a transparent, time-bound and comprehensive investigation. "Every individual connected to this incident, directly or indirectly, must be identified and brought to justice. The truth must be placed before the public, and accountability must not stop at the lowest level," he said. He added that any attempt to violate the sanctity of Sri Harmandir Sahib has consequences far beyond the immediate incident.

## Odisha CM announces free education from KG to PG

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Bhubaneswar

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday announced free education from the kindergarten to post-graduate levels in Government schools and colleges.

Majhi, while addressing a press conference here on the occasion of the BJP Government completing two years in the state, said the move will benefit all students of Odisha, especially those from the economically backward classes and girls.

"In order to make education truly free and universal, my Government is announcing to make education from KG to PG completely free of cost. This will benefit all the students of the state, especially the economically backward classes and girls.

Peraps, such a step in the field of education will be implemented for the first time in the entire country in Odisha," the chief minister said.



## Union Minister Shivraj urges BRICS nations to empower small farmers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Indore

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Friday called upon BRICS nations to work together to empower small and marginal cultivators, ensure food security and promote sustainable agricultural development.

He stressed that challenges confronting the agriculture sector, including climate change and growing pressure on natural resources, could be effectively addressed only through collective efforts.

Chouhan was chairing the



Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan poses for photographs along with BRICS delegates during the '16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Conference', in Indore, Madhya Pradesh

inaugural session of a two-day meeting of agriculture ministers of BRICS countries in Indore.

He also led the ministerial dialogue on the theme "Smallholder Farmers, Women and Youth: Securing the Future of Food". "If small farmers become stronger, global food security will automatically become stronger," he said at the meeting being held under India's presidency of the grouping.

Chouhan insisted India has always stood for global unity, peace and cooperation. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's approach is based on the principle of 'peace, not

war; coordination, not conflict'. This can serve as a guiding philosophy for global agricultural partnerships," the Union minister affirmed.

Chouhan said the BRICS platform provided an important opportunity to deliberate on the challenges facing small and marginal farmers and exchange experiences among member countries.

He maintained policy cooperation and partnerships among BRICS nations could provide a new direction to global agriculture.

The minister said the ongoing dialogue was particularly significant in finding collective solutions to issues such as climate change, pres-

sure on natural resources and market uncertainties confronting small farmers.

"We should jointly work towards empowering small farmers and promoting sustainable agricultural development," he told the gathering.

Expressing confidence that the discussions would strengthen cooperation among member nations, Chouhan opined that the exchange of experiences and best practices would benefit the agriculture sector globally. he said the country's agriculture sector had recorded notable growth over the past decade, with steady increases in foodgrain, horticulture and fisheries production.



## NEET-UG 2026: NTA extends exam time, adds rough space

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Friday announced a series of student-friendly measures for NEET (UG) 2026, including additional rough-work space and an extended examination window.

The medical entrance examination is scheduled to be held on June 21.

According to the NTA, the examination will be conducted from 2 pm to 5.15 pm, providing a total window of 195 minutes. The duration of the examination has been extended by 15 minutes.

"This window is designed to accommodate the invigilation formalities at the start and end of the examination, such as the signing requirements, which candidates earlier felt reduced their effective working time," the agency said. The NTA has also doubled the number of



pages provided for rough work in the question-paper booklet from two to four pages, giving candidates additional space for calculations and reasoning.

"Candidates may preferably use the rough-work pages provided at the beginning and at the end of the booklet for this purpose," it said. In another change, the agency has redesigned the placement of rough-work pages to better support left-

handed candidates.

Earlier, rough-work pages were provided only at the end of the booklet. Under the revised format, two rough-work pages will be placed at the beginning of the booklet, immediately after the instruction page, in addition to those at the end in both English and regional-language versions of the question paper.

"The booklet now offers rough-work space at both the front and the back, allow-

ing every candidate to work comfortably, and is especially helpful for left-handed candidates, who account for nearly 10 per cent of all candidates," it said.

The NTA said these measures reflect its recognition that small, thoughtful changes in examination design can make a meaningful difference to a candidate's comfort during the high-stakes hours of the examination. "NTA reaffirms its commitment to conducting NEET (UG) 2026 in a fair, secure and candidate-friendly manner, and to continuously improving the examination experience for the lakhs of aspirants who appear for it," it added.

The NEET-UG for admissions into medical courses took place on May 3 this year, but was cancelled by the NTA on May 12 amid allegations of a paper leak. The CBI is currently investigating this matter.



Sita Ben Patni, mother of Akash Patni who died in the Air India AI-171 plane crash on June 12, 2025, mourns as she pays tribute to her son at the crash site on its first anniversary in Ahmedabad

## Ahmedabad honours victims on Air India crash anniversary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Ahmedabad

Grieving families said prayers and offered flowers at the site of last year's Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad on Friday as friends, strangers, as well as dignitaries joined them in observing the sombre anniversary of their loss, standing in remembrance near a hostel complex that will be rebuilt as a medical hub to serve as a lasting memorial to the departed.

The families await closure, seeking to know what exactly happened in the moments before the plane went down, as the crash investigation has not been concluded. In April, families of 30 victims wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, requesting the release of the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) and black box data to uncover the truth.

"I want justice. My daughter should get justice, and her money should be donated. I want to donate all of it," said Savita Ben, who lost her daughter and son-in-law in the crash.

Mahesh Jirawala, a 34-year-old film-maker who produced Gujarati songs and albums, was one of the 19 people who died on the ground.



## One year after Air India crash, families still await answers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

One year after an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner crashed shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad, killing 260 people in one of the world's deadliest aviation disasters in a decade, families of the victims are still waiting for a definitive explanation of what brought down the aircraft and the investigation to reach its conclusion.

Flight AI171, bound for London's Gatwick Airport, crashed on June 12, 2025, less than a minute after takeoff from Ahmedabad, killing 241 of the 242 people on board and 19 people on the ground when the aircraft slammed into a medical college hostel. The accident marked the first fatal crash involving a Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

The anniversary comes with India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) yet to issue a final report,

which investigators had been expected to complete around the first anniversary of the crash. Instead, the probe has been delayed as authorities continue examining critical evidence linked to the aircraft's GE Aerospace engines and associated control systems. Investigators are expected to issue a status update or interim report, with a final report now likely within the next three months, according to people familiar with the matter.

The preliminary report released last year found that both engine fuel control switches moved almost simultaneously from "RUN" to "CUTOFF" seconds after takeoff, starving the engines of fuel and causing a catastrophic loss of thrust. The report, however, stopped short of assigning blame or identifying the cause of the switch movement, and Indian authorities have repeatedly cautioned

against drawing conclusions before the investigation is completed. The prolonged investigation has fuelled speculation and competing theories ranging from technical malfunction to human action. The Federation of Indian Pilots this week renewed its demand for a judicial inquiry and opposed the release of any interim report, arguing that partial findings could lead to confusion and misinterpretation before the investigation is complete.

For Air India, the disaster became the biggest crisis since the airline's acquisition by the Tata Group and threatened to overshadow efforts to rebuild its reputation through an ambitious fleet renewal and transformation programme. Over the past year, Air India and Tata Group companies have focused on compensation, family assistance and support for the survivors and victims' relatives.

## Karnataka approves 50 AI labs in Govt colleges



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Bengaluru

To expand access to emerging technologies and enhance employability among youth in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, the Karnataka Government has approved the establishment of 50 AI laboratories in Government colleges across the State, officials said on Friday.

The initiative, announced in the State Budget for 2026-27, will be implemented in partnership with the Government of India's AI Mission and is aimed at equipping students with industry-relevant skills in emerging technologies, they said. In addition, the Karnataka Government has approved Rs 10 crore to support the initiative, of which ₹6.29 crore will be released in the first year.

The AI laboratories will provide students with hands-on exposure to artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, and other advanced technologies through practical training, skill development programmes, and innovation-oriented learning, officials said.

## ED issues fresh summons to Kerala ex-CM's daughter in PMLA case

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Kochi

The ED, which is probing a money laundering case involving minerals company CMRL, has issued a fresh summons to Veena T, daughter of former Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, directing her to appear for questioning on June 17, sources said on Friday.

The ED had earlier asked Veena to appear before its Kochi unit on Friday. However, following an email from Veena seeking more time, citing health issues, the agency issued a fresh summons, sources said.

The ED has asked Veena to appear at its Kochi office at 10 am on June 17, along with relevant documents related to transactions involving her IT firm, Exalogic Solutions Private Limited. The probe pertains to allegations that Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd



(CMRL) made payments amounting to ₹2.78 crore to Exalogic without receiving any services in return.

According to the ED, another company, Empower India Capital Investments Private Limited (EICPL), operated by CMRL Managing Director Sasidharan Kartha, had extended loans worth ₹50 lakh to Exalogic despite the company allegedly failing to make timely repayments.

## India became 4th largest economy under Modi: Bihar CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Patna

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Friday lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying under his leadership India has become the world's fourth-largest economy.

Addressing a media interaction programme organised here to mark 12 years of the Modi Government, Choudhary also underscored the "enormous trust reposed by the people in his leadership at every critical juncture".

"When Modi announced demonetisation in 2016, the entire nation stood behind him. During the COVID-19 pandemic, people across the country heeded his advice to stay indoors during the lockdown. Now, amid another global crisis



triggered by the war in West Asia, people trust Modi's ability to steer the country through the situation," said Choudhary, who took over as chief minister less than two months ago.

Congratulating Modi on the milestone of becoming

the country's longest-serving prime minister, Choudhary said, "New India is confidently establishing its identity on every global platform. Under his leadership, India has leapfrogged from the 11th-largest economy in the world to the

fourth-largest." "The BJP, under Modi ji, is a party that fulfils its commitments, including the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya," he said.

Referring to the prime minister's vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047', Choudhary said it was an ambitious blueprint to transform India into a fully developed nation. "Similarly, the NDA Government is committed to building a Viksit Bihar. We are confident that under the guidance of Modi ji, Bihar will further advance on the path of progress, prosperity and self-reliance, infusing new energy and momentum into the resolve of 'Viksit Bihar 2047'," he said. The chief minister said

the State Government has decided to make it mandatory to grant all industrial and investment approvals within 30 days to promote investment in Bihar. "We are confident that the State will attract investments worth ₹5 lakh crore by November 20 this year," he said. The State Government has also decided to develop airports/heliports/airstrips in most of the districts in the State, he added.

Highlighting initiatives for women, he said the NDA Government has launched several development schemes aimed at their empowerment. Praising the Centre's efforts to eliminate Left-wing extremism, Choudhary said, "Naxalism has been eradicated in Bihar."

## Jharkhand seeks ₹1.36 lakh crore coal dues from Union Government

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi/Ranchi

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has urged the Centre to release pending dues of Rs 1.36 lakh crore from coal companies and central public sector undertakings against coal mining in the State. He also requested the Union Government to provide the remaining Rs 6,000 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission, and support the State's transition from a mining-based economy to a manufacturing and innovation hub.

Addressing the 11th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog on Friday, Soren said Jharkhand wanted to be seen not merely as a source of mineral extraction State but as a partner in India's development journey towards 'Viksit Bharat 2047.' The chief minister sought a review of District Mineral Foundation Trust norms to strengthen the role of State Governments in project planning and fund management.

He also requested greater flexibility in land acquisition and land-use approvals for social infrastructure projects in districts falling under the command areas of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Coal India subsidiaries CCL and ECL, and other central undertakings. Calling for value addition within the State,



CM Hemant Soren

Soren advocated the development of critical minerals-based industries, manufacturing units, and knowledge, research and innovation centres. He also pitched for making Jharkhand an investment destination for textiles, electronics, green energy, logistics and agro-food processing sectors.

Soren urged the Centre and NITI Aayog to formulate a long-term development vision for Jharkhand that links mineral wealth with human Capital development, industrial growth with employment generation and economic progress with social justice.

"If India is to become a developed nation by 2047, states like Jharkhand must be treated not merely as resource suppliers but as equal partners in development," he said.

## Nagaland Dy CM condemns brutal killing of 6 Nagas in Manipur

TONY DAS  
■ Kohima

Expressing deep anguish and shock, Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister TR Zeliang has strongly condemned the abduction and brutal killing of six innocent Zeliangrong Naga men in Manipur, terming the incident a "barbaric and senseless act of violence."

In an official statement issued on Friday, the Deputy Chief Minister demanded an immediate, thorough, and impartial investigation by competent authorities to iden-



Nagaland Deputy Chief Minister TR Zeliang

tify and bring the perpetrators to justice without delay.

Describing the scale of cruelty inflicted on the victims, Zeliang said the nature of the killings had "shaken him to the core." He noted with immense grief that the men were slaughtered like animals, with parts of their bodies handed back to their families.

"No cause, grievance, ideology, or conflict can ever justify such extreme cruelty," the statement read, adding that the incident marks a direct assault on the core

values of humanity, peace, and coexistence.

The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the disturbing contrast between the unprovoked violence and recent goodwill gestures made by the community.

He stated that rather than reciprocating the goodwill of the Nagas—who had recently released 14 Kuki hostages—the perpetrators responded with "animalistic savagery" that defies logical explanation.

Reiterating that every human

life is sacred and deserving of respect regardless of ethnicity, religion, or community, Zeliang called on the law enforcement agencies to ensure those responsible face trial in accordance with the provisions of law.

Extending his deepest condolences to the bereaved families and the larger Zeliangrong community, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that no words could adequately ease the pain of such a tragic loss of loved ones, praying for eternal peace to the departed souls.

## Himanta calls for geographic equity at NITI Aayog meet with Northeast CMs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday advocated for a new development framework centred on "Geographic Equity" during NITI Aayog's interaction with Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of the North Eastern states in the national Capital. He said India's journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 must focus not only on expanding economic growth but also on ensuring that growth reaches every region of the country.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said that while the first phase of India's transformation was dedicated to accelerating growth, the next phase should concentrate on broadening the geography of growth so that all

regions can participate fully in the opportunities created by development. Sarma noted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the North East has moved from the margins of national discourse to the centre of policymaking.

He highlighted major improvements in connectivity, infrastructure development, peace initiatives and the implementation of the Act East Policy, which have significantly enhanced the strategic importance of the region. According to the Chief Minister, these efforts have created a strong foundation for economic expansion and greater integration of the North East with the rest of the country.

Referring to Assam's recent progress, Sarma said the State is witnessing rising investor confidence and increasing investments



CM Himanta Biswa Sarma during NITI Aayog's interaction with Chief Ministers and Chief Secretaries of the North Eastern states in New Delhi

across multiple sectors, including manufacturing, logistics, renewable energy and technology.

He pointed to the upcoming Tata Semiconductor facility as an example of the State's growing industrial capabilities and asserted that Assam is no longer merely catching up with the rest of the country but is actively contributing to India's economic growth.

Despite the progress, the Chief Minister acknowledged that geography remains a major constraint for Assam and the wider North-Eastern region.

He observed that coastal states enjoy natural advantages such as access to ports, shorter supply chains and lower logistics costs. In contrast, Assam remains effectively landlocked and dependent on a narrow transportation corridor, resulting in higher infrastruc-

ture expenses and longer freight movement times.

"These are structural realities of the region," he said, stressing that such challenges require special policy consideration.

Sarma proposed that public investment in strategically important but geographically challenging regions should be assessed through the lens of national integration, regional balance and long-term competitiveness rather than expenditure efficiency alone.

He described this approach as the principle of 'Geographic Equity,' arguing that it would help bridge regional disparities while strengthening national economic cohesion.

Highlighting Assam's demographic strengths, the Chief Minister said the state's youth population is among the youngest in

the country and represents its greatest asset.

He called for the next phase of development to align skill development programmes with emerging industries such as semiconductors, artificial intelligence, green energy and advanced manufacturing. This, he said, would ensure that young people from the North East are fully integrated into India's growing knowledge economy. Concluding his remarks, Sarma said that if the last decade was about integrating the North East into India's development narrative, the coming decade should place the region at the centre of India's growth architecture.

He reaffirmed Assam's readiness to serve as a growth hub, a gateway economy and a strategic bridge connecting India with the wider Asian region.



## Editor's TAKE

### Reimagining Centre, State relations

PM Modi's call for partnership at the NITI Aayog meet is welcome – but Centre-State fault lines demand structural repair

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 11th NITI Aayog Governing Council meeting, his assertion that "states play a vital role in furthering national progress" resonated with constitutional wisdom. After a long time, Chief Ministers of all 28 states sat together at the Governing Council table - a symbolic moment for cooperative federalism. Yet symbolism and structural reality remain stubbornly apart in India's Centre-State relationship.

The Indian Constitution envisioned a strong Centre with empowered states. Seventy-five years on, that balance remains contested. The grievances of states are not new, but they have grown louder and more urgent. At the heart of state frustrations lies the money question. The GST regime, hailed as a transformative reform, has effectively curtailed states' independent tax powers. Compensation promises have been honoured in part and delayed in practice. States routinely complain of shrinking untied funds - money they can spend according to local priorities - while centrally sponsored schemes come with rigid conditions that often ignore ground realities. A state like Tamil Nadu or Kerala, with strong development metrics, resents being subjected to the same formula applied to a newly formed state. The Finance Commission devolution figures tell only part of the story. What states receive on paper and what actually flows into their treasuries are different things. Delayed transfers, high cess and surcharge collections that do not enter the divisible pool, and the expanding footprint of central schemes leave state finance ministers perennially short.

Beyond money lies the question of jurisdiction. Governors appointed by the Centre have, in recent years, become a flashpoint in states governed by opposition parties. Prolonged delays in giving assent to Bills passed by elected state assemblies - in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Punjab - have raised serious constitutional questions about the role of Raj Bhavan as an instrument of political interference rather than a constitutional check. The elected legislature's mandate is being held hostage to the Governor's pleasure, which cuts to the core of democratic federalism. The deployment of central agencies in states in ways perceived as politically motivated, often without the consent of the state concerned, is another irritant in Centre-State relations. What is needed is structural reform.

A revamped Finance Commission framework that ring-fences state transfers from cess dilutions would be a start. A codified, time-bound process for gubernatorial assent would restore constitutional propriety. Expanding the role of the Inter-State Council - a body that has met far too infrequently - as a genuine deliberative forum rather than a ceremonial gathering would give states a real voice.

PM Modi's Viksit Bharat vision is unachievable without genuinely empowered states. Districts, blocks and villages - the units he invoked - answer to state governments, not Delhi. A thriving democracy must trust its constituent units to lead. That trust must be backed by an institutional architecture that makes cooperative federalism real in its truest form.

# From conflict zone to growth engine: How Modi changed Chhattisgarh

As Prime Minister Modi completes twelve years in office, Chhattisgarh stands as evidence of what sustained political commitment and policy continuity can achieve. The journey is not complete, but the direction is unmistakable



VISHNU DEO SAI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi completes 12 years in office, every state has its own story of change. Chhattisgarh's story is unique because it is not merely about development. It is about transformation. A decade ago, Chhattisgarh was known nationally for reasons that no state would want. Despite its rich mineral resources, vast forests and vibrant tribal culture, it was largely identified with Naxal violence, underdevelopment and administrative isolation. Large parts of Bastar were beyond the effective reach of governance. Roads were scarce, investment was hesitant, and welfare delivery struggled against both geography and insurgency.

Today, the conversation is very different. The most important change has been in security. For years, Naxalism denied generations of tribal youth the opportunities available elsewhere in India. It discouraged investment, disrupted education and kept entire regions trapped in uncertainty. Prime Minister Modi's government adopted a strategy that combined firm security action with development and rehabilitation. The objective was not only to defeat violence but also to ensure that governance reached the areas where insurgency had flourished.

The outcome became visible on March 31, 2026, when Union Home Minister Amit Shah declared India free from Naxalism in Jagdalpur, the heart of Bastar. For the country, it was a major security achievement. For the people of Bastar, it was the restoration of normal life.

Peace, however, has value only when it creates opportunity. That is where the Prime Minister's development vision has made a decisive difference.

Few projects illustrate this better than the NMDC Steel Limited plant at Nagarnar. For decades, Bastar supplied some of the world's finest iron ore, while the value addition took place elsewhere. By dedicating a world-class integrated steel plant in Bastar itself, Prime Minister Modi sent a powerful message: regions rich in resources should also share in the prosperity generated by those resources.

The same approach can be seen in the major infrastructure projects launched across Chhattisgarh in recent years. Whether it is power generation, petroleum connectivity, city gas networks or railway expansion, the



THE BROADER LESSON FROM CHHATTISGARH'S EXPERIENCE OVER THE PAST TWELVE YEARS IS THAT SECURITY, DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE CANNOT BE PURSUED SEPARATELY. PEACE CREATES THE CONDITIONS FOR INVESTMENT. INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVES ACCESS TO WELFARE

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objective has been to integrate Chhattisgarh more deeply into India's growth story. These projects create jobs, attract investment and improve the state's long-term competitiveness.

Yet the true measure of development in Chhattisgarh lies not only in factories and infrastructure. It lies in the lives of tribal communities, which form the heart of our state's identity. As someone who comes from a tribal community, I have witnessed both the aspirations and the challenges of these regions. For decades, many tribal habitations remained disconnected from basic services. Development often arrived slowly, if at all.

The Modi government placed tribal welfare at the centre of its policy framework. Through initiatives such as PM-JANMAN for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups and the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, some of India's most neglected communities have become a national priority.

The impact is visible on the ground. Roads are reaching remote habitations. Houses are being built for vulnerable families. Schools are being upgraded. Healthcare and mobile connectivity are expanding into areas that once remained isolated. A road into a tribal village is not merely an infrastructure project; it is a pathway to education, healthcare, markets and opportunity.

Equally significant has been the effort to ensure that tribal communities benefit from economic activity rather than remaining passive observers. Programmes supporting forest-produce value addition and tribal entrepreneurship are helping to create local liveli-

hoods. The idea is simple but important: development must be inclusive if it is to be sustainable.

The broader lesson from Chhattisgarh's experience over the past twelve years is that security, development and social justice cannot be pursued separately. Peace creates the conditions for investment. Infrastructure improves access to welfare. Tribal empowerment strengthens social stability. Together, they reinforce one another. Of course, much remains to be done. Former conflict zones require sustained attention. Industrial investments must continue to generate local employment. Welfare programmes must be implemented with efficiency and accountability. Development is an ongoing process, not a finished project.

Yet it is impossible to ignore how far Chhattisgarh has travelled over the last twelve years. A state once identified primarily through the lens of insurgency is increasingly being recognised for connectivity, investment and tribal empowerment. Regions that once symbolised conflict are beginning to symbolise opportunity. The distance between remote villages and the state has narrowed significantly.

As Prime Minister Modi completes twelve years in office, Chhattisgarh stands as evidence of what sustained political commitment and policy continuity can achieve. The journey is not complete, but the direction is unmistakable. A state that once struggled to overcome its challenges is steadily emerging as a confident participant in India's growth story.



## PIC TALK



A black-hooded oriole perches on a tree branch, in Nadia, West Bengal.

PHOTO: PTI

# 'Nindak Niyare Rakhiye' - Always keep a critic close by



SHANKAR SAHAY

## 2ND OPINION

I am not very good at Sanskrit. Never have been. But these three words, *Nindak Niyare Rakhiye*, from a doha by Kabir, have been entrenched in my mind. Quite possibly because the words used are easily understandable to a person familiar with both Hindi and English.

When I was a child, I read a story. Like many old Hindi stories, it featured two brothers - Ramu and Shyamu. Both were all-rounders and exceptionally good in all spheres of life. Their family members and relatives were full of praise for them. The elder brother always encouraged the younger one, but at the same time offered constructive criticism. The idea was to guide him.

One day, the younger sibling confronted him, questioning his criticism. To this, the elder brother responded, "All the relatives who heap praise on us are not necessarily our benefactors. We always need people who are frank enough and close enough to criticise us. That is the only way we can improve - and improve we must - because nobody in this world is perfect."

When I was in high school, the cricket team of my school, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, was very much in the news, largely due to the efforts of one of the senior administrators, Mr Sharma ji. During a match against another school's visiting team, one of our players, Ashwini Sood, was going great guns. He was hitting every second ball for a six and, as expected, the entire school was cheering his heroics.



where open and constructive criticism was welcomed, instead of glorifying every minor achievement and sweeping every major debacle under the carpet? Time to think and ponder.



The writer is an educator author, and corporate coach

## DIGITAL EXPERIENCE

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## CONGRESS'S IDEOLOGICAL CONSISTENCY: THE BEST BET AGAINST THE BJP

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's assertion that the Congress remains ideologically consistent and therefore best positioned to challenge the BJP and the RSS deserves careful consideration.

In an era when political parties are frequently accused of shifting positions for electoral gains, ideological clarity can indeed provide a strong foundation for long-term relevance and credibility.

Addressing the party's senior leadership in New Delhi, Gandhi reportedly emphasised that the Congress would continue to strengthen because it has not diluted its core principles.

Whether this assessment translates into electoral success remains to be seen, but ideological conviction undoubtedly plays a vital role in

shaping a party's identity and vision.

Equally significant were his concerns regarding the state of the Indian economy. Describing it as being in a "very fragile" condition, Gandhi attributed the situation primarily to government policies rather than external economic challenges alone.

Such observations highlight the need for constructive debate on economic management and policy priorities.

A healthy democracy thrives on robust opposition and meaningful policy discussions. Political parties must move beyond rhetoric and present practical solutions to address the aspirations and concerns of the people.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

Please send your letter to the info@dailypioneer.com. In not more than 250 words. We appreciate your feedback.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Drones enhance railway security

The Railway Protection Force's decision to deploy drones in the Karnal sector is a welcome step towards modernising railway security. These unmanned aerial systems, functioning as "eyes in the sky," can monitor extensive stretches of railway tracks and vulnerable locations from heights of up to 800 metres, providing surveillance capabilities far beyond conventional ground patrols.

Equipped with high-resolution cameras and real-time video transmission, the drones can promptly detect suspicious activities, track the movement of stone pelters and relay precise information to response teams. Their ability to conduct regular aerial patrols, particularly during train movements through sensitive areas, significantly enhances the efficiency of security operations.

An equally important advantage is that the footage captured by these drones can serve as credible evidence in identifying and prosecuting offenders. The knowledge that areas are under constant aerial surveillance is also likely to deter acts of vandalism and attacks on trains. Such technology-driven measures will go a long way in ensuring passenger safety and protecting valuable railway infrastructure.

RS NARULA | PATIALA

## The H-1B debate returns

The US court's ruling against Donald Trump's proposed H-1B visa fee is a reminder that immigration remains one of America's most enduring policy dilemmas. Unease over immigration did not begin with Trump. For decades, Republican and Democratic administrations alike have struggled to balance illegal migration, humanitarian obligations, border security and the country's need for global talent. Trump did not create this dilemma; he merely amplified it through executive orders, sweeping rhetoric and policy measures that often prioritised political theatre over lasting reform. The larger failure lies in the inability of the American political system to build a durable consensus on immigration.

The irony is that no wall can halt the movement of ideas, knowledge and talent in an era of digital connectivity and global innovation. America's economic strength and leadership in technology, research and entrepreneurship have long depended on its ability to attract the world's brightest minds. Its universities, laboratories and start-ups thrive because talent from across the globe finds opportunity there. The United States will continue to oscillate between protecting domestic interests and maintaining technological supremacy. In doing so, it must remember that talent remains its greatest strategic asset.

R NARAYANAN | NAVI MUMBAI

## Lessons from the 2026 French Open

The 2026 French Open offered far more than thrilling tennis; it underscored enduring lessons about perseverance, resilience and renewal. Roland Garros has always rewarded those willing to endure hardship, and this year's tournament reaffirmed that greatness is often forged through adversity rather than talent alone.

Alexander Zverev's maiden Grand Slam triumph was particularly inspiring. Years of injuries, disappointments and near misses could have defined his career negatively. Instead, his victory demonstrated that persistence and determination can ultimately overcome setbacks.

His success serves as a reminder that sporting journeys are rarely straightforward. Equally compelling was Mirra Andreeva's emergence as a champion. Her achievement symbolises the constant evolution that sustains every sport, as each generation of athletes passes the torch to the next.

Her victory signals the arrival of a promising new force in women's tennis. In an age that increasingly values instant results, clay-court tennis continues to celebrate patience, endurance and mental strength. The 2026 French Open reminded us that uncertainty is often an essential ingredient of achievement and that those who persist despite adversity are ultimately rewarded by history.

VIJAY SINGH ADHIKARI | NAINITAL



## The unvanquished statesman: Narendra Modi

## The colonial question: Ego as the first coloniser

In the last decade, a clear pattern has appeared. Politicians who focused only on opposing Modi have slowly become irrelevant. Those who expected him to fail have been let down. People who tried to get close to him for personal gain were pushed aside, and those who used flattery to gain influence had to look elsewhere



ACHARYA PRASHANT

A man reaches a mountain pass at first light. The valley below has not yet been touched by the sun. Then the phone comes out, the shot is framed, and a few words are spoken about how places like this must be protected. By the time he resumes walking, the pass has quietly changed hands. It has become scenery for his morning; by evening, it will be material for his page. No stone has moved, no tree has been cut, and the acquisition is complete.

I begin with him because the world has spent recent days arguing about acquisition on a much larger scale. Elon Musk endorsed a post

claiming that colonialism cannot explain poverty: Ethiopia was never colonised and stayed poor, Vietnam was colonised and bombed and now grows fast, so retire the excuse. The opposing camp produced its own ledger: the drain of wealth, the famines, the deindustrialisation of Bengal.

One counts what he took, the other counts what he spent, and the audit never closes because the principal actor appears in neither set of books. Colonisation, at its root, is less an event in economic history than an operation of the human ego; the man at the pass was running the empire's software on an ordinary morning. The debate about empires will remain what it has been for a century: two ledgers shouting across a question neither can answer, which is how a trading company's warehouse guards came to rule two hundred million people.

The East India Company received its royal charter in 1600 as a commercial venture, and a company, by definition, keeps no army. What it kept in India were factories, and the word in that era's vocabulary meant not production but storage. Warehouses need watchmen, and watchmen were the whole of the Company's armed presence for a century. Then Aurangzeb died in 1707, the imperial structure cracked into fragments, and the Company quietly joined the queue. At Plassey in June 1757, it fielded around three thousand men against the Nawab of Bengal's force of roughly fifty thousand. Bengal, then among the wealthiest provinces on earth, changed hands in a day.

The favourite explanation is treachery: Mir Jafar was purchased, the English were cunning. Bribery can decide an afternoon; it cannot administer a subcontinent for two centuries against the will of its inhabitants unless the will itself has gone missing, and the economic record says it went missing long before any Company ship dropped anchor. The coloniser impoverished India brutally, and the weakness that admitted him predated him by half a millennium. A subcontinent cannot be conquered at those odds; it can only be acquired, and an acquisition, unlike a conquest, requires somewhere in the transaction a seller, who is never a nation, because nations sign nothing and the signing is always done by egos.

The ego is the sense of being a separate, bounded something, and separation is its founding condition: inside the skin, me; outside the skin, the world. Speaking on the Isha Upanishad at Oxford earlier this month, I described the ego as a coloniser whose first colony is the body itself, kept alive not out of love but out of self-interest. Whatever

stands outside the boundary is encountered as an object; the object is assessed as material; the material is assigned a use. To call a river a water resource is to declare that the river's existence is justified by its utility to the one speaking. Scale the operation and an empire appears. But appetite explains only the predator, never the catch. The ego converts the outer world into material, and when its own centre grows too heavy to carry, it performs the same conversion on itself, handing itself over as material to whatever promises to manage it. Out of the first direction come the world's colonisers; out of the second come its colonised.

India's case is the second direction. India's hub was its wisdom tradition, and just before the tenth century, Acharya Shankar had clarified what the tradition at its source actually says. The final authority a human being seeks is not stationed elsewhere; one's own centre is the seat of it. Within a few centuries, the teaching had been recaptured by the intermediaries it threatened and inverted into its opposite. Fatalism was never imposed on the ego; the ego purchased it, because carrying one's own authority is the heaviest load a human being is ever offered.

By the time the first sails appeared, the operation was complete. The Company never installed the colonised condition in India; it found the condition already installed and did little more than change the name on the lease. The fifty thousand at Plassey did not lose to three thousand; the losing had been done one interior at a time, generations earlier, and the field merely published the result.

In August 1947, the administration was transferred, and the transfer was real. The arrangement, though, was never territorial, and so no ceremony could reach it. The coloniser, in whichever century he arrives and whatever uniform he wears, never breaks the gates; he is received at gates opened from inside, by a gatekeeper grateful for the visit.

Seeing the mechanism changes nothing by itself. What operates is seeing joined to intent: the deliberate withdrawal of consent, repeated at the exact points where consent is given. The man at the pass, meanwhile, has begun his descent. Somewhere on the phone in his pocket, the debate about empire is still running, ledger against ledger; the nearest coloniser, the only one within his actual reach, is the one holding the phone. Somewhere on the way down, he may notice that the valley is being converted again, and the noticing will not stop the conversion, but it will break its automaticity. For a moment too brief to measure, the valley will simply be there, assigned to nothing. No treaty ever delivered that to anything, and no flag has either. The valley never needed his protection. It needed him to see what he does to it by the mere act of perceiving it. The seeing will rescue nothing and settle nothing, and it is still the only beginning that does not turn into one more form of the problem.



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public legitimacy.

This distinction highlights how Modi's political style differs from that of many of his opponents. While his rivals often want quick results and focus on today's news, Modi looks ahead, thinking about the future and staying connected with voters. His primary challenge is not limited to electoral defeats; rather, it lies in his persistent inability to comprehend the reasons behind Modi's continued success. Consequently, the opposition often shifts focus from substantive political engagement to questioning the legitimacy of the electoral process, revealing its weakness more than Modi's.

At various times, reliance has been placed on foreign opinion, international pressure, media narratives, or street mobilisation. However, at times, people have depended on foreign opinions, international pressure, media stories, or street protests. But Indian democracy is not shaped by other countries, NGOs, the media, or social media trends. It is built on the trust and participation of hundreds of millions of Indian voters. Douglas Macgregor recently asserted, in the context of the Iran crisis, that the United States should consider Narendra Modi as a credible mediator. MacGregor's rationale is that India maintains working relationships with Israel, Iran, the United States, and China. He contends that India's stature, influence, and strategic importance are expanding, and that this development should be regarded as an opportunity rather than a challenge. Such assessments reflect not only recognition of Narendra Modi but also acknowledgement of India's growing global standing.

People who think that street protests, mass movements, or political disruption can overturn election results do not understand how India works. The country will continue to run according to its Constitution, its democratic institutions, and the will of its voters.

To effect governmental change, the appropriate course is to secure an electoral victory. If you want to change the government, you need to win an election. Policy disagreements should be handled through democratic debate. Trying to reverse election results with protests is not a real substitute for democracy or a lasting strategy. It is easy to criticise or oppose Narendra Modi, but understanding his political style is much harder. Not doing so only weakens the opposition.

Understanding society, building organisations, and governing at the state level, and who have subsequently remained the defining force in national politics for more than a decade.

After twelve years, it is no accident that Modi remains at the centre of both his supporters' and opponents' political plans, as well as of elections and national debates. This is the main political fact of our time, stemming from his long-lasting influence. Regardless of support or opposition, Narendra Modi continues to occupy the centre of the national discourse.



AFTER TWELVE YEARS, IT IS NO ACCIDENT THAT MODI REMAINS AT THE CENTRE OF BOTH HIS SUPPORTERS' AND OPPONENTS' POLITICAL PLANS, AS WELL AS OF ELECTIONS AND NATIONAL DEBATES. THIS IS THE MAIN POLITICAL FACT OF OUR TIME, STEMMING FROM HIS LONG-LASTING INFLUENCE

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ARVIND MOHAN SINGH

Twelve years is a long time in politics. In that span, leaders come and go, parties form and disappear, and slogans are made and forgotten. Sometimes, though, a leader stands out and becomes the main focus. Now that Narendra Modi's government has completed 12 years at the Centre, it is worth

looking back at what this period has meant.

Over these years, Modi's supporters have praised him for many qualities, while his critics have made many accusations. People have often predicted his fall, and there have been many campaigns against him in India and abroad. Still, one thing has not changed: Narendra Modi has stayed at the centre of Indian politics, and he is still there today.

In the last decade, a clear pattern has appeared. Politicians who focused only on opposing Modi have slowly become irrelevant. Those who expected him to fail have been let down. People who tried to get close to him for personal gain were pushed aside, and those who used flattery to gain influence had to look elsewhere.

In a nation as vast, diverse, and complex as India, with numerous languages, castes, faiths, and regions, there are many languages, castes, religions, and regional interests. Yet Narendra Modi remains the main figure in national politics. After winning three elections in a row, he is more than just a party leader; he is the main reference point in Indian politics. Both his supporters and opponents plan their strategies around him. The opposition may have slogans against Modi, but they lack a strong alternative to his wide reach. This is why the belief that any group can capture political power merely through street mobilisation reflects a misunderstanding of both India and the Indian state.

If this approach were effective, movements such as the anti-CAA protests or the farmers' agitation would have fundamentally transformed the political landscape. However, Modi retained his position, while many of these movements became entangled in internal contradictions and failed to overcome him.

The principal error of the opposition lies in attempting to challenge Modi without first understanding his political strategies. Occupying public spaces, raising slogans, and fostering unrest can compel the government to retreat. However, empirical evidence suggests otherwise. Modi's most significant political asset is his consistent refusal to react, while his opponents depend on a reaction he withholds.

Opponents and protest groups often expect the government to respond. When that does not happen, many protesters lose focus, cross the line, and reveal their own weaknesses. The public then sees who stays calm and who is driven by chaos. People who wonder why the government does not crack down often miss a key point: in politics, the worst outcome is not jail, but becoming irrelevant.

When the public stops taking an opponent's accusations seriously and loses interest, that is a major political defeat. Modi has often managed to do this by being patient and steady. Some people see his restraint as weakness, but governments often hold back because they know that waiting can work in their favour.

Those who question the strength of the Indian state may consider recent operations against Left-wing extremism. Anyone who doubts the strength of the Indian state should look at recent actions against Left-wing extremism. Groups that once challenged the government in large forest areas had to come to the table when the government acted firmly. The message is clear: when the Indian state is determined, it can take strong action. Whether considering Khalistan-influenced elements within the farmers' agitation or protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, Indian society ultimately rendered its own judgment. Those seeking to reshape national politics through demonstrations alone discovered that street power does not necessarily equate to



KALYANI SHANKAR

Positioning himself as an alternative to both the DMK-led establishment and Vijay's emerging political force, Annamalai seeks to craft a new political narrative centred on clean leadership, aspiration and the legacy of APJ Abdul Kalam.

K Annamalai, the former head of the BJP in Tamil Nadu, has taken significant steps this week to shape his political future, including meeting top BJP leaders in Delhi and announcing his departure from the party. The move aims to raise his political profile and keep observers engaged with his evolving strategy.

Media reports have been abuzz with Annamalai's recent plans. He announced on June 5 that he was quitting the BJP and intended to start his own political party. With future electoral contests in mind, Annamalai has ambitious plans for his new venture. His meetings with key BJP leaders in Delhi have attracted attention, especially as he seeks to enhance his political standing.

These discussions have sparked speculation about the direction he intends to take, particularly after film star Vijay's recent political success, which appears to have encouraged him to explore new opportunities. Annamalai

views this move as the next phase of his public life. He wants to be seen as a key challenger to the TVK.

Annamalai has always been ambitious and has positioned himself against the ruling party leadership. The first reaction from the BJP Tamil Nadu President, Nainar Nagendran, was that Annamalai's exit would not affect the state BJP.

Who is Annamalai, and why is he making waves? Annamalai has a strong background, having joined the Indian Police Service (IPS) in 2011. His work in the Karnataka Police earned him respect and enhanced his public image. However, his recent absence from the candidate list for the 2026 Assembly elections has led supporters to question his future. Complex seat-sharing arrangements and party strategies have left many wondering what he will do next. Annamalai was reportedly miffed at being removed as the state BJP chief and unhappy with the AIADMK alliance. Vijay's rise has also altered the political landscape, challenging decades of Dravidian dominance.

The political scene in Tamil Nadu is changing, particularly as the traditional Dravidian model faces new realities. Annamalai seeks to play a significant role in this transformation by choosing Kalam as the ideological figurehead of his new movement. This strategic decision could reshape Tamil Nadu politics, where identities have long been influenced by ideology, personality cults and dynasties. By highlighting Kalam's life and achievements, Annamalai aims to promote a message of aspiration and unity,



potentially introducing a fresh political vocabulary to the state.

In 2018, after a significant visit to Manasarovar, he resigned from his position as a police officer to support actor Rajinikanth in politics. However, after a year of observation, he found that Rajinikanth remained uncertain about entering politics. The BJP had often viewed itself as junior to the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu. Annamalai wanted to take a bold new approach.

He publicly criticised the DMK over governance and corruption issues. He encouraged the AIADMK to ally with the BJP rather than the other way round. This alienated AIADMK chief and former Chief Minister E. Palaniswami, who

insisted that he did not want to deal with Annamalai before the 2024 elections. The BJP eventually replaced him with Nainar Nagendran.

Annamalai's leadership was defined by an aggressive, independent brand of politics. Under his leadership, the state BJP transformed from a minor party dependent on the AIADMK into a significant third force. He led high-profile campaigns such as the En Mann, En Makkal (My Soil, My People) padayatra, which covered all 234 constituencies. As a result, the party's vote share increased from just 3.6 per cent in 2019 to more than 11 per cent in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Annamalai launched daily attacks on the ruling DMK, highlighting corruption allegations and challenging Periyarist ideologies. This confrontational approach compelled regional leaders to take the BJP more seriously but strained the NDA coalition, particularly its relationship with the AIADMK.

After leaving the national party, Annamalai focused on crafting a new political narrative in Tamil Nadu, emphasising the emergence of young, uncorrupted leaders independent of both the DMK and the AIADMK.

Annamalai faced challenges in electoral politics, leading him to withdraw from contesting and signalling that victory was no longer assured. His absence from the BJP's Tamil Nadu candidate list surprised supporters, especially as Coimbatore North was allotted to Vanathi Srinivasan, raising questions about the party's strategy.

Since Nainar Nagendran became state presi-

dent, Annamalai has largely remained out of the spotlight. When the candidate list for the Tamil Nadu elections was released on April 3, Annamalai's absence raised concerns among supporters because of complex seat-sharing decisions, including the allocation of Coimbatore North to Vanathi Srinivasan. Annamalai, who lost the 2021 Assembly election to the DMK's R Elango, made bold predictions about Vijay's political debut in 2026, stating: "Vijay will do well... He will attract a large segment of young voters and achieve a double-digit vote share."

After he was removed as state president in April 2025, speculation about Annamalai's future intensified. Many believed he would be given a national role or a powerful state-level position. However, those expectations faded when the candidate list for the upcoming elections was announced.

Now that Annamalai has taken the plunge, will his party find space in Tamil Nadu's crowded political landscape? Will his "ekka chalo" strategy succeed? Where will he find the resources to run a political party? Will his outfit attract recognisable leaders from other parties? Only time will tell. In the meantime, he is likely to project himself as an opponent to both Vijay and the DMK's Udayanidhi Stalin.

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### Order Order

## Jharkhand HC orders panel for jail inmates' basic needs

The Jharkhand High Court on Friday directed the state government to constitute a three-member committee within 10 days for monitoring facilities provided to inmates in jails. A division bench of Chief Justice M S Sonak and Justice Rajesh Shankar was hearing a PIL initiated suo motu on directions of the Supreme Court to look after the condition of inmates in jails of different states, to be monitored by the respective high courts. The court directed the Jharkhand government to file a compliance report by June 24, when the case will be heard again. The committee will comprise a representative to be nominated by the executive chairman of the State Legal Services Authority, the home secretary or his representative not below the rank of an additional secretary, and a senior police officer of prisons, not below the rank of a DIG, to be nominated by the home department. The state government sought adjournment of the hearing, and said that a draft committee to look after the facilities for inmates is being shortlisted. (PTI)



## Andhra Chief Justice offers prayers at Tiruchanoor temple

Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice Lisa Gill on Friday offered prayers at the Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple in Tiruchanoor.

TTD Joint Executive Officer A Sarath and temple priests received the chief justice and arranged her darshan, said a press release from TTD.

Later, she was presented with Theertha Prasadam (consecrated offerings). Earlier in the day, Justice Gill also visited the Sri Kapileswara Swamy Temple in Tirupati and offered prayers, the release added. (PTI)



# SC turns down Meenakshi Natarajan's plea

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed Congress leader Meenakshi Natarajan's plea against rejection of her nomination papers for the Rajya Sabha election from Madhya Pradesh while granting her liberty to raise the challenge in an election petition.

A bench comprising justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Atul S Chandurkar rejected the argument by senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Natarajan, that Article 32 can be invoked to cure "glaring and manifest" errors in the rejection of her nomination. The top court said whenever an attempt

has been made to invoke the jurisdiction of this court under Article 32, or that of the High Courts under Article 226, during the process of elections, it has repeatedly declined interference due to the constitutional mandate contained in Article 329(b) of the Constitution.

"If the court accepts arguments to find out glaring cases which are required to be interfered under Article 32/226, and the other sets of cases, where the rejection is not so improper prima facie to relegate them to election petitions, this court would be reading some principle which is not provided for under Article 329.

"We are afraid, that any



such interpretation that in some of the matters this court can interfere while leaving some others to avail the remedy of election tribunal cannot be encouraged," the bench said.

Article 329 of the Indian Constitution bars courts from interfering in electoral matters, ensuring elections proceed without judicial delays. The apex court refused to accept Singhvi's submis-

sion that SC should intervene where the rejection of a nomination is ex facie illegal, manifestly arbitrary and demonstrably erroneous.

"To accept the petitioner's submission would amount to reading into the constitutional scheme an exception which has not been provided by the Constitution itself," it said. The top court clarified that any observations made in this order concerning the basis of rejection of the petitioner's nomination have been made only for the purpose of considering the maintainability of the present proceedings. "Nothing stated herein shall affect the rights and contentions of the petitioner, or of any other person, in any

election petition that may be filed before the competent High Court in accordance with law," the bench said.

At the outset, Singhvi submitted that the returning officer acted completely arbitrarily and referred to Section 33A of the Representation of the People Act and said only the criminal cases where charges have been framed by the trial court need to be disclosed in the nomination papers. Singhvi submitted that Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita stipulates that the potential accused has to be sent a notice before taking cognisance on a private complaint.

## Delhi High Court refuses to direct reopening of CBSE class 12 re-evaluation portal

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to direct the reopening of CBSE's portal for the re-evaluation of class 12 answer sheets on a PIL by the Congress' student wing.

A vacation bench of justices Neena Bansal Krishna and Madhu Jain observed that an individual student was free to take appropriate action if aggrieved and that reopening the portal — which was operational from June 2 to 7 — would delay the entire process of result declaration.

"For you, it is one week, but the whole process gets delayed by a month... You are not understanding. It is not one step," remarked the bench. "I am not giving further directions. Whoever is aggrieved, let the individual approach," it further said.

As the counsel appearing for the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) urged the court to order reopening of the portal for a few more days, Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta, appearing for the authorities, submitted that the aggrieved



students have already submitted their requests and the disputed answer sheets are being considered.

Mehta said the PIL was based on "very general assumptions" and if the NSUI's prayers were allowed, the undergraduate admission of more than 17 lakh students would be adversely affected. He added that the portal's deadline can't be extended at the petitioner's behest, as it would not be in the interest of students. He informed the court that the deadline was earlier extended by a day, and the portal was closed on June 7 instead of June 6.

"The system has operated for those who wanted to apply... More than 1.67 lakh

the stand of the Centre and the CBSE on NSUI's petition, which has also sought an independent inquiry into the alleged irregularities in the on-screen marking (OSM) system for class 12 exam.

The PIL, filed through advocate Rishav Ranjan, has further sought manual rechecking and physical verification of answer sheets of aggrieved students.

In the petition, the NSUI has said the sharp decline in overall performance in this year's class 12 results has led to widespread concern among students and parents regarding the fairness, consistency and reliability of the OSM system, especially in the light of several requests for scanned answer books and complaints on discrepancies and technical issues acknowledged by the CBSE.

It asserted that concerns around OSM were not confined to a "small set of students" and those whose answer sheets were affected by scanning defects, mismatch errors or other technical failures cannot be made to suffer because of deficiencies in the system.

## Twisha case: SI fined ₹5,000 for probe lapses

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Bhopal

In a departmental action, police authorities in Bhopal have imposed a fine of ₹5,000 on a sub-inspector for his alleged lapses in the initial investigation into the death of former model-actor Twisha Sharma, officials said on Friday.

The action comes in the wake of allegations by Twisha's family that police dragged their feet in crucial evidence gathering to nail the accused. Twisha was found hanging in her marital home in Bhopal on May 12.

Bhopal Commissioner of Police Sanjay Kumar confirmed to PTI that Sub-inspector (SI) Dinesh Sharma, posted at Katara Hills police station, was penalised after a departmental inquiry found negligence in the discharge of duty during the initial investigation.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-2) Vikas Shewal imposed the fine based on an inquiry, he said. He, however, added that the SI's act was neither deliberate, nor did it affect the probe.

Police sources said a ₹5,000 fine was imposed on the SI.



According to the sources, all material evidence connected with an unnatural death must be collected and submitted during the post-mortem process. However, the ligature material allegedly used in the hanging was submitted two days after the post-mortem examination, which was viewed as a procedural lapse during the investigation.

The police commissioner admitted that the SI submitted the ligature late, but denied that it was after the first autopsy. The delay was among the issues raised by Twisha's family, which alleged gross deficiencies in the initial police probe and sought an independent investigation.

## Delhi HC issues notice on Salman's plea for stay on Kala Hiran release

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought the stand of the makers of the film *Kala Hiran: The Battle for Legal* on a plea by actor Salman Khan seeking a stay on its release.

Khan's counsel argued that the film was purportedly based on the blackbuck poaching case allegedly involving the actor and was in violation of a high court order protecting his personality rights.

A vacation bench of justice Neena Bansal Krishna issued notice to Amit Jani, Akshay Pandey and others on Khan's



application in the matter and listed it for hearing on June 19. The application is part of the 59-year-old Khan's lawsuit for protection of his personality rights.

The court was informed that while the film's release

date was not known, the makers released a trailer earlier Friday. Khan's lawyer contended that the individual in the film looked like him and even dressed like him.

He further submitted that Khan was acquitted in three

cases related to the alleged incident of poaching, and an appeal is pending in the Supreme Court in one case.

"The film is sought to be made exploiting my personality rights. I am seeking that the project be enjoined," added the counsel.

Khan's application was taken up for hearing after it was mentioned for urgent listing in the morning before a vacation bench of justices Krishna and Madhu Jain.

In the plea, the actor said the film's poster, released on May 29, shows that there is a "blatant and obvious reference" to him. It stated that although Khan was acquitted

of offences under the Arms Act by a court in Rajasthan, the main character in the poster is holding a gun, which is defamatory.

"The character depicted has an uncanny resemblance to the plaintiff and is clearly seen wearing a bracelet, which is immediately and promptly identifiable with the plaintiff and no one else," stated the application.

"The poster and the proposed film are therefore clearly spreading a false narrative, misleading and appear to be completely contrary to the actual state of affairs and contrary to records," it added.

## SC sets six-month deadline in ex-IPS Amitabh Thakur case

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Uttar Pradesh government and the Centre to conclude all the four pending disciplinary proceedings against former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur within six months.

Thakur, a 1992-batch UP cadre IPS officer, was compulsorily retired from service by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs on March 23, 2021 under relevant rules and on the ground that he was "unfit



to be retained" in the public interest following multiple departmental inquiries and disciplinary complaints. otherwise, he would have served till 2028. A partial working day (PWD) bench comprising jus-

tics Satish Chandra Sharma and Sanjeev Sachdeva took note of the submissions of lawyer Ruchira Goel, appearing for the state government, that there were four disciplinary proceedings pending against Thakur.

The former IPS officer, on the other hand, alleged that the proceedings are being dragged on for the last 10 years despite him replying to the show-cause notices and consequently, his pending retiral dues, including Rs 10 lakh of gratuity fund, are still unpaid.

## May bring policy for students from West Asia, Centre to SC

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The Centre on Friday informed the Supreme Court that it was contemplating to bring out a policy to accommodate private students from West Asia whose exam results could not be declared by the CBSE due to the prevailing war situation in the region.

A partial working day bench comprising justices Augustine George Masih and Vijay Bisnoi was apprised by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that the government is considering to come out with a decision shortly.

"This is a wider issue, the Government is considering laying down some policy for similarly situated students," the law officer said.

The bench then deferred the hearing to June 22 on the plea filed by Pranshu Jigarkumar Patel, an overseas student from Saudi Arabia. He has sought directions to the CBSE to declare his class 12 improvement examination result.

The plea challenged CBSE's failure to declare his result despite an assess-



ment scheme framed for students whose examinations in several Gulf countries were cancelled because of the prevailing security situation in the region. The CBSE declared class 12 results on May 13 and the petition said that Patel's result was not declared and his status was shown as "RL (Result Later)".

Patel said that no clarification was provided on whether private candidates appearing for improvement examinations are covered by the assessment scheme.

The plea said private candidates affected by the cancellation of examinations in West Asian countries are entitled to the benefit of CBSE's special assessment scheme. Earlier, the Delhi High Court had refused to entertain the plea.

## SC Bar Association condemns threats, violence against Justice Gautam Patel, family

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court Bar Association has condemned the reported threats, intimidation, harassment and acts of violence directed against former Bombay High Court judge Justice Gautam Patel and his family over a 2024 judgment in the Dawoodi Bohra succession dispute.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), headed by Advocate Vikas Singh, passed a resolution saying reports of threats and physical harm allegedly inflicted

on a member of Justice Patel's family were "deeply disturbing" and struck at the very foundation of the rule of law.

"In a constitutional democracy governed by the rule of law, judicial decisions may be challenged only through lawful remedies available under the legal framework. Disagreement with a judgment can never justify threats, violence," the resolution said.

In April 2024, Justice Patel upheld Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin's position as the 53rd Dai al-Mutlaq (leader) of



the Dawoodi Bohra community, noting that he had a valid appointment.

The SCBA said that any attempt to threaten, intimidate or coerce a judge, whether serving or retired, or members of a judge's family, on account of the discharge of judicial functions constituted a direct assault on the independence of the judiciary and constitutional values.

It emphasised that judicial decisions could be challenged only through lawful means available under the legal framework and that

disagreement with a judgment could never justify threats, violence or intimidation.

Stressing that judicial independence is a basic feature of the Constitution, the association said judges must be able to perform their duties without fear, favour, affection or ill will.

Expressing solidarity with Justice Patel and his family, the SCBA urged authorities in India and abroad to conduct a prompt and thorough investigation into the reported incidents and ensure their safety and security.

## High Court seeks NIA reply on Elgar Parishad accused's plea

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ Mumbai

The Bombay High Court on Friday directed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to respond to a plea of activist-poet Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgar Parishad Maoist links case out on bail, seeking to shift to his hometown Hyderabad citing illness and rising expenses.

The 85-year-old was arrested in August 2018 and in February 2021 was granted temporary bail by the high court. He was granted perma-



nent bail by the Supreme Court in 2022.

One of the conditions in

in Mumbai, which is hearing the case, without its permission. In April this year, Rao, through his advocate R Sathyanarayanan, filed a petition in the HC seeking permission to permanently shift to Hyderabad.

The petition said Rao's continued stay in Mumbai has become difficult because of age, illness and rising expenses. The petition states that the activist-poet and his 76-year-old wife need the support of family members based in Hyderabad, where he owns a house and has access to rel-

atives. A bench of justices AS Gadkari and Kamal Khata on Friday issued notice to the NIA, the prosecuting agency in the case, and sought its response to the plea.

The HC posted the matter for further hearing after two weeks. The special court had earlier rejected a similar plea filed by the octogenarian.

At least 16 people, including prominent lawyers, activists, and academics, were booked in connection with allegedly provocative speeches that were delivered at the 'Elgar Parishad'

conclave held in Pune on December 31, 2017. According to the local police, the speeches triggered violence at Koregaon-Bhima, located on the outskirts of Pune city, the next day.

The Pune police, which initially probed the case, claimed that Maoists had backed the conclave. The NIA later took over the probe into the case.

Of the 16 accused, Jesuit priest and activist Father Stan Swamy died in custody in 2021. All the remaining 15 accused are out on bail.



# No retail petrol, diesel for industries: Govt

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

In a move aimed at ensuring uninterrupted fuel availability for ordinary consumers and preventing hoarding, the Centre through a Gazette notification on Friday barred industrial, commercial and institutional users from purchasing petrol and diesel from retail fuel outlets and directed them to procure fuel through designated bulk supply channels instead.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Temporary Regulation of Supply through Retail Outlets) Order, 2026, directing oil marketing companies and fuel retailers to restrict bulk purchases from retail outlets for periods extending up to 90 days. In Delhi, diesel at retail outlets costs ₹95.20 per litre, while bulk sale pricing stands at ₹134.50.

The Government said the measures were aimed at ensuring the "equitable availability" of petrol and diesel, preventing hoarding and diversion, and maintaining uninterrupted supplies across the country. State and Union territory administrations have also been tasked with ensuring full implementation of the order, including action against hoarding, black marketing, unauthorised procurement, diversion and other irregularities.

Under the new order, industrial units, commercial establishments and institutional consumers may be prohibited from buying petrol and diesel from petrol pumps and will instead have to source fuel through their own consumer pumps or authorised bulk supply arrangements.

By restricting bulk buyers from purchasing fuel at petrol



pumps, the Government aims to prevent long queues, local supply disruptions and panic buying in areas where demand has surged. The move is also intended to ensure that retail fuel prices, which remain significantly lower than bulk rates, continue

to benefit ordinary consumers rather than large commercial users. The Government said the move was necessitated by the "current prevailing geopolitical situation affecting certain regions of the world" that has adversely

impacted international petroleum supply chains, shipping logistics and the availability of petroleum products.

"It has been observed in current situation that abnormal increases in sales of Motor Spirit (petrol) and High Speed Diesel (diesel) through Retail Outlets in certain parts of the country are driven by shifting of industrial, commercial and institutional consumers to Retail Outlets owing to the price difference between retail and bulk sale prices," the notification said.

The notification also restricts diesel sales at retail outlets to vehicle fuel tanks or Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)-approved containers, with purchases capped at 200 litres per customer or vehicle per day. Such diesel "cannot be resold", the order said.

While bulk users such as

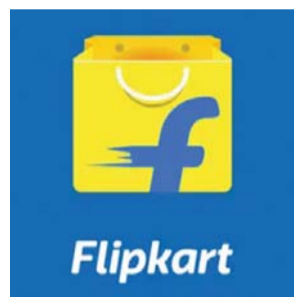
telecom towers and industries using diesel for power generation and other feedstock needs are charged market price, the retail pump rates are way lower than cost.

Citing global conditions, the Government said the move was necessary because of the "current prevailing geopolitical situation affecting certain regions of the world", which has disrupted international petroleum supply chains, shipping logistics and the availability of petroleum products.

The order empowers public-sector oil marketing companies and other authorised fuel retailers to enforce the restrictions and requires State Governments and union territories to take action against hoarding, black marketing, unauthorised procurement and diversion of fuel supplies.

## Flipkart strengthens technology leadership

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi



E-commerce giant Flipkart on Friday announced high-profile appointments to its technology leadership team, signalling a deeper push into artificial intelligence, core engineering, and fintech capabilities.

Goda Ramkumar joins as Vice President, Data Science and AI Solutions, while Mohan Paliseti has been appointed Vice President, Fintech and Payments Engineering.

Nitesh Jain has joined as a distinguished architect and will drive technology strategy for Flipkart's engineering systems, with a focus on system reliability, developer productivity and long-term platform direction, the company said in a release.

Flipkart said the latest appointments cement the company's technology leadership as it focuses on scaling AI, data science and financial services capabilities across the business.

"As Flipkart continues to build products across commerce, payments and financial services, these appointments reflect the company's focus on innovation and the technology depth needed to serve India's growing base of digital consumers and sellers with greater relevance, reliability, and reach," the release said. With nearly two decades of experience, including her recent role as Head of Data Science and Applied AI at Swiggy, Ramkumar will lead the application of AI and data science across marketplace operations, customer trust

and safety, planning and fulfilment. These are areas where data-led decisions directly affect the experience of millions of consumers and sellers on the platform.

Paliseti brings over 24 years of extensive financial infrastructure expertise. Most recently, as Senior Vice President of Engineering at Mastercard, he led the technology strategy for global real-time payment capabilities connecting billions of card endpoints.

He has also held senior technology leadership roles at PayPal, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley and DE Shaw.

Additionally, Nitesh Jain, a veteran from Razorpay and Walmart Global Tech, has been appointed Distinguished Architect, and will spearhead the technology strategy for Flipkart's engineering systems, with a focus on system reliability, developer productivity and long-term platform direction.

The appointments follow those of Smita Ojha as Vice President, Engineering, and Amit Shama as Vice President, Programme Management, earlier this year, Flipkart said, emphasising its focus on building a robust technology leadership bench.

## Chhattisgarh attracts investment proposals worth ₹9,580 cr

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Hyderabad



Chhattisgarh on Friday attracted investment proposals worth ₹9,580 crore across high-growth sectors, including data centres, semi-conductors and GPU architecture, solar energy equipment, textiles, and pharmaceuticals at the state Investors Connect in Hyderabad. Seven major organisations submitted proposals that are expected to generate around 7,800 direct jobs, underscoring growing investor confidence in the State's industrial ecosystem and policy framework.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai handed over an "invitation to invest letter" to the prospective investors, marking a significant step in the state's efforts to position itself as a preferred destination for technology-led and manufacturing investments.

Chhattisgarh Commerce and Industries Minister Laxman Lal Dewangan and prominent industrialists, investors, and business representatives from southern India were present on the occasion.

The largest investment proposal has come from Hypernext Data Centre Limited. The company has expressed its intent to invest ₹4,200 crore to establish a modern data centre in Chhattisgarh, which is expected to generate approximately 250 jobs. In this era of the digital economy, data centres are considered a crucial foundation for a state's technological capabilities and future digital requirements.

Feegrade and Company

Private Limited has proposed an investment of ₹2,912 crore in the cement sector. Nivai Labs Private Limited has shown interest in investing ₹1,000 crore in the semiconductor and GPU infrastructure sector and SG Mart Limited, operating in the solar energy equipment manufacturing sector, has proposed an investment of ₹700 crore. The company is engaged in manufacturing solar structure components, and this project is expected to provide employment to about 450 people.

Shri Saravana Mills Private Limited has expressed its intent to invest Rs 528 crore in the textile industry. This project could employ approximately 2,500 people. Kabra Drugs, a company in the pharmaceutical sector, has proposed an investment of ₹200 crore. The company is engaged in pharmaceutical manufacturing and healthcare-related activities.

Dinshaw's Dairy Foods Private Limited, a renowned company in the dairy sector,

has proposed an investment of ₹40 crore. This project, involving milk processing and value addition, will employ approximately 150 people and benefit milk producers as well.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said Chhattisgarh is emerging as a preferred investment destination, supported by streamlined approvals, a robust single-window system, strong infrastructure and industry-friendly policies.

"Hyderabad's journey from an emerging IT destination to a global technology and innovation hub is inspiring. Chhattisgarh is working on a similar roadmap, and we are already witnessing encouraging results in sectors such as IT, manufacturing and services," Sai said while addressing the gathering at hotel Park Hyatt.

Inviting investors to explore opportunities in the State, he noted that Chhattisgarh has organised investor outreach programmes across major

Indian cities as well as in countries such as Japan and South Korea. These efforts have so far resulted in investment proposals worth more than ₹8 lakh crore, he said.

The chief minister also met representatives of the Swaminarayan Gurukul organization to discuss a proposal for setting up a 650-bed charitable hospital in Tatibandh, Raipur. The Hyderabad-based organization has a strong presence in the education and healthcare sectors.

Chhattisgarh Principal Secretary to HCM Subodh Singh, Chhattisgarh Chief Secretary Vikas Sheel (IAS), Chhattisgarh Secretary, Department of Commerce & Industries Shri Rajat Kumar (IAS), Chhattisgarh Investment Commissioner Ritu Sain (IAS), Managing Director, CSIDC Vishwesh Kumar (IFS), CSIDC Chairman Rajeev Agrawal, Chairman CII Chhattisgarh Bajrang Goel, and Chairman, CII Telangana M Goutham Reddy, were present at the occasion.

## Crude oil falls as Trump halts Iran strike plans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi



Crude oil prices retreated by Rs 140 to Rs 8,204 per barrel in futures trade on Friday, tracking weak global benchmarks after US President Donald Trump halted planned military strikes on Iran's oil infrastructure.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), crude for June delivery declined by ₹140, or 1.68 per cent, to ₹8,204 per barrel in a business turnover of 12,005 lots.

Similarly, the July contract weakened by ₹137, or 1.66 per cent, to ₹8,103 per barrel in

4,711 lots. The decline mirrored moves in global markets, where Brent oil futures for August delivery slipped \$2.14, or 2.37 per cent, to \$88.24 per barrel and West Texas Intermediate (WTI) for

the July contract dipped 2.18 per cent to \$85.80 per barrel.

"Brent slipped below USD 89 and WTI below USD 86 per barrel after US President Donald Trump paused planned strikes on Iran, citing progress towards a peace accord backed by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Turkey," brokerage firm Kotak Neo said.

The comments made by the American President eased fears of an immediate escalation that could threaten energy supplies from the Gulf region. The optimism, however, was tempered by Tehran's response. Iranian

officials said no agreement had been approved, leaving investors to grapple with the possibility that negotiations could still unravel.

Meanwhile, the latest monthly report of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) showed crude production by the Declaration of Cooperation (DoC) countries declined by 1,90,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 33.13 million bpd in May.

The group also maintained that China, India and developing Asian economies would remain the primary engines of global demand growth.

## Gold rises to ₹1.49 lakh/10g



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Gold prices rose nearly 1 per cent to ₹1.49 lakh per 10 grams in futures trade on Friday, tracking a firm trend in the overseas markets.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange, the yellow metal for August delivery increased by ₹915, or 0.61 per cent, to ₹1,49,847 per 10 grams in 9,122 lots.

"Gold prices surged nearly 1 per cent on Friday after US President Donald Trump announced that he had cancelled plans for a military strike on Iran," brokerage firm Axis Securities said.

The move eased immediate geopolitical concerns and boosted demand for precious metals, it added.

Globally, Comex gold futures for August contract appreciated by \$88.75, or 2.16 per cent, to \$4,202.75 per ounce in New York. "Bullion rebounded sharply from a six-month low after President Donald Trump said the US and Iran could

reach a peace agreement as soon as this weekend, gains were limited by uncertainty surrounding the negotiations, with Iranian officials denying that a final deal had been reached," Manav Modi, Commodities Analyst, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Optimism over a potential diplomatic breakthrough helped ease concerns over global energy supplies, triggering a sharp decline in oil prices and improving risk sentiment across global markets, he added. However, investors remained focused on the inflation outlook after US producer prices rose more than expected in May, highlighting the continued impact of elevated energy costs on the economy.

Market participants will monitor the developments in US-Iran negotiations and commentary from Federal Reserve officials, which will be key in shaping expectations for interest rates and precious metals, Modi said.

## India won't be second to anybody in developing AI models: IT Secretary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi



ferent applications, not just language models.

"For all those people who say that model making or these kinds of efforts cannot succeed in India, this (Avataar.AI's video platform) is an answer that shows that it can actually be done, and it's an answer that shows that India won't be second to anybody in an effort of this nature," Krishnan said.

Avataar.AI launched Varya, an indigenous AI video model developed with support from the IndiaAI Mission to make high-quality video generation more affordable, accessible and relevant for India.

Users can upload photos and raw videos on the plat-

form and generate an edited version by just writing details of the desired video output. Avataar CEO and Co-Founder Sravanth Aluru said that users will be able to create a 211-second video for every Rs 100 they spend on the platform.

He claimed that Varya will cut video generation time from 50 steps to 4, which makes it 10 times more efficient than leading models.

"We are today about 27x faster in video generation

and equally 27 times cheaper in video generation. The reason why we've done that is we believe together as a collective that if we really want to unlock the productivity curve in India, affordable AI is very important," Aluru said. Aluru said that the firm has developed a video AI platform by using 14 billion parameters.

"We anticipate that we'll be unlocking markets that were not served yesterday. We'll likely create new markets for people who weren't doing videos because they thought it was too expensive and too cumbersome to actually start doing videos. We'll have to see and

evolve the overall impact," he said. When asked about the impact on the jobs in the video development segment, Aluru said that there is a need to upskill people, and AI tools will need to work along with human ingenuity.

"We are allowing ideas and imagination of the creator, which is where the value lies. Convert them into actual physical videos that you can see in an efficient way. We're removing the grunt work, but preserving the ability for someone to develop a great idea that was never thought of before. I think there's enough originality and human ingenuity that still exists," Aluru said.



## FROM THE WORLD

### NEPAL

#### Eight killed in bus accident

Eight people died, and 16 others sustained injuries after a passenger bus fell into a gorge in Nepal's Kaverpalanchowk district on Friday. The bus was heading to Sungure in Roshi Rural Municipality from Banepa when it met with the accident at Selfie hillock near Buchhakot along the Banepa-Bardibas (BP) highway, about 60 km east of Kathmandu, police said.

### SRI LANKA

#### Airlines to be restructured

Sri Lanka on Friday announced a special committee of experts to conduct a strategic review and restructuring of its loss-making, almost five-decade-old national airline. SriLankan Airlines, established in 1979, has been going through the process of finding a strategic partner earlier and later, a formal privatisation/divestment process that was started in 2023 was abandoned the next year. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's Government – which took charge in November 2024 – said it would focus on internal restructuring and reorganisation of the airline. Government data showed that the accumulated loss recorded in 2024/25 by the airline was over \$2 billion. The committee, consisting of senior advisors to the president and top bureaucrats, seeks "to establish a financially sustainable and commercially efficient national carrier, while reducing the long-term fiscal burden on the government," a release from the President's Media Division said.

# Ahead of G7, Carney softens tone toward Trump

ROB GILLIES ■ Ottawa

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney became a symbol of middle power resistance after a celebrated speech earlier this year, but he is expected to be more muted in his criticism of US President Donald Trump at an upcoming summit in Europe. Carney's speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, helped make him an international political star in January, when he declared the global rules-based order over and condemned coercion by great powers on smaller countries. The prime minister received widespread praise

and attention for his remarks and upstaged Trump at the gathering.

But the Group of Seven summit of industrialised democracies that begins Monday in France comes ahead of the scheduled July 1 review of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, the latest iteration of the North American free-trade pact that has intertwined the economies of the United States, Mexico and Canada since the early 1990s. It is a crucial moment in trade talks, and Trump said this week that he may not renew the deal.

More than 70 per cent of Canada's exports go to the US,



so preserving the accord is critical for Canada. Canadian historian Robert Bothwell said Trump is more of a problem for Carney "than anybody else because we are more exposed to the United States than anybody else."

Trump leaves for the G7 right after he hosts UFC fights at the White House on Sunday for his 80th birthday.

The summit will unfold as tensions are ramping up between Trump and Canada. One of the world's most durable and amicable alliances — born of geography, heritage and centuries of common interests — is broken, as seen in several recent examples of tension between leaders.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford, the leader of Canada's most populous province, had a reception with the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington cancelled Monday at the last minute. Vic Fedeli,

one of Ford's ministers, said if Trump forced the chamber to cancel, "Ford should be wearing that as a badge of honour."

Trump said again this week that the US doesn't need anything that Canada has. Carney has set a goal for Canada to double its non-US exports in the next decade, saying Trump's trade war is causing a chill in investment.

In other developments, the opening of a major Canadian bridge across the Detroit River that Trump previously threatened to block was delayed Thursday due to unresolved issues.

Trump's actions, including launching a trade war and suggesting Canada become

the 51st US state, have infuriated Canadians and created the political environment for Carney to win the job of prime minister after promising to confront Trump.

Trump administration officials keep noting that only two countries, China and Canada, retaliated against America in the trade war. US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer says Canada's retaliatory measures are a major issue in talks.

Daniel Beland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal, said Carney seems to have moderated his tone toward the Trump administration to avoid worsening relations. (AP)



## EU set to implement new rules on migration, asylum

MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS/RENATA BRITO/SAM MCNEIL ■ Brussels

The European Union (EU) is set to implement a new set of rules Friday governing how each of its 27 member States will deal with irregular migration and asylum seekers.

The European Migration and Asylum Pact is the culmination of years of gruelling negotiations that overhauled the previous system, which was widely considered a failure and gave far-right parties a potent issue to win votes. All EU members were meant to be prepared for Friday's implementation by adapting laws, training staff and beefing up border infrastructure. But even the European Commission admits no member is completely ready. Human rights advocates warn the pact could add to the difficulties of asylum seekers face while trying to find safe haven in the

EU. Under the new rules, foreigners will be screened at EU borders for up to seven days before they are admitted.

Asylum seekers from countries listed as "safe" by the EU or pose a "security threat" will go through faster asylum procedures of three months instead of six. Some applicants may be kept at the border while their cases are processed. They will be given only one chance to appeal a rejected application.

The European Commission says some member states still need to implement a new biometric database called Eurodac that will register and store information of adults and children as young as 6.

Many more countries need to set up border facilities to handle screening, asylum processing and detentions. Work also is needed to ensure there are independent rights monitoring at the border, the commission said.

One of the pillars of the new pact is to speed up voluntary and forced returns of rejected asylum seekers by automatically issuing return orders when an application is rejected. A clear political priority of the centre and far-right politicians who swept to power in 2024 across the EU, returnees are slated to be sent to countries deemed safe like Syria and Bangladesh. (AP)

## Elon Musk could become world's first trillionaire with SpaceX's IPO

BERNARD CONDON ■ New York

Elon Musk may never colonise Mars as promised, but enough investors consider the SpaceX founder to be a sort of miracle man that they'll help him reach another fantastic goal on Friday when he takes the rocket company public. The world's richest man is set to become its first trillionaire.

Known for his brilliant technology breakthroughs, as well as wild claims and missed deadlines, Musk is expected to break that trillion-dollar mark in the biggest initial public offering ever as investors place bets on a company with losses as big as its ambitions. Ahead of the first trade in SpaceX, Forbes puts Musk's net worth at \$982.6 billion.

In addition to establishing a one-million-person Martian colony, the company has promised to save



humanity by establishing other outposts in space, launching data centres the size of football fields into orbit and outdoing rivals Anthropic and OpenAI in the race to make money from artificial intelligence.

To reach its goals, SpaceX needs billions more than it currently takes in from its rocket and satellite busi-

ness. Between the start of 2025 and March 31, 2026, the company lost \$8.7 billion.

Big institutional buyers and smaller-pocketed investors alike have indicated they are willing to take a chance, paying a high enough price for the 555.6 million on offer to raise \$75 billion. That will easily top the current title holder, Saudi Aramco, the oil giant that raised USD 26 billion in its 2019 initial offering.

If the IPO goes off without a hitch, its value will come down mainly to one thing: Musk.

The soon-to-be trillionaire — on paper at least — made his fortune by creating two companies, Zip2 and PayPal, that netted him about \$200 million at sale. He used that money to start SpaceX and invest in Tesla, and defied the odds by creating a space company that figured

out how to reuse rockets and a car company that made electric vehicles cool.

Musk has realised vast sums of wealth for himself, much of it in stock he has yet to cash in or grants for shares he'll only receive if Tesla or SpaceX hit ambitious performance targets. His recent pay package from Tesla drew criticism from the Vatican. At Tesla, he's worried shareholders by fighting with regulators or dividing his attention between multiple companies and last year by taking a role in the Trump administration.

But a rising stock price has cured all ills: Since it went public in 2010, Tesla has returned 20,000% for shareholders, or more than \$1.2 trillion in investor wealth. That has helped lift Musk's pre-SpaceX IPO worth to \$795 billion, according to Forbes magazine. (AP)

## India's new envoy arrives in Bangladesh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dhaka

India's new High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Dinesh Trivedi, arrived in the country on Friday through the Petrapole-Benapole land border to take up his diplomatic assignment.

Trivedi, who is the first politician to serve as India's envoy to Bangladesh, was seen walking into the country carrying his own trolley bag as the land border gate was opened. He was accompanied by his wife, Mrinal Trivedi. "Nice to be here," Trivedi said after crossing the border. Senior Bangladeshi and Indian High Commission officials received him at the Benapole land border. Trivedi, a former Union minister and leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, succeeds Pranay Kumar Verma, a 1994-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service.

Verma's four-year tenure, which ended last month, wit-



nessed the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's Government in a student-led uprising in August 2024 and a subsequent downturn in India-Bangladesh relations under the interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus.

Elections were held in the country earlier this year, but Hasina's Awami League was barred from contesting. On February 17, Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Tarique Rahman took the oath as prime minister.



Police officers block student protesters during a rally against a fuel price hike, Government inefficient spending and military involvement in civilian affairs in Jakarta, Indonesia. PTI

### कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ (छ०ग०)

क्रमांक 1261 / न.पा.नि. / 2026 रायगढ़ दिनांक 12-06-26  
 ॥ ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ॥  
 नगर पालिक निगम, रायगढ़ द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

क्र.	सि.क्र.	कार्य का विवरण	अनु. लागत राशि रु. (लाख में)	निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि
01.	193338	DEVELOPMENT OF RAJ MAHAL TO CIRCUIT HOUSE AT RAIGARH. (2nd Call)	529.80	02.07.2026

उपरोक्त निर्माण कार्य की निविदा की सामान्य शर्तें, धरोहर राशि, विस्तृत निविदा विवरण, निविदा दरवाजे व अन्य जानकारी ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब पोर्टल <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> से डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।

हस्ता/-  
 कार्यपालन अभियंता न.पा.नि., रायगढ़

### HDFC BANK

Registered Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013 and having one of its office as Retail Portfolio Management at HDFC Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, I-Think Techno Campus, Kanjurmarg (East), Mumbai - 400042.

#### SALE INTIMATION AND NOTICE FOR SALE OF SECURITIES PLEDGED TO HDFC BANK LTD.

The below mentioned Borrowers of HDFC Bank Ltd. (the "Bank") are hereby notified regarding the sale of securities pledged to the Bank, for availing credit facilities in the nature of Loans/Overdraft Against Securities. Due to persistent default by the Borrowers in making repayment of the outstanding dues as per agreed loans / facilities terms, the below loan / facilities accounts are in delinquent status or classified as NPA (Non-Performing Asset). The Bank has issued multiple notices/loan recall notice to these Borrowers, including the final sale notice on the below-mentioned date whereby, Bank had invoked the pledge and provided 7 days' time to the Borrower to repay the entire outstanding dues in the below accounts, failing which, Bank would be at liberty to sell the pledged securities without issuing further notice in this regard. The Borrowers have neglected and failed to make due repayments, therefore, Bank in exercise of its rights under the loan agreement as a pledgee has decided to sell / dispose off the Securities on or after 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026 for recovering the dues owed by the Borrowers to the Bank. The Borrowers are hereby notified to treat this as a notice of sale in compliance of section 176 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872. The Borrowers are, also, notified that, if at any time, the value of the pledged securities falls further due to volatility in the stock market to create further deficiency in the margin requirement then Bank shall at its discretion sell the pledged security within one (1) calendar day, without any further notice in this regard. The Borrower(s) shall remain liable to the Bank for repayment of any remaining outstanding amount, post adjustment of the proceeds from sale of pledged securities.

Sr. No.	Loan Account Number	Borrower's Name	Outstanding Amount as on 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	Date of Sale Notice
1	XXXXXXXXXX0027	VINAY KUMAR AHUJA	1,62,908.12	11-06-2026
2	XXXXXXXXXX8498	PARAMJEET SINGH	66,362.39	11-06-2026
3	XXXXXXXXXX1261	SONIYA KHAN	1,00,099.00	11-06-2026
4	XXXXXXXXXX3870	SUBHADRA SHRIVAS	29,491.48	11-06-2026
5	XXXXXXXXXX6147	GAURAV DALELA	3,010.90	11-06-2026
6	XXXXXXXXXX7134	SANDEEP MISHRA	1,21,889.81	12-06-2026
7	XXXXXXXXXX3396	DEEPAK MAHESHWARI	1,11,524.00	11-06-2026
8	XXXXXXXXXX2082	SHIPRA SHARMA	9,99,681.64	11-06-2026
9	XXXXXXXXXX5807	POORVI MURJANI	71,230.00	11-06-2026
10	XXXXXXXXXX2775	SUMEDHA BASU	8,64,754.01	11-06-2026
11	XXXXXXXXXX2440	GEETIKA PAWAR	3,54,238.82	11-06-2026
12	XXXXXXXXXX1757	MAYANK SAHU	2,88,958.44	11-06-2026
13	XXXXXXXXXX5857	MADANLAL VISHWAKARMA	15,09,664.00	11-06-2026
14	XXXXXXXXXX4017	SONIYA CHELANI	1,32,947.82	11-06-2026
15	XXXXXXXXXX1803	PUNDRIK SHUKLA	15,35,277.89	11-06-2026
16	XXXXXXXXXX3007	BIMLESH BANSAL	4,07,793.82	11-06-2026
17	XXXXXXXXXX0082	BRAJESH MAHAJAN	19,80,370.47	12-06-2026

DATE : 13.06.2026 PLACE : MADHYA PRADESH Sd/- HDFC BANK LTD.

**यूको बैंक** UCO BANK (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Zonal Office : Bhopal

**E-AUCTION NOTICE**

Appendix-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8(6) & 6(2)]

**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 6(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to UCO Bank, Concerned Branch the Secured Creditor the Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of UCO Bank, Concerned Branch Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is basis" on 29.06.2026 for recovery of Amount mentioned below plus interest and other expenses due to UCO Bank, Concerned Branch the Secured Creditor from below mentioned Borrowers & Guarantors.

Date & Time of E-auction : 29.06.2026 between 11.00 AM to 5.00 PM as per (IST) with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each. Last date for submission of online bids is 28.06.2026 upto 4.30 P.M.

Name of the Borrowers & Guarantors	Demand notice Dt. Possession Notice Present Outstanding Amt.	Description of Property & Name of Property Owner	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increment Amount
Jawaharganj Branch, Jabalpur Tel.: 0761-2406626, 9827254537, E-mail : jabalp@ucobank.co.in			
Borrower : Mr. Govind Prasad Gupta s/o late Mr Kanchhedial Gupta sole proprietor of M/s Govind Prasad Gupta	05-10-2021 31-12-2021	Single storied commercial premises (godown), being owned by Mr Govind Prasad Gupta, Godown premises situated at NB No. 264, Kh no. 285 & 290, Teachers colony Dr. Rajendra Prasad ward Tehsil & District Jabalpur. M.P. Area -2000 sq. ft.	₹ 51,00,000/- ₹ 5,10,000/-
Guarantor: Mrs. Urmila Gupta w/o Mr. Govind Prasad Gupta	1,54,66,718.72 *Any unrecouped interest/expense & incidental charges	Boundries as per deed) North- House of Naresh Bajpai, South-House of R.N.Richharia, East-House of Naresh Bajpai, West- Lane	₹ 10,000/-

Physical Possession

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided : <https://banknet.com>

The borrower/guarantor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered along with interest and cost. This is also treated as 30 days statutory notice under SARFAESI Act.

**Terms & Conditions of e-auction:**

- 1.E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" and will be conducted "On Line". Bank reserves its right for sale of the property either in one lot or separately. The auction will be conducted through service provider (PSB Alliance) at the web portal: <https://banknet.com>
2. The intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/ rights/ dues/ affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank. The property is being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the Bank. The Authorized Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third-party claims/ rights/dues/encumbrances.
3. It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the property/Item to be sold, before submission of the bid. Bidder has to make their own due diligence regarding property. Intending bidders/ Purchasers can inspect the property put on e-auction on 25.06.2026 to 28.06.2026 between 12:00 AM and 4:00 PM.
4. The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamp duties/ additional stamp duty/ transfer charges, fee etc. and also all the statutory/ non-statutory dues, taxes, rates, assessment charges, fees etc. owing to anybody.
5. The Authorized Officer/Bank is not bound to accept the highest offer and has the absolute right to accept or reject any or all offer(s) or adjourn/ postpone/ cancel the e-Auction or withdraw any property or portion thereof from the auction proceedings at any stage without assigning any reason there for.
6. The Sale Certificate will be issued in the name of the purchaser(s) / applicant (s) only and will not be issued in any other name(s).
7. The sale shall be subject to rules/ conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Note : For further details please contact : 9589864148 / 9455001818

Dated: 11.06.2026 Place: Bhopal (Authorized Officer) UCO BANK

## Thai Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who was known for her legal work, dies

GRANT PECK ■ Bangkok

Thailand's Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, a lawyer and the eldest of King Maha Vajiralongkorn's children, has died at 47, the Bureau of the Royal Household said.

She died Thursday evening at a Bangkok hospital where she had been cared for since falling unconscious due to illness three years ago, according to the statement issued Friday. Bajrakitiyabha was active in justice reform efforts and best known for her Kamlangjai, or "Inspire," project to help rehabilitate incarcerated Thai women ahead of their release.

Bajrakitiyabha was hospitalized in December 2022 after falling unconscious while training dogs for an army exhibition. The palace said she had a mycoplasma



infection, a bacterial infection usually associated with pneumonia. Her father's New Year's greeting card for 2023 showed King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida garbed in somber black, which many Thais saw as confirmation of the gravity of her condition. The limited information released in subsequent years indicated a deterioration in her condition.

The princess was born on December 7, 1978, to Vajiralongkorn, who was the crown prince at the time, and his then-wife, Princess Soamsawali. Vajiralongkorn has seven children by three of his four successive wives. Bajrakitiyabha was also known by the royal name Bajrakitiyabha Narendira Debyavati, used in formal state settings. Prince

Dipangkorn Rasmijoti, the youngest of the king's children, is the presumptive heir because sons take precedence in Thailand's line of succession.

But Bajrakitiyabha's experience in public service raised speculation she was set to hold an important role in any future succession, perhaps as regent to a youthful monarch. Bajrakitiyabha studied law at Thammasat University then went to Cornell University in New York state, where she earned a master's degree in law in 2002. She earned a doctorate at Cornell in 2005 with a dissertation concerning the protection of the rights of the accused. Scholarships to Cornell Law School and a programme for the exchange of legal scholars between Thailand and Cornell were later established in her name.

**The Pioneer Classified**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAGINI DUA D/O PRAMOD DUA W/O RISHI ANAND GAJRIA R/O House No-20-22 Anoop Nagar Indore Madhya Pradesh-452001 have changed my name to RAGINI DUA GAJRIA.

PD(1362)C



## Ukrainian drones strike deep into Russia

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Kyiv

Ukrainian drone strikes on refineries, depots and pipelines. Tanker trucks were attacked and left ablaze along the land corridor from Russia to Crimea. Motorists are waiting in long lines at gas stations.

In a new blow to the Kremlin's narrative that Moscow is winning the 4-year-old war in Ukraine, Kyiv's forces have targeted supplies to Crimea, triggering the worst fuel crisis on the Black Sea peninsula since it was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014.

The persistent attacks reflect the growing intensity and efficiency of Ukraine's drone strikes and have caught Russia off-guard and struggling for a response.

As the country marks the Russia Day national holiday

on Friday, signalling the start of summer vacations, the gas shortages are threatening to cause further disruptions to the tourism-dependent region with its beaches and resorts.

In a rare public acknowledgement, the Kremlin has recognised the scope of the problem and promised to address the issue quickly.

Ukraine's successes have highlighted its ability to inflict painful damage to Russia and change the course of the conflict, while Moscow's advances recently have ground to a near halt. On Thursday, Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine reached its 1,569th day, surpassing the duration of World War I.

Crimea has been a jewel in Russia's imperial crown since it was seized from Turkic-speaking Tatars in the 18th



century after Moscow defeated the Ottoman Empire.

Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine in 1954 when both republics were part of the USSR. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the diamond-shaped peninsula became part of newly inde-

pendent Ukraine. Russia kept a naval base in Sevastopol, and when a Moscow-friendly Ukrainian president was ousted by a popular uprising in February 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin sent in troops to overtake Crimea. Weeks later, Moscow annexed the peninsula following a refer-

endum that most of the world refuses to recognise.

Soon afterward, a Moscow-backed separatist insurgency erupted in eastern Ukraine, and fighting there raged with varying intensity until the February 2022 invasion. Russian troops concentrated in Crimea quickly seized large parts of southern Ukraine early in the war and secured the land route to the peninsula.

Since early in the war, Ukraine has fired missiles and drones to try to dislodge Moscow's hold on the territory. The Ukrainian military sank several Russian warships in the Black Sea and at their Crimean bases, crippling Moscow's naval capability and forcing it to redeploy its fleet to Novorossiysk.

Ukraine also methodically targeted munitions depots, airfields and Putin's prized

asset, the Kerch Bridge linking Crimea to Russia. The span was struck by a truck bomb in October 2022 that killed five people, blew up two sections of the bridge and required months of repairs. More attacks on the bridge followed in 2023 and 2025.

Since the Kerch Bridge attacks, Russia has channelled most fuel and other supplies along the highway and railroad via the occupied territories along the Sea of Azov coast. Those shipments were interrupted last month, when Ukrainian drones hit fuel trucks on the highway that Moscow once deemed to be safe, leaving behind dozens of burning vehicles.

Other relentless Ukrainian strikes hit refineries, oil depots and pipelines deep inside Russia, hurting its oil exports and causing domestic fuel shortages.

## Myanmar President travels to China after India visit



KJM VARMA ■ Beijing

Myanmar President Min Aung Hlaing will visit Beijing next week for talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping to strengthen strategic ties between the two countries.

Min visited India from May 30 to June 3, his first visit abroad after being elected president, and held talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during which he assured that Myanmar's territory would not be allowed to be used against India's security interests. A former military ruler, Min, assumed the presidency earlier this year following elections in Myanmar, which is facing an ongoing internal rebellion.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian on Friday announced that Min will pay a state visit to China from June 15 to 19, during which he will hold talks with Xi, Premier Li

Qiang and other officials.

Lin said China and Myanmar are traditional friends, neighbours and a community with a shared future. Bilateral relations have come a long way since diplomatic ties were established 76 years ago, he said. Ahead of Min's visit, Myanmar Foreign Minister Tin Maung Swe visited Beijing and held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi. Both ministers discussed scaling up their bilateral ties and accelerating development of Myanmar, which for long was caught in civil war between the military junta that ruled the country for decades.

China, in recent years, has deepened its influence in Myanmar, backing the military rulers with major strategic investments, including a route providing it direct access to the Bay of Bengal with oil and gas pipelines. (PTI)

## Pakistan welcomes submarine at Karachi Port

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ■ Islamabad

Pakistan's first Hangor-class submarine built under an agreement with China arrived at Karachi Port, marking a significant milestone in the Navy's modernisation, according to a statement.

Upon arrival at the Pakistan Navy Dockyard on Thursday, a reception ceremony was held and Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Abdul Munib attended as the chief guest. According to a statement by the Pakistan Navy, the submarine on arrival was accorded a traditional naval welcome attended by Pakistan Navy officers and personnel, as well as family members of the crew.

"Cadets of Pakistan Naval Academy presented a ceremonial salute to the incoming submarine and its crew,



accompanied by a fly-past by PN Z9EC helicopters," said the navy. The submarine was built in China under an agreement signed in 2015 for eight Hangor-class diesel-electric attack submarines.

The initial four submarines are being built in China by the China Shipbuilding and Offshore International Company (CSIC), while the other four are undergoing construction and assembly in Pakistan at the Karachi Shipyard and Engineering Works (KSEW) via a transfer-of-technology. (PTI)

## Nepal Govt opens energy sector for private investments

SHIRISH B PRADHAN ■ Kathmandu

The Nepal Government has cleared the way for private players to enter the Himalayan nation's energy sector, said Federal Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha on Friday.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of the Independent Power Producers' Association, Nepal (IPPAN) in Kathmandu, the Energy Minister said that the private sector will now be involved in transmission, distribution, and trading of power. IPPAN is a non-profit autonomous organisation that works with the Government in the sectors of energy and irrigation.

The Government has started amending laws hindering energy development and discouraging invest-



Federal Minister Biraj Bhakta Shrestha

ment in the sector, he said, adding that the government will also introduce bills related to renewable energy and energy efficiency in the ongoing Parliament session.

At the event, President of IPPAN Ganesh Karki requested the Government to introduce rules and regulations

aim of exporting 10,000 MW of hydropower to India, he said.

The minister said that the Government is working towards establishing the energy sector as the main basis for economic transformation through the current fiscal year.

Initiatives to promote entrepreneurship, employment generation, create an investment-friendly atmosphere and economic transformation of the country, he said, adding that the government is prioritising the construction of transmission lines and sub-stations, and has allocated around Nepalese Rupees 70 billion budget for the same.

Nepal is currently generating 4,300 MW of electricity, of which the private sector alone contributes 3,466 MW, according to Karki. (PTI)

## Indian-origin police constable killed in line of duty in Canada

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Ottawa

An Indian-origin provincial police constable in Ontario, who was killed in the line of duty, was on Friday remembered by Foreign Minister Anita Anand for his "courage, dedication, and commitment" to keeping Canadians safe.

Originally from Brampton, 29-year-old Tarun Bali, a constable with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), was killed when he and the members of the



James Bay detachment tried to stop a vehicle in which a person from a mental health facility had fled in Hearst, 950-odd kilometres

northwest of Ottawa.

"We mourn the loss of Provincial Constable Tarun Bali, who gave his life in service to others. His courage, dedication, and commitment to keeping Canadians safe will not be forgotten," Anand said in a post on X on Friday in a tribute to Bali's death on Tuesday.

She also described his death as a "tragic loss" and expressed her "deepest condolences" to his family and OPP colleagues among others.



Union Minister Piyush Goyal chairs a meeting with State Secretary for Economic Affairs of Switzerland Helene Budliger Artieda and others in Switzerland (PTI)

## Indian-origin man jailed for kidnapping, rape in UK

ADITI KHANNA ■ London

An Indian-origin man was on Friday sentenced to 34 years' imprisonment after being convicted of kidnap, torture and rape offences in London.

Gagandeep Singh, aged 34, was found guilty in February of two counts of rape, false imprisonment, causing grievous bodily harm with intent and kidnap following a trial at Isleworth Crown Court.

He will serve a 34-year sentence, comprising 28 years in custody followed by a six-year extended licence period under strict restrictions. He cannot be considered for



parole until he has served at least 18 years, or two-thirds of the custodial term.

The trial heard that the victim - a 24-year-old woman - was taken to a house in Hanwell, west London, where she was subjected to prolonged torture. (PTI)

## UK PM says he has not lost authority, will fight to stay in job

JILL LAWLESS ■ London

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer vowed on Friday that he will fight to stay in office after the sudden resignation of his trusted defence minister left his shaky leadership weakened still further.

Starmer has seen the departure of several junior and senior ministers in recent weeks, as Labour Party lawmakers' revolt and rivals plot, in despair at the Government's relentless unpopularity.

But the sudden resignation of Defence Secretary John Healey is a heavy blow. Healey quit on Thursday, warning that the Government is not spending

enough on the military to keep Britain safe "at this time of rising threats."

His departure hits Starmer in the one place the often embattled prime minister has won consistent praise: the world stage.

Since taking office after a landslide election victory in July 2024, Starmer has bolstered support for Ukraine, working with French President Emmanuel Macron on a multinational "coalition of the willing" to help guarantee the country's security if a ceasefire is reached.

France and the UK have also put together a maritime security force that would help keep the Strait of



Hormuz open to shipping if the Iran war ends.

Starmer has also argued strongly that European nations must do more to fund their own defence in response to President Donald

Trump's criticism of the United States' NATO allies.

"Starmer has been consistently staunch about warning of the security risk from Russia," said Olivia O'Sullivan, head of the UK in

the World programme at the Chatham House think tank. "He's been given quite a bit of credit by the public for having to deal with Trump and doing so with a level of steadiness and calm. And he has been, in line with previous UK governments, a close and consistent ally of Ukraine."

At issue is the Government's long-awaited Defence Investment Plan, a road map for how the UK will increase military spending to 3.5% of GDP by 2035.

The UK military is also seeking to reverse years of decline in the face of an increasingly assertive Russia, which invaded its neighbour Ukraine in 2022 and increas-

ingly tests the defences of European nations with overt and covert activity.

Healey says defence spending must reach 3% of GDP by 2030. He quit in frustration after Treasury chief Rachel Reeves refused to budget on a plan that falls short of that.

He cited a British intelligence assessment that Russia could attack a NATO member country as soon as 2030 and said a lower-than-needed spending plan "could make the country less safe".

Critics argue that military spending can be a bottomless pit, and point out that procurement projects regularly run over time and over budget. (AP)

## King Charles celebrates Indian diaspora contributions to British Asian Trust

ADITI KHANNA ■ London

King Charles celebrated the contributions of the Indian diaspora at a special event in London to mark the 20th anniversary of a charity he founded to combat poverty in South Asia.

As the Royal Founding Patron of the British Asian Trust, the 77-year-old monarch joined hundreds of celebrity guests to spotlight the impact the charity made through its support of more than 18.8 million people across the region.

this week also helped raise more than 1 million pounds towards the charity's many causes spread across India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

"We are grateful for the continued interest our Royal Founding Patron, His Majesty the King, takes in the Trust's work," said Hitan Mehta, the CEO of British Asian Trust.

"His deep and longstanding support for the British Asian Trust is a source of inspiration for our ambitions," said Mehta, awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to the British Asian

community by the king two years ago.

"We also celebrate the extraordinary impact being delivered across South Asia, made possible by the commitment and generosity of the British Asian diaspora and our wider partners," he added.

The British Asian Trust was created under the royal patronage of Charles, then Prince of Wales, after an India-Pakistan charity cricket event in 2007 as a diaspora-led international development organisation to deliver high-quality programmes in South Asia. The king was presented



Britain's King Charles III exchanges greetings with British Asian Trust CEO Hitan Mehta, right, and Lord Jitesh Gadhia, centre, during an event in week in London (PTI)

with a framed photograph from that match, featuring the royal in conversation with both team captains - Rahul Dravid and Shoaib Malik.

"This year marks a particularly special milestone as we begin celebrating the Trust's 20th anniversary... and the work is far from complete," said Lord Jitesh Gadhia, chair of the British Asian Trust.

The charity specialises in and champions the use of social finance products to deliver development initiatives in South Asia. Its annual fundraiser is designed to help raise funds

to support the Trust's work in the fields of child protection, education, livelihoods, mental health and conservation.

Among recent highlights shared at the event were the launch of a \$4 million Nano Entrepreneurship Sustainability & Transformation (NEST) Outcomes Facility as India's first outcomes-based finance initiative targeting ambitious income growth for nano entrepreneurs.

Pakistan's first outcomes-based financing programme for employment in the region and a reduction of human-

wildlife conflict by 98 per cent in its project areas across South Asia were among the other key updates flagged from the past few years.

The event brought together several British artists of South Asian heritage, including Sanjeev Bhaskar, Meera Syal, Mahira Khan, Kunal Nayyar, Preeya Kalidas and Gurinder Chadha.

A performance by popular international recording artist Jay Sean and a film capturing the origins of the British Asian Trust were also on the agenda as guests raised toasts to the charity's future success. (PTI)



## PROSPECT

### Additional Chief Secretary LS Changsan reviews progress of Guwahati Ring Road Project



Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam, Revenue and Disaster Management Department, LS Changsan, on Friday chaired a review meeting on the progress of the Guwahati Ring Road Project at the conference hall of the District Commissioner's Office, Amingaon. The meeting reviewed the status of land-related works and other key aspects of the project across the concerned districts. District Commissioner, Kamrup, Deba Kumar Mishra; District Commissioner, Darrang, Ayushi Jain; and representatives from the District Administration, Kamrup (Metro), presented updates on the progress of the project and the steps taken to facilitate its timely implementation. During the meeting, Changsan stressed the need to expedite the ongoing work and ensure the timely completion of the project. She urged all concerned departments and district administrations to maintain close coordination and proactively address any issues arising during the implementation process. She also assured necessary support from the Revenue and Disaster Management Department and directed officials to submit proposals, wherever required, for early resolution of pending matters. (PNS)

### CATC-42 concludes successfully at JNV Nalbari



The Combined Annual Training Camp CATC-42 of 1 Assam Battalion NCC, Guwahati Group, concluded successfully at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya (JNV), Nalbari, with 550 cadets from schools and colleges across Kamrup Metro, Dispur, Guwahati, Nalbari, and Rangia completing 10 days of intensive training. Organised under NCC Group Headquarters Guwahati, the camp focused on 'Unity and Discipline' through drill, weapon training, map reading, field craft, first aid and leadership development. Cadets also underwent firing practice and took part in cultural events, debates and sports to build all-round personality. During the camp, as part of Special Training Modules to broaden the exposure, cadets attended lectures and demonstrations by personnel of 1 NDRF Battalion, who trained them in disaster response, rescue techniques and earthquake safety protocols relevant to Assam. (PNS)

# Yoga: The finest instrument for healthy ageing



PRATAPRAO JADHAV

As life expectancy continues to rise across the world, an important question confronts us: how do we ensure that people not only live longer, but also live healthier, more active, and more fulfilling lives? This question lies at the heart of the International Day of Yoga 2026 theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." The theme reflects a growing recognition that healthy ageing is one of the most important public-health priorities of our time and that preventive healthcare must begin long before old age.

Across the world, rising life expectancy is a testament to human progress. Yet longevity alone cannot be the measure of that progress. The real challenge is ensuring that these additional years are lived with vitality, independence, dignity, and purpose. Modern healthcare has helped extend lifespan, but societies are increasingly recognising the importance of extending healthspan: the years spent in good health. As India advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat, healthy ageing becomes not only a personal aspiration but also an important public-health objective, reflecting a nation's commitment to the well-being and resilience of its people. As we continue our journey of demographic and economic transformation, ensuring that citizens

remain healthy, active, and productive across all stages of life will be critical to building a stronger and more developed nation.

The adoption of "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" as the theme for International Day of Yoga 2026 reflects an emerging global reality. As populations age and lifestyle-related health challenges increase, healthcare systems are increasingly recognising the importance of prevention, active living, and long-term well-being. The theme seeks to bring this conversation to the forefront and encourage people to adopt healthy practices long before age-related challenges emerge.

The conversation around ageing is often confined to older adults, when in reality it is a lifelong process. The quality of our later years is shaped by choices made much earlier in life. Physical inactivity, chronic stress, poor sleep habits, and sedentary lifestyles can gradually undermine long-term well-being, while healthy habits adopted in youth can strengthen resilience, mobility, and emotional well-being for decades to come. Preventive health, therefore, cannot begin at retirement; it must begin much earlier, through conscious investments in physical, mental, and emotional wellness.

This is where yoga assumes particular significance. Rooted in India's timeless knowledge and embraced across the world, yoga offers a holistic approach to health that nurtures harmony between body, mind, and breath. Through asanas, pranayama, meditation, and mindfulness, individuals can enhance physical strength, flexibility, balance, mental clarity, and emo-



tional stability. More importantly, yoga encourages a preventive approach to health: one that focuses not merely on managing illness, but on cultivating resilience and well-being throughout life. In this sense, yoga is not an intervention for old age; it is a lifelong companion that supports healthy ageing from an early age.

The growing scientific interest in yoga's role in healthy ageing further reinforces this understanding. As mentioned on PubMed Central, studies relating to "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" increased from 183 in 2014 to 1,207 in 2025. This more than six-fold increase reflects growing global interest in understanding how yoga can contribute to mobility, cognitive well-being, emotional resilience, and overall quality of life as people age. It also underscores the increasing relevance of preventive and lifestyle-based approaches to health in the twenty-first century.

Importantly, yoga is accessible. It can be practised by people of different age groups, backgrounds, and levels of physical ability. Whether one is a student preparing for

examinations, a professional managing workplace pressures, a homemaker balancing responsibilities, or a senior citizen seeking to remain active and independent, yoga offers a pathway towards healthier living.

Over the past decade, the International Day of Yoga has evolved into a global movement for wellness and collective well-being. Participation in International Day of Yoga activities has grown manifold over the years, reflecting increasing recognition of yoga as an accessible, low-cost, and effective tool for health promotion. The theme "Yoga for Healthy Ageing" carries this journey forward by focusing attention on one of the most important health challenges of our time.

The Ministry of Ayush has consistently sought to encourage citizens to move beyond annual observances and adopt yoga as a daily practice. Initiatives such as the Common Yoga Protocol provide a simple and structured framework for practitioners, while Yoga365 promotes the integration of yoga into everyday life throughout the year. These efforts reflect a broader

belief that lasting health benefits emerge not from occasional participation but from sustained practice.

The growing acceptance of yoga also signals an important shift in how societies approach health-care. Increasingly, there is recognition that sustainable health outcomes require greater emphasis on prevention, self-care, and healthy lifestyle choices. Healthcare systems will always play a vital role, but lasting wellness also depends on empowering individuals to take responsibility for their own health long before illness occurs.

As India advances towards becoming a healthier, more resilient, and developed nation, healthy ageing must become a shared societal goal. This responsibility does not belong only to governments, healthcare institutions, or senior citizens. It belongs to each one of us. The choices we make today will shape not only how long we live, but how well we live.

As we observe the International Day of Yoga 2026, I invite citizens across the country and the world to embrace yoga not merely as a practice, but as an investment in their future selves. We often prepare financially for the years ahead, yet rarely devote the same attention to preparing our bodies and minds for the future. Yoga offers a simple, time-tested, and accessible pathway to do exactly that. In embracing yoga today, we can take a meaningful step towards ensuring that the years we gain are years lived with health, vitality, and purpose.

The writer is Union Minister of State (IC) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare

# Assam emerges as India's next concert economy hub

TONY DAS ■ Guwahati

Once peripheral to India's live entertainment circuit, Assam is fast emerging as one of the country's most compelling concert destinations. Backed by progressive policies, strategic infrastructure investments, rising audience demand and key public-private partnerships, the state is demonstrating how live entertainment can serve as both a cultural asset and a catalyst for economic growth.

In a landmark step towards institutionalising this vision, BookMyShow, India's leading live entertainment and culture platform, in collaboration with the Assam Tourism Development Corporation Ltd (ATDC) and EY-Parthenon, a strategy and consulting firm, has unveiled The Assam

Blueprint: Turning Live Music Economy into a Tourism Multiplier, a comprehensive report capturing the economic, tourism, workforce and cultural impact of live entertainment in Assam, following one of Guwahati's largest live entertainment spectacles: Post Malone's first-ever India solo headline concert, produced and promoted by BookMyShow Live.

Far beyond the economic impact assessment of this single event, the BookMyShow, ATDC and EY-Parthenon report positions Assam as an early example of how strategic ecosystem-building, destination development and long-term investment can transform live entertainment from a standalone cultural moment to a recurring economic multiplier. It



estimates that a structured pipeline of marquee events could generate over ₹700 crore in cumulative economic impact within Assam over the next five years.

The BookMyShow, ATDC and EY-Parthenon report highlights Post Malone's first-ever India solo headline concert in Guwahati as a case study to demonstrate how live entertainment can generate tangible economic

value across tourism, hospitality, mobility, retail and local services. According to BookMyShow's and EY-Parthenon's estimates, the concert generated ₹43 crore in total economic impact across multiple industries, including ₹32 crore injected directly into Assam's economy through attendee spending, and ₹5 crore in GST revenue into the Government's coffers.

Kumar Padmapani Bora, IRS, Managing Director, Assam Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (ATDC), said, "For Assam, the concert economy is not just about entertainment; it is about tourism, culture, youth engagement and economic growth working together. Our objective is to build a facilitative ecosystem where large events become repeatable opportunities that bring visitors into the state, create local employment, and showcase Assam to national and global audiences."

Naman Pugalia, Chief Business Officer - Live Events, BookMyShow, said, "The next phase of India's live entertainment growth will be defined by building entirely new cultural and entertainment hubs. The North-East represents one

of the most compelling opportunities in that journey, combining a rich musical heritage with a highly engaged audience and a rapidly evolving ecosystem. The Post Malone concert demonstrated how globally benchmarked live experiences can generate value far beyond the venue, creating impact across tourism, hospitality, local enterprise and employment. More importantly, it showed what becomes possible when government, industry and local stakeholders align behind a shared vision. Assam's journey offers a powerful example of how live entertainment can contribute to economic growth, destination-building and cultural relevance, while creating a blueprint for the future of India's concert economy."

## DAILY SUDOKU

6 1 9 5  
5 2 8 6  
2 1 6 4  
7 3 2 4  
9 7 1  
5 6 7 4  
1 7 9 8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

### HOW TO SOLVE IT

Sudoku is a logic puzzle where you fill a 9x9 grid so that numbers 1 to 9 appear once in every row, column, and 3x3 box, using elimination and logical deduction - no maths involved.



### SOLUTION (12.6.26)

1	6	4	9	5	3	7	2	8
2	8	3	7	4	1	6	9	5
5	7	9	2	8	6	4	3	1
9	4	1	6	2	5	3	8	7
7	2	5	8	3	9	1	6	4
8	3	6	1	7	4	2	5	9
6	1	2	5	9	7	8	4	3
3	9	8	4	1	2	5	7	6
4	5	7	3	6	8	9	1	2

## DOUBLE CROSSWORD

SATURDAY | JUNE 13, 2026

ACROSS  
1 Hit out, getting a century and a half (5)  
6 Roguish letters to a politician (5)  
9 Like the energy of an eccentric uncle with a warm heart (7)  
10 Such letters do not form such mail (5)  
11 Drive for a short time in open country (5)  
12 Soldiers love to be in semi-tropical surroundings! (5)  
13 Land of men in song (7)  
15 Determined to assume a certain hardness (3)  
17 Guide to a poetic area at Land's End (4)  
18 Is able to join a woman abroad (6)

DOWN  
2 House in real disorder somewhere in Pakistan (6)  
3 Joined the club (6)  
4 It largely has an alcoholic content (3)  
5 She records a century by a famous batsman (5)  
6 Source of Russian tea (7)  
7 Cut with a whip (4)  
8 Suggested by a low fellow (6)  
12 In extremes of tragedy, she's sick at heart (5)  
13 Smart, but maybe he could lose a kilo (5)  
14 Half the team get angry about being

19 Like the glass uncle Arthur has (5)  
20 Girl with a heart of stone (6)  
22 A sporting warning, of course (4)  
24 Are such gloves juvenile? (3)  
25 Piece of plaid tied in a knot or intertwined (7)  
26 German town orchestra (5)  
27 One of a pack for Jack to back (5)  
28 In short, the governmental head named Barnaby (5)  
29 A stick for a dog (7)  
30 Wat, whose tyre burst going round a corner (5)  
31 Blue boy? (5)

beaten (5)  
15 Shoe, for a time like a spanner in the works? (5)  
16 Subdued, thanks to me, on the first of December (5)  
18 A rosy kind of car? (5)  
19 Reactor designer? (7)  
21 It's from hilarity that this name is derived (6)  
22 Reckon to keep in shape (6)  
23 West Indian pop (6)  
25 It flies down a quiet country road (5)  
26 Trust the flight will have a safe conclusion (4)  
28 Intrepid traveller? (3)

SOLUTION (12.6.26)

ACROSS: 24, Se-a-ttle; 26, Arches; 29, Roe; 31, Shear; 32, Careful; 34, Libe-l; 35, Pen; 18, Hoe; 19, Corise; 21, Pitcher; 22, D-rip; 23, Sh-op; 24, Se-a-ttle; 26, Arches; 29, Roe; 31, Shear; 32, Careful; 34, Libe-l; 35, Pen; 18, Hoe; 19, Corise; 21, Pitcher; 22, D-rip; 23, Sh-op; 20, Ideas; 21, Piece; 23, Sleeper; 24, S-Erie-S; 25, F-lower; 25, Tor; 27, Rh-I-no; 9, Gee; 28, Hal-MA; 12, Leeches; 14, T-o-P; 30, Funny; 32, Code; 16, Ni-Che; 33, Fee; 19, Central

## Punjab Special DGP outlines strategies to curb illicit trade



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Chandigarh

Illicit trade is a complex challenge with far-reaching economic and social consequences, said Amardeep Singh Rai, Special Director General of Police, Punjab, while addressing a capacity building programme for police officers on "Tackling Counterfeiting and Smuggling: Strategies for Effective Enforcement" on Thursday. "Counterfeiting and smuggling not only undermine legitimate businesses and government revenues but also threaten consumer safety and fuel illegal networks. Tackling these challenges requires robust enforcement, continuous capacity building and coordinated action among government agencies, law enforcement authorities and industry stakeholders," Rai said.

Mohammed Tayyab, Secretary, Jails Department, Government of Punjab, highlighted the need for institutional preparedness. "As illicit trade networks become increasingly sophisticated, enforcement agencies must remain equipped with the knowledge, skills and tools required to effectively detect, investigate and prevent such crimes," he said.

Ankurjeet Singh, Additional Secretary Home, Government of Punjab, noted that counterfeiting and smuggling are now linked to organised criminal activities. "Effective enforcement today requires a combination of intelligence-led policing, inter-agency cooperation and awareness of emerging trends. Strengthening the capabilities of frontline officers is critical to safeguarding the economy and protecting citizens," he added.

Deep Chand, Advisor, FICCI-CASCADE and Former Special Commissioner of Police, New Delhi, said illicit trade inflicts significant losses on legitimate businesses and distorts fair market competition.

## A new take on urban mobility with MG Comet EV

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi



The MG Comet EV is redefining what a city car can be. Compact on the outside yet packed with technology and practicality, it has been designed specifically for modern urban life. Its distinctive two-door design, compact dimensions, and futuristic styling make it stand out in crowded city streets while offering an efficient and intelligent driving experience.

At the heart of the Comet EV is a 17.3 kWh prismatic lithium-ion battery engineered for durability and thermal stability, qualities especially valuable in Indian driving conditions.

The battery delivers an ARAI-certified range of 230 km on a single charge, making it well-suited for daily commuting and routine city travel. Paired with an electric motor producing 41.4 bhp and 110 Nm of torque, the Comet offers smooth, responsive performance with the instant acceleration that EV drivers appreciate.

Inside, the Comet EV brings premium technology to the compact-car segment.

It features MG's iSmart connected car platform with more than 55 connected features and over 100 voice commands. A floating twin-screen setup includes a 10.25-inch touchscreen infotainment system with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, creating a modern and connected cabin experience that feels far larger than the car's footprint.

One of the Comet's most innovative features is MG's Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) programme. By separating the battery cost from the vehicle purchase, buyers can access the Comet EV at a lower upfront price, with battery usage charged on a per-kilometre basis.

Combined with an assured 60 per cent buyback value after three years, the model offers a compelling ownership proposition for urban drivers.

ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ

ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਦੇ ਡੈਨ ਰਿਚੇ ਵਾਹਨਾਂ ਦੀ ਨੀਲਾਮੀ ਕਰਵਾਈ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ (ਅਚ.ਜੀ. ਈ ਸਿਨਾਹਾ ਪੁਸ਼ੀ ਹੋਣ ਵਿਚ ਸਮਾਂ ਦੇ):

ਲੜੀ ਨੰ:	ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਵਾਰੀਕਲ ਨੰਬਰ	ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਦੀ ਮਿਤੀ ਅਤੇ ਸਮਾਂ	ਨਿਲਾਮੀ ਦਾ ਸਥਾਨ
1.	PB02BQP301, PB32L5274 (2011 ਮਾਡਲ) (53 ਸੀਟਰ ਬੱਸਾਂ) (ਲੋਲ ਕਾਰੀਆਂ)	19-06-2026, ਸੋਮਵੇ 11:00 ਘੰਟੇ	ਕਾਰੀਕਲ ਪਿੰਡ, ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ ਦੇਵ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ, ਅੰਮ੍ਰਿਤਸਰ
2.	PB02BP497, PB02BP498 (2011 ਮਾਡਲ) (ਸਫਿਟ ਕਿਆਇਬ ਕਾਰਾਂ) (ਲੋਲ ਕਾਰੀਆਂ)		
3.	PB02BV5620 (2012 ਮਾਡਲ) (ਲਿਊ ਕੋਚੋਂ) (ਸਕਰੇਪ)		

ਨੀਲਾਮੀ ਮਿਲੇਂ ਹੈ, ਜਿਸ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਏ ਆਪਾਚ ਤੇ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ। ਸਬੰਧਿਤ ਬੱਸਾਂ/ਕਾਰਾਂ/ਟੋਕੈਟਰ ਦੀ ਖੋਲੀ ਦੀਆਂ ਖ਼ਬਰਾਂ ਯੂਨੀਵਰਸਿਟੀ ਵੈਬਸਾਈਟ [www.gndu.ac.in](http://www.gndu.ac.in) 'ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹਨ।

24/26/12/2026-27/12300 Dated CHD :- 12/06/2026



## Pioneering Indian shooting coach Jaspal Rana dies at 49

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi

Jaspal Rana, one of India's finest pistol shooters who made a hugely successful transition to coaching and guided Manu Bhaker to epoch-making twin bronze medals at the Paris Olympics, has shockingly died at a mere 49 years of age after battling cardiac complications.

Rana is survived by his wife, Reena Rana, daughter Devanshi, son Yuvraj, father Narayan Singh Rana, and his two siblings, Sushma Singh and Subhash Rana.

National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Kalkesh Narayan Singh Deo said Rana breathed his last at Delhi's Max Super Speciality Hospital on Thursday night.

Dr Balbir Singh, Group Chairman (Cardiac Sciences, Pan Max & Chief of Interventional Cardiology and Electrophysiology) at Max, said Rana was brought to the hospital in a critical condition on June 1.

"Mr Jaspal Rana presented with an acute heart attack that was already three days old. He had been travelling and continued to experience chest pain before arriving at the hospital in



a very critical condition," Singh said. "The artery responsible for the heart attack was com-

would be conducted in Varanasi on Saturday.

His stunning death has created a massive void in India's coaching leadership staff as the shooters gear up for the Asian Games later this year, and the NRAI would have to thrash out a fresh plan to ensure that the preparations remain on track.

Rana was serving as the high-performance coach for Indian pistol shooters.

He had initially fallen ill aboard the Indian contingent's return flight from the ISSF World Cup in Munich, Germany. After landing in New Delhi, he was immediately hospitalised and had a stent installed to clear a cardiac blockage.

The pistol ace, who was considered a maverick in Indian shooting circles for his outspoken demeanour and passion for the sport, was a prodigal talent and won his first national-level gold at just 12 years of age.

His international breakthrough was the 25m centre fire pistol gold medals at the 1994 Commonwealth and Asian Games.

In fact, the Asiad gold was India's first in 16 years after Raja Randhir Singh opened the

account in 1978. Randhir had passed away recently after battling age-related ailments.

Rana's biggest moment as a shooter came in the 2006 Doha Asian Games when he snared three gold medals and a silver in a sensational performance that included equalling the world record at the time.

After a decorated career as an elite shooter, Rana transformed Indian shooting through his roles as a junior national team coach and high-performance trainer.

His most significant coaching contribution was mentoring Manu Bhaker and helping her secure two bronze medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics, making her the first Indian to achieve such a feat.

As a junior pistol coach since 2012, he also groomed teen sensations such as Saurabh Chaudhary, Anish Bhanwala, and Chinki Yadav.

His work with the junior programme created a massive pipeline of international talent, creating a lasting impact on the sport.

The NRAI had officially appointed him as the High-Performance coach for the 25m pistol discipline in February last year.

## Rana's passing profound loss to Indian sports: PM Modi



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined the sporting world in mourning the untimely demise of renowned Indian shooter and Coach Jaspal Rana, describing his passing as "a profound loss to the nation."

Rana, 49, who brought laurels to the country through his achievements as an elite shooter and later played a key role in nurturing young talent as a coach, died due to complications related to heart.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of Shri Jaspal Rana ji. His passing is a profound loss to the world of Indian sports," PM Modi wrote on X.

"He brought immense glory to the nation through his extraordinary achievements in shooting. Equally remarkable was his contribution as a mentor, shaping and guiding young athletes with great dedication."

"His unwavering commitment to excellence, discipline and service to the sporting world earned him immense admiration. My thoughts are with his family, friends and the entire sporting fraternity in this hour of grief. Om Shanti," the Prime Minister added.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya too remembered Rana's contributions to Indian shooting.

## Golfer Sahith Theegala among six co-leaders at Canadian Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Ontario (Canada)

Golfer Sahith Theegala grabbed a share of the lead in the opening round of the RBC Canadian Open, carding a 6-under 64 to join five others at the top of the leaderboard.

The Indian-American, who last had a share of the first-round lead at the 2026 Players Championship, is placed in the lead group alongside Major Winner Brooks Koepka, Emiliano Grillo, Eric Cole, Sam Burns and Matthew Anderson.

## PV Sindhu storms into Australian Open semis; Tanvi crashes out

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Sydney

Two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu stormed into the women's singles semifinals of the Australian Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a commanding straight-game victory on Friday.

The third-seeded Indian outclassed Chinese Taipei's Chen Su Yu 21-6, 21-9 in a one-sided quarter-final contest that lasted just 27 minutes.

The former world champion Sindhu will next face top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan, who ended the impressive run of Indian teenager Tanvi Sharma with a 21-14, 21-14 victory in 32 minutes.

Sindhu incidentally holds a narrow 15-13 head-to-head advantage over the world No. 3 Japanese.



Sindhu dominated proceedings from the outset, using her superior reach and court coverage to keep her opponent under constant pressure.

She raced through the opening game before maintaining the momentum in the second to seal her place in the last-four.

The semi-final appearance marks a significant boost for Sindhu, who has endured an inconsistent season and has been searching for rhythm on the BWF World Tour and is in search of her first title since the Syed Modi International in December 2024. Earlier, Sindhu had defeated compatriot Isharani Baruah in the pre-quarterfinals to advance to the last eight.

But the Indian men's doubles pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun ended in the quarterfinals after conceding their match while trailing 19-21, 9-16 against Chen Cheng Kuan and Liu Kuang Heng of Chinese Taipei.



Among other Indian-origin players, Aaron Rai and Sudarshan Yellamaraju had slow starts as both players carded 1-over 69 to be placed 73rd on the leaderboard. Indo-Canadian qualifier Jeevan Sihota carded 1-over 71 to be T-120 in his first PGA Tour event.

Koepka, whose second U.S. Open title came at Shinnecock Hills in 2018, was in sublime form, making four birdies over his final five holes to grab a share of the lead. Of the six co-leaders, all except Cole and Anderson are set to compete in next week's US Open. A total of 12 players carded rounds of 65 or better. Theegala said after his round that he was feeling great.

"Yeah, my whole game felt really nice. I didn't strike it well to start the day. My short game really bailed me out at the start there. Obviously, holing it on 10 (chip in from off the green after almost going into the water) and then having it stay out of the water really helped."

"But, yeah, once I got settled down after five or six holes started hitting it really well, and it was relatively stress-free. I probably only had a few longish par putts, but, yeah, I think I missed my first five or six greens, so after that it was nice to hit fairways and greens," said Theegala.

On the course, he added, "Yeah, I think you're pretty secluded in these trees. The wind's pumping up there, but you can't really feel it. So the ball gets up and all of a sudden, the crosswind really takes it. The way the holes are, the way the whole course is designed, there's a ton of crosswind with this west, southwest kind of wind."

### अचल संपत्तियों का विक्रय नोटिस : ई-नीलामी दि. 29 जून 2026

आइ.टी.आइ. रोड, हरियाली चोक, यूनिवर्सल बैंक के पीछे, होशंगाबाद

प्रतिभूतिहित (प्रवर्तन) नियम, 2002 के नियम 8(6) के अंतर्गत के साथ पठित वित्तीय आस्तियों का प्रतिभूतिकरण और पुनर्गठन तथा प्रतिभूति हित का प्रवर्तन अधिनियम, 2002 के अधीन अचल आस्तियों के विक्रय हेतु ई-नीलामी विक्रय नोटिस

आम लोगों को तथा विशेष रूप से उधार देने वाले और प्रत्याभूति-दाता को यह नोटिस दिया जाता है कि नीचे वर्णित अचल संपत्ति जो प्रतिभूत लेनदार के पास गिरवी / प्रभारित है, का संकेतिक कब्जा (नीचे वर्णित) प्रतिभूत लेनदार के प्राधिकृत अधिकारी द्वारा लिया गया है, को "जहाँ है जैसा है और जो कुछ भी है, जिस प्रकार है" एवं "दायित्व रहित" के आधार पर निम्नलिखित देनदारों, प्रत्याभूति-दाता तथा जमानतदारों से प्रतिभूत लेनदार की बकाया राशि की वसूली हेतु ई-नीलामी द्वारा बचे जाने हेतु विस्तृत विवरण निम्नानुसार है :

क्रं.	शाखा	ऋण/प्रत्याभूति-दाता / जमानतदार	मांग/बकाया राशि	संपत्ति के स्वामी का नाम	साध्य बंधक अचल संपत्तियों का विवरण / कब्जे का प्रकार	आरक्षित मूल्य
1	सुलताई	1. श्री अमित कडवे पिता श्री किशोर कडवे 2. श्री किशोर कडवे	देय राशि रु. 22,48,645.28 + देय ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च	श्री किशोर कडवे	मौजा - ग्राम दुहा, सुलताई, तहसील - सुलताई जिला बैतूल, म. प्र. सर्वे नं. 1308/2, पी.एच. नं. 49, सेंट्रलमेंट नं. 153, म.प्र. परिचा: 0.014 हेक्टर. (1507 वर्गफुट) जिसकी चतुर्थ सीमा इस प्रकार है : उत्तर में - दिलीप पुत्र विनोदी की भूमि, दक्षिण में - स्वयं की भूमि, पूर्व में - स्वयं की भूमि, पश्चिम में - दुहा रोड कब्जे का प्रकार - भौतिक कब्जा	रु. 4,72,000.00 रु. 47,200.00 रु. 10,000.00
क्रं.	शाखा	ऋण/प्रत्याभूति-दाता / जमानतदार	मांग/बकाया राशि	संपत्ति के स्वामी का नाम	साध्य बंधक अचल संपत्तियों का विवरण / कब्जे का प्रकार	आरक्षित मूल्य
1	राय अमला	श्री विनोद पिता बाबू राम विश्वकर्मा	देय राशि रु. 7,07,250.23 + देय ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च	श्री विनोद पिता बाबू राम विश्वकर्मा	संपत्ति - सर्वे/खसरा क्रमांक 3/4, पी सी नं. - 98, बंदोबस्त नं. 308, ग्राम- मसोद, तहसील - मुलताई, जिला बैतूल, म. प्र. परिचा - 0.016 हेक्टेयर (1722 वर्गफुट) जिसकी चतुर्थ सीमा इस प्रकार है : उत्तर में - कृष्ण राव की भूमि, दक्षिण में - वन की भूमि, पूर्व में - 15 फीट कच्चा रोड, पश्चिम में - कच्चा रोड कब्जे का प्रकार - भौतिक कब्जा	रु. 8,93,000.00 रु. 89,300.00 रु. 10,000.00
क्रं.	शाखा	ऋण/प्रत्याभूति-दाता / जमानतदार	मांग/बकाया राशि	संपत्ति के स्वामी का नाम	साध्य बंधक अचल संपत्तियों का विवरण / कब्जे का प्रकार	आरक्षित मूल्य
1	शोभापुर	श्री आलोक दुबे पिता श्री संजय दुबे	देय राशि - रु. 38,63,844.00 + देय ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च	श्री आलोक दुबे	संपत्ति - खसरा क्रमांक 46/1, पटवारी हल्का नं. - 58, रकबा 0.04 हेक्टेयर ( व्यवसायिक भूमि) मौजा रानी परिचरिया र.नि.म. शोभापुर, तहसील - सोमगपुर जिला नर्मदापुरम, म. प्र. परिचा - 0.04 हेक्टेयर (4300 वर्गफुट) जिसकी चतुर्थ सीमा इस प्रकार है : उत्तर में - परिचरिया होशंगाबाद मुख्य मार्ग दक्षिण में - सुशील दुबे का रकबा भूमि, पूर्व में - राजेश साहू का रकबा, पश्चिम में - राठी जी का रकबा कब्जे का प्रकार - भौतिक कब्जा	रु. 20,90,000.00 रु. 2,09,000.00 रु. 10,000.00
क्रं.	शाखा	ऋण/प्रत्याभूति-दाता / जमानतदार	मांग/बकाया राशि	संपत्ति के स्वामी का नाम	साध्य बंधक अचल संपत्तियों का विवरण / कब्जे का प्रकार	आरक्षित मूल्य
1	रसूलिया	1. श्री जितेन्द्र राय पिता स्व. लखन लाल राय 2. श्रीमती राधा राय पति स्व. लखन लाल राय	देय राशि - रु. 2,70,059.00 + देय ब्याज एवं अन्य खर्च	श्री जितेन्द्र राय पिता स्व. लखन लाल राय	व्यवसायिक संपत्ति ग्राम बुधवाडा, नं. ब. 227, हल्का नं. 15 वाई नं. 23 हवा लिंक रोड, होशंगाबाद पर स्थित विनायक विजनेस सेण्टर खसरा नं. 135/7 & 136/1 प्लॉट नं. 17 जुमला रकबा 1800 वर्गफुट पर निर्मित बहुमंजिला कालम्पलेस नं. दुकान नं. 88 जिसका नाम पूर्व-पश्चिम 3.49 मीटर, एवं उत्तर- दक्षिण 2.74 मीटर जुमला रकबा 9.56 वर्गमीटर है। उक्त दुकान, उक्त भवन के द्वितीय प्लॉट पर स्थित है परिचा - (102 वर्गफुट) जिसकी चतुर्थ सीमा इस प्रकार है : उत्तर - जीना, दक्षिण - दुकान नं. 87, पूर्व - कोरिडोर पश्चिम - प्लॉट नं. 18 कब्जे का प्रकार - भौतिक कब्जा	रु. 2,78,000.00 रु. 27,800.00 रु. 10,000.00

**ईएमडी (अनिवार्य अग्रिम धरोहर राशि) जमा करने की दिनांक एवं समय : 28.06.2026 को सांय 5.00 बजे या उससे पूर्व ई-नीलामी की दिनांक एवं समय : 29.06.2026 को सुबह 12.00 बजे से सांय 4.00 बजे तक**

विक्रय के निबंधन और रातों के ब्योरे के लिए कृपया नीचे दिये गए प्रतिभूत लेनदार की वेबसाइट अर्थात [www.centralbankofindia.bank.in](http://www.centralbankofindia.bank.in) देखें या बैंक अनुबंधित सेवा प्रदाता मे. पीएसबी अलायंस के वेबपोर्टल <http://baanknet.com> पर उपलब्ध लिंक देखें। हेल्पलाइन नंबर +91-8291220220 या क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय होशंगाबाद मो. +91-7509555955 से संपर्क कर सकते हैं। ये संबन्धित ऋणियों/ प्रत्याभूति-दाता/ जमानतदार को सरसेनी अधिनियम 2002 के नियम 8 (6) के अधीन पंद्रह (15) दिनों की वैधानिक विक्रय सूचना है।  
दिनांक : 13.06.2026 स्थान : नर्मदापुरम

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी  
कृते सेंट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया,

### HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saigal, Chennai - 600015  
Regional Office - 101-B, 1st Floor, NRK Business Park, Vijaynagar, Indore(MP) - 452010 Email - auction@hindujahousingfinance.com

#### Appendix IV : Possession NOTICE (for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hinduja Housing Finance Limited (HHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (s) issued by Authorized Officer of the Company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice here by given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the change of HHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Name of Borrower/ Guarantor / Co-Borrower	Demand Notice Date Amount Due	Description of Secured asset (Immovable Property)	Date & Type of Possession
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002830 Mr. BANE SINGH Mrs. REKHA W/O BANE SINGH	18-06-2025 Rs. 1446235/-	Property Is Situated At, PH.No. 118, House No. 96, LSN 319, Gram Limboda Tarana, Th. Tarana, Dist., Rural, Tarana, Madhya Pradesh, India - 465001	09/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002252 Mr. PAPPU SINGH Mrs. SORAM BAI	14-06-2025 Rs. 975570/-	Property Is Situated At, PH.No. 35, House No. 72 & 75, Gram Dhanyakhedi, Th. Makdona, Dist. Ujjain MP 456668	11/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002534 Ms. RAMKUNWAR BAI Mr. BIHARI JI	14/06/2025 Rs. 767703/-	House No 07 Gram Yashwantgarh Tehsil Tarana Dist Ujjain MP Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India-456010	09/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002066 Ms. GATTA BA Mr. Shanti Lal	10-06-2025 Rs. 1061559/-	A Residential Plot/House No. 334, PH.No. 09, Gram Parsoli, Gram Panchayat: Parsoli, Janpad Panchayat Makdon, Tehsil Makdon Distt Ujjain (M. P.) Total Area 1040 Sq.Ft. Boundaries of property - East - House Of Khuyalidas, West - Common Road, North - Road, South - House Of Amratlal & Khyalid of Dharmendra S/o Bane Singh	11/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002883 Mr. ANTAR SINGH Mrs. KRISHNA BAI	12-10-2025 Rs. 522030/-	Property Is Situated At, Survey No. 323/4, PH.No. 18, Gram Gawdi, Th. Tarana, Dist. Ujjain MP 471, Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456665 Total Area - 456667 Sq.Ft. Boundaries of property - East - House Of Sunil S/o Ambaram, West - Land Of Mahajan, North - Self Land, South - Road	10/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002395 Ms. CHANDA BAI Mr. TRIPAL SINGH	12-10-2025 Rs. 546502/-	PHN 118 Plot No 100 101 102 103 Village Limboda Tarana Tehsil Tarana Dist Ujjain - 456665	09/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002060 Mr. Hokam Singh Mrs. Sajan Bai	12-10-2025 Rs. 1275124/-	House No. 66/1 Constructed Area Ground Floor 2800 Sq.ft. or 260.223 Sq.mtr. Residential Area, Situated At Village Lasudiy Bhamam, Tehsil Narsinghgarh, District Raigarh, (M.P.) 456667 Admeasuring Area - Total Area - 2800 Sqft Or 260.223 Sq.Mtr. Boundaries As - East: Self Land, West: House of Laxhan Lal, North: Road, South - Road	10/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002034 Ms. Krishna Bai Mr. Hindu Singh	12-10-2025 Rs. 1024971/-	Plot/House No. 70, P.H. No. 51, Gram Karedi, Tehsil Tarana Distt. Ujjain (M. P.) Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456770	11/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002153 Mr. Sanjay Ansal Mrs. Pooja W/o Sanjay	12-10-2025 Rs. 917269/-	Situated at PH. No. 18, Village Khambukhedhi Tehsil Tarana, Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456665	10/06/2026 Physical
MP/GUN/GUNA/A000000366 Mr. BALWAN SINGH SONDHYA Mrs. MOUSAM BAI	30-12-2024 Rs. 18,14,506/-	Survey No. 24/9, Mouja Khandi, Ward No. 02, Shivaji Ward, Ph. No. 20 New 60, Suthaliya Mahu, Tehsil Suthaliya, Dist. Raigarh, MP, India, 465677. Total Area 2640 Sq Ft. Boundaries of property - East - Donor's Land, West - NH 42 From the middle of the road, Suthaliya to Biaora main Road, North - House of Himmat Singh, South - Donor's House.	04/06/2026 Physical
MP/BPL/SEHO/A000000266 Mr. Ajad Singh Mrs. Sunita Bai	13-10-2025 Rs. 7,82,349/-	House No. 66/1 Constructed Area Ground Floor 2800 Sq.ft. or 260.223 Sq.mtr. Residential Area, Situated At Village Lasudiy Bhamam, Tehsil Narsinghgarh, District Raigarh, (M.P.) 456667 Admeasuring Area - Total Area - 2800 Sqft Or 260.223 Sq.Mtr. Boundaries As - East: Self Land, West: House of Laxhan Lal, North: Road, South - Road	08/06/2026 Physical
MP/BPL/BOPL/A000001149 Mr. BHAGVAN SINGH Mrs. LALTA MALVIYA	05-07-2025 Rs. 5,94,617/-	Kurawar, Rani Laxmi Bai Ward, PHN 103, Khasra No. 556 Kurawar Kaipalpal road, Near Hanuman Temple, Narsinghgarh, Madhya Pradesh, 465667 Total Area - 496 Sqft Boundaries As - East : Road, West: House Of Sunil Chandravanshi, North: House Of Ramesh South: House Of Raju Chandravanshi	08/06/2026 Physical
MP/HBD/SHGR/A000000006 Mr. RAVI KUSHWAHA Mrs. LATA BAI Mrs. LAXMI BAI	24-02-2025 Rs. 5,02,013/-	Ithara No. 109/1, 144/1, Mouja Village Ajneri, Patwari Halka No.57, Tehsil Sohagpur, District Narmadapuram (M.P), India, 461775 Total Area - 1200 Sq.Ft. Or 111.52 Sq.Mtr. Boundaries Of Property :- East: House Of Visnu, West: House Of Laxhan, North: Road, South: House Of Hiralal	09/06/2026 Physical
MP/KTN/SHDL/A000000277 Mr. SHANKAR LAL RAJAK Mrs. REKHA RAJAK	25-02-2025 Rs. 29,70,720/-	Chourai Road Amarwada, Ward 15, Ambedkar Ward, Khasra No. 182/51, Chourai Road Amarwada, Behind Old Krishna Mandi, Chhindwara, Madhya Pradesh, 480221 Total Area - 525 Sq.Ft. Boundaries as Per Saad Deed - East - House Of Kamala Choubey, West - House Of Laxhan, North - House Of Laxhan, South - 10 feet CC Road	05/06/2026 Physical
MP/KTN/SHDL/A000000221 Mr. Vinay Bhushan Singh Baghel Mr. Daulat Singh Baghel Mr. Prachi Singh Baghel	09-05-2025 Rs. 16,72,168/-	Khasra No 311/2, Mouza Ghangri, Tehsil Bandhavgarh, Dist Umariya M.P. Near Water Tank, Urban, Umaria, Madhya Pradesh, India - 484661 Total Area =2400 Sq.ft. Boundaries Of Property :- East - House Of Aadhar Singh, West - Road, North - Road, South - Land of Lalan Singh	05/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/RTLM/A000001313 Mr. Kamal Das Mrs. Manorama Bai	12/12/2025 Rs. 992688/-	House No 104, Patwari Halka No 108, Gram Maswadiya Khalsa, Near By Govt School, Badnagar, Rural, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, India - 456771, Total Area 600 Sq.ft / 55.76 Sq.mtr. Sq.ft. Boundaries As - East - Road, West - House of Devkanya Bai, North - Road, South - House of Kailash Ji	04/06/2026 Physical
MP/MAN/MASR/A000000541 Mr. Rajdeep Valiyan Mrs. Koushalya Bai Valiyaan Mr. Pradhumn Valiyan	16-08-2025 Rs. 767872/-	House Panji No 12, PH.No 23, Gram Baguniya, Near By Ram Mandir, A lot, Madhya Pradesh, 457118 Rural, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh, India - 465411. Total Area= 900 Sq.Ft. (83.64 Sq.Mtr). Boundaries - East - Nepal Singh - Karan Singh, West - Govt. Open Ground, North - Road, South - Road	10/06/2026 Physical
MP/MAN/MASR/A000001269 Mr. Shankarlal Sharma Mrs. Gattula Bai Sharma	16-08-2025 Rs. 1031101/-	House No 161, PH.No 39, land survey no. 420 (B), Gram Guradiya, Near by Ram Mandir, A lot, Madhya Pradesh, 457114 Total Area = 2170 Square Feet or 201.67 Square Meter Boundaries - East - Common Street, West - House Of Suresh Singh Bheru Singh, North - Common Road, South - House Of Dilip Singh Ranjit Singh	10/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002399 Mr. Laxhan Singh Mrs. Sangita Bai Mr. Hakam Singh Rajput	18/08/2025 Rs. 867814/-	House No. 69 & 70, Survey No. 51, Gram Lapakhedi, Panchayat Randhorgarh Th Agar, Dist. Agar Malwa M.P., Rural, Agar, Madhya Pradesh, India - 465441	10/06/2026 Physical
MP/UJJ/AGAR/A000000193 Mr. Radheshyam Malviya Mrs. Nirmala Bai	11-09-2025 Rs. 6,95,056/-	Property is Situated, survey No 1180/4, NA, Devil Road, Gram Awar, Devil Road, Agar Malwa, Madhya Pradesh, 465441, Ward No 05, Main Road Se Ram Mandir, Rural, Agar Malwa, Madhya Pradesh, India - 465441 Admeasuring Area - Total Area 600.00 Sq.ft.(55.76 Sq.mtr) Boundaries As - East: Rastra Vikreta Dwara Pradutt 15 Ft. West: Plot of Sunil, North: Bhumi Swami, South: Plot of Ghanshyam Ji	08/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/UJJN/A000002113 Mr. LAKHAN SINGH SOLANKI Mrs. SHARDA KUVAR	12-10-2025 Rs. 803815/-	Survey No 412/1, Gram Lingoda, Anganwadi, AGAR, Madhya Pradesh, 465441	09/06/2026 Physical
MP/IDR/INDR/A000001294 Mr. GULAB SINGH Mrs. KRISHNA BAI	14-05-2025 Rs. 1295343/-	Property Is Situated At, Gram Mirpurkhedi, PH.No. 52, ( Saral No. 2341), Tehsil Sonkatch, Dist- Dewas, Madhya Pradesh, India - 455118 Total Area - 278.81 Sq.mt Bound As - East - Road, West - House Of Bhanwar Singh, North - Road, South - Plot Of Karan Singh	12/06/2026 Physical

Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) are hereby put to caution that the property may be sold at any time herein after by way of public auction/tenders and as such this may also be treated as a notice under Rule 6, 8 & 9 of Security (Interest) Enforcement Rules, 2002. Authorised Officer Mobile No. - Vaibhav Shrivastava - 7987969803, Rajesh Chakoliya (RRM) - 84355 71111, Sachin Bhalekar (ZRM) - 8779984037, Dharamveer Yadav - 8269420174, Pankaj Joshi - 9644523578, Sameer Singh - 95842 90575, Ajay Bhatiya - 78986 07955, Pushpendra Tomar - 99938 22666, Pushpendra Soni - 70006 24484, Gourav Naik - 7587748188, Divyank Shrivastava - 831 822 5992, Sameer Singh - 95842 90575, Shivam Sharma - 7509998827, Saurabh Krishna - 70603 95936, Devanshu Tripathi - 84456 34447, Ankit Parmar - 89892 40866

Date: 13.06.2026 Authorised Officer, Hinduja Housing Finance Limited



## Williamson announces retirement from international cricket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Christchurch/London

One of the finest batters of his time and the face of New Zealand cricket's most successful era, Kane Williamson announced his retirement from international cricket on Friday, ending a distinguished career marked by consistency, impeccable temperament

and exemplary leadership. Arguably New Zealand's greatest ever batter, Williamson's announcement pulls the curtain down on a glorious 16-year international career that has seen him play 378 games for his country, setting countless batting records and earning the respect and admiration of the cricketing world. His deci-

sion follows an earlier call to step away from T20 Internationals in 2025. "I've thought about it for a while, but over the last few days it's become clear now is the right time. I've always felt a strong drive and hunger for international cricket, and I take pride in knowing I've given it my all in every match I've played for New Zealand,"



Williamson said in a statement issued by New Zealand Cricket. "Continuing with

anything less wouldn't be right, and I feel fortunate to step away on my own terms," he added. The 35-year-old finishes as New Zealand's all-time leading international run-scorer across all formats with 19,346 runs, including over 9500 runs in Test cricket with 33 centuries and six double tons. Across formats, he

slammed 48 centuries and six double-centuries. Under his leadership, the Black Caps made two ICC World Cup Finals, three semi-finals, and won the inaugural World Test Championship in 2021. His personal accolades include being named the ICC Cricketer of the Year for 2015 and the Test player of the Year for 2019. Williamson

is currently in England for an ongoing Test series, and the Kiwis lost the opening match by 115 runs. Williamson could not make much of an impact in the game, logging scores of 0 and 18. Asked why he chose to step aside at this point, Williamson said it's been a "process". "...it sort of dawned on me in the last few days that it felt like the time was

right for me to step away... "The other side of that is I see a group, a really, really talented group that have that journey ahead of them that are totally invested in wanting to do some special things with this New Zealand cricket team that I've been incredibly fortunate to have been a part of for such a long period of time.

### AXIS BANK LIMITED

#### Public Notice for - Auction of Pledged assets being Gold Ornaments

The Borrowers, in specific and the public in general are here buy notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledge in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted by the Axis Bank at the below mentioned Branch. That the below mentioned Borrowers has availed the credit facility from the Axis Bank Limited against the pledge of gold ornaments ("Gold Loan Facility") in favour of the Bank towards the security. The Demand notices were issued to the Borrowers/ Guarantors calling up the Borrowers/ Guarantors to pay their outstanding amount towards the Gold loan facility availed. As the Borrowers/ Guarantors have failed to repay the outstanding loan amount, the bank is constrained to invoke the pledge and proposed to conduct an auction sale of pledged gold ornaments more particularly described in schedule of property hereunder on **13-07-2026 at 11:00 AM on "As In Where Is", "As Is What Is", "Whatever There Is" and "No Recourse Basis"**. Auction will be held at Details of Borrowers and outstanding amount

Customer Name	Loan A/c No.	Outstanding Amount (₹)	Date of Recall Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
<b>Branch Name:- AIRPORT ROAD, INDORE (M.P.)</b>					
Sushil Koshal	XXXXXXXXXXXX1518	103494	07-05-2026	14.600	14.000
<b>Branch Name:- ANJAD, BARWANI (M.P.)</b>					
Bhagvanti Kumari	XXXXXXXXXXXX3838	109733	10-01-2026	23.800	18.000
<b>Branch Name:- ANNAPORNA, INDORE (M.P.)</b>					
Aashi Chouhan	XXXXXXXXXXXX3751	356922	07-05-2026	53.700	52.400
Sandeep Vyas	XXXXXXXXXXXX1637	42484	16-02-2026	8.800	8.600
Swaroop Singh Rahor	XXXXXXXXXXXX7435	215787	02-04-2026	26.200	25.800
<b>Branch Name:- ANUPUR (M.P.)</b>					
Raj Kumar	XXXXXXXXXXXX2106	82834	07-05-2026	16.100	15.300
Surendra Prasad Mishra	XXXXXXXXXXXX0529	180051	02-04-2026	42.900	40.600
<b>Branch Name:- ASHOK NAGAR (M.P.)</b>					
Lakhan Jatav	XXXXXXXXXXXX1046	1936288	02-04-2026	193.800	189.200
Mukesh Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX1560	228429	07-05-2026	27.700	25.500
<b>Branch Name:- ASHTA (M.P.)</b>					
Chand R Kala	XXXXXXXXXXXX5782	129973	02-04-2026	14.100	13.100
<b>Branch Name:- BAGDONA (M.P.)</b>					
Paras Athnere	XXXXXXXXXXXX0028	102715	07-05-2026	13.700	13.500
<b>Branch Name:- BAIRGARH, BHOPAL (M.P.)</b>					
Sachin Mewada	XXXXXXXXXXXX4278	183541	07-05-2026	22.800	22.600
<b>Branch Name:- BALAGHAT (M.P.)</b>					
Chandrakishor Patle	XXXXXXXXXXXX4651	561033	07-05-2026	60.100	57.600
Pankaj Patle	XXXXXXXXXXXX6150	204838	02-04-2026	42.100	41.600
<b>Branch Name:- BALAJI (M.P.)</b>					
Indrabhan Singh Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX6365	208722	02-04-2026	29.800	29.000
Indrabhan Singh Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX5343	53217	07-05-2026	8.300	7.800
Pawan Dhakad	XXXXXXXXXXXX6297	109719	07-05-2026	11.300	11.000
Prashant Kumar Sharma	XXXXXXXXXXXX6387	120822	02-04-2026	13.600	13.000
Rahul Sen	XXXXXXXXXXXX9355	117514	13-04-2026	14.800	14.000
<b>Branch Name:- GURADIYA MUNDA (M.P.)</b>					
Shokat Khan	XXXXXXXXXXXX6328	249975	02-04-2026	37.300	30.300
<b>Branch Name:- GWALIOR (M.P.)</b>					
Anoop Kumar Sharma	XXXXXXXXXXXX1241	2789173	07-05-2026	487.100	461.200
Anoop Kumar Sharma	XXXXXXXXXXXX6642	1217726	07-05-2026	119.300	115.000
Avdhesh	XXXXXXXXXXXX3929	154118	07-05-2026	18.700	17.800
Jagdeesh Singh	XXXXXXXXXXXX7730	292221	09-03-2026	50.800	49.300
Shabnam	XXXXXXXXXXXX4205	104828	07-05-2026	19.600	17.200
<b>Branch Name:- HANSA KHEDI SANWER (M.P.)</b>					
Rajesh Choukse	XXXXXXXXXXXX8903	116760	07-05-2026	11.500	11.200
Rani Bai	XXXXXXXXXXXX8942	217499	07-05-2026	33.300	32.550
<b>Branch Name:- HARDA (M.P.)</b>					
Deepak Sharma	XXXXXXXXXXXX0932	77588	02-04-2026	13.500	12.800
<b>Branch Name:- HOSHANGABAD (M.P.)</b>					
Manisha Rathore	XXXXXXXXXXXX2957	167077	18-05-2026	18.900	18.400
<b>Branch Name:- INDORE (M.P.)</b>					
Krishna Devi Raguvanshi	XXXXXXXXXXXX5913	1045306	02-04-2026	145.000	143.000
<b>Branch Name:- ITARSI (M.P.)</b>					
Hemlata Jain	XXXXXXXXXXXX4479	1738569	07-05-2026	455.880	423.080
<b>Branch Name:- ITWARIA BAZAR RAJWADA, INDORE (M.P.)</b>					
Sahil Qureshi	XXXXXXXXXXXX9912	212990	09-03-2026	26.100	25.200
<b>Branch Name:- JABALPUR (M.P.)</b>					
Amrin Kadri	XXXXXXXXXXXX5260	386374	09-02-2026	52.200	50.200
<b>Branch Name:- JHABUA (M.P.)</b>					
Babita Bhuriya	XXXXXXXXXXXX9558	125749	02-04-2026	13.200	12.400
Bhola Rathod	XXXXXXXXXXXX8196	250089	02-04-2026	24.600	24.000
Ramsingh Chouhan	XXXXXXXXXXXX8144	490986	02-04-2026	89.500	88.000
Sharma Hatila	XXXXXXXXXXXX8139	592913	07-05-2026	112.200	92.100
<b>Branch Name:- KALAPAL (M.P.)</b>					
Paras Kumar Lohapit	XXXXXXXXXXXX4050	333452	19-03-2026	40.500	40.000
Santosh Kumar Meena	XXXXXXXXXXXX9412	58944	07-05-2026	9.990	9.590
<b>Branch Name:- KANTHAL, UJJAIN (M.P.)</b>					
Ashutosh Patidar	XXXXXXXXXXXX2727	176251	07-05-2026	32.900	27.000
Kuldeep Malviya	XXXXXXXXXXXX9949	71722	02-04-2026	8.000	7.800
Nilesh Kumar Heda	XXXXXXXXXXXX9215	820125	02-04-2026	97.900	82.500
Nitikes	XXXXXXXXXXXX8744	72697	02-05-2026	15.700	10.700
<b>Branch Name:- KARELI C2841 (M.P.)</b>					
Abhishek Patwa	XXXXXXXXXXXX3985	66493	07-05-2026	10.000	9.500
Vijay Malveeya	XXXXXXXXXXXX8094	83794	07-05-2026	9.500	9.150
<b>Branch Name:- KAROND BHOPAL (M.P.)</b>					
Utkarsh Gare	XXXXXXXXXXXX6933	139906	13-04-2026	15.300	14.700
<b>Branch Name:- KATNI (M.P.)</b>					
Akhilesh Kumar	XXXXXXXXXXXX8372	52528	18-05-2026	6.800	6.600
<b>Branch Name:- KAYRA (M.P.)</b>					
Aashik Husen Mansuri	XXXXXXXXXXXX4551	171856	07-05-2026	22.800	20.600
Dinesh Kumar Patidar	XXXXXXXXXXXX8189	122667	18-05-2026	20.400	20.000
<b>Branch Name:- KHACHROD (M.P.)</b>					
Omprakash Panchal	XXXXXXXXXXXX8564	83678	07-05-2026	10.900	10.400
<b>Branch Name:- KHANDWA (M.P.)</b>					
Arvind Tirole	XXXXXXXXXXXX6862	114858	13-04-2026	19.300	15.300
<b>Branch Name:- KHARGONE (M.P.)</b>					
Manju Waskle	XXXXXXXXXXXX1433	67410	07-05-2026	17.900	15.900
Nitesh Rathod	XXXXXXXXXXXX1529	248205	02-04-2026	27.600	27.100
Raju Gangle	XXXXXXXXXXXX2467	133229	02-04-2026	27.600	27.400
<b>Branch Name:- KOLARAS SHIVPURI (M.P.)</b>					
Pooja Dhakad	XXXXXXXXXXXX1990	375288	02-04-2026	60.500	55.100
<b>Branch Name:- KOTMA (M.P.)</b>					
Amit Kumar Singh	XXXXXXXXXXXX6022	139351	10-01-2026	26.700	26.000
Asha Devi	XXXXXXXXXXXX4726	504100	09-03-2026	62.200	66.400
Deepak Nishad	XXXXXXXXXXXX4489	181000	02-04-2026	26.600	26.500
Dileep Soni	XXXXXXXXXXXX7868	151887	19-12-2025	21.200	20.900
<b>Branch Name:- LAHAR C2868 (M.P.)</b>					
Abhishek Singh	XXXXXXXXXXXX5665	290375	07-05-2026	46.400	39.200
Anil Rajawat	XXXXXXXXXXXX0692	105931	07-05-2026	21.600	18.900

Customer Name	Loan A/c No.	Outstanding Amount (₹)	Date of Recall Notice	Gross Weight	Net Weight
<b>Branch Name:- DAMOHNAKA, JABALPUR (M.P.)</b>					
Akeel Khan	XXXXXXXXXXXX9388	356204	13-04-2026	58.200	57.300
Rafeek Mansoori	XXXXXXXXXXXX9362	87084	02-04-2026	11.500	11.100
Shivam Sadhwani	XXXXXXXXXXXX6146	217956	07-05-2026	69.800	69.000
Sonu Patel	XXXXXXXXXXXX2636	166271	07-05-2026	29.700	27.700
<b>Branch Name:- DATIA (M.P.)</b>					
Deepa Pal	XXXXXXXXXXXX1665	84924	07-05-2026	9.900	9.400
Jitendra Ahrirwar	XXXXXXXXXXXX8490	844408	07-05-2026	103.600	97.600
Manish Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX6273	566796	07-05-2026	71.100	60.400
Pooja Rajput	XXXXXXXXXXXX8409	697229	07-05-2026	20.000	14.100
Sanjay Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX6107	78185	18-05-2026	15.900	13.900
<b>Branch Name:- DEEN DAYAL NAGAR, GWALIOR (M.P.)</b>					
Sabana	XXXXXXXXXXXX3741	52948	07-05-2026	6.500	6.000
<b>Branch Name:- DEWAS (M.P.)</b>					
Atul Patel	XXXXXXXXXXXX8872	622642	18-05-2026	90.000	87.500
Pooja Sisodiya	XXXXXXXXXXXX6177	57957	07-05-2026	7.400	6.200
<b>Branch Name:- DONGAR PARSIA CHHINDWARA (M.P.)</b>					
Chandan Dubey	XXXXXXXXXXXX1993	121657	02-04-2026	16.700	15.300
Kalpna Vishwakarma	XXXXXXXXXXXX6037	296487	09-02-2026	44.600	43.500
Mateesh Prajapati	XXXXXXXXXXXX6210	105906	07-05-2026	13.300	12.800
Prem Kumar Dhurve	XXXXXXXXXXXX5851	37601	07-05-2026	7.600	7.200
Sadiya Khan	XXXXXXXXXXXX4634	1175415	07-05-2026	153.600	149.200
Tousif Siddique	XXXXXXXXXXXX8007	287497	07-05-2026	29.400	27.900
<b>Branch Name:- GAWLI PALASIA (M.P.)</b>					
Dipu	XXXXXXXXXXXX0869	290069	02-04-2026	55.100	54.200
Islamuddeen	XXXXXXXXXXXX4350	219970	07-05-2026	46.700	46.300
Naziya Mehar	XXXXXXXXXXXX2926	204232	09-02-2026	30.600	30.000
Shivam	XXXXXXXXXXXX1935	101939	18-05-2026	18.900	18.000
<b>Branch Name:- GULMOHAR, BHOPAL (M.P.)</b>					
Satish Malaviy	XXXXXXXXXXXX6976	42526	07-05-2026	20.200	16.900
Vivek Kumar Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX6104	51068	02-04-2026	9.200	8.900
<b>Branch Name:- GUNA (M.P.)</b>					
Indrabhan Singh Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX6365	208722	02-04-2026	29.800	29.000
Indrabhan Singh Yadav	XXXXXXXXXXXX5343	53217	07-05-2026	8.300	7.800
Pawan Dhakad	XXXXXXXXXXXX6297	109719	07-05-2026	11.300	11.000
Prashant Kumar Sharma	XXXXXXXXXXXX6387	120822	02-04-2026	13.600	13.000
Rahul Sen	XXXXXXXXXXXX9355	117514	13-04-2026	14.800	14.000
<b>Branch Name:- GURADIYA MUNDA (M.P.)</b>					
Shokat Khan	XXXXXXXXXXXX6328	249975	02-04-2026	37.300	30.300
<b>Branch Name:- GWALIOR (M.P.)</b>					
Anoop Kumar Sharma	XXXXXXXXXXXX1241	2789173	07-05-2026	487.100	461.200
Anoop Kumar Sharma	XXXXXXXXXXXX6642	1217726	07-05-2026	119.300	115.000
Avdhesh	XXXXXXXXXXXX3929	154118	07-05-2026	18.700	17.800
Jagdeesh Singh	XXXXXXXXXXXX7730	292221	09-03-2026	50.800	49.300
Shabnam	XXXXXXXXXXXX4205	104828	07-05-2026	19.600	17.200
<b>Branch Name:- HANSA KHEDI SANWER (M.P.)</b>					
Rajesh Choukse	XXXXXXXXXXXX8903	116760	07-05-2026	11.500	11.200
Rani Bai	XXXXXXXXXXXX8942	217499	07-05-2026	33.300	32.550
<b>Branch Name:- HARDA (M.P.)</b>					
Deepak Sharma	XXXXXXXXXXXX0932	77588	02-04-2026	13.500	12.800
<b>Branch Name:- HOSHANGABAD (M.P.)</b>					
Manisha Rathore	XXXXXXXXXXXX2957	167077	18-05-2026	18.900	18.400
<b>Branch Name:- INDORE (M.P.)</b>					
Krishna Devi Raguvanshi	XXXXXXXXXXXX5913	1045306	02-04-2026	145.000	143.000
<b>Branch Name:- ITARSI (M.P.)</b>					
Hemlata Jain	XXXXXXXXXXXX4479	1738569	07-05-2026	455.880	423.080
<b>Branch Name:- ITWARIA BAZAR RAJWADA, INDORE (M.P.)</b>					
Sahil Qureshi	XXXXXXXXXXXX9912	212990	09-03-2026	26.100	25.200
<b>Branch Name:- JABALPUR (M.P.)</b>					
Amrin Kadri	XXXXXXXXXXXX5260	386374	09-02-2026	52.200	50.200
<b>Branch Name:- JHABUA (M.P.)</b>					
Babita Bhuriya	XXXXXXXXXXXX9558	125749	02-04-2026	13.200	12.400
Bhola Rathod	XXXXXXXXXXXX8196	250089	02-04-2026	24.600	24.000
Ramsingh Chouhan	XXXXXXXXXXXX8144	490986	02-04-2026	89.500	88.000
Sharma Hatila	XXXXXXXXXXXX8139	592913	07-05-2026	112.200	92.100
<b>Branch Name:- KALAPAL (M.P.)</b>					
Paras Kumar Lohapit	XXXXXXXXXXXX4050	333452	19-03-2026	40.500	40.000
Santosh Kumar Meena	XXXXXXXXXXXX9412	58944	07-05-2026	9.990	9.590
<b>Branch Name:- KANTHAL, UJJAIN (M.P.)</b>					
Ashutosh Patidar	XXXXXXXXXXXX2727	176251	07-05-2026	32.900	27.000
Kuldeep Malviya	XXXXXXXXXXXX99				