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THIS IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT A PROSPECTUS ANNOUNCEMENT AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN INVITATION OR OFFER TO ACQUIRE, PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIBE TO SECURITIES. NOT FOR RELEASE, PUBLICATION OR DISTRIBUTION DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY OUTSIDE INDIA. INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF EQUITY SHARES OF JIO PLATFORMS LIMITED ON THE MAIN BOARD OF THE BSE LIMITED ("BSE") AND THE NATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE OF INDIA LIMITED ("NSE" AND TOGETHER WITH BSE, THE "STOCK EXCHANGES") IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER II OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (ISSUE OF CAPITAL AND DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS) REGULATIONS, 2018, AS AMENDED ("SEBI ICDR REGULATIONS").

(Please scan this QR code to view the Red Herring Prospectus, and the Abridged Prospectus)

JIO PLATFORMS LIMITED

(TO BE LISTED ON THE MAIN BOARD OF BSE AND NSE)

Jio Platforms Limited was incorporated on November 15, 2019, at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, as a public company limited by shares under the Companies Act, 2013, pursuant to a certificate of incorporation issued by the Registrar of Companies, Central Registration Centre. For further details, see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" on page 249 of the red herring prospectus dated October 14, 2026 (**"RHP"**).

Corporate Identity Number: U72900GJ2019PLC110816
Registered Office: Office-101, Saffron, Nr. Centre Point, Panchwati 5 Rasta, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad 380 006, Gujarat, India
Corporate Office: TC-22, 5th Floor, A Wing, Reliance Corporate Park, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai 400 701, Maharashtra, India
Contact Person(s): Ms. Savithri Parekh, Company Secretary and Mr. Venkataraman Ramachandran, Compliance Officer
E-mail: jpl.investorrelations@jio.com; **Tel:** +91 22 7967 0000; **Website:** www.jio.com

OUR PROMOTER: RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFER OF UP TO 270,000,000 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹10 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF JIO PLATFORMS LIMITED ("THE COMPANY" OR "ISSUER") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A SECURITIES PREMIUM OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE) ("ISSUE PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ [●] MILLION (THE "ISSUE"). THE ISSUE INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] EACH, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 5,000 MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO [●]% OF THE ISSUE), FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES ("EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION") AND A RESERVATION OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] EACH, AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 25,000 MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO [●]% OF THE ISSUE), FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE RIL SHAREHOLDERS ("RIL SHAREHOLDERS RESERVATION PORTION"). THE ISSUE LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION AND THE RIL SHAREHOLDERS RESERVATION PORTION IS HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE "NET ISSUE". THE ISSUE AND THE NET ISSUE SHALL CONSTITUTE [●]% AND [●]% OF THE POST-ISSUE PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF THE COMPANY, RESPECTIVELY. THE COMPANY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BRLMs, IS OFFERING A DISCOUNT OF ₹ 54 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION ("EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT")

PRICE BAND: ₹ 1,065 TO ₹ 1,119 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH.

THE FLOOR PRICE IS 106.50 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 111.90 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.

BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 12 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH AND IN MULTIPLES OF 12 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH THEREAFTER

THE PRICE TO EARNING RATIO ("P/E") BASED ON DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE ("EPS") FOR FISCAL 2026 FOR THE COMPANY AT THE LOWER END OF THE PRICE BAND IS 31.71 TIMES, AND AT THE UPPER END OF THE PRICE BAND IS 33.31 TIMES, AS COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE INDUSTRY PEER GROUP P/E RATIO OF 22.35 TIMES FOR FISCAL 2026.

A DISCOUNT OF ₹ 54 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION

BID/ISSUE PERIOD

BID/ISSUE CLOSES TODAY[(1)]

(1) UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 7:00 p.m. IST on the Bid/ Issue Closing Date.

Jio Platforms Limited, is a technology platform, built on proprietary digital technology and pan-India digital connectivity as its foundational layer, driving digital transformation in India. Our Material Subsidiary, Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited, served 533.3 million customers in India as of June 30, 2026.

THE ISSUE IS BEING MADE THROUGH THE BOOK BUILDING PROCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATION 6(1) OF THE SEBI ICDR REGULATIONS.

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL BE LISTED ON THE MAIN BOARD OF THE STOCK EXCHANGES. NSE IS THE DESIGNATED STOCK EXCHANGE.

QIB PORTION: NOT MORE THAN 50% OF THE NET ISSUE | NON-INSTITUTIONAL PORTION: NOT LESS THAN 15% OF THE NET ISSUE | RETAIL PORTION: NOT LESS THAN 35% OF THE NET ISSUE

EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION: UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 5,000 MILLION
RIL SHAREHOLDERS RESERVATION PORTION: UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 10 EACH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 25,000 MILLION

The details of the Fresh Issue and the post Issue market capitalization of the Company, each at the Floor Price and the Cap Price, are given below:

ISSUE SIZE AND MARKET CAPITALIZATION

Particulars	At Floor Price of ₹ 1,065 per Equity Share		At Cap Price of ₹ 1,119 per Equity Share	
	Up to no. of Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 10 each	Up to Amount (In ₹ Million)	Up to no. of Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 10 each	Up to Amount (In ₹ Million)
Fresh Issue	270,000,000	287,282.94^	270,000,000	301,876.48^
Post Issue Market Capitalisation	**9,209,030,830**	**9,807,617.83**	**9,209,030,830**	**10,304,905.50**

^ Considers the impact of Employee Discount of ₹ 54 per Equity Share

IN MAKING AN INVESTMENT DECISION, POTENTIAL INVESTORS MUST RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE RED HERRING PROSPECTUS AND THE TERMS OF THE ISSUE, INCLUDING THE RISKS INVOLVED AND NOT RELY ON ANY OTHER EXTERNAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE ISSUE AVAILABLE IN ANY MANNER. IN RELATION TO PRICE BAND, POTENTIAL INVESTORS SHOULD ONLY REFER TO THE PRE-ISSUE AND PRICE BAND ADVERTISEMENT DATED OCTOBER 14, 2026, AND SHOULD NOT RELY ON ANY MEDIA ARTICLES / REPORTS IN RELATION TO THE COMPANY AS THESE ARE NOT ENDORSED, PUBLISHED OR CONFIRMED EITHER BY THE COMPANY OR THE BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS TO THE ISSUE ("BRLMs").

In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee of Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to their resolution dated October 14, 2026, the above Price Band is justified based on quantitative factors /KPIs disclosed in the 'Basis for Issue Price' section on page 126 of the RHP vis-à-vis the weighted average cost of acquisition ("WACA") of primary issuances / secondary transactions as disclosed in 'Basis for Issue Price' section on page 126 of the RHP and provided in the Pre-Issue and Price Band advertisement and other relevant factors.

RISK TO INVESTORS

For details refer to the section titled "Risk Factors" section on page 30 of the RHP.

1. **Risk relating to telecommunication license and spectrum:** The unified licence for providing telecom services held by Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited ("RJIL") across circles in India is due for renewal in October 2033. Further, the spectrum held by RJIL is valid for a period of 20 years with the majority of the spectrum expiring between 2041 and 2042. Any inability to maintain or renew such licences or to successfully bid for any spectrum required for our operations, could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Continued on next page...

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2. **Dependence on Reliance Industries Limited, Reliance Retail Limited and other Reliance Group entities:** The Company and its subsidiaries have entered into various non-exclusive agreements with the Promoter, Reliance Retail Limited, a subsidiary of the Promoter and other Reliance Group entities for certain key aspects of the business. Disruption of these arrangements could significantly impact our business, financial condition and results of operations. The following table provides an overview of our significant transactions with the Promoter, Reliance Retail Limited and Sanmina-SCI India Private Limited, for the periods/Fiscals indicated.

Particulars	Parent[1]/ fellow subsidiary / joint venture of the Parent	Three months ended June 30,		Fiscal		
		2026	2025	2026	2025	2024
		(in ₹ million, unless otherwise indicated)				
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment and Other Intangible Assets	Parent[1] (A)	19,440	14,237	39,040	37,099	62,246
	As a percentage of Cash Capex (B = A/U)	46.46%	11.82%	11.42%	8.38%	11.63%
	Reliance Retail Limited (C)	750	2,352	5,867	14,720	9,458
	As a percentage of Cash Capex (D = C/ U)	1.79%	1.95%	1.72%	3.33%	1.77%
	Sanmina-SCI India Private Limited (E)	414	192	5,339	5,190	1,107
	As a percentage of Cash Capex (F = E/ U)	0.99%	0.16%	1.56%	1.17%	0.21%
Revenue from Operations	Parent[1] (G)	9,322	7,972	36,442	35,997	35,449
	As a percentage of Revenue from Operations (H = G/ V)	2.38%	2.28%	2.48%	2.81%	3.24%
	Reliance Retail Limited (I)	3,001	4,279	16,374	10,416	7,244
	As a percentage of Revenue from Operations (J = I/ V)	0.77%	1.22%	1.11%	0.81%	0.66%
Revenue Received in Advance[2]	Reliance Retail Limited	292,480	271,663	1,129,351	1,023,958	890,587
Professional Fees	Parent[1] (K)	5,797	7,520	26,254	29,614	23,364
	As a percentage of Total Expenses (L = K/ W)	1.95%	2.88%	2.40%	3.14%	2.87%
	Reliance Retail Limited (M)	1,082	3,232	7,671	6,730	4,601
	As a percentage of Total Expenses (N = M/ W)	0.36%	1.24%	0.70%	0.71%	0.57%
Network Operating Expenses	Parent[1] (O)	3,131	4,312	18,761	15,807	15,388
	As a percentage of Total Expenses (P = O/ W)	1.05%	1.65%	1.71%	1.68%	1.89%
Selling and Distribution Expenses	Parent[1] (Q)	-	-	-	6,299	9,449
	As a percentage of Total Expenses (R = Q/ W)	-	-	-	0.67%	1.16%
	Reliance Retail Limited (S)	10,527	11,858	43,551	35,158	30,008
	As a percentage of Total Expenses (T = S/ W)	3.54%	4.54%	3.98%	3.73%	3.69%
Cash Capex[3] (U)		41,838	120,481	341,843	442,680	535,096
Revenue from Operations (V)		391,729	350,323	1,468,853	1,282,184	1,095,581
Total Expenses (W)		297,708	261,350	1,094,060	942,057	813,674

Notes:

(1) *Parent, in this table, means the Promoter.*

(2) *Recharge vouchers sold to Reliance Retail Limited are accounted as 'Advance against services' which is disclosed as a related party transaction under the head 'Revenue received in advance'. When Reliance Retail Limited or its distributor/ sub-distributor further sells the vouchers to our customers by way of recharge to the digital connectivity services, RJIL recognises such transfer as 'Deferred revenue' and thereafter, based on the type of tariff plan, it is accounted as operating revenues in the profit & loss account. In light of the above, revenue received in advance has not been presented as a percentage of revenue from operations.*

(3) *Cash Capex refers to the cash outflow towards expenditure for property, plant and equipment, spectrum and other intangible assets less proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment and other intangible assets.*

3. **Dependency on Reliance Retail Limited for distribution of prepaid connectivity services:** RJIL has a master distribution agreement and a master collection agreement with RRL. RRL is the sole distributor of our pre-paid connectivity services. Our revenue from pre-paid connectivity services constituted 76.37%, 77.88%, 77.08%, 78.57% and 79.35% of our consolidated Revenue from Operations for the three months period ended June 30, 2026, June 30, 2025 and Fiscals 2026, 2025 and 2024, respectively. Any disruption in this relationship or distribution channel could adversely impact our business, financial condition and results of operations. The following table provides the details of the Revenue Received in Advance attributed to the above arrangement with RRL:

Particulars	Three months ended / As of June 30		Fiscal / As of March 31		
	2026	2025	2026	2025	2024
	(in ₹ million)				
Revenue Received in Advance	292,480	271,663	1,129,351	1,023,958	890,587

4. **Dependency on RJIL that contributes significantly to our Revenue from Operations, EBITDA and PAT and KPIs relating to digital connectivity services:** RJIL contributed significantly to our Revenue from Operations, EBITDA and PAT in periods / Fiscals as indicated below:

Fiscals / period	RJIL's revenue from operations (in ₹ million)	% of our consolidated Revenue from Operations	RJIL's EBITDA (in ₹ million)	% of our consolidated EBITDA	RJIL's profit after tax (in ₹ million)	% of our consolidated PAT
Three months ended June 30, 2026	342,121	87.34%	195,904	93.89%	71,669	92.31%
Three months ended June 30, 2025	308,821	88.15%	173,013	95.40%	67,110	94.39%
Fiscal 2026	1,288,714	87.74%	723,544	94.88%	281,732	93.76%
Fiscal 2025	1,141,413	89.02%	612,334	95.42%	247,948	94.97%
Fiscal 2024	1,001,194	91.38%	528,784	96.21%	204,656	95.53%

Note: The financial information of RJIL provided above is on a standalone basis.

Any material adverse impact on the business, financial conditions or results of operations of RJIL would have a corresponding material adverse impact on our consolidated business, financial condition and results of operations. Further, while we operate as a technology platform, our key operational indicators ("KPIs") are primarily pertaining to our digital connectivity services provided by RJIL and do not reflect the technology platform specific metrics. Our competitors may perform more favourably on certain operational or financial KPIs, which could affect our competitive position. For details of comparison of the KPIs of our Company with listed peers, see *"Basis for Issue Price - Comparison of KPIs with Listed Industry Peers"* on page 135 of the RHP.

5. **Network, Infrastructure and Service Disruption Risk:** The uninterrupted performance, reliability and availability of our network, passive infrastructure, technology, products and services are critical to our operations and our ability to consistently deliver our digital services. Any disruption to our network, passive infrastructure and technology could impair our ability to ensure consistent performance and deliver uninterrupted customer experience, which could have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations, and could lead to increased churn in our customer base.
6. **Risk related to Technology change:** The connectivity industry is subject to rapid and continuous technological change, and our connectivity infrastructure faces the risk of technological obsolescence. If we are unable to respond to changes in technologies, including for instance, more competitive satellite-based broadband services and the evolving demands of our customers, we may face technological obsolescence, which would have a material adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.
7. **Risk relating to negative publicity of 'Jio' Brand:** The "Jio" trademark is owned by the Promoter, and we do not control the use of this trademark by other companies in the Reliance Group. Negative publicity arising from actions outside its control, inability to protect intellectual property or infringement claims could have a material adverse impact on our reputation, business, financial condition and results of operations.
8. **Dependency on a limited group of passive infrastructure service providers:** We rely on a limited set of passive infrastructure service providers for our operations. For instance, of the 360,537 Network Towers used by us for our operations, 174,451 Network Towers are owned by Summit Digitel Infrastructure Limited, as of June 30, 2026. Additionally, as of June 30, 2026, we rely on Jio Digital Fibre Private Limited, for substantially all our optic fibre network requirements (approximately 98%), aside from the last mile fibre network which is owned by RJIL. Any disruption in the availability of these passive infrastructure assets could have an adverse impact on our business, financial condition and results of operations.
9. **Cybersecurity, Data Privacy and Information Security Risk:** Our systems, platforms, network infrastructure, and the services provided by our Promoter and third-party technology partners are exposed to cybersecurity threats, security breaches, operational disruptions, and other technology-related risks. Any such incident or disruption could impair our operations, compromise data security, increase costs, expose us to regulatory and legal liabilities, and adversely affect our business, results of operations, financial condition, and reputation.
10. **Artificial Intelligence ("AI") and Machine Learning ("ML") Technologies Related Risk:** We rely on AI and ML technologies across our operations, including for network automation through our proprietary JioBrain platform, customer engagement and service delivery. The deployment of AI and ML technologies across our operations may not yield the desired results. Further, reliance on AI/ML technologies may expose us to inherent risks pertaining to algorithmic bias and model errors leading to inaccurate or biased outputs, which may cause reputational harm and adversely impact our business, financial condition and results of operations.
11. Our Price/Earning (P/E) ratio based on diluted EPS for Financial Year 2026 at the upper end of the price band is 33.31 as compared to the average industry peer group P/E ratio of 22.35, as of October 13, 2026.
12. Weighted Average Return on Average Net Worth for Financial Year ended 2026, 2025 and 2024 is 9.04%. Return on Average Net Worth for the three months ended June 30, 2026, and June 30, 2025 is 2.30% and 2.31% respectively (unannualized).
13. Weighted average cost of acquisition of all Equity Shares transacted in one year, 18 months and three years preceding the date of the RHP:

Period	Weighted average cost of Acquisition (in ₹)	Cap Price is 'X' times the weighted average cost of acquisition#	Range of acquisition price per Equity Shares: lowest price - highest price (in ₹)
Last one year / 18 months/ 3 years	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

#As certified by D T S & Associates LLP, Chartered Accountants (FRN 142412W/W100595), by way of their certificate dated October 14, 2026, (UDIN 26136433YFEPPE7981).

Note: No Equity Shares were transacted in the last one year, 18 months and three years preceding the date of the Red Herring Prospectus.

14. The 19 BRLMs associated with the Issue have handled 160 public issues in the past three years, out of which 46 issues have closed below the issue price on the listing date

Book Running Lead Managers	Total public issues	Issues closed below issue price listing date
Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited*	-	-
Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited*	-	-
BofA Securities India Limited*	-	-
Axis Capital Limited*	2	-
BNP Paribas*	-	-
Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited*	-	-
CLSA India Private Limited*	-	-
DAM Capital Advisors Limited*	8	2
Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited*	-	-
HDFC Bank Limited*	-	-
HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited*	-	-
ICICI Securities Limited*	5	2
IIFL Capital Services Limited *(formerly known as IIFL Securities Limited)* *	5	1
Jefferies India Private Limited*	-	-
JM Financial Limited*	3	-
J.P. Morgan India Private Limited*	-	-
SBI Capital Markets Limited*	6	4
UBS Securities India Private Limited*	-	-
360 ONE WAM Limited*	-	-
Common issues handled by the BRLMs	131	37
TOTAL	**160**	**46**

** Issues handled where there were no common BRLMs*

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS

1. The Company has not undertaken any pre-IPO placement from the date of filing the DRHP till date.
2. The Promoter and the Promoter Group have not undertaken any transaction of Equity Shares aggregating up to 1% or more of the paid-up equity share capital of the Company from the date of filing the DRHP till date.
3. For the pre-Issue and post-Issue equity shareholding of the Promoter, Promoter Group and top 10 public Shareholders, refer to the section titled 'Capital Structure' on page 99 of the RHP.

BASIS FOR ISSUE PRICE

(You may scan the QR code for accessing the website of Kotak Mahindra Capital Company)

*(The **"Basis for Issue Price"** section on page no. 126 of the RHP has been updated with the above price band. Please refer to the websites of the BRLMs: https://investmentbank.kotak.com, https://www.morganstanley.com/india, https://business.bofa.com/bofasindia, www.axiscapital.co.in, www.bnpparibas.co.in, www.citigroup.com/global/about-us/global-presence/india/regulatory-disclosures-investment-banking, www.india.clsa.com, www.damcapital.in, www.goldmansachs.com, www.hdfc.bank.in, www.business.hsbc.co.in, www.icicisecurities.com, www.iiflcapital.com, www.jefferies.com, www.jmfl.com, www.jmipl.com, www.sbicaps.com, www.ubs.com/indiaoffers and www.360.one for the "Basis for Issue Price" section updated with the above price band)*

ASBA* Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

* Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to offers by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, please check section on ASBA below.

Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.

UPI - Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors and Non Institutional Investor applying in public issues where the application amount is up to ₹ 500,000, applying through Registered Brokers, Syndicate, CDPs & RTAs. UPI Bidders also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the subsequent press releases, including press release dated June 25, 2021 read with press release dated September 17, 2021, and CBDT circular no. 7 of 2022 dated March 30, 2022, read with press release dated March 28, 2023, and any subsequent press release in this regard.

*ASBA has to be availed by all the investors except Anchor Investors. UPI may be availed by (i) Retail Individual Investors in the Retail Portion; (ii) Eligible Employees in the Employee Reservation Portion (iii) Eligible RIL Shareholders in the RIL Shareholders Reservation Portion; (iv) Non-Institutional Investors with an application size of up to ₹ 0.50 million in the Non-Institutional Portion. For more details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in the Bid Cum Application Form and Abridged Prospectus and also please refer to the section **"Issue Procedure"** on page 534 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("**AIBI**") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. ASBA bid-cum-application forms can be downloaded from the websites of the Stock Exchanges and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("**SEBI**") at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=35 and https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFpi=yes&intmId=43, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. ICICI Bank Limited, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, Axis Bank Limited and State Bank of India have been appointed as Sponsor Banks for the Issue, in accordance with the requirements of the SEBI Circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For Issue related queries, please contact the BRLMs on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.*

AN INDICATIVE TIMETABLE IN RESPECT OF THE ISSUE IS SET OUT BELOW:

Submission of Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors)

Particulars	Time
Bid/ Issue Period (except the Bid/ Issue Closing Date)	
Submission and revision in Bids	Only between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time ("IST"))
Bid/ Issue Closing Date*	
Submission of electronic applications (Online ASBA through 3-in-1 accounts) – For RIIs, other than QIBs and Non-Institutional Investors, Eligible Employees Bidding in Employee Reservation Portion and Eligible RIL Shareholders Bidding in RIL Shareholders Reservation Portion	Only between 9:00 a.m. and up to 7:00 p.m. IST
Submission of electronic applications (Bank ASBA through online channels like internet banking, mobile banking and Syndicate UPI ASBA applications where Bid Amount is up to ₹ 500,000)	Only between 9:00 a.m. and up to 7:00 p.m. IST
Submission of electronic applications (Syndicate Non-Retail, Non-Individual applications for bids beyond ₹ 500,000)	Only between 9:00 a.m. and up to 7:00 p.m. IST
Submission of physical applications (Bank ASBA)	Only between 9:00 a.m. and up to 1:00 p.m. IST
Submission of physical applications (Syndicate Non-Retail, Non-Individual applications of QIBs and Non-Institutional Investors where Bid Amount is more than ₹ 500,000)	Only between 9:00 a.m. and up to 1:00 p.m. IST
Modification/ Revision/ cancellation of Bids	
Upward revision of Bids by QIBs and Non-Institutional Investors categories#	Only between 9:00 a.m. and up to 7:00 p.m. IST on Bid/ Issue Closing Date
Upward or downward revision of Bids or cancellation of Bids by RIIs, Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion and Eligible RIL Shareholders Bidding in RIL Shareholders Reservation Portion	Only between 9:00 a.m. and up to 7:00 p.m. IST on Bid/ Issue Closing Date

* *UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 7:00 p.m. IST on the Bid/ Issue Closing Date.*

\# *QIBs and Non-Institutional Investors can neither revise their bids downwards nor cancel/ withdraw their Bids.*

BID/ISSUE PERIOD

Event	Indicative Date
Anchor Investor Bidding	Monday, October 19, 2026
Bid/Issue Opened on	Wednesday, October 21, 2026
Bid/Issue Closes on[1]	Friday, October 23, 2026
Finalization of Basis of Allotment with the Designated Stock Exchange	On or about Monday, October 26, 2026
Initiation of refunds (if any, for Anchor Investors) / unblocking of funds from ASBA Account*	On or about Tuesday, October 27, 2026
Credit of Equity Shares to dematerialized accounts of Allottees	On or about Tuesday, October 27, 2026
Commencement of trading of the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges	On or about Wednesday, October 28, 2026

[1] *UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 7:00 p.m. IST on the Bid/ Issue Closing Date, i.e. Friday, October 23, 2026*

**In case of (i) any delay in unblocking of amounts in the ASBA Accounts (including amounts blocked through the UPI Mechanism) for cancelled / withdrawn / deleted ASBA Forms, the Bidder shall be compensated at a uniform rate of ₹ 100 per day or 15% per annum of the Bid Amount, whichever is higher from the date on which the request for cancellation/ withdrawal/ deletion is placed in the Stock Exchanges bidding platform until the date on which the amounts are unblocked; (ii) any blocking of multiple amounts for the same ASBA Form (for amounts blocked through the UPI Mechanism), the Bidder shall be compensated at a uniform rate ₹ 100 per day or 15% per annum of the total cumulative blocked amount except the original application amount, whichever is higher from the date on which such multiple amounts were blocked till the date of actual unblock; (iii) any blocking of amounts more than the Bid Amount, the Bidder shall be compensated at a uniform rate of ₹ 100 per day or 15% per annum of the difference in amount, whichever is higher from the date on which such excess amounts were blocked till the date of actual unblock; (iv) any delay in unblocking of non-allotted/ partially allotted Bids, exceeding two Working Days from the Bid/ Issue Closing Date, the Bidder shall be compensated at a uniform rate of ₹ 100 per day or 15% per annum of the Bid Amount, whichever is higher for the entire duration of delay exceeding two Working Days from the Bid/ Issue Closing Date by the SCSB responsible for causing such delay in unblocking. The BRLMs shall, in their sole discretion, identify and fix the liability on such intermediary or entity responsible for such delay in unblocking. The post Issue BRLMs shall be liable for compensating the Bidder at a uniform rate of ₹100 per day or 15% per annum of the Bid Amount, whichever is higher from the date of receipt of the investor grievance until the date on which the blocked amounts are unblocked. The Bidder shall be compensated in the manner specified in the ICDR Master Circular, and the SEBI RTA Master Circular, which for the avoidance of doubt, shall be deemed to be incorporated in the deemed agreement of the Company with the SCSBs, to the extent applicable.*

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL BE LISTED ON THE MAIN BOARD PLATFORMS OF BSE AND NSE

In case of any revision in the Price Band, the Bid/ Issue Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/ Issue Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar unforeseen circumstances, our Company in consultation with the BRLMs, may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid/ Issue Period for a minimum of one Working Day, subject to the Bid/ Issue Period not exceeding 10 Working Days in compliance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/ Issue Period, if applicable, shall be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and also by indicating the change on the respective websites of the BRLMs and at the terminals of the Syndicate Members and by intimation to the Self-Certified Syndicate Banks ("**SCSBs**"), other Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Bank(s), as applicable. However, in case of revision in the Price Band, the Bid Lot shall remain the same.

The Issue is being made through the Book Building Process, in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the SCRR read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, wherein not more than 50% of the Net Issue shall be allocated on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("**QIBs**") ("**QIB Portion**"), provided that our Company, in consultation with the Book Running Lead Managers may allocate up to 60% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations ("**Anchor Investor Portion**"), and 40% of such Anchor Investor Portion shall be reserved as under: (i) 33.33% for domestic Mutual Funds, and (ii) 6.67% for Life Insurance Companies and Pension Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from domestic Mutual Funds, Life Insurance Companies and Pension Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price. In the event of under-subscription, or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the QIB Portion ("**Net QIB Portion**"). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis only to Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Issue Price, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIBs, including Mutual Funds subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Issue Price. However, if the aggregate demand from Mutual Funds is less than 5% of the Net QIB Portion, the balance Equity Shares available for allocation in the Mutual Fund Portion will be added to the remaining Net QIB Portion for proportionate allocation to all QIBs. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Issue shall be available for allocation to Non- Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Issue shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders ("**RIBs**") in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Issue Price. One-third of the Non-Institutional Portion shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Bidders with a Bid size of more than ₹ 200,000 and up to ₹ 1,000,000 and two-thirds of the Non-Institutional Portion shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Bidders with a Bid size of more than ₹ 1,000,000 provided that under-subscription in either of these two sub-categories of the Non-Institutional Portion may be allocated to Non-Institutional Bidders in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Portion in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Issue Price. Further, Equity Shares will be allocated on a proportionate basis to Eligible Employees Bidding in the Employee Reservation Portion, and Eligible RIL Shareholders Bidding in the RIL Shareholders Reservation Portion subject to valid Bids received from them at or above the Issue Price. All potential Bidders (except Anchor Investors) are mandatorily required to participate in the Issue through the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("**ASBA**") process by providing details of their respective ASBA accounts and UPI ID in case of UPI Bidders, as applicable, pursuant to which their corresponding Bid Amount will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks ("**SCSBs**") or by the Sponsor Bank(s) under the UPI Mechanism, as the case may be, to the extent of the respective Bid Amounts. Anchor Investors are not permitted to participate in the Issue through the ASBA process. For details, see *"Issue Procedure"* beginning on page 534 of the RHP.

Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID available in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/ Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorised the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Issue, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. These Demographic Details may be used, among other things, for giving Allotment Advice or unblocking of ASBA Account or for other correspondence(s) related to the Issue. Bidders/Applicants are advised to update any changes to their Demographic Details as available in the records of the Depository Participant to ensure accuracy of records. Any delay resulting from failure to update the Demographic Details would be at the Bidders'/Applicants' sole risk. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with the CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021, read with press release dated September 17, 2021 and CBDT circular no.7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022 read with press release dated March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

Contents of the Memorandum of Association of our Company as regards its objects: For information on the main objects of our Company, please see the section *"History and Certain Corporate Matters"* on page 249 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Issue. For further details, please see the section titled *"Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection"* on page 577 of the RHP.

Liability of the members of our Company: Limited by shares.

Amount of share capital of our Company and capital structure: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of our Company is ₹1,900,000,000,000 divided into 10,000,000,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each and 180,000,000,000 preference shares of face value of ₹10 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up Equity share capital of our Company is ₹89,390,308,300 divided into 8,939,030,830 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each. For more details of the capital structure of the Company, see "Capital Structure" beginning on page 99 of the RHP.

Names of the initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association of the Company and the Number of Equity Shares Subscribed by them: The initial signatories to the Memorandum of Association of the Company is Reliance Industries Limited (including one Equity Share each allotted to six individuals as nominees of RIL) (10,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹10 each). For more details of the share capital history of our Company please see "Capital Structure" beginning on page 99 of the RHP.

Listing: The Equity Shares offered through the RHP are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received 'in-principle' approvals from BSE and NSE for the listing of the Equity Shares pursuant to their letters each dated July 7, 2026. For the purposes of the Issue, the Designated Stock Exchange shall be NSE. A signed copy of the RHP and the Prospectus has been and shall be delivered to the RoC as applicable, in accordance with Sections 26(4) and 32 of the Companies Act, 2013. For details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the Red Herring Prospectus up to the Bid/ Issue Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" beginning on page 577 of the RHP.

Disclaimer clause of the SEBI: SEBI only gives its observations on the Issue documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Issue or the specified securities stated in the Issue document. The investors are advised to refer to page 488 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

Disclaimer clause of NSE (Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 493 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of NSE.

Disclaimer clause of BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to page 493 of the RHP for the full text of the Disclaimer Clause of BSE.

General risk: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Issue unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Issue. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Issue, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Issue have not been recommended or approved by SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the RHP. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "**Risk Factors**" beginning on page 30 of the RHP

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited
1st Floor, 27 BKC, Plot No. C27, 'G' Block
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East) , Mumbai - 400 051
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4336 0000
E-mail: jio.ipo@kotak.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: kmccredressal@kotak.com
Website: https://investmentbank.kotak.com
Contact Person: Ganesh Rane
SEBI Registration No.: INM000008704

Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited
Altimus, Level 39 & 40
Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6118 1000
E-mail: jpl_ipo@morganstanley.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: investors_india@morganstanley.com
Website: https://www.morganstanley.com/india
Contact Person: Keyur Thakar/ Hrithik Khanna
SEBI Registration No.: INM000011203

BofA Securities India Limited
Ground Floor, "A" Wing, One BKC, "G" Block
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 025
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6632 8000
E-mail: dg.jpl_ipo@bofa.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: dg.india_merchantbanking@bofa.com
Website: https://business.bofa.com/bofasindia
Contact Person: Sahil H. Jain
SEBI Registration No.: INM000011625

Axis Capital Limited
1st Floor, Axis House
P.B. Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4325 2183
E-mail: jio.ipo@axiscap.in
Investor Grievance E-mail: complaints@axiscap.in
Website: www.axiscapital.co.in
Contact Person: Sanaea Sumondy/ Simran Gadh
SEBI Registration No: INM000012029

BNP Paribas
1, North Avenue Maker Maxity
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 3370 4000
E-mail: LIST.CIB.JioIPO@asia.bnpparibas.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: indiainvestors.care@asia.bnpparibas.com
Website: www.bnpparibas.co.in
Contact Person: Ankur Thacker
SEBI Registration No.: INM000011534

Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited
1202, 12th Floor, First International Financial Center, G Block
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 098
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6175 9999
E-mail: jio.ipo@citi.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: investors.cgmib@citi.com
Website: www.citigroup.com/global/about-us/global-presence/india/regulatory-disclosures-investment-banking
Contact Person: Naman Kulshreshtha
SEBI Registration No.: INM000010718

CLSA India Private Limited
8/F Dalamal House
Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6650 5050
E-mail: jio.ipo@clsa.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: investor.helpdesk@clsa.com
Website: www.india.clsa.com
Contact Person: Prachi Chandgothia
SEBI Registration No.: INM000010619

DAM Capital Advisors Limited
Altimus 2202, Level 22
Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 018
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4202 2500
E-mail: jio.ipo@damcapital.in
Investor Grievance E-mail: complaint@damcapital.in
Website: www.damcapital.in
Contact Person: Aanchal Wagle/ Jay Shah
SEBI Registration No.: MB/INM000011336

Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited
9th and 10th Floor, Ascent-Worli
Sudam Kalu Ahire Marg, Worli, Mumbai - 400 025
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6616 9000
E-mail: jioipo@gs.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: india-client-support@gs.com
Website: www.goldmansachs.com
Contact Person: Saurav S
SEBI Registration No.: INM000011054

HDFC Bank Limited
Investment Banking Group
Unit no. 701, 702 and 702-A, 7th Floor, Tower 2 and 3
One International Centre, Senapati Bapat Marg, Prabhadevi
Mumbai - 400 013, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 3395 8233
E-mail: jioplatforms.ipo@hdfc.bank.in
Investor Grievance E-mail: investor.redressal@hdfcbank.com
Website: www.hdfc.bank.in
Contact Person: Bharti Ranga/ Souradeep Ghosh
SEBI Registration No.: INM000011252

HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited
52/60, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6864 1289
E-mail: jplipo@hsbc.co.in
Investor Grievance E-mail: investorgrievance@hsbc.co.in
Website: www.business.hsbc.co.in
Contact Person: Harsh Thakkar/ Harshit Tayal
SEBI Registration No.: INM000010353

ICICI Securities Limited
Appasaheb Marathe Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6807 7100
E-mail: jioplatforms.ipo@icicisecurities.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: customercare@icicisecurities.com
Website: www.icicisecurities.com
Contact Person: Ramesh Vaswana / Soumavo Sarkar
SEBI Registration No.: INM000011179

IIFL Capital Services Limited
(formerly known as IIFL Securities Limited)
24th Floor, One Lodha Place
Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400 013
Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4646 4728
E-mail: jio.ipo@iiflcap.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: ig.ib@iiflcap.com
Website: www.iiflcapital.com
Contact Person: Gaurav Mittal/ Pawan Kumar Jain
SEBI Registration No.: INM000010940

Jefferies India Private Limited
Level 16, Express Towers
Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4356 6000
E-mail: Jio.Platforms.IPO@jefferies.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: jipl.grievance@jefferies.com
Website: www.jefferies.com
Contact Person: Akshat Shah/ Meghna Biju
SEBI Registration No.: INM000011443

JM Financial Limited
7th Floor, Cnergy, Appasaheb Marathe Marg
Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 025, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6630 3030
E-mail: jpl.ipo@jmfl.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: grievance.ibd@jmfl.com
Website: www.jmfl.com
Contact Person: Prachee Dhuri
SEBI Registration No.: INM000010361

J.P. Morgan India Private Limited
J.P. Morgan Towers
Off C.S.T Road, Kalina, Santacruz (East),
Mumbai - 400 098 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6157 3000
E-mail: JIO_IPO@jpmorgan.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: investorsmb.jpmipl@jpmorgan.com
Website: www.jpmipl.com
Contact Person: Shivam Goel/ Rishank Chheda
SEBI Registration No.: INM000002970

SBI Capital Markets Limited
1501, 15th Floor, A & B Wing, G Block,
Parinee Crescenzo, Bandra Kurla Complex,
Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4006 9807
E-mail: jio.ipo@sbicaps.com
Website: www.sbicaps.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: investor.relations@sbicaps.com
Contact Person: Krithika Shetty/ Prashant Patankar
SEBI Registration No.: INM000003531

UBS Securities India Private Limited
Unit 2901, Level 29, Altimus,
Dr. GM Gokhale Marg /
Pandurang Budhkar Road,
Worli, Mumbai - 400 018, Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 6155 6000
E-mail: OL-jioipo@ubs.com
Website: www.ubs.com/indiaoffers
Investor Grievance E-mail: igbmindia@ubs.com
Contact Person: Vidhit Patni
SEBI Registration No.: INM000013101

360 ONE WAM Limited
360 ONE Centre, Kamala City
Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West),
Mumbai - 400 013 Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 4031 7000
Email: jioplatforms.ipo@360.one
Investor Grievance E-mail: mbinvestorcomplaints@360.one
Website: www.360.one
Contact Person: Devesh Patkar
SEBI Registration No.: INM000012801

REGISTRAR TO THE ISSUE

KFin Technologies Limited
Selenium Tower-B, Plot No. 31 & 32, Gachibowli,
Financial District, Nanakramguda, Serilingampally
Hyderabad - 500 032, Telangana, India
Tel: + 91 40 6716 2222/ 1800 309 4001
E-mail: jioplatforms.ipo@kfintech.com
Investor Grievance E-mail: einward.ris@kfintech.com
Website: www.kfintech.com
Contact Person: Williams R
SEBI Registration No.: INR000000221

Company Secretary
Ms. Savithri Parekh

Compliance Officer
Mr. Venkataraman Ramachandran

TC-22, 5th Floor, A Wing, Reliance Corporate Park,
Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli,
Navi Mumbai 400 701Maharashtra, India
Tel: +91 22 7967 0000
E-mail: jpl.investorrelations@jio.com

Investors may contact the Company Secretary or Compliance Officer or the Registrar to the Issue in case of any pre-Issue or post-Issue related grievances including non-receipt of letters of Allotment, non-credit of Allotted Equity Shares in the respective beneficiary account, non-receipt of refund orders or non-receipt of funds by electronic mode, etc. For all Issue related queries and for redressal of complaints, investors may also write to the BRLMs.

Continued on next page...

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AVAILABILITY OF THE RHP:

Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the section titled **"Risk Factors"** on page 30 of the RHP, before applying in the Issue. A copy of the RHP is made available on website of SEBI at **www.sebi.gov.in**, websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at **www.bseindia.com** and **www.nseindia.com**, respectively, and on the website of the Company at **https://www.jio.com**; and on the websites of the BRLMs, i.e. **Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited** – https://investmentbank.kotak.com; **Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited** – https://www.morganstanley.com/india; **BofA Securities India Limited** – https://business.bofa.com/bofasindia; **Axis Capital Limited** – www.axiscapital.co.in; **BNP Paribas** – www.bnpparibas.co.in; **Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited** – www.citigroup.com/global/about-us/global-presence/india/regulatory-disclosures-investment-banking; **CLSA India Private Limited** – www.india.clsa.com; **DAM Capital Advisors Limited** – www.damcapital.in; **Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited** – www.goldmansachs.com; **HDFC Bank Limited** – www.hdfc.bank.in; **HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited** – www.business.hsbc.co.in; **ICICI Securities Limited** – www.icicisecurities.com; **IIFL Capital Services Limited** – www.iiflcapital.com; **Jefferies India Private Limited** – www.jefferies.com; **JM Financial Limited** – www.jmfl.com; **J.P. Morgan India Private Limited** – www.jpmipl.com; **SBI Capital Markets Limited** – www.sbicaps.com; **UBS Securities India Private Limited** – www.ubs.com/indiaoffers; **360 ONE WAM Limited** – www.360.one;.

AVAILABILITY OF THE ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS:

A copy of the abridged prospectus is made available on the website of the Company, the BRLMs and the Registrar to the Issue at **https://www.jio.com/platforms/** ; **Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited** – https://investmentbank.kotak.com; **Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited** – https://www.morganstanley.com/india; **BofA Securities India Limited** – https://business.bofa.com/bofasindia; **Axis Capital Limited** – www.axiscapital.co.in; **BNP Paribas** – www.bnpparibas.co.in; **Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited** – www.citigroup.com/global/about-us/global-presence/india/regulatory-disclosures-investment-banking; **CLSA India Private Limited** – www.india.clsa.com; **DAM Capital Advisors Limited** – www.damcapital.in; **Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited** – www.goldmansachs.com; **HDFC Bank Limited** – www.hdfc.bank.in; **HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited** – www.business.hsbc.co.in; **ICICI Securities Limited** – www.icicisecurities.com; **IIFL Capital Services Limited** – www.iiflcapital.com; **Jefferies India Private Limited** – www.jefferies.com; **JM Financial Limited** – www.jmfl.com; **J.P. Morgan India Private Limited** – www.jpmipl.com; **SBI Capital Markets Limited** – www.sbicaps.com; **UBS Securities India Private Limited** – www.ubs.com/indiaoffers; **360 ONE WAM Limited** – www.360.one; Registrar to the Issue, **KFin Technologies Limited** – www.kfintech.com., respectively.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORMS:

Bid cum Application Forms can be obtained from the Registered and Corporate Office of **JIO PLATFORMS LIMITED**, **Tel**: +91 22 7967 0000; BRLMs: **Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 4336 0000**; Morgan Stanley India Company Private Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 6118 1000**; BofA Securities India Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 6632 8000**; Axis Capital Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 4325 2183**; BNP Paribas,** Telephone: +91 22 3370 4000**; Citigroup Global Markets India Private Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 6175 9999**; CLSA India Private Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 6650 5050**; DAM Capital Advisors Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 4202 2500**; Goldman Sachs (India) Securities Private Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 6616 9000**; HDFC Bank Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 3395 8233**; HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 6864 1289**; ICICI Securities Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 6807 7100**; IIFL Capital Services Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 4646 4728**; Jefferies India Private Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 4356 6000**; JM Financial Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 6630 3030**; J.P. Morgan India Private Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 6157 3000**; SBI Capital Markets Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 4006 9807**; UBS Securities India Private Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 6155 6000**; and 360 ONE WAM Limited,** Telephone: +91 22 4031 7000**; Syndicate Members: HDFC Securities Limited** Tel: +91 2230753400**, Investec Capital Services (India) Private Limited** Tel: + 91 2268497400, **JM Financial Services Limited** Tel: +91 22 6136 3400, **Kotak Securities Limited** Tel: +91 2242858484, **SBICAP Securities Limited** Tel: +91 22 6943 2521, **Sharekhan Limited** Tel: +91 22 6750 2000, **360 ONE Capital Market Private Limited** ***(Formerly known as Batlivala & Karani Securities India Private Limited)*** Tel: + 91 022 40317000 / +91 022 40076000 **and 360 ONE Distribution Services Limited** Tel: 9321332882 and at the select locations of the Sub-syndicate Members (as given below), SCSBs, Registered Brokers, RTAs and CDPs participating in the Issue. Bid cum Application Forms will also be available on the websites of BSE and NSE and the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available at websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

Sub-Syndicate Members:

Almondz Global Securities Ltd, Ambit Capital Limited, Ambit Private Limited, Amrapali Capital & Finance Services Limited, Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Limited, Anand Share Consultancy, ANS Pvt Limited, Asit C Mehta Financial Services Limited, Asit C Mehta Investment Intermediates Limited, Axis Securities Limited, Bajaj Financial Securities Limited, Bob Capital Markets Limited, Centrum Broking Limited, Centrum Capital Advisors Limited, Centrum Finverse limited, Centrum Wealth Management Ltd, Choice Equity Broking Private Limited, Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking Pvt Limited, DB(International) Stock Brokers Ltd, Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Ltd, G Raj & Co. (Consultants) Limited, Globe Capital Market Limited, IDBI Capital Market Services Limited, Inga Ventures Pvt Ltd, Innovate Securities Pvt Limited, Intensive Fiscal Services Private Limited, Jhaveri Securities, Jobanputra Fiscal Services Private Limited, Kalpataru Multiplier Limited, Kantilal Chhaganlal Securities Pvt.Ltd, Keynote Capitals Limited, KJMC Capital Market Services Limited, Lakshmishree Investment & Securities Pvt Limited, LKP Securities Limited, Marwadi Shares & Finance Ltd, Mehta Equities Limited, Monarch Networth Capital Limited, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited, Motilal Oswal Securities Limited, Nextbillion Technology Private Limited, Nirmal Bang Securities Pvt Limited, Nuvama Wealth and Investment Limited (Edelweiss Broking Limited), Nuvama Wealth Management Limited, Pantomath Financial Services Limited, Patel Wealth Advisors Pvt Limited, Paytm, Prabhudas Lilladher Pvt Limited, Pravin Ratilal Share & Stock Brokers Limited, Religare Broking Limited, Religare Securities Limited, Rikhav Securities Ltd, RR Equity Brokers Private Limited, SMC Global Securities Limited, Standard Chartered Securities, Sundae Capital, Sunidhi Securities & Finance Ltd, Sushil Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., Systematix Shares & Stocks (India) Limited, Tanna Financial Services, Tradebulls Securities Private Limited, Trust Securities Limited, Viren M Shah, YES Securities (India) Limited, Zerodha

Escrow Collection Banks: Axis Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited

Refund Banks: Axis Bank Limited and ICICI Bank Limited

Public Issue Account Banks: Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited and State Bank of India

Sponsor Banks: Axis Bank Limited, ICICI Bank Limited, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited and State Bank of India

UPI: UPI Bidders can also bid through UPI mechanism

Jio Platforms Limited has provided a toll free number to address any queries related to the Issue.

Toll free number: 1800 309 4001

You may also address your queries related to the Issue by typing **'Hi'** or **'Hello'** on

WhatsApp to 7977222222

For JIO PLATFORMS LIMITED
On behalf of the Board of Directors

Sd/-
Ms. Savithri Parekh
Company Secretary

Place : Mumbai, Maharashtra
Date : October 22, 2026

All capitalised terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

Jio Platforms Limited is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with RoC on October 14, 2026. The RHP is made available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, on the websites of the Stock Exchanges, i.e. BSE at www.bseindia.com and NSE at www.nseindia.com, on the website of the Company at www.jio.com and on the respective websites of the BRLMs. Any potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk, and for details relating to such risk, please see the section titled "**Risk Factors**" on page 30 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP filed with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges for making any investment decision and should instead rely on the RHP, as filed with the RoC, for making investment decisions.

This announcement is not an offer of securities for sale in the United States or elsewhere. This announcement has been prepared for publication in India only and is not for publication or distribution, directly or indirectly, in or into the United States. The Equity Shares offered in the Issue have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (**"U.S. Securities Act"**) or any state securities laws in the United States, and unless so registered, may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable state securities laws in the United States. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) in the United States solely to "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act) in transactions exempt from, or not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act, or (ii) outside the United States in "offshore transactions," as defined in, and in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdictions where such offers and sales occur. There will be no public offering of Equity Shares in the United States.

Delhi creator held over racial abuse of Tripura youth



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

A Delhi-based content creator was arrested for allegedly subjecting a youth from Tripura to racial abuse and humiliation.

Earlier, the Delhi Police had taken suo motu cognisance of a purported video of the incident and launched an investigation after registering a case.

"The content creator, identified as Amir Shokeen, is a bad character of Sadar Bazar area and has previously been involved in multiple cases of brawling," Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) Niharika Bhatt said

Delhi Police's Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit is investigating the video of the alleged racial abuse.

The police's Special Police Unit for North Eastern Region (SPUNER) had written to the IFSO unit, asking it to investigate the video, they said. Police personnel then visited Shokeen's residence, but a senior police officer said he was not present there.

The development comes amid widespread condemnation of the viral video on social media, with Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha calling for action against the content creator.

Leaders across party lines have condemned the alleged incident and demanded action.

Rijiju said on X that he would face action, and Delhi and Tripura police would teach him a "hard lesson".

"This evil man will be punished. There was a delay in lodging the official complaint, but Delhi Police and Tripura Police will teach him a hard lesson," the minister said.

Police sources said the Tripura Police team is expected to land in Delhi later in the night and will first visit Sadar Bazar police station, where it will take custody of Shokeen from the Delhi Police. The police will then produce Shokeen before a Delhi court to seek transit remand. Shokeen had allegedly recorded the controversial video in Ahmedabad around a month ago. Police sources said seven to eight people are accused in the case, and their roles will be investigated.

The Tripura Students Forum Delhi (TSFD), in a complaint on Wednesday addressed to the Joint Commissioner of Police (SPUNER), sought an urgent and impartial investigation into the video, alleging it showed a person from Tripura being subjected to sexual assault, harassment and humiliating treatment by a social media content creator.

The complaint identified the Instagram account of Shokeen as allegedly linked to the incident and sought verification of the identity and role of the person operating it, along with others who may have participated in or recorded the incident.

DU to award degrees in year of completion

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Students of the Delhi University (DU) will no longer have to wait for a later convocation to receive their degrees. The university will hold its 103rd convocation on November 20, 2026, and for the first time, students will receive their degrees in the same year they complete their programmes.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be the chief guest. The university will award degrees to 85,231 undergraduate students and 7,235 postgraduate students. More than 400 PhD scholars will also receive their degrees.

Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh will preside over the ceremony. He said the university decided to award degrees in the same year for the students' convenience.



"Keeping students' convenience in mind, the decision has been taken to award degrees in the same year they complete their programmes," he said.

The university said the move is meant to help students who need their degrees for higher studies abroad or for employment opportunities. The same-year award is intended to make it easier for graduates to pursue further studies and jobs without waiting for a later convocation.

In addition to degrees, the university will award 163 gold medals, one silver medal and 34 prizes to students for their achievements. The 103rd convocation will recognise students across undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes.

Registrar Vikas Gupta, Controller of Examinations Gurpreet Singh Tuteja, Culture Council chairperson and Public Relations Officer Anup Lathar, and Dean of Academic Affairs K Ratnabali attended.

Delhi's Census exercise likely from January 10

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

The second phase of Census 2027 in Delhi is likely to begin on January 10, 2027, with a 15-day self-enumeration window ahead of the house-to-house exercise starting January 25.

Senior officials said the self-enumeration window will run from January 10 to 24, followed by field operations from January 25 to February 28. A revisional round is scheduled from March 1 to 5.

A senior Census official said a meeting will be held Thursday, chaired by the Delhi chief secretary and involving Census officials, on the second phase of the exercise.

The first phase of Census 2027 in Delhi, which concluded on June 14, covered nearly 76 lakh houses and around 55 lakh households, with enumerators recording that more than 2.3 crore people were ordinarily residing in the city, officials said.



The population enumeration phase will require citizens to answer 40 questions on various parameters, including caste, to be captured for the first time since the 1931 Census, religion, parents' particulars, migration, education and occupation.

`10 note dispute turns tragic for delivery executive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

A day before his 24th birthday, a delivery executive recorded a video saying his self-respect had been publicly tarnished over a torn `10 note in East Delhi, and he allegedly committed suicide.

Sameer Hussain, who would have turned 24 on October 21, was allegedly assaulted by two residents of East Vinod Nagar on the night of October 4 after he asked them to replace a torn currency note or cancel the order, according to police. He died on October 20, officials said.

The two accused, Rakesh alias Bunty (30) and Rampal Singh (65), were arrested, police said. Police have added a charge of abetment of suicide to the case, they said.

A PCR call was received at 11.03 pm on October 4, with Hussain reporting that he had been attacked over the issue. They said police prepared his medico-legal case (MLC) shortly after midnight on October 5, and registered an FIR at Kalyanpuri police station the same day.

Police subsequently received information that Hussain had consumed a poisonous substance and was admitted to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital on October 5. He died on October 20, following which Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), about abetment of


Sameer Hussain

suicide, was added to the FIR.

In a video recorded before consuming the poison, Hussain described himself as someone who believed in earning an honest living and said he delivered orders on a bicycle because he did not own a vehicle.

"I believe in working hard. I don't have any vehicle, so I deliver on a cycle. I believe that I'll eat less but will eat from my own hard work," he said in the video.

Recounting the October 4 incident, Hussain said the customer had taken around 15 minutes to arrange the cash for a coffee order worth approximately `150. He said he did not object to the delay but asked the customer to replace a torn `10 note.

"I told him politely, 'Uncle, please change this', but he started misbehaving. He said, "This is what I have; if you want, take it or go from here," Hussain said. He alleged that the man then slapped him three times. He said he did not retaliate but was deeply hurt when he was insulted over his financial condition.

Only EV, CNG, BS-VI diesel buses allowed in Delhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi



To curb pollution and prevent traffic congestion, the Delhi Traffic Police will allow only electric vehicles, CNG, and BS-VI diesel buses to operate and will divert non-compliant inter-city and inter-State buses at the national Capital's borders, an official said on Thursday.

The decision was taken at an inter-State coordination meeting chaired by Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Ajay Chaudhary to ensure effective implementation of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage-I and directions issued by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).

Representatives of concerned departments, civic agencies, and police authorities from neighbouring States and districts attended the meeting.

"Only electric vehicles, CNG and BS-VI diesel buses would be permitted to operate, subject to prescribed conditions. Non-compliant buses must be stopped and diverted at the borders, as turning them back after they enter Delhi leads to congestion and additional pollution," the Delhi Traffic Police statement read.

The meeting also reviewed restrictions on vehicles registered outside Delhi from November 1, 2026, to January 31, 2027, subject to notified exemptions. The official said the meeting decided to install prominent display boards at Delhi's borders to inform motorists about the restrictions. Joint enforcement teams may also be constituted to ensure compliance.

Authorities were directed to strictly enforce no-entry timings, check non-destined and overloaded vehicles, and take action against vehicles transporting construction and demolition material in violation of prescribed norms, the statement said.

Vehicle owners were also advised to ensure they possess valid Pollution Under Control Certificates, wherever applicable. The meeting also stressed the need for civic agencies to expedite construction work, minimise dust generation, and regularly sprinkle water on roads and at construction sites.

"To improve coordination, a dedicated WhatsApp group will be created for real-time sharing of directions and monitoring action taken by various agencies," the statement said.

Chaudhary stressed that controlling air pollution is a collective responsibility and directed all participating agencies to properly document measures taken and completed actions for monitoring and follow-up.

Delhi recorded its first 'poor' air quality day of the season on Wednesday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) settling at 245, the highest in 100 days. The city last recorded a comparable AQI on July 13, when the index stood at 246, according to data.

After the capital's air quality slipped, the CAQM invoked Stage I of the GRAP across Delhi-NCR.

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, air quality is likely to remain in the 'poor' category from October 21 to 24. The outlook for the subsequent six days also indicates that the AQI is likely to remain in the same category.

GRAP measures failed to improve air quality since 2022, says CREA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi


As air quality levels deteriorated, the Capital became enveloped in a thick layer of toxic haze and smog at Kartavya Path on Thursday PANKAJ KUMAR

Delhi's winter air quality has shown no consistent improvement in the four years since the revision of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in 2022, with the city experiencing high pollution levels despite frequent imposition of stringent curbs, according to an analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

The city's mean Air Quality Index (AQI) rose from 280 in the winter of 2022-23 to 304 in 2023-24, declined to 285 in 2024-25 and increased again to 295 in 2025-26, said Manoj Kumar, an analyst at CREA.

The median AQI also fluctuated, rising from 294 in 2022-23 to 324 in 2023-24, falling to 289 in 2024-25 and climbing to 305 last winter.

The findings indicate that the capital's winter air quality has not followed a sustained downward trend since the revised GRAP framework was introduced, with both mean and median AQI levels in 2025-26 higher than those recorded in 2022-23.

The analysis, based on daily AQI readings and GRAP stages between October 2022 and February 2026, found that Delhi spent around 78 to 83 per cent of observed days across the four winters under Stage II or higher of the pollution-control plan.

The Pioneer

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Shah mocks Rahul's Vietnam trip

Citing Congress defeats, Shah argues that the party's electoral decline began before the BJP came to power

RAJESH KUMAR n New Delhi



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, State Water Minister Pravesh Sahib Singh, and others during the inauguration and foundation stone laying ceremony of Yamuna revival projects, in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah on Thursday mocked the Leader of the Opposition (LoP) for his absence from the political fray and said, "You won't form Government for 30 years, based on your negative politics". Rahul Gandhi is currently on a trip to Vietnam as the Congress and its allies protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

"When I say the BJP will be in power for 30 years, they again reiterate allegations of vote theft... I want to tell you that Amit Shah was born here, stays here, and will die here... I don't need to visit foreign countries every six months," Shah said at the launch and inauguration of 33 Delhi Jal Board (DJB) projects worth ?8,941 crore, in outer Delhi. "Crores of BJP workers and Prime Minister Narendra Modi exist among the people, understand their concerns and work continuously to solve them," he added.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, State Cabinet ministers Parvesh Verma, Ashish Sood, State BJP president Harsh Malhotra and MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri were also present.

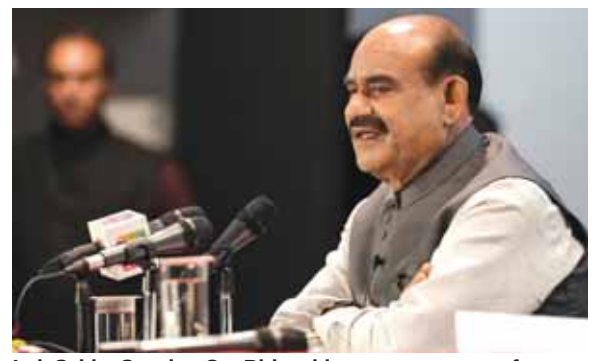
He accused Rahul of gathering party cadres from other States to stage protests in the Capital and asserted that they could not reject the mandate given by the people to the BJP. Firing a fresh salvo at the LoP's overseas visit, Shah said, "I know you can't hear me, you are sitting somewhere abroad. You don't even explain why, but that is okay, that is your personal life... But once you land in Delhi, listen to me; your turn won't come for the next 30 years".

He warned that the parties risk losing their remaining political ground unless they focus on governance. "You cannot use political jugglery and mobocracy to defy the mandate of the people. If you want to win elections, go among the people to understand their problems. These protests and demonstrations will not achieve anything. Implement schemes for people's welfare wherever you have been elected, otherwise you will be wiped out from the remaining places," Shah said.

The home minister hit out at the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over their allegations of vote theft and discrepancies in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, accusing them of using "political jugglery and mobocracy" to challenge the people's mandate. The Congress and its allies, under the pretext of vote theft, want to protect infiltrators in the country, he charged, adding that these parties, despite making excuses — first Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) tampering and now vote theft — had been out of power in several states for decades.

"A new game has begun in Delhi. As BJP Governments are being elected, they are making excuses of vote chori. They say the BJP is not coming to power by popular vote but by vote theft. In reality, you want to save the votes of infiltrators by making these allegations of vote chori," he said.

CONTINUED ON >> P8



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addresses a press conference regarding the preparations for hosting the '12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum', in New Delhi on Thursday PTI

Rules will apply: Om Birla on CEC removal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Amid protests against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said if the Opposition brings any fresh impeachment motion against the poll officer, it will be examined according to rules and procedures. "If any fresh notice comes, we will see and examine it accordingly under rules and procedures," Birla said at a press conference in the Parliament, responding to a question on a possible impeachment motion against the CEC.

The Opposition has twice attempted to impeach Kumar. In the first move, their notices were rejected by both the Lok Sabha Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan, while the notices submitted in the second attempt are still pending in the Upper House. There have been protests in the last fortnight in different parts of India seeking the resignation of Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

According to the Constitution and law on the appointment of the CEC and Election Commissioners, a CEC can only be removed by Parliament similar to the way a sitting Supreme Court judge is impeached.

Amid suggestions that the Government could convene an extended sitting of Parliament for the passage of the delimitation-linked women's reservation Bill, Birla said any such a sitting can be convened on a short notice of two days.

CONTINUED ON >> P8

Netanyahu invites PM Modi for Israel day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
n Jerusalem

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday said he spoke with his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi and invited him to light a torch alongside brave Indian pilot Smit Machchhar on Israel's Independence Day.

In a post on X, the Israeli Prime Minister also said that PM Modi appreciated the "strong, long-standing ties"



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

between the two countries.

"I spoke with my friend, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and invited him to light a torch alongside a brave Indian pilot on Israel's Independence Day," said Netanyahu, who is in the midst of a close race for re-election.

CONTINUED ON >> P8

PIONEER IN SHORT

JIO IPO DRAWS `3.73 LAKH CRORE

Jio Platforms Ltd's `30,213-crore initial public offering (IPO) attracted bids worth `3.73 lakh crore on Wednesday, with the issue subscribed 5.57 times by the close of the first day, driven by strong institutional demand. Investors bid for 110.03 crore shares against 19.75 crore shares on offer, according to stock exchange data. The qualified institutional buyers' (QIB) portion was subscribed 13.29 times, while non-institutional investors' segment attracted 5.97 times subscription. The retail individual investor category was subscribed 1.54 times. Employee and shareholder reservations were subscribed 2.10 times and 4.05 times, respectively. The company had raised around `8,110 crore from 212 anchor investors on October 19, allotting shares at `1,119 apiece, the upper end of the price band of ?1,065-1,119. The anchor book reportedly attracted bids exceeding `2.5 lakh crore. The IPO, comprising entirely fresh shares, will close on October 23, with listing scheduled for October 28.

AUDIO CLIP TRIGGERS BJP-SENA ROW

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange on Thursday released a purported audio clip allegedly discussing a `500-crore payment to him through Shiv Sena MP Shrikant Shinde, claiming it pointed to a conspiracy to silence him and weaken his agitation. The recording, made public at a press conference in Ambad tehsil of Jalna district, allegedly contains conversations about countering Jarange's growing influence in Marathwada ahead of the 2024 Assembly elections. Jarange demanded a thorough probe to establish the speakers' identities and the recording's authenticity. The development came a day after Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde challenged Jarange to substantiate his allegation that ?500 crore had been secured from the BJP and routed through his son. State minister and BJP leader Chandrashekhar Bawankule asked Jarange to file a formal complaint with the police or district collector, assuring an impartial inquiry. BJP minister Ashish Shelar questioned the clip's authenticity and called for a probe into whether it had been doctored or illegally recorded.



Indian embassy in Paris
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

INDIA ISSUES ADVISORY AMIDST UNREST IN FRANCE

ASHOKE RAJ n New Delhi

The Embassy of India in France has issued a fresh safety advisory for Indian nationals residing in or visiting the country, calling on them to exercise caution amid continuing demonstrations, isolated violent incidents, and temporary curfews in certain areas. The advisory urges people to steer clear of locations hosting protests and to comply with directions from French authorities.

In a statement posted on X on Wednesday, the embassy said, "In view of the recent developments and localised curfews imposed in France, please remain vigilant and exercise due caution. Please avoid large gatherings and crowded places where protests are taking place, and follow the instructions and advisories issued by the local French authorities."

CONTINUED ON >> P8

Delhi Police deny nod for Diljit show over security concerns

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
n New Delhi

The Delhi Police has denied permission for Diljit Dosanjh's October 30 concert at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, effectively killing the opening night of his Aura India Tour and leaving thousands of ticket holders stranded.

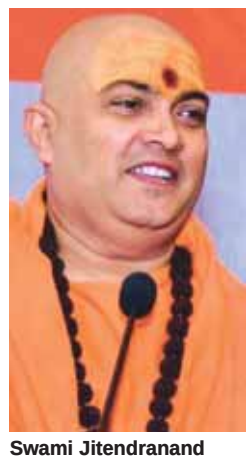
The decision was communicated to the concert's ticketing partner BookMyShow in a formal letter from the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, South District. The grounds for refusal were threefold: the specific threat inputs, the significant security and law and order implications of the current festive season and several other unspecified law and order issues.

Senior officers have confirmed the threat inputs are related to reports of possible risks emanating from Khalistani separatist elements (an input which Dosanjh's team had already raised with police).



Diljit Dosanjh at the Wembley Stadium, London
VIA INSTAGRAM

Voluntary code of conduct for Hindus to be unveiled at Varanasi



Swami Jitendranand Saraswati
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
n New Delhi/Varanasi

Organisers of the sixth Sanskriti Sansad have announced that the three-day event in Varanasi, from November 3 to 5, will focus on three main themes. These include the formal launch of a voluntary Hindu code of conduct, an international effort to find and collect Manusmriti manuscripts, and concerns about street protests that often happen during major Hindu festivals and are sometimes connected to calls for "regime change."

At a press conference in the city, Swami Jitendranand Saraswati said the Hindu *Achar Sanhita* will be introduced during the sessions. He emphasised that following the code is voluntary and that it will suggest standards for personal, social, and ritual conduct for those who choose to adopt them. The code will not be imposed on anyone.

Organisers have not released a draft yet and said they will decide and present the final version at the Sansad after more discussion among participants.

CONTINUED ON >> P8

CM woos global investors to build MP's chemical hub

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Mumbai



Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at India Chem: 2026 Advantage Bharat: An Emerging Global Chemicals Hub programme at NESCO Mumbai PIONEER PHOTO

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday invited domestic and international investors to explore opportunities in the state's chemical, petrochemical, fertiliser and pharmaceutical sectors, highlighting simplified investment procedures and industry-friendly policies. He said the government aims to establish Madhya Pradesh as a global hub for chemical and petrochemical industries.

Addressing the inaugural session of the three-day India Chem 2026 at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Yadav said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had set a target of expanding the turnover of chemical and fertiliser-related businesses to $1 trillion by 2040. He said state governments were working with the Centre to achieve the target through industrial growth and investment.

Yadav identified Bina as an emerging petrochemical hub, citing a downstream petrochemical project worth around `50,000 crore in Sagar district. The facility is expected to produce more than 2.2 million tonnes of petrochemical products annually. He also highlighted Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited's proposed ethylene cracker and refinery expansion project worth around `49,000 crore, which is expected to create opportunities for downstream industries.

The chief minister said the state was developing supporting industrial infrastructure, including plastic parks spread across 121 acres at Tamot in Raisen district and 93 acres at Bilaua in Gwalior. He also highlighted the PM MITRA textile park in Dhar and gas-processing infrastructure at Vijaypur as potential drivers of investment.

CONTINUED ON >> P8

Swamy writes to Amit Shah, seeks security review and suspension of Starlink license

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on Thursday urged Union Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah to conduct urgent security review and suspension of Starlink's approval.

In a detailed five page letter Swamy argues that national security concerns cannot be ignored for technology advancement, and asked Union home ministry to take into concerns of the Intelligence Bureau and the Union defence, telecom and information technology ministries.

"I am writing to express my serious concern regarding the national security implications arising from the proposed introduction and operation of Starlink's satellite-based internet services in India. In view of the strategic significance of communications infrastructure and the potential implications of foreign-controlled satellite networks, I urge the Ministry of Home Affairs to undertake an immediate and comprehensive security review and ensure that national security is not compromised in the pursuit of technological advancement or commercial interests," Swamy's letter reads.





In a detailed five page letter Swamy argues that national security concerns cannot be ignored for technology advancement FILE/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

"Satellite-based internet connectivity has the potential to improve communications, particularly in remote and underserved areas. However, the introduction of such services must be assessed not merely from the standpoint of technological advancement or commercial convenience, but primarily through the lens of national security, sovereignty, strategic autonomy and the protection of sensitive information," the letter reads further. The Union Government in 2021 grated the first license to the Elon-Musk-led satellite internet company to operate in India.

Citing a series of security concerns from foreign satellite's operations, the former Union law minister pointed out the role of foreign court's interventions in India. "The operation of a satellite internet network raises important questions concerning foreign control over critical communications infrastructure, the routing and storage of sensitive data, access to network-related information by foreign entities, the effectiveness of lawful interception mechanisms, cyber vulnerabilities and the ability of Indian authorities to exercise effective oversight in accordance with Indian law," the letter claims citing concerns on Starlink satellite's interventions on India's defence networks.

"The competent authorities should examine whether adequate technical and legal safeguards exist to prevent unauthorised access, external interference, disruption of services and the exploitation of network vulnerabilities. The Government must also assess the extent to which Indian authorities would retain effective regulatory control, access to information necessary for lawful investigations, and the ability to issue and enforce directions in circumstances involving national security or public emergency," the letter said. Musk's recent tweets against Mukesh Ambani has created controversies.

MP semiconductor summit to bring over 50 companies to Indore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhopal



Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will inaugurate the Madhya Pradesh Semiconductor Summit-2026 at the Brilliant Convention Centre in Indore on Friday, October 23, with a focus on positioning the state as an emerging hub for semiconductor manufacturing, chip design and advanced electronics.

The two-day summit will bring together representatives of semiconductor companies from India and abroad, investors, industry experts, academicians and startups to explore investment opportunities, technological collaboration and the development of a skilled workforce. Yadav will present the state's vision for the sector, visit the exhibition and hold one-on-one meetings with investors and industry representatives to discuss potential investments and partnerships.

The summit will feature eight panel discussions, five roundtable meetings and four keynote addresses. More than 50 companies will showcase their technological capabilities, products and solutions at the exhibition, providing a platform for industry stakeholders to explore business opportunities and establish partnerships.

The first day will focus on developing Madhya Pradesh as a hub for advanced packaging and testing, building a fabless semiconductor ecosystem, and strengthening semiconductor manufacturing and supply chains. Roundtable meetings will be held with companies working in artificial intelligence infrastructure, fabless products and intellectual property. Discussions will also involve directors and vice-chancellors of leading educational institutions to explore collaboration among industry, academia and research organisations.

The second day will focus on chip technology, artificial intelligence, electronics product manufacturing, design services, research and development, and talent development. Separate meetings will address emerging fields such as photonics and quantum technology, along with opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the semiconductor ecosystem.

The summit will also recognise emerging entrepreneurial talent. Winners selected in the final round of the Madhya Pradesh Semicon Startup Competition will be felicitated at the concluding ceremony, highlighting the role of startups in developing innovative technologies and strengthening the state's semiconductor ecosystem.

The exhibition will feature companies working across chip design, semiconductor packaging and testing, equipment, materials, electronics manufacturing and emerging technologies. It is expected to facilitate interaction among investors, technology providers, industry representatives and technical experts, helping them identify potential areas for collaboration.

The state government has approved the Madhya Pradesh Semiconductor Policy-2025 to attract investments and promote the development of the sector. The policy aims to encourage semiconductor manufacturing, expand technology-related activities and create an enabling environment for investment across the state.

Through the summit, the government aims to accelerate semiconductor industry development, attract domestic and international investment, encourage technological innovation and strengthen workforce capabilities. The event is also expected to provide a platform for aligning industry requirements with academic and research capabilities, helping Madhya Pradesh build a stronger presence in India's growing semiconductor and electronics manufacturing ecosystem.

Constable crushed to death during highway checking

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Morena

A police constable was killed after a speeding loading vehicle ran over him during routine vehicle checking on National Highway-44 in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district on Wednesday evening. The driver fled the spot after the accident but was arrested following a 12-km chase by police.

The deceased, Omprakash Tiwari, was posted at the Civil Lines police station. According to station in-charge Udaybhan Yadav, a team of eight police personnel had gone to Janakpur village to investigate a dispute. After returning, the team began routine vehicle checking on the highway.

During the checking, Tiwari signalled a motorcycle rider to stop. At that moment, a speeding loading vehicle coming from the Morena side hit him and ran over him before speeding away. The vehicle, bearing registration number UP 80 HP 5447, was carrying vegetables.

His colleagues rushed him to the district hospital, where doctors provided initial treatment. Considering his critical condition, they referred him to Gwalior for further treatment. However, he died on the way.

Following the accident, Yadav and other police personnel chased the vehicle.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav invites K.R. Gupta, Director, Corporate Affairs, Lupin Limited under "Invest Madhya Pradesh" to GIS: 2027, in Mumbai on Thursday. Pioneer photo

MP becomes first state to list social impact bond framework on NSE platform

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Mumbai



Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in the country to implement a Social Stock Exchange mechanism for the transparent financing of social welfare schemes, with its Social Impact Bond Framework project officially listed on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) Social Stock Exchange platform in Mumbai.

The listing took place at a ceremony at the NSE campus in Bandra-Kurla Complex, accompanied by a bell-ringing ceremony and the signing of a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU). The initiative has been undertaken by the Madhya Pradesh Government's Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Department to promote youth empowerment through skill development and international employment opportunities.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare Krishna Gaur described the initiative as a significant achievement for the state. She said the department had become the first in the country to adopt the Social Impact Bond financing model for student welfare, in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The project has been developed through collaboration among the Madhya Pradesh Government, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), NABARD and the NSE. It aims to provide specialised skill training and international employment opportunities to 600 young people from Other Backward Classes (OBCs), particularly those from remote areas of the state.

Under the initiative, 300 candidates will be trained for employment opportunities in Japan and another 300 for Germany. The programme will provide residential skill training, intensive instruction in the languages of the destination countries and specialised vocational training to prepare participants for overseas employment.

The project has reportedly attracted strong investor interest, with subscriptions exceeding the amount initially offered. The response has been described as reflecting confidence in the project's credibility and expected social impact. The initiative aims to help beneficiaries achieve financial independence while improving their confidence and professional prospects.

The project will be financed through a Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instrument listed on the Social Stock Exchange. Under the funding arrangement, the Madhya Pradesh Government will contribute 50% of the total training cost, while 35% will be financed through the Social Impact Bond. The remaining 15% will be contributed by participating OBC candidates.

A key feature of the framework is its outcome-based funding mechanism, designed to link government expenditure with measurable results. An authorised independent third party will conduct a Social Impact Assessment to evaluate the project's outcomes.

The state government will reimburse NSDC for 50% of the project cost only after a positive independent assessment and the successful placement of a beneficiary abroad.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister JP Nadda inaugurate the exhibition at the "India Chem: 2026 Advantage Bharat: An Emerging Global Chemicals Hub" event at NESCO Mumbai on Thursday. Pioneer photo

MP plans three-year drive to dismantle drug networks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh will launch a coordinated three-year campaign to dismantle illegal drug networks, with anti-drug committees to be established in higher educational institutions having more than 500 students. The initiative will involve teachers, parents, students, the Higher Education Department, Social Justice Department and police.

Chief Secretary Ashok Barnwal announced the measures while reviewing the fifth state-level Narcotics Coordination Centre (NCORD) meeting at the Mantralaya on Thursday. Director General of Police Kailash Makwana and senior officials from various departments, the Narcotics Bureau and police attended the meeting.

Barnwal said the state should aim to eliminate illegal drug networks over the next two to three years, drawing on its efforts to eradicate Naxalism. He directed all concerned departments to prepare action plans with specific internal targets for the three-year campaign. He also stressed stronger intelligence gathering and better coordination among the narcotics vertical, Special Intelligence Branch and local police.

The meeting was informed that Madhya Pradesh ranked first nationally in drug destruction. In 2025, authorities destroyed 1,44,025 kg of narcotic substances in 2,073 cases. Between January and September 30, 2026, another 1,30,380 kg was destroyed in 2,756 cases, taking the two-year total to 2,74,405 kg.

Officials said that by September 30 this year, coordinated enforcement had led to the seizure of 50,933 kg of narcotic substances from 4,091 accused in 2,986 cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Barnwal also welcomed the state's ranking among the country's top two performers in the anti-drug campaign. He directed government and private educational institutions to conduct drug-free school and campus initiatives. Each anti-drug committee will have the local police station's beat in-charge as its nodal officer. A confidential information system will be developed to protect the identities of students, teachers and others reporting drug-related activities. The narcotics helpline 1933 will be widely publicised.

The Social Justice Department was asked to obtain proposals by October 31 from districts without de-addiction centres and ensure that facilities are established in every district. Currently, 31 centres operate under the Social Justice Department and 10 under the Health Department.

Officials reported that 811 complaints were received in 2025 and 2026 through the national MANAS narcotics helpline and related channels. Joint operations by Madhya Pradesh Police, the Narcotics Control Bureau, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Central Bureau of Narcotics resulted in the dismantling of 18 clandestine drug manufacturing laboratories.

Authorities have also attached assets worth Rs 446 crore in NDPS cases. This includes Rs 300 crore in 54 cases in 2025 and Rs 146 crore in 38 cases in 2026. By September 2026, 201 special NDPS trial cases had been placed under monitoring.

Rewa tribal woman dies after four days of water satyagraha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Rewa

A tribal woman protesting against a proposed nuclear power plant in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district died during treatment on Thursday after her health deteriorated during a water satyagraha, which she had been participating in for around four days.

The deceased, Vimla Kol, a resident of Rozhauhi village, fell ill on Wednesday night while participating in the protest. She was taken to the primary health centre in Mangawan, but her condition did not improve. She died during treatment on Thursday.

Her husband, Jamuna Kol, expressed deep anguish over her death and questioned the administration's handling of the situation. After performing her last rites on Thursday afternoon, he said he had lost everything and asked whether the administration could bring his wife back to life.

According to Jamuna Kol, his wife had been opposing the proposed nuclear power project along with other villagers from the beginning. As part of the protest, residents had been standing in the village pond in shifts to register their opposition.

The proposed project is planned in the Sarai Kala and Rozhauhi areas of Rewa district. Villagers have raised concerns over its potential impact on land, water resources, the environment and public health.

The agitation intensified in October after drilling machines arrived at the proposed site for preliminary land investigations. Villagers reportedly stopped the work and raised objections to the project during a gram sabha meeting. They have also demanded an inquiry into the alleged no-objection certificate associated with the project.

Local MLA Narendra Prajapati, Collector Narendra Suryavanshi, the sub-divisional magistrate and Garh police station in-charge Avnish Mishra had visited the village to engage with residents, but opposition to the project continued.

Blaze damages parked vehicles

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhopal

A fire broke out among old vehicles parked on the premises of Jahangirabad police station in Bhopal on Thursday afternoon, damaging four to five vehicles. No injuries were reported, and the fire was brought under control, police said.

The incident occurred between noon and 1 pm. According to police, several vehicles, described as condemned, had been parked unused on one side of the police station premises for a long time.

Police personnel rushed to the spot and managed to extinguish the fire. The exact cause of the blaze remains unclear.

Police said grass and dry vegetation were present near the parking area, while strong sunlight prevailed during the day. However, the possibility of a short circuit, technical fault or another cause has not been ruled out.

A case of fire damage has been registered, and an investigation is underway to determine how the blaze started and assess the damage to the vehicles.

Speeding truck kills 3 children returning home from school

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Dhar

Three children, including two brothers and their maternal cousin, were killed when a speeding truck ran over their motorcycle near Mahindra Bridge on the Mhow-Neemuch highway in Pithampur, Dhar district, on Thursday afternoon.

The accident occurred around 2 pm when the children were returning home from school. The deceased were identified as Priyansh, a Class 9 student, his younger brother Moksh, who studied in Class 5, and their maternal cousin Aarushi, a Class 7 student. All three were associated with St Francis School.

According to police, Priyansh, a resident of Utkarsh Aangan Colony, had not attended school on Thursday. He went to the school to pick up Moksh and Aarushi and was taking them home on his motorcycle when a speeding truck hit their vehicle.

The collision was so severe that all three children died on the spot. Eyewitnesses said the motorcycle and the children were dragged for around 10 metres. Schoolbags, books and shoes were scattered across the road, while the impact left the bodies severely mutilated.

Following the accident, a large crowd gathered at the spot. Police reached the scene, managed the crowd and identified the children using the motorcycle's registration number. Their families were informed, and the bodies were sent to Pithampur Civil Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Pithampur police station in-charge Sunil Sharma said the truck had been seized, while its driver fled the spot after the accident. A case has been registered against the driver, and efforts are underway to trace him.

School representatives, a municipal chairperson's representative and senior leader Suresh Patel also reached the accident site after receiving information about the incident.

According to the family, a road blockade in Royal Town on Thursday morning had prevented the school bus from arriving.

13-year-old dies after electric shock

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhopal

A 13-year-old student died during treatment on Thursday after suffering severe burns from an electric shock in the Ratibad area of Bhopal on October 6.

Krishna Nayak, a Class 7 student, lived in Shiv Nagar Phase-2 in Neelbad with his father, Khajan Singh Nayak. According to police, the incident occurred when Krishna tried to retrieve a vehicle key that had become stuck in a high-tension power line near his house.

The key had become entangled in the overhead wire when his father attempted to throw it down to him. Krishna used a wiper to retrieve it but came into contact with the high-tension line and suffered severe electric burns.

His family rushed him to hospital, where he remained under treatment in critical condition. He died on Thursday morning.

The boy's death plunged the family into mourning. Police registered a case of inquest and initiated an investigation.

Two killed, six injured as live wire falls on Durga idol trolley

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Jabalpur

Two men were killed and six others suffered electric shocks when a live high-tension wire fell on a tractor-trolley carrying a Durga idol for immersion in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district shortly after midnight on Thursday, police said.

The incident occurred at 12.04 am in the Majhauli police station area, around 30 km from the district headquarters. More than 50 people were accompanying the idol in a procession from Civil Line Path to Narili pond for immersion following the Navratri festival.

According to local residents, some people used a stick to lift a low-hanging overhead wire to allow the tractor carrying the idol to pass. During the process, the wire came into contact with a high-tension power line, became energised and snapped, falling on the tractor-trolley.

Vikas Rajput, 22, and Prince Chauhan, 23, who were sitting on the tractor, died on the spot, Sub-Divisional Officer of Police Mohanti Maravi told PTI. Six other people suffered electric shocks and were rushed to hospitals for treatment. The condition of one of the injured was reported to be critical.

The incident triggered tension in the area, with local residents blocking a road in Majhauli on Thursday morning. Maravi later said the matter had been resolved, describing the gathering as a dialogue rather than a protest.

Local residents alleged that they had raised concerns about low-hanging electricity wires during a meeting attended by police personnel, administrative officials and members of the idol immersion organising committee. They claimed that they had urged the authorities to get the wires repaired but no action was taken.

The allegations are likely to be examined as part of the investigation into the incident. Police said the bodies had been sent for post-mortem examination. A case has been registered, and further investigation is underway.

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Investment drive puts MP's industrial potential in focus

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said the Centre and the state government were working together to accelerate the state's development through industrial expansion, infrastructure development and investment promotion.

Addressing the two-day Viksit Bharat Industry and Trade Summit organised by the Federation of Madhya Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Bhopal, he said investment proposals worth Rs 12 lakh crore had been translated into projects on the ground over the past two-and-a-half years. Entrepreneurs participating in the summit also presented fresh investment proposals worth Rs 7,500 crore, reflecting growing interest in the state's industrial and business potential.

Yadav said Madhya Pradesh was steadily strengthening its position across sectors and emerging as an attractive destination for investors. Transparent policies and an industry-friendly environment had made it easier for investors to establish businesses and set up industrial units in the state.

The government was working to facilitate investment and encourage industrial development, with a particular focus on generating employment opportunities for the youth. He said investment promotion programmes and related activities were being organised regularly to connect investors with opportunities in Madhya Pradesh and support the state's economic expansion.

The Chief Minister said the combined efforts of the Centre and the state government were creating opportunities for development across different regions. He highlighted the importance of industrial corridors and connectivity projects in linking areas with economic potential and expanding the reach of development. He said initiatives aimed at strengthening infrastructure and promoting manufacturing would help accelerate economic activity, attract fresh investments and create opportunities for businesses and local communities.

Yadav also emphasised the contribution of entrepreneurs to society, saying that industrialists and traders helped improve people's lives through investment in different sectors. Their business activities supported the livelihoods of millions of families and played an important role in strengthening the economy. He described the industry and trade sector as a key partner in the state's development and appreciated its contribution to employment generation and economic progress. He also praised the industry's active participation in advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India vision, saying that stronger domestic manufacturing was important for the country's growth.

The Chief Minister said India was receiving greater respect from major countries around the world under Modi's leadership. He said Madhya Pradesh had considerable potential for further development and stressed the need to combine agricultural growth with economic expansion. According to him, sustained investment across sectors could help the state make better use of its resources, strengthen local economies and create additional opportunities for people. He said coordinated efforts to promote agriculture, industry and other economic activities would be important for achieving broader prosperity.

Yadav said Bhopal was hosting the Global Investors Summit for the second time, reflecting the state's continued efforts to establish itself as a preferred destination for domestic and international investors. He noted that Madhya Pradesh's Regional Industry Conclave model had received appreciation from other states, several of which were adopting similar initiatives.



Senior Congress leader Digvijaya Singh with his supporters during 'Satya Sanatan Swabhiman Yatra' from Ujjain's Mahakaleshwar Temple to Ayodhya's Ram Temple, in Dewas district Madhya Pradesh on Thursday. Pioneer photo



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav releases publications brought out by the Federation of Madhya Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry during the two-day Viksit Bharat Industry and Trade Conference in Bhopal on Thursday. MSME Minister Chaitanya Kashyap and other dignitaries are also present. Pioneer photo

Fire safety training held ahead of Diwali

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Neemuch

With Diwali and other festivals approaching, the fire brigade team of the local Opium and Alkaloid Factory organised a live firefighting demonstration and practical training session for municipal fire brigade personnel and other staff at the Neemuch Municipal Council office premises on Thursday.

The exercise aimed to improve preparedness for fire emergencies and familiarise personnel with the correct use of firefighting equipment during the festive season.

The demonstration was conducted under the leadership of Inspector Khushiram Meena, whose team explained the precautions to be taken while handling fire incidents and demonstrated the operation of various firefighting tools and equipment. As part of the exercise, the team deliberately ignited a fire to show how flames could be controlled using the appropriate equipment and techniques.

Municipal fire brigade personnel were also given hands-on training during the session. They were asked to operate the equipment themselves and extinguish the flames, enabling them to gain practical experience in responding to fire emergencies. The exercise focused on the importance of using firefighting equipment correctly and taking timely action to prevent a fire from spreading.

Inspector Meena said the training had been organised keeping in mind the possibility of fire-related incidents during Diwali celebrations. He stressed that people and emergency response personnel must remain alert and understand the appropriate steps to take when a fire breaks out.

He said prompt action and proper knowledge of firefighting techniques could prevent a minor fire from turning into a major incident. Awareness, preparedness and the correct use of equipment were essential to minimise the risk of injuries, loss of life and damage to property, he added.

RS bypoll in MP on November 12

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhopal

The Election Commission of India on Thursday announced the schedule for the by-election to the Rajya Sabha seat vacated by Union Minister L Murugan following his resignation. Polling will be held on November 12, with counting scheduled for 5 pm the same day. The election process will be completed by November 16.

According to the schedule, the notification for the election will be issued on October 26. The last date for filing nominations is November 2, while scrutiny of nomination papers will take place on November 3. Candidates can withdraw their nominations until November 5.

Murugan's Rajya Sabha membership from Madhya Pradesh ended with effect from October 14, 2026. His term was scheduled to continue until April 2, 2030. He was first elected to the Rajya Sabha from Tamil Nadu in September 2021 and became a member from Madhya Pradesh on April 3, 2024. His resignation from the Union Council of Ministers was also accepted.

Madhya Pradesh has 11 Rajya Sabha seats. Before Murugan's resignation, the BJP had eight members and the Congress three.

MP Transco retains national transmission award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Jabalpur



Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company (MP Transco) has received the National Power Line TransTech India Award for recording the lowest transmission losses of 2.60% in the Western Region for the second consecutive year.

State Energy Minister Pradyumn Singh Tomar congratulated the company's officers and employees on the achievement. He said the recognition reflected the strength of Madhya Pradesh's power transmission network, technical expertise, innovation and sustained efforts to improve efficiency. He added that reducing transmission losses while ensuring an uninterrupted power supply remained a priority for the state government.

Additional Chief Engineers R.C. Sharma and Vasant Karnad received the award on behalf of MP Transco. S.K. Soone, former and founding chief executive officer of POSOCO, now Grid-India, presented the award.

The award is part of an initiative established by Power Line, an international power sector magazine, to recognise outstanding performance in India's electricity transmission sector.

The Western Region covers Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh and Goa, along with the Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. MP Transco's achievement highlights its continued focus on improving transmission efficiency and strengthening the state's power infrastructure.

Rs 5 lakh penalty on contractors over Simhastha work defects

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Ujjain



Divisional Commissioner Ashish Singh on Thursday directed the imposition of a penalty of Rs 5 lakh each on contractors of the Police Housing Corporation after a third-party audit found deficiencies in construction works being undertaken for Simhastha 2028.

The deficiencies were reported in projects covering 448 constable quarters and various Home Guard facilities, including NGO barracks, an officers' rest house, an NGO training hostel, a personnel training hostel and the renovation of old buildings. Singh directed officials to ensure that all shortcomings identified in the audit were rectified without delay.

The commissioner issued the directions while reviewing the progress of projects being executed by the Ujjain Development Authority (UDA), Police Housing Corporation, Tourism Department and the power distribution company for Simhastha 2028.

Collector Roshan Kumar Singh, Additional Municipal Commissioner Santosh Tagore, Additional Mela Officer Om Prakash Sanodia and officials from the concerned departments attended the meeting.

During the review, the collector assessed tourism infrastructure projects, including the expansion of Avantika Hotel and the heritage hotel, along with renovation work at Ujjaini and Shipra hotels. Officials were directed to speed up construction and renovation to ensure timely completion.

The West Discom was instructed to expedite construction of the power grid near Shani Temple to strengthen electricity infrastructure ahead of the religious congregation.

The Ujjain Development Authority was asked to move forward with road-widening projects after obtaining consent from the affected parties. Singh stressed that residents whose properties would be affected must receive proper notices and that officials should avoid unnecessary delays in completing the prescribed procedures.

The review focused on accelerating infrastructure development across departments and ensuring that projects essential for the smooth conduct of Simhastha 2028 are completed within the stipulated timelines.

Three-year-old killed in dog attack

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Ratlam

A three-year-old girl died after a dog attacked her while she was playing in the courtyard of her house in Palsodi village of Ratlam district on Thursday evening. The dog severely mauled her head and back. At the time of the incident, her grandparents were away at their farm, while her parents had gone to Ajmer for daily-wage work.

The incident took place around 5 pm when Manisha, daughter of Raju Bhabor, was playing in the courtyard, where a cow was also tied. A stray dog entered the premises and attacked the child. It also attacked the cow.

Hearing the girl's cries, women living nearby rushed to the spot and drove the dog away. They then arranged for the child to be taken to the hospital.

Manisha was taken to the Ratlam district hospital at around 5.45 pm by her aunt, Munna Bai, and neighbour Raju Bhabor. Duty doctor Anisa Banu Khan examined her and declared her dead. According to family members, the child had died on the way to the hospital.

At around 7 pm, the body was sent to Ratlam Medical College for a postmortem examination. The postmortem was scheduled for Friday morning.

Neighbour Raju Bhabor said Manisha had been living in the village with her grandfather, Shambhu Bhabor, and grandmother, Sagu Bai.

Bhopal civic chief directs dust control, pothole repairs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhopal

Bhopal Municipal Corporation Commissioner Ramprakash Ahirwar on Thursday directed officials to strengthen the city's cleanliness system, control dust pollution at construction sites and expedite road repairs and pothole filling.

During a meeting with officials from the health, mechanical, garden, building permission and other departments at the corporation headquarters, Atal Bhawan, Ahirwar instructed the entire sanitation team to begin fieldwork at 6 am to improve cleanliness across the city.

He directed officials to ensure regular cleaning and proper maintenance of central and side road medians, flowerpots and gardens. Tree pruning and painting of medians and flowerpots were also ordered to improve the city's appearance.

Emphasising the need to curb air pollution, the commissioner instructed officials to ensure that dust was not generated during cleaning operations or construction activities. He directed them to arrange water sprinkling wherever necessary and ensure compliance with prescribed standards at construction sites.

Ahirwar also stressed the need to maintain quality in construction works and instructed officials to speed up the repair of roads damaged during the monsoon and fill potholes without delay. All pending works must be completed promptly while adhering to prescribed quality standards, he said.

During the meeting, the commissioner reviewed the existing arrangements for street cleaning, garbage collection and waste disposal. He also sought details of horticultural maintenance in gardens and along road medians, as well as the progress of road repair work.

Additional Commissioner Aman Mishra, Deputy Commissioners Hirendra Singh Kushwaha and Chanchalesh Girhare, Chief Engineer Santosh Gupta, Superintending Engineer R.R. Jarolia, executive engineers and health department officials attended the meeting.

The directions aim to improve civic cleanliness, reduce dust pollution and ensure better-maintained roads and public spaces across Bhopal.

The commissioner also directed all departments to maintain close coordination and regularly monitor field operations to ensure timely execution of civic works and sustained improvements in the city's cleanliness and infrastructure.

Bagri orders inquiry into GeM purchases

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Minister of State for Urban Development and Housing Pratima Bagri has ordered a high-level inquiry into purchases and construction works carried out through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal following the circulation of a video raising questions about the process.

In a video statement, Bagri said the department monitors procurement and construction activities and would not tolerate negligence or irregularities. She said the viral video would be examined as part of the proposed inquiry and strict action would be taken against those found responsible after the investigation.

The minister said the department conducts reviews of purchases and construction works at its own level. However, in view of the concerns raised by the video, a detailed investigation would be undertaken to establish the facts and identify any lapses.

Bagri said procurement through the GeM portal would also be scrutinised if any irregularities were suspected. She added that the portal is upgraded periodically to help identify the causes and methods of possible irregularities.

The minister said any significant difference in the prices of products purchased through the portal would also be examined. The inquiry would seek to determine whether such price variations involved any procedural lapses or other irregularities.

She reiterated that the department would take appropriate action if violations were established during the investigation. However, the specific allegations raised by the viral video and the details of the purchases under scrutiny were not specified in the statement. The proposed inquiry is aimed at examining procurement and construction-related concerns and ensuring accountability in the department's work.

Farmers protest land-use changes in Bhopal development plan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Bhopal

Farmers and residents from several parts of Bhopal on Thursday raised objections to the draft Bhopal Development Plan 2047, citing concerns over agricultural land, densely populated settlements, environmental protection and proposed changes to residential areas. Residents submitted around 2,000 objections to the Town and Country Planning (TNCP) department, seeking changes to provisions they said could affect livelihoods, public institutions and the city's ecological balance.

Farmers from Mughaliya Chhap marched towards Bhopal to protest the proposed classification of agricultural land in 66 villages under riverfront, forest, green-belt and other reserved categories. Police stopped them at a barricade in Neelbad, following which the farmers staged a sit-in and raised slogans.

The farmers said the proposed land-use changes could affect cultivation and the livelihoods of thousands of farmers. They demanded a reconsideration of the provisions affecting agricultural land and sought a one-month extension of the deadline for filing objections and suggestions.

TNCP Assistant Director Indu Tripathi reached Neelbad to speak with the protesting farmers. She said objections and suggestions had been invited within the stipulated 30-day period. The submissions would be digitised on the online portal, and the concerned parties would be called for hearings.

Meanwhile, residents of Misrod submitted written objections against a proposed 45-metre-wide road passing through an old, densely populated settlement. They demanded the removal of the proposed alignment through Khasra No. 205, arguing that it could affect old houses, hundreds of families, ancient temples and the area's social and cultural character.

Residents also sought protection for the government hospital, service cooperative society, Public Works Department guest house, offices associated with the National Highway and the Patidar community's social and ceremonial premises. They urged officials to conduct a joint site inspection and survey alternative routes that would minimise the impact on residential areas and public institutions. They also sought protection for around 10 to 15 old peepal and banyan trees.

Separately, the Joint Residents' Struggle Committee led residents from areas including Arera Colony, Gautam Nagar, Rohit Nagar, Rachna Nagar, Bawadiakalan, Saket Nagar, Kolar Road, Shahpura and Nehru Nagar to submit objections. They raised concerns about the conservation of lakes, forests, wildlife and green spaces, as well as provisions that could allow unauthorised construction and commercial activities in residential areas to be regularised.

Residents also objected to provisions they believe could permit commercial activities in residential premises, including those in Arera Colony. Vivek Tripathi argued that clause 15:38 of the draft plan could conflict with a Supreme Court order concerning unauthorised commercial activities in residential buildings. He said such provisions could affect residential peace, traffic, parking, greenery and public safety.

The objectors urged the authorities to address inconsistencies in the draft, protect established residential areas and examine their submissions before finalising the development plan. Misrod residents also said they reserved the right to pursue legal remedies if their concerns were not addressed.

Residents said the development plan should strike a balance between infrastructure expansion and the protection of existing communities. They urged the authorities to conduct detailed ground-level assessments before finalising land-use changes and road alignments, ensuring that public consultation leads to meaningful revisions wherever necessary.



Women participate in Shastra Pooja on Vijaydashmi festival in Jabalpur. the festivities were organised by the Samadriya Group in Jabalpur. Pioneer photo

The Pioneer
BHOPAL | FRIDAY | OCTOBER 23, 2026

Ladakh Admin defends cancellation of land allotment to Wangchuk's HIAL

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Jammu



The Union Territory administration in Ladakh has defended cancelling land allotment to Sonam Wangchuk's institute, citing the activist's "disregard for the law", and said the allotment automatically lapsed due to unpaid dues and an unexecuted lease deed. In an affidavit filed in the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the administration maintained that the 40-year lease allotment covering 1,076 kanals and 1 marla of land at Phyang Thang had "lapsed by operation of law" on May 5, 2019, due to the Himalayan Institute of Alternative Learning (HIAL)'s failure to execute a lease deed or deposit mandatory land premiums within the stipulated one-year period.

The affidavit, running into 136 pages, was filed by Leh Deputy Commissioner and CEO of LAHDC, Romil Singh Donk, in response to HIAL's writ petition challenging the August 21, 2025, cancellation order of leased land to the institute. The affidavit said the writ petition is "misconceived, devoid of merit, and barred by delay and laches" and made it clear that the original allotment order issued on May 5, 2018, was conditional and explicitly stated that the lease would be deemed cancelled if the allottee failed to execute the deed within a year. The administration asserted that HIAL never deposited a single rupee towards land premium or ground rent and failed to secure formal possession through the Tehsildar as mandated.

Furthermore, the Higher Education Department of UT Ladakh certified in October 2026 that HIAL is not a recognised university, nor are its courses affiliated with the University of Ladakh or other statutory bodies, violating the core objective of setting up an alternative university.

Bringing other context before the court, the affidavit highlighted the past conduct of HIAL's founder Wangchuk and his organisation, the Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL), and said that SECMOL has occupied 124 kanals of state land at Phey for over three decades without formal allotment or payment of an assessed Rs 80 lakh premium.

The affidavit also references the violent protests in Leh in September 2025, which led to Union Home Ministry's intervention, the cancellation of SECMOL's FCRA registration, and Wangchuk's brief detention under the National Security Act prior to its revocation in March 2026, as part of a consistent pattern of public order disruptions.

When approached for comments, HIAL CEO Gitanjali Angmo denied the claims made by the Ladakh administration in its affidavit.

Citing a September 25, 2025 order by the Home Ministry cancelling SECMOL's FCRA registration, the affidavit said it was done due to multiple statutory violations, which included accepting foreign funds from a Swedish donor to study the sovereignty of the nation, deemed prejudicial to national interest.

It said that residents, the Phyang Welfare Society and village Nambardars have repeatedly petitioned authorities since 2018, alleging broken promises regarding the university project, unauthorised diversion of ancient irrigation streams for "Ice Stupa" experiments, and an alleged illegal encroachment of an additional 174 kanals beyond the boundary wall.

The affidavit said the villagers complained that HIAL deceived them with false promises of a world-class university, blocked ancient pasture lands, and repeatedly diverted centuries-old natural irrigation streams for Ice Stupa projects, causing severe water shortage for local farmers.

Urging the High Court to dismiss the petition, the administration highlighted the antecedents of Wangchuk and SECMOL and submitted that the organisation and the petitioner are merely vehicles through which Wangchuk has repeatedly sought to hold public land on his own terms.

The affidavit also said that HIAL had made false statements under oath in its petition by claiming it sent repeated reminders during the first year and deposited all requisite dues.

It annexed official records showing zero written communications between May 2018 and March 2020, zero payments deposited, and suppressed letters written by HIAL in June 2020 seeking a complete waiver of both premium and ground rent, a request that was never granted. Tracing official records dating back to 2006, the affidavit pointed out a series of administrative actions and warnings issued against Wangchuk and SECMOL and recalled an October 2006 communication by the then district magistrate of Leh, which recorded that Wangchuk openly threatened the Hill Council and district administration during a council meeting, prompting officials to recommend surveillance and preventive detention.

The affidavit further detailed orders from March 2007, where the DM imposed a complete ban on public gatherings, speeches, and the circulation of provocative VCDs by SECMOL, noting that the organisation was running large-scale anti-establishment propaganda threatening public tranquillity and unauthorisedly collecting funds from the public.

Official reports from the chief education officer in April 2007 also recorded that Wangchuk had unauthorisedly occupied 200 kanals of land under the guise of educational programmes and disrupted the smooth functioning of the education department.

The administration submitted that this pattern of holding public land without paying state dues continued over the years, including at SECMOL's Phey campus, and has culminated in the present situation where 1,076 kanals of state land have been held for over six years without a valid lease or payment of premium and ground rent.

Linking these past events to broader law and order concerns, the affidavit said that agitations led and incited by Wangchuk in recent years ended with the office of the Chief Executive Councillor of the very Hill Council that originally allotted the land being set on fire.

The administration maintained that a litigant with such a record does not approach the court with clean hands and is not entitled to discretionary or equitable relief.

Dismissing the awards, guest visits, and international recognitions cited by Wangchuk in his petition, the administration said that personal eminence and accolades are wholly irrelevant to the legal question of lease compliance. It asserted that no recognition, however distinguished, serves as a substitute for fulfilling statutory allotment conditions, stating that the activist's reliance on such honours is merely an attempt to divert attention from an admitted legal default. Emphasising the Public Trust Doctrine, the UT administration argued that public land is held in trust for the populace and cannot be treated as private largesse and urged the court to dismiss the petition with costs and suggested that the reclaimed land be allocated to reputed national institutions such as a Sainik School, Eklavya Model Residential School, or Sindhu Central University.

The affidavit also highlighted speeches by Wangchuk inciting a mob during a hunger strike on September 24, 2025, which led to the burning of political party offices, torching of police vehicles, and injuries to over 30 security personnel.

eMudhra to exit SSL business

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
n New Delhi/Bengaluru

On Thursday, eMudhra announced its decision to exit the global SSL/TLS certificate business, a day after vulnerabilities were made public in the security keys issued by the digital authentication services company. The security lapse triggered a global cybersecurity alert and led to major internet browsers blocking the compromised certificates. The company is licensed under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to issue web security certificates for Government websites, including the income tax portal.

In a filing with the Bombay Stock Exchange, the company said it is voluntarily withdrawing from the global SSL/TLS certificate business because of escalating compliance costs, limited commercial returns, and the scrutiny it has faced after a recent incident.

In its filings, the company claims global SSL/TLS accounts for only around 1 per cent of its revenue. It quotes the company chairman, V Srinivasan, who says the business has been under pressure from increasing data sovereignty requirements, operational complexity, and the fact that big providers offer free certificates. As a result, the filing says the business has seen a reduction in its potential and return on investment relative to the rest of eMudhra's revenue.

Srinivasan pointed out that the media attention generated by the incident was completely out of proportion to SSL/TLS's role in the company's overall business. After extensive board-level discussion, eMudhra decided that exiting the business is in the company's and its shareholders' interest. "For many CAs, SSL/TLS is their entire business. For eMudhra, it is just one part of a much wider range of digital solutions and trust services," he said.

The company will shift its focus and resources to its core enterprise solutions and other trust services, rather than SSL/TLS. All other operations are unaffected. Global digital signature certificates, eSign, and signing services (including those in India) will continue as normal. The enterprise PKI platforms (emCA, CertiNext), the emSigner eSignature suite, and the identity and authentication solutions (SecurePass, emAS) are completely independent of the global SSL/TLS infrastructure and are operating as normal.

eMudhra's G1 RSA roots will remain available through the end of the transition, the company added. It will work with browser root programmes and customers to ensure a smooth exit.

eMudhra will contact affected customers and provide free replacement certificates through its partners. In contrast, it added that certificate revocation and status services will continue until all issued certificates have expired or been replaced.

This decision follows an incident involving the company's global SSL/TLS certificates. The affected CAs were revoked within 14 hours of being discovered, and the company shared the news right away.

Saharanpur fake currency probe deepens

PRAMOD KUMAR SINGH
n New Delhi



The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has expanded its investigation into the infiltration of counterfeit currency into India's formal banking system, arresting two men reportedly close associates in a conspiracy that saw ?17.29 crore in fake notes come to light in a Punjab National Bank currency chest in Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

Police took Ajay Kumar into custody in Ambala, Haryana, on October 16. Police arrested Harish Rounta in Manali, Himachal Pradesh, on October 22. According to the agency, both men were linked to the illegal printing and supply of large quantities of fake Indian currency notes that, through other accused persons, reached the PNB chest in the Civil Lines area.

The recovery came to light on August 29 after Saharanpur police received specific information. During the inquiry, three bank employees later surfaced as allegedly involved, and the bank suspended them. The police registered an FIR the same day under Section 178 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which deals with currency counterfeiting, against the three accused. The NIA re-registered the case on September 3 and assumed full charge of the investigation.

In September, the agency had already arrested five people: Amit Kumar, named in the original FIR; Adesh Choudhary, described as a key accused; and Mukesh Kumar, Rajender and Nitu. Officials now say Ajay Kumar and Harish Rounta worked closely with Choudhary and the others in the arrangement that placed the counterfeit notes inside the currency chest.

A currency chest is a high-security facility that banks operate on behalf of the Reserve Bank of India. It stores cash for distribution to branches and ATMs. The presence of a large volume of fake notes inside such a facility raises questions about internal controls, physical verification procedures and the possible involvement of people with legitimate access to the chest. Investigators have not yet publicly detailed how the notes entered the vault or whether the three suspended employees are alleged to have helped place them.

The NIA has stated that the investigation remains active. Its stated aims are to map the full chain of the conspiracy, identify the source of the printing operation and arrest remaining co-accused and suspects. The two latest arrests expand the case's geographic footprint beyond Uttar Pradesh into Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, suggesting a wider network rather than a purely local operation.

Counterfeit currency cases on this scale are rare in RBI-linked facilities. If the ?17.29 crore in fake notes had entered branches or ATMs, it could have disrupted local cash circulation. The agency has not shared which denominations were involved or how well the notes were made, details that usually help determine if the operation used advanced or simple printing methods.

CITU calls for nationwide protest against SIR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi


CITU General Secretary Elamaram Kareem FILE PHOTO

Centre of Indian Trade Unions(CITU) has called upon the working class and the people of India to join the Nationwide protest on October 23 called by the national platform "People Against SIR" in large numbers, Elamaram Kareem General Secretary CITU issued a press release.

CITU is an active part of the national platform "People Against SIR" along with a broad spectrum of organisations and networks representing farmers, workers, agricultural workers, women, youth, students, Adivasis, minorities, Dalits and disabled as well as progressive individuals, artists, intellectuals and civil rights activists came together to constitute the platform.

CITU leaders, activists and members will join the protest at the states/districts/local levels on October 23 demanding the scrapping of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the resignation/sacking of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The CITU observed a nationwide campaign week against SIR from October 16 to 22 with gate meetings, group meetings, street corner meetings etc.

"The SIR has disenfranchised 13 crore voters and deprived them of their voting rights. Most of them are unorganised and migrant working people who are being made to run from pillar to post, foregoing their daily earnings, to enrol themselves as voters, a right to which they are constitutionally entitled. Further, with the implementation and operationalisation of the Labour Codes, particularly the Code on Social Security, which mandates an identity card prescribed by the Central Government for enrolment under the social security boards and to become beneficiaries, the disenfranchised workers may also be deprived of their entitlement

to social security benefits and other government welfare schemes. Hence, the SIR-led disenfranchisement will lead to the denial of workers' rights. The scrapping of SIR is therefore essential to ensure workers' rights to social security," CITU said in the release.

FROM PAGE - 5

Shah mocks Rahul's Vietnam trip

He cited the Congress's electoral defeats across States over several decades, arguing that the party had been rejected by voters even before the BJP came to power nationally in 2014. He also pointed to the Opposition's victories in Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Telangana, arguing that the same EVMs and Election Commission of India (ECI) were in place when those parties won. "Whenever you lose, you criticise the election commission. When courts rule in your favour, they are good; otherwise, they are bad," Shah said.

Shah said the Congress had been out of power in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh for 41 years, in West Bengal for 54 years and in Tamil Nadu for 64 years, while it had been unable to form full-majority governments in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh for 28 years.

Rules will apply: Om Birla on CEC removal

While both the Houses were adjourned sine die (for an indefinite period), the Monsoon Session has not yet been prorogued or ended formally. On the issue, the Birla said that it is the prerogative of President of India, adding that it was not first time that such a long gap has been observed.

Birla said provisions of Article 85 are being followed when asked about prorogation of the Monsoon session. Article 85 governs the summoning, prorogation, and dissolution of Parliament by the President. There have been instances in the past when the Houses remained unprorogued for long periods, extending up to 87 days. There are several other such instances: 1987 (76 days), 1989 (54 days), 2006 (49 days), 2013 (49 days) and 1963 (41 days).

As the session has not been prorogued for over two months, there are indications that the Government could convene a special or extended sitting for the passage of an amendment to the Women's Reservation Act. There is speculation that the Government does not want to push the proposed Bill to the Winter Session.

The Bill fell through in Lok Sabha in the Budget session in April during an extended sitting due to lack of numbers. "If session is prorogued, a minimum 14-day notice is needed to call the next session. If the session is not prorogued, then an extended sitting can be convened in two days," explained a Parliament official.

Birla also said that he will expedite the process of taking a decision on the Trinamool Congress' petitions seeking the disqualification of its 20 rebel MPs once he receives the responses of the lawmakers. "We will hear from both sides. When the responses come from the members, we will expedite the process," Birla said at a press conference while replying to a question on the issue. Birla said the matter is under consideration of the Supreme Court too. The Press conference was convened by the Speaker to brief about the two 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum meet in the national Capital on October 26-27.

Netanyahu invites PM Modi for Israel day

"Modi thanked me for the invitation and said that, on the ground and in the air, India and Israel are fighting together against terrorism," he wrote in both Hindi and Hebrew.

Modi travelled to Israel in February on his second visit to the country in nine years. The India-Israel relationship was elevated to the level of strategic partnership during his first visit to Tel Aviv in July 2017.

Earlier this month, Israeli President Isaac Herzog invited Indian pilot Machchhar, who fought off an attack from his co-pilot inside the cockpit of a Tel Aviv-bound flight, to Israel to honour him with the Presidential Award for Civilian Heroism.

Machchhar was injured while trying to stop his co-pilot from allegedly attempting to hijack flydubai flight FZ1073 from Dubai to Tel Aviv on September 30. The flight was carrying 174 passengers. Despite being seriously injured, Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers and crew to overpower the co-pilot and avert a possible catastrophe. The plane made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia. The passengers reached Israel safely later that day.

Machchhar, who has been hailed as a "hero" by Modi and Netanyahu for his courage, is undergoing treatment at a hospital in the United Arab Emirates.

India issues advisory amidst unrest in France

It further recommended that Indians keep track of local media reports, official government announcements, and possible disruptions to public transport. Travellers were specifically advised to consult the French government's website and the Paris transport operator RATP for real-time updates.

For emergencies, the embassy provided contact details: the Embassy of India in Paris can be reached at +33648340063 or by email at cons.paris@mea.gov.in, while the Consulate General of India in Marseille is available at +33743 162559 or go.marseille@mea.gov.in.

The advisory comes as France braces for another wave of demonstrations planned for Saturday, October 24. This follows violent unrest on October 17 that resulted in significant property damage and thousands of arrests, according to reports by Xinhua news agency.

French President Emmanuel Macron stated on Wednesday that authorities would deploy every available legal measure to stop a repeat of the recent violence.

Speaking to reporters while on a visit to Qatar, as reported by BFM TV, Macron indicated that a state of emergency was not required at present, though the option remains open if the situation deteriorates. Targeted curfews have already been enforced in multiple cities in the aftermath of the October 17 clashes. Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu noted on Tuesday that these restrictions contributed to maintaining order overnight.

Interior Minister Laurent Nuñez added that soldiers from the Army's Operation Sentinelle would be deployed to support security efforts during Saturday's planned protests.

The current wave of discontent originated in late September 2026, initially centred on inadequate school facilities and shortages of teachers. It has since grown into broader nationwide demonstrations against the government, fuelled by rising living costs, elevated fuel prices, cuts to public spending, and dissatisfaction with Macron's policies. Although the majority of youth-led rallies have remained peaceful, incidents of violence have occurred on the fringes of protests in France as well as in other European countries such as Spain and Albania.

Voluntary code of conduct for Hindus...

Another key element of the project is a scheme to gather Manusmriti manuscripts from libraries, private collections and archives abroad. The organisers make it clear that this is a long-term scholarly exercise in preserving the text rather than a scheme to retrieve a copy. The intention is to assemble as many versions as possible to facilitate comparative study of the text's history and help safeguard the fragile copies from further damage or loss.

They have not yet shared which institutions they will contact, but the project will likely reach out to repositories in Europe, North America, and other places that hold Sanskrit materials.

The third main topic is recent protests that organisers link to political slogans for "regime change", and that often happen during Hindu festival seasons. Swami Saraswati and other speakers said these protests disrupt processions, temple events, and public gatherings that are important to communities. The Sansad will hear reports on these incidents, consider how they affect worshippers, and discuss ways communities can protect festivals while staying within the law. Organisers see this as an ongoing challenge to religious life, not just a political issue.

The Varanasi meeting follows several previous Sanskriti Sansad meetings that have focused on cultural, educational, and social issues from a Hindu point of view. This year the emphasis is on tangible outcomes: producing a written code of conduct for the advisory committee, efforts to recover the classical texts and a direct response to the political protests that take place during the festivals.

Academics, religious figures, and cultural activists will attend the event. It will feature formal announcements as well as private discussions on the details of the *Achar Sanhita* and how the manuscripts will be collected. On the protest issue, the organisers expect to discuss how to record incidents, what legal options the festival organisers have, and how to reduce conflict while still enabling peaceful protest.

eMudhra to exit SSL business amid cyber security scrutiny

eMudhra will contact affected customers and provide free replacement certificates through its partners. In contrast, it added that certificate revocation and status services will continue until all issued certificates have expired or been replaced.

This decision follows an incident involving the company's global SSL/TLS certificates. The affected CAs were revoked within 14 hours of being discovered, and the company shared the news right away. These CAs did not issue any end-entity certificates. Emudhra confirmed that its infrastructure was not compromised, no data was breached, and all security controls remain in place.

Editor's TAKE

Punjab's drug war needs results

The Centre and state governments must bury their differences and work together to dismantle smuggling networks, strengthen rehabilitation and create jobs

"We ended Naxalism, time to eliminate the drug menace in Punjab," Home Minister Amit Shah says, promising a drug-free state by December 2029 if the BJP wins the 2027 election. The ambition is welcome. But Punjab's tragedy is fast becoming a campaign plank, and it deserves better. The drug-gangster nexus is real. Foreign-based gangsters direct narcotics-and-arms modules. Punjab accounted for 298 of the 305 drone-linked smuggling cases detected nationwide in 2025.

On October 13, the nexus turned lethal. Anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota was shot dead at a Mansa chemist's shop, allegedly by its owner, during a Facebook Live broadcast. The causes are not mysterious. Studies of the region find that unemployment, underemployment, falling farm incomes and indebtedness drive initiation, with youth joblessness in Punjab near 20 per cent. Cheap heroin met a generation whose options were a farm that no longer pays or a visa abroad.

Causality runs both ways, since addiction also destroys livelihoods. With too few rehabilitation centres and little aftercare, relapse is high. Is the AAP government doing enough? Its defenders have a case. Yudh Nashian Virudh, launched in March 2025, treats users as patients: police say about 62,000 people have been referred to de-addiction or opioid-substitution centres, over 10,000 received immunity under Section 64A of the NDPS Act, and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann claims more than 85,000 arrests in three and a half years. Police also claim a near-90 per cent NDPS conviction rate. Akali leader Bikram Majithia has been arrested in a disproportionate-assets case, and the government blames earlier regimes for allowing the trade to flourish.

Yet arrests are inputs, not outcomes. A government that promised to end drugs within months cannot claim victory while activists are killed in daylight. The Centre has sought reports on three such deaths in Mansa, Sangrur and Gurdaspur. Congress, the Akalis and the BJP all say the trade persists, and the unanswered question is whether the big fish, and any patronage behind them, have been reached. On this evidence, enough has not yet been done.

The BJP's case has its own weakness. The Centre guards the border, runs the NCB and has ruled in Delhi for twelve years; AAP asks why Mr Shah's yatra did not begin in Gujarat. Blame traded between Chandigarh and Delhi helps only the smuggler.

The way out is unglamorous but achievable: a joint Centre-state task force on borders and drones; isolation of gangsters in jails and prosecution of complicit staff; tighter policing of pharmacies and prescription opioids; real protection for whistle-blowers; funded rehabilitation beds and aftercare; and jobs, through farm diversification, industry and skilling, that give young people a reason to stay. Punjab does not need a war declared from a stage. It needs success measured in lives saved, not arrests made, and a Centre willing to share the burden rather than merely audit it.

Punjab's growing drug-gang menace

Extortion, gang violence and drug trafficking are eroding public confidence in Punjab's security apparatus. Arrests alone cannot break the nexus; the State and Centre must work together to dismantle its finances, prosecute offenders swiftly and protect those who dare to speak out



JAGVINDER SINGH VIRK



Walk into any market in Ludhiana, Moga or Abohar and ask a shopkeeper what he fears most. It isn't GST or slow sales. It's a call from a foreign number, a voice demanding lakhs, and a calm promise of what happens if he says no. Over two years, Punjab Police received more than 500 extortion calls, and the real number is almost certainly higher, because most people quietly pay and tell no one. In July 2025, businessman Sanjay Verma was shot dead outside his showroom in Abohar, and days earlier a doctor was shot inside his own nursing home in Moga after an extortion threat traced to a Canada-based operative. These are not stories from a conflict zone. These are ordinary Punjabi towns.

This month the list grew longer. On 3 October, Mad Sandhu was shot dead, and police say the man who pulled the trigger received just `11,000. Ten days later, in Mansa, anti-drug activist Parminder Singh Jhota was killed, allegedly by a medical shop owner, and the shooting was reportedly streamed live on Facebook. Jhota had spent years confronting the people who sell drugs in his area, the kind of courage most of us only admire from a distance. Police say the motive was personal enmity, and the main accused has since been arrested in Rajasthan. But his father says the state never gave his son any protection, and he has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah to keep his grandchildren safe. When a grieving father in Punjab looks to Delhi instead of Chandigarh for safety, it tells you how much trust has drained away.

The deeper problem is that criminals in Punjab have learned they can outlast the system. In 2024, Punjab's courts convicted the accused in only 34.7 per cent of completed criminal trials, against a national average of 53.3 per cent. That 18.6-point gap was the widest in nine years. By the end of that year, about 1.29 lakh criminal cases, nearly 87 per cent of the total, were still pending. The Sidhu Moosewala murder of May 2022, which shook the whole country, was still at the stage of examining the complainant as of April 2026. If even the most high-profile killing in the state's recent memory crawls through the courts, what message does that send to a shooter willing to kill for `11,000?

Behind the guns sits the drug trade, and the numbers are just as grim. NCRB data for 2023 showed Punjab recording 89 overdose deaths, the highest of any state for the second year running, and the country's highest rate of drug trafficking cases at 25.3 per lakh people. The supply keeps coming across the 553-kilometre border with Pakistan. In 2025 alone, the BSF seized 272 drones and over 367 kg of heroin along the Punjab frontier. In the first half of 2026, Punjab Police recovered another 467 kg from just nineteen big seizures. Each of these numbers is a success for the forces involved. Taken together, they are also proof of how much is being pushed in, and how much more must be getting through.

> PUNJAB HAS SURVIVED DARKER DECADES THAN THIS AND REBUILT ITSELF EACH TIME. IT CAN DO SO AGAIN, BUT ONLY WITH LEADERSHIP THAT IS SERIOUS ABOUT WINNING, NOT ONLY ABOUT COUNTING ARRESTS

To be fair to the AAP government, it has not been idle. Its "Yudh Nashian Virudh" campaign claims around 73,000 drug peddlers arrested in 500 days, and its anti-gangster drive reported more than 35,000 arrests. But arrests are not the same as results. If tens of thousands of arrests still leave an activist dead in Mansa, a shooter available for the price of a phone, and heroin landing by drone night after night, then the strategy is treating symptoms while the disease spreads.

What Punjab needs is a war fought on every front at once. The border has to be sealed with modern anti-drone systems, tight coordination between the BSF and state police, and zero tolerance for any official, in uniform or out, who helps the smugglers. The money has to be followed, with the property of drug lords and gang handlers seized and the hawala channels that fund them shut down, because a gang without cash is a gang without shooters. The handlers living comfortably in Canada, the US and Dubai have to be brought back through persistent extradition and diplomatic pressure. Courts need fast-track benches for gang and narcotics cases, and witnesses and activists need real protection, so that the next Parminder Singh Jhota does not have to fight alone. Above all, addicts must be treated as patients rather than statistics, through proper rehabilitation, jobs and sports for young people, so that the market for drugs shrinks along with the supply.

This is where the Modi government's record deserves attention. For decades, experts said Naxalism was too deep-rooted ever to be defeated. The Centre set a firm deadline, brought every affected state and every agency onto one plan, and combined relentless operations with surrender and development schemes. Over three years, 4,839 Maoists surrendered, 2,218 were arrested and 706 were neutralised in encounters, and twelve members of the Maoist central committee were eliminated. On 31 March 2026, India was declared free of Naxalism. That mix of political will, central coordination and long-term patience is exactly what has been missing in Punjab's fight against the drug and gang mafia. Punjab is a frontline state, so its security is national security. The drug money that crosses its border funds weapons and terror as easily as it funds addiction. A government where the state and the Centre work as one team, instead of trading blame, could finally give Punjabis what they have asked for year after year: the freedom to open their shop, speak up against drugs and answer their phone without fear.

Punjab has survived darker decades than this and rebuilt itself each time. It can do so again, but only with leadership that is serious about winning, not only about counting arrests.

The writer is an expert in global affairs and geopolitics

The mounting crisis of teacher burnout



SAKSHI SETHI

2ND OPINION

The foundation of our educational system is in danger due to the mounting crises of teacher burnout, diminishing respect and professional disappointment.

A country can withstand technological disruption, political unpredictability and economic uncertainty, but can it withstand the slow loss of its educators? The question may seem too dramatic, but it is becoming harder to ignore the warning signs. Even though classes are still full, schools are still operating and test scores appear excellent, the teaching profession is subtly declining.

Artificial intelligence, smart classrooms and the revolution in education are all hot topics. However, the people who are supposed to give these goals significance receive relatively little attention. Administrative duties, irrational parental expectations, institutional demands and an unending need to demonstrate outcomes are all placing increasing stress on teachers. The true goal of teaching is getting lost amid paperwork, deadlines and classroom management.

The biggest danger to education is not a lack of technology but rather the increasing weariness of the people responsible for shaping children's minds. Teacher burnout is no longer a sporadic grievance. It is starting to define the profession. Due to emotional exhaustion, heavy workloads, little room for professional advancement and a lack of recognition, commitment is frequently confused with an endless capacity to persevere. Ironically, instructors often neglect their own mental health while society expects them to raise emotionally stable children.

They must exhibit excellence without sufficient support, commitment without bounds and patience without irritation. Even the smallest error made by a teacher can result in instant criticism, while years of genuine work may go unappreciated. The slow deterioration of professional respect is equally unsettling. Teachers are being questioned, scrutinised and occasionally publicly humiliated. Every profession needs accountability, but without respect, accountability turns into intimidation. Education suffers when teachers begin to value classroom creativity less than they fear complaints. Uncomfortable realities must also be faced by institutional leadership. Professional motivation can be destroyed by favouritism, an unbalanced distribution of responsibilities, limited prospects for growth and opaque decision-making. If schools do not practise ideals such as empathy and fairness in their own staffrooms, they cannot claim to be fostering these qualities in students.

The repercussions go far beyond individual educators. Genuine education requires creativity, emotional presence and intellectual engagement. A weary teacher may continue to teach, but children need mentors who foster curiosity, support independent thought and see possibilities beyond test results. Infrastructure, legislation and digital platforms are insufficient to meet India's educational goals. Manageable workloads, professional autonomy, equitable compensation, supportive leadership and genuine prospects for growth are all necessary for meaningful reform.

Above all, educators need to be regarded as professionals rather than interchangeable parts. The true threat is not the sudden disappearance of teachers from classrooms. It is that, while institutions continue to appear as though everything is running smoothly, capable, passionate educators will either gradually disengage emotionally or quit their jobs entirely.

A nation that ceremoniously honours educators while ignoring their professional needs is jeopardising its own future. The question of whether we can afford to invest in teachers is no longer relevant. The question is whether we can afford the repercussions of not doing so.

The writer is an educator and a councillor

Daiv Vani

WISDOM FOR A MEANINGFUL LIFE

The Mountain Carried for One Herb

Some urgency demands we act first and sort out the details later.

When Lakshmana lay dying on the battlefield, struck by a powerful weapon, the physician Sushena named the only cure, the Sanjeevani herb, growing on a distant Himalayan mountain, and said it had to arrive before sunrise or the moment would be lost forever.

Hanuman flew instantly toward the mountain, but once there, found himself unable to identify the exact herb among countless unfamiliar plants in the darkness. Rather than waste precious time searching further, he simply lifted the entire mountain, Sanjeevani Parvat, and flew it back whole, so the physicians could find the right herb themselves.

Hanuman did not pause to perfect his plan or wait until he was certain of the one correct leaf. Facing real urgency, he acted with everything he had, trusting the outcome to sort itself out once he had done his part fully. We often delay decisive action while waiting to be completely certain of the right approach, even when circumstances demand we simply move with full effort now.

Today, when facing a genuine deadline or urgent need, act with whatever full effort is available to you, rather than waiting for complete certainty before beginning.

–DAIV

PIC TALK



Gardeners give final touches to flowers at 'Bagh-i-Gul-Dawood', a chrysanthemum garden, ahead of its opening, in Srinagar PHOTO: PTI

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vijay's real test begins now

The challenge before Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay is no longer electoral recognition. His success in two by-elections has helped sustain his political image, but by-election wins alone do not equip him to govern a state with deep Dravidian loyalties and established political networks while meeting public expectations. He must prove his administrative credibility. His anti-corruption plank has given him a winning narrative, but governance cannot rely on moral positioning alone. Electricity shortfalls, law-and-order concerns and administrative inexperience demand solutions. His lack of experience is compounded by a new cabinet that must learn the demands of office while delivering results. Meanwhile, the coming local-body elections will test whether his appeal can penetrate the established grassroots networks of seasoned opposition parties with five decades of political experience.

Vijay must prove he can govern, not just win elections. Transparent action on electricity, policing and corruption is essential. His victories offer breathing space, not immunity. Tamil Nadu will judge him by whether he turns his mandate into effective governance and delivers meaningful change.

R NARAYANAN | NAVI MUMBAI

Europe street protests reveal crisis

The violent protests sweeping across France, Italy, Belgium, Albania and other parts of Europe are not merely instances of lawlessness. They serve as a cautionary tale of how years of rising living costs, unaffordable housing, overstretched public services and deteriorating educational institutions can erode public confidence.

Although arson, theft and assaults on law enforcement require stringent responses, authorities cannot treat security measures as a substitute for addressing the issues that fuel protests. Democracies are most resilient when they acknowledge public anger without capitulating to aggression. The European Union and national governments should establish structured channels for students, trade unions, local communities and civil society to negotiate practical reforms. UN officials have rightly urged governments to pursue meaningful, inclusive dialogue with protesters, particularly young people, while addressing concerns over education, public services, housing, living costs and inequality.

Europe must uphold public order while addressing grievances. Lasting stability requires accountability, responsive institutions and meaningful reforms.

BAL GOVIND | NOIDA

Threat to banking customers

In the digital and AI-enabled era, data is the new gold. In a recent incident, the State Bank of India (SBI) reportedly identified 3,897 customer records containing personally identifiable information (PII) that may have been exposed on the dark web. The bank has launched a detailed investigation to establish the authenticity, source and extent of the alleged exposure.

The information reportedly included customers' personal and contact details, branch and CIF identifiers, lead IDs and loan-related metadata, raising concerns about potential breaches of personal information.

The authorities must take immediate action and establish stringent mechanisms to strengthen data security, encryption and access controls. Banks must also ensure that customer information is adequately protected against unauthorised access and misuse.

SBI has one of the largest customer bases in the country, and incidents of this nature could undermine customer confidence and damage its reputation. Protecting personal information must therefore remain a priority. In an increasingly digital banking environment, robust cybersecurity measures and transparent communication are essential to maintaining public trust.

DIMPLE WADHAWAN | KANPUR

The Pioneer
BHOPAL | FRIDAY | OCTOBER 23, 2026

The COP illusion: Why India needs to lead the Global South axis at COP31

As COP31 approaches, the Global South must move beyond rhetoric and demand climate finance without debt, affordable green technology and accountability for historical emissions. India should lead a united front to make climate action equitable, practical and binding



VK BAHUGUNA



For more than three decades, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) has played out as a grand annual theatre. Tens of thousands of diplomats, corporate and NGO lobbyists, and private jet travellers gather under the guise of saving the planet, only to deliver sanitised communiqués, non-binding targets, and creative accounting. As COP31 approaches in Antalya, Turkey, from 10 November to 20 November 2026, the rhetoric from the developed world will predictably continue. But for the countries of the Global South, the illusion shattered long ago, and this COP may be expected to end on similar lines.

The reality is staring humanity in the face. The developed West built its wealth on two centuries of unbridled fossil fuel consumption, exporting the environmental invoice to the Global South. When there is a need to atone for the past, the industrialised world offers carbon markets, debt-inducing loans, and empty promises instead of actual compensation. If COP31 is to be anything more than another expensive jamboree, the Global South must stop flirting or engaging in gamesmanship in negotiations and should bargain in a straightforward manner. The time has come to forge a defiant South-South bloc - led by nations like India, Brazil, and South Africa - to rewrite the terms of global climate governance. China should be invited to join the group.

The primary agenda of COP31 should not be setting distant net-zero targets for 2050 or debating draft texts, but pledging a unified approach for the welfare of humanity by shedding the hypocrisy. It must be a direct confrontation with the systemic failures of the Western-led climate framework. The developed world consistently boasts about mobilising billions for climate finance, but a closer look reveals that it is nothing but bait. Over 70 per cent of public climate finance provided to developing nations comes in the form of loans, not grants. The West is essentially telling countries suffering from floods, droughts, and heatwaves: "We polluted the atmosphere to get rich; now you must borrow money from our banks at market rates to clean up our mess."

COP31 must mandate that climate finance consist strictly of non-debt-creating grants and low-interest concessions, explicitly categorised as reparations for historic ecological damage, not charitable aid. The recent catastrophic floods and glacier melt in Tibet, Nepal and India have killed thousands of people and destroyed property and infrastructure worth billions. These events have clearly demonstrated that the innocent people bearing the maximum brunt of climate-related disasters are those who historically had no role at all in damaging the climate.

Further, developed economies are continuing to use sophisticated trade barriers to protect their own industries while penalising developing nations. Mechanisms like Europe's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), from the point of view of the developing world, are highly controversial and tantamount to green protectionism. It violates the UNFCCC's cardinal principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, conveniently ignoring historical emissions and per-capita footprints and penalising the South for industrialising late and working for the livelihoods of its population.

The West preaches rapid decarbonisation while locking vital technologies behind stringent intellectual property rights (IPR). If climate change is an existential crisis for humanity, high-efficiency solar cells, advanced grid storage, and green hydrogen technology cannot remain the sole property of any country, much less developed countries. COP31 must devise a framework for the rapid, low-cost transfer of green technology to developing countries, as is done during global health emergencies.

While the bureaucracies may engage in negotiations, concrete action must happen at ground level. Climate amelioration requires micro-targeted planning for both urban and rural ecosystems. For example, modern cities operate as artificial heat traps, as concrete and asphalt exacerbate urban heat island effects and cause flash floods. Cities must incorporate permeable pavements, bioswales (landscaped channels planted with vegetation, as in Agartala city), urban wetlands, and subterranean retention tanks. The city of Wuhan, China, transformed from a flood-prone metropolis into a Sponge City model by converting 38 square kilometres of land into urban rain gardens, parks, and permeable roads, drastically reducing runoff and cooling local air temperatures by up to 1.5°C. Indian planners must devise a similar plan of action for major cities.

Already, Ahmedabad has demonstrated that low-cost, lime-based, high-albedo paint on rooftops reduces indoor temperatures by 2°C to 5°C, saving energy and lives during severe heatwaves. Municipal codes must mandate green roofs, solar canopies, and mandatory tree canopy cover percentages on all urban thoroughfares. Urban planning in the Indian scenario must improve its public transport system so that people have faith in it and vehicular pollution is reduced.

For better adaptation and mitigation, landscape restoration and climate-resilient agricultural practices must focus on ecosystem restoration and soil-water conservation. In this regard, several examples of India's micro-level ridge-to-valley watershed treatment, which recharges groundwater tables and prevents soil erosion, should be replicated as a priority. Further, rural development planning must incentivise multi-layered cropping systems, integrating nitrogen-fixing trees with drought-tolerant crops (e.g., millets like sorghum and pearl millet).

This enhances carbon sequestration, preserves topsoil, and stabilises farm incomes during extreme weather events. There is also a need to extend the Rooftop Prime Minister's Solar Energy Scheme to create further decentralised renewable mini-grids. In rural planning, wherever possible, we should decentralise energy production via agrivoltaics - placing solar panels above cropland - allowing farmers to generate energy while growing shade-tolerant crops beneath. This writer has always been arguing for adopting a climate-resilient lifestyle at the individual and family level because government policies remain abstract without individual and household compliance.

As a fast-growing economy striving to lift millions out of poverty while deploying renewable energy at a historic scale, India carries the weight and moral authority to lead the Global South. Indian negotiators at COP31 must adopt an aggressive, uncompromising strategy. Negotiators should demand that any revenues collected by Western nations through unilateral green tariffs be automatically redirected into the UNFCCC Loss and Damage Fund to compensate developing countries.

The developed world frequently attempts to reset the clock, treating emissions from recent decades as the primary benchmark. Indian negotiators must bring the core metric back to cumulative historical emissions from 1850 to the present day. Western nations have consumed more than 70 per cent of the global carbon budget while housing less than 20 per cent of the world's population.

South-South technology partnerships should be the core agenda. Building on initiatives like the International Solar Alliance (ISA), Indian negotiators should propose a Global South Green Tech Consortium. This body would facilitate open-source sharing of renewable innovations, joint manufacturing of clean-energy components, and direct climate-resilient agricultural and knowledge transfer across Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The annual UN climate summit will remain a hollow exercise as long as the world's primary polluters write the rules and shirk their responsibilities. The Global South can no longer afford to wait for Western altruism that will never arrive.

COP31 must be the moment for taking a unified, decisive stance by ensuring a South-South strategy, and Indian negotiators can help transform COP from an elite talk shop into a genuine roadmap for global climate justice.

COP31 MUST MANDATE THAT CLIMATE FINANCE CONSIST STRICTLY OF NON-DEBT-CREATING GRANTS AND LOW-INTEREST CONCESSIONS, EXPLICITLY CATEGORISED AS REPARATIONS FOR HISTORIC ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE, NOT CHARITABLE AID. THE RECENT CATASTROPHIC FLOODS AND GLACIER MELT IN TIBET, NEPAL AND INDIA HAVE KILLED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AND DESTROYED PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORTH BILLIONS

The writer is a former IFS officer and Chairman of the Centre for Resource Management

Celebrating Bastar's living traditions and enduring spirit



VISHNU DEO SAI

The Hon'ble President of India's visit to Bastar on 23 October 2026 to participate in the Muriya Darbar and a public programme associated with the 75-day Bastar Dussehra celebrations offers a significant opportunity to bring national attention to the region's extraordinary cultural heritage and the aspirations of its people. It is also an important occasion to recognise this rich heritage and honour the generations of communities who have preserved and nurtured these traditions, keeping them alive as an integral part of Bastar's cultural identity.

Bastar is not merely a geographical region of Chhattisgarh; it is the living soul of our state, where nature, faith, community and centuries-old traditions come together to create a unique cultural identity. The forests and rivers of Bastar, its folk music, traditional dances, handicrafts, indigenous knowledge and vibrant festivals tell the story of communities whose lives remain deeply connected with nature and their ancestors. These traditions are not remnants of the past; they are a living part of the region's social and cultural life. The cultural wealth of Chhattisgarh is inseparable from its tribal communities. Their languages, oral histories, traditional knowledge, art forms and customary practices form an invaluable part of India's civilisational heritage. Preserving this wealth requires sustained efforts to document oral traditions, encourage younger generations to learn local languages and crafts, and create opportunities for cultural practitioners to share their knowledge. Our government is committed to working with tribal communities, traditional leaders, artisans and local institutions to ensure that heritage conservation remains community-led.

For Bastar, development and cultural preservation must go hand in hand. Progress cannot be measured solely through infrastructure or economic indicators. It must also ensure that communities preserve their identity, exercise their rights and pass their heritage to future generations while accessing the opportunities of a changing world.

Our government is working to improve roads, electricity, drinking water, education, healthcare and livelihoods in remote areas. The Niyad Nellanar Yojana is extending essential services and development benefits to villages in areas earlier affected by Left-Wing Extremism. Peace, public trust and access to basic services are essential to building a future in which communities can sustain their traditions and young people can pursue their aspirations. Connectivity is an important pillar of our vision for Bastar's development. The Raipur-Visakhapatnam Expressway, the railway line connecting Jagdalpur and Rowghat, and expanding air connectivity will improve access to the region and open new avenues for tourism, trade, employment and local enterprise. Better connectivity will help bring Bastar closer to wider markets while creating opportunities for its people. We are equally committed to strengthening education, healthcare and agriculture. Education Cities in Abujhmad and Jagargunda will help children in remote areas access quality education, while new and expanded medical facilities in Geedam, Jagdalpur and Dantewada will improve healthcare and medical education. We are also prioritising irrigation through projects on the Indravati River, which will expand irrigation facilities, support farmers and strengthen agricultural livelihoods across the region. Creating sustainable livelihoods for local communities is equally important. Skill training centres are helping young people develop employable skills and pursue self-employment. Special support for agro-processing and agro-forest processing, alongside initiatives promoting goat farming, pig farming and beekeeping, will help expand economic opportunities rooted in local resources.



Our cultural initiatives are also creating platforms for Bastar's people to showcase their talent. Bastar Pandum brings indigenous art, traditional crafts, folk performances and younger artists into the public eye. The 2026 edition brought together around 55,000 tribal participants across 12 cultural categories. Bastar Olympics has similarly encouraged participation, community pride and enthusiasm among young people. Such events help strengthen cultural identity while creating opportunities for wider recognition.

Tourism offers significant opportunities to promote Bastar's cultural heritage while creating sustainable livelihoods for local communities. We are working to develop the Bastar Tourism Circuit and promote homestays that enable local families to benefit from the growing interest in the region. The selection of Dhurmaras village in the Kanger Valley region for the United Nations World Tourism Organization's Best Tourism Villages Upgrade Programme reflects Bastar's potential for responsible, community-based tourism. By strengthening tourism infrastructure and training local youth in tourism management, we aim to create new employment opportunities while preserving the region's rich cultural traditions and natural environment. However, Bastar must never be seen merely as a tourist destination or a collection of cultural attractions. It is a living society with its own knowledge, history and aspirations. Tourism and cultural exchange must respect local customs, protect the natural environment and give communities a meaningful role in shaping how their heritage is shared. Our commitment is to create opportunities without compromising the values that make Bastar distinctive. The preservation of folk songs, oral histories, indigenous languages, traditional crafts and customary knowledge is a responsibility we share. These traditions enrich not only Chhattisgarh but the cultural fabric of India. They deserve recognition, systematic documentation and the support needed to flourish in future generations. The Hon'ble President's visit offers an opportunity to reflect on Bastar's enduring cultural legacy and the responsibility we share in shaping its future. Today, Bastar is moving towards a new era of development while preserving its rich cultural heritage and traditions. With continued progress in peace, good governance, connectivity, education, healthcare and employment opportunities, the vision of Bastar's holistic development is gradually becoming a reality. Our endeavour is to ensure that every citizen participates in this journey of progress and that Bastar advances towards greater prosperity and new opportunities while preserving its distinctive cultural identity.

The writer is the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

The Indian Navy's race to turn ideas into maritime strength



SAYAN CHATTERJEE

The future of naval power will not be decided by the number of warships alone. It will depend on how quickly a navy can develop new technologies, integrate them into existing platforms, protect its networks and sustain its capabilities through prolonged operations. As competition in the Indo-Pacific intensifies and warfare changes character, technological self-reliance has become a strategic necessity, not an industrial aspiration. That is the larger significance of Swavlamban 2026, the Indian Navy's fifth Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar, scheduled for 26-27 October at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. It is more than a showcase for indigenous products. It is an effort to answer a central question for India's defence establishment: how to turn domestic technological talent into reliable military capability at the pace modern warfare demands.

At the curtain-raiser on 19 October, Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, reaffirmed the Navy's aim. "Our collective objective remains consistent," he said, "that is to bring India's technological talent closer to the operational needs of the Navy and translating indigenous innovation into practical capability at sea." The distinction matters. A technology may impress in a laboratory or a demonstration, but its value emerges only when it performs reliably under operational conditions.Since 2022, Swavlamban has grown from around 800 participants to nearly 3,000 last year, with more than 100 stalls expected this time. The growth reflects a widening network of start-ups, MSMEs, research institutions, investors and established defence companies engaging with military requirements.



The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) figures show the scale. More than 4,000 proposals have come from Indian innovators, involving around 150 MSMEs and start-ups. Projects worth over `3,500 crore have received Acceptance of Necessity, and contracts exceeding `1,900 crore have been concluded. The harder question follows: can India turn these ideas and contracts into equipment that reaches operational units, performs consistently and stays supportable over its service life? For a navy operating across vast distances on prolonged deployments, reliability is non-negotiable. A component failure at sea can have consequences far beyond a delayed delivery on land. Indigenous capability must therefore cover design, manufacturing, testing, maintenance, repair and upgrades.

"The strength of self-reliance rests on our collective ability to design, manufacture, sustain and continuously improve critical technologies within the country," Kochhar said. That is a more demanding definition of Aatmanirbharta than replacing an imported product with a domestic one.The technologies on the agenda reflect the changing character of naval warfare.

The exhibition will feature maritime surveillance, counter-unmanned aerial systems, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, nuclear, biological and chemical defence, and safety and efficiency systems. The Navy is also pursuing tougher challenges, including quantum positioning systems, high-power microwave directed-energy systems, extra-large autonomous underwater vehicles and indigenous ramjet engines for fixed-wing aerial platforms.These technologies sit at different stages of maturity, but they point to a common need: forces that detect threats earlier, defend against unmanned systems and keep functioning when communications or satellite navigation are disrupted. Their value will depend on rigorous trials, integration and performance in demanding environments.

The strategic stakes are wider. The Indian Ocean is central to India's trade, energy security and regional relationships, and a credible presence there demands the ability to upgrade platforms, protect their digital architecture and reduce supply-chain vulnerabilities. Partnerships abroad will matter, but excessive dependence on external suppliers for essential technologies becomes a serious weakness in a crisis. Domestic capability delivers flexibility only when backed by quality, production capacity and dependable delivery.

Kochhar has outlined four principles for technology absorption: scale, sophistication, speed and spiral development. Scale means expanding the ecosystem's capacity to deliver; sophistication, tackling more complex operational problems; speed, faster pathways from prototype to deployment; and spiral development, continuous improvement through user feedback.Speed and spiral development may prove decisive. Procurement cannot abandon testing or safety standards in the name of urgency, but long gaps between trials, approvals and production can leave promising technology behind the threat it was meant to counter.

Nor is a system finished once it enters service; improvement must continue through its operational life.The seminar will also address the barriers between innovation and capability: funding, cybersecurity risks, supply-chain vulnerabilities and scaling up production. Investors will discuss how promising enterprises can commercialise technologies, and the Navy and other security agencies will assess solutions directly with developers.

Swavlamban 2026 will also see the release of the Swavlamban 5.0 Document, the Compendium on Technology Imperatives and the Naval Unified Systems, Ethernet and Tactical Utilisation (NAUSETU) Interface Standards. The standards matter because connected platforms must integrate equipment from different developers; interoperability cannot be an afterthought.

Earlier editions offer a foundation. Swavlamban 2025 saw an agreement among the Navy, IIT Madras and Apollo Micro Systems to combine academic research, naval expertise and industrial capability for indigenous armament systems, alongside SARATHI, a C-DAC Chennai tool for armament inspection and quality assurance.Yet the real test will not be proposals received, technologies displayed or discussions held. It will be the number of dependable systems that emerge, the time taken to induct them and the ability of Indian industry to build, maintain and upgrade them at scale.

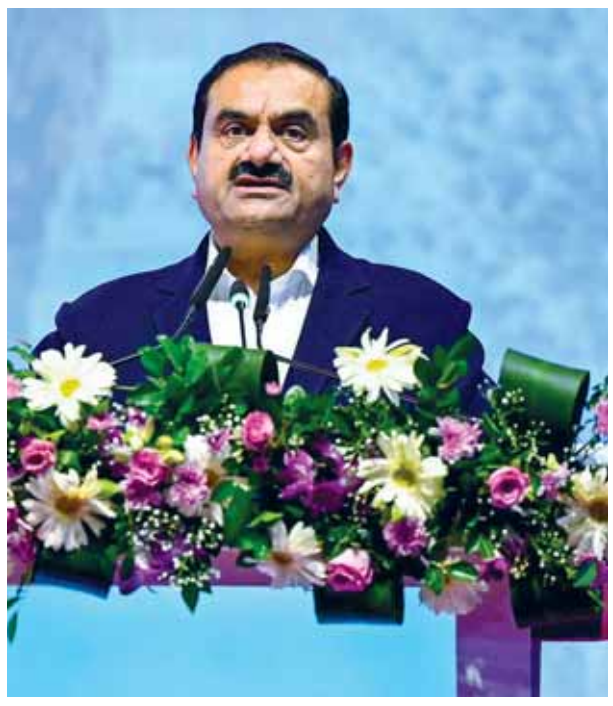
An Aatmanirbhar Navy will be built not through isolation from global technology but through the capacity to absorb knowledge, develop critical systems at home and stay in control of their future evolution. Swavlamban 2026 is a chance to advance that ambition, and its success will be measured by whether Indian ingenuity moves beyond the exhibition floor and becomes lasting maritime strength.

The writer is an educationist and senior columnist

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ATGL net profit rises 3%

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi



Adani Total Gas Ltd (ATGL) reported a 3 per cent year-on-year rise in standalone net profit to `167 crore for the September quarter of FY27 as higher compressed natural gas and piped natural gas sales helped offset a spike in cost of natural gas.

Revenue from operations jumped 34 per cent to `2,102 crore as the company sold 17 per cent more CNG and 3 per cent more piped cooking gas (PNG), according to a company statement.

"Cost of natural gas increased by 43 per cent in Q2FY27, driven by sustained volume growth, elevated Brent-linked prices, withdrawal of pooled-gas support and the prolonged West Asia crisis," it said. Natural gas is the raw material for CNG and PNG.

Natural gas costs rose 43 per cent in the September quarter. Average allocation of domestic administered price mechanism (APM) gas for the CNG segment stood at around 25 per cent, with the shortfall met through high-pressure, high-temperature (HPHT) gas, new well gas, contracts and market purchases. The company said its diversified sourcing portfolio and calibrated pricing helped manage input costs and maintain supply reliability. Profit before tax rose 8 per cent to `235 crore, while earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased 12 per cent to `340 crore, the company said.

For the first half of FY27, net profit fell 7 per cent year-on-year to `300 crore, while revenue grew 31 per cent to `3,999 crore. EBITDA rose 3 per cent to `621 crore, even as profit before tax declined 5 per cent to `414 crore. Sales volumes increased 12 per cent year-on-year to 315 million standard cubic metres (MMSCM) in the September quarter and 13 per cent to 618 MMSCM in the first half. Compressed natural gas (CNG) volumes grew 17 per cent in both periods, reaching 223 MMSCM in the quarter and 441 MMSCM in H1.

Piped natural gas (PNG) volumes rose 3 per cent to 92 MMSCM in the quarter and 4 per cent to 177 MMSCM in the first half. The company attributed the performance to sustained CNG demand, deeper PNG penetration and network expansion, despite higher input costs and a challenging operating environment.

"ATGL delivered a strong performance in Q2FY27, with volumes growing 12 per cent and revenue rising 34 per cent year-on-year, supported by sustained CNG demand, deeper PNG penetration and disciplined network expansion," CEO Sanjay Pandita said. "This momentum enabled ATGL to achieve strong double-digit EBITDA growth up by 12 per cent YoY," he added.

Pandita said elevated Brent crude and spot gas prices, currency depreciation and reduced domestic gas allocation added to operating pressures amid the continuing West Asia crisis.

ATGL added 16 CNG stations during the quarter, taking the total to 723 as of September 30. Its steel pipeline network expanded by 318 inch-km to 16,305 inch-km, while domestic PNG connections increased by 39,574 to about 11.81 lakh households. Industrial and commercial PNG connections reached 10,864.

Including its 50:50 joint venture Indian Oil-Adani Gas Pvt Ltd (IOAGPL), the company's combined CNG and PNG volumes rose 18 per cent year-on-year to 529 MMSCM. Its pan-India network comprised 1,185 CNG stations and more than 14.31 lakh domestic PNG connections. Beyond gas distribution, its e-mobility subsidiary had installed 5,513 electric vehicle charging points across 26 states and union territories and 225 cities, with installed capacity of about 63 MW. Of these, 4,809 charging points were operational.

Its biomass business sold 460 tonnes of compressed biogas in H1FY27 and more than 6,865 tonnes of organic manure.

AITUC opposes IDBI Bank stake sale to Fairfax

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE n New Delhi



The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) has strongly opposed the Union Cabinet's approval to sell a majority stake in public-owned IDBI Bank to Canada-based Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd for `52,748 crore.

In a statement issued on Thursday, AITUC General Secretary Amarjeet Kaur termed the decision an "economic folly" and a "betrayal of public interest," accusing the Government of monetizing state assets to serve corporate interests at the expense of national priorities. Expressing severe concern over the unilateral nature of the decision, Kaur highlighted that the transaction was cleared without prior public consultation or parliamentary scrutiny.

"This is undemocratic and a matter of serious public concern," Kaur stated. "The policy raises fundamental questions about public ownership, the obligation of a democratically elected Government toward taxpayers' money, and the future of India's banking system. It reflects an obsequiousness to domestic and international corporate interests."

AITUC pointed out that IDBI Bank was turned around using public funds and support from the state-owned Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) after suffering severe losses due to non-performing assets (NPAs). Having shoulder-to-shoulder carried the burden of recovery, the bank bounced back to post a record net profit of ?9,513 crore in FY26. Kaur argued that transferring over 60 per cent shareholding and management control to a foreign entity right when the bank's future earning potential is robust runs entirely counter to the nation's long-term interests. She further called on the Government to disclose all records regarding loan write-offs, provisioning, capital infusions, and asset valuations.

Rejecting the argument that the move attracts productive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), AITUC asserted that FDI should build new manufacturing and technological capacity rather than merely transfer ownership of existing national assets.

The union raised alarm over worker protection, employment security, trade union rights, branch operations, and affordable credit for agriculture and small businesses under foreign private management.

Demanding that the Government halt the transaction immediately, Kaur urged the administration to place the full proposal before Parliament for a transparent assessment, emphasizing that banking must serve the public and the national economy rather than private capital.

Ujjivan Bank rises 200% to record `365 crore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi



Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd reported its financial results for Q2 Financial year 27, registering its highest-ever quarterly profit after tax (PAT) of `365 crore, up 199.9 per cent year-on-year (YoY) and 15.3 per cent quarter-on-quarter (QoQ).

The Bank's deposits crossed `50,000 crore, reaching `50,643 crore, up 29.2 per ent YoY, while its gross loan book grew 32.1% to `45,699 crore. Quarterly disbursements touched a record `10,495 crore, increasing 32.3 per cent YoY. The secured loan book expanded 47% YoY to `23,803 crore, accounting for 52.1 per cent of the portfolio. Affordable housing loans grew 31.4 per cent to `10,056 crore.

Net interest income (NII) reached a record `1,244 crore, up 35 per cent YoY, with net interest margin (NIM) at 8.4per cent. Asset quality improved, with gross and net non-performing assets (GNPA/NNPA) at 2.10per cent/0.31per cent, compared with 2.45 per cent/0.67 per cent a year earlier.

The Board approved a `409 crore preferential capital infusion, subject to shareholder approval, from IFC, Bajaj Life Insurance, HDFC Life Insurance and Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance.

The Bank also received the first `500 crore tranche through direct assignment in October, strengthening its funding mix.

REI expo, battery show open at Greater Noida

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi



Informa Markets in India on Thursday inaugurated the 19th edition of the Renewable Energy India (REI) Expo, co-located with the 4th edition of The Battery Show India (TBSI) and the 2nd edition of the Energy Storage Summit India at the India Expo Mart, Greater Noida.

"The sheer international scale of this edition, hosting over 1,080 exhibitors, 1,400 global brands, and delegations from more than 10 countries reflects the incredible global interest in India's clean energy expansion. With India's renewable energy market compounding at a 15 percent CAGR toward 486 GW by 2030, and our battery storage sector expanding at an extraordinary 33 percent CAGR to cross $8.5 billion by 2031, we have reached an execution phase where generation and grid storage must scale in tandem," Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director, Informa Markets in India, said.

He added, "By co-locating REI Expo and The Battery Show India, we create a powerful confluence where solar developers, cell manufacturers, international investors, and policymakers directly align. This integration is vital for building domestic manufacturing resilience, unlocking critical capital, and securing India's net-zero transition,"

Additional Chief Secretary, Power and Renewable Energy Department of Madhya Pradesh Government, said, "The Renewable Energy India Expo continues to witness growing participation and enthusiasm, reflecting the increasing potential and economic viability of the clean energy sector. These trends create significant opportunities to scale up adoption over the next two to five years."

First Minister of Scotland John Swinney said, "Scotland and India share a common ambition: to build prosperous, modern economies powered by clean energy, innovation and international partnerships. If we work together, we can help ensure that more of the economic benefits of the energy transition are felt in our communities, support our businesses and create lasting opportunities for people in both of our countries.

NBCC gets new Director projects: Ashutosh Gautam assumes charge

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi



Ashutosh Gautam

Ashutosh Gautam has officially assumed charge as Director (Projects) on the Board of NBCC (India) Limited, a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

With a career spanning over 34 years, Gautam brings extensive leadership experience across diverse sectors, including highways, ports, inland water transport, logistics, and urban infrastructure. Throughout his career, he has overseen and managed multi-thousand-crore infrastructure projects across India.

An alumnus of elite institutions, Gautam holds a Bachelor of Technology (B Tech) in Civil Engineering and a Master of Technology (M Tech) in Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering from IIT Delhi. He completed the Advanced Management Programme in Infrastructure Development and Financing at ISB, Hyderabad, and holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Management (Industrial Relations & Personnel Management) as well as a Bachelor of Laws. Prior to joining NBCC, Gautam served in several pivotal capacities across key Government bodies and public undertakings. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI / MoPSW): From February 2021 to May 2026, he served on deputation as Member (Technical) cum Deputy Project Director for the flagship Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP). He also held additional charges as Member (Traffic & Logistics) and Member (Finance) for approximately one year. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI / MoRTH): Served as State Head, Chief General Manager, and Regional Officer for West Bengal (2014–2017) and Gujarat (2017–2021). Earlier in his tenure with NHAI, he spent 12 years as Project Director for World Bank-funded highway projects (Golden Quadrilateral and North-South East-West Corridor) in Uttar Pradesh, acting as the state's Nodal Officer. He also served as General Manager (Commercial Operations & Logistics).

He previously served as Managing Director of Ahmedabad Vadodara Expressway Company Ltd. and held Directorships on the Boards of Varanasi Multi-Modal Terminal (MMLP) Ltd and IWCOL. Beyond project execution, Gautam has contributed significantly to policy and legal frameworks in transport and infrastructure. He served as Member Secretary in drafting the Inland Vessels Act & Rules under MoPSW and represented IWAI/MoPSW in the Sectoral Group of Secretaries (SGOS-2) for the formulation of Vision 2047.

He is also an honorary visiting faculty at prominent institutions including various IITs, IIMs, LBSNAA, IAHE, and NITs, specializing in large highway contract administration and FIDIC contracts.

Zenith overseas plans expansion amid trade uncertainty

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Investment and trading company Zenith Global Limited has outlined plans to enter selected overseas markets and develop international partnerships, against a backdrop of slower global growth and trade uncertainty.

The company, chaired by Hari Shankar Tibrewal, plans to explore cross-border investment and trading opportunities, with risk management and regulatory requirements guiding its approach."Our expansion strategy is focused on disciplined growth, intelligent capital deployment, and building long-term value across geographies," Tibrewal said in the company's announcement.

HPCL quarter profit falls 6% on fuel losses

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) on Thursday reported a 6 per cent fall in September quarter net profit as losses on sale of fuels like petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG wiped away bumper gains from refining margins.

Consolidated net profit of `3,625.22 crore in July-September — the second quarter of current 2026-27 fiscal year — compared with `3,859.30 crore earning a year back, according to a stock exchange filing by the company.

The company earned a record $32.15 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel in the quarter as compared to a gross refining margin of $8.80 a barrel in the same period a year back.

However, the bumper refining margins were wiped away by losses the firm incurred on selling petrol, diesel and cooking gas LPG as retail rates have remained unchanged despite a spurt in benchmark international prices.

For six months ended September 30, HPCL booked `8,639.45 crore loss as compared to of `7,970.23 crore profit in the corresponding period the previous year.

Revenue from operations rose 26.1 per cent year-on-year to `1.39 lakh crore in the second quarter of FY27, from `1.10 lakh crore a year earlier.

136 ITBP personnel honoured at Himveer Samman Samaroh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
n Alwar



The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) organised a Himveer Samman Samaroh at the Central Training College (CTC). Shatrujeet Kapur, Director General, ITBP, honoured 136 personnel for their courage, dedication and exemplary service. Of these, 10 personnel were awarded the DG's Silver Disc, while 126 received the DG's Commendation Roll, including 12 personnel from the Engineering and Pioneer branches.

Interacting with the Himveers, the Director General commended their courage, professionalism and unwavering commitment to duty. He said that ITBP personnel continue to serve the nation with dedication under some of the most challenging conditions, from guarding the remote Himalayan borders to performing internal security and disaster response duties. He emphasized that the morale, training, health and welfare of personnel constitute the real strength of the Force. Highlighting key welfare initiatives, the DG stated that grievances of over 2,500 personnel have been promptly resolved during the year, while construction of 299 residential quarters has been completed. Efforts are also underway to provide quality clothing, modern equipment and improved facilities to personnel deployed at forward border posts.

He stressed the importance of advanced training, technological proficiency and continuous capacity building to meet emerging security challenges.The Director General reiterated that the welfare of Himveers and their families remains a major organizational priority. Healthcare facilities are being provided to personnel and their dependents under the Ayushman CAPF Scheme.

The Himveer Wives Welfare Association (HWWA) is also extending support to children with disabilities through wheelchairs, medical and educational equipment, and financial assistance. Children of ITBP personnel demonstrating excellence in sports are also being encouraged and supported.

Describing the awardees as an inspiration to the entire Force, the Director General said that ITBP remains committed to evolving into a modern, self-reliant and technology-enabled Force, fully prepared to meet future challenges.

He expressed confidence that the Himveers would continue to uphold the Force's motto of "Shaurya, Dridhata, Karm Nishtha" (Valour, Determination and Devotion to Duty) and carry forward its proud legacy of service to the nation.

Sanjay Gunjyal, Additional Director General (Headquarters), along with senior officers, subordinate officers and ITBP personnel, attended the ceremony.

Pirelli partners with India's BKT to make 8 lakh tyres



PIONNER NEWS SERVICE
n New Delhi

Italian tyre maker Pirelli and India's Balkrishna Industries Ltd (BKT) have formed a 50:50 strategic joint venture to tap the growing Indian passenger car tyre market, with plans to set up a local plant to manufacture up to 8 lakh Pirelli-branded tyres by 2030.

"India is taking an ever more central role in the evolution of the global automotive industry, thanks to the market's growth, development of mobility and progressive strengthening of the country's industrial and technological competencies," Pirelli Executive Chairman Marco Tronchetti Provera said.

BKT Chairman and Managing Director Arvind Poddar said the partnership brings together complementary strengths to capture opportunities in a growing market while creating value for both companies. Founded in 1872, Pirelli is among the world's largest tyre manufacturers, focusing on consumer tyres for cars, motorcycles and bicycles.

E-Tender Notice
GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY, AMRITSAR
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE
Short Term E-Tenders are invited for the purchase of Archery Equipment, Computerised Embroidery Machine Multicolor Single Head for T-shirts, Computerised Embroidery Machine Multicolor Single Head for Ladies' suits, UV-vis-Spectrophotometer, Single Photon Detection Module, Lock-in-Amplifier, Ultrasonic Processor, Optical Table, Fourier Optics Educational Kit, PC Workstations and Printing of Certificate be submitted online latest by **6/11/2026 upto 4:00 p.m.** Detailed information can be obtained from website **www.eproc.punjab.gov.in.** Any corrigendum/Addendum related to these e-tender will be uploaded, if required, on Punjab Govt. website: **eproc.punjab.gov.in**
A.R. (General)
2426/12/2026-27/16391 Dated CHD :- 22/10/2026

RAJIV GANDHI PROUDYOGIKI VISHWAVIDYALAYA
(University of Technology of Madhya Pradesh)
Airport Road, Bhopal-462033, Ph. : 0755-2678855, 2678857, Fax : 2742006
RGPV/Exam/Ph.D./Ent.Test/2026-27/2298 Date : 22.10.2026
PH.D. ADMISSION NOTICE : 2026 – 27
Applications are invited through the RGPV web portal **(www.rgpv.ac.in)** from eligible candidates seeking admission to the **Ph.D. programme in Engineering & Technology, Pharmacy, Applied Sciences, and Architecture** for the academic session 2026–27.
The online application process will commence from **24st October 2026,** and the last date for submission of the online application form is **15 November 2026.**
Interested candidates are advised to carefully refer to **RGPV Ordinance No. 11 (effective from 24 August 2026)**, for details regarding eligibility criteria, admission procedures, and other requirements.
Doctoral fellowships are available under various schemes. Subject to the availability of vacancies and applicable university rules, selected candidates may also be permitted to register for the Ph.D. programme without a fellowship.
For detailed information regarding fellowship schemes, eligibility criteria, available vacancies, and other admission-related requirements, candidates are advised to visit the official RGPV web portal at **www.rgpv.ac.in.**
Candidates are advised to regularly visit the university website for updates and further instructions regarding the admission process.
M.P. Madhyam/128726/2026 REGISTRAR

The Pioneer
BHOPAL | FRIDAY | OCTOBER 23, 2026

Samson sets up India's record chase in first T20I against New Zealand

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA n Christchurch



Sanju Samson maintained his remarkable consistency this calendar year with a sublime 67 off 33 balls as India pulled off their highest chase in T20 cricket, overcoming a mid-innings stumble for a four-wicket win in the series-opener against New Zealand here on Thursday.

Put in to bat, Finn Allen (45 off 24) and Glenn Phillips (82 not out off 40) fired New Zealand to a steep 225/8, highlighting India's struggles with the ball. However, Samson ensured a flying start for the visitors before a middle overs collapse made the game interesting. Eventually, cameos from captain Shreyas Iyer (42) and Naman Dhir (42 not out off 15) helped India get over the line in a tense chase with two balls to spare.

The second T20 of the five-match series will also be played at the Hagley Oval on Saturday. The game looked as good as done with India racing to 94 for one in the powerplay.

However, the visiting team faltered against the home spin duo of Mitchell Santner and Michael Bracewell in the middle overs, losing three wickets for seven runs to spice up the contest. From 93 for no loss, India slipped to 122 for four in the 11th over.

The long boundaries here also came into play as the likes of Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma perished trying to clear the ropes.

The middle order failed to capitalise on the electric start provided by Samson, who collected eight boundaries and four sixes in his brilliant effort. It was Samson's eighth fifty-plus sore in 26 innings this year, highlighting his consistent run in a high risk format. He mainly targeted the straight boundary and his standout hit was the flick off Lockie Ferguson that went sailing over long-on.

Abhishek Sharma (29 off 12) was happy to play second fiddle in the 93-run opening stand. He pulled Adam Milne for consecutive sixes in the fourth over to get into the act.

Following the middle overs slip, Shreyas took the game deep and also had luck going his way. Finn Allen dropped a tough catch in the 15th over, leaving India to get 55 runs off the last 30 balls with five wickets to spare. Batting alongside the skipper, Naman came up with timely strikes to release pressure. Earlier, the Indian attack once again looked toothless against a rampaging Allen and Phillips. It was the joint-highest total against India and also New Zealand's highest on home soil. There was early swing on offer but the New Zealand openers negated that threat effectively before slaying the opposition. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, bowling for the first time in international cricket in nearly four years, bowled a decent first over before Tim Seifert (24 off 17) smashed him for a couple of fours and a massive six over long-on in his following over that went for 17 runs.

Allen then tore into Arshdeep, giving the hosts much-needed momentum in the powerplay. The openers' ability to pick boundaries on the off-side stood out.

Mayank Yadav was introduced inside the powerplay and the bowler with the extra pace managed to get a breakthrough for India by having Seifert caught behind on the last ball of the fifth over.

Tasked with bowling the final over of the powerplay, left-arm spinner Axar Patel leaked two sixes, one by Allen over long-off and the other by Daryl Mitchell who stepped out to easily clear the long-on boundary. The Blackcaps raced to 65 for one in the first six overs. While Arshdeep got the wicket of Mitchell in his second spell, Bhuvneshwar could not make much of an impact. Bhuvneshwar's third over went for 14 runs before he was given the tough task of bowling the 20th over that also yielded 14 runs.

Indian bowling lacking experience, Bhuvi brings a lot of it, says Iyer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA n Christchurch



India T20 captain Shreyas Iyer on Wednesday said the team's bowling attack had been lacking experience in recent past and veteran pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar's return would help address this issue.

The 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar has returned to the Indian T20I set-up after four years after being named in squad for the five-match T20I series against New Zealand, beginning here on Thursday.

"Bhuvi brings a lot of experience to the team. And we were lacking that, especially after the IPL. We had a lot of new bowlers," Iyer said at the pre-match press conference. "But in T20, if you see his career graph, he has won the IPL in each of the last two years. So, he has a very good idea of how to dominate this format."

In the absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, India's T20I bowling attack featuring fast bowlers Mayank Yadav, Prince Yadav, and Gurnoor Brar has faced scrutiny after repeatedly conceding big totals on flat tracks. Bhuvneshwar, known for his ability to generate swing and seam movement, has collected 90 scalps across 88 T20Is.

In the IPL, he played a key role in the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's back-to-back titles, taking 17 wickets in the 2025 season and 28 in 2026.

The Pioneer Classified

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Neetu Rajak D/o Mahendra Ahirwar W/o Late Golu Rajak R/o Mata Mad Mohlla, Ward No 14, Anantpur, Ashok Nagar, Madhya Pradesh-473331, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mira.

I, hitherto known as Vipin S/o Rajesh Singh R/o Khoki Pura, Nunhad, Nanhad, Bhind, Mehgaon, Madhya Pradesh-477660 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Bipan.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions from and on behalf of my client, Mr. D VIJAYAKUMAR, son of Mr. DHANAPAL, aged about 59 years, residing at Type-4, Quarter No. 03, Doorsanchar Colony, Khatiwala Tank, Indore, Madhya Pradesh-452014, I hereby notify the general public that the names "D VIJAYAKUMAR", "VIJAYAKUMAR D" and "VIJAYAKUMAR", appearing in various records and documents, refer to one and the same person, namely my client. The aforesaid variations pertain to the same individual and do not denote any change in identity. This notice is published for the information of all concerned and for the purpose of establishing identity and facilitating verification and reconciliation of records before the competent authorities, wherever applicable.

Advocate Vinod Dangi
Kanha Associate, 917, Tower Chouraha
Indore, Mob. 9827218181, 9424097555

NAME CHANGE

I, Pratibha Pandey wife of Army No.. 15420184L Rank Hav. Radhe Shyam presently residing at Village –234, Inderpur, Gorakhpur Campierganj Uttar Pradesh-273158, Unit Add. 436 FD, HOSP Morar Cant Dist – Gwalior State-M.P. PIN – 474006 do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as follows. That, I have change of My Name from Pratibha Pandey to Pratibha due to wrongly entered in my husband's service documents. That, I am producing this Affidavit for the purpose of evidence for my wife Name. That, both Names Pratibha Pandey and Pratibha pertain to one and the same person. That, I shall at all times hereafter in all recods, deeds and writing and in all proceeding dealing with transaction, private as well as under all occasions what so ever be known as only Pratibha. (Aadhar No. 9927 4626 7787). That what is stated above is true and correct to best of my knowledge, information and belief. Nothing material has been concealed there from.

I, the deponent above named, do hereby solemnly declare and verify that the contents of the above affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing has been concealed or suppressed there form.

Affidavit No. DV533805
Date : 23/10/2026

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

Zonal Office Chhindwara /अंचल कार्यालय छिंदवाड़ा वसूली विभाग/ Recovery Dept. ई-मेल/e-mail: recovery_chh@mahabank.co.in | HEAD OFFICE: LOKMANGAL 1501, SHIVAJINAGAR, PUNE - 5

[Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Bank of Maharashtra** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-section (2) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession symbolic of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said rules.

S No.	Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantor	Amount due to the bank as per notice	Details of Immovable Property of which possession taken by the bank	Demand Notice Date / Possession Date
1.	**Branch - Chhindwara** **Borrower - M/S AD'S RESTAURANT** **Partners: Mrs. Monika Ahirwal Borrower - Mrs. Rahul Khalote** **Guarantor - Smt. Geeta Khalote , Shri Ritik Khalote, Shri Rohit Khalote, Shri Rahul Khalote, Mrs. Monika Ahirwal W/o Chandrakant Ahirwal**	**Rs.23,85,195/- (Rupees Twenty-Three Lakhs Eighty-Five Thousand One Hundred Ninety-Five Only) plus unrecovered interest thereon @ 11.55% as on 18.10.2025**	All pieces and parcels of Residential Property Located at property Located at Khasra no 273/56, B NO 152, PH NO 13, Near Krishna ITI, Ward NO 38, Samarth Ramdas Ward, Mauza Chandangaon, RI Circle Chhindwara 2 Tehsil and Distt Chhindwara, 480001. **Owned by: Mrs. Geeta Khalote W/o Late Shri Anand Khalote, Mr. Rahul Khalote S/o Anand Khalote, Mr. Rohit Khalote S/o Anand Khalote, Mr. Ritik Khalote S/o Anand Khalote** **Bounded as: -** North – Road, South - Plot Sold to Ramesh Dahake, East - Road, West - Plot of Pawar	18/10/2025 21.10.2026 Physical

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank Of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned. The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as above. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: Chhindwara, Date: 23-10-2026
CHIEF MANAGER & AUTHORIZED OFFICER
BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE
Corporate Office: 167-169, 2nd floor, Near Little Mount Metro Station, Saipet, Chennai - 600015
Regional Office- Office No.153, 1st Floor, Orbit Mall, Vijay Nagar, Indore, MP - 452010
Email - auction@hindujahousingfinance.com

Appendix IV : Possession NOTICE (for Immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Hinduja Housing Finance Limited (HHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assests and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice (s) issured by Authorized Officer of the Company to the Borrower(S) / Guarantor(S) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice here by given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Possession** of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The Borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the change of HHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Name of Borrower/ Guarantor / Co-Borrower	Demand Notice Date Amount Due	Description of Secured asset (Immovable Property)	Date & Type of Possession
MP/BPL/VDSA/A000000535 **Mr. Arshad Baig** **Mrs. Sehanaz Bee** **Mr. Said Veg**	**12-01-2026** **Rs. 8,29,040/-**	Situated at village Safdarpurtal P.H No. 92/236 Khasara No. 92/236 Tehsil Sironj District Vidhisha **Admeasuring Area-** Total Area – 4147 Sqft **Bounded As -** East: House of Chain Singh Raghuwansi, West: 10ft Wide Road, North: Govt Road, South: House of Soyab Baig	**16/10/2026** **Physical**

Borrower(s)/Guarantor's are hereby put to caution that the property may be sold at any time herein after by way of public auction/tenders and as such this may also be treated as a notice under Rule 6, 8 & 9 of Security (interest) Enforcement Rules, 2002. Authorised Officer Mobile No.- **Vaibhav Shrivastav - 7987969803, Rajesh Chakotiya - 84355 71111, Dharamveer Yadav - 82694 20174, Pushpendra Soni- 70006 24484** **Date: 23.10.2026** **Authorised Officer - Hinduja Housing Finance Limited**

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

Jabalpur Zonal Office: Wright Town, Jabalpur- 482001, Tele: 0761- 2480065 E-mail: dzmjabalpur@mahabank.co.in | HEAD OFFICE: LOKMANGAL 1501, SHIVAJINAGAR, PUNE - 5

[Rule-8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the **Bank of Maharashtra** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-section (2) of Section 13 read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notice.
The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession symbolic of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said rules.

S No.	Name & Address of Borrower & Guarantor	Amount due to the bank as per notice	Details of Immovable Property of which possession taken by the bank	Demand Notice Date / Possession Date
1.	**Branch - Jabalpur Main** **Borrowers - Shri Sai Agro Logistics through partners Mrs Shrashti Patel, Mrs Durgesh Patel, Mr Avishek Patel**	**Rs. 7230037.18 /- (Seventy two lakhs thirty thousand thirty seven rupees and eighteen paisa Only) plus interest thereon @ contractual rate w.e.f. 29/07/2026 and other Charges**	**Property 1: Registered Mortgage -** All those pieces & parcel of property with construction & fixture there being Khasra No 202, 203, 203(Old), 202/1 and 203/2(New) after mutation Khasra no 202/1B, N B 643 PH No 25/31, Mouza Laxmipur New Jagdamba Colony Maharaja Agrasen Ward Jabalpur MP Admeasuring 926 Sq mts Bounded as - North :- 20 ft wide road, South :- 20 ft wide road, East :- House of Mr Alvesh Patel, West :- House of Mr Bhatt **Owner of the property: Mr Avishek Patel, Mrs Durgesh Patel** **Cersai Asset Id: 200065401133** **Property 2: Registered Mortgage -** Registered Mortgage of Residential flat/apartment lying at Mouza Simariya Khasra no 57/2 NB NO 584 P C No 11 Halka Manakwara Ri Mandal Tehsil Panagar Dist Jabalpur MP ad measuring Area: 3252 sqm **Bounded as:** North: Property of Arti Patel, South: Road, East: Open Land of Mr Avishek Patel, West: Road NH 30 to Majholi **Owner of property: Mrs Shrashti Patel, Mr Avishek Patel and Mrs Durgesh Patel** **Cersai Asset Id: 200065401133**	**30.07.2026** **21/10/2026 Symbolic**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank Of Maharashtra for an amount hereinabove mentioned. The details of the properties mortgaged to the Bank and taken possession by the Bank are as above. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 23-10-2026
CHIEF MANAGER & AUTHORIZED OFFICER
BANK OF MAHARASHTRA

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SCAN HERE For detailed terms & conditions.

Appendix-IV-A [See provisio to rule 8(6) & 6(2)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 6 (2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to Bank of Baroda the Secured Creditor the **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 "basis for recovery of Amount mentioned below plus interest and other expenses due to Bank of Baroda the Secured Creditor from below mentioned Borrowers & Guarantors.

Name of the Branch / Borrower / Guarantors/ Mortgager	Description of Secured Assets (Movable/Immovable Properties)	Reserve Price / EMD / Bid Increase Amt.	Date and Time of E-Auction	Demand Notice Date / Possession Date / Outstanding Amount
Bank of Baroda, Chhatarpur Main Branch, Chhatarpur				
Borrowers: **Mrs. Neha Saudagar D/o Rahees Saudagar** Guarantor: **Mrs. Julekha Begam W/o Mohammad Rahees** Address of Both : Ward No-13, Matwana Mohalla Chhatarpur MP 471001 Guarantor: **Mohammad Israil Mansoori S/o Mohammad Ismail**	EM of property Situated at Kh No- 733/2, Area-0.015 Hectare ie 1600 Sq ft Mouja palotha P.H no 48 RI circle Chhatarpur in the name of Smt Julekha Begam W/o Mohammad Rahees, Boundaries: North: Plot of Smt. Jayed, South: Plot of Ayub, East: Plot of haji, West : Road **PHYSICAL POSSESSION**	₹ **6,53,000/-** ₹ **65,300/-** ₹ **10,000/-**	**12-11-2026 2:00 p.m. to 06:00 p.m.**	**12.07.2023** **04.10.2023** **as on 23.10.2024** ₹ **19,36,165.41** +interest & other charges

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda website: **https:// www.bankofbaroda.bank.in /e-auction & https://BAANKNET.com** Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on contact numbers as mentioned above in the table.
Please Note : For any error(s) the details available on bank's website : **http://BAANKNET.com** will be final.
Date: 22.10.2026, Place - Chhatarpur **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र Bank of Maharashtra

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

JABALPUR ZONAL OFFICE, WRIGHT TOWN, JABALPUR PH: 0761-2480065,67,68

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

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

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 25.11.2026**, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under-

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which Property are being sold	Description of properties	Type of Possession	Reserve Price / EMD Amount / Bid Increase Amount
Branch - Asset Recovery Branch **Borrowers - Mr. Jugal Kishore Gupta s/o Mr. Satyanarayan Gupta 2. Mrs. Arti Gupta w/o Mr. Jugal Kishore Gupta**	**Rs. 2449675/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Fourty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Five only) interest for a/c 60445045303 @ 8.35% p.a and for a/c: 60445057997 @ 9.45 % at monthly rest + penal interest and other charges / expenses till realization w.e.f. 11.07.2025**	Residential property situated at Mouza Maharajpur, Sett. No. 664, PC No. 60, Ward No. 75 Part of Khasra No. 256/2, plot area admeasuring 800 sq.ft. built up area 609 sq.ft., Revenue Circle Maharajpur, Near Inderlok City, Tehsil and District Jabalpur.	**Physical**	**Rs. 2720000/-** **Rs. 272000/-** **Rs. 10000/-**
Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur **M/s. Jai Shree Mahakal Enterprises** **Prop. Smt. Sweta Rathore**	**Rs. 14553152.36/- (Rupees One Crore Fourty Five Lakh Fifty Three Thousand One hundred Fifty Two and Thirty Six Paise only) plus unapplied interest + penal interest and other charges/expenses till realization w.e.f. 02.09.2025**	Open residential plot no.18,19,39 on part khasra no. 492/1, " Mahakal Dham Colony", Near HP Petrol Pump, Inside Shyamput Road, Village Bijori, Sehore, Patwari Halka no.20, Tehsil & Dist- Sehore area admeasuring area 5022 sq.ft	**Symbolic**	**Rs. 4972000/-** **Rs. 497200/-** **Rs. 10000/-**
		Open residential plot no.1 & 2 on part khasra no. 492/1, " Mahakal Dham Colony", Near HP Petrol Pump, Inside Shyamput Road, Village Bijori, Sehore, Patwari Halka no.20, Tehsil & Dist- Sehore area admeasuring area 4540 sq.ft	**Symbolic**	**Rs. 5312000/-** **Rs. 531200/-** **Rs. 10000/-**
		Industrial factory on Khasra no.177/70/1/2-356/177/70/1, village-Jamonia talab, Patwari Halka no. 07, Inside main Road, Tehsil & Dist: Sehore area admeasuring 10006.80 sq.ft	**Symbolic**	**Rs. 7314000/-** **Rs. 731400/-** **Rs. 10000/-**
Branch - Satna **Borrower : M/s R K Trading** **Through partners: Mrs Ranu Tripathi, Mrs Jyoti Tripathi** **Guarantors - Mrs Pushpa Tripathi**	**Rs.7618984/- (Rupees Seventy Six Lakh Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Four Only) plus applicable unapplied interest @ 10.45% p.a, at monthly rest + penal interest and other charges / expenses till realization w.e.f 06.12.2025**	All those pieces & parcel of property with construction & fixture there being & lying at Mauza and Tehsil :Nagod Dist. Satna. Survey No. 10/10/2, PHN 32, ward no.3 near Modern Kids Play School area Admeasuring 3300 sqft.	**Symbolic**	**Rs. 7722000/-** **Rs. 772200/-** **Rs. 10000/-**

Inspection of Properties by bidder: 20.11.2026 to 21.11.2026 between 11:00 am. and 4:00 pm
Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid application/KYC documents/EMD etc. 25.11.2026 up to 11.00 a.m.
Date & time of E-auction with auto extention for 10 minutes- 25.11.2026 between 12.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

The auction sale will be On-line E-Auction / Bidding through website **https://baanknet.com, email: support.baanknet@psballiance.com. Mob.- 8291220220** The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal using their mobile number and email id. Please take note that the registration and KYC approval etc take 2-3 working days. For detail terms and conditions of sale please refer to the link provided in **https://bankofmaharashtra.bank.in/asset-for-sales-search** and **https://baanknet.com** .Also prospective bidders may contact the authorized officials **Contact details: Shri Onkar Kumar (Zonal Manager) - 9823296164, Shri Nikhil S Patil (DZM) - 7387211200, Shri Bhushan Mohite (CM Recovery - Z.O.) - 9923257090, & Shri Hariom Trivedi (CM & Authorised Officer) - 9405719723**
Note - The sales are subject to the order/outcome of any case pending/filed if any before Court/Tribunal

Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors/Legal Heirs(LR's:)/Coparceners
The above shall be treated as Notice of 30 days u/r 9(1) of security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Date: 23/10/2026 **Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra**

SBFC SBFC Finance Limited

Registered Office: Unit No.-103, 1st Floor, C&B Square, Sangam Complex, CTS No.95A, 127, Andheri Kurla Road, Village Chakala, Andheri (E), Mumbai–400059 | Telephone: +912267875300 | Fax: +91 2267875334 | www.SBFC.com | Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270

Public Notice

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by **SBFC Finance Limited on 23.11.2026 at 10:30 am. at below Branch address.** The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers. The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

ASHTA Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, D. No. 1, Ground Floor, Saminary Road, Nearby Bijli Office, Ashta 466116, ASHTA,AP01005371,AP01005507,AP01005901

DEWAS Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, 2nd Floor, Ward No.15, Tilak Tower, 8 Tarani Road, Near Hotel Abhilasha, AB Road, Dewas, 455001, DEWAS, AP00273532, AP00478642, AP00618970, AP00999463, AP01003009, AP01004141, AP01004168

DHAMNOD Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, Survey No. 483/1, 1st Floor, In Front Of Bhandari Petrol Pump, AB Road, Dhamnod 454552 , DHAMNOD, AP00980862

DHAR Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, Mateshwari Complex, Front of Mahrana Pratap Statue, Naugaon Bujurg, Dhar 454001 , DHAR, AP00941452, AP01008667

HARDA Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, Plot No. C-33 & C-34, Ground Floor, Prakash Tower, Near Bank of Baroda, Nehru colony, Harda 461331 , HARDA, AP00868615, AP00870820, AP00872038, AP00996340, AP00998152, AP01000822, AP01004178, AP01004206, AP01004619, AP01005443

KHANDWA Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, 1st Floor, Above Samsung Shop, Opp. Bohra Masjid, Next to Nagar Nigam, Khandwa 450001, KHANDWA, AP00379595, AP00556056, AP00577506, AP00671761, AP00941271, AP00995186, AP00995952, AP00997051, AP00998856, AP00999657, AP01002337, AP01004086, AP01004138, AP01005056

KHARGONE Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, Jotumal & Brothers, Ravindra Nagar, Jawahar Marg, Khargone 451001, KHARGONE, AP00938961, AP00945673

MALGANJ ROAD Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, D. No. 198, 1st Floor, Jawahar Marg, Opp. Bank of Baroda, Malganj square, Indore 452007, MALGANJ ROAD, AP00997473, AP01003465, AP01005799

NARMADAPURAM Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, Ground Floor, Near Ward No. 16, Sadar Bazar, Behind Kotak Mahindra Bank, Narmadapuram 461001, NARMADAPURAM, AP01000786

NEEMUCH Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, Bungalow No.7, 1st Floor, Madhav Villa, L.I.C. Road, Near Teacher's Colony, Above IDBI Bank, Neemuch 458441, NEEMUCH, AP00718194, AP01005638

RATLAM Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, House No. 142, 1st Floor, Aiki situated, New Mohalla Road, Near Gujarati School, Ratlam 457001, RATLAM, AP00556141, AP00560222, AP00584813, AP00867628, AP00868750

SANAWAD Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, D. NO. 146, Ward NO. 2, Near Gurudwara, Sanawad, Khargone 451111, SANAWAD, AP01005572, AP01005919

TT NAGAR Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, Plot No. 36, 1st Floor, Above Union Bank of India, Bhadbhada Road, New Market, Ward No.32, TT Nagar, Bhopal 462003, TT NAGAR, AP00357436, AP00871196, AP00966668, AP01000577

UJJAIN Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, 1st Floor, 37 Betal Marg, Opp. Canara Bank, Freeganj, Ujjain, 456010, UJJAIN, AP00913258

VIJAY NAGAR - INDORE Branch Address: SBFC Finance Limited, D. No. 124, 1st Floor, Shagun Tower, Above Apna Sweets, Vijay Nagar, Indore 452001, VIJAY NAGAR - INDORE, AP00867413

For more details, please contact SBFC Finance Limited Contact Number(s): 18001028012 (SBFC Finance Limited reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)