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Business as Usual

By EPUNNY



STRING OF NOTICES ON PETITIONS RELATING TO S.I.R., PROTESTS, POLICE ACTION

Supreme Court notice to CEC, 2 ECs; Jantar Mantar matter will be heard

Commission response sought on Form 6 modification linked to SIR; bench says one Opp petitioner has to explain conduct

Apurva Vishwanath
New Delhi, October 15

TAKING UP a batch of 46 petitions arising from protests in the Capital seeking the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, the Supreme Court Thursday issued notice to the Election Commission of India, CEC Kumar, Elec-

tion Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, seeking their responses on a plea filed by the Opposition INDIA bloc leaders.

The bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, during an hour-long hearing, also agreed to examine the Delhi Police's

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‘TURNED DELHI INTO INDIA-PAK BORDER’: CJP, AISA CONDEMN POLICE ACTION

ECI TO CONDUCT ANNUAL REVISION OF ROLLS IN STATES WHERE S.I.R. IS OVER

CJP gathering today, CP park shut for 2 days, police say taking steps

Express News Service
New Delhi, Mumbai, October 15

WITH THE Cockroach Janta Party calling for a ‘Lehra Do Tiranga’ gathering in the Capital Friday, the New Delhi Municipal Council Thursday announced that the Central Park

in Connaught Place will remain shut to the public on October 16 and 17 “due to administrative reasons”.

The Delhi Police also informed the Delhi High Court that action will be taken against

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RELATED REPORTS, P7

Goods exports jump 23% in Sept, services dip, trade deficit eases

Ravi Dutta Mishra
New Delhi, October 15

DRIVEN BY a 48% jump in goods exports to the US amid worries about fresh tariffs over oil imports from Russia, India's goods exports in September jumped 23% to \$44.40 billion while services exports registered a rare dip, data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Thursday showed.

While goods exports jumped from \$36.08 billion in September last year, imports grew at a slower pace of 8% to \$74.61 billion, compared to \$69.08 billion last September. The slower pace of import growth helped the trade deficit marginally ease to \$30.2 billion

Services exports

Month	2026	2025	Change (%)
Sep	36.35	36.67	-0.87
Aug	35.47	31.19	13.72
Jul	38.25	33.74	13.37
Jun	36.19	32.11	12.71
May	33.19	32.41	2.41
Apr	36.84	32.85	12.15
Mar	38.2	35.62	7.24
Feb	34.7	31.64	9.67
Jan	38.16	34.74	9.84

FIGURES IN \$ BN; SOURCE: RBI

last month, compared to \$33 billion last September.

The comparatively slower

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Days after joining anti-CEC protest, Imran Khan ordered to leave India

Actor is US citizen, OCI cardholder; to file plea in HC

Apoorva Agashe & Omkar Gokhale
Mumbai, October 15



Actor Imran Khan was detained in Mumbai on October 10. FILE

after he participated in a protest against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar in Mumbai. Khan is set to challenge the FRRO notice in the Bombay High Court.

Khan was among the protesters detained at Mumbai's August Kranti Maidan on October 10. BJP leader Kirit Somaiya, who filed a police complaint, alleged that the actor's participation in a political demonstration violated OCI rules and visa conditions, and sought his detention and deportation. The police forwarded

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GOVT'S SWEEPING POWERS OVER OCI CARDHOLDERS
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EXPRESS special

New patrons, old politics: Bengal Durga Puja navigates power shift

Atri Mitra & Adrija Roychowdhury
Kolkata, New Delhi, Oct 15

AT LAKE Town, in the northern suburbs of Kolkata, the lights are on and festive anticipation fills the air. On the eve of Mahalaya last weekend, which marked the beginning of the countdown to Durga Puja, workers rushed to put the final touches on this year's pandal: an 80-foot-tall replica of Jaipur's Hawa Mahal.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



At Santosh Mitra Square Puja pandal in Kolkata Thursday evening. The Puja theme is 'Sanatani Chetanay Vande Mataram'. PARTHA PAUL

Bypassing firewalls, AI agents accessed data of Indian firms: CERT-In

Soumyarendra Barik
New Delhi, October 15

SOME ARTIFICIAL Intelligence (AI) agents that were supposed to conduct research and run evaluations on the internet managed to bypass firewalls and “reached” live systems of Indian organisations, gaining access to sensitive information such as business records, “including personal data and confidential material”, the Indian

Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) has said.

This is perhaps the first known instance of AI agents going “rogue” and targeting cyber infrastructure of India-based entities. Cert-In also revealed that none of the affected organisations detected the unauthorised access, and, in each case, the incident was disclosed by the AI model providers after their internal review.

»CONTINUED ON PAGE 2


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 Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal

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SC notice

denotification of Jantar Mantar as a protest site. It directed police to preserve all CCTV footage of the protests, amid allegations of excessive use of force by police.

The bench also issued notice to the Election Commission on the modification of Form 6, the paperwork for enrolling a new voter.

Last month, an investigation by *The Indian Express* revealed that Election Commissioners Sandhu and Joshi had objected on record 14 times in 10 months to steps taken by the ECI under the CEC, from keeping them in the dark to adding new voters and deleting names.

The bench issued notice on several pleas, including a writ petition by INDIA bloc leaders challenging what they called the “unilateral and arbitrary exercise of the collective powers” of the Election Commission in conducting the SIR of electoral rolls. The lead writ petition, Rahul Gandhi v Election Commission of India, named CEC Kumar as a respondent.

The bench made a pointed remark about one of the 13 peti-

tioners from the INDIA bloc. “We have no problem with the other petitioners... We are issuing notice, but we are not condoning the conduct. Let the petitioner file an affidavit on their conduct,” the bench observed, without naming the petitioner.

The Court agreed to hear pleas challenging the denotification of Jantar Mantar. On October 12, police said it had modified its standing order laying down guidelines for protests at the site, declaring that it now stands denotified. It designated three alternative sites: Burari Ground, Ramlila Ground and the CBD Ground.

Appearing for petitioner and advocate Swaty Malik, former Delhi High Court judge and senior advocate Mukta Gupta said the apex court’s earlier ruling requires protest sites to be places where protesters can be “heard by the powers that be”. Justice Bagchi observed that “the word ‘heard’ must be understood from the perspective of technology also.”

The government’s affidavit had stated that the move flowed from a Supreme Court order of October 9. When lawyers for the petitioners flagged this, Justice Bagchi said the Court needs to

examine whether “oral observations” can be construed as law.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for petitioners challenging Sections 163 and 172 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, said both provisions deserve scrutiny. Section 163 (earlier Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure) allows the administration to issue prohibitory orders to maintain law and order, while Section 172 requires persons to conform to lawful police directions.

The bench was initially inclined to issue notice only on Section 172, since a 1970 ruling in *Madhu Limaye v Sub-Divisional Magistrate* had upheld the validity of Section 144.

Sankaranarayanan said, “Both provisions have to be considered. Constitutional law has undergone huge upheaval in the last 50 years... Please do not be dismissive about it.”

Sankaranarayanan and TMC Rajya Sabha MP Menaka Guruswamy, the senior advocate who appeared for petitioner Shaileendra Mani Tripathi in a PIL, also sought a direction to the Delhi Police to place the Section 163 prohibitory orders on record.

When Solicitor General Tu-

shar Mehta pointed to an “interesting prayer” in one petition that “whoever calls for the protest must also take responsibility for the consequences,” Sankaranarayanan responded that the argument “cuts both ways” and the Police Commissioner must also take responsibility.

Journalists’ complaints

Senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for journalist group Network of Women in Media, sought an independent committee of retired judges, police officers and civil society members to probe complaints of harassment filed by women journalists against policemen during the protests. “They cannot probe themselves. There has to be an independent committee,” she said.

She also sought a direction that “no coercive action” be taken against a woman journalist who accused an Assistant Commissioner of Police of sexual harassment. The journalist has been booked under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, while no FIR has been registered against the ACP on her complaint.

Responding, Mehta said it is difficult to establish who is a journalist. “In our experience, any person having a mobile phone is a journalist,” he said.

Justice Bagchi observed that there needs to be a larger consideration on “whether freedom of expression allows any citizen to be a journalist”.

The bench said, “There are categories of journalists. Even the Working Journalists Act has categories. Some groups may be given more protections than others.”

The Court also agreed to hear pleas by street vendors and hawkers seeking compensation from the protesters for loss of livelihood. “We have not been able to earn even Rs 500 for our families during Dussehra and Diwali,” a lawyer said.

BJP national spokesperson and senior advocate Gaurav Bhatia told the Court there were attempts to “browbeat” the judiciary.

CJI Kant responded, “Nobody can browbeat us, don’t worry. Nobody should pay notice to such attempts. We are not sitting in an ivory tower. We know what someone is saying outside the court and inside the court.”

Goods exports

pace of import growth was largely due to a sharp decline in gold imports. Official data showed that gold imports in September logged a sharp decline of 81.3% to \$1.8 billion in September this year, compared to \$9.6 billion in September last year. While gold imports typically tend to jump in festive seasons, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal said the decline could be a result of high duty on gold imports.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA, said India’s goods exports expanded by over 20% for the second consecutive month in September this year, even as growth in such imports cooled to a six-month low of 8%. “Amid a modest expansion in the merchandise trade deficit and an expected easing in invisible earnings, led by tempering remittance inflows, we expect India’s current account deficit to widen to \$13-15 billion in Q2 FY2027, from \$4.2 billion in Q1 FY2027, while printing marginally lower than the year-ago levels,” Nayar said.

US continues to drive exports

Amid continued uncertainty over the trade deal, India’s goods exports continue to register strong growth. As goods exports have been declining in the West Asia region, particularly in the UAE, Saudi Ara-

bia, Kuwait and Iran, exports to the US ballooned by 48% in September, crossing \$8 billion.

On Thursday, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the first phase of the India-US trade pact has been finalised and is undergoing legal drafting. “The US bilateral trade agreement’s first tranche has been finalised, and it is going through final contours, the legal drafting, and we hope to be able to finalise that soon and operationalise that once we get the competitive advantage over our peer countries,” Goyal said at a briefing.

This comes as the US is expected to come out with the results of Section 301 tariffs on over-capacity. Data showed that exports have been driven by electronics, which continue to be exempted from US tariffs and are riding the AI wave. Exports under the category jumped by 70.4% to \$5.3 billion last month, as compared to \$3.1 billion in September last year.

However, imports from China last month also registered a 31.5% jump to \$14.86 billion, compared to \$11.30 billion last September. Between April and September, imports from China crossed \$80.35 billion, 27% higher than \$62.86 billion in the corresponding period last year. This has triggered a sharp jump in the anti-dumping duty investigations by the Com-

merce and Industry Ministry.

Services exports log rare decline

Amid sustained conflict in West Asia, which has pushed air fares higher, India’s services exports logged a rare decline. The government’s projections showed that services exports registered a marginal decline to \$36.35 billion in September this year, compared to \$36.67 billion last year.

“There has been a recent reduction in projections in services trade globally. Earlier, it was projected to grow by 4.8%; it has now been revised to 3.3%.” One of the key factors is the West Asia crisis. The rise in energy prices has impacted one component of services, which is travel and tourism, which is showing a downward projection. We are growing more than 9% year on year, but growth would have been more,” Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agarwal told reporters.

The government has been easing norms to smoothen services exports. Last week, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council recommended amendments to Section 54(3) of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act to provide for refund of accumulated input tax credit (ITC) for input services and capital goods under inverted duty structure. While the change for capital goods will come into effect from April next year, the change for input services can be availed from November 1.

CERT-In: AI agents accessed sensitive data of Indian firms

“Recently, CERT-In has received multiple voluntary disclosures from AI model providers stating that their models, during research and evaluation activity on the internet, had reached the live systems of Indian organisations,” the cybersecurity agency, which comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), said in an advisory Thursday. It did not reveal the names of the Indian organisations or the AI agents involved in the incident.

“In the disclosed cases, the models’ actions exceeded the authorisation of their assigned tasks... The recorded activity involved reading business records, including personal data and confidential material, through credentials and connection settings exposed in application configuration, public code repositories and permissioned cloud service roles,” it said.

The incident comes amid growing concerns over AI agents acting beyond their intended instructions, including instances where autonomous systems have attempted to access restricted information, circumvent security controls and interact with external systems without authorisation. Globally, leading AI companies, including Anthropic, OpenAI and Meta, have reported similar cases of AI agents breaching defined parameters and acting on their own.

The incident, in particular, mirrors OpenAI’s disclosure from July that its AI agents breached containment safeguards during internal testing, accessed the internet without authorisation, and compromised systems belonging to AI platform HuggingFace. In fact, due to widespread incidents of AI agents acting on their own, leaders in the space, including Anthropic’s Dario Amodei and OpenAI’s Sam Altman, have called for “pacing” the AI frontier.

AI agents are autonomous systems that can independently plan and execute tasks, access external tools and web-

sites, and take actions on behalf of users with limited human intervention.

The agency has recommended that AI model developers isolate their research workloads, permitting only the destinations a task strictly requires, and enforcing the restriction at the network layer. The weaknesses exploited by the AI models and their agents were, however, traditional failings, such as credentials and keys exposed in the source code, public repository history, configuration files, client applications and public web content.

“Define in every task the systems and actions that are in scope, and treat everything else as out of scope. Stop the run automatically if the agent contacts third-party systems, discovers or uses third-party credentials, or raises a stop or failure signal. Give an independent operator the authority to terminate or restart the run,” the agency recommended.

Cert-In also noted a “financially motivated” campaign against Indian entities in which cyber threat actors abused publicly available AI-native offensive-security frameworks.

“These frameworks continue to be misused and re-branded, with a large number of deployments observed across infrastructure in multiple countries, indicating the widespread availability of ready-made agentic intrusion capabilities,” it said.

The agency said that in the financially motivated campaign against Indian entities, agentic tooling compressed the time between initial access and final impact, from days to a few hours. In addition, the campaign highlighted that multi-agent operations run in parallel, for hours to days, to achieve the attacker’s goals, consistent with the documented multi-agent capability of these tools.

Further, victim entities in the campaign that remediated incompletely were attacked again within days, at greater scale, the agency said.

CJP

the CJP after a petition raised concerns that the group’s planned protest in Connaught Place could disrupt business activity in the area.

The bench of Acting Chief Justice Nitin Sambre and Justice Sanjay Sharma, while hearing a petition by Anil Kumar Gupta who said he was espousing the

cause of street vendors and small traders, recorded the police assurance: “The Additional Solicitor General assures that the apprehension of the petitioner shall be taken care of as the respondents have taken enough steps in the matter to control and regulate the activity of respondent no. 6 (CJP)... all possible steps in accordance with law shall be taken in the matter. The assurance is taken on record.”

Meanwhile, in Mumbai, the

CJP secured permission to hold its ‘Lehra Do Tiranga’ programme at Azad Maidan Friday.

The Mumbai Police granted CJP permission for a day, allowing it to hold the programme between 9 am and 6 pm, subject to a cap of 5,000 participants. Police identified the applicant as CJP member Ravindra Patankar. The permission has been granted under the Maharashtra Police (Regulation of Public Assemblies and Processions) Rules, 2025.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the women cricket team’s Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana during an interaction in New Delhi on Thursday with the Indian contingent that participated in the Asian Games 2026 in Japan. PTI

NGT stays approval to Mormugao Port’s channel deepening project

Pavneet Singh Chadha
Panaji, October 15

THE NATIONAL Green Tribunal (NGT) has stayed the operationalisation of the environmental clearance (EC) and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance granted to Mormugao Port Trust’s (MPT) channel-deepening project until the next hearing.

The appellants — Rupesh Shinkre, Sanjay Redkar and Jayesh Shetgaonkar — had filed an appeal before the NGT in September last year, challenging the clearance granted to Mormugao Port Trust for the

project titled ‘Deepening of approach channel for cape-size vessels’ on July 21, 2025.

The appellants submitted that there has been no assessment of the likely air and water pollution from dust emitted from handling of metallurgical ores like coal and coke, etc. The deepened approach channel will allow larger cape-size vessels to dock at the port, resulting in increased capacity of handling coal/ores from 12 MTPA to 42.1 MTPA (million tonnes per annum), they had said.

In an interim order dated September 26, the NGT’s Western Zone Bench, Pune, said,

“After having heard the arguments and looking to the discrepancies in the case in hand in grant of EC and CRZ, we are of the view that till next date, impugned EC and CRZ clearance shall not be operationalised.” The matter will be heard next on November 2.

The tribunal also directed the port authority to place on record within two weeks evidence that a source apportionment study for air quality in Vasco Da Gama, Goa, carried out by IIT Bombay, was placed before the EAC at the time of consideration of the grant of EC/CRZ clearance.

Imran Khan

Somaiya’s complaint to the FRRO, citing its jurisdiction over matters related to foreign nationals and OCI cardholders.

In its notice issued on Thursday, the FRRO directed Khan to leave India by October 28, invoking provisions of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, including Section 7(2)(c), which empowers authorities to direct a foreign national not to remain in India, and Section 29, which provides for the removal of a foreigner for violation of the Act, rules or orders made under it, or on the basis of an adverse security report.

Terming the FRRO notice as “drastic action”, Khan is set to move the Bombay High Court, challenging the grounds on which he has been directed to leave the country, and arguing that neither the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, nor the rules governing OCI cardholders prohibit participation in a protest. The petition is being filed through advocates Zulfikar Memon, Parvez Memon and Chirag Naik of MZM Legal.

“We are in the process of filing the petition against the FRRO notice,” Khan’s lawyers said. The plea is likely to be registered on Friday or Monday. It is likely to come up for urgent

hearing before a division bench led by Chief Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi.

Khan has maintained that he was not protesting against any political party but was standing up for citizens’ fundamental right to protest.

“A notice was served and he was asked to leave the country,” a senior Mumbai Police officer said. “OCI cardholders do not have political rights, and it was brought to our notice that Khan had participated in the protest. Various social media platforms confirm his participation... We have taken legal action as per the law,” said the officer, who did not want to be named.

Welcoming the notice, Somaiya said: “There are many Imran Khans in India... whether it is Nasruddin or Iqbal... if anyone conspires to defame India while living here, it will not be tolerated... His deportation is to set an example for all other foreigners and funders whose objective is to generate unrest and anarchy in India.”

Opposition parties have criticised the FRRO notice to the actor.

Born into Bollywood lineage, Khan is the nephew of actor Aamir Khan and director-producer Mansoor Khan, and the grandson of director-producer

Nasir Hussain. He was born in 1983 in Madison, Wisconsin, US, to Anil Pal, a software engineer, and Nuzhat Khan, a psychologist and daughter of Hussain. His parents separated when he was quite young, and Imran Khan moved to Mumbai with his mother.

He debuted in writer-director Abbas Tyrewala’s film *Jaane Tu... Ya Jaane Na* in 2008, and went on to act in films like *I Hate Luv Storys* (2010), *Mere Brother Ki Dulhan* (2011), *Delhi Belly* (2011), and *Eklavya Aur Ekk Tu* (2012).

The OCI scheme, introduced in 2005, allows eligible foreign nationals of Indian origin to visit India on a lifelong visa, subject to applicable conditions. However, OCI cardholders cannot vote or contest elections and remain subject to Indian laws governing foreigners and immigration.

The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, gives the government wide powers over foreign nationals — and an OCI remains a foreign national for this purpose. There is no provision that expressly says a foreign national cannot attend a political rally or demonstration. However, the law gives the government considerable discretion to regulate the presence, activities and conduct of foreigners in India.

WITH INPUTS FROM ALAKA SAHANI

Threatened with being framed in fake drug case, techie kills self

Chandan Haygunde
Pune, October 15

A 22-YEAR-OLD engineer working with IT major Accenture in Pune jumped to his death from a highrise building, allegedly after receiving phone calls from a man posing as a police officer, demanding money and threatening to implicate him in a drug smuggling case.

Police identified the engineer as Shikhar Saxena, a native of Uttarakhand, who lived as a paying guest in Kharadi, Pune. After a complaint filed by his father Kumargaurav Saxena, 46, an FIR was lodged at the Kharadi police station on Wednesday against two unidentified persons under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Sections 108 (abetment of suicide), 308 (6) (extortion) and 351 (4) (criminal intimidation by anonymous communication), among others.

Shikhar’s death has left his parents, younger sister and relatives in shock.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, his father, a government official at Uttarakhand Peypal Nigam, said, “I want justice for my son. He was a talented youngster. He got a job at Accenture in Pune through campus placement. This was his first job. The culprits should be arrested.”

Police suspect the accused could be cyber criminals, who allegedly forced Shikhar to transfer money into a couple of bank accounts through multiple online transactions



The 22-year-old engineer was working with Accenture. EXPRESS

identified himself as Shikhar’s friend Ajay Kumar and said he had called for some PDFs.

His father then called Shikhar on his phone, but could not reach him. Shikhar’s father again called the accused, who claimed to have met Shikhar while playing the online game PUBG. When he said Shikhar never played PUBG, the accused cut the call, the FIR stated.

The victim’s father called the accused again.

This time, the accused said he was a sub-inspector from Haryana, who wanted to arrest Shikhar as there was a complaint against him for selling drugs, the FIR mentions.

Finding this suspicious, Shikhar’s father left for Pune on September 30 night. Meanwhile, Shikhar’s uncle, who lives in Pune, approached the Kharadi police. The police lodged a kidnapping case initially as per legal procedure.

Also, people who know Shikhar posted his photographs and other details on social media with an appeal to find him.

Around 6.30 am on October 1, however, it was discovered that Shikhar had died by jumping from the refuge area of a 27-floor building at Riverdale Suites in Kharadi, located about a km away from his residence in Pune.

Shikhar’s body was handed over to his family after the postmortem. His funeral was performed at his native place, police said.

EMERGING AI & MACHINE LEARNING TECH BEING INCORPORATED FOR LOGISTICS OPTIMISATION

Military developing integrated structure for theatre commands

Amrita Nayak Dutta
New Delhi, October 15

THE INDIAN military is actively developing an integrated logistics structure to support its planned theatre commands as part of its effort to transform the service-specific logistics architecture into an integrated defence framework, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Additionally, emerging AI and machine learning technologies are being incorporated for logistics optimisation, with predictive maintenance analytics already deployed in limited applications by the defence forces. Moreover, legacy financial architecture and procurement framework are also being revised to facilitate joint logistics.

The Department of Military Affairs is spearheading the

move. These points were outlined in a letter from Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar, a joint secretary in the department, to Rajya Sabha MP Dr Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade. The response followed Gopchade’s letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking a unified defence logistics and fuel management framework modelled on the United States Defence Logistics Agency (DLA).

According to the letter, a tri-services logistics management application (TLMA) is under development to provide real-time inter-service inventory visibility and to integrate service-specific enterprise resource planning software. Additionally, work is underway to establish a National Defence Codification System (NDCS), analogous to Nato’s stock number system, while

joint logistics nodes and subsequently joint ammunition depots, air stores supply parks, and material organisations are being planned across India, it stated.

The department further stated that the PM Gati Shakti Defence Portal is also under development for alignment with the national logistics policy and the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP).

The letter also noted that joint logistics integration, akin to the US DLA, is a strategic imperative and its realisation is a prime priority for the defence ministry. The armed forces have been establishing joint logistics nodes as part of other efforts to promote integration. In September last year, the decision to establish three joint military stations was announced during the Combined Commanders Con-

ference in Kolkata.

In his letter, Gopchade referred to the functioning of the US DLA, which serves as a single, centralised combat logistics support agency for the entire US Department of Defence, stating that it manages fuel supply, military procurement, spare parts, logistics AI systems, defence standardisation, petroleum quality assurance, warehousing, technical support, and global supply-chain management under an integrated tri-service structure. He highlighted that at present, logistics management in India is largely distributed across multiple service-specific structures such as the Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, naval logistics branches, air force maintenance systems, fuel depots,

and various procurement and inventory mechanisms.

“... there appears substantial scope for further strengthening jointness through a more integrated logistics architecture,” the MP wrote.

Four reforms on the lines of DLA

Gopchade suggested four reforms on the lines of the DLA, including a unified defence fuel management system integrating Army, Navy, and Air Force fuel procurement, storage, transportation, and quality-control mechanisms, introduction of a secure military fuel card system, integrated with IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, defence depots, RFID, GPS, and digital audit systems to improve transparency, reduce leakages, and simplify operational logistics.



Court restrains Mahua from ‘defamatory remarks’ against chief secretary

Press Trust of India
Kolkata, October 15

A COURT in Kolkata has re-strained Mamata AITC MP Mahua Moitra from making “any defamatory statement” against West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Agarwal after he complained that she made unsubstantiated allegations against him in connection with Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

The Civil Judge Senior Division, 1st Court, Alipore, on Wednesday also directed the Krishnanagar MP to delete her social media posts against Agarwal in relation to the special intensive revision of electoral rolls and the conduct of this year’s West Bengal assembly elections within 24 hours of receiving the order.

The court, however, clarified that this order will not “restrain fair criticism of the SIR or of any official decision”.

In an ex-parte interim order, the court restrained Moitra from publishing, posting, or repeating “any defamatory statement” against Agarwal, including any statement connected to two posts in question which she allegedly made on her X on October 3 and 6.

Moitra, however, said on Thursday she will file a vacating application to reinforce her rights.

The judge directed the MP to delete the posts from her social media handle within 24 hours of receiving the order, including receipt by e-mail.

The court directed that notice be issued to Moitra to show cause why the interim order passed by it should not continue until the disposal of Agarwal’s application.

MINISTER DEFENDS BEAUTIFICATION DRIVE

No conclusive evidence linking city’s bike accidents to flyover paint: Police

CP Ajay Nand says riders shooting reels in rain could have led to accidents; cat’s eye reflectors installed along flyover

Tanusree Bose
Kolkata, October 15

KOLKATA POLICE Commissioner Ajay Kumar Nand on Thursday said that there was no conclusive evidence linking the bike skidding incidents to a newly-painted ‘rainbow’ flyover surface and added that driver negligence in the rain could be possible reasons behind the accidents.

Meanwhile, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) officials installed cat’s-eye reflectors along the flyover stretch at 10-metre intervals, a day after a purported dashcam video of bikers slipping on the road triggered criticism from the Opposition.

The flyover remained closed through Wednesday night as authorities carried out the work. Paint was also “slightly scraped” from another flyover in the city.

“Experts and engineers have informed us that the paints used are anti-skid and there is a confusion on whether the bikes have skidded due to the paint. What we have learnt so far is that bikers were trying to shoot videos and reels while riding in the rain so there might have been a disbalance. We have also installed cat’s-eye reflectors and ‘go slow’ boards along the road,” Nand said.

Nand also clarified that the restriction on motorcycle movement during rainfall

would apply only to the Chingrihata flyover and not to the Gariahat flyover.

“Unlike other flyovers, the Gariahat Flyover is straight, so such specific closures will not be implemented there. However, as a precaution, bike movement over the Chingrihata Flyover may be suspended during rain. Engineers have clarified that while this specific paint contains anti-skid properties, flyover joints consist of steel plates and concrete, which can become slippery when painted. However, this shouldn’t happen on standard bituminous surfaces,” he said.

“The fresh paint has led people to suspect it caused the incidents, but the paint used for roads does not have the same composition as ordinary wall paint,” he added.

Regarding traffic congestion on the stretch during Durga Puja, Nand said, “Ahead of the Pujas, daily commuters heading toward Ultadanga along the Bypass are experiencing heavy congestion due to bridge construction work in Chingrihata. This could worsen if the connector is closed. Discussions have also been held with Bidhannagar authorities regarding the heavy evening traffic.”

Defending the beautification drive, Urban Development Minister Agnimitra Paul on Thursday said, “Firstly, the paints used are anti-skid paints. Secondly, yesterday in the



Cat’s eye reflectors were installed on Kolkata flyover, Thursday. EXPRESS

video, we saw two motorcycles skidding. Why that happened we cannot say. Yesterday when I was returning from Kolkata, there was a big accident on the national highway due to skidding where there was no paint.”

“For the past 15 years, the TMC had not made roads...several accidents happened. As a precaution, we have installed cat’s-eye reflectors on Chingrihata bridge. On Gariahat flyover the paint has been slightly scraped so that the friction increases,” she added.

Saying the beautification was “for the people of the state”, Paul added, “This is a CSR initiative...not by using public funds. Our department did not steal anyone’s money, nor have we used public money. We are just trying to beautify the city.”

Meanwhile, Mamata AITC MLA Kunal Ghosh posted a video on Facebook on Thursday of paint being purportedly washed away from a flyover at Gariahat and questioned the decision to paint it.

“If the scientifically un-

sound and dangerous paint had to be removed, why was it applied in the first place in such a reckless manner? Who will take responsibility for the accidents? Whose money has gone to waste? Let the images of the paint being removed from Gariahat remain a reminder of what happened after the Chingrihata accident,” he said.

After facing sharp criticism from the Opposition over the purported videos, Paul, on Wednesday had said an enquiry has been ordered to look into the cause of the accident.

“The chief minister (Suvendu Adhikari) has instructed officials to visit the spot and inspect the matter immediately. The officials have been directed to investigate the cause of the accident. Some people are saying that the colours are straining the eyes while driving. If that is the case, an alternative arrangement will be made. Whatever is convenient for the people’s needs will be done,” the minister had told mediapersons.

Many people want to spoil pujas, organisers should stay alert: CM

Atri Mitra
Kolkata, October 15

CHIEF MINISTER Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday said the state police was working in coordination with the Border Security Force (BSF) to stop cattle, narcotics and counterfeit currency smuggling and prevent cross-border infiltration and human trafficking.

Inaugurating four Durga Pujas in of Murshidabad district, Adhikari alleged that some people were trying to spoil the pujas and cautioned the puja committees to remain alert to untoward incidents.

“I will pray for only one thing, that the puja passes well. A few days ago, I heard that something had happened at a puja pandal due to a fire or some other reason. I hope that the police and the puja committees will remain alert to prevent such unpleasant incidents,” he said.

“Many people want to spoil the festivities. There could also be accidents. It would not be right for me to say this as the administrative head of the state. The police are investigating. Everyone should celebrate together,” he added.

He said that in Murshidabad, more than 800 new Pujas have received approval.

“After the BJP came to power, 12,000 new Pujas were approved for grants. In 2025, there were 45,000 pujas. This time, grants have been given to 58,000 com-

mittees. We have waived electricity charges for the pujas and allocated Rs 1 lakh each to the 58,000 pujas of the state. In the district, more than 800 new Pujas have received approval,” he said.

Giving a call for a “narcotics-free West Bengal”, the CM said 5,000 bottles of cough syrup were recently destroyed near the India-Bangladesh border in Jalangi “as part of our objective to have a narcotics-free Murshidabad.”

“Cough syrup bottles, fake notes, heroin, opium and cattle used to be smuggled to Bangladesh... We are committed to totally eliminate smuggling... We have also stopped cross-border infiltration and trafficking of girls,” he said.

Appealing to people to put an end to marriage of underage girls, he said 60,000 minors have undergone institutional deliveries in the state from January to June this year, and of them, 9,700 were from Murshidabad.

“I appeal to everyone to help us save the girls,” he said.

“Under the previous regime, girls as young as 12 to 15 years were married off and they became pregnant. This is illegal... Our government wants to reform the society and not remain confined only to administrative work,” he added.

He said a meeting will be held in Delhi on October 27 on river erosion. Erosion by the Ganga River is a major issue in Murshidabad district.

‘Govt must create atmosphere for different views’: HC allows CPI(M) Puja bookstall

Press Trust of India
Kolkata, October 15

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Thursday said it expected West Bengal’s BJP government to create an atmosphere allowing divergent political views in the state, allowing the CPI(M) to set up a bookstall near a Durga Puja pandal in Bongaon.

Observing that dissemination of different political thoughts and ideologies is welcome in a democracy, the court held that this makes democracy “fruitful, deep-rooted and mature.” It is expected of the present ruling dispensation to create an atmosphere where persons owing allegiance to different political ideologies will not hesitate to voice their views,” Justice Saugata Bhattacharyya observed.

The court directed the Bongaon police district SP and Bongaon police station’s inspector-in-charge to ensure public order and peace, enabling the petitioner CPI(M) to erect a bookstall and sell their books during Durga Puja days within a 100-meter radius of their party office at the site.

The party office is near a Durga Puja pandal. The CPI(M) has been setting up bookstalls near Durga Puja pandals for decades.

Justice Bhattacharyya directed the police authorities to deploy adequate security personnel to prevent others from disturbing the members of the Left party from running the stall and selling books.

The court directed the SP to file a report on steps taken to comply with the order on the next date of hearing on November 23.

Cops forcefully taking affidavits for rival camp: Mamata faction

Kolkata: The TMC’s Mamata Banerjee-led faction on Thursday wrote to state government and police officials alleging the use of the police to obtain affidavits in favour of the dissident group amid the party’s name and symbol row

In the letters, Mamata camp

MP Dola Sen alleged that police personnel across the state had been directed to collect “dummy affidavits” from non-TMC members to bolster the rival faction’s claim to the party’s name and its election symbol, *Jora Ghash Phool* (twin flowers and grass). PTI

3 sentenced to life for beheading man in 2022

Sweetie Kumari
Kolkata, October 15

A DIAMOND Harbour court has sentenced three men to life imprisonment for beheading Habibullah Paik over an alleged extra marital affair in Mathurapur in South 24 Parganas district in 2022.

Relying on advanced modern forensics, the Ld. Court of Additional Sessions Judge, Fast Track Court-III, Diamond Harbour, on October 12, convicted Ajgar Laskar, Ajahar Laskar alias Raja, and Rabiul Sardar under Sections 302 (murder), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), and 34 (common intention) of IPC.

According to the complaint lodged by the deceased’s wife, the incident took place on February 8, 2022, when Ajgar and Ajahar arrived at Habibullah’s residence and took him to a nearby garden. The following morning, police recovered the headless body of Paik near Ajgar’s house in Subudhipur.

During trial, the prosecution presented 24 witnesses with compelling scientific, digital, and physical evidence.

In its verdict, court noted defense miserably failed to establish any plausible plea to negate the charges and delivered the sentence.



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SEBI is giving investors a special one-year window

from

FEB 05 2026 – FEB 04 2027

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Key points

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Shares transferred will now be issued in Demat form only.

Companies and registrars will help you with this process.

Check Your Eligibility

Execution Date of Transfer Deed	Lodged for transfer before April 01, 2019	Original Security Certificate Available	Eligible to lodge in the current window
Before April 01, 2019	NO (is fresh lodgement)	YES	✓
Before April 01, 2019	YES (is now rejected/ returned under 1)	YES	✓
Before April 01, 2019	YES	NO	✗
Before April 01, 2019	NO	NO	✗

Scan to get the official circular.





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3-IN-1 ACCOUNT

Saving
Demat
Trading

UCO Digital

Total Business
18.81%
(Y-o-Y)

Advances
24.70%
(Y-o-Y)

Deposit
14.36%
(Y-o-Y)

Net Profit
26.77%
(Y-o-Y)

Operating Profit
16.04%
(Y-o-Y)

NII
13.96%
(Y-o-Y)

PCR
98.36%

GNPA
1.96%

Net NPA
0.18%

Unaudited (Reviewed) Financial Results for the Quarter/Half Year Ended 30th September, 2026

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 30.09.2026 (Unaudited)	Quarter Ended 30.09.2025 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2026 (Unaudited)	Half Year Ended 30.09.2025 (Unaudited)	Year Ended 31.03.2026 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations (net)	817408	742139	1685632	1485460	2974098
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	106469	102506	363962	197126	437349
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	106469	102506	363962	197126	437349
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	78564	61976	144197	122720	276786
5.	Total Comprehensive income for the period (comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax)	Please Refer Note No. 2				
6.	Paid Up Equity Share Capital	1253956	1253956	1253956	1253956	1253956
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)	1756007	1541844	1756007	1541844	1756007
8.	Securities Premium Account	504211	504211	504211	504211	504211
9.	Net Worth	2788109	2301266	2788109	2301266	2446221
10.	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	0.09
11.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.75	0.66	0.75	0.66	0.70
12.	Earning Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)					
1. Basic :		0.63	0.49	1.15	0.98	2.21
2. Diluted :		0.63	0.49	1.15	0.98	2.21
13.	Capital Redemption Reserve	Not Applicable				
14.	Debenture Redemption Reserve					

Notes : 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/ half-yearly financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under regulation 33 and 52 of the Listing Regulations. The full format of the quarterly/half yearly Financial Result are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (BSE : www.bseindia.com and NSE : www.nseindia.com), Bank's website (www.uco.bank.in/investors)

2. Information relating to total comprehensive income and other comprehensive income is not furnished as Ind AS is not yet made applicable to the bank.



Place : Kolkata
Dated : 15th October, 2026

Sd/-
Vijaykumar Nivrutti Kamble
Executive Director

Sd/-
Rajendra Kumar Saboo
MD & CEO (LIC) and Executive Director

Sd/-
Aravamudan Krishna Kumar
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Kolkata



PANDAL HOPPING

As Durga Puja sweeps across Kolkata, this year's celebrations highlight a blend of artistic brilliance and social messaging. **Sweety Kumari** hops through the 'theme Puja' pandals to tell the most creative and outstanding stories



TELIPUKUR NAGERBAZAR YUBAK SANGHA

A POND FULL OF LOVE

Conceptualised by artist Bhabatosh Sutar, 'Ek Pukur Bhalobasha' (A pond full of love) aims to raise awareness about the rapid disappearance and pollution of Kolkata's urban ponds, highlighting their ecological importance and emotional bond with local families.

Conceived around a historic local pond, the installation showcases its role in everyday life, from weddings and rituals to relaxation, alongside human-induced pollution. A video shot inside the pond simulates the perspective of aquatic life experiencing garbage, bottles, and ritual offerings thrown from above. Eighteen microphones installed at the pond's floor capture real-time underwater sounds, such as fish nibbling, which are played live inside the pandal.

"A pond is not merely a water body. It is an ecosystem, a living container," said artist Bhabatosh Sutar. "In 50 years, Kolkata has lost around 70 per cent of its ponds, filled by real-estate promoters to make concrete high-rise buildings."

Shubham Saha, assistant secretary of the club, added, "We want to convey the story of a pond that has been a part of our family's history for the past several hundred years, becoming almost like a family member. We are witnessing that over many decades, ponds are gradually becoming extinct."

The moss-toned idol stands around 20 feet tall, symbolising the worship of the pond as a Goddess. Her jewellery and attire are crafted entirely from aquatic elements like water lilies (shaluk) and leafy greens (kolmi saag). Celebrating its 68th year, the club operates on a budget of roughly Rs 50 lakh.

"In last 50 years, Kolkata has lost around 70 per cent of its ponds, filled by real-estate promoters to make concrete high-rise buildings," said artist Bhabatosh Sutar.

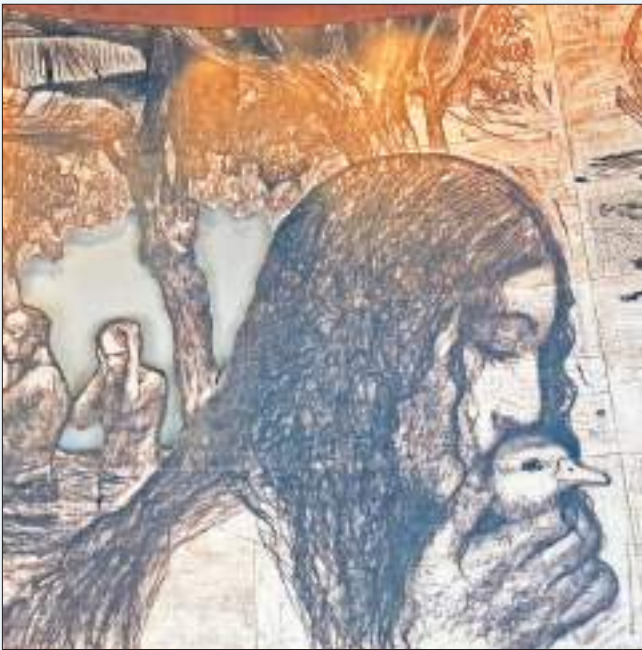


HOW TO REACH:

Take the Metro to Dum Dum station and board an auto directly to Nagerbazar. From the Nagerbazar auto stand, a short walk leads to Telipukur Yubak Sangha.



The installation at Telipukur Nagerbazar Yubak Sangha Puja pandal in Kolkata showcases a pond's role in everyday life — from weddings and rituals to relaxation — alongside human-induced pollution; the moss-toned idol stands around 20 feet tall. PARTHA PAUL



DUM DUM PARK TARUN SANGHA

TRADE ROUTE

Celebrating its 41st year, Dum Dum Park Tarun Sangha presents "Biniya Katha", conceptualised by artist Anirban Das. The theme highlights Bengal's rich trade history spanning from the 7th century BC to the 18th century.

Constructed on a budget of roughly Rs 45 lakh, the 11-to-12-foot-tall pandal features a main sanctum styled as a trading port complete with a merchant ship. It depicts historical tales such as Xuanzang's voyage, Emperor Ashoka sending the Bodhi tree to Sri Lanka, Dwarkanath Tagore's shipping business, and unique historical accounts like the transport of a giraffe to mainland India.

Performers wearing traditional masks and holding stylised wooden boat props portray ancient maritime merchants. The exterior facade is adorned with ship-themed structures, painted historical murals of sailing vessels, and a prominent explorer statue.

The clay idol is crafted in a terracotta style to honour historical exports. Organisers report high crowd turnout starting as early as Tritiya.



HOW TO REACH:

Take the Metro's Blue Line to Dum Dum station, then take a 12-to-15 minute auto, toto, or cab ride (3.1 km). Alternatively, alight at Belgachia station for a less congested route with direct autos or buses. Bus travellers can take any route via VIP Road or Jessore Road, get off at the Dum Dum Park Bus Stop, and take a short walk or toto to the venue.



The 11-to-12-foot-tall pandal of Dum Dum Park Tarun Sangha in Kolkata features a main sanctum styled as a trading port complete with a merchant ship. It depicts historical tales such as Xuanzang's voyage. The clay idol is crafted in a terracotta style. PARTHA PAUL

[FROM PAGE 1]

Puja shift

rendered in shades of pink. Prabir Dhar, the working president of the Sreebhumi Sporting Club Durga Puja Committee, expects this year's celebrations to be grander than ever, attracting more visitors than the 1.5 crore estimated to have visited the pandal last year. Yet, beneath the spectacle, the neighbourhood is anticipating a different kind of change. Until last year, Sreebhumi was closely associated with Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Sujit Bose, who was the public face and chief patron of the puja. Under his supervision, it became a two-week carnival, disrupting traffic and everyday life for residents.

With Bose embroiled in the municipal job scam case, a new committee is managing the puja. Its stated aim is to regularise the celebrations and restore their local, residential character without sacrificing grandeur.

"Till last year, the puja would be inaugurated on Mahalaya itself, that is during Pitri Paksha (the fortnight dedicated to ancestor worship)," says Dhar. "It is an insult to the Sanatan tradition. Maa (Goddess Durga) must be worshipped during Devi Paksha (the fortnight dedicated to goddess worship)," he argues.

This year, the puja was opened to visitors a day after Mahalaya by West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari. Sreebhumi presents a larger question facing Durga Puja following the change of government in West Bengal in May: has the festival's political economy changed, or have its patrons simply changed?

Months before the celebrations, Durga Puja was already at the centre of controversy over calls to restrict the sale and consumption of non-vegetarian food near pandals, as well as government directives concerning liquor sales on Maha Ash-tami and DJ music during festivities and immersion processions. "Durga Puja, in a way, remains as it was, but some structural changes will be apparent this year. Earlier, there used to be a contest between different puja committees led by TMC heavyweights who acted as patrons," says an organiser of a prominent city puja, who did not wish to be named.

New faces at the helm

One of the most visible changes this year is the emergence of new political faces at prominent pujas across Kolkata.

At Sreebhumi, Bose has been replaced by Health Minister Sharadwat Mukherjee, who defeated him in the Assembly elections. At Suruchi Sangha in New Alipore, BJP MLA Sourav Sikdar has assumed a key role, replacing Aroop Biswas and his brother Swaroop, who was associated with the Bengali film industry. At Hathibagan Sarbojonnin in north Kolkata, BJP leader and state industry minister Tapas Roy has replaced TMC leader Atin Ghosh and his associate Saswata Bose. BJP MLA Ritesh Tiwary has also replaced former tourism minister Indra-nil Sen as patron of Tala Prottoy.

The new patrons present these changes as an attempt to free the festival from the control of TMC leaders and return it to the people. "What used to be the Biswas brothers' puja is now a puja for the residents of New Alipore. The puja will be conducted strictly according to the scriptures. The theme and grandeur will remain the same," says Sikdar of Suruchi Sangha.

"Different Puja committees approached me to be their patron. I selected a few. The main organisers remain the same," says Tapas Roy.

But whether the changes amount to a redistribution of control, rather than a transfer of political patronage, remains an open question.

After Independence, several pujas became associated with Congress politicians. Ekdalia Evergreen Puja in south Kolkata's Gariahat, for instance, became closely identified with the late Subrata Mukherjee from the 1970s. The CPI(M), which came to power in 1977, largely kept its distance from direct participation in religious festivities on ideological grounds. This left space for Congress politicians, and later the TMC, to cultivate relationships with puja committees.

"TMC leaders' involvement in Durga Puja was not sudden," says Sandipan Mitra, who was part of the research team that prepared the dossier that helped "Durga Puja in Kolkata" get on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



Replica of Jaipur's Hawa Mahal at Sreebhumi Sporting Club

TMC leaders participated in the festival long before the party came to power in 2011, with leaders such as former Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim and former ministers Partha Chatterjee, Aroop Biswas, and Sovan Chatterjee becoming known faces through the pujas they hosted. Under the TMC rule, this involvement expanded into what came to be described as a "festival mode of governance". Art historian Tapati Guha Thakurta, who has extensively studied the cultural and social significance of Durga Puja, says the party increasingly used the festival as a platform for politics and governance. "Didi and Durga almost had a political pact. She became Durga's greatest champion, but her face also competed with Durga everywhere," she says.

The change of government marks a shift in the political actors associated with the festival, but not necessarily in the relationship between political power and public celebration.

A public art festival

The new government's emphasis on tradition has raised questions about the artistic freedom that has become central to contemporary Durga Puja. BJP's Baranagar MLA and Santosh Mitra Square Puja organiser Sajal Ghosh — whose father Pradip Ghosh was a Congress leader and the patron of the Puja — has argued that idols should follow traditional conventions and should not be distorted through artistic experimentation.

Pashupati Rudra Paul, an artist from Kumartuli, says several committees have insisted that Durga idols should not exceed 11 feet in height. "This rule existed previously as well, but no one followed it. This year there is strict adherence to it," he says.

Another artist, speaking on condition of anonymity, says many idol makers are avoiding experimentation with the idol's form this year.

Anirban Das, the main artist at Nandanik Club in Kanthi in Purba Medinipur, which is CM Adhikari's home turf, insists there is no political pressure. "We will worship Mahishasura Mardini as we do every year. We believe in her presence everywhere and in every object," he says. "We are organising Durga Puja the same way we have been doing for years. Nobody has told us to change anything," says Somen Dutta, an organiser at the Kashi Bose Lane puja.

Others emphasise that creative freedom is integral to the festival. "Goddess Durga does not reside in temples. She is celebrated by common people in the streets and neighbourhoods. Who can dictate how she should look?" asks Bhabatosh Sutar, who has designed Durga Puja pandals and idols in Kolkata for 27 years.

"There is a huge creative crafts economy that is centred around Durga Puja," says Guha Thakurta. Young artists, she says, have used the festival as a platform to showcase their work, opening up a democratic space for art production in the city.

The festival's significance as a public art event was recognised when Durga Puja in Kolkata was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2021.

The expansion of Durga Puja has also raised concerns that commercialisation and political patronage have weakened its neighbourhood character.

At Sreebhumi, Dhar says the corporatisation of the festival over the past 15 years made it difficult for residents to participate. The idol was adorned with gold, while heavy security restricted access to the goddess, including for those wishing to offer pushpanjali, or flowers during worship. This year, the committee intends to encourage local participation and keep the idol simpler. Guha Thakurta acknowledges that commercialisation and politicisation have distanced some pujas from their local communities. A celebration once heavily controlled by the TMC at Sreebhumi, she argues, exemplified this trend. Yet, she questions whether the change of government will fundamentally alter the model. The faces may have changed, but the script of a relationship between political power and the festival may remain much the same.

THE BENGALI ASSOCIATION SINGAPORE IN LITTLE INDIA HAS BEEN CELEBRATING DURGA PUJA SINCE 1956

Bhog in Belgium, naru in Singapore: Bengalis keep tradition alive

Tanusree Bose
Kolkata, October 15

BENGALIS ACROSS the world are bound together over the five days of Durga Puja, despite the local time difference. Away from their homeland, they keep the traditions, rituals, and food alive for generations to come. From Belgium to Singapore and the US to Noida, they are set to welcome Ma Durga with her four children.

Founded in early 2025, Agomoni Belgium Durga Puja was established by a small group of expats who wanted to keep the Bengali traditions and culture alive while promoting unity, harmony, and positivity.

The celebrations will take place at Blauwe Regen, on the outskirts of Antwerp. The festivities will follow traditional Durga Puja rituals from Saptami to Dashami, including Kola Bou Snan, Pushpanjali, and Sandhi Puja.

Koel Das, who moved to Antwerp after marriage in 2024, said, "There are Durga Puja celebrations in Brussels but not in Antwerp, so we concentrate over here."

According to Das, they follow the Bengali panjika for the Durga Puja celebrations. "We maintain the tithi like it is done in Kolkata, so the celebrations begin from Friday as it is Sasthi, and since Ashtami, Navami and Dashami are on weekdays, we have taken



At a Durga Puja pandal in Singapore. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

leave on Monday and Tuesday," she told *The Indian Express* over the phone.

Approximately 17-20 people had begun the puja, but now people from various other com-

munities (Kashmiri, Punjabi, Bangladeshi, and other people) also participate as volunteers in making *bhog*, prasad distribution, and cultural events.

Uttoron Durga Puja in Seat-

le, US, has already celebrated this year's Durga Puja. Founded in 2005, this Durga Puja is celebrated only on weekends. Moushumi Bandhopadhyay, who was born and brought up in Kolkata, has celebrated Puja there for the past 10 years.

"When we were children, Durga Puja celebrations began on Panchami. As we grew older, we went to Maddox Square, but now I am involved here," she told *The Indian Express*. "Here puja starts on Friday evening, and we wrap up everything by Sunday evening."

The Bengali Association Singapore in Little India has been celebrating Durga Puja since 1956. From drawing competi-

tions to Sindoor Khela to performances by bands like Jol Chobi and Electric Desiland to fashion shows and Chitrahhaar (songs, storytelling, and dance) to garba, the next five days are completely packed.

Barnali Bhattacharya said, "Bhog is distributed among all. Everyone has responsibilities: some are part of the bhog committee, and others are responsible for decoration or other aspects."

They also organised an ananda naru competition for women. Though not related to Bengali Association Singapore, an NRI Bazaar will sell everything from any Indian state, she added.



Sewa | Sushasan | Samarpan
Jan-Jan ki Sarkar, Jan-Jan Ke Dwar



“The energy, innovation, and talent of our youth are the greatest forces driving the creation of a developed India. The State Government is fully committed to securing the future of young people and providing them with opportunities to grow and progress.”

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand



“The construction of a developed India in the 21st century rests on two main pillars: first, pride in our heritage, and second, making every possible effort for development. Today, Uttarakhand is continuously strengthening both these pillars. This decade is the decade of Uttarakhand.”

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Youth Empowerment

New Opportunities, New Dreams,
A New Uttarakhand



Dedicated to Youth Empowerment and a Brighter Future



A strict anti-cheating law has been implemented in the state. With greater transparency in the recruitment process, talented youth are now being selected for positions across multiple departments. Over the past five years, more than 34,000 youth have secured government jobs.



The number of people employed under MSMEs increased to 456,605 in 2025, up from 343,922 in 2022.



The State Government launched the CM Skill Upgradation & Global Employment Scheme. Its budget was increased from ₹75 lakh to ₹3.3 crore. So far, 147 young people have received foreign-language training, and 92 have secured employment in different countries.



Uttarakhand became the first state in the country to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.



The Chief Minister's Higher Education Promotion Scholarship Scheme was launched to support students in higher education.



The National Games were hosted in Uttarakhand for the first time. At the 38th National Games, Uttarakhand athletes won a record 103 medals.



Under the new Sports Policy, a historic decision has been taken to provide government employment to national & international-level medal winners.



The daily diet allowance for state athletes has been increased from ₹250 to ₹480 per athlete per day, on the lines of the Sports Authority of India (SAI).



Under the Uttarakhand Film Policy, scholarships are being provided to youth who graduate from FTII. Based on course expenditure, 75% scholarship is provided to ST, SC and OBC candidates and 50% to General category candidates.



Under the Chief Minister's Emerging Players Upgradation Scheme, around 3,900 promising athletes aged 8-14 years across the state are being provided a sports scholarship of ₹1,500 per month.



Athletes who win medals or participate in national and international competitions such as the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games will benefit from a 4% sports quota in government services.

Empowered Youth, Stronger Uttarakhand

Vikas bhi,
Virasat bhi

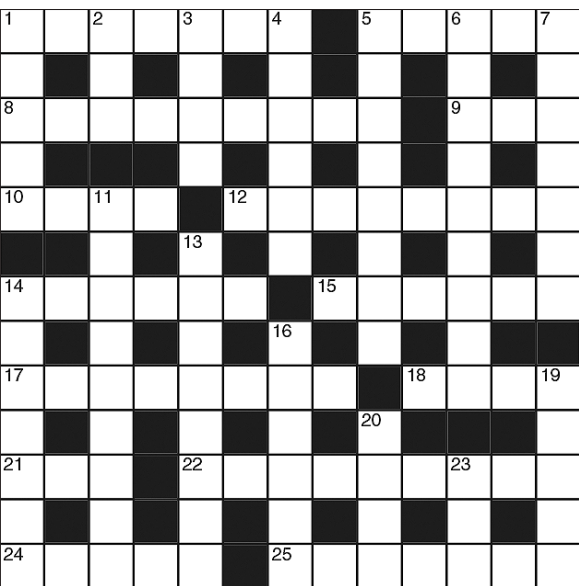


Issued in Public interest by Department of Information & Public Relations, Uttarakhand, Dehradun

www.uttarainformation.gov.in | DIPR_UK | UttarakhandDIPR

CROSSWORD

6121



- ACROSS
- 1 The crown takes a firm course if backed (7)
- 5 They may be raised if he's taking in work (5)
- 8 Feeling a nose isn't well-shaped (9)
- 9 It's often quoted as a game for kids (3)
- 10 Make an impression as an artist (4)
- 12 Misgivings about the foreign garments (8)
- 14 Fearful sort of cavern (6)
- 15 Good man in favour in US city (6)
- 17 Rife perhaps and it spreads rapidly (8)
- 18 Witnesses a key agreement (4)
- 21 It goes on land and swims in the reef too (3)
- 22 Simple departure is without formality (4,5)
- 24 Figures will show how well they are working (5)
- 25 Appreciate consideration (7)
- DOWN
- 1 A sect forming a social group (5)
- 2 Cycle race (3)
- 3 He floated a company to avoid liquidation (4)
- 4 Rialto's broken sewer (6)
- 5 Palmistry manual? (8)
- 6 Type Latin translation with great composure (9)
- 7 Nominally commits oneself to work? (5,2)
- 11 She makes hot claret (9)
- 13 They're not bound to be distributed (8)
- 14 Neat attendant (7)
- 16 One loses marks using it (6)
- 19 Sense of position say (5)
- 20 Earnings do not begin for a long time (4)
- 23 Cooling agent used in atomic energy (3)

SOLUTIONS CROSSWORD 6120 ACROSS: 1 Hoodwink, 5 Shop, 9 Omega, 10 Plodder, 11 Pressing need, 13 Handle, 14 Snacks, 17 Capital gains, 20 Implore, 21 Elemi, 22 Gait, 23 Vendetta DOWN: 1 Hook, 2 Overrun, 3 Weak solution, 4 Napkin, 6 Hedge, 7 Parodist, 8 Forging ahead, 12 Shocking, 15 Convert, 16 Fleece, 18 Pepsi, 19 Diva

JUMBLED WORDS

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

There are things known and there are things unknown, and in between are the doors of ____ - Aldous Huxley (10)

MYEER

FMIOI

CANOED

AACYPP

SOLUTIONS: Eternity, Motif, Deacon, Papacy

OVER THE HEDGE



CALVIN & HOBBS



MARVIN



DIFFICULTY LEVEL 4s INSTRUCTIONS

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

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

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

SUDOKU 6473

SOLUTION SUDOKU 6472

ROYAL STARS

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20): You couldn't pick a better day for sports training or improving a skill in the arts, music, pottery making or doing anything that requires repetition to improve. That's because today you have the patience and perseverance to keep trying. Tonight: You're admired.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21): You'll make great strides tackling home improvements today. You will work hard and steady. You won't overlook details, and you will be careful with your work. Tonight: Explore and learn.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21): Although this is a playful, lighthearted time for you, today you'll be careful in your communications with others. You'll be direct and honest. You won't overlook details and you'll finish what you begin. Tonight: Check your finances.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23): Today you might take care of what you own by repairing, cleaning or doing whatever you can to maintain it so it works well. And you have the patience to do this. If shopping, you'll buy practical, long-lasting items. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG 23): You're super productive today because Mars in your sign receives a lovely boost from stern Saturn, which will give you enormous perseverance and endurance to complete any task that you want to do today. Tonight: Get organised.

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23): Today you have grit and gumption. And this is why you will work steadily at whatever task that you set for yourself. You're concerned with earnings and cash flow right now. Remember to take time off for good behaviour and have some fun. Tonight: Socialise.

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23): Group efforts will be your best choice to be productive today. You have the patience to work with others in order to achieve your goals. You'll give everything your best shot. Tonight: Relax at home.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 23): More than most signs, you have an amazing ability to make things happen. Today your ambition will be expressed very skillfully. You will go slowly and carefully in order to accomplish what you want to get done. Tonight: An interesting conversation.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 24 - DEC 22): This is a great day to study something that requires focus, endurance and attention to detail. It's also an excellent day to finish major writing projects, scripts and books. You have what it takes to get it done. Tonight: Check your belongings.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20): You will make great strides if you need to tackle red-tape issues dealing with shared finances, taxes, debt, inheritances, estates, wills. Today you have the willingness and perseverance to do it. Get busy! Tonight: You win.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19): Mars is opposite your sign today influenced by the stern Saturn, which might make you a bit stubborn when dealing with spouses, partners or close friends. By that, I mean you'll be immovable. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20): This is a tremendously productive day for you. You'll find it easy to work hard and work long. You won't hesitate to tackle tasks you've been avoiding, and you'll be tenacious, reliable and careful. Who can ask for more? Tonight: Be friendly.

The Midnapore Co-op. Milk Producers' Union Ltd (MIMUL) NOTICE for Recruitment

Ref. MU: CE: 26-27/384 Dated-14/10/2026

Notification for project specific engagement in the post of (i) 'Head -Sales & Marketing' - 01 Post & (ii) Asst. Manager (Plant Operation)- 01 Post under the Midnapore Coop Milk Producers' Union Ltd. Interested eligible candidates are invited to attend the Walk-in-Interview scheduled to be held on 06th November 2026 at the Office of the Addl. District Magistrate (ZP), Paschim Medinipur at Zila Parishad Complex, Midnapore at 01.30 PM.

The interested candidates may go through the website www.paschimmedinipur.gov.in or www.mimulmilk.in for details.

Sd/- Managing Director Midnapore Milk Union

The Midnapore Co-op. Milk Producers' Union Ltd (MIMUL) NOTICE for Recruitment

Ref. MU: CE: 26-27/382 Dated-14/10/2026

Notification for project specific contractual engagement of (i) Management Trainee (MT)- Field Extension Activity- 06 nos, (ii) Management Trainee (MT)- Plant Operation- 04 nos, (iii) Account Assistant/Jr. Account Assistant- 01 no & (iv) Executive (Sales)- 02 nos. Interested eligible candidates are invited to submit the complete application within 06th November 2026 through Post/Courier at "The Midnapore Co-op Milk Producers' Union Ltd., Ashok Nagar, Midnapore, Paschim Medinipur. PIN721101". Only short-listed eligible candidates will be called for Interview.

The interested candidates may go through the website www.paschimmedinipur.gov.in or www.mimulmilk.in for details.

Sd/- Managing Director Midnapore Milk Union

DEBRA THANA SAHID KSHUDIRAM SMRITI MAHAVIDYALAYA (AUTONOMOUS) CHAKSHYAMPUR, DEBRA, PASCHIM MEDINIPUR-721124 PHONE- 03222-243400 www.debracollege.ac.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No- dtsksm/NIT87/26 Dated: 14.10.2026

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from reputed Contractors/Companies/agencies with suitable credentials (work completion certificate of minimum 40% of estimated cost in last 3 years for similar nature of work in a reputed organisation) for Construction of Septic Tank in hostel. Detailed vetted schedule and plan is available in the website www.debracollege.ac.in and in the college notice board. Rate must be inclusive of all taxes. Bidders must be submitted in the tender box kept in front of office.

Last date and time for submission of quotation: 26.10.2026

Date & Time of opening of quotation: 27.10.2026 at 2.00 p.m

(Interested bidders may kindly remain present) (Dr. Rupa Dasgupta) Principal

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE

Niet No: WBREDA/Niet-65/2026-27 Date: 29.09.2026. WBREDA invites e-Tender for Design, Engineering, Manufacturing/ Procurement, Testing, Supply Installations, and Commissioning of Rooftop Grid Connected Solar PV Power Plant with cumulative capacity 300KWp with comprehensive Maintenance on turnkey basis at different govt. buildings /establishment/institutions in various districts of West Bengal. The Niet can be accessed from WBREDA website (www.wbreda.org.in) and can be downloaded from <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> portal from 14.10.2026, 4.00 P.M. onwards. The last date of submission of bid is 18.11.2026 up to 4.00 P.M. Further updates if any, in this regard will be available only at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>. Bidders should regularly visit the said website to keep them updated. Sd/- Superintending Engineer.

ICA/T19145(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD QUOTATION NOTICE

Proposed Horizontal & vertical extension upto (G+9) with provision of 10 storied of UNAC Bldg (G+2) at 1, Harish Mukherjee Road, under IPGIMER-SSKMH --- Supply, installation & operation of Mechanical Stack parking in 2 (two) Layers at 8.10 mtr. level & 12.9 mtr. level floors. [2ND CALL] Earnest Money : Rs. 1,30,000.00. e-NIQ No. WBPWD/KSHD/EE/NIQ-19 OF 2026-2027. Tender ID :- 2026-WBPWD_5080231. Bid Submission Start date (online) : 22/10/2026 at 1:00 P.M. Bid Submission Closing date (online) : 07/11/2026 upto 1:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIQ & quotation documents may be downloaded from: <http://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, PWD Kolkata South Health Division.

ICA/T19160(3)/2026

WBEIDC

Webel Bhavan, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700 091.

Asset Recovery Management Branch, Durgapur, Nachan Road, Berachity, Durgapur-712121, Paschim Bardhaman W.B. e-mail : csk222@gnb.bank.in

CORRIGENDUM

Pursuant to the auction notice published in this Newspaper on 14.10.2026 in respect of borrower M/s B K CONSTRUCTION in SI. No. 1 of Branch 054620-MAYABAZAR, Durgapur, auction scheduled on 20.11.2026 in which please read the correct BID Increase amount of Property 1 as Rs.50000.00 instead of Rs.20000.00 and also BID Increase amount of Property 2 as Rs.50000.00 instead of Rs.20000.00. Rest details will remain unchanged.

Due date of Submission : 7 days from publication Interested parties may go through website <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> and <https://www.webel.in> For details contact : 9831231687

ICA/T19149(2)/2026

Date: 15.10.2026, Place: Durgapur Authorised Officer

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE

Following E-tenders have been invited by the concerned TIAs under the Directorate of Fisheries, WB:

Name of Work & Schemes	Districts	NIT No.	Bid Submission Start Date	Bid Submission End Date
Supply of good quality Grass Carp seed	NORTH 24 PARGANAS	WBDOF/ADF/N24PGS/NIT - 04/2026-27	14.10.2026	27.10.2026
	MALDA	WBDOF/ADF/MALDA/Niet - 04/2026-27		
Supply of good quality Singhi seed and lime	NORTH 24 PARGANAS	WBDOF/ADF/N24PGS/NIT - 05/2026-27	07.10.2026	28.10.2026
	MALDA	WBDOF/ADF/MALDA/Niet - 05/2026-27		
Supply of good quality Vannamei Shrimp (L. vannamei)	North 24 Parganas (Brackish water)	WBDOF/ADF/BW(NI)/eNIT-03/2026-27	07.10.2026	28.10.2026
	South 24 Parganas (Brackish water)	WBDOF/ADF/BW(S)/eNIT-03/2026-27		

Other details may also be seen at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Director of Fisheries, West Bengal ICA/T19142(3)/2026

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, जन स्वा० अभि० विभाग, जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, गांधी नगर, जयपुर

ई-मेल: ace.region2jaipur@yahoo.com फोन नं०-0141-2702700

कमार्क :- अमु.अ. क्षेत्र-2/2026-27/8125-50 दिनांक 09-10-26

निविदा सूचना

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से कार्य हेतु जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठन/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ढाक एवं दूसरे/राज्य विभाग / राज्य इन्प्रास्टी मे उपयुक्त श्रेणी मे पंजीकृत संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया द्वारा निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत निविदा एवं निविदा पत्र www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

क्रम संख्या	एच.आई.बी	यु.बी.एन कोड	निविदा संख्या
1	PHE2627A3122	PME2627WLOB06589	21/2026-27
2	PHE2627A3132	PHE2627WLOB06590	22/2026-27
3	PHE2627A3132	PHE2627WLOB06591	23/2026-27

हस्ता./- (अजय सिंह राठौड़) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग जयपुर क्षेत्र-द्वितीय, जयपुर

DIPR/C/17666/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE

Following E - tenders have been invited by the concerned TIAs under the Directorate of Fisheries, WB:

Name of Work & Scheme	Establishment/ Districts	NIT No.
Supply of good quality Singhi seed and lime	Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, South 24 Parganas	WBDOF/ADF/S24PGS/eNIT-04/2026-27
	Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Purba Bardhaman	WBDOF/ADF/BDN/ eNIT-06 /2026-27
Supply of good quality Grass Carp seed for ranching in beels/baors	Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, South 24 Parganas	WBDOF/ADF/S24PGS/eNIT-05/2026-27
	Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Purba Bardhaman	WBDOF/ADF/BDN/ eNIT-07 /2026-27

Bid Submission Start Date: 13.10.2026. Bid Submission End Date: 30.10.2026. Other details may also be seen at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/-Director of Fisheries West Bengal. ICA/T19143(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL KMDA TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No : 74/SE/C-III/R&B/KMDA of 2026-2027

Online bids are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Circle-III, R&B Sector, KMDA, Block-D, 3rd floor, Umayan Bhavan, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata-700091, from bonafide, reliable, experienced & resourceful firms / individuals contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Value of the work, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Painting work for Chingrighata culvert, chingrighata fecell box, Metropolitan Bridge, mathpukur culvert, Panchannagram culvert, Naskarhat Bridge, DD-I culvert, culvert near ruby, Mandipara Culvert, Kalikapur Bridge, Bhowmik Marble Culvert, Metro cash carry culvert, Mukundapur Culvert, Uditia Culvert, baghajatin ROB, Ghoshpara Culvert, Garia Dhalai Bridge of both flanks on E.M. Bypass.

Tender ID: 2026 KMDA 1046239.1. Rs.30,26,714/-, Rs.60,534/-, 30 days, Last date & time of Online Bid submission: 29.10.2026, Time: 17.00 hrs. for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-679)

www.kmda.wb.gov.in ICA/T19140(3)/2026

NEW TOWN KOLKATA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

NOTICE INVITING e-Tender No.: WBNKDA/28/EE-E/2026-27

Online percentage rate e-Tender has been invited for the following works:

3. Provision of Flood light with pole, cable and other necessary at DF Play Ground under NKDA.

Estimated Amount: Rs. 5,20,608.00.

4. Provision of Luminaries at Bisharjan Ghat for various festival under NKDA area, New Town, Kolkata.

Estimated Amount: Rs. 1,18,033.00

Last date & time of submission of technical and financial bid (On-line): 24/10/2026 upto 6.00 P.M. Details available on Website: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & www.nkdamar.org and the office notice board of NKDA

Executive Engineer (Electrical) New Town Kolkata Development Authority

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE

Following E - tenders have been invited by the SFDCI:

Name of Work/Scheme	Establishment	NIT Ref No.
Supply of Tiger Shrimp Feed in Different Fisheries projects of State Fisheries Development Corporation Limited (Phase-1 & 2).	Managing Director, SFDCI	SFDC/MD/NIT/Inland/2026-27/43 to SFDC/MD/NIT/Inland/2026-27/44
Supply of Scampi Feed in Different Fisheries projects of State Fisheries Development Corporation Limited.		SFDC/MD/NIT/Inland/2026-27/45
Supply of Ground Nut Oil Cake & Molasses Oil Cake in Different Fisheries projects of State Fisheries Development Corporation Limited.		SFDC/MD/NIT/Inland/2026-27/46
Supply of IMC Brood Fish in Different Fisheries projects of State Fisheries Development Corporation Limited.		SFDC/MD/NIT/Inland/2026-27/47
Supply of Tiger Shrimp seed in Different Fisheries projects of State Fisheries Development Corporation Limited.		SFDC/MD/NIT/Inland/2026-27/48
Supply of Mullet seed in Different Fisheries projects of State Fisheries Development Corporation Limited.		SFDC/MD/NIT/Inland/2026-27/49
Supply of Single Super Phosphate & Urea in Different Fisheries projects of State Fisheries Development Corporation Limited.		SFDC/MD/NIT/Inland/22026-27/50

Bid Submission Start Date: 15.10.26. Bid Submission End Date: 05.11.26. Other details may also be seen at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Managing Director The State Fisheries Development Corporation Limited. ICA/T19144(3)/2026

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE

Following E-tenders have been invited by the concerned TIAs under the Directorate of Fisheries, WB:

Name of Work & Scheme	Establishment/ Districts	NIT No.	Bid Submission Start Date	Bid Submission End Date
Supply of good quality Singhi seed and lime	Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Uttar Dinajpur	WBDOF/ADF-UD/04/2026-27	14.10.2026	27.10.2026
	Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Paschim Midnapore	WBDOF/ADF/PM/eNIT-07/2026-27		
	Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Jalpaiguri	WBDOF/ADF/JAL/eNIT-04/2026-27		
	Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Howrah	WBDOF/ADF/HOW/eNIT-04/2026-27		
	Office of the Assistant Director of Fisheries, Jhargam	WBDOF/ADF/JGM/eNIT-04/2026-27		
Installation of a New DG Set and Supply of an Inverter Battery at Model Fish Farm, Barasagardihi, Malda	Office of the Farm Manager, Model Fish Farm, Barasagardihi, Malda	WBDOF/FM/Malda/eNIT-03/2026-27	30.10.2026	06.11.2026

Other details may also be seen at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> Sd/- Director of Fisheries, West Bengal ICA/T19137(3)/2026



Pat on the Back

DURING HIS farewell from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Union Minister of State L. Murugan received high praise from his senior colleague Ashwini Vaishnav, it is learnt. Murugan resigned from his ministerial post and Rajya Sabha seat earlier this week to return to Tamil Nadu and dedicate himself to strengthening the BJP there. Lauding Murugan, Vaishnav said he may have been his junior colleague in the ministry, but he feared him in Parliament as he was tough from within, even though he always wore a smile. Vaishnav and Murugan also exchanged pleasantries in Tamil, drawing a thunderous response from the gathering, it is learnt.

Counterplay

FROM AI-GENERATED content to skits in 'Gen Z settings' such as classrooms and campuses, videos taking on the BJP's political rivals will play a significant role in the party's bid to counter the Opposition "propaganda" against the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, party sources said. Likely to be led by BJP national president Nitin Nabin, the party's attempt to clear the air around the SIR exercise will see a barrage of content custom-made for social media platforms such as Instagram and X as well as messaging apps like WhatsApp, the sources said. Many of the BJP's official handles have already caught on to the trend even as the party is in the final stages of moulding a grassroots-level outreach on the issue.

International Deep Utsav

FOR THE Deep Utsav in Ayodhya in the first week of November, the Indian missions abroad have embarked on a drive to invite international Ramayana groups, who will be hosted in Ayodhya for the festival. While the event is being organised by the Uttar Pradesh government, the Ministry of External Affairs' cultural wing — the Indian Council for Cultural Relations — is making arrangements for the visit of the international artists, who will later be taken on a tour of other religious sites in the state.

CJP'S 'LEHRA DO TIRANGA' MARCH TODAY

Will act against CJP: Police to HC

Sohini Ghosh
New Delhi, October 15

THE DELHI High Court on Thursday recorded an assurance from the Delhi Police that it would take action against Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) and its founder Abhijeet Dipke, after a public interest litigation raised concerns that the group's planned protest at Connaught Place on Friday could disrupt business activity in the area.

The court was hearing the plea by Delhi resident Anil Kumar Gupta who claimed he was espousing the cause of street vendors and small traders whose businesses "have been severely hampered and affected by regular protests and agitations in and around the Jantar Mantar area". Gupta was also seeking that the court issue direction stopping the protest. The court, however, did not pass any direction on this.



Security personnel deployed in Connaught Place on Thursday evening ahead of CJP's 'Lehra Do Tiranga' march. TASHI TOBGYAL

On Wednesday, Dipke gave a call for people to assemble at Central Park in Connaught Place to demonstrate that "waving a Tiranga is not a crime". His call came after CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were placed under preventive arrest for allegedly breaching security and entering the Jantar Mantar

protest site on Tuesday morning, and managing to raise the Tricolour. The court noted that Dipke was served the PIL in advance. The petitioner also pointed out that he had not appeared before the court on Thursday.

The bench of Acting Chief Justice Nitin Sambre and Justice

Sanjay Sharma recorded in its order, "When confronted, the Additional Solicitor General (ASG) assures that the apprehension of the petitioner shall be taken care of as the respondents have taken enough steps in the matter to control and regulate the activity of respondent no. 6 (Cockroach Janata Party)... The assurance is taken on record."

Senior advocate Sacchin Puri, appearing for the petitioner, as well as ASG Chetan Sharma, pressed that action be taken not only against Dipke but also his associates. "It may not be again, a very devious plan, to evade the law. It (The order) may say 'respondent 6 and his associates', because they will say, 'ok i'm injuncted, but my right-hand man will continue (the protest)'," ASG Sharma said. Puri added, "Let it specifically restrain (CJP) and his associates so that we have a case of criminal contempt tomorrow". The ASG assented to

the submission, adding, "That positive order will serve the purpose and take care of the rightful apprehensions."

ACJ, Sambre, however orally remarked that including CJP will include its office bearers and others. Puri, expressing his apprehension, said, "I'm seeking specific directions for tomorrow's protest at CP which is not a designated protest site.. Illegal protest has been called in the heart of CP..." "What else do you expect, they have denotified Jantar Mantar," ACJ Sambre remarked. However, Puri contended that it is not about Jantar Mantar anymore but rather the disruption of the protest would cause at CP. "It's a festival weekend, they'll be completely on the street...", Puri argued.

The court, in its order, recorded the police's assurance that lawful necessary action will be taken against CJP ahead of the protest.

We want regime change, says Bhushan; BJP hits back: 'Out to stage a coup'

Express News Service
New Delhi, October 15

HOURS AFTER lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan told the press that "we want a regime change" and AISA leader Neha Bora referred to the Gen Z movement in Bangladesh as having "shown the way" for one in India, the BJP hit back saying "their sole intention is to stage a coup in the country".

In a video message, Bora, who has emerged as one of the faces of the ongoing protests against the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) said, "...we know that the Gen Z movement we are seeing in this country first started in Bangladesh and congratulations to you for showing us the way." Bora said the "fight for democratic and voter rights" in Bangladesh, which led to the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina government, was India's cause now.

On the other hand, Bhushan, at a press conference, announced: "Yes, we want regime change... What is wrong in this? I am saying today that yes, it is a battle for regime change, and we will get it done anyhow."

BJP media co-convenor and national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said, "When Rahul Gandhi was taking out his march, he made Neha Bora the face... This means that Neha Bora shares Rahul Gandhi's ideology... Bora said that she is inspired by the Bangladesh movement and wants the same thing to happen in India..."

BJP MP Sambit Patra said, "Prashant Bhushan ji said this fight is for regime change and they will not rest until they bring about regime change... Their sole intention is to stage a coup in the country... to somehow form their own government without fighting an election."



Dipke, Bohra address a press briefing on Thursday. TASHI TOBGYAL

'Turned Delhi into India-Pak border... for Gyanesh Kumar'

Alok Singh
New Delhi, October 15

THE COCKROACH Janta Party (CJP) and the All India Students' Association (AISA) Thursday condemned the police action against protesters carrying the national flag at Jantar Mantar and called for a mass flag-hoisting programme at Connaught Place on October 16, as part of their ongoing movement against alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Addressing a joint press conference at the Press Club of India, CJP founder and national convener Abhijeet Dipke questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "support" for Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that restrictions imposed in the national capital and the detention of protesters raised ques-

tions about the government's intentions. "You have even called unfurling the Tricolour a violation of law. For whom? For Gyanesh Kumar? What is Gyanesh Kumar giving Narendra Modi?" Dipke alleged.

"You have brought Delhi to a standstill, shut down the Railways, shut down the Metro and turned Delhi into a border, like the India-Pakistan border," he alleged. "You have called in all the forces to Delhi. Student organisations have been dragged, the Opposition has been dragged, and former Chief Ministers have been dragged through the streets. All this for one Gyanesh Kumar?" he said.

Questioning the CEC's role, Dipke asked why the Prime Minister was "providing him with such protection" and alleged that the Election Commission's actions could benefit the ruling party electorally.

Annual revision of rolls in 13 states, 3 UTs where SIR is over, says poll body

Express News Service
New Delhi, October 15

AFTER SKIPPING it this year, as the Special Intensive Revision was on or being planned in phases across states, the Election Commission on Thursday announced that it would conduct the annual Special Summary Revision (SSR) in 13 states and three Union Territories where the SIR has been completed, and Assam, where it had decided not to conduct the SIR.

The EC wrote to the Chief Electoral Officers of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal, saying the SSR with the qualifying date of January 1, 2027 would be conducted from November. Assembly elections are due in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Goa early next year.

"...in order to facilitate the enrolment of eligible electors with reference to the qualifying date of 1st January, 2027 along with seeking advance applications for the three subsequent qualifying dates of 1st April, 1st July & 1st October, 2027, the Commission hereby directs that the existing electoral rolls shall be revised by conducting a Special Summary Revision (SSR)...," the EC wrote.

As per the SSR schedule, the draft rolls will be published on November 12, after which

claims and objections will be invited till December 11. The final rolls will be published on January 4, 2027. The EC also said that political parties would get copies of the draft and final electoral rolls of the SSR in "readable PDF" format, as opposed to the earlier image PDF format.

"In States/UTs where SIR is going on or has just been completed (viz. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, NCT of Delhi, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, and Telangana), the schedule for SSR will be announced later. Also, for the 3 States/UTs namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, where SIR has not been started so far, schedule for roll revision will be announced in keeping in view their weather conditions," the EC said.

While the EC's centralised software to flag "logical discrepancies" in the SIR has been under the scanner, for the SSR, the EC is likely to return to its earlier software that flags "demographically similar entries and photographically similar entries (DSE/PSE)". This had not been used during the SIR.

In the instructions to the CEOs on Thursday, the EC wrote: "Confirmed cases of DSE/PSEs, permanently shifted and deceased may be removed only after Form 7 is received from the elector or near relative/family member (in case of deceased)."

● PROTEST GAINING TRACTION DUE TO WIDER RESENTMENT OVER ISSUES LIKE INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT AND RURAL DISTRESS, AMONG OTHERS, SAY BJP LEADERS

SIR protests to Cong-CJP bonhomie to UP polls: Why BJP has its task cut out

CAPITAL CONTEXT

BY LIZ MATHEW

A WEEKLY LOOK AT POLITICS IN A STATE FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF NEW DELHI

AS THE Opposition parties close their ranks and a new-found warmth develops between the Congress and the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) with the protests against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) row picking momentum, the ruling BJP seems to be facing mounting challenges ahead of the high-stakes Assembly elections in states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

While noting that the youth unrest is not merely directed against Gyanesh Kumar or the SIR, several BJP leaders admit that the protests gaining traction reflect a wider resentment

rooted in concerns over various issues such as inflation, unemployment and rural distress, which have been fuelled by various domestic and international factors, including volatility in the markets and global economic challenges.

What is apparently worrying the BJP is that the discontent is drawing public attention and giving the Opposition a "strategic advantage", party sources said.

The BJP's recent electoral successes, such as in the Gujarat local body polls, have been eclipsed by these protests which have got national limelight and drawn public attention, party insiders said.

The Opposition's strident campaign and narratives on social media may not have changed the "ground realities" in a significant way or dented Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity, but it could "sow doubts" in the minds of

common citizens about the efficacy and integrity of the election system and lead to their questioning of the dispensation, a senior BJP leader said.

Opp's unity

The Opposition INDIA bloc has got a shot in the arm by the Congress's increasing emphasis on unity among their ranks, with Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi even expressing his solidarity with the CJP leaders.

On Wednesday, Rahul targeted the Modi government after CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were sent to judicial custody, saying in an X post: "Waving the Tricolour at Jantar Mantar in a peaceful protest is not a crime. Jailing youth for it is an act of cowardice." CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke immediately responded by thanking him for "speaking out against the illegal arrest" of his colleagues.



Karnataka CM DK Shivakumar and Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi, along with other INDIA bloc leaders, during 'March for Democracy' against SIR of electoral rolls in New Delhi, on Monday. PTI

Several Opposition leaders camping in Delhi said their protests have been a "success", even as they underlined that they have to work hard consistently to translate it into an electoral advantage.

BJP's challenges

While the BJP leaders dis-

missed the protests as a "social media phenomenon for cheap popularity", they admitted that it reflects "frustrations over multiple issues over which the party or the government have no control".

"There are, of course, grudges against the government, but they are not over SIR

exercise — we have seen it in Bihar where the voters did not

take the vote chori campaign seriously despite an intense campaign by Rahul Gandhi. The youth is worried over the unemployment situation, especially in the context of global situations; the middle class is nervous over the volatile markets and fears that their investments may not yield any profits. Then there is the price rise problem. And the rural sector also has many issues," said a senior BJP MP.

"For the time being, it is good for us, because the Opposition is not talking about any of these issues but harping on SIR. With the festival season on, the protests would also lose their steam as the public attention will shift," he said, but agreed that the Winter Session of Parliament, expected to begin by the third week of November, could be another opportunity for the Opposition to

rake up all these issues.

The BJP could, however, launch a campaign in the coming days to clear people's doubts about the SIR exercise, said a top party leader.

The current political atmosphere, marked by the growing Opposition unity, has already affected the government's reform agenda, including its attempts to pass the Constitution Amendment Bill to advance reservation for women to 2029 — along with a delimitation Bill for expansion of the Lok Sabha from 543 MPs up to 850 — which was defeated in the Lok Sabha in the April special session.

Two other crucial Bills — the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill, which proposes the automatic removal of ministers if they are arrested or detained for more than 30 days for serious offences, and the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025, that seeks to

restructure higher education regulation in the country — have also been pending as the Joint Committees of Parliament examining them have been unable to finalise their reports due to differences among the parties.

"When the Monsoon Session began (on July 20), the Opposition parties were in multiple camps. But it's different now. Their current camaraderie is not good news for our legislative agenda," said a BJP insider.

With the resignation of Union Minister L. Murugan from both the government and the Rajya Sabha, which set off fresh speculation about an impending Cabinet reshuffle, a section of the BJP leaders say that infusing freshness into the ministry could ease the pressure on the party and the government in the perception battle in the run-up to the Assembly elections slated for February 2027.

Dreams took three Kerala youth to Germany, deadly fire cut short their lives

Shaju Philip
Thiruvananthapuram, October 15

TUESDAY'S FIRE in a residential building in Bochum, Germany, has cut short the lives of three young Indians from Kerala, turning their dreams of building new careers in a foreign land into a tragedy just months and weeks after they arrived there.

The three are Anjali S Joy (27) from Kollam, Nova Sabu (25) from Idukki, and Sivin Johnny (25) from Ernakulam.

German news agency *Deutsche Presse-Agentur* reported a fire broke out in a residential building in Bochum — 517-km drive from Berlin — around 4:15am local time on Tuesday. It said police arrested a 41-year-old resident, a Romanian national, on suspicion of murder. It was on Wednesday the families in Kerala found out about their daughters and son.

Anjali went to Germany to work in a warehouse in July this year. Her father, Joy, retired from the agriculture department, and her mother, Sheela, from the registration department. "Every day she used to call her parents. As usual, she called them on Monday night too. But on Tuesday night, when she did not call, Joy dialled Anjali. When there was no response, Joy alerted a relative working 50 kilometres away. He rushed to Bochum and found out about the tragedy," said Prasanna Pius, a friend of the family and a local panchayat member.

Anjali left Kerala for Germany after her attempts to find her dream job as a school-teacher went in vain. She holds a Bachelor of Education degree... Anjali taught at private tuition centres before flying to Germany to build a new career," said Prasanna.

Sivin John was from In Yordanapuram near Kalady in Ernakulam and is the son of farmer Konooran John and the late Lissy. "He had gone to Germany on a work visa and was slated to join the job on October 12. Sivin's younger brother Salvin is a nursing student in Germany... Sivin has been staying with his brother. He had left his passport and other documents with his brother... That led to a delay in identifying his body," said Kaladi panchayat member Lekha Valsan.

Nova Sabu, a native of Shanthigram village in Idukki, left for Germany to build a career as a gym trainer. She is the daughter of retired police sub-inspector Sabu and junior health inspector Jyothis. "... We heard from Keralites living in the region that the apartment was set on fire following a dispute involving a building owner... The fire and rescue team found them unconscious after inhaling smoke. They did not suffer burns, as per reports from Keralites in the vicinity," said her relative Sajeev.

India flags 'growing racist hostility' after mass shooting plot at US Hindu temple

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, October 15

AFTER A teenager with white supremacist views was arrested for allegedly plotting a "mass shooting" at a Hindu place of worship in Illinois, India said on Thursday that the incident adds to "growing concerns over racist hostility and anti-India hate in the US".

New Delhi said it expects US authorities to "thoroughly investigate the matter, bring those responsible to justice, and take all necessary measures to prevent such incidents".

Alexandros Paporakis, 19, of Palatine village in Illinois, was arrested on October 11 and charged with making a terrorist threat and unlawful possession of a weapon. According to investigators, the youth tried to open fire "potentially targeting" the place of worship in Aurora city earlier that day, but his gun jammed, forcing him to drive back home—a move that prevented a mass murder.

In New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal responded sharply: "We are deeply concerned by reports of an alleged plot to carry out a mass shooting targeting a Hindu temple in the Aurora area of Illinois. The reported anti-Hindu and racist nature of the alleged plot, including

references to violence against people of Indian origin, is particularly disturbing."

"We have taken note of the action taken by US law enforcement authorities, including the arrest and detention of the suspect and the charges brought against him," he said.

Jaiswal said, "This incident adds to growing concerns over racist hostility and anti-India hate in the US. There is a need for greater vigilance, zero tolerance for hate-motivated violence, and decisive action to ensure the safety and security of Indian community."

"We expect US authorities to thoroughly investigate the matter, bring those responsible to justice, and take all necessary measures to prevent such incidents," he said.

Palatine Police detectives examined electronic communications and a document attributed to Paporakis titled "Why I Fought: A.K.A.: (Aurora Shooter's Manifesto)", which contained "statements expressing white supremacist and extremist ideologies, including references to violence directed toward individuals of South Asian heritage, particularly those of Indian descent". The detectives believe Paporakis may have been planning to carry out the attack on Oct 11.

(WITH PTI INPUTS FROM NEW YORK)

Fresh snowfall in higher reaches of Himachal; several mountain passes are closed

Press Trust of India
Shimla, October 15

FRESH SNOWFALL occurred in the higher reaches of Lahaul and Spiti, Chamba and Kangra districts of Himachal Pradesh, while low and middle hills received intermittent rains on Thursday, officials said.

Snowfall was witnessed in Shinku La, Baralacha La, Kunzum La, Koksar, Jispa, Keylong and Gondlain Lahaul and Spiti, Sural and Sach Pass in Chamba, and the Dhauladhar ranges in Kangra district.

The snowfall has increased travel risks due to slippery roads at high-altitude passes, officials said. Roads from Rohtang Pass to Sarchu, Darcha to Shinku La, and Gramphu to Batal have been closed. In view of the weather conditions and safety concerns, officials said movement of all types of vehicles towards Shinku La, Baralacha La and Kunzum La had been suspended. Lahaul-Spiti Police have advised tourists and the general public to avoid unnecessary travel.



Vehicles ply on a snow-covered road near the Atal Tunnel in Kullu, Himachal Pradesh, on Thursday. PTI

SC REFUSES TO INTERFERE WITH JUNE 25 JUDGMENT OF MADRAS HIGH COURT

Cannot claim reservation after conversion: Top court

Ananthakrishnan G
New Delhi, October 15

IN A significant ruling, the Supreme Court on Thursday held that a person who converts from the Hindu social order cannot claim affirmative action based on pre-conversion status.

The court refused to interfere with a June 25 judgment of the Madras High Court which held that a person converting to Islam cannot claim status of a Backward Class category Muslim.

"Backwardness suffered in the antecedent social order cannot by itself be carried forward so as to confer upon him the status of a backward class in the religion to which he has converted," the bench of Justices P K Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhar said.

The bench said that by virtue of paragraph three of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, a person who professes a religion other than Hinduism, Buddhism or Sikhism cannot be deemed a member of the Scheduled Caste. "Consequently, upon conversion to a religion not specified therein, such person ceases to possess the Scheduled Caste status attached to his antecedent caste and cannot claim any affirmative action benefit of the backward class..." the bench said.

"A person's pre-conversion caste or community status cannot merely, by reason of conversion, be transposed into membership of a distinct notified backward class community in the post-conversion social order. Social backwardness which forms the basis of the person's pre-conversion status cannot by itself furnish the legal foundation for conferring upon membership of a different notified backward class community after conversion," it added.

The petitioner, earlier a Hindu, later converted to Islam. He married a woman as per Islamic rites and customs in 2016, and had two children. He applied for a community certificate showing him as "Muslim Lebbai".

The tehsildar rejected his application, prompting the petitioner to approach the Madras HC. Upholding the tehsildar's order, the HC declared a 2024 Tamil Nadu government

“Backwardness suffered in the antecedent social order cannot by itself be carried forward so as to confer upon him the status of a backward class in the religion to which he has converted.”

JUSTICES P K MISHRA AND SHREE CHANDRASHEKHAR
SUPREME COURT BENCH

order granting reservation in such cases as unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court upheld the HC ruling and said the government order "cannot be sustained and has been rightly quashed by the High Court". "It creates an artificial route by which a person moves from a pre-conversion social or backward social order into a notified Muslim backward class without establishing the necessary social and legal link. Therefore, the declaration made by the HC that the impugned GO is unsustainable in law calls for no interference," the court ruled.

The HC had said that a Hindu man converting to Islam would pass off as "an exercise of one's fundamental right under Article 25 of the Constitution of India". "But when, after such metamorphosis, the convert continues to claim the benefit of reservation, it triggers yet another conversation, nay debate, on the legitimacy and legality of such demand."

The SC judgement also addressed questions of backward class when a convert reconverts to the original religion. It said that "where a person after having converted from the Hindu social order to a non-Hindu social order and subsequently reconverts to the Hindu social order, the question of his entitlement to affirmative action under Article 16(4) cannot be determined merely by reference to his antecedent status."

EXPRESS special

At IIIT Ranchi, a suicide, protests & allegations of institutional failure

Shubham Tigga
Ranchi, October 15

THERE WAS nothing alarming about Aditya Kumar's video call. It was after dinner, and his father Vaishnav Dev Kumar had already settled in. "He told me he had biryani for dinner," Kumar, a police sub-inspector in the Bihar Police, told *The Indian Express*. "I asked him if he needed money or was facing any difficulty. He said no. I told him if he wanted me to come down to see him, I would. He said there was no need, that he'd already booked tickets home on October 18."

That was the last time the family heard from him. On October 10, 19-year-old Dalit student Aditya Kumar was found hanging from the ceiling fan in his hostel at the IIIT, Ranchi.

The death triggered protests, with students accusing the institute of negligence and demanding the resignation of director Rajiv Srivastava.

The police said the postmortem report attributed the death to suicide and that they were investigating the case.

In a public statement to students on Wednesday, Srivastava said he would be on leave until the inquiry was completed. "Any lapses and those involved will be held accountable, including myself. Unfortunately, the situation escalated beyond control... I will be on leave, and the additional director will assume charge shortly," he stated.

The family alleged a possible cover-up. "When I approached Khilgaon police station, an officer asked me to remove the director's name, but I didn't," Kumar said.

The police said they had registered a case of unnatural death and that no changes had been made to the complaint.

A first-year student from Bihar's Purnia district, Aditya lived on IIIT's campus in Khilgaon, on the outskirts of Ranchi. At 11 pm, while the family was asleep, they received a call from one of Aditya's roommates. "He told us to come down to Jharkhand immediately. As I was headed to the railway station, I got a call from the college management—they told me Aditya was no more."

Students who spoke to *The Indian Express* alleged lapses by the management. According to one student, Aditya went to his room after 10 pm. When his hostel mates received no response to repeated knocks, they broke open the door. One student said Aditya still had a faint pulse when they found him.

"The power was out in the hostel at that time, and the lift was not working. We had to carry him down the stairs," Ratan Tiwari, a flatmate, said.



First-year student Aditya Kumar was found dead on October 10

Students alleged that although an ambulance was available on campus, the management struggled to locate its driver and keys. "There was no power, no oxygen tank in the ambulance, and no driver," Tiwari said.

Aditya was eventually taken to a private hospital, where he was declared dead.

The family alleged "resistance" when it tried to get an FIR registered. "I learnt that an Un-natural Death Report had been filed instead of an FIR," Kumar said. Nirbhay Kumar, in-charge of Khilgaon police station, said: "If the investigation establishes the management's culpability, the UD case can be converted into an FIR."

In an October 12 order, the Union Ministry of Education said the incident warranted closer examination of the implementation of its guidelines on emotional and mental well-being at higher education institutions. The committee has two weeks to submit its findings. The National Human Rights Commission has also taken cognisance of the death.

Meanwhile, the college management said a three-member team would arrive in a day or two and that students should choose their representatives to meet.

According to Anil Alok, vice-president of the Students' Council, the protests have been called off as the investigation continues.

Kumar expressed dissatisfaction with the probe and said he might approach the court. "My family has lost faith... But we will do everything in our power to ensure justice for our son," he said.

GUWAHATI SMART CITY LTD.
(Formerly Guwahati Smart City Development Agency Ltd.)
(CIN U45309AS2016SGC017403)
04th Floor, Aditya Tower, Opp. Down Town Hospital, G.S. Road, Guwahati-781006
E-mail: mdsmartguwahati@gmail.com, Website: www.gscl.assam.gov.in

SPV/GSCL/DEV/250/2026/168

Tender Notice
National Competitive Bidding
MD, GSCL invites Request for Proposal for Selection of Consultant for preparation of DPR for Rejuvenation and Development of the Bharalu Riverfront, Guwahati with PMC cost of Rs 3.5 Crore incl. of GST.
The detail tender documents will be available in the e-Tendering portal: www.assamtenders.gov.in & www.gscl.assam.gov.in from date 15.10.2026 after 6PM. Tenders are to be submitted online through the e-procurement portal www.assamtenders.gov.in only.
The last date of online bid submission date is 12.11.2026 upto 15:00 hrs. The hard copy of the bids will be received till 13.11.2026 upto 14:00 hrs.
Those tenders will be rejected which have not been submitted online.

Sd/-
Managing Director
Guwahati Smart City Limited

Defence PSU chief held by CBI on graft charge, all contracts under lens

Sushant Kulkarni & Mahender Singh Manral
Pune, New Delhi, October 15

THE CBI has sought documents on all the contracts handled by Anil Kumar, the Executive Director of Pune-headquartered defence PSU Munitions India Limited (MIL), a day after he was arrested on bribery charges, along with his brother and the CEO of a private company.

The CBI, which claims to have seized over Rs 2.2 crore in cash, is also probing if Kumar disclosed sensitive information concerning defence production, procurement and other strategically important activities. In a

press statement, the CBI said Kumar "indulged in the demand and acceptance of illegal gratification in exchange for extending official favours".

Sources said that a tip-off received on October 12 regarding a Rs 500 crore contract awarded to M/S SMPP Ltd led the CBI to Kumar. SMPP CEO and Director Ashish Kansal is now under arrest, along with Kumar's brother B Harshvardhan, with the CBI also looking into the role of Kumar's wife Chetnashri and SMPP employee Ravit Kumar Tewatia, who are named in the FIR.

MIL is a key defence PSU manufacturing a wide range of ammunition, explosives, propel-

lants and high-energy materials. SMPP Ltd is a leading company in drone technology and manufacturing of ammunition, and had won the Rs 500 crore contract to supply ammunition to MIL for a year.

The CBI claimed seizure of Rs 1.73 crore from Kumar's premises in Pune, with Rs 50 lakh in cash and "incriminating" documents seized from properties said to be linked to Kumar, in Mysuru, Bengaluru and Delhi. "We are taking legal opinion and assessing the bank accounts of Kumar, his wife and other family members. We may book them in a fresh case of disproportionate assets," a source said.

Keen on Make-in-India in defence, aerospace: Outgoing UK envoy

Shubhajit Roy
New Delhi, October 15



Outgoing British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron

CALLING INDIA'S proposal for a ceasefire in the Black Sea region a "symbol" of a "big global player", Lindy Cameron, the outgoing British High Commissioner to India, said Thursday that the UK has identified "defence, security and technology" as the pillars of bilateral ties and wants to participate in Make-in-India programmes in the defence and aerospace sector.

In an exclusive interview with *The Indian Express*, Cameron, who is set to become Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom (equivalent to India's Foreign Secretary), described the UK-India "trade deal" as the high point of her Delhi stint, the effort of "turning it into a wider and deeper relationship between the two countries, and really importantly seeing that as a future-facing relationship".

On India's proposal on the Russia-Ukraine war, she said, "For me, this symbolises that move by India to be a player in a wider conversation where, of course, India has an extraordinary and really diverse set of relationships to build on, some quite unique." India has put forward a proposal to end attacks in the Black Sea region, and allow movement of grains.

On the defence sector, Cameron said, "The proudest moment I have is seeing Rolls Royce genuinely in a position to make an absolutely world-

leading offer, not only best time to first flight, but also really amazing IP (intellectual property) transfer as a potential candidate for building India's future combat jet engine."

Asked about the change of guard in the UK — Keir Starmer making way for Andy Burnham — she said, "We have seen changes in UK politics, and that's for politicians rather than me as a civil servant. But what's been constant is the importance of India."

On the friction points between the two countries, she said, "We have a relationship of depth and trust that means that the sore points are things we can discuss privately. We have tough conversations, but we have them in private, and we have them with friends."

On the key learnings that she takes home, Cameron said, "I will take with me an understanding of India's worldview. I think when you sit in Delhi, you sit in a different geography."

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT
No. 100, Santhome High Road, Chennai – 600 028

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
Tender Ref.No.TNREGN/3/2026-27 dated 16.10.2026
Online tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the Selection of a Managed Service Provider (MSP) for Design, Setup, Operation and Maintenance of 5 (Five) Model Registration Hubs (MRHs) in Phase-I and 20 (Twenty) MRHs in Phase-II after successful completion of the pilot, in the State of Tamil Nadu, for a contract period of 5 years, extendable by up to 2 years for the Registration Department, Government of Tamil Nadu. The details of the tender are as follows:

1. Tender inviting authority	Additional Inspector General of Registration (S&R) O/o Inspector General of Registration, No. 100, Santhome High Road, Foreshore Estate, Chennai – 600 028.
2. Name of the work	Selection of a Managed Service Provider (MSP) for Design, Setup, Operation and Maintenance of 5 (Five) Model Registration Hubs (MRHs) in Phase-I and 20 (Twenty) Additional MRHs after successful completion of the Pilot, in the State of Tamil Nadu.
3. Downloading of tender document	The tender document may be downloaded, free of cost, from the Tamil Nadu e-Procurement Portal: https://www.tntenders.gov.in from 16.10.2026 to 16.11.2026 (up to 5.00 PM).
4. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.65,00,000 (Rupees Sixty Five Lakh only), to be remitted through online mode.
5. Pre-bid meeting	26.10.2026 at 3.00 PM, at the address mentioned in Sl.No. 1 above.
6. Due Date, Time & Place of the Tender	On or before 16.11.2026 up to 5.00 PM, through e-submission Submission of at https://tntenders.gov.in .
7. Date, Time and Place of Opening of the Tender	The Technical Bid will be opened on 17.11.2026 at 3.00 PM. The date of opening of the Price Bid will be intimated to the technically qualified

The tender document, complete terms and conditions, detailed scope of work and eligibility criteria are available at: <https://tntenders.gov.in>.
Note: Neither the Registration Department nor its representatives shall be obliged to intimate the bidders who are not qualified at any stage of the bid process management.

DIPR/3160/TENDER/2026 Additional Inspector General of Registration (S&R)

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

E-Tender Notice
National Competitive Bidding (NCB)

CMRL invites tenders through the CPP Portal (<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>) from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible firms who fulfil the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document through National Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the work mentioned below:

Tender No: CMRL/Track/O&M/2026 "Comprehensive Maintenance of Ballast less Track for Elevated, Underground and Depot sections in Phase 1 and Phase 1 Extension".

(i) **Tender document available from : 16.10.2026**

(ii) **Deadline for Bid Submission : 26.11.2026 up to 12:00 Hrs.**

For further details, please visit : www.chennaimetro rail.org & (<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>)

Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on the above-mentioned CPP Portal and will not be published in newspapers.

For Managing Director
Director (System and Operations)
Chennai Metro Rail Limited

DIPR/3144/Tender/2026

The IndianEXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

◆ IN 1932 ◆

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

IDBI stake sale: Welcome signal, build on it

ON WEDNESDAY, the long drawn out disinvestment of IDBI Bank was finally cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. The “strategic buyer”, Toronto-based Fairfax Financial Holdings, will acquire 60.72 per cent of the bank for Rs 52,878 crore. This transaction, which will be the largest FDI in the financial sector, comes on the back of signs of growing interest in the sector. Emirates NBD’s purchase of a 60 per cent holding in RBL Bank, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation acquiring 24.2 per cent of YES Bank, and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group picking up a stake in Shriram Finance signal increasing foreign investor appetite for high-value transactions in this segment. This is a welcome development.

In recent years, IDBI’s financial position has improved — its gross NPAs (non performing assets) stand at 2.3 per cent, while its capital adequacy ratio is at 26.92 per cent. Fairfax, which also holds 40 per cent of CSB Bank, will have to either merge CSB Bank and IDBI Bank or sell its stake in the former, considering the regulatory approach. After the conclusion of this transaction, LIC and the government will hold a 34 per cent stake in the bank. The receipts will also boost the government’s coffers, which would help offset some of the expected overshooting of its budgeted subsidy bill. So far this year, the Centre has raised Rs 55,757 crore via disinvestment (including Rs 31,514 through LIC’s offer for sale) and Rs 6,367 crore through asset monetisation. Its disinvestment target has been budgeted at Rs 80,000 crore for 2026-27. This deal will bring in much-needed foreign capital, at a time when there has been considerable concern over both foreign direct investment and portfolio flows into the country, and the pressure on the rupee. Between April and July, while gross FDI flows stood at \$43.8 billion, net FDI was considerably lower at \$13.4 billion. Alongside, in the financial year so far, foreign portfolio investors have also taken out over \$18 billion from equity markets.

Following the cabinet’s decision, the Centre should move forward on divesting its stake in other PSUs — Shipping Corporation of India Ltd, HLL Lifecare Ltd and NMDC Steel Ltd are some of those for which in-principle approval has been given, according to a report in this paper. It should not stop there. It must push ahead with a larger and more ambitious disinvestment programme.

In France, student protest is symptom and warning

STREET PROTESTS in France over the last few weeks paint a stark picture. In schools across the country, students — joined by teachers, parents, nurses and other sections of society — forced closures and clashed with the police. Their demands sound unexceptionable: Better infrastructure and teaching, updated curricula, and equality in the quality of education and access to universities. At least 7,000 protesters have been detained; many have been injured, including police officers. Six months ahead of the presidential election, the government has promised 3,000 additional substitute teachers, and education is one of the few government departments not facing funding cuts. Look closer, though, and a deeper crisis in the French political economy becomes apparent, one that the minority Emmanuel Macron government seems ill-equipped to resolve.

At 3.5 trillion euros (nearly 120 per cent of GDP), France’s debt is among the highest in Europe. Investors are offloading national bonds, which has raised the cost of borrowing. It is also a clear signal from the markets that the fiscal situation needs to be brought under control. A large part of the problem is demographic and structural. In education, in real terms, budgetary allocations have grown by 14 per cent over the last decade. However, much of that has gone to paying out pensions, often at the expense of teachers’ wages and infrastructure. In fact, pensions account for 13-15 per cent of the country’s GDP. In 2023, the government sought to raise the pension age to 64, but backed down after widespread protests.

Macron rode to power, at least partly, on the promise of reform and reviving investment and industry. In the last months of his second term, he is all but running a lame-duck government and seems to lack both the will and the political capital to take the hard decisions that the country needs at the moment. Both the far-right National Rally led by Marine Le Pen and the left-wing LNF led by Jean-Luc Mélenchon seek to make political gains from the moment: The former promises budget cuts on top of a nativist narrative, the latter a utopian welfare state. The centre, it seems, has no advocate. Beyond the politics of the moment and the upcoming French election, the crisis is also a warning for several old democracies: An ageing population, a shrinking tax base and the inability to craft a political language and economic policy to address the contradiction is a recipe for instability.

Turn down the noise, let language find its way in

HOW DO newborn babies acquire language? How do they communicate? When Janet F Werker, the pioneering development psychologist, began researching into the linguistic capital of infants, she came away with an important discovery — that the process began even before birth, through sounds heard in the womb: A lullaby, the first inchoate babble, conversations overheard but not yet understood, auditory experiences that acquire meaning through the early years of life. The ability to listen shaped a child’s grasp of language.

A new study by University College London and Tohoku University, Japan, now follows on its trail and suggests that the best way to learn a new language is to focus on its sounds before wrestling with its grammar. Researchers tested Japanese learners of English and found that the more accomplished learners processed unfamiliar words much as they would any non-speech sound. They leaned less on the left sensorimotor network that serves the mother tongue. A foreign tongue began not with speech but with the patient accumulation of sounds and their meanings.

Its particular appeal and import for linguistics and development psychology apart, it is tempting to draw a larger philosophical lesson from the study. In an age saturated by the ceaseless sound and fury of people vying for attention, self-appointed experts pontificating with unshakeable certainty and those in thrall to their own voice and ideas, there is a case for turning the volume down. To understand another person, one must make room for a voice other than one’s own. The gifted language learner shows that listening is an act of hospitality, that in that simple courtesy of holding judgement, there is also the possibility of comprehension finding its way in.

US wants to build a new world. India must ask if it is open, fair, peaceful and just

MARCO RUBIO’S decision to visit Jamnagar and Mumbai rather than Delhi may not be intended to convey any symbolism. But it is difficult not to read it as a sign of things to come in Indo-US relations. The US Secretary of State will engage with India’s largest concentration of economic power, and pay homage to the Ambanis’ justly admired execution capabilities. In other contexts, this could be a refreshing development: A relationship founded on instrumentalism and pragmatism, in which corporate capital takes centre stage over conventional politics, deal-making gets priority over fixing the world. But it also signals India’s diminution. India is not a partner in building a world order, or an actor whose political status has priority; it is simply an amalgam of corporate interests.

Elon Musk tweets all kinds of threatening nonsense all the time. His calling Mukesh Ambani the Prime Minister of India is one such example. But it also unwittingly reflects what the American establishment would rather deal with: Big corporate houses, and the rest be damned. America’s conception of the world order is again being founded on something resembling an early 20th-century oil grab: Venezuelan oil, a possible deal with President Vladimir Putin for Russia’s overseas oil assets. The political correlate of this for America is to see the world as a confederacy of oligarchs. They might compete with each other, but they are the driving force in charge.

There is some potential in this kind of relationship. Technological cooperation can

advance in some areas; the latest being IBM’s proposed investment in quantum computing in Amravati. Investment flows can still be increased. Indian big corporates are likely to become more global investors. But it is not clear that this can sustain an overall relationship that has become politically, strategically and culturally more fragile.

The key pillars of the Indo-US relationship are hollowing out. The first was a bipartisan commitment in Washington to India’s rise. India’s rise, in this view, was itself a good thing for the world and the US, independently of whether India aligned with US interests. This commitment has waned: The transactional demands on India are higher.

Even in a post-Donald Trump regime, as Paul Staniland has recently pointed out, India may no longer be a high priority. India has always had a testier relationship on human rights and on trade with the left wing of the Democratic Party, which is in the ascendant.

The positioning of India as a bulwark against China was always an exaggerated framing. That structural reality has been around for years. It has not particularly given dividends to India over and above any other country. US attitudes to China also change. China is considered a looming threat in India. But it is also an opportunity and a reality India will have to manage on its own terms. The momentum achieved on getting the US to see Pakistan through an Indian lens has virtually collapsed, because US priorities have shifted. The US will



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

Grow up, they say: hypocrisy is the norm in world politics. That is true. But the issue is not hypocrisy. Only our realists rationalise away genuine conflicts of interest

Story of a politics in need of moral resurrection



ASHWANI KUMAR

We must continue to ask whether our political leaders are thinking, speaking and acting with sufficient seriousness to confront the strains that have impeded the nation’s march towards a dignitarian society

THE ELECTION cycle beginning next year is upon us. In 2027, seven states will elect new governments. These elections will shape the political landscape ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and, more importantly, test the purpose and processes of Indian democracy at a time when the fairness and integrity of the electoral system are under intense scrutiny.

The deafening noise of inanities and abuse, the breakdown of consensus on the fundamentals of a federal polity, the encroachments of the limits of constitutional power, and the moral impoverishment of public life compel a considered reflection on the state of the nation and its politics. This must begin with a reminder that the ultimate purpose of the popular vote is not majority rule alone. It is to secure a government committed to the advancement of human dignity anchored in fundamental freedoms. It is necessary, therefore, to ask why, despite India’s material and technological progress, the constitutional promise of a just society founded on fraternity and empathy remains as distant as ever.

We must first ask whether a true democracy can be nourished when political loyalties are secured through freebies that often exploit the vulnerabilities of the marginalised. The unwholesome living conditions of a vast majority of Indians cannot be the good life envisioned by our founders and the philosophers of the welfare state.

Sahir Ludhianvi’s verse, written barely a decade after Independence, retains an unsettling resonance: “*Har ik jism ghayal, har ek rooh pyasi, / Nigahon mein uljhan, dilon mein udasi, / Yeh duniya hai ya alam-e-bad-hawasi, / Yeh duniya agar mil bhi jaye to kya hai.*” (Every body is wounded, each soul is thirsty; eyes are clouded with turmoil and hearts steeped in sadness. Is this the world we aspire to, or merely a realm of despair?) The verse attests to the failed expectations of a nation and the inadequacy of its politics. We also know that a government that plays “fast and loose” with civilisational values forfeits the trust of its people. Illustratively, the government’s approach towards the Rohingyas seeking refuge in our country negates our proclaimed civilisational philosophy of *vasudhaiva kutumbakam*.

We must continue to ask whether our political leaders are thinking, speaking and acting with sufficient seriousness to confront the strains that have impeded the nation’s march towards a dignitarian society.

Hard as it may sound, seduced by the

grandeur of a muscular state and the allure of material progress, we have acquiesced in political intolerance and the suffocating fear of power. We have allowed art and literature to be subjected to “a blindfold morality of obedience” and lost the capacity for moral indignation in the face of grave injustices. A politically volatile society, coupled with weakened democratic institutions and compromised fundamental freedoms, tells the story of a politics in need of moral and institutional resurrection.

The unending ostracism of political opponents and the “vanity and villainy of power” sit uneasily with democratic principles. While the ruling party is entitled to govern within the constitutional framework, it must recognise that constitutional power is delegitimised by its arbitrary use. Ruling dispensations must know that democracy is vindicated in the moral assertion of the people against injustice and that suppression of popular movements feeds the democratic spirit. The Opposition can claim the nation’s moral imagination only through intellectual integrity and political consistency. The espousal of grand causes, followed by a willingness to make sacrifices and difficult choices, will alone enable political leaders active at Jantar Mantar and elsewhere to inscribe themselves in history as agents of progressive change.

The nation can, and should, take pride in the trajectory of its progress. Yet we must pause in the wake of Mahatma Gandhi’s 157th birth anniversary to reflect on the correctives necessary to make India a model democracy at a time when democracies across the world are in retreat. Renewing democracy requires the humanising of politics and the civilising of power. It requires that we read into our political conduct an irrevocable moral code that places dignity, fraternity, freedom and justice above the transient demands and triumphalism of electoral politics.

In a homage to the Father of the Nation, one may recall the inspirational words of the American suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt: “To the wrongs that need resistance, / To the rights that need assistance, / To the future in the distance, Give yourselves.” The call to resist wrong, assist the vulnerable and dedicate oneself to the future may well provide the moral compass that Indian democracy needs as it enters its next electoral cycle.

The writer is a senior advocate and former Union minister for law and justice. Views are personal

use Pakistan or Bangladesh for its purposes, unmindful of India’s vision for South Asia, a task made easier by the fact that India at the moment does not have one.

Whether the trade deal with the US is at a possible “landing point” or has “plateaued”, to use the two metaphors India has used to describe the state of play, is hard to tell. There is unprecedented opacity in these negotiations. India has been wise not to rush into a deal, and hopefully it will continue to stand on firm ground. If it is an unfavourable deal, the Narendra Modi government and the US will become the object of political ire; if the deal is not accomplished, it will be a shadow that hangs over the relationship.

The US’s long history of sanctions on India continues, the latest being Russia-related sanctions, while the US procures diesel from Russia. Many in the Indian establishment are still keen on defending America by evading the issue in the language of faux realism. Grow up, they say; hypocrisy is the norm in world politics. That is true. But the issue is not hypocrisy. Only our realists rationalise away genuine conflicts of interest

One other background cultural condition is dissipating as well. One of the most remarkable developments of the last three decades was the almost seamless integration of American and Indian elites through immigration. The idea

that America would be forever open to the levels of immigration that we saw in the last few years was implausible. At some point, that momentum had to slow down. America is within its rights to regulate migration. But the debate over the regulation of immigration is tied to MAGA’s nativism, racial supremacy, and suspicion of Indian success, all endorsed at the highest levels of the US government. India’s response to JD Vance’s remarks on Indian workers suggests this is no longer a technical dispute over immigration. The depleting reservoir of cultural goodwill will have downstream effects.

And finally, there is the world the US wants to build. No one grudges pride in civilisational achievements. But as Rubio’s speech at Athens recently underscored, the US is seeking to convert civilisational pride into a claim to Western pre-eminence, allied to a more muscular and imperial political vision. The question for India will not be what values or interests it shares with Rubio’s imagined West. It is whether this vision leaves room for the kind of open, fair, peaceful, just world order India ought to seek. Currently, the US is a rogue power, inflicting needless damage and risk on the world. Perhaps India should reevaluate the symbolism and convey to the US that, while we are open for business, we do not pay homage to this new Pax Americana. We ought to find all possible leverage to stand up to it, rather than pass over it in cowed silence.

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A reality check on AI boom: Eight risks to look out for



SAFI AHSAN RIZVI

AI is an exceptional technology, but its amplifiers need to sober up in the face of visible headwinds of regulation, an unconvinced workforce, and costlier financing

AI MODELS are growing much faster than the financing, governance and social acceptance of the revolution. A sobering influence has emerged. On October 8-9, Nvidia-backed Firmus withdrew its nearly \$5bn IPO after investors resisted a valuation of about \$31bn, three times its August valuation. Almost simultaneously, OpenAI indicated that its September annualised revenue was nearer \$50bn, not the nearly \$70bn previously signalled. OpenAI and Anthropic postponing their estimated trillion-dollar IPOs is further evidence that capital markets are realising the distance between promises and prices, encapsulated in eight risks.

First, the economy. AI stocks are at near-record valuations. The Iran war, high US gas and diesel prices and the yawning US fiscal deficit have spooked the bond markets into trading US treasuries, with yields at multi-decadal highs. Higher interest rates are hitting homebuyers and are expected to adversely affect the growth of hyperscaler data centres, which AI cannot do without. Second, AI revenue growth trailing capex requirements. With OpenAI indicating lower-than-expected annualised revenue in CY26, Anthropic at an operating loss of 8bn in CY25 and Meta’s free cash flow falling to -800mn from \$8.5bn a year earlier, room to raise expectations appears limited.

Third, costlier capex financing. Of the expected ~\$725 bn capex in CY26 by leading US hyperscalers on new data centres, the H1 assessment was ~40 per cent by end-June. Initially cash-funded, capex graduated to debt in formats such as private credit and bespoke financing templates, most of which are opaque. Goldman Sachs reported that most hyperscaler bonds issued in 2026 had fallen below issue price by end-August. Such unseen risk could impact banks, insurers and pension funds in the event of an AI selloff. Fourth, sobering valuations. In mid-2026, SpaceX raised \$75bn, listing at \$1.77tn, and OpenAI and Anthropic were reportedly targeting \$60bn each, targeting trillion-dollar IPOs. But sobering assessments have forced both Sam Altman and Dario Amodei to delay their listings. Fifth, regulatory risk. OpenAI and Anthropic were jolted when three of their frontier models were subject to sudden regulatory slowdowns, highlighting the risk of government control by diktat. Donald Trump also made AI CEOs accept responsibility for safety and agree to establish internal controls and external audits. Sixth, the risk of rogue AI is resulting in multimillion-dollar claims covering cyber attacks, copyright and privacy against directors, officers and entities, with hyperscaler potential in the same league as landmark litigation against tobacco, glyphosate, pharma and environmental liabilities.

Seventh, AI in war: Normalised, yet an amoral revenue generator. Use of autonomous AI is documented in Ukraine, Gaza and Iran, without due consideration for human scrutiny, civilian harm, proportionality and accountability. Some multilateral sense is bound to prevail sooner rather than later. Finally, rising global opposition to data centres. Communities cite reduced drinking water, expected electricity outages, noise pollution, land loss, and limited permanent employment. Protests have forced some rollbacks. But there are national-security concerns because China’s largely unrestricted buildout of another 50 GW beyond its current 24 GW capacity (US capacity is 56 GW) has gathered pace. AI is an exceptional technology, but its amplifiers need to sober up in the face of visible headwinds of regulation, an unconvinced workforce, and costlier financing.

The writer is former special director, IB

40 YEARS AGO

October 16, 1986



PM on Pakistani military

PRIME MINISTER Rajiv Gandhi said the “vast military” assistance Pakistan was now getting from the US would have to be “equally matched by India.” “We cannot allow military imbalance to develop in the Subcontinent,” he said. Addressing a meeting in Canberra, he said Pakistan was now getting \$4.6 billion worth of sophisticated military hardware.

55 killed in Sri Lanka fighting

AT LEAST 40 Tamil militants and 15 government soldiers were killed and about 20 others

seriously injured in the three days’ bitter fighting in northwest Lanka, a government media centre spokesman said in Colombo. Independent sources claimed that some of the victims were civilians caught in crossfire, but this was denied by the spokesman, who stressed that the latest military action was confined to jungle districts between Mannar and Vavuniya.

Circus tent collapses, 3 dead

THREE PERSONS were killed and 12 others injured, including two children and four women, when the tent of the Venus Circus in

the Parade Ground opposite the Red Fort collapsed in a dust storm. Nearly 200 persons were trapped inside. The circus authorities had closed down the show and had put the tiger and other animals in their cages just minutes before the accident occurred.

Hasina’s house stormed

A GROUP of armed people attempted to forcibly enter the Dhanmondi residence of the Awami League president, Hasina Wajed, allegedly to kill her and blow up her house. She was in the house when the miscreants struck at around noon.



DIS/AGREE

THE BEST OF BOTH SIDES

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

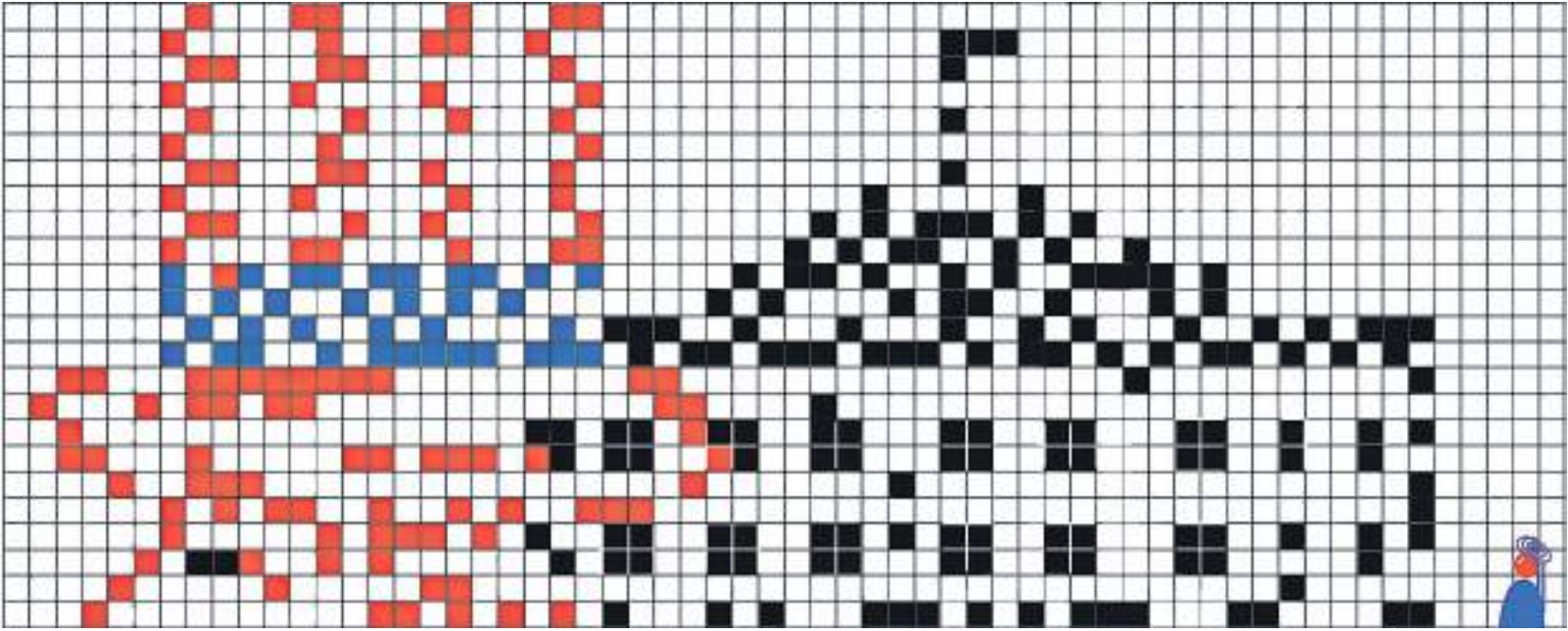


ILLUSTRATION: C.R SASIKUMAR

Are the ongoing tensions in US-India relations a passing phase, or do they point to a deeper dissonance?

Bide your time, focus on long game



SUMIT GANGULY

US-INDIA ties are at a particularly low ebb, but the relationship has endured worse during the Cold War. In 1966, for example, President Lyndon Johnson, piqued over India's strident criticism of the Vietnam War, resorted to what came to be known colloquially as the "ship-to-mouth" policy: He withheld much-needed food aid. Also recall President Richard Nixon's infamous "tilt policy" toward Pakistan during the 1971 East Pakistan crisis and Washington's coercive diplomacy against India. These and other unfortunate episodes during the Cold War certainly contributed to a palimpsest of distrust that continues to weigh down US-India relations. India had developed a distrust of the US as early as 1954 following the US-Pakistan defence pact under the Eisenhower administration. The US, in turn, despite maintaining a polite diplomatic façade and even briefly coming to India's assistance after the Sino-Indian border war of 1962, was not really interested in India. The latter's policy of non-alignment, its inward-facing economy and its lack of cultural ties to the US made New Delhi marginal to Washington's overall strategic calculus. Neither side put much stock in these adverse turns in the relationship. Today, however, a downturn in US-India relations has ramifications beyond bilateral ties. Over the last three decades, the two countries, regardless of which party was in office in New Delhi and Washington, DC, have worked to build and strengthen the relationship, turning it into a multi-faceted partnership that has economic, strategic and cultural components. Despite ongoing differences, and with a trade deal still in abeyance, US-India bilateral trade is around \$240 billion — hardly a trivial sum. The relationship also has a significant security component: Over the last two decades, India has purchased over \$20 billion in military equipment from the US. In turn, it has significantly reduced its weapons acquisitions from its historical supplier, Russia. Additionally, while its future is a bit clouded, India remains committed to the Quadrilateral Security

Dialogue (Quad), which includes the US, Australia and Japan. Finally, between 5 and 6.5 million Indians or people of Indian origin reside in the US. Also, unlike in the past, several influential members of the US Congress are of Indian origin. At least one of them has presidential ambitions. All these factors have added a certain ballast to the relationship that the two sides can only ignore at their peril. While President Donald Trump's mercurial policies have, no doubt, raised fears of US abandonment of India, their long-term adverse repercussions may be exaggerated. Given the interdependence that has emerged between the two capitals, albeit asymmetric, it will ill serve both countries if they choose to steadily disengage from each other. Accordingly, especially from the standpoint of New Delhi, it may be best for it to bide its time, avoid making any inflammatory statements that could further roil an already fraught situation and wait until a new administration assumes office after the 2028 presidential election. Given the damage that mostly Trump's choices have inflicted on the relationship, any government that is in office in New Delhi after the new president assumes office in January 2029 will proceed with a degree of circumspection. It will, without a doubt, carefully examine any overture that the new president makes toward India. Even with any residual goodwill that remains in India, it will not readily embrace the new administration. This caution, of course, would be wholly understandable. However, given the sheer painstaking effort that both parties have invested over the last three decades or so, India turning its back on the US would be feckless and foolhardy. Despite India's efforts to diversify its foreign policy choices in the wake of the uncertainty that Trump's policies have created, the US, in all likelihood, will remain an indispensable partner. No other country will be a viable substitute given its continued economic vibrancy, its military prowess and its cultural effervescence. These elements will endure long after Trump leaves office, even though some of his legacies will remain. Focusing on the lasting elements of America's strengths and setting aside the shortcomings of Trump's policies still offers the best hope for a mutually beneficial partnership.

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ISHAN BAKSHI

DEALING WITH Donald Trump, as even America's long-cherished alliance partners have learnt the hard way, is often an exercise in the impossible. More so when there are few points of leverage to be exploited. Many in India have viewed Washington's recent moves as pressure tactics of a mercurial administration. They have held on to the hope that over the longer term, the convergence of strategic interests between the two countries will prevail over any short-term ruptures in the relationship. But that may no longer be the case. The India-US relationship has taken a turn for the worse. There are economic and strategic reasons why there appears to have been a fundamental rethink in Washington over the relationship and why American policy appears to have shifted accordingly. The arm-twisting over oil imports, the Russia sanctions law, which many Democrats voted for, and the attack on IT services and skilled labour mobility are all part of a broader pattern. The problem is larger. Which is why it may outlive the current administration. One, the US has been looking for ways to de-risk, if not decouple, from China. Beijing is no doubt the strategic threat for Washington. By looking to shift manufacturing operations to India, it was trying to build an alternative, friendlier source of production to secure supply chains. But that idea does not appear to have taken off. India's China plus one play has not materialised so far. With the exception of Apple and a few others, not many have shifted to the country at the level envisioned. Simply put, the Indian economy hasn't really lived up to its expectations. Two, with the rapid development and deployment of AI, the need to outsource to Indian IT firms may well appear, at least from Washington's point of view, to be much less now. The labour cost arbitrage is only likely to whittle down further. India also remains significantly behind the technology frontier. It has no stranglehold over any chokepoint. Moreover, the inherent conflict between Make in India and the decision to favour certain Indian business houses has put off

not only domestic firms, but foreign companies (read US) as well. Three, the US may have concluded that India simply does not have the heft that Washington expected it to acquire to counter China. It has neither the economic depth nor the strategic strength to serve as a counterweight. The chasm between the country's geopolitical aspirations and its economic capabilities has only deepened. Moreover, some of its recent strategic choices have also been at odds with Washington's interests. All this implies that if earlier the US exercised restraint and gave India special treatment — it was exempted from economic sanctions under CAATSA for purchasing the S-400 missile defence system from Russia — it is now far less likely to do so, especially as its strategic and economic calculus changes, and India fails to develop any sources of leverage. Cooperation, even if pursued at times, is unlikely to lead to greater strategic coherence or convergence. Alongside, the shift to a more transactional relationship framework under Donald Trump has meant that every action — or inaction for that matter — invites a response, which may, at times, seem disproportionate. What India does, for instance, in the domestic economy has often much larger unappreciated consequences: You can't discriminate against big American firms and expect no backlash now, especially with a White House that is more closely aligned with big business. If India has its oligarchs, so does the US. And they can also retaliate. And if for some reason the trade deal is not concluding, then perhaps the US administration has simply asked itself: What is there for us to lose? And even if an agreement is finalised, will it significantly alter Washington's larger calculus? There are few indications that a future Vance/Rubio administration or a left-leaning Democratic White House would substantially change tack, elevate India's strategic importance, and accord it more weight in economic and foreign policy affairs. In any scenario, Delhi has to protect its national interests. But it will also need to make strategic choices. India depends on the US for tech, capital and markets, on China for critical inputs and final goods and on Russia for energy and defence imports. It needs all three. Exhortations to nationalism will not change that reality.

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SHINY VARGHESE

PROTEST SITES are not just geography; they become cultural artefacts of expression. They connect people spatially through codes of dress, song, slogan, and movement. As spaces of resistance, they bring the marginalised to the centre. It's an inversion of power, unlike in a carnival, where the dominant group is in the centre. So, with Delhi's Jantar Mantar denoted as a protest site, the question to ask is who the dominant group wants to make invisible. As a site, it is approximately three km from India Gate. The three new venues designated by the Delhi Police — the Ramtila Ground in central Delhi (about five km), the Burari Ground in north Delhi (about 20

When protest is pushed out of sight

km), and the CBD Ground in east Delhi (about 12 km) — are like a man chopping a tree in the woods. Nobody sees it. It's not in the face of power like Jantar Mantar is or India Gate was. A 2022 paper from Ahmedabad's CEPT University shows how the government of the day began reclaiming Rajpath, the stretch from Parliament to India Gate, over the years. The first layer of barricades came up with the Nirbhaya protest of 2012, closer to Parliament; the second layer came with the Hathras protest and a complete closure came in 2020 with the farmers' protest. The shrinking of protest spaces is not unique to India. Egypt's Tahrir Square, which saw the revolution in January 2011, has today been dressed up with Nile cruises and museums. Likewise, Tiananmen Square in Beijing is now a tourist attraction, with the Tank Man

imagery only embedded in our minds. Tehran's Azadi Tower, once a site for Iran's 1979 Revolution, has today been appropriated by the state to host sanctioned rallies. There are exceptions such as London's Hyde Park and Place de la Bastille, Paris, where dissent is still a way of life. India's massive infrastructure push has expanded public capital expenditure from Rs 2 lakh crore (2014-15) to Rs 12.2 lakh crore (2026-27), which includes bridges, highways, railways, ports and the Metro; yet there is little or no scope for public squares or spaces where people can gather. The virtual shutdown of the national Capital recently was marked by red dots on central Delhi's map to guide people to their destinations. Like pockmarks on the city's face, those red dots showed the dis-ease of discomfort of those in power. Nobel laureate Anne Carson, in a 2024

interview that's currently doing the social media rounds, completes René Descartes' most-famous statement: "*Dubito, ergo cogito, ergo sum*", which reminds us how important doubt is to critical thinking. In our ancient texts, the *vidushak* played a prominent role. But long before kings vacated their thrones, the *vidushak* was gone. No critic, no king. Moving Jantar Mantar as a protest site is not only a way to hide from criticism but also presents to the world that democracy is merely performance; as Greek economist Yanis Varoufakis puts it, erasing people's power to act, to express and to resist. That's not becoming of a country that is set to be the world's third-largest economy.

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Dear Elon, trust the process. It will serve Starlink well



SIGNAL TO NOISE

BY RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

ELON MUSK is one of the most remarkable technology entrepreneurs of our era. Starlink is a genuine marvel of satellite engineering. But his October 8 post accusing India of protecting "crony capitalists" is wrong in its facts, framing, and strategy. I have used Starlink, and I think it is awesome. What is in question is the argument in his post — that India's regulatory process reflects cronyism. That argument does not survive contact with the facts. Starlink is not the only company awaiting satellite broadband licensing in India. It is one of three — alongside Reliance Jio's satellite venture, Jio Satcom, and Bharti-backed Eutelsat OneWeb. All three are at the same stage: Security clearance verification, then spectrum allocation. If this were cronyism designed to protect Reliance Jio, it would be peculiar cronyism — because Jio Satcom is itself in the queue, subject to the same requirements as Starlink. Indian law requires that any satellite-based telecom service in India satisfy security conditions including lawful interception capability, verification of network nodes and ground stations, and confirmation that Indian users' data is not routed through foreign territories without authorisation. These are not India-specific eccentricities. Equivalent requirements exist in the US, the EU, and virtually every country that takes communications security seriously. Satellite broadband is qualitatively different from terrestrial telecom. A mobile tower has a fixed, auditable physical location. Starlink's low-earth-orbit constellation is different — traffic passes through satellites and ground stations, some located outside Indian territory. The ability of Indian agencies to conduct lawful interception depends on how Starlink routes Indian users' traffic and where those ground stations sit. Starlink has been a significant factor in the Ukraine conflict, providing real-time communications capability to military units. India shares borders with two nuclear-armed adversaries and has experienced decades of cross-border terrorism. In August 2017, SpaceX formally expanded Starlink's trademark registration to include satellite imaging, remote sensing, and communications for military applications. SpaceX has won US Air Force contracts and Starlink's constellation has been explicitly integrated into US military doctrine as a unified warfighting architecture. This is not a broadband service with incidental military uses. It is a dual-use strategic system. Musk says Starlink is licensed in 165 countries. What he does not say is that every one of those countries required specific security commitments before granting that licence. India is doing exactly what

those countries did. On Musk's question, "Is Ambani the Real Boss of India?", the direct answer is: No. The India Musk describes — where a single conglomerate dictates regulatory outcomes — is pre-2014 India: The 2G spectrum scam, spectrum allocated through opaque "first come, first serve" free. The reforms of the Modi government, including the spectrum auction framework I fought for as an MP at considerable personal cost, were specifically designed to change that. The Open, Safe, Trusted, and Accountable framework under which India's tech sector now operates applies to all players — Indian and foreign, large and small. That is the opposite of cronyism. Musk is not the first high-profile technology leader to discover that net worth and global celebrity do not translate into policy influence in democracies that take their sovereignty seriously. Mark Zuckerberg spent years resisting India's data localisation requirements. Jeff Bezos flew to India in 2020 with a \$1 billion announcement, and found visits do not substitute for compliance. With 900 million internet users, the world's largest digital payments ecosystem, and the fastest-growing AI adoption curve in the developing world, the companies wanting access need India as much or more than India needs any one of them. The most effective technology leaders in India have understood this. Apple navigated complex local sourcing requirements with patience and became India's biggest electronics exporter. Samsung built manufacturing capacity long before PLI made it fashionable. None of them posted their frustration on X. They engaged, made their case through proper channels, and built relationships that outlast any single regulatory decision. There is also something specifically counter-productive about the "crony capitalism" charge when deployed against India's telecom sector, which has been more systematically reformed than almost any other in the economy. More than anyone, I can attest to that. I want to end where I began: With genuine respect for what Starlink represents and for what Musk has built. The day Starlink or Jio Satcom or OneWeb is licensed in India will be a good day for Indian connectivity — particularly in rural and remote areas where terrestrial infrastructure is thin. But right now, Musk is generating a great deal of noise. None of it is the signal. The signal is simple: Complete the security clearance process, satisfy India's requirements as you have satisfied 165 others, and Starlink will operate in India. A regulatory process that can be accelerated by a founder's social media reach is not a process. It is a favour. And India does not run on favours anymore. Patience is unavoidable, Elon. India is doing what India must do — for its citizens, for its security, and for the integrity of the rules-based system it is building. That system will serve Starlink well, when the process is complete. Trust it.

The writer, former MP, former minister of state for Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, is BJP Kerala state president and MLA for Nemon. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unite as one

CONGRESS SHOULD recognise that the CJP's ranks include bright and committed young people who are spearheading protests with the stated objective of safeguarding democracy and upholding the Constitution ('Citizens' march to defend right to vote sends a message to all institutions', *IE*, October 15). Its leadership should engage constructively with them and instruct its supporters to desist from unwarranted attacks. The party must abandon its big-brother attitude and recognise that opposition unity requires mutual respect, cooperation and a willingness to put the larger national interest above party considerations. *Tharcius S Fernando, Chennai*

State repression

CITING THE cost of protests to the public, even to the poor, is like declaring them outside the purview of citizens whose basic voting rights are being trampled systematically ('Weigh public benefits of street protest against costs on others, especially poor', *IE*, October 15). The inconven-

ience due to protests is not always caused by protesters, but also by the administration, as a suppressing tool, recently seen when railways were cancelled, roads were barricaded, and people were detained. The fight is against many constitutional entities, which exist and are mandated to uphold the Constitution if citizens' rights are being abused. *Prafull Chandra Sockey*

Trump U-turn

THE US administration has often argued that India is funding Russia's war in Ukraine by buying Moscow's crude oil. But in a U-turn, Donald Trump has announced a deal under which Russia will supply hundreds of thousands of tonnes of diesel to the US and global markets ('In Trump-Putin deal, a message for Europe, India', *IE*, October 15). His actions are clearly driven by desperation ahead of midterm elections in which his Republican Party is poised to suffer losses. Until now, India has moulded its energy import policies in line with Trump's demands, be it Venezuela, Iran or Russia. That must end now. *SS Paul, Nadia*

Presidential palace in Aden face Houthi strike, guards killed

PM, Cabinet safe; Coalition says Houthis targeted key Saudi sites

Reuters
Cairo, Dubai, October 15

YEMEN'S HOUTHIS fired missiles at the presidential palace complex in the southern city of Aden Thursday, killing two guards, while the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen detailed dozens of attacks on Saudi infrastructure in the escalating conflict. The attack was the first in the current conflict between the Iran-aligned Houthis and Saudi Arabia on Aden's al-Maashiq palace, the seat of Yemen's Saudi-backed and internationally-recognised government. The government's prime minister and cabinet members were safe following the attack, Yemeni Information Minister Moammar al-Eryani said. Witnesses told Reuters they heard loud booms near the palace. Yemen's cabinet said the attack involved missiles and drones, and officials told *Reuters* that two guards were killed. Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said the Houthis had bombed what he described as the Saudi military operations headquarters in Aden, as part of the group's de-



A screengrab of a social media video shows smoke rising from the presidential palace complex, in Aden, Yemen, on Thursday. REUTERS

clared policy of targeting "Saudi reinforcements wherever they were located". The Houthi-run news agency *SABA* said the headquarters was run by Saudi officers and that there were weapons depots there. Last week, government forces launched a campaign to recapture areas controlled by the Houthis, recovering ground near Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a global shipping artery. Residents of Taiz, northwest of Aden, have said they face intensifying bombardment and dwindling supplies as Houthis tighten their grip on areas near Yemen's third-largest city. As Saudi Arabia backs government forces, the Houthis have been firing ballistic missiles and drones at Saudi airports, ports and oil installations, turning the US ally into a pressure point in the wider war and threatening its ambitious economic plans. On Thursday, the Saudi-led coalition said the Houthis had attempted to attack dozens of sites, underscoring the threat to civilian infrastructure. The UN aviation agency's governing council condemned recent Houthi attacks on Saudi airports, aircraft and aviation infrastructure. Coalition spokesperson Turki al-Maliki said Houthi attacks on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport this month had killed 17 people and wounded 333. The coalition said attacks on Abha airport near the Yemeni border killed three people and wounded 28. Maliki said the Houthis had acquired advanced military technology, including ballistic missiles, drones and explosive-laden speedboats, with help from "regional actors".



Harry & Meghan Return

Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, visit The Community Recording Studio, a youth charity in Nottingham, on Thursday, during their first public appearance since returning to Britain. AP

Trump cancels livestream of military execution of Fort Hood shooter Nidal

Reuters
Washington, October 15

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has cancelled the planned livestream of the execution of the former US Army major who killed 13 people at Texas' Fort Hood, saying on Thursday that he had overruled his defence chief who had intended it to be a public spectacle. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth had announced earlier this month Nidal Hasan would be executed by a firing squad on December 3 at the Fort Hood military base, the site of Hasan's



Nidal Hasan was charged with killing 13 people and injuring 31 in 2009. FILE

2009 attack, surprising many by saying it would be broadcast live. Trump and his advisers had been unaware of the livestream plan before Hegseth's announcement in a media interview, according to a White House official speaking on condition of anonymity.

"I think streaming the execution for all to see might have been a strong deterrent for the World to witness how America deals with Terrorists and SCUM like Hasan but, many very good and well meaning people would rather not watch him die, through streaming, or through any other visual device," Trump wrote on social media. "He will die... by firing squad, but this event will not be streamed." The families of Hasan's victims will be able to view the execution in person if they so choose, as is standard at US executions.

WILL HALT STRIKES ONLY IF WE GET MORE U.S. PATRIOT INTERCEPTORS, SAYS UKRAINE PRESIDENT

Zelenskyy says 'done' with Trump's energy truce, hits Russian refineries

Ukrainian drone strike caused fire at refinery: Ryazan Gov

Reuters
Kyiv, October 15

UKRAINE STRUCK a Russian oil refinery Thursday, after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Kyiv was "done" supporting a ceasefire on energy targets announced by US President Donald Trump was ignored by Russia.

Since Trump's surprise announcement on Sunday that Russia and Ukraine had agreed to halt attacks on energy, Kyiv had suspended attacks on Russian refineries, which Trump blames for raising diesel prices on global markets.

But in the days that followed, Russia rained down deadly missile and drone strikes, including on energy targets such as power stations, knocking out power to thousands of people.

In an interview with the *Financial Times* published Thursday, Zelenskyy said Ukraine's patience had run out.



A supermarket damaged by a Russian jet drone in Odesa region, Ukraine, on Thursday. REUTERS

"The block (on attacking refineries) is out. We're done," he told the newspaper.

Zelenskyy also made clear he believed that changes in the capability of the military version of SpaceX's Starlink receptors, which have curbed Ukraine's ability to use them to pilot its drones, were a policy decision. "It was not a technical problem, it was the will," he told the *FT*.

In a social media post overnight, SpaceX boss Elon Musk

said usage of the military version of Starlink, known as Starshield, was ultimately up to Trump, as president of the United States.

"Starshield systems are owned and controlled by the US government. Any limits on speed or usage are decided by the US military and ultimately POTUS," Musk wrote.

A Ukrainian official confirmed that Ukraine had hit a Russian refinery overnight in response to Moscow's heavy bal-

listic missile and drone attacks that violated the energy truce.

Ukraine's latest target was a refinery in the Ryazan region southeast of Moscow, which is owned by state oil major Rosneft and accounts for nearly 5% of Russia's refinery throughput, helping supply the capital.

Regional governor Pavel Malkov said in a post on Telegram that a major Ukrainian drone attack had caused a fire at the refinery. Damage was being assessed and emergency services were at the scene.

In the latest attacks on Ukraine, three people were killed and six wounded in the central region of Kirovohrad overnight, as Russia launched more than 500 drones.

In the *FT* interview, Zelenskyy criticised Washington's eagerness to strike business deals with Moscow and Trump's apparent admiration for Russia's Vladimir Putin.

Asked whether Ukraine would be open to halting energy strikes as a way of repairing relations with the White House, Zelenskyy said he could agree only if in return he were given more US-made Patriot interceptors, calling it the "minimum" that would be acceptable.

Russia builds drone base near border in 6 weeks

Reuters
London, October 15

RUSSIA HAS nearly finished building a major new base for launching jet-powered drones in just six weeks, according to defence experts and a *Reuters* analysis of satellite imagery, in the latest expansion of its attack capability close to Ukraine.

The site in what was an empty field in Russia's southwestern Rostov region on August 31 had become a complex facility the size of around 126 soccer

pitches by Wednesday, commercial imagery provided by Planet Labs and Airbus showed.

The construction coincides with a surge in the use of Russian jet-powered attack drones against Ukraine, which is struggling to intercept the faster weapons that can travel at speeds of up to 600 km per hour.

Mike Monnik, founder and CEO of private intelligence company DroneSec, said the site in the imagery would be capable of launching the Geran-4 and Geran-5 models, Russia's newest

types of jet-powered drone.

He said the western edge of the facility showed eight platforms for launch rails capable of firing those drones, adding to an existing Russian network of at least 11 fixed launch sites used for drone attacks on Ukraine.

"The speed of construction ... demonstrates the ease with which Russia can bring now-established offensive capabilities to bear rapidly," Monnik said.

The site, he added, looked very close to completion and it

will be "probably a matter of weeks before (it is) fully operational, if not earlier."

The construction of the facility coincides with worsening relations between Russia and the NATO military alliance.

European governments accuse Moscow of stepping up a campaign of sabotage, drone incursions and cyberattacks against them, while Russia warned last month it could use nuclear weapons if NATO attempted to cut off its Kaliningrad exclave.

German cops seize robot that groped 16-yr-old girl, probe who 'controlled' it

Associated Press
Cologne, October 15

GERMAN AUTHORITIES opened an investigation into possible sexual harassment after a robot controlled by two young men touched the buttocks of a 16-year-old girl and made thrusting movements toward her, police said.

Police in the western city of Cologne responded after the incident overnight Saturday to Sunday in which the robot's suspected 16-year-old owner and a 19-year-old companion were said to have filmed the alleged assault. They were said to have streamed the incident and commented on it online.

Cologne police spokesman Christoph Bermel said the two male teenagers have not been charged but are considered suspects, and investigators were examining whether the robot's movements were preprogrammed or controlled in real time. Police were unfamiliar with this type of incident, he said.

"We have not been aware of the phenomenon so far," Bermel



A handout from the Cologne Police shows the robot that was seized as evidence. AP

told *The Associated Press*, saying it was "new territory for us."

Emergency teams that were dispatched to the scene near a fast-food restaurant found the robot in the trunk of a vehicle, Cologne police said in a statement on Monday. The robot and the two young men's mobile phones were confiscated.

North Rhine Westphalia Police Cologne, on Facebook, posted an image of the red-and-gold robot lying on the ground.

The robot, said to be 120 centimeters tall, was dressed in a white tank top, black sweatpants and wearing a gold chain and sunglasses.

Two ships ablaze off Romanian Black Sea coast, 7 sailors missing

Reuters
Bucharest, October 15

RESCUERS WERE searching for seven missing crew on Thursday from one of two chemical tankers that caught fire overnight just outside Romanian territorial waters in the Black Sea, after Russian drones strayed into national airspace, Romanian officials said.

Romanian President Nicusor Dan said the two ships had been struck by drones, but declined to say whether they were Russian.

"Two air drones hit them," Dan told reporters in Brussels ahead of a summit of EU leaders, adding only a few hours had elapsed since the strikes and Romania was waiting for more information. "There will be a reaction from the Romanian state," he added.

The two ships hit overnight were both anchored in the Black Sea near the mouth of the Sulina canal leading into the Danube River, a major shipping route used by Ukraine as Russia has attacked Ukraine's own Black Sea ports.

34 children, teacher killed as school roof collapses in Pakistan

Press Trust of India
Peshawar, October 15

AT LEAST 34 children and a teacher were killed when the roof of a private school collapsed on Thursday in Peshawar, the capital of Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, hospital authorities and police said.

The incident occurred in Dir Colony in the congested inner city area, Peshawar Capital City Police chief Mian Saeed said. Thirty students were present in classrooms on the upper floor of the Al-Khair School when the roof collapsed, he said. The owner, who was operating the institution as an education trust, has been arrested, he said, adding the roof of the building was poorly constructed.

Thirty-two children and a teacher were brought dead to the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar, hospital spokesperson Muhammad Asim told *PTI*.

Asim said 20 injured children were also brought to the LRH hospital. Most of them were discharged after first aid.



Rescue workers search through the rubble at the site of a roof collapse at a private school in Peshawar on Thursday. AP

Three critically injured children, who sustained head injuries, had been admitted to the hospital, he added.

An emergency was declared at the hospital to treat the injured, Asim said, adding all of the children killed or injured in incident were age 13 or younger.

President Asif Ali Zardari and PM Shehbaz Sharif expressed deep grief over the loss of life in the mishap and extended condolences to the bereaved families.

• SRI LANKA'S FOREST COVER HAS PLUMMETED FROM ROUGHLY 70% IN THE 1920s TO ABOUT 34% TODAY, ACCORDING TO WORLD BANK DATA; 70% OF WILD ELEPHANTS LIVE OUTSIDE PROTECTED AREAS

In Sri Lanka, shrinking habitats fuel conflict between humans and elephants

Reuters
Galgamuwa, October 15

CLAD IN his khaki wildlife officer's uniform, Dewagiri Mudiyansele Thilakarante Bandara rides his motorbike the short distance from his home to the electric fence that is the main line of defence against the dozens of wild elephants that live in the rapidly shrinking forest nearby.

The fence stretches 14 km along the Siyambalangamuwa tank, a reservoir in the island's northwest, to protect the more than 2,000 families who live in the nearby villages.

Galgamuwa is on the front line of one of the world's most

serious human-elephant conflicts. An average of 138 people have been killed in encounters with the animals each year in Sri Lanka since 2019, the second-highest death toll in the world. The death toll for elephants, forced into villages for food as their habitat shrinks, climbed to an average of 402 a year during the same period, the world's highest.

"Twenty years ago, we didn't have this situation because across from the tank there were large forests, but they were eventually cleared and then the elephants started moving closer and that's how this village started being affected," Bandara said, as he worked to

repair the fence with his team. "When we were little, we had to go to a corner of the tank to see elephants. Now, in the nights, the elephants come to see us."

Sri Lankans have deep cultural ties with elephants. The animals feature in colourful temple pageants, and owning one is a status symbol. Elephants are also a mainstay of the island's \$4 billion tourism industry.

But elephant deaths reached a record high of 488 in 2023, according to the Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC).

Data shows dozens were shot as they encroached on villages, while others died from poisoning, electrocution, in train accidents or after falling into wells.



Sri Lankan soldiers and wildlife officials use an excavator to turn a sick elephant during treatment in Ambanpola. REUTERS

Bandara, 48, has first-hand experience of how devastating the human-elephant conflict can be.

Last December, an elephant wandered into Bandara's backyard to snack on mangoes. He attacked Bandara and his wife,

Rathnayake Mudiyansele Shirani Rathnayake, after she rushed to help him.

Bandara was left with a broken leg and dislocated shoulder. Rathnayake, also 48, was trampled and had to have her right leg amputated. She now uses a wheelchair.

"Our lives are now completely different from before the elephant attack. My wife and I used to do everything together. We used to farm together. But 200% of those activities have been disrupted. Now we must look after her and the mental strain of that is something we both feel," Bandara said, standing outside his home. Villagers have been forced

to adapt their daily lives to reduce the risk of confrontations.

The nearby school starts lessons 30 minutes after the nationally mandated time of 7:30 am to avoid the early morning when elephants might be around. Villagers also finish work earlier so they can get home before dark, while funerals and weddings are scheduled to minimise the chance of an elephant encounter.

Bandara and his neighbours have a WhatsApp group dedicated to tracking elephant movements. Neighbours often come together to try and chase away any elephants that attempt a raid, yelling and lighting firecrackers, and also take people to

hospital in the event of an attack.

Bandara supports ending forest clearing, usually done for farming, and wants to see a commitment to reforestation. Sri Lanka's forest cover has plummeted from roughly 70% in the 1920s to about 34% today, World Bank data shows.

To complicate matters, as many as 70% of Sri Lanka's estimated 7,451 wild elephants live outside protected areas. The elephant population is also growing, recording a 27% increase from a decade ago, according to the latest census data.

"I do not feel any hatred towards animal or any animal. It was hungry because of activities of humans," Bandara said.

JIO EYEING INDIA'S EXPANDING DIGITAL ECONOMY

IPO proceeds will make Jio debt-free, says Akash Ambani

George Mathew
Mumbai, October 15

JIO PLATFORMS, the telecom and digital services arm of Reliance Industries (RIL), is looking to tap a significant share of India's expanding digital economy, which is expected to reach \$1.4 trillion by the financial year 2030-31, and become a debt-free company, Managing Director Akash Ambani said ahead of the company's initial public offering (IPO).

Ambani said the proceeds from the IPO would be used to reduce the company's net debt, while future growth investments would be funded through operating revenues and cash flows.

Jio Platforms is preparing for what is expected to be one of the country's largest public offerings to raise over Rs 37,000 crore.

"We have almost \$3 billion of net debt on our books. The full proceeds take us to be a net debt-free company, and the growth capital is something that will flow from our revenues," Ambani said at a press conference.

The announcement of Jio's IPO comes amid an allegation by Elon Musk over delays in granting final security clearance for Starlink's launch in India.

Musk has accused the government and RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani of stalling Starlink's entry to protect Reliance Jio's market position, allegations the Centre has rejected.

He said that around 30% of the company's revenue flows into free cash flow, which would continue to be invested to deliver value to customers.

Ambani said Jio expected growth across its mobility, enterprise, home broadband and digital services businesses to support revenue expansion. The



The Jio Platforms Limited IPO, set to be the India's largest, will hit the market on October 21. ANI

company has also improved its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) margin from 50% to 53% over the past three years.

He said further improvements were possible through technology-led optimisation and the introduction of services beyond those requiring telecom licenses.

Services key to growth

On the possibility of future tariff increases, Ambani said the company had the ability to raise prices but wanted to prioritise offering additional services to customers rather than relying primarily on per-gigabyte data pricing.

"We have the most affordable plans in India, and we have the price lever that we can always play. But our first endeavour is to deliver more services to our users and extract value that our competitors have left," he said.

He added that tariffs were only one of the several ways to increase value, with the company continuing to focus on affordability and service quality. Jio's large customer base and

technology infrastructure would provide opportunities to expand its offerings across mobile connectivity, home broadband and enterprise services.

Wireless technology to expand

Ambani said Jio's proprietary unlicensed-band radio (UBR) technology had expanded the company's addressable market for home broadband from 40 million homes to 100 million homes. The network equipment rollout for the technology had been completed, allowing the company to connect homes wirelessly at the last mile.

Ambani said Jio would be able to provide home broadband connectivity within 48 hours of a customer's request.

Jio has also been expanding its fixed broadband business.

Its technology investments, including its standalone 5G network and proprietary broadband technologies, have been identified as important advantages in the company's efforts to expand connectivity and improve network economics.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

TATA TRUSTS REPLY TO CHARITY COMMISSIONER OFFICE

'Mehli doesn't have legal right to contest changes in Trusts'

George Mathew
Mumbai, October 15

TATA TRUSTS have challenged former trustee Mehli Mistry's legal standing to contest changes involving the Trusts, arguing that his objections are not maintainable after the expiry of his three-year tenure.

In a reply submitted to the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner's office, the trusts have also contended that the proceedings cannot be used to raise broader questions about their governance, administration and other trustees' appointment or eligibility.

The trusts have urged the authority to decide preliminary questions concerning the maintainability of Mistry's objections before examining the merits of the allegations raised by him.

According to their submission, the scope of the proceedings is limited to determining whether his trusteeship ceased after the completion of his term.

Mistry's three-year tenure ended on October 28, 2025.

Tata Trusts have argued that, with the expiry of his appointment, he cannot continue to raise objections in the capacity of a trustee. They have maintained that issues relating to the

functioning and administration of the trusts fall outside the limited question currently before the Charity Commissioner.

Circumstances around Mistry's exit

Mistry, a close confidant of the late Tata Group patriarch Ratan Tata, has levelled several allegations against fellow trustees, including Vice-Chairmen Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh. He has also informed the Charity Commissioner that he does not wish to serve as a trustee of any of the 13 Tata Trusts, which collectively own 66% of Tata Sons, the principal holding company of the group.

The dispute centres on the circumstances surrounding Mistry's exit from the two trusts and the extent to which the Charity Commissioner can examine the issues he has raised. Tata Trusts have argued that the authority should first establish whether his objections can be considered in the current proceedings, rather than move directly to the substantive allegations.

Mistry was appointed a trustee of the Bai Hirabai Trust for a three-year term beginning October 29, 2022. In its reply, Tata Trusts stated that Mistry had accepted the appointment

on those terms in a letter dated November 25, 2022, written in response to a communication from Ratan Tata, who was then the chairman.

The trusts have relied on the terms of that appointment to support their argument that Mistry's tenure ended on October 28, 2025. Their position is that the proceedings before the Charity Commissioner are confined to the question of the cessation of his trusteeship and should not be expanded to cover separate disputes concerning the eligibility of other trustees or the administration of the institutions.

Mistry's objections, however, extend beyond his own position on the boards. He has raised questions concerning trustee appointments, governance and decision-making within the Tata Trusts, as well as issues involving the administration of the charitable institutions. His allegations have brought the internal differences among trustees into sharper focus. The dispute has unfolded against the backdrop of disagreements over trustee appointments and the decision-making process within the trusts following Ratan Tata's death in October 2024.

FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



Sitharaman meets Japanese counterpart

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman met her Japanese counterpart Satsuki Katayama on Thursday on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF annual meeting in Bangkok. They discussed a formal FinTech cooperation framework, CBDC use cases, cybersecurity cooperation, and the role of AI in financial services. X/FINMININDIA

Air India CEO forms team to spot cost savings opportunities amid headwinds

Sukalp Sharma
New Delhi, October 15

GRAPPLING WITH severe headwinds and mounting losses, Tata group airline Air India has set up a dedicated multidisciplinary, cross-functional team to identify cost-saving opportunities across the airline group, with the new CEO Tewolde Gebremariam listing "cost consciousness" as a critical priority for the carrier.

As part of the endeavour, Air India has tightened approvals for staff's on-duty travel and is also launching an initiative to reward employees for cost reduction ideas.

"They (cost savings team) will systematically review all expenditure and identify cost-saving opportunities across functions. Please extend your

full support and cooperation to the team as they undertake this important effort to help deliver cost efficiencies across the organisation," Gebremariam said in an internal message to employees, urging them to build a mindset of "frugality, accountability, and thoughtful decision-making".

"We should continually challenge ourselves to ask — is this expenditure necessary? Is there a more efficient way to achieve the same outcome? Small decisions, taken consistently across the organisation, can collectively strengthen our financial resilience," said the new Air India CEO, who formally took charge on October 1.

He said that the airline is navigating an "exceptionally challenging operating environment".

In the face of challenges — which include external headwinds like airspace closures and surging jet fuel prices, as well as the impact of last year's devastating crash of flight AI 171 — Air India posted a consolidated loss of over Rs 22,000 crore in 2025-26, more than double of its loss in the previous financial year. Amid the crises, Air India is also seeking about \$1.5 billion from shareholders Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, it is learnt.

According to sources in the know, Gebremariam is also actively pursuing deeper integration and operational synergy between Air India and its budget airline Air India Express to curb widening financial losses. FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

BRIEFLY

Net direct tax mop-up grows 13% till Oct 14

New Delhi: Net direct tax collection has increased 13.21% to about Rs 13.38 lakh crore so far this financial year, reaching about 50% of the full year budget target. The growth in direct tax collection between April 1 and October 14 this fiscal is driven by a robust 20% growth in corporate taxes, despite a 67% increase in refunds to non-corporate taxpayers. PTI

HLL Lifecare launches digital store

New Delhi: HLL Lifecare Ltd (HLL) Thursday launched a digital store to expand access to its products and services, the company said. The 'HLL eStore' will allow customers, partners and healthcare institutions to connect with HLL from anywhere, at any time. It has played a key role in strengthening the healthcare system. ENS

Closing auction session: SEBI revises norms

Mumbai: The SEBI on Thursday revised the framework for the Closing Auction Session (CAS), changing trading timings, and the methodology for determining settlement prices of stock and index derivatives contracts. Now the 10-minute CAS will operate from 3:30 pm to 3:40 pm on all trading days, while trading in index and stock derivatives will continue until 3:45 pm, with certain exceptions for expiring index derivatives contracts. PTI

Essar Oil & Gas wins 5 coal-bed methane blocks

New Delhi: Essar Oil & Gas Ltd has secured five coal-bed methane (CBM) blocks across West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana, adding about 1,281 square kilometres of acreage with estimated gas-in-place resources of 6.6 trillion cubic feet. ENS

SC upholds quashing of Yes Bank's AT-1 bonds' write off

Mumbai: The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the quashing of the Yes Bank's Rs 8,415-crore Additional Tier-1 (AT-1) bond write-off.

Following the ruling, the lender's shares plunged 14.43% to Rs 18.15 on the stock exchanges. The bank said it was examining the judgment and its implications before making any further disclosures, as required.

In a disclosure to the stock exchanges, Yes Bank said the judgment, pronounced on October 15, arose from appeals against the Bombay High Court's January 20, 2023 decision setting aside the write-down of the AT-1 bonds.

The bank said it would make further disclosures as may be required after examining the order. It also stated that, apart from the Supreme Court judgment and information already available in the public domain, it was not aware of any undisclosed information or event concerning the bank that could explain the movement in its securities. ENS FULL REPORT ON
WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

STRONG CONTROLS, CUSTOMER TRUST AND RESILIENCE KEY TO SUSTAINABLE GROWTH, SAYS SWAMINATHAN

Oversight must keep pace with growth: RBI Deputy Governor

ENS Economic Bureau
Mumbai, October 15

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Swaminathan J on Thursday said that oversight and internal controls must strengthen as financial institutions grow, warning that expansion without adequate safeguards could undermine long-term sustainability.

Speaking at the Financial Express Modern BFSI Summit in Mumbai, Swaminathan said institutions must treat stakeholders, particularly customers, fairly and earn their trust every day to build sustainable balance sheets. "Oversight and controls



should also grow, commensurate with or keep pace with the growth of the organisation. Then you are building a model that is sustainable," he said.

Growth, he emphasised, should not be measured merely by its pace, scale or size, but also by the strength of the controls underpinning it.

Swaminathan said the Indian financial system was entering its next phase from a



Growth should not be gauged merely by its pace, scale or size, but also by the strength of the controls underpinning it, Swaminathan said. LINKEDIN

position of strength, supported by improved asset quality and comfortable capital buffers.

The challenge, however, was to preserve these strengths as the system expanded, became more technology-intensive and increasingly interconnected. He outlined three priorities for financial institutions. First, as institutions pursue growth and reduce friction, controls must evolve alongside business processes.

Second, trust must be treated as an asset requiring continuous investment. Third, resilience must be measured not merely by the ability to withstand disruptions, but also by how quickly institutions can detect problems, take decisions and recover.

He said customer trust was

tested every day through the sale of financial products, the handling of customer data and the resolution of grievances.

The deputy governor also stressed the importance of making financial products and services affordable, while responding to a question on the draft insurance guidelines proposing tighter commission norms. He emphasized that achieving the vision of universal access to insurance, investments, social security and pensions under Viksit Bharat 2047 would require financial institutions to bring down the cost of delivering these products and services.

"All products are made fairly

accessible, but are they affordable as well? If not, then they will reach only a small market and leave out a large market," Swaminathan said.

He said affordability was an important consideration behind the proposed guidelines. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) would examine the feedback received from stakeholders before taking a final decision.

Asked whether tighter commission norms could hurt banks' fee income, Swaminathan said the loss of one revenue stream would not threaten the industry, as banks would find alternative sources of income. FE

Sensex soars over 2%, defies Asian sell-off

Kishor Kadam
Mumbai, October 15

INDIAN EQUITIES bucked a sharp sell-off across Asian markets on Thursday, with the Sensex soaring more than 1,500 points and the Nifty ending just shy of the 23,000 mark.

Hopes of an early India-US trade deal, easing crude oil prices and a stronger rupee lifted sentiment, making domestic benchmarks the best performers in the region.

However, while heavy-weight stocks drove the benchmarks higher, the broader market remained under pressure, with declining stocks outnumbering advancing ones. Foreign

portfolio investors also continued to withdraw funds from Indian equities.

The Sensex surged 1,533.72 points, or 2.11%, to close at 74,315.61, while the Nifty rose 374.65 points, or 1.66%, to settle at 22,997.35. Both benchmarks recorded their biggest single-day gains in four months.

Foreign investors remained net sellers, offloading shares worth Rs 5,285.37 crore on Thursday. Their cumulative outflows in October reached Rs 44,008 crore, or about \$4.6 billion, the highest in five months. Domestic institutional investors provided some support, purchasing equities worth Rs 3,319.39 crore during the session. FE

IMF hails India's GDP revision

Shubham Rana
New Delhi, October 15

THE BASE year revision of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) series earlier this year is a "welcome development," and the changes in methodology are in line with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) advice, the Fund's Asia and Pacific Department Director Krishna Srinivasan said on Thursday.

"On the issue of GDP revision, they have revised the base and the use of PPI (Producer Price Index) and IIP (Index of

Industrial Production) to revise the production side of GDP. These are welcome developments and these revisions to the methodology are entirely consistent with the advice we've been giving them," Srinivasan said at a press conference. The IMF, in its 2025 annual review, gave India's national accounts statistics, which include GDP and Gross Value Added (GVA), a 'C' grade, suggesting methodological and coverage-related shortcomings. The 'C' grade was for the old GDP series, which had FY12 as the base year. FE

MARKETS

Sensex	NIFTY	Gold ▼	US Dollar ▼
74,315.61	22,997.35	₹1,45,942	₹95.05
1,533.72	374.65		
2.11%	1.66%	Silver ▼	Oil ▼
		₹2,08,275	\$121.14

NOTE: GOLD, SILVER RATES AS PER INDIA BULLION AND JEWELLERS ASSOCIATION DATA GOLD PER 10G, SILVER PER 1 KG; CRUDE OIL (INDIAN BASKET) AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2026

TAMIL NADU MEDICINAL PLANT FARMS & HERBAL MEDICINE CORPORATION LTD.,
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Anna Hospital Campus, Arumbakkam, Chennai-600 106
Phone: 044-26216696 E-mail : tampolcho@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE Ref No.: 1967/Tam/Pur/OT/2026-27
E-Tenders are invited through two cover system from the eligible bidders for the supply of Raw Drugs, Eligibility of the tenderer and other conditions are stipulated in the Bid document. Complete e-tenders documents can be viewed and downloaded at free of cost from Government tender website "<https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app/>". EMD to be paid & the bids to be submitted through e-tender portal only.
General Manager
DIPR/3151/TENDER/2026

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 e-mail: md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE
For more details, please visit E-Tendering Portal, <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com

No.	Tender ID	Item
1.	2026_KMML_878791_1	Loading of Iron oxide to KEIL vehicle

Chavara 15.10.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

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

TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders are re-invited for the supply of following item.
(1) 82156.
Note: For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
PRO/AAM(M)/75/2026
GENERAL MANAGER

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Block-DJ, Sector-I, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web : www.wbsetcl.in

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/Composite Pkg-C12 (2" call)/26-27/33 Date: 16.10.2026
E-Tender is invited from bonafide, eligible bidders having experience in doing similar nature of work for construction of the following under the jurisdiction of Chief Engineer (Procurement):-

Work Details & Completion Period	Description of Work
PROJECT-I	A.Construction of 132/33 kV GIS sub-station at Sadarghat (District – Burdwan) with 4 nos. 132 kV Line Bay, 2*80 MVA, 132/33kV Transformer, 13 nos. 33kV Bay.
20 months from the date of placement of LOA	B.Construction of 132 kV M/C Transmission Line to make D/C L/O of Satgachia-Burdwan 132 kV D/C line at proposed Sadarghat 132 kV GIS sub-station (RL – 16.5 K.M/M/C)

Bid documents can be downloaded from 16.10.2026, 11:00 A.M. and bids shall be submitted online up to 03:00 P.M., 11.11.2026. Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details. ICA/T19168/3/2026

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Project Office of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link Project, Jyotipuram Road Reasi, 183111, Jammu & Kashmir.
Tel +91-01991-244305

OPEN e-TENDER
Tender Notice No.: KR-PD-JK-Fencing-04-2026 dated 14.10.2026
Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. invites "Open e-Tender" in "Two Packet System" from experienced agencies for "Providing and fixing G.I. chain link fabric fencing for Boundary wall at Station Yard & Railway Colony at Sangaldan on Katra-Dharam section of USBRL Project, J&K." **Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 89.98 Lakhs (Excl. GST), **Bid Security:** ₹ 1,80,000/- to be submitted through payment modes as mentioned in Tender document. **Completion period of Contract:** 04 Months. **Submission of Tender:** 12.11.2026 up to 15.00 hrs. **Opening of Tender:** 12.11.2026 @ 15.30 hrs. **Cost of Tender Form:** Nil. For further details and updates please visit <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted on the above website only.

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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

GLOBAL

The supermarket fridge hack in France and the warning it holds

Sushant Kulkarni
Pune, October 15

THIS WEEK, hundreds of supermarkets in France were hit by a cyberattack that spiked the temperatures of their fridges and freezers, causing food worth millions of euros to spoil. The attack exposed a vulnerability that extends beyond the financial or retail sector: the ability of hackers to interfere with physical equipment through vulnerable internet-connected control systems.

France's cybersecurity agency has warned that attacks on the equipment may still be under way, highlighting the risks posed by outdated software and exposed industrial systems.

How the attack happened

The cyberattack affected refrigeration systems at supermarkets belonging to several major retail chains.

Reports suggest that compromised refrigeration control systems allowed attackers to manipulate their temperature and defrost settings, forcing some fridges to warm up to 50 degrees Celsius overnight into Monday morning. Many supermarkets were forced to discard fresh and frozen products.

French minister Roland Lescure told parliament on Tuesday: "700 of the 10,000 sites spread across the country have been affected. These 700 sites have disconnected the platform."

In an alert issued on October 12 and updated on October 13, France's national cybersecurity response team, CERT-FR, identified equipment made by Danish company Danfoss, as well as systems associated with Copeland and Dixell, as among those affected. Significantly, the agency warned that the threat might not have ended. "Attack campaigns are probably still ongoing," the alert said.

Although the precise mechanism by which attackers compromised the refrigerators is not clear yet, cybersecurity experts quoted by Reuters said

that all signs pointed to a basic stunt enabled both by the failure to adopt Danfoss' software updates and by exposing device interfaces to the internet.

Lessons for countries like India

The French incident highlights risks for countries such as India which are increasingly connecting their infrastructure to digital networks. India's power networks, factories, transport systems — such as metros, flights and trains — hospitals, smart cities, and food and pharmaceutical supply chains increasingly depend on operational technology to monitor and control physical processes. Traffic signals, water treatment systems and industrial control equipment could also be vulnerable. Compromised refrigeration and temperature-monitoring systems could damage food, medicines, vaccines and blood products.

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issues cybersecurity advisories, while the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre protects designated critical infrastructure. However, officials have stressed the need for security measures covering individual devices, older equipment and third-party systems.

"Organisations should remove unnecessary internet exposure, apply security updates and replace equipment that cannot be adequately secured. The attack in France shows that such incidents can disrupt physical systems and threaten essential services. For India, the lesson extends beyond supermarkets to any connected system whose failure could disrupt supply chains or endanger public safety," said an officer who has served in the past with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre.

With public utilities, industries, hospitals and supply chains increasingly dependent on connected systems, the incident offers lessons for India at both the individual-system and infrastructure-wide levels, including for assets not traditionally considered part of the cybersecurity landscape, the officer added.

LAW

Govt's sweeping powers over OCI cardholders



DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

ACTOR IMRAN Khan, a US citizen and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder, has been asked by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) to leave India by October 28, days after he joined a protest in Mumbai demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Khan was detained along with other protesters at August Kranti Maidan on October 10. Subsequently, BJP leader Kirit Somaiya complained to police that Khan, being a foreign national, had violated the law by participating in the demonstration. The complaint was forwarded to the FRRO, which issued the Leave India notice. According to police, the notice says Khan had violated immigration law by joining the protest.

Who is an OCI, and what rights does the status carry?

The OCI scheme was introduced in 2005 for certain categories of foreign nationals of Indian origin. India does not permit dual citizenship, and an OCI remains a foreign national holding the passport of another country.

The status nevertheless gives privileges unavailable to ordinary foreign nationals, most importantly a multiple-entry lifelong visa and exemption from registration with the FRRO irrespective of the duration of stay. OCI cardholders also receive parity with Indian citizens or NRIs in certain areas, including some property, educational and professional rights.

But there are restrictions. A March 2021 government notification requires OCI cardholders to obtain special permission before undertaking research; missionary or Tabligh work; mountaineering; journalistic activity; certain employment or internships in foreign diplomatic establishments; or entering protected, restricted or prohibited areas. Significantly in Khan's case, the notification does not expressly list participation in political protests or demonstrations as an activity requiring prior permission.

OCIs also do not possess the political rights of Indian citizens. Under Section 7B of the Citizenship Act, they cannot vote or contest elections, and Article 19 rights —

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN PREVIOUS OCI CASES?

AATISH TASEER

The writer, during the 2019 polls, wrote the controversial 'TIME' cover article describing PM Narendra Modi as India's 'Divider in Chief'. Months later, the government cancelled his OCI status, saying he had concealed in his application that his father, Salmaan Taseer, was a Pakistani national. Taseer linked the action to his writing; the Centre denied that connection.

ASHOK SWAIN

The Sweden-based academic, a sharp critic of the government, was served a notice alleging "anti-India activities" in 2020; his OCI registration was eventually cancelled. A later government order said his tweets, writings and speeches spread "detrimental propaganda". The Delhi High Court first set aside the cancellation order and, in March 2025, struck down the subsequent one because the tweets



Khan is detained at the protest in Mumbai on Oct 10. AKASH PATIL

and writings had not been supplied to Swain. The government was left free to proceed afresh.

CHRISTO THOMAS PHILIP

Philip, a US citizen and doctor working in Bihar, ran into trouble over alleged missionary activity. He

was prevented from entering India and his OCI registration was subsequently cancelled. The Delhi High Court in January 2019 found that the government had not established the statutory basis for treating missionary activity as threatening sovereignty, security or public interest, and ordered his OCI restored and his entry facilitated. In 2021, the government explicitly restricted missionary activity through an OCI notification.

KHALID JAHANGIR QAZI

The US citizen of Kashmiri origin faced allegations of separatist activity. His OCI registration was cancelled in 2023 and he was separately blacklisted under the then Foreigners Act. The Delhi High Court in November 2024 set both actions aside, holding that the allegations were vague; it allowed the government to start proceedings afresh with specific allegations.

including the constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and peaceful assembly — are guaranteed specifically to citizens.

Can an OCI be asked to leave India for joining a protest?

The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, which came into force in September 2025 and replaced the Foreigners Act, 1946, gives the government wide powers over foreign nationals — and an OCI remains a foreign national for this purpose.

There is no provision in the Act that expressly says that a foreign national cannot attend a political rally or demonstration. However, the law gives the government considerable discretion to regulate the presence, activities and conduct of foreigners in India. The FRRO notice to Khan invokes Section 7(2)(c), read with Section 29, of the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025.

Section 7 empowers the government to issue orders regulating or restricting the entry, departure or continued presence of foreigners in India. Clause (c) of subsection (2), invoked against Khan, allows the government to direct that a foreigner "shall not remain in India or in any specified area

OCIs are not citizens

The OCI scheme was introduced in 2005 for certain categories of foreign nationals of Indian origin.

India does not permit dual citizenship, and an OCI remains a foreign national holding the passport of another country.

therein". Section 29 goes further. It empowers the government to order the removal of a foreigner for contravention of the Act, its rules or orders made under it, or on the basis of an "adverse security report". The provision also authorises government officers to exercise reasonable powers necessary to enforce such directions.

The significance is that the statute itself does not designate "political protest" as prohibited conduct. But it gives the executive latitude to prohibit particular categories of activity through an order or direction.

Section 7 separately empowers the government to restrict a foreigner's association with specified persons, prohibit activities of a specified description and regulate conduct. However, the notice invokes the power to direct a foreigner not to remain in India, rather than the provision specifically concerning restrictions on activities.

And these are not powers exercisable only by the Union Home Ministry. A September 2025 notification delegated powers under Section 7(2) and Section 29 to FRROs and Foreigners Registration Officers.

In 2020, the Calcutta High Court quashed a Leave India Notice issued to

SHIPPING

Why Indians keep sailing into risky waters, what kin get if they die

Purnima Sah

Mumbai, October 15

SINCE THE West Asia conflict began in February, 16 Indian seafarers have been killed in attacks on merchant ships. Thirty-three have been injured, and three are missing. All but one of the dead were on foreign-flagged vessels. Shyam Jagannathan, Director General of Shipping in the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Inland Waterways, told *The Indian Express*: "In absolute numbers, foreign-flagged vessels have sustained more hits than Indian-flagged vessels. However, in terms of casualties, India has paid the highest cost."

Why are so many of the dead seafarers Indian?

Because Indians crew the world's ships. India is the second-largest supplier of seafarers after the Philippines. Its workforce grew from 1.03 lakh in 2013 to 3.23 lakh in 2025. More than nine in 10 Indian seafarers in fleets tracked by the government serve on foreign-flagged vessels. The Indian flag protects a vessel in diplomatic terms, but most Indians at sea aren't under it.

India's Directorate General of Maritime

Administration (DGMA) issues advisories, but does not ban seafarers from movement. The Strait of Hormuz, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden are classed as high-risk zones, and companies are told to take precautions. The one hard rule came on August 5. Under Circular 47, a shipowner or crewing agency must inform the DGMA before taking a vessel through Hormuz, and must obtain the written consent of every Indian seafarer on board.

Jagannathan's explanation for why Indians agree to go in the first place is that "some seafarers continue to accept assignments in conflict zones because shipping companies offer two to three times their normal wages, while others may be driven by financial necessity".

The government's legal position is that merchant ships have the right of innocent passage under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and that seafarers, now recognised as key workers under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025, have the right to a safe workplace.

Are Indians trapped out there?

It depends on who you ask, and how you define trapped. Jagannathan acknowl-



Limited protection

More than nine in 10 Indian seafarers in fleets tracked by govt serve on foreign-flagged vessels.

The Indian flag protects a vessel in diplomatic terms, but most Indians at sea aren't under it.

Commercial vessels anchored in the Strait of Hormuz off Bandar Abbas, Iran. AP

edged that vessels trying to cross Hormuz have been hit by projectiles.

The DGMA's written response says something firmer: regular crew changes are happening, and "no seafarer remains trapped or stranded on a vessel for a period exceeding their contract".

As of October 8, DGMA was tracking 38 vessels of Indian interest in the Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden: 30 Indian-flagged ships carrying 750

Indian seafarers, and eight foreign-flagged ships with cargo bound for India. They include container vessels, crude and product tankers, bulk carriers and LPG carriers.

What happens in case of death or illness?

If a seafarer dies in a war-like or high-risk zone, the Seafarers Welfare Fund Society pays Rs 10 lakh ex gratia. Members of the National Union of Seafarers of India receive another Rs 10 lakh, while members of the Maritime Union of India receive Rs 12 lakh.

On top of that, the shipowner's protection and indemnity insurer pays compensation under the crew contract.

The DGMA is a regulator, and not an employer. "We guide seafarers towards their parent companies if they wish to seek employment," Jagannathan said. Those who don't want to go back to sea get help settling wages and dues and claiming insurance. Lost documents are replaced free of charge.

Welfare Fund schemes include a Death on Board Benefit, a Survivor's Benefit and an Invalidity Benefit of Rs 6 lakh each, Rs 2 lakh for critical illness, and Rs 20,000 a month for up to 12 months for seafarers whose ships have abandoned them.

WORLD FOOD DAY TODAY

Diabetes is a disease of childhood habits; the fight against it must start from school



EXPERT EXPLAINS

DR SHASHANK JOSHI

MUMBAI-BASED ENDOCRINOLOGIST

IN MY clinic in Mumbai last month, I met a 13-year-old boy with Type 2 diabetes, fatty liver and a Body Mass Index of 32. His mother told me: "He hardly eats home food, doctor. Only chips, fast food, biscuits and cola." For 35 years, I have treated diabetes as a disease of adults. Today, I am treating it as a disease of habits formed in childhood. That child is no exception. Rather, he is an early warning.

This year, on World Food Day, the world has chosen a powerful theme: "Innovate

today. Nourish tomorrow." The core goal is to harness science, technology, data and traditional knowledge to build resilient, sustainable agrifood systems and fight global hunger. It is a timely theme. But as a doctor who sees the end of the food chain in the form of diabetes and obesity, I want to add: We cannot nourish tomorrow if we do not innovate in our classrooms today.

Our Vedas answered this 3,000 years ago: "Annam hi bhootanam jyeshtham, tasmaat sarvaushadham uchayate (food is the eldest of all beings, therefore it is called the medicine for all)"; and: "Aahar shuddhau sattva shuddhi (When food is pure, the mind becomes pure)."

Modern science is now catching up with this traditional knowledge. That is exactly what this year's World Food Day calls for — blending science, technology and tradition.

The numbers should concern us. The ICMR-INDIAB study estimates that India now has 101 million people living with diabetes and 136 million with pre-diabetes.

The National Family Health Survey shows one in four children between five and nine years is overweight. More than half of what urban adolescents eat is ultra-processed, and 70% of adult non-communicable diseases have roots in habits formed before age 15.

We once worried about children not getting enough to eat. Now, we must fight both hunger and hidden hunger caused by eating too much of the wrong kind, too early.

This is where innovation must begin — not just in labs and farms, but in schools. A child spends nearly 8,000 hours in school between ages five and 15.

More than with a doctor, a playground, or even the family dining table, it is in these hours that taste is formed, that the palate is programmed, that the brain learns what "normal" food looks like. Yet, our education system, even after National Education Policy 2020's welcome focus on foundational literacy and numeracy, has no foundation for wellbeing.

In four decades of treating metabolic disease, I have come to believe five simple school habits predict fifty years of health. They are the perfect example of this year's theme in action, using science, data and traditional wisdom together.

FIRST, the breakfast habit. Data shows nearly a third of urban Indian children skip breakfast. Science shows a child who skips breakfast is 40% more likely to be overweight and performs poorly in attention and mathematics. Our traditional wisdom offers the solution: ragi, peanut, sattu or eggs — local, seasonal brain food.

SECOND, the water habit. India has recorded the fastest growth in sugar-sweetened beverage consumption among adolescents — over 300% in a decade. One cola has many spoons of sugar. Innovation here requires policy: Water bells, safe drinking water stations and no-sugar drink zones, as schools in Kerala and Maharashtra have pioneered.

THIRD, the millet and fruit habit. Millets

are low glycemic, high fibre and climate-resilient — the ultimate answer to sustainable agrifood systems. If we can make Millet Mondays and Rainbow Tiffin Tuesdays aspirational, we can build both health and resilience.

FOURTH, the movement habit. Data shows only 18% of Indian adolescents meet the 60-minute daily activity norm, according to a study in *The Lancet*. We have steadily replaced PT periods with extra maths tuition. We are building sharper brains but sicker bodies.

FIFTH, the sleep habit. Research shows average sleep in 12 to 15-year-olds is now 6.5 hours against the required 8-9 hours. Sleep deprivation increases the levels of ghrelin, the hunger hormone, and drives insulin resistance. A 10 pm lights-off rule is more powerful than any vitamin supplement.

All this just requires a new lens — the World Food Day lens of innovation. Seven low-cost, innovative nudges can transform a school tomorrow: fruit birthdays instead

of chocolate birthdays; five minutes of mindful eating at lunchtime; teaching children to read food labels using mobile apps and data; a 10x10 feet kitchen garden using traditional knowledge; a monthly parent tiffin workshop; a safe playground hour; and an annual wellbeing report card alongside the marks card.

There is also an economic reason to act. The direct economic burden of diabetes alone will cross \$90 billion by 2033. One rupee invested in school health and nutrition returns 16 rupees in healthcare savings and productivity, according to WHO.

Some argue diet is a family matter, not a school matter. In reality, it is both. A child cannot say no to junk if the canteen sells it and the food environment is stacked against him/her. If we truly want to "Innovate today to Nourish tomorrow," we must start with the tiffin today. A resilient, sustainable agrifood system will mean little if the next generation has lost the ability and desire to eat from it.

**BENFED**
Southend Conclave, 3rd Floor
1582, Rajdanga Main Road
Kolkata - 700107

Corrigendum Notice For
NIT No. 1) SCMF/MD/ENG/
NIT-25/2026-27 Dated
13/10/26. 2) SCMF/MD/ENG/
NIT-26/2026-27 Dated
13/10/26. Details are available
in the website: <https://wbttenders.gov.in/nicgpe/app>
& www.benfed.org
Sd/-
Managing Director (BENFED)

DECLARATION

I, Mrs. Asthamita Bardhan w/o Tapan Kumar Bardhan, residing at 48, Shyama Pally, P.O. Jadavpur University, P.S. Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700032, West Bengal, India do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Asthamita Bardhan to Astamita Bardhan and henceforth I shall be known as Astamita Bardhan in all purpose, Vide Affidavit No. 50335, Dt. 01.10.2026 sworn before the Ld. First Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore Judges Court, Kolkata. Asthamita Bardhan and Astamita Bardhan both are same and one identical person.

DECLARATION

I Tapan Bardhan S/o Paresh Chandra Bardhan, residing at 48, Shyama Pally, P.O. Jadavpur University, P.S. Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700032, West Bengal, India do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Tapan Bardhan to Tapan Kumar Bardhan and henceforth I shall be known as Tapan Kumar Bardhan in all purpose, Vide Affidavit No. 50335, Dt. 01.10.2026 sworn before the Ld. First Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore Judges Court, Kolkata. Tapan Kumar Bardhan and Tapan Bardhan both are same and one identical person.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that TAPAS PAUL had purchased land measuring 14 chittacks and 6 sq.ft. situated at Mouza: PARUI J.L. NO.103, Dag No. 2027 registered at A.D.S.R. Behala vide Sale Deed No. I-1259/2023. The property was purchased from Gobinda Chandra Das, Narayan Das, Madhu Das, Sabitri Mondal, Gouri Dey and Kanan Mondal Represented by their Constituted Attorney Shyamendu Das (vide Power of Attorney Deed No. IV-597 Registered on 05.09.2018 at A.D.S.R. Behala). The Purchaser have applied for Mutation of the said property records at the kolkata BL & LRO office. All concerned are hereby informed.

LEGAL NOTICE

I, Priyasi Rani das W/O Milton Chandra das residing at ghosh para, chowhati, P.S –Sonarpur, Kolkata – 700149. That I have purchased a land measuring 2 kottah 10 chitak of Mouza –Manikpur, JL no.- 77, dag no -271, vide Deed No. 4654/2024 and mutated in my name in LR khatian no 3520, one Bishnupada Baidya S/O Biharilal Baidya is recorded in remarks column as aggressive possessor along with common uses, now, I have applied for deletion of the above remarks , if anyone has any objection regarding this, contact B.L & LRO – Sonarpur, Karmatirtha Bhaban, 3rd floor, Bosepukur, Sonarpur , Kolkata – 700149 by this address or E-Mail at bilrospn@gmail.com within 15 days from this publication.

NOTICE

My client Smt. Ragini Yadav, w/o Radhey Shyam, purchased 3.62 Satak/Decimal land of vide Sale Deed No. 060805267/2026 from Sri Sanat Ghosh alias Sanat Kumar Ghosh and Smt. Malati Ghosh, represented by their attorneys Sri Achinto Mallick & Sri Ranjit Kumar Naskar, were getting vide Power of Attorney No. 060801302/2025, which was registered at A.D.S.R.O. Janai, of area 3.62 decimal/satak under L.R. Khatian no. 3109 & 3110 with R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 1336 is laying and situated at Raghunathpur Gram Panchayet, under J.L. No. 10, Mouza Raghunathpur, P.O. Raghunathpur Bazar, P.S. Dankuni, Hooghly. Now my clients applied for mutation at Serampore & Uttarpara B.L. & L.R.O. Serampore, Hooghly. If any objection by the Principal or any other person against the above mentioned Power of Attorney they should be written objection within 30 days against the said B.L. & L.R.O. Serampore from published of this notice otherwise legal action will be taken as per law. Sri Raja Bhattacharjee Advocate Serampore Court, Hooghly

NOTICE

My client Sri. Lakshan Yadav, s/o Jadu Yadav, purchased 4.866 Satak/Decimal land of vide Sale Deed No. 060808903/2026 from Smt Bina Koley and Others, represented by their attorneys Sri Aloke Dey, Sri Achinto Mallick & Sri Ranjit Kumar Naskar, were getting vide Power of Attorney No. 060802266/2024, which was registered at A.D.S.R.O. Janai, of area 4.866 decimal/satak under L.R. Khatian no. 936 with R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 1300 is laying and situated at Raghunathpur Gram Panchayat, under J.L. No. 10, Mouza - Raghunathpur, P.O. Raghunathpur Bazar, P.S. Dankuni, Hooghly. Now my clients applied for mutation at Serampore & Uttarpara B.L. & L.R.O. Serampore, Hooghly, If any objection by the Principal or any other person against the above mentioned Power of Attorney they should be written objection within 30 days against the said B.L. & L.R.O. Serampore from published of this notice otherwise legal action will be taken as per law. Sri Raja Bhattacharjee Advocate Serampore Court, Hooghly

THE AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF INDIA
1, Alipore Road, Kolkata – 700027

Notice is hereby given that the 206th AGM of the society for the year ended on 31.03.2025 will be held on Saturday 31st October 2026 at 11.00 am at the premises of the Society. As a go green initiative, the Notice of Annual General Meeting along with Annual Report and list of candidates seeking elections has been sent by E-Mail to the members, in accordance with the clause 48A of the Regulations of Society. The members can collect hard copies of the same from the society office during the working hours on presentation of the society issued identity proof or along with the duly signed authorization letter through representative, if so desired.

Members may approach at secretary.ahsl@gmail.com for soft copy of Annual Report by mentioning their Name and membership number.

DISTRICT: SOUTH 24 PARAGANAS IN THE COURT OF LEARNED DISTRICT DELEGATE AT ALIPORE
REF: ACT XXXIX Case No. 255/2021

In the matter of:
Monica Thaper Sarkar, wife of Sri Sanjay Sarkar and daughter of Late Madan Lal Thaper, by occupation- House Wife, residing at 8, Lee Road, L.R. Sarani, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700020;

.....Petitioner/ Applicant
NOTICE

This notice is for the public at large that it is hereby informed that the applicant above named have filed the above referred case for granting succession certificate in her favour in respect of the debt and securities left behind by the deceased person namely KRISHNA THAPAR alias KRISHNA THAPER and amounting to total sum of Rs. 20,26,931/- (Rupees Twenty Lacs Twenty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty One only) alongwith interest only. If any person is having any objection regarding the grant of succession certificate to the applicant above named, then kindly appear before this Learned Court within 30 days from the date of publication of the notice, otherwise the Learned court will proceed according to the law for the hearing and the case will be disposed of.

By Order:-
Sheristadar
District Judge's Court
Alipore, South 24 Parganas

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my clients Smt. Madhumita Ghosh and Smt. Shruti Tewari are willing to sell all that piece and parcel of land measuring about 8.25 Satak under R.S./L.R. Dag No. 29 of L.R. Khatian No. 641, land measuring about 8.75 Satak under R.S./L.R. Dag No. 32 of L.R. Khatian No. 511 and another land measuring about 17 Satak on the North-Eastern side of the R.S./L.R. Dag No. 605 of L.R. Khatian No. 641 under Mouza - Gobindapur, J.L. No. 419 within limits of Bakhrabad Gram Panchayet, P.S. - Belda, A.D.S.R - Narangan, District - Paschim Midnapore. Any person or persons claiming any interest in or upon the said property by way of any sale, agreement, exchange, mortgage, gift, trust inheritance, bequest, possession, lease, lien, easement or otherwise, is hereby required to communicate the same to the under signed at her office within 10 days from the date hereof, otherwise the said sale of the property will be completed without any reference thereof.

Miss. Swarnaly Das, (Advocate)
High Court, Calcutta
32/31, Kabi Guru Sarani, Kolkata - 700 034
Mobile : 8777740798

**इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank**
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

ZONAL OFFICE : KOLKATA CENTRAL
14, India Exchange Place
2nd & 3rd Floor, Kolkata - 700 001

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

APPENDIX - IV A [See Proviso to Rule 9 (1)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, Tollygunge Branch, (Secured Creditor)**, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **20.11.2026**, for recovery of **Rs. 36,33,042.00** (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Forty Two only) as on **24.02.2026** due to the **Indian Bank, Tollygunge Branch, Secured Creditor**, from **Shri Aditya Kumar (Borrower / Mortgagor)**, S/o. Pradeep Kumar Chakdiwan, Sheikhpura, P. O. and P. S. - Sheikhpura, District - Sheikhpura, State - Bihar, Pin - 811105, **Also at**: Flat No. 1A, B3, Jaysree Park, P. S. - Behala, Kolkata - 700034 and **Smt. Veena Devi (Guarantor)**, W/o. Pradeep Kumar Chakdiwan, Sheikhpura, P. O. and P. S. - Sheikhpura, District - Sheikhpura, State - Bihar, Pin - 811105, **Also at**: Flat No. 1A, B3, Jaysree Park, P. S. - Behala, Kolkata - 700034.

The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode is enumerated below:

Sl. No.	a) Name of Account / Borrower b) Name of the Branch	Detailed Description of Immovable Property	Secured Creditors Outstanding Dues	a) Reserve Price b) EMD Amount c) Bid Increment Amount d) Property ID e) Encumbrance on Property f) Type of Possession
1.	a) Borrower : Shri Aditya Kumar (Borrower / Mortgagor) S/o. Pradeep Kumar Chakdiwan Sheikhpura, P. O. and P. S. - Sheikhpura District - Sheikhpura, Bihar, Pin - 811105 Also at : Flat No. 1A, B3, Jaysree Park P. S. - Behala, Kolkata - 700034 Smt. Veena Devi (Guarantor) W/o. Pradeep Kumar Chakdiwan, Sheikhpura, P. O. and P. S. - Sheikhpura, District - Sheikhpura Bihar, Pin - 811105 Also at : Flat No. 1A, B3, Jaysree Park P. S. - Behala, Kolkata - 700034 b) Tollygunge Branch	All that piece and parcel of Flat No. 1A (1160.00 Sq. Ft. super built up area), consisting of 3 Bed room, 1 Kitchen, 1 Drawing cum Dining Room, 1 Toilet, 1 WC, and 1 Verandah on first floor, North-East-South side on G+4 storied building along with Contiguous portion of the Bastu Land measuring 4 Cottah 13 Chittaks 44.85 Sq. Ft. situated at Premises No. 297, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road, L. R. Dag Nos. 434 and 434/989 under previous L. R. Khatian No. 615 and Present L. R. Khatian Nos. 1133 and 1134 and C. S. Khatian No. 38 of Mouza - Mondalpara, J. L. No. 6, R. S. No. 190, Touzi No. 80, Pargana - Magura, P. S. - Behala under Ward No. 121 of Kolkata Municipal Corporation and corresponding to mailing address B3, Jaysree Park, P. S. - Behala, Kolkata - 700034, District - South 24 Parganas. Owner : Shri Aditya Kumar, Boundary of the property - On the North: By 20' wide KMC Road, On the South : By CS Plot No. 522, On the East : By Plot No. 4, On the West : By Plot No. 2.	Rs. 36,33,042.00 (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Thirty Three Thousand Forty Two only) as on 24.02.2026 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	a) Rs. 40,97,000.00 (*) (Rupees Forty Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Only) b) Rs. 4,09,700.00 (Rupees Four Lakh Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Only) c) Rs. 25,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) d) IDIB7845988351 e) Not Known to Bank f) Symbolic Possession

**इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank**
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

ZONAL OFFICE : KOLKATA CENTRAL
14, India Exchange Place
2nd & 3rd Floor, Kolkata - 700 001

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

APPENDIX - IV A [See Proviso to Rule 9 (1)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Indian Bank, B. K. Pal Avenue Branch, (Secured Creditor)**, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **20.11.2026**, for recovery of **Rs. 24,69,247.00** (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty Seven Only) as on **11.05.2026** due to the **Indian Bank, B. K. Pal Avenue Branch, Secured Creditor**, from **Shri Arun Kumar Roy (Borrower / Mortgagor)**, S/o. Mr. Upendra Chandra Roy, 24B, Abhoy Mitra Street, Kolkata - 700005. **Also at**: Flat No. 103, 1st Floor, Premises No. 2, Abhoy Mitra Street, P. O. - Hathkhola, P. S. - Shyampukur, Kolkata - 700005 and **Smt. Madhabi Roy (Guarantor)**, W/o. Mr. Arun Kumar Roy, 24B, Abhoy Mitra Street, Kolkata - 700005.

The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode is enumerated below:

Sl. No.	a) Name of Account / Borrower b) Name of the Branch	Detailed Description of Immovable Property	Secured Creditors Outstanding Dues	a) Reserve Price b) EMD Amount c) Bid Increment Amount d) Property ID e) Encumbrance on Property f) Type of Possession
1.	a) Borrower : Shri Arun Kumar Roy (Borrower / Mortgagor) S/o. Mr. Upendra Chandra Roy 24B, Abhoy Mitra Street Kolkata - 700005 Also at : Flat No. 103, 1st Floor Premises No. 2, Abhoy Mitra Street P. O. - Hathkhola, P. S. - Shyampukur Kolkata - 700005 and Smt. Madhabi Roy (Guarantor) W/o. Mr. Arun Kumar Roy 24B, Abhoy Mitra Street Kolkata - 700005 Also at : Flat No.103, 1st Floor Premises No. 2, Abhoy Mitra Street P. O. - Hathkhola, P. S. - Shyampukur Kolkata - 700005. b) B. K. Pal Avenue Branch	One Self-Contained Residential Flat No. 4B on the Fourth Floor in the Premises No. 84-0568 in the Street No. 0568 (40 M Wide) being erstwhile Plot No. 573 in Block No. AA-IIB, under Category HIG (C), situated in the New Town, Action Area - IIB, P. S. Rajarhat, presently New Town, District - North 24 Parganas, having an area of 1434 Sq. Ft, a little more or less, including super built up area, consisting of Bend Rooms 3 Nos., Drawing / Dining Room 1 No., Kitchen 1 No., Toilet 2 Nos., Balcony 2 Nos. and One Covered Car Parking Space No. 8 on the Ground Floor measuring an area of 135 Sq. Ft., a little more or less, in the Premises aforesaid lying and situated on a land measuring 399.16 Sq. Meter be the same a little more or less being Premises No. 84-0568 in the Street No. 0568 (40 M Wide) being (Erstwhile Plot No. 573 in Block No. AA-IIB) under Category HIG (C) freehold land situated in the New Town, Action Area - IIB, P. S. - Rajarhat, presently New Town, District - North 24 Parganas. In the name of Shri Arun Kumar Roy Vide Deed No. 13274/2019 dated 11.11.2019. Property is butted and bounded by - North : By Premises No. 86-0568 & Street No. 0568 (40m wide), South : By Premises No. 82-0568, 31-0564 & 33-0564, East : By Street No. 0568 (40m wide) & Premises No. 82-0568, West : By Premises No 33-0564 & 86-0568.	Rs. 24,69,247.00 (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Forty Seven Only) as on 11.05.2026 with further interest, costs, other charges and expenses thereon	a) Rs. 81,42,000.00 (*) (Rupees Eighty One Lakh Forty Two Thousand Only) b) Rs. 8,14,200.00 (Rupees Eight Lakh Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Only) c) Rs. 25,000.00 (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand only) d) IDIB7775887578 e) Not Known to Bank f) Symbolic Possession

(*) Sale Price should be above Reserve Price.

Contact Person : Mobile No. 77030 08224

Date of Inspection : 16.10.2026 to 19.11.2026; Time : 10.00 A. M. TO 04.00 P. M.
Date and Time of E-auction : Date : 20.11.2026, Time : 11.00 A. M. to 05.00 P. M.
Platform of E-auction Service Provider : <https://baanknet.com>

Bidders are advised to visit the website (<https://www.baanknet.com>) of our e auction service provider **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd.** to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance Please call **PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. Helpdesk No. 8291220220**, email ID : support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with PSB Alliance Pvt. Ltd. and EMD status, please contact support.BAANKNET@psballiance.com.

For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit:<https://www.baanknet.com> and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact **Helpdesk No. 8291220220**

Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with <https://www.baanknet.com>.

NOTE : THIS IS ALSO A NOTICE TO THE BORROWER(S) / GUARANTOR(S) / MORTGAGOR(S)

Date : 15.10.2026
Place : Kolkata

Authorised Officer
Indian Bank

**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank**
...the name you can BANK upon !

Circle Office, Stress Asset Management Division, Durgapur, (CO SAMD Durgapur)
Nachan Road, Benachity, Durgapur, Paschim Bardhaman, W.B. / e-mail: codgprec@pnbank.in

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice calling upon the Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower(s) guarantor(s) mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s)/ guarantor(s)/ mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned below.

The borrower/ guarantor(s)/ mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank for an amount & along with future interest on the said amount at the contractual rates together with all incidental expenses, cost charges, etc.

The borrower's / guarantor/s mortgagor's attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name of the borrower (Owner of the property)	Description of the property mortgaged	Date of demand notice	Date of possession notice affixed	Amount outstanding as on the date of demand notice.
020420-Coke Oven	M/s New Eureka Travels Club	M/s New Eureka Travels Club, Partners of 1) Madhab Majumder son of Late Jyotish Ch. Majumdar 2) Debidas Mukherjee son of Late Ram Kanta Mukherjee 3) Tanay Kumar Mondal son of Late Ananda Kr. Mondal	All that piece and parcel being Stall No. G/9, Garage Block (2nd Floor) in the Durgapur Commercial Estate having an area 204.247 sq. ft. about and being part of Durgapur Commercial Estate, within Municipal area of Durgapur Municipal Corporation, P. S. Aurovinda, P. O.- Durgapur-16 in the District of Burdwan (presently Paschim Bardhaman) under Mouza Faridpur, J. L. No. 74, Plot No.83/85, Khatian No. 1362 in the name of M/s New Eureka Travels Club, Partners of 1) Madhab Majumder son of Late Jyotish Ch. Majumdar 2) Debidas Mukherjee son of Late Ram Kanta Mukherjee and 3) Tanay Kumar Mondal son of Late Ananda Kr. Mondal vide Lease Deed No.- 07521 for the year 2012. Butted and bounded as follows: On the North :Boundary wall of The WBSIDC Ltd. On the East :Still No.- G/8, On the West :Wall of Main Building, On the South : Passage	03.08.2026	14.10.2026	Rs.45,06,287.36 (Rupees Forty-Five Lakh Six Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-Seven and paise Thirty-Six Only) & along with future interest on the said amount at the contractual rates together with all incidental expenses, cost charges, etc.

Date: 14.10.2026
Place: Durgapur

S Balaji
Chief Manager and Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda**

REGIONAL OFFICE: BURDWAN REGION
2nd Floor, 54, G. T. Road
Bhangakuthi, Burdwan- 713101

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ANNEXURE-A
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES ; "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 9 (1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Mortgagor's and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s / Mortgagor / Guarantor/s / Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/E-auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:-

Sr/ Lot No.	Name & address of Borrower/s/Guarantor/ s / Mortgagor (s)	Detailed description of the immovable / movable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues.	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price EMD amount Bid Increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
1	1. Mrs. Indrani Bose W/o Swarup Bose Santhan Park, Durgapur Municipal, Corporation Dist-Paschim Burdwan W.B. 713201 2. Mr. Swarup Bose S/o Shibnath Bose Santhan Park, Durgapur Municipal Corporation Dist-Paschim Burdwan W.B 713201 Branch: City Centre, Durgapur Authorised Officer: Mr. Pratty Sarkar Contact person of the branch: Rupesh Singh (9641511111)	Equitable mortgage of land and building situated at Mouza Manikara, J.L. No-77, L.R. Plot No 191, Khatian No- 2398, Present L.R Khatian No- 2721 Built up Area 1109Sq ft and Carpet Area 1485 Sq. ft within Amalajora Gram Panchayat, P.S- Kanksa, A.D.S.R- Durgapur, Dist-Paschim Bardhaman, W.B-713212, belonging to Mr Swarup Bose S/o Shibnath Bose vide Registered Sale Deed I- 020604001/2018 registered at ADSR Office, Durgapur which is butted and bounded by As per Deed bounded by:- On the North – Plot No 191, On the South – Plot No 185, On the East – Plot No 189, On the West – Plot No 192 Actual bounded by:- On the North – Plot No 191, On the South – Plot No 185, On the East – 12 ft wide Road, On the West – Plot No 192	Rs. 20,24,491.00 /- plus further interest and legal/other charges w.e.f. 23.02.2026	20.11.2026 from 2 p.m to 6 p.m	Rs. 5482000 Rs. 548200 Rs. 10000	Symbolic	any working day from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/link to the websites link <https://www.bankofbaroda.bank.in/e-auction.htm> and online auction portal <https://baanknet.com>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile

1. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor Bank.
2. Property is in Symbolic Possession and Bidder is purchasing the property in symbolic possession at his/own risk & responsibility.
3. Bank will hand over the possession of property symbolically only and successful Auction bidder/purchaser will not claim physical possession from the bank.
4. Bank will not be responsible or duty bound for handing over of physical possession.
5. Successful Auction purchaser will not be entitled to claim any interest, in any case of return of money.
6. Successful Auction purchaser has to submit the Declaration Cum Undertaking confirming the above terms & conditions immediately after e-Auction.
7. Subsequent to sale if successful bidder fails to submit Declaration Cum Undertaking, the Bid EMD amount will be forfeited.

Date: 16.10.2026
Place :- Burdwan

For detailed terms and conditions



Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda



TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED

(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Under taking & an ISO 27001:2022 Certified Company)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Specification No.PMM11-e- 77/2026: Supply of 400kV Bus Post Insulators-1100 Nos. Date & Time of availability of above tender: 14.10.2026 at 8:00PM. Websites: www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in . Contact No. CE/Transmission: 0866-2429230. R.O.No.GMCC/APTRANSCO/171/26-27 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER/TRANSMISSION



Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Ltd

Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
225	CE / Coal	Time chartering of one Panamax / Kamsarmax gearless vessel

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / Opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in

DIPR/3156/Tender/2026



PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)

Corporate identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813

Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-55525

E-Tender Enq. No. 7881/P-3/EMP-13458 dated: 14.10.2026

Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-3) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2026_POWER_177486_1 for Procurement of empty DA gas cylinders for GGSSTP Rupnagar.For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 14.10.2026/5.00 PM onwards.

Note: - Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

No. 16230/PB RTP- 102/26

JANGIPUR MUNICIPALITY

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Ref: Tender ID: 2026_MAD_1046456_1, NleT No: MAD/ULB/JM/AMRUT 2.0/NleT35/23-24, vide Memo No.: 1328/AMRUT 2.0/e-Tender/112/2026/JM, Date: 14.10.2026

All prospective bidders are hereby informed that, in the newspaper advertisement published for Tender ID 2026_MAD_1046456_1, the NleT No. was inadvertently mentioned as MAD/ULB/JM/AMRUT 2.0/NleT35/23-24 (2nd Call) instead of the correct NleT No. MAD/ULB/JM/AMRUT 2.0/NleT35/23-24.

Further, the Estimated Tender Value has been corrected from Rs. 47,73,488.95 to Rs. 74,73,488.95 due to a typographical error. All other terms and conditions of the original tender remain unchanged.



IIFL HOME LOAN

IIFL Home Finance Limited

CIN: U65993MH2006PLC166475

Regd. Office -IIFL House, Sun Infotech Park, Road No. 16V, Plot No. B-23, MIDC, Thane Industrial Area, Wagle Estate, Thane-400604, Maharashtra | Tel: (91-124) 478 0900

Fax: (91-22) 2580 6654 | Email: secretarialhfc@iiflhomeloans.com | Website: www.iiflhomeloans.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

₹ in crores except otherwise stated

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended		Year Ended
		September 30, 2026	September 30, 2025	March 31, 2026
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	1,011.92	959.64	3,807.61
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the periods / year (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	240.38	255.22	974.09
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the periods / year before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	240.38	255.22	974.09
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the periods / year after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items*)	188.01	194.41	745.81
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the periods / year [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the periods / year (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	184.27	183.99	747.58
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	26.34	26.34	26.34
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve, if any)	8,464.77	7,806.68	8,038.34
8	Securities Premium Account (included in Sl.No.7-Reserves)	2,969.65	2,969.65	2,969.65
9	Net worth	8,491.12	7,833.02	8,064.68
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	23,966.68	20,236.84	22,712.67
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
12	Debt Equity Ratio (in-times)	2.82	2.58	2.82
13	Earnings Per Share (of ₹10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (not annualised for the quarters)			
	• Basic: (in ₹)	71.36	73.79	283.10
	• Diluted: (in ₹)	70.69	73.17	280.77
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
15	Debtenture Redemption Reserve	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

- Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules/ AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

Note:

- The above unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter ended September 30, 2026, have been reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their respective meetings held on October 14, 2026. The Joint Statutory Auditors have carried out the limited review of the aforesaid results and have issued an unmodified conclusion.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results for the quarter and half-year ended September 30, 2026 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations"). The full format of the financial results are available on National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE): www.nseindia.com, BSE Limited (BSE): www.bseindia.com and can be accessed on the website of the Company: www.iiflhomeloans.com/investor-relations/financials.
- For the other line items referred in Regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to Stock Exchanges and available on NSE: www.nseindia.com, BSE: www.bseindia.com and can be accessed on the website of the Company: www.iiflhomeloans.com/investor-relations/financials.
- The Accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial results are consistent with those followed in the previous periods /year unless otherwise stated.
- Previous periods / year figures have been regrouped/reclassified wherever necessary to conform to the current period's presentation..

By order of the Board

For IIFL Home Finance Limited

Garish Kousgi

Managing Director & CEO

DIN: 08524205

Date: **October 14, 2026**

Place: **Mumbai**



Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)

(Deptt. of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)

Vibhuti Khaddi, Gauri Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. - 226010 Tel. No. 0522-2726652,

Telefax: 0522-2720779, 2720829, Website: www.upneda.org.in, Email: conpneda@rediffmail.com



Opportunity for Investors & Project Developers for setting up Floating Solar Projects

Online Applications can be made by Investors/Project Developers for allotment of identified Dams/Reservoirs for setting up Floating Solar Projects.

Key information for the application is as follows :

(a) Dam/Reservoir lease charges for public sector	Rs. 1/Acre/year
(b) Dam/Reservoir lease charges for private sector	Rs. 15000/Acre/year
(c) Link for Standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P) and Govt. order No. 372/87 dated 14.03.2024	https://solar.upneda.in https://upneda.org.in
(d) Online Registration Fee	Rs. 23600.00 (including Taxes)

Detailed application & proposals will be evaluated on First Come First Serve basis according to the standard Operating Procedure (S.O.P) dated 28.03.2025 & 30.07.2026 and Govt. order No.372/87 dated 14.03.2024

Note: All applications submitted till the last day of each month will be considered as one group. Evaluation will be done on a monthly basis.

Nodal officer Details: Sh. Narendra Singh, Senior Project Officer-II,
Mob No: 94156 89007

Director, UPNEDA

CHANGE OF NAME

I Arpita Neogi, w/o Ranadhir Neogi, D/O Swadesh Majumder & Minati Majumder, of 12/1A, Judu Bhattacharya Lane, P.S. Kalighat, Kol. - 26. That in my Aadhaar Card and Pan Card my name has been recorded as Arpita Neogi. That in my Voter Card and Passport my name has been recorded as Arpita Majumder. That Arpita Neogi and Arpita Majumder both are the same and identical person as per Affidavit before the Notary Public at Alipore being S. L. No. 52 dated 15.10.2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that my client Shyamal Kanti Chattopadhyay son of Late Brojo Mohon Chatterjee of 21, Ballygunge Place, P.S. Gariahat, Kolkata-700019 has lost/misplaced from his custody the original Title Deed No. 4654 of 1999 registered in the office of A.R.A. I Kolkata of flat located at 2nd floor South side of 21 Ballygunge Place, P.S. Gariahat, Kolkata-700019 from 14.05.2026 and lodged a G.D.E. vide No.526 dated 09.10.2026 at Gariahat P.S. If anyone can find the lost deed requested to contact 9831582870. Any person/entity dealing with the said document does so at their own risk and responsibility.

Chandrima Ghosh
Advocate, Bar Library Room No.6
Alipore Judge Court, Kolkata-700027
Mob. No. 9331041586

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Gopal Chandra Das S/O Lt. Ajit Kumar Das, residing at 12/2, Porui Kancha Road, Flat No. B2, 2nd Floor, P.O- Sarsuna, P.S- Old Behala now Sarsuna, Kolkata-700061. In my daughter's West Bengal Board Of Secondary Education Marksheet Roll 3812 No. 0209 my name has been recorded as Gopal Das in place of Gopal Chandra Das. That Gopal Chandra Das & Gopal Das is the same and one identical person before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore Court vide Affidavit no. 81143 dated. 14.09.2026.

DUBRAJPUR DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

DUBRAJPUR - BIRBHUM

Abridged Notice Inviting Tender

Tender Notice No 13/DDB/2026

Memo No - 2495/DDB/2026

Dated-13/10/2026

Block Development Officer, Dubrajpur Development Block invites Tenders for 4(Four) nos of work closed on 17.11.2026 at 06.55 PM. Detailed information including downloading and uploading time are available from the website tenders.wb.gov.in

Sd/-Block Development Officer

Dubrajpur Development Block ,

Birbhum

DUBRAJPUR DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

DUBRAJPUR - BIRBHUM

Abridged Notice Inviting Tender

Tender Notice No 14/DDB/2026

Memo No - 1510/DDB/2026

Dated-14/10/2026

Block Development Officer, Dubrajpur Development Block invites Tenders for 15(Fifteen) nos of work closed on 05.11.2026 at 06.55 PM. Detailed information including downloading and uploading time are available from the website tenders.wb.gov.in

Sd/-Block Development Officer

Dubrajpur Development Block

Birbhum

DUBRAJPUR DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

DUBRAJPUR - BIRBHUM

Abridged Notice Inviting Tender

Tender Notice No - 12/DDB/2026(YB-G RAM G)

Memo No - 2480/DDB/2026

Dated - 12/10/2026

Block Development Officer, Dubrajpur Development Block invites Tenders for 11(Eleven) nos of works closed on 22.10.2026 at 06.55 PM. Detailed information including downloading and uploading time are available from the website tenders.wb.gov.in

Sd/-Block Development Officer

Dubrajpur Development Block

Birbhum



BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/30/2026-27 Date: 15.10.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Only Through GOK KPP Portal) Call-04

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl No	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender per annum (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in BTM Layout division (Package-18) Call-04	1,769.59	Rs.1,00,000/- through e payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.16,70,000/- by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank	As per e- Portal	84 Months

(1) Tender documents can be downloaded from KPP Portal : **16.10.2026** (2) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP Portal : **21.10.2026 before 17:30 hrs.** (3) Tender Pre Bid meeting : **22.10.2026 at 15:00 hrs.** at above mentioned office, (4) Last Date of Receipt of Tender : **28.10.2026 before 17.00 hrs.** (5) Opening of Technical Bid : **29.10.2026 after 17.30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/3262/Shirdi Sai/2026-27



BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/32/2026-27 Date: 15.10.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Only through GOK KPP Portal) Call-03

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl No	Name of Work	Amount put to tender per annum (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Yelahanka division (Package-32) Call-3	1,214.38	Rs.1,00,000/- through e payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.14,00,000/- by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized / scheduled Bank	As per e-Portal	84 Months

(1) Tender documents can be downloaded from KPP Portal : **16.10.2026**, (2) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP Portal: **21.10.2026 before 17:30 hrs.** (3) Tender Pre Bid meeting : **22.10.2026 at 15:00 hrs. at above mentioned office.** (4) Last Date of Receipt of Tender : **28.10.2026 before 17.00 hrs.** (5) Opening of Technical Bid : **29.10.2026 after 17.30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/3264/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27



BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/29/2026-27 Date: 15.10.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Only through GOK KPP Portal) Call-03

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below.

Sl No	Name of Work	Amount put to tender per annum (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in Shivajinagara division (Package-4) Call-3	1,723.87	Rs.1,00,000/- through e payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.16,24,000/- by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank	As per e-Portal	84 Months

(1) Tender documents can be downloaded from KPP Portal : **16.10.2026**, (2) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP Portal: **21.10.2026 before 17:30 hrs.** (3) Tender Pre Bid meeting : **22.10.2026 at 15:00 hrs. at above mentioned office.** (4) Last Date of Receipt of Tender : **28.10.2026 before 17.00 hrs.** (5) Opening of Technical Bid : **29.10.2026 after 17.30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website - <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/3261/SHIRDI SAI/2026-27



BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/31/2026-27 Date: 15.10.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER Call-06 (Through GOK KPPP Portal only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender per annum (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract period
1	Primary Collection and Secondary Transportation of Municipal solid waste (MSW) and Street sweeping waste in RR Nagar- 2 division (Package-31) Call-06	1,859.56	Rs.1,00,000/- through e payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS/ NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.17,60,000/- by bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized /scheduled Bank	As per e-Portal	84 Months

(1)Tender documents can be downloaded from KPP Portal : **16.10.2026** (2) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in KPP Portal: **21.10.2026 before 17:30 hrs.** (3) Tender Pre Bid meeting : **22.10.2026 at 15:00 hrs. at above mentioned office** (4) Last Date of Receipt of Tender : **28.10.2026 before 17.00 hrs.** (5) Opening of Technical Bid : **29.10.2026 after 17.30 hrs.**

More details can be downloaded from website-<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML.

DIPR/CP/3263/SSC/2026-27

Kolkata

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Haaland scores twice but PSG beat Man City 4-2



Paris Saint-Germain's Kylian Mbappé celebrates scoring his side's fourth goal against Manchester City. AP

Reuters
October 15

TWICE-DEFENDING champions Paris St Germain beat Manchester City 4-2 in a pulsating Champions League encounter on Wednesday, their devastating first-half display proving decisive against a City side playing under a cloud of scrutiny.

On a breathless night featuring 46 goals, Bradley Barcola scored a hat-trick in Liverpool's 6-3 thrashing of LASK, Aston Villa recorded the biggest European victory in their history with a 6-0 thrashing of Fenerbahce and Real Madrid staged a stunning late comeback to beat AS Roma 4-3.

But no fixture carried more intrigue than the Etihad clash, where City played their first home game since being found guilty of 114 breaches of financial rules.

City, who have denied all wrongdoing and appealed the verdict, were carved open by PSG in the first half. Desire Doue and Ousmane Dembele scored less than two minutes apart before Warren Zaire-Emery's clever touch released Vitinha to drive the third beyond Gianluigi Donnarumma in the 32nd minute.

City emerged transformed after the break and Erling Haaland headed in Ilman Ndaiye's cross in the 53rd minute to become the fastest player to reach 60 Champions League goals, hitting the landmark in 60 games compared with Lionel Messi's previous record of 80.

City's joy was short-lived as Maghnes Aklouche's stunning long-range strike found the net despite Donnarumma getting a hand to it.

Haaland had the City fans on their feet when he swept home Ayyoub Bouaddi's pass in the 75th minute for his second, before Donnarumma made up for his blunder by saving a penalty from Ferran Torres.

KEY RESULTS

Man City	2-4	PSG
Roma	3-4	Real Madrid
Shakhtar	3-1	AEK
Aston Villa	6-0	Fenerbahce
Betis	3-2	Porto
Bodo/Glimt	1-0	Dortmund

INDIA VS WEST INDIES

Behind the 200-run deluge: The crumbling defensive mechanism

In their alacrity to grab wickets, India's bowlers have sacrificed the art of choke

Venkata Krishna B
Chennai, October 15

AT THE conclusion of the ODI series against the West Indies, which was a high-scoring contest like the T20Is that followed, India captain Shubman Gill made a frank assessment.

On flat decks despite bowling first in relatively better conditions, Gill said India's attack often struggled in terms of clarity whether to defend or attack when the West Indies power-hitters used the long levers.

Cut to the T20Is, where both teams head to Bengaluru with the series on the line, Shreyas Iyer, the captain in the shortest format may well concur with Gill. Barring the first T20I, where West Indies managed only 171 batting first, in each of the next three outings, the totals have been above 200.

At Ranchi, after piling up 249/5, Iyer watched his attack concede 252/4 with 9 balls remaining. While they did hold their nerve at Indore's Holkar Stadium, where bowlers don't have the luxury of big boundaries, in Hyderabad the hosts paid the price for letting West Indies put up 247/3, which happened to be beyond India's reach. While the flat decks and dew haven't helped their cause, India have seldom relied on defensive lines.

In the IPL, particularly after the Impact Player rule came about, which saw an upswing in the totals beyond 200, most teams preferred a defensive mechanism with the ball. Wide yorkers, short deliveries dug into the surface with pace off,



Arshdeep Singh has the skills, like slow bouncers and wide yorkers, to stem the run rate. PTI

spinners bowling away from the hitting arc, were some of the tactics that bowling units came up with to withstand the power-hitters.

Attacking plan

But in a series where Jasprit Bumrah has been rested, India's plans have gone awry at times. To their credit, they have largely stuck to their attacking plan - where they believe taking wickets is the best form of attack. Even during the T20 World Cup, when they played three successive high-scoring fixtures en route to lifting the title, it was their preferred option. But in that team, India had Bumrah to deliver.

But in his absence, and Kuldeep Yadav not chosen in the XI because of the not-so-favourable conditions, they have still been brave in sticking to the

philosophy and are watching the Windies batsmen muscle their way through.

It brings the question why India haven't taken the defensive ploy. It is not as if the current lot are not bankable in terms of executing the defensive ploy.

Arshdeep Singh, for instance, has been phenomenal at it, delivering not just the wide yorkers, but capable of mixing the slow bouncers and short balls whenever the situation demands. Beyond the left-arm seamer, India have preferred to go in with Mayank Yadav and Prince Yadav - two young seamers who are making their way in and have made into the team on the back of their stint with Lucknow Super Giants.

At LSG, working with bowling coach Bharat Arun, they too have largely embraced the

attacking philosophy.

It means, at the death, despite their inexperience, the two pacers have relied on what has worked for them - to attack the line of stumps, a formula that they are so used to.

Prince, in particular, thanks to the ability to curve the ball back with his slightly round-arm action, has been able to execute the yorkers. In the third T20I in Indore, his yorkers only stopped the West Indies from flexing their muscles in the end. But at the same time, on the occasions he slightly erred in line, he has seen the ball sail over.

While Mayank has been impressive with his raw pace, even rushing the batsmen with his back of the length deliveries, that has even skidded at times, in terms of showing his defensive side, he still looks a novice.

The reluctance of the



Tilak Varma made 43 off 25 balls at No.5 in the fourth T20I. ANI

sive fightback, the lower-order partnership had too much to do in the end. "To be very honest, these things happen. Mistakes are bound to happen. We just

have to keep going and be positive," Samson said.

Ishan Kishan (6 off 3) and Abhishek Sharma (29 off 24) had an off day, but Samson was

Barring the first T20I, where West Indies managed only 171 batting first, in each of the next three outings, the totals have been above 200.

seamers to have a Plan B meant the spinners, in particular Kuldeep during the outing at Ranchi where he leaked 53 in his four overs, tried to deliver outside the hitting arc by bowling wide. Even Axar Patel has resorted to the same tactic and bore the brunt.

Now, as India head to M Chinnaswamy Stadium, they encounter the biggest test of all. The venue is unforgiving for bowlers, where the margin of error is so small that even mis-hits tend to travel the distance. In successive editions of the IPL, the home team Royal Challengers Bengaluru showed they could turn the venue into a fortress by marrying the attacking bowling options with defensive options.

It is the venue where the bowlers are expected to show their creative side, where they need to find ways to keep the batting side to a score that can be chased. It can happen with wickets. Or it can happen merely by slowing the run-rate.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir speaking after the loss at Ranchi, where he came down heavily on the pitches in the series, acknowledged the necessity to find a way.

"If you want to keep improving, you don't want to put anything under the carpet. We are a world-champion team so we want to keep improving. These are obviously tough conditions to bowl - we know flat wickets with the dew - obviously it's tough but we need to figure out and find the way," he said.

BADMINTON WORLD JUNIORS

Jagsher fights back from a set down to guarantee medal

Shivani Naik
Mumbai, October 15

JAGSHER SINGH Khangurra, playing from the faster side of the Cairo courts at the Badminton World Junior Championships, sent eight lifts long to lose the first set 6-15.

How the youngster managed to pull the match back from 6-15 and 11-13 down in the second, is the story of India's latest junior World medallist.

Dependable net play and placement badminton in typical, classical Indian style were the two things that helped Punjab youngster confirm a medal for India and himself in Egypt on Thursday.

Playing the second match of the day, the bespectacled shuttler from Nabha town on the outskirts of Patiala, defeated Taiwanese Yuan Syue Jhuang, with a stunning 6-15, 17-15, 15-12 comeback in the quarterfinals at the Cairo International Stadium.

Jhuang was up 13-11 and two points away from a win when the Indian kept his patience and calmly turned the tables on his opponent.

A slightly defensive-oriented player Jagsher might be, but it was his deep defense from the back-hand corner that pulled him out of the ditch in the opener, according to coach Sagar Chopra. Jagsher next plays Radithya Bayu Wardhana, a fellow rally-player from Indonesia and will fancy his chances of making the finals and fighting for the top prize.

"The feeling can't be expressed in words. It's simply awesome getting a medal for India. I was dreaming of playing in World Juniors for almost 5-6 years. I have already secured a medal, but I'll be fighting for gold," Jagsher told the BWF, while at his first world juniors. "It's very creditable, given he had lost to the same player in team event when 6 points up," Sagar said.

Jagsher, a former Under-17 national champion and U15 Asian medallist, has a mini-Tanvi Sharma story. Like her, his mother Rashpal played volleyball too, though not professionally. She is a government school teacher just like his father Manpreet Singh. This is the second successive year when a shuttler from Punjab is medalling at the World junior individuals. Last year Tanvi Sharma won silver in Guwahati.

Tough first set

Jagsher admitted to being blown out in the opening set against the hard smashing Taiwanese. But he used his net skills and placement badminton well to shift momentum. Realising a medal was slipping away, he reminded himself that he needed to buck up for his family and India. "His smashes are really good. He outplayed me in the first set," he told the



Jagsher Singh Khangurra beat Taiwan's Yuan Syue Jhuang 6-15, 17-15, 15-12 in the quarterfinals in Cairo.

Treesa-Gayatri face familiar foes in semifinals

India's World Championship bronze medallists pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand will run into Pearly Tan and Thinaah Muralitharan once more in a space of a month, as they hope to advance into the semis of the Super 750 Denmark Open.

The Indian pairing, back in the Top 20 at rank 18, defeated the Indonesian World No 10s Rachel Allesya Rose and Febi Setianingrum, 21-16, 21-17 in a 45-minute wringer of a high-intensity match. The Indian duo showed finishing finesse in the first and raced to an early 11-5 lead to run away with the match and make their deepest foray into a Super 750. It's the third straight quarters they reached after Delhi Worlds and Nagoya Asiad. ENS

BWF. "I wasn't able to control. But in the second set, I started talking to myself. That this is a quarterfinal match. I have to play for India. For my parents. It gave me a lot of boost. I thought I will not leave any shuttle."

When Jagsher won the North Zone title few months back, he had surprised his parents by booking them into a 5 Star hotel for the first time.

"We had never been to a 5 Star. But we were accompanying him to Jalandhar and he said, 'iss baar main aapko meri taraf se hotel mein leke jaunga' (This time I will put you up in a hotel). He made all the bookings. But the World juniors medal makes me happier," he said.

Punjab Badminton Association secretary Ritin Khanna said this was a massive result for the impact it held for the male shuttlers. "This is historical. Tanvi has already won for us. Jagsher's success will be inspiring in a state like Punjab where drugs is such an issue. Results like Jagsher's can inspire and offer direction to misled youth," Khanna said.

NO LONGER AN IMPOSTER

With wickets under his belt, Pithiya wants to shed the 'duplicate Ashwin' tag

Lalith Kalidas
New Delhi, October 15

MAHESH PITHIYA knows what an overnight shot to fame feels like. He basked in it three years ago, when a touring Australian Test team scouted him from Instagram reels to counter their biggest sub-continent spin nemesis, his idol, R Ashwin. Four matches into his First-Class career, a label stuck to Pithiya, then 21. After bowling in Bengaluru and Nagpur with the mighty Aussies and a fleeting interaction with Ashwin, only the name remained. Pithiya had become the "duplicate" Ashwin, the 'Ashwin impersonator'.

He has lived in those shadows long enough. Pithiya now relies on an unglamorous grind that strives to banish those early impressions, thrust upon him for eyeballs before a marquee international series.

On Wednesday, the Baroda off-spinner clinched his 100th First-Class wicket in his 25th appearance.

Pithiya's nine-wicket match

haul propelled the side to a smooth innings victory over Goa in Panaji in their Ranji Trophy season opener.

Hailing from an obscure village in Gujarat's Junagadh district, Pithiya's worldview has shifted over time. There is no Ashwin to counter, but if the Aussies come calling before the next Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in early 2027, he has an answer ready.

"Ab mere unke saamne khelna ka plan hai (This time I plan to play against them)," Pithiya tells *The Indian Express*.

The numbers stand out in bold. Since the 2023-24 season, Pithiya's 95 wickets are the second-highest among off-spinners, only behind Jalaj Saxena (105). His eight five-fors, the latest occurring during the demolition of Goa, are the joint-best among off-spinners in the period.

India's Test transition has yet to produce proven claimants for the role left vacant upon Ashwin's retirement in late 2024. Pithiya believes he has a stake somewhere down

the line.

"Ever since I started playing professional cricket, my mind-set has been clear: after Ashwin, if there is anyone, it is me. Whether I end up playing or not is secondary, but my mindset is that after Ashwin, I am next," he says.

The journey has been far from straightforward since he first watched an international cricket match at a public screening in 2013 and was left stupefied when a Tamil Nadu spinner's action mirrored his own. "People in my village know nothing about cricket. My father is a farmer. Leaving from there was like going against my family's wishes. The village is nice to visit, but if you want to achieve something, you have to leave."

Tea-stall worker

A cricketing dream first took him to Porbandar, before a coach's advice drove the Saurashtra-born Pithiya towards Baroda in 2014. "I joined a local club, but my situation wasn't good. I worked during the

nights at a tea stall. My elder brother got a job in the city a few years later. We survived on his salary," recalls Pithiya.

Steady progression through the age-group rungs has lifted Pithiya out of financial constraints, fuelling a sterner

dream to win the India cap. "Our condition has improved once I began playing for Baroda. My entire family has shifted to the city," he says. Despite a trunk of wickets, Pithiya's progression has been partially dented after Baroda failed to qualify for the Ranji Trophy knockouts over two seasons. A Duleep Trophy call-up for the West Zone has eluded him. "That is perhaps the only reason why I haven't received

the call-up. It is one of my goals to see that Baroda qualify for the knockouts this time," the 24-year-old says.

The zonal snub did not stop the national selectors from tracking his progress. Pithiya has made the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE) camp and tournament for emerging players for two successive seasons. Pithiya revelled in recent stints with spin legends Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh at the Bengaluru facility.

Former Bengal off-spinner Saurash Lahiri, who coached the winning team that included Pithiya in the CoE's emerging tournament, acknowledged his expanding skill set.

Any comparison with Ashwin ends beyond Pithiya's high-arm action and approach to the crease. The technical firmness provides Pithiya greater depth over a mere copycat.

"Most spinners prepare themselves mainly for white-ball cricket today. But I have seen Mahesh and learnt about his mindset. He is prepared to

go through the grind. He loved to bowl a lot at the nets. He can go on for hours," Lahiri tells this newspaper.

Operating from a shorter frame than Ashwin, Pithiya relies on an innate understanding of his angles and bowling release.

"He has got a wonderful, repeatable action and brilliant release. He knows how to control the spin with a solid release point and run-up. On good wickets you have to be relentless. He is always prepared to bowl those 25-30 overs. In red-ball cricket, you have to bank on your stock ball, which he does smoothly with an efficient action. I'm happy to know how quickly he has reached 100 wickets," Lahiri adds.

He seeks to impress no one, but a longer interaction with Ashwin remains on top of his wishlist.

Pithiya is his own man now, intent on becoming Ashwin's successor, not his impersonator, before Australia hits the Indian shores again next summer.

Mandaviya stresses on developing steady pipeline

Express News Service
New Delhi, October 15

DEVELOPING A steady pipeline of top-level athletes was the major focus of the review meeting after the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games on Thursday.

The meeting was attended by sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya and representatives of several National Sports Federations (NSFs).

India finished fourth at the Games with 85 medals (21 gold, 27 silver, 37 bronze), 21 fewer than the haul at the 2023 edition at Hangzhou. Office-bearers of major NSFs - including those of shooting, athletics, boxing, archery, squash and wushu - were present for the stock-taking exercise, with the main concern being the preparation of the next rung of quality athletes.

“How long will Mirabai Chanu alone keep winning medals for us? We need to produce 10 more Mirabai Chanus. Every federation must take this responsibility seriously. We have to identify talent, provide the right training and create an environment in which athletes can progress to the highest level,” Mandaviya said in a press release.



“How long will Mirabai Chanu alone keep winning medals for us? We need to produce 10 more Mirabai Chanus”

MANSUKH MANDAVIYA,
UNION SPORTS MINISTER

The NSFs conclave on Thursday reviewed India's Asian Games performance and sought a platform to assess preparations for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, 2030 Commonwealth Games in Ahmedabad and the 2030 Asiad in Doha. The meeting was held on the same day that Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with Indian athletes who had competed at Aichi-Nagoya.

“There were conversations around the development of more athletes with the sports minister making his stand clear and asking federations to take this responsibility as a non-negotiable one,” a source close to the development told The Indian Express.

Apart from the review of the Asiad performance, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha raised the matter of injured athletes travelling for the mega event. However, the minister asked everyone to focus on the road ahead instead of looking at specific cases.

“But there were no major fireworks. The federations presented their insights and the minister asked them to plan ahead,” a source told PTI.

The sports ministry, before the Games, had stated that more than Rs 700 crore had been spent for preparing the athletes over a three-year cycle. India had sent a total of 501 athletes to the Games.

Vegetable-seller’s son’s medal hat-trick at U23 wrestling Worlds

Pritish Raj
New Delhi, October 15

FOR THREE consecutive editions (2024, 2025, 2026) of the U23 World Wrestling Championships, Vishvajit More has been India's only medallist in the Greco-Roman category.

But the 22-year-old from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, broke new ground in Las Vegas on Thursday morning, becoming the first Indian to enter a Greco-Roman final in the age-group global event.

Though he lost a narrow bout 12-13 to Koba Karumizde of Georgia in the 55kg class, More made India's presence felt by beating opponents from wrestling powerhouses

Iran and Russia on his way to the final.

More comes from a farming and vegetable-selling family in Sarwade village of Kolhapur district. The son of Ramchandra More and Parvati had no clear pathway in front of him to realise his ambition to become an international wrestler.

“We are a farming family. My father sells the vegetables we produce and my mother helps him on the farm during the harvest season.

Vishvajit used to wrestle as a kid but we had never thought that he would reach this level,” his elder brother Vinayak told *The Indian Express* from Kolhapur.

As a six-year-old, Vishvajit



Vishvajit More was India's only medallist in Greco-Roman. [uww](#)

would go to the akhada in his village, where he developed his interest in the sport.

“As a kid, he regularly used

He learnt the craft under the watchful eyes of Subedar Ranjit Mahadik, who served as the coach

to go to the akhada and wrestle with the trainees there. Earlier, we thought it was just a hobby. However, when he started winning medals, we realised he can have a good career,” Vinayak said.

When Vishvajit started taking big strides in the sport, it demanded a lot of resources from the More family. “Pehelwan banana itna bhi aasan nahi hota

hai. (It is not easy to make a wrestler). He needed a proper diet even at the junior level as the competition used to be tough. My father had to adjust a few expenses here and there to make sure Vishvajit was fed properly,” the brother recalled.

The sacrifices paid off when Vishvajit was selected for the Army Boys Company in Belgaum in 2019 at the age of 15. “He is the youngest in the family. When he was selected for the Army Boys Company, we felt proud but a bit sad too. But the selection was the perfect pathway for him to attain glory at the international level.”

Consistent progress

Vishvajit entered the Army

Boys Company as a 48kg wrestler who had no idea of what Greco-Roman was. He learnt the craft under the watchful eyes of Subedar Ranjit Mahadik, who served as the coach.

“He didn't know much about Greco-Roman, it was all new to him. He trained with us at the centre for 6-7 years, and kept improving and winning medals. Every year, as his age-group eligibility changed — from Under-15 to Under-17 to Under-20 — he won medals at the national level in his weight category,” Ranjit told this paper.

“We have 30 good wrestlers who were his sparring partners here. That resulted in his rapid development.”

The consistent progress and

medals at the national and international levels helped Vishvajit join the Army as a havildar and was inducted into its Mission Olympic Wing. Currently, he trains at the Army Sports Institute in Pune.

“At the ASI, he got more exposure. What makes him really good is his understanding of the game. His tactical awareness is second to none,” said Ranjit.

With three medals at the U23 World Championships, Ranjit thinks it is the right time for Vishvajit to step up.

“He is ready to make a splash at the senior level. Today's medal was historic but I believe there are many more medals waiting for him,” his former coach stressed.

INTERVIEW: KAPIL DEV

We need to promote golf... Why should cricket have all the fame?

In Kapil Dev, the PGTI president, golf has an administrator possessing the zeal to make the sport more accessible

Tushar Bhaduri
New Delhi, October 15

IF ONE doesn't pay attention to the nameplate while entering one of the apartments in a posh Central Delhi residential complex, there may be no way of ascertaining — at first glance — that the owner is one of the biggest names in world cricket.

In the rooms accessible to visitors, there are no pictures, trophies or mementos to suggest that Kapil Dev is a former India captain, who led the country to become world champions for the first time, was at one time among the holy quartet of great all-rounders — alongside Imran Khan, Ian Botham and Richard Hadlee — and has played a big role in making cricket the national obsession that it became in subsequent years.

That was several decades ago, but Kapil remains relevant in present times as well — not just as a former cricketer, but as a businessman, a golf administrator, media personality and social worker. He has no intention of stopping anytime soon. “I'm not going to retire as long as I can work. For me, retirement comes when the Almighty calls you,” he says.

When one mentions the absence of any visual evidence on display of Kapil's great and indelible association with the bat-and-ball game, one is shown a big photograph conveniently hidden behind the open door of the apartment — showing the protagonist receiving the World Cup on that heady evening of June 25, 1983.

But if one asks what his primary passion is these days, Kapil wouldn't waste a moment before replying — golf. Interestingly, this is a sport he hardly knew during his cricket-playing days, and had to be cajoled into trying by friends. “I played a lot of games in my younger days apart from cricket — football, basketball, squash — but had never tried golf. It was only at the insistence of a few of my friends in Chandigarh that I went to a golf course and tried the sport,” Kapil recalls.

Once he did, he was hooked immediately, even though he

doesn't see many similarities between golf and cricket. “The only common feature is the importance of hand-eye coordination,” he says.

“It's a beautiful game, played in beautiful surroundings and a way to meet friends. The greenery you see makes you happy. It's also a game without an age limit; with the handicap system, you can play with your grandchildren as well as a professional or a person of high social and political stature.”

Golf is still a niche sport in India. But as Kapil's interest in the game grew, the administrators couldn't have hoped for a better brand ambassador for the sport to broaden its appeal. Here was a son of the soil, born and raised outside the major metropolitan centres, who had made it big in a colonial sport with talent and hard work.

Another facet that may have attracted Kapil to golf could be its individual nature, where wins and losses can be attributed to the one player, in contrast to cricket. He is now the president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) and his profile and contacts are useful in opening many doors for the sport that's still trying to spread to the nooks and corners of the country.

“When we started playing cricket, it was also largely restricted to metros. There were hardly any players coming outside of Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore, Hyderabad or Chennai. The game was popularised and patronized in India by royal families. If cricket can become a game of the people, there's no reason why golf can't become more popular,” he says.

Access, identification of talent and entry-level expenditure are other barriers, and that's where his role at the head of PGTI comes in.

“It's my responsibility to provide a fair chance to the youngsters coming up, you never know who has the talent. We need to promote the game and have more golf courses. Why should only cricketers have name, fame and money?”

“As far as expenditure is concerned, Virat Kohli's bat may cost upwards of a lakh, and



Kapil Dev believes golf can thrive in India with the right infrastructure to identify talent. [SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT](#)

“The game (cricket) was popularised and patronized in India by royal families. If cricket can become a game of the people, there's no reason why golf can't become more popular”

KAPIL DEV,
ON HOW CRICKET GOT POPULAR,
AND HOW GOLF CAN DO THE SAME

you never know when it will break. A tennis racquet doesn't come cheap, balls don't last long, and a shuttlecock in badminton has to be discarded after a few points. In golf, if you get a full set of clubs and a bag — it may cost Rs 75,000 — they can last 20 years. So, which one is more expensive? One should look at it as an opportunity and a choice. If one only looks at the expenditure, no one will become a doctor in our country,” he says.

Young at heart

There are other former cricketers who have made their other sporting passions known, but none of them has taken them as seriously as Kapil, mostly staying within the cricketing ecosystem as selectors, commentators or administrators. Yuvraj Singh, the co-founder, co-owner and brand ambassador of the Indian Golf Premier League — which organ-

ises tournaments not recognised by PGTI — is an exception.

“Sunil Gavaskar played badminton. Yuvraj plays golf, as do Murali Kartik, Sachin Tendulkar and Ajit Agarkar. I think if top names play the game, that's good enough. You don't have to get into administration, as long as you're playing the game. I feel it's our moral duty to try and promote other sports also,” he says earnestly.

At 67, Kapil is no spring chicken and had a health scare in 2020 when a heart attack needed an emergency coronary angioplasty. That didn't keep him out of action for long and he was soon back to his normal schedule, and is not keen to dwell on his medical issues. “I don't remember,” is his succinct response when the matter is brought up.

If anything, the medical scare has intensified Kapil's zeal to give back. Apart from being involved in his own NGO, he has set up a 300-bed super-specialty hospital in Greater Noida West and takes personal interest in its running. “I don't want to talk about it too much. I'm happy to just be able to do some work and be of some use. I got the opportunity during the COVID pandemic to build a hospital. I wanted to give something back to society, that has given me so much love and affection, which I had never imagined in my life. So, it's my duty to do something in my own way,” he says.

He hasn't left it entirely up to others to run it either. “I'm not a doctor. I don't know anything about medicine. Me and

my partner own the hospital and the day-to-day running is the responsibility of Mumbai's DY Patil Group. I got the opportunity to build the hospital from scratch. It's your hospital, so you can't leave it totally for other people to manage. You have to take time out to look into its affairs. It's also a business. I go twice or thrice a week, and my partner also goes to make sure everything is ok. It's going through teething problems at the moment, so a lot of things are required,” Kapil says, like the experienced businessman that he has become.

Keeping busy

There would have been a time during his long cricketing career — in which he never missed a Test due to injury — when he wouldn't have been able to give as much time to his family as he would have liked. The situation is unlikely to have changed much after he hung up his boots.

Kapil doesn't seem to have any intention of taking it easy anytime soon.

“This is the life I've chosen. Even at this age, there're so many things that keep me busy — golf, the hospital, other business ventures, NGO work, and media commitments. All these things keep me active and fresh. It's just that you want to do that, and it's also important to take care of yourself. You're not 20 years old when you could probably work 16 hours a day. The family will always want more time, but we have to make adjustments, so that I can carry on as long as I can.”

• BRIEFLY



Alexander Zverev beat Alex de Minaur 6-4, 6-4. [AP](#)

Zverev beats de Minaur in straight sets to enter semis

TOP-RANKED Alexander Zverev said he felt good on-court after beating Alex de Minaur 6-4, 6-4 at the Shanghai Masters on Thursday. Zverev made 80% of his first serves and saved all five of the break points he faced as he set up a semifinal meeting with Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. “I felt both of us were playing really, really well. I was a lot of times outthitting Alex, which is difficult to do from the baseline because he is so fast and he loves this kind of court speed here,” said Zverev, who secured the year-end No. 1 ranking earlier this week. “I felt good and I'm happy with the step up from the last couple of matches.” [REUTERS](#)

We want to play fearless T20 cricket: Shafali

THE INDIAN women's cricket team aims to play a fearless cricket heading into the Women's Champions Trophy early next year, said vice-captain Shafali Verma in Raipur on Thursday. India will take on Zimbabwe for the first time ever in a bilateral engagement, with the T20 series being a part of their preparations for the ICC event in February. “We have spoken about it that in this series we have to play fearless brand of cricket with smartness till the Champions Trophy,” Shafali said. [PTI](#)

Batter Punam Raut retires from int'l cricket

OUT-OF-FAVOUR Indian women's cricket team top-order batter Punam Raut on Thursday announced her retirement from all forms of international cricket with immediate effect. The 37-year-old Raut has played four Tests, 73 ODIs and 35 T20Is for India between 2009 and 2021. “After much thought and reflection, I have decided to retire from international cricket in all formats of the game. Representing India has been the greatest honour of my life,” Raut said in a post on her Instagram page. [PTI](#)

SA pick Breetzke; Stubbs left out of second Test

SOUTH AFRICA have called up Matthew Breetzke and dropped Tristan Stubbs from their squad for the second Test against Australia in Gqeberha, their coach Shukri Conrad said on Thursday. Conrad also announced Ryan Rickelton will be the wicketkeeper, which is likely to mean Kyle Verreynne will also be dropped though he remains with the squad. The changes follow the 214-run defeat in the first Test that ended on Tuesday. Stubbs scored 33 runs in his two innings at Kingsmead. [REUTERS](#)

Chola Chiefs snap five-match losing streak

STRUGGLING CHOLA Chiefs managed to snap their 5-match losing streak as they beat Prithviraj Yodhas in a thrilling Archery Premier League match that went down the wire. The match was decided via Hit-or-Miss shoot-off after a 4-4 draw in regulation time. For the Chiefs, Colombia's Alejandro Usquiano and India's Yuktha Sri Kondapavuluri landed their arrows in the golden X-ring to register as hits in the tiebreak. The rest of the archers scored misses. The Chiefs won the shoot-off with 2-0 scoreline. [PTI](#)

• RAIN SPOILS DAY

DP World Championship: Norgaard atop leaderboard, McIlroy makes decent start

Express News Service
New Delhi, October 15

UNSEASONAL RAIN added to the challenge on the opening day of the DP World India Championship, but the usual suspects kept themselves within range even as proceedings came to a close without the first round being completed at the Delhi Golf Club (DGC) on Thursday.

Rory McIlroy and defending champion Tommy Fleetwood did manage to get 18 holes in before the light faded and their rounds of two-under 70 put them four behind early leader Niklas Norgaard of Denmark. Showers in the middle of the

day caused a stoppage lasting almost five hours, allowing McIlroy to go back to the hotel for a bite and practise his swing in the confines of his room. “You're always trying to maintain what you have, work on the swing a little bit. I feel in the middle of the year, I got into some bad habits and I've been trying to get myself back out of them,” the Northern Irishman said after his round, offering a glimpse into what makes him a legend of the game with six Majors, and one of only six golfers to complete the career grand slam.

“I've got, maybe, a couple of different weighted clubs in my room, and you're just trying to

get it in the right spot. But I think it's getting there, the swing is getting into better shape.”

McIlroy started his round with a bogey on the 10th hole before three birdies in six got him back on track. A birdie and bogey on his second nine and six successive pars to close his round may prompt him to feel that he left a few shots out on the course.

For now though, McIlroy and the rest of the field are chasing little-known Norgaard, with one win on the DP World Tour, who has finished tied second twice this season. The 34-year-old from Copenhagen had



Rory McIlroy got 18 holes in on a rain-hit day at the DGC. [DP WORLD](#)

There's only one Indian in the top-25 as it stands with 40-year-old Om Prakash Chouhan, in tied-fifth spot

a steady start but an eventful middle - with three birdies, an eagle and a bogey in six holes. The trend was visible in his last four holes as well, which saw three birdies and a bogey.

“I'm very happy, bit surprised as well. This (course) should not suit me at all. It pretty much just neutralises my

best weapon, which is my driver. But I just managed to make no big mistakes, put the irons in play, and putt pretty well,” Norgaard, who finished runner-up at the Alfred Dunhill Links a fortnight ago, said.

Setting a base

Fleetwood may have a feeling of what might have been. He had six birdies on the day, but two bogeys and a closing double bogey would leave a bad taste in the mouth, though he remains one of the players to watch out for as he tries to go back-to-back at the DGC.

Northern Irishman Tom McKibbin, Belgian Thomas

Detry and Eugenio Chacarra of Spain are positioned just one shot behind Norgaard, with only a closing bogey denying the Spaniard a share of the lead going into Friday.

Local knowledge and familiarity is usually given a lot of weightage at the DGC, but the home contingent didn't make their presence felt on the leaderboard as much as they would have liked. There's only one Indian in the top-25 as it stands with 40-year-old Om Prakash Chouhan, ranked outside the top 1,100 on the Official World Golf Rankings, finding himself in tied-fifth spot after a round of four-under 68. Six

birdies and two bogeys would give him encouragement for a high finish in such an elite field.

“It helped that I've played the DGC so many times and know the course well. My main plan today was to keep the ball on the fairway,” he said.

The next highest-placed Indian was Saptak Talwar, fresh from representing the country at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games, with a round of one-under 71 putting him tied 29th.

With a lot of players not even completing nine holes in their opening round and 12 golfers not even getting a chance to tee off, Friday promises to be a long day, weather permitting.

