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EXPRESS investigation

Police camera 'caught' murder, rape accused at Jantar Mantar protest — at least 25 of them were in jail, records show

Delhi Police assures SC no action without verification. Scrutiny of records of 205 accused of serious charges reveals why this verification is crucial



Facial Recognition System (FRS) in a Delhi Police van parked near the Jantar Mantar protest site in July-end. ABHINAV SAHA

Mahender Singh Manral
New Delhi, September 3

ON TUESDAY, when the Supreme Court quashed all FIRs related to the exam leak protests by students, it let the Government proceed against the 2,873 people who the Delhi Police claimed had criminal records and were identified by its facial recognition software at the main protest site in Jantar Mantar between July 20 and 26. For their part, the police have made it clear that any action

will be taken only after "field verification", not merely on facial recognition.

Their task is cut out. An investigation of those with serious charges, murder, attempted murder and rape, and child abuse, shows that at least 25 people on the list, identified by the Facial Recognition System (FRS) at Jantar Mantar, were in jail as per police, jail and court records.

Of the 2,873 people identified in the police affidavit (see chart), *The Indian Express* focused on

• 'Criminals' spotted: Delhi Police to SC

Offence	No. of accused
Murder	101
Attempt to murder	62
Dacoity/ robbery	284
Rape	61
POCSO Act	06
Molestation of women	25
Arms Act	229
Snatching	135
Kidnapping	19
NDPS (drugs cases)	67
Other IPC/BNS and special laws	1884
TOTAL	2873

those who were accused of murder, attempt to murder and rape. This accounted for 205: 101 (murder), 61 (rape), six (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act) and 37 of the 62 listed in the affidavit under attempt to murder.

In this group of 205, 17 facing charges of murder; four of rape, including two in POCSO cases; and four more of attempt to murder were lodged in Delhi's three prison complexes at Tihar, Mandoli and

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SEVEN FOREIGNERS WERE ARRESTED IN MARCH

NIA links Ukraine, US nationals to drone attack on plane in Myanmar

Credible information men were engaged in drone warfare training: Probe agency

Nirbhay Thakur
New Delhi, September 3

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) has told a Delhi court that the seven foreign nationals who were arrested this March for allegedly conspiring to carry out terrorist activities against India were involved in a drone attack on a civilian aircraft in neighbouring Myanmar.



US national Matthew Aaron Van Dyke is lodged in Tihar jail. MATTHEW VANDYKE.COM

In Punjab, the baaz, a rare hawk and state bird, creates a flutter in poll ring

Divya Goyal Gopal
Ludhiana, September 3

AS PER official records, Punjab has mounted two separate efforts, seven years apart (2018 and 2025), to try and locate its State Bird — the 'Northern Goshawk' — within its boundaries, with no success.

Now, ahead of the hotly contested Punjab Assembly elections, the bird has been "spotted" — flying somewhere near both Shiromani Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal and Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Bhagwant Mann.

The venerable status of Northern Goshawk in Punjab,



The Northern Goshawk. VIKRAM JIT SINGH

and its designation as State Bird, flow from the belief that the majestic black and white hawk is

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The foreigners — six Ukrainians and an American — are currently in Tihar Jail. On August 31, Special Judge Prashant Sharma allowed the NIA's application seeking permission to interrogate two of the men in prison.

"...The Central Government has received credible information indicating the involvement of certain Ukrainian and US Nationals in a drone attack on a civilian aircraft in Myanmar," the NIA said in the application to the court dated August 19.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Happening today

• VICE PRESIDENT C P Radhakrishnan will inaugurate various facilities at Panjab University in Chandigarh, including the Tech Innovation Forum.

Business as Usual

By EP UNNY



BILATERAL VISIT TO UKRAINE

Not buying Russia oil will not stop war: Jaishankar

Underlines need for dialogue, diplomacy, says India ready to help in any manner

Shubhajt Roy
New Delhi, September 3

DAYS AFTER Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to move from "endless war" to "end of war", External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in Kyiv on Thursday that stopping purchase of Russian oil will not "dissolve" the conflict, and underlined the need for "dialogue and diplomacy". He said India was ready to "help in any manner" to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

Demonstrating a diplomatic balancing act, Jaishankar's bilateral visit to Ukraine comes at a time when Modi is meeting Putin twice within weeks — on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) leaders' summit in Bishkek on August 31, and at the BRICS summit in New Delhi on September 12-13.

Besides meeting his Ukrainian counterpart Andrii Sybiha, Jaishankar also called on Ukraine's President Volodymyr



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, Thursday. ANI

Zelenskyy on Thursday. Sybiha welcomed Modi's call to move "towards an end to the war", and said Ukraine "stands ready for diplomacy". In a post on X, Zelenskyy thanked India for its "commitment to ending this unjust war".

Responding to a question at a media briefing after his meeting with Sybiha, Jaishankar

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Police camera ‘caught’ murder, rape accused at Jantar Mantar protest

Rohini when the FRS flagged them at Jantar Mantar, records show.

These 25 individuals included three identified by the FRS on July 24, 21 on July 25, and one on July 26, the last day of the protest at Jantar Mantar.

Responding on Monday to a questionnaire from *The Indian Express*, the Delhi Police said: “During the protests, 2873 individuals identified as prima facie having criminal antecedents were spotted. However, further verification in this regard is pending.”

According to the police affidavit submitted on August 17, its FRS identified individuals with criminal records at the protest site whose “particulars matched with existing records available in official police databases”. It said that 2,402 people were identified by the Delhi Police’s biometric database, Crime Kundli, and 471 through criminal records.

Murder

Of the 205 verified by *The Indian Express*, the 17 shown in jail on charges of murder during the protest are:

1. Kishan (26), identified by FRS around 6.36 pm, July 24: Arrested from North-East Delhi’s Karawal Nagar, also faces cases of armed robbery. He was first sent to jail on July 9, 2022, and jailed again on October 17, 2023.

2. Mustaq (29), identified around 6.31 pm, July 24: Arrested from North-East Delhi’s Gokul Puri, also faces cases of snatching and attempt to murder. First jailed on January 1, 2024; again on June 23, 2026.

3. Ankit Kumar (22), identified around 5.58 pm, July 24: Arrested from North Delhi’s Wazirabad. First jailed on November 11, 2022; again on June 24 this year.

4. Yogesh (27), identified around 4.24 pm, July 25: Arrested from South Delhi. First jailed on November 17, 2024; again on November 29, 2024.

5. Pratap Singh Sisodia (31), identified around 3.35 pm, July 25: Arrested along with an associate from East Delhi’s Gandhi Nagar area. First jailed on November 28, 2014; jailed multiple times later, shifted from Mandoli to Tihar on August 5, 2026.

6. Arjun (28), identified around 1.48 pm, July 25: Arrested from West Delhi’s Punjabi Bagh area. First jailed on March 10, 2021; again on March 9, 2023.

7. Sonu Kumar (34), identified around 8.39 pm, July 25: Arrested from South-East Delhi’s Okhla Industrial area. First jailed on January 30, 2020; again on October 27, 2025.

8. Vijay (26), identified around 11.40 pm, July 25: Arrested from North-West Delhi’s Shalimar Bagh area. First jailed on August 29, 2024; again on January 19, 2026.

9. Rakesh (42), identified around 1.30 pm, July 25: Arrested from North-West Delhi, also faces cases of robbery, snatching, theft and offences under the Excise Act. First jailed on December 7, 2008; again on February 18, 2024.

10. Bhola alias Shyam Kumar (32), identified around 4.58 pm, July 25: Arrested from North-West Delhi, also faces cases of snatching and burglary. First jailed on April 26, 2015; again on March 29, 2025.

11. Raja (27), identified

around 2.22 pm, July 25: Arrested from North Delhi’s Sabzi Mandi. First jailed on September 1, 2020; again on July 1, 2024.

12. Vicky alias Manoj Thakur (34), identified around 11.12 pm, July 25: Arrested from North Delhi’s Kotwali area. First jailed on January 2, 2015; again on May 7, 2016.

13. Mohd Faraz (23), identified around 2.59 pm, July 25: Arrested from North Delhi’s Wazirabad, faces a separate robbery case. First jailed on January 20, 2022; again on October 9, 2024.

14. Manish (28), identified around 4.25 pm, July 25: Arrested from Central Delhi’s Ranjit Nagar area. First jailed on April 24, 2023; again on October 23, 2024.

15. Dharmender Yadav (37), identified around 1.20 pm, July 25: Arrested in a murder case from Delhi’s Dwarka area, also faces cases of theft and attempt to murder. First jailed on July 22, 2016; again on May 14, 2026.

16. Sonu (29), identified around 3.44 pm, July 25: Arrested from G T B Enclave in Shahdara district, also faces

cases of robbery. First jailed on February 11, 2018; again on April 26, 2022.

17. Royal Massy (25), identified around 5.45 pm, July 26: Arrested from South Delhi’s Tigri area. First jailed on August 20, 2021; again on April 4, 2023.

At least one of these cases is linked to a high-profile killing in the capital. Yogesh alias Raju was arrested for his alleged role in the murder of gym owner Nadir Shah in South Delhi’s upscale Greater Kailash-1. According to records, he was a sharpshooter for the syndicates of gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Hashim Baba, and was arrested after an exchange of fire during which he sustained a bullet injury to his left leg.

Rape

The four rape accused, including three held under POCSO Act, are:

1. Ankit alias Mogli (34), identified around 3.28 pm, July 25: Arrested in 2022 from West Delhi’s Tilak Nagar area. First jailed on February 15, 2022; again in Tihar on July 16, 2024.

2. Sunil Kumar (26), identified around 4.04 pm, July 25: Arrested from South Delhi under POCSO Act. First jailed on October 15, 2021; again on August 30, 2025.

3. Heera Singh, identified around 3.31 pm, July 25: Arrested from North-East Delhi under POCSO Act. He has been in jail since July 11, 2023.

4. Kundan, identified around 11.48 pm, July 25: Arrested from North-East Delhi under POCSO Act. First jailed on March 30, 2024; again on May 29, 2024.

Attempt to murder

The four linked to attempt to murder cases are:

1. Mahesh (33), identified around 3.34 pm, July 25: Arrested from North Delhi’s Kotwali. First jailed on May 23, 2022; again on April 29, 2024.

2. Bobby (24), identified around 4.23 pm, July 25: Arrested from South Delhi’s Sangam Vihar area, also faces case of robbery. First jailed on May 3, 2021; again on February 21, 2024.

3. Jishan Ahmad Idrishi (25), identified around 4.55 pm,

July 25: Arrested from South-West Delhi’s Sagarpur area, also faces case of snatching. First jailed on February 17, 2020; again on March 19, 2026.

4. Annu Gilodia alias Pahalwal (27), identified around 3.13 pm, July 25: Arrested from South-West Delhi’s Kishan Garh. First jailed on October 23, 2021; again on March 25, 2022.

‘No action solely on FRS’

The Delhi Police’s facial recognition software places boxes around detected faces and compares them with images in police databases. In response to a Right to Information (RTI) request in 2022, the police had revealed that it considered a match to be “positive” if its system showed an accuracy rate of 80 per cent. The result is not, by itself, proof of identity. Performance varies with the algorithm, camera angle, lighting, image quality, masks, and the database being searched.

The Delhi Police’s affidavit in the Supreme Court was in response to petitions being heard alleging excessive force and use of surveillance at the students’ protest in Jantar Mantar.

District-wise, the data shows that Delhi’s North re-

corded the highest number of identified persons at 285, followed by Outer (257), North West (256), North East (174), East (173), and South West (166). Other districts and units listed included Railways, Shahdara, Central, South-East, West, Dwarka, South, Rohini, New Delhi, Crime Branch, IGI Airport, Metro and Special Cell.

However, the affidavit does not specify whether those identified were accused, convicts, or merely named in criminal cases.

According to the affidavit “the face and other material of only those accused would be available in the police record who are facing serious offences and not petty offences like traffic challans/ violations of fences, etc.”

It also said: “No actions are taken solely based upon the result of the facial recognition system which is only the first step to identify a person in the crowd who has a criminal record. After the said face is recognised, there is a field verification done with respect to the individual concerned since that person’s details are already in the police records and if, on field verification, it is found that he was, in fact, present at the site, actions are taken.”

In Punjab, the baaz, a rare hawk and state bird, creates a flutter in poll ring

the avian species that features in depictions of Guru Gobind Singh. Due to this, the Tenth Guru is often referred to as *Ba-janvala*, or the Master of the Hawk, with the bird seen as a symbol of royal authority, sovereignty, and the fearless warrior spirit of the Khalsa, founded by Gobind Singh.

The Akali Dal, which guards its Panthic vote eagle-like, was the first to claim a sighting. After Badal was attacked outside a gurdwara in Nanded on August 13, his wife and former Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said the Guru had sent his “baaz” to protect him. At a series of rallies in Punjab, Harsimrat displayed photos of “150 stitches” that she said Badal had received following the deep cut on his right hand, and claimed their children had seen the hawk flying outside the hospital where the former Deputy CM was admitted (he received treatment first in Maharashtra’s Nanded, and then Gurugram in Haryana).

“My children told me a baaz was constantly circling the sky outside the hospital. So when Bajjanvala is here to protect us, why should we fear anyone? We won’t fear, we won’t bend, we will rest only after making them flee Punjab,” Harsimrat said, attacking the AAP.

Circling in, CM Mann started telling people in every speech that the bird outside the hospital wasn’t there to “protect” Badal, but to “protect its own eggs from him”, as the former Deputy CM might have “demanded a business share in the eggs too”. The AAP and Mann have repeatedly accused the Badals of building massive business empires at the cost of Punjab’s development, including in transport, sand, cable TV etc.

Why would the Guru send his baaz to protect the Badals, Mann added, given that they “disrespected Sri Guru Granth Sahib”, in a reference to the 2015 sacrilege incidents that happened during the SAD-BJP

The Akali Dal, which guards its Panthic vote eagle-like, was the first to claim a sighting

government, and continue to stir Punjab’s political pot. During his recent ‘Lok Milni’ (public interactions) in several districts, Mann made his point while mimicking with his hands a bird circling around a building: “She (Harsimrat) says Guru’s baaz was flying around to protect Badal. *Oye oye hoye hoye... Is baaz wella* (idle) to guard such people who got *beadbiyaan* (sacrilege) done?”

He added: “Firstly, it is not even clear if it was actually a baaz. Some say it was a Kaan (crow), others say it might be an ill (kite). But even if I believe it was a baaz, it wasn’t there to protect or guard this family. The bird’s wife must have laid eggs nearby. She must have sent him to check that Sukhbir Badal stays away from their nest.”

At his most recent Lok Milni gathering, at Teera village in Mohali district, the CM embellished this further and, pointing to a big bird flying overhead, said the baaz was actually flying over the sky during his speech, corroborating what he was saying. “See, he is here to thank me. He has got to know that whatever I said about him was true. In fact, he must have gone to the hospital to tell Sukhbir that ‘*Ehna harkataan ton baaz aaia*’ (Beware such claims),” Mann said, leaving the audience in splits.

Paramvir Singh, Professor, Department of Encyclopedia of Sikhism, Punjabi University, Patiala, says the association of a hawk with Sikhism isn’t just limited to Guru Gobind Singh, but even older.

“The first major armed battle between Sikhs and the Mughal Empire in 1634 was due to a baaz. Sixth Sikh master Guru Hargobind Singh fought

—and defeated—the Mughals over the possession of a rare, white hawk who had flown into the Guru’s sharan (protection) on his own. The battle had a deep symbolic meaning. For the Mughals, the majestic bird was a rigid symbol of imperial status and dominance. By keeping the bird, Guru Hargobind Sahib sent a clear message: true sovereignty belongs to the people, not to a tyrannical empire,” Paramvir Singh said.

“Guru Gobind Singh kept the baaz as his companion as a symbol of absolute freedom, the fearless spirit of the Khalsa and battle against injustices,” he said.

If the Badals and Mann are both winging it, the baaz at least is used to it. In 1989, Punjab had named ‘Eastern Goshawk’ as its State Bird. The state changed it only in 2015, 26 years later, to ‘Northern Goshawk’, after realising there was no ‘Eastern Goshawk’ in modern terminology. The closest in name is the ‘Eastern Chanting Goshawk’, which is a bird native to Africa with zero connection to India or Sikh history.

Vikram Jit Singh, Member, Empowered Committee of the Punjab Forest & Wildlife Preservation Department on Determination of State Bird 2011, says: “Not every bird from the hawk family is a baaz. It is only the female of the Northern Goshawk that is a baaz, historically associated with Sikh history. The male is called a jurra. The female is larger than a male.”

Noting that it is common “to confuse every hunting bird, be it eagle, black kite or Shikra with a baaz”, Singh says: “There is no recorded sighting of the baaz in present-day Punjab or even Haryana. The closest sightings are in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan. There are very rare sightings of the goshawk in Maharashtra, but confined to winters when this raptor migrates from the Himalayas.”

Jaishankar in Ukraine

defended India’s decision to buy Russian oil. “This conflict, which is today in its fifth year, will not dissolve because somebody is buying or not buying oil or alumina or minerals or metals... This conflict will be solved by dialogue, by diplomacy, by negotiations. And that is why it is something we would encourage,” he said.

He said ensuring fuel supplies for India’s 1.4 billion people is a challenge, adding that he respects Ukraine’s position on Russian oil purchases, but expects the same respect for India’s position.

“India has consistently maintained that this is not an era of war, and that solutions will not emerge from the battlefield. Just two days ago in Bishkek, Prime Minister Modi declared that endless war must now give way to the end of war. Every passing day of conflict only means more deaths and more destruction. Understandably, it is for the parties involved to find a way. But, if India can be of any help in any manner, we

are ready, and this was the core of my discussion so far with Foreign Minister Sybiha,” he said.

While Jaishankar had accompanied Modi to Ukraine in August 2024, this was his first bilateral visit to the country.

Jaishankar said there were some specific aspects of the conflict that came up in the discussions on Thursday. “Prominent among them was attacks on commercial shipping. Indian seafarers man ships of many flags and have been among the unfortunate casualties. The impact on shipping is also significantly affecting many nations of the Global South in a variety of ways, leading to fuel, fertiliser and food shortages,” he said.

He was referring to the deaths of Indians, including five seafarers, since July this year due to the exchange of fire between Russia and Ukraine.

In a post on X, Jaishankar said he apprised Zelenskyy of his discussions with Sybiha on “deepening our bilateral cooperation”. “Our conversation

centered on approaches to end the ongoing conflict,” he said.

Zelenskyy, in his post on X, said: “We are grateful to India for its commitment to ending this unjust war – Russia’s war against Ukraine. This certainly must not be a time of war. Peace is needed. This is India’s clear position. Today, while the Minister was here with us in Kyiv, Russia once again launched jet-powered ‘shaheds’, which were developed not without Iran’s help. Thanks to our combat aviation, the delegation was safe, because it is Ukrainian fighter jets that shoot down most of these drones. We hope that other major world powers will also take a clear stance that this war must end and that a reliable peace must be achieved.”

“Of course, we discussed the situation in the Black Sea, including the existing threats to civilian shipping. We concur that it is absolutely unacceptable to block food supplies to regions where this is a highly sensitive issue and where people depend on these maritime routes. Russia’s actions aimed at blocking our ports, our food corridor, and our supplies are causing major disruption to glo-

bal relations. We must all work together to guarantee security,” Zelenskyy said.

“Honored to welcome my Indian colleague @DrSJaishankar to Kyiv for the first-ever dedicated bilateral visit of an Indian External Affairs Minister to Ukraine. This historic moment takes place amid escalating Russian attacks against our cities, port infrastructure and civil shipping. Our capital is constantly under attack and I appreciate my colleague’s brave visit,” Sybiha said in a post on X. “During our negotiations, we discussed the need to restore freedom of navigation in the Black Sea and global food security. India is a global power and we welcome Prime Minister Modi’s call to move from an endless war towards an end to the war. Ukraine stands ready for diplomacy,” he said.

“We also discussed our bilateral cooperation. From infrastructure and pharmaceutical sector to technological innovation and digitalisation, we are ready to realise our full potential. We agreed to work on convening our next Intergovernmental Commission meeting to turn great perspectives into

great mutually beneficial projects,” Sybiha said.

Jaishankar invited Sybiha to India for the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Commission.

On bilateral cooperation, Jaishankar said: “This has a considerable history and it predates Ukraine’s independence. Our trade spans a wide range of sectors — from pharmaceuticals, food and agriculture, and fertilisers to machinery, chemicals and consumer goods. Understandably, in the last four years, this trade has seen some disruption due to the war situation and logistical challenges. At the same time, there has been a visible resilience and, some new possibilities have emerged.”

“Where the future prospects of our bilateral cooperation are concerned, we are very much aware that Ukraine has deep strengths and capabilities. India too is developing at a rapid pace. And some of these notable areas of progress are in digital capabilities, innovation and startups. The world of AI offers new openings in health, education, agriculture, even in governance,” he said.

NIA links Ukraine, US nationals to drone attack on plane

“In this regard”, the application said, “14 Ukrainians had entered India on tourist visa on different dates and flew to Guwahati and thereafter, they travelled to Mizoram without requisite documents Restricted Area Permit (RAP) / Protected Area Permit (PAP) and entered into Myanmar illegally to conduct a pre-scheduled training on the drone warfare, drone operations, assembly and jamming technology for Myanmar-based Ethnic Armed Groups (EAGs) targeting the Myanmar Military Junta.”

Several Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) have been active in Myanmar for decades. Since the military, known as Tatmadaw, seized power in a coup on February 1, 2021, EAOs acting in a loose alliance with local militias and other resistance forces have been leading an armed struggle against the govern-

ment of the junta.

Burma News International, a network of media organisations based in and around Myanmar that positions itself as the voice of the country’s ethnic minorities, reported on February 24 that a Myanmar National Airlines ATR 72-600 passenger aircraft preparing for take-off to Mandalay had been struck by an FPV suicide drone at Myitkyina airport in Kachin state four days earlier. It was not immediately clear if the NIA application referred to this particular attack.

The seven foreign nationals “had earlier travelled similarly through Mizoram and conducted training on two separate occasions in addition to illegally imported huge consignments of drones and its relevant parts from Europe to Myanmar via India for use of EAGs”, the application said. “...These EAGs are also known to support certain

proscribed Indian insurgent groups by supplying weapons, terrorist hardware and training them thus affecting national security and interest of India.”

According to NIA, which is being represented by Special Public Prosecutor Rahul Tyagi, Public Prosecutor Ankit Gautam, and advocates Jatin Khatri and Amit Rohilla, “multiple digital devices” seized from the accused have been sent for forensic examination and data extraction. Some reports have been made available, but the “very huge and voluminous data... needs time for thorough analysis for the purpose of investigation”, the NIA told the court.

“During scrutiny of the data extracted from seized devices, incriminating information and facts emerged in the form of images, videos, voice samples, etc., which are required to be confronted and corroborated

with arrested accused persons to take the investigation to its logical conclusion,” the NIA said. In its application, the NIA said it needed to interrogate Matthew Aaron Van Dyke, the American, and Viktor Kaminskyi, one of the six Ukrainians, to confront them with facts disclosed by certain witnesses to “unearth the larger conspiracy” in the case.

The interrogation was also “necessary to obtain more details about other suspects who are the masterminds sitting in Myanmar”, the application said.

Van Dyke was detained at Kolkata airport on March 13, and the Ukrainians — Kaminskyi, Petro Hurba, Taras Slyviak, Ivan Sukmanovskyi, Marian Stefaniv, and Maksim Honcharuk — were detained at airports in Lucknow and Delhi. They were produced before the Special NIA Judge in Patiala House

court on March 14, and they have been in Tihar since April 6. The NIA is expected to interrogate Van Dyke and Kaminskyi with the help of a Ukrainian translator.

Appearing for the accused, advocates Rohit Dandriyal, Rohit Gour, and Nitin Saluja argued that the NIA’s application does not mention any fresh or specific ground for interrogating the accused, and that the application was an “after thought”.

The NIA’s probe has found that several consignments of drones from Europe were allegedly delivered by accused persons to individuals and groups in Mizoram.

According to the NIA, the accused have told interrogators they were in “direct touch and abetted in their terrorist illegal activities by unknown terrorists carrying AK47 rifles”.

Manipur govt warns legal action against those blocking highways

Jimmy Leivon Imphal, September 3

THE MANIPUR Government has warned of strict legal action against individuals, organisations and groups involved in road blockades, obstructions and damage to public property in the state.

The state Home Department issued the order on Thursday and said it comes into force with immediate effect. In the order, the state government reiterated that strict action would be taken against violators without exception.

“The government had received reports of bandhs, blockades, road obstructions, forcible restrictions on movement and other unlawful activities on National Highways and roads, causing hardship to the public

and disrupting the movement of essential commodities, goods and services. Under the order, no individual, organisation, association, group or body shall block, obstruct, barricade or otherwise interfere with traffic on any National Highway, State Highway or public road in Manipur,” says the order.

It also prohibits attempts to restrict the movement of essential commodities, fuel, medicines, emergency services, public transport, goods vehicles and private vehicles.

The order directs Deputy Commissioners, Superintendents of Police and other law-enforcement agencies to take immediate measures to ensure uninterrupted movement on highways and roads and initiate prompt legal action against violators.



Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh at the Assembly on Thursday. PTI

“Those found organising, instigating, supporting or participating in unlawful blockades, highway obstruction, damage to public property or acts resulting in breach of peace may face

prosecution without further notice under relevant laws, including the National Highways Act, Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, Motor Vehicles Act, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita,” it says.

The order specifically cites Section 8B of the National Highways Act, 1956, under which acts rendering or likely to render an NH impassable or less safe for travelling or conveying property may attract imprisonment of up to five years, or fine, or both.

It also appeals to citizens, civil society organisations, student bodies, community organisations, unions and associations to maintain peace and order and refrain from bandhs, blockades, forcible road obstruction and damage to public property.

‘Got WhatsApp text asking if I’d accept post, I froze’: First Ram Mandir woman trustee

Maulshree Seth Lucknow, September 3

ON SEPTEMBER 2, Dr Nirmala Yadav, 66, received a WhatsApp message from the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust. She was asked to confirm, at short notice, whether she would accept the position of trustee of the Ram Mandir trust. “I froze for a moment,” Yadav, a retired teacher and former principal from Shikohabad, in Firozabad district, told *The Indian Express*.

“I’d been given an indication that I could be given a role in the Trust, but I never expected to become a trustee. I received a message on WhatsApp asking me to confirm whether I would accept the responsibility and was asked to respond quickly.” Later that evening, she was announced as the first and only

woman member of the Trust. “I had never dreamt of it. I thought I had already played almost all the roles I had to in life. Then this came as a blessing from Lord Ram,” she said.

At its meeting on Wednesday, the Ram Temple Trust appointed retired Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra as its first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and inducted three new trustees — Dr Yadav, advocate Madan Mohan Pandey and businessman-social worker Mahesh Bhagchandka. The three will fill positions that fell vacant after Bimlendra Mohan Mishra’s death last year and the resignation of former general secretary Champat Rai and member Anil Mishra in the wake of the donation theft row.

With a PhD in Hindi, Yadav spent 25 years as a college principal. She was also part of the Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaik-

shik Mahasangh (ABRSM), an RSS-affiliated teachers’ organisation. Her administrative experience in management, she said, would help her contribute to the Trust’s functioning. “My selection also reflects women’s empowerment; I’ll ensure that the suggestions and concerns of women are appropriately placed before the Trust during important decisions,” she said.

Yadav began her career as a lecturer at BDA Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Shikohabad, in 1999. She became its principal, serving in that position until 2006. From 2006 to 2022, she was principal of Mahatma Gandhi PG College in Firozabad. She retired in 2022. Her association with the ABRSM also dates back to 1999, when she became vice-president of its UP unit. She subsequently served as vice-president of its national women’s wing and as vice-presi-

dent for higher education.

For the past two years, she had been serving as the organisation’s Akhil Bharatiya “Sam-park Pramukh”. After she retired, Yadav was elected to the council of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra, as the Governor’s nominee. She studied in Bareilly and Etah districts before marrying into a family in Shikohabad. Her family, too, has links with the RSS and the broader Sangh ecosystem. Yadav said her father-in-law was associated with the RSS, while her late husband, an advocate, was associated with both the RSS and BJP.

Her husband’s family is associated with the Urawar (Zamindar) Estate, whose members established a college in Shikohabad in 1916. The institution, popularly known as “Ahir College”, was later renamed Adarsha Krishna PG College.

3 years after Army officer died, his widow still navigating paperwork

72-yr-old made endless visits to secure exemption for property tax. It was only approved after *The Indian Express* raised the matter with the Property Tax Branch

Hina Rohtaki
Chandigarh, September 3

THREE YEARS after her husband, Lieutenant Colonel Dinesh Saigal, died, Rama Saigal thought she had dealt with the hardest part: learning to live without him.

Instead, she has spent months navigating Chandigarh civic body's Property Tax Branch, repeatedly submitting documents to secure an exemption available to widows of servicemen.

Rama, 72, had to make repeated trips to the Branch after she heard nothing about her application — submitting documents, waiting for months, and then returning with more papers. After her husband's death from cancer, she lives by herself. Their son lives abroad, and their daughter is married.

Following *The Indian Express's* queries, officials said Thursday that her application has been processed, and the property-tax exemption has been approved.

'A completely exhaustive process'

She submitted her exemption application on May 11, well before the May 31 deadline. But the application was not processed, and she was subsequently asked for additional documents — first her husband's death certificate and, nearly three months later, a transfer letter.

"My application was not processed till the last date of payment with rebate was over," she said.

"Initially they didn't respond. When I went there on June 2, the

official told me that a copy of my husband's death certificate is required. Why didn't they tell us previously? Incidentally, I was carrying it with me. When I tried to submit the scanned self-attested copy to the dealing official, he told me he wouldn't take it... diary *karwaao jakar*... Then it was again a completely exhaustive process," she said.

When Rama still heard nothing after submitting the death certificate, she called the Property Tax Branch several times to check on the status of her application. Eventually, the official told her that he would get back to her.

Responding to *The Indian Express's* queries over the issue, Dr Inder Jeet, who heads the Property Tax Branch, said: "Some documents were required".

"The branch is overworked. It is all done now. Her application has been processed," he added.

'Why am I being harassed endlessly?'

On August 28, she received a communication from the branch. This time asking her to submit a self-attested copy of the transfer letter issued by the competent authority.

Despite her frustration with the repeated requests, Rama once again complied and submitted the document.

"But when I inquired again, I was told *abhi dekhenge* (we will see). Why am I being harassed endlessly? Why can't they ask for all documents at once? They didn't tell me that the death certificate is required when I visited. Why didn't they tell me about the transfer certificate?" she asked.

Depending on others

Indian Army veteran Colonel Kulbir Singh (Retd), who has taken up Rama's case, said she should not suffer because of procedural delays by the Property Tax Branch.

For a senior citizen, Singh, 82, points out, "come again with another document" is not a simple instruction. It means arranging transport, finding someone to accompany them, making another trip to the office, and standing at the same counter once again for hours.

Singh, who has cited his own age and walking disability, said he had relied on a colleague to follow up on his files. Even his representative was initially not allowed to submit documents on his behalf, forcing Singh to visit the branch personally.

He has tracked seven such cases. Two of the applications, including Rama's, he said, have not been processed despite repeated attempts to seek information.

Another widow, according to Singh, personally submitted her exemption application on July 25, 2025, but it has remained pending for more than a year now.

"I have cited several cases of retired defence personnel and their families being harassed, being asked for additional documents or different formats only after their applications had remained pending for considerable periods," Singh told *The Indian Express*.

Last year, Singh said, some families who had submitted applications in the format then being followed were later told it was incorrect and asked to submit fresh affidavits.

This year too, he said, he sought clarity on the procedure before preparing applications for several colleagues. He was directed to make the request through email, but when he submitted the files, applicants were asked to make personal requests.

ASI killed in firing at retd DGP's Mohali residence; police call it accidental, family raises questions

7 rounds fired after carbine allegedly fell during security duty; six hit ASI

Express News Service
Mohali, September 3

AN ASSISTANT Sub-Inspector (ASI) deployed on security duty at the residence of retired Punjab Special DGP Arpit Shukla in Wave Estate, Sector 85, Mohali, died after being hit by gunfire early Thursday morning. The incident took place around 6 am.

The deceased was identified as ASI Onkar Singh, who was posted as a security personnel at Shukla's residence. Preliminary information suggests that Singh was carrying a carbine during duty. Police said the weapon fell to the ground and fired repeatedly.

According to the preliminary

police account, seven rounds were fired, of which six struck Singh while one went in another direction. Critically injured, Singh was rushed to the Civil Hospital, Phase 6, where doctors declared him dead.

Police teams reached the spot soon after the incident and began collecting evidence. Investigators are examining the position of the carbine and the circumstances in which it allegedly discharged after falling. Forensic teams have also been examining the scene.

Police have, so far, not confirmed the involvement of any other person or suggested that the firing was deliberate. Officials said the exact circumstances would become clear



The deceased was identified as ASI Onkar Singh

after the investigation and forensic examination.

Family questions circumstances

The family, however, has raised questions over the accidental-firing theory. Singh's

wife said the family was initially informed that he had suddenly fallen while standing and that the weapon went off in the process.

She said Singh had been seeking leave and was reportedly under stress. "He was on leave yesterday, but after receiving a phone call, he was suddenly called back to duty," she said.

Questioning how multiple rounds could have been fired, she said, "If the gun had fired because of a fall, there should have been one shot. How could four to five shots have hit him?"

Singh's son, Yadvinder Singh, said he had seen his father's body as well as a video of the incident. "The video shows that the gun had fallen down, after which seven to eight rounds were fired. There are also marks of bullets on the roof," he said. He added that, according to him, his father was

not facing any personal problems.

Police register inquest proceedings

Retired DGP Shukla described the incident as "extremely unfortunate" and said the Punjab Police stood with the bereaved family in the hour of grief.

DSP City-2 Harsimran Singh said the preliminary investigation indicated that it was an accident. Police Station Sohana has initiated proceedings under Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The postmortem was conducted at Civil Hospital, Phase 6, after which the body was handed over to the family.

Police said the investigation would focus, among other things, on the condition and functioning of the carbine and how it discharged after falling.

SHER-E-PUNJAB T20 LEAGUE

Prabhsimran's second ton scripts Jalandhar Warriors's thrilling win

Express News Service
Mohali, September 3

PRABHSIMRAN SINGH'S blazing 110 runs off 56 balls coupled with some controlled bowling in the last stages of the match propelled Jalandhar Warriors to a three-win win over Bathinda Royals in a league match of the fourth edition of Sher-e-Punjab T20 League being organised by Punjab Cricket Association at IS Bindra PCA International Stadium on Thursday afternoon.

Batting first, Warriors were once placed 62 for 3 before skipper Prabhsimran Singh added 118 runs for the fourth wicket with Aryan Yadav.

Yadav was caught by Harnoor Singh off the bowling of Ashwani Kumar at an individual score of 39 runs off 19 balls. Prabhsimran went on to score his second hundred of the



Prabhsimran Singh celebrates his hundred

league while Warriors lost wickets at regular intervals.

Prabhsimran was caught by Ridham Satyawar off the bowling of Kumar in the 19th over. He smashed ten boundaries and seven sixes during his stay at the crease. Kumar then removed Randeep Singh off the

next ball and completed his hat-trick having taken the wicket of Sukhdeep Bajwa off the last ball of the 17th over.

Jalandhar Warriors ended with a total of 205 for 10 in 19.3 overs.

Chasing the target, Bathinda Royals fell short by only three runs as the team could manage 202 runs in 20 overs. Skipper Uday Saharan played a knock of 86 runs off 43 balls.

With five runs required in the final ball of the match, Randeep Singh first bowled a wide, but later gave just one run to give his side victory by three runs. For Warriors, Randeep and Emajot Singh Chahal took two wickets each.

Earlier on Wednesday night, Amritsar Soormas scored their first win of the league with a seven-wicket win over Fazilka Falcons.

Chandigarh extends deadline for green cracker licence applications, draw of lots on Sept 14

Express News Service
Chandigarh, September 3

THE CHANDIGARH Administration has extended the deadline for applying for temporary licences to sell green crackers during this year's Diwali, following representations received from prospective applicants and in the larger public interest.

As per the revised schedule, applications for temporary cracker licences can be submitted online from September 7 at 9 am to September 12 till 5 pm through the Chandigarh Administration's service portal.

The application fee has been fixed at Rs 500 per site, which will be non-refundable. The licences will be allotted through a draw of lots on Sep-

tember 14 at 4 pm at Bal Bhan, Sector 23.

Only eco-friendly green crackers certified by CSIR-NEERI will be permitted for sale under the temporary licences.

The administration said the detailed terms and conditions, instructions and procedure for allotment of licences are available on its service portal. Applicants have been advised to carefully read the instructions and ensure that their applications are complete and submitted within the stipulated period.

The administration has also reserved the right to modify the schedule or procedure, or cancel the draw of lots at any stage, if considered necessary in the public interest.

Government of Haryana

Heartiest Greetings

to all on the occasion of

Shree Krishna Janmashtmi

September 4, 2025

“Best wishes to all my countrymen on Janmashtami. May this sacred festival of faith, joy, and enthusiasm infuse new energy and enthusiasm into all of your lives. Jai Shree Krishna!”

- Narendra Modi

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

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epaper.indianexpress.com

Chandigarh

Two arrested for crashing car, killing one in Chandigarh

Express News Service
Chandigarh, September 3

CHANDIGARH POLICE on Thursday said it has arrested two persons in connection with a murder case registered at the Industrial Area police station and recovered a vehicle allegedly used in the crime.

The accused, identified as Shubhash, 25, a resident of Zirakpur, and Monu Jaswal, 26, a resident of Hallo Majra in Chandigarh, were arrested on September 2. A car (Scorpio) was also recovered.

The case was registered on August 30 under Sections 190, 191(2), 191(3), 109 and 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Police Station Industrial Area Phase 1, Chandigarh.

According to the FIR, complainant Suraj, 24, a resident of New Indra Colony, Manimajra, alleged that his brother Pawan, along with his friends, had gone to Hotel Legacy in Dariya village for a party.

As per the contents of the FIR, accused Monu, Shubhash, Suraj, Govinda, Mahavir, and Malkit, allegedly arrived in a Scorpio and a black Thar with an intention to kill them.

During the incident, Pawan and complainant Suraj were travelling in their respective vehicles. The accused allegedly rammed the Scorpio into Pawan's vehicle and thereafter drove the black Thar towards Pawan and Suraj, striking them at high speed, according to the police.

The accused persons allegedly fled from the spot following the incident. Pawan was taken to GMSH-16, Chandigarh, where he was declared brought dead, while Suraj sustained injuries and was referred to PGIMER, Chandigarh.

During the investigation, Shubhash, a resident of Zirakpur, and Monu Jaswal, a resident of Hallo Majra, Chandigarh, were arrested.

The two accused were produced before a court on September 2 and five days' police remand was obtained for further investigation.

The investigation in the case is underway.



Rain cover missing

During sudden heavy downpour in Chandigarh on Thursday evening. KAMLESHWAR SINGH

Court summons Congress leader in defamation case filed by Aman Arora

Express News Service
Chandigarh, September 3

THE CHANDIGARH district court has summoned Congress leader Rajinder Singh Raja, alias Raja Bir Kalan, to face trial on a complaint filed by Punjab Cabinet minister Aman Arora, observing that "prima-facie it emerges that the accused has defamed the complainant by leveling false allegations against him through publication of news".

Judicial Magistrate First Class Navneet Kaur passed the order after hearing counsel for the complainant and examining the preliminary evidence and documents placed on record. The court directed that Raja be summoned for facing trial under Section 500 IPC on September 7, 2026, on filing of process fee.

According to the complaint, Arora alleged that Raja, then



Cong's Rajinder Singh Raja, (right) Punjab minister Aman Arora



District Congress Committee president, had made statements against him and his family at a press conference at the PWD Rest House, Sangrur, a day after polling on September 20, 2018. The complaint said the statements were subsequently published in a newspaper on September 21, 2018.

Arora further alleged that people known to him contacted

him after reading the newspaper report and questioned him about the allegations. According to the complaint, the allegations affected his reputation and political career and caused mental stress and torture. He claimed that the remarks were made with the intention of harming his reputation.

On the issue of summoning, the court observed, "At this

Varun Sharma takes charge as SSP, promises night patrolling, stronger frontline policing

Says zero tolerance for gangsters, extortion; focus on citizen-centric policing

Express News Service
Mohali, September 3

NEWLY APPOINTED Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Varun Sharma assumed charge of Mohali district on Thursday and announced a zero-tolerance policy towards gangsters, extortion rackets and organised crime, while stressing greater accessibility and citizen-centric policing.

Addressing the media during his maiden briefing, Sharma thanked Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Punjab DGP for entrusting him with the responsibility of leading the district police force.

Outlining his priorities, the SSP said organised crime, extortion networks and gangster activities would be dealt with firmly. To strengthen prevention

of street crime, Mohali police will intensify night-domination operations, increase static and mobile checkpoints (nakabandi), and enhance the deployment and visibility of Dial 112 Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs) for quicker response to emergencies and street incidents.

Emphasising direct access to the police, Sharma said he would personally hear public grievances during designated office hours. He encouraged residents to share information about drug peddlers, criminal elements, cyber fraud and domestic violence, assuring time-bound action on complaints.

The SSP also stressed greater community participation, saying the district police would work closely with market and trader associations and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) to



Newly appointed Mohali SSP Varun Sharma

address local security concerns.

Given Mohali's strategic position in the Tricity, Sharma said traffic management would remain a priority during protests and demonstrations. Police would focus on preventing disruption to commuters while ensuring uninterrupted movement for ambulances, school vehicles and essential services.

He said a comprehensive manpower audit would be undertaken in line with direc-

tions from the state authorities. Personnel deployed on non-core duties would be rationalised and, where possible, shifted to police stations and frontline units to strengthen routine policing.

Earlier, Sharma received a welcome from senior officers, including SP (City) Dilpreet Singh, SP (Headquarters) Navreet Singh Virk and SP (Investigation) Sourav Jindal. He was also accorded a traditional Guard of Honour by a police contingent.

Vehicle with fake 'Government of India', Income Tax stickers seized in Panchkula, ₹16k challan issued

Express News Service
Panchkula, September 3

PANCHKULA POLICE on Thursday seized a vehicle allegedly with fake "Government of India" and Income Tax Department stickers and issued a challan of Rs 16,000 after finding the markings unauthorised and documents incomplete.

According to police, DCP (Crime and Traffic) Amrinder Singh was passing near Maharana Pratap Chowk in Sector 24 in his official vehicle when he noticed the vehicle displaying the words "Government of India" in English along with an Income Tax Department sticker. He stopped the vehicle and questioned the driver.

During inspection, the stickers were found to be fake, police said. Further checking of the vehicle documents re-



Police personnel with the accused. EXPRESS

vealed that some required documents were missing and there were also traffic violations.

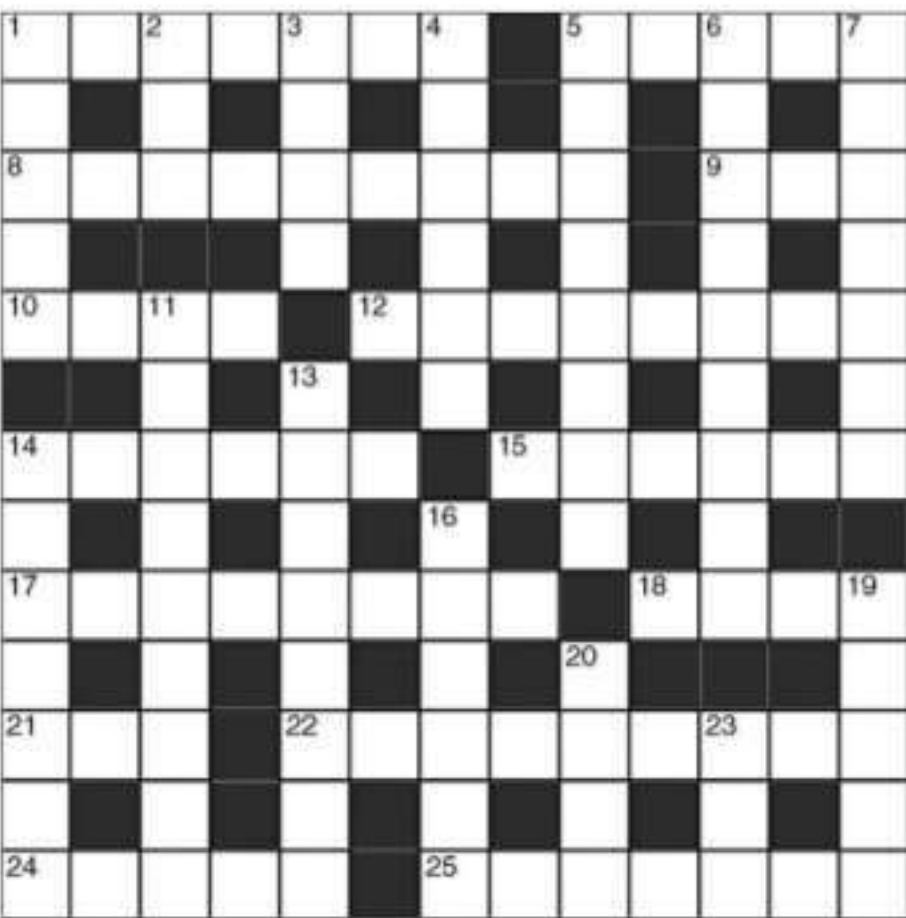
The DCP then called the City Traffic SHO to the spot. A police team issued a Rs 16,000 challan and seized the vehicle. It was later parked at Sector 25 Police Post.

Police Commissioner Pan-

kaj Nain said, "Using unauthorised stickers showing government departments, official positions or 'Government of India' on vehicles is not only a violation of traffic rules but can also pose a security concern".

He advised motorists not to use fake stickers or number plates on their vehicles and to carry all valid documents.

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Assume noble identity and repel people (4,3)
5 Accumulate a great amount (5)
8 Mysteries of the variable sound wind? (9)
9 The whole lot - though it sounds only a little (3)
10 Lines of argument? (4)
12 It sounds highly unnatural (8)
14 It is involved with a plan that is flexible (6)
15 Warning a worker is about to fight (6)
17 Changing integral formation (8)
18 When one gains a vast area of land (4)
21 A tavern in point (3)
22 Rendered intoxicated (9)
24 Back a favourite I'd found not so hot (5)
25 Clear round I had briefly in sporting competition (7)

DOWN

1 Shady place for one on the fiddle? (5)
2 An attempt made in the past (3)
3 The responsibility is evidently ours (4)
4 Man loyally helpful on just one day a week (6)
5 Estimated tax liability? (8)
6 Dogs give assailant trouble (9)
7 Undistinguished character (7)
11 Just jotted down? Quite the opposite! (7,2)
13 Courageous Pinter play I'd taken to heart (8)
14 A key player (7)
16 Squirming eel can get entangled (6)
19 Examination on book work (5)
20 The case for a little more tuition (4)
23 One type of corn spirit (3)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6084 ACROSS: 1 Fireside, 5 Abbe, 9 Width, 10 Closure, 11 Second fiddle, 13 Lustre, 14 Almost, 17 Film producer, 20 Inferno, 21 Video, 22 Goya, 23 Very well **DOWN:** 1 Fawn, 2 Redress, 3 School report, 4 Decide, 6 Bound, 7 Elements, 8 Social survey, 12 Fluffing, 15 Overdue, 16 Coyote, 18 Lofty, 19 Foil

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective circles below. Select the letters in the shaded circles and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

What we call 'Progress' is the exchange of one _ for another _ . - Havelock Ellis (8,...,8) (same word twice)

DLYAE **ADILNN**

HOTIS **HMMYCU**

SOLUTIONS: Delay, Inland, Chummy

6085

OVER THE HEDGE



CALVIN & HOBBS



MARVIN

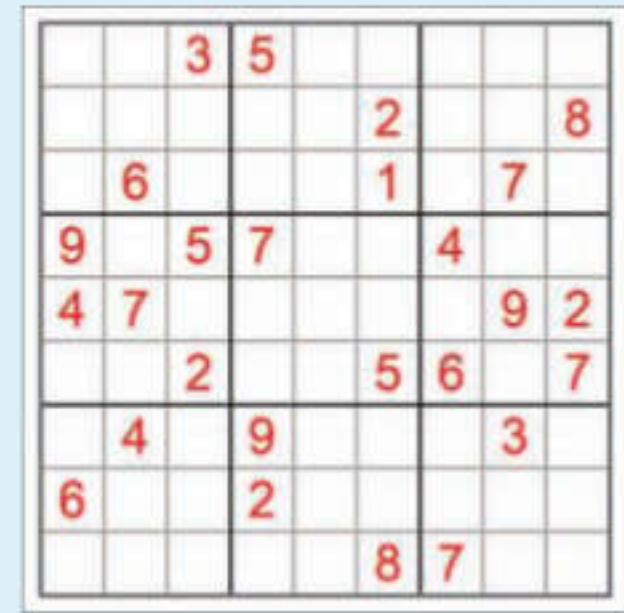


DIFFICULTY LEVEL 4s INSTRUCTIONS

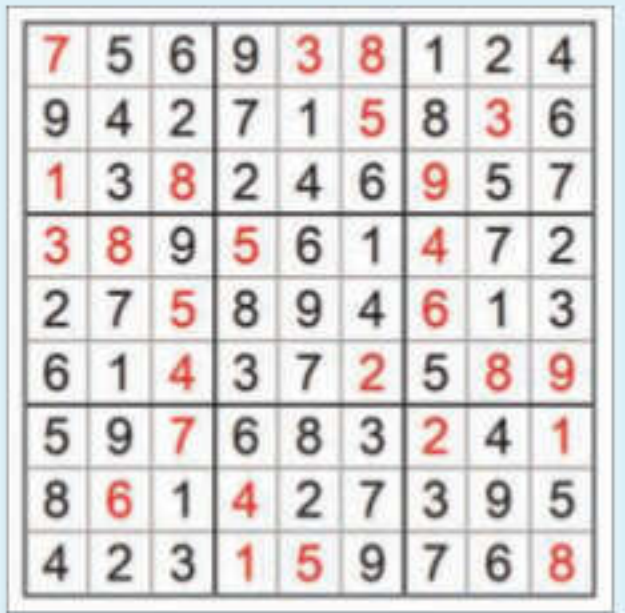
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



SUDOKU 6430



SOLUTION SUDOKU 6429

BY MICHAEL FRY & T LEWIS

BY BILL WATTERSON

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): Your communication skills are so excellent today, it's a great day for those of you who teach, write, market or act, because your words will be like gold. You'll be creative and optimistic about the future. Tonight: Discussions.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): This is a strong money day for you. You have practical ideas and you're willing to work hard. Meanwhile, a family connection might boost your income. Tonight: Check your money.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with both Saturn and Jupiter, which gives a lovely balance to your energy. Someone more experienced might have wise advice for you. Meanwhile, your enthusiasm and big ideas will carry the day. Tonight: You're strong.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): This is a busy time for you. You might be redecorating at home and entertaining. Physical exercise is important while fiery Mars is in your sign. Research will go very well today. Listen to hidden ideas that might boost your income. Tonight: Privacy.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): Your interaction with a friend could be meaningful today. They will likely benefit you and encourage you. Why not share your moneymaking ideas? Tonight: Friendships.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): The Sun and Mercury are in your sign, and today the Moon is at the top of your chart, which means someone might help you today. If so, this will be obvious to others, because whatever you do today is noticed. Accept the help of someone more experienced. It might be beneficial financially. Tonight: You're noticed.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): In one way, you want to be low-key today. But another part of you wants to do something different so you can have an adventure. Go someplace you've never been before — a coffee shop or restaurant. Check out a different neighbourhood. Tonight: Explore.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): The wealth and resources of your partner or someone else might benefit you today. Someone might help you because you're creating a good impression on your world. Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): Be cooperative with others today. Someone might have advice about raising or educating kids, performing a sport or honing your art. Tonight: Be cooperative.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): You're in a practical frame of mind today, which is why you'll be productive at work. You also might research information related to your health or a pet. Or perhaps you will help an older family member? Tonight: Be productive.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): This is a playful day. It's the perfect day to use your creative talents. You're willing to hone your skills, which is necessary if you want to improve your ability to do something creatively. Tonight: Socialise.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): Whatever happens at home today or perhaps within your family will probably benefit you. Someone might have advice for you. They might help you. Tonight: Relax.



NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Undertaking) A-11, Sector-24, Noida-201301
Phone No.-0120-2412294, Fax No.-2412397

Pre-qualification of parties for freight forwarding of imported consignments (sea mode)

National Fertilizers Limited intends to pre-qualify and draw a comprehensive list of pre-qualified freight forwarders (Sea mode). For eligibility criteria & other details please visit our website: www.nationalfertilizers.com or www.eprocure.gov.in. Last date for submission of documents is **12.10.2026 up to 02:00PM**. Corrigendum (if any) will be displayed on our website only.

GM (Materials)



PUNJAB & SIND BANK
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Branch: Lalru, Tehsil Derabassi, District SAS Nagar Mohali
E-mail ID: 10703@psb.co.in

Date: 03.09.2026

1. M/s Sukhwinder Glass House, through its prop. Sh. Sukhwinder Singh VPO Lalru, Sandarpura Colony, Tehsil Derabassi, SAS Nagar, Mohali (Borrower)
2. Sh. Sukhwinder Singh S/o Sh. Bhagat Singh, Village Gholu Majra, Tehsil Derabassi, Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali (Borrower)
3. Sh. Paramjeet Singh S/o Sh. Bhagat Ram, VPO Lalru, Tehsil Derabassi, Distt. SAS Nagar, Mohali (Guarantor)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reg: Sale of secured assets in ODP limit of M/s Sukhwinder Glass House
In the captioned matter, notice dated 10.12.2020 under section 13(2) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act 2002 for an amount of **Rs. 6,54,391.86 (Rupees Six Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety One and Ninety Six paise only)** as on **30.11.2020** in OD Limit Account plus future interest, cost and charges and also possession notice dated 16.03.2021 issued by the Authorized Officer of the bank while taking possession of secured assets as mentioned below:
DETAILS OF SECURITY: Property measuring 196 Sq. Yards i.e. 3 Biswa 11 Biswasi, comprised in Khatauni No. 41/37 Khasra No. 616/2(2-19) Kita 1 having 71/1180 share of total measuring 2 Bighe 19 Biswa, as per Jamabandi for the Year 2022-23, situated at Village Gholumajra, Tehsil Derabassi, District S.A.S. Nagar, H.B. No. 209, in the name of Sh. Sukhwinder Singh S/o Sh. Bhagat Singh.
Details of Title Deed: Sale Deeds bearing wasika no. 3991 dated 18.08.2008 registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Derabassi.
In this connection, your attention is hereby drawn to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available to you to redeem the secured assets. As such you are hereby called upon to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above alongwith upto date interest and costs incurred by the bank within 30 days from the receipt of this notice and get release of secured assets as mentioned above. Total Outstanding in the account as on **31.08.2026 is Rs. 14,18,323.28**.
In case you fail to pay the aforesaid amount along with interest, costs/litigation etc. within the said period, the undersigned will be constrained to put the mortgaged property on sale for realizing the bank dues and take other measures as deemed fit as per the provisions of aforesaid Act & Rules.

AUTHORISED OFFICER, PUNJAB & SIND BANK



बैंक ऑफ इंडिया
Bank of India

Asset Recovery Branch Ludhiana
1st Floor, Surya Kiran Complex, Phase-II, the mall, Near Rakh Bagh, Ludhiana-141001,
E-Mail ID: Arb.Ludhiana@bankofindia.bank.in

POSSESSION NOTICE
[Under Rule 8(1) & 4(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas,
The undersigned being the authorized officer of the **Bank of India Asset Recovery Branch Ludhiana, 1st Floor, Surya Kiran Complex, Phase-II, The Mall, Near Rakh Bagh, Ludhiana-141001** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice Dated **23.06.2026** Calling upon the **Borrower M/s Japji Overseas through its Partners & Guarantors Mr. Inder Pal Singh S/o Mr. Pritpal Singh & Mr. Gurkirat Singh S/o Mr. Pritpal Singh and Mortgagors Mr. Inder Pal Singh S/o Mr. Pritpal Singh** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 3,60,28,333.97/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixty lacs twenty eight thousand three hundred thirty three and Ninety seven Paise only)** Outstanding dues along with Interest & other charges w.e.f. **17.12.2025** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The **borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors** having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her/them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this **1st Day of September of the year 2026**.
The **borrowers/guarantors/ Mortgagors** in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Bank of India, Model Town Branch /Asset Recovery Branch Ludhiana 1st Floor, Surya Kiran Complex, Phase-II, the mall, Near Rakh Bagh, Ludhiana-141001** for an amount of **Rs.3,60,28,333.97/- (Rupees Three Crore Sixty lacs twenty eight thousand three hundred thirty three and Ninety seven Paise only)** Outstanding dues along with Interest & other charges w.e.f. **17.12.2025**.
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.

PROPERTY DETAILS OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Movable Property:- Hypothecation of Stocks, Book Debts and Plant & Machinery (Purchased Out of Bank Finance) situated at Factory site of M/s Japji Overseas, 2, Veer Nagar, Bahadur Ke Road, Ludhiana, Punjab.
Immovable Property:- EQM of Open Residential Plot admeasuring 243.00 sqyds, comprised khasra no. 1248/284,286,288,1249/284,285, 290,289 min,289-min,1247/284 Khatta No.5/5,6/6,63/63,64/64,7/7 khatoni No. 5,6,7,65,66,67 as per Jamabandi for the year 2010-11, situated at Village Dugri, Hadbast No. 277, Abadi Known as Nirmal Nagar, Tehsil & district Ludhiana in the name of Mr. Inderpal Singh S/o Mr. Pritpal Singh vide sale deed bearing wasika no. 2021-22/101/1/9796 dated 14.10.2021. **Bounded as:- East: Tarlochan Singh, Adm.73'-00", West: Neighbour Adm. 73'-00", South: Neighbour Adm.30'-00", North: Street 20' wide, Adm.30'-00"**

DATE: 01.09.2026
PLACE: LUDHIANA

AUTHORISED OFFICER
(BANK OF INDIA)





Government of Haryana

Remembering

Guru Jambheshwar Ji Maharaj

on his Birth Anniversary

September 4, 2026



“The role of Indian saints and sages has not been limited to worship and devotion. They have made significant contributions to strengthening every aspect of the Nation and Society.”

- Narendra Modi

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana

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E-AUCTION
SALE NOTICE ON
29.09.2026

ੴ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਵਾਗਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫ਼ਤਹਿ

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਈਓ ਸਿੰਧ ਬੈਂਕ

(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)



ੴ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਵਾਗਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫ਼ਤਹਿ
Punjab & Sind Bank
(A Govt. Of India Undertaking)

E-AUCTION
SALE NOTICE ON
29.09.2026

E-AUCTION FOR SALE NOTICE
Sale of immovable property /ies mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)
Whereas, the Authorized Officer of **Punjab & Sind Bank** has taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan accounts with right to sell the same on “AS IS WHERE IS”, “AS IS WHAT IS” **WHATEVER THERE IS**” for realization of Bank's dues plus interest as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property/ies. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Web Portal <https://baanknet.com>.

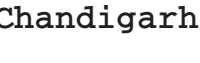
Sr. No.	Name of the Branch Account/ Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Description of Property	DEMAND NOTICE DATE & Outstanding Amount Mentioned therein	Reserve Price		Name and Contact details of Authorized Officer	Property Inspection Date and Time	Last Date & Time of EMD submission & status of Possession	Date/Time of E-Auction
				EMD	Bid Increase Amount				
1.	BRANCH: BADDI (HP) Mr. Jaswant Singh S/o Hans Raj R/o Village Malpur, PO Bhud, Tehsil Baddi, Dist. Solan, H.P.-173205. Mr. Hans Raj S/o Ram Karan R/o Village Malpur, PO Bhud, Tehsil Baddi, Dist. Solan, H.P.-173205	Property measuring 00-02 biswa 10 biswansi being 1/2 share out of total land measuring 00 bigha 5 biswa bearing khasra no. 1116(00-03), 177(00-02), comprised in new kh./kht. No. 222/239 (old kh./kht. No. 207/223), situated at Mauja Malpur, Hadbast No. 189, Tehsil Baddi, Dist. Solan (H.P).	Demand Notice Dated 07.09.2021 Rs. 4,75,978.08 plus future interest/ together with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc till the date of full and final payment.	Rs. 15,00,000/- (exclusive of TDS as per Income Tax Act) Rs. 1,50,000/- Rs. 50,000/-	Sh. Rajiv Pathania (Authorised Officer) Mobile:- 78638890001	25-09-2026 upto 11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON	28-09-2026 upto 04:00 PM SYMBOLIC POSSESSION	29-09-2026 upto 12:00 PM to 03:00 PM	
2.	BRANCH: BADDI (HP) M/s Malhotra Clinics Pvt Ltd. through its directors Sh. Mukesh Malhotra and Smt. Anjali Malhotra # 710, Second Floor, R2, F Block, DLF Hyde Park, New Chandigarh C/o M-Kare Hospital , Near Old Malhotra Hospital, Bhatoli Kalan, Baddi.	(i) Leasehold property at SCO 8, Bhatoli Kalan, Baddi, Distt. Solan (H.P) measuring 375 sq. m. leased in favour of M/S Malhotra Clinics Pvt. Ltd through its Director Sh. Mukesh Malhotra S/o Sh. JP Malhotra for 99 years vide lease deeds dated 04-08-2006. and (ii) Leasehold property at SCO 9 Bhatoli Kalan, Baddi, Distt. Solan(H.P) measuring 375 sq. m. leased in favour of Dr. Mukesh Malhotra S/o Sh. JP Malhotra C/o Malhotra Hospital for 99 years vide lease deed dtd 10-11-2009. (iii) Machinery and property mentioned at point (i) and (ii)	Demand Notice Dated 16.11.2017 Rs. 939,38,921.02 plus future interest/ together with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc till the date of full and final payment.	Rs. 3,55,00,000/- (exclusive of TDS as per Income Tax Act) Rs. 35,50,000/- Rs. 4,00,000/- (Total for both properties (i) & (ii))	Sh. Rajiv Pathania (Authorised Officer) Mobile:- 78638890001	25-09-2026 upto 11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON	28-09-2026 upto 04:00 PM PHYSICAL POSSESSION	29-09-2026 upto 12:00 PM to 03:00 PM	
		“ Sale of machinery is prerequisite for sale of immovable property as machinery lies in the immovable property being auctioned. If machinery goes unsold, the property shall be deemed to be unsold too despite any of bids received for immovable property.”	Rs. 7,22,000/- (exclusive of TDS as per Income Tax Act) Rs. 72,200/- Rs. 10,000/-	Sh. Rajiv Pathania (Authorised Officer) Mobile:- 78638890001	25-09-2026 upto 11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON	28-09-2026 upto 04:00 PM PHYSICAL POSSESSION	29-09-2026 upto 12:00 PM to 03:00 PM		

THIS PUBLICATION IS ALSO 15 DAYS NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 TO THE ABOVE BORROWERS & GUARANTORS

Terms & Conditions: The e-auction is being held on “AS IS WHERE IS”, “AS IS WHAT IS” **WHATEVER THERE IS**”AND “WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE” BASIS. 1.To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on any property. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent enquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of the properties 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 properties are being sold with all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the Bank. The Authorised Officer/secured creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any 3rd parties claim/rights/dues. 2. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the assets and specifications before submitting their bid. The inspection of property(ies) put on auction will be permitted to the interested bidders on the date mentioned above against each account. 3. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD through Web Portal: <https://baanknet.com> (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with <https://baanknet.com> through Login ID & Password. 4.After registration by bidders in the web portal, the intending bidder/purchaser is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded in the web portal before the last date and time of submission of the bid document viz (i) copy of the NEFT/RTGS challan, (2) Copy of PAN Card.(3) Copy of residence proof/identification (KYC) viz. self attested copy of Voter ID Card/Driving license/passport/ration card etc., without which the bid is liable to be rejected. Uploading of scanned copy of annexures II and III (mentioned in the tender Notice) after duly filling up and signing. 5. The interested bidders who require assistance in creating login ID and password, uploading data, submitting bid documents, training/ demonstration on online inter-se bidding etc may contact support.baanknet@psballiance.com Contact No. +91 8291220220. 6. Only the buyers holding valid user ID/password and confirmed payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS shall be eligible for participating in the e-auction process. For further details please visit <https://baanknet.com> & also may be contacted to **Respective Branches**.
Note: The measurement of above mentioned properties, however, be verified by the bidders at site and also from record of the Revenue Authorities prior to participating in auction.

Date: 03.09.2026
Place: Shimla

Authorised Officer,
Punjab & Sind Bank



epaper.indianexpress.com

Chandigarh

Rajoana seeks cataract surgery in Patiala: HC disposes plea as Centre okays PGI Chandigarh

Decision after doctors say Beant Singh assassin's surgery could be delayed as his cataract condition was same as last visit

Jagpreet Singh Sandhu
Chandigarh, September 3

THE PUNJAB and Haryana High Court has disposed of a petition filed by Balwant Singh Rajoana, a death-row convict in the 1995 Beant Singh assassination case, seeking permission to undergo cataract surgery at his own expense at an eye hospital in Patiala, after authorities agreed to provide treatment at PGIMER Chandigarh.



Balwant Singh Rajoana has been in custody for more than 30 years

The Centre and Chandigarh administration submitted that Rajoana would be taken immediately to the Department of Ophthalmology at PGIMER, Chandigarh.

Rajoana, who had been in custody for more than 30 years, however, had sought directions to the authorities to grant permission to get his eyes operated upon from Dr R S Randhawa Eye Hospital, Patiala.

Through his counsel, Senior Advocate P S Hundal and advocates Gursahib Singh Hundal and Arshpreet Kaur, Rajoana submitted that during his detention in Central Jail, Patiala, he had developed acute itching in and around his eyes, which had become unbearable when he wore the power glasses prescribed by doctors.

He further stated that the doctor at the jail hospital had contacted Dr R S Randhawa Eye Hospital and that Dr Randhawa had advised that if the petitioner underwent cataract surgery, he would not need to use the power glasses that were causing the allergy and itching. It said the hospital was within a radius of two kilometres of Central Jail, Patiala, and that arrangements could be made for the surgery while the petitioner remained in police custody. The petitioner also undertook to bear the expenses of the operation.

According to the petition, upon Rajoana's request, he was escorted to PGIMER, Chandigarh, where a doctor had examined him on January 27. The medical opinion, as

per the petition, stated that the condition of cataract in both eyes was the same as during the previous visit and that cataract surgery could be delayed as he was reading 6/6 with glasses. The petitioner, however, said he wanted refractive lens exchange.

The plea also stated that the petitioner was known for his good conduct with jail inmates. It further said that, except for the present case, he was not involved in any other case and had not been declared a proclaimed offender.

Hearing the matter, Justice Jasjit Singh Bedi noted that Rajoana's counsel "very fairly" conceded that the petitioner would have no grievance if he was examined at PGIMER, Chandigarh, and provided appropriate treatment.

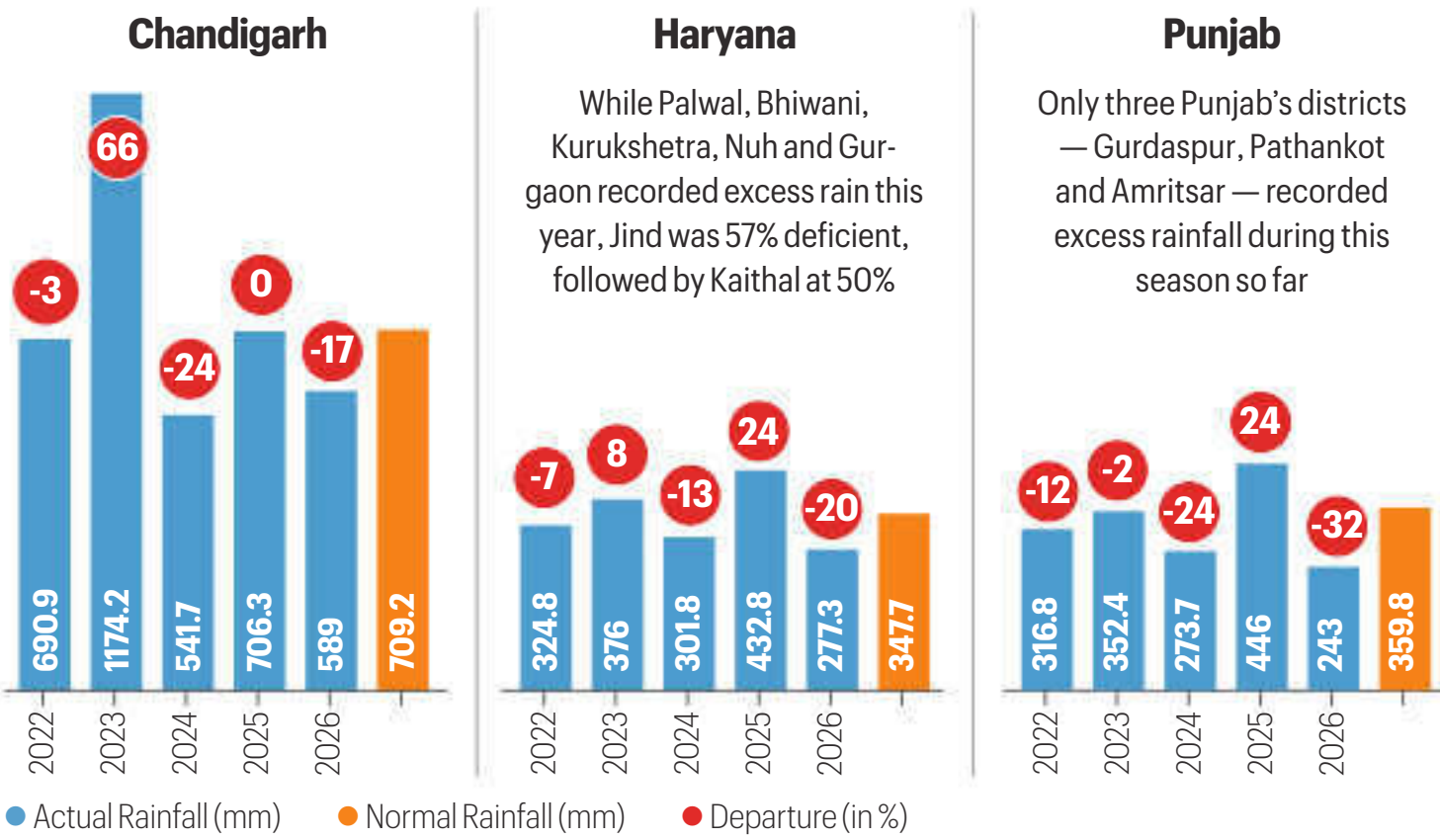
Meanwhile, the counsel appearing for the union of India, Additional Solicitor General Satya Pal Jain, and Chandigarh Senior Advocate Amit Jhanji with Advocate Abhinav Sood submitted that Rajoana would be taken immediately to PGIMER's Department of Ophthalmology and provided adequate treatment.

Rajoana, a Babbar Khalsa militant, was convicted for the assassination of then Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh following deep anguish over Operation Blue Star and the anti-Sikh riots of 1984. Beant Singh was killed by a suicide bomber named Dilwar Singh on August 31, 1995. Seventeen others were also killed in the blast.

NORTH RESERVOIRS HOLD 60.16% OF CAPACITY AGAINST 90.73% LAST YEAR

Punjab's monsoon deficit hits 32%, low reservoir level adds to concern

• REGION SAW SURPLUS RAIN IN 2025 — ONLY TIME IN 5 YRS



While Haryana records improved August rain, 5 agricultural districts in Punjab witness deficit

Anju Agnihotri Chaba
Jalandhar, September 3

EVEN AS Punjab entered its final monsoon month, the state continued to remain rain-deficient, having received 32 per cent less rainfall than the normal so far.

From June 1 to August 30 this year, Punjab recorded 243 mm of rain against the normal 359.8 mm. The rainfall shortfall was accompanied by a significant decline in reservoir storage in the northern region, with water levels in reservoirs monitored by the Central Water Commission (CWC) remaining well below both last year's levels and the normal storage for this time of the season.

According to Indian meteorological department, the latest rainfall data shows that Punjab's deficit actually widened during August, despite receiving substantially more rain than it did in June.

Punjab received only 29.5 mm rainfall against a normal 54.5 mm in June, a deficit of 46 per cent. In July, rainfall improved to 117.2 mm, but remained 25 per cent below the normal 155.4 mm. In August, the state received 96.3 mm against a normal 149.9 mm, leaving the month with a 36 per cent deficit. As a result, Punjab's cumulative deficit increased from 30 per cent at the end of July to 32 per cent by August 30.

The situation is particularly uneven across the state. Only three Punjab's districts — Gurdaspur, Pathankot and Amritsar — recorded excess rainfall during the season so far.

Gurdaspur received 693.9 mm against a normal 506.7

mm, a surplus of 37 per cent, while Pathankot has recorded 1,056.2 mm against 821.2 mm, 29 per cent above normal. Amritsar has received 401.9 mm against 381.5 mm, a surplus of 5 per cent.

The remaining districts saw deficient rainfall. The highest deficits have been recorded in Fatehgarh Sahib (-66 per cent), Kapurthala (-64 per cent), Barnala (-58 per cent), Mansa (-58 per cent), SAS Nagar (-58 per cent), Muktsar (-57 per cent), Sangrur (-50 per cent), Bathinda (-50 per cent), SBS Nagar (-49 per cent) and Fazilka (-48 per cent).

Among other major agricultural districts, Jalandhar is 45 per cent deficient, Hoshiarpur 43 per cent, Patiala 40 per cent, Ludhiana 29 per cent and Moga 28 per cent below normal.

Reservoir storage

According to the CWC's Region/State-wise Weekly Report of 176 Important Reservoirs of India dated August 27, the northern region — comprising Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan — has 11 reservoirs under CWC monitoring, with a combined live storage capacity of 19,836 billion cubic metres (BCM).

As of August 27, these reservoirs had 11,933 BCM of live storage, equivalent to only 60.16 per cent of their total live storage capacity.

This is lower than the storage during the corresponding period last year, when the reservoirs held 90.73 per cent of their live storage capacity. It is also below the normal storage of 73.92 per cent for the corresponding period in a decade. So the current storage level is 30.57 per cent lower than last year and 13.76 per cent points below normal.

The CWC data includes three reservoirs in Himachal Pradesh, one in Punjab and seven in Rajasthan.

For Punjab, the CWC is monitoring Thein Dam, which has a live storage capacity of 2,344 BCM. As of August 27, its current live storage stood at

1,380 BCM, equivalent to 58.87 per cent of its live capacity.

At the same time last year, Thein Dam had 95.44 per cent of its live storage capacity, while the normal storage for the corresponding decadal period is 68.47 per cent. The reservoir's current storage is 36.57 per cent lower than last year and 9.60 per cent below normal.

Haryana, meanwhile, has seen a marked improvement in its rainfall position during August. The state received only 30.5 mm rain against a normal 54.7 mm in June, a deficit of 44 per cent. July brought 106.3 mm against the normal 143.9 mm, resulting in a 26 per cent deficit.

But rainfall improved sharply in August, when Haryana received 140.5 mm against a normal 149.1 mm, leaving the month only 6 per cent deficient or normal.

Its cumulative deficit narrowed from 31 per cent at the end of July to 20 per cent by August 30. Haryana has received 277.3 mm against the normal 347.7 mm from June 1 to August 30. Five districts recorded excess or normal rainfall — Palwal (+23 per cent), Bhiwani (+7 per cent), Kurukshetra (+4 per cent), Nuh (+1 per cent) and Gurgaon (+1 per cent).

While Palwal (23%), Bhiwani (7%), Kurukshetra (4%), Nuh (1%) and Gurgaon (1%) excess rainfall, Jind was 57 per cent deficient, followed by Kaithal 50 per cent, Ambala 51 per cent, Panchkula 38 per cent and Sonapat 25 per cent below normal. Chandigarh recorded 589 mm rainfall against the normal 709.2 mm, leaving it 17 per cent deficient cumulatively.

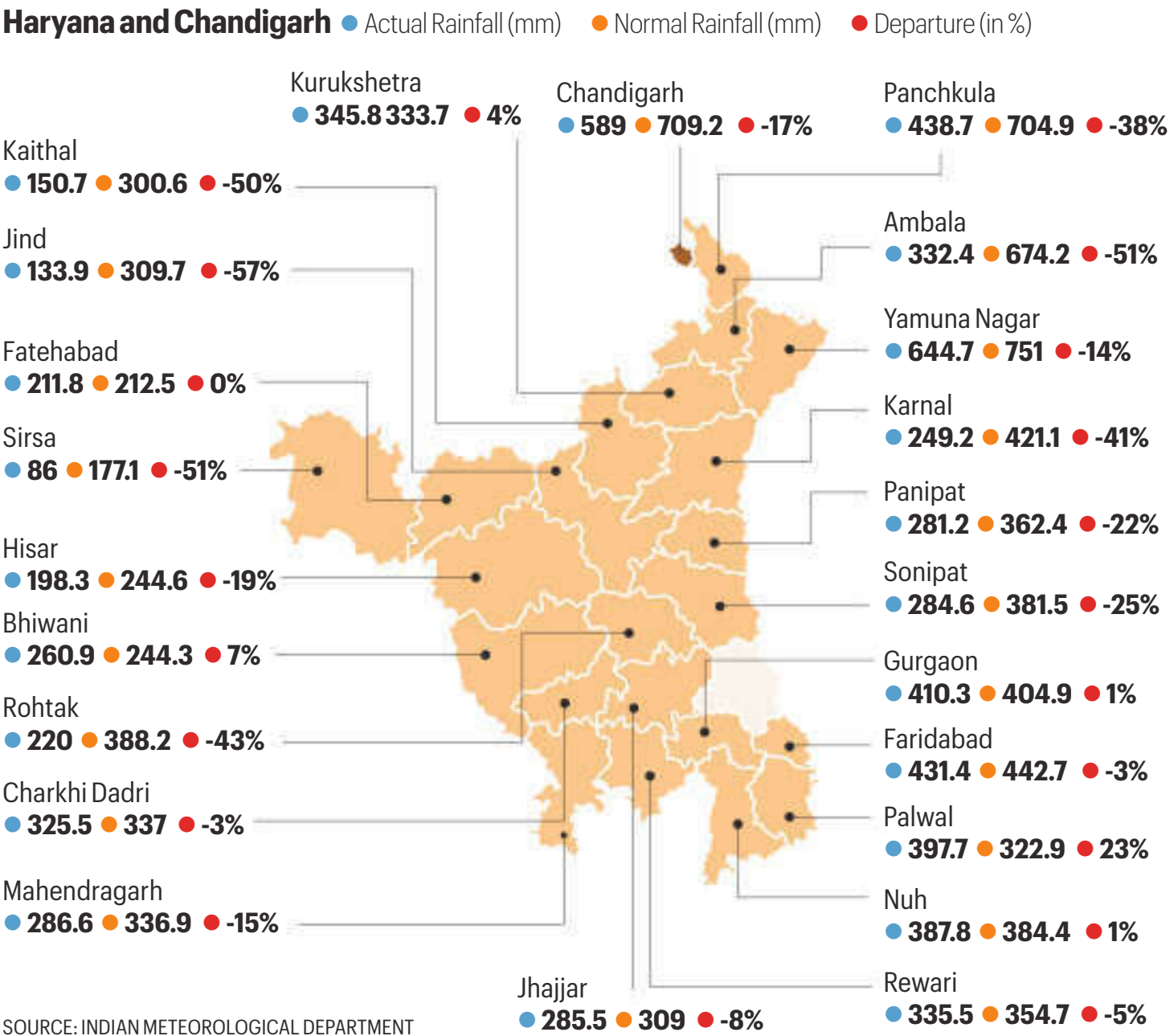
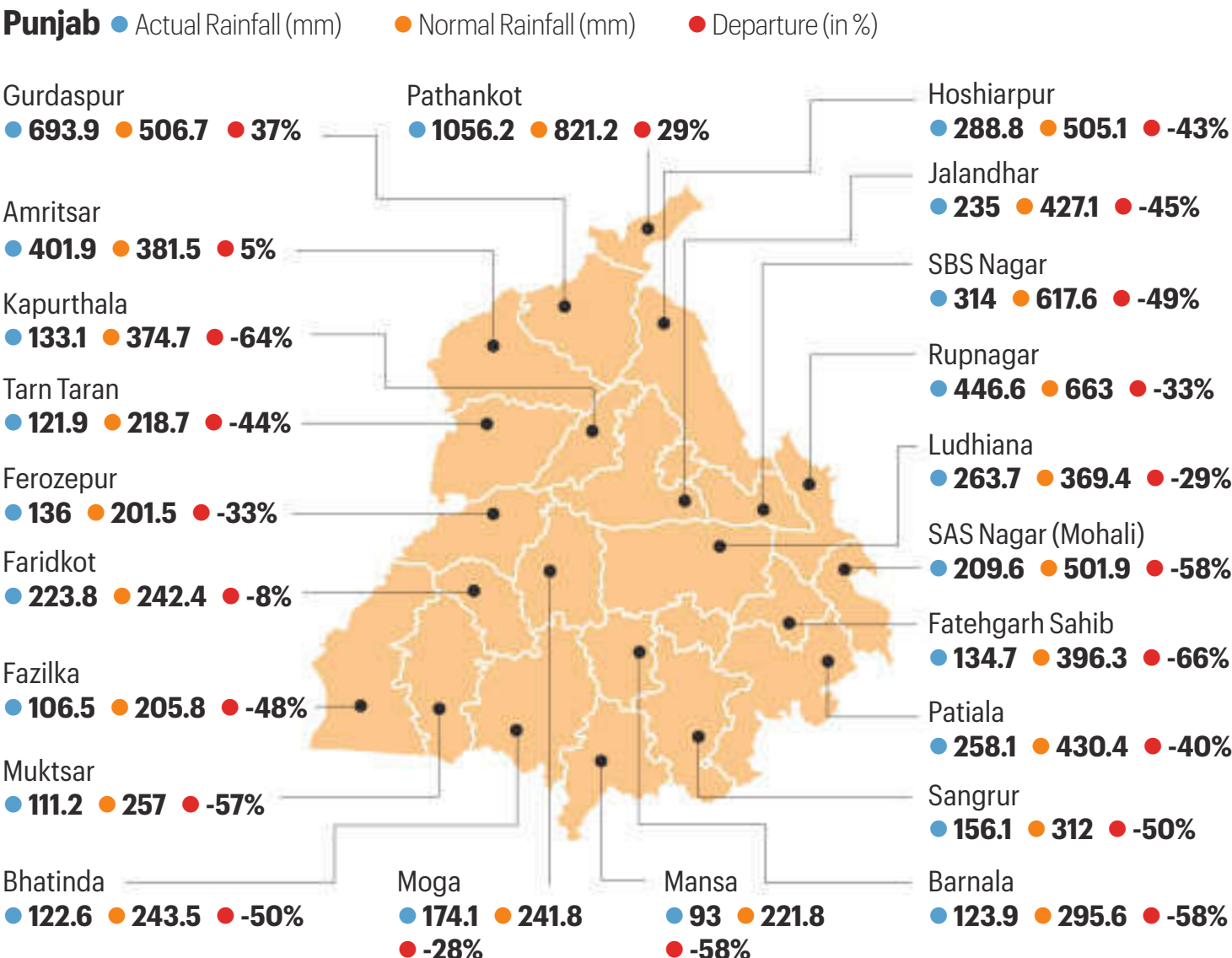
The city had an exceptionally poor June, receiving just 39.3 mm against a normal 155.5 mm, a deficit of 75 per cent. July, however, brought 298.6 mm against the normal 259.9 mm, resulting in rainfall about 15 per cent above normal for the month.

August rainfall again fell below normal, with 251.1 mm against the normal 293.8 mm, a deficit of about 15 per cent.



A cart puller makes way through a slippery road amid heavy rainfall, in Jalandhar. ANI

• HOW IT RAINED ACROSS PUNJAB & HARYANA THIS YEAR



SOURCE: INDIAN METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

EXPRESS Careers

NIRMAL EDUCATION SOCIETY'S SUBHASH DESAI COLLEGE OF LAW
D.S. Road, Asha Nagar, Thakur Complex, Kandivali (East), Mumbai - 400101.
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

UN-AIDED LLB (3 YEARS COURSE)

Sr. No.	Cadre	Subject	Total No. of Post	Post Reserved for
1	Principal	----	01	01-OPEN
2	Assistant Professor	Law	07	01- ST, 01- DT(A), 01- OBC, 01- SEBC, 01- EWS, 02- OPEN, Horizontal Reservation- Women- 01 Post (01- OPEN)
3	Librarian	----	01	01-OPEN

The posts for the reserved category candidates will be filled in by the same category candidates (Domicile of State of Maharashtra) belonging to that particular category only. Reservation for women will be as per University Circular No. BCC/16/74/1998 dated 10th March 1998. 4% reservation shall be for persons with disability as per University Circular No. Special Cell/CC/2019-20/05 dated 05th July, 2019. Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred. "Qualification, Pay Scales and other requirements are as prescribed by the UGC Notification dated 18th July 2018. Government of Maharashtra Resolution No. Misc-2018/C.R.56/18/UN/1, dated 8th March 2019 and University Circular No. TAAS/ (CT)/ICD/2018-19/1241, dated 26th March 2019 and revised from time to time." The Government Resolution & Circular are available on the website mu.ac.in. Applicants who are already employed must send their application through proper channel. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any in their academic career. Applications with full details should reach the TRUSTEE, NIRMAL EDUCATION SOCIETY'S SUBHASH DESAI COLLEGE OF LAW, Nirmala Memorial Foundation Campus, D. S. Road, Asha Nagar, Thakur Complex, Kandivali (East), Mumbai - 400101 within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. **Sd/- TRUSTEE**

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are Re-invited for the supply of following item.

(1) 82101 - 11KV/415 VOLTS, 2000 KVA and 2500 KVA Single Ratio, Synthetic Ester Oil Filled, KNAN Type Distribution Transformers, (2) 82116 - Tender for Supply of 250 KVA & 500 KVA Truck Mounted Diesel Generator Sets along with Accessories and 5 years Non-Comprehensive AMC.

Note: For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

PRO/AAM(M)/62/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER**

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

BORDER SECURITY FORCE

HEAD CONSTABLE BHOPAL SINGH
172 BN BSF
24.06.1953 – 04.09.1999

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Head Constable Bhopal Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal injuries while fighting militants in Handwara area, J&K and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

CONSTABLE SUKHPAL SINGH
53 BN BSF
01.06.1969 – 04.09.1992

Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Sukhpal Singh on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting with militants in area of Doru, Anantnag (J&K) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

The art of surrendering like the flute

Priya S Tandon

KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI falls on the Ashtami (eighth day) of Krishna Paksha (the dark half) of the lunar month of Bhadrpada in the Hindu calendar. Krishna, in the Dwapara Yuga, embodied Shanti and Prema. Before Him, in the Treta Yuga, Rama embodied Sathya and Dharma. When the atrocities of the demons reached a peak and disorder prevailed everywhere, many devotees prayed for the Lord to incarnate. Krishna took birth to restore order and reassure His devotees that He had heard their prayers. His advent signified the dispelling of darkness and the removal of the troubles of many a devout soul.

In various discourses, Sri Sathya Sai Baba explained the three meanings of 'Krishna'. The first is 'Krishyati iti Krishnah', meaning 'the one who cultivates is Krishna'. Krishna is likened to a farmer who cultivates the hearts of devotees after removing the weeds of bad qualities, irrigating them with the water of love, ploughing them through spiri-

tual practices and finally sowing the seeds of devotion.

The second is 'Karshati iti Krishnah', meaning 'the one who attracts is Krishnah'. Krishna is beautiful and enchanting. His beauty is bewitching; His speech is nectarine; His divine leelas are saturated with love. His soft and sweet words calm hearts filled with hatred and make them rejoice in the sweetness of His love. No one can resist His attraction.

The third is 'Kushyati iti Krishnah', meaning 'the one who is always in a state of bliss'. Despite the turmoil and hardships He underwent during His earthly sojourn, Krishna was always in a state of bliss. He continues to bestow bliss on His devotees through the numerous Krishna leelas recounted in the Bhagavata Purana and the Bhagavad Gita.

My grandfather, Nandlal Punchhi, was a Krishna Bhakt. He was adept at playing the bansuri and carried it in his pocket, just as men carry a pen. He played it for the love of Krishna; it was his way of praying, connecting and relaxing. Many



knew him as 'Bansuri Wale Bauji'. His last flute lies framed and displayed in my brother's home, a beautiful memory of a man who lived his life in the awareness of Krishna. One day, he played the bansuri for five or six hours while sitting in front of Krishna's picture. Tears streamed down his face in an incessant outpouring of love. He then told my grandmother that he was going to bed early and that she should not disturb him. And he passed on. He never woke up. Sri Sathya Sai Baba often said that one of the most important things we can learn from the life of Krishna is to surrender like the flute. The flute, or bansuri, is

simply a reed. It undergoes the painful process of being hollowed out by an artisan. Holes are made with precision so that the notes can flow in rhythm. When a flautist breathes air into it, the flute comes alive.

It is hollow. It has no ego. It has no voice or sound of its own. It simply lets the master speak through it. We too should become like a flute. Let us speak only what the Lord wants to convey through us. Let not a single wasteful word be uttered. This is the lesson. Krishna needed nothing. He sought nothing for personal gratification. He killed Kansa and crowned the aged Ugrasena as king. He played a huge role in the Mahabharata war to help the Pandavas regain what was rightfully theirs. He was completely selfless.

The Gopikas and the cowherds were dearest to Him because they loved Him selflessly. Constant remembrance of the Lord is a lifeline. As my mother-in-law always said, "Jai Bansai Wale!"

THE AUTHOR PENS A DAILY COLUMN OF INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

MINISTER SAYS AAP GOVT HAS CLEARED Rs 4,500 ARREARS

Punjab ready for central pay parity, flags Rs 6,500-cr burden if DA hiked to 60%

Cheema says Punjab employees draw higher pay as compared to several other states; Arora invites unions to talks table

Express News Service
Chandigarh, September 3

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT is ready to ensure pay parity with central government employees, including dearness allowance, if that is what the state employees are seeking, Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema Thursday said. He, however, made it clear that the state is ready to match the overall compensation package rather than simply replicate the Centre's DA percentage.

Addressing media, Cheema said the state's overall salary structure had to be compared with that of Central employees rather than looking at DA in isolation.

"Punjab employees in several major categories already

draw higher carry home salaries than their Central government counterparts," Cheema said.

The Finance Minister claimed that basic pay plus DA of the Punjab employees is higher than that of other states like Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. He further claimed that the salaries of government employees in Gujarat are 28 per cent less than what those in Punjab are getting.

Cheem was flanked by Industries and Commerce Minister Aman Arora and Social Security Minister Baljit Kaur.

Cheema's statement comes days after the state government moved the Supreme Court challenging a high court order directing it to release all pending dearness allowance and dearness relief to the employees and



Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema

pensioners within a fortnight. The government contended that the direction to pay arrears totalling around Rs 14,191 crore in such a short period was constitutionally impossible.

Government employees, who went on a statewide strike on August 27, have been pressing the state government to accept their various demands, including the release of pending 18 per cent DA.

"Punjab is already spending a large share of its revenue on salaries and pensions. In 2025-26, the state's salary and pension bill was Rs 57,177.9 crore against revenue receipts of Rs 1,11,740 crore, meaning around 51 per cent of its revenue went towards these two heads. The corresponding all-India average was around 38 per cent," he said.

"When the AAP formed the government, employees were getting 28 per cent DA. We raised it to 34 per cent in October 2022, then 38 per cent in December 2023 and 42 per cent in November 2024," he said while accusing the opposition parties of spreading propaganda that the AAP government did not pay dues to its employees.

Cheema also blamed the previous governments for not clearing around Rs 14,000 crore of arrears, while noting that the AAP government has cleared Rs 4,500 crore.

Arora said that the demand for a mechanical increase of DA

to 60 per cent must be considered in the context of Punjab's overall fiscal position. "Increasing the DA to 60 per cent would place an additional annual burden of around Rs 6,500 crore on the state exchequer. This financial reality has to be balanced against the state's responsibility to fund schools, hospitals, infrastructure and other essential services for the three crore people of Punjab," he said.

Arora also appealed to employee unions to return to talks table. "Employees are the backbone of good governance. We appeal to the unions to recognise the political opportunism of opposition parties, which made promises before elections without making corresponding financial provisions. We are ready to resolve outstanding issues across the table with Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann so that the interests of employees are protected without placing an unbearable burden on the people of Punjab," he said.

Social Security Minister Kaur said there was no legal requirement for Punjab to automatically follow the Centre's DA rate. She said the state's position is based on the Punjab Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2021.

"The salaries and DA of Punjab government employees are governed by the Punjab Civil Services (Revised Pay) Rules, 2021, which were framed under Article 309 of the Constitution. These rules do not prescribe any fixed DA percentage or an automatic formula requiring Punjab to match the Central Government's DA rate," she said.

Reacting to the ministers' appeal to engage with the government through dialogue, Punjab Sanjha Mulzam Morcha leader Sukchain Singh Khaira said the meeting with the state government would be possible if it withdraws its move to take disciplinary action against those employees who remained "unauthorised absent" on August 27.

Haryana govt warns protesting sanitation workers to join duty by Sept 5 or face action

Express News Service
Chandigarh, September 3

THE HARYANA government has warned the protesting sanitation workers to resume their duties by Saturday, or else legal and departmental action will be taken against them, an official Thursday said.

The strike, which has crippled sanitation services in urban areas across the state, entered its 29th day on Thursday. With around 40,000 workers participating in the strike, the prolonged disruption has severely affected sanitation services and raised concerns over the risk of disease outbreaks. The government, however, claims that around 13,000 workers are on strike and that 12 of their 13 demands have already been met. The strike has been called to demand regularisation of contractual workers.

The government has now directed all municipal corporation commissioners and district municipal commissioners to inform the striking employees under their jurisdiction to report to their duties by September 5, saying that they have been absent without notice or permission.

In a communication to municipal commissioners on Wednesday, the Urban Local Bodies Department said, "The striking employees are not only preventing other employees from performing their duties, but are also causing damage to sanitation equipment/tools/machinery of the urban local bodies. In this regard, FIRs have also been registered against the said striking employees."

"Due to these acts of these striking employees, sanitation work is being disrupted, and this is also the season of influenza and fever. Moreover, this may pose a risk of the spread of diseases in the cities," the department said.

According to the department, the Punjab and Haryana

High Court, on August 18 this year, also directed the state government to take action in accordance with law to ensure sanitation arrangements in the cities.

Nagarpalika Karamchari Sangh president Naresh Shastri said around 13,000 sanitation employees among those participating in the strike are working on the Municipal Roll and are demanding regularisation of their services.

"Apart from these 13,000, there are nearly 10,000 workers who have been recruited by contractors under the outsourcing concept and are among the most exploited workers. We are demanding that they be brought under the municipal rolls," he added.

At present, sanitation employees on the Municipal Roll are paid a total monthly amount of Rs 20,590, comprising Rs 19,000 as salary and Rs 1,590 as allowances. Under the government's recent offer, the monthly remuneration of sanitation employees who have been working on the Municipal Roll for more than 10 years will increase to Rs 25,560, comprising Rs 21,970 as salary, Rs 2,000 as risk allowance and Rs 1,590 as other allowances.

Meanwhile, the Nagarpalika Karamchari Sangh has announced plans to intensify its ongoing agitation. As part of the agitation, demonstrations will be held at the camp offices of all ministers in the state on September 5 and 6 "to seek an answer for the discrimination being meted out to sanitation workers". On September 10, 11 and 12, 'Jan Nyay Panchayats' will be organised in all districts.

In the next phase of the agitation, a state-level 'Jan Nyay Panchayat' will be organised in Kurukshetra on September 13. Employees, workers, farmers, traders, and activists and leaders of social and Dalit organisations from across the state are expected to participate in the panchayat.

HC hikes relief in 1995 accident that wiped out 3 families

Court says non-dependent legal heirs can also claim compensation

Express News Service
Chandigarh, September 3

THE PUNJAB and Haryana High Court increased compensation in nine appeals in 1995 accident case in which 10 people were killed, holding that legal representatives of a deceased can seek compensation even if they were not dependent on the deceased.

Justice Parmod Goyal was hearing appeals against a common award of the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal, Fatehgarh Sahib, relating to the May 14, 1995 accident involving truck. In accident, 10 people lost their lives. Three families were wiped out in said occurrence.

The High Court held that the legal heirs could not be denied the right to file claims merely because they were not dependents. It observed, "This provision does not speak of dependents or all such legal representatives having dependent on the deceased. Any legal representative of the deceased can prefer claim before the Tribunal irrespective of he being dependent or not dependent on the deceased."

The Bench further held that "legal heirs such as married sister/daughter, earning brother/son, a brother/son who is living separately or even a charity can seek compensation before the MACT."

The HC also held that legal representatives of a child who was not earning at the time of death could claim compensation, with loss of dependency determined on the basis of potential income.

For the four deceased children—Amjad Khan, aged seven; Adil, aged six months; Arif, aged two; and Meena, aged 2.5 years—the court took the notional income at Rs 1,800 per month, added 40 per cent towards future prospects and applied age-based multipliers. Compensation was fixed at Rs 2,11,440 for Amjad Khan and Rs 1,66,080 each for Adil, Arif and Meena.

In five other cases concerning victims Mohammad Yamin, Nasira, Sabar, Mohammad Jamil and Razia, the HC noted that the claimants had pleaded different occupations and incomes but had not produced reliable evidence to establish them. It consequently took Rs 1,800 per month as the notional income for Nasira and Razia as well.

The compensation was enhanced to Rs 4,52,720 for Yamin, Rs 3,92,880 for Nasira, Rs 4,32,880 for Sabar and Rs 5,30,200 for Jamil. In Razia's case, the compensation was fixed at Rs 3,92,880.

The HC directed that enhanced compensation, except amounts under conventional heads, would carry 7.5 per cent interest from the date of filing of the claim petitions till realization.

The court also dealt with cross-objections concerning the insurance cover. The legal heirs of Ishwar Dass Sood had submitted that he had died before the accident and had never been impleaded in the claim proceedings.



Up in flames

Firefighters attempt to douse the fire at a mattress factory in Basti Bawa Khel, Jalandhar on Thursday, ANI

Early Basmati reaches Majha mandis, fetches a premium

Being procured by private players at Rs 3,300 to Rs 3,900/quintal — at least Rs 700 higher than last year

Anju Agnihotri Chaba
Jalandhar, September 3

FOR AMRITSAR farmer Jasmeet Singh, the early harvest of Basmati this year, has brought a double benefit - a better opening price in the mandi and enough time to fit in another crop before wheat sowing.

Jasmeet brought three acres of his PUSA 1509 crop to Amritsar's Bhagtanwala grain market on Wednesday and sold it for Rs 3,500-3,900 per quintal, depending on quality and moisture. The opening rates for the early Basmati variety in the Majha region, particularly Amritsar and Tarn Taran, are currently in the Rs 3,300-3,900 per quintal range, considerably better than last year, when the variety was fetching around Rs 2,500-3,200 per quintal.

"Last year, the rates were lower in the beginning. This year, the price is good, and I am hopeful that it will remain so," said Jasmeet.

The farmer said he was able to harvest the crop nearly 15 days earlier than in previous years after advancing his sowing in line with the government's revised sowing schedule.

"Last year, I was able to bring my crop to the mandi only by the middle of September. This year, it ripened early

and I have already harvested three acres. Now I will have enough time to grow a vegetable crop before I start sowing wheat in November," he said.

Jasmeet said he had harvested around 63 quintals from the three acres, earning a profit of more than Rs 2 lakh in just three months after selling the produce at around Rs 2.44 lakh. Another three acres of his crop are still awaiting harvesting and will be brought to the mandi over the next few days.

The firm opening has come as a relief for Basmati growers after a relatively weak start last year. In September 2025, PUSA 1509 was selling at around Rs 2,500-3,200 per quintal, with farmers also reporting lower yields after heavy rains affected the crop. The variety had then been fetching almost the same prices as the previous year, but was considerably below the Rs

3,400-3,600-plus levels seen in 2023 said another farmer Amrinder Singh who also sold his crop at the rate of Rs 3600 to 3900 per quintal.

Traders and exporters in the Majha region said the better opening this year was primarily due to stronger demand from private buyers. They attributed the demand partly to disruptions in West Asia amid the Iran-Israel-US conflict, which they said had boosted demand for Indian rice in export markets.

"Demand is quite high at present, and farmers are fetching good price even for short duration variety. The rates for long duration variety like 1121 will be higher. The disturbance in West Asia has also affected the market and increased demand for rice. If this demand continues, farmers are likely to benefit," said basmati rice exporter Ashok Sethi.

Basmati growers, unlike farmers of common non-Basmati paddy, do not have the cushion of MSP procurement. Their produce is purchased mainly by private traders and exporters, leaving them dependent on market demand and the prices offered by buyers.

Jasmeet said this dependency could work both ways. "Basmati is always purchased by private players, so we depend on them. If they give us a good price, we earn a good profit. If they do not, we face losses. We saw that several times, although they get good rates in some years," he said.

At Amritsar's Bhagtanwala grain market, one of the major Basmati markets in the state, arrivals have already picked up.

Vaneet Kumar, a commission agent at the mandi, said farmers were currently getting Rs 3,300-3,900 per quintal, de-

pending on the quality and moisture content.

"For a short-duration variety like PUSA 1509, this is quite a good opening rate. Exporters are purchasing at fairly good prices at present, which is supporting the market," he said.

He said around 4.5 lakh bags had already arrived at the mandi. Each bag weighs approximately 35 kg.

PUSA 1509 is among the first varieties to reach mandis and usually arrives weeks before longer-duration varieties such as PUSA 1121 and PUSA 1718. Its early harvest allows farmers to clear their fields sooner, but its prices remain exposed to fluctuations in export demand as there is no MSP-based procurement mechanism for Basmati. This year around 6.86 lakh hectares area is under various Basmati varieties including short variety 1509 which is mainly grown in Majha area.

● SUKHWINDER SINGH SUNGER SHOT TO FAME AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO 2026 FESTIVAL IN SCOTLAND AS A DRUM MAJOR

From Faridkot to Vancouver, Canada's celebrity Sikh cop recounts family's journey

Man Aman Singh Chhina
Chandigarh, September 3

A SIKH policeman of Canada's Vancouver Police Department, Sukhwinder Singh Sunger, also known as 'Suki', has become an internet sensation after participating in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2026 festival in Scotland in late August as a drum major. He tells The Indian Express that he hopes his fame helps immigrants integrate their culture with Canadian values.

Where in Punjab does your family come from?

On my father's side, there was immigration to Canada as early as 1914 through 1920. I have a passport-style photo of my grandfather, dated 1930 and taken in Vancouver. My grandmother would speak about Faridkot and Raunta village, so my

understanding is that is where she was from. My mother's family was from New Delhi.

My dad was born and grew up in Mission, British Columbia, and later moved to Abbotsford, BC (both are about 45 minutes east of Vancouver). My dad's family owned a raspberry farm. My mother immigrated in 1976, and my parents relocated to Victoria, British Columbia, after my older sister and I were born.

Tell us about your childhood, education, and what made you join the Vancouver Police Department (VPD).

I grew up in Victoria with my older and younger sisters. It was during high school that I knew I wanted to pursue a career in policing. I attended college and studied criminal justice. After graduating, I began

applying to various police departments throughout British Columbia and was hired by the Vancouver Police Department.

I've had mainly operational assignments as a police officer working in patrol and a couple of investigative ones, including the General Investigation Unit and Major Crime Section. In 2012, I applied for and was successful in a transfer to the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in South Sudan, Africa. I was deployed overseas with the UN from January 2012 to January 2013.

I'm currently in the Traffic Enforcement Unit and ride a motorcycle as part of my duties.

What made you join the pipes and drums ensemble in VPD?

I was approached by the VPD Pipe Band leadership during a post-Remembrance Day service in Vancouver on No-



Sukhwinder Singh Sunger at Edinburgh Military Tattoo 2026

vember 11, 2016. They simply asked if I had any experience with drumming and if I would like to join the VPD Pipe Band. I said that I had played the snare drum in elementary and high school and had taken private lessons on the dhol as a hobby. Further to that, as soon as they asked me, my mind was

made up. This wasn't about me; I was well aware that the band had never had a member who was a visible minority/person of colour and it would be an enormous opportunity for our community. The ability to see someone from their own background participating in a highly visible role.

Did you have any formal training in music earlier?

The band provided me with private tenor drumming lessons for a year, and I made my debut with the Pipe Band in December 2017. In 2025 our drum major retired, and a few of us put our names forward to fill the vacancy. In December 2025 I was elected by my peers in the band to a three-year term as drum major. My research suggests I am the 11th drum major in the VPD Pipe Band since its inception in 1914.

What was the response you got in Edinburgh?

Scottish residents and visitors were very happy and almost overcame to see a sardar in full highland dress. I could not walk anywhere without being asked to take photos or simply be told how much they loved my uniform and appear-

ance. Normally I would find it difficult to stop as often as I had to, but the amount of joy and happiness people expressed when I stopped to chat or take a photo made it easy. I would smile at people and ask, "Do I have a choice?" They would tell me I didn't. Many would tell me stories of a Sikh neighbour or friend and how generous and kind they were. Some would share stories of their family member serving in the military with Sikhs.

How has the internet fame helped you, VPD, and Canada in diversity efforts?

I'm a very private individual, so I don't participate in social media. I can't speak to any efforts in terms of diversity and am an ardent supporter of merit-based decision-making and selection.

Given the rising hate for immigrants, how do you think the Edinburgh fame helps immigrants in Canada?

I don't know if short-lived internet fame has any bearing or influence on immigrants in Canada. Perhaps it may give immigrants motivation to, of course, bring their culture and beliefs but also make an effort to know the culture and societal norms of Canada and integrate them into their daily lives.

What is the way ahead for you personally?

I will continue my participation with the VPD Pipe Band and my regular duties as a Traffic Enforcement Officer. Like any skill, I will need to continue to practise my drill and study the music we play as a pipe band to ensure we are always performing at the highest level.

MONSOON SESSION CONCLUDES

HP spending 86% revenue on pay, pension, subsidies: CAG flags rising fiscal pressure

Economy grew at 9.20% during 2024-25 fiscal, but Himachal's contribution to India's GDP stood at 0.70%: Report

Saurabh Parashar
Shimla, September 3

THE HIMACHAL Pradesh government's finances have come under sharp scrutiny with the Comptroller and Auditor General, in its latest report, flagging a widening fiscal deficit, mounting debt, weak budgetary planning and expenditure running into thousands of crores beyond the limits approved by the State legislature. Himachal's fiscal deficit stood at Rs 12,611.05 crore, or 5.44 per cent of GDP, while its revenue deficit was Rs 6,804.61 crore, or 2.94 per cent of GDP, both exceeding the prescribed limits under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management framework, as per the CAG Report on the Finances of the State of Himachal Pradesh for 2024-25, tabled by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu in the Assembly on the last day of the Monsoon Session.

The pressure is evident in the composition of expenditure with the report highlighting that 86 per cent of total revenue receipts was consumed by salaries, pensions and gratuities, with salaries and pensions alone accounting for 70 per cent. This left only around 14 per cent for infrastructure development and capital investment, as per the CCAG, which also questioned the government's approach regarding rising expenditure on electricity subsidies and debt relief measures.

The state's liabilities have also continued to climb. Its internal liabilities rose 9.78 per cent during the year to Rs 67,448.38 crore as on March 31, 2025, while total liabilities reached Rs 1,04,410.57 crore.

The report linked the worsening fiscal situation partly to declining central assistance.

"The situation has become more challenging following the end of the GST compensation regime in June 2022. The Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant was reduced by Rs 1,800 crore, while assistance received from the National Disaster Response Fund fell by Rs 703 crore in 2024-25," read the report, adding grants-in-aid from the Centre accounted for 33.57 per cent of the state's revenue.

The report adds that the State's own tax revenue, "despite broadly keeping pace with economic growth, contributed only about 40 per cent" of total revenue "limiting its ability to offset weakness elsewhere". Non-tax revenue rose 22.40 per cent, while the state's share in GST and central taxes increased 4.34 per cent, but these gains were not enough to offset the expenditure pressures, adds the auditor. Budget management came in for particularly strong criticism from the auditor. Against a total budget of Rs 79,475.53 crore, expenditure was Rs 75,325.02 crore, representing 94.78 per cent utilisation. However, the CAG found significant mismatches between budget estimates and actual spending, especially in the capital sector.

The CAG said the government incurred Rs 3,102.88 crore in excess expenditure over legislative authorisation under seven grants and four appropriations. The Finance Department alone accounted for Rs 2,552.63 crore of the excess.

In another 16 instances covering nine grants, Rs 438.66 crore was spent without any budget provision. Conversely, 14 schemes had budgetary provisions totalling Rs 673.11 crore but recorded no expenditure, effectively leaving the

GSDP of Himachal Pradesh (Rs in crore)

(% growth in nominal GSDP)

YEAR	GSDP OF HIMACHAL (RS CR)	(% GROWTH IN NOMINAL GSDP)
2020-21	1,51,905	(-4.56%)
2021-22	1,70,376	(12.16%)
2022-23	1,92,026	(12.71%)
2023-24	2,12,169	(10.49%)
2024-25	2,31,690	(9.20%)

Per Capita Income (PCI) of Himachal Pradesh (in Rs)

2020-21	1,73,565
2021-22	1,93,016
2022-23	2,14,952
2023-24	2,34,721
2024-25	2,56,137

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

schemes unimplemented. The audit also found that supplementary provisions worth Rs 1,575.44 crore in 13 cases were unnecessary, as actual expenditure did not exceed the original budgetary provisions. In 31 other cases, appropriations amounting to Rs 199.39 crore similarly proved unnecessary. "Large savings in the voted section suggest weak planning and execution. Dependence on Supplementary provisions has been rising, especially in 2022-23 and 2024-25, pointing to less than adequate estimation at budget stage. Significant underspending is observed in Capital (Voted) expenditure, with nearly one-third deviation," read the report.

The report also questioned the management of certain revenue collections. Funds such as the milk cess, environment cess and Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess were kept outside the government account, which the CAG said was contrary to Article 266

of the Constitution.

Delays in submission of utilisation certificates by local bodies, departmental undertakings and autonomous bodies were another area of concern. The report also noted delays by the state in releasing the Centre's share under Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Despite recording 9.20 per cent economic growth in 2024-25, Himachal's contribution to India's GDP remained at just 0.70 per cent and had declined over the preceding five years, the CAG said, adding, "this contribution has declined over the last five years, a concern for the State".

The audit's broader warning is that rising debt, high committed expenditure and inadequate capital investment are leaving the state with progressively less room to pursue development. It called for stronger revenue mobilisation, expenditure control and structural reforms to restore the state's long-term financial health.

All eligible employees to get OPS benefits; Rs 2,229 cr pay, pension dues cleared: CM Sukhu

Press Trust of India
Shimla, September 3

ALL ELIGIBLE government employees in Himachal Pradesh will be granted the benefits of the Old Pension Scheme, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu told the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

He said the government is sensitive to the interests of employees and pensioners, and their pending salary, pensions and other financial benefits are being disbursed in a phased manner.

Speaking during the Question Hour, Sukhu informed the House that the government has paid pending salary and pension arrears worth approximately Rs 2,229 crore so far.

Responding to a question from BJP MLA Janak Raj, Sukhu referred to employees who were previously under the New Pension System and had already deposited a certain amount towards the OPS.

Sukhu said the state's economic condition was the reason for delays in pending payments. The state had suffered losses due to cuts in the Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG) from the Centre.

He pointed out that while the previous BJP government received approximately Rs 47,000 crore in RDG over its five-year tenure, the current government has received only about Rs 17,000 crore so far.

Had there been no cuts to the RDG, the government could have cleared other pending arrears for employees and pensioners, he said.

The chief minister said all arrears of pensioners aged over 67 years have been paid. If any isolated cases remain, the opposition is welcome to bring them to the government's attention.

Pending benefits have also been disbursed to employees aged between 58 and 67 years, while 15 per cent of their arrears have been cleared, he said.

Sukhu addressed the issue of extending Old Pension Scheme (OPS) benefits to employees of the Electricity Board and the Himachal Road Transport Corporation.

He said the decision to implement OPS was not for political gain; it was the government's first cabinet decision aimed at securing the future of the employees.

Responding to a supplementary question from BJP MLA Janak Raj, Sukhu referred to employees who were previously under the New Pension System and had already deposited a certain amount towards the OPS.

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Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur raised a supplementary question regarding the chief minister's reply, questioning the government's claim of being employee-friendly.

House clears Bill that bars woman from polls if father-in-law encroached govt land

Express News Service
Shimla, September 3

THE HIMACHAL Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on Thursday cleared a Bill that expands the definition of 'family' for the purpose of disqualification from contesting panchayat elections or holding a panchayat office if a member of the family encroaches on government, municipal, panchayat, cooperative society or village common land.

The House cleared the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly on Thursday passed the Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2026, despite a strong opposition from the BJP. Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur also demanded that the government withdraw the Bill which was introduced by Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh.

The Bill seeks to disqualify not only the individual who encroaches but also the family members who benefit from such encroachment, for six years from the date of eviction or the removal of the encroachment. Under the amendment, the encroacher's family includes the paternal grandfather, paternal grandmother, father, mother, spouse (husband or wife), son, unmarried daughter, and even daughter-in-law.

Participating in the debate, Thakur said, "Through this Bill, the state government wants to give legal backing to a notification issued on May 6, under which the daughter-in-law of a person accused of land grabbing would also be barred from contesting rural body elections".

He said the government has created a situation where every woman will have to ascertain whether the household she is marrying into is involved in any encroachment. He alleged that this could deprive a woman of her right to contest elections even if she has no link to the encroachment. "There could even be a case where, at the time the man encroached

upon the land, his future daughter-in-law had not even been born," Thakur said.

BJP MLA Randhir Sharma arguing that its provisions of the Bill were against the spirit of the Constitution. He questioned how a woman could be penalised for an offence allegedly committed by her husband or father-in-law, particularly if the alleged offence had taken place before her marriage. Sharma said the May 6 notification had been issued when the Model Code of Conduct was in force and the State Election Commission had already announced the schedule for elections to Panchayati Raj institutions.

Responding to the Opposition, Anirudh Singh said the May 6 notification had been issued after examining the matter in detail. He said a similar provision already existed under the Municipal Corporation Act and was being followed in urban local bodies. "When the election process was on, many delegations met us. They highlighted an issue where a person can not contest the rural bodies' elections due to the involvement in the government land encroachment but many of these people allow their daughter-in-laws to contest the election. We issued the notification to curb this trend. By opposing this bill, the opposition leaders are supporting and encouraging the encroachment on government lands."

"If a daughter-in-law is a legal heir to her in-laws' property, she also shares responsibility for the assets and liabilities, and therefore, she has been included in the definition of 'family'," he said.

The minister clarified that this law was not framed with any specific individual in mind and the decision was taken after seeking legal opinion.

Earlier, the governor had promulgated the Panchayati Raj Amendment Ordinance on May 6, under Article 213 of the Constitution, as the legislative Assembly was not in session.

BJP opposing, House clears Bill to revise stamp duty rates on property transactions

Shimla: The Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Thursday passed a Bill proposing a revision of stamp duty rates on property-related transactions, with the Opposition warning that the higher charges could hit the real estate market and bring property transactions to a standstill.

The Indian Stamp (Himachal Pradesh Second Amendment) Bill, 2026, tabled by Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr (Col) Dhani Ram Shandil, was passed by voice vote amid protests by Opposition members.

Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur accused the government of pushing steep increase, saying duties that were

earlier Rs 100 could rise to Rs 1,000, Rs 2,000 and even more under the proposed amendments. He urged the government to withdraw the Bill and bring it back in the next Assembly session after making suitable amendments. He argued that the proposed hikes could adversely affect property transactions and potentially bring them to a standstill.

Revenue Minister Jagan Singh Negi countered the argument, saying the amendments were aimed at rationalising stamp duty rates. He said the affidavit fee had been fixed at Rs 100, a rate already applicable in states such as Bihar and Maharashtra.

ENS



Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on the last day of Monsoon Session of the Assembly, in Shimla, Thursday. @SUKHUSUKHVINDER

Vande Mataram row ends with full rendition, but Thakur fires parting shot: 'House won't run as per CWC decisions'

Saurabh Parashar
Shimla, September 3

THE CONTROVERSY over Vande Mataram that overshadowed the opening of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly's monsoon session finally ended Thursday with the rendition of its full six stanzas, but not before what Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur described as an attempt to bring party decisions of the ruling Congress into the functioning of the House.

The 10-day session, which began on August 21, saw heated discussions and protests over the National Song after it was not rendered on the opening day. Raising the issue again before the House was adjourned sine die, Thakur said the Assembly was governed by the Constitution and not by decisions taken by the Congress working Committee (CWC).

"We were told that there is a decision of Congress Working

Committee that the National Song will not be sung on the opening day of the session. I want to clarify that the Assembly runs according to the Constitution, not according to the CWC," Thakur said.

He reiterated that treasury bench members had wrongly accused the Opposition of disrespecting the National Anthem on the opening day. Thakur said the allegations were proved "false and baseless" after Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania allowed the camera recording of the incident to be released.

"I did not want to raise this issue again today, but I was forced to take it up," Thakur said, adding that the Opposition had been "pained" by the allegations.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu was not present when the session concluded, having left for Delhi to attend a meeting with the Congress high command.



Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur

'MLAs to get official vehicle flags'

The day also saw the Assembly resolve another long-pending issue with Speaker Pathania announcing that the legislators will finally get official flags to be displayed on their vehicles.

"The Vidhan Sabha's Committee on Amenities examined the matter and agreed to release flags to all MLAs, barring the Cabinet ministers, of

this House. The flags will be issued within one week," Pathania said.

The Supreme Court in a 2013 order had clarified that individuals holding constitutional posts, including the president, vice president, prime minister, ministers, governors, chief ministers, state cabinet ministers, and judges of the Supreme Court and high courts, are permitted to display the Tricolour on their vehicles.

The Supreme Court and high courts have also issued periodic orders regarding the use of red beacons on vehicles. Following these orders, the Tricolour was removed from the vehicles of all the MLAs in the state. Subsequently, provisions regarding the display of the Tricolour on vehicles were clarified under the Motor Vehicles Act.

However, the MLAs in Himachal Pradesh had been waiting for nearly six years to receive an official flag with the issue being raised in different

sessions since 2021.

A senior Vidhan Sabha Secretariat official said Himachal had followed the practice adopted by neighbouring Haryana. "The Assembly flags were allowed to MLAs in many states including neighbouring Punjab and Haryana. We followed the pattern of Haryana Vidhan Sabha. Our flags will be blue in colour," the official said.

'Officials absent from gallery'

Pathania also took note of Thakur's observation that senior government officers were largely absent from the Officers' Gallery on the final day. Only two officers were present when the session was concluding.

"The House takes a strict note of this fact. Why the Chief Secretary, Director General of Police (DGP), Additional Chief Secretary and others were not present in the Officers' Gallery? The House will inquire about

this," the Speaker said.

Beyond the political sparring, the session witnessed discussions on unemployment, healthcare and the functioning of government departments. Industries Minister Harshwardhan Chauhan presented the government's position on employment generated by the state, though the Opposition questioned some of the figures placed before the House.

According to the Speaker, the Assembly took up 14 matters under Rule 62, including two Opposition-sponsored issues that were adopted by the House. Two matters relating to health services and employment were taken up under Rule 130, while Zero Hour saw discussion on 34 issues. Several Bills were also passed.

The House functioned for around 45 hours and 30 minutes, with Pathania putting its overall productivity at 90.32 per cent and describing the legislative output as significant.



Friendship Goals

US AMBASSADOR to India Sergio Gor mentioned External Affairs Minister S Jai-shankar and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal as his “favourite ministers” at a recent event in the Capital. “If you can’t get hold of me, reach out to Piyush (Goyal) and he’ll arrange it. He is a dear friend,” Gor said while addressing the gathering. Responding to the declaration, Goyal said in a lighter vein, “I’m worried about calling you a friend. If you make such comments, I’ll have half of these people at my office looking for US visa appointments.”

Pulse of Matter

TWO SECRETARIES of a Union Ministry housed at Krishi Bhawan recently engaged in a heated exchange during a review meeting over the performance and efficiency of their respective departments. The meeting had been convened to assess the implementation of a Central government scheme aimed at promoting pulses. As the discussions began, one of the secretaries, who participated virtually, raised concerns over the slow pace of the approvals. His counterpart strongly disputed the observations and defended the performance of his department. The two officials exchanged arguments, while the minister, who attended the meeting in person, remained neutral and did not intervene in favour of either officer.

Tea Point

JAL SHAKTI Ministers of BJP-ruled states had a “joyful” interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he invited them for tea on Thursday. The ministers — 23 of them from 14 states — came to the Capital to attend a meeting convened by Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Patil but were asked to stay back for a day. This meeting, coordinated by senior BJP leader Vinay Sahasrabudhe who heads the Department of Good Governance and Policy Research in the party, revived a practice that had been discontinued in 2011. Sources said PM Modi was keen to resume the practice of interacting with state ministers; there will be more such meetings at the BJP headquarters in the coming days. BJP national president Nitin Nabin also hosted a dinner for the state ministers on Wednesday.

UP: 26 doctors sacked over ‘absenteeism’ and ‘negligence’

Press Trust of India
Lucknow, September 3

TWENTY-SIX DOCTORS posted at government hospitals and health centres in Uttar Pradesh have been dismissed for allegedly remaining absent for prolonged periods and failing to discharge their responsibilities, officials said on Thursday. The action was taken on the directions of Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak after the Health Department reviewed cases involving doctors accused of prolonged absence and negligence. The departmental action has also been ordered against nine other doctors for allegedly disobeying orders of senior officials and negligence in medical duties. “...Strict action will continue against those who remain absent from duty or neglect their medical responsibilities,” Pathak said.

FIRST VISIT BY A BELGIAN PM IN TWO DECADES; MODI & DE WEVER DISCUSS UKRAINE, WEST ASIA

From defence to fintech, India & Belgium give ties a major boost

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, September 3

INDIA AND Belgium agreed to strengthen defence and Intelligence-sharing, establish an investment fast-track mechanism, double bilateral trade, boost partnership on semiconductors and enter a pact on renewable energy, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the visiting Prime Minister of Belgium, Bart De Wever, on Thursday.

After the bilateral meeting, PM Modi said, “I am confident that today’s discussions mark the beginning of a new chapter in our bilateral relations.”

“Defence and security cooperation is a key pillar of our relationship. Today, we agreed to enhance military exchanges and training cooperation between the two countries. The agreements between our governments and defence industries will open up new opportunities for defence co-development and co-production. We will also further strengthen Intelligence-sharing and cooperation between our agencies in combatting crime,” he said.

Belgian PM De Wever said, “The exchange of the letter of intent we have just witnessed gives that cooperation a new framework – from government to government contacts and military exchanges to research, innovation, co-development, and hopefully co-production. And alongside it, a series of additional defence-related MoUs are being concluded, bringing companies and institutions from both countries closer together. Security too is something we strengthen by working with partners we can trust.”

Defence delegations from



PM Narendra Modi during a meeting with his Belgian counterpart Bart De Wever in Delhi, Thursday. PTI

the two sides met and agreed to strengthen cooperation in defence industries, which includes drones, anti-mine systems, rockets, tanks, munitions. Representatives from about 15 Belgian defence companies accompanied the Belgian Prime Minister and interacted with the Indian defence industry players as well.

PM Modi said, “For Belgian companies, we have established an Investment Fast-Track Mechanism in India. We have decided to make the India-Belgium Business Forum a regular mechanism. We will strengthen coordination among the financial, fintech and regulatory institutions of both countries. Through all these initiatives, we will realise our goal of doubling bilateral trade over the next five years.”

Belgium is an important economic partner for India in Europe. Bilateral trade reached \$13.01 billion in 2025-26. Diamond trade, with Antwerp as a major global hub, remains a significant component of bilateral

commerce. Belgium is also an important source of investment in India. FDI inflows from Belgium amounted to approximately \$4.2 billion between April 2000 and December 2025.

This is PM De Wever’s first visit to India since taking office in February 2025. This is also the first visit by a Belgian Prime Minister to India in two decades — marking a significant new phase in India-Belgium relations.

The Belgian PM said, “Prime Minister Modi and I had a very good discussion about trade and investment, and about broader changes taking place in the world of today and the economy of today. My country believes strongly in free and fair trade. For us, open markets are not just an abstract principle; they are part of our economical DNA and the basis of our prosperity. Trade within and between economies allows countries to specialize in what they do best. It spreads ideas and technology. It drives competition and innovation.

And when it is free and fair, it creates values on both sides.”

On the geo-economic climate, he said, “The world around us is changing. Recent years have shown us how quickly supply chains can be disrupted and weaponised. How geopolitical instability can affect our energy and our economies, and how excessive dependencies can become vulnerabilities. Our course rejects two false choices. Firstly, we do not choose protectionism, but neither do we accept naive dependencies. We’ve done so for far too long. And secondly, we certainly do not believe that the answer is to retreat economically behind our own walls and our own borders. Our answer is strategic openness.”

On global issues, PM Modi said, “Today, we also had detailed discussions on regional and global developments. Both India and Belgium believe in the rule of law, dialogue and diplomacy. Whether it is Ukraine or West Asia, we

support all efforts aimed at an early end to conflicts and the restoration of peace.”

The joint statement elaborated: “Regarding the war in Ukraine, both sides reaffirmed their support for efforts towards the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace through dialogue and diplomacy, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. On West Asia, they discussed recent developments of concern in the region and underscored the importance of dialogue and diplomatic engagement to address challenges in a peaceful manner. They also stressed the importance of ensuring the safety and security of maritime routes and of maintaining safe and unimpeded maritime shipping.”

PM Modi also referenced the GDP numbers and India’s economic strength. “Today, the world is going through a period of great upheaval. Conflicts continue to persist in many parts of the world. Whether it is food, fuel, or supply chains, every sector is being impacted by uncertainty. In this challenging environment, India’s economy has maintained its momentum. We recorded 7.8% growth in the last quarter. Today, India’s growth story is becoming a source of confidence and new opportunities for the world,” he said.

PM De Wever hinted that PM Modi will be visiting Belgium in December: “It would be a happy ending of the year 2026 to see the signature (happening) in Belgium, and we have the honour of receiving Prime Minister Modi in my country... I look forward to welcoming you to Brussels in December, maybe Antwerp.”

India and Belgium sign strategic deals, underline maritime security & drone tech

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, September 3

FROM MARITIME security to military hardware, from drones to rockets — India and Belgium decided to cooperate and pacts were signed between the two sides, as Belgian Defence Minister Theo Francken met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday.

Francken, who holds the portfolios of defence and foreign trade, is accompanying Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever.

Francken said, “India is a rapidly growing economy and a major military power in the Indo-Pacific. The country is also strategically located along some of the world’s most important trade routes. For an open trading nation like Belgium, the security of these sea lanes is vital. At the same time, Europe’s security is increasingly interconnected with developments in Asia. Russia is waging war in Ukraine and is cooperating ever more closely with Iran and North Korea in the military sphere. China is becoming increasingly assertive in the Indo-Pacific. What happens in Asia has consequences for Europe. And vice versa.”

The two sides signed a Letter of Intent that touches upon training, exchanges between officers, research and development, seminars, joint exercises and cooperation on maritime security.

“We have built trust. Now we need to translate that into concrete cooperation. Not non-binding declarations, but joint training, industrial projects and opportunities for our companies,” says Francken.



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Belgian counterpart Theo Francken at a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

Maritime security is a key area of focus. India wants to strengthen its capabilities in mine countermeasures, autonomous maritime systems, underwater robotics, advanced sensors and the protection of critical infrastructure, including ports, pipelines and subsea data cables.

There are also opportunities in weapons systems, ammunition, radar, electro-optical sensors, command and control, and counter-drone systems. These are precisely areas in which Belgian industry has particularly strong expertise.

“With this visit, we are reaping the benefits of what we have built over the past year. Access to major programmes, industrial cooperation and tangible results. Every project that connects our technology with India’s growing defence industry strengthens both our security and our economic position. That means expertise, contracts and jobs in our country,” Francken said.

EXPRESS special

‘Is NRC being supported as a matter of principle, or as a political strategy against the Kuki-Zo?’

THE CENTRE’S decision to proceed with the delayed 2027 Census has opened a fresh political contest in Manipur over population, citizenship and future political representation. While Meitei civil society groups and political leaders, as well as sections of the Naga leadership, have demanded that an NRC be carried out before the Census and delimitation, the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has opposed the sequencing, calling it “premature and unjustified”.

KZC spokesperson and Secretary for Information and Publicity **Ginza Vualzong** tells **Deeptiman Tiwary** about the Census, NRC, the Naga-Kuki tensions and the council’s changing position on Manipur’s political process, among other issues. Excerpts:

Why does the KZC oppose an NRC before the Census?

There is nothing to fear about the NRC; what we question is its legality and manner in which it is being proposed. The NRC is a national exercise, and there is no provision in the Constitution to conduct it exclusively in a particular state.

As a national exercise, we leave it to the wisdom of the Centre to decide whether it should be conducted nationwide keeping in mind the failure in Assam.

The argument being advanced by Meiteis is that the NRC is needed to identify and address the supposedly inflated number of illegal immigrants from Myanmar. But Manipur is not the only Indian state sharing an international border with Myanmar or other countries. So why should NRC be conducted only in Manipur? Would that not be discriminatory? If the objective is to settle claims about illegal immigrants, refugees, or abnormal population growth among the Kuki-Zo, the most appropriate starting point is credible demographic data. The Census is the proper instrument for establishing such facts. Therefore, demanding an NRC before the completion and publication of the 2027 Census data is premature and unjustified.

The Naga leadership is also backing an NRC. Does the KZC see this as a political



move against Kuki-Zos?

Irrespective of community, whether Kuki-Zo, Meitei or Naga, the NRC will affect everyone, as we have seen in Assam. In fact, as per the last Census, the most significant population growth was recorded in the Naga-dominated district of Senapati. I believe the Naga leadership in Manipur is supporting the NRC primarily to gain favour with the Meiteis, particularly at a time when they are in conflict with the Kuki-Zo. This raises an important question: is the NRC being supported as a

matter of principle, or as a political strategy against the Kuki-Zo?

Given the Kuki-Zos’ links with Myanmar, how do you respond to concerns over illegal immigration?

Before India came into existence, our people lived on the same land. Unfortunately, the British colonial administration divided our ancestral homeland across different territories, leaving our people in what are now India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh. This division was imposed without our consent or knowledge. The same historical reality applies to the Naga and Meitei people, many of whom also lived across what is now Myanmar. If there are genuine concerns about illegal immigration, they must first be established through credible demographic data and evidence...

The KZC had welcomed the end of President’s Rule and Khemchand government. Why has that changed?

We had hoped the change of government in Manipur would bring greater security, stability,

and normalcy. Unfortunately, the reality has been the opposite. Attacks and killings continue, and the present state government, led by Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh, has failed to provide the Kuki-Zo people with the security and confidence necessary for peaceful coexistence. The Kuki-Zo Council therefore calls for the reimposition of President’s Rule in Manipur. Our people felt safer under President’s Rule...

2 Kuki-Zo MLAs returned to the Assembly despite the call for a boycott. Does the KZC support this?

As these MLAs have chosen not to resign, they remain part and parcel of the Manipur government and continue to bear political responsibility for its actions. Imphal has become a valley of death for the Kuki-Zo people, where hundreds have been killed and our homes destroyed... If they are not going to speak for their people, then what exactly is the purpose of their presence in the Assembly?

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

24 days on, no FIR over Haldwani ‘purification’ yet: Kharge to Nadda

Express News Service
New Delhi, September 3

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, wrote to Leader of the House J P Nadda on Thursday that no FIR had yet been registered in connection with the “purification” ritual in Uttarakhand’s Haldwani even after 24 days since the incident — and despite his assurance.

The Congress president recalled that on August 13, he raised in Rajya Sabha the issue of the alleged “purification” carried out in Haldwani after his public meeting there on August 8 “with great sadness and pain”. Kharge stated Nadda had then said it was “indeed a very sad matter”.

“This is not just sad for the Congress, but sad for all of us... Whatever has happened will certainly have to be probed. I would like to say that the BJP never supports such activity. I condemn it and the national president will also look into it seriously. Whatever sentiments of yours have been hurt, that is a matter of concern for all of us,” Kharge wrote, quoting Nadda. “You had also said that strict



Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha

action would be taken against anyone found guilty, after a probe. The Hon’ble Chairman of the Rajya Sabha had also expressed his deep anguish over the incident,” Kharge wrote.

“But I am surprised that even after 24 days have passed since the incident, no FIR has yet been registered against the organisations and individuals involved in carrying out the alleged purification ceremony in Haldwani,” according to the Congress president.

Kharge has also urged Nadda to direct Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to ensure that an FIR is registered against the individuals and organisations involved in the “purification” ceremony.

● CHIEF MINISTER REVIVES STATE’S BID TO USE TAMIL AS THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF THE MADRAS HIGH COURT, ALONGSIDE ENGLISH

Tamil be given its entitled Constitutional opportunity: Vijay in House

Arun Janardhanan
Chennai, September 3

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay moved a government resolution in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday urging the Union government and the President to clear the use of Tamil as the primary language of the Madras High Court, alongside English. The move revives a demand the House endorsed 20 years ago.

The resolution seeks procedures allowing petitions, documents and arguments to be submitted in Tamil; a system for judgments, decrees and court orders to be issued officially in Tamil; and training in legal Tamil and translation for judges, advocates and court employees.

“This is not a demand to remove English,” Vijay told the Assembly. “It is a demand that Tamil be given the constitutional opportunity to which it is entitled.” The proposal turned a constitutional question into an argument about lived experience. A person may be physically present in a courtroom yet remain outside the meaning of what is unfolding if the words determining one’s life, land, family, employment, property or rights cannot be understood.

“The language of justice being a language that the people can understand is a fundamental objective of democracy,” Vijay said. Tamil is the State’s official language under Section 2 of the Tamil Nadu Official Language Act, 1956. Sections 4-A and 4-B,



CM C Joseph Vijay during the Assembly session on Thursday. PTI

introduced through amendments in 1976, legally permit evidence to be recorded and judgments, decrees and orders to be written in Tamil in civil and criminal courts subordinate to

the HC, as well as in tribunals, rent courts and revenue courts.

The constitutional route for extending that use to the HC is more complicated. Article 348(1) of the Constitution provides for

English to be used in proceedings before the Supreme Court and HCs. But Article 348(2) allows a State governor, with the President’s prior consent, to authorise the State’s official language in HC proceedings.

Section 7 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, similarly allows the governor, again with prior presidential consent, to authorise an official language in addition to English for judgments, decrees and orders. An English translation must accompany a ruling delivered in the State language. Tamil Nadu’s Assembly unanimously passed a similar resolution on December 6, 2006, and forwarded it to the Union government. During the debate, lawmakers stressed that Tamil would supplement, rather

than displace, English.

The proposal did not advance. As per the present resolution, the Union law minister told the Rajya Sabha on February 22, 2018, that it had been referred to the CJI and that the top court’s full court had declined it in a letter dated October 16, 2012.

Vijay argued that rejection at one point could not close the question forever. Legal education, lawbooks, dictionaries and translations of judgments in Tamil have expanded, he said, while digital courts, legal databases and technology-assisted translation have advanced. AI now makes it possible, he said, for speech in Tamil to be heard simultaneously in English.

Vijay described Tamil as the world’s oldest language, still

spoken vibrantly, with grammatical and literary riches spanning thousands of years and about nine crore speakers worldwide, including eight crore in India. The Union government recognised it as a classical language on October 12, 2004, based on its antiquity, continuous literary tradition, inscriptions and historical evidence.

The resolution calls on the Union government to act immediately on a proposal forwarded by the governor under Article 348(2) and Section 7. Vijay asked members of every party to adopt it unanimously, calling it not a demand against another language, but a democratic claim to understand, approach and experience justice in one’s own language.



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POSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with **HDFC Bank Limited** by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) (HDFC), under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("said Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) and Legal Representative(s) to pay the amounts mentioned against their respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of the said Notice/s, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc till the date of payment and /or realisation.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Outstanding Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Immovable Property (ies) /Secured Asset(s)
1.	MRS. DAVINDER KAUR W/O KULDIP SINGH (CO-BORROWER AND LEGAL HEIR / REPRESENTATIVE OF DECEASED BORROWER LATE MR. KULDIP SINGH S/O DULLA RAM) & MR. MANPREET SINGH S/O KULDIP SINGH (LEGAL HEIR/ REPRESENTATIVE OF DECEASED BORROWER LATE MR. KULDIP SINGH S/O DULLA RAM) BOTH R/O STREET HARGOBIND SCHOOL WALI, KAZI KOT ROAD, SITUATED AT NALAGARH, TEHSIL & DISTRICT-TARN-TARAN-143401	Rs. 18,38,048/- (Rupees Eighteen Lacs Thirty-Eight Thousand Forty-Eight Only) Dues as on 30-Nov-2022*	03-01-2023	01-Sep-2026 (SYMBOLIC)	"Plot of land and Construction

THEREON BOTH PRESENT AND FUTURE PROPERTY MEASURING (03 MARLA 171 FEET) OR 92 SQ MTRS. STREET HARGOBIND SCHOOL WALI, KAZI KOT ROAD, COMPRISED UNDER KHASRANO. 189(7-0), KHATA NO. 83/185, JAMABANDI FOR THE YEAR 2003-04, SITUATED AT NALAGARH, TEHSIL & DISTRICT-TARN-TARAN- IN FAVOUR OF MR. KULDIP SINGH S/O MR. DULA SINGH VIDE A SALE DEED BEARING WASKA No. 01 DATED 10.08.2007. BOUNDARIES AS UNDER: - EAST-ROAD, WEST-SURJIT SINGH, NORTH-AMAR SINGH, SOUTH-JALLEWAL WALA"

*with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and /or realisation. However, since the borrower/s mentioned hereinabove have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s mentioned hereinabove in particular and to the public in general that the Authorised Officer of HDFC has taken **SYMBOLIC POSSESSION** of the immovable property/ secured asset described herein above at in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above.

The borrower(s) mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid Immovable Property(ies) / Secured Asset(s) and any dealings with the said Immovable Property (ies) / Secured Asset(s) will be subject to the mortgage of **HDFC Bank Ltd.**

Borrower(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

Copies of the Panchnama drawn are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) are requested to collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

Place : LUDHIANA
Date : 04.09.2026
Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013

For HDFC Bank Ltd.
Sd/-
Authorised Officer



H.P. CITY TRANSPORT & BUS STANDS MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, SHIMLA-4.
Tel Nos. 0177-2656883 Fax No. 0177-2653987 Mobile No:- 7018836239E.Mail: bsmdasml@gmail.com

No: HP BSM&DA/EE/(2)2025-2026 Tender Vol-V.
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1.The Chief Executive Officer, HP City Transport & BSM&DA, Tutikandi Shimla-171004 invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/firms registered with HPPWD/ HP Jal Shakti Vibhag in the appropriate class for Civil and Electrical works.

Sr. no	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Allowed
1.	Development of civil and Electrical charging infrastructure for operation of Electric buses in State of (HP) (SH- Construction of G.I cover sheet shed cover for 1 No fast charger dug+ware house, construction of ladies toilet etc construction of boundary wall surrounding the Workshop land etc.) at Workshop (61 miles) NagrotaBagwan, Distt. Kangra (HP) (Under RIDF XXX)	76,43,487/-	1,09,000/-	2,360/-	180 Days
2.	Development of civil and Electrical charging infrastructure for operation of Electric buses in State of (HP) at Baijnath Bus Stand/Workshop, Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH- Construction of G.I sheet cover shed for 2 Nos. fast charger, providing aluminum partition & other minor repair work, providing partition wall in record room in canteen area) (Under RIDF XXX)	5,06,979/-	10,200/-	415/-	90 Days
3.	Development of civil and Electrical charging infrastructure for operation of Electric buses in State of (HP) at Workshop Nahani, Distt. Sirmour(HP) (SH- Replacement of damaged C.G.I. sheet roofing including balance work of interlocking paver in yard (Phase -II), providing ceiling, roofing painting, distempering in crew rest room, providing R.C.C. water storage tank, construction of cabin for S.O providing garage-1 shed and hall/rest room above garage-1, replacement of old C.G.I sheets roofing of R.M office, providing flooring in garage No-2 and construction of shed for meeting room/Dormitory over store etc.) (Under RIDF XXX)	73,56,677/-	1,06,100/-	2,360/-	180 Days
4.	Development of civil and Electrical charging infrastructure for operation of Electric buses in the State of (HP) at Bus Stand Parwanoo, Distt. Solan (HP) (SH- Construction of G.I sheet cover shed for 1 Nos. fast charger, construction of boundary wall, replacement of damaged gutter) (Under RIDF XXX)	4,41,109/-	8,900/-	415/-	60 Days
5.	Development of civil and Electrical charging infrastructure for operation of Electric buses in the State of (HP) at Dharampur Bus Stand/Workshop, Distt. Mandi (HP) (SH- Construction of G.I cover sheet shed cover for 3 Nos fast charger dug+ware house) (Under RIDF XXX)	74,96,515/-	1,07,500/-	2,360/-	270 Days
6.	Development of civil and Electrical charging infrastructure for operation of Electric buses in the State of (HP) at Kotli Bus Stand Distt. Mandi (HP) (SH- Construction of G.I sheet cover shed for 1 Nos fast charger. (Under RIDF XXX)	1,35,150/-	2,710/-	415/-	30 Days
7.	Development of civil and Electrical charging infrastructure for operation of Electric buses at Chirgaon Bus Stand, Distt. Shimla (HP) (SH- Construction of G.I sheet cover shed for 1 No. fast charger) (Under RIDF XXX)	1,35,150/-	2,710/-	415/-	30 Days
8.	Development of civil and electrical charging infrastructure for operation of electric buses at Bus Stand Sarahan, Distt. Sirmour (HP) (SH- construction of G.I sheet cover shed for 1 No. fast charger) (Under RIDF XXX)	1,35,150/-	2,710/-	415/-	30 Days

2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:-
The Bid documents are available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web- site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in may obtained the same from the website: <https://hptenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidder already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

3. Key Dates:-

1. Dates of online publication	08-09-2026
2. Document Download Start and End Date	09-09-2026 18:00 HRS up to 29-09-2026 10:30 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	09-09-2026 18:00 HRS up to 29-09-2026 10:30 HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Documents	29-09-2026 11:00 HRS
5. Date of opening of Technical Bid	29-09-2026 11:30 HRS
6. Date of opening of financial Bid	To be intimated later on.

4. Tender Details:-
The Tenders Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 cover.
1) Cover 1: shall contain scanned copies of all "Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information."
2) Cover 2: shall Contain "BOQ / Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each



PUNJAB & SIND BANK
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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
BY E-AUCTION ON 29.09.2026 FROM 11.00 AM TO 12.00 NOON
LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD & DOCUMENTS (ONLINE) ON/BEFORE 28.09.2026 UPTO 05:00 PM
DATE OF INSPECTION: 23.09.2026 FROM 11.00 AM TO 12.00 NOON

Sale Notice For Sale of IMMOVABLE Assets under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s), mortgage(s) and guarantor(s) that the below mentioned immovable property, charged to the secured creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank, Secured Creditor will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" AND "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS", "WHAT EVER THERE IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues and interest as detailed hereunder in below mentioned account. The details of borrower /mortgagor/ guarantor(s)/ secured asset(s)/Dues/Reserve Price/E-auction date & time, EMD and Bid increase amount are mentioned below. Sale will be done by the undersigned through E-Auction platform provided at the web portal website <https://baanknet.com>

Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor	Description of Property	Demand Notice Date & Outstanding Amount Mentioned therein	RESERVE PRICE	Name & Contact Details of Authorized Officer	QR Code for Property Image	QR Code for Property Location	QR Code for Service Provider
			EMD				
Borrowers: M/s ASA RAM AGGARWAL EDUCATION AND RESEARCH SOCIETY through its Chairman Prithvi Raj Bansal and Finance Secretary Rajiv Bansal Village Gola, P.O. Bhadauli, Tehsil Mullana, Distt. Ambala, and Guarantors: i. Sh. Prithvi Raj Bansal, ii. Sh.	M/s Asa Ram Aggarwal Education & Research Society, Land on Kalpi Narangarh Highway, Village Gola, Distt. Ambala, having Title Deed No. 803, 804, 807, 811, 812, 818, 808, 802, 813, 815, 816 & 817; POSSESSION: SYMBOLIC	Demand Notice Date: 31.03.2016 Rs. 27,12,53,727.30 as on 31.03.2015 plus Interest and Costs thereafter Total outstanding amount as on 31.08.2026 is approximately Rs. 124,52,16,319/- (Rupees One Hundred Twenty Four Crore Fifty Two Lakh Sixteen Thousand and Three Hundred Nineteen Only) along with future interest & penal charges w.e.f. 31.08.2026 & costs, expenses etc. less recoveries, if any made thereafter.	Rs. 4538.00 Lakh	Richa Tripathi (Chief Manager) M.: 8895922914, Ph.: 0172-2922099 Email: c0737@psb.bank.in			
			Rs. 453.80 Lakh				
			Rs. 30.00 Lakh				

Rajiv Bansal, iii. Mrs. Raj Bala Bansal, iv. Mr. Parveen Bansal, v. Mrs. Ruchi Bansal W/o Parveen Bansal, vi. Mrs. Maitri Bansal W/o Rajiv Bansal; H. No. 2112, Sector 15-C, Chandigarh. vii. Sh. Om Parkash Aggarwal, viii. Mrs. Sheelawati, ix. Mr. Pardeep Kumar Aggarwal, x. Mrs. Sarita Aggarwal, xi. Mr. Ayush Aggarwal, H. No. 117, Sector 8, Panchkula, xii. M/s Aggarwal Refractories Pvt. Ltd. Village Mandauli, Tehsil Gamla & Distt. Ambala.

For detailed terms & conditions of sale, please refer and visit website "<https://punjabandsindbank.bank.in/module/sarafesh-list> and online auction portal <https://baanknet.com>

This may also be treated as statutory 15 days sale notice u/r 8(6)/Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 to the borrower/s and guarantor/s of the said loan about the holding of E-Auction Sale on the above mentioned date.

Date: 03.09.2026
Place: Chandigarh
Authorised Officer, Punjab & Sind Bank



punjab national bank
...the name you can BANK upon !
SAMB CHANDIGARH, SCO 60-61, Sector 17-B, Chandigarh, PIN 160017
Telephone No.: 0172-5040788 & 796, E-Mail: zs8340@pnb.bank.in

E-AUCTION/ SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
DETAIL OF THE ENCUMBRANCES KNOWN TO THE SECURED CREDITORS: NOT KNOWN

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 read with provisions of Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s), mortgage(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable/immovable property(ies) mortgaged/hypothecated/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized officer of Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", & "Whatever there is" on date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower(s) & guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

SCHEDULE OF SALE OF THE SECURED ASSETS

Lot No.	Name of the Branch	Description of Immovable Mortgaged Property(ies) and Name of Owner(s)/ Mortgagors	Date of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act 2002	Reserve Price	Date and Time of E-Auction
				Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	
	Name of the Account		Outstanding Amount	Bid Increase Amount	
	Name & addresses of the Borrower/Guarantors Account		Date of Possession	Bid Increase Amount	
			Nature of Possession		
1.	BO: SAMB, CHANDIGARH M/S TRIPURARI AGRO PRIVATE LIMITED M/s Tripurari Agro Private Limited Through liquidator Sh. Rajesh Loomba, 2937, Ganesh Nagar, Link Road, Industrial Area-A, Ludhiana, Also At: Village Bajidpur, Rahon-Mattewara-Ludhiana Road, Rahon, Distt. Nawanshahr (SBS Nagar)-144518, Punjab, Guarantors/ Directors Shri Balvinder Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Gorakh Nath Sharma and Shri Suraj Prakash Sharma S/o Shri Gorakh Nath Sharma, Address No. 1: Village Bajidpur, Rahon Mattewara Ludhiana Road, Rahon, Distt. Nawansheher (SBS Nagar) Punjab, 2nd Address:- Regd. Office 2937, Ganesh Nagar, Link Road, Industrial Area-A, Ludhiana, Punjab, 3rd Address:- House No. 2988, Street No. Zero, Ganesh Nagar Link Road, Industrial Area-A, Ludhiana Punjab-141003 and Guarantors Shri Harsh Sharma S/o Shri Balvinder Kumar Sharma, R/o H. No. 2988, Street No. Zero, Ganesh Nagar Link Road, Industrial Area-A, Ludhiana Punjab-141003, Shri Pawan Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Gorakh Nath Sharma, R/o H. No. 2988, Street No. Zero, Ganesh Nagar Link Road, Industrial Area-A, Ludhiana Punjab-141003, Smt. Namrata Sharma W/o Shri Pawan Kumar Sharma, R/o H. No. 2988, Street No. Zero, Ganesh Nagar Link Road, Industrial Area-A, Ludhiana Punjab-141003	EM of land & building measuring 165.24 sq. yards situated at B-23-2937, St No. 0, Ganesh Nagar, Sherpur Khurd, Ludhiana having Vaska No. 17350 dated 11.02.2010 owned by Mrs. Namrata Sharma W/o Pawan Kumar	05.03.2019 PNB & 25.02.2019 Canara Bank Rs. 27,91,60,210.21 with further interest w.e.f. 01.02.2019 (PNB) & 23.02.2019 (Canara Bank), & Costs until payment in full 21.05.2019 SYMBOLIC POSSESSION	R.P.: Rs. 79,27,000/- EMD: Rs. 7,92,700/- Bid Increase amount: Rs. 1,00,000/-	24/09/2026 From 11.00 AM to 4.00 PM

CONTACT PERSON: SHRI SUBHRAJIT MISHRA, AUTHORISED OFFICER, SAMB CHANDIGARH, MOBILE: 9571988800

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE

- The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions. The auction sale shall be "online through e-auction" portal <https://baanknet.com>
- The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://baanknet.com>) using their email-id and mobile number. The process of e-KYC is to be done through Digilocker. Once the e-KYC is done, the intending Bidders/ Purchasers may transfer the EMD amount to their e-Wallet using online/challan mode before the e-Auction date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of e-KYC, transfer of EMD in wallet and linking of wallet amount to Property must be completed well in advance, before auction.
- Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online/challan mode and will be credited in bidders e-Wallet. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online, will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest.
- Platform (<https://baanknet.com>) for e-Auction will be provided by e Auction service provider **M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.** having its Registered office at Unit 1, 3rd Floor, VIOS Commercial Tower, Near Wadala Truck Terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai-400037 (Helpdesk Number +91 8291220220, Email id: support.baanknet@psballiance.com). The intending Bidders/ Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-Auction Service Provider's website <https://baanknet.com> This Service Provider will also provide online demonstration/ training on e-Auction on the portal.
- The Sale Notice containing the General Terms and Conditions of Sale is available / published in the following websites/ web page portal.
a. <https://baanknet.com>, b. www.pnbindia.in
- The intending participants of e-auction may download free of cost, copies of the Sale Notice, Terms & Conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction related to this e-Auction from e-auction portal (<https://baanknet.com>).
- Bidder's e-Wallet should have sufficient balance (>=EMD amount) at the time of bidding.
- During the e-auction, bidders will be allowed to offer higher bid in inter-se bidding over and above the last bid quoted and the increase in the bid amount must be of increment amount mentioned. 10 minutes time will be allowed to bidders to quote successive higher bid and if no higher bid is offered by any bidder after the expiry of 10 minutes to the last highest bid, the e-auction shall be closed.
- It is the responsibility of intending Bidder(s) to properly read the Sale Notice, Terms & conditions of e-auction, Help Manual on operational part of e-Auction and follow them strictly.
- In case of any difficulty or need of assistance before or during e-Auction process, bidder may contact authorized representative of our e-Auction Service Provider M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Details of which are available on the Baanknet portal.
- After finalization of e-Auction by the Authorized Officer, only successful bidder will be informed by our above referred service provider through SMS/ email. (On mobile no/ email address given by them/ registered with the service provider).
- The secured asset will not be sold below the reserve price. The secured asset will only be sold at a price higher than the reserve price fixed for the property with at least one incremental Bid. The Bidder, at the time of commencement, shall give a minimum of one Bid increment at least greater than and over & above the reserve price fixed for the property. The property will not be sold and auction will not be confirmed, in case failed to fetch the price higher than the reserve price
- The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% (twenty five percent) of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining amount shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale through NEFT/RTGS/IMPS in account no. 834000317118A, IFSC Code: PUNB0834000, PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, SAM BRANCH, CHANDIGARH OR in the form of Banker's Cheque/ Demand Draft issued by a Scheduled Commercial Bank drawn in favor of "The Authorized Officer, Punjab National Bank, A/c (SUNDRY NPA SARFAESI AUCTION RELATED) Payable at Chandigarh. In case of failure to deposit the amounts as above within the stipulated time, the amount deposited by successful bidder will be forfeited to the Bank and Authorized Officer shall have the liberty to conduct a fresh auction/ sale of the property & the defaulting bidder shall not have any claim over the forfeited amount and the property.
- Payment of sale consideration by the successful bidder to the bank will be subject to TDS under Section 194- 1A of Income Tax Act 1961 and TDS is to be made by the successful bidder only at the time of deposit of remaining 75 % of the bid amount/full deposit of BID amount.
- The Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept any or reject all bids, if not found acceptable or to postpone/cancel/adjourn/discontinue or vary the terms of the auction at any time without assigning any reason whatsoever and his decision in this regard shall be final.
- The sale certificate shall be issued in the favour of successful bidder on deposit of full bid amount as per the provisions of the act. No request for inclusion/substitution of names, other than those mentioned in the bid, in the sale certificate will be entertained. The Sale Certificate will be issued only in the name of the successful bidder.
- The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS".
- The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
- It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The bidder inspects the property in consultation with the dealing official as per the details provide.
- All statutory dues/attendant charges/other dues including registration charges, stamp duty, taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the purchaser.
- The Authorized Officer or the Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of properties (E-Auctioned) not known to the bank. The Intending Bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc.
- The bidder should ensure proper internet connectivity, power back-up etc. The Bank shall not be liable for any disruption due to internet failure, power failure or technical reasons or reasons/contingencies affecting the e-auctions.
- It is open to the Bank to appoint a representative and make self-bid and participate in the auction.
- For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer <https://baanknet.com> & www.pnbindia.in.

Date: 03.09.2026
Place: Chandigarh
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK, SAMB, CHANDIGARH

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE
on 25.09.2026
From 11:00 HRS. TO 16:00 HRS.



STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH,
GROUND FLOOR, ZONAL BUSINESS OFFICE BUILDING, FOUNTAIN CHOWK, CIVIL LINES, LUDHIANA, 141 001

E - AUCTION SALE NOTICE
on 25.09.2026
From 11:00 HRS. TO 16:00 HRS.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/ IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES on 25.09.2026 From 11.00 HRS TO 16.00 HRS.
LAST DATE AND TIME OF SUBMISSION FOR EMD & DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE CLOSE OF E-AUCTION, BY BIDDERS THROUGH THEIR OWN WALLET REGISTERED WITH M/s PSB Alliance Pvt Ltd ON ITS E-AUCTION SITE : <https://baanknet.com> BY MEANS OF RTGS/NEFT

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8(6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrowers and guarantors that the below described immovable properties Mortgaged/Charged to State Bank of India (Secured Creditor), the constructive/physical possession of these properties has been taken by the Authorised Officers of State Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 25.09.2026 for recovery of bank dues + interest (as mentioned below against the properties) due to the State Bank of India (Secured Creditor) from below mentioned borrowers/guarantors. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit will be as mentioned below against the properties. "The payment of all Statutory/Non-Statutory dues, Taxes, Rates, Assessments, Charges, Fee etc. Owing to anybody shall be the sole responsibility of the successful Bidder only, Failure in payment of any amount of the sale price by the successful bidder shall result in forfeiture of amount deposited by him.

Detailed terms and conditions of the sale are mentioned below/refer to Website: (a) <https://sbi.co.in/b> (b) <https://baanknet.com>.

DESCRIPTION OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

NAME OF BORROWER(S)/ GUARANTOR(S)	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING	DETAILS OF PROPERTY/IES	Reserve Price	Date & Time of Inspection of Property	Authorised Officer & Contact No.
			EMD		
			Bid Increase Amt.		
1. Borrower : M/S Mahajan Fabrics. Guarantor : 1. Nikhil Mahajan S/o Bharat Bhushan. 2. Chirag Mahajan S/o Rajesh Mahajan 3. Anju Bala W/o Rajesh Mahajan. 4. Vijay Laxmi W/o Bharat Bhushan.	Rs. 7,76,68,341/- (Rupees Seven Crore Seventy Six Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Forty One Only) as on 25.06.2024 plus further interest and other charges less credits, if any.	Property ID SBIN200040037998 Factory Land & Building total area 2660 Sq Yards, detailed as under :- a) Factory land & Building measuring 2560 Sq Yds (4 Kanal 4-2/3 Marla) comprised in Khasra No. 14/7/1/2, 18/3/2/2, 18/6, Khata No. 409/427, 410/428, 419/437 as per jamabandi for the year 2005-06 situated at village Kakawal, Hadbast No. 80 locality known as Jaspal Nagar, Tehsil & District Ludhiana, Punjab, bounded as: East: Street, Admeasuring 192 Feet, West: Street, Admeasuring 192 Feet, North: Street, Admeasuring 120 Feet, South: Neighbour Admeasuring 120 Feet.	Rs. 4,70,00,000/- Rs. 47,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	18.09.2026 11:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs	Sh. Sushil Shrivastva (CLO) Contact No. 8219239766 Sh. Amritpal Singh (CCO) Contact No. 9779733480
b) Property measuring 100 Sq. Yards comprised in Khasra No. 18/4/2/7,8/1, Khata No. 411/429 as per Jamabandi for the year 2005-06, Situated at Village Kakawal, Hadbast No. 80 locality known as Jaspal Nagar, Tehsil & District Ludhiana, bounded as under: East: Neighbour Admeasuring 15 Feet, West: Street 20 feet wide, Admeasuring 15 feet, North: Gopal Kishan Marzara, Admeasuring 60 Feet, South: Sudhir Jain, Admeasuring 60 Feet. Total(a+b): 2660 Sq Yards vide sale deed vaska No. 11168 dated 24.08.2011 in the name of M/S Mahajan Fabrics Pvt Ltd.					

CERSAI ID MAHAJAN FABRICS : 200040037998. Type of Possession : Physical.

THIS PUBLICATION IS ALSO 15 DAYS NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 TO THE ABOVE BORROWER(S) & GUARANTOR(S)

Measurement of the above properties, however, be verified by the bidders at site and also from the records of revenue authorities prior to participating in auction.

TERMS & CONDITIONS : The E-Auction will be conducted through Bank's approved Service Provider M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. through its auction site <https://baanknet.com> Contact Phone & Toll Free Number 8291220220 And Email : support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com. E Auction Tender documents containing online e-auction bid form, Declaration, General Terms & Conditions of Online auction sale are available in <https://baanknet.com>. The interested bidders shall submit their EMD through Web Portal : <https://baanknet.com> (the user ID & Password can be obtained free of cost by registering name with <https://baanknet.com>. Registration/Login ID & Password generation may take Approx 2-3 working days therefore this process may be initiated well in time. The EMD will be payable through NEFT to bidder's own wallet registered with M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. on its auction site please note that the EMD must be deposited in the wallet registered with the M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. There is no encumbrances on the properties known to the Secured Creditor. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, Title of property 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 Authorised officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible any way for misprinting error or any third party claims/rights/dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.

DATE: 03.09.2026
PLACE : LUDHIANA
AUTHORISED OFFICER, STATE BANK OF INDIA
Chandigarh

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA****TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FARIDKOT	ROUGH COST ESTIMATE FOR PROCEEDING AND LAYING OF STORM WATER LINE FROM ENGLISH MORE SHOP TO PATAURA ROAD NAGAR IN WARD NO.32, FARIDKOT + (12 WORKS)	31.08.2026 07.09.2026	4,84,34,390/-	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	9125941498 rcm@mcfa.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**No. 48920/HR**

**Central Bank of India**

Branch Office : Sector 44, Chandigarh

CORRIGENDUM

Refer to our Possession Notice published in Indian Express & Chardikala Published on Dated 12.08.2026 for the account of **Gomzy S/o Rajesh Kumar**. Now in this Account please read the Date of Demand Notice as 18.05.2026 instead of 19.08.2025.
Authorised Officer

**SBI**

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Commercial Property (Plots cum Godown) having total area of **4567.75 sq. yds** at Village Pawa, Ludhiana available for e-auction on **07.09.2026** at **BAANKNET.COM** portal with Property ID: **SBIN002000825** at throwaway price of Rs. 2.73 or by SBI. Contact: 9779575339, 7087421800.

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA****TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HS&MB AMBALA	S/R OF 02 NOS. LINK ROADS IN AMBALA CANTT CONSTITUENCY GROUP NO.1 ROAD ID 'S-4473, 4566 UNDER WORK PLAN 2025-2027 (PC/BC ROADS)	31.08.2026 22.09.2026	92,75,104/-	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	0171 796480 seemabansal2025.hsamb@gmail.com
2	HS&MB AMBALA	S/R OF 03 NOS. LINK ROADS IN NARAINGARH CONSTITUENCY GROUP NO.2 ROAD ID 'S-4473, 4576, 4648 UNDER WORK PLAN 2025-2027 (PC ROADS)	31.08.2026 22.09.2026	2,06,96,802/-	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	0171 796480 seemabansal2025.hsamb@gmail.com
3	HS&MB AMBALA	S/R OF 02 NOS. LINK ROADS IN NARAINGARH CONSTITUENCY GROUP NO.3 ROAD ID 'S-4504, 4545 UNDER WORK PLAN 2025-2027 (BC ROADS)	31.08.2026 22.09.2026	1,32,50,957/-	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	0171 796480 seemabansal2025.hsamb@gmail.com
4	HS&MB AMBALA	S/R OF VARIOUS LINK ROADS IN M.C. MULLANA GROUP NO.1 ROAD ID 'S-4375, 4421, 4429 UNDER WORK PLAN 2025-2027 (PC/BC ROADS)	31.08.2026 22.09.2026	1,40,32,961/-	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	0171 796480 seemabansal2025.hsamb@gmail.com
5	HS&MB AMBALA	S/R OF 02 NOS. LINK ROADS IN NARAINGARH CONSTITUENCY GROUP NO.1 ROAD ID 'S-4472, 4481, UNDER WORK PLAN 2025-2027 (PC / BC ROADS)	31.08.2026 22.09.2026	1,45,42,775/-	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	0171 796480 seemabansal2025.hsamb@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**No. 48901/HR**

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा**
Bank of Baroda

REGIONAL OFFICE : S.C.O. 19,
2nd Floor, D-Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar.
E-mail : recovery.amritsar@bankofbaroda.com

Invitation of Quotation

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS FOR SALE OF MOVABLE SECURED ASSET UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002
Issued under Section 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 4 and Rule 6 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the general public, prospective purchasers, interested parties and Borrowers and Guarantors that Bank of Baroda, being the Secured Creditor, invites quotations / offers for sale of the following movable secured asset of M/s Jai Mata Furnishing Private Limited.

Name & Address of Branch / NPA Account	Description of the Movable Assets. Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical / Symbolic)	Demand Notice Date Total Dues	Estimated Value:
GANDHI NAGAR, JAMMU	All Stocks of Curtains i.e. Hypothecation of Stock (Readymade Curtains, Curtain Accessories, Sofa Cover, Handloom Curtains, Cushion Covers, Readymade Bed Sheets, Stock Roll etc. lying at Jammu (Physical Possession)	03-06-2024 Rs. 1,59,53,714.90 + Interest, charges and less recovery if any, till date affected	As per valuation dated 12-02-2026. Estimated Value : Rs. 38,41,000/- (for Reference Only)

Terms & Conditions: (1) Interested purchasers may submit their sealed quotations / offers for purchase of the above movable secured asset on or before 24-09-2026 (2) Every quotation shall be accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) equivalent to 10% of the amount quoted. (3) The quotation shall clearly mention the total price offered for the movable secured assets (4) The movable secured asset shall be sold on "As is Where is", "As is What is", "Whatever there is" and "Without Recourse" basis (5) The highest quotation received by the Bank shall be considered as the highest and final offer, subject to acceptance / confirmation by the Authorized Officer (6) The highest quoted price shall be accepted, and the sale shall be confirmed on 25-09-2026, subject to compliance with the applicable statutory provisions (7) The successful purchaser shall be required to deposit the balance sale consideration within 3 days of confirmation. In case of default, the consequences shall be as per the applicable terms and conditions & law (8) The Bank / Authorized Officer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations, to negotiate with the highest bidder considered appropriate, or to cancel / postpone the sale process without assigning any reason. (9) The purchaser shall be responsible for satisfying himself / herself regarding the nature, quantity, quality, condition and value of the movable secured asset before submitting the quotation.

SUBMISSION OF QUOTATIONS : Quotations along with 10% EMD of the quoted amount may be submitted on or before 24-09-2026 at Bank of Baroda, Regional Office, 2nd Floor, S.C.O. No. 19, D-Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar 143001, Punjab.

Last Date for Submission of Quotations : 24-09-2026	EMD : 10% of the Quoted Amount	Date of Opening / Consideration & Confirmation of Highest Quotation : 25-09-2026
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For inspection of the Movable secured asset and for obtaining the detailed terms and conditions of sale, interested parties may contact the Authorized Officer. Contact: 70061-79941, 94192-46677, 79846-79806, 70871-15313. Email : recovery.amritsar@bankofbaroda.com

Date : 03-09-2026 Place : Jammu Sd/- Authorised Officer (Bank of Baroda)

**बैंक ऑफ इंडिया**
Bank of India

ZONAL OFFICE : SCO 102, DISTRICT SHOPPING CENTRE, RANJIT AVENUE, AMRITSAR. PH. 0183-5099346

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable / Movable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets and Enforcement of the Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rules 6(2), 8(6) and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrowers and guarantors that the below described movable and immovable properties mortgaged / charged to Bank of India (Secured Creditor), the constructive / physical possession of these properties has been taken by the Authorised Officers of Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 25-09-2026 for recovery of bank dues + interest (as mentioned below against the properties) due to the Bank of India (Secured Creditor) from below mentioned borrowers / guarantors. The Reserve Price and Earnest Money Deposit will be as mentioned below against the properties. Detailed terms and conditions of the Sale are mentioned below / refer to Website : (a) <https://BAANKNET.com> (b) <https://www.bankofindia.co.in>

DATE OF THE INSPECTION OF PROPERTIES	LAST DATE AND TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS ON OR BEFORE	DATE AND TIME OF E-AUCTION
16-09-2026 from 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM with Concerned Branch	EMD shall be deposited before participation in Auction Process i.e. 25-09-2026 by bidders own wallet registered with M/s PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Mumbai on its E-Auction Site: https://BAANKNET.com	25-09-2026 from 11.00 AM onwards

Name of the NPA Accounts / Branch Name	Owner of the Property	Description of the Immovable Properties / Nature of Possession	Demand Notice Date Outstanding Amount	Account Name / Number for Remaining Payment through RTGS / NEFT	Name of the Authorised Officer / Mobile no. / Email ID	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increment Amount
(1) Mr. Vijay Kumar S/o Mr. Gurumukh Singh and Mrs. Veena Kumari W/o Mr. Vijay Kumar. Branch : East Mohan Nagar, Amritsar	Mr. Vijay Kumar S/o Mr. Gurumukh Singh	All that part and parcel of the Residential House / Plot Private no. 400 Old and New Plot no. 37, 38, Kharsa no. 50/23, 53/31 min as per Sale Deed & as per Jamabandi Kharsa no. 53/31 min, situated at Abadi Green City, Gumtala Sub Urban, Near Abadi Charan Singh Colony, Ajnala Road, Amritsar, area measuring 100 sq. yards in the name of Mr. Vijay Kumar S/o Mr. Gurumukh Singh and bounded as North : Plot of others, South : House of Swam Kaur, East : Road 15 wide, West Property of other. (Free Hold Property - Physical Possession)	12-09-2024 Rs. 31,20,853.30 + Interest, charges w.e.f 11-09-2024 & less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 632690200000033 IFSC: BKID0006326	Mr. Manjeet Singh (M) 62833-01105 Email : EastMohanNagar.Amritsar@bankofindia.bank.in	Rs. 21,64,000/- Rs. 2,16,400/- Rs. 20,000/-
(2) Mr. Baldev Singh S/o Mr. Ajit Singh and Mrs. Ranjit Kaur W/o Sh. Baldev Singh, both R/o House no. 697, Gali no. 5, Baba Deep Singh Avenue, Fattegarh Churiyan Road, Behind Baba Deep Singh Gurudwara, Village Nangli, Amritsar 143001 and Mr. Balwinder Singh S/o Mr. Arur Singh (Guarantor), Village Jathu	Mrs. Ranjit Kaur W/o Mr. Baldev Singh	Equitable Mortgage of Residential House having its length 52.3 feet, width 34.6 feet, total measuring 200 sq. yards bearing Kharsa no. 67/12/23, situated at Baba Deep Singh Avenue, Gali no. 5, Village Nangli, (Now House Pvt no. 697, Gali no. 5) Fattegarh Churiyan Road, Amritsar 143001 and bounded as North : House of Gulshan Kumar, South : House of Shashi Chopra, East : House of Kamla Wati, West Gali 11' wide (Free Hold Property - Symbolic Possession)	14-05-2025 Rs. 28,93,292/- + Interest, other charges w.e.f. 06-05-2025 & less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 632690200000033 IFSC: BKID0006326	Mr. Manjeet Singh (M) 62833-01105 Email : EastMohanNagar.Amritsar@bankofindia.bank.in	Rs. 35,20,000/- Rs. 3,52,000/- Rs. 35,000/-
(3) (i) Jagdish Singh S/o Iqbal Singh (Borrower) (ii) Mr. Gurkanward Singh S/o Mr. Jagdish Singh (Co-Borrower) and Mr. Iqbal Singh (Guarantor) Branch : Circular Road, Amritsar	Mr. Jagdish Singh S/o Mr. Pal Singh	Equitable Mortgage of Residential House measuring 1 Kanal 7 Marla Kharsa no. 1547, Abadi Rori Wala, Behind Nanda Hospital, Pati Hardas, Verka, Batala Road, Amritsar, in the name of Mr. Jagdish Singh S/o Mr. Pal Singh and bounded as East : Ownership of Nirmal Singh, Kulwinder Singh, West : Passage 11' wide, North : Land of Nishan Singh, South : Plot ownership of Dara Singh and Sardar Singh (Free Hold Property - Symbolic Possession)	02-09-2025 Rs. 29,22,446.75 + Interest, other charges w.e.f. 01-08-2025 and less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 632890200000033 IFSC : BKID0006328	Mr. Mandeep Singh (M) 95278-69000, Email : CircularRoad.Amritsar@bankofindia.bank.in	Rs. 67,09,000/- Rs. 6,70,900/- Rs. 60,000/-
(4) Mr. Prabhjot Singh S/o Mr. Jagdish Singh and Mr. Manjot Singh S/o Mr. Jagdish Singh Branch : East Mohan Nagar, Amritsar	Mr. Prabhjot Singh and Mr. Manjot Singh	Equitable mortgage of Residential House 181, area 111 sq yards, Kharsa no. 10, 11 min, Jamabandi Kharsa no. 10, Khata Khatouni no. 501/820, situated at Rakha Tung Pui Sub-Urban, Sandhu Colony (Gali no. 2), Near Krishna Bakery, Batala Road, Amritsar and bounded as on the North by House no. 180, on the South by Open Plot, on the East by Cement Concrete Street 15-0' wide, on the West by Other Residence. (Free Hold Property - Symbolic Possession)	17-05-2025 Rs. 25,41,719.45 + Interest, charges w.e.f. 13-05-2025 & less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 632690200000033 IFSC: BKID0006326	Mr. Manjeet Singh (M) 62833-01105 Email : EastMohanNagar.Amritsar@bankofindia.bank.in	Rs. 36,39,000/- Rs. 3,63,900/- Rs. 40,000/-
(5) Mr. Arun Arora S/o Sh Harbans Lal Arora (Borrower) and Mrs. Anjali Arora W/o Mr. Arun Arora (Guarantor) both R/o House no. F-13, Gali no. 3, Nehru Colony, Majitha Road, Amritsar Branch : Golden Temple Road, Amritsar	Mr. Arun Arora S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Arora	All pieces and parcels of Land with Residential Building, Sheds and Structures, Fixtures & Fittings erected or installed thereon (both present & future) having Property measuring 62.50 sq. yards, situated at F-13/540, Plot no. 13 min, Kharsa no. 398 min, Khana Shumari no. 1815/18, Tung Bala Sub urban, Abadi Nehru Colony, Gali no. 3, Majitha Road, Amritsar, owned in the name of Mr. Arun Arora S/o Sh. Harbans Lal Arora vide Sale Deed dated 11-03-2011, Registered with Sub-Registrar Amritsar vide Document no. 16501, Bahi no. 1, Volume no. 4327, Page no. 61/62 dated 11-03-2011 and bounded as North: Property of House no. 12, South : Remaining Share of aforesaid Property, East Road 8' wide, West Property of others (Free Hold Property - Symbolic Possession)	26-09-2025 Rs. 7,51,170.94 + Interest, other charges w.e.f. 27-09-2025 & less recovery if any, till date affected	Account Name : Intermediary Inward Outward Account no. 630190200000033 IFSC: BKID0006301	Mr. Manjeet Singh (M) 62833-01105 Email : GoldenTemple.Amritsar@bankofindia.bank.in	Rs. 18,06,000/- Rs. 1,80,600/- Rs. 15,000/-

All concerned to note please this publication is also a Statutory 15 Days Sale notice under Rule 6(2), 8(6) and 9 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 to the Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors

Terms and Conditions :- (1) E-auction is being held on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" will be conducted "On Line". The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. at Web portal <https://BAANKNET.com> E-auction Tender document containing online e-auction bid form, declaration, General Terms and Conditions of Online auction sale available in websites (a) <https://BAANKNET.com> (b) <https://www.bankofindia.co.in> (2) To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the properties. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims / rights / dues / affecting the properties, prior to submitting their bid. The e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The properties are being sold with all the existing & future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights / dues / (3) In case of sole bidder, he / she has to increase minimum 1 Bid from Reserve Price. (4) Names of the Eligible Bidders, will be identified by Bank of India above mentioned Branches to participate in online e-auction on webportal : <https://BAANKNET.com> PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. will provide User ID and Password after due verification of PAN of the Eligible Bidders. (5) It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the properties before submission of the bid. (6) The E-Auction / bidding of above properties would be conducted exactly on the scheduled Date and Time as mentioned above by way of inter-se bidding amongst the bidders. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of the amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increment Amount" against each property. In case bid is placed in the last 10 minutes of the closing time of the e-auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 10 minutes. The bidders who submits the highest bid amount (not below the Reserve Price) on closure of e-auction process shall be declared as Successful Bidder and a Communication to that effect will be issued through electronic mode which shall be subject to approval by the Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor (7) The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) of the successful bidder shall be retained towards part sale consideration & the EMD of the unsuccessful bidders shall be refunded. The Earnest Money Deposit shall not bear any interest. The successful bidders shall have to deposit 25% of the sale price including EMD already paid, immediately on acceptance of bid price by the Authorised Officer & the balance of the sale price on or before 15th day of sale in above mentioned account. Please note that Cheque shall not be accepted. The auction sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. Default in deposit of amount by the successful bidders would entail forfeiture of the whole money, already deposited and property shall be put to re-auction and the defaulting bidders shall have no claim / right in respect of the property / amount. (8) The prospective qualified bidders may avail online training on e-Auction from PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. prior to the date of the e-auction. Neither the Authorised Officer / Bank nor PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. will be held responsible for any Internet Network Problem / Power failure / any other technical lapse / failure etc. In order to ward-off such contingent situation the interested bidders are requested to ensure that they are technically well equipped with adequate power backup etc. for successfully participating in the e-Auction event. (9) The purchaser shall bear the applicable stamps duties / registration fee / other charges, etc. & also all the statutory / non-statutory dues, taxes / TDS, assessment charges, etc. owing to anybody (10) The Authorised 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 auction proceedings at any stage without assigning any reason therefore (11) The Sale Certificate will be issued in the name of the purchaser / applicant only and will not be issued in any other names. (12) The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. For further details / enquires / any on the terms & conditions of sale can be obtained from Authorised Officer / Bank of India of above mentioned Branches or Bank's website (a) <https://BAANKNET.com> (b) <https://www.bankofindia.co.in> (c) For further details regarding the above said properties / inspection of properties, the intending buyers may contact above mentioned Branches of Bank of India. All the intending purchasers are also advised to visit <https://BAANKNET.com> For any information on procedure of e-auction (14) The Authorised Officer or Bank shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of immovable properties e-auctioned (15) Bidder should get themselves registered on <https://BAANKNET.com> by providing requisite KYC documents & registration fee as per the practice followed by PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. well before the auction date. The registration process takes minimum of two working days. (Registration process is detailed on the above website) (16) The Intending bidder should transfer his EMD amount by means of challan generated on his bidder account maintained with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. at <https://BAANKNET.com> by means of NEFT transfer from his bank account. (17) The Intending bidder should take care that the EMD is transferred at least one day before the date of auction and confirm that his wallet maintained with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. is reflecting the EMD amount without which the system will not allow the bidder to participate in the e-auction. (18) The EMD of the unsuccessful bidder will be refunded to their respective wallet maintained with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. The Bidder has to place a request with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. for refund of the same back to his bank account. The bidders will not be entitled to claim any interest, costs and any other charges (if any). (19) It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to remit the TDS @ 1% as applicable U/S 194 1-A, if the aggregate of the sums credited or paid for such consideration is Rs. 50 Lakhs or more. TDS should be filed online by filing form 2B Q6 and TDS Certificate to be issued in form 16B. The purchaser has to produce the proof of having deposited the Income Tax in to the government account.

Date : 03-09-2026 Place : Amritsar Sd/- Authorised Officers

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA****TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	UNBIA	EXECUTION OF CIVIL WORKS AT MEHRA SINGH STADIUM, ANNAI UNDER CSR ACTIVITY	CLOSING DATE 10.09.2026	APPROX RS. 6,15,000/- (BIDDER TO CONTR. RS. 11,220/-)	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	915081248 seemabansal2025.hsamb@gmail.com
2	UNBIA	EXECUTION OF WATER REVENUE SYSTEM AT KARAN STADIUM, ANNAI UNDER CSR ACTIVITY	CLOSING DATE 10.09.2026	APPROX RS. 6,15,000/- (BIDDER TO CONTR. RS. 11,220/-)	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	915081248 seemabansal2025.hsamb@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in**No. 48903/HR**

PERSONAL

I, JC 681789 A Ex/Sub Dhananjay Kumar R/o #1426, Rathpur Colony, Pinjore, Tehsil Kalka, District Panchkula, Haryana, in my service record the name of my daughter is wrongly entered as Kumari Sudha Sharma instead of Sudha Kumari (correct name).

0200519465-1
I, Arjun S/o Pritam Singh S/o #1804, Mouli Jagran Complex, Mouli Jagran, District Chandigarh, declare that my father's name is incorrectly recorded as 'Pitambar' in my Aadhaar card and voter card, whereas his correct name is Pritam Singh .

0200519447-1
I, MOHAMMMAD IMRAN S/O SH. MOHD ASGAR ALI R/O H.NO. 3/38 AMBEDKAR COLONY, DHAKAULI DISTT. SAS NAGAR, MOHALI HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD IMRAN S/O ASGAR ALI.

0200519464-1

"IMPORTANT"

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**Indian Bank**

Branch Tipa Mcleodganj
Address : Runchals Mount View Complex, Temple Road, Mcleodganj
District Kangra, (H.P.), E Mail : 1588@indianbank.nank.in

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002
Notice is hereby given that the following borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) have defaulted in the repayment of credit facility obtained by them from the bank and said facility have turned NPA. The notice under section 13(2) of the Securitisation of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 were issued to the borrower(s)/guarantors on their addresses available to bank by the Speed post. However the notices have been returned unreserved & the authorised officer has reasons to believe that the borrower(s) /guarantor(s) are avoiding the service of notice as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same.

Name of the Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Details of the Immovable Property	Date of NPA	Date Of Demand Notice & Amount
1. Mrs. Pooja Arora W/o Mr. Gaurav Jaggi (Borrower), Village Jhikali Barol, PO Dari, Tehsil Dhamrasha, Distt Kangra, (H.P.)- 176057. 2. Mr. Gaurav Jaggi S/o Mr. Kawal Jaggi (Borrower), Old Charri Road, Kotwali Bazar, Tehsil Dhamrasha, Distt. Kangra, (H.P.)-176215. 3. Mr. Suraj Tikku S/o Mr. M.L. Tikku (Guarantor), VPO Shyam Nagar , Tehsil Dhamrasha, Distt. Kangra, (H.P.)-176215. 4. Mr. Akshay Dogra S/o Sh. Ashwani Dogra (Guarantor), VPO Sidhpur, Tehsil Dhamrasha, Distt. Kangra, (H.P.) 176057.	All part and parcel of land measuring 00-01-09 Hectares i.e. 109/4143th share of total land measuring 00-41-43 Hectares, comprised in Khata No. 131, Khatoni No. 184, Kharsa No. 380,381, Kita-2, Situated at Mohal Jhikil Barol, Patwar Vnt Mant, HB No. 365, Tehsil, Dhamrasha, Distt Kangra, (H.P.) in the name of Smt. Pooja Arora D/o Smt. Neelam Arora W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar as per sale deed dated 05.08.2014 vide Registration No. 1276/2014, registered with Sub Registrar Office, Dhamrasha, Himachal Pradesh.	29.07.2018	17.08.2026 Rs. 68,42,711/- as on 16.08.2026 plus further interest and other charges thereon w.e.f. 17.08.2026.

The above Borrower(s) /Guarantor are advised to pay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days as per provisions of the Securitization of financial Assets and enforcement of security interest Act, 2002. Moreover the borrower/ guarantors are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the above secured assets mentioned above in any manner whatsoever without our prior consent. This Notice is without prejudice to any other rights/remedy available to the secured creditor including to right to proceed with the proceedings presently pending before DRT/RO of DRT/ DRAT/Court and proceed with the execution of order/decreed obtained/to be obtained."We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities".

DATED: 01.09.2026 PLACE : Mcleodganj AUTHORISED OFFICER

**Director Medical Education & Research, Haryana, Panchkula**

4th floor, DHL Square, Plot no.9, IT Park, Sector 22, Panchkula, Haryana- 134112
Ph. No. 0172-2584633, 2560799 email: dmer-hry@nic.in
Website: <https://dmer.haryana.gov.in/>

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed for the information of all concerned that the Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, vide order dated 23.07.2026, has ordered withdrawal of recognition under the provisions of the **National Dental Commission Act, 2023**, closure of **PDM Dental College**, and shifting of the BDS and MDS students to other Dental Colleges in the State of Haryana. Accordingly, the State Government, vide order dated 07/12.08.2026, has withdrawn the NOC issued to **PD Memorial Religious and Education Association, Sarai, Aurangabad, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar** for BDS and MDS courses. In order to facilitate the continuation of studies of the affected BDS and MDS students, the State Government shall conduct **offline counselling** at **Pt. B.D. Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak**, for adjustment of the students in other recognized Dental Colleges in the State. The date, time and detailed schedule for the **offline counselling** shall be notified separately. All concerned candidates are advised to regularly visit the official websites of the Department of Medical Education & Research, Haryana, i.e. <https://dmer.haryana.gov.in/> and Pt. B.D. Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak, i.e. www.uhsr.ac.in, for further updates and information regarding the counselling process.

Dhirendra Khadgata, IAS
Director, Medical Education & Research, Haryana, Panchkula

No.48935/HR

**punjab national bank**
.....Together for the better

B/O SHAHEED BHAGAT SINGH NAGAR
PAKHOWAL ROAD, LUDHIANA
Email ID:- bo0296@pnbbank.in

[Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
The Authorised Officer of Punjab National Bank under the securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules- 2002. issued a demand notice on the date mentioned against account calling upon the borrower to repay the amount as mentioned against the account within 60 days from the date of notice.
The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general that the Authorised Officer of the Bank has taken Possession of the property/ies described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of the section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (2002) The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to charge of Punjab National Bank for the amount and interest thereon.
The borrower(s)/guarantor(s)/mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Borrowers /Guarantors/Mortgagors	Description of the Secured Assets	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession & Type	Amount outstanding as on the date given below
1. Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s) /Co-Borrower(s) Rajinder Singh S/o Sh. Amarjit Singh R/o H. No. 418, Street No. 8, Gobindpur Nagar, New Shimlaipuri, Ludhiana and for the Years 2008-2009 Situated with in the revenue of Jatinder Kaur W/o Rajinder Singh R/o H. No. 418, Street No. 8, Gobindpur Nagar, New Shimlaipuri, Ludhiana	All Part & parcel of Property Measuring 100 Sq. Yards Comprised by Kharsa no.517, 521, 539, 518, 520 Khata No. 279/346, 280/347, 308/399, 401, 447/571, 448/572, page no. 908, 912, 1064, 1521, 1523 as per Jamabandi for the Years 2008-2009 Situated with in the revenue of Jatinder Kaur W/o Rajinder Singh R/o H. No. 418, Street No. 8, Gobindpur Nagar, New Shimlaipuri, Ludhiana registered with sub registrar (Central) Ludhiana vide Waskia no. 8442 Dated 09.02.2015, in the name of Sh. Rajinder Singh S/o Sh. Amarjit Singh. Bounded as under: East: Tejinder Singh 19, West: Joginder Singh 17", North: Kulwant Singh 45, South: Street no. 20' Wide, 55	13.05.2026	02.09.2026	

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED
TENDER NOTICE
e-Procurement Tender Notice
The TGTRANSCO invites bids online for the following works: Spec. No. e-TGLTI-12/2026-27, **Name of work:** Supply of material/Equipment, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of (i) Erection of 220KV DC line(37 KM) from 220/132KV SS Sadashivpet to M/s. Zaheerabad NIMZ Ltd. (ii) 2Nos 220KV Bay extensions at 220/132KV SS Sadhashivpet and (iii) 2Nos 220KV Bay extensions and 1No. Metering bay at M/s. Zaheerabad NIMZ Limited in Sangareddy District against the Tender Specification No. e-TGLTI-12/2026-27 on Turnkey basis. **Tender Availability on website:** 03.09.2026 **Note:** Further details can be seen in website: tender.telangana.gov.in FAX No. 040-23323565, Phone No. 040-23396000 Extn. 3552, 3424, 3672, 3305.
DIPR R.O.No. 492-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt: 03-09-2026 **Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER/LIS**

Office of The Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Barmer
No. SE/PWB/BMR/2026/D-907 Date 18.08.2026
Notice Inviting Bid No. 05/2026-27
NIB-PWD2627A2518
Bids for Civil Works (Road and Building) are invited from interested bidders upto date **09.09.2026, 06.00 PM** other particulars of the bid may be visisted on the procurement portal (<http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and <http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>) of the state, The approximate value procurement is **Rs. 343.00 Lac (02 Works)**

PWD2627WERC11245	PWD2627WRC11248
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Sd/- (Sura Ram)
Superintending Engineer
PWD Circle Barmer
DIPR/C/15453/2026
PWD(Barmer)-8wX5hPRN(3)

Information Security Department, State Bank of India,
Global IT-Centre, Sec-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai-400 614
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Ref: SBI/GITC/SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTRE/2026/27/1488 Dated: 04.09.2026
State Bank of India (SBI) has issued Request for Proposal (RFP) notice for Annual Maintenance Contract for SOC Tools & Services. For details, please visit 'Procurement News' at <https://sbi.bank.in> and e-tender portal (<https://etender.sbi/sbi>). Eligible bidders, based on the criteria in the RFP notice, may obtain the full RFP upon payment of the tender fees from 04.09.2026 to 21.09.2026, 03:00PM.
Last date and time for bid submission by the eligible bidders: 25.09.2026, 05:00PM.
Place: Navi Mumbai **Dy. General Manager (SOC)**
Date: 04.09.2026 **Information Security Department**

HIMACHAL PRADESH
POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A State Govt. Undertaking)
Regd.Office: Himfed Bhawan, New ISBT Road, Panjari, Shimla-5
CIN : U40101HP2008SGC030950 | Phone No: 01899-293831
email id : dgmchamba.tel@gmail.in
CORRIGENDUM-I
Tender No: HPPTCL/DGM(P)/TENDERS/Chamba/2026/013 Dated 25.08.2026
The NIT invited for "Restoration of protection work & Repair/Replacement of Damaged Tower Members at T-07 Location of 220KV D/C Karian Rajera Transmission Line under HPPTCL PIU Chamba", is hereby retendered on administrative reason.The New deadlines for this tender shall be as under

Description	Earlier Deadline
Submission of bid through online mode	02.09.2026 from 15:00 Hrs to 09.09.2026 till 12:00 Hrs
Last date for offline document submission	09.09.2026 upto 01:00 Hrs
Opening of online bids	09.09.2026 at 02:30 Hrs

DGM (Project),
HPPTCL Chamba Zone
No. HPPTCL/DGM-CBA/Tenders/2026-27- Dated

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY AND JUDICIAL ACADEMY, ASSAM
Hajo Road, Amingaon, Guwahati-781 031
Advt. No.: NLUJA/ADMIN/CONVOCAION-4/2026/50 Date: 03.09.26
FOURTH CONVOCAION OCTOBER 10, 2026
National Law University and Judicial Academy, Assam takes immense pleasure in announcing its Fourth Convocation Ceremony scheduled to be held on **October 10, 2026** at Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, Punjabari, Guwahati-781037. Candidates (UG, PG, Ph.D) who have qualified for award of degree certificate shall register themselves online. For further information please visit University's website www.nluassam.ac.in **Sd/- Registrar**

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED	NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 8 SCAN MACHINE ON 3 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT	03.09.2026 25.09.2026	15,00,000/-	www.hnscd.org.in	8920299629 equipment@hnscd@gmail.com
2.	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED	NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF 8 SCAN MACHINE ON 3 YEARS RATE CONTRACT AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT	03.09.2026 25.09.2026	40,00,000/-	www.hnscd.org.in	8920299629 equipment@hnscd@gmail.com
3.	HARYANA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED	NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR THE SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF FULLY AUTOMATED AND INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR NUCLEAR ACID EXTRACTION AND REAL-TIME PCR SYSTEM FOR HIV VIRAL LOAD TESTING LABORATORY AT CDH PANCHKULA ON REAGENT RENTAL BASIS AS MENTIONED AGAINST ITEM IN SCHEDULE OF REQUIREMENT	03.09.2026 25.09.2026	6,00,00,000/-	www.hnscd.org.in	8920299629 equipment@hnscd@gmail.com
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in						No. 48944/HR

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	GDA,GURUGRAM	STRENGTHENING / REHABILITATION OF EXISTING MASTER SEWER LINE OF SIZE 750MM AND 900MM PIPE LINE WITH MACHINE WOUND SPIRAL LINING (PWSL) TECHNOLOGY ALONG MASTER ROAD BETWEEN SECTOR-39/40, GURUGRAM AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. (INCLUDING 3 YEARS DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FREE OF COST) + 2 WORKS	27.08.2026 18.09.2026	5,64,95,344/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9541251407 work@hda_gda@gndga.gov.in
2.	GDA,GURUGRAM	SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF TWIN LOBE AIR COOLED AIR BLOWER, HELICAL HYBRID BLOWER, CENTRIFUGAL PUMP AT M/S. DIGESTER RECIPICLATION PUMP, CHLORINE DOING SYSTEM AND PUMP CHLORINATION SYSTEM, HEAT RECOVERY SYSTEM, REPLACEMENT OF AIR BLOWER MS PIPE LINE ETC. COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT AT 120 MLD STP BEHRAPUR AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO (INCLUDING 1 YEARS DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD FREE OF COST).	02.09.2026 16.09.2026	6,78,35,000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9541251407 work@hda_gda@gndga.gov.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in						No. 48922/HR

International Institute for Population Sciences
(Deemed to be University)
An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai - 400088.
ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION NO. ADMIN. 01/2026
Applications are invited through proper channel for 01 post of Chief Administrative Officer (Group 'A') on Deputation basis in Pay Level-13 of the 7th CPC Pay Matrix. Eligible officers with the prescribed qualifications and experience may apply. Last date for receipt of application: 05th October, 2026. The prescribed application format and detailed advertisement are available on the Institute's website: www.iipsindia.ac.in **Director & Sr. Professor, IIPS**

H.P. FOREST DEPARTMENT.
WILDLIFE DIVISION, KULLU.
E-AUCTION.
E-Auction on behalf of Biodiversity Conservation Society (BiodCS), Shamshi will be held on 15.09.2026 for the following properties of Biodiversity Conservation Society (BiodCS), Shamshi situated at Van Vihar Siyal Bihal, Manali for a period of one year from the date of award of tender/auction that can be extended further for two more years on year-to-year basis.
"Ticket Window of Van Vihar Siyal Bihal, Manali HP
The detailed terms and conditions are available on the official website of Forest Department (www.hpforest.nic.in), e-auction India Portal (eauction.gov.in) and can also be obtained from the office of DFO WL Kullu on any working day. The e-auction shall be conducted on 15.09.2026 from 11:00 am to 3:00 PM through online mode on the same day. The interested bidders, in their own interest are requested to inspect the sites/Ticket Window before bidding. The auction inviting authority reserves the right to accept or reject the e-auction without assigning reason.
Executive Officer BiodCS Cum
Divisional Forest Officer,
Wildlife Division Kullu, HP.
No.0855/2026-2027/HP

ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH LUDHIANA,
Site No. 5, Near Wave Mall, Ferozepur Road, Ludhiana,
E-MAIL: cs4540@pnb.bank.in,
Tel:-0161-2888181, 2888182

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES
STATUTORY 15/30 DAYS SALE NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC UNDER RULE 9(1) & 8(6) READ WITH RULE 6 & 9 OF THE SECURITY INTEREST(ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002 OF SARFAESI ACT 2002
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Enforcement of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable/immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Sr. No. 1 to 5	The Sale will be done through E-Auction platform provided at the Website https://BAANKNET.com on 24.09.2026 from 11.00 AM to 04:00 PM Date of Inspection of Properties is 05.09.2026 to 23.09.2026 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sr. No. 6	The Sale will be done through E-Auction platform provided at the Website https://BAANKNET.com on 15.10.2026 from 11.00 AM to 04:00 PM Date of Inspection of Properties is 05.09.2026 to 14.10.2026 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
SUBMISSION OF EMD AND ONLINE DOCUMENTS VERIFICATION ON PORTAL https://BAANKNET.com MUST BE DONE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF AUCTION	
M/s PSB Alliance Pvt Ltd, Mumbai. Portal Help Desk No. +91 82912 20220, E-Mail ID: support@BAANKNET@psballiance.com, Availability: 09.00 AM to 05:00 PM on all working stays for guidance on Auction process, Registration status. Technical assistance.....etc	

 E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE |

Sr. No.	PROPERTY/IES ID		DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES MORTGAGED/OWNER'S NAME (MORTGAGERS OF PROPERTY/IES)	Dt. of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI Act, 2002	Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI Act 2002	Reserve Price	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
	Name of Dealing Officer	Contact No.		Outstanding Amount as on	Nature of Possession	EMD	
	Account Name and Addresses					BID INCREASE AMOUNT	
1.	PUNB45400010152 SUKHJEET SINGH 84279 - 79800 M/S Pashupatinath International , Add: Property No. B- XX111-2904, Yash Raj Tower, Diagonally Opp. Bharat Petroleum, Link Road near Samrala Chowk, Tehsil & District Ludhiana- Punjab -141008. through its Proprietor Sh. Rohit Goyal S/o Sh Yash Raj Goyal and Guarantor/Proprietor: Rohit Goyal S/o Sh Yash Raj Goyal		All that is part & Parcel of commercial land & building total msg. 600 Sq yards situated at 2904. Yashraj tower, link road, Ludhiana. 1. Property/ plot measuring 225 Sqyd comprising khasra number 101/9,101/01, as per Jamabandi 1998-99 Situated at Village Sherpur Kalan, Hadbast number 176, Abadi Sherpur Kalan, Ludhiana, Registered in the name of Sh. Rohit Goyal S/o Sh. Yash Raj Goyal and Sh. Yashraj Goyal S/o Sh. Ramj Dass Goyal registered vide sale deed bearing wasika no. 9859 Dated 13.10.2003 registered with sub registrar Ludhiana East. 2. Property/ plot measuring 225 Sqyd comprising khasra number 17/13/2/5, 13/2/4 as per Jamabandi 2003-04, Situated at Village Sherpur Kalan, Hadbast number 176, Abadi Sherpur Kalan, Ludhiana, Registered in the name of Sh. Yashraj Goyal S/o Sh. Ramj Dass Goyal registered vide sale deed bearing wasika no. 6678 Dated 30.06.2006 registered with sub registrar Ludhiana, 3. Property/ plot bearing MC No. B-XIII-2904 measuring 150 Sqyd comprising khasra number 10/101, 101/9, as per Jamabandi 1998-99 Situated at Village Sherpur Kalan, Hadbast number 176, Abadi Sherpur Kalan, Ludhiana, Registered in the name of Sh. Yashraj Goyal S/o Sh. Ramj Dass Goyal registered vide sale deed bearing wasika no. 15455 Dated 29.01.2004 registered with sub registrar Ludhiana East. (Disclaimer- As per title deed total area of property is 600- Sq. Yards, however as per revenue record total area is 513- Sq. Yards.)	02.02.2019	24.08.2023	Rs. 4,10,00,000/- Rs. 6,45,03,048.76 as on 30.09.2018 with interest charged upto 30.09.2018 with further interest and other charges W.e.f. 01.10.2018 less recovery if any	Not Known to Secured Creditor
2.	PUNB454000103492 NIKHIL KUMAR 96461 - 51967 SHARMAN WOOLLENS Prop Sh. Mukesh Jain At -Plot No. 1133, Sonia Street, Purana Bazar, Ludhiana 141008, Sh. Mukesh Jain (Proprietor/ Mortgagor) At- House No. B-V-1133, Purana Bazaar Mohalla Sonia, Ludhiana 141008 Also At- House No. 428, College Road, Civil Lines, Ludhiana-141008, Smt Preeti Jain (Guarantor/ Mortgagor) At- House No. 428, College Road, Civil Lines, Ludhiana-141008		Property/House Bearing M.C No B-V-1133 (New) and B-V-61 (Old) measuring 284 sq yards situated at Purana bazaar Mohalla Sonia Ludhiana as per details given below- Area measuring 142 sq yards owned by Smt. Preeti Jain W/o Sh. Mukesh Kumar Jain as per sale deed with wasika No 19384 Dated 25.01.1993. Bounded as East- Nirmala Rani 69', West- Subhash Chander and Srinivas 43'8"+31'3", North- Street 31'6", South- Street 42" Area measuring 142 sq yards is owned by Sh Mukesh Kumar Jain S/o Sh. Ram Rachpal as per sale deed bearing wasika No 19385 dated 25.01.1993 Bounded as East- Nirmala Rani 69', West- Subhash Chander and Srinivas 43'8"+31'3", North- Street 31'6" and South- Street 42".	13-03-2023	19-03-2026	Rs. 1,22,00,000/- Rs. 12,20,000/- Rs. 2,00,000/-	One Civil Suit CS7846-2022 M/s Sharman Woolen Mills Pvt. Ltd. Vs Punjab National Bank is pending before Civil Judge Senior Division, Ludhiana, Punjab
3.	PUNBKULWINDER NEERAJ SHARMA 80917 77699 1) Sh. Kulwinder Singh S/o Sh. Gurnee Singh (Borrower) Vill Bonkar Dogra PO Ladawal, Tehsil & Dist Ludhiana, Punjab 141008, 2) Smt Ramneek Kaur W/o Sh. Kulwinder Singh (Guarantor/ Mortgagor) Vill Bonkar Dogra PO Ladawal, Tehsil & Dist Ludhiana, Punjab 141008		EQM of plot cum Residential house measuring 9 K-11M comprised in Khewat No. 162, 224, 226, Khatauni No. 199, 303, 306 Khasra No. 29/1, 3,11,30/1,4,15,16/1, 17, 30/5/2, 6,7,8,9,13, 30/1/2 situated in the revenue estate of village Bonkar Dogra, Hadbast No. 109, Tehsil & District Ludhiana in the name of Smt. Ramneek Kaur W/o Sh. Kulwinder Singh, Mortgagor/Guarantor vide wasika no. 6129 dated 11.06.1998	15.02.2013	20.05.2013	Rs. 3,30,00,000/- Rs. 33,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	Note: As per sale deed no 6129 dt 11.06.1998, No boundaries are mentioned. The IP is undemarcated and the successful auction purchaser will have to get the demarcation done at his cost and responsibilities.
4.	Property 1: PUNBJJC01 Property 2: PUNBJJC02 NIKHIL KUMAR 96461 - 51967 Borrower - M/s Bodyguard Jacket Company through its Partners (i) Sh. Nishant Kapur S/o Sh. Kewal Krishan Kapur and (ii) Sh. Vikas Kapoor S/o Sh. Kewal Krishan Kapur Office Address 675, Street No. 5, Chander Nagar, Civil Lines, Ludhiana, 141001 and Guarantors (i) Sh. Nishant Kapur S/o Sh. Kewal Krishan Kapur Resident of H No. 103 M, South City, Ayali Khurd, Ludhiana-142027 and (ii) Sh. Vikas Kapoor S/o Sh. Kewal Krishan Kapur , Resident of H No. 103 D, South City, Ayali Khurd, Ludhiana-142027		Property 1. Equitable mortgage of Property no. B-34-77-A, measuring 250 Sq Yrds comprised in khasra no. 1155/663, khata no. 2043/2420 as per jamabandi year 2006-2007 situated at wakia Peeru Banda, Hadbast no. 167, Abadi known as Chander Nagar, Teh and Dist Ludhiana registered in the name of Sh. Vikas Kapoor S/o Sh. Kewal Krishan Kapoor vide sale deed bearing wasika no. 24915 dtd 02/03/2012 registered in the office of Sub Registrar Ludhiana East Bounded as under: East: Gali wide 20', admeasuring 37'6", North: Gali wide 20', admeasuring 60', West: Banwari Lal, admeasuring 37'6", South: Anil Dhir, admeasuring 60', Property 2. Equitable mortgage of Property measuring 150 Sq Yrds comprised in khasra no. 5317/1157/663-5302/2713/663, khata no. 2034/2403-2032/2401 as per jamabandi year 2006-2007 situated at wakia Peeru Banda, Hadbast No. 167, Abadi known as Chander Nagar, Teh and Dist Ludhiana in the name of Sh. Nishant Kapur S/o Sh. Kewal Krishan Kapur vide sale deed bearing wasika no. 25783 dtd 14/03/2012 registered in the office of Sub Registrar Ludhiana East Bounded as under: East: Gali wide 20', admeasuring 22'6", North: Vijay Kumar, admeasuring 60', West: Plot No 166, admeasuring 22'6", South: Des Raj, admeasuring 60'	13-03-2023	17-06-2026	Rs. 82,00,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	Not Known to Secured Creditor
5.	Property 1: PUNB45400010537 Property 2: PUNB45400010538 Property 3: PUNBRAJSTEEL Property 4: PUNBRAJSTEEL2 Property 5: PUNBRAJSPAT SUKHJEET SINGH 84279 - 79800 Borrower(s) M/s Raj Steel Industries through its Partners Sh. Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Om Parkash Kapoor, Sh. Sunny Kapoor S/o Sh. Raj Kumar and Sh. Raj Kumar S/o Sh. Om Parkash. 1st Address: 445, Industrial Area-B, Overlook Road, Ludhiana, Punjab-141001. 2nd Address: - House No. 71, Krishna Market, Overlook Road, Ludhiana, Punjab-141001. 2. Sh. Raj Kumar S/o Sh. Om Parkash, Kapoor/Partner/Mortgagor in M/s Raj Steel Industries), 1st Address:- House No. 152-A, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana-141001. 2nd Address:- Shop No. 445, Industrial Area-B, Overlook Road, Ludhiana, Punjab-141001. 3. Sh. Anil Kumar S/o Sh. Om Parkash Kapoor (Partner/Mortgagor in M/s Raj Steel Industries) 1st Address:- House No. 152-A, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana-141001. 2nd Address:- Shop No. 445, Industrial Area-B, Overlook Road, Ludhiana, Punjab-141001. 4. Sh. Sunny Kapoor S/o Sh. Raj Kumar (Partner in M/s Raj Steel Industries), 1st Address:- House No. 152-A, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana-141001. 5. Smt. Mamta Rani W/o Sh. Anil Kumar (Guarantor/Mortgagor in M/s Raj Steel Industries), 1st Address:- 77-A, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana-141001. 2nd Address:- 152-A, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana-141001. 6. Smt. Veena Rani W/o Sh. Raj Kumar (Guarantor/ Mortgagor in M/s Raj Steel Industries), Address:- 152-A, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana-141001. 7. M/s RajIspat Udyog (Guarantor/Mortgagor in M/s Raj Steel Industries) through its Partners Sh. Raj Kumar S/o Sh. Om Parkash, Sh. Anil Kumar		Property 1. EQM of commercial shop MC No. B-XXI-58/2 built on plot No. 445, Industrial area B, Overlook Road, Ludhiana 141003 measuring 33.33 Sq. Yards standing in the name of Smt. Veena Rani W/o Sh. Raj Kumar vide Gift deed bearing wasika No. 12960 dated 02/12/2010 registrar in office of Sub Registrar Ludhiana East. Bounded As: East: Road admeasuring 10', West: Tarlochan Singh admeasuring 10', North: Raman Steel Traders admeasuring 30', South: Tarlochan Singh admeasuring 30'. Property 2. EQM of residential property bearing MC No. B-XX-3553 built on plot No. 152-A measuring 280 Sq. yards comprising Khasra No. 188, Khata No. 665/731 as per jamabandi for the year 1998-99, Situated at Village Jawadi. HB No. 160, Abadi Sarabha Nagar Ludhiana, Standing in the name of Smt. veena Rani W/o Sh. Raj Kumar and Raj Kumar S/o Sh. Om Parkash as per sale deed wasika No. 2532 dated 06/05/2003. Bounded as: East: Plot No. 153A admeasuring 70', West: Plot No. 151 A, admeasuring 70', North: Rohit Gupta admeasuring 46', South: Street 20' wide admeasuring 46'. Property 3. All parts and parcel of EQM of property no. B-XXIX-2344-D, measuring 396 Sq Yards situated at Jugiana, Hadbast no. 244, Tehsil Sahnewal, Dist Ludhiana, comprised in khasra no 484 (0-18-2) khata no. 47/84, khasra no 472 (0-15-0) khata no. 93/182, khasra no 483 (0-16-4) khata no 48/85, khasra no 471 (0-15-0) khata no 482 min (0-5-18), 482 min (0-12-8), 482 min (0-4-0) khata no 111/218-219-220 and khasra no. 483 min (0-16-16), 483 min (0-1-16), 483 min (0-3-0) khata no 112/221-222-223 as per jamabandi for the year 2012-13, registered in the name of Mamta Rani w/o Anil Kumar vide sale deed bearing wasika no 1285 dtd 19/07/2016 with sub registrar Sahnewal. Bounded As: East: Road admeasuring 18', West: Neighbor admeasuring 18', North: Jyoti strips Pvt Ltd admeasuring 198', South: Neighbor admeasuring 198' Property 4. EQM of residential house at plot no. 77A, measuring 264 Sq. Yards, Situated at Village Taraf Karabara (Abadi Kartar Singh Sarabha Nagar) Hadbast No. 161, Tehsil and Dist Ludhiana comprising Khasra No. 73/23/90, 80/3/2, Khata No. 1772/197, Page No. 747 as per jamabandi for the year 2000-2001, Registered in the name of Mamta Kapoor W/o Anil Kapoor and Anil Kapoor S/o Om Parkash vide sale deed bearing wasika No. 1816 dated 26/04/2006 registered with joint/sub Tehsildar, Ludhiana. Bounded as: East: Road admeasuring 36', West: Plot No. 62A, admeasuring 36', North: Plot No 78A, admeasuring 66', South: Plot No 764 admeasuring 66' Property 5. EQM of Immovable Property No B-18-3692/A measuring 81 sq yards situated at Model Gram Road, Village Taraf Karabara, Street No 3 (Abadi Labour Colony), Hadbast No 161, Tehsil & District Ludhiana. Comprised in Khasra No 743/5, Khewat/Khatoni no 195/1/208, jamabandi for the year 2005-06 registered in the name of M/s RajIspat Udyog vide sale deed no 11241 dated 14.10.2011 with Sub Registrar Ludhiana (West).	03.12.2019	31.01.2023	Rs. 34,60,000/- Rs. 3,46,000/- Rs. 20,000/-	SA/248/2023 is pending at DRT-III Chandigarh.
6.	Property 1: PUNB45400010307 Property 2: PUNB45400010308 NIKHIL KUMAR 96461 - 51967 1) M/s Alka Fabrics (through its Proprietor Sh. Rakesh Kumar Sharma S/o Sh. Piara Lal) H No. 3463, street no 1 New Shimla Colony, Kailash Nagar Road, Ludhiana-141007, 2) Sh. Rakesh Kumar Sharma S/o Sh. Piara Lal (Prop. M/s Alka Fabrics) H No. 3463, street no 1 New Shimla Colony, Kailash Nagar Road Ludhiana-141007		Property 1 All the part and parcel of residential property measuring 100 sq. yards, comprised in Khasra No. 34/5/2, Khata No. 191/217 as per Jamabandi for the year 1990-91, situated at Kakawal, locality known as Shimla Colony Tehsil and District Ludhiana, as per sale deed bearing wasika no. 27425 dated 04.02.1994, in the name of Sh. Rakesh Kumar Sharma S/o Piara Lal. Bounded as under: East: Street 20' Wide, admeasuring 18', West: Street 20' Wide, admeasuring 18', North: Yog Raj, admeasuring 50', South: Tara Rani, admeasuring 50' Property 2. All the part and parcel of residential property measuring 60 sq. yards Comprised in Khasra No. 35/1, Khata No. 333/353 as per Jamabandi for the year 2000-01 situated at Kakawal, Hadbast no. 80, locality known as Shimla Colony, Tehsil and District Ludhiana, as per sale deed bearing wasika no. 12792 dated 12.12.2003, in the name of Sh. Rakesh Kumar S/o Piara Lal. Bounded as under: East: Jaswant Singh, admeasuring 15', West: Street 20' Wide, admeasuring 15', North: Yuvraj Singh, admeasuring 36', South: Gurcharn Singh, admeasuring 36'	01.11.2018	28.07.2026	Rs. 33,00,000/- Rs. 3,30,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	Not Known to Secured Creditor
	Note:- All Properties are mortgaged in the account of M/s RajIspat Udyog having Total outstanding of Rs. 8,45,10,277.98/- as per demand notice dated 01/06/2019.			28.07.2026	Symbolic Possession	Rs. 17,00,000/- Rs. 1,70,000/- Rs. 1,00,000/-	Not Known to Secured Creditor

Terms and conditions: 1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: **02.** The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" **03.** The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule herein above have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. **04.** The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://BAANKNET.com> for **Sr. No. 1 to 5 on 24.09.2026 and for Sr. No. 6 on 15.10.2026 @ 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM.** For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer



Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (Arcil)
Acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts
Arcil Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West) Mumbai-400028
Website: <https://auction.arcil.co.in>; CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH ONLINE E-AUCTION IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) READ WITH RULES 6, 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgage(s), in particular, that the below described immovable property/ies mortgaged/ charged to the **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited, acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts ("ARCIL")** (pursuant to the assignment of financial asset vide registered Assignment Agreements), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "Without recourse basis" by way of online e-auction, for recovery of outstanding dues of together with further interest, charges and costs etc., as detailed below in terms of the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rules 6, 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor/s/ Mortgager/s & LAN No.	Trust Name & Selling Bank Name	Outstanding amount as per SARFAESI Notice dated 12.09.2024	Possession type and date	Date of Inspection	Type of Property and Area	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Reserve Price	Date & Time of E-Auction/ website for Auction
1) Mr. Gaurav Rewri, S/o. Mr. Jugal Kishor (Borrower), 2) Mrs. Santosh, W/o. Mr. Jugal Kishor (Co-Borrower) LAN: 45279420000350	Arcil-Trust-2026-005 Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd.	Rs.25,62,070/- (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs Sixty Two Thousand And Seventy Only) as on 10.09.2024 further Interest thereon + Legal Expenses	Physical on 27-03-2025	As per request	Residential 1250 sq.ft.	Rs.1,20,000/- (Rupees One Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs.12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Only)	30-09-2026 at 03.30 PM

Description of the Secured Asset being auctioned: Property bearing Flat No.B-202, 1st Floor, Measuring Super Area 1250 Sq.ft. Covered Area 1050 Sq.ft. situated at Kharar, Sukhmani Enclave, Chajju Manjra, Village Sector-127, Mohali, Punjab-140301. Owned by Mr. Gaurav Rewri, S/o. Mr. Jugal Kishore.
Pending Litigations known to ARCIL: NA
Encumbrances/ Dues known to ARCIL: NIL
Last Date for submission of Bid: Same day 2 hours before Auction

Demand Draft to be made in name of: Arcil-Trust-2026-005	RTGS details: Bank A/C No. 57500001783971, Bank Name: HDFC, IFSC: HDFC0000542, Branch Address: Kamala Mills Compound
Bid Increment amount: As mentioned in the BID document	

Payable at Par | **Name of Contact person & number: Mr. Kaushik Bag: 7019949040, Ranjan Naik: 6362951653, Shashi Kumar: 8700277112**

Terms and Conditions:
1. The Auction Sale is being conducted through e-auction through the website <https://auction.arcil.co.in> and as per the Terms and Conditions of the Bid Document, and as per the procedure set out therein.
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4. The successful purchaser/ bidder shall bear any statutory dues, taxes, fees payable, applicable GST on the purchase consideration, stamp duty, registration fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the secured asset conveyed/ delivered in his/her/its favour as per the applicable laws.
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7. The Borrower/ Guarantors/ Mortgageors, who are liable for the said outstanding dues, shall treat this Sale Notice as a notice under Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, about the holding of the above mentioned auction sale.
8. In the event, the auction scheduled hereinabove fails for any reason whatsoever, **ARCIL** has the right to sell the secured asset by any other methods under the provisions of Rule 8(5) of the Rules and the Act.
Place: Punjab, Date: 03.09.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.



Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (Arcil)
Acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts
Arcil Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West) Mumbai-400028
Website: <https://auction.arcil.co.in>; CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH ONLINE E-AUCTION IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) READ WITH RULES 6, 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgage(s), in particular, that the below described immovable property/ies mortgaged/ charged to the **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited, acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts ("ARCIL")** (pursuant to the assignment of financial asset vide registered Assignment Agreements), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "Without recourse basis" by way of online e-auction, for recovery of outstanding dues of together with further interest, charges and costs etc., as detailed below in terms of the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rules 6, 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor/s/ Mortgager/s & LAN No.	Trust Name & Selling Bank Name	Outstanding amount as per SARFAESI Notice dated 19-10-2024	Possession type and date	Date of Inspection	Type of Property and Area	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Reserve Price	Date & Time of E-Auction/ website for Auction
Mr. Gurwinder Singh, S/o. Mr. Labh Singh (Borrower), 2) Mr. Jageet Singh, S/o. Mr. Labh Singh (Co-Borrower), 3) Mrs. Baltej Kaur (Co-Borrower) LAN: 45279420000340	Arcil-Trust-2026-005 Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd.	Rs.23,54,293/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Fifty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety Three Only)	Physical on 07-04-2025	As per request	Residential 0- Kanal 0-3/4 Marle	Rs.1,20,000/- (Rupees One Lakhs twenty Thousand Only)	Rs.12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Only)	On 30-09-2026 at 04:00 PM

Description of the Secured Asset being auctioned: Property bearing Flat 2BHK No.A-110, 5th Floor, Tadadi 0 Kanal 0-3/4 Marle Mutabik Khewat/ Khatoni 260/306 Khasra Number 211/20(2)-(3-16), 21/1, (3-6) Kite 2 Rakha 7 Kanal 2 Marle Da 3/568 Hissa Bakdar 0 Kanal 0-3/4 Marla Jamabandi for the Year 2017-2018 situated at Sukhmani Enclave, Sector-127, Village Chajju Majra, The Kharar District Sahibjada Ajit Singh Nagar, Punjab. Owned by Mrs. Baltej Kaur, S/o. Mr. Labh Singh.
Pending Litigations known to ARCIL: NA
Encumbrances/ Dues known to ARCIL: NIL
Last Date for submission of Bid: Same day 2 hours before Auction

Demand Draft to be made in name of: Arcil-Trust-2026-005	RTGS details: Bank A/C No. 57500001783971, Bank Name: HDFC, IFSC: HDFC0000542, Branch Address: Kamala Mills Compound
Bid Increment amount: As mentioned in the BID document	

Payable at Par | **Name of Contact person & number: Mr. Kaushik Bag: 7019949040, Ranjan Naik: 6362951653, Shashi Kumar: 8700277112**

Terms and Conditions:
1. The Auction Sale is being conducted through e-auction through the website <https://auction.arcil.co.in> and as per the Terms and Conditions of the Bid Document, and as per the procedure set out therein.
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7. The Borrower/ Guarantors/ Mortgageors, who are liable for the said outstanding dues, shall treat this Sale Notice as a notice under Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, about the holding of the above mentioned auction sale.
8. In the event, the auction scheduled hereinabove fails for any reason whatsoever, **ARCIL** has the right to sell the secured asset by any other methods under the provisions of Rule 8(5) of the Rules and the Act.
Place: Kharar, Date: 03.09.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.



Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (Arcil)
Acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts
Arcil Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West) Mumbai-400028
Website: <https://auction.arcil.co.in>; CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH ONLINE E-AUCTION IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) READ WITH RULES 6, 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgage(s), in particular, that the below described immovable property/ies mortgaged/ charged to the **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited, acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts ("ARCIL")** (pursuant to the assignment of financial asset vide registered Assignment Agreements), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", "Whatever there is" and "Without recourse basis" by way of online e-auction, for recovery of outstanding dues of together with further interest, charges and costs etc., as detailed below in terms of the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") read with Rules 6, 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 ("Rules").

Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor/s/ Mortgager/s & LAN No.	Trust Name & Selling Bank Name	Outstanding amount as per SARFAESI Notice dated 18-10-2024	Possession type and date	Date of Inspection	Type of Property and Area	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Reserve Price	Date & Time of E-Auction/ website for Auction
Borrower: 1) Mr. Sandeep Singh, S/o. Mr. Darshan Singh, 2) Mrs. Pritam Kaur, W/o. Mr. Darshan Singh (Co-Borrower) LAN: 45279420000261	Arcil-Trust-2026-005 Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd.	Rs.20,28,855/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Twenty Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Five Only) as on 16.10.2024 further Interest thereon + Legal Expenses	Physical on 07-04-2025	As per request	Residential 0- Kanal 0-3/4 Marle	Rs.1,20,000/- (Rupees One Lakhs Lakhs Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs.12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Only)	On 30-09-2026 at 04.30 PM

Description of the Secured Asset being auctioned: Property bearing 2BHK Flat No.106-A, 3rd Floor, Tadadi 0 Kanal 0-3/4 Marle Mutabik Khewat/ Khatoni Number 260/306, Khasra Numbers 211/20(2)-(3-16), 21/1 (3-6) Kite 2 Rakha 7 Kanal 2 Marle Da 3/568, Hissa Bakdar 0 Kanal 0-3/4 , Marla Hadast No.33, Jamabandi for the Year 2017-2018, Sector-127, situated at Sukhmani Enclave, Village Chajju Majra, Thesil Kharar Dist. Sahibjada Ajit Singh Nagar. Owned by Mr. Sandeep Singh, S/o. Mr. Darshan Singh.
Pending Litigations known to ARCIL: NA
Encumbrances/ Dues known to ARCIL: NIL
Last Date for submission of Bid: Same day 2 hours before Auction

Demand Draft to be made in name of: Arcil-Trust-2026-005	RTGS details: Bank A/C No.57500001783971, Bank Name: HDFC, IFSC: HDFC0000542, Branch Address: Kamala Mills Compound
Bid Increment amount: As mentioned in the BID document	

Payable at Par | **Name of Contact person & number: Mr. Kaushik Bag: 7019949040, Ranjan Naik: 6362951653, Shashi Kumar: 8700277112**

Terms and Conditions:
1. The Auction Sale is being conducted through e-auction through the website <https://auction.arcil.co.in> and as per the Terms and Conditions of the Bid Document, and as per the procedure set out therein.
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8. In the event, the auction scheduled hereinabove fails for any reason whatsoever, **ARCIL** has the right to sell the secured asset by any other methods under the provisions of Rule 8(5) of the Rules and the Act.
Place: Punjab, Date: 03.09.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.



Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (Arcil)
Acting in its capacity as Trustee of various Arcil Trusts
Arcil Office: The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29, Senapati Bapat Marg, Dadar (West) Mumbai-400028
Website: <https://auction.arcil.co.in>; CIN-U65999MH2002PLC134884

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH ONLINE E-AUCTION IN EXERCISE OF THE POWERS UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 (SARFAESI ACT) READ WITH RULES 6, 8 & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002
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Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantor/s/ Mortgager/s & LAN No.	Trust Name & Selling Bank Name	Outstanding amount as per SARFAESI Notice dated 12.09.2024	Possession type and date	Date of Inspection	Type of Property and Area	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Reserve Price	Date & Time of E-Auction/ website for Auction
1) Mr. Suresh Kumar, S/o. Ram Chandra (Borrower), 2) Mrs. Priyanaka Dhyani (Co.Borrower) LAN: 45279420000107	Arcil-Trust-2026-005 Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd.	Rs.22,62,142/- Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Two Only	Physical on 07-04-2025	As per request	Residential 0- Kanal 0-3/4 Marle	Rs.1,20,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Thousand Only)	Rs.12,00,000/- (Rupees Four Twelve Lakhs Only)	On 30-09-2026 at 05.30 PM

Description of the Secured Asset being auctioned: All that piece and parcel of the Immovable Property Flat 2BHK Number 103 Second Floor Block-A Sukhmani Enclave Tadadi 0- Kanal 0-3/4 Marle, Comprised Khewat/ Khatoni Numbers 260/306, Khasra Numbers 211/20(2)-(3-16), 21/1(3-6) Kite 2 Rakha 7 Kanal 2 Marle Da 3/568 Hissa Bakdar 0 Kanal 0-3/4 Marla Jamabandi for the Year 2017-18. Document Number 2021-22/15/19492 Dated 11-10-2021. Wakya Rakha Chajju Majra H.B Number 33 Tehsil Kharar Dist. Sahibjada Ajit Singh Nagar. Owned by Mr. Suresh Kumar, S/o. Ram Chander. Bounded as: East: Property of Owner, West: Rasta, North: Owner of Gurmeet Singh, South: Owner of Gurmeet Singh.
Pending Litigations known to ARCIL: NA
Encumbrances/ Dues known to ARCIL: NIL
Last Date for submission of Bid: Same day 2 hours before Auction

Demand Draft to be made in name of: Arcil-Trust-2026-005	RTGS details: Bank A/C No. 57500001783971, Bank Name: HDFC, IFSC: HDFC0000542, Branch Address: Kamala Mills Compound
Bid Increment amount: As mentioned in the BID document	

Payable at Par | **Name of Contact person & number: Mr. Kaushik Bag: 7019949040, Ranjan Naik: 6362951653, Shashi Kumar: 8700277112**

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Place: Punjab, Date: 03.09.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer, Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.

Exports push GDP growth, but low-margin shipments struggle

Ravi Dutta Mishra
New Delhi, September 3

INDIA'S GOODS exports bucked expectations to record their best-ever June, with outbound shipments jumping to a record \$44.24 billion at the peak of the disruption caused by the crisis in West Asia. This performance helped drive GDP growth in April-June to an unexpectedly high 7.8%. But under the headline number, most labour-intensive and low-margin exports did not fare well.

Overall goods exports in April-June rose 15% year-on-year to \$129.32 billion while non-petroleum, non-gems and jewellery shipments were up 12% at \$99.04 billion — well above the 6.5% growth exhibited over the previous two financial years.

On Monday, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran attributed the "brisk" growth in India's core exports to the signing of free trade agreements (FTAs), export diversification efforts, and "possibly rising competitiveness".

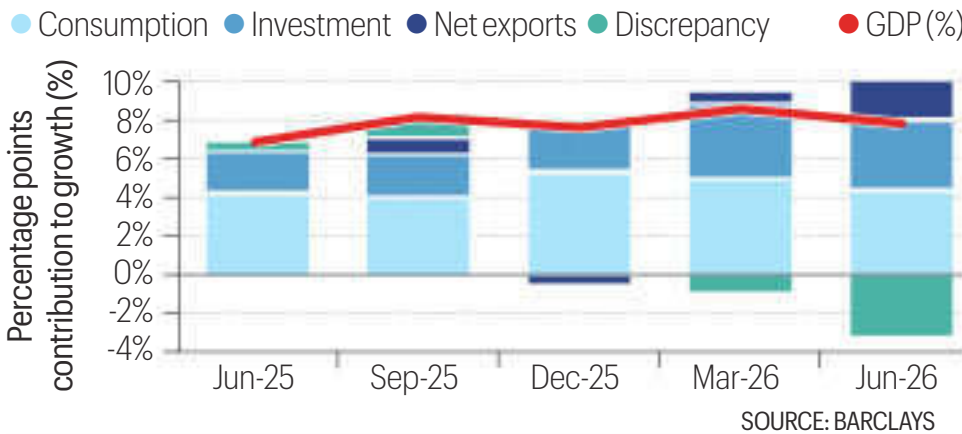
According to economists, net exports added 3 percentage points to GDP growth in April-June 2026 and this was driven by a decline in real imports as the conflict in West Asia weighed on import volumes.

"Export growth accelerated to 12% in Q1; combined with the decline in imports, this meant net exports contributed positively to GDP," Barclays economists said Monday. The headline numbers, however, mask an uneven sectoral picture.

While high-end products such as engineering goods, electronics and pharmaceuticals grew 18.1%, 22.6% and 6.8%, respectively, during the April-June quarter, several labour-intensive sectors registered a sharp decline. Textile exports slipped 12.4% while leather products declined 4.7%. Exports of low-margin products such as fruits and vegetables, ceramics and glassware, and jute products fell 10.3%, 25%, and 13.4%, respectively. Tea exports were under particular pressure, falling 17.5%. Of the 31 export sectors, 11 posted a year-on-year decline in April-June.

According to economists and industry executives, the West Asia crisis is disrupting trade at various levels, with

Rising contribution of exports to GDP growth



HIGH-MARGIN exports like electronics, engineering and pharma logged double-digit growth

EXPORTS TO Singapore doubled amid a dip in exports to the UAE

SHARP DIP in exports of low-margin items: fruits, vegetables, textiles, leather products and tea

RUPEE DEPRECIATION by roughly 10% supported exports. But the import bill rose faster

EXPLAINED

Uneven basket

Net exports and a June export record of \$44.24 billion amid falling imports have fired the GDP growth. But it remains uneven. High-end electronics and engineering goods have thrived under new FTAs but soaring logistics costs have severely hit labour-intensive sectors like ceramics and textiles.

steep logistics costs hurting exporters' profit margins. While products which have a high margin, such as consumer electronics, allow their exporters to absorb the shock of more expensive logistics, exporters of low-margin products struggle and give up profits to protect market share.

According to Devendra Kumar Pant, Chief Economist at India Ratings, the problem for exporters would be the margins. "On higher margins, exporters would not be competitive, or the importers won't give the price which will protect exporters' margins. So, they will be forced to lower margins. Export figures will not show the dip in profitability," Pant said. Anshuman Kanoria, Chairman of the Indian Tea Exporters Association (ITEA), said the outlook for tea exports this year is very poor and the West Asia war could lead to a 25% fall in outbound shipment. "There has been a 10-fold surge in freight rates in key

markets including Iran, Iraq, the US and the EU. Payment has also become a major problem in trade with Iran, which is India's largest export market for tea. Things have aggravated after the UAE cut trades with Iran," Kanoria said.

Experts said a sharp depreciation in the rupee has aided competitiveness. The Indian rupee ended June at 94.7-per-dollar, down around 10% compared to 12 months ago. While this helped export-oriented sectors such as IT and pharmaceuticals, import-dependent sectors such as oil and gas, and companies that depend heavily on imported raw materials have been hurt as the weaker rupee made these inputs costly.

"As of now, the rupee at 94 is providing good support to exports," Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), said. "Over a period of time, the rupee has depreciated by around 7% and the Chinese yuan has appreciated by 8%. This is giving Indian exporters a 15% advantage over China. Besides, in the sunrise and knowledge- and technology-driven sectors, exports are doing well. But in labour-intensive sectors, it's a mixed picture," he said. Swift diversification and higher export absorption by countries with which India has signed FTAs also helped cushion the impact of the West Asia crisis. When Indian exports came under pressure, particularly those going to UAE, exporters turned their attention to Singapore, another transshipment hub.

DAY AFTER REPORT THAT HE'S NOT IN PUNJAB DRAFT ROLL

Raghav Chadha has no moral right to be in Parliament, says AAP Delhi chief Bharadwaj

Express News Service
New Delhi, September 3

THE AAM Aadmi Party and its former Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha, who has since joined the BJP, faced off over the deletion of his name from the electoral roll in Punjab following the Election Commission of India's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the state's voter list, first reported by *The Indian Express* Thursday.

Chadha accused the AAP-led Punjab government of "politics of revenge", alleging that despite being a sitting Rajya Sabha MP from Punjab with his voter ID registered in Mohali, his name had been classified as "shifted" in the draft electoral rolls.

AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj hit back, stating that "Chadha lives in Delhi, not Punjab", questioning why he should have a vote at the latter and invoking SIR rules, under which a voter's name can be deleted if they are not found residing at their registered address. He added that the same rules were used in Delhi to mark lakhs of voters as "shifted" and delete their votes merely for changing houses.

Chadha, in a post on X, reiterated what he had told *The Indian Express*: "Names are corrected during the 'Claims and Objections' process, which is ongoing. The Final Electoral Rolls will be published in October 2026. I am already in the process of availing the remedies provided under SIR guidelines. This does not seem like a mere clerical mistake. This is a clear case of political vendetta."



Saurabh Bharadwaj and (right) Raghav Chadha



“If Raghav Chadha does not live in Punjab, his vote should be deleted from there. The man who used to speak about the Right to Reject, should now apply that rule to himself.”

SAURABH BHARADWAJ,
DELHI PRESIDENT, AAP

vocating the Right to Reject. The media should ask him: Under what moral authority is he occupying that seat?"

Bharadwaj also claimed that *The Indian Express* had "information" that Chadha was trying to get his voter registration made in Delhi through the EC via a "backdated process." He said that when *The Indian Express* sought an official response from the EC, this process was stopped. He claimed that this was not published in the newspaper.

The Indian Express replies: Bharadwaj's claim that the newspaper sought the EC's response on the "backdated" process is incorrect. Incidentally, on Wednesday, when *The Indian Express* asked AAP for its comment on Chadha's allegation, the party sent a statement which claimed: "The AAP has received information from Election Commission sources that Raghav Chadha is trying to get his voter registration made in Rajinder Nagar, Delhi, through a backdated process."

The Indian Express sent an email to the Election Commission on Thursday on AAP's claim. There was no response.



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BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Presumed guilty, SIR's spreading stain

FOUR BOOTHs in one district of Jharkhand do not a national election make. But as an investigation by this newspaper has shown, their story is emblematic of how the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls continues to raise troubling questions. In at least four booths in Godda, a stand-off between election officials and BJP workers has thrown up a disturbing pattern: Of BJP workers submitting Form 7s in bulk, seeking deletion of names from the draft rolls. Under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, Form 7 allows an objection to a proposed inclusion, an existing name, or a request for deletion. The red flags here are unmistakable — bulk objections by BJP workers do not merely invite accusations of procedural violation, they raise the graver concern of targeted deletion of minority voters. Many of those marked for deletion had submitted the required documents, lived in the same house for generations, or were mapped onto the 2003 rolls. An inquiry has been ordered after this newspaper's report but that cannot be the end of the matter. For, across states, the SIR increasingly looks designed not to clean rolls but to harass, and in the process, disenfranchise the vulnerable voter. It is distrustful of her, it asks her to establish belonging, or, more correctly, counter the accusation of unbelonging that is implicit in the exercise.

Nationwide, the SIR has resulted in 13 crore deletions. This, after it shifts the burden of proof onto the voter, demands documents that are often difficult to access, sets unrealistic deadlines and, in doing so, makes the process itself the punishment. This must be owned by the Election Commission under the watch of CEC Gyanesh Kumar. Some of the responsibility, with due respect, also lies with the Supreme Court. Yes, the Court intervened to ease the burden on Bihar's voters — directing the EC to accept Aadhaar, nudging it toward giving reasons for deletion. Its record of protecting the EC's institutional autonomy has been formidable in the past. But this time, institutional respect has given way to abdication. It has given the EC the benefit of every doubt, it has not asked of it the questions it needed to. In West Bengal, it contributed to the exercise piling up new layers, with the deployment of micro-observers, judicial officers, a bulky "under adjudication" list, and 19 appellate tribunals with no deadline after being set up too late. The Bengal appellate process goes on after the election is over. Those excluded remain in the dark about what comes next. Will it be detention, deportation, denial of benefits, prolonged litigation, or reapplication?

The electoral rolls need to be continuously cleaned and updated. But revision must never become a citizenship test, least of all in a climate where the spectre of the "ghuspaithiya" is politically expedient. That is what the SIR has become. An exercise meant to certify the voter has put her on trial. The EC and the SC need to ask themselves if they will let this terribly flawed process cast a shadow over their legacy.

Needed: More stable foreign capital

IN JUNE, the RBI announced several measures to boost capital flows into the country. There were, however, concerns over how much could be mopped up through various channels, considering the prevailing global financial conditions. Those worries have now been belied. By the end of August 31, inflows through the forex swap facility stood at a substantial \$136.3 billion, with \$63.5 billion coming in the last 10 days alone. Of the total flows, \$127 billion has come through the FCNR(B) route, with the balance coming from the External Commercial Borrowings and Overseas Foreign Currency Borrowings channels. Flows have, thus, significantly exceeded expectations.

The RBI's forex reserves have risen to a record high of \$729 billion as on August 21. This will help with maintaining external stability. But the surge in inflows is creating management issues for the central bank with the liquidity surplus increasing. According to a note from economists at Bank of Baroda, the liquidity surplus began to swell from over Rs 3 lakh crore since the beginning of August to Rs 6.7 lakh crore by the end of the month. The central bank has responded by conducting variable rate reverse repo auctions. But other tools may also be needed. All this has come at a time when inflation is edging upwards and amidst expectations that the Monetary Policy Committee will need to raise interest rates. Robust growth in the first quarter would certainly provide the committee the space and comfort to undertake a tightening.

The FCNR(B) flows have provided a reprieve. The rupee's fall has been stemmed. But it does not address the underlying issues plaguing the economy. India runs a current account deficit and has in recent times not been able to attract sufficient stable foreign capital/investment. While over the past few months foreign portfolio investors have been net equity buyers and net FDI is inching upwards, tighter global financial conditions will influence flows. The larger issues need to be tackled to encourage foreign capital into the country.

All the lives that Gloria Steinem lived

GLORIA STEINEM spoke often about wanting to live to 100. "There is so much to do," she once explained in an interview. The prolific writer, one of the best-known faces of the women's liberation movement, died this week at 92 — a few years short of the century she had aspired to. A tireless journalist, activist, political organiser and speaker, Steinem lived for long stretches of time out of a suitcase because there were always so many ideas to be inspired by and lives to be changed.

Some of her restlessness owed to her fear of having missed out on important experiences when, from the age of 10 to 17, she was forced to "mother" her mentally ill mother. Then there was the doctor in the UK who performed an abortion — then illegal in much of the world — on a 22-year-old Steinem on two conditions: That she never reveal his name and that she do with her life exactly as she pleased. She would spend the next seven decades living up to the second — she broke the first after the doctor's death when she dedicated her memoir to him. Steinem battled long and hard alongside other stalwarts of the movement like Shirley Chisholm, Bella Abzug and Betty Friedan, to pass the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), advocated for reproductive freedom, raised awareness about violence against women and co-founded a magazine, *Ms*, run and staffed entirely by women.

The ERA was never passed, the victory of *Roe v Wade* was reversed and violence against women remains pervasive. None of this is Steinem's failure, nor of the movement she led. All it shows is how much more there is still to do.

India's growth numbers are real. So is the reform challenge

IT IS a truth almost universally acknowledged that the Narendra Modi government must be interrogated on the data it produces. Over the past 12 years, it has worked hard to earn this reputation. It is not surprising, therefore, that within hours of the release of GDP data, the questioning began. Real GDP growth of 7.8 per cent in April-June 2026 over the corresponding quarter in 2025, nominal growth of 10.3 per cent, and therefore an economy-wide price rise of just 2.3 per cent. Is this all for real, or the expected response of any government with its back to the wall?

With war and tariffs ravaging the world, can India be an island of prosperity? It can, and India is not an island. Several economies have withstood these shocks. The IMF expects world growth of 3.0 per cent in 2026 against 2.9 last year; the world may well end 2026 growing faster than it did in 2025, war(ts) and all.

As it happens, the data turns out to support the government rather than the knee-jerk opposition.

Start with the deflator, where the critics have expectedly gathered. For a decade, the standard charge against Indian GDP data was single deflation. India applied one price index to output without separately deflating what firms paid for inputs — a squeeze on margins was recorded as extra production. The new 2022-23 national accounts series abolished single deflation outright, and manufacturing and agriculture are now double-deflated. That correction has not reached the critics, and certainly not the quick AI summaries doing the rounds. Further improvements are in the pipeline. We had only wholesale prices; producer price indices, which the IMF had asked for, were published for the first time in June.

Now to the devils/angels in the details.

Prices of what India actually bought — consumption, government and investment together — rose 4.4 per cent, above consumer inflation of 3.9. Two facts pull the headline down to 2.3 per cent. Import prices rose 32 per cent, on imports worth 28 per cent of GDP, and imports enter GDP with a minus sign. And net indirect taxes fell 0.4 per cent in rupee terms even as the volume taxed rose 3.9. Recall that the government surrendered 10 rupees a litre of excise on petrol and diesel in March; fertiliser subsidies are heading for twice the budgeted allocation. Taxes forgone and subsidies paid show up as a lower deflator.

Further evidence comes from the GST cut itself. In October-December, the first full quarter after the September reduction, Indians spent 8.5 per cent more in rupees than a year earlier — down from 10.8 per cent the year before. Yet real consumption grew 8.2 per cent, up from 6.0. The consumption deflator had collapsed to 0.4 per cent. Households parted with fewer additional rupees and took home more goods — exactly what a tax cut passed through to consumers looks like. The real GDP growth number is real.

But... double deflation is only as good as the input prices you feed into it, and with imported input costs up 32 per cent this quarter, MoSPI should publish the input deflator series it used. A reform this consequential should be complete.

A request also to India's GDP critics. Look at other, possibly more legitimate, targets of possible GDP data manipulation — the ones left alone because it is politically correct to do so.

Start with Bangladesh data, which yields the fashionable conclusion that its per capita income exceeds India's — a claim that sells



SURJIT S BHALLA

With war and tariffs ravaging the world, can India be an island of prosperity? It can, and India is not an island. Several economies have withstood these shocks

Poet who was also an environmental visionary



RAJNI BAKSHI

WENDELL BERRY, poet, farmer, environmental visionary, passed away on August 31, at the age of 92. He was a quiet, steady, sage presence for people across the world.

Berry's passing lends a bitter sharpness to the question on which the future of our species might depend.

Can the energy, will and wisdom of those who value the interdependence of all life on Earth prevail over the concentration of power in the hands of a few who drive trends in technology and thus markets?

Love of nature is more ancient than the human ability to form words, to develop language. There is also no doubt that passionate expression of this love, and public actions driven by it, have grown on a planetary scale over the last half century.

Just last week, an online group that I am part of collectively mourned the loss of a chestnut tree that stood as a welcoming host at the entrance of Schumacher College in Devon, UK. Age and infirmity took their toll and the tree came down. The energy of those who will miss the tree, its loving shade and the music of the breeze rustling through its leaves, is palpable.

Why does this energy seem inadequate to tackle and transform the forces destroying the delicate balance of life on planet Earth? Wendell's legacy inspires and empowers us to doggedly and defiantly keep seeking answers to this question.

As an activist, Wendell leaves behind a legacy of tirelessly standing up for justice and basic goodness in the face of ruthless power. From Vietnam to the American invasion of Iraq in 2003, Wendell passionately fought against American aggression abroad.

Along with many fellow-travellers, he advocated a 50-year farm bill that would tackle the combined problems of soil loss and degradation, toxic pollution, fossil-

fuel dependency and the destruction of rural communities.

Wendell's life and work were intertwined with the emergence of diverse shades of environmentalism over the last 75 years.

These overlapping streams of thought and action have proved that we are not in the midst of a "love-of-nature" vs "progress" conflict. The key challenge of the 21st century is how to live in partnership with the rest of nature, and this requires us to first redefine both "progress" and "growth".

Often described as an intellectual and spiritual heir to Henry David Thoreau, Wendell became a tall Gandhian presence in American public life, because he advocated empowering local economies, radical self-reliance and living within limits to ensure sustainability.

As we enter the second quarter of the 21st century, the concentration of money power and control over emerging technologies in the hands of a few people is more severe than ever before. In terms of tactics and strategy, the ideas and values that Wendell inspired can seem to be at a huge disadvantage.

And yet the essence of his inspiration is above and beyond all ideology, tactics, strategy — and will continue to flower in unexpected and unpredictable ways.

It is best to let his 1968 poem 'The Peace of Wild Things' speak for him: *When despair for the world grows in me/and I wake in the night at the least sound/in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,/I go and lie down where the wood drake/ rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds./I come into the peace of wild things/who do not tax their lives with forethought/ of grief. I come into the presence of still water./And I feel above me the day-blind stars/ waiting with their light. For a time/ I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.*

The writer is founder of the YouTube channel 'Ahimsa Conversations'



PRATIK AGARWAL

We need one Ministry of Energy, not five

INDIA IS entering a fundamentally different era of energy. For decades, our challenge was simple: Produce more energy. Coal, oil, gas, renewables and nuclear could each be planned independently because each largely operated within its own ecosystem. Today's challenge is no longer producing energy. It is optimising an increasingly complex energy system. A unit of solar power generated at noon has a different value from a unit of hydro power during the evening peak. Batteries, pumped storage and gas turbines all exist to balance renewable generation. Nuclear provides a steady baseload. Coal provides flexibility rather than simply volume. Every source now plays a different role at a different time of the day. Most importantly, every one of them depends on the same electricity grid. This changes how governments need to think about energy. India still governs the sector as though every fuel exists in isolation. Coal sits in one ministry. Oil and gas in another. Renewables in a third. Electricity in a fourth. Nuclear in a fifth. Each ministry has well-defined objectives. But each is optimising only one part of the system. Nobody is responsible for optimising the whole. That may have worked in the 20th century, but not for the 21st. Renewable projects are commissioned before transmission is ready. Gas-based plants were built without assured fuel. Coal production, imports, railway logistics and electricity demand have at times moved on different trajectories. Each ministry has largely achieved its own objectives, yet the overall system has often fallen short. The problem is not policy. It is governance.

Energy security today is no longer about having enough coal or enough renewable capacity. It is about ensuring the entire system works as one. That requires integrated planning across generation, fuel supply, transmission, storage and demand. Every investment should be evaluated based on how it improves the performance of the whole system, not one technology in isolation. Many countries have recognised this reality. The US, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and the UK have unified energy ministries responsible for looking across the energy landscape rather than individual fuels.

India should do the same. A single Ministry of Energy would not eliminate specialised expertise. Coal, oil, renewables and nuclear would continue to need dedicated departments and technical institutions. But strategy would come from one place. Infrastructure would be planned as one system. Investment decisions would be made with a single objective: Delivering the lowest-cost, most reliable and most secure energy mix for India.

As India moves towards becoming a developed economy, energy will become one of our biggest competitive advantages — or one of our biggest constraints. Our institutions need to evolve as quickly as our energy system has. Creating a unified Ministry of Energy may well be the single most important governance reform India can undertake to strengthen its energy security.

The writer is chairman, Resonia and Serentica Renewables and managing director, Sterlite Electric

40 YEARS AGO

September 04, 1986



India says UK visa rules racist

INDIAN OFFICIALS accused the British government of racial discrimination for proposing to introduce a visa system for visitors from India and four other Asian and African countries. The other countries that will face visa restrictions are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Ghana.

VP Singh 'land deals' uproar

THE ISSUE of alleged involvement of the Union Finance Minister, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, in the land deals of the Dahya Charitable Trust of Allahabad stalled the proceedings of the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha for almost the entire day. Noisy and unruly scenes broke out in the House as

soon as Shatrudra Prakash (Lok Dal) rose to press his adjournment motion on the subject and demanded Singh's resignation pending a high-level inquiry into the affairs of the Dahya Charitable Trust. The House had to be adjourned several times before it was finally adjourned for the day at 5.25 pm. However, the Union Finance Minister, who air dashed from Delhi to Lucknow, kept his calm and summoned a press conference to clarify in no ambiguous terms that he was not a member of the Dahya Charitable Trust nor did he have any interest therein.

Farooq on President's Rule

THE NATIONAL Conference president, Farooq Abdullah, said that he would not

have any objection to a brief spell of President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir as an interim measure until the end of his current discussions with the Prime Minister for a political settlement. Abdullah, however, emphasised that the restoration of democracy in the state would be the only final solution, and for that it was necessary to dissolve the present assembly and hold fresh elections.

US halts aid to Zimbabwe

THE UNITED States has announced that it will give no new aid to Zimbabwe because of that nation's "unwillingness to conduct its relations with the US according to accepted norms of diplomatic civility and practice".

● WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

Britain should stop helping to sustain Israeli settlements economically
— *The Guardian*



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DIS/AGREE

THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

A weekly column, which offers not this-versus-that, but the best of both sides, to inform the debate

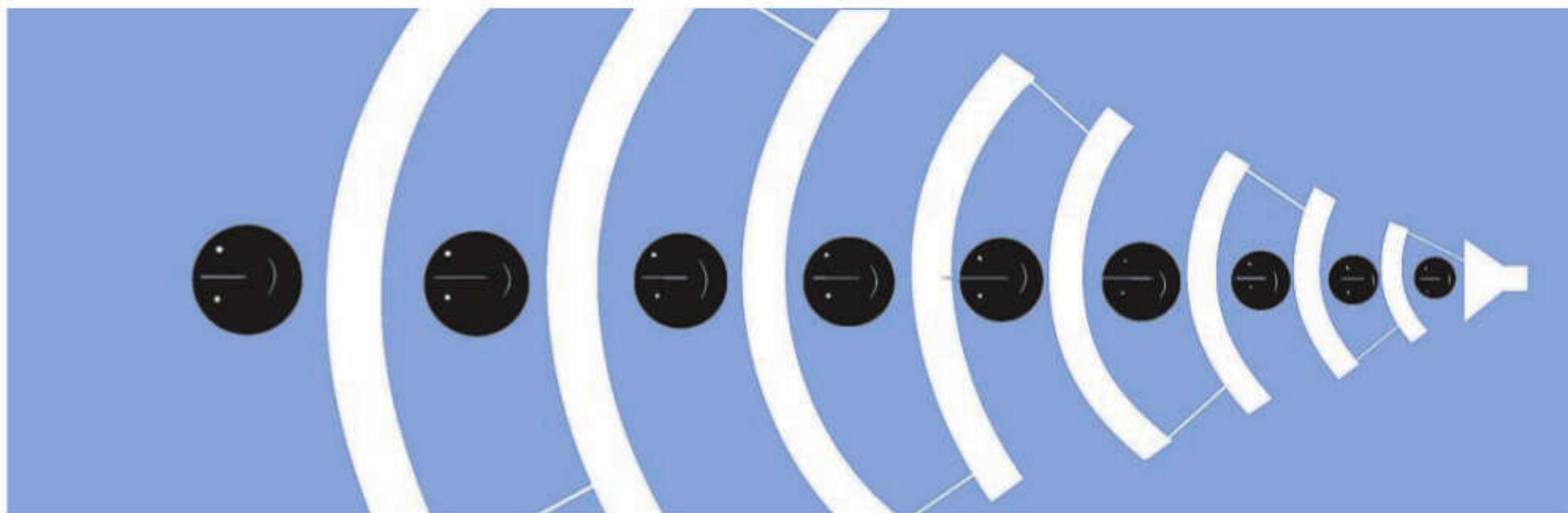


ILLUSTRATION: C R SASIKUMAR

Do Mohan Bhagwat's speeches abroad indicate a shift in the RSS's positioning?

Tactics change, Hindutva doesn't



SUHAS PALSHIKAR

THANKS TO the convenient gullibility of those commenting on his speeches, Mohan Bhagwat is on the verge of becoming the new Jawaharlal Nehru. His recent "celebration" of diversity is being dutifully showcased as the RSS chief effecting an important shift. Thankfully, the evidence shows what he actually said: That diversity is decoration; it is beautification of unity. This is in contrast to the notion that diversity is not only an inseparable part of what we once understood as Indianness, but diversity actually facilitates our unity. Therefore, what Bhagwat said in North America is not a real shift but a tactical positioning of the idea of Hindutva to make it acceptable to a wider audience that adopts naivety as the method of analysis.

To be fair, Bhagwat has earlier also adopted the argument that Muslims in India are not "outsiders" and that people of all religions should live amicably. So, should we be thankful to him for this concession? Should we say that he is changing the way Hindutva is understood now, or should we put his utterances in context before we jump to certify his inclusionary credentials?

Three things provide the context. First, Bhagwat is not an individual. He is the chief of a "voluntary" organisation that supervises a vast network of individuals and organisations that stand by and for the idea of Hindutva. His statements, therefore, must resonate with all that goes in the name of Hindutva. How do we make sense of his assertion that "if a Hindu wants an India without Muslims, he is not a Hindu" when many Hindutva forces keep villainising Muslims? Didn't he once say that there is no need to search for a *shivling* under every mosque (2022)? That didn't stop Hindutva politics from doing exactly the opposite. If that is the case, what he says today about Muslims being part of India also becomes meaningless. In the 1990s, too, some naive liberals argued that Muslims should hand over the Babri mosque and, in exchange, get an assurance that no such controversies over other places of worship would be raked up. Hindutva's history shows two things: That it is unforgiving to those it views as its enemies, and it is unrelenting in its beliefs.

The second aspect is the convenient multi-vocal articulation of Hindutva. Leaders from its brother organisations and oftentimes even functionaries and publications of the RSS keep popularising ideas that

are in contravention to the sanguine utterances of the RSS chief. That explains the insistence of many from the current regime to exclude references to Mughals from history textbooks; it explains how those steeped in RSS training refer to communities as Aurangzeb's *aulad* and an officer of the armed forces as sister of terrorists; it explains the constant confusion created by the interchangeable use of Hindu as religion (faith) and civilisation; how Lakshmi and Saraswati are argued to be cultural symbols but at the same time, Muslims are barricaded from "Hindu" festivals. Both in propagation of ideas and in practice, this slippery multi-vocality frustrates the supposed olive branch Bhagwat wants to hold out to critics of Hindutva.

The third dimension is the continuity from the time MS Golwalkar was RSS chief. Almost every single idea of organising Indian society upheld in Golwalkar's time is back in fashion. Tactics and expressions have changed, and the RSS leadership has certainly advanced in terms of savvy media presence and the political use of institutional power. But the question students of Hindutva must ask is this: Has Hindutva as an ideology changed? In the absence of any substantive change, it will be a mistake to pick up some statements and be satisfied that Hindutva (or the RSS) is changing.

In its century-long history, the RSS has undergone many "transformations". The early transformation was under Golwalkar. The second was when MD Deoras became the RSS chief. He defrocked the RSS of its upper-caste limitations and opened the floodgates of Hindutva to the larger social pool of backward castes. Deoras also realised that in the post-Nehru era, there was space for intervention in the formal political arena, and encouraged a more active presence of Hindutva cadres there.

Building on that, Modi and Bhagwat have brought about the third transformation: A close partnership between the state and the Hindutva cultural behemoth. This has facilitated extraordinary opportunities for Hindutva to both become hegemonic and also crush its ideological adversaries using the state apparatus. Bhagwat can afford to sound magnanimous because his politics already enjoys hegemony, not because it needs to become more acceptable or inclusive. Most importantly, those eager to find virtue in his utterances must remember that we are not dealing with Bhagwat the person, howsoever soft spoken and accommodating he might sound. We are dealing with politics in a deeper sense: Of combining a mammoth project of hegemony that seeks to strengthen itself with the unforgiving authority of the state.

The writer, based in Pune, taught Political Science



RAKESH SINHA

RSS SANSANGHCHALAK Mohan Bhagwat's speeches, including the one in New York, carry a message for both domestic and foreign audiences. First, he has redefined the RSS's positioning regarding minorities, especially Muslims, which has been used as a weapon to question its legitimacy in secular democracy. Second, and more importantly, Bhagwat critiqued the philosophical basis of neoliberalism, which increasingly legitimises conflicts and immorality to gain wealth and coercive superiority. In this context, he said that India's ultimate ambition is "to be a *vishwaguru* rather than a superpower". Finally, he didn't confine himself to the controversies around the RSS but spoke at length about the idea of India and presented the RSS through that lens.

Bhagwat inaugurated the global role of the RSS through people-to-people dialogue. The RSS has a foreign department to understand the culture and politics of different nations and has branches of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) abroad. The RSS, it seems, now want to expand that footprint.

An ossified perception about the RSS creates hurdles for its progressive socio-economic role. Here, Bhagwat's observation that a Hindu would lose his Hinduness if he seeks to oust Muslims from India deserves serious discussion. This becomes difficult because of the unthinking professional critics of the RSS dubbing his words as doublespeak, citing anti-minority statements by some political leaders. The RSS leadership has refused to be a part of this coarse conversation.

The RSS has wrongly been perceived as a rigidly doctrinaire movement. Unlike other ideological movements that remain tied to the words and actions of their architects, its founder K B Hedgewar consciously became part of a collective leadership. Despite being the sole founder of the organisation, he ensured there was no "Hedgewarism". This privileges flexibility and instils confidence in the leadership to interpret his ideas in new contexts. Such nimbleness is missing in communist and socialist movements.

Bhagwat's approach to the Muslim question is consistent with his prede-

cessors. For example, Hindu Mahasabha leader B S Moonje was rebuked by Hedgewar and Martand Jog for his argument in a public meeting in Nagpur in 1930 that the British should not leave India till it was ensured that Muslims would not dominate politics. Moonje wrote in his diary, "They said that the Hindu-Muslim question is our internal affair which we will settle out. And the British have to go first." Hedgewar's successor, M S Golwalkar, surprised both friends and foes of the RSS when he said in his interview to the RSS daily *Motherland* on August 23, 1972, that personal law was justified as long as it did not endanger national unity.

This makes it obvious that there is a fundamental difference between Hindutva as perceived both by friends and foes and the variant theorised by the RSS. The former is a political consolidation for the Hindus. It was espoused by the Hindu Mahasabha. The RSS and Hedgewar faced resistance and criticism for their approach, which is civilisational. Bhagwat has assertively championed this legacy. There is a space for Hindus' anger, given the role of the Mughals and Muslim League in the past. But this anger is not a path to resolution and instead creates what Antonio Gramsci called a "war of position". Such elements do little to fight the social and cultural divides that are reasons for a fractured Hindu social order and a weak Indian polity. The RSS is the only social movement that is committed to creating a meaningful "meeting pot" (not a melting pot).

For the last few decades, extreme elements from both sides — egged on by social media — have contributed to making the RSS seem, erroneously, like a radical outfit. Some anti-RSS elements have been more than unfair when they compare it to the White supremacist Ku Klux Klan. Unfortunately, parties that claim to be secular have often projected the RSS as a parallel to the Muslim League. It is this perception that has travelled outside India.

Bhagwat's aim is not to perpetuate the status quo but to convey to minorities that Hindus' unwavering conviction about multiculturalism should lead to cultural flexibility among them, as they become part of India's spiritual democracy. Unwillingness to depart from institutionalised prejudices is among the major challenges before the evolution of secularism in India. The Bhagwat doctrine is an opportunity for them to have further dialogue with the RSS to ensure the success of India's secular democracy. Will they?

The writer is a former BJP Rajya Sabha MP

US settlement with Meta is a start. India must protect itself



SIGNAL TO NOISE

BY RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

ON AUGUST 26, Meta agreed to pay up to \$171 billion to resolve child-harm claims brought by a bipartisan coalition of attorneys general across the United States, its territories and the District of Columbia. It is one of the largest consumer-protection settlements in internet history. More importantly, it marks a turning point in the debate over whether social-media platforms knowingly exposed children to harm in pursuit of growth and profit.

The case placed Meta's design choices under legal scrutiny: How its products encouraged prolonged use, how teen safety-features were presented to the public, and how the company understood the risks its platforms created for young users. Meta denies wrongdoing. But the settlement demonstrates that voluntary self-regulation is no substitute for enforceable accountability.

Under the proposed settlement, Meta must adopt stronger safeguards for users under 18, including default time limits, restrictions on nighttime use, limits on notifications during school hours, enhanced age-assurance measures and independent compliance oversight. These are not cosmetic changes. They go to the core of how Facebook and Instagram are allowed to operate for minors.

If American children now receive court-backed protection from harmful platform design, why should Indian children not receive the same assurance of safety?

This settlement does not mean that Meta has solved the problem. A company that generated \$201 billion in revenue in 2025 can absorb \$17 billion paid over 10 years. That Meta stock was up 5 per cent after the settlement proves that this settlement has little or no punitive impact on the company. The mandated safety reforms are meaningful, but overdue. Most critically, the settlement protects American children under American law, through American prosecutors. It does not cover India's 350 million young users. The same platforms operate here. The same recommendation systems shape what children see. The same incentives reward attention, engagement and prolonged use. Yet India has not seen comparable legal action, compelled disclosure or court-supervised reform.

That is not because the harm is less serious in India. It is because our debate on platform harm has remained episodic and inconclusive. A tragedy occurs, outrage follows, a platform issues a statement, a parliamentary question may be asked — and then silence returns. American litigation broke that cycle. India now needs a legal process capable of compelling the same disclosure.

Disclosure was the most important outcome of the US case. Court-compelled discovery forced Meta to produce internal research, design documents and communications about child safety — under oath, in public, and subject to cross-examination. A serious legal action in Indian courts would compel answers to questions like:

What does Meta's internal research show about mental-health impact on In-

dian teenage girls? How does the recommendation engine behave in Hindi, Tamil, and Bengali for a 14-year-old at 11pm? How many Indian children under 13 are active on platforms that legally prohibit their membership? What is the scale of child-sexual-abuse material affecting Indian users, and how is it reported? In the US alone, 7.5 million materials were under internal review.

Were the same addictive design features applied to Indian users? If yes, Indian users have been subjected to harm with no protection.

The answers exist — in Meta's servers, internal research databases and executive communications. The only way to obtain them is through the courts. India has the legal foundation to act: The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, the IT (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2021, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), the Juvenile Justice Act and the Constitution of India. We need not wait for new legislation.

The Safe, Trusted and Accountable framework developed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in 2021 — of which I was a part — was designed for this purpose: To ensure that platforms operating at scale bear legal responsibility for the consequences of their design choices. The conduct alleged in the American cases falls that standard.

India needs to coordinate a national legal strategy. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights should launch a formal inquiry with discovery powers, compelling platforms to produce India-specific

safety research, algorithm documentation, data on underage users, and internal-harm research. Affected families in India can approach consumer forums and high courts directly, too. Parliament must pass legislation creating a statutory right to algorithmic disclosure — requiring platforms to reveal, to a designated Indian authority, their content moderation policies, recommendation engine parameters, and child-safety research for Indian users. Last, state governments should file coordinated consumer protection and child-safety suits against these platforms in Indian courts. A single pioneering state can trigger a national movement.

The US settlement is a beginning. For too long, global platforms have operated in India with less scrutiny, weaker oversight and lower public awareness than they face in the West. They have profited enormously from India's young users while bearing little legal accountability. The settlement is America's answer to what social media has done to its children. India must now find its own answers. The shadow debate must end. The harm is real. The platforms know it. Legal tools exist. It's time to act decisively to make all platforms safe, trusted and accountable.

The writer, former MP, former minister of state for Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, is BJP Kerala state president and MLA for Nemom. He begins a fortnightly column. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Selective FIRs

SUBJECTING STUDENTS to police investigations and prolonged judicial proceedings in fabricated cases merely because their ideology differs from that of those in power is indefensible and undemocratic ("Thank you for quashing the FIRs, but there's a question", *IE*, September 3). How does one account for the years lost before justice is delivered? Across India, countless undertrials remain incarcerated for years awaiting trial. In such circumstances, telling an accused that the High Court and Supreme Court remain open to them is hardly reassuring.

Tushar A Rahatgaonkar, Dombivli East

THE C.J.'S observation that the determination of criminality has to be seen with the object and purpose for which

the students gathered, not simply by participation in an unlawful act, distinguishes the Jantar Mantar protest on the question of accountability, making the verdict appear selective ("Thank you for quashing the FIRs, but a question", *IE*, September 3).

Madhusree Guha, Kolkata

Mass elections

THAT 13 crore voters have had their names omitted from the draft rolls so far reveals a troubling bias in the SIR process ("There's a new solution for India's population problem — SIR", *IE*, September 3). As the bulk of those excluded come from the 'absent' or 'shifted' categories, the question that arises is: Where have all these people gone? Or, why was there no corresponding increase in the number of voters in other states?

Kamal Laddha, Bengaluru



ASHOK KHEMKA

A FORMER finance secretary recently challenged the Q1 FY 2026-27 growth figures of 7.8 per cent in real terms and 10.3 per cent in nominal terms, suggesting that the corresponding growth rates were actually around 2.6 per cent and below 2.5 per cent. His calculation, however, has a methodological flaw: It uses the old-series nominal GDP of Rs 86.05 lakh crore for Q1 FY 2025-26 as the denominator against the new-series figure of approximately Rs 80 lakh crore. One cannot calculate a meaningful growth rate by mixing two incompatible statistical series. On this point, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is right. But that does not dispose of the more substantive question.

Under the old 2011-12-base-year series, nominal GDP for Q1 FY 2025-26 was officially

On GDP, what critics should ask

estimated at Rs 86.05 lakh crore and Q2 at Rs 85.25 lakh crore — a first-half total of Rs 171.30 lakh crore. Under the new 2022-23-base-year series, Q1 was revised to roughly Rs 80 lakh crore and Q2 also to approximately Rs 80 lakh crore. The first-half estimate has fallen by around Rs 11 lakh crore, or about 6.5 per cent. This enormous revision is concentrated in the first two quarters. There is an obvious reason this deserves scrutiny. The old series was discontinued before comparable Q3 and Q4 estimates for 2025-26 were published. So, there is no complete old-series annual estimate against which the new series can be reconciled quarter by quarter. MoSPI should open that window.

A new national-accounts series incorporates new data sources, wider coverage, improved indicators, methodological changes and revised approaches to measuring prices and volumes. It can, and should, change historical estimates when better information becomes available. But there is a crucial distinction that must not be lost.

Changing the base year primarily changes the measurement of real GDP. Nominal GDP is measured at current prices. Therefore, the fact that the base year has changed from 2011-12 to 2022-23 does not, by itself, explain the reduction. There may well be legitimate statistical reasons for the revision. But they need to be quantified.

MoSPI should publish a simple reconciliation bridge showing, in rupees, how the old estimate became the new one. For both Q1 and Q2, the public should be told how much of the revision is attributable to: Revised source data; changes in sectoral coverage; methodological changes; revised estimates of taxes and subsidies; changes in price indices and deflators and other statistical adjustments. The same exercise should be undertaken for GVA. If manufacturing, trade, financial services, agriculture or any other major component accounts for a significant part of the revision, the numbers should show it. That would settle the argument. It is equally important not to fall into

the opposite trap. A downward revision of GDP is not a loss of GDP. The economy has not become Rs 11 lakh crore smaller. Better data can lead to downward revisions.

Over three years from 2022-23 to 2025-26, nominal GDP rose by about 32.8 per cent and 32.3 per cent under the old and new series respectively. The cumulative real GDP growth is also broadly comparable, though somewhat lower under the new methodology.

Official statistics deserve confidence, but confidence is strengthened by transparency, not demanded in its absence. It is wrong to calculate current growth by combining an old-series denominator with a new-series numerator. But it is equally unsatisfactory to dismiss questions about a massive revision simply by invoking "change of base year". Statistics become credible when an independent reader can understand, reproduce and interrogate the numbers.

The writer was an IAS officer. Views are personal

Iran buries victims of reported US wedding attack, fires at Kuwait base

Reuters

Dubai, September 3

IRANIAN MOURNERS carried caskets on Thursday at a funeral for victims of a US airstrike said to have struck a wedding party, and Tehran launched missiles and drones overnight at a US base in Kuwait, after the war's biggest escalation in more than a month.

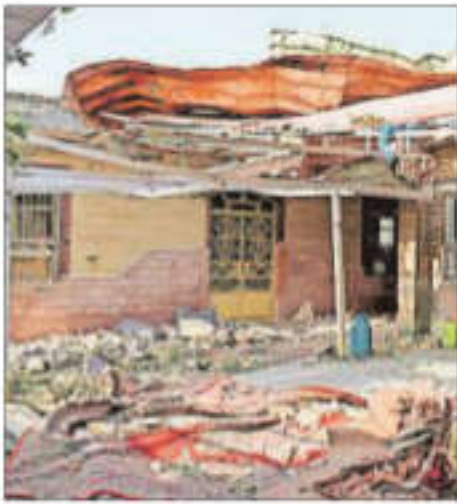
Mourners assembled in the late afternoon outside the village of Kuhestak in Sirik County, along a stretch of the coast of the Strait of Hormuz that was hit by heavy US airstrikes late on Tuesday. Iranian officials say four people died and nearly 70 were wounded by a strike that hit a home during a wedding. The US military said it was aware of the Iranian reports but "never targets civilians".

"This is the body of Martyr Amir-Mohammad Karimi, a 4-year-old child who war martyred in an attack on the country's south by the criminal American regime," a reporter from Iran's Mehr news agency said in footage filmed in front of a pickup truck carrying a flag-draped coffin beneath a canopy of palm fronds.

In other footage of the funeral, mourners threw petals into the air as doleful music played from a loudspeaker. A casket was carried past a row of soldiers standing at attention with rifles.

Washington launched the airstrikes on Tuesday, hitting what it said were military targets along the coast in retaliation for Iranian attacks on shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

The sudden escalation of the Iran war has caused a surge in oil prices to levels unseen since



The house that came under attack in Kuhestak village. REUTERS

July. Price rose for a fourth straight day on Thursday, taking Brent crude futures over \$96 a barrel. Iran reported 18 dead in the last US assault, including the four killed at the wedding. It responded on Wednesday to the US strikes with attacks on US bases in Iraq, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain, and carried out further attacks early on Thursday, saying it was targeting another U.S. base, in Kuwait.

Kuwait's military said its air defenses had intercepted missiles and drones. But following that, the war's biggest flareup since July appeared to subside, with no more major attacks from either side reported as the day wore on. The month of August was largely quiet in the Gulf after US President Donald Trump abruptly halted two weeks of intensive airstrikes in July, having been warned by his military that Washington was running low on munitions.

Trump has yet to achieve the aims he set out when he launched Operation Epic Fury in February: to end Iran's nuclear programme, halt its ability to attack its neighbours and create conditions for Iranians to topple their leadership.

AT LEAST 1,259 PEOPLE KILLED AND MORE THAN 4,200 REMAIN MISSING

Nepal races to rebuild homes, search for missing continues

20,000 houses need to be rebuilt in flood-hit areas

Gopal Sharma, Liz Lee & Ethan Wang

Beijing, Kathmandu, Sept 3

NEPAL WILL have to rebuild around 20,000 houses in flood-ravaged areas, authorities said on Thursday, as rescuers continued to search for workers trapped in tunnels linked to hydropower projects and thousands remain missing after last week's catastrophe.

A glacier collapse on August 26 sent a deluge of ice, rock and mud sweeping through the impoverished nation's border region with China, wiping out settlements and villages and leaving few houses standing and undamaged.

"Our preliminary estimates are that 7,500 houses have been completely destroyed, either washed away or buried under



A man carries a girl next to damaged buildings following the deadly flash floods and mudslides in Nuwakot district on Thursday. REUTERS

debris and mud," Dharma Raj Upreti, chief of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, told Reuters.

Even houses still standing were not habitable, Upreti said, with authorities estimating that around 20,000 would have to be rebuilt in different, safer locations.

"We anticipate that the resources required for rebuilding

will be substantial," Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal told foreign ambassadors in Kathmandu.

At least 1,259 people were killed in Nepal last week as houses, streets and schools in towns and villages near the border with China's Tibet were swept away. More than 4,200 people are still missing and thousands more displaced.

China has put the death toll

in Tibet at 21, with 541 others listed as missing.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah's cabinet set September 7, the 13th day after the disaster, as a day of national mourning in Nepal, the cabinet spokesperson said. In Hindu tradition, the 13th day traditionally marks the end of the formal mourning period.

More than 9,300 Nepali army troops were on the ground in the affected areas of Timure in Rasuwa, Nuwakot,

Dhading, Chitwan and Nawalparasi East, coordinating search and rescue of the injured and helping with management of bodies, clearing blocked roads, and providing emergency medical treatment, an army statement said.

Authorities were working to restore regular routines as much as possible, with a focus on getting children into makeshift schools. More than a week after the flood, at least 22,000 children urgently need safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene support, UNICEF said in a statement. REUTERS



Russian ship Professor Molchanov which, according to officials, was seized by Norway in the Arctic. FILE/REUTERS

Norway seizes Russian vessel to compensate Ukrainian energy firm

Reuters

Oslo, September 3

NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES have seized a Russian cruise ship in the Arctic on behalf of Ukrainian energy company Naftogaz, which is seeking to enforce a \$4.22 billion compensation award for assets that Moscow took when Russia annexed Crimea in 2014.

Officials said the vessel, Professor Molchanov, was seized late on Wednesday in Barentsburg, a coal mining settlement that Russia operates on the Norwegian Arctic archipelago of Svalbard under the terms of a 1920 treaty. Russia called the arrest of the ship an act of piracy and said it had summoned the Norwegian ambassador to deliver a strong protest. The Russian Foreign Ministry said it would work to secure the vessel's release.

"Amid the restrictive measures imposed by Norway against Russia on Svalbard - measures that violate international law - Russian organizations and citizens operating on

Trump: Europe must repay US for Ukraine aid

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Thursday said he would ask European nations to pay back the US for military aid and munitions previously sent to Ukraine and appeared to signal a halt in sales to allied nations. In a social media post, Trump also slammed reports of heavily depleted US munition stockpiles amid the separate war in Iran, while adding that the United States was stockpiling munitions. "We are taking them for ourselves, the USA, rather than selling them to others, but the sales to Allies will soon again, begin," Trump wrote. AP

the archipelago are effectively under blockade," it said. Norway said the matter was between Naftogaz and Russia and did not involve the Oslo government.

• BRIEFLY

ITALY

Stories dangerous to people who peddle in fear: Clooney



Hollywood actor George Clooney. REUTERS

HOLLYWOOD STAR George Clooney received an honorary Golden Lion for lifetime achievement at the opening ceremony of the Venice Film Festival. In his acceptance speech, Clooney referenced the current political climate to emphasise the importance of stories. "...We're living through a moment in time where people in charge, the people with the most money are telling us to fear one another. But we know better than that, don't we? Because history does teach us a lesson," he said. "They're the filmmakers, writers, actors and musicians who insist that someone you have never met is deserving of your empathy. Stories are always dangerous to people who peddle in fear. The people who are afraid of books and music and stories, they're never the heroes in history," he added. PTI

UNITED STATES

Maduro, wife seek to evade drug charges

FORMER VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro and his wife asked a judge on Wednesday to dismiss the drug trafficking indictment against them on the grounds that they have immunity as the leader and first lady of a foreign country. In papers filed in Manhattan federal court, lawyers for Maduro said a judge was required by law to reject the indictment because it cannot be brought against a foreign leader. AP

UNITED STATES

House passes bill to target varsities boycotting Israel

THE US House of Representatives passed legislation on Thursday to block federal aid for universities that boycott Israel, the latest Republican-backed pro-Israel measure amid growing Democratic criticism of the Israeli government over the war in Gaza. The Republican-majority chamber voted 237-169 in favor of the "Protect Economic and Academic Freedom Act," which would have to pass the Senate in order to become law. REUTERS

Finland runs Europe's biggest civil defence exercise since Cold War

Country's border with Russia stretches more than 1,300 km

Emma Burrows

Kuopio, September 3

IN A civil defence shelter hewn into rock, behind doors designed to withstand a nuclear or biological attack, two Finnish conscripts wearing hazmat suits and breathing masks are measuring radiation levels as

they take part in an exercise to turn a cave into a place of safety for thousands of people.

Inside, in what is normally a sports hall, hundreds of people are sleeping overnight on trestle beds. More than 2,000 people including volunteers and students are taking part in the biggest civil defence exercise in Europe since the end of World War II.

Critical infrastructure in the central Finnish city of Kuopio, including power and water, has been disrupted by cyberattacks and there's the threat of missile strikes from Finland's neighbour, Russia.

The goal is for local author-



People stand at the entrance of a shelter designed to withstand chemical, nuclear and biological attacks. AP

ities and ordinary people to rehearse what they would do if they came under attack for real.

But while underground bunkers and shelters may offer some protection from missiles, they are

no defence against the campaign of sabotage and disruption that Western officials say Russia is carrying out across Europe.

That has involved setting fires, attacking water facilities and power stations, and sending drones for sabotage into European Union airspace. Finland's border with Russia stretches more than 1,300 km from the Baltic Sea up to the Arctic Circle.

In 2024, along with Sweden, Finland joined NATO, following Russian President Vladimir Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Until then, Finns were prepared to defend themselves against Russia largely alone.

Finland's defence, said retired Army Colonel Asko Muhkanen, relies not only on the military but on the "mindset" of ordinary Finns who are ready to take responsibility for their country's security. Muhkanen said that comes partly from the system of conscription which continued in Finland, even after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Not everyone is happy about doing national service but "it's our duty to serve and protect this country like people have before us. That's why we have our independence," said Jyry Pietikainen, who was taught to run the Kuopio shelter overnight. AP

China sacks 4 professors for 'academic misconduct'

K J M Varma

Beijing, September 3

FOUR PROMINENT Chinese academics have lost their posts, and more than 40 researchers at universities and hospitals are facing investigations as China has launched its largest-ever public crackdown on academic misconduct.

On August 26, the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) published details of 31 new misconduct cases at universities and hospi-

tals across China, involving more than 40 researchers, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported on Thursday.

The NSFC announcement came nearly two months after Chinese President Xi Jinping called for a crackdown on academic misconduct.

Four prominent academics lost their posts at leading universities after Student Geng, a high-profile blogger and PhD dropout, publicly identified them in April and flagged their

research for alleged misconduct, the report said.

All of the four academics had been recognised by the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, an honour that frequently serves as a stepping stone to admission to China's top science and engineering academies, it said.

Three of them had served as deans or associate deans of their respective schools. Geng's revelations on social media triggered the NSFC's largest-ever investigation into aca-

ademic misconduct.

Naming the four academics in its August notice, the foundation revoked their funding and titles, ordered them to return more than 10 million yuan (USD 1.49 million) in previously awarded grants, and barred them from reapplying for funding for three to seven years.

Within China's research community, the move is widely seen as a "death sentence" for an academic career, the Post report said. PTI

• { GLORIA STEINEM • 1934-2026 } •

A feminist who fought for women's civil and reproductive rights for over 5 decades

Patricia Reaney

September 3

GLORIA STEINEM, the American writer, lecturer, activist and organiser who fought for gender equality and women's civil and reproductive rights for more than five decades, has died, her foundation said. She was 92 years old.

The co-founder and consulting editor of Ms. Magazine championed the feminist movement from the late 1960s onwards and inspired generations of women.

She died on Wednesday, her foundation said in an Instagram post on Thursday.

"From reluctant spokesper-

son to a beacon of positive change, hers is a singular journey - an American leader who can speak to us all," film and theater director Julie Taymor said of Steinem in a 2017 New York Times interview.

Taymor directed the 2020 film "The Glorias," depicting Steinem's life across the years and based on her 2015 best-selling autobiography "My Life on the Road." She was also the subject of a 2018 play, "Gloria: A Life," and a 2011 HBO documentary "Gloria: In Her Own Words."

Steinem said she considered herself "an entrepreneur of social change."

"I want to do justice to the women I meet, to tell their

stories," she told the New Yorker magazine in 2015. "It's making connections, and using myself to listen, because we can't empower women without listening to their stories."

Steinem founded the National Women's Political Caucus in 1971 with former US Representatives Bella Abzug and Shirley Chisholm and writer Betty Friedan, whose 1963 book "The Feminine Mystique" ushered in the second wave of feminism.

Among other groups, she also created the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the Women's Media Center, Voters for Choice, and the Ms. Foundation for Women.

In 2013 then-President Ba-



Gloria Steinem at a rally of welfare demonstrators at the Washington Monument grounds. FILE/AP

rack Obama awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest US civilian honor.

With her signature long, blonde-streaked, center-parted hair and aviator glasses, Steinem

was the glamorous, hip symbol of the feminist movement, which she emphasized should embrace women of every race.

"If you've suffered discrimination, you're sensitive to it on every level. I learned feminism largely from Black women. Women of color basically invented feminism," she told the New Yorker.

Steinem was born on March 25, 1934, in Toledo, Ohio, the younger of two daughters. Her father was a traveling antique dealer. Because the family moved frequently she did not attend school regularly until about seventh grade.

Her parents separated when she was 11, following which Stei-

nem lived with and took care of her mother, who had a mental breakdown and suffered from depression.

The experience impacted Steinem's views on social injustice and marriage, which she believed robbed women of choices and many of their civil rights.

"I'd already been the very small parent of a very big child, my mother. I didn't want to end up taking care of someone else," she was quoted as saying.

After graduating from Smith College, Steinem began freelancing as a journalist. In 1963, she worked as a Playboy bunny for 11 days for a story for Show magazine. Her two-part groundbreaking expose, "A Bunny's Tale," de-

tailed the poor pay and sexist treatment Playboy bunnies — originally waitstaff — endured. The story was made into a 1985 TV movie starring Kirstie Alley. Steinem was often critical of the limitations of marriage. "Women are not going to be equal outside the home until men are equal in it," she said.

She wrote numerous books, including 1986's "Marilyn: Norma Jean" about Marilyn Monroe, "Revolution from Within: A Book of Self-Esteem" about personal development, and books of essays. Author Carolyn Heilbrun described her as "the epitome of female beauty and the quintessence of female revolution." REUTERS

SC upholds NCTE notice for appraisal reports from teachers education institutes

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, September 3

UNDERLINING THAT the development of a child “is integrally connected to the role of an elementary school teacher”, the Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a Public Notice issued by the Member Secretary of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Executive Committee, requiring Teacher Education Institutions (TEI) to file an annual Performance Appraisal Report.

In its judgment, two days before the country celebrates Teachers’ Day, a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe set aside a March 13, 2023 Delhi High Court order, which held the September 22, 2019 Public Notice of NCTE as arbitrary and illegal.

“In conclusion, we hold that the Public Notice issued by the Member Secretary of the Executive Committee is legal and valid and the Division Bench of the High Court committed an error in setting aside the said Public Notice. The Council as well as the Executive Committee is within its jurisdiction to call TEIs to upload Performance Appraisal Report,” the bench said.

The notice was challenged on the ground that the Council alone could have issued and implemented the notice and not the Executive Committee.

The SC, however, said it is “not in agreement with the approach adopted by the High Court”.

“We are of the opinion that there is ample empowerment of the Council as well as the Executive Committee to call for

annual Performance Appraisal Report from institutions imparting teacher education,” the court said.

“We fail to understand as to how a regulatory measure of a statutory body, empowered to achieve planned and coordinated development of teacher education system in the country could be restrained from calling upon the TEIs to file Performance Appraisal Report. We are of the opinion that even without a specific empowerment under the statute, such a regulatory measure can always be incidental and ancillary to the duties and functions of a regulator. As there is a performance audit of NCTE itself by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), it is but natural and incidental that NCTE would require the stakeholders, over which it exercises the regulatory jurisdiction, to provide the necessary Performance Appraisal Report,” the court said. It added that “it is necessary for the Council and its bodies to ensure accountability of educational institutions”.

Setting aside the HC Order, the SC said Section 23 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act), recognises the importance of qualified teachers for effective exercise of the right to education of children and, therefore, provides for an ‘academic authority’ to lay down the minimum qualifications..The ‘academic authority’, contemplated under Section 23, is the...Council, established under the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993...”.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

WMO warns of ‘very’ strong El Nino, to last until February 2027

Express News Service
Bengaluru, September 3

THE WORLD Meteorological Organization (WMO) on Thursday warned of an impending “very strong” El Nino that could last till February of next year and could alter temperature and rainfall patterns globally.

“El Nino is firmly established and is expected to strengthen. It has the potential to deliver a massive blow to communities and economies across the world. We are already seeing disruption and devastation from droughts and floods and we expect these impacts to increase as El Nino intensifies,” said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo at a press briefing on Thursday.

El Nino is a natural ocean-atmosphere phenomenon that is caused when the equatorial Pacific Ocean warms significantly and interferes with

weather patterns globally. It is known to trigger extreme weather — heatwaves, wet spells and extreme temperatures. The intensity of El Nino is determined by the sea surface temperature average over three months in the Nino 3.4 region along the equatorial Pacific Ocean. In recent months, this temperature index value surpassed 1.5 degrees Celsius above normal during May-July and escalated 2 degrees Celsius mark above normal in July.

Europe, this year, witnessed one of the hottest summers in recent decades and August, according to many global weather agencies, reported record temperatures in many parts of the globe. The UN agency’s chief said: “Never before in the 50-year history of the WMO have we launched such a major mobilisation with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services

who are on the frontline of delivering forecasts and services to save lives and livelihoods.”

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), earlier this month, confirmed that the monsoon rainfall in the later half of August came under the cloud of El Nino. But, with three-fourths of the season over, the monsoon has largely escaped the developing El Nino.

WMO further said the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) — the Indian Ocean counterpart of El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) — was likely to develop during September-November.

“A positive phase of the IOD is also expected to develop with a seasonal mean value of 0.9 degrees Celsius,” WMO said.

This could counter El Nino and in late August, the IOD had, briefly, swung towards the positive phase but returned to neutral, the IMD said.

Varanasi flood leaves 2,900 displaced, PM takes stock

Manish Sahu
Lucknow, September 3

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Thursday sought a firsthand update on the flood situation in his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi, speaking with the District Magistrate, as several areas have been inundated by the swelling Ganga and Varuna rivers.

Modi, who is the Lok Sabha MP from the district, was briefed on the relief measures being undertaken in the temple city, government sources said.

Officials said flooding has affected 29 villages and wards across the district, displacing 2,900 people. They are being moved to safer locations.

They are being moved to safer locations via boats.

On Thursday morning, the Ganga’s water level at Rajghat stood at 70.42 metres — above the warning mark of 70.26 metres but still short of the danger level of 71.26 metres. The river’s highest-ever flood level (HFL) was recorded at



Children walk alongside a waterlogged road at Chowkaghat area in Varanasi after rise in the water-level of Varuna river, Thursday. PTI

73.90 metres in 1978.

The river, fed by heavy rainfall upstream, has submerged the lower reaches of the ghats, forcing authorities to shift some cremations to higher ground. It has also disrupted boat services.

The district administration said it is stocking flood-hit and flood-prone areas with essen-

tial resources while departments and rescue agencies are on alert to move affected residents to safety.

Five people, including three members of a family, were killed in separate rain-related incidents in Uttar Pradesh’s Chitrakoot, Amethi and Barabanki districts, officials said on Thursday. WITH PTI INPUTS

Step up preparedness for glacial lake outbursts: MHA to states

Express News Service
New Delhi, September 3

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs has asked Himalayan states and Union Territories to step up preparedness against glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) and snow avalanches, stressing the need to move from response-based planning to preventive mitigation and community-level readiness, an MHA spokesperson said.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan chaired a meeting here on Thursday to review the

preparedness of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir against the risks posed by GLOFs and snow avalanches.

According to the spokesperson, the meeting reviewed the evolving risk of GLOFs in the Himalayan region and focused on strengthening early warning systems, monitoring of vulnerable glacial lakes and snow-covered areas, identification of high-risk locations, flow-path mapping, timely dissemination of alerts, evacuation pre-

paredness and strengthening response mechanisms.

The states and UTs presented their preparedness and mitigation strategies.

“State and UT-specific vulnerabilities were discussed in detail, with emphasis on ensuring that mitigation measures are translated into concrete actions at the district and local levels,” the spokesperson said.

Mohan emphasised the need for continuous and proactive monitoring of vulnerable glacial lakes and avalanche-prone areas, particularly dur-

ing periods of heightened risk.

He advised the states and UT to maintain close coordination among state agencies, district administrations and scientific and technical institutions so that warnings are acted upon promptly and effectively.

The Union Home Secretary also said preparedness for GLOFs and snow avalanches must go beyond response-oriented measures and include risk-informed planning, preventive mitigation and community-level preparedness.

States and UTs were advised to regularly review preparedness plans, identify gaps in early warning and evacuation arrangements, and take corrective measures ahead of any extreme event.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretaries and state disaster management authorities of the states and UTs concerned, senior officials of the MHA, officials of National Disaster Management Authority, Central Water Commission, India Meteorological Department and Defence

Geoinformatics Research Establishment, the spokesperson said.

Mohan also asked the states to expedite progress on GLOF mitigation projects sanctioned by the Central government in 2024, the spokesperson said.

The meeting concluded with directions for continued inter-agency coordination, regular sharing of risk information and strengthening of early warning and response mechanisms to minimise loss of life and property in vulnerable Himalayan areas.

EXPRESS special

Amid CJP’s school visits, RSS arm slams ‘political interference’ in education

This comes after Rajasthan announced renovations for a school that CJP visited

Hamza Khan
Jaipur, September 3

WITH THE Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) stepping up pressure on the Rajasthan government over the poor condition of schools in the state, the RSS-affiliated Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM) has hit back at the outfit and opposed its actions while mobilising lakhs of its members across the state to improve the education system.

In its latest newsletter for September, ABRSM has said that government schools should be “free from political activities and outside interference”, adding that “the temples of education will not be allowed to become a political arena at any cost. The Mahasangh strongly opposes outside interference in schools and the use of teachers for political activities.”

This comes after a row and a confrontation over the CJP’s protest at a Rajasthan government school on August 21 in Rampura village of Jaipur’s Bagru Assembly constituency.

Days after the protest, the Rajasthan government announced renovations at the school — a development that the CJP took as a sign of victory.

ABRSM boasts of a membership of 2.80 lakh government school teachers in Rajasthan — 13.60 lakh across the country — with about 45,000 ABRSM workers/post holders in the state.

Countering CJP drive

Referring to the attack on a CJP delegation that was on its way to visit a school on the outskirts of Jaipur, Mahasangh’s state organisation minister, Umrao Lal Verma, backed the villagers who opposed the visit.

He said that if any individual or organisation has any objection to the arrangements, facilities or educational status of a government school, the prescribed channels of the education department and the administration are open to them, and that “it is not appropriate to enter a school without following the due process and creating a political controversy.”



Villagers assault a CJP member visiting a govt school as part of the outfit’s ‘school thik karo’ drive, in Bagru, Jaipur, on August 21. PTI

Talking to *The Indian Express*, ABRSM national president Narayan Lal Gupta said that ABRSM has been raising the issue of school infrastructure, teacher vacancies, etc. under successive governments for a long time. In the context of CJP’s campaign, he said that instead of merely highlighting the issues, there should be an attempt towards a solution too.

The ABRSM has been running a ‘Humara vidyalaya, humara teerth’ (Our school, our pilgrimage) campaign to develop schools in the state and beyond, he said. In Rajasthan, the campaign covers as many as 10,000

schools. Additionally, he said that ABRSM recently adopted 1,000 government schools in the state as part of the same campaign, with the aim of their overall improvement through the help of philanthropists, teachers, parents, ABRSM, as well as the government.

“If you look at the Jaipur school too (in Rampura), it was the locals who had given the land for this school,” Gupta said, adding that the issues which have been plaguing the schools for the last 60-70 years cannot be resolved in a year and that “we have been raising the issue of increasing the edu-

cation budget at the central level to 6 per cent.”

ABRSM state president Ramesh Chandra Pushkarna said that the idea behind the campaign is to have the same “facilities and peace” at school as is often seen at pilgrimage sites.

Citing the state government’s audit last year, which said that 86,934 rooms in schools were dilapidated, Pushkarna said that Rs 3,000 crore for rebuilding those rooms isn’t enough. With CJP visiting schools in the state, he urged it to raise money from its social media followers, numbering in crores, to repair these schools, “instead of merely indulging in propaganda.” As for ABRSM’s own efforts, he said members have been doing their bit to improve the condition of schools.

The ABRSM has also backed the state government over its recent directive restricting the entry of outsiders, with its division vice-president Arjun Singh saying that it “supports Education Minister Madan Dilawar to improve the education system... The guidelines have been issued to control outsiders and political interference, and are intended to provide a safe, disciplined, and educational environment in schools.”

Pune man demanding DJ ban during Ganeshotsav assaulted, attacker arrested

Express News Service
Pune, September 3

VIDYANAND BAPAT, whose campaign against noise pollution during the Ganpati festival in Pune has sparked a massive debate, was attacked in public on Thursday morning. The incident on Tilak Road was caught on camera. Bapat is seen speaking to some media persons when a man slaps him.

Pune Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar said the attacker had been arrested and was being charged with cognisable non-bailable offences.

Bapat has been vocal in recent days about the need to curb noise pollution during festivals by banning loudspeakers and dhool tashas during public celebrations.

Kumar said, “The accused will be presented in court tomorrow (Friday) and we will ask for PCR (police custody remand).”

“The police have taken this incident extremely seriously and there will be strict action against the accused. It is an extremely condemnable incident of violence,” Kumar said. He added that Bapat was being provided round-the-clock police protection. He said that at a meeting with him, Ganesh mandals ‘unanimously’ denounced the attack.



The incident was caught on camera when Vidyanand Bapat was speaking to the media.

The attack was condemned by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. “Violence like this is not correct. Everyone has a right to state their opinion. Attacking someone while they are expressing their views is not correct.”

Condemning the attack, the Maharashtra Andhashraddha Nirmoolan Samiti (MANS) said, “If anyone disagrees with Bapat’s position, they should present their views based on facts. Resorting to physical violence when you are unable to refute points is a highly dangerous trend. If a person speaking out against noise pollution is assaulted today, tomorrow any citizen might fear raising their voice against injustice, superstition, pollution, corruption, or public malpractices.”

FOUNDATION STONE OF THE UTTAM KUMAR FILM CENTRE WILL BE LAID IN KOLKATA’S NEW TOWN AREA; MOVE SIGNALS THE SAFFRON PARTY’S CULTURAL POLITICS AFTER WINNING IN THE ASSEMBLY POLLS

Uttam Kumar, Tollywood and Suvendu’s cultural power play in West Bengal

From film screenings to walks at locations linked to the late superstar’s life, govt goes all in to celebrate his birth centenary

Atri Mitra
Kolkata, September 3

FORTY-SIX YEARS may have passed since his death. But, for quintessentially argumentative Bengalis, there is rare, near-unanimous consensus that Uttam Kumar is the greatest Bengali cine star in history. And now, the actor — popularly known as “Mahanayak (mega star)” — is at the centre of the BJP government’s outreach,

even as the party looks to solidify its control over the Bengali film industry, or Tollywood named after the Tollygunge neighbourhood of Kolkata.

On Thursday morning, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a video statement commemorating Uttam Kumar’s birth centenary, the BJP-led state government organised a special tribute ceremony at the matinee idol’s statue near the Tolly-

gunge metro station, which was attended by Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and a host of big names from the industry. Among them were film star Prosenjit Chatterjee; veteran actor Ranjit Mallick, whose daughter Koel was appointed a Trinamool Congress (TMC) Rajya Sabha MP, but who resigned; rebel Trinamool MP and film star Deepak Adhikari, or Dev, who is now part of the Nationalist Citizens Party of



CM Suvendu Adhikari speaks during the tribute ceremony of Uttam Kumar in Kolkata on Thursday. ANI

India; director Gautam Ghosh, and BJP MLAs Rudranil Ghosh

and Papiya Adhikari, and actor Rituparna Sengupta.

At the event, the CM touched Ranjit’s feet and took him to the stage. This, in a nutshell, illustrated the wave of change that has swept through Tollywood since the BJP’s win in the Assembly elections. The change has been more pronounced since the arrest of TMC leader Swarup Biswas, who called the shots in Tollywood for the past decade.

Adhikari also led a one-and-a-half-km tribute walk from the state-run cultural complex Nandan to the Gaganendra Shilpa Pradarashashala, flanked by actor and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty, veteran actor Bis-

wajit Chatterjee who was Uttam Kumar’s contemporary and is the father of Prosenjit, actor Jeet, veteran filmmaker Haranath Chakraborty, and Minister of State Purnima Chakraborty.

“We don’t have any differences. There is no narrow-mindedness. This film industry is vibrant and stands together. If required, we will pass legislation in the Assembly to help the film industry in every way,” Adhikari said at the Gaganendra Shilpa Pradarashashala, where an exhibition on the cine star began, showcasing behind-the-scenes stills, advertisements, and magazines featuring him.

The CM also announced that a state-of-the-art theatre complex bigger than the present Rabindra Sadan would be built to honour Kumar, and till September 6, film screenings, exhibitions, and guided heritage walks through locations tied to the actor’s life would be held, he added. On Friday, the foundation stone of the Uttam Kumar Film Centre will be laid in Kolkata’s New Town.

This massive outreach not only sends a signal to Tollywood but also to the public at large that Bengali cultural politics is important for the ruling party.

Milestone- The King's Kingdom, EVOQ Antalia

EVOQ Realtech marked a defining milestone in the Tricity's luxury real-estate landscape with a tree plantation ceremony of EVOQ Antalia, its flagship ultra-luxury residential development in Sector 66, Mohali. Conceived under the visionary leadership of Gaurav Goyal, Antalia embodies a rare philosophy in Indian real estate the pursuit of the lowest possible density paired with the highest standards of design, privacy and craftsmanship. "Every decision, from the private service lane to just two residences per floor, has been made to honour privacy, space and lasting value for our residents.



Successful treatment- Paras Health, Panchkula

DOCTORS at Paras Health Panchkula have successfully performed an advanced Renal Denervation (RDN) procedure on a 77-year-old male patient, suffering from severely resistant hypertension. The complex intervention was performed by a team led by Dr. (Maj. Gen.) Naveen Aggarwal, Chairman – Structural Heart Disease & EP Studies, Paras Health Panchkula.

The procedure was successfully carried out on both renal arteries under conscious sedation and took less than an hour.

Foundation day- Sri Guru Granth Sahib World University

SRI Guru Granth Sahib World University, Fatehgarh Sahib, celebrated its 19th Foundation Day with devotion and reverence at the University Gurdwara Sahib. A Sehaj Paath Bhog was held, followed by Ardas for the progress and well-being of the University, its staff and students, and for the welfare of all. The programme commenced with the recitation of the Saloks of Mahalla IX, followed by Kirtan by Bhai Kirandeep Singh Ji, Hazuri Ragi, Gurdwara Sri Fatehgarh Sahib.



CORPORATE BRIEFS

Scholarship- Desh Bhagat University



DESH BHAGAT UNIVERSITY (DBU) has announced the "DBU–Nepal Sahyog Scholarship 2026" to support students from Nepal, particularly those whose families have been affected by the recent natural disaster. Under the initiative, all eligible students from Nepal will receive a 25% scholarship on tuition fees & those from partially affected families may receive a 50% waiver, while those from severely affected families may be granted a scholarship of up to 100% on tuition fees, subject to verification and the University's scholarship policy. Dr. Sandeep Singh, President, Desh Bhagat University, said, "The DBU–Nepal Sahyog Scholarship reflects our commitment to ensuring that deserving students are not deprived of higher education because of financial hardship or circumstances beyond their control.

Achievement- Guru Nanak International Public School, Ludhiana

STUDENTS of Guru Nanak International Public School participated in Baba Gurmukh Singh Memorial Inter-School Shabad Gayan Competition, organised by Guru Nanak Public School, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana. The school's music team delivered an outstanding performance and secured the First Prize in which 16 schools took part. Director, Mrs. Gurmant Kaur Gill and Officiating Principal, Mrs. Gurjit Kaur appreciated the dedicated efforts of the students and their mentors for this remarkable achievement.



Janamashtmi Celebration- Sunder Sterling



FROM Intricately crafted Bal Gopal idols and traditional silver Jhulas to auspicious silver artefacts and 999.9+ pure silver, every creation from Sunder Sterling lends purity, devotion and exquisite craftsmanship to the occasion of Janamashtmi. Making celebrations more meaningful with a timeless treasure to be cherished for generations, welcome Krishna's blessings into your home with the elegance of silver.

Programme- PPCB

IN a move aimed at taking plastic waste awareness and segregation to the grassroots, the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) launched the "Punjab Plastic Champions Programme", a school-based MLP (Multi-Layered Plastic) waste collection championship in Govt. Model Senior Secondary School of Eminence, Pheel Khana, Patiala. The programme brings schools and students into the fight against one of the more difficult categories of plastic waste. The initiative has been designed not merely as a short-term collection drive, but as an effort to build segregation and responsible waste-management habits among children.



Foundation day- Sant Singh Sukha Singh (SSSS) College of Commerce for Women, Amritsar



CELEBRATING its 34th Foundation Day, a Bhog ceremony of the Sehaj Path was held at the college. The students and faculty members recited shabad kirtan with spiritual fervour, performed Ardas and recited the Hukamnama. Addressing the gathering, Director S. Jagdish Singh reflected on the college's 33 years of dedication and perseverance. He congratulated and encouraged the students to follow Guru Sahib's teachings in their daily lives. Principal Ms. Harpreet Kaur Uppal congratulated and highlighted that the institutions are known by the excellent attainments of its students.

Inauguration ceremony- IIM Amritsar



THE Indian Institute of Management Amritsar (IIMAm) welcomed the second batch of its five-year Integrated Programme in Management (IPM), marking another significant milestone in the Institute's continued efforts to provide young students with a strong foundation in management education. The event

was graced by Prof N Ravichandran, Professor (Retired), IIM Ahmedabad and Former Director, IIM Indore, as the Chief Guest. Mr Jogendra Singh, President and Group CFO, Hero Corporate Service Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, attended the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Prof Samir K Srivastava, Director, IIMAm, subsequently felicitated the distinguished guests.

Achievement- DAVIET

TARPAN SONI brought laurels to his family by qualifying UGC-NET 2026 in Law with 99.82 percentile, earning JRF, and secured AIR 46 in his maiden attempt soon after graduation. His father, Dr. Anil Soni, also qualified UGC-NET 2026 in Management with 94.51 percentile, becoming eligible for Ph.D. admission. He is Associate Professor and Head, Department of Business Administration, DAVIET, Jalandhar. The father-son achievement reflects remarkable academic excellence, perseverance and a shared commitment to lifelong learning.



Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (USDA)
Urban Development Department, Government of Uttarakhand
777, Saatvik Tower, Kaulagarh Road, Rajendra Nagar, Dehradun
Telephone +91-135-2753894, Tele-fax +91-135-2754895
Email: usudip@gmail.com, Website: www.usdaa.uk.gov.in

Adt. No: USDA/FP-186/1468

Date: 18.09.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

Urban Development Department (UDD), Government of Uttarakhand (GoU) has received financing from European Investment Bank (EIB) for the **Uttarakhand Water and Sanitation Project (UWSP), in the State of Uttarakhand**. The project aims to develop and strengthen urban infrastructure in Uttarakhand through the implementation of water supply systems and other essential urban infrastructure components and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the Loan for the works as mentioned in the table below.

The **"Program Director"**, Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (USDA), Government of Uttarakhand (**the Employer**) invites online bids through the Uttarakhand state e-procurement portal <https://uktenders.gov.in>, from eligible Bidders for the execution of the work as detailed below:

Name of Work	Package No.	Invitation of Bid No.	Last Date & Time of Submission
Development of Water Supply Scheme (Tube wells, rising mains, OHTS, Distribution System; House Service Connections including Allied Works) with 2 years O&M at Kashipur Town	WS-KSP-01	UWSP/OCI-WS/KSP-01	23rd October 2026 till 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)
Development of Water Supply Scheme (Tube wells, rising mains, OHTS, Distribution System; House Service Connections including Allied Works) with 2 years O&M at Rudrapur Town	WS-RDP-01	UWSP/OCI-WS/RDP-01	23rd October 2026 till 04:00 PM, (16:00 Hrs.)

Description	For Kashipur Town		For Rudrapur Town	
	Date of publication of bid document	08.09.2026 at 11:30 AM, (11:30 Hrs.)	08.09.2026 at 12:00 PM, (12:00 Hrs.)	
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	23.09.2026 at 03:30 PM, (15:30 Hrs.)	23.09.2026 at 04:30 PM, (16:30 Hrs.)		
Bid documents may be uploaded from	13.10.2026 at 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)	13.10.2026 at 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)		
Last date of submission of original EMD at the Promoter's (Bid Inviting Officer) Office	22.10.2026 at 04:00 PM, (16:00 Hrs.)	22.10.2026 at 05:00 PM, (17:00 Hrs.)		
Bid Submission Closing & Last Date/Time for downloading of the Bid document	23.10.2026 at 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)	23.10.2026 at 04:00 PM, (16:00 Hrs.)		
Date/Time for opening of the Technical bid	23.10.2026 at 05:30 PM, (15:30 Hrs.)	23.10.2026 at 04:30 PM, (16:30 Hrs.)		

The prospective bidders can download the detailed bid document in the prescribed format and upload the bid on the website, <https://uktenders.gov.in>. Program Director, USDA reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals or to cancel the entire process without assigning any reason thereof. Further details of the bid document including subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be downloaded from the website <https://uktenders.gov.in>.

Program Director
USDA

"हमारा संकल्प" "आपका सहयोग" "बेहतरीन काम"

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

TENDER NOTICE

Sl. No.	Name of Board/Corp./Auth.	Name of Work/NOTICE TENDER	Opening Date Closing Date (Time)	Amount / EMD (Approx.) IN Rupees	Website of the Board/Corp./Auth.	Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email
1.	HARYANA PAPERMANAGAR	SPECIAL REPAIR OF INTERNAL ROADS, RAISING OF BOUNDARY WALL, CONSTRUCTION OF COLLECTING TANK WITH RISING MAIN AND PUMP ROOM IN SUB YARD AT RASOOLPUR IN MC SADHURA IN SADHURA CONSTITUENCY	01.09.2026 15.09.2026	1,01,10,180/-	https://tenders.hry.nic.in	187301001 www.haryanapn2026@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

No 48927/HR

Noida Power Company Limited
Electric Sub Station, Knowledge Park-IV, Greater Noida-201310
(CIN: U31200UP1992PLC014506)

TENDER NOTICE

Date: 04-09-2026

e-Tender (Commercial & Technical) are invited for following, from all interested bidders

NIT No.	Tender Description	EMD (Rs.)	Start and Due Date & Time of Submission
NIT No. NPCL/FY26-27/STP Pole /030	ANNUAL YEAR RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF STPPOLE (12M & 13M)	2.50 Lac	04.09.2026 & 25.09.2026 (up to 15:00 hours)

Cost of Individual Tender Document (Incl. GST) Rs 1180/-
For other tender details and further amendment/corrigendum, please visit our website www.noidapower.com-->Procurement-->Tenders

HEAD (CMM)

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
(E-Tender Mode only)

ON-LINE TENDER is hereby invited by the undersigned, for & on behalf of the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4, from the experienced/ reputed Bidders / Joint venture firms / A Co-operative Society of Retired Employees of HPSEB Ltd. for the below mentioned work on the prescribed formats:

BID No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender	Earnest Money	Completion Period	Cost of Tender Documents	Sale of Tender Documents	Submission of Tender online	Download of Tender
HES/DB- E-Tender Job No. E13-26-27	e-Tendering on partial turnkey basis for prov. SOP to Jal Shakti Vilhag at Vill. Garu (Haridwar Ka Nala) in (B) Section Chhauha under Electrical Sub Division, HPSEBL, Kandaghat (T.S. No.: 30/2026-27; Sanctioned Amount: Rs. 1763650/- Only; Name of Scheme: Deposit Estimate Sanctioned Date: 01.09.2026)	570541/-	5705/-	Three Months	590/- inclusive of GST	03.09.2026 from 02:00 PM	09.09.2026 6 upto 04:00 PM	10.09.2026 at 11:00 AM

Note: The detailed tender notification can be viewed / downloaded free of cost from the website - <https://hptenders.gov.in>.

Er. Rahul Verma
Addl. Superintending Engineer, Electrical Division, HPSEBL, Solan (H.P.), Email: xenesolan@gmail.com

No.0850/2026-2027/HP

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION

3rd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, Sector 19-B,
Madhya Marg, Chandigarh
Ph. No. 0172-2700065

GREEN SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (GSDP)

EXTENSION OF APPLICATION PERIOD

In continuation of the advertisement dated 15.08.2026, the Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration, through the Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) Programme Centre (PC) Hub established by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India, extends the period for inviting applications for admission to the Green Skill Development Programme (GSDP) for the NCrF/NSQF Level 6 course titled "Waste Optimisation Professional" for a further period of 15 (Fifteen) days.

The programme aims to develop skilled professionals in the environmental sector and enhance employment and self-employment opportunities in waste management and resource optimisation. This is a residential course providing free training, boarding and lodging to selected candidates, with the course module comprising classroom lectures, practical training, field visits, assignments and hands-on learning.

Accordingly, applications are hereby invited from eligible candidates in the prescribed application form, which is available on the official website of the Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration. The application form may be downloaded from the Department's website, www.chandigarhenvvis.gov.in, or filled in through the Google Form: <https://forms.gle/5HNxTедуHсегTDA>. Incomplete applications or applications received after the prescribed last date shall not be entertained.

The duly filled-in application form, along with self-attested copies of all relevant testimonials and two self-addressed envelopes duly affixed with postage stamps for Speed Post/Registered Post, should reach the office of the undersigned on or before 18.09.2026 up to 5:30 PM.

Course Name and total number of seats	Duration	NCrF/NSQF Level	Eligibility Criteria	Minimum Age
Waste Optimisation Professional (30)	570 Hours	Level 6	• Four-year UG Degree in relevant field with 1 year relevant experience OR• Three-year UG Degree in relevant field with 2 years relevant experience OR• 12+2 year diploma in relevant field with 3 year of relevant experience OR• Previous relevant Qualification of NSQF Level 5.5 with 1.5 years of relevant experience OR• Previous relevant Qualification of NSQF Level 5 with 3 year of relevant experience	21 years

Only shortlisted candidates will be informed regarding the further selection process.
Note: Candidates who have already submitted their applications in response to the earlier advertisement dated 15.08.2026 need not apply again.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT
Chandigarh Administration

PUBLIC NOTICE

Inviting Applications for Grant of Stage Carriage Permits

Applications are hereby invited from interested applicants for the grant of Stage Carriage Permits under the **Stage Carriage Scheme, 2024**, notified by the Government of Haryana and as amended on 07.03.2024.

Interested applicants may submit their applications in the prescribed **Form HR-22** in the office of the **District Transport Officer-cum-Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Yamunanagar**, from **01.09.2026 to 30.09.2026** along with the non refundable application fees of Rs 25000/- (Twenty five thousand Rupees) only deposit through E-Challan Head **0041-00-101-51-51** Application received after the prescribed period will not be entertained.

It is mandatory to attach the requisite information/documents as prescribed in **Proforma-I** with the application.

The applicants shall clearly mention the **Route No., complete route, number of minimum permits notified for the route, and the number of permits requested/maximum** permits sought in the application.

The route-wise details of the minimum number of permits notified is available on the Notice Board of this office. Interested applicants may inspect the said details during office hours.

Important:

- Applications will be accepted only within the prescribed period.
- Incomplete applications will not be entertained.
- The subsequent process for issuance of **Permit/Letter of Intent** will be carried out as per rules after the number of permits requested and the maximum number of permits as notified by the Government.
- Detailed terms and conditions are available on the Notice Board of the office.
- The applicant shall duly fill in all the columns/fields provided in the application form and furnish all the requisite information..

District Transport Officer-cum-Secretary
Regional Transport Authority,
Yamunanagar

No.48939/HR

epaper.indianexpress.com

Chandigarh

NO TRANSHIPMENT SHOULD HAPPEN IN INDIA: GOYAL

‘India should avoid becoming a conduit for unethical trade’

Ravi Dutta Mishra
New Delhi, September 3

COMMERCE MINISTER Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that India should not become a trade conduit for goods originating from another country and should aim for genuine value addition.

Goyal said that India’s “country of origin” certificates should carry weight.

“No transshipment should happen in India. We should not become a conduit for anything unethical. We should be trusted partners of the world. We don’t want to become like Vietnam, which brings goods from one country and exports to another country after marginal value addition,” Goyal said.

The statement comes on the heels of a US report accusing over 40 countries, including India, of acting as a “shadow transshipment network” designed to hide the true economic origin of goods produced in China.

The White House, as per the report, on August 14 categorised the “shadow network” into three tiers, with countries such as India, Mexico, Canada, and the European Union forming tier 1 where illegal transshipment risk is “embedded” within massive legitimate trade flows. While “closely integrated” countries with China such as Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand were categorised as tier 2, smaller economies such as Cambodia, Panama, and the UAE with “weak customs enforcement” were classified as tier 3.

The report claimed that tariff revenue is the most obvious loss from illegal transshipment and that when China-linked goods enter the US through



India should aim for genuine, not marginal, value addition, according to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. ANI

third countries, they widen the effective trade deficit, displace domestic production, reduce GDP growth, and lower associated federal tax receipts.

The US has imposed an additional 10% tariff on several countries, including India, from July 24.

Goyal will visit the US in late September to attend the G-20 Trade Ministerial in Milwaukee and hold bilateral talks with USTR Jamieson Greer.

Goyal also said that the details of the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) with the US will be announced once Washington offers preferential terms compared to the country’s competitors.

He also said that India’s nine free trade agreements (FTAs), spanning economies representing about \$60 trillion of GDP, would provide preferential access to nearly two-thirds of global trade.

He said the other FTAs that India would conclude over the next few months and couple of years, including those with Canada, Mexico, Chile, Mercosur,

SACU (South Africa Customs Union), GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) and Israel, together with efforts to review ASEAN, Korea and Japan trade deals would give India access to 75% of global trade at a rate lower than its competitors.

India has implemented trade pacts with the UK, Mauritius, Oman, UAE, and Australia.

“(Trade pact with) New Zealand will go live soon and thereafter (FTA with) EU, the 27-nation bloc, will go live. And as soon as the US can give us the preferential rate, in comparison to our competition, we will finalise the BTA and announce the final details,” he said at a workshop on free trade agreements, organised by the commerce ministry.

In February, India and the US announced finalisation of the framework for the first phase of the pact, but changes in the tariff landscape in the US have led to further negotiations between the two countries on the pact.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

After slow start, IPO mkt comes back to life

Akash Mandal
Mumbai, September 3

THE INDIAN IPO market has heated up again, with some major issues such as Jio Platforms and National Stock Exchange in the pipeline. After a slowdown earlier in the year, July and August saw many companies finally enter the market, easing some of the “pent-up” demand as market conditions improved.

Companies raised nearly Rs 29,000 crore in August and around Rs 26,500 crore in July through mainboard IPOs, which together accounted for around 73% of the around Rs 75,518 crore raised so far in 2026, according to data compiled from the National Stock Exchange.

Companies scramble as approvals near expiry

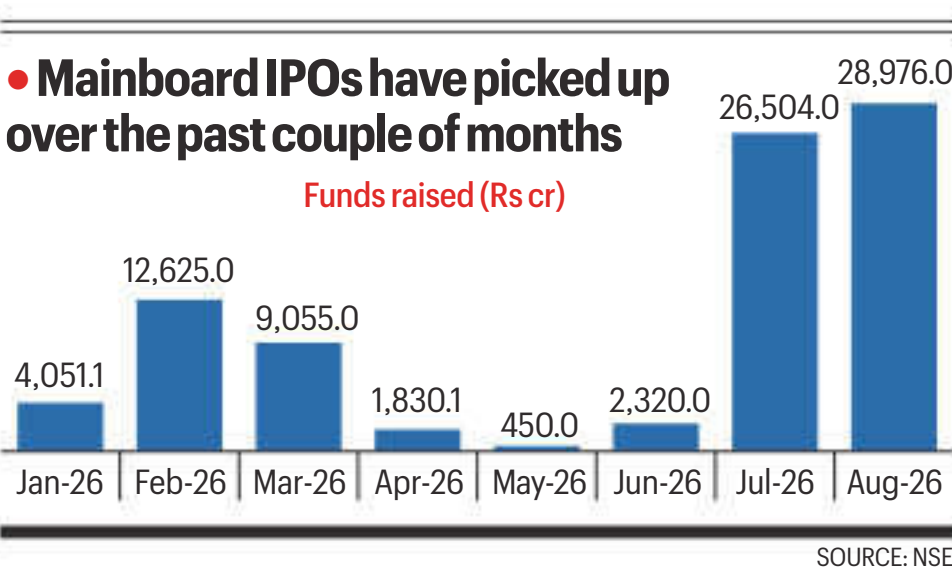
The fundraising approvals of many of the companies that had delayed their IPO plans were nearing their expiry, which led to a lot of these companies finally opening their public issues. Experts cited this factor as among the biggest factors behind this renewed vigor seen in the primary market. Notably,

fundraising approvals granted by regulators like SEBI typically last for a period of 12 months.

“The pipeline has always been strong; it’s just that market conditions remain uncertain. But many companies have finally launched their IPOs as approvals near expiry, which is a big factor behind this recent boom,” the head of capital markets at a domestic broking firm said. For example, big issues like Symbiotic Pharmalab, dairy company Milkymist, and logistics firm Shiprocket’s approvals were between 8-10 months old when they finally completed their fundraising in August.

In fact, market regulator SEBI had extended the validity of IPO and rights issue approvals expiring between April and September to September 30 in the wake of the West Asia crisis. The relief, which came through back in April, benefited companies like Shiprocket and Symbiotec.

Many such companies had delayed their IPO plans due to the torrid market conditions domestically as the war in West Asia stretched on. Big names like Zepto and PhonePe were among the companies that indefinitely paused their fundrais-



ing plans. Companies usually wait for favorable market conditions while raising funds as it maximizes valuations, and such an environment is also likely to provide investors with solid listing-day gains.

However, SBI Funds Management, which completed its public issue in July, saw very high interest from investors due to attractive valuations.

“There has been a huge pent-up supply of issues with companies holding SEBI approval following a wait-and-watch approach for the first half of the year to see how the geopolitical situation plays out. With the added pressure of approvals lapsing, you started seeing companies launching IPOs from July

onwards. Good response and listings have subsequently encouraged more issuers to come forward,” said Pranav Haldea, MD at Prime Database.

Market conditions improve

The benchmark Nifty 50 and Sensex indices had fallen around 14% at their lowest this year, as high crude oil prices, foreign outflows, and a weaker rupee as a result had decimated the Indian market.

However, things have stabilized a bit since then as negative developments from West Asia have become increasingly few and far between, with market participants now focusing more on factors like earnings growth,

inflation, and macroeconomic parameters rather than a longer-term truce between Iran and the US. The Indian stock market had thus recovered 10-11% from its lows and was down just around 5% for the year in early August before another downturn since mid-August minimized the gains. However, the much more stable conditions have encouraged more companies in the pipeline to launch their fundraising plans.

In fact, with the increased momentum over the last couple of months, funds raised through mainboard IPOs so far this year have crossed the Rs 59,360 crore raised by Indian corporates till the same time last year. Notably, 2025 saw record fundraising through IPOs in the Indian market, with most of the momentum coming in the final few months of the year.

While mainboard IPOs have gained pace, IPOs in the small and medium enterprise (SME) segment have remained sluggish as SEBI has consistently tightened the fundraising mechanism for smaller companies for increased investor protection.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Govt to roll out Bharat NCAP 2.0 from Oct 2027, says Gadkari

Press Trust of India
New Delhi, September 3

THE GOVERNMENT is planning to roll out a new version of the Bharat NCAP programme from October 2027, which will assess the complete safety framework and address the severe challenge of road accidents in the country, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Thursday.

Addressing the 66th SIAM Annual Convention 2026, the Minister for Road, Transport and Highways also announced another scheme to control emissions from BS IV-compliant vehicles.

The installation of a rare emission control device reduces PM (particulate matter) and NOx significantly, and the cost of the device is Rs 4,000-5,000. “I am going to announce a new scheme for a rare emission

control device. Trials are completed for the device. Emissions after retrofitment on BS 4 vehicles same as BS 6. So this option is there,” he said.

Launched in 2023, Bharat NCAP (Bharat New Car Assessment Program) is India’s official, independent vehicle safety rating system that crash-tests passenger cars and assigns them a rating from 1 to 5 stars. It evaluates how well cars protect adult and child occupants during collisions.

Highlighting the urgency of addressing road accident problem, Gadkari said, “We are moving forward with Bharat NCAP 2. This is a very important programme wherein, from October 2027, the entire safety chain will be evaluated. This is very important because road accidents are a big problem... we are number one in the world”.

• BRIEFLY

Prioritise asset quality over loan growth: RBI DG Murmu to NBFCs

Mumbai: RBI Deputy Governor S C Murmu on Thursday asked non-bank finance companies (NBFCs) to ensure that the acceleration in loan growth does not come at the cost of asset quality concerns. Addressing an event by industry grouping CII here, Murmu asked the non-bank lenders to also focus on other aspects including liquidity management, fair conduct, grievance redressal and responsible lending. “As credit growth speeds up, so does the risk to asset quality... Let me be clear, growth must never come at the cost of underwriting standards,” Murmu said. PTI

Be ready for end of EV subsidies: Heavy Industries Secretary

New Delhi: Government subsidies for electric vehicles will end in the

coming years, and companies need to be prepared for the challenge, a top official said on Thursday. The Indian automobile industry must collaborate to set up charging infrastructure to promote electrification on a larger scale, Kamran Rizvi, Secretary in the Heavy Industries Ministry, said while addressing the annual convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) here. PTI

India’s services activity expands in Aug; PMI

New Delhi: India’s services activity expanded in August, supported by stronger output and new business, even as the overall pace of growth was the second-slowest recorded since March 2022, a monthly survey said on Thursday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index rose from 53.3 in July to 54.1 in August, as demand conditions remained supportive and new business inflows continued to rise. PTI

FLY91 orders 40 ATR planes amid govt push for regional connectivity

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, September 3

GOA-BASED REGIONAL airline FLY91 on Thursday inked an agreement with European turboprop aircraft manufacturer ATR for 40 ATR 72-600 planes. The order, valued at close to \$1 billion at list price, is the largest-ever order for ATR planes from a regional airline anywhere in the world, and its third-largest order overall.

India’s largest airline IndiGo is currently the biggest ATR operator in India, with an operational fleet of 44 turboprops to cater to its regional network. State-owned Alliance Air also operates ATR planes. Speaking at the FLY91-ATR deal signing event, Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu called FLY91 a “success story”, expressing hope that regional aviation in India would pick up notably in the foreseeable future.

FLY91, which started operations about two-and-a-half years ago, currently has a fleet of six aircraft, and this order will be pivotal for the airline to achieve its aim of having over 60 planes in the next few years. Aircraft deliveries from this order are expected to start in



FLY91, which started operations about two-and-a-half years ago, currently has a fleet of six aircraft. FLY91.IN

late-2027, and go up to 2032. The actual order value couldn’t be immediately ascertained; aircraft manufacturers usually offer discounts on large orders.

At present, FLY91 operates about 280 flights a week and has a network of 12 cities. The carrier, which calls itself a pure-play regional airline, expects to ramp up operations significantly to density as well as expand its regional flight network as it inducts more aircraft. The ATR 72-600 seats 70 to 78 passengers, and has a range of about 1,500-1,650 km.

FLY91 has been a bit of an exception in the Indian aviation market that has seen subdued interest in the regional segment with most large carriers focussed on narrow-body

jet operations. A number of regional airlines have fallen by the wayside in India over the years, even as the government has been pushing for enhancing regional air connectivity through initiatives like UDAN.

“I see this landmark that we are having today as a very confident message that we are sending to people across stakeholders, across civil aviation (sector) that India’s regional civil aviation is only in the beginning (stage) and we are just starting to grow with great potential,” Naidu said, adding that the next phase of the UDAN scheme will see India adding 100 new airports, a vast majority of which will be in tier 2 and 3 cities.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

SEBI to review derivatives settlement methodology

Bengaluru: Market regulator the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said on Thursday it would review the methodology for determining settlement prices of derivatives contracts after receiving feedback on the closing auction session in the equity cash market.

The SEBI had launched the closing auction session on August 3 to determine the closing prices of securities.

But the rollout highlighted issues such as divergent index closing levels across exchanges, volatile options pricing, and concerns over potential manipulation, particularly on days when benchmark derivatives contracts expire.

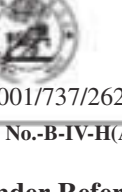
The regulator said it has received feedback from various stakeholders, and would propose certain changes in the methodology for determining settlement prices of derivative contracts. SEBI would also issue a discussion paper outlining the proposed changes within a week.

Indian equities have seen sharp moves during the newly launched closing auction session, particularly on derivatives expiry days. REUTERS

• MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▲	US Dollar ▼
76,152.86	23,873.45	₹1,53,941	₹94.49
-417.49	-41.00		
-0.55%	-0.17%	Silver ▲	Oil ▲
		₹2,32,533	\$99.35

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2026



OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-mail ID: cebuildings_orsissa@yahoo.co.in
cebbuildings@rediffmail.com, Tel. -(0674)-2391523
File No.-B-IV-H(AMC)-22/2023(PV)V3243
Bhubaneswar, the 1st, Sept, 2026

Invitation for Bids 1st Corrigendum
Tender Reference No. CE-Bldg-1-31/2026-27
Name of the Works:
(1) “Construction of Govt. College of Nursing (G + 1) and Hostel Building (G + 3) at Baripada, Dist.-Mayurbhanj”.
(2) “Construction of Govt. College of Nursing at Baleswar”,
(3) “Construction of Govt. College of Nursing at Jaipur”.
(4) “Construction of Block Level Stadium (With Indoor Hall) in Kuarmunda
(5) “Construction of Block Level Stadium (With Indoor Hall) in Gurundia Block under Sundargarha District”.

The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. CE-Bldg-1-31/2026-27
1. Bid documents such as DTCN / BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. www.tendersorsissa.gov.in, during the period from **dt.21.09.2026 to 17.00 hours of dt.06.10.2026** instead of dt.01.09.2026 to dt. 17.09.2026 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
2. Online bids shall be received till **17.00 Hours of dt.06.10.2026** instead of dt. 17.09.2026.
3. The technical bids will be opened at **11.30 A.M. of dt.07.10.2026** instead of dt. 18.09.2026.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief (Civil),
(i/c) Chief Engineer, Buildings-I, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34001/34117/1/2627/0066

Why top scientist wants India to move early to thorium fuels

Pratyush Deep
New Delhi, September 3

ONE OF India’s top nuclear scientists, Anil Kakodkar, has advocated introducing thorium-based fuel into the country’s indigenous pressurised heavy water reactor (PHWR) fleet alongside the ongoing three-stage nuclear programme, arguing that this could accelerate the utilisation of India’s abundant thorium reserves and help the country become self-reliant in nuclear fuel.

The commercial acceptability of indigenous PHWRs and plans to deploy around half of India’s targeted 100 gigawatts-electric (GWe) of nuclear capacity through the technology create an opportunity to intro-

duce thorium at an earlier stage, Kakodkar said at the 6th International Climate Summit on Wednesday.

While India’s three-stage nuclear programme remains the preferred route for deploying thorium, the former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission said the key question was whether it could match the pace of the country’s rapidly growing energy requirements over the next 15-25 years.

The three stages

India is following a three-stage nuclear power programme aimed at achieving long-term fuel self-reliance. The first stage is based on PHWRs using natural uranium as

fuel. The plutonium generated in the spent fuel from these reactors is then used in the second stage, comprising fast breeder reactors (FBRs). FBRs initially use plutonium plus depleted uranium to obtain Uranium-233 (U-233) from the Thorium-232 (Th-232), which is used as a blanket in such reactors.

In the third stage, it is Th-232 that will get converted into U-233, which would be fuel for the advanced reactors.

FBRs represent a crucial intermediate step between the first and third stages of India’s nuclear programme, enabling the country to utilise its abundant thorium resources and move towards greater

self-reliance in nuclear fuel.

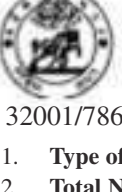
In April, India’s first indigenous fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam attained criticality, meaning the reactor fuel can now sustain a fission chain reaction. This marks a major milestone in the country’s civil nuclear programme as it is a step further towards the second stage.

Kakodkar, the Chancellor of the Homi Bhabha National Institute, said thorium was initially envisaged for use in fast breeder reactors because India’s thermal reactor capacity was too small and was not enough to convert enough quantities of uranium. The strategy therefore shifted towards fast breeder reactors, which could eventually scale to hundreds of gigawatts and pro-

vide a much larger platform for irradiating thorium and producing Uranium-233 and to get into large scale energy from thorium, he said.

“Now PHWRs are going up to 50, 60 gigawatts. So I think there is an opportunity to introduce thorium right here,” Kakodkar added. Kakodkar also addressed the question of cost involved in introducing thorium into PHWRs as thorium is a stronger neutron absorber than uranium. “The question is, if we incur a cost, there must be a payback,” he said, adding that thorium should be irradiated in a way that does not increase the cost of electricity from PHWRs or raise their uranium needs.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
UPPER INDRAVATI PROJECT
AT/PO: MUKHIGUDA DIST: KALAHANDI ODISHA, PIN: 766026
e-mail address: cecupi1987@gmail.com/louipbbsr@gmail.com

32001/786/2627
1. Type of Work : Canal & structure Work
2. Total No. of Works : 05 Nos.
3. Approximate value of work : Rs. 154.48.47 lakhs to Rs253.72 Lakhs (Excluding GST)
4. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10,000/- (Online)
5. Bid Security/E.M.D : Rs.1,54,500/- to Rs.2,53,800/- (Online).
6. Period of completion : 11 (Eleven Calendar months).
7. Class of Contractor : B & A Class

Procurement Officer	e-procurement Notice No.	Bid Amount	Availability of online viewing of Tender prior to Bidding	Period for seeking tender clarification	Submission & Availability bid on-line	Date & time of opening of Technical Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, UPPER INDRAVATI PROJECT, AT/PO- MUKHIGUDA, DIST: KALAHANDI, ODISHA, PIN-766026.	CCE. UIP- 04(05)/ 2026-27 Dt. 29.08.2026	Rs. 1,54,48,304.14 To Rs. 2,53,71,791.98 (Excluding GST)	08.09.2026 To 10.00 (10.00 AM)	23.09.2026 (up to 5.00 PM)	17.09.2026 to 19.09.2026 during office hours. 23.09.2026 (up to 5.00PM)	24.09.2026 at 11:00 AM

Date of opening of technical bid - Dt-24.09.2026 at 11.00 AM in the O/O of the Chief Construction Engineer, UIP Mukhiguda, Kalahandi, Odisha, PIN-766026
Date of opening of financial bid - To be decided after finalization of Technical Bid.
For details can be seen from the Govt. Website www.tendersorsissa.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer,
Upper Indravati Project, Mukhiguda
OIPR-32001/53532/1/26-27/0066



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

• POLICY

Inside Jharkhand & Bihar’s 25-year Sone river dispute

Santosh Singh
Patna, September 3

THE 25-YEAR-OLD dispute between Bihar and Jharkhand over the sharing of Sone river water was resolved on Monday with the signing of an inter-state memorandum of understanding under which Bihar will receive 5.75 million acre-feet (MAF) and Jharkhand 2 MAF of water. The agreement is expected to pave the way for long-delayed irrigation, reservoir and river-linking projects in drought-prone regions of both states.

What is the history of the Sone river dispute?

The Sone flows generally northward from its upper catchments in Madhya Pradesh, passing through Uttar Pradesh and along the Jharkhand-Bihar boundary before joining the Ganga in Bihar (*see map*). In November 2000, when Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar, the new state inherited the major upper catchment areas and tributaries while lower riparian agricultural hubs remained in Bihar. But the core of the dispute traces back to the 1973 Ban-sagar Agreement, a tripartite agreement involving Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, under which undivided Bihar was allocated 7.75 MAF of Sone water out of the total basin yield. After Bihar’s division, no binding formula existed to split that 7.75 MAF allocation between Bihar and the newly formed state of Jharkhand. While various committees attempted mediation over the last two decades, talks repeatedly stalled over reservoir height, land submergence, and volumetric splits.

How did the two states arrive at a consensus?

Under the pact, the two states agreed that Bihar will receive 5.75 MAF of Sone water while Jharkhand will receive 2 MAF. The agreement clears the path for the full operation of the Indrapuri Barrage (also called the Indrapuri Dam or Sone Barrage, *see map below*) across the Sone river in Rohtas district. Built in the late 1960s, the barrage serves as a primary diversion structure supplying water to the extensive Sone canal network, which irrigates the surrounding Shahabad agricultural belt (Rohtas, Bhojpur, Buxar, and Kaimur districts). Following the pact, Bihar will receive additional water from the barrage to irrigate local farmland. In turn, Jharkhand agreed to specified reservoir water levels to minimise land submergence, backed by clear rehabilitation provisions. The pact guarantees critical irrigation supplies to the Magadh belt in south Bihar (Rohtas, Bhojpur, and Auran-gabad) while enabling new canal networks in the drought-prone Palamu and Garhwa districts of Jharkhand.

Did the dispute create political tensions?

While there were no major state-level confrontations, the water dispute frequently surfaced as a political issue during election seasons—particularly in Bihar’s Shaha-bad region and Jharkhand’s Palamu region. Leaders across party lines in Bihar’s Shahabad and Magadh belts routinely targeted the state government over water shortages in the Sone canal system during the summer sowing season. Meanwhile, Jharkhand leaders from the Palamu and Garhwa regions raised concerns over displacement, fearing that increasing the Indrapuri Dam’s height would submerge local agricultural land and displace thousands without fair compensation.



• HISTORY

In Gloria Steinem’s legacy, the debate over many waves of feminist movements

Rishika Singh
New Delhi, September 3

GLORIA STEINEM, among the most well-known feminist activists of the 20th century, died on Thursday at 92. Steinem was a pioneering figure of the Second Wave of the Feminist Movement of the 1960s and ’70s, which saw women fight for rights in the workplace and in making reproductive choices. It followed First Wave feminists of the late 19th century who lacked the legal safeguards in public life. By the 1960s, however, the tide was turning, and civil rights movements — including for women and Black Americans — emerged. One prominent figure was Betty Friedan, who wrote *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963, identifying women’s desire to go beyond the domestic sphere: “We can no longer ignore that voice within women that says: ‘I want something more than my husband and my children and my home.’” Nanda said: “Steinem and her longtime collaborator in India, Devaki Jain, were openly Second-Wave feminists. Their focus

Nanda, principal at Miranda House and a professor of political science, told *The Indian Express*: “She brought out the first women’s magazine in the US on her own, and she remains an iconic figure for her work. Steinem was grounded and committed to causes such as anti-child trafficking in India and her feminist criticism of pornography — all of that is still relevant.” **Waves of feminism** Steinem grew up when women in the US lacked legal safeguards in public life. By the 1960s, however, the tide was turning, and civil rights movements — including for women and Black Americans — emerged. One prominent figure was Betty Friedan, who wrote *The Feminine Mystique* in 1963, identifying women’s desire to go beyond the domestic sphere: “We can no longer ignore that voice within women that says: ‘I want something more than my husband and my children and my home.’” Nanda said: “Steinem and her longtime collaborator in India, Devaki Jain, were openly Second-Wave feminists. Their focus



A 1970 photograph of Gloria Steinem. AP

was on women gaining rights in the public sphere, and they would question the public-private divide to stress the value of reproductive rights and other concerns.”

Women’s associations led by the likes of Steinem, and writings such as those of Friedan’s, helped shift the momentum. The decade saw landmark laws, such as the Equal Pay Act of 1963, which banned discrimination based on sex for doing the same work. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited employment discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex and national origin. Later court rulings also focused on rights such as access to contraception, allowing women to better plan their careers. The US Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* judgment of 1973 gave women the constitutional right to abortion. Steinem was a vocal advocate for women in public life, challenging gender-based stereotypes. In a satirical article for her *Ms.* magazine titled ‘If Men Could Menstruate’, she wrote: “What would happen, for instance, if suddenly, magically, men could menstruate and women could not? The answer is clear — menstruation would become an enviable, boast-worthy, masculine event.” Her larger argument was that “charac-

teristics of the powerful, whatever they may be, are thought to be better than the characteristics of the powerless — and logic has nothing to do with it’.” **Criticism and legacy** Not everyone agreed with Second-Wave feminists’ approach. As the movement arose at a time when Black women were fighting for more basic rights, they faced a double burden that the white women-led movement was not acknowledging. These gaps became the focus of the Third Wave of Feminism in the ’90s. Lawyer and scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw developed the concept of “intersectionality”, which explored how overlapping identities, such as race, class, gender, sexuality, or caste in the case of India, influence people’s social experiences. This led to broader awareness about harassment in the workplace. The Fourth Wave, in the 2010s, built on these gains (the #MeToo movement being a major example) and widened the scope to LGBTQ+ identities. Steinem visited India again in the early

2010s. In an interview, she recognised the role caste played alongside gender, comparing it to race in the US, and reflecting an evolving understanding of intersectionality. “A major reason that women of the powerful group are restricted and women of the less powerful group exploited is to keep the visible differences of race or caste alive. They can only be uprooted together,” she said. Second Wave feminists also often put gender in binary terms — man and woman. “Steinem felt the binary was important in order to be able to speak for women. It’s like a strategic essentialism. While she was open to understanding intersectionality, I think she said that to bring about an understanding of reproductive rights and policy change, we have to look at gender as a critical category,” Nanda said. This approach was later criticised for leaving out transgender women. “Feminists have always disagreed with each other. New issues may have emerged, like on LGBTQ+ rights, but while agreeing to be more dynamic, it is important to recognise what we have built on,” Nanda said.

• ECONOMICS

Perils of comparing GDP from different base years



UDIT MISRA

ON MONDAY, the last day of August as is the norm, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the data for India’s economic output in the first quarter of the current financial year (or Q1, covering April, May and June).

At the beginning of this quarter, the world was in the middle of the West Asia war. Its disruptive effects across the world prompted analysts to dial down growth expectations.

India’s growth, in particular, was expected to slow down because of its heavy dependence on imports from West Asia for its energy needs.

As the weeks went by, however, data from different sectors showed that the Indian economy continued to grow at a faster than expected rate. By the time the first quarter ended in June, most economists expected a growth rate of around 7.5%. That is, the total economic output produced in the country in these three months was expected to grow by 7.5% over what it was in the same three months in 2025. Some expected the growth rate to be even higher, around 7.8%.

Last week, we explained why the Q1 growth rate was likely to be 7.8% — far better than most expectations at the start of the quarter. It also provided reasons for caution before leaping to any conclusion that India has yet again entered a “Goldilocks” (optimal) phase.

As it turned out, the official data for Q1 showed that India’s gross domestic product (GDP) indeed grew by 7.8% in real terms and 10.3% in nominal terms; the difference between the two types of GDP is the effect of inflation.

Base year change

It is crucial to understand that on February 27 this year — and this date is important to note — MoSPI had unveiled a new series of GDP data after changing the “base

year” from 2011-12 to 2022-23. Every economy undergoes base year revisions regularly. It is mostly done once every five years. But in the recent past, the revision was long-pending. In fact, the lack of a base year revision was one big reason why India’s GDP was losing credibility.

A base year provides an opportunity for the government to incorporate new data sources, improve methodology and capture data more accurately about an economy that can change substantially over time.

When the base year was changed, MoSPI rolled back the GDP in a significant manner. For instance, the nominal GDP for 2025-26 was revised from Rs 357 trillion (in the old series with the base year of 2011-12) to Rs 345 trillion (in the new series with the base year of 2022-23).

The controversy

The latest GDP growth rate has sparked controversy after former finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg claimed that the GDP for Q1 of 2025 had been revised downward in order to show a good growth rate in

Why base years are revised

Every economy undergoes regular base year revisions.

- A base year provides an opportunity for the government to incorporate new data sources, improve methodology and capture data more accurately.

Q1 of 2026.

In fact, he singled out the nominal GDP growth rate of 10.3% and said that if the growth rate was calculated on the basis of the Q1 GDP based on the old series (with the base year of 2011-12) then it would be just 2.6% growth.

This is not the first time someone who has held a senior position in this government has questioned the GDP calculations. Nor is it the first that GDP estimates have been criticised. In the past, even the International Monetary Fund has raised issues with India’s national income estimates.

Garg’s claim raises two central queries:

- One, did the government revise down the Q1 estimates of 2025 just to show that Q1 estimates of 2026 look impressive?
- Two, is it correct to calculate the growth rate by taking the GDP for Q1 of 2026 from one data series and that of Q1 of 2025 from another data series?

The answer

The short answer to both the questions is no. But here’s the explanation.

• ECONOMY’S SIZE AS PER OLD AND NEW BASE YEARS

Table 1: Nominal GDP in Q1

PERIOD	GDP	DATE	NOTE
2025-26 Q1 (old series)	₹86.1 trillion	Aug 29, 2025	Quarterly GDP
2025-26 Q1 (new series)	₹80.3 trillion	Feb 27, 2026	Second advance estimates for the full financial year
2025-26 Q1 (new series)	₹80.4 trillion	Jun 5, 2026	Provisional estimates of the full financial year
2025-26 Q1 (new series)	₹80.0 trillion	Aug 31, 2026	Quarterly GDP
2026-27 Q1 (new series)	₹88.3 trillion	Aug 31, 2026	Quarterly GDP

Nominal GDP growth rate (derived from the last two rows): **10.3%**

Table 2: Real GDP in Q1

PERIOD	GDP	DATE	NOTE
2025-26 Q1 (old series)	₹47.9 trillion	Aug 29, 2025	Quarterly GDP
2025-26 Q1 (new series)	₹75.3 trillion	Feb 27, 2026	Second advance estimates for the full financial year
2025-26 Q1 (new series)	₹75.4 trillion	Jun 5, 2026	Provisional estimates of the full financial year
2025-26 Q1 (new series)	₹75.5 trillion	Aug 31, 2026	Quarterly GDP
2026-27 Q1 (new series)	₹81.4 trillion	Aug 31, 2026	Quarterly GDP

Real GDP growth rate (derived from the last two rows): **7.80%**

NOTES: NOMINAL GDP IS NOT ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION. REAL GDP IS DERIVED AFTER REMOVING THE EFFECT OF INFLATION. Q1 REFERS TO THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR (APRIL-JUNE); OLD SERIES REFERS TO THE 2011-12 BASE YEAR AND NEW SERIES REFERS TO THE 2022-23 BASE YEAR



A SpaceX rocket carries the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. NASA/X

2 — a vantage point between Earth and Sun located 1.2 million km from Earth. At this point, the gravity from the Sun and Earth works together with an object’s motion around the Sun. This can help the Roman telescope remain steady. Lagrange Point 2 also offers stable optical performance and an unobstructed view of the universe for imaging. The James Webb Telescope operates from this zone. It has two major instruments on board: **WIDE FIELD INSTRUMENT:** This is a 300-megapixel infrared camera that can capture a patch of the sky about 1.5 times bigger

than the apparent size of a full Moon. The telescope can also process images 1,000 times faster than the Hubble telescope. **CORONAGRAPH:** Just like humans cannot look directly into the sun but can see its rounded rim with the help of goggles/protective shields, astronomers use coronagraphs to mask the extreme bright light emitted by celestial bodies to study their surroundings. The Roman Telescope will deploy one of the most advanced coronagraphs that will block the glare from stars and help scientists to see the faint reflected light from planets around them.

Laxman named coach for 2026 Asian Games



VVS Laxman. FILE

Express News Service
Chennai, September 3

BCCI'S HEAD of cricket VVS Laxman will be the coach of India men's team at the Asian Games set to take place in Aichi-Nagoya. Since the continental event is overlapping with India's bilateral series against the West Indies at home, the Gautam Gambhir-led support staff won't be able to join the men's team at the Asian Games.

Apart from Laxman, India men's coaching staff at the Asian Games will comprise Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Sunil Joshi and Subhadeep Ghosh, who recently took over as the fielding coach.

Ghosh will not be part of the ODI set up for the series against West Indies alone. While the regular support staff won't be around for the men's team, the case is different with the women's team.

After the completion of the ongoing Asia Cup in the UAE, the team women's team will head to Japan with their regular support staff that includes head coach Amol Muzumdar, bowling coach Aavishkar Salvi and fielding coach Munish Bali.

That India men's team would have different support staff is well known as the FTP clashes with the Asian Games. Even four years ago, when India clinched the gold medal in Hangzhou, Laxman was the chief coach. This time, India's home series against the West Indies started on September 27 and ends on October 3.

Overlap with Asiad

While the series is short, it overlaps with the Asian Games schedule, where India have received a first-round bye and will play the quarterfinals straight up. India's first game is on September 28 and should they make the gold medal match, the final is slated for October 3. While India had send a second-string squad led by Ruturaj Gaikwad for the previous edition of the Asian Games in 2022. However, this time they have sent their first-choice team that will be led by Shreyas Iyer and includes premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah and young batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and a host of other players who were part of the squad that won the T20 World Cup earlier this year.

Apart from Laxman, India men's coaching staff at the Asian Games will comprise Hrishikesh Kanitkar, Sunil Joshi and Subhadeep Ghosh

REVIEW MEETING

BCCI promises a kinder FTP cycle, ample rest, and tour games

Choc-a-block cricket schedule has taken a toll on health of the India players, says Board secretary Devajit Saikia

Devendra Pandey
Mumbai, February 3

WITH AN eye on managing players' workload, providing them adequate rest and recovery time between series, and thus limiting the possibility of picking up injuries, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has promised a better-planned Future Tour Programme from the next cycle. Some of the proposed measures include chalking out the calendar in such a way that the players get more rest between series, and sufficient time to get acclimatised to conditions, more so in SENA (SA, Eng, NZ and Aus) countries, including warm-up games before the series.

"We have instructed our FTP persons who will be meeting very soon in various international forums that our FTP should be in such a way that there is proper rest for the players as well as some kind of acclimatisation or friendly matches before any major series in SENA countries," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told media after a meeting with captains Shubman Gill (Test and ODIs), Shreyas Iyer (T20Is), coach Gautam Gambhir and head of Centre of Excellence (COE) VVS Laxman.

Ajit Agarkar, the chairman of selectors, couldn't attend the meeting due to prior commitments.

In the review meeting held in the board headquarters here to discuss the roadmap of Indian cricket in an important season, they discoursed the frequent incidence of injuries, possibly due to a packed calendar. Saikia admitted: "Individ-

ual players are having injuries because they have to play a lot of matches. If you look at their schedule, in England, three-four players of the 15-member ODI squad got injured. We have to think that they have played two months of IPL before that. All this takes a toll on the health of the players."

The schedule is not getting kinder, with India set to feature in seven Tests, 14 ODIs, and 16 T20Is, apart from the Asian Games, until the next IPL in late March.

The board, though, has assured the team management and its captains that they will plan better so that players get sufficient rest.

"To avoid those kinds of situations under the present FTP, we are trying to find some ways out. We have a protocol in place for how a player can come back to international matches after injury. We are taking feedback from the captains and head coach to chalk up a proper strategy to avoid these unwanted situations," the secretary assured.

He also asserted that, "everybody is on the same page."

"BCCI is working very well, like a well oiled engine. There is proper coordination amongst all the wings of BCCI, whether it is women's teams committees or their technical staff or their coaches, vis-a-vis the COE, vis-a-vis the Indian men's team's coaching staff and the head coach. There is no difficulty in the coordination, everything is moving in the right direction," Saikia said.

"The only challenge we are facing is that there are too many matches in the year and



India will play seven Tests, 14 ODIs and 16 T20Is, apart from the Asian Games, until the next IPL. CREIMAS

that is why in the next FTP, we will do certain things. We will take certain measures," he added.

Rohit's future

The board secretary defused speculation on former captain Rohit Sharma's future. "He is playing superbly in all matches. So what more do you want? Last match he scored 138 runs so why is there speculation? I do not want to give some fodder for the speculators," he said, stubbing rumours that he was not in the selectors' scheme for the World Cup in southern Africa later next year.

He also said that the selectors clarified that the talks revolved only around the roadmap for the 2027 World Cup.

"Today he was out of station. He could not be a part of the meeting because this meeting was called at a very short notice, and our head of the selection



“ Last match he (Rohit) scored 138 runs so why is there speculation? I do not want to give some fodder for the speculators.”

DEVAJIT SAIKIA,
ON ROHIT SHARMA'S FUTURE

committee was not in town, so he could not join it. He was in such an area that he could not join online also, in spite of all these efforts," he said.

Asiad accomodation

Regarding concerns on facilities and accommodation in Asian Games, Saikia said: "We are not going to have any difficulties in Japan."

Room sizes are believed to be too small for two people to share, along with their individual kitbags and luggage. There is also a question mark on the quality of the pitch.

But the secretary said: "If any kind of situation arises, we'll take an appropriate call at the right time, so that we ensure that our players and the support star will get the best of facilities in Asian Games, whether it is from their organisers or us. If required, BCCI will have its own system in place to provide the best facilities to our players," he replied.

Meanwhile, three pacers — Rasikh Salam, Kartik Tyagi and Vicky Ostwal — will travel with the Indian team as net bowlers to the Asian Games.

Centurion Smriti makes light work of Hong Kong

Shuvaditya Bose
New Delhi, September 3

THE CELEBRATION in Dubai bore no resemblance to the one in Nottingham.

Questions had been raised after the 2024 T20 World Cup. A strike rate of 94.93 demanded scrutiny. Only a discernible change in batting approach would have been a convincing response.

The change arrived a few months later, next June in Nottingham. Mandhana scored her maiden T20I century — 112 off 62 balls against England. Her arms reached for the sky as a load lifted off her shoulders.

The helmet stayed in place this time. The bat raise was half-hearted, almost apologetic. After all, this was only Hong Kong China. Perhaps, modesty got the better of the Indian opener. Mandhana's second T20I century — a 64-ball 124 at the Women's Asia Cup on Thursday — came against humble opposition, a team that, in their only previous (unofficial) T20 outing against



Smriti Mandhana made 124 from just 64 balls. CREIMAS

India in 2012, had mustered a total of 24.

Courtesy Mandhana's century, India secured a 137-run triumph and secured their passage to the semifinals. Scoring 195/3 after being asked to bat first, India bowled Hong Kong out for 56.

The result didn't have an iota of surprise, nor did Mandhana's batting approach.

India's score does not offer an accurate portrayal of the wicket's true nature. Indian captain Harmanpreet Kaur, at the toss, called it 'very tricky.' Caution governed the opening overs — 18 balls, 18 runs from Mandhana.

Then, caution was thrown to the wind. Three boundaries bled from the fifth over, all fashioned by the left-hander's blade. Opening partner Shafali Verma hit two sixes and as many fours in the next over, before Ruchika Venkatesh dismissed her for 28.

India added another 119 runs after her departure. Mandhana made 80 of them. Anything short was pulled with disdain. Anything sweepable was swept with conviction. Her drives held caress; her cuts — like the one that brought up the century — held surgical precision.

Mandhana scored two runs short of a century from just boundaries — 14 fours and

seven sixes. It was an innings in perfect synchronisation with the steadily climbing graph of her T20I strike rate. What was 126.53 in 2024 became 135.85 in 2025, and 145.84 this year, going into this match. In a couple of years, her strike rate at the T20 World Cup has gone from 94.93 to 140.4.

If one is to present a qualm about India's batting, it could be the lack of runs from anyone not named Smriti Mandhana or Shafali Verma. Pratika Rawal, with a 12-ball 10, did little to justify her selection. Richa Ghosh wasn't too effective either. It has now been over eight months since she recorded a 35+ score in T20Is.

Hong Kong's primary goal in the chase — if it could be called that — was to bat through the 20 overs.

At one stage, it seemed that they would be successful in that endeavour. The first eight overs yielded only 26 runs, but saw just a solitary wicket, taken by Nandani Sharma. The stone-walling effort, however, was no match against India's spin trio

of Deepti Sharma, Prema Rawat and Sree Charani, who combined to take seven wickets for 37 runs. Nine wickets fell in a span of 47 deliveries, ensuring a comfortable victory for the most successful team in the tournament's history.

India will now face Pakistan on Saturday, at the same venue. As for the fixture against Hong Kong China, Mandhana may not have known much about them, but Thursday will be remembered less for India's victory than for what she did to bring it about.

During the game, she became the leading run-scorer in women's international cricket, became the first woman to score 18 international centuries, and recorded the highest score in the T20 version of this competition. If only, there were some spectators to witness the spectacle.

BRIEF SCORES: India 195/3 (Smriti Mandhana 124; Marina Lamplough 2/46) beat Hong Kong 56 all out (Natasha Miles 15; Deepti Sharma 3/9) by 137 runs.

• BRIEFLY



Yashvir Singh won a bronze medal at the CWG. EXPRESS

Yashvir Singh takes injured Neeraj's spot in Asiad squad

Commonwealth Games bronze medallist javelin thrower Yashvir Singh has replaced injured Neeraj Chopra in the Indian athletics team for the upcoming Asian Games in Japan, while long distance runner Abhishek Pal has been dropped after he was served notice for an alleged doping offence by NADA. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Thursday announced a 77-member Indian track and field team for the September 19-October 4 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games at a press conference in Ludhiana which is hosting the National Youth Championships. Men's 110m hurdler Tejas Shirse has also been omitted from the team after he sustained an injury during the recent Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. PTI

Anahat upsets World No.11 in quarterfinals

World No. 20 Anahat Singh advanced to the quarterfinals of the London Squash Classic with a 2-1 win over 11th-ranked Nele Gilis here on Thursday. Reigning world junior champion Anahat beat Gilis 13-11, 4-11, 11-8 in 39 minutes in the second round of the PSA Gold event in what was their first meeting on the tour. Anahat will next meet the winner of the match between Malaysian Sivasangari Subramaniam and world No. 32 Nardine Garas. PTI

Multinational camp for boxers at NIS Patiala

Indian boxers are sharpening their skills at NIS in Patiala ahead of this month's Asian Games, before leaving for a preparatory stint in Nagoya, Japan, on September 8. The camp features boxers from Iran and the Dominican Republic, including Paris Olympics bronze medallists Junior Alcantara (51kg) and Cristian Pinales (80kg). The national campers will leave for a training camp in Nagoya Japan, starting from September 9. PTI

Real's Asencio cleared of sex tape charge

Real Madrid defender Raúl Asencio was acquitted on Thursday of charges he revealed a sex video without consent. The court decision came hours after coach José Mourinho said the club opened a disciplinary proceeding against Asencio following a DUI conviction. He was cleared of charges that he showed a sex video to another person without the consent of those involved in the video. One of the women in the 2023 video was underage. AP

Naqvi hits back at critics of Pakistan team

Livid with the criticism that Pakistan's cricket team has faced after its heavy Test losses to England, PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said the side is being lambasted by those "who have never achieved anything in their lives". Speaking to the media in London, Naqvi cited other teams' losses to weaker opponents, including India's recent T20 defeats at the hands of Ireland, to assert that a few setbacks do not define an outfit. PTI

After 19 years, Bosnia's Dzeko calls time

Edin Dzeko will play a 152nd and final match for Bosnia-Herzegovina next month before ending his 19-year international career. In an emotional post on Instagram, the 40-year-old striker wrote he would be retiring from national team duty after a Nations League qualifier against Sweden in the Bosnian city of Zenica on October 2. "Now I feel the time has come to step aside," wrote Dzeko, who played for Bosnia at this year's World Cup. AP

Antonelli says penalty takes pressure off

F1 championship leader Kimi Antonelli looked forward to his home Italian Grand Prix and said grid penalties had taken the pressure off while he also had less to prove than last year. The 20-year-old Mercedes driver is set to start from the back of the grid as he becomes the first Italian in 73 years to lead the standings at Monza. "I think in some ways it helps to release pressure, although I'd very much rather fight for pole." REUTERS

• HOPING TO HIT THE BULL'S EYE

Vidarsa's journey: From a college NCC trial to Asian Games shooting squad

Shashank Nair
New Delhi, September 3

ALL VIDARSA K Vinod wanted to do was hold a rifle. When an NCC trial was held at her college in 2018, the Kozhikode native turned up just so she'd have something to tell her friends, the novelty of picking a rifle up.

She ended up getting a shot instead, one that changed her life and has led to a place in the Indian shooting contingent heading to Aichi-Nagoya for the 2026 Asian Games. Vidarsa will compete in the women's 10m air rifle and the women's 50m three-position events.

Without any formal training, Vidarsa shot well enough that day to be picked for the NCC team. She soon moved to

the Kerala state team, but kept struggling. Shooting remains a prohibitively expensive sport for beginners, rifles run into the lakhs before jackets and ammunition even enter the picture, and when Covid hit, she considered leaving the sport rather than take a loan to buy her own equipment.

It didn't help that friends kept questioning her choice. "There were a lot of questions asked, some positive and some negative. There was also the issue of attendance in college, which was causing problems," Vidarsa said.

For a year, she practised yoga and exercised at home, but stayed off the range entirely. Once the pandemic's threat eased, she felt ready to give the sport another chance.

By then she had risen to the top of Kerala's rankings without ever owning a personal rifle, relying instead on NCC or borrowed weapons, and that gap made the idea of walking away feel harder to justify, not easier.

It was at a shooting range that she met her husband, who asked her, plainly, how she could call herself a professional shooter without owning her own rifle.

"I was speechless. I was improving my average and I became the Kerala No. 1 without any rifle or jacket at that time. I was delaying taking that plunge. So, that question actually made me think a lot. Then I discussed it with my parents and decided to get a new rifle. I took a loan for that," Vidarsa said.



Vidarsa will compete in the 10m air rifle and 50m 3-position. EXPRESS

Slow grind

Competition for a place in India's national shooting setup is intense, and getting more so. The number of shooters coming through state programmes has grown sharply in recent years, and a sport long dominated by the northern states has started finding its footing in the south too.

Kerala was never known for producing shooters, but Vidarsa goes into these Asian Games as one of its newer faces, carrying real responsibility for a squad that looks very different from the one that went to Hangzhou.

She is part of a newer generation trying to displace an established one, and a strong showing here matters.

India won 22 medals at

Hangzhou, a haul that surprised at the time and helped push the country toward its target of 100 medals. Matching or beating that this time will need top-level performances from exactly the newer faces Vidarsa represents.

To make the team, Vidarsa knew she needed specialised coaching.

That's where Manoj Kumar, a SAI high-performance coach, came in, working with her over short stints to rebuild her technique.

"Vidarsa was quick to learn and was accepting of the changes I wanted to make. For every athlete, the level of trust with their coach is different. But Vidarsa bought into the technical changes I wanted to make," Kumar said. The two

have worked together for several years now, and the partnership has only deepened.

When Vidarsa struggled with the weight of her rifle, Kumar suggested she try a lighter model he'd bought for his own daughter. She felt the difference immediately.

"My daughter has a similar build to Vidarsa, and both struggle to work with heavier rifles. So I imported a lightweight rifle for my daughter. But she was more interested in studying, so I gave the rifle to Vidarsa to test out. Initially she refused to take it, since the weapon was for my daughter. She was convinced when I asked her to just try it, and import one for herself later if she liked it. After a few days, I told her to keep it," Kumar said.

Argentina to pay tribute to Messi with a 10th-min pause during weekend games



Lionel Messi, FILE
Reuters
September 3

ALL FOOTBALL matches in Argentina this weekend will be paused in the 10th minute for a 60-second round of applause to honor superstar Lionel Messi, the Argentine Football Association announced.

The tribute follows Messi announcing his retirement from the national team on Monday. Messi, 39, ☐has worn the No. 10 jersey most often while representing Argentina.

"For the upcoming match-day across all men's and women's divisions and disciplines, matches will be paused in the 10th minute of the first half for a minute of applause in recognition of Lionel Messi's career with the Argentina national team," the AFA announced late Wednesday.

"Furthermore, stadiums equipped with screens must broadcast the Association's institutional video prior to the start of the matches."

The Inter Miami star led Argentina to a runner-up finish in this summer's World Cup. In eight matches, he had eight goals to bring his final tally to 125 career international goals (21 in World Cups).

"After the time that passed since the final, thinking about it a lot, I want to communicate to everyone that I am retiring from the national team," Messi wrote Monday on Instagram. "It was a decision that hurt and hurts in a soul, but I understand that this is the moment. I swear to you that I always gave everything, not just in the last few years when we won everything but before as well and I always fought and left everything on the field for this shirt, to give you all joys and make you feel proud to be Argentines through soccer."

It's a second retirement for Messi, who originally said he was done with international play after a 2016 Copa America final loss to Chile. But he opted to return and led Argentina to the World Cup championship in 2022 and Copa America titles in 2021 and 2024.

"I leave with the peace of mind and pride of having given you -- along with my teammates -- moments we once only dreamed of. Experiencing this with you was incredible. I love you all," he said.

DOUBLE DEFENDING champion Aryna Sabalenka bristled at a reporter's suggestion the events and appearances surrounding the U.S. Open had included "parties and fun" after she cruised past Polina Iatcenko 6-1 6-1 on Wednesday.

The Belarusian, who had faced a similar line of questioning after her first-round win, fired back that her off-court appearances had not come at the expense of her preparations for the Grand Slam.

"You guys are, like, a joke. Parties, fun... like, why would you even say that? Why would you even think about that? What kind of question is that?" the world number one said.

"Just because I posted, like, some activities with brands, and you think that I've been partying, not training?" she added, cutting the exchange short. Turning to her performance on Wednesday, the four-times Grand Slam winner said she was pleased with both her

'Treesa's smashes are amazing... My aim is to create openings'

Bronze medallists at Delhi Worlds on what it took to finish on the podium despite an injury curveball

Shivani Naik
Mumbai, September 3

TREESA JOLLY-Gayatri Gopichand are back to training after their successful World Championships with a bronze medal, though they are itching to put lessons learnt from semis loss to good use at the upcoming Asian Games.

The pair of 23-year-olds, in an interview to The Indian Express, look back at the magical week in Delhi where they scalped World Nos 4 and 7, and brought an unexpected bronze. Swapping roles at net and back was central to the plan. *Excerpts*

How did you two use the net-game to win the World Championships bronze medal?

Gayatri: It had been a few challenging weeks coming into the World Championships. But practice was about simple things, and rotation as well. Because Treesa was injured, I was ready to cover the back court. Throughout the tournament and in pre-quarters (vs Japanese World No.7) and quarters (vs Chinese World No.4), our steady mid-court and net helped us.

I didn't expect Treesa to rush the net and implement the plan so well. Opponents, including (Chinese No.4) Jia Yifan were taken aback and were hesitant to lift, so getting confused.

Treesa: We were pretty confident at the net and in practice we really started rotating. Opponents weren't expecting me to rush, but I was trying to create chances for Gayatri to attack.

She is absolutely talented in her net skills, and sometimes I'm like 'Oh, how did she play that' and I get jealous at times, and ask her, "Bro, how're you doing that?!" But then she explains the whole thing to me to learn.

And can you talk about each other's smashes?

Gayatri: Treesa's smashes are amazing, they've always been known for strength and power. So my main aim always is to create openings for her (to unleash the smash). But at the World Championships, she had a very good blend of half smashes, drops and mixing the pace that was effective.

Treesa: I'm a hard attacking smasher, but Gayatri relies on angles on her smashes that help me intercept on the next shot. Her cross court slice drop is also very good.



Treesa Jolly (R) and Gayatri Gopichand took India's medal-winning streak at the World Championships to 15 years. EXPRESS PHOTO



TREESA JOLLY, GAYATRI GOPICHAND
WORLD CHSIPS MEDALLIST

How did you manage your emotions after beating No.7 Rin Iwanaga-Kie Nakanishi in pre-quarters, heading into the medal-securing quarters match against No.4 Jia Yifan and Zhang Shu Xian?

Gayatri: Winning pre-quarters where we beat the Japanese whom we had lost previously to, was a major confidence booster. Delhi crowd added to that optimism. When getting on court against World No.4s, we weren't expecting anything but we knew it would not be easy points, so we came prepared for a long match and also tricky (drift) conditions. We just wanted to win, no matter what and that showed in Treesa's emotions later. I don't express much though I feel pressure too, but that's just how I am.

Most I can do is 'Come on!' or a Thumbs-up after the match. Some people get energy from being pumped up. I've realised if I stay calmer, I think more clearly.

Treesa: Before entering the court we knew it wouldn't be easy. And Jia Yifan has so much experience of those pressure situations. But what helped I guess was sticking to the plan. Sometimes you just get this feeling, "Today's my Day." And I can get this match. So that day the shuttle kept going inside, and Gopi Sir told me to just stay calm. After getting each point, I would go into that calm zone.

How did you deal with Treesa's injury in April, in terms of not getting

“For a few weeks after the injury, I couldn't even walk, and I thought, 'what to do.' But I would train on my abs.”

TREESA JOLLY,
ON HER COMEBACK AFTER INJURY

bogged down?

Treesa: For a few weeks after the injury, I couldn't even walk, and I thought, 'what to do.'. But I would train on my abs. Standing on the box, sit on a bench (on court) or even on my bed and dribble for hours. Rather than moping that this happened, and thinking of injury I got into a zone that was peaceful.

I motivated myself with positive talk. I was in a happy zone thinking just about the game and what to play.

Gayatri: Injuries are tricky because one moment everything is going well and suddenly rhythm is disrupted. I've got injured lots of times, so all I thought of was I should stay fit for when Treesa is back. I knew it's not easy for her to start playing at same old top level again.

But actually, I didn't need to cover for her at all. We came out of it stronger through the Philippines Open and then the Worlds.

Talk about one thing you've learnt from your dad, mom and sibling.

Gayatri: My mother's (PVV Lakshmi) also an Olympian. And because of my father (Pullela Gopichand), I've always had access to knowledge, so I'm grateful for that. But I'd not know what I'd do without Vishnu (her

“Winning pre-quarters where we beat the Japanese whom we had lost previously to, was a major confidence booster.”

GAYATRI GOPICHAND,
ON CONFIDENCE DURING WORLDS

brother). He has stopped playing badminton now. But the way he plays at the net, is tremendous. He has the best spinning serve.

Treesa: My parents (mother Daisy Jolly and father Jolly Matthew) have been the biggest support in my life. When I was younger I played doubles juniors with my sister (Maria Jolly).

From her I learnt to stand up and speak for myself. And fight on the court always. No matter what the situation, she always looks at it positively. I want to be optimistic like her.

What memories of the Delhi crowd?

Gayatri: It was crazy. It's the first time I've experienced something like this. On semifinals day, when we were walking in, it was a different experience knowing a full stadium is rooting for you.

When you hear so many people cheering, you just want to deliver a win for them. I hope we give them many occasions to support us.

Treesa: From Day 1, Round of 64 for all 5 matches, they cheered. I was really shocked that stadium was fully packed for our semis. I thought, 'Oh my god, this much crowd....' as Delhi turned up.

What will you tell

upcoming shuttlers conflicted about playing doubles or singles?

Gayatri: I was a singles player before. Both are amazing. But pick what suits your game. I knew this was a better option for me so I didn't think too much. Do what you love.

Treesa: Personally, by Under-17, Under-19, I understood my game was more suitable for doubles. Once you know your game, it's easy.

What were the messages, celebrations like?

Gayatri: Nothing too crazy. I usually have something (ice-cream sundaes) from Nirula's when in Delhi, but this time I couldn't get time. But when we returned to Hyderabad, just seeing family and friends at airport was great.

Treesa: Ya, when we landed at Hyderabad. But also when my parents called me after the medal, and they said, "We're so proud of you." That meant everything.

What's on the Treesa-Gayatri shopping list after the medal?

Gayatri: If in Korea, then makeup and skincare products. Clothes.

Treesa: New speakers. Clothes.

● MAJOR MEDALS

- Bronze: 2026 World Championships (Women's doubles)
- Gold: 2024 Asian Team Championships (Women's team)
- Bronze: 2023 Asian Team Championships (Mixed Team)
- Bronze: 2022 Commonwealth Games (Women's doubles)

Srikanth stuns No. 9 Lai at China Masters

Shivani Naik
Mumbai, September 3

KIDAMBI SRIKANTH rarely gets top billing or broadcaster's attention these days, while he plays his own game on some Court 3. He is 33 years old and his world ranking languishes close to his age, at 34. Canadian Victor Lai, at No.9 and fresh from his second World Championships bronze, would not have expected the veteran to push him the way he did at the China Masters Super 750.

The 21-18, 21-19 win for the Indian was particularly impressive because he trailed 11-15, 9-14 in each game.

But what was noticeable, given Lai has inflicted defeats on top Indian names, was that the Canadian's frenzied game, with the ability to push the pace, fazed Srikanth. The 21-year-old was gobsmacked and exhausted at the disruption of his own rhythm, even if the match was wrapped up in 44 minutes. "I was not really thinking too much about the score. I was only thinking about what I have been doing throughout the match. What I need to do going forward. Victor's been playing really well for the last 12-14 months. But I just feel like it's a new day and if I can play my best, I still have my chances," Srikanth told the Badminton Association of India. Batches of Boys' Singles Worlds medallists from 2018, 2021 and '23: Beware of the incoming 15-point system in 2027. With stamina fading out of the frame, Srikanth has the game to resurrect himself. For the moment, he bolsters India's hopes for the Asian Games team gold.

It's not that Srikanth has hit top gear; just that his existing skillset, with a sharp net charge, will suffice to pick him for the third singles (fifth tubber) in every tie, so one can never write India off. It doesn't hurt that he can be alternated with the other wily fly, HS Prannoy, for the rearguard, something that has brought India two Thomas Cup medals.

On Thursday in Shenzhen, busybody Victor was flummoxed. It's uncharacteristic for him to rush towards his towel and water bottle every third point, but that's exactly what he was driven to after Srikanth took the fight to him with his net rushes. Both traded down-the-line smashes but it was Srikanth's follow-up stomp to the net that put Victor in a quandary.

A fresher and fit Srikanth, showing up scantily on the circuit, is dangerous. When he's not desperate and looking for the lines as the last resort, he has plenty of time to scramble opponents' brains. He calmly shrugged off Victor's lead, denying him the rhythm of urgency he so badly needs to out-hustle opponents.

While the first game was pocketed 21-18 with crisp shot quality, the Canadian might've fancied pushing for a decider. But the new Srikanth, since the Malaysia Masters last season, constructs creatively, defends with anticipation and kills with class. He pushed Victor back with a smash, and then turned the knife with deep aggressive kills from the net, sowing the doubt seeds with deft dribbles to make the quarters.

Thursday's win had no indication of its arrival from his last match. Beating the World No.9 is no guarantee that he could out-run Lee Cheuk-Yiu on Friday. But the Indian sorcerer has the game that can counter Lee's speed, Kodai Naraoka's ennuui-inducing intrepidness and Christo Popov's steadiness.

It's Srikanth's first quarter-final at a Super 750 or above since June 2023. Victor might not be the last opponent to underestimate him.

Sat-Chi win

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were 21-17, 18-15 up against the Popovs, Toma Jr and Christo and proceeded to take 2 match points. But returning to wonky ways, they got dragged into a decider before eventually swatting the French 21-17, 22-24, 21-9 to keep their unblemished record.

Tanvi Sharma put up one hell of a fight, but lacked the finishing nous against World No.9 Tomoka Miyazaki, losing 17-21, 21-18, 16-21.

Modus operandi

The Canadian is an ace retriever. He is a montage of nightmares for Lakshya Sen after the All England because India's No.1 loses patience quickly. How Srikanth handled Victor was instructive. For all his retrieving prowess and kill shot, Victor is still a tall player prone to being hassled when he's made to twist and turn chasing shuttles on alternate flanks.



Kidambi Srikanth entered his first Super 750 quarterfinal in three years. BADMINTON PHOTO

Srikanth can manipulate not just placement but pace and the sheer axis of a rally and he is formidable because he attacks the net with ferocity while maintaining a monk's face. What he did best though was take the pace off every acceleration Victor unleashed from the backcourt. So by the time Srikanth fetched up at the net, Victor was completely deoxygenated, being starved of speed.

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● BRUTAL SCHEDULING

'We are out playing 40 weeks': Alcaraz on packed tours

Bhuvan Gupta
New Delhi, September 3

AFTER COASTING through his US Open opener against Roman Safullin, Carlos Alcaraz started the same way against Jaime Faria. Moving well and hitting the ball fluently, he earned a break point at 3-2 in the first set. He missed a regulation forehand and squandered it.

The next game, serving to save a break point, he netted another forehand and was broken. Alcaraz rarely misses shots like that. They're what make him a destructive force on tour. He erred this time not because of his recent wrist injury, but because he was hurrying to close out the points.

"I was in a rush. I didn't take time. I wasn't patient," Alcaraz later told former world No. 4 James Blake in his on-court interview. "That cost me the break." Faria consolidated with two strong service games to take the first set 6-4. Alcaraz, who dropped just one set across his entire 2025 Flushing Meadows title run, had already

dropped one at the start of his second match this year.

Why was he in such a rush? Plain impatience, or a desire to make up for more than four months of inactivity? It could well be the latter, given how packed the calendar has become. Of the nine Masters 1000 events, seven have swelled from the traditional one week to 12 days. A lengthy injury layoff has pushed Alcaraz, a seven-time Grand Slam champion, down to No.3 in the rankings, and he must be eager to climb back.

"Seeing how tight is the calendar, I don't want to have this lengthy break because of an injury," he said at the post-match press conference. "But in the future, I'm going to take some long breaks. Maybe not four months, but one, two months, missing some tournaments, because it's impossible to play them all."

The ATP has said in the past that players can pick and choose their tournaments, but Alcaraz pointed out that the reality is different. "They are adding more important tourna-



Carlos Alcaraz reached the third round of the US Open. REUTERS

ments. In a way they are making us play," he said. "You can skip one or two and decide your calendar, but there are some Masters 1000s, some Grand Slams, and we are out playing 40 weeks if we have to play every mandatory tournament that the ATP requires us to play."

The strain is showing, in burnout and a rising injury count. Alcaraz missed the French Open and Wimbledon this year; his rival Jannik

Sinner, along with Jack Draper, Holger Rune and João Fonseca, were all forced to withdraw from the season's last major.

"We are seeing a lot of players getting injured and tired. If they don't do anything about it, we are going to see it even more in the future," Alcaraz added.

"Got to feel normal"

On Thursday, though, the two-time US Open champion

shook off the first-set setback easily. He realised he needed to be more composed with his shot-making, and never looked back.

After saving two break points in the first game of the second set, Alcaraz bagelled the 23-year-old Faria and went on to win 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 at Arthur Ashe Stadium. As in the first round against Safullin, he didn't shy away from his wrist-heavy topspin groundstrokes; the inside-out forehand was in full flow, as though the injury had never happened.

"I know once I step on the court, I've just got to go for it every time. I've got to feel normal," Alcaraz said. "I have to hit like I was hitting before the injury. I'm feeling great. There is no reason to be afraid and not hitting normal."

Though he'd initially wanted to close the match out in straight sets, Alcaraz came to see the extra work Faria gave him as useful. "At the end, I realised that playing four sets was really good for me, to test everything physically, to test my body, how I feel, and how

I'm going to feel tomorrow after this match."

He next faces China's world No.113, Wu Yibing, in the round of 32. Alexander Bublik, Ben Shelton, Daniil Medvedev and Alexander Zverev could await him in the rounds after that.

Alcaraz is on a 16-match winning streak at majors, dating back to last August in New York. Since 2025, he has lost only two of his 33 Grand Slam matches, one each to Sinner and Novak Djokovic. With both already out of his way in this campaign, it may take something unusual to stop his title defence.

● KEY RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES:
2-Carlos Alcaraz (ESP) bt Jaime Faria (POR) 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2; 8-Ben Shelton (USA) bt Hubert Hurcaz (POL) 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7/3), 7-5

WOMEN'S SINGLES:
8-Iga Swiatek (POL) bt Nadia Podoroska (ARG) 6-3, 6-2; 1-Aryna Sabalenka (BLR) bt Polina Iatcenko (RUS) 6-1, 6-1