MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 16 PAGES

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PM: Op Sindoor

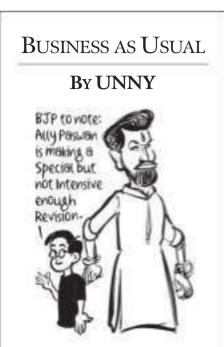
proved there is

no safe haven

for terrorists

At TN event, Modi speaks of India's

DEBATE IN LS TODAY





ISRAEL ANNOUNCES RELIEF IN GAZA AREAS TO ALLOW AID FOR STARVING P10

Bihar special roll revision: Volunteers will help electors get govt documents, says EC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 27

VOLUNTEERS WILL be deployed to help electors get the documents required from government departments to meet the submission deadline of September 1 as part of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, the Election

Commission said on Sunday. The EC's statement comes a day before the Supreme Court is set to hear a clutch of petitions challenging the SIR with opposition parties and civil society groups raising concerns over the potential disenfranchisement of existing electors.

According to the EC, the first phase of the drive, which started on June 25, came to an end on EXPLAINED Chasing paperwork

THE EC'S push to draft volunteers comes in the backdrop of concerns raised by electors across poll-bound Bihar about difficulties faced by them in obtaining the documents mandated to enroll as voters. It comes a day before the SC is set to hear petitions challenging the SIR exercise in the state.

July 26 with the enumeration forms of 7.23 crore out of 7.89 crore registered electors of the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BLOs' refrain: Many still not able to file one of 11 documents needed

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, JULY 27

ON SUNDAY, the Election Commission announced that volunteers will help electors obtain the official documents required to meet the submission deadline of September 1 in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar.

They have their task cut out. The Indian Express spoke to a dozen BLOs from across the state including from the capital Patna, Samastipur in North Bihar, Purnea in the Seemanchal region,

WHAT WILL NOT **COUNT IN BIHAR**

and Banka in South Bihar. After the month-long SIR exercise, their refrain: most of those who had to submit one of the 11 documents

GOVT & POLITICS

S.I.R AN EXERCISE **TO DETERMINE** CITIZENSHIP: OPP P6

have not been able to do so. Consider:

■ A BLO from the Danapur Assembly constituency said: "Out of 1,200 voters who submitted enumeration forms in my booth, 550 were in the 2003 voters' list. Of the remaining 650 voters, only about 60 people CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

ARUN JANARDHANAN

PRIME MINISTER Narendra

Modi on Sunday said Operation

Sindoor sent the world the un-

ambiguous message that "there

is no safe haven" for terrorists

and other enemies of the coun-

try. The military operation, he

said, ignited a "new awakening"

before the Lok Sabha is sched-

uled to hold a 16-hour debate on

the April 22 Pahalgam terror at-

tack and the subsequent action

The comments came a day

and "new self-confidence".

CHENNAI, JULY 27



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a roadshow in Tamil Nadu's Arivalur district on Sunday, PTI RELATED REPORT, P.5

Not just stalking accused, several VIP relatives on list of Haryana law officers

Of the 97 appointed, 23 have links to politicians, bureaucrats or judges

VARINDER BHATIA CHANDIGARH, JULY 27

THE HARYANA government may be having a rethink over the appointment of Vikas Barala, an accused in a sexual harassment case, as Assistant Advocate General, but a scrutiny of the list shows that like Barala, many of those appointed as law officers are relatives of VIPs, including politicians and bureaucrats.

This, ironically, when the Supreme Court, as early as 2016, had cautioned against such appointments and advised guidelines to insulate the process from

On July 18, Vikas Barala, the son of BIP Raiva Sabha MP and former Haryana BJP president Subhash Barala, was named as

one of 97 law officers in the

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Advocate General Pravindra Singh Chauhan said: "As far as Vikas Barala is concerned, he has not ioined vet...I was not aware of the background (of Vikas Barala). I don't think he (Vikas) will join."

Chauhan said it was wrong to see all from one lens. "I have seen their (the new appointees') working. All of them are competent lawyers. They have not made it to these posts due to their surnames, but only due to their competence. All the selections have been made on merit."

The AG's office in Haryana put out an advertisement in January for 100 posts of law officers (including 20 Additional AGs, 20 Senior Deputy AGs, 30 Deputy AGs CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



After the stampede near Mansa Devi temple in Haridwar on Sunday; (below) police and SDRF personnel at the site. PTI

8 killed, 30 injured in stampede near Mansa Devi temple in Haridwar, inquiry ordered

AISWARYA RAJ HARIDWAR, JULY 27

PANIC TRIGGERED by a sus-

IGP (Law and Order) Nilesh

Bharne said devotees were

heading to the temple when the

incident took place around 9 am.

"There was some rumour about

pected electric spark caused a stampede on a packed narrow **EXPRESS NETWORK** stretch leading to the hilltop Mansa Devi temple in DIPLOMATIC FLURRY Uttarakhand's Haridwar district **AS INDIA SEEKS MORE** Sunday morning, killing at least **AFRICAN CHEETAHS** eight persons and leaving 30 injured, police said.

KHADSE SON-IN-LAW HELD. DRUGS SEIZED AT PARTY IN PUNE

PAGES 5, 7

electricity hazards, creating panic among the devotees, leading to the situation," he said.

The stampede took place on a 1.5-km ramp, around 100 metres from the temple entrance. The path, which is less than 3 metres wide, is used by devotees both entering and exiting the temple.

A police officer said the rush from those entering and exiting the temple at the same time made some climb a wall to enter the temple through a shortcut. "Prima facie, when someone tugged on an electric wire while climbing the wall, it is believed **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



WITNESSES RECALL: PANIC, THEN CHAOS P7

TCS to lay off 12,200 employees in major IT sector shakeup

GEORGE MATHEW MUMBAI. JULY 27

IN A major shake-up in India's IT sector, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), the country's largest IT services firm, on Sunday announced that it will be slashing 2 per cent of its global workforce - roughly 12,200 jobs - over this year. The move will impact primarily mid- and senior-level employees, it said.

Framed as a push toward building a "future-ready genera-

tion" through "skilling and redeployment", the move is, in effect, a sweeping cost-cutting exercise. As on June 30, 2025, the TCS workforce stood at 6,13,069.

that the government took

Pakistan. The Raiva Sabha is set

to discuss the matter on Tuesday.

that for enemies of India, for ter-

rorists, there is no safe haven. The

world saw how India responds if

someone attacks its security and

sovereignty. When I came here from the helipad, the three to

four kilometre distance suddenly

became a roadshow, and every-

one was praising Op Sindoor ..

It has created a new awakening,

a new self-confidence across the country." Modi said in his address

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

"Operation Sindoor proved

On Sunday, the TCS said it is on a journey to become a futureready organisation. "This includes strategic initiatives on multiple fronts including investing in newtech areas, entering new markets, deploying AI at scale for our clients and ourselves, deepening our partnerships, creating nextgen infrastructure and realigning

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Jadeja, Washington hold fort as India draw strength from stirring last-day fightback



SANDEEP DWIVEDI MANCHESTER, JULY 27

THE DAY was ending, Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar were in their 80s and there was no doubt about the result of the Test. India had miraculously managed to snatch a draw from the jaws of defeat on the final



Ravindra Jadeia (107 not out) and Washington Sundar (101 not out) during the Manchester Test on Sunday. Reuters

INTERVIEW WITH

GENERAL

day of the fourth Test. The knackered England captain Ben Stokes had enough, he wanted to shake hands and nurse his wounds in

the dressing room. But the day's heroes — Jadeja and Washington — were in no hurry to leave. They wanted to rub a few English noses in the mud and get well-deserved Test hundreds. They also wanted the crowd, and their teammates, to celebrate the draw that was as precious as a win. They finally shook hands with the scoreboard showing India 425 for four, Iadeia

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





'The climate has lent itself to many lawsuits, making it more terrifying for filmmakers' **NAGESH KUKUNOOR**

FILMMAKER PAGE 13

SC-named panel proposes 'power corridors' through Bustard habitats

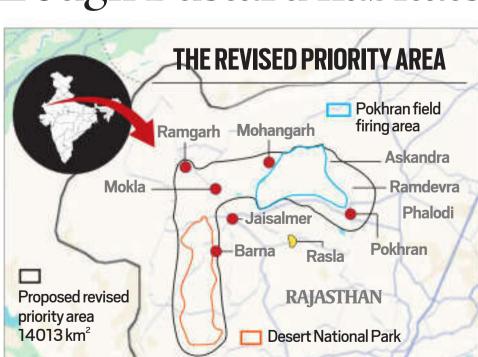
NIKHIL GHANEKAR NEW DELHI. JULY 27

GIVING RELIEF to renewable energy companies from blanket restrictions on existing overhead power lines in habitats of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB), a Supreme Court appointed expert committee has proposed designated "power corridors" for transmission lines in Gujarat and Rajasthan, The Indian Express has learnt.

The committee has also CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

The collapse of the Baath

country can rebuild. There are



'India can play role in Syria stability through friendship with Syrians, Kurds'

HARITHA SAVITHRI BARCELONA, JULY 27

THE RECENT Israeli airstrikes in

Damascus have heightened tensions among the many stakeholders in the region. As commander of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and one of the most senior leaders in the Kurds-led Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES), Kurdish leader General Mazloum Abdi is a key player in a region with a complex and unique set of security and governance challenges. While in-

terim president Ahmed al-Sharaa and the Damascus government have been asking the

SDF to honour their March 10 deal by dissolving the outfit and fully integrating its fighters into the Syrian Arab Army, the SDF has been demanding a decentralised security arrangement that preserves its

SPECIAL TO **EXPRESS**

Mazloum Abdi SYRIAN KURDISH LEADER command structure. Besides decentralisation, the SDF had been seeking eth-

nic/religious rights (especially Kurdish recognition) and gender equality. Damascus, however, re-

jects these as infringements on state sovereignty. In an interview, Gen Abdi speaks about Syria post Assad, the sticking points in the deal with the Syrian government.

How has daily life for civilians in Syria changed since the fall of the Assad government?



General Abdi is a key player in a region with a complex and unique set of security and governance challenges. AP

epaper.indianexpress.com

regime after 13 years was a development that all Syrians were happy about and a cause for celebration for all of us. At the same time, this moment has created a huge security and administrative vacuum. All areas of life in Syria were almost completely destroyed during the years of war. Basic necessities, such as water and electricity, are still very difficult to find. However, the positive thing is that now, with the lifting of some of the economic sanctions, there has been some relief and there is hope that our

government is trying to gain control through a unilateral approach, but there are many violations and violence has increased. We have seen many suicide attacks in the big cities. The threat of ISIS and the ISIS movement has also increased. What are the challenges in

many difficulties and dangers in

terms of security. The interim

integrating the SDF into the Syrian army under the March 10 agreement? What role can DAANES play in Syria's future?

We attach great importance

to that memorandum of understanding. We are currently working to broaden and implement it. The experience of DAANES constitutes a positive model of governance for Syria. In the last more than 10 years DAANES has been able to rebuild the region that had been destroyed during major battles with ISIS and re-establish security there. This is a very important issue that must be considered. After the collapse of the highly centralised and dictatorial regime of (former president) Bashar al-Assad, Syria now has a **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

the extract of the roll would do.

The 11 documents include caste

certificate, matriculation/educa-

tional certificate, passport and

birth certificate, but not the widely

held Aadhaar, Voter ID and ration

and volunteers are making specia

efforts to assist any elector, espe-

cially senior citizens, PwD [per-

sons with disabilities] electors,

and other vulnerable groups, in

obtaining their documents.

Volunteers will connect with all

electors so that their documents

can be obtained from government

departments with minimum ef-

It added that once the draft rol

is published on August 1, any elec-

tor and political party would have

the opportunity till September 1

to file claims and objections to in-

clude any eligible elector who has

been left out and remove any inel-

The EC said that no name can

igible elector on the rolls.

forts of the elector," the EC said.

"Entire election machinery

EC on Bihar

state having been received within the deadline. Around 65 lakh names would be removed from the rolls as the electors were found to have either died or migrated permanently or registered in more than one place or untraceable, the EC said.

In Sunday's statement, the EC said 16 lakh forms had been filed online and over 13 lakh had been downloaded from its website and

According to the EC's June 24 order, all electors of Bihar had to submit enumeration forms by July 25 to make it to the draft roll to be published on August 1. From August 1 to September 1, the electors would have to submit documents, from a list of 11 specified by the EC in its order, to establish their eligibility. These documents would then be scrutinised and the final roll published on September 30, as per the schedule.

For those on the 2003 electoral roll, when the last intensive revision was done, the EC order says Join FREE Telegram Channel https://t.me/+JJTMT8EJrzk5ZTQ1

A Selection Committee was

then set up, with AG Chauhan as

its head, and Special Secretary

(Home) Maniram Sharma, 'Legal

Remembrancer' Ritu Garg, and re-

tired judges Darshan Singh and H

Express found, at least 23 have

links to either politicians, bureau-

close relatives of retired or serv-

ing high court judges, seven close

relatives of IAS-IPS officers, seven

close aides of BJP ministers or

MLAs, and relatives of officials of

the Punjab and Haryana High

Court and the State Bar Council of

appointed as Additional AG and

whose father is a former head of

the Bar Council of Punjab and

Haryana, told The Indian Express,

"I have been practising since 2012

and it is my first stint in the

Haryana AG's office. I was earlier

on the panel of Punjab and

AG, Ruchi Sekhri, the BIP state sec-

retary, Chandigarh, said, "I have

been practising for the last 22

years. It is my first stint in the

daughter of a former DGP who is

also among the new Additional

AGs, said she had been practising

for over two decades and had

earned her law degree from Delhi

Additional AG, not willing to be

named, said she had been practis-

ing for nearly 15 years, and had

earlier been with the Punjab AG's

While an Additional AG in

Another newly appointed

Vasundhara Dalal Anand, the

Also appointed as Additional

Aakash Singla, who has been

Punjab and Haryana.

Haryana High Court."

Haryana AG's office.'

University.

Of the 97 chosen, The Indian

These include at least seven

VIP relatives

and 30 Assistant AGs).

S Bhalla as members.

crats or judges.

be deleted from the draft roll without notice to the elector and the relevant order passed by the Haryana is entitled to Rs 1.8 lakh per month, apart from Rs 25,000 as retainer fee, a Deputy AG gets Rs 1.28 lakh, and an Assistant AG

such as Vikas Barala Rs 88,400 per

month. All the appointments are

on a provisional/contract basis,

and for a period of a year to begin

with. A law officer's duties include giving advice to the state government in legal matters; to appear and defend the state government or its officials or any statutory authority before a court or tribunal; to represent the state government in any reference made by the President to the Supreme Court; and to discharge such other functions as are conferred on a law officer. The law officers are barred from appearing in any court of law "against the interest of the state government".

Additionally, the AG can engage up to five advocates who 'possess such special qualifications and experience as deemed suitable for Law Officers".

The Haryana Law Officers Engagement Act, 2016, says the candidates must be advocates picked as per eligibility, merit and suitability, including the number of cases handled by them.

While Barala's appointment has raised a row, such appointments took place under previous governments too. It was this that led to Supreme Court curtailing the discretion of Punjab and Haryana governments in appointing law officers in March 2016, while advising guidelines on the

basis of merit and eligibility. Hearing a bunch of cases challenging law officers' appointments, a Bench of Chief Justice of India TSThakur and Justice Kurian Joseph said: "For a fair and objective system of appointment, there ought to be a fair and realistic assessment of the requirement. For **Electoral Registration Officer** (ERO) or Assistant ERO. "Any elector aggrieved by any decision of the ERO may appeal to the District Magistrate and the Chief Electoral Officer thereafter under Section 24 of the RP Act, 1950. Volunteers are also being trained in helping people to file appeals against any decision of ERO. A standard format for filing appeals is also being devised and will be widely circulated to allow people to file appeals easily," the EC said.

The EC said 22 lakh electors were found to be deceased, 36 lakh had permanently shifted or were not found by the Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and 7 lakh were enrolled in multiple places. "Exact status of these electors will be known after scrutiny of these forms by ERO/AERO by August 1, 2025. However, genuine electors can still be added back in electoral rolls during the claims and objection period from 1st August to 1st September 2025. The name of the electors found enrolled at multiple places in electoral rolls will be retained only at one place," it said.

otherwise, the appointments may be made not because they are required but because they come handy for political aggrandisement, appeasement or personal benevolence of those in power to-

wards those appointed."

Rejecting the states' argument that appointments of law officers were contractual in nature and not public employment, the Court pointed out that the persons chosen lead some of the most important cases involving public interest. The Court also said that while its directions were confined to Punjab and Harvana, "other states would (also) do well to reform their system of selection and appointment to make the same more transparent, fair and objec-

Subsequently, the BJP government in Haryana passed the Haryana Law Officers' Engagement Act in September 2016.

Asked about Vikas Barala's appointment, former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda of the Congress said: "I do not comment on individuals, but all I can say is that only competent people should be appointed (as law officers)."

Another senior state politician said, "It is commonly known that many of these appointments are political appointments. Of course, many of those who have political or bureaucratic linkages are also bright and competent and make it due to their competence, and not only due to their surnames."

Incidentally, on Thursday, hearing a case on the appointment of Punjab AG Maninderjit Singh Bedi, a Division Bench of the High Court held that "you cannot succeed in the challenge to an office of Advocate General just by saying he is politically affiliated with some party... That cannot be

a disqualification".

FROM PAGE ONE

FULL REPORTS ON **WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM**

Op Sindoor

from the grounds adjoining the Brihadisvara Temple in the ancient Chola capital of Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Tamil Nadu's Ariyalur district. He was at the Aadi Thiruvathirai festival commemorating the birth anniversary of Chola emperor Rajendra I and 1,000 years of both his maritime expedition to Southeast Asia and the commencement of the temple's construction.

The PM spoke of the Indian military's might and the legacy of the Chola empire, linking the country's contemporary strength to its civilisational roots. He said the "names of emperors Raja Raja Chola and his son Rajendra Chola I are synonymous with India's identity and pride" and announced that grand statues of the

BLOs' refrain

have submitted forms with one of

the 11 documents, mainly Class

10, residential and caste certifi-

cates. There has been intense

pressure on us to get documents

from such electors who have only

cepting forms from some people.

"We are told to accept them until

Monday (July 28), as the first elec-

toral draft would be published by

to upload one of the 11 docu-

ments against the forms during

the claims-and-objection phase

between August 1 and September

1, she said: "We have heard about

it, but there is no clear instruction

on how to go about it and what if

we do not get any documents

said: "My booth has about 1,300

voters. Over 500 of them are in the

2003 list. Of the remaining elec-

tors, only 50 people have submit-

ted forms along with one of 11

documents. As my uploaded doc-

uments' percentage is very poor, I

was asked to get at least 20-30% in

the column on 'status of man-

dated 11 documents'. I am mark-

ing an exaggerated number, as-

suming I would be able to get the

required documents at a later

stage. EROs (Electoral Registration

Officers) perhaps want to show a

In the 13-column form

needed to be filled up by the BLOs

before the publication of the first

draft of rolls, there is a break-up of

details on the 2003 list voters,

post-2003 voters with details on

documents, numbers of deceased,

permanently shifted, and re-

good percentage."

Cricket

A Banka Assembly seat BLO

from voters in that period."

Asked if they had been asked

She said the BLOs were still ac-

submitted forms."

August 1."

monarchs would be built in Tamil Nadu. These would become "modern pillars of our historic awakening", he added.

"The Chola emperors had woven India into a thread of cultural unity. Today, our government is carrying forward the same vision of the Chola era. Through initiatives such as the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam and the Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam, we are strengthening these centuries-old bonds of unity," Modi said.

He said Rajendra Chola exemplified humility despite his achievements. "Today's New India embodies this same spirit: becoming stronger, yet rooted in values of global welfare and unity."

The PM released a commemorative coin honouring Rajendra Chola. Live renditions of Shaivite hymns and a performance by music maestro Ilaiyaraaja were also

peated voters. There is also a col-

booth had uploaded over 80% of

enumeration forms, as a section

of migrant voters, mainly perma-

nently shifted, had not turned up

Assembly seat echoed similar

views. "My area is dominated by

Dalits and EBCs (Extremely

Backward Classes). Of 900 voters

in my booth, only 400 are in the

2003 rolls. But, only 25 persons

have submitted caste or residen-

tial certificates so far. Most of them

don't have documents. Some have

been waiting for residential cer-

tificates. I am even spending

money from my pocket for getting

photocopies of the 2003 roll en-

Srinagar block said: "It is very dif-

ficult to get forms attached with

one of the 11 documents. My

booth has about 1,000 voters, half

of which were on the 2003 list.

Despite my area having a better

educational status, only 100 peo-

ple have submitted either Class 10

Board or residential certificates."

He added, "I doubt whether even

one extra month's time to submit

the mandated documents could

Katihar said: "Of 990 electors in

my polling booth, about 425 were

on the 2003 list. Only about 150

people submitted forms with one

of 11 documents, mostly Class 10

board certificates, including from

madarsa board, family registers

and passports. About 85 people,

either dead or permanently

shifted were deleted from the list."

district, a BLO said: "My booth had

■ In the Araria block of Araria

A BLO in Balrampur block of

change things much."

A BLO from Purnea's

tries for its voters," he said.

■ A BLO from the Sarairanjan

to fill up forms, online or offline.

The Banka BLO added his

umn on "other documents".

part of the event. Modi paid homage to the Brihadisvara temple, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site. "I have prayed at this historic temple for the welfare of 140 crore Indians and the continued progress of India," he said while lauding its "exquisite architecture and sculptures". Citing ancient Tamil adminis-

trative systems, Modi said,

"Several people speak about the UK's Magna Carta while commenting on democracy. However, the Chola-era 'Kudavolai system' predated it." The electoral method, he said, existed "over 1,000 years ago". "The Chola kings significantly enhanced their diplomatic and trade relations with regions such as Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Southeast Asia. It is just a coincidence that I returned from the Maldives yesterday, and today I am here."

950 voters, including 450 on the 2003 list. About 250 people submitted forms with documents such as residential certificates, passports and land papers. About 220 submitted enumeration forms with other documents. Thirty people, dead or permanently shifted, were dropped from

the list."

■ABLO from Kishangani said: "Out of about 1,100 voters in my booth, 550 are on the 2003 voters' list. About 250 people submitted their forms with one of 11 documents including Class 10 board certificates and passports. Only 36 voters, dead or permanently shifted, were deleted from the A BLO from Tarapur in

Munger said: "Out of 770 voters," 650 filled their forms with or without documents. About 220 were on the 2003 list, and 120 more submitted forms with one of the documents needed, mostly residential and Class 10 certificates. Thirty people, dead or permanently shifted, had to be dropped from the list for publication of the first draft."

■ A BLO from Sasaram Nagar Nigam in Rohtas said: "Out of 1,240 voters, about 440 are on the 2003 voters' list. About 150 have submitted their enumeration forms with one of 11 documents.'

■ In Bhagwanpur (Kaimur), a BLO said: "The total number of voters in my booth is 1,470, including 500 on the 2003 list. A total of 1,296 forms were submitted but only 20 had one of the 11 documents attached.'

■ A BLO in Darbhanga's Keoti said: "Out of 1,110 voters, 515 are on the 2003 list. About 425 submitted forms with one of 11 documents."

Bustard habitats

revised the boundaries of GIB conservation zones. In Rajasthan and Gujarat, it has proposed a "revised priority area" of 14,013 sq km (up from 13,163 sq km) and 740 sq km (up from 500 sq km), respectively. These priority areas are meant for focused conservation and protection of the GIB.

The corridors proposed by the seven-member committee will be 5 km wide in Rajasthan and between 1 and 2 km wide across two separate zones in Gujarat. One member of the committee, however, is learnt to have submitted a dissent note.

The estimated population of the large bird — once considered a candidate for national bird — is below 150. Owing to its poor vision, the GIB is at high risk of injury and death due to collisions with power lines. In addition to these collisions, GIB populations have plummeted over the years due to hunting, predation and habitat loss.

In March 2024, a Supreme Court bench headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud had recalled a 2021 SC order that required all power lines in GIB habitats to be buried underground, following concerns about the technical and economic feasibility of such a move. It then tasked the expert committee with prescribing measures to mitigate GIB deaths from power lines while balancing conservation goals with mushrooming renewable energy devel-

opment in these two states. The committee has proposed a set of mitigation measures and restrictions based on zonal priorities: ■ Existing power lines in Bustard habitats to be dealt with based on voltage.

■ Immediate burying of certain lines identified by the SC in key GIB habitats.

Lines of 220 kV and above be assessed individually for possible mitigation.

In some cases, rerouting lines outside proposed power corridors to reduce risk of GIB collisions. For instance, in Gujarat, 79 km of lines have been identified for burial or rerouting outside the revised priority area.

■ No new overhead power

lines, wind turbines, solar plants over 2 MW, or expansion of existing plants in priority areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Only power lines of 11 kV (kilovolt) and lower capacities will be permitted -- and strictly through designated power corridors.

■ No restrictions on laying new power lines outside the priority areas.

Sources said the idea behind creating power corridors is to ensure that birds, especially in highrisk habitats like Jaisalmer and

Kutch, aren't forced to repeatedly

navigate through a maze of crisscrossing power lines. These areas are densely dotted with transmission and distribution lines.

Another important mandate of the panel was to review the boundaries of the Bustard's habitat. In March 2024, SC had accepted a classification of GIB habitat into three categories: priority areas (13,163 sq km), where the birds are known to live and breed regularly additional important areas (5,977 sq km), which also matter but are less frequently used; and, potential areas (78,580 sq km), or large open landscapes where the birds might thrive. These zones were mapped using field surveys and satellite tracking data collected by Wildlife Institute of India and the Rajasthar Forest Department since 2014.

After reviewing the data, the committee decided to retain 13,163 sq km of priority area in Rajasthan. From the 5,977 sq km marked as additional, it has rec ommended including just 850 sq km. An area of 14,013 sq km is thus proposed as "revised priority area" for Bustards in Rajasthan The remaining additional important area was excluded due to fewer GIB sightings and its importance for expected power transmission needs.

The focus in Rajasthan will be on Desert National Park, Salkha-Kuchri area, Sanu-Mokla-Parewar Pokhran Field Firing Range (PFFR) buffer areas of Ramdevra and the eastern periphery of PFFR, Dholiya, Khetolai, and Chacha. In Gujarat, the committee retained the priority area of 500 sq km and has proposed a consolidated revised priority area of 740 sq km. Wildlife biologist Sumit

Dookia, faculty at Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Delhi, and Honorary Scientific Advisor to the ERDS Foundation said the area excluded in Rajasthan has Bustard presence. "GIBs use the additional important areas in the non-breeding season in the old enclosed area in Rasla. Two known GIB deaths have been documented from here. Just adjoining to this enclo sure is a big Shree Degray Mata Oran (Deemed Forest) and every year 5-10 GIBs visit these areas."

Submitting a dissent note, one member of the panel, Devesh Gadhavi, Deputy Director, The Corbett Foundation, is learnt to have submitted that all existing overhead power lines of 33 kV and above within the revised priority area should either be buried un derground or rerouted through power corridors or outside priority areas altogether.

The committee has recommended undergrounding of 80 km of 33 kV lines in Rajasthan and 79 km in Gujarat's Kutch, along with mitigation for other lines

through rerouting or insulation.

 Stampede to have caused a spark. People started panicking, resulting in the stampede," the officer said. The wire was connected to the main

circuit box on the ramp wall. CM Pushkar Singh Dhami announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the families of the dead and Rs 50,000 for injured. The District Magistrate of Haridwar has been ordered to conduct a magisterial inquiry. A thorough review of crowd management and security arrangements is also being undertaken to prevent recurrence of

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such incidents, the CMO said

Police said an FIR will be registered against unknown persons. "If the probe shows negligence of electricity department officials or other staff, action will be taken against them," an officer said.

Six of the dead were from Uttar Pradesh while one was from Bihar and one from Uttarakhand They have been identified as Arush, 8, from Bareilly, UP; Vikky, 18, and Vishal, 19, from Rampur, UP; Shanti, 60, and Ram Bharose, 43, from Badaun, UP; Vakeel, 43 from Barabanki, UP; Shakal, 18, from Araria, Bihar; and Vipin Saini,

18, from Kashipur, Uttarakhand. Secretary, Disaster Management Vinod Kumar Suman said five persons who suffered serious injuries were referred to AIIMS, Rishikesh. Others are undergoing treatment at the district hospital in Haridwar.

Currently, the state is seeing an influx of devotees in the month of Sawan. The temple is situated atop Bilwa Parwat, and can be accessed on a ropeway, a motorable road, and the ramp, where the stampede took place. Temple officials said around 20,000 people are estimated to have reached the temple between 5 and 9 am Sunday.

• TCS to cut 12,200 jobs

our workforce model." it said in a statement. "Towards this, a number of reskilling and redeployment initiatives have been underway. As part of this journey, we will also be releasing associates from the organization whose deployment may not be feasible," it said. "This will impact about 2% of our global workforce, primarily in the middle and the senior grades, over the course of the year."

The TCS's decision is expected to create uncertainty in the Indian IT industry, with experts anticipating that other major firms may follow suit. The move signals a potential shift in workforce strategies, especially as companies increasingly turn to automation and cost optimisation.

According to the TCS, this transition is being planned with due care to ensure there is no impact on service delivery to clients. "We understand that this is a challenging time for our colleagues likely to be affected. We thank them for their service and we will be making all efforts to provide appropriate benefits, outplacement, counselling, and support as they transition to new opportunities," it said.

Earlier this month, the TCS reported a 6 per cent growth in its consolidated net profit at Rs 12,760 crore for the first quarter ended June 2025 as against Rs 12,040 crore in the year-ago period. The company's revenue rose to Rs 63,437 crore, higher by 1.3 per cent as against Rs 62,613 crore in the year-ago period. However, its revenue declined 3.1 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in constant currency. "The continued global macro-economic and geo-political uncertainties caused a demand contraction. On the positive side, all the new services grew well. We saw robust deal closures during this quarter," K Krithivasan, MD and

CEO, TCS, had said while announcing the results.

give us an edge. When you are put (107 not out) and Washington (101 not out). The world had written them off, now Jadeja and Sundar had done a monumental

rewrite, they had penned history. Only twice have India batted out more overs in the third innings to save a Test after conceding a first innings lead of 300-plus. Trailing by 311 runs at lunch on Day 4, India were staring at an innings defeat. But against all odds, Shubman Gill's young team batted for 143 overs and lost just four wickets.

This was a comeback for ages. The series that seemed dead — the loss for India here would have seen England take a 3-1 lead -- has been magically kept alive. With momentum on their side, India can now dream of winning the final Test at Oval and level the series 2-2. Nothing can be put beyond a team where a batsman with a fractured foot -- Rishabh Pant -- raises his hand to take the field and do his bit.

Indian coach Gautam Gambhir, after the match, spoke about the importance of the draw for the rest of the series. "It will

under pressure and you come out of those pressure moments, it is always a great feeling. It just ends up giving a lot of confidence to the dressing room," he said.

Unlike many teams of the past, with bigger stars, this Indian team just refuses to give up. India was zero for two at the start of the innings but this was followed by 188-run partnership between KL Rahul (90) and Shubman (103). Today again at lunch, a crisis loomed. The two big hopes Shubman and Rahul, after their marathon partnership, were back in the hut. India was 223 for four. There was another mountain to climb in front of them. With Pant to bat on one foot, they had to bat two full sessions.

That's when two rather lowkey cricketers -- all-rounders who aren't in news too often -- picked up the baton; it was more like taking up the gauntlet. But Jadeja and Sundar didn't allow the pressure of the scoreboard or their constantly bullying rivals get to them.

Stokes tried every trick he knew. He would test them with a disciplined line, he would surround them with fielders with the

spinner on a pitch with patches and even try to intimidate with short-balls. Nothing worked on this Sunday.

There is a certain nonchalance about the way Jadeja and Washington conduct themselves on the pitch. They look relaxed, they keep smiling and are almost aloof to the surroundings and the situation. They don't even confront the opposition. They actually chat them up. They don't rile their opponent, they don't trigger fights. Jadeja and Washington, with their solid play, dilute the opposition's aggression.

Jadeja, despite his numbers, isn't quite counted among the game's greats but today he joined the list of legends. Washington's place in the playing XI has been repeatedly questioned but today he shut the mouths of his doubters for good. As Iadeia added a hundred to his four 50s on this tour he was on par with the greatest all-rounder Gary Sobers for runs scored in England.

Washington, the spinner, had done his bit at Lord's with four wickets in an innings. At Old Trafford, he showed what he can do with the bat. He justified the

for peace and the consequent

decades-old organisation of

which Öcalan is co-founder)

struggle of the Kurdish people

decision of the Kurdistan

Workers' Party (PKK, a

to disband, how do you

foresee this affecting the

team management's trust in him. His numbers with both bat and ball showed, he can do the job of two specialists.

This could well go down in the history of the Indian team as a very important draw. Had India lost this Test, and also the next, the course of Indian cricket might have changed dramatically. There were reputations at stake.

After Shubman's outburst against Zak Crawley at Lord's when he was wasting time, the English media was floating the narrative the young skipper had been impacted by the episode and lost touch. When India was on field and their bowlers were leaking runs, the pundits said the Indian captain was too passive. It was certainly his worst day as a captain but he showed the resilience to bounce back. He made amends, he led India's recovery.

The team's senior-most batsman Rahul also often gets blamed for not scoring in important situations. At Old Trafford, he changed that impression. Coach Gambhir would have lost his third straight series, and there would have been calls of his outster. But after Old

Trafford, that might not be. This team is showing a new culture and character.

But what might have pleased the team management most must have been India regrouping after the fall of Rahul and Shubman. Most of India's famous wins or draws have been about individual brilliance but this team

takes cricket as a team sport. The last time India saved a game after conceding a big lead was in New Zealand at Napier where Gambhir had scored a match-saving 137 off 437 balls while batting for nearly 11 hours. He was asked if he had spoken about Napier in the dressing room. Gambhir almost didn't al low the question to be completed He said: "I don't remember any of my knocks, it's history. These players will make their own history Honestly, no one needs to follow anyone or even wants to. They will make their own history. The way we have been written off in this Test match, this is the foundation

of this team.' Before the tour had started. this was said to be a team in transition but a win of this nature makes it feel the transition is over.

• 'Syria stability'

wards democracy and a decentralised system. A society like Syria can only ensure democracy with a decentralised system. We accepted the integration of the SDF with the Syrian army in the memorandum of understanding signed on March 10. Now we must work on the details so that stability in the country is not disrupted and no one takes advantage of the security gaps. But the emphasis must be on the clear path of integration of all other groups into the Syrian army, the army must have a national identity and its role must be to defend the entire Syrian people. In other words, it must not be subordinated to any other interests. I be-

in Syria have continued in recent months. How can Syria ensure inclusive governance to prevent ethnic and religious tensions,

in Syria? These conflicts and wars are Mr. Öcalan's call was historic and has earned a lot of support. Ending the war and violence against the Kurdish people in Turkey will open new paths for the Kurds as a whole. After this call, a ceasefire was established in North and East Syria and the Turkish state's attacks against us stopped. Therefore, tensions have decreased considerably. This will open the way for the Kurds to take part in the construction of a new democratic Syria.

Turkey views the SDF as an extension of the PKK. With Abdullah Öcalan's recent call

the DAANES? This is a matter related to

Turkey's internal politics. In my eyes, the SDF and the DAANES have never constituted a security threat to Turkey. On the contrary, we liberated Turkey's border from ISIS and ensured stability on the border. If Turkey recognises the rights of the Kurds within the Republic of Turkey, the same must apply to Syria.

What is the level of international support that would most effectively help sustain these counterterrorism efforts?

The support of the international coalition has been a key factor in the fight against ISIS. Today, continued support from the international coalition is needed to ensure that this success is sustained. We are concerned that ISIS will exploit the security vacuum in Syria and expand its organisation. So far, the security situation in the DAANES is more stable than in the

rest of Syria. However, ISIS activities have increased recently throughout Syria.

What part might Asian

nations such as India play in the region's future? Many countries have troops here in the bases of the interna-

tional coalition and support our forces. These countries can also play a positive role in the political process and support the Syrian people's efforts for building a peaceful and democratic future in their homeland. Countries such as India and other Asian countries can play an important friendly role and be active in the reconstruction process in Syria. India has always had an important role in West Asia. It can now play an important role in the stability of the region through its friendship with the Syrian people and the Kurdish people.

Barcelona-based Malayalam writer and freelance journalist

Haritha Savithri is a

greater chance of moving to-

lieve that to ensure stability in Syria, we need democratic institutions that represent and protect particularly amid recent instability in Deir ez-Zor, Alawite areas, and Druze regions?

the result of the policies pursued by the interim government so far. Syria is a diverse country. In order to maintain stability, the rights of all groups and identities must be protected and their place in decision-making processes must be ensured. For example, the government can establish regional councils through elections and these councils can manage the affairs of their regions. Also, most importantly, the security forces and the army must not become parties to these ethnic and reli-

the PKK disbanding, do you expect Turkey to change its stance towards the SDF and

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In light of Kurdish leader

As more slum dwellers told to move, Delhi CM assures justice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 27

REITERATING THAT unauthorised slums will be removed from Delhi, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday said that the government has allocated a budget Rs 700 crore to provide accommodation to eligible slum dwellers.

"Whenever slums need to be removed for any reason. arrangements are being made to provide houses to the eligible residents...," she said at the 'Faatak wali jhuggi' near the railway crossing in Shalimar Bagh on Sunday morning.

The Railways has issued a notice for the removal of the sum cluster, citing that it is located on railway land needed for the expansion of the Azadpur railway

"You will get complete justice. The Delhi government is fully committed to this," Gupta told the slum dwellers.

"When a crisis came upon you, I came to meet you because the Delhi government is not in favour of removing slums without reason... If slums have to be removed for development projects or other legitimate reasons, the government will ensure proper rehabilitation for the eligible residents so they too can become part of Delhi's growth story," she added.

This comes amid the recent demolition of unauthorised slums at Madrasi Camp, Bhoomiheen Camp, Jailerwala Bagh Camp and Taimoor Nagar in the Capital.

Taking on AAP and Congress, Gupta said that in the last 40 years, no development has taken place in Delhi's slums.

"These parties have only seen slum dwellers as voters and constantly tried to exploit them, while also damaging the city's geo-

Atal

Pension

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PM

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Chief Minister Rekha Gupta

graphical character," she said.

The AAP, meanwhile, said in a statement, "The CM has been constantly lying on this issue. First, on completion of 100 days of her government, she claimed no jhuggi will be demolished. And on the very next day, hundreds of jhuggis were demolished at Madrasi Camp. Later, thousands of people have to rendered homeless at Jailerwala Bagh, Bawana, Moti Nagar, Kalkaji etc.'

"We challenge Rekha Gupta to publish the list of jhuggis that have been demolished and names of people who have been given flats by them. They are trying to fool the people by giving flats to just a few of them and making others homeless," the party added.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, too, said on Sunday that hundreds of slum dwellers in Delhi are going through the pain of being rendered homeless with their houses being destroyed by the BIP government, as he claimed that this "atrocity" exposes the ruling party's "insensitivity" towards the poor and its "arrogance of power".

The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha shared a video of his recent visit to Delhi's Ashok Vihar area where houses of several people were brought down by the administration.

The small houses in which they had settled their entire life were "ruthlessly destroyed" by the BJP government, he alleged in his post in Hindi on X along with the

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ONLINE SEARCH FOR MEDICINES LEADS TO DIGITAL ARREST FRAUD

'Good cop, bad cop': How fake NCB officers duped 62-year-old woman of Rs 77 lakh

PRAGYNESH NEW DELHIJULY 27

LAST AUGUST, a 62-year-old woman was surfing an online drug store's website for her monthly prescription of sleeping pills. It was a routine for her to order medicines online every month for a neurological ailment. However, her latest search landed her in trouble, which ended in an alleged digital arrest fraud of Rs 77 lakh as two men — allegedly posing as officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) — used "good cop, bad cop-based modus operandi", said police.

After she reported her ordeal to the police, it took investigators nine months to trace the accused who had transferred a major portion of the defrauded money in his bank account. His arrest led the police to four more accomplices, all of whom were arrested by July 1, said officers.

A resident of Vasant Kunj and a former teacher, the woman told police she had received the first call from the alleged fraudsters last August. A man posing as an NCB officer triggered alarm by claiming that she had ordered "banned drugs". The woman who lives alone panicked. "The caller told her that the drug she ordered was banned in India and that the NCB suspected she was helping **SEQUENCE OF EVENTS**

AUG 2024: Woman gets first call from man posing as NCB officer; told she ordered banned drugs online

■ Asked to verify bank account details BY SEP 10, 2024: Helpless, she transfers Rs 3 lakh

■ Fraudsters use 'good cop, bad cop' modus operandi **SEP 20, 2024:** Another man impersonating NCB officer calls her, assures help **SEP 24.2024:** Four men on video call ask her to share phone screen

■ Netbanking credentials stolen, she is duped of Rs 77 lakh

the supply of these drugs in Delhi," a senior police officer, privy to the investigation details, said.

Forced to prove her innocence, the woman had transferred Rs 3 lakh by September 10. (see box) On September 20, 2024, an-

other man posing as NCB officer, pretending to be the "good cop" called her and assured help. Four days later, the final blow

came. She got a video call on WhatsApp. "This time, four men were on call. She was asked to share her phone screen and open her bank account after which all her money could be returned. As she trusted the man who had posed as the 'good cop', she followed the instructions," the officer explained. Trouble, however, deepened for the elderly woman as her netbanking credentials were allegedly stolen.

The video call ended with the fraudsters allegedly telling the woman that they were satisfied with the probe. Soon after, her worst nightmare turned true. Multiple debit messages flashed on her mobile phone — transactions of Rs 5 lakh, Rs 10 lakh and so on followed. When she called up the man posing as the NCB officer, his phone was off.

She finally sought help from a relative and filed a complaint at the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSCO) Unit of the Delhi Police's Special Cell on September 26, 2024. A team under ACP Manoj Kumar and Sub Inspector Karamvir started a probe into the money trail.

technical service providers and banks concerned. It was found that around Rs 48 lakh from the duped amount was further transferred to a particular account," the officer explained. This account belonged to

"The call detail records and

IMEI details of beneficiary account

holders were obtained from the

Akhilesh(23), a resident of Nuhin Haryana. The police raided his home and found that he had left for Delhi—on the pretext of preparing for judicial services examinations. Investigators finally reached a breakthrough in June "On June 24, Akhilesh was traced at a rented apartment in Indira Vikas Colony, Mukharjee Nagar. His disclosure statement was recorded wherein he stated that he received the cheated amount on the direction of his associates Amjad, Shahid and Shakeel," the officer underlined.

On June 27, a raid was conducted in Punhana, Haryana, and Amjad and his brother-in-law Shahid were arrested. Amjad, the police said, was the man who pretended to be the "good cop".

"They also disclosed involvement of the other accused, Hamid," the police officer added.

On July 1, the police raided Hamid's home in Rajasthan's Deeg. Shakeel was also at his home. The duo was arrested following a brief chase.

based abroad, through social

media and was receiving in-

"He was instructed on en-

crypted apps in code language to act on behalf of BKI," an offi-

structions to carry out terror ac-

Gunshots fired for recording reel injures cab driver; two held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHIJULY 27

GUNSHOTS ALLEGEDLY fired for recording a reel ended up injuring a 24-year-old cab driver in Southeast Delhi's Badarpur, police said on Sunday, adding that two men have been apprehended. Another accused is on the run.

According to the police, the incident happened in the early hours of Saturday, when the Gurgaon-based cab driver, identified as Gautam Saini, was with the accused at a house in the Molarband Extension area. "Saini was called by one of the accused, Rakesh, to party in Badarpur. They had drinks and even made reels together," a police officer aware of the investigation said.

The officer added that the accused have claimed that as they made the reel, they fired in the air and Saini was accidentally injured. It is still being confirmed if the incident was an accident, police said.

"On July 27, at 06:07 am, a PCR call was received at the Badarpur police station from Apollo Hospital regarding a Medico-Legal Case (MLC) of a gunshot injury sustained by one Gautam Saini," DCP (South East) Hemant Tiwari said. The police said that upon reaching the hospital, it was found that Saini had a gunshot injury on his head.

"After initial treatment, the family shifted him to AIIMS trauma centre. His condition remains critical but stable. A case has been filed under Section 109 of the BNS and the Arms Act," DCP Tiwari said.

IndiGo flight from Goa to Hindon airport diverted to IGIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 27

AN INDIGO flight from Goa, which was scheduled to land at the Hindon airport in Ghaziabad, was diverted to the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on Sunday evening. The diversion happened due to a lack of parking spots, according to a source.

According to flight tracking website Flightradar24, IndiGo flight 6E2575 was scheduled to depart from Goa at 2.20 pm and land in Ghaziabad at 4.50 pm. The flight took off at 2.33 pm and was diverted to Delhi eventually.

"As the flight was approaching to land at Hindon Airport, we were given directions to divert to IGIA due to unavailability of parking," a source said. Passengers deboarded the plane at IGIA after some confusion.

"When we reached Hindon, the pilot kept flying around the airport for around 45 minutes before taking us to the IGIA, where we eventually landed at Terminal 3,' said Ajay Mishra, a neurosurgeon and a passenger on the plane "When we said we wanted to exit the plane, the crew said we will go to Hindon again. That is when the passengers created a ruckus, after which we were allowed to leave the plane," Mishra said.

According to a source, the airline had to take permission from the Hindon airport for another attempt at landing, which took time. The Indian Express tried reaching out to IndiGo for an official response but could not get a comment.

Grenade attack in Punjab: Another 'BKI associate' held a key accused in the April 7 with a BKI handler from Punjab,

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHIJULY 27

A 22-YEAR-OLD man was arrested by Delhi Police Special Cell on Saturday for allegedly harbouring terrorists attached to the banned terror organisation Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and being involved in a grenade attack on Quila Lal Singh police station in Punjab in April.

Karanbir alias Karan, hailing from Chananke village in Amritsar, was apprehended on July 26 from Gurdaspur under the Arms Act registered at the Special Cell police station. Police said he is grenade attack at Quila Lal Singh police station in Batala.

"He received money from his handler for executing the grenade attack. He also facilitated the stay of two persons at his home before the attack, who had executed the task of launching the grenade at Oila Lal Singh police station. His brother Gursewak, who was also involved in the attack, has already been arrested in the case," DCP (Special Cell) Amit Kaushik

Karanbir is the second alleged BKI terrorist arrested this week. Akash Deep – wanted in an illegal arms trafficking case in the

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Capital and the grenade attack on Quila Lal Singh police station was arrested on Wednesday. "Following leads based on Akash Deep's questioning, Karanbir alias Karan was arrested from Gurdaspur," the DCP said.

Karanbir allegedly told the police that he was in contact

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dated April 26, 2004 issued by the RoC. Later, the name of our Company was changed to 'ICL Fincorp Limited' pursuant to a fresh certificate of incorporation dated May 8, 2016 issued by the RoC. Our Company holds a certificate of registration dated June 09, 2016 bearing registration number B-07.00437 issued by the Reserve Bank of India ("RBI") to carry on the activities of a non-banking financial company without accepting public deposits under Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. For further details about our Company, see "History and Certain Other Corporate Matters" on page 108 of the Prospectus. Registered Office: Plot No: C308, Door No: 66/40, 4th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai—600 083, Tamil Nadu, India; Tel: +91 44 4208 2381, 2958 0014;

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Allotment on "first come first serve basis" #

electronic book of the Stock Exchange. For further details refer section titled "Issue Related Information" on page 225 of the Prospectus.

In accordance with the provision of and requirement under Section 30 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Regulation 30(1) of the SEBI NCS Regulations, the Company has published statutory advertisement dated July 27, 2025 on their website at www.iclfincorp.com on which contains the disclosures as per Schedule V of the SEBI NCS Regulations ("Statutory Advertisement"). The Statutory Advertisement can be viewed through

Web link: https://iclfincorp.com/fileupload/keWa05GuoT



(please scan this QR code to view the detailed advertisement)

All the potential investors are advised to please provide attention to the above mentioned update and take an informed decision accordingly.

K.G. Anilkumar

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In the event of an early closure or extension of the Issue, our Company shall ensure that notice of such early closure or extension is given to the 5:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as may be permitted by the Stock Exchange.

#As per the SEBI Master Circular, the allotment in this issue is required to be made on the basis of date of upload of each application into the

the QR code and web link given below:



Capitalized terms not defined herein shall have the same meaning as assigned to such terms in the Prospectus.

For ICL Fincorp Limited

(Chairman & Managing Director) DIN: 00766739

epaper.indianexpress.com

Place: Irinjalakuda

Date: 27/07/2025

FORECAST: July 28

SKYWATCH

DEVANSH MITTAL

NEW DELHI, JULY 27

AFTER BEING closed for renova-

tion for nearly two years, the century-old DDA Roshanara Club re-

opened its doors to the residents

the Delhi Development

Authority (DDA), the heritage

club now boasts of revamped

sport facilities as well as modern

wellness and banquet areas,

acres, was taken over by the DDA

for renovation on September 29,

2023. This was after L-G V K

Saxena – in his maiden visit to

the club on January 12, 2023 -

noticed that the "majestic struc-

ture was lying in a dilapidated

state with poor maintenance

with a crumbling facade", the

vamped club, said, "It is a big mo-

ment for us, as this heritage club

has been restored and re-

launched. I congratulate the peo-

ple of Delhi on this occasion. Delhi

is a city of heritage and in the last

three years, a number of heritage

(sites) have been restored and we

are committed towards (restor-

Saxena, who unveiled the re-

DDA said in a statement.

The club, spread across 22

Renovated and restored by

of the Capital on Sunday.

among others.

101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor

Generally cloudy sky; light to moderate rain with

.7°C above normal

NOIDA: FATHER AND UNCLE CRITICAL

5-yr-old dies as BMW coming from wrong side hits scooter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 27

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD girl died and her father and uncle sustained critical injuries after a speeding BMW car, being driven on the wrong side, hit their scooter in Noida's Sector 30 on Saturday night, police said.

The accused, identified as Yash Sharma (22), a resident of Sector 37, and his co-passenger Abhishek Rawat (22), have been arrested. Both stay in Sector 70.

Both are students, police said, adding that the BMW bearing a Haryana registration number has been impounded. According to the FIR, the acci-

dent took place near Gate 3 of Post Graduate Institute of Child Health in Sector 30.

Gul Mohammad and his brother-in-law Raja, residents of Sadarpur Khajoor colony near Sector 45, were returning home after taking Ayat, Gul's sick



daughter, to the hospital.

The police said the rashly driven BMW rammed into the two-wheeler, throwing all three passengers off the vehicle. While Ayat succumbed to injuries, the two men were admitted to hospitals in a critical condition.

The police said the two accused made an attempt to flee the spot but were arrested shortly after pedestrians informed the authorities.

Assistant

Police Commissioner Praveen Kumar Singh said that preliminary investigation has revealed the two accused were returning from a birthday celebration when the incident occurred.

"They two had attended a birthday party before the crash. As part of the investigation, they are being subjected to a medical examination to ascertain whether they were under the in-



The impounded BMW; Ayat (above) was returning from **hospital.** Express

fluence of alcohol at the time of the accident," he added.

The police said the car was found to be registered in the name of one Gagan. Yash Sharma, who deals in used cars, had borrowed it from Gagan a week ago, said an officer.

A case has been registered at the Sector 20 police station under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections of causing death by negligence and rash driving on a public road.

> ing) more in the future." The club was established on August 15, 1922 as an elite recreational and social retreat for the

With revamped sport, wellness and banquet

facilities, Roshanara Club reopens its doors



L-G V K Saxena (above) unveils the restored DDA Roshanara Club (top) on Sunday. Amit Mehra

Britishers residing in the area around present-day Delhi University and Civil Lines. It was named after Begum Roshanara, the daughter of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, who was buried in the neighbouring Roshanara

Bagh. The club is considered the birthplace of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, which was formed in 1928 when Indian cricket administrators gathered at Roshanara Club.

"Particular attention was

given to the preservation of the club's architectural legacy. The century-old façade, including the European-style doors and windows, Mangalore-tiled roof, and intricate wooden trusses have all been carefully restored Antique chandeliers and original furnishings were refurbished and reupholstered to revive their classic charm," the DDA said in its statement.

It added that indoor facilities at the club now include a main lounge, card and billiards rooms, banquet area, bar and dining hall, library, gym, squash and badminton courts, a swimming pool, and a wellness area with yoga, sauna, and steam rooms. Outdoor amenities include clay, grass, and synthetic tennis courts, cricket grounds, a mini football zone, basketball area, and a jogging track.

The DDA said civil works involved anti-termite treatment, waterproofing, marble polishing, wooden flooring repairs, and renovations to sanitary facilities. Important upgrades were made to the squash and badminton courts, swimming pool, and various places in the club house building. While electrical systems were overhauled, AC cooling was enhanced by providing requisite units, ducting and wiring were concealed, and damaged fittings, switches and light fixtures were replaced.

Will die a thousand deaths when he hears of our daughter's passing, says mother

SAMAN HUSAIN NOIDA, JULY 27

IN HER one-room rented house at Noida's Sadarpur Khajoor colony a maze of tightly packed lanes and shared washrooms -Tanjeela sits silently on a thin mattress, eyes fixed on the door.

"My Babua is no more," she whispers. "We were supposed to get her enrolled at a school next week... Her father had been saying that he would take leave and get her enrolled."

Her five-year-old daughter, Ayat, had died late Saturday, flung off a scooter as it was hit by a speeding BMW allegedly coming from the wrong in Sector 30. The two men accompanying her, her father Gul Mohammad, and maternal uncle Raja, were rushed to hospitals in critical condition. Raja,

doctors say, is in a coma. The body of Ayat, meanwhile,

Ayat's mother Tanjeela at their house. Saman Husain

is still in the mortuary.

Around 11 pm on Saturday, Ayat began crying in pain – a tiny insect had crawled into her ear. Her father, an electrician, and her uncle, a tailor who stayed with them, rushed her to the Post Graduate Institute of Child Health. They left on a scooter. The hos-

pital was nearby. "She got her ears cleaned... But when they did not return, I called to check... No one picked up the calls," says Tanjeela.

Around 1 am, her phone rang – the police were calling to inform that her daughter was no more and that her husband and brother are being rushed to a hospital in critical condition.

On Sunday, the extended family split into three groups – one at each hospital, and one at the mortuary. While Gul is awake in the ICU of Kailash Hospital in Sector 27, Raja is yet to gain consciousness at Ghaziabad's SMART Hospital. At the mortuary, relatives await the body to be released after postmortem examination.

"We are trying to be everywhere at once," said Shamad Ali, a cousin. "Gul bhai is stable, but Raja's condition is very serious."

Tanjeela is inconsolable. "I could not find out anything from the doctors, or the police. I have not even seen my Babua till now.," she breaks down.

"Her father still doesn't know

that she is gone," she adds. "If I tell him, he will die a thousand deaths."

Tanjeela and Gul had migrated to Noida from Bihar in search of work. Raja had accompanied them. In the dusty, crammed Sadarpur's Khajoor Colony, they found a corner to call their own. While she works as a domestic help, Gul is an electrician. They also have an 8-year-old son.

Tanjeela is now worried how she will pay the hospital bills and if Raja needs to be shifted to a government hospital. "Raja and Gul Bhai used to take care of everything... rent, expenses... everything. Gul bhai loved the girl more than his life," says Naheeda, a neighbour.

"Do bachche the... humse jitna paisa le lete, lekin meri bacchi ko kuch na karte (They could have taken all the money I had but not killed her)," Tanjeela murmurs, her voice cracking.



More Rain Likely Today

After Saturday, Delhi again recorded air quality index in the 'satisfactory' category on Sunday. The AQI was recorded at 87 at 4 pm. Rain is expected on Monday, according to IMD. Tashi Tobgyal

Man kills colleague for refusing to give loan, dumps body in septic tank, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 27

A 42-YEAR-OLD man was allegedly bludgeoned to death at a farmhouse in Chhattarpur by his colleague after he refused to lend him Rs 10,000, police said on Sunday.

The body of the deceased, Sita Ram – who was employed at the The accused, Chandra Prakash

farmhouse for the last 10 years – was found drowned in a septic tank at the property on Saturday.

(47), who worked as a driver at the

same farmhouse, was arrested from Palam in Southwest Delhi.

Police said a missing person report for Sita Ram, originally from Uttar Pradesh, was filed at the Mehrauli police station on July 26.

"Sita Ram used to work as a help at the farmhouse and was alone the night of the incident, as the owner had gone out of Delhi. On July 26 morning, staffers found the doors of the farmhouse open, and Sita Ram missing. After the missing report was filed, his body was recovered from the septic tank of the farmhouse," DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan said.

While questioning the staffers at the farmhouse, the police found that Chandra Prakash was missing. He was later traced to Palam in Dwarka.

Chandra Prakash, who hails from Almora and has been the driver at the farmhouse for the last seven years, told the police that a loan of Rs 10,000 made him kill Sita Ram. "He admitted to the murder, stating that he had demanded Rs 10.000 from Sita Ram and, upon refusal, killed him with a hammer, and dumped the body in the septic tank," the DCP said.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 27

TOXIC ELEMENTS are present in the soil and dust on the roads of Delhi, with the potential to cause cancer and other serious ailments,

a new study has revealed. The study, funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), was conducted in collaboration with researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Australia's University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney.

It analysed roadside soil and dust samples collected from 33 places in the Capital.

The analysis, conducted at UNSW, revealed high levels of antimony, a chemical element, in the soil and dust. Antimony exposure is touted as a potential carcino-

genic risk factor. Dr Manoj Pratap Singh from JNU, the principal investigator behind the study, said children are at high risk of developing cancer owing to the toxic element exposure.

"At the present rate of exposure, such toxic elements can cause over 1.8 lakh cancer cases in men, more than 2.1 lakh cancer cases in women, and over 21,000 cancer cases in children," he added. Dr Singh further said that children have higher daily exposure to rare earth elements (REE)

than adults.

"Their neurodevelopment is highly susceptible to REE exposure. It is associated with a decrease in IQ level and memory loss," he added. The toxic elements can enter the body by ingestion or swallowing soil and dust particles, which is common

among children, he explained. "This study revealed that children in Delhi are intake over 1 milligram of toxic and non-toxic metals every day through roadside soil and dust," Dr Singh said, adding that the toxins may enter the human body via a dermal route and cause various diseases, including diabetes mellitus and gestational diabetes mellitus. Inhalation of dust can also be a pathway for the toxic elements to enter the body, said Dr Singh.

On why Delhi roads have high

antimony content, Dr Singh said that the frequent use of brakes in vehicles can cause the toxic chemical element to be released in the environment in the form of fine particles. Research has also revealed that burning fossil fuels on a large scale contributes to the accumulation of toxic elements, he added. He further said that the study has confirmed the presence of a dangerous metal, lead, in the toxic elements present in Delhi's

soil and dust. Dr Singh said Cerium (Ce) content was found to be the highest

Toxic elements that could cause cancer in Delhi's dust, soil: Study in roadside soil and road dust among the REEs analysed for the study. A Ce compound is used in catalytic converters of vehicles for the complete combustion of fuel and is emitted from exhaust in the

> form of fine particles. "Fifteen elements were identified from a priority list of the upper 275 toxic substances based on various parameters, including toxicity for human exposure... These are — arsenic (1), lead (2), cadmium (7), chromium VI (17), beryllium (43), nickel (57), zinc (75), chromium (78), uranium (97), copper (118), barium (134), manganese (140), selenium (146), aluminum (183) and vanadium

(200)," he added.

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FERNANDO BUCHELI AMBASSADOR OF ECUADOR

NIRBHAY THAKUR NEW DELHI, JULY 27

A CAREER diplomat with over three decades of experience, Fernando Bucheli, Ambassador of Ecuador to India, has represented his nation in various postings around the world, including Japan, Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands. He has been living in Delhi for around a year, and he says that the city "touches your heart in quiet, enduring ways". "It is not just a city you live in—it is a city that stays with you," Bucheli

asserts. He speaks to *The Indian*

Express as part of a series of inter-

views with Ambassadors about

Delhi — their home. Excerpts:

What is the one place in the city that you love to visit often?

I have been living in Delhi for one year, and during this time, I have come to appreciate the city as one of the world's great historical capitals. Delhi is not just a seat of government—it is a place where thousands of years of civilization is visible and alive.

One place that left a lasting impression on me is Akshardham Temple. Beyond its physical beauty, what moves me most is the story it tells about India. Every visit to Akshardham is a reminder of how deeply rooted Indian identity is in history, reflection, and devotion. It offers a unique perspective-not only into Hindu philosophy, but into the broader soul of the country.

What are the three things that stood out in Delhi during your stay here?

First, the profound spirituality of its people. In Delhi, spirituality is not something abstract—it's a living force that shapes daily life.

Second, the genuine warmth and friendship extended to foreigners. From the very begin-

ning, I was welcomed with openness and sincerity. The friendships I've built here across cultures, professions, and backgrounds—are among the most meaningful aspects of my diplomatic mission.

Third, the striking contrasts that coexist in the city. Delhi presents a complex mosaic where wealth and opportunity stand alongside inequality and hardship.

Any memories here that you'll never forget?

Delhi has offered me unforgettable experiences that go far beyond official meetings or diplomatic engagements. What has truly stayed with me are the spiritual spaces I have visited and the conversations with people deeply rooted in India's philosophical traditions. I have found peace and perspective in places like the ISKCON temple, the Jain temples, and the gurdwaras especially Bangla Sahib, where the spirit of service and equality is deeply moving. One particularly meaningful experience has been my visit to the Art of Living



Ambassador of Ecuador to India Fernando Bucheli. Express

International Center, where I was introduced to meditation and breathing techniques that embody India's living wisdom in a contemporary context.

Delhi also provides opportunities to appreciate the contributions of Islamic culture to India's artistic and intellectual landscape — visible in its architecture, calligraphy, music, and traditions of hospitality.

At a diplomatic level, it was a great honour to present my credentials to President Droupadi Murmu, a moment of deep sym-

bolic and institutional significance. I was also privileged to greet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a social event—a brief but memorable exchange with the leader of this extraordinary nation.

Favourite food in the city?

There are several places I en-

joy visiting. The Spice Route at The Imperial is not just a restaurant — it's an artistic and cultural experience, and the food reflects a journey through Asia. I also ap-

preciate the modern elegance

as well as the vibrant atmosphere and traditional flavors at Parikrama, a revolving restaurant.

and fusion style of Bo Tai in Qutub,

How is Delhi different compared to other cities that you have visited?

Among the many capitals I have served in, I can confidently say that Delhi is one of the most active and vibrant in terms of events, conferences, and outreach activities. There is a constant flow of invitations—from chambers of commerce, ministries, universities, think tanks, and cultural institutions — that reflects the city's dynamic role in shaping not only India's national agenda but also its international relations. As a diplomat, this offers unique opportunities to engage with a broad spectrum of stakeholders and to deepen bilateral ties in meaningful ways.

If you have to introduce Delhi to someone back home, how would you do it?

I would say that Delhi is not just a city—it is an awakening. This city has the power to expand your mind and deepen your spirit. It leaves a mark that stavs with you—quietly, but forever. Delhi teaches you to see the world differently. You encounter thousands of years of civilization in a single walk, hear dozens of languages in a single day, and witness countless acts of kindness in the most unexpected places.

Is there anything you would want to tell the administrators to change about the city?

I believe that initiatives aimed at improving air quality, waste management, traffic flow, and noise levels would contribute greatly to the overall well-being of its residents and visitors alike. These are challenges shared by many global cities, and I have no doubt that with its talent, creativity, and determination, Delhi will continue to make meaningful progress.

Does pollution bother you? How do you deal with it? Yes, like in many major global cities, pollution in Delhi-espe-

cially during certain times of the

the necessary precautions: following public health advisories, limiting outdoor exposure when the air quality is poor, and taking measures to ensure a healthier indoor environment. That said, I also see pollution as part of a broader global envi-

vear—is a serious concern. I take

city or country can solve it alone. What will you miss the most

ronmental challenge. No single

once you say goodbye to the city? I will miss the spiritual atmos-

phere that is so present in daily life. I have also grown fond of the presence of green and historic spaces particularly in Lutyens' Delhi. And I will always carry with

me the memory of paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat. It was a deeply moving experience — one that reminded me of the timeless relevance of his message of peace, truth, and nonviolence. His legacy continues to guide not only India, but also the conscience of the world.

mility, and sincerity of the Indian

Above all, the generosity, hu-

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

Before Magna Carta, Cholas had 'ballot pots': What is the ancient voting system PM lauded?

ARUN JANARDHANAN CHENNAI, JULY 27

STANDING BEFORE the thousand-year-old stone temple built by Rajendra Chola I, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the Chola empire carried forward India's ancient democratic traditions. "Historians talk about Britain's Magna Carta in the name of democracy," he said, referring to the 1215 English charter. "But many centuries ago, elections were held in the Chola Empire through a democratic method."

Long before Enlightenment in Europe birthed the ideals of representative governance, the Cholas had etched out rules for local self-rule, literally inscribed into stone. The inscriptions of Uttaramerur, a village in present-day Kanchipuram district, offer some of the world's earliest surviving evidence of a for-

mal electoral system. As chronicled by KANilakanta Sastri in The Cholas (1935), the Chola administrative framework was built on two foundational units: the Sabha for Brahmin settlements and the Ur for non-Brahmin villages. These were not symbolic councils but elected bodies with real powers over rev-



PM Narendra Modi at Brihadeeswara Temple, at Gangaikonda Cholapuram on Sunday. PTI

enue, irrigation, temple management, and even justice. "It was democracy at the grassroots – built into the fabric of Tamil civic life," Sastri wrote in Chapter VIII, "Local Self-Government".

But what made the system particularly striking was the method of voting, a process called the Kudavolai system or "ballot pot" election. Under this method, as detailed in the Uttaramerur Inscriptions documented in Epigraphia Indica Vol. XXII (1933–34), the names of eligible candidates were inscribed on palm leaves and placed inside a pot. A young boy, typically chosen for his impartiality, would draw the lot in full public view. This ran-Join FREE Telegram Channel https://t.me/+JJTMT8EJrzk5ZTQ1 domised draw was not a game of chance but a civic ritual rooted in transparency, fairness, and collective consent. While many historians say it

as one designed to combine divine will and civic integrity, essentially to ensure that power was not monopolised by dynastic elites, eligibility criteria under the system were strict. Candidates had to own tax-paying land, be between 35 and 70 years old, possess knowledge of Vedic texts or administration, and have no record of crime or domestic abuse. Debt defaulters, alcoholics, and close relatives of sitting members were disqualified. "The disqualifications were perhaps even more revealing than the qualifications, laying out a moral vision of public service," Sastri wrote.

Accountability was embedded. Annual audits were mandatory. Misappropriation of funds or dereliction of duty could lead to disqualification from future office, a radical mechanism even by modern standards. Inscription no. 24 from Epigraphia Indica details the dismissal of a treasury officer over embezzlement, followed by a fine. These weren't isolated experiments. As Anirudh Kanisetti notes in Lords of the Earth and Sea (Penguin, 2023), the Chola model of statecraft relied heavily on decentralised administrative systems. By empowering merchant guilds such as the Manigramam and Ayyavole, and sustaining local assemblies, the Cholas expanded both trade and legitimacy. "Imperial rule," Kanisetti wrote, "was constructed not just through conquest, but by engineering sustainable civic systems".

This is the vision Modi looked to tap into when he said, "We hear about kings who brought gold, silver, and livestock after conquests. But Rajendra Chola brought Gangajal", a reference to the emperor's symbolic act of bringing Ganga water to his new capital, Gangaikonda Cholapuram, in 1025 CE. The act, memorialised in copper plates (as cited in Sastri's The Cholas), was described as building a "liquid pillar of victory (ganga-jalamayam jayastambham)", merging military triumph with ritual statecraft.

However, the Chola system was far from egalitarian in the modern sense. It excluded women, labourers, and landless groups. But as historian Tansen Sen wrote in The Military Campaigns of Rajendra Chola, the Cholas were masters of strategic signalling, not just through naval conquests but in governance structures that prefigured electoral thought.



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NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) vide its circular no. SEBI/HO/MIRSD/MIRSD-PoD/P/CIR/2025/97, dated July 2, 2025 has allowed the opening of special window to facilitate re-lodgment of transfer requests of shares held in physical form, lodged prior to the deadline of April 1, 2019 and rejected/returned due to deficiency in the documents. Hence, investors who missed the earlier deadline of March 31, 2021 for re-lodgment are requested to submit necessary documents with the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent by following the details as given below:

Key Details						
Window for re-lodgement	July 7, 2025 to January 6, 2026					
Who can relodge the transfer requests?	Investor whose transfer deeds were lodged prior to April 1, 2019 and rejected/returned due to deficiency in documents.					
How to relodge the transfer requests?	Submit necessary original transfer documents with corrected or missing details to the Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, MUFG Intime India Private Limited (Formerly known as Link Intime India Private Limited)					
	Postal Address	MUFG Intime India Private Limited Unit: Tata Steel Limited C 101, Embassy 247, L.B.S Marg, Vikhroli (West), Mumbai – 400083				
	Helpline no.	+91 81081 18484				
	For any queries	Raise a service request at: https://web.in.mpms.mufg.com/helpdesk/Service_Request.html or send an email at cosec@tatasteel.com				

The shares re-lodged for transfer shall be issued only in demat mode.

July 25, 2025

Mumbai

Tata Steel Limited

ACS: 15921

Parvatheesam Kanchinadham Company Secretary and Chief Legal Officer

TATA STEEL

Pune party drug seizure: NCP(SP) leader Khadse's son-in-law among 7 held

SUSHANT KULKARNI & MANOJ MORE PUNE, JULY 27

FORMER MAHARASHTRA minister and NCP (SP) leader Eknath Khadse's son-in-law was among seven people arrested Sunday morning after the Pune City police said it seized drugs during a raid at an apartment where they were allegedly partying. A local court later remanded them in police custody until July 29.

Pranjal Khewalkar, the husband of Khadse's daughter Rohini Khadse, who is the NCP (SP) Maharashtra Women's Wing president, and the six others were held after the Pune Police's Crime Branch raided a rented studio apartment in the upmarket Kharadi area around 3.20 am after receiving a tip off about a party there.

Pune Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar said the raid was conducted on the basis of the information received from a source. "The seven were first detained during an early morning raid and subsequently arrested," he said.

"We have recovered 2.7 grams of substance suspected to be cocaine and 70 grams of substances suspected to be marijuana from them... We have also seized 10 cell phones, two cars, hookah pot, liquor and beer bottles from the location. An offence was subsequently registered at Kharadi police station," said DCP(Crime) Nikhil Pingle.

Reacting to the incident, Eknath Khadse said, "I have not spoken to my son-in-law as he is in police custody...I was suspecting that something like this would happen be-

cause of the prevailing political scenario. But I am not the one who will support anything wrong. If anyone has done anything wrong, they should be punished."

Apart from Khewalkar, 41, a doctor, the six others were identified by police as: Nikhil Jethanand Poptani (35), a cigarette trader; Sameer Fakir Mohammed Sayyed (41), who deals in hardware; Sachin Sonaji Bhombe (42), who works for a private firm; Shripad Mohan Yadav (27), who is into construction; Isha Devjyot Singh (22) and Prachi Gopal Sharma

All seven were booked under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and Cigarettes and the Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, police said.

A Crime Branch officer told The Indian Express that after the raid, the seven were taken to Sassoon General Hospital for a medical examination. Khewalkar's residence in Hadapsar area of Pune was also searched, the officer said.

"The forensic evidence collected from the location... and the objects seized during the raid at Khewalkar's house are being investigated. A key focus of the investigation will be to find out how and from whom the drugs were procured. Preliminary field kit tests have confirmed these are drugs and a detailed report from the Forensic Sciences Laboratory is awaited. We are also investigating the role of each person in the party and how they are known to each other.," the officer said.

Home secy: CAPF troops with permanent disability to get financial package

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, JULY 27

OFFICERS AND jawans of the CAPFs who lose their limbs or suffer any permanent disability during operations will continue to remain in service and get their due promotions and pay apart from a one-time basic monetary package, Home Secretary Govid Mohan said Sunday.

Mohan was speaking to CRPF personnel on the occasion of their

87th Raising Day. A senior CAPFs officer told PTI that a committee of officers has been constituted under the chairmanship of CRPF DG Gyanendra Pratap Singh and it is expected to finalise its recommendations and the modalities for the roll out of the plan in the next few months. The officer said there are hundreds of CAPF personnel who have lost their legs, hands or eves and have suffered permanent disability due to an IED blast or similar incidents during operations over the last decades.

Registrar

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi invites applications for admissions to its various PG programmes under different School of Studies in Kashmere Gate, Karampura, Lodhi Road & Qutab Institutional Area Campuses for the academic session 2025-26.

Special Drive for SC/ST/OBC

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0159/25-26

DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI (Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi) (Special Drive for SC/ST/OBC) **Admission Notice for Academic Year 2025-26 for Postgraduate Programmes Particulars** Last Date to apply online 1st August 2025 (Friday) For the latest admission related information, kindly visit university website www.aud.delhi.gov.in Dated: 24.07.2025 www.aud.delhi.gov.in



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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



'SP Ki Pathshala'

ON THE directions of Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, workers are running symbolic 'PDA pathshalas' (PDA schools) in villages where the UP government proposes to pair primary schools with other schools. Akhilesh has also announced that when his party comes to power, the schools will be back in their respective villages. In the day-long 'PDA pathshalas', SP workers taught children Hindi and English alphabets, besides numerals.

Missing Link

TWO DAYS after the Congress held a convention for its OBC leaders and workers at Talkatora stadium, there are whispers that it may take a while for the party to walk the talk vis-a-vis poll-bound Bihar. The party's screening committee for Bihar, some insiders say, does not have a local OBC leader. There are talks among the OBC workers that a state like Bihar with a large OBC population should have local OBC leader(s) in the screening committee, especially when Rahul Gandhi is reaching out to the OBCs.

COMIC ATTACK

DURING A stand-up comedy show at the Talkatora Stadium in Delhi on Sunday, a DIG-rank officer of AGMUT cadre was roasted by the artiste. As the officer, who is currently posted with the National Investigation Agency (NIA), sat with his family in the front row, a person came up to serve them coffee in the middle of the show, prompting the comic to crack a joke on him since beverages and eatables were otherwise strictly prohibited at the venue.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Seema Chaudhary, W/o: Manoj Chaudhary, R/o: 756, Shibba Kunj, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P. has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.: 86/23, U/s: 403/405/415/420/34 IPC, P.S. Connaught Place, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Seema Chaudhary cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Seema Chaudhary has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Seema Chaudhary of P.S. Connaught Place, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.08.2025. By Order

Sh. Yashdeep Chahal

DP/9955/NDD/2025

23/07/2025 अंतिम तिथि 06/08/2025.

JMFC-01, Room No. 21 Patiala House Courts, Delhi

कार्यालय आयुक्त, तकनीकी शिक्षा, मध्यप्रदेश सतपडा भवन, चौथी मंजिल, भोपाल-462004

दुरभाष 0755-2576751 ई-मेल आईडी: ctemp.bpl@mp.gov.in/dte5.planning@mp.gov.iı

भोपाल. दिनांक 24/07/2025 क्रमाक/भण्डार/2025/281 ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

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> (डा. वाय. एस. ठाकुर संचालनालय तकनीकी शिक्षा. मध्यप्रदेश



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MAHARASHTRA / YAVATMAL NIT / CW / 01] 18.08.2025 "CONSTRUCTION OF 150 28.07.2025 CAPACITY BOYS HOSTEL, 150 CAPACITY GIRLS HOSTEL, LECTURE THEATRE & PRACTICAL LABORATORIES UNDER EWS SCHEME IN THE PREMISES OF GMC MIRAJ IN MAHARASHTRA UNDER DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA, MUMBAL" B AND R / HO / DMER / 51275 /

MAHARASHTRA / MIRAJ / NIT CW / 01] Interested Bidder(s) will have to be enrolled & registered with the Government e-Procurement System; through logging on to

Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted in Company's Website www.bridgeroof.co.in and CPP portal: https://eprocure.gov.in only **OVER 200 STARTUPS IN SPACE SECTOR: MODI IN MANN KI BAAT**

PM praises Shukla, says new wave of curiosity among kids

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, JULY 27

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Sunday commended astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla for his space voyage, praised students who bagged medals at International Olympiad, expressed happiness at UNESCO's World Heritage site tag for 12 Maratha forts, and mentioned a surrendered Maoist for taking a plunge into fish farming in Jharkhand's Gumla, while urging people to share new ideas on how to celebrate National Space Day on August 23.

"As soon as Shubhanshu landed safely on earth, people jumped with joy and a wave of happiness rippled through every heart," the PM recalled in his Mann Ki Baat's 124th episode. He said after the Chandrayaan-3 success in 2023, there was "new curiosity among children about science and space" as they dreamt of becoming space scientists, wanting to go to space and land on the moon.

Referring to the INSPIRE-MANAK Abhiyan, a campaign to promote innovation among children, Modi said that five kids were selected from each school, and they presented innovative ideas. "Space start-ups are also growing

Not viable: Govt

Bhubaneswar

Metro project

BHUBANESWAR, JULY 27

UNCERTAINTY LOOMS over the

Bhubaneswar Metro Rail Project

after the Odisha government can-

celled the tender for the ambi-

tious urban mobility project ini-

tiated by earlier BID government.

pment Minister Krushna Chan-

dra Mohapatra said the decision

was taken due to delay in imple-

mentation and to avoid cost esca-

lation. "The metro project initi-

ated by previous government

wouldn't have been viable. An in-

ter-minister committee has been

formed to take a fresh look at the

project by studying various as-

pects, its viability and submit a

fresh proposal," said Mohapatra.

JATIN ANAND

NEW DELHI, JULY 27

CALLING FOR India to transform

from "a golden bird" to a "lion" in

the prevailing circumstances, RSS

chief Mohan Bhagwat Sunday

said that since the world under-

stands power, the country should

be powerful, economically vi-

brant and display the height of

world understands power. So

Bharat should become strong. It

also has to become wealthy from

an economic perspective," he said.

He made it clear that the country

should not become strong to rule

"It is necessary because the

technological prowess.

Housing and Urban Develo-

SUJIT BISOYI

cancels tender for

BJP chief J P Nadda listens to Mann Ki Baat, in Delhi, Sunday

Matoshree Reunion

Bharat should not be translated, else it will

lose its identity and respect, says RSS chief

rapidly. Five years ago, there were less than 50 start-ups. Today, there are more than 200, just in the space sector," the PM said.

Mentioning the success of fish farming in Jharkhand's Gumla, where a surrendered Maoist took the initiative with the help of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana, he said, "Today, more than 150 families of Basia block have joined fish farming. There are many people who were once in the Naxalite organisation. Now they are living a life of respect in the village itself and providing employment to others."

Congratulating 4 Indian students for winning medals at the International Chemistry Olympiad recently, he said students won 3 gold. 2 silver and 1 bronze medals at the International Mathematical Olympiad in Australia as well. With Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad in Mumbai next month, he said, "Students from more than 60 countries will participate... This will be the biggest Olympiad till date. In a way, India is now moving ahead in both

Modi expressed happiness that 12 Maratha forts were recognised by the UNESCO as World Heritage Sites and said, "These forts are not just bricks and stones, they are symbols of our heritage."

the Olympics and the Olympiads."

Paying tribute to the freedom fighters with Independence Day just weeks away, the PM said

MNS president Raj Thackeray visited 'Matoshree' to wish his cousin and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief

Uddhav Thackeray on his 65th birthday, in Mumbai on Sunday. Uddhav said his happiness

'multiplied manifold' after he met Raj. 'He came to Matoshree after many years,' he said. PTI

and along with it the respect it en-

joys in the world. While India is

'Bharat', Bhagwat said, "It should

be kept as such when we talk,

write or speak about it, whether

in public or personal spaces." He

said that the identity of Bharat is

respected "because it is Bharat".

should not be translated. 'India

is Bharat'. That is true. But Bharat

is Bharat. That is why, while talk-

ing, writing and speaking, be it

personal or public, we should

keep Bharat as Bharat," he said.

a national education conference

organised by the RSS-linked

Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas in

Kochi, Bhagwat said that

Speaking at the 'Gyan Sabha',

"Bharat is a proper noun. It

August was the "month of revolution" and recalled that Khudiram Bose was executed in Muzaffarpur on August 11, 1908, August 1 is the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak and on August 8, the Quit India Movement, led by Mahatma Gandhi, was launched.

"Another revolution started on August 7, 1905. The Swadeshi Movement lent a new energy to local products... especially handloom," he said. Just as Khadi gave new strength to the freedom struggle, the PM said, when India is moving towards becoming developed, textile sector has emerged as the country's strength.

"Our real strength is the knowledge that has been preserved in the form of manuscripts for centuries. These manuscripts contain science, medical procedures, music, philosophy, and most importantly, the thought that can make the future of humanity brighter."

On the Grassland Bird Census conducted at Kaziranga National Park, he said, "More than 40 bird species have been identified, including many rare birds... The team installed sound-recording devices. The sounds were analysed on computers... AI was used. The birds were identified just by their sounds, without disturbing them."

Bihar electoral roll revision an exercise by EC to determine citizenship: Opp under Citizenship Act and

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. JULY 27

CONGRESS LEADER Abhishek Manu Singhvi on Sunday said that the Election Commission's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar seemed more an exercise in checking citizenship – something that the election regulator was not empowered to do.

He said that while no decision had been taken regarding what Tejashwi Yadav said was the option of poll boycott, all options were open for Opposition.

Singhvi said this at an INDIA bloc presser addressed by the Congress, RJD and the Left parties in Delhi, and while talking to mediapersons afterwards.

"It now becomes clear that it is a citizenship exercise. Even the Supreme Court has observed that proofs like Aadhaar, ration card and EPIC should be considered. Yet, they have insisted on not accepting these. So, the real objective is to determine citizenship, as the EC has said documents like Aadhaar, EPIC and ration card cannot determine it. Is the power to determine citizenship the domain of EC?" Singhvi said.

He added, "I will tell the EC that this is not an issue of institutional arrogance. Since 2003, you have conducted 9-10 elections to the LS and Assemblies. You had Aadhaar, ration card, etc, as identification proofs. So, why did you have to link it to the elections? You could have done it (SIR) later. It was not necessary to squeeze it in, which creates problems." He said that Article 10 of the

Constitution dealt with the continuance of citizenship, meaning that once a person is a citizen, he or she cannot automatically lose it. "It could be lost only via a detailed process laid down by specific laws," he said.

"These matters are covered

Foreigners Act. You are trying to determine citizenship as the EC... what is not in its powers... It can't be done through voter lists.

"Citizenship Rules 1966 have detailed procedures. The Central government, MEA and Foreigners Tribunal are required for that, Singhvi said, adding that termination of citizenship is a detailed procedure, and none can be removed via electoral rolls.

He added, "For the last 15 years, citizens were told to show Aadhaar. Today, they say Aadhaar is useless. Till now the presumption of citizenship is there. Now they are trying to put the onus on the person with a two-month timeline."

RJD RS MP Manoj Jha said CEC Gyanesh Kumar had said while taking charge that no such decision will be taken without consulting political parties, but what he has done is contrary to that.

CPI (ML) (Liberation) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said that the latest information is that 65 lakh names have been cut from Bihar electoral rolls, adding that as many as 2 crore people may get "disenfranchised" once the perusal of documents is done.

He added that while people were being excluded, the EC has not come across a single person to be included in the voter list as a new voter.

Meanwhile, without naming anyone, the EC in a statement said "ECI is not able to understand that when a full month period from August 1 till September 1 is available to point out wrongful inclusion or wrongful exclusion of any name, why are they creating such a big fuss now? Why not ask their 1.6 lakh BLAs [Booth Level Agents] to submit claims and objections from August 1 till September 1? Why are some persons trying to give an impression that the draft list is the final list, which it is not, as per SIR orders.'

Rajnath says logistics management was key to Op Sindoor success

ADITI RAJA

VADODARA. JULY 27

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh Sunday credited "efficient handling of resources" for the success of Operation Sindoor, Singh said in times of wars, emergencies or global pandemics, countries with strong logistical chains are the ones that have proven to be "stable, secure and capable".

While virtually addressing the convocation ceremony of the Vadodara-based Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), Singh quoted ancient Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu and said, "The line between disorder and order lies in logistics... the way the world is changing is impressive and shocking. Major transformations in the defence sector are not a secret... The techniques of warfare are also changing. In today's age, wars are not won only with guns and bullets. They are won with time-bound delivery



Minister Rajnath Singh

of the weapons... It means that the line between victory and defeat is decided by logistics. "The entire world has seen the

example of this during Operation Sindoor. The way logistics management was handled by various agencies – from mobilisation of forces to transporting equipment and items needed by them at the right time and at the right place, was a deciding factor in the success of Operation Sindoor..."

"Logistics is the power that converts an attempt to control; it is the discipline that makes a battlefield what it is meant to be. In the absence of logistics, a battlefield will only become a confusion zone... Today, strength is measured not just by weapons but by timely resource management."

Behind swipe at Nitish govt on law & order, Chirag's game plan

JDU hits back: If uncomfortable, he can join alliance with 'tainted people'

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, JULY 27

UNION MINISTER Chirag Paswan's fresh salvos at the Bihar government over "deteriorating law and order" in the state and comments about his "political constraints" behind supporting the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government have not only invited strong reactions from ally Janata Dal (United) but also put the BJP

in an uncomfortable position. The Opposition has lapped up the opportunity, with Congress and RID reiterating that the leader of the LJP(RV), an NDA constituent, was only "reinforcing" their claims that CM Nitish Kumar was "not in control" in the state administration.

"He is endorsing our line. It is fashionable to criticise the RID's tenure as 'jungle raj', but the Gopal Khemka and Paras Hospital murders have presented a very distressing image to the country. The

NDA must not adopt an ostrichlike attitude towards the surge in crimes," said RJD spokesperson Mritunjay Tiwari. Congress spokesperson Asit Nath Tiwari said Chirag's concerns were "those of people in the state". On Saturday, addressing a

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

Arlekar in Kochi, Sunday. PTI

over others, but to help the world.

should not be translated as oth-

erwise it would lose its identity

Bhagwat said that 'Bharat'

and Governor Rajendra

rally in Gaya, Chirag expressed deep anguish at the state's "poor" law and order situation. He said he felt sad about supporting a government under which crime had "spiralled out of control". "Bihar has seen a series of

criminal incidents and the administration seems to be bowing down before the criminals... Arrests have been made but why do such incidents recur?... If such incidents keep happening, the state would see a dreadful situation," said the Union Minister.

He said even if the incidents were happening in poll season to "malign the government", it was the administration's responsibility to keep them in check. "Either the administration is



LIP (RV) chief Chirag Paswan in Gaya. PTI file

colluding with criminals or it is trying to cover up the crimes or it has become completely incompetent," he said. Chirag's scathing attack is

aimed at much more than bargaining or a "good number of seats" in Assembly polls, scheduled for later this year. "It is about asserting ourselves as a political party, which has to answer to the cadre. He has been looking to expand the party's voter base to

around 15% to enable our party to become a key stakeholder in the state's politics. We have the overwhelming support of the Paswan community (5.3%), while we can get a sizable chunk of votes from the Ravidas community (5.2%), and around 3% from the Mushahar and Bhuiyan vot-

'Bharatiya' education teaches sac-

rifice and living for others. "The

purpose of our education and our

outlook about it is unique and any

education according to that

would benefit not only me, but

also my family and entire world,"

he said. As a result, 'Viksit or

Vishwa Guru Bharat' will never be

the cause of a war nor will it ever

oppress or exploit anyone, he said.

went ... Why do we remember

Lord Ram?... dharma of living for

everyone, connecting your de-

velopment with that of everyone

else... teaching this dharma is

Bharatiya Shiksha. Education

which teaches only selfishness is

not Bharatiya Shiksha," he said.

"... many kings came and

ers. We are also working on consolidating uppercaste voters from the Bhumihar community," said a state-level functionary of the LJP (RV).

EXPLAINED The party's Bihar incharge and Jamui MP Arun Bharti said the criticism should be seen as the fulfilment of an ally's role in a coalition by making constructive criticism and not as an "attack". Bharti told *The Indian Express* that increasing crimes were not "the concern of one party or individual but the pain of the entire state.

"The fundamental duty of a coalition government is to prioritise people's issues and take concrete steps. The zero tolerance towards crime is not only part of the alliance's common minimum programme but also a promise to the people. If Chirag is reminding the government of this, it is not against coalition ethics but rather an adherence to it," he said.

Bharti said the purpose of the coalition was not just to remain in power but to make Bihar a safe and developed state.

"It is the responsibility of allies to bring concerns and suffering of society to the government's notice, as fulfilling a responsibility is a true indicator of loyalty. Chirag's statement is not criticism but an at-

tempt to strengthen the alliance's shared goals ... Often, an ally questioning the government is seen as dissent or rebellion... the true spirit of coalitions demands that people's voices are heard," said the MP.

The JD(U), however, has not taken kindly to its ally's words, with its chief spokesperson Neeraj Kumar saying the LJP (RV) chief "wanted the best of both worlds" and was free to join an alliance with "tainted people" if he was not comfortable. "Why does he not have the courage to speak on law

and order during Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's visit?" he asked. BIP was more measured in its response. "The LJP(RV) has been our ally. With regard to recent law and order issues, the police have been dealing with them effectively. Chirag can discuss the issue with us on the right platform,' said spokesperson Manoj Sharma

Even as Bharti indicated that Chirag himself might contest from any Assembly seat from the Shahbad (Bhojpur, Rohtas, Kaimurand Buxar) or Magadh (Gaya Jehanabad, Aurangabad and Arwal) regions, the party is eyeing seats in Saran, Siwan and Champaran belt in North Bihar, and Bhagalpur and Munger in South Bihar.

The JD(U), according to party insiders, is wary that Chirag's party might be keen on contesting the seats where it had finished runner-up in 2020.

The then united LJP had contested 134 of the state's 243 seats alone but won only one. However, it ended up denting ID(U) in several seats. At present, LJP (RV) has five MPs and no MLAs as the lone winner, Raj Kumar Singh, defected to JD(U) in 2021.

EXPRESS NETWORK

'Oxygen supply defect' leads to death of three patients at Jalandhar hospital trauma centre

Oil leakage in the supply line caused the fault: Hospital superintendent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JALANDHAR, JULY 27

A TECHNICAL malfunction which led to the alleged fall in pressure in the oxygen supply system at the Trauma Centre in Jalandhar Civil Hospital late on Sunday resulting in the deaths of three patients on ventilator, of-

ficials said. According to hospital officials, the deceased included a 22-year-old woman being treated for a snakebite wound, another was a tuberculosis patient, and third patient was being treated for drug overdose.

Dr Vinay Anand, a senior medical officer at the trauma centre of the hospital, confirming the incident to the media, said, "There was a sudden drop in oxygen pressure due to a fault in the trauma centre's supply line. All three patients were already in critical condition. Although we cannot conclusively say that the deaths were caused by the drop in oxygen supply, but it is true that they passed away shortly after the pressure fell. A thorough investigation is underway to establish the exact cause."

Dr RK Baddhan, medical superintendent at the Jalandhar civil hospital, added that there

BJD corporator

assaulting' teen

since 2023

against him recently.

held for 'sexually

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha Police

on Sunday arrested BJD corpora-

tor Amaresh Jena in connection

with an alleged rape case lodged

Bhubaneswar, was apprehended

from Nilagiri in Balasore follow-

ing raids after remaining ab-

sconding for days, police said. On

Saturday, the police also arrested

five of his associates for allegedly

harbouring the accused person.

under sections 64 (2) (rape), 89

(causing miscarriage without

the woman's consent), 296 (ob-

scene act) and 352 (criminal in-

timidation) of Bharatiya Nyaya

Sanhita and under the POCSO

Act. The complainant, a 19-year-

old, accused Jena of sexual mis-

conduct since September 2023

after promising to marry her and

divorcing his wife. She was a mi-

gotten pregnant and that Jena

coerced her into an abortion two

months later in February 2024

and threatened her harm if she

Meanwhile, the BJD sus-

pended Jena from the party. **ENS**

goes for any legal action.

She also alleged that she had

nor at that time.

On July 23, Jena was booked

Jena, a key face of the BJD in

was some oil leakage, which caused the fault in supply of oxy-

He added that the bodies have been sent for post-mortem.

Meanwhile, a family member of 22-year-old Archana, who was undergoing treatment for a snakebite wound, blamed the hospital for negligence. "Our daughter was recovering after seven days of treatment. When the oxygen stopped, her condition deteriorated. She died soon after. Had the oxygen supply system been working, she would have been alive," her fam-

Congress MLA Pargat Singh blamed the Punjab government for the three deaths and said that the incident reflects the state's deteriorating public health system under the AAP.

"I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families. This tragedy is not fate—it's failure. When life-saving systems fail in hospitals, it exposes a government that prioritises imagebuilding over life-saving," he

Demanding immediate technical audit of all ICU oxygen systems, Pargat added that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann owes answers not just to the Assembly, but to the grieving families.

AISWARYA RAJ

& MANISH SAHU

HARIDWAR, LUCKNOW, JULY 27

AROUND 8 am on Sunday,

Nirmala (28) tightly clutched the

hands of her two children as she

started ascending the ramp to-

wards the Mansa Devi temple in

Haridwar. Around 100 metres

from the temple's entrance, she

heard some incoherent shouts

from people. After this, the mas-

sive crowd exiting the temple

through the same ramp — less

than 3 metres wide and en-

croached on one side by shops —

shoved into the crowd that was

grip over my two children (aged

four and eight). All of us were on

the ground, and many people fell

on us. Some stepped on us as

they scrambled to safety. After

what felt like a long time, a man

rushed to my side, covered all

three of us with his arms, and

took us to one of the shops

nearby. The shopkeeper refused

to take us in. Then, more people

came and carried all of us to the

ropeway," Nirmala recalled, star-

ing at the window of the district

Vijai Sharma, Kyoto Protocol architect

"I fell, but I did not loosen the

entering.

As India seeks more cheetahs, a flurry of diplomacy in Africa

ANAND MOHAN J BHOPAL, JULY 27

OVER THE past two years, India has been working its diplomatic channels with Botswana, South Africa and Kenya as it navigates a complex set of negotiations to replenish its African cheetah popu-

Senior members of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) have said that talks with South Africa, a key source country, have slowed down following the formation of a new political coalition after general elections there last year. At the same time, Botswana has formally committed to sending four cheetahs, and discussions are underway to finalise timelines. In Kenya, negotiations remain broad, centred on longterm collaboration rather than immediate translocation.

As many as 20 cheetahs have already been brought to India as part of the country's ambitious translocation plans. Of these, eight were brought from Namibia in 2022 and 12 from South Africa in early 2023. They were all brought to Kuno National Park in Madhya In April this year, the Madhya

Pradesh government announced that eight new cheetahs would be brought from Botswana and that the first four would arrive by May. That is yet to happen.

A senior official from the National Tiger Conservation Join FREE Telegram Channel https://t.me/+JJTMT8EJrzk5ZTQ1

hospital where she was taken to.

year-old daughter sustained in-

juries, her son, Arush, died in the

stampede. He was among eight

people killed in the tragedy,

moured electricity spark is sus-

pected to have caused the stam-

pede in the area leading to the

hilltop Mansa Devi temple, where

hundreds of devotees had gath-

ered Sunday morning, police said.

Bharne said devotees were mov-

ing towards the temple when

the incident took place around 9

am. "There was some rumour

about electricity hazards, creat-

IGP (Law and Order) Nilesh

Panic triggered by a ru-

which also left 28 injured.

While Nirmala and her four-



20 cheetahs brought to India from Africa since 2022

Authority (NTCA) said, "We have sought an engagement to work out the logistics. Our High Commission is coordinating to arrive at dates of mutual convenience. The Union Minister concerned has been working on speeding up negotiations with the other countries."

Records of Cheetah Project **Steering Committee meetings** show that as early as December 13, 2023, the committee was apprised that "steps have been taken for bringing further cheetahs from Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, and other range countries as well." However, the NTCA has clarified that as of now, there is "no arrangement with Sudan or Tanzania".

As for South Africa, with the translocation of 12 cheetahs having already taken place in 2023, experts from the country have been closely associated with India's Cheetah Project. However, the changes in government in the country have led to delays in further discussions to bring more cheetahs to India, officials said.

Massive crowd, panic, then chaos: Witnesses and

Police and SDRF personnel at the stampede site on Sunday. PTI

victims' families recall Haridwar stampede horror

ing panic among the devotees,

leading to the situation," he said.

bers had reached Haridwar on

Friday to spend the weekend in

the temple town. They were to go

back home on Sunday evening.

She limped towards the hospital

exit, after taking a rushed dis-

charge, to get inside the ambu-

shopkeepers did not let anyone in

when people panicked. They

asked us to leave when the man

who saved us took my uncon-

scious son to the shop. Despite

letting in several devotees, the

The staff at the temple said the

ramp was not closed," she said.

"There were no police, and the

lance carrying Arush's body.

Nirmala and 15 family mem-

been a significant change in the government since the last engagement. Hence, the processes are taking time. The new government is going through the nuances and understanding the project," a senior NTCA official. In 2024, the ruling African National Congress lost its outright majority, which it had enjoyed for over 30 years, and has been in a shaky coalition with the Democratic Alliance that is under

"In South Africa, there has

sions between the two parties. As per the steering committee's meeting records from December 4, 2024, committee adviser S P Yadav said that "bringing cheetahs from South Africa may take time beyond three months since negotiations are underway".

threat of collapse over sharp divi-

"Cheetahs from Kuno National Park need to be translocated to the Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary for fostering housekeeping practices. The fresh lot from South Africa are to be housed in Kuno," Yadav told the committee.

The DIG of the NTCA, Dr Vaibhav C Mathur, had in this meeting apprised the committee that a high-level delegation had visited Kenya "for sourcing of cheetahs" and that action was underway "for dialogue with governments of Botswana and South Africa on sourcing of cheetahs".

On February 19 this year, the State Chief Wildlife Warden. Shubharanjan Sen, again suggested to the committee that the

police usually close the ramp

when the complex fills with

devotees. On Sunday morning,

minutes before the incident, a

massive rush was observed, but

the pedestrian path remained

open until the incident took place.

metres away from the spot where

the stampede took place. She

called Nirmala, her relative who

had ventured away from them,

niece who told me about Arush's

death. This was a preventable

tragedy. There was no barricad-

ing or crowd control. There

should be a cap on the number

of pilgrims entering the temple.

This should not happen again,"

said Kumari. "If someone had

alerted us about the crowd

above, we would not have em-

year-old Vicky Saini from

Nagaria Kalan village in Uttar

Pradesh's Rampur district. Upon

hearing the news, Vicky's family

ple from our village and nearby

areas, including Vicky and his

cousin Sachin, left for

"On Saturday, a group of peo-

rushed to Haridwar.

Also among the dead was 20-

barked on the trek," she said.

"Later, I got a call from my

but the calls went unanswered.

Anita Kumari was around 50

cheetahs in Kuno be transported in order to "bring new cheetahs from South Africa".

Mathur had apprised the committee that there was a "deadlock with South Africa" and that officials were trying to address it. Mathur also told the committee that an MoU with Kenya would be signed in the first week of March.

Unlike with Botswana, discussions with Kenya have remained "generic and overarching", with the focus more on "capacity building for their staff, use of technology for protection, and similar collaborative efforts," an NTCA official said.

The chairman of the Cheetah Project Steering Committee, Dr Rajesh Gopal, said, "We are yet to get a fresh stock. In the last steering committee meeting, the Government of India informed us that discussions are ongoing. Several countries are being explored — we haven't narrowed it down to one yet. There are options on the table."

Madhya Pradesh wildlife officials are also involved in onground diplomacy. A senior state forest department officer, who was part of a delegation to South Africa, said, "We have visited South Africa and held discussions with their team. We will soon issue an update after the NTCA delegation clears some issues... There are new officials and we are getting them up to speed with our preparations in Gandhisagar and our success with the project."

Uttarakhand to take part in the

Kanwar Yatra," said Chaudhary

Lokendra Singh, husband of vil-

lage pradhan Savita Devi. "They

reached Haridwar on Sunday

morning. After taking a holy dip

in the Ganga, they decided to

visit the Mansa Devi temple,

which is a common stop for

was also injured in the stam-

pede, called Vicky's family in

Rampur and informed them

about what had happened. "He

said they were taking Vicky to

the hospital in an ambulance.

Later, we received the heart-

breaking news that Vicky had

been declared dead," said Singh.

student, was the younger son of

Tikaram Saini, an employee at a

the stampede have been identi-

fied as Arush, 8, from Bareilly,

Uttar Pradesh; Vicky, 18, from

Rampur, UP; Shanti, 60, from

Badaun, UP; Vakeel, 43, from

Barabanki, UP; Vishal, 19, from

Rampur, UP; Ram Bharose, 43,

from Budaun, UP; Shakal, 18, from

Araria, Bihar; and Vipin Saini, 18,

from Kashipur, Uttarakhand.

private firm in Rampur.

Vicky, a second-year college

The eight people who died in

Singh said that Sachin, who

devotees during the yatra.

Male nurse sedates patient, sexually assaults her in UP hospital ICU, held

MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW. JULY 27

A 25-YEAR-OLD male nursing staffer of a private hospital was arrested in Uttar Pradesh's Balrampur district on Sunday for allegedly raping a woman patient after administering a sedative to her on the pretext of treatment, police said.

The victim was admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of the hospital.

The accused, identified as Yogesh Pandey, allegedly sent the attendants of all patients out of the ICU before sexually assaulting her, the police said.

"We arrested the accused after gathering sufficient evidence against him," said Balrampur Superintendent of Police (SP) Vikash Kumar.

The police claimed to have examined footage from the CCTV cameras installed at the ICU and recorded statements from the female staff members.

The CCTV camera captured the entire incident as it was installed just outside the curtain surrounding the bed, a police officer said.

The accused has no past criminal record, it is learnt.

According to the police, they received information on Friday

that a woman admitted to the ICU of a private hospital was sexually assaulted in the early hours of the day. A case was registered and the victim's medical examination was conducted.

The report of the medical examination is awaited.

During the preliminary investigation, the police found that the woman went to the hospital a day before for treatment after she experienced chest pain.

After examination, she was admitted to the ICU and began her treatment.

The accused, Pandey, and a female trainee nurse were on duty for the night shift.

Around 2 am, Pandey allegedly asked all the patients' attendants to leave the ICU and the trainee nurse went to the general ward to rest, it was alleged. When the ICU was unattended for a while, the accused went to the victim and administered on her an injection that left her unconscious, it is learnt. This is when he took the opportunity to

sexually assault her. But when the victim regained her consciousness she found herself in discomfort and distress. She immediately informed her family members who in turn alerted the police.

The police said they were collecting more details on the case.

'Annual income of ₹3': Admin says clerical error; Cong jibe at MP govt over faulty paper

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BHOPAL, JULY 27

AN OFFICIAL income certificate, showing a farmer in Madhya Pradesh's Satna district with an annual income of just Rs 3, went viral on social media and prompted the Congress to quip that "India's poorest man" has been founder under the rule of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

Subsequently, authorities issued a corrected version of the certificate, saying the earlier one was the result of a clerical mistake. The initial certificate was issued by the tehsil office in Kothi and bore the signature of the local Tehsildar.

The incident occurred after Ramswaroop, a resident of Nayagaon village, applied for an income certificate at the Kothi tehsil office. When he received the document dated July 22, it declared that his family's annual income was ₹3, effectively placing his monthly income at a mere 25 paise.

The certificate was signed by Tehsildar Saurabh Dwivedi and

said that the income details were based on the self-declara-

tion provided by the applicant. Ramswaroop then approached the tehsil office to lodge a complaint. A new certificate was issued on July 25 – this time listing his annual income as ₹30,000, or ₹2,500 per

Kothi tehsildar Saurabh Dwivedi acknowledged the error, attributing it to a clerical mistake. "An income certificate was issued by our office in which, due to a clerical error, the annual income was mistakenly recorded as Rs 3. This has now been corrected," he told lo-

cal media. The Madhya Pradesh Congress, however, posted an image of the certificate on its X handle and said, "In Mohan (Yadav's) reign, India's poorest man has been found! An income certificate was issued in Satna district! Annual income stated to be only Rs 3! Isn't that shocking! A mission to make the public poor? Because now the chair itself is eating the commission!"

India's 1st hydrogen-powered train nears & India's ex-chief climate negotiator, dies reality as Railways successfully tests coach

AMITABH SINHA NEW DELHI, JULY 27

FOR OVER a decade and a half, Vijai Sharma fought for the rights of India and other developing countries at the international climate negotiations. He was one of the architects of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which strongly safeguarded the interests of the developing countries, and ensured that the primary responsibility of reducing the impacts of climate change was taken by the rich and the developed world.

A 1974-batch IAS officer, who served as the Environment Secretary and then as Chief Information Commissioner, Sharma died in the United States. where he was visiting his son on July 23, after suffering a stroke, family sources said. He was 75. Sharma lived in Lucknow.

Sharma had two productive stints in the Environment Ministry. During his first stint as joint secretary, between 1995 and 2001, he became India's chief negotiator at international climate talks, which had just been initiated, and strongly influenced



Former CIC Vijai Sharma was 75. Express

the finalisation of the Kyoto Protocol. He was also instrumental in ensuring that Delhi hosted these talks COP8 in 2002. After stints in the Cabinet

Secretariat, and other places, Sharma returned to the Environment Ministry as its Secretary in 2008. By this time, the developed countries had already begun the process of dismantling the Kyoto Protocol, and replacing it with something they were more comfortable with. This was also the time when India's environmental governance came under great scrutiny, with an increasing number of industrial and infrastructure projects testing the environmental norms. Sharma presided over a period of strength-

ening of India's environmental

regulatory structure to bring in

"Vijay Sharma was the quintessential civil servant — fearless in giving advice but faithful in execution even when his advice was not taken. I have many fond memories of my close association with him for a decade and a half. He had wide interests and possessed an irreverent sense of humour. He loved it when he himself became the subject of humour, laughing at the description I once gave him — Sir Humphrey Sharma (Humphrey Appleby was a character from the BritishTV series Yes Minister)," said Jairam Ramesh, then Environment Minister under whom Sharma

served as Secretary. After retiring, Sharma became an expert member at the National Green Tribunal, a new institution created during his time, before being appointed the CIC. Sharma, who had a postgraduate law degree from Harvard University, had a passion for history, and authored, along with his wife and IAS officer Rita Sharma, a few books on the forts of India.

But he continued to be sought out for his expertise on environment and climate law and policy.

greater transparency.

INDIAN RAILWAYS has successfully tested the first hydrogenpowered coach or driving-power car earlier this week at its Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, a key milestone in the its quest to build India's first hydrogen-powered train as only a few railways in the world have tried it, with a bulk of the projects still in the trial phase. Hydrogen is a cleaner fuel and will reduce dependence on fossil fuels with Railways one of the key players in India's mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The ICF project will increase the share of renewable energy in

DHEERAJ MISHRA

NEW DELHI, JULY 27

its energy mix. Officials said the project is in its final stage with tests of various equipment being conducted before the hydrogen-powered trains enter commercial service.

undertook this project, costing

around ₹136 crore, which began

in 2020-21 and comprises two

What's the project? The Northern Railway zone

India's first hydrogen-powered coach at ICF, Chennai.

major components. First, the conversion of two conventional 1600-HP diesel power cars into hydrogen fuel cell-powered traction system, and second, setting up a hydrogen storage and fuelling facility at Jind in Haryana, with a storage capacity of 3,000 kg of the clean fuel.

The primary design, validation, and testing is being undertaken by Indian Railways' Research Design & Standards Organisation (RDSO). A senior Railway Ministry official said that the hydrogen train project was conceptualised for conversion of

a 10-coach diesel-electric multiple unit (DEMU) into a hydrogenpowered multiple unit, with two 1600-HP cars. With a train length of 10 coaches, it can carry more than 2,600 passengers.

How will it work?

Hydrogen fuel technology is still an emerging field in the Railways. There are many challenges and safety concerns as hydrogen, the lightest element, is highly flammable, apart from being colourless, odourless and tasteless. As the project involves the retro-fitment of two diesel-

powered cars into hydrogen fuel cell-powered cars, each power car will carry 220 kg of hydrogen, stored in specially designed cylinders at 350 bar pressure.

The mounting structure of hydrogen cylinders and fuel cells is critical and for that rounds of testing are ongoing.

Given the characteristics of the gas, officials said that to minimise the risk, Railways have done computational fluid dynamics (CFD) studies, wherein the worst cases of hydrogen leak and other failure modes are considered with continuous monitoring.

Fuelling facility

At the fuelling and storage facility in Jind, the storage capacity has been divided into two separate spaces — 2,320 kg at low pressure and 680 kg at high pressure.

The facility will be operated and maintained in accordance with the standards and specification of Petroleum Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO), a nodal agency under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

Sikh girl denied exam entry for wearing kirpan in Jaipur; Badal writes to PM

Amritsar: A Sikh candidate was on Sunday denied entry to write the exam of Rajasthan High Court Civil Judge recruitment in Jaipur for wearing a kirpan. The incident came to light af-

ter the candidate, Gurpreet Kaur from Khadur Sahib in Tarn Taran, made a video outside the exam centre claiming that she was denied entry as she was wearing articles of Sikh faith. Akal Takht officiating Jathedar Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargajj and SAD president Sukhbir Badal condemned the incident.

Badal also sent a letter ad-

dressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to intervene in the matter. Gargaji said that this is a violation of the Indian Constitution and is religious discrimination against Sikhs.

He cited Article 25, Explanation I of the Constitution, which affirms the right of Sikhs to wear the kirpan as part of their religious practice.

WORDLY WISE
THE EARTH IS A FINE PLACE AND
WORTH FIGHTING FOR.

— Ernest Hemingway

The Indian EXPRESS

Solve Tourney By

 Solve Tourney B

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

CARRY IT FORWARD

India-UK trade pact is marked by a confident approach of export proactiveness rather than import defensiveness

OW THAT THE India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) has been sealed, the focus shifts to the more challenging deal with the US. A major stumbling block to inking even an interim free trade agreement before US President Donald Trump's August 1 deadline — to either sign or face so-called reciprocal tariffs of up to 26 per cent — is agriculture. India does not want to open up its market for American soyabean, corn (maize), ethanol and dairy products. What this defensive stance misses is the potential loss from the fact that India's agricultural exports to the US, at \$6.2 billion in 2024, exceeded its imports of \$2.4 billion. A 26 per cent tariff will definitely hurt Indian seafood exports to the US that alone was valued at \$2.5 billion. That loss would be a gain for the likes of Ecuador and Chile, slapped with only the 10 per cent baseline tariff.

On the other hand, the fear of US farm imports is more about perception than reality. Take dairy, where the US isn't as big an exporter of milk powder, butter and cheese as New Zealand and the European Union. Or soyabean, where India imported over \$5 billion worth of its oil during 2024–25. The bulk of that was from Argentina and Brazil, with the US share at just \$126.3 million. The US is, no doubt, cost competitive in corn and the world's biggest producer as well as exporter. But corn is basically a feed grain, also increasingly being used as a biofuel feedstock. Allowing imports would benefit India's dairy and poultry farmers grappling with rising feed costs, aggravated by the diversion of corn for fuel ethanol production. The sheer demand growth makes corn imports by India inevitable, whether from the US or elsewhere.

India needs a farm trade policy based not on import protection, but expanding and diversifying its exports. That happened during 2003-04 to 2013-14, when the country's agriculture exports soared from \$7.5 billion to \$43.3 billion and new markets were created in products from basmati rice and buffalo meat to frozen shrimps, guar gum meal, chilly and seed spices. Since then, exports have hardly grown to about \$52 billion in 2024-25. Even worse have been shipment curbs — on rice, wheat, sugar or onion — clamped at the slightest indication of domestic supply shortfalls. CETA has been a refreshing departure, with India successfully negotiating duty-free access for its exports of seafood, processed foods, spices, fruit and vegetables to the UK, while simultaneously offering to cut tariffs on imports of whisky, chocolates, soft drinks and salmon from the latter. A similar confident approach of export proactiveness rather than import defensiveness is required in deals with other countries — the US included.

A WELCOME NUDGE

ICJ verdict on climate obligations, though not binding, could push rich countries to do more to check global warming

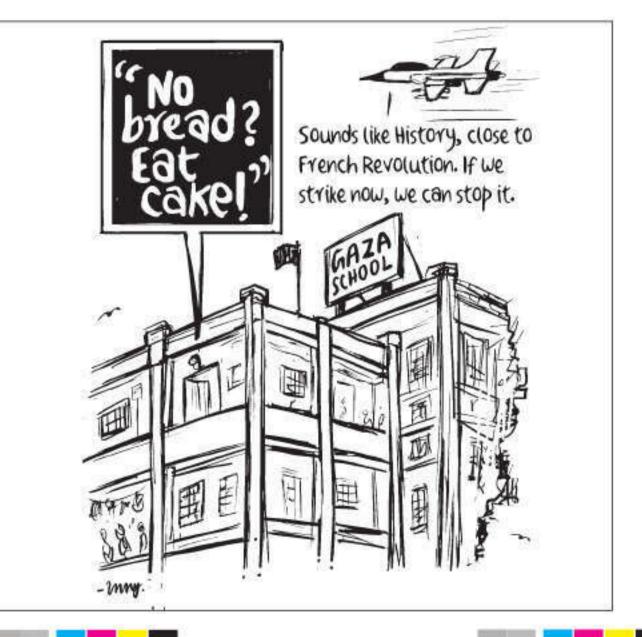
AST WEEK, THE International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that countries are "obliged" to "prevent harm from climate change". The Court was responding to a UN General Assembly request, triggered by a resolution backed by small island states, for an "advisory" to "ensure protection of the environment" from GHG emissions. In a process that stretched over two years, the ICJ consulted experts, including those from the IPCC, as well as representatives of nations and blocs such as the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, to affirm that "limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees C should be considered the primary temperature goal for nations" and that they are obliged to make "adequate contributions" to achieve this target. The advisory is not binding on governments, but it could breathe new life into the flailing global climate change negotiations. It could also have significant implications for environmental jurisprudence, enabling vulnerable groups and nations to push for stronger climate action.

Ten years after the Paris Pact set the roadmap for climate action, numerous inclement weather events all over the world have shone unflattering light on the absence of a collective resolve to decarbonise the world economy. The UN's annual climate meet has taken important decisions to compensate countries for loss and damages due to global warming-induced disasters. Yet, these meetings continue to be held hostage by decades-long differences over who should contribute how much to the mitigation efforts. Last year's UNFCCC meet at Baku, billed as the finance CoP, was a particular disappointment. Leaders of most major economies failed to turn up, and less than two months after the summit, the US President pulled his country out of the Paris Climate Pact for the second time in less than 10 years. The US did not face any legal challenge for pulling out of the treaty, and developed countries have, by and large, got away with not meeting their financial obligations. The ICJ advisory has not spelt out any consequences for defaulters. However, its strong endorsement of compensation to countries that suffer climate damage could trigger a wave of litigation for damages. In recent years, developed nations have reluctantly acknowledged that vulnerable countries require assistance to deal with climate disasters, but they have rejected any suggestion for reparations. The ICJ's opinion could move the needle forward.

The top UN court has also affirmed the salience of the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities". As rich countries increasingly put pressure on emerging economies, such as India, to assume more global warming mitigation responsibilities, this founding tenet of climate negotiations has come under increasing strain. The ICJ advisory should jolt the historically high emitters and nudge them to fulfil their climate commitments.

Freeze Frame

E P Unny



Be uncertainty-ready

Unpredictability around US tariffs will not be over after August 1 — and trade deals with America may not help

JAHANGIR AZIZ

THE US TARIFF saga has gone through many twists and turns. And many more are likely left. The ratcheting up of tariffs last month is broader and higher than expected. In late May, the view was that while the extant US average tariff rate was around 13-14 per cent, it was headed towards 18-20 per cent.

Much of the increase was expected to be focused on ASEAN, where the tariff rate would be raised to that of China's to eliminate transshipment of Chinese exports to the US via the region. While those on Vietnam and Indonesia were in line with expectations, the additional tariffs on Brazil, Canada, and Mexico were not. Nor was the higher 50 per cent rate on copper.

However, negotiations are ongoing, including with India, the EU, and Korea. If this week's Japan deal is any guide, tariffs on these economies will likely be half of the threatened levels. But, even at the reduced rate, if these, along with those on EU and the likely extensions of global sectoral tariffs to semiconductors and pharmaceuticals are realised, then the effective tariff rate could well exceed 20 per cent. All eyes are therefore on August 1, which is the new deadline set by the administration for countries to finalise trade deals.

But there is an upcoming and surprisingly overlooked event that could easily make these trade deals moot and plunge the tariff discussions into more uncertainty. On May 28, the US Court of International Trade (USCIT) ruled that tariffs imposed using the provisions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) overstepped the authority granted by the Act. The ruling did not consider the current conditions in the US to be a "state of emergency," which is needed to invoke IEEPA, to be convincing nor the use of tariffs to address it. Tariffs could be imposed, if the government so desired, but via the other options at its disposal. Not IEEPA. A federal appeals court granted the government a stay on the order and is slated to begin hearing arguOn May 28, the US Court of International Trade (USCIT) ruled that tariffs imposed using the provisions under the International Emergency **Economic Powers Act** (IEEPA) overstepped the authority granted by the Act. The ruling did not consider the current conditions in the US to be a 'state of emergency,' which is needed to invoke IEEPA, to be convincing nor the use of tariffs to address it. Tariffs could be imposed, if the government so desired,

but via the other options at

its disposal.

ments on the appeal on July 31.

All the universal, reciprocal, and fentanyl-related tariffs are based on IEEPA. The tariffs unaffected are the Section 301 tariffs on China imposed under Trump 1.0 and extended by the Biden administration, and the global sectoral tariffs on aluminum, autos and auto parts, copper, and steel that were imposed under Section 232.

It is unclear how the appeals court will rule. But regardless of the decision, either party is likely to move the case to the Supreme Court. If the tariffs under IEEPA are eventually disallowed by the US Supreme Court, the government will shift to other options. Tariffs are central to this administration's economic agenda and will thus be pursued. Unlike those under IEEPA, the tariffs under the other options are more cumbersome, limited in scope, and significantly more resource intensive. But they can be implemented in a compressed time frame if the administration so desires.

A potential sequence of such actions could be the following. Use Section 122 to impose tariffs of 15 per cent for 150 days on all countries (justified to address balance of payments needs or to prevent a significant depreciation of the dollar). At the same time, ratchet up the tariffs on China that were imposed under Section 301 in Trade War 1.0 by both the Trump and Biden administrations.

Keep tariffs on steel and aluminum at 50 per cent (as on copper) and raise that on autos from 25 per cent to 50 per cent. Hasten the ongoing Section 232 (sector specific on grounds on national economic security) investigations into semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and lumber to bring these under the tariff net of 25 per cent – 50 per cent.

Use Section 338 to impose tariffs on countries that are deemed to discriminate specifically against US commercial interests (such as digital services taxes by Australia, the EU, Canada, India, and others, although the taxes are imposed on

other countries too).

Complete Section 301 investigations on large trading partners (some are ongoing, for example, on the EU and Brazil). These investigations are resource intensive as they need to first identify the specific policy of a trading partner that is the basis of "unfair competition "and then quantify the "harm" that such policies impose on US consumers for each product and for each country. The tariff rate needs to be commensurate with the harm caused and, thus, differ, from product to product for each country. Finally, roll all tariffs under

Sections 301 and 232.

As one can imagine, this is an arduous and uncertain process. However, the direction of travel is more certain — the average effective tariff rate is likely to settle close to 20 per cent. Needless to say, the country- and product-specific impact of Sections 301 and 232 tariffs could be vastly different than under IEEPA.

Markets so far have largely shrugged off the announced new tariffs. This is understandable given the quick deescalation after the strong market and corporate reaction to the Liberation Day tariffs; the possibility that the August 1 deadline is postponed; and the eventual negotiated tariff rates could be different from those announced.

However, a court ruling on IEEPA could well turn both the August 1 deadline and the trade deals moot, including potentially that with India. If the basis of these deals, that is, IEEPA, is no longer admissible, then we are headed for renegotiations with tariffs under sections 301 and 232. These could be starkly different than those that are being negotiated now.

The uncertainty around US tariffs will not be over after August 1, even with signed trade deals. US courts might well upset the best laid plans of mice and men. Continued uncertainty is the only certainty.

The writer is Chief Emerging Markets Economist, J P Morgan. Views are personal

A HULKING PRESENCE

In early '90s, WWF was how middle-class kids first met America — and Hulk Hogan

Aakash Joshi

AROUND 1993-94, A six-year-old was hanging on for dear life onto the railing with one hand and the other clutching his mother lest he fall out the door of one of Delhi's once-infamous Red Line buses. Terrified, but unwilling to show it, the boy shouted, "Hulk Hogan ki yahi pehchan, peeli kacchi, phati banyaan". Everyone in earshot, including the driver and conductor, burst out laughing and soon, the kid had pride of place — sitting on the large covering over the gear stick, next to the driver.

Hulk Hogan (the stage name Terry Bollea was known by), who died on July 24 at the age of 71, likely didn't realise the impact he — and the WWF, later WWE — had on a country that had just been opened up to America. But for a generation, particularly the boys among them, wrestling was our soap opera and our cultural context. It shaped how we saw the US in much the way Ramanand Sagar's *Ramayan* moulded our view of mythology. And America was, at least back then, a mythical place.

Liberalisation — both in terms of how it pushed up upper-middle-class incomes and impacted culture — didn't truly hit till the 2000s. In the early '90s, most of us were much more "local", still struggling to be part of the flattening of culture that shows like *Friends* and *Seinfeld* would later bring about.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Wrestling — and most of all Hulk Hogan — clearly had a deep cultural impact. And this impact became a weapon for the assertion of American soft power and propaganda. Hogan, 'a good guy' for much of his career (he did 'turn heel' and become 'Hollywood Hogan' for a while), was the first global wrestling superstar. And he was an all-American hero.

Today, Americanisms are a part of the vocabulary for most Indian English speakers. "My bad" (instead of my fault) and "I'm good" (not as a moral assessment but to say "I am well") are thrown about without a thought for the poor English teacher who taught us the basics of grammar.

It wasn't so when Hulkamania — and Bret Hart, The Undertaker, Lex Luger, Shawn Michaels, Razor Ramon and Yokozuna — came into the lives of today's millennials. Nonsense rhymes like the one uttered on the bus were the most common form of comedy: "Yokozuna went to Poona, eating Choona" or "Undertaker, ice cream maker", etc. WWF Trump cards were the card game of choice, and recreating wrestling matches was practically a sport. The first "fancy" birthday parties were wrestling-themed — with masks and championship belts. The first designer cakes were shaped like wrestlers.

As the kids grew up, WWF-WWE kept up. The risque "attitude era" meant boys kept imitating Stone Cold Steve Austin and Triple H — giving the middle finger and the "s**k it" gesture. It was dangerous, feeding the proto-adolescent's desire for risk-taking and masculine assertion.

Wrestling — and most of all Hulk Hogan — clearly had a deep cultural impact. And

this impact became a weapon for the assertion of American soft power and propaganda. Hogan, "a good guy" for much of his career (he did "turn heel" and become "Hollywood Hogan" for a while), was the first global wrestling superstar. And he was an all-American hero. His nemesis was the Iron Sheik (an evil, conniving character from West Asia). His theme song was "I am a Real American" and justified military intervention in the name "fighting for the rights of every man".

And we swallowed it all up, as kids, without knowing better. Blond American, good guy. Brown and Black, not as much. Through soap-opera plots, Hulk and the WWF kept us hooked.

Wrestling today no longer pretends to be "real"; it has many more stars and looks way more slick. In deference to the Indian market, it made superstars of the Great Khali and Jinder Mahal. Hulk Hogan had his share of controversies, a reality show and something of a sordid personal life. But for those who idolised him when they were five, who remembered the rhyme about his costume when hanging out of the door of a bus, there will always be a soft spot for Hulkamania.

aakash.joshi@expressindia.com

JULY 28, 1985, FORTY YEARS AGO

COUP IN UGANDA

REBEL UGANDAN SOLDIERS overthrew the five-year-old government of Milton Obote and seized power in a bloodless coup. Radio Uganda said Brig Bazilio Olara Okello toppled President Obote who is believed to have fled to Kenya. The radio broadcast by Second Lieutenant Walter Lacuru gave no further details.

29 MLAs resign

FIVE OPPOSITION PARTIES in Haryana have decided to launch a movement against the Rajiv Gandhi-Longowal agreement on Punjab. Twenty nine members of the

Haryana State Assembly have handed over their resignations to their leaders to be submitted to the Speaker on August 9, the Quit India Day, after a rally in Rohtak.

GUJARAT BANDH

ON AN INCIDENT-FREE day, the "Gujarat bandh" call given by the striking government employees, demanding abolition of the caste-based roster system of promotion, evoked a good response in parts of Saurashtra and Baroda, while it had little effect in South Gujarat. A bomb explosion was reported at a place of worship in the Vassana suburb area of the city. No details were immediately available.

ASSAM AGITATION

ASSAM AGITATION LEADERS were not interested in continuing the talks to resolve the foreigners issue at the official level and even threatened fresh agitation if the Centre delayed in arriving at a solution. AASU leaders were reported to have said that there was no need for having another round of talks with the union home secretary, R D Pradhan, which was stated to be held in Shillong. Pradhan had assured the delegation that the Centre was keen in solving the issue and there was no "uncertainty" over the resumption of the talks. "We will intimate to him our desire of having talks at the political level", the leaders have said.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025

THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Zelenskyy should recover support at home and abroad not only by restoring the independence of anti-corruption investigators, but by taking heed of the broader lessons about the people's justified expectations of their government."

- THE GUARDIAN

The creativity curriculum

As we journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047, our greatest strength will be in our capacity to imagine, narrate, and innovate. Let's build an India where every child is a creator



SMRITI IRANI

IN MY JOURNEY across the television screen, the political trail, transformative classrooms, the rattling loom, among other evolving contexts, I've seen one truth hold steady our power lies in our imagination, curiosity, creativity and innovation. India's creative economy is projected to reach \$80 billion by 2026, according to a report published recently. "Creative Economy" is not just a smart phrase but holds the potential for building creative-cultural assets. It can operate as a strategic lever of inclusive growth. I want to bring together two powerful perspectives - education and entrepreneurship, and classrooms and creators. Together, they present India's development frontier with strong, inclusive opportunities. The question, therefore, arises: How quickly can our institutions prepare young minds with the skills and confidence to help them participate in the creative economy?

A recent survey-backed report, 'Shaping Education to nurture the \$80 billion Creative Economy', by a leading Indian management consulting firm, states that only 9 per cent of students across 22 states demonstrate strong readiness in design thinking, research and real-world problem-solving. These are 21stcentury skills and core competencies of the creative economy. In a world where AI can code but not create, these gaps matter.

The NEP 2020 calls for embedding 21stcentury skills — critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication — into the curriculum. But we must go further. With the CBSE now mandating art-integrated learning from Grades I–X, and the Rs 400 crore Indian Institute of Creative Technologies (IICT) launching in Mumbai, the blueprint is emerging.

Creativity cannot be part-time, and in that sense, it cannot be extracurricular. It is time to mainstream creative entrepreneurial mindset training — through maker spaces, startup labs, and design sprints. Let creativity be assessed not just in art rooms, but in business models, digital portfolios and social impact. Bring it midstream in the curriculum. The Report also highlights how international boards such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) are more successful in developing core competencies of the creative economy in school students compared to Indian boards.

India's creative force is exploding — not just in metros, but in village courtyards, small-town lanes, and local community centres. With affordable tech and deep cultural roots, over 100 million Indians — farmers, weavers and local experts — have become digital creators. The creator economy has now surpassed the \$500 million mark, powered not by polished panache but by raw authenticity! Its revolutionary power shatters barriers: In Rajasthan, women resurrect and champion vanishing oral histories through vibrant smartphone films. In Bihar, Bhojpuri creators fill the education gaps left by tradi-



C R Sasikumar

tional systems. They aren't just telling stories — they are telling "their" stories and fuelling a grassroots movement, rooted in language, identity and local pride.

We saw this raw, vernacular creative surge reshaping how India speaks, learns and leads in the recent launch of India's first public streaming platform, WAVES OTT, owned by Prasar Bharati. WAVES OTT accomplishes what commercial giants may not — by elevating daily creators, it is making local content and storytelling part of the national conversations. In today's India, the most powerful public messaging isn't topdown; it's created, uploaded, and amplified from the ground up. WAVES is not a passive pipeline of content; it is a democratic bridge. It confers institutional legitimacy on creators emerging from villages and towns and provides them with an equal opportunity to stream their content. Small-time films, established content producers, influencers, and student films can all showcase their content alongside each other.

In classrooms across India, teachers are turning into creators, and students into solopreneurs. Khan Sir from Patna — armed with chalk, wit, and a camera — educates millions through YouTube. Meanwhile, Bengaluru's Parikrma Foundation builds storytelling, theatre, and filmmaking into everyday learning. In Maharashtra, 17-year-old Shraddha Garad launched her own digital embroidery tutorial channel during the pandemic, is now selling patterns online and mentoring younger girls in her village — a student, a creator, and an entrepreneur rolled into one.

These aren't outliers — they are early signals of a systemic shift. Our policy must now respond with speed and scale. Imagine government-backed media labs and creator in-

cubators in every district —where students prototype campaigns, narrate local stories, and learn digital production as a life skill. But this transformation won't happen in silos. Ministries like MoE, MSDE and I&B must converge — blending skilling with storytelling, curriculum with creator capital. In a Viksit Bharat, literacy isn't just about reading and writing — it's about creating, pitching, and publishing.

Yet, the true power of the creative economy will be unlocked not only from scale but in its social resonance. In communities where institutions are slow or absent, creators are stepping in – bridging information gaps, shifting norms and activating public awareness in real time. In Odisha, tribal teenagers use Odiya rap videos to teach climate-resilient farming — reaching over 5,00,000 farmers, where traditional extension systems have fallen short (UNICEF, 2024). In Kerala, ASHA workers produce short-form health content in Malayalam, doubling engagement on TB awareness compared to state-led clinic outreach. Vernacular influencers, across platforms, have driven more than 70 million views on subjects like menstrual health, child nutrition, and vaccinations — topics too often left out of mainstream media.

As we journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047, our greatest strength will not be in factories or code — but in our capacity to imagine, narrate, and innovate. In a world shaped by algorithms, India's currency is creativity — and its potential is limitless. Let's build an India where every child is a creator, and every creator is a force for economic, cultural, and social transformation. That is the India we must shape.

The writer is a former Union Minister

The soft sedition

Regional prejudice feeds into the ongoing trend of linguistic vigilantism. These tendencies undermine national integration



RAMANAND SHARMA AND SANDEEP KUMAR

A FEW WEEKS ago, a shopkeeper was allegedly attacked in Mumbai by Maharashtra Navnirman Sena workers for not speaking Marathi. Similar attacks have been reported across Maharashtra and other parts of India. In Bengaluru, destruction of Hindi-written signage is quite frequent, and in Tamil Nadu, anti-Hindi campaigns have a long history — they often resurface in response to perceived threats to Tamil. Even in Delhi, there is, at times, a subtle exclusion of those who speak with a southern accent or hail from the Northeast.

Instances of regional prejudice feed into the trend of linguistic vigilantism that is increasingly spreading across the nation. These tendencies are not secessionist, but they undermine national integration and constitute a new type of "soft sedition". They represent a kind of regional hegemony that lives by cultural bullying, verbal violence and everyday discrimination.

The underlying causes of this crisis resurfaced with the implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, especially its three-language equation. NEP aims to develop multilingualism and enhance national integration, but its implementation requires students to be taught three languages, including at least two Indian languages. On paper, it allows states to choose these languages. However, in many parts of non-Hindi India, it was seen as a surreptitious advancement of Hindi and perceived as a threat to local languages.

Politicians from all parties and regions play on people's fears. They have started muddying the waters again — overt threats against Hindi speakers and migrants from Northern regions are being justified as a counter to Hindi imposition. Even the national parties are hesitant to address this problem, for fear of alienating their state units.

The crisis requires us to look again at the philosophical and constitutional basis of the republic. Article 1 of the Constitution says, "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States." This choice of words reflects a conscious rejection of the idea that states are sovereign, cultural or political entities. Unlike a federation that unites countries through treaties, India is a civilisational polity where states derive their legitimacy from the Union. The 1956 linguistic reorganisation was intended to accommodate diversity through better administration.

Language does create a strong sense of identity and belonging in India, but it needs to be framed as a common resource — not the right of any state. It is the means through which we connect, share ideas, and forge relationships. Our linguistic diversity should not be a reason for division, but a means by which we understand and are understood. The Constitution gives every Indian citizen freedom through Articles 14, 19 and 21. Every Indian has the right not only to speak their

language but also to work and reside throughout the country. A Bihari living in Bengaluru or a Manipuri living in Mumbai is not an outsider; they are equal citizens of the nation. This is not just a cultural sensitivity issue, but a matter of constitutional morality, which Ambedkar invoked while warning against majoritarian tyranny. Any attempt by political or local actors to create linguistic conformity is a violation of the Constitution.

Linguistic violence impacts internal migration, which is essential for India's economy, by making workers fear discrimination in unfamiliar states. Such chauvinism exacerbates mistrust between linguistic groups. This anxiety proliferates into educational contexts, job interviews and housing preferences, shrinking the ambit of what it means to be Indian. Cultural majoritarianism does not simply become political, as Ashis Nandy warned, but alters how people see themselves and their social location.

This leads us to refer to the phrase, "soft sedition". The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, has updated how we interpret threats to the nation. BNS's Section 152 acknowledges that threats to the nation-state do not always take the form of rebellion, insurrection, or armed revolt. Language-based exclusion, violence and campaigning carve out zones of exclusion. Such ideological subversion must, therefore, be addressed as a potential national security threat and seen as an assault on "the unity and integrity of India".

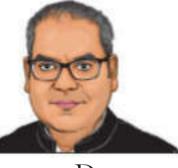
Supporters of regional identities argue that linguistic pride is crucial to India's federal character. They are not wrong. India's strength has always been its ability to bind together many languages, cultures and traditions. But diversity should not be confused with division. Love for one's mother tongue does not condone hostility towards another.

The executive must act quickly and decisively. Law enforcement agencies should be directed to identify, monitor, report and prosecute language-based hate crimes under the new BNS provisions. Political parties disseminating linguistic hatred must be held accountable under the law. As the final protector and guardian of the Constitution, the Supreme Court must also act.

The Centre should consider launching a National Linguistic Harmony Mission, preferably in coordination with the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Ministry of Culture, to monitor interstate animosity, promote mutual respect and create outlets where citizens who speak different languages can interact. The Home Ministry should issue public advisories clarifying that verbal abuse and online troll attacks based on language will be considered a crime under the BNS.

In the Republic of India, no one is a second-class citizen. India's strength has never come from forcing sameness, but from embracing difference. From Kalidasa and Rabindranath Tagore to Dharamvir Bharati and Premchand, our greatest voices came from different corners, yet spoke to the same soul. India does not need a lingua franca; it needs a lingua familia, where each language is celebrated without any hierarchy. This is not just a call to protect words or languages. It is a call to protect who we are as a people. If we fail to act now, we risk the very idea of India.

Sharma is assistant professor, Aryabhatta College, University of Delhi, and Kumar is advocate, Delhi High Court



A Congressman's lament

Party must introspect, not blame. Leaders must listen to workers, respect merit

India's creative force is

exploding — not just in

courtyards, small-town

centres. With affordable

lanes, and local community

tech and deep cultural roots,

over 100 million Indians —

farmers, weavers, and local

digital creators. The creator

economy has now surpassed

experts — have become

the \$500 million mark,

panache but by raw

revolutionary power

authenticity! Its

shatters barriers.

powered not by polished

metros, but in village

Ashish Dua

THE STEADY DECLINE of Congress's electoral fortunes over the last decade is distressing. It has not made the mark it should have in three consecutive general elections and failed to regain states that were once its strongholds. A few in the long list are Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Assam. In Kerala, Congress's loss marked the end of a decades-long trend of the incumbent being voted out.

It is not that there have been no wins. However, long-term gains that should have accrued are frittered away because of a myopic vision. Those who contribute to wins are neither rewarded nor recognised favouritism rules the roost. Committees are formed, but little changes. All that those who care can do is lament, as with this column.

I have been with the Congress for 18 years, and I was a lateral entry into the party. I wanted to contribute to nation-building. I sacrificed a career despite belonging to a middle-class family with no "pedigree", money or muscle power. My original motivation is as strong as ever. However, over the years, I have witnessed how sycophancy and mediocrity in the prevailing system are steadily pushing merit to the sidelines. Big names and small men conspire to keep providing the electoral platform to their families, cronies and followers. This attitude is accompanied by a lack of performance on the ground.

Maharashtra has been in the news recently. Having been the Congress Secretary in charge of the state for six years, and as an observer of Maharashtra politics for more than 15 years, I could not stop myself from writing this column.

As against the national trend, Congress has been ascendant in Maharashtra. The 2019 Assembly elections gave us 44 seats with a vote share of 15.87 per cent. This came as a surprise to people outside the party as well as political pundits within the Congress who were predicting a rout and allocated meagre resources for the poll. Star campaigners too stayed away. But our workers, with their ears to the ground, delivered. The rebound in Vidarbha continued, with a first victory in the Nagpur MLC election in 57 years and the first majority in decades in the Nagpur rural zila parishad elections. The number of seats won in the Lok Sabha polls from Maharashtra was also a surprise to many. Unfortunately, that is

where the success story ends. Maharashtra politics can shift at any time. It took down Maha Vikas Aghadi, unable to manage the pulls and pushes of the allies. The unilateral decision by a few individuals in Congress to withdraw from the Speaker's chair without taking allies on board not only left a powerful position vacant for a long time but also revealed a spectacular inability to forge consensus. Later, the Congress's choice of the Rajya Sabha candidate also caused friction. The shocking defeat of the Shiv Sena candidate exposed the alliance's mismanagement. The BJP plucked low-hanging fruit, leaving the battered MVA

powerless. It had won the narrative on na-

tionalism and created the perception of efficient delivery of welfare schemes. It also tapped into the dynasty discourse, historical glory and issues around aspiration. Congress was either slow or reactive, caught up in false pride, and those calling the shots chose to shoot the messenger.

The Mahayuti government returned, in 2024, on the back of welfare schemes like Ladki Bahin, free electricity and toll-free access to Mumbai. The ruling coalition also benefitted from a demoralised Opposition, which was sending contradictory signals on seat sharing till the last minute. This was a far cry from the synchronised Lok Sabha campaign just a few months earlier.

There have been allegations around voter enrolment and voting percentages, which are for the EC to answer. The election process involves multiple layers and actors, including Booth Level Agents (BLAs), polling agents, counting agents, polling officials and others, including returning officers. Any discrepancies at any stage must be addressed by the person concerned. The parties have their own scrutinising, checking and cross-checking mechanisms involving BLAs appointed by them, polling agents, counting agents, overseeing war rooms (which have become integral to Election Management), etc. Forms 17A and 17C are the hallmarks of due process when it comes to voting, and their completion is signed by agents appointed by the party. And if they are intact, accepted, signed, tallied with no legal challenges, it amounts

to accepting the process as it happened. The party must vet its own processes to sharpen the data. If any party accepts a complete collapse of its own acceptance, of abandoned polling booths or lack of oversight of the entire polling process, then it needs to set its house in order.

It is time to introspect rather than blame. To reflect on why so many former chief ministers, union ministers, PCC presidents and other senior leaders have left Congress or been all but forced out. To win an election, the party must bring up issues that resonate with the people.

Congress must not alienate loyal and committed workers as well as intellectuals, the educated middle class, young and new voters. It must start believing again in the merits of merit. It must strengthen itself by winning elections and thereby gaining respect from its allies. It must embrace a feedback mechanism that addresses the grievances of those in the field. For that, the leadership must actually give appointments to party members who have constructive suggestions. It must do this even if it is not in the interest of the coterie that ringfences the leadership.

Congress needs to undertake a yatra of self-realisation and make an assessment of where it truly stands today.

> The writer is an AICC Member. former AICC Secretary in charge of *Maharashtra* (2018-2024)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SORRY STATE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Centre orders safety audit of all govt schools' (IE, July 27). The terrible death of seven students in a government school in a Rajasthan village points to the deep administrative malaise plaguing numerous government schools in the state. The government's suspension of the school principal and four teachers in response is nothing but convenient scapegoating for its failure to prevent such tragedies. The fact that the village road was paved in preparation for the chief minister's visit to the accident site demonstrates how insensitive it can be to such tragedies. The government allocates a pittance for the repair and renovation of the now-dilapidated structures. Only when accidents like this at Piplodi occur does the government talk about safety audits.

Kamal Laddha, Bangalore

PEACEFUL FUTURE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Missing in Manipur' (IE, July 26). President's Rule has been extended in Manipur by another six months. But few would contest this, as the Centre is struggling to find a durable solution to the ethnic conflict. Following the resignation of N Biren Singh and the fall of the BJP government, there has been a discernible but fragile calm. A crackdown on militant groups

that had operated with impunity has reduced open violence, and some displaced families have begun to return home. However, these positive developments are overshadowed by the unbridged and deep-seated ethnic schism between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities. Administrative steps, particularly those that reiterate de-weaponisation and a defanging of militant groups acting for ethnic interests, must continue. The future of a peaceful Manipur will be written by the initiative of committed political actors willing to transcend ethnic divisions.

Khokan Das, Kolkata

A RECOGNITION

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'France to

recognise Palestinian state, draws fire from Tel Aviv, Washington' (IE, July 26). President Emmanuel Macron's announcement is more than symbolic. It is a rebuke of the status quo — one in which global outrage over the suffering in Gaza has been met with diplomatic inertia. By invoking France's "historical commitment to peace" and the twostate solution, Macron is laying the groundwork for Europe to move from cautious condemnation to tangible positioning. Unsurprisingly, the US and Israel have called this move "reckless" and "shameful".

SS Paul, Chakdaha

SYRIA IS expected to hold its first parliamentary election under the new administration in September, the head of the electoral commission told state news agency SANA on Sunday. Voting for the 210-member People's Assembly is scheduled to take place between September 15 and 20, said Mohamed Taha, who is overseeing the electoral process. **REUTERS**

TOPOFTHE WORLD



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Reuters file

NORTH KOREA On Korean War anniversary, Kim vows to win anti-US battle

Seoul: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said the country would achieve victory in "anti-imperalist, anti-US" battles, as the country marked the anniversary of the Korean War armistice, state media reported on Sunday. Kim "affirmed that our state and its people would surely achieve the great cause of building a rich country with a strong army and become honourable victors in the antiimperialist, anti-U.S. showdown," KCNA state news agency said, referring to his visit to a war museum on a previous day. North Korea signed an armistice with the US and China on July 27, 1953, ending the fighting in the 3-year war. **REUTERS**

COLOMBIA

Deportations from Ecuador: Govt slams move

Bogota: Colombia's Foreign Ministry on Friday criticized Ecuador for deporting large numbers of Colombian citizens without a formal protocol, describing it as a "unfriendly gesture," while Quito said the removals followed legal procedures and upheld human rights standards. Thursday, Colombian government re-

ported that authorities in the neighboring country had announced plans to deport Colombians currently imprisoned in various Ecuadorian penitentiaries. **REUTERS**

IRAN

Two executed over 'attacks' on civilian sites

Tehran: Iran said Sunday it has executed two members of the exiled opposition group Mujahedeen-e-Khalq after convicting them of carrying out attacks on public and civilian infrastructure. The judiciary's official news website, Mizan Online, reported that Behrouz Ehsani Eslamlou and Mehdi Hasani were hanged on Sunday morning after being found guilty of using improvised mortar launchers to target residential areas, educational institutions and government buildings. The report said Eslamlou had a long history with the group, dating back to the 1980s.

DEATH TOLL FROM MALNUTRITION, HUNGER TOUCHES 133

Israel announces daily pauses in Gaza strikes to allow aid as criticism mounts

REUTERS

JERUSALEM, GAZA, JULY 27

ISRAEL SAID on Sunday it would halt military operations for 10 hours a day in parts of Gaza and allow new aid corridors as Jordan and the United Arab Emirates airdropped aid to the enclave, where images of starving Palestinians have alarmed the world.

Israel has been facing growing international criticism, which the government rejects, over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and indirect ceasefire talks in Doha between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas have broken off with no deal in sight.

Military activity will stop from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. (0700-1700 GMT) until further notice in Al-Mawasi, a designated humanitarian area along the coast, in central Deir al-Balah and in Gaza City, to the north.

Jordan and the United Arab Emirates parachuted 25 tons of aid into the Gaza Strip on Sunday in their first airdrop in months, a Jordanian official source said. The official said the air drops were not a substitute for delivery by land. Palestinian health officials in

Gaza City said at least 10 people were injured by falling aid boxes. The military said designated secure routes for convoys deliv-

At the crime scene in Grand

Traverse, Michigan, Sunday

Walmart injures

11, suspect held

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRAVERSE CITY, JULY 27

CHAOS UNFOLDED at a Walmart

in Michigan after a man burst

into the store during a calm

shopping afternoon and stabbed

11 people at random, authorities

say. The attack on Saturday left

six victims in critical condition

tered the store shortly before 5

pm and used a folding knife to

stab 11 people, the Grand

Traverse County Sheriff's Office

said in a statement on social

within minutes and took the

are seeking to file terrorism

charges and 11 charges of assault

helped apprehend the suspect

and treat victims, the sheriff's of-

fice said. The victims' ages

weren't immediately released.

"Eleven is 11 too many, but thank

God it wasn't more," Sheriff

Michael Shea told reporters.

with intent to murder against

A sheriff's deputy arrived

Authorities said Sunday they

People in the store also

The 42-year-old suspect en-

and a suspect in custody.

media.

man into custody.

Stabbing at

Michigan



Aid airdropped to Palestinians over northern Gaza, Sunday. AP

ering food and medicine will also be in place between 6 a.m. and 11 p.m. starting from Sunday.

U.N. aid chief Tom Fletcher said staff would step up efforts to feed the hungry during the pauses in the designated areas. Health officials at Al-Awda

and Al-Agsa Hospitals in the central Gaza Strip said Israeli firing killed at least 17 people and wounded 50 waiting for aid trucks on Sunday. Israel's mili-

ASSOCIATED PRESS

THAI AND Cambodian leaders

will meet in Malaysia for talks to

end hostilities, a spokesperson

for the Thai prime minister's of-

sure from US President Donald

Trump to end a deadly border

dispute, now in its fourth day,

which has killed at least 35 peo-

ple and displaced more than

Prime Minister Phumtham

Wechayachai will attend

Monday's talks in response to an

invitation from Malaysian Prime

Minister Anwar Ibrahim "to dis-

New York: US President Donald

Trump has demanded the pros-

ecution of former vice president

Kamala Harris, alleging that she

paid a "large amount of money"

to celebrity artists for endorse-

ments during last year's presi-

TO PAY FOR AN ENDORSEMENT.

IT IS TOTALLY ILLEGAL TO DO

SO. Can you imagine what

would happen if politicians

started paying for people to en-

dorse them. All hell would break

out!"Trump said in a social me-

dia post on Saturday. Harris was

Trump's Democratic opponent

during the 2024 presidential race.

"YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED

dential election.

Trump calls to prosecute

Harris over 'paid celebrity

endorsements' for polls

Jirayu Huangsap said Acting

This comes following pres-

BANGKOK, JULY 27

fice said Sunday.

tary did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

According to the Gaza Health Ministry, six people died over the past 24 hours due to malnutrition, bringing the total deaths from malnutrition and hunger to 133 including 87 children. The Egyptian Red Crescent said it was sending more than 100 trucks carrying over 1,200 metric tons of food to southern Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing Sunday.

cuss peace efforts in the region."

Anwar has been acting in his ca-

pacity as this year's chair of the

Thailand, Cambodia leaders to meet in

Malaysia for discussions to end conflict

Fainting nurses, no baby food: Starvation haunts Gaza hospitals nourished babies and are instead

THE NEW YORK TIMES JERUSALEM, GAZA, JULY 27

IN SEVERAL of the hospitals still functioning in the Gaza Strip, nurses are fainting from hunger and dehydration. Managers often cannot provide meals for patients or medical staff. Doctors are running low on formula for newborns, in some cases giving them water alone.

And at least three major hospitals lack the nutritional fluids needed to properly treat malnourished children and adults.

Those scenes were described in interviews starting Friday with seven doctors — four from Gaza, and three volunteers from Australia, Britain and the US.

After months of warnings, international agencies, experts and doctors say starvation is now sweeping across Gaza amid restrictions imposed by Israel for months. At least 56 Palestinians died this month of starvation.

In all four hospitals, the doctors described how they are increasingly unable to save mal-

forced to simply manage their decline. The babies are too weak to be flooded with nutrients, which could overload their system and cause "refeeding syndrome," which could kill them.

In some cases, the fluids doctors can give to the babies are not enough to prevent them from dying. "I have seen ones that are imminently about to pass away," said Dr Ambereen Sleemi, an American surgeon who has been volunteering since early July at the Nasser Hospital in south Gaza.

One-third of Palestinians in Gaza are forced to go without food for days in a row, the World Food Program said recently.

The food shortages add another challenge to an already very difficult environment for doctors. "Some staff members have collapsed in operating rooms. Others have fainted in emergency wards because they have not received any proper food," said Dr Mohammad Abu Salmiya, the director of Shifa Hospital in Gaza City. "The burden on them is immense."

several social media platforms

confirmed his participation as

well. "I will lead (the)

Cambodian delegation to attend

a special meeting in Kuala

Lumpur hosted by Malaysia...

with participation of China," he

said. China is a close ally of

Cambodia, and had early in the

fighting urged the two nations

to resolve their differences

Social social network Saturday

that he spoke to the leaders of

Thailand and Cambodia and sug-

gested he would not move for-

ward with trade agreements with

either country if the hostilities

continued. He later said both sides

agreed to meet to negotiate a

Trump posted on the Truth

peacefully.

ceasefire.



imports to US Equal levies also on EU purchases

of US energy, military equipment

ANDREW GRAY & ANDREA SHALAL TURNBERRY, JULY 27

THE UNITED States has struck a framework trade deal with Europe, U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Sunday, averting a spiralling row between two allies who account for almost a third of global trade.

The deal, that includes a 15% tariff on EU goods entering the U.S. and significant EU purchases of U.S. energy and military equipment, will bring welcome clarity for EU companies.

However, the baseline tariff of 15% will be seen by many in Europe as a poor outcome compared to the initial European ambition of a zero-for-zero tariff deal, although it is better than the threatened 30% rate.

The announcement came after European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen travelled to Scotland for talks with US President Donald Trump to push a hard-fought deal over the line. Trump, who is seeking to reorder the global economy and reduce decadesold US trade deficits, has so far reeled in agreements with Britain, Japan, Indonesia and Vietnam, although his administration has failed to deliver on a

promise of "90 deals in 90 days." Trump has periodically railed against the European Union saying it was "formed to screw the

Likely to affect auto imports

> BRINGING DOWN the tariff on European auto exports was a sticking point for the Europeans, especially Germany, the largest E.U. economy. A 15 percent tariff on European auto exports will help level the playing field between European companies and Japanese auto exporters, which have the same tariff rate. However, it raises the pressure on other major auto exporting countries, including South Korea, Canada and Mexico, who face higher tariff rates at 25%.

United States" on trade.

His main bugbear is the U.S. merchandise trade deficit with the EU, which in 2024 reached \$235 billion, according to U.S Census Bureau data. The EU points to the U.S. surplus in services, which it says partially redresses the balance. Without an agreement, the EU had said it was prepared to retaliate with tariffs on hundreds of American products, ranging from beef and auto

parts to beer and Boeing airplanes **REUTERS WITH AP INPUTS** Join FREE Telegram Channel https://t.me/+JJTMT8EJrzk5ZTQ1

Kyiv's drones target St Petersburg as Putin attends Navy Day event

GLEB BRYANSKI

Former Vice

President

Kamala

Reuters file

Harris.

In a post on Truth Social,

Trump said that celebrities

Beyonce, Oprah and Al Sharpton

were paid "ridiculous fees" for

"endorsement" and "expenses".

paper, Oprah previously said she

"was not paid a dime" to appear

alongside Harris at a live event.

However, production fees were

covered by the campaign. PTI

According to *The Hill* news-

A refugee camp in Wat Phnom Kamboar, Cambodia, Sunday

UKRAINIAN DRONES targeted St. Petersburg on Sunday, Russian authorities said, forcing the air-

MOSCOW, JULY 27

10-member ASEAN.

Cambodian Prime Minister

Hun Manet late Sunday night on

port to close for five hours as Vladimir Putin marked Russia's Navy Day in the city, despite the earlier cancellation of its naval parade due to security concerns. St Petersburg usually holds a

large-scale, televised navy parade on Navy Day, which features a flotilla of warships and military vessels sailing down the Neva River and is attended by Putin.

Last year, Russia suspected a Ukrainian plan to attack the



President Vladimir Putin with a Soviet navy veteran in **St Petersburg on Sunday.** AP

city's parade, according to state television. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov confirmed on Sunday that this year's parade

had been cancelled for security reasons, following first reports of its cancellation in early July.

Putin arrived at the city's historic naval headquarters on Sunday by patrol speed boat, from where he followed drills involving more than 150 vessels and 15,000 military personnel. "Today we are marking this holiday in a working setting, we are inspecting the combat readiness of the fleet," Putin said in a video address.

The Defence Ministry said air defence units downed a total of 291 Ukrainian fixed-wing drones on Sunday, below a record 524 drones downed in attacks on May 7, ahead of Russia's Victory Day parade on May 9. **REUTERS**

UK plans social media spy squad to monitor posts against migrants

London: The British government is planning a new intelligence unit pulled from across police forces to monitor and flag anti-migrant posts on social media to preempt them flaring into violent protests, a media report claimed Sunday.

Plans for a National Internet Intelligence Investigations team working out of the National Police Coordination Centre in London emerged in a letter to British MPs by UK Policing Minister Dame Diana Johnson recently, according to The Sunday Telegraph. It provides the central planning for police when dealing with incidents similar to lasy year's antiimmigration protests.

Uncertainty Over Lodging And Soaring Costs Led Brazil's Belem City To Rent Love Motels And Cruise Ships For Attendees

Brazil's Amazon city hosting COP30 faces room shortage, 'love motels' offer help

ANAIONOVA BELÉM, JULY 27

THE SUITE, with its crisp white sheets and tiny soaps, could almost pass for any no-frills hotel room. That is, if it weren't for the mirrored ceilings and the dance

pole by the bed. The décor of Motel Secreto, on the fringes of the Brazilian city of Belém, normally serves as a backdrop for lunch-hour trysts, clandestine affairs and passionstruck lovers seeking a few hours of privacy away from cramped

family homes. But the love motel, like others across Belém, is now prepar-

ing rooms that range from the sensual to the raunchy for a different kind of guest: diplomats and climate scientists, civil servants and environmental activists, all descending on the city in November for the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP30.

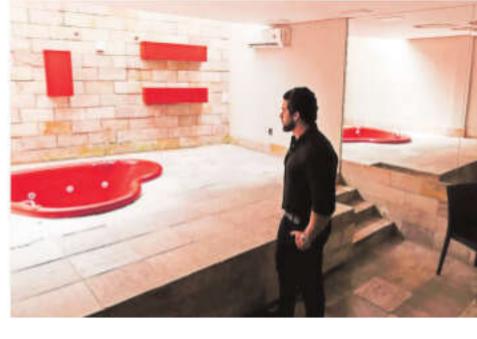
"We're taking out anything too erotic from the rooms," said Yorann Costa, 30, the owner of Motel Secreto, Portuguese for "Secret Motel." "And the location is perfect."

The 12-day summit, the first global climate gathering to be held in the Amazon region, has set off a rush to prepare Belém, a port city of 1.3 million, for tens of

thousands of visitors. To meet the demand for hotel rooms, officials vowed to nearly triple the city's stock, from 18,000 beds in 2023 to 50,000 for the event.

As the summit nears though, uncertainty over whether there will be enough lodging has pushed hotel rates above \$1,000 a night and threatened to cause a diplomatic crisis, with some delegations complaining that eye-watering prices may bar poorer nations — often grappling with the worst impacts of cli-

mate change — from attending. Seeking to calm jitters, Brazil said this month it had struck a deal with two cruise ships to provide some 6,000 additional beds,



A heart-shaped Jacuzzi in one of the luxury suites in the Secreto, a love motel in Belém, Brazil. NYT

which will first be offered to developing and island nations at discounted rates of up to \$220 per night. New hotels are also being built and old ones refurbished. Schools are being fitted with beds. Sporting clubs are being transformed into dormitories and residents are rushing to revamp homes into rentals. Still, with less than four months to go, much of the new lodging is still not complete and the city is thousands of

Against this backdrop, Belém's numerous love motels short-term accommodations that charge by the hour and often lack a reception area or amenities like gyms and pools — are preparing

beds short of its target.

to fill the gap, already tweaking and outfitting many of their 2,500 rooms for visitors attending the climate summit.

Love motels surged during Brazil's repressive dictatorship in the 1960s, when homes were often being surveilled. They have since become ubiquitous across the country.

Inspired by American roadside lodging that charges by the hour, the Brazilian love motel quickly gained popularity by offering short-term stays for a bargain and adopting a romantic aesthetic similar to Japan's love hotels.

This is not the first time an emergency has forced Brazil's love motels to adapt to a different

ahead of the World Cup in 2014 and the 2016 Rio Olympics, thousands of motels were similarly revamped to welcome visitors.

clientele. Facing hotel shortages

This time around though, the country's love motels are preparing to welcome a different kind of guest, arriving for business rather than pleasure. "People think it's like a

brothel," said Ricardo Teixeira, 49, who manages both motels and is trying to buff up their reputation. "But it's just a space like any other."

He is not sure yet if he will swap the menus in the rooms, which offer beers and burgers, as well as sex toy rentals.

MCAP OF 6 OF TOP-10 VALUED COS DROPS

The combined market valuation of 6 of the top-10 most valued firms diminished by Rs 2.22 lakh crore last week, with RIL taking the biggest hit, in-line with a bearish trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark gauge declined by 294.64 points or 0.36 per cent.

'As the economy grows,

so would tax collection;

hopeful of meeting target'

AS OF MARCH 2025

Credit card overdues surge 44% to over **₹33K cr amid rising consumer spending**

GEORGE MATHEW MUMBALJULY 27

INDIA'S CREDIT card economy, a symbol of growing consumer confidence and digital empowerment, is showing some signs of strain.

Credit card delinquencies in the 91-360 days overdue category have soared by a staggering 44.34 per cent over the past year, reaching Rs 33,886.5 crore as of March 2025, up from Rs 23,475.6 crore in March 2024, according to the latest data from CRIF High Mark.

This sharp rise highlights a growing vulnerability among borrowers, particularly in the 91-360 days category, a segment that banking regulations categorize as non-performing assets (NPAs) in the case of bank loans. Effectively, credit card holders have defaulted on nearly Rs 34,000 crore of debt that has remained unpaid for over 91 days.

The breakdown of distress

A closer look at the numbers reveals a disturbing trend. In the 91-180 days overdue segment

BRIEFLY

CREDIT CARD PORTFOLIO AT RISK (PAR)

5,717.5	6.6	10000	
,	0.0	1,608.6	0.7
0,872.6	6.9	2,603.0	0.9
9,983.6	8.2	3,902.9	1.1
	9,983.6	9,983.6 8.2	

alone, the delinquent amount jumped to Rs 29,983.6 crore, compared to Rs 20,872.6 crore a year earlier, and has almost doubled from the March 2023 level, data prepared by CRIF High Mark for The Indian Express says. This reflects not just a growing reliance on credit but a mounting inability - or unwillingness - to repay on time. CRIF High Mark, a credit bureau registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), noted a steady uptick in the percentage of portfolio at risk (PAR), which tracks overdue payments. In March 2025, PAR in the 91-180 day bucket reached 8.2 per cent, rising from 6.9 per cent in March 2024 and 6.6 per cent in March 2023 – a consistent three-year climb. For

loans overdue 181-360 days, the PAR rose to 1.1 per cent, up from 0.9 per cent in 2024 and 0.7 per cent in 2023.

These trends signal both short-term and long-term stress in the unsecured credit market, especially as consumers lean heavily on plastic for everyday and discretionary spending. Credit card outstanding was Rs 2.90 lakh crore as of May 2025 as against Rs 2.67 lakh crore in May 2024, according to the RBI.

A credit-driven consumption boom

The increase in delinquencies is set against the backdrop of an explosive rise in credit card usage across the country. The value of

credit card transactions reached Rs 21.09 lakh crore by March 2025, surging from Rs 18.31 lakh crore the previous year — a nearly 15 per cent jump. This boom mirrors India's post-pandemic economic recovery and reflects rising consumer confidence. Credit card spending in May 2025 alone was Rs 1.89 lakh crore, up from Rs 64,737 crore in January 2021.

Likewise, the number of credit cards in circulation has ballooned. As of May 2025, 11.11 crore credit cards were active in India, compared to 10.33 crore in May 2024 and just 6.10 crore in January 2021, according to RBI data.

People tend to borrow and spend more when they're optimistic about their financial future, but may also rely on credit cards to maintain their standard of living when wages stagnate or prices rise, said an investment analyst.

Rewards, offers

What's fuelling this sharp uptick in usage? Banks and fintech firms have aggressively promoted credit card adoption with attractive incentives: cashback rewards, travel perks, interest-free EMIs,

and airport lounge access. But the ease of swiping has come with a hidden cost. Credit card debt is among the most expensive forms of borrowing in India. Banks typically charge between 42 per cent and 46 per cent annual interest on unpaid balances beyond the interest-free period.

"Customers often get lured by flashy offers and rewards. But if they don't repay on time, they end up paying exorbitant interest," said a senior bank official. "A few missed payments can quickly spiral into a debt trap."

Why it matters

The sharp increase in delinquencies poses a risk not just to individual borrowers but also to the broader financial system. Credit card loans are unsecured, meaning they are not backed by collateral. Rising defaults can affect banks' balance sheets and prompt tighter lending norms, thereby slowing credit growth, a key driver of consumption in India. The RBI hiked the risk weight on credit card outstanding in 2023.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

11,000 crore. However, there is scope for further increase in the number of returns filed by taxpayers. Edited excerpts: There is a moderation in direct tax collections. Till July 10, it was 1.3 per cent down year-on-year. Is it because of

the target? When this overall net tax collection (budget estimate) was given to us, at that point, this element (income tax cut) was also factored in while arriving at the figure and while estimating the tax buoyancy, this was factored in. We are hopeful that it will be done. So far as the reduction is concerned, that was primarily attributable to higher refunds outgo.

the income tax benefits given

in the Budget? How are you

assessing the trend vis-a-vis

THE NET direct tax collections

may have slowed down, but the Income Tax Department is "com-

fortable and hopeful" of meeting

the target for the ongoing finan-

cial year 2025-26, Central Board

of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman

RAVI AGRAWAL said. In an inter-

view with AANCHAL MAGAZINE,

the CBDT Chairman listed several

measures including the various

'nudge' campaigns being taken

by the Department to boost com-

pliance that has already resulted

in filing of over 1.1 crore updated

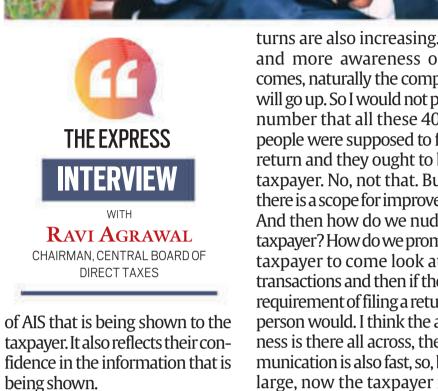
returns and collections of over Rs

Also, the fact that if you compare July last year versus July this year, the difference is that the due date for filing the return was July 31, and self-assessment tax was also coming. Since the due date has been shifted, that collection to that extent has basically taken a hit to that extent. But then, going forward, we feel that as the economy grows, so would the tax collection because ultimately taxes are derivative of economic growth. So, economic growth, and then better tax administration, would definitely yield. We are comfortable and hopeful of meeting the target.

How is the Income Tax Department making use of digital technologies to boost compliance?

On an annual basis, the department captures around 650 crore transactions data from different sources. These transactions are collated, and for about 40 crore PANs, **Annual Information Statements** (AIS) are generated. This has the data of your TDS, tax payment, any transactions that have been done with different parties, maybe immobile property, or shares or mutual funds or any other. That is reflected on the portal online that is available to the taxpayers.

And it's not only available to the taxpayers, they are seeing it, which is an interesting statistic, to me it was very interesting. If you see in FY 2024-25, about 7.42 crore taxpayers actually saw their AIS. And the number of times they actually visited, on an average, if we see, it's about three and a half times. That means the visits to the AIS module of ours was 24 crore times. The point I'm trying to make is that one, you collate this information, this information is corresponding to more than 40 crore taxpayers and more than 7.5 crore taxpayers actually see this multiple times. This becomes a reference point basically for the taxpayer to see their ledger, take a call, what are the taxes to be paid like advance tax and all, whether it has to be paid or not and the return that has to be filed, what is the income that has to be reflected, which means that there is a wide acceptability of the information and the ledger in the form



being shown. 9 crore people are filing the re-

turns and you have more than about 40 crore people in whose case this AIS has been updated. So therefore we can say that yes, there is a scope for further increase in the number of returns that have been filed.

What is the role of AI in such analysis?

In that context, now we come to what is the role of AI? So, one is, who ought to file the return is not filing. You have this data. Based on that, you can come up with potential cases and then correspond with them electronically. So whatever coordinates you have, you can inform. The second component is whosoever is filing the return, whether a correct return has been filed or not. In case, there is an obvious gap or something which needs to be flagged and from the taxpayer nudge him towards better compliance, and right compliance.

And the third component is: if

you find that the taxpayer is repeatedly committing a mistake, can there be a case of a harder nudge? So these are components of tax administration that we are working on and where AI is helping. Because AI is then raising red flags in all these transactions and saying: okay, this maybe you would like to consider. And based on that we do a ABC sort of analysis, the numbers are huge...every year some 9 crore people would file returns and then you have to do that analysis. This is the extent and volume of e-governance in the tax department. The direct tax department is huge and if you see the profile of the taxpayer, that spectrum is also really very very wide wherein on one hand, you have a technologically-challenged taxpayer to a very, very matured taxpayer who is very, very technology savvy. So you have to build a system to make sure that the wide spectrum of people are able to see and find value with it.

We have seen on the indirect tax side also, like for GST, a move towards capturing the unregistered persons. Is there a similar move from the direct tax side to expand the tax net to the ones who are not filing returns?

Basically, what has to be seen is that the taxpayers' base is also increasing. And also the number of people who are filing the re-

turns are also increasing. More and more awareness once it comes, naturally the compliance will go up. So I would not put this number that all these 40 crore people were supposed to file the return and they ought to be our taxpayer. No, not that. But, yes, there is a scope for improvement. And then how do we nudge the taxpayer? How do we prompt the taxpayer to come look at their transactions and then if there is a requirement of filing a return, the person would. I think the awareness is there all across, the communication is also fast, so, by and large, now the taxpayer is also aware about the obligations. It's not that the taxpayer is not aware about it. They are taking that call. And once more and more the data gets matured and it gets populated and you are able to reflect it online, people will take care. Especially, younger generation.

taxpayers?

Our systems create a 360-degree profile of taxpayers' financial transactions and flag any inconsistencies between their declared income and their financial activities. The in-house 'Project IN SIGHT', uses advanced data analytics to collate information from various sources, including bank reports, financial institutions, subregistrars of properties etc. The Department proactively nudges taxpayers suspected of making wrong claims or omissions to update their returns and pay the correct tax. The success of this approach is visible in the outcome of the "nudge" campaigns. In the Foreign Income and Assets Nudge Campaign, based on matching data received under automatic exchange of information, 19,501 taxpayers were nudged. This resulted in 62 per cent of them revising their returns, and a total of 30,161 taxpayers declared foreign

during the campaign period. For false claims, data analytics identified over Rs 9.000 crore in excess deductions claimed under Section 80GGC. Nudging taxpayers through SMS and emails led to a reduction of Rs 963 crore in deductions and the payment of Rs 409.50 crore in additional taxes as of June 18, 2025. The Virtual Digital Assets Nudge Campaign is also ongoing, wherein the taxpavers are being nudged through SMS and email to revisit claims made in ITRs related to TDS under Section 194S

versus Schedule VDA filings. The updated return facility (ITR-U) has seen significant success. As of June 18, 2025, a total of 8,892,395 updated ITRs have been filed, generating Rs 9577.06 crore in additional taxes. Overall, over 1.1 crore updated returns have been filed, collecting more than Rs 11,000 crore. By proactively providing taxpayers with information about their financial transactions, we encourage voluntary

THE EXPRESS **INTERVIEW** RAVI AGRAWAL CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL BOARD OF

How is the Tax Department flagging these gaps to the

assets worth Rs 29,208 crores and foreign income of Rs 1,089 crore

compliance. FULL INTERVIEW ON www.indianexpress.com

'Ql earnings, US Fed interest rate

New Delhi: Stock markets are in for

numbers and global market trends would also guide movement in the domestic equities, they said. Markets would also keep a track on developments related to the August 1 trade deal between Thailand and Cambodia. "The start of the new month will bring attention to key economic data, including Industrial Production (IIP) and HSBC Manufacturing PMI on August 1. Additionally, monthly auto sales figures will be closely monitored. The scheduled expiry of the July derivatives contracts may add further volatility to the markets," Ajit Mishra – SVP, research, Religare

companies..." Pravesh Gour, senior technical analyst, Swastika Investmart Ltd, said. Investors will watch the US Federal Reserve's monetary pol-

> US employment report. The Fed is widely expected to hold interest rates steady in its monetary policy decision on Wednesday, as central bank officials want more data to determine if tariffs are worsening inflation

icy meeting and the the monthly

India-UK pact:

Meetings to be held New Delhi: The government

will organise as many as 1,000 outreach programmes, including stakeholder meetings workshops, in the next 20 days on the India-UK trade agreement, sources said.

Vinfast's first India showroom

New Delhi: VinFast Auto India the Indian subsidiary of global electric vehicle maker VinFast has announced the inauguration of its showroom in Surat Gujarat. The vehicles will be locally assembled at VinFast's upcoming factory in Thoothukudi Tamil Nadu.

DoT's notice to Tata Comm

New Delhi: The Department of Telecom has issued a "showcause-cum-demand notice" of about Rs 7,800 crore to Tata Communications over adjusted gross revenue dues.

INDIA-US TRADE DEAL

Digital taxes: CommerceMin advised not to accept 'unilaterally framed obligation' ogy exports from taxation in the

RAVIDUTTA MISHRA NEW DELHI, JULY 27

LEGAL ADVISERS to the Commerce and Industry Ministry have suggested that Indian negotiators dealing with their US counterparts should not accept Washington's proposal that prohibits India from reintroducing equalisation levy-style taxes, such as the 'Google tax', in the future, a person aware of the negotiations told The Indian Express.

The advice was offered on the grounds that the provisions drafted by the US did not state that both parties should refrain from applying digital taxes on each other. Rather, they sought a legal commitment only from the Indian side and were seen as a "unilaterally framed obligation", the source said.

While the US offers a range of digital services in India and American tech companies have long lobbied against any taxes on such services, India also exports a wide range of digital services to



PROVISIONS DRAFTED by the US did not state that both parties should refrain from applying digital taxes on each other. Rather, they have sought a legal commitment only from the Indian side.

the US — particularly in the IT sector — generating the majority share of its total services exports earnings from the US market.

Another concern raised with the government was that agreeing to such unilateral provisions could set a risky precedent for future trade negotiations, where similar demands could be made by other trading partners during talks with New Delhi, thereby

complicating future negotiations. In a move to assuage US concerns about India being a high-tariff nation, the Central government

in March proposed abolishing the equalisation levy on online advertisements as part of the amendments to the Finance Bill. 2025.

An equalisation levy is a measure to 'equalise' the tax treatment of resident and non-resident ecommerce companies. As part of the 35 amendments to the Finance Bill, 2025, the Centre proposed removing the 6 per cent equalisation levy (EL) it charges on digital ads, effective from 1 April 2025. A guery emailed to the Commerce and Industry Ministry remained

unanswered till press time. "Digital taxation is typically discussed outside the framework of a trade agreement. It is a nation's sovereign right to decide on such matters, and India should reserve that right. Bringing it under the scope of a trade agreement weakens your position. We need to examine the digital trade chapters of the US and Australia, which India must study carefully. Australia has provided the US with a carve-out that allows for protections for US services. We also need to secure our IT/ITeS and technolUS, our largest market" Arpita Mukherjee, professor at Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) said.

Notably the US has forced Indonesia to several steep terms on digital trade.

"Indonesia will provide certainty regarding the ability to transfer personal data out of its territory to the United States. Indonesia has committed to eliminate existing HTS tariff lines on "intangible products" and suspend related requirements on import declarations; to support a permanent moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions at the WTO immediately and without conditions ...," a

White House statement read. The United States Trade Representative (USTR), in its report on non-tariff barriers, had earlier cited the 6 per cent equalisation levy as a discriminatory measure against US firms.

> **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

Join FREE Telegram Channel https://t.me/+JJTMT8EJrzk5ZTQ1 Japan's big trade win with the United States on auto offers some cues for India, others

ANILSASI NEW DELHI. JULY 27

FOR INDIA, the world's largest rice exporter, the recent US-Japan deal offers a somewhat cautionary tale on agri access in the context of its own negotiations with the Americans for a bilateral trade pact. At the same time, it is increasingly becoming clear that the Japanese negotiators managed to upstage their American counterparts by getting an immensely favourable deal on automobiles, even as they dangled the agri market access concessions offered by Japan and Tokyo's investment pledges as distraction the entire time. This could offer a template for others negotiating with the US for deals, including India.

US-Japan deal

Under the US-Japan deal, which US President Donald Trump referred to as "the biggest deal ever made", the Americans have agreed to impose 15 per cent reciprocal tariffs, compared to the 25 per cent the US had threatened earlier last week. While most of the focus of the US-Japan deal has been on how Washington DC managed to get market access for American agricultural products, including politically sensitive items such as rice, what the Japanese managed to wrangle out is the best possible deal for its auto

sector in the given circumstances. According to the final deal, Japanese automakers would face a 15 per cent tariff now when entering the US market, much less



Rows of new vehicles sit near a port terminal at the Toyota Logistics Services lot, in Long Beach, California.

than the global tariff on cars imposed by the US. The Big Three automakers in America – GM, Ford and Stellantis (essentially Chysler) - are now crying foul, because, as they see it, the Japanese now have a clear tariff advantage.

After this deal, cars and car parts from Japan can get into the US after paying the 15 per cent tariff while American car makers, most of whom import a lot of cars and car parts fully assembled and manufactured in Canada and Mexico, are currently paying a 25 per cent tariff to import cars and parts into the US market from these two countries.

Significance of the auto market for Japan

For Japan, the country's automotive industry is a big contributor to its economy, representing about 10 per cent of the country's GDP and nearly 20 per cent of its manufacturing GDP. Automobiles are among Japan's biggest exports and the sector's performance is crucial for the country's overall

economic health. And when it comes to Japan-US trade, where Tokyo has a substantial surplus, it is in the auto sector where Washington DC faces most of its trade deficit. The Japanese negotiators made some eight trips to Washington DC over the course of these last six months to get a deal that is favourable to them. While they did end up making a sizable commitment to investment in the US, alongside the concessions on the agri side involving rice and other farm products, the big prize really was auto. And that's where the Japanese negotiators have maxed out the outcomes, which could set the stage for more Toyotas and Hondas flowing into the American market. Interestingly, while the Americans have gone to town describing the deal as a big win, citing both the \$550 billion investment pledge and agri market access as wins, the Japanese have maintained a studied silence in the aftermath of the

Shigeru Ishiba government after the bruising electoral setback.

Japan's centrality to Trump's tariff outlook

Trump's tariff negotiations have largely been about leverage, given how the US President has used tariffs as a way of getting countries to the table on issues such as fentanyl inflows or how they deal with a military conflict.

Revenue is yet another strong consideration for the Trump administration going forward, given that the six months that these tariffs have been in place, they have raised \$100 billion so far, according to estimates attributed to the US Commerce department. The other stated objective is to bring manufacturing and jobs back to the US: how that plays out is entirely another story. What the Japan deal means goes beyond basic numbers, since there's a personal connotation here for Trump. For a man who is generally fickle with his views, tariffs are an issue where Trump's been uncharacteristically consistent. And Japan was at the centre of Trump's worldview in his early years when the American businessman was still formulating his views on policy matters such as trade.

Takeaways for India For New Delhi, which is cur-

rently engaged in extended negotiations with the US, the manner in which Japanese negotiators dangled multiple carrots, including the phased-out investment deal, despite immense political pledge and concessions on agri pressure on the embattled products, to win an evidently

favourable deal on auto offers some lessons in negotiating.

The India-UK trade deal too has some takeaways for the US deal. The UK deal showed that Indian negotiators are willing to offer concessions in areas such as agriculture and public procurement — contentious political issues where there is scope to give with factoring in some safeguards. With the US, talks have faced hurdles over agri products, with the Americans pushing for market access for genetically modified products such as sova and corn, along with broad-based access across sectors. The willingness to offer concessions on some issues that have traditionally heralded redlines for India could mean more leeway to extract concessions on other areas of interest, like Japan

managed for its auto sector. While the trade deal with the US is likely to be less focused on sectors and more focused on the headline number unlike the UK deal, India is likely to push for market access in labour-intensive sectors, while trying to ensure a significant tariff differential compared to its Asian peers.

Now, if the final tariff deal offered to India by Washington DC is between 10 per cent and 15 per cent, the tariff points offered to the UK and Japan, New Delhi should have reasons to be satisfied. The tariff advantage starts to diminish if the tariff goes over 15 per cent and inches up closer to 20 per cent, as was offered by the US to Vietnam. **FULL REPORT ON**

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decision to drive market sentiments'

an event-heavy week ahead with a raft of Q1 earnings from bluechips, the US Fed interest rate decision and foreign investors trading activity driving investors' sentiment, analysts said. Macroeconomic data announcements, monthly auto sales

Broking Ltd, said. deadline and geopolitical tensions

"Looking ahead, all eyes are now on the upcoming Q1 earnings reports from several key

before they ease rates further, according to a Reuters report. PTI&REUTERS

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China's mega dam on Brahmaputra, and concerns in India

Gelling

RIVER

DIVYA A NEW DELHI, JULY 27

CHINA ON July 19 formally began the construction of a massive dam on the Brahmaputra river, close to the border with Arunachal Pradesh. The \$167.8-billion hydropower project, with a generation capacity of 60,000 MW, will be the world's largest upon completion.

Since being announced in 2021, the project has raised concerns in India and Bangladesh about the impact it may have on the flow of the river.

Concerns in Arunachal

The dam on the Yarlung Zangbo, as the Brahmaputra is known in Tibet, is being built at the "Great Bend", where the river makes a U-turn in Medog county before entering India at Gelling in Arunachal Pradesh. The river is called Siang in Arunachal Pradesh.

A week before the dam's groundbreaking ceremony, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu told PTI that it was a potential "water bomb" and an "existential threat".He said if China "suddenly release water, our entire Siang belt would be destroyed... In the long run... Siang and Brahmaputra rivers could dry up considerably".

Other experts too have flagged the risk of flooding due to the intentional or unintentional operation of reservoirs in Tibet, and unforeseen events such as dam failure, landslides, or earthquakes. Tibet is a seismically active zone, and the region where the dam is coming up is considered to be earthquakeprone and ecologically fragile.

EXPLAINED

View from Assam The Brahmaputra is the life-

line of Assam, fundamental to its economy, and central to its history, culture, and ecology. Any significant disruption in the flow of the river in the state will have far-reaching consequences.

But Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma on July 21 said that he was "not immediately worried because Brahmaputra... is not dependent on a single source [of water]." It gets most of its waters from Bhutan, Arunachal Pradesh, and rainwater in Assam, Sarma said.

On June 2, he had posted on X that "the Brahmaputra is not a river India depends on upstream", and that "China contributes only ~30-35% of the Brahmaputra's total flow".

ARUNACHAL PRADESH In the unlikely event of China reducing water flow, "it may actually help India miti-

SIYOM RIVER

The Indian response

While it has issued no official reaction after the July 19 ceremony, New Delhi has long been monitoring Chinese infrastructure interventions on the river. In January, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir

gate the annual floods in Assam", he had said.

TO BE WORLD'S LARGEST

HYDROPOWER PROJECT

YARLUNG TSANG PO RIVER

Jaiswal said: "As a lower riparian state with established user rights to the waters of the river, we have consistently expressed... our views and concerns to the Chinese side over mega projects on rivers in their territory."

Great "U" bend

BRAHMAPUTRA

IN MEDOG COUNTY

CHINA

INDIA

On July 23, Guo Jiakin, spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, told reporters that the project was "fully within China's sovereignty". "China is engaged in cooperation with downstream countries on sharing hydrological data, flood prevention and disaster reduction," he said.

Ashok Kantha, a former Indian Ambassador to China, had previously told *The Indian* Express that the project, with its "very large reservoir, in a very difficult area" was "very risky, dangerous, and irresponsible". India, Kantha had said, needed to raise its concerns with China "forcefully".

India is engaged with China in a series of confidence-building measures after Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced last October that the two sides had reached an agreement "on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control, leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020".

Mitigation measures

At the heart of India's concerns, as articulated by CM Khandu, lies the fear that China may seek to weaponise the dam project at some stage, perhaps to build pressure on behalf of Pakistan during a future conflict.

India should make scientific calculations about the Chinese dam project and build its own capability to preempt any deliberate action in the future, said Uttam Sinha, senior fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

Water experts Naresh K Mathur and Debarshee Dasgupta had previously written in The Indian Express that as a mitigation strategy, India could plan storage on rivers of the Brahmaputra system to absorb potential variations in flows.

The storage of the Upper Siang project in

Arunachal Pradesh, with its 300-metre-high dam, can serve as a buffer against variations in the flow of the river. But progress has been slowed by local resistance against the potential adverse environmental impact of the dam. Sinha said there is a need to build more

inland channels to carry the flow of excess water. The National Water Development Authority has proposed two links to connect the Brahmaputra and its tributaries to the Ganga basin with the aim of transferring surplus water to water-scarce regions.

Experts have also stressed on the need to utilise diplomatic channels to seek detailed hydrological and project-related data from China in order to assess downstream impact

India should also have conversations with other low riparian neighbours — Bhutan, Bangladesh and even Myanmar — on developing a coordinated protocol for advance warning and disaster preparedness.

TELLING NUMBERS

GLOBAL

How Google users interact with AI-generated summaries

Google has been displaying AI-generated summaries on top of many search pages since 2024. Recently, online publications said these summaries have led to a decline in their web traffic as many users now rely on summaries rather than following links to their websites. The Pew Research Centre analysed 900 US adults' web browsing data and found:

1 GOOGLE USERS ARE LESS LIKELY TO CLICK ON A LINK WHEN THEY ENCOUNTER SEARCH PAGES WITH **AI** SUMMARIES

% of Google searches that resulted in the user

	Pages with Al summary	Pages withou y Al summary		
Clicking on a link in the Al summary	1 1	N\A		
Clicking on a link from the search results	8	15		
Ending their browsing session	26	16		
Continuing to search Google	32	35		
Leaving Google to browse a different site	34	33		

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

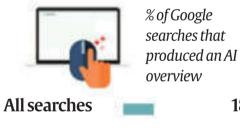


% of links to _ in Google search results ■ Al summary Standard search results Wikipedia

3 Wikipedia appeared in the first 3 source links of 6% of Google Al summaries. The site was on the first page of traditional results in 3% of Google searches.



3 QUESTIONS AND LONGER SEARCH **QUERIES ARE MORE** LIKELY TO PRODUCE **AI** SUMMARIES



BY SEARCH TYPE Starts with a question word **Contains a**

36 noun & verb BY NUMBER OF WORDS IN **SEARCH**

53 10+ words 33 5-9 words 15 3-4 words 8 1-2 words

"who", "which", "where", "when", "how",

"why", "whether", and "if".



EXPLAINED GLOBAL

Israel, Palestine & the West

As Israel, with American support, continues to batter Gaza, there is a growing rift in the world — including

in the West — with regards to Israel & Palestine. But it is unclear what this will amount to on the ground

WITH THE humanitarian crisis in Gaza growing more alarming, Israel Sunday said it would halt military operations for 10 hours a day in parts of Gaza and allow new aid corridors.

Days before, Israel and the United States had withdrawn from ceasefire negotiations with Hamas, citing the Palestinian group's lack of "good faith". The following day, on Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron announced his country would declare its recognition of a Palestinian state at the United Nations in September, drawing criticism from both the US and Israel.

On July 21, 25 countries including Italy, Canada, UK, Japan, France and the EU had asserted that "the war in Gaza must end now". In recent days, multiple Western leaders, including Macron, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Canadian PM Mark Carney, and Australian PM Anthony Albanese have strongly criticised Israel's actions in Gaza.

These developments represent a global rift — including in the West — when it comes to Israel and Palestine. It is yet to be seen what this will mean on the ground.

Israel's war on Gaza

Over the past month, Israel's approach to Gaza has turned more decisive. With the US withdrawing from the ceasefire negotiations, Israel appears to have a carte blanche both for its maximalist military objective of eliminating Hamas and its maximalist political objective of a permanent occupation of Gaza.

A chorus of Israeli ministers, like Itamar Ben-Gvir, continue to call for Palestinians to "leave" Gaza. Defence Minister Israel Katz has laid out Israel's immediate plans for the Strip. This includes building a "humanitarian city" on the ruins of Rafah where 600,000 Palestinians would initially be "moved" and



tial concentration camp by several experts, including former Israeli PM Ehud Olmert. Israel's latest strategy of allegedly shooting unarmed Palestinians lining up for aid has triggered more pointed criticism from Western capitals outside the US. The July 21 joint statement stated that the "Israeli government's aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability

and deprives Gazans of human dignity". Aid into the besieged Palestinian enclave is currently being routed through the Israeli-American Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF). There is growing evidence of starving Palestinians being slaughtered outside GHF centres; the UN reports that more than 1,000 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed by Israel since the GHF began operations on May 27.

This comes even as more than a hundred humanitarian aid organisations have warned that a "mass famine" is spreading in Gaza. The World Food Program, an arm of the UN, said recently that the hunger crisis in Gaza had reached "new and astonishing levels of desperation, with a third of the population not eating for multiple days in a row."

Global positions on Palestine

The French decision to recognise Palestinian statehood is representative of a growing rift in the global order vis-à-vis Israel and Palestine.

■ The US and Israel reject any push for a Palestinian state. The alliance of the two stakeholders with the greatest ability to affect changes on the ground has held firm even as global pressures on Israel increase. ■ Several Western states, such as Canada,

UK, and Germany, however, are seemingly breaking from the US-Israel alliance. While they do back Israel's immediate objectives, they also remain committed to potentially implementing the two-state solution.

Note, however, that these countries also retain their broader support for Israeli interests. Macron, for instance, called for a demilitarised Palestinian state - which would effectively deny Palestinians full sovereignty.

■ The Global South and Arab states seek an immediate end to Israel's current war in Gaza and an inclusive, negotiated two-state solution to the original dispute. However, most of these states have markedly limited abilities to actually shape events on the ground, and Arab states remain disinclined to undertake punitive economic or military measures against Israel.

Status of two-state solution

Broadly, despite the failure of the Oslo Accords of 1995, most states have stood by the two-state solution as the only achievable outcome — even as Israel progressively re-

moves the physical contours of a future Palestinian state and has killed Palestinians at record rates each day since October 2023.

A day before ceasefire talks broke down, the Israeli Knesset passed a non-binding resolution calling for Israel to annex the West Bank. Another Knesset resolution a year ago had rejected the possibility of allowing a sovereign Palestinian state. In June, Israel approved 22 new Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Most of Israel's West Bank settlements are deemed illegal by the UN and a majority of its member states, including India. That Israeli ministers also look to re-settle Homesh and Sa-Nur in the Northern West Bank evacuated along with the settlements in Gaza in 2005, is indicative of Israel's concerted push to leverage the war to expand its illegal occupation of Palestinian territories.

It is thus notable that France and Saudi Arabia are set to co-chair an international conference on the two-state solution at the UN from July 28. While a ministerial-level conference on the two-state solution was held at the UN in September 2024, Israel's war of attrition, combined with forced mass starvation, has sparked a renewed push to explore methods to advance the solution.

However, unlike earlier global pushes for a Palestinian state alongside Israel according to pre-1967 borders, the current international effort arguably occurs with the US and Israel being the least amenable. Even as questions over the reform of the Palestinian Authority (restricted to the West Bank since 2007) can be addressed, the question of Hamas' future remains a dead-end.

The upcoming international conference will bolster support for Palestinian statehood (recognised by 147 of the UN's 193 member states) but the degree to which participating states can influence Israeli actions remains unclear. It remains to be seen if the conference propels states to undertake punitive measures of any nature and scale against Israel, failing which Tel Aviv has little incentive to cease hostilities and territorial expansion, especially with continuing US support.

> Bashir Ali Abbas is a Senior Research Associate at the Council for Strategic and Defense Research, New Delhi

From point of origin to point of refuge: meanings & memories in Raza's 'bindu'

epaper.indianexpress.com

VANDANA KALRA NEW DELHI, JULY 27

FOR MOST of his life, artist Sayed Haider Raza called France his home: after moving to Paris to study art in 1950,

he made a permanent return

to India only in 2010, at the age of 88. In the 1970s, by which time Raza was an acclaimed painter of the Parisian

School, the artist looked to re-connect to his roots. "He felt there wasn't much of India in his work," Ashok Vajpevi, Raza's longtime friend and author of *Celebration & Prayer*: *Life and Light in Raza's Art* (2025), told *The*

Indian Express. "He began searching for a singular motif that could hold multiple meanings and spiritual possibilities. And from this search

emerged the bindu," Vajpeyi said. For more than four decades, the bindu. which can be translated as "dot" or "point",

served as an anchor for most of Raza's artistic compositions.

Getting the point

MOTIFS

A SERIES

"Is bindu par dhyaan do (pay attention to this dot)," a primary school teacher once told an eight-year-old Raza, in a bid to curb the boy's restlessness.

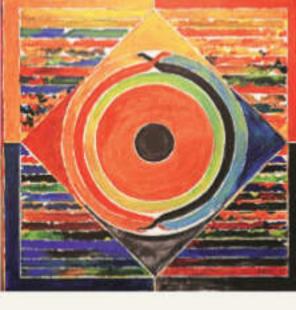
> "It was difficult at first, but then I got his point. Gradually, blotting out much else, my mind settled down to focus solely at that centre... I found myself riveted," Raza wrote in a 1989 article in the *Illustrated Weekly of India.* Thus began a life-long fasci-

nation with the bindu. Growing up in the jungles of Madhya Pradesh where his father served as a forest officer, Raza's initial work was heavily in-

fluenced by nature.

In the mid-1950s, he was largely painting landscapes, devoid of figures.

The earliest hints of his iconic bindu would appear at this time, most notably



with his 1953 painting The Black Sun, depicting a black orb that towers over a geometricised cityscape. The 1968 painting Black Moon had a deep black circle stand out amid fluid strokes in warm shades.

As central motif

It was in the 1970s, however, that Raza's bindu became a central feature of his work. By this time, Raza's palette had become denser and he had gravitated towards spir-



Express

itual abstraction, inspired by the likes of Mark Rothko and Jackson Pollock.

In Bindu (1981), Raza had a black circle dominate the canvas divided into equal quarters, and encased within frames of geometric borders. The subsequent years saw several works in the *Bindu* series, with the motif rendered within defined frames. The Germination series reflected on the bindu as the womb of the earth, with infinite potential for life.

Painted in 1981, his seminal canvas Maa was Raza's letter to his motherland through which he professed his longing for home. Incorporating lines from Vajpeyi's poem Maa, lautkar jab aaunga, kya laaunga? (Mother, when I return home what should I bring?), the composition had the black orb accompanied by fluid strokes in vibrant colours, evoking memory and emotion.

Talking about his work in the 1980s, Raza once said: "My present work is the result of two parallel enquiries. Firstly, it aimed at pure plastic order, form-order. Secondly, it concerns the theme of nature. Both have converged into a single point and become inseparable. The point, the bindu, symbolises the seed bearing the potential of all life..." (Artists Today: East-West Visual *Arts Encounter*, 1987).

Many meanings

"The bindu emerged as an icon that came to signify many things. It was the point of origin from where everything began, whether a line or a form. It became the concentric circle that emanated energy and radiated outward, a still center of concentration, meditation and reflection. On another plane, it also became a point of withdrawal and solitary refuge from the chaos of the world," Vajpeyi said.

Over the years, as Raza created his own universe around the bindu, he also imbibed

it with themes such as the *tribhuj* (triangle) and *prakriti-purusha* (the female and the male energy). Though predominately rendered in black, the bindu also appeared in other colours — including the intense blue center in the oil *Blue Bindu* (1983) and the white core in Shanti Bindu (2007).

"In his creative process, bindu could both be the starter and the concluding form. Sometimes he would begin with the concept of the *bindu* and build the composition around it, bringing it alive as the vital epicenter. At other times, he would do something and then place the bindu within," Vajpeyi said.

Painted months before he passed away, Raza's very last canvas, Swasti (2016), had a central bindu surrounded by concentric circles and radiating lines. As Vajpeyi put it, "It is a work bidding farewell, an offering of good wishes for all."

> and the motifs that appear repeatedly in their works.

This is a part of a series on Indian masters

Next: Himmat Shah's Heads

13 IDEA EXCHANGE NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

ON FILMMAKING TODAY

It is a hypersensitive world and people can come at you from any angle. Everything is so amped up. You really don't know what's going to happen and how. The biggest threat to our existence is social media

Alaka Sahani: You have managed to keep your new web series — The Hunt-The Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case quite apolitical, given that it follows the investigation after former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was killed in a gruesome manner. How did you decide on its tone and treatment?

I've always been clear about avoiding politics and religion. It's one of those areas where you're absolutely going to upset someone. It really doesn't matter how objective you try to be. What excited me about *The Hunt* was the investigation. I was around when the assassination happened and understood snatches of it. However, reading Anirudhya Mitra's book (*Ninety Days: The True Story of the Hunt for Rajiv* Gandhi's Assassins) and realising what had really happened in those 90 days were two completely different things. When I read it, my mind was blown. The hunt itself was so interesting for me that I kind of saw the path forward, to not touch upon any political angles. It starts with a political assassination and people assume that the rest of it is a political show, but it's mainly the assassination. After the show came out, I just kept my fingers crossed for the first two weeks. We're not out of the woods yet but hoping that everything will go smoothly.

Alaka Sahani: You had your primary source material in the form of a book. But what kind of research and filtering process went into it?

I co-wrote it with two other writers, and when you have a book that you base everything on — and this is also for legal purposes — you do whatever the requisite research is. You read the articles, some of the SIT members themselves have written books. There are multiple and differing viewpoints. So it became apparent after gathering all the material that we wanted to pick one and run with it. And that was the book. However, what's interesting, and this was also the reason that attracted me to the project, was that I have never adapted a book before. The most amazing sequences that play out on screen will sometimes be a single line in the book. To pick the events that actually tell the story, to make it cohesive, because when you undertake the largest manhunt in history, it's not as simple as what's shown in the show. People are telling me, 'oh, it's such a thriller'. That's because we made it like that. In reality, no investigation ever plays out like that.

Sandeep Singh: Were you looking for a theme for a series or did you decide on it after you read the book?

Anirudhya Mitra brought the material to Sameer Nair, who heads Applause Entertainment (production company). Sameer asked him to write a book so that we can adapt it. Once the book was written, that's when he pitched it to me. It was a series from the get-go. For the past seven years, I've just been almost entirely in the series space. Gone are the days when you would look at something and say, 'Oh God! This is so dense, how do I condense it in two hours?' And now that this stress is out of the window, the only question is monetary viability.

Way before streaming came to India, I'd been trying to pitch myself as a series director in the US. I've been an HBO fan and long format was something I was just waiting for. Feature films are awesome, but up to this point, it has been gratifying to do stuff in the long format.

Mohamed Thaver: Towards the end of the series, there are certain things which are not directly said, perhaps hinting at something. Does the book also leave things open-ended or have you made some changes?

We have made a couple of changes because there are so many theories floating around. So, one had to kind of maybe suggest and kind of leave it open-ended. So, that's what we did. In the case of a true crime, the moment you take it from the page to a dramatic format, the kind of liberties you have to take... So every small thing, including the words that come out of the character's mouth, makes me think: are we doing right by them? It arguably was the most stressful thing. And I don't mean for being sued or creating a controversy. It's me as a writer and a filmmaker; I want to do right by whoever I'm portraying. In my world, there is seldom any black and white, it is all grey. Even when I deal with the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam), it's dealt with so much humanity. There's never any finger pointing because as one of the characters says: 'One man's

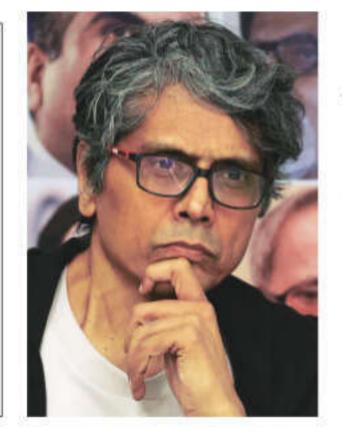
Mihir Vasavda: Be it the LTTE side, the political side or the security establishment — how do you make a series without hurting any one

terrorist is another man's hero.

WHY NAGESH KUKUNOOR

Prominent director-writer Nagesh Kukunoor's latest web series, The Hunt-The Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case on SonyLIV, has received widespread appreciation for its deft handling of politically sensitive events that shook the nation. Kukunoor, who made his directorial debut with *Hyderabad Blues* (1998)

and was hailed as a fresh voice in Indian parallel cinema, went on to helm several acclaimed films, including 3 Deewarein (2003), *Igbal* (2005), *Dor* (2006) and Dhanak (2016). He's also made his mark in the streaming space with series such as City of Dreams (2019–2021) and *Modern* Love Hyderabad (2022)



ON BIG-BUDGET FILMS HELPING SUPPORT SMALLER FILMS

If it weren't for the big films, half the industry won't function. There is excitement to watch something on that scale. The success keeps people employed. But that can't be the only thing on offer

The climate has lent itself to many lawsuits, making it more terrifying for filmmakers'

Filmmaker Nagesh Kukunoor on his recent series The Hunt-The Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case, keeping it apolitical and why we still haven't cracked the true underdog sports story. The sesion was moderated by Alaka Sahani, Associate Editor, The Indian Express



Filmmaker Nagesh Kukunoor (left) in conversation with Alaka Sahani, Associate Editor, The Indian Express, in Mumbai Amit Chakravarty

of them?

I don't know what that answer is but when we were writing it, more than anything else, we were absolutely paying attention to the fact that there would not be any misrepresentation. Taking liberties can be interpreted as misrepresentation. But it's trying to just do the best that you can. Since it's been out, that's been my only stress. It was arguably the most exciting project I've done. But just constantly hoping that you haven't upset anyone... You can say the most meaningful of things in ways that don't offend people, as opposed to doing it in a way that's in your face and getting your point across. And it's genuinely the way I view the world. It doesn't take effort for me to write lines a certain way.

Mihir Vasavda: Is it tougher to make these kind of shows or movies now compared to 15 years ago?

It is a hypersensitive world and people can come at you from any angle. When I made Hyderabad Blues (1998), the censor board gave me 91 cuts. It was one of the most torturous processes to get the film to the theatre. So, I'm not new to this kind of milieu. There the gatekeepers were defined. So I knew that when I was going up before the censor board, such and such thing would happen. The Anand Patwardhans of the world were also on a parallel track with me. He was doing his own stuff and I would constantly look and say: 'Man, I could never do that'. I still write within this space and this is how I do it. In today's times, everything is so amped up. So yes, you really don't know what's going to happen and how. The biggest threat to our existence is social media. In 2019, I just disconnected everything and went off the radar.

Alaka Sahani: What was in your mind while shooting the Rajiv Gandhi assassination scene? How did you want to portray him?

I wanted to show him the way we've seen him in rallies, but arguably that was the most disturbing part of the shoot because you knew that you're portraying a horrific, grizzly scene. So, I tried to handle it with the maximum sensitivity because the whole thing is told from the child's point of view and we don't see anything. And we see very little of the aftermath other than the shoe. I think that was the one scene when you're actually doing the nitty gritties. But at the back of my mind, that was weighing a little bit saying that this is how he went.

Alok Deshpande: Could you elaborate on casting for *The Hunt*. Also, how has OTT changed the casting game?

What we understand as casting has changed because of the OTT space. Prior to that, if I had to justify a cast like this to a platform and talk about what the marketabil-

ity would be and who brings poster value — it would have been virtually impossible. But now, when I clearly sort of lay out my plan, no one baulks. Here, the guiding force was clearly the fact that we had to get people who at least looked like the characters they were portraying. Casting Bay handled this show. They dug around and absolutely found them.

Zeeshan Shaikh: Based on the research you did, what is your analysis of the actual assassination? For an

organisation that was so secretive, LTTE really went out of its way — they clicked those pictures which showed their involvement in the assassination.

They didn't take credit. But the justification was that everything that they did, they documented as proof to show that they could pull off the most audacious things. For example, when they ran a trial run with VP Singh, they had a bunch of different people recording but they followed the same format. Dhanu had a garland and went all the way to VP Singh and garlanded him, which is what's shown there. They wanted to take it back to Prabhakaran and prove to him that they could get all the way to the top. It was brilliant in its conception. They did the same thing here (Gandhi's assassination). Physics played a small part in it otherwise they would have gotten away with the perfect crime. The photographer wanted a slightly better angle and he raises the camera and that's a little bit above the blast radius and the camera survives.

Zeeshan Shaikh: At a time, when there are so many filmmakers and artists complaining about their freedom of expression being repressed, did you feel the pinch of what has been happening around you while making

The Hunt?

If I were to go to my previous shows and tell you the kind of minute changes that one has to make because someone else might be pissed off. Not related to any political space, but a community might take umbrage. So it's everywhere. It's political, it's religious, it's caste-based, everything is no no. You can make a sweet love story set in some small town and I guarantee someone can sue you even there. It's the times we live in. That's the reality of what we do.

Alaka Sahani: What kind of vetting did The Hunt undergo?

It went through the same that every show does. Every small line, every explanation. The vetting process had been going on for a very long time. It's not something that just happened. Because the climate has lent itself to a lot of lawsuits, it's far more terrifying for filmmakers.

Sandeep Singh: We are living in tough times where we have to be careful of what we are seeing and depicting. What do you think has changed?

Social media. That is the root of all evil. I don't need to know everyone's opinion, but everyone has an opinion. Let's say you are in an airport and someone recognises you. There are beautiful pluses to that and there are minuses to that. Why would you walk up to a filmmaker and say that the film you made was really bad. What do you hope to achieve with that and what do you think the filmmaker is going to say? You pour your heart and soul into it. The last thing you need is someone walking up to you and saying... it's like, if I walked up to you with your child and say, 'that's one ugly child'. Tell me which parent is going to be like 'you are right, this is a ugly child'. If you have something nice to say to someone who's made a film, say something nice. The last review I read was in 2006. So, I really

ON ADAPTATION OF TRUE CRIME

Every small thing, including the words that come out of a character's mouth, makes me think: are we doing right by them? It arguably was the most stressful thing

don't care much for reviews either. With social media, the hate floats to the top and that's what sticks. I have no desire to constantly engage with that. None.

Mihir Vasavda: Why haven't we cracked the true sports underdog stories in India?

The problem is that in order to reach a larger audience, two things happen. First, you have to get a star. You've destroyed the story there. If you don't worry about the way the person looked and you brought a star, I understand what the filmmakers are doing. Then to justify that star, you need to make it bigger and bigger. Let's say you whittled it down and made it like a threefive crore film. You tell me who is going to see it. Where are you going to show it? Then you have to circle back around to the fact that you have to get at least a B-list star. Our movie universe setup is not equipped to deal with this. That's not going to change.

Mohamed Thaver: What prompted you to write and direct to *Iqbal*?

Someone wanted a bunch of us to write short stories to commemorate former President Abdul Kalam's second term in office. I wanted to tell an underdog story. So I had an idea about a deaf and nonspeaking kid who excels in malkhamb. I started writing the short story and it was only supposed to be like 10 pages. Seven went in describing what malkhamb was. So then, when I flipped it to cricket, all you had to say was Iqbal wanted to play cricket and you're done. I wrote a short story. A lot of people thought it was a movie about cricket and it wasn't. It never was. The heart and soul was about someone with a disability and overcoming it. This is a classic underdog tale.

Alaka Sahani: Is it possible to make more top grossers like *Pushpa*?

If it weren't for the big films, half the industry would not function. The success keeps people employed. There is a certain level of excitement to walk into a theater and watch something on that scale. But that can't be the only thing on offer. With OTT, the world has just become a smaller place. I had written a sci-fi film in 2000 and people kind of laughed. Now I can pitch the same. They might still say, 'we're not going to give you Rs 500 crore to make it' but that is a different conversation.

Zeeshan Shaikh: Your film *Dor* is an official remake of a Malayalam film. What is the creative freedom in recreating art that has already been created by someone?

There's not just one way to tell a story, right? I was on a jury and I saw Perumazhakkalam (2004), a Malayalam film. Both this movie and *Dor* are based on the same original idea about a woman losing her husband. I loved the idea. But TA Razzaq, the story writer and producer, got there first. So I had to go and get the rights from him and then make it. But if you look at Perumazhakkalam and Dor, there is absolutely nothing in common. Not the lensing, not the way the story is told. Sometimes the core idea appeals to you and you say, 'I bet I could tell the story differently'. I did it once again with a movie in 2011 called *Mod* with Ayesha Takia and Rannvijay Singh. It was based on a Taiwanese film called *The Moment in Time* that I watched at a festival.

Suanshu Khurana: With so many big budget films with big stars not working in recent times in Hindi cinema, how do you see the uncertainty in the film industry? Does it need a fresh perspective?

Is that what's happening? There's always a need to put things in a larger context and try and make sense of it. You have some hits, you have some losses. If we look back at the cinema that happened 50 years ago, it was driven by whatever stories were told at that point. So I don't know if just Hindi films aren't working or if now there's a larger scope for other languages to dub and then occupy what is known as the Hindi cinema space. Even when we couldn't raise money for a single film, I had this pig-headed approach that if you try hard enough, someone will give you that money and then eventually the movies would get made. Maybe this is just the lower part of the cycle and again there'll be two or three hits and again it'll come back up again.

Zeeshan Shaikh: Did you get a call from DR Karthikeyan (who headed the SIT) after The Hunt was released? He has an alternative version of how things unfold. Sivarasan (the mastermind of the operation) is an important character with an interesting backstory. Is he someone you'd want to flesh out in another version?

The answer is no to both. But characters who have a lot to lose are always interesting to write. Given everything, it was great fun writing Sivarasan. Then getting someone like Shafeeq Mustafa for the role. Shafeeq does the first audition and what remember most is, he takes a drag and holds the cigarette and his hand shakes. I just loved it. That was one of the ways I saw Sivarasan. I wanted that nervous energy. The way Shafeeq walks, that's Sivarasan. didn't have to structure that walk. Again, these are all the joyous parts of fleshing things out. So no, I would not be interested in doing anything larger.



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1 Speak well of something

2 It has lots to attract buyers

worn by a saint (5)

3 Flier in a flat spin (7)

5 Inarticulate objection to

6 They have moving parts

to play in the theatre (5-8)

7 Points out but don't see

4 Ill stored (4,2)

changes (7)

a king's library (5)

11 Fish and turtle

with Edward (6)

18 Requested a new

about it (5)

desk(5)

photographer? (7)

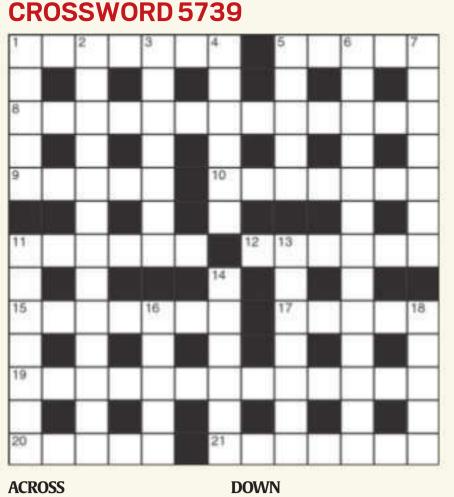
13 To lead such a life is

simple - and hard (7)

14 Revised point I'd raised

16 Some servants go to law

(4,2,7)



1 Shy dwarf (7) **5** Rested as in

leg(5)

bed(5)**8** The main split between Britain and the US (8,5) **9** A bit I broke in my

10 News put out and the dust allowed to settle (7) 11 Fast string of horses (6) **12** Father Thomas evokes pity(6)

guilty(7) 17 Is of a capital disposition (5) **19** Complaint made by a tiresome person (4,2,3,4)**20** Mountains where the

15 Suspected of being

21 Turns out to be curried(7)

fires are lit(5)

Solutions Crossword 5738 Across: 1 Sprat, 8 Ignominy, 9 Kinds, 10 Foregone, 11 Utter, 12 Ada, 16 Enacts, 17 Crop up, 18 Hie, 23 Jeans, 24 Purchase, 25 Throw, 26 Livewire, 27 Stark **Down:** 2 Pointing, 3 Audience, 4 Age-old, 5 Tower, 6 Bigot, 7 Types, 12 Ash, 13 Ace, 14 Somewhat, 15 Turn sour, 19 Insure, 20 Spill, 21 Drive, 22 Dhows

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson



THE ESCALATORS THERE HAD WOOD STAIRS, AND THEY USED TO CLICK, CLACK, AND CREAK THE WOOD SLATS ON EACH STEP WERE MAYBE HALF AN INCH APART AND I ALWAYS

WONDERED IF LADIES GOT THEIR HIGH HEELS STUCK AND GOT PULLED UNDER .

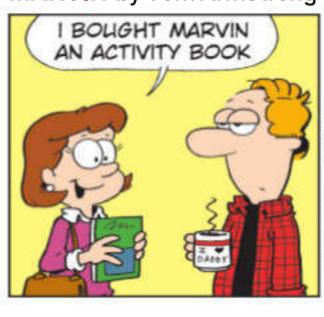




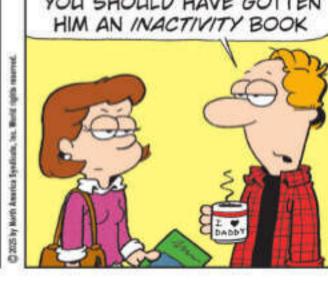
YET, SOMEHOW, THAT'S NOT VERY

REASSURING ...

MARVIN by Tom Armstrong







3 9

2

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that original

property documents pertaining

to DDA File No. :

F/7(2)III/70/36/CL

of property no 2 Community

8

YOU SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN

With so much planetary activity taking piace today, you'd do very well to take centre stage. Watch out for flying missiles, though, and duck

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

generally had your interests ignored, but then that's all part of life's rich tapestry. This is no time to complain about the world being unfair. You'll just

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Keep a close watch on all financial transactions.

Today's planetary influences will have an effect on your financial, emotional and material security. If competing for a prize, go for broke.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Your chances for personal

best for a very long time indeed. Press on with established plans by all means, but steer clear of anything that may lead to confrontation, or smacks of dishonesty.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) You may imagine

that you know what is going on, but you are probably mistaken. Rarely have you been so likely to pick up the wrong end of the stick. Please take proper advice in all legal, foreign and travel matters. If you're properly prepared, then you'll be one step ahead of the game.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Jupiter and Venus

are as benevolent a pair of planets as you could wish to have watching over you. Generosity on your part will win friends and impress people, protecting you in the present and gaining you allies for the future: give now to receive later.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

if anything comes in your direction. Emotionally, by the way, family relationships take first place.

You have been

put out, pushed around and

have to live with it.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Unexpected developments at work have not undermined your confidence or commitment. If your professional or worldly

ambitions have been dented, the real cause lies elsewhere. An intimate relationship could be proving a little costly, but a generous gesture will be worth it.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) Today's lunar alignments are the most intriguing. The news will be exciting, even if you are personally enjoying placid times. It's doubly significant for all new relationships, so

go forward with hope in your heart. SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) The extraordinary planetary activity

now taking place must be harnessed to channel your noble, virtuous and selfless instincts. The choice is clear whether to go all out for personal interest or to realise that material security is, in the grand scheme of things, purely temporary.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) It's a day of



are directly involved in today's dramatic events, or merely a passive observer is a moot point, but the latter is more likely, that way you can put your feet up while partners pick up the pieces.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Today's lunar

patterns are the most striking. If you're not knocked slightly off course there'll be something wrong, for it means that you're not

directly in tune with your stars. Nobody promised it would be easy. PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

A helpful aspect between the Sun and Jupiter is causing you

to think again. There'll probably be a major mystery to solve. The answers will come next month, but you might not get the full picture for another three months.

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move

JUMBLED WORDS

them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip. The proper___ of ___ is the science of design. - Herbert A. Simon (5,.,7)

DUCTED **MSAIS EELKMY UYNNT**

> Answer: The proper **study** of **mankind** is the science of design. - Herbert A. Simon Solution: AMISS, TUNNY, DEDUCT, MEEKLY

To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

SUDOKU

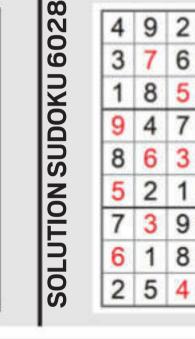
every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

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

3	1				4		8	2
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Section 1

Office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Division Bareilly Address:. Rural Engineering Department Second Floor Vikas Bhawan Bareilly **Press Notice for Manual Tender**

Letter NO: 1164 /RED/Tender/File/ Bond Clerk/2025-26 dated: 15-07-2025 . On behalf of His Excellency the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Executive Engineer, Rural Engineering

Department, Block Bareilly invites percentage rate tenders for the work shown below from eligible A, B, C, D and E category tenderers in Rural Engineering Department, Uttar Pradesh for building/road construction work. Tenderers can submit tenders for the work Name of work as per table

S. No	Name of District	Name of work	Total estimated cost (in Lakh) (With GST)	Bid security (EMD) in Ropees	Cost of Bid document including GST (in Rupres)	Period of completion including rainy season	
1	2	3	4	5	- 6	7	
it 	Bareilly	Drain construction work from old drain to tower in village Id Jagir Mohalla Balajipurum. (MLA fund- Nawabganj)	9,987	10000.00	766.00	03 Months	
2	Bareilly	Construction work of CC road from Sunil Maurya's house to government cheap shop in village Jamalpur development block-Alampur Jafarabud assembly- Bifbrichainpur. (MLC-Alampur Jafarabad)	8,157	16400.00	766.00	03 Months	
3	Bareilly	Construction work of CC road from culvert of village Sarari to meeting of Munna Lal Maurya in village Sarari development block-Alampur Jafarabad assembly-Bithrichainpur, (MLC-Alampur Jafarabad)	9,993	20000.00	766.00	03 Months	
4	Bareilly	Construction work of CC road from Ajayveer's shop in ward no. 12 Balaji temple to Kalicharan's house. (MLAY-Cantt)	5.383	10800.00	766.00	03 Months	
5	Barrilly	Construction work of C.C. road from main road to Pushp Narayan Apartment in Ward No32 Gandhi Udyan (MLAY-Cantt)	2.317	4700.00	589.00	03 Months	
6	Barvilly	Construction work of earthen paving on the kutcha road going from Cantt Garun Dwar towards Harungala. (MPYBareilly)	9.602	19380.00	766.00	03 Months	
37	Bareilly	Construction work of CC road from Dr. V.P. Singh Yadav's house to Om Pal Singh's house in lane number 23 in Golden Green Park. (MLAY-Cuntt)	5.302	10700.00	766.00	03 Months	
8	Bareilly	Construction work of CC road from Gol Chakra to Shri Rajesh Kumar Saxena's house in Ward-17 Golden Green Park. (MLAY-Cantt)	9,327	18700.00	766.00	03 Months	
9	Bareilly	Construction work of CC road from Shri Amod's house to Shri Suresh's house and Lamba ji's lane in Ward-17 Golden Green Park. (MLAY-Cantt)	9.977	20000.00	766.00	03 Months	
10	Bareilly	CC and drain work from in front of the graveyard in village Khanpur to Raza Hussain's house via in from of Ashfaq. (MLAY-Bhojipura)	8.005	16100.00	766.00	03 Months	
310	Bareilty	CC road CC work of the road from Aziz Miya's dargah towards railway gate in village Nagariya Kala. (MLAY-Bithrichainpur)	9.810	19700.00	766.00	03 Months	

4. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids: 21.08.2025, 12.00 Noon

Name of Work

for the financial year 2025-26.

financial year 2025-26.

NO. CBM/e-Tender/2025-26/330

Dated: 24 July, 2025

Repair / renovation of Cantt, Fund Buildings

Repair / renovation / Provision of Rain Water

Harvesting in Cantt. Fund Buildings for the

above mentioned works may look up the ibid website.

. Place of receipt of bid : Office of the EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RURAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, DIVISION BAREILLY

Date of opening of bids: 21.08.2025 at 12.30 PM

www.upidadv.gov.in

mentioned works:

No.

For further details please contact the employer office i.e. office of the Executive Engineer U.P.R.E.D. Second floor, Vikas Bhawan, Bareilly

(Vinay Kumar Sharma) **Executive Engineer Rural Engineering Department** UPID-236215 Dt. 22/07/2025 **Division Bareilly** On behalf of Governor of UP

CANTONMENT BOARD, MATHURA

Estimated

Cost

₹ 40.00 Lakh

₹ 10.00 Lakh

INVITATION OF E-TENDERS (DUAL BID SYSTEM)

Electronic Bids are invited by Cantonment Board, Mathura for the under

The interested contractors / firms shall upload all the documents related to above

works on the website https://defproc.gov.in/ w.e.f. starting date 28.07.2025 at

1600 hrs to ending date 18.08.2025 upto 1700 hrs. The terms & conditions for the

0120-6651214



Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Amit Kaushik S/O Jagdish Prasad Kaushik R/O Chandra Lok Kaulani, Khurja, Khurja, **Bulandshahr Uttar Pradesh-**203131, have changed my son's name from Ved Kaushik to Varun Kaushik.

0050270861-1

I, Satvir Singh Rana Son of Shri Ramnath, House no 503 Mukhmelpur Delhi 110036, due to pronunciation errors, in the documents of my son Pankaj Rana, my name appears as Satvir Singh Rana, Satbir Singh Rana, Sat Bir Singh Rana, those 3 names are of the same person i.e. myself.

0040801956-1

PROPERTY FOR SALE

Platinum-9 World Tower, Wakad, Restaurant, Dream Investment in **Shops, Food Court, Smart** Spaces 15Ft. Height, Your Legacy **Opportunity. Contact-**

0090379661-1

PROPERTY

Pune's Tallest Commercial, Iconic Award Winning Project & India's 1st 3 Level 360° Revolving Premium Showrooms, Retail **Corporate Offices & Multipurpose** Starts Here-Once in a Lifetime 7205970999.

Centre, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi 110057 belonging to the following joint owners is lost. . Shri Satender Prakash Lamba (alias Satender Parkash Lamba or

S.P.Lamba or Satender Lamba (deceased on 18/11/2018) and survived by his legal heirs:

- a. Mrs Saroj Lamba (Wife), b. Ms. Gennie Lamba (daughter) &
- c. Ms. Anisha Lamba (daughter);
- Shri Jatender Prakash
- Lamba: Shri Mohinder Kumar
- Lamba & Shri Joginder Kumar Lamba.
- _ost documents include : 1. Allotment Letter
- 2. Demand Letters 3. Payment receipts
- 4. Possession Letter
- 5. Site Possession Letter 6. Perpetual Lease 7. All correspondence
- 8. C&DForms 9. Electricity NOC payment
- challan. E-FIR vide LR No. 3036839/2025 dated 22/7/25 has been filed with P.S.Crime Branch, Delhi.
- Finder of these documents may please contact the undersigned within 15 days of the publication of this notice. Director CL, DDA, Vikas

Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

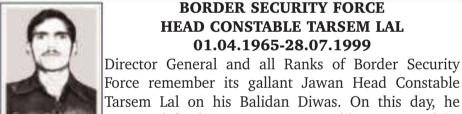
Gagan Deep Kaur, Advocate 206, C.K.Dhaptary Block Supreme Court of India New Delhi 110001.

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all concerned that

my client, namely Anju Bala W/o act, Civil as well as criminal.

Shri Mahesh Kumar R/o Khasra No.13/11, Gali No.15, Natthu Pura, Natthu Colony, Burari, North Delhi, Delhi-110084, Do hereby Dishons / Disinherits her son namely Abhishek having Aadhaar No.6844-6832-6263, For his Unacceptable/Unapt/Immoral behaviour from all their Immovable and Movable Properties. If any body deal with my son in any manner, Ther He/she will responsible for His/her Rajiv Kumar (Advocate)

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



HEAD CONSTABLE TARSEM LAL 01.04.1965-28.07.1999 Director General and all Ranks of Border Security

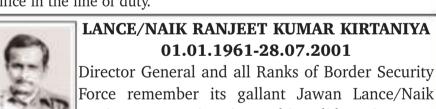
BORDER SECURITY FORCE

Tarsem Lal on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal injuries in an IED blast triggered by militants in Bachaibari area, Tripura and made ultimate sacrifice in the

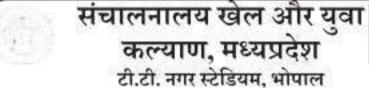
line of duty. **CONSTABLE RANGANNA P U**

01.06.1968-28.07.1993 Director General and all Ranks of Border Security Force remember its gallant Jawan Constable Ranganna

P U on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting with militants in area of Garol, Anantnag (J&K) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.



Force remember its gallant Jawan Lance/Naik Ranjeet Kumar Kirtaniya on his Balidan Diwas. On this day, he sustained fatal bullet injuries while fighting with militants in area of Burihalan (J&K) and made ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.



ई-निविदा सूचना

संचालनालय खेल और यवा कल्याण, मध्यप्रदेश, द्वारा 'म.प्र. राज्य वाटर स्पोर्ट्स केन्द्र की सेलिंग, रोईंग, क्याकिंग केनोईंग बोट्स के वार्षिक संधारण एवं सामग्री/उपकरण सप्लाई आदि कार्य हेत्' निर्माता अथवा उनके अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र व निविदा की विस्तृत शर्ते www.mptenders.gov. in पर उपलब्ध हैं। ई-निविदा प्रकाशन उपरांत निविदा में कोई संशोधन व परिवर्तन किया जाता है तो वह मात्र उपरोक्त उल्लेखित ई-टेण्डर पोर्टल पर

ही उपलब्ध रहेगा। म.प्र. माध्यम/121285/2025

संचालक

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Prem, S/o: Durga Prasad, R/o: H.No. 9660, Gali No-11, Multani Dhanda, Paharganj, Delhi. Has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.: 392/2019, U/s: 379 IPC, P.S. Raja Garden Metro, Delhi, and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Prem cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Prem has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Prem of P.S. Raja Garden Metro, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 29.08.2025. By Order Ms. Aakanksha

Ld. JMFC-05, (West), Room No. 336 A, DP/9866/METRO/2025

Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

Earnest

Money 2%

80,000

20,000

Chief Executive Officer

Cantonment Board, Mathura

(Divya R, I.D.E.S.)

Tender

Form Fee

1500/-

1500/-

epaper.indianexpress.com

himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

before 27.08.2025.

DP/9951/ED/2025

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE

APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that

accused Mohd. Shahid, S/o: Habib Qureshi, R/o:

Mobile :9212036442

appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or Sh. Sachin, JMFC-03, Room No. 16 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

Village Malagrah, Police Station Agota, Distt. Bulandshahar, U.P has committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in CT Case No. 14401/2016, State vs Salman , Police Station Ghazipur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Mohd. Shahid cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Mohd. Shahid has absconded (or is concealing

Proclamation is here by made that the said accused **Mohd**. Shahid of Police Station Ghazipur, Delhi is required to

India have faced the most balls in a match in the World Test Championship. Incidentally, England are the only team to bowl 1500 deliveries (thrice) in a match in the WTC.



Extremely pleased with the batting effort the past couple of days. We were put under a lot of pressure, but the way we responded, especially after losing those two early wickets... never easy. Very, very brave effort

SHUBMAN GILL, INDIA TEST CAPTAIN

PLUCK OF THE DRAW

India live to fight another Test as Gill, Washington and Jadeja score gritty centuries on Day 5 at Old Trafford to deny England a series win



EXPRESS IN ENGLAND

SANDEEP DWIVEDI MANCHESTER. JULY 27

KLRAHULand Shubman Gill lie on white beach towels on the Old Trafford turf, stretching their limbs for what they expect to be a long day ahead. As if they needed reminding, an early bird Indian fan from the empty stands lets out a shout that is unsolicited advice – "Poore din khelna hai (Have to play the whole day)".

They don't even turn back, but move on to face a few throw-downs from the trainers. Soon they are at the crease to play what is being called the crucial couple of hours that would decide the Test and the series. This first session was to determine the outcome of the match and series.

India would lose Rahul in the first half hour of the first session and Gill in the last before lunch. But the fight they showed inspired Washington Sundar (101 not out) and Ravindra Jadeja (107 not out) as India fought out a memorable draw to keep the series alive going into the final Test at The Oval. There were plots, sub-plots, tactics, counter-tactics in the opening session that set up another close final session finish.

11 AM: INDIA — 174/2 IN 63 OVERS, **TRAILING BY 137 RUNS**

The talk about Ben Stokes nursing a hamstring injury and not being able to bowl on the final day was either a rumour or the England skipper pulling a Novak Djokovic on the world. Stokes didn't bowl on Saturday but on the fifth morning was a different beast. After left-arm spinner Liam Dawson bowled an over, he was taking off his woollens and cap and would bowl the most challenging over of the innings. This wasn't going to be an easy morning.

Stokes is sticking to the plain vanilla fifthday bowling plan – aim for the stumps and leave it to the wear and tear of the pitch to change the trajectory of the ball. He is bowling from the old pavilion end with a few patches of dirty rough outside the right-hander's off-stump.

Gill pokes at one ball and misses. He goes for a walk towards square-leg for atonement. Soon, he has to bring his bat hastily down as a Stokes ball keeps terribly low. Another walk to square-leg to take his mind off this wicked surface. He tries to hit straight but can't reach the boundary line. Finally, it is a Stokes ball on the legs that gets Gill, and India, the day's first four.

At the other end, Rahul is facing Dawson – the busy-looking spinner who computers say is getting much more drift and turn than he did on Saturday. Stokes has surrounded Rahul with fielders, there is pressure on him. The opener sweeps and misses, the ball passes close to the bat. England think he is caught behind, DRS shows Rahul isn't, No reviews left for England, they have exhausted their quota.

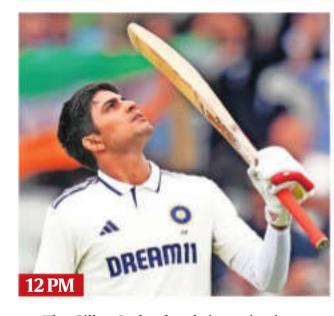
After bowling his menacing overs, Stokes keeps feeling his shoulder blade. He seems to be in trouble but only when he is not bowling. With an alleged dodgy shoulder and suspected hamstring strain, the England captain's dependence on the pitch to get wickets works. Rahul is beaten by a nip-backer that stays low. He starts walking even before the umpire raises his finger. He and Gill were together for close to 70 overs, they were supposed to take India home. Indians prayed they would stay on the pitch all day. The partnership was broken in the first half an hour.

11.30AM: INDIA — 188/3, 71 OVERS. **TRAILING BY 123 RUNS**



Washington Sundar (L) and Ravindra Jadeja saw off England's bowling attack patiently on Day 5 and were rewarded with tons before calling it a draw. PTI





The Gill vs Stokes battle is getting intense. The captains aren't giving up. The end from which Stokes is bowling is getting dangerous for right-handers – the rough outside off is getting diabolical. Stokes is bending his back, he knows England now have an opportunity to end this quickly. He virtually takes Gill out with a ball that climbs on him out of nowhere. The ball hits the Indian captain's fingers and ricochets to the side of the head. Such is the power of the blow that Gill almost tumbles on the stumps. He gathers himself





and stays on his feet only to realise the pain of his injured fingers. He throws away the gloves, shakes his hand vigorously. The physio runs in to attend to him, the captain is now batting with a bandage. India's injury list keeps getting longer.

It's not easy out there. Survival is getting difficult and Stokes, despite his aches and pains, is ready to put his foot on India's throat. After the ball that flew off the pitch and threw up a puff of dust, another one keeps low. Gill just about keeps it out of the stumps. Stokes is now feeling

SCORECARD

ENGLAND vs INDIA OLD TRAFFORD Toss: England, chose to bowl

669

174/2

INDIA (1st innings) ENGLAND (1st innings) INDIA 2nd innings (O/N)

KL Rahul Ibw b Stokes 90(230b, 8x4) SGill (c) c Smith b Archer 103 (238b,12x4)

W Sundar not out 101 (206b, 9x4, RJadeja (c) not out 107 (185b, 13x4 1X6)

Extras (b14, nb 6, w2, lb2) 24 425/4 **■ Total** (143 overs)

■ FoW: 1-0 (Yashasvi Jaiswal, 0.4 ov), 2-0 (Sai Sudharsan, 0.5 ov), 3-188 (KL Rahul, 70.2 ov), 4-222 (Shubman Gill, 87.4 ov)

■ Bowling: Chris Woakes 23-4-67-2, Jofra Archer 23-3-78-1, Brydon Carse 17-3-44-0. Liam Dawson 47-11-95-0. Joe Root 19-2-68-0. Ben Stokes 11-2-33-1. Harry Brook 3-0-24-0

his glutes, lower back and, of course, his shoulder blade. But he is trying to get a grip on the game and Dawson from the other end is keeping things tight. It's all working for England.

12PM: INDIA — 193/3 IN 76 OVERS, TRAILING BY 118 RUNS

Gill and Washington Sundar come up with a plan to negotiate the England bowlers and the dirt-patches on the pitch. So the left-hander Washington takes on Stokes as the channel outside his off-stump is fairly true. The bounce from that part of the pitch is more predictable. It works for a while but rotating strike comes with its own set of problems. Gill refuses a single, there is almost a mix-up between the two.

Challenge No.2 awaits India, the new ball is due. At 12.20, Chris Woakes is ready to have another go with the shining cherry. Ironically, Gill, the No.4, for the second time in this innings, is facing Woakes's first over. Washington almost edges the third ball to slip, just like Jaiswal had done. The Indian section of the crowd cheers wildly as Gill hits Archer's first ball for four. He's in his 90s. Soon Old Trafford stands, the Indian captain raises his bat to reach his 100, kisses his bat and looks to the sky. The celebration is short, there's a lot to do.

12:30PM: INDIA — 206/3 IN 83 OVERS, **TRAILING BY 105**

Archer has settled now, is hitting the right spots and getting swing too. He is constantly testing Gill with in-swingers. Gill is playing this smartly, tracing the ball, moving with it and presenting a dead bat. There is chat among experts that the Dukes ball starts talking after a few overs. Washington is growing confident, he is knocking the ball around. He scores three straight 3s, the scoreboard is ticking.

And when it was thought India was recovering and a classic Test was unfolding, Gill has a misjudgement. Expecting that Archer would keep bringing the ball into him, he is foxed by a ball that went straight. He followed the ball, edged it and was caught behind. Across Old Trafford, hope died. "It is just a matter of time," Ben Duckett could be heard saying from the stump mike. It sounded true till Jadeja and Washington had their say.

1PM (LUNCH): INDIA — 223/4 IN 89

Gill supports decision to deny Stokes's first offer of draw



INDIA CAPTAIN Shubman Gill on Sunday said that Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar were well within their rights to continue playing even after **Ben Stokes** offered to shake hands and call of the match before the start of the designated final hour.

India had fought tooth and nail to ensure that England were not going to win the series going into the final Test, Jadeja and Washington were batting on 89 and 80 respectively when the England skipper offered to end the game, but the Indians chose to continue batting. Gill said it was the two batsmen out there who took the call.

"Definitely, it was up to the boys, but we thought they batted brilliantly, you know, and both of them were on the 90s (actually 80s). So we thought they deserved a century there," the captain said after the game.

There was a line heard on the stump mic: "Jaddu, do you want to get a Test 100 against (Harry) Brook & (Ben) Duckett?" which was attributed to Stokes later on in the post-match show by JioHotstar. Jadeja is then quoted as asking: "What do you want me to do, just walk off?" Zak Crawley then chips in saying, "You can, just shake your hand."

Later, India head coach Gautam Gambhir said that there was nothing wrong in what his two players did.

"If someone was batting on 99 and the other on 90, don't you think they deserve their centuries? Would England have not done that?," he told the press conference. Stokes said he didn't want to risk injuries to his bowlers: "All the hard work was done by India, they both (Washy and Jadeja) played incredibly well, and it got to that point where there was only one result possible. There was no chance I was going to risk any of my fast bowlers through injuries with one more game to go. Dawsy's (Liam Dawson) bowled so many overs, his body started to cramp up in the legs."

1 Shubman Gill became the first Test captain to record four centuries in an away series. Don Bradman and Sunil Gavaskar are the only other captains to record four tons in a series.

Of the 127 Tests in history where teams batting second have earned a 300+ innings lead, only 13 matches have ended in a draw. India have converted 6 of those matches into draws after conceding 300-plus leads batting first.

417 KL Rahul and Shubman Gill faced 417 deliveries **7** KL Rahul and Shubman during their 3rd-wicket stand, the longest recorded partnership by an Indian pair for any wicket in -LALITHKALIDAS England.

Washington's unconquered Manchester ton of monk-like composure

SANDIP G

JULY 27

THE CELEBRATIONS were understated for someone who completed his first Test hundred; and for someone who rarely gets the chance to reach the landmark. A shimmy for a single, short sprint to mid-on, a calm unfastening of the helmet and a wave of the bat with a face as cold as stone. There was no roar, no smile or even a grin of relief on Washington Sundar's face. It was an extension of his batting as well a reflection of his personality, monkishly imperturbable, not prone to excessive outpouring of emotions, in both good and bad times.

The only streak of over-excitement in his career was verbal faux pas on the fourth evening of the Lord's Test when he averred that India would wrap up the chase of 193 before first session on the final. It gloriously backfired, to almost the hue of Tim Paine's "See you in Gabba taunt". But he was quickly over it and played a defining role in the game. He was India's sharpest bowler in the game, and he was the face of India's defiance on the

fifth day. Then he is not a stranger to acts of tenacity. Take some of India's most memorable Test matches in the last four years, he had been there, in the eye of a storm, in the heat and heart of the battle. In Brisbane first innings, on debut, he gritted 62 off 144 balls, laying the foundations of his country's most memorable hour this decade. There are several other priceless but forgotten knocks — 85 not out on a Chennai turner, 96 not out in Motera, the 42 in Birmingham in the first innings. Even the 22 off 29 cameo in Brisbane had its own value.

But unless the scorecards are forked out, footages rewatched the contributions don't strike, or the strokes he

essayed flash on the mind's eye. Partly, it is down to his demeanour, self-effacing to a fault. He is that boy next door cricketer you bump so frequently in the maidans and streets. The boy who does everything, bat, bowl and field, without making a fuss about it, neither making it look ridiculously simple nor elaborately laborious. He is the name you

pause in a scorecard, or ponder and forget. Unless he is in the middle of winning or saving a game, which he often finds himself



Washington Sundar played a 206-ball knock with nine fours and a six on Sunday. PTI

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in a Test match. It's something of an occupational hazard when batting down the order. In 22 innings, the highest he had ever batted is at No. 5 — in this very innings, necessitated by Rishabh Pant's injury. The most familiar

number has been eight (11), closely followed by seven. He has once batted at six and thrice at nine.

But No 9 or 5, he remained just the same, as much as unexcited as unfazed. The enor-

mity of the moment did not crush him. He marked his guard with a faint smile that masked whatever nerves that boiled inside his head. He bunted a pair of runs straight away and then offered a blunt broad bat for the next half an hour. He is one of the few Indian batsmen in recent times who has shown the fading art of batting time. He is rarely edgy or jumpy, always behind the ball, sparsely attempting a flashy stroke, even though he first struck acclaim as a T20 gun for hire. Nothing is careless, impetuous or wasted. He has a full array of strokes, but he knows perfectly when, where and how to use them. He judges, and seizes the moments. On

Sunday, it came when Ben Stokes started barraging short balls around the 110th over. By then he had faced close to a hundred balls and just to unsettle Stokes and prompt him to a different plan of attack, he got under one nailed a fierce pull over deep square leg for a six. Memories would have rolled back to 2021, when he clumped Pat Cummins for a similar six in the Gabba chase. Like when tall batsmen pull, there was an awkward elegance about it. The next ball was nailed through the same area to defang Stokes. The over before, the England captain had produced a spiteful bouncer at Ravindra Jadeja, who somehow scrambled to safety. A decisive but mini battle was thus won. Soon after. India wiped England's lead and the confidence swelled that they could escape the game without a humiliation.

He was largely in control, and when he was not, he ensured that the good balls didn't haunt him. Archer made a ball leap into the splice of his bat in the 92nd over. Liam Dawson made one spit from the rough. England sniffed a moment when they could burst through the resistance of India's last recognised pair. He then thick-edged Dawson after misreading the drift, he wafted thin air when Archer snapped a ball past his stab. He survived the storm, and lived to tell the tale.

The knock could be the one that would finally make the audience begin appreciating the traits that make him a valuable member of the eleven. He is a deluxe cricketer most teams would covet. A proper Test batsman and off-spinner, the fight and grit masked beneath his boy-next-door charms.

While first game was a tale of missed chances for Divya, second leg saw a different approach from Humpy, who opted for a non-risky opening with white

MAYANK

NEW DELHI, JULY 27

IF THE FIDE Women's World Cup 2025 wasn't already a physically exhausting and mentally draining tournament, it became all the more so on Sunday after Divya Deshmukh and Koneru Humpy took their all-Indian final clash into an extra day in Batumi, Georgia. The second classical game of their final ended in a draw, pushing the decider to a tiebreak on Monday.

While the first leg was a tale of missed opportunities for Divya, the second leg saw a different approach from Humpy, who opted for a non-risky opening with White. She began with knight to f3 from the right flank, choosing a well-known English opening, sticking to her strength, which is positional chess, in the hope of grinding Divya down later in the game.

The players quickly exchanged all minor pieces, except for Humpy's dark-squared bishop, which she retained in exchange for Divya's knight, with queens still on the board for counterplay. GM Pravin Thipsay analysed Humpy's opening choice: "It was expected that Humpy would try to press for an advantage, and that's what happened. She began with the English opening but eventually transposed into the regular Queen's Gambit Declined, the Semitarash variation," Thipsay

told The Indian Express. Explaining Humpy's middle-game strategy, Thipsay added: "I expected her to play for a better pawn structure, as she excels at exploiting weaknesses. But on move 9, she had a choice between a bishop-over-knight advantage or a superior pawn structure and she opted for the former. In my opinion, a pawn structure advantage would have suited

By the 22nd move, the players entered an endgame with equal pawns, though Humpy sought an edge with her active bishop, placing it on long diagonals. She even sacrificed a central pawn to keep the position sharp and pressure Divya into an error.

"Divya exchanged one of Humpy's knights



Koneru Humpy (R) and Divya Deshmukh played out another draw in the World Cup final on Sunday. It will now be decided in a tiebreak. Anna Shtourman/FIDE

for a bishop on move 9, and on the 12th move, she gave up her second bishop for a knight, leading to a complex but roughly equal position in a symmetrical pawn structure," said Thipsay. "Double bishops are generally better than double knights, but this was a semiopen position with central pawns. I've played this structure many times, and the advantage isn't significant. Divya correctly exchanged rooks, and by the 20th move, a draw seemed inevitable. But Humpy took bold decisions. She sacrificed a pawn on move 23, putting Divya in a tricky spot. Divya missed the best 24th move, which would have forced a draw. After that, Humpy had chances, especially on move 28, where she could have regained the pawn with some advantage."

However, Humpy allowed Divya's position to improve before regaining her pawn, by which point she also forced Divya to end the game by perpetual checks. In the all-Chinese battle for third place, Tan Zhongyi prevailed over top seed Lei Tingjie, clinching her spot in the 2026 Candidates Tournament.

What to expect in tiebreaks

Though both players are drained after nearly a month of relentless chess, one can

still expect a high-octane tiebreak clash, with neither player likely to back down until the very end. Humpy holds an edge in shorter time controls as a two-time and reigning World Rapid Champion. However, the odds aren't entirely skewed as Divya has never lost to her in Rapid chess. In their two recorded rapid encounters, Divya has one win and one draw. Things will change though, if the tiebreak heads to the Blitz round, the gulf between the two players widens. Humpy, the 2022 World Blitz Championship runner-up, has dominated Divya in this format, winning four of their five blitz games.

Five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand analysed their strengths ahead of the tiebreak. He said, "On paper, Humpy has better results, but Divya has more momentum. Humpy's wins have been shakier, but since the 2024 Olympiad (where Humpy didn't play) she's won the Women's World Rapid Championship, the Pune Grand Prix, and performed strongly at Norway Chess. Divya, though, must be relieved this tournament is finally here. Everyone's been waiting for her breakthrough, and both seem pleased with how things are unfolding," Anand said on ChessBase India YouTube stream.

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एवं वर्ष 2030 तक

हेपेटाइटिस मुक्त हरियाणा

के लिये संकल्प करें

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