

11 killed in Sikkim hydro power tunnel disaster, toll likely to rise



SUJAL PRADHAN

GANGTOK, JULY 21: Eleven people were killed after a tunnel under construction collapsed due to a landslide in Sikkim's Namchi district a day ago, police said on Tuesday. The number of victims could go up as search and rescue operations were underway, a Namchi district official said.

A total of 25 people, including project officials and workers, were trapped inside the ADIT-3 tunnel when it suddenly collapsed on Monday, he said. "Ten bodies have been recovered till 9.30 am on Tuesday. Seven of the deceased have been identified, while three unidentified bodies were sent to the District Hospital Singtam and STNM Hospital," the Namchi police said in a statement.

Of the seven identified deceased, four were from West Bengal's Jalpaiguri, one each from Assam, Punjab and Uttarakhand's Dehradun, and one was a resident

of Namchi, it aid. On Tuesday evening after rescue teams recovered another body from inside the collapsed tunnel. Officials said eight more bodies have also been located, with efforts underway to recover them as rescue and recovery operations continue under extremely challenging conditions.

The tragedy occurred around midday on Monday during excavation work inside the tunnel at Samardung in Jholungay, when a methane gas explosion was reported, trapping several workers deep inside the under-construction tunnel. The blast was followed by difficult conditions inside the tunnel, including low oxygen levels and unstable ground, making rescue operations extremely risky. District officials said around 27 workers were trapped inside the tunnel under construction after a landslide blocked its entrance and triggered a suspected gas leak in the

afternoon. Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang said the tunnel of NHPC Teesta Stage VI Hydroelectric Project at Samardung in Jholungay caved in due to a landslide.

The Chief Minister said the State government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the cause of the disaster. He also announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh for the next of kin of each deceased worker and Rs 50,000 for those injured in the incident.

Teams of the Namchi district administration, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, Sikkim Police, State Disaster Response Force, Fire and Emergency Services, and the National Disaster Response Force from Pakyong and Siliguri, along with other specialized agencies, were working tirelessly to recover the bodies of the remaining workers trapped inside the tunnel, Tamang said.

The rescue operation had been

complicated by the presence of gas inside the tunnel, with several personnel experiencing dizziness and losing consciousness while attempting to reach the trapped workers, they said.

The gas is believed to be naturally emanating from underground strata or rock formations disturbed by the landslide, they said. Rangpo Fire Services made the initial attempt to enter the tunnel but had to withdraw after oxygen levels dropped dangerously low, causing some rescue personnel to fall ill. Subsequent rescue efforts by the NDRF also faced difficulties due to poor air quality and unstable conditions inside the tunnel.

A specialized chemical analysis team has now reached the accident site to examine the circumstances surrounding the reported methane gas explosion. The findings of the investigation will support the SIT in determining the sequence of events that led to the disaster.

The Chief Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke with him and enquired about the rescue operations. "My heartfelt condolences go to the families of the workers, who have lost their lives. In this hour of grief, the thoughts and prayers of the entire state are with the bereaved families, and we stand firmly by them during this difficult time," Tamang said in a statement. (With inputs from PTI)



Forty six active cadres of the banned Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group) on Tuesday laid down arms before Manipur Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh at the Mantripukhri Garrison of the Assam Rifles in the Imphal East district. The GOC Spear Corps was present on the occasion. They laid down 28 weapons, including sophisticated ones like AK series and INSAS rifles, self-loading rifles, carbine machine guns and rocket propelled grenades. — EIOC

Raju Bista thanks Bengal Chief Minister over restoration of AAY ration cards in Darjeeling



EOI CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, JUL 21: Darjeeling MP Raju Bista on Tuesday expressed gratitude to West Bengal Chief Minister Suvenud Adhikari for the restoration of all Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration cards in Darjeeling hills, the Terai and the Dooars, saying the move would provide relief to thousands of economically weaker families in the region.

Bista said the decision followed concerns raised by various sections of society over the reported deactivation of AAY ration cards. He said daily wage earners, senior citizens, women's groups, students, Public Distribution System (PDS) dealers, BJP Darjeeling and its alliance partners, along with several social organizations, had highlighted the issue and sought immediate intervention.

The MP said that he had personally approached the Chief Minister and requested that the matter be addressed at the earliest. He said the Chief Minister responded promptly and issued the necessary directions, following which all AAY ration cards in the Darjeeling hills were restored and reactivated.

Bista said the decision would strengthen food security for vulnerable and

economically weaker families who depend on subsidized food grains under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. He described the restoration as an important step towards ensuring uninterrupted access to essential food supplies for eligible beneficiaries across the region.

The BJP MP also thanked the Chief Minister for what he described as a quick response to the concerns raised by residents. "I am deeply grateful that the Chief Minister responded swiftly to our appeal and issued the necessary directions to ensure that all AAY ration cards in the Darjeeling hills have been fully restored and activated," Bista said.

He said the development reflected the government's commitment to addressing public grievances and supporting the welfare of people in the hills. Expressing confidence that the region's needs would continue to receive attention, Bista urged all AAY beneficiaries to spread awareness about the restoration of the ration cards so that every eligible household is informed and can continue to avail the benefits under the scheme. The Antyodaya Anna Yojana is a flagship food security programme that provides highly subsidized food grains to the poorest households through the Public Distribution System.

Elephant injured in fight with another tusker

PRASHANT ACHARYA

SILIGURI, JUL 21: A full-grown, around 38 years old, tusker was seriously injured after a fierce fight with another



tusker over a female elephant in Bagdogra Forest. The staff and officials under the Kurseong Forest Division have launched an operation since Monday to treat the injured elephant. Forest personnel from Bagdogra forest range spotted the tusker limping near the Tree Land picnic spot during a routine patrol on Monday morning and immediately informed the Bagdogra Range Officer Sonam Bhutia. Officials from the Sukna Wildlife Division, along with veterinary experts from Bengal Safari and the Phansidewa veterinary unit, went to the spot. Veterinarians Dr Nik Doley of Bengal Safari and Dr Shubhankar Bhowmik carried out the treatment. However, just as preparations were underway, the tusker moved from the open area into the deeper part of the forest. Around 2:30 pm, the forest team tracked the animal, tranquillized it using a dart gun, and treated it until around 6 pm on Monday.

Trinamool youth leader held for assaulting businessman

EOI CORRESPONDENT

SILIGURI, JUL 21: Police have arrested a local Trinamool Congress youth leader on charges of physically assaulting a businessman and causing a disruption at Salugara Haat. The accused was taken into custody on Monday night by the Bhaktinagar Police following a formal complaint filed by Ranjit Parida, a businessman who recently secured the official tender from the Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) to operate the market.

According to police sources, the confrontation erupted on Monday when Parida visited Salugara Haat to oversee operations. The accused, accompanied by a group of associates, reportedly intercepted Parida and tried to stop him from collecting daily fees from the local vendors and traders. When Parida presented official SMC documents demonstrating that he held the legal rights to run the haat, the accused allegedly snatched the papers, tore them up, and violently assaulted him.

Following the altercation, Parida approached the Bhaktinagar Police Station and lodged a written complaint detailing the assault and interference. Acting swiftly on the report, police raided the area later that evening and arrested the accused who was produced before the Jalpaiguri Court on Tuesday.



Siliguri Serenity Foundation has celebrated the 10th anniversary of its rehabilitation centre by organizing a free medical camp. The foundation has also distributed food among hospital patients and school children, spreading a message of social responsibility. The rehabilitation centre has helped thousands of people overcome addiction and return to a healthy, normal life under the guidance of medical experts. — EIOC

First cargo train from Kolkata reaches Nepal's Biratnagar with imported goods

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KATHMANDU, JUL 21: A cargo train arrived in Nepal's Biratnagar directly from Kolkata Port on Monday for the first time, marking the launch of rail-based cargo movement from India to the eastern border city.

Carrying 40 containers of mustard imported from a third country, the train reached the Integrated Check Post at Budhanagar in Biratnagar city, officials said.

Under the bilateral trade and transit pact, India has granted Nepal access to its rail, road, and water networks for its international trade with

third-party nations.

It is the first time that a cargo train has reached Biratnagar directly from Kolkata since the rail cargo service was inaugurated three years ago, the officials said.

Until now, Birgunj was the only Nepal-India border point handling rail cargo for goods imported from third countries.

An electronic cargo tracking system has been installed in the container for safe transportation, they said.

The service began operational with the joint cooperation of the Nepali Consulate General in Kolkata, Kolkata Customs and Ports, and the Container

Corporation of India Limited.

With the extension of the rail cargo service to Biratnagar, industrialists and importers in eastern Nepal have welcomed the move, saying it would reduce transportation time and logistics costs.

The expansion of rail cargo service to Biratnagar has brought great relief to industrialists and importers in the eastern region, Biratnagar-based Morang Industry Association President Nandu Rathai said.

As rail cargo can now reach Biratnagar from Kolkata port within 24 hours, it will also decrease the transportation time, he said.

Nepal to mint new coins, removes controversial map from one-rupee coin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KATHMANDU, JUL 21: The Nepal government has approved minting newly designed coins, removing the country's controversial map that included Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani from the one-rupee coin.

Nepal claims that Lipulekh and Kalapani are its territories, whereas India maintains that the territories belong to it.

Nepal's then K P Oli-led government in May 2020 included the territories, including Kalapani and Lipulekh, in its

official map. Sources said the Council of Ministers on Thursday approved the minting of newly designed one-rupee and two-rupee coins by the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB). As per the cabinet's decision, Nepal's new political map will be removed from the one-rupee coin, they said.

The redesigned one-rupee coin will replace the controversial map of Nepal, which included Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani, with the image of the Lo Ghyakar Monastery, located in Marang village of Mustang, they said.

The monastery is considered one of the oldest monasteries in Nepal. However, the two-rupee coin will retain the map printed earlier, according to cabinet sources.

Commenting on the development, the Nepali Communist Party's senior leader Bhim Rawal on Sunday criticised the government's decision to remove the new political map from the one-rupee coin, calling it a serious move against Nepal's territorial integrity. Rawal demanded that both the government and the ruling

Rastriya Swatantra Party immediately clarify the matter.

"If the government led by Prime Minister Balen Shah has indeed decided to remove the map of Nepal, including Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani, from the one-rupee coin and replace it with the image of the Lo Ghyakar Monastery, it will constitute another serious anti-national decision and a blow to Nepal's territorial integrity," Rawal said.

The Nepal Rastra Bank had proposed the new designs to replace the old ones to reduce the

size and weight of coins, the bank's spokesperson Guru Prasad Paudel told PTI.

The new political map of Nepal cannot be accommodated in the rupee-one coin, which is smaller in size, he added. The other side of the two-rupee coin will have Janaki Temple in it, he said. The size of the new coins will be 3.2 grams from the earlier 4 grams for the rupee one and 3.8 grams from 5 grams for the rupee two. Similarly, it will be made of steel instead of mixed metal, and the colour will be steel white instead of yellow, he said.



ZERO-TOLERANCE ON DRUGS : A&N Police committed to eradicate the menace of drugs from the Islands: DGP



JOHN WILBERT

SRI VIJAYA PURAM, JULY 21/-/ The Andaman & Nicobar Police has adopted a 'zero-tolerance on drugs' policy and is committed to eradicate the menace of drugs from the Islands. The Police have been striving hard to make the Islands Territory completely drug-free by formulating effective strategies in this direction.

Along with stringent enforcement, the Police have also been persistently generating awareness among the general public to curb both drugs trafficking and drug abuse, said Mr. Ravindra Singh Yadav, Director General of Police, A&N Islands while interacting with a team of media persons at his chamber here today.

The DGP further informed that in order to

strengthen coastal policing and maritime security in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Police department has commenced a 21-day intensive training programme on 'Marine Policing' for Home Guard Volunteers of A&N Police at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Police Training Institute (NSCBPTI), Sri Vijaya Puram. Further, a Forensic Training Laboratory has been set-up

by the A&N Police wherein training will be provided to the Police Personnel.

As part of its key modernization plan, the A&N Police is upgrading c o m m u n i c a t i o n infrastructure to combat tech-driven crimes, enhance emergency response, and connect directly with communities. In this regard High Frequency communication sets are being acquired for

which the government has made available the required funds. Besides, four more Fast Interceptor Boats have been acquired which will add up to its existing fleet of marine speed boats. This will further speed-up the operation of the Police Marine Force, including coastal surveillance and disaster response and rescue. The Andaman & Nicobar Police remain committed to enhancing maritime security through technology-driven training initiatives, the DGP added.

The DGP appreciated the role media is playing in the Islands and underscored the need for more coordination of communication between the two. This is necessary in order to enhance the transparency of law enforcement activities, generate awareness among the common mass about various public safety messages and engage with the local community through media. Mr. Ravindra Singh Yadav, DGP of A & N Islands is a 1995-batch AGMUT cadre officer and has officially assumed charge of the Andaman & Nicobar Police in Sri Vijaya Puram in June 2026.

Retired bank staffer, wife found murdered in their house in Bihar's Muzaffarpur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

M U Z A F F A R P U R (BIHAR), JULY 21: A retired bank employee and his wife were found murdered in their house in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, police said on Tuesday. The deceased have been identified as Ashok Kunwar and Neelam Kunwar. The incident took place in Rambagh Chaudi locality under the jurisdiction of Mithanpura police station on Monday evening, a police officer said. Multiple stab wounds were found on the body of Ashok Kunwar, which was found on the first floor of the house. The body of his wife was found on the third floor. Police believe she was strangled.

Speaking to reporters, Ajay Kumar, Station House Officer (SHO) of

Mithanpura police station, said, "According to locals, the incident came to light after the couple's son, who lives in Bengaluru, noticed a malfunction in the house's CCTV system." "He called up a neighbour and asked him to check on his parents. When the neighbour reached the house, he found that the couple had been murdered, and informed the police," the officer said. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem and forensic experts have been engaged to assist the investigators, the SHO said. Preliminary investigation has revealed that the attackers entered the house wearing surgical gloves before carrying out the crime.

"Investigators are analysing the footage of CCTV cameras installed nearby and are trying to

identify the criminals. The reason behind the incident is not yet known. Police are analysing the deceased's call detail records," he said. "It is suspected that the criminals first attacked the retired bank employee with a knife, stabbing him to death. After that, the criminals targeted his wife. They covered her mouth with tape and then strangled her," the officer said.

Muzaffarpur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kantesh Kumar Mishra told reporters, "Prima facie, it appears that the retired bank employee was stabbed to death. The exact cause of the incident can only be known after the receipt of post-mortem reports. A special investigation team has been constituted to investigate the case from all angles."

Class 12 girl shot dead in Bihar's Samastipur district

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PATNA, JULY 21: A class 12 girl student was shot dead by an unidentified assailant near her house in Bihar's Samastipur district on Monday, police said. The incident took place at Tejiya Bishanpur village within Waini police station limits. The deceased has been identified as Suman Kumari, a resident of the village. "A girl was shot dead near her house in the morning while she was on the way to school on foot. Police rushed to the spot after receiving information and recovered four spent shells from the spot. Prima facie, three gunshot wounds are visible on the girl's body," Additional Superintendent of Police Sanjay Kumar Pandey told reporters. He said forensic science laboratory (FSL) and District Intelligence Unit (DIU) teams visited the spot and the body was sent to Samastipur Sadar Hospital for post-mortem.

Asked about the motive behind the killing, Pandey said, "We have received crucial inputs from the family members. However, the exact cause of the incident can be ascertained only after due investigation."

Rahul himself past his prime: JD(U) leader mocks Lok Sabha LoP over 'Modi anti-youth' remark

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PATNA, JULY 21: Senior JD(U) leader Shrawon Kumar on Tuesday mocked Rahul Gandhi for calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi "anti-youth", and reminded the former Congress president that he was himself past his prime. The JD(U) legislature party leader, who is also a minister in the BJP-led government in Bihar, also indirectly supported the police action against protesters in Delhi a day ago, saying, "Even if one is a big shot, one must face action upon breaking the law." Kumar, who was speaking to reporters outside the state assembly, was asked about a video statement that Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha, had issued shortly after police took recourse to lathi charge and bursting of tear gas shells to disperse Cockroach Janata Party supporters who were marching from the Jantar Mantar towards Parliament.

Fifty-six-year-old Gandhi had said, "A majority of the population in this country are young people. Prime Minister Modi is the most anti-youth prime minister India has ever had. The boys and girls who are walking the streets of Delhi are criminals." The JD(U) leader remarked, tongue in cheek, "Rahul Gandhi is himself not young anymore, though he pretends to be so. There is a question mark on his claims of being young. Nonetheless, we believe that Bihar and the country will progress by making our youth capable of holding their own in a fiercely competitive world." When Shrawon Kumar was asked about the police action, he said, "Be it students or big shots like members of the legislature or even ministers in the government, law shall take its course whenever someone breaks it."

Another NDA partner, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), headed by Union minister Chirag Paswan, had a slightly different take on the incident. The party's state president and MLA Raju Tiwari told reporters, "In my opinion, the use of force against young protesters should have been avoided. I cannot, however, give an opinion on the demands they were raising."

Bomb threat email targeting Bihar secretariat, CM's residence triggers security alert

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PATNA, JULY 21: A bomb threat email targeting the Bihar secretariat, the chief minister's residence and other key government establishments triggered a security alert in Patna on Tuesday, officials said. The email was sent in the morning to several official government email addresses, including those of the resident commissioner and state secretariat, officials said. SP (Patna - Central) Mamta Kalyani said a bomb threat email had been received targeting key government installations. "Police investigation is underway. Security has been heightened in and around the city, and efforts are on to identify the origin of the email," she said.

The sender claimed to be associated with a pro-Khalistan organisation and said the threat was intended as revenge for the killing of separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in June 2023, official sources said. The email also alleged that the then Indian High Commissioner to Canada was responsible for the killing and claimed that the Bihar government was sheltering him in Patna, they said.

Opposition legislators of Bihar stage protests against police action in Delhi's Jantar Mantar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PATNA, JULY 21: Opposition legislators of Bihar on Tuesday staged protests outside the Assembly and Legislative Council against the police action on agitators in Delhi's Jantar Mantar. The opposition legislators, wearing black armbands as a sign of protest, staged demonstrations outside both Houses of the Bihar legislature. "The students were marching peacefully in Delhi. The manner in which the brutal lathi-charge was carried out and tear gas shells were fired is a blot on democracy," RJD MLA Chandrashekar Yadav told reporters here. Yadav sought the resignation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. "This government, which is against democracy and the Constitution, must go. This corrupt government, which sells the country to a few industrialists, has no right to rule India," he added. CPI(ML) MLC Shashi Yadav also sought accountability from the Union government. "PM Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah must answer to the nation as to why such a brutal lathi-charge was carried out," she said. JD MLC Qari Sohaib alleged that many civil dress-clad people, who were not police personnel, used batons to beat the students at the protest site. "Many people suffered injuries. Apart from the police, many people associated with the BJP and the RSS used batons to beat up the protesting students," he alleged.

Jharkhand: Private bodyguard shoots fellow guard dead outside SP residence over 'khaini'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHATRA, JULY 21: A private bodyguard of a contractor allegedly shot dead his fellow guard outside the SP's residence in Jharkhand's Chatra district on Tuesday following an argument over 'khaini', police said. Balveer Singh, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh district, was arrested soon after the incident, they said. The contractor, Rocky Yadav, who is the son of Bihar's Belaganj MLA Manorama Devi, went to the SP residence when one of his bodyguards shot the other dead, they said. Atul Kumar of Bihar's Buxar district died on the spot after being shot by Balveer, they added.

Classified

AFFIDAVIT/NAME CHANGE

I, APARNA ROY NEYOGI (old name) W/o SAIKAT ROY, R/o PURBA VIVEKANANDA PALLY, KESHAB SEN ROAD, WARD NO 15, Siliguri (M. Corp), Darjeeling, Rabintra Sarani, West Bengal, 734006 shall henceforth be known as APARNA ROY (new name) as declared before the Ld Notary Public at Siliguri vide affidavit No. 25AC 128309 Dt. 21.07.2026. That APARNA ROY NEYOGI (old name) & APARNA ROY (new name) both are the same & one identical person.

I, MONIKA GARG (old name) wife of Sanjay Agarwal, resident of 11/ 25 Jaigaon, MG Road Bha Compound, Jaigaon (CT), Jaigaon, Kalchini, Alipurduar, West Bengal, Pin-736182 shall henceforth be known as MONIKA AGARWAL (new name) as declared before the Ld Notary Public at Siliguri vide affidavit No. 43AA 094815 dt. 21.07.2026. That MONIKA GARG (old name) & MONIKA AGARWAL (new name) both are the same & one identical person.

I, SANJAY GARG (old name) son of Hanumanadas Agarwal, resident of MG Road Bha Compound Jaigaon, Chhota Jaigaon, New Market, Kalchini, Alipurduar, West Bengal, Pin-736182 shall henceforth be known as SANJAY AGARWAL (new name) as declared before the Ld Notary Public at Siliguri vide affidavit No. 43AA 094816 dt. 21.07.2026. That SANJAY GARG (old name) & SANJAY AGARWAL (new name) both are the same & one identical person.

I Lalo Khatun, D/O – Chellu Md., Residing at Vill. – Bajirole , P.O – Keotal , P.S – Itahar , Dist. – Uttar Dinajpur , West Bengal. My actual name is Lalo Khatun. Due to an error , my name was recorded as 'Challo Khatun' on my Aadhaar Card and Ration Card ; this mistake was rectified by swearing an affidavit before the Court of the Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) on August 22 , 2025. Henceforth Lalo Khatun and Challo Khatun both are same and One identical person.

I, BISWANATH DAS, S/O Anuradh Das, R/O Vill- Uttar Chakhabhaini, P.O.- Beltalapark, P.S.- Balurghat, Dakshin Dinajpur, WB-733103, declare my actual name is BISWANATH DAS as per Voter ID & Birth Certificate, but wrongly recorded as VISHWANATH VISHWAKARMA in Aadhaar Card (no. 7776 6905 0514). Both are same identical person. Sworn vide Affidavit No. 10295 before Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Balurghat on 15.07.2026.

I Poritosh Bala (Old Name) S/O – Sunil Bala , Residing at Vill. – Balurbadh , P.O – Surjapur , P.S – Dalkhola , Dist. – Uttar Dinajpur , West Bengal , Pin – 733209 shall henceforth be known as Poritosh Bala (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Raiganj court , Uttar Dinajpur vide affidavit no. 90 Dated – 12.07.26. Poritosh Bala (Old Name) and Poritosh Bala (New Name) both are same and identical person.

I, Shipra Das, W/O. Late Nikhil Chandra Das, resident of Ward No. 20, Indira Colony, P.O./P.S.- Raiganj, Dist.- Uttar Dinajpur, Pin-733134, West Bengal shall henceforth be known as SHIPRA DUTTA DAS as declared before the affidavit No. 01 dated 20.07.2026 and SHIPRA DUTTA DAS both are same and identical person.

NOTICE

"My clients SRI DIBYENDU SAHA, son of Late Dharendra Nath Saha, residing at Proper Howakhana, Post Office & Police Station Tura, District West Garo Hills, in the State of Meghalaya, have lost an original Deed of Gift, being No. 1-3198, for the year 1989 (chain deed), registered with the office of the then Sub-Registrar, Siliguri and a diary was lodged with Tura Police Station; vide M. R. No. 188-26, dated 04.07.2026. Any person claiming any interest or title in the property or having any objection can make representation to the bank or advocate within 7 (seven) days. Sd/-
SRI SUPRIO GHOSH, Advocate, Siliguri, SARADA APARTMENT, ATM Road, Subhas Pally, Siliguri-734 001. (M) 8250809457

আমি **Tagar Chand Pramanik**, সাকিন- Rangamati, Shibpur, Sitalkuchi. Dist. Cooch Behar 15/7/ 2026 তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা ই এম কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে জানাই, আমার কন্যা **Dali Pramanik** 22.10.2008 তারিখে জন্ম গ্রহণ করে।

আমি **Rahima Khatun**, D/O- Ayub Miah, সাং-Nagar Lalbazar, P.S.-Sitalkuchi- Dist- Coochbehar, 10/7/ 2026 তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা ই এম কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে জানাই, 01/01/1999 তারিখে ছোট শালবাড়ি গ্রামে (P.S.Sitalkuchi, Dist- Coochbehar) আমার জন্ম হয়।

আমি **Rahul Ali**, S/o Osman Ali, P.O.-Shibpur, P.S-Mathabhanga, Dist.-

Cooch Behar, ১৫/৭/ ২০২৬ তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা ই এম কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে

জানাই, ২৮/০৬/১৯৯৭

তারিখে নিজ বাড়িতে আমার

জন্ম হয়।

CHANGE OF NAME/SURNAME

I RIKDEN LAMA (old name) s/o PRAVIN KUMAR TAMANG doing business r/o Mirik Bazar Ward No. 02, Municipality Mirik., Darjeeling, West Bengal 734214. Shall henceforth be known as Rikden Tamang (new name) vide affidavit sworn before the notary public siliguri on date 6/07/2026. This is to certify that LASANG GOLAY TAMANG LAMA and LASSANG TAMANG are one and the same person
I, LASANG GOLAY TAMANG LAMA W/o LT. PRAVIN KUMAR TAMANG doing house wife r/o Mirik Bazar Ward No. 02, Mirik, Municipality Mirik N.A., Dist: Darjeeling, West Bengal 734214 india. shall henceforth be known as LASSANG TAMANG vide affidavit sworn before the notary public siliguri on date 6/07/2026 This is to certify that LASANG GOLAY TAMANG LAMA and LASSANG TAMANG are one and the same person 2026/07/21 18:24

আমি **Serajul Miah**, S/O. Dulal Miah, Village Gadopota, P.O. Bamanpara, P.S.Sitalkuchi, Dist.- Coochbehar, 15/7/ 2026 তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা ই এম কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে জানাই, 01/01/1981 তারিখে আমার জন্ম হয়।

আমি **Achhaddin Miya**, সাং- অশোকবাড়ি -১, পোঃ- বৈরাগীরহাট, থানা- মাথাভাঙ্গা, জেলা- কোচবিহার। জন্ম শংসাপত্র সংগ্রহে ১৪-০৭-২০২৬ তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা E M কোর্টের অ্যাফিডেভিটে জানাই, আমার পুত্র **Yarabbu Alamin** 11.02.2011 তারিখে উক্ত ঠিকানায় জন্মগ্রহণ করে।

আমি **Nabiul Hossain**, S/O Iyakub Ali, Kurshamari, P.S. Mathabhanga, Dist.

Cooch Behar, ১০/৭/ ২০২৬ তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা ই এম কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে

জানাই, 20-04-1991 তারিখে নিজ বাড়িতে আমার জন্ম হয়।

আমি **Baidyananda Barman**, S/o- Biren Barman, Vill-

Bhojonechara, P.O.- Nishiganj, P.S.-

Mathabhanga, Dist.- Coochbehar, 22/6/

2026 তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা এম কোর্টের এফিডেভিট বলে

জানাই, আমার কন্যা

Barnali Barman 04/

07/2020 তারিখে নিজ

বাড়িতে জন্ম গ্রহণ করে।

আমি **Nazrul Haque** S/O- Lt.

Khachharuddin Miya

সাকিন- Pachagar, P.S.-

Mathabhanga, Dist.-

Coochbehar, ১০/৭/

২০২৬ তারিখে মাথাভাঙ্গা

E M কোর্টের এফিডেভিটে

জানাই, ৩০/০৬/১৯৮৬

তারিখে আমার জন্ম হয়।

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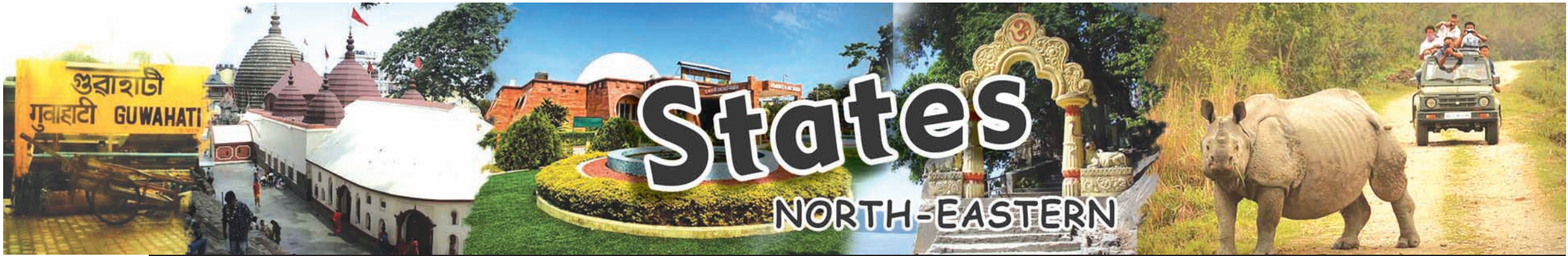
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THE ECHO OF INDIA

SILIGURI • WEDNESDAY • JULY 22, 2026 • PAGE-3

Toll in Nagaland floods, landslides rises to nine; four still missing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KOHIMA, JULY 21: The toll in the flash floods and landslides triggered by incessant rain in Nagaland's Mon district rose to nine with the recovery of five more bodies, while four people remain missing as search and rescue operations were underway on Tuesday, a state government report said.

The continuous downpour has disrupted normal life, damaged infrastructure, agricultural land and public utilities, with the authorities warning that the extent of destruction is expected to rise as assessments continue.

According to preliminary reports from district disaster management authorities, the rain fury has impacted at least 7,460 people statewide.

The Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority report said the worst-hit district is Mon, where nine people lost their lives in landslides, including five fatalities at Shantham Ward in Mon Town. In Naginimora, four

people, swept away by flash floods, were rescued, it said, adding that one of them suffered fractures and three others had minor injuries. Four people remain missing, with search and rescue operations underway, it said.

Preliminary assessments indicate that 64 residential houses in 93 villages across

10 districts have been damaged, the report said. Officials cautioned that these figures are expected to increase as surveys continue.

The disaster has also severely impacted livestock in several districts, with at least 83 animals lost, including 15 mithuns, 13 cattle and 53 pigs.

Shamator recorded the highest number of affected residents, with nearly 7,000 people from six villages impacted by widespread landslides.

Giving the district-wise impact, the NSDMA report said 12 villages were affected in Tuensang, with 201 people impacted. In Zunheboto, around 30 villages were hit by landslides, with 26 people suffering from the deluge, it added.



Assam Agriculture Minister distributes MMUA cheques to over 45,000 beneficiaries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, JULY 21: Assam Minister for Agriculture, Irrigation, and Parliamentary Affairs Pijush Hazarika today attended two major public meetings in Rupahihat and Samaguri assembly constituencies in Nagaon district, where he ceremonially distributed MMUA cheques of Rs 10,000 to 19,840 and 25,658 women beneficiaries respectively under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyaan (MMUA).

Speaking at the programmes, the Minister said that this landmark scheme, envisioned by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, has empowered underprivileged women to build sustainable livelihoods and actively contribute to the economic growth of the state. He highlighted that transformational schemes like MMUA, Nijut Moina,



and Orunodoi have ensured a dignified life for women in society by providing them access to free education, seed capital for setting up micro-enterprises and direct financial support.

Reiterating the State Government's firm commitment to developing all regions and all sections of society equally without discrimination, Minister Hazarika stressed the importance of properly utilizing the initial Rs 10,000 seed capital. He urged all beneficiary women to leverage this financial aid effectively to set up their ventures, ensuring their eligibility to

receive Rs 25,000 and Rs 50,000 in the subsequent tranches under the scheme.

Underlining the need to accelerate the growth of the Nagaon parliamentary constituency, Minister Hazarika urged the public to support the present Central and State governments so that all-round development across infrastructure, education, health, and women empowerment can be ushered in at a much faster pace. He also called upon the citizens to choose public representatives carefully to ensure that the people can derive maximum benefits from government initiatives.

Vanapa Hall and Park to become Aizawl's iconic landmark: Mizoram CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AIZAWL, JULY 21: Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma on Monday unveiled the winning architectural design for the proposed Vanapa Hall and Park, saying the project is envisioned as an iconic landmark that will redefine Aizawl's identity. Lalduhoma presented the Vanapa Hall and Park Architectural Design Award to the winning team, Catalyst Architecture Studio, at a

safe landmark in the heart of the city, a place that immediately comes to mind when people think of Aizawl," the CM said.

He said the project is a key component of the



function organised by the Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation (UD&PA) Department, the nodal agency for redevelopment of the vacated Assam Rifles land in the heart of the city.

"Vanapa Hall and Park will be the most visible and recognisable public gathering place in Aizawl. We want to create a beautiful, functional and

master plan for redevelopment of the former Assam Rifles land, which has now been returned for public use. An advisory committee comprising representatives from different sections of society has been constituted to guide the planning process, he said. Pointing to

Aizawl's rapid urban growth, Lalduhoma said the city needs wider roads,

modern public spaces and well-planned parks, and the proposed project would address these requirements by creating a world-class civic and cultural hub. The CM said the government

would seek funding for the project under the PM-DevINE scheme, though funds have not yet been formally allocated. Urban Development Minister K Sapdanga said the government is committed to transforming Aizawl into a modern and vibrant city with quality public infrastructure for residents and visitors alike.

The architectural design competition, launched on March 17, received entries from 33 firms, including several from outside Mizoram. After multiple rounds of evaluation over nearly three months, six firms were shortlisted, with Catalyst Architecture Studio emerging as the winner.

Tripura DGP's body flown to Delhi, final rites to be conducted at native village in UP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AGARTALA, JULY 21: The body of Tripura DGP Anurag Dhankar, who was found hanging in his washroom in the police headquarters here a day before, was flown to Delhi by an air ambulance on Tuesday, an official said.

His last rites are scheduled to take place in his native village of Baraut in Baghpat district of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

Tripura Governor N Indrasena Reddy, Chief Minister Manik Saha, Chief Secretary J K Sinha and senior officials offered floral tributes to the mortal remains of the DGP at the Civil Secretariat here. The decorated IPS



officer was also accorded a gun salute at the police headquarters. Speaking to reporters, the chief minister said a case of unnatural death has been registered and an investigation is underway. "We will investigate the case as per law," he said.

However, the chief minister refused to make any comment on the opposition's demand for a probe under the supervision of the chief justice of the Tripura High Court. Saha described Dhankar's death as an irreparable loss not only for his family but also for the northeastern state.

"I am speechless. The loss is irreparable not only for his family but also for our state... We used to have cordial talks. Under his leadership, law and order had improved significantly," he said.

"After attending the passing out parade of police constables at R K Nagar Police Training Institute in West Tripura on July 18, we had tea together. His wife also joined us. We had a cordial discussion but never thought this would be my last meeting with the DGP," the CM said.

DIG, Range, Ratiranjana Dhar said Dhankar's body was flown to Delhi by an air ambulance and from the national capital, it would be taken to his native place for last rites.

Officiating DGP G S Rao said a three-member team headed by Inspector General (IG), Law and Order, Manchak Ipper escorted the mortal remains of the DGP.

Opposition parties CPI(M) and the Congress demanded an impartial probe into the circumstances leading to the death of the police officer, who served the northeastern state for around 18 years in various positions. The 1994-batch IPS officer, who led the CBI probe into the Rs 13,000 crore PNB fraud case involving Nirav Modi and the reinvestigation of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots case, was 60, and is survived by his wife and son, who lives in Canada.

Dhankar, who was elevated to the post of DGP from Additional DGP in May 2025, was due to retire in 11 months. As a mark of respect to the departed soul, the state observed a day-long mourning on Tuesday.

KAAC CEM directs immediate assistance for flood-affected people



GUWAHATI BUREAU

GUWAHATI, JULY 20: Chief Executive Member (CEM) of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Dr. Tuliram Ronghang, has expressed deep concern over the prevailing flood situation in Karbi Anglong and assured that the Council stands firmly with the affected people.

The CEM directed all 26 elected MACs to visit the flood-affected areas under their respective constituencies, assess the situation on the ground and coordinate with the local administration to ensure timely assistance to the affected people.

He also directed all concerned departments and officers under the administrative control of the KAAC to remain on alert and extend all necessary support to the District Administration in relief and rehabilitation efforts. The related departments have been instructed to respond promptly to any requisition from the District Administration and provide all possible assistance for the welfare of the flood-affected people.

42 militants surrender in Manipur



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

IMPHAL, JULY 21: Forty-two militants of the banned Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group) surrendered before

security forces in Manipur on Tuesday, police said.

Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh was present at the "homecoming ceremony", jointly organised by the

state Home Department and the Inspector General Assam Rifles (South) at its headquarters in Imphal's Mantripukhri. Police said the surrendered militants handed over 28 weapons, including AK-series rifles, rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), pistols and other war-like stores comprising grenades, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), detonators, ammunition and wireless sets.

The surrendered cadres will be rehabilitated under the Centre's Revised Scheme for Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation of Militants in the North East States, 2018, police said.

RGU Prof. appointed Srimanta Sankar dev Chair Prof. at Panjab University

GUWAHATI BUREAU

GUWAHATI, JULY 21: Dr. Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, distinguished academic and senior Professor of English at The Assam Royal Global University (RGU), has been appointed Chair Professor of the prestigious Srimanta Sankardev Chair at Panjab University, Chandigarh.

In an official communication, Prof. Y.P. Verma, Registrar of Panjab University, stated that Dr. Mahanta's appointment would significantly strengthen the objectives of the Chair. "Prof. Mahanta's valuable suggestions and academic leadership will help the Chair achieve its objectives of promoting the literary, cultural, philosophical and spiritual legacy of Srimanta Sankardev at the national and international levels," he said.

Expressing his delight on the appointment, Dr. Mahanta said, "My thrust area under this Chair will be the translation of the works of Srimanta Sankardev and

Madhavdev into Punjabi and English, besides preparing scholarly monographs on the diverse contributions of these two great saints of Assam. I also plan to undertake a series of publications highlighting different dimensions of the Bhakti Movement led by Srimanta Sankardev in Assam."



As Chair Professor, Dr. Mahanta will spearhead a range of academic and outreach activities aimed at promoting the life, philosophy, literature, culture and enduring legacy of Srimanta Sankardev. The Chair will organize special lectures for students, extension

lectures, seminars and academic interactions across various departments and affiliated colleges of Panjab University.

In addition, Dr. Mahanta will provide academic leadership and mentorship in planning and implementing the future programmes of the Srimanta Sankardev

Chair, including research initiatives, publications, collaborative projects and other scholarly activities to further enhance the Chair's national and international outreach and impact.

The appointment is a matter of pride for The Assam Royal Global University and reflects the growing national recognition of its faculty members for their academic excellence and contributions to higher education and research.

Bhanu Jayanti celebrated with cultural programmes in Tura

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, JULY 21 / - / The second phase of the 212th Bhanu Jayanti celebration was held at the District Auditorium in Tura today bringing together members of the Gorkha community, public representatives and cultural performers to pay tribute to Adikavi Bhanubhakta Acharya, regarded as the pioneer of modern Nepali literature. The programme was organised by the Gorkha Welfare Society (GWS), Garo Hills, to commemorate the birth anniversary of the renowned poet whose literary works played a key role in the growth and popularisation of the Nepali language. Speaker of the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Thomas A. Sangma attended the programme as the Chief Guest, while Rangsakona MLA Subir Marak was the Guest of Honour.

Although Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma could not attend due to official engagements, he sent a special message that was read out during the programme. In his message, the Chief Minister extended greetings to the Gorkha community on the occasion of the 212th Bhanu Jayanti and paid tribute to Mahakavi

Bhanubhakta Acharya for his lasting contribution to literature. He said the poet's message of humanity, culture and unity continues to inspire generations. He also acknowledged the contribution of the Gorkha community to Meghalaya's development and described it as an integral



part of the state's social and cultural fabric. The Chief Minister said Bhanu Jayanti was not only an occasion to honour a great literary figure but also an opportunity to celebrate the values of service, resilience, harmony and cultural pride. He expressed hope that the celebration would strengthen communal harmony, encourage younger generations to preserve their cultural heritage and contribute to peace, progress and prosperity in the state.

The programme began with an opening song presented by members of the Gorkha Welfare Society. Welcoming the gathering, GWS Garo Hills President Rajesh Chetry

greeted the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, invited guests, participants and members of the public.

A special presentation on the life and literary contributions of Adikavi Bhanubhakta Acharya was delivered by GWS Advisor Shakuntala Chhetry. She highlighted the poet's works and emphasised the

importance of Bhanu Jayanti in preserving the Nepali language, literature and cultural traditions. An overview of the Gorkha Welfare Society was presented by Tengchi D. Areng, who outlined the organisation's objectives, achievements, ongoing activities and future plans for the welfare and development of the Gorkha community. The celebration featured a colourful cultural programme with traditional and folk dance performances by teams from Tura, Rupagre, Rongram and Phulbari. The performances reflected the rich cultural traditions of the Gorkha community and received enthusiastic appreciation from the audience.

The musical segment included solo performances by Dr. Rakkun Bhujel and Rian, followed by a special performance by Matrix Naromas (Jitupan Bora), which drew applause from the audience.



“ Anger is the feeling that makes your mouth work faster than your mind

----Evan Esar

There is some merit in this investigation against Harvard University by the Trump administration

The Donald Trump administration has taken a number of steps to curb the independence of Harvard University in the recent past, and these have justifiably been criticized by all as a move to curb the academic freedom of the famous Ivy League school. But the recent federal investigation opened by the Justice Department into whether Harvard University is allowing Chinese donors to create scholarships that exclude American students has some merit. Even if there is some element of truth in this allegation, then it merits an inquiry. Harvard has been a prime target in the Donald Trump administration's push to end alleged anti-semitism in American higher education. A federal judge has blocked the White House from cutting billions of dollars in federal research funding from Harvard amid the feud.

Justice Department officials have announced the new review, saying Harvard's foreign funding disclosures “raised concerns” about possible discrimination against US students, though the agency has not specified which scholarship programmes are being targeted and emphasized it “has not reached any conclusions.”

The investigation is aimed at Harvard's “China-based financial aid programs,” the Justice Department has said. Chinese donors have given money to Harvard to support financial aid programs limited to students from certain countries. That restriction could amount to illegal discrimination based on country of origin, the department has said. “Schools cannot take federal dollars and then turn around and accept money from foreign sources to give financial aid that deliberately excludes American citizens. Doing so is illegal, and we will stop it wherever we find it,” Harmeet Dhillon, who leads the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department, has said.

Harvard authorities are said to be reviewing the Justice Department notice. “Harvard follows the law for required reporting of donations and, consistent with our legal obligations under Title VI, does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, or national origin in allocating financial aid,” the university has said in a written statement. Spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Washington Liu Chang has said education cooperation between China and the US is mutually beneficial and that China maintains that normal education and academic exchange should not be disrupted for political purposes.

Like many US universities, Harvard accepts foreign funding through direct donations or contracts. The Trump administration has pushed for greater transparency around outside money, warning that accepting funding from foreign adversaries is a national security risk. Federal disclosures from Harvard show it has accepted USD 630 million from Chinese sources over a period of decades. Overall, it has reported about USD 4.5 billion in foreign funding. The Justice Department has cited those figures but did not single out any donors or programmes being reviewed. The investigation is a compliance review, meaning it's initiated by the Federal government rather than responding to an outside complaint.

Unlike the vast majority of US universities, Harvard and a small number of other schools provide need-based scholarships to international students on the same basis as US students. Grants and other aid from the Federal government are reserved for American students, but Harvard has its own job and scholarship money available to foreign students, as a Harvard financial aid website said. In some cases, foreign donors have given money to be used for international students. In 2014, a Chinese couple that had co-founded a real estate company donated USD 15 million to Harvard to provide financial aid for Chinese students. Their gift evoked criticisms in China that it was a betrayal to give money to foreign schools instead of Chinese universities.

The legal argument of the Justice Department is that steering private funding to students of certain countries amounts to a civil rights violation for US students. “Harvard appears to be accepting these funds and, in adherence to their restrictions, providing student financial aid to foreign students, presumably Chinese, based on their national origin; to the potential detriment of students of other national origins, including American citizens,” the Federal investigating agency has said.

PIX TALKS



A child wades through a severely waterlogged road in a flood-affected area following incessant heavy rainfall, in Sivasagar district, Assam, Tuesday--PTI

REFLEX ACTION

India's “Minus Two” Doctrine: The rise of a civilisational pole

For decades, the world's strategic conversation has been imprisoned by an assumption so deeply embedded that few pause to question it: every consequential nation must eventually choose between Washington and Beijing. The United States sees the twenty-first century as a contest to preserve a liberal international order against China's revisionist ambitions. China views the same century as an irreversible transfer of power from the Atlantic to Asia. Most analyses of Indian foreign policy begin with the same flawed premise—that New Delhi, sooner or later, must settle into one camp or the other: India is quietly rejecting the premise itself.



ABHINAV SHANKAR

Arms exports that were once negligible now reach dozens of countries.

Indigenous missile systems, artillery, patrol vessels, radar networks and aerospace platforms are steadily entering foreign inventories. Defence production is no longer viewed merely as import substitution but as geopolitical capital. Every military platform exported creates decades of maintenance relationships, training partnerships and strategic influence.

What is emerging is neither strategic ambiguity nor a sophisticated balancing act. It is something far more consequential: a geopolitical doctrine that could be described as “Minus Two”: an India that seeks to build an independent strategic pole by deliberately reducing structural dependence on both the United States and China.

This should not be confused with India's post independence nation-state based non-alignment policy. As non-alignment belonged to a bipolar Cold War where newly independent states sought space between two ideological superpowers. It rested substantially on moral persuasion, developmental solidarity and the belief that international legitimacy could be shaped through normative leadership. It reflected the worldview of a post-colonial nation-state seeking room for economic development while avoiding military entanglement. Today's India inhabits an entirely different strategic universe. It no longer de-

fines itself merely as a nation-state seeking security. Increasingly, it behaves like a civilisational state seeking influence.

The distinction matters. Nation-states often think in electoral cycles, economic indicators and territorial defence. Civilisational states think in centuries. They pursue strategic depth, technological sovereignty, cultural confidence and geopolitical permanence. Their objective is not simply survival but shaping the architecture of international order. India's recent behaviour increasingly reflects this longer horizon.

The shift did not occur because India suddenly became more ambitious. It occurred because the international system became less trustworthy. The American alliance system, once regarded as the most dependable strategic insurance available, has begun exhibiting visible fractures. Allies across continents now openly debate whether American commitments survive changes in administrations. European anxieties, Middle Eastern recalibrations and Asian hedging all point towards the same uncomfortable conclusion: the credibility premium once attached to Washington is no longer absolute.

For India, this carries particular significance. The memory of sanctions after Pokhran, repeated American accommodation of Pakistan during critical periods with latest example of Operation Sindoor, abrupt withdrawals from conflict zones, changing trade priorities, sudden tariffs and the transactional nature of contemporary American politics all reinforce one strategic lesson: partnerships are valuable; depen-

dence is dangerous.

China presents the opposite problem. Unlike the uncertainty surrounding American commitments, Chinese hostility is remarkably consistent. The Line of Actual Control remains contested. Beijing continues military modernisation at an unprecedented pace while expanding influence across the Indian Ocean through ports, logistics facilities and financial leverage. Simultaneously, Chinese industrial dominance creates supply-chain dependencies that translate economic power into geopolitical coercion.

India therefore confronts two different strategic risks. One partner may become unreliable. The other remains an enduring competitor. The logical response is not to oscillate between them. It is to outgrow both. This is the essence of Minus Two. Its foundations are visible across multiple domains.

India's defence diplomacy has undergone a profound transformation. Arms exports that were once negligible now reach dozens of countries. Indigenous missile systems, artillery, patrol vessels, radar networks and aerospace platforms are steadily entering foreign inventories. Defence production is no longer viewed merely as import substitution but as geopolitical capital. Every military platform exported creates decades of maintenance relationships, training partnerships and strategic influence.

Unlike traditional arms exporters that pursue commercial markets, India is increasingly building security ecosystems. Defence exports are becoming instruments of long-term strategic relationships rather than merely balance-sheet successes.

Every missile battery, patrol vessel or surveillance system exported creates years of operational interoperability, training, maintenance and political trust.

But New Delhi is equally signalling that strategic partnerships now carry consequences. The era when India absorbed geopolitical provocations without response is visibly fading. Turkey's sustained diplomatic and military backing of Pakistan has been met not through rhetorical protests but by India's deepening defence engagement with Armenia and Greece, subtly reshaping the strategic geometry of the eastern Mediterranean. Likewise, China's expanding naval footprint in the Indian Ocean and its growing attempts to challenge Indian interests have prompted New Delhi to strengthen maritime partnerships with the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand while rapidly expanding military infrastructure across the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, overlooking one of the world's most consequential maritime chokepoints Strait of Malacca. In West Asia too, India has broadened its military, energy, trade and diplomatic engagement with the United Arab Emirates & Israel as part of a wider strategy to ensure that shifting regional alignments like Saudi-Pakistan defence pact do not diminish its strategic space in the region. These are not isolated diplomatic gestures. (Author is an amazon best-selling Author, Technocrat & a Commentator on geopolity, economy & public policy matters//Views expressed here are personal//To be continued)

FOCUS

Building a more inclusive health insurance ecosystem: The role of collaboration and awareness

Health insurance penetration in India has grown steadily over the past several years, with the segment now contributing over 41% of the non-life insurance industry's total premiums in FY2024-25. Yet, despite this progress, a significant protection gap remains. Nearly 70% of the country's working-age population continues to remain uninsured, particularly across tier-II and tier-III markets. Younger adults, too, remain underrepresented in insurance coverage, often underestimating their vulnerability to both long-term lifestyle-related illnesses and unforeseen acute medical events.



ANAND ROY

When we examine why coverage remains low in non-metro geographies, the conversation quickly moves beyond affordability. A large portion of the uninsured population in these areas does not purchase health insurance not because they cannot afford it, but because they do not fully understand what it does and how it works. Some, of course, see it as an 'expense item'.

Awareness and Affordability Gaps
When we examine why coverage remains low in non-metro geographies, the conversation quickly moves beyond affordability. A large portion of the uninsured population in these areas does not purchase health insurance not because they cannot afford it, but because they do not fully understand what it does and how it works. Some, of course, see it as an 'expense item'.

For many first-time potential buyers, insurance terminologies like co-payments, sub-limits, waiting periods, sum insured, can feel daunting. This reflects a fundamental gap in communication. The question the industry must ask itself is not merely whether its products are affordable, but whether they are comprehensible to those who need them most.

An Ecosystem Approach Offers Resolution

The solution lies in the health insurance industry coming together to innovate and evolve. Thus, bridging this gap is necessary. It requires a coordinated, ecosystem-led approach where

insurers, healthcare providers, regulators, distributors, and community organisations align around shared goals: accessibility, affordability, and awareness. This is not a new observation, but it demands more deliberate and structured action than the industry has historically applied to it, anchored in clear accountability and measurable outcomes.

Encouragingly, this thinking is already reflected in the broader direction set by IRDAI, which has consistently emphasised “Insurance for All” and a more inclusive, simplified, and customer-centric ecosystem. Government-backed schemes have demonstrated that when access is deliberately designed through targeted outreach, simplified enrolment, and public-private collaboration, coverage can expand rapidly, even in underserved geographies. The next step is to deepen this model through tighter collaboration between insurers and healthcare providers. Standardised treatment protocols, transparent pricing frameworks, and interoperable digital systems can reduce friction, improve claims experience, and create greater predictability for all stakeholders.

Collaboration must also extend to data and technology infrastructure. Platforms like the National Health Claims Exchange (NHCE) are early examples of how insurers, hospitals, and regulators can work together to enable seamless information flow, faster claims processing, and better fraud management. Over time, building shared health data ecosystems, with appropriate safeguards, can also support preventive care, risk assessment, and more personalised products.

The industry is also seeing

measurable shifts in non-metro engagement. Assisted models, where an agent, a local NGO worker, or a frontline health worker helps a prospective buyer navigate the process in their own language, are proving especially effective at converting awareness into action. When combined with simplified product design and efforts to standardise offerings, these models are turning awareness into actual adoption. This alignment across policy, product, and distribution is what will ultimately sustain momentum.

First-Time Buyer Experience is Key

Taking a hypothetical example of an individual from a tier-III area in India, who hears about a local awareness camp run in partnership with a primary health care. They learn, perhaps discover the benefits of health insurance, having hospital bills covered without having to borrow money. They will register and spread the word. That single experience of trust is worth more than any marketing campaign.

This is where ecosystem collaboration becomes most tangible. When insurers partner with hospitals to ensure cashless, hassle-free treatment, and when government and local bodies enable outreach through trusted community channels, the customer journey becomes seamless. Each stakeholder plays a defined role; insurers providing financial protection, hospitals delivering quality care, and the government ensuring oversight, standardisation, and reach.

Community-led programmes and partnerships with local healthcare providers are uniquely positioned to generate these moments of first-contact trust. When insurance becomes relevant as something that pro-

tested a neighbour or a family member, adoption follows. Scaled across thousands of such communities, this trust-first approach has the potential to reshape India's insurance landscape structurally. What begins as a single enrolment in a village health camp can, over time, become a household's anchor against financial catastrophe, and a validation that draws others in.

The future of health insurance in India will not be shaped by any one stakeholder alone. It will be built through a deeply aligned ecosystem, enabled by technology, and delivered through collaborative action at the grassroots level.

Building Toward Insurance for All by 2047

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047', is grounded in a realistic appraisal of what collaboration can achieve. Reaching that goal will require the industry to move beyond distribution-first thinking and invest equally in comprehension, trust-building, and accessibility, particularly for first-generation insurance buyers.

Sustained, multi-stakeholder collaboration is not simply good industry practice. It is the structural prerequisite for a health insurance ecosystem that works for every Indian, urban and rural, digitally connected and not, affluent and aspirational alike. The gaps that exist today are not permanent features of our landscape; they are problems that coordinated effort, built on genuine empathy for the consumer, can and will solve. (Author is the Member of Executive Committee, General Insurance Council and MD & CEO of Star Health Insurance//Views expressed here are personal)

Delhi HC refuses to stay bail to activist Khuram Parvez, journalist Irfan Mehraj in UAPA case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 21: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday refused to stay the bail granted to Kashmiri human rights activists Khuram Parvez and journalist Irfan Mehraj in a 2020 case registered under the anti-terror law UAPA. The counsel for the National Investigation Agency (NIA) sought a stay on the trial court's bail order, passed on July 18, on the grounds that the case pertained to serious offences and that the relief given to the two accused persons was "bereft of any reasoning". The NIA counsel also argued that the bail order would have a "chilling effect" and "create a problem" by being cited as a precedent in other cases. A bench of Justices Prathibha M Singh and Vikas Mahajan said that at the prima facie stage, notice was liable to be

issued on the NIA's appeals against the trial court's orders as the lower court had failed to consider the bail pleas by the two accused persons as per the requirements under 43D(5) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The trial court is not a constitutional court and has to go strictly by the statute, and the absence of any findings with respect to the non-existence of a prima facie case against the accused required consideration, it added. However, declining to interfere with the bail, the court imposed additional conditions on the two accused persons and clarified that the order would not be treated as a precedent. "These conditions are okay. Anything you find is not right, you can move the court," the bench told the NIA counsel. Listing the

NIA's appeals for hearing in August, the court asked Parvez and Mehraj to appear before the investigating officer twice a week and not interact with any person named in the chargesheet or indulge in similar activities.

In the bail order, the trial court had asked the two accused not to move outside Delhi and to surrender their passports. The NIA counsel sought a stay on the bail order, stating that their release would be contrary to national interest. The case pertains to the alleged involvement of some Kashmir-based NGOs, Trusts and societies in the funding of terror-related activities. Parvez was the programme coordinator of Jammu and Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), which is accused of funding terror activities and propagating a

secessionist agenda in the Valley under the garb of protection of human rights. The NIA lawyer said as per section 43(D) of the UAPA, for granting bail, the trial court has to come to a conclusion that the allegations against an accused are prima facie not true, which was not done in the present case. He said the trial court simply proceeded on the basis that the trial was at an early stage and the allegations were based on oral testimony. The senior lawyers appearing for Parvez and Mehraj said bail orders cannot be interfered with unless they are manifestly perverse. The court was also told the high court recently granted bail to Parvez in another case under the anti-terror law. Both the accused persons were arrested in March 2023. On June 10, the high court had granted bail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 21: The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that a juvenile, accused of murder, can be tried as an adult if statutory requirements are met as such a crime is a "heinous offence" under juvenile justice law. A bench comprising justices JES Pardiwala and Ujjal Bhuyan made the observations while dismissing an appeal of a juvenile against a Patna High Court verdict allowing his trial as an adult for murdering a boy. The judgement, aimed at clarifying the legal framework for trying minors as adults, ruled that murder (Section 302 of the IPC) must be classified as a "heinous offence" under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015. The verdict came on an appeal by a 16-year-old juvenile who allegedly slit a boy's throat in Bihar.

regular court. The core of the legal battle was based on a technicality in sentencing definitions. Under the JJ Act, "heinous offences" are those with a minimum imprisonment of seven years or more. The juvenile's counsel had argued that since Section 302 of the IPC prescribes "death or imprisonment for life" but does not explicitly use the word "minimum", murder should be categorized as a "serious offence" rather than a "heinous" one. Justice Pardiwala, writing the judgement for the bench, said that life imprisonment is, by necessary implication, the minimum punishment for murder since courts cannot impose a sentence below life imprisonment upon conviction under Section 302. "The offence punishable under Section 302 of the IPC, which prescribes punishment of 'death or imprisonment for life', carries life imprisonment as its minimum punishment. It would therefore be categorized as a 'heinous offence,'" the judgement said. The Juvenile Justice Board had initially decided that the child

should be tried by the Board itself, but the appellate sessions court reversed that decision. The decision to try the juvenile as an adult was later upheld by the high court. An appeal was preferred in the apex court by the juvenile. The top court said that the category of "serious offences" as referred to in the Juvenile Justice Act applies only where the law prescribes no minimum sentence or a minimum sentence of less than seven years.

It ruled that Section 302 falls squarely within the definition of a "heinous offence" because the punishment cannot be less than life imprisonment. It also held that under Section 101(2) of the Juvenile Justice Act, a sessions court, hearing an appeal against a preliminary assessment, is not mandatorily required to obtain fresh assistance from psychologists or medical experts in every case. The word "may" in the provision confers discretion, and expert assistance should be sought depending on the facts and circumstances of each case rather than as a universal requirement.

2 booked for exhuming woman's body without lawful authorisation

AVANGERE (KARNATAKA): An FIR has been registered against two men for allegedly exhuming their mother's body from a burial site without lawful authorisation and transporting it on a motorcycle in this district, police said on Tuesday. The incident took place between 9 pm and 11.30 pm on July 18 at Adapur village in Harihartaluk, they said. Police said that Manjunath and his elder brother Venkatesh, allegedly dug out the body of their mother, Eeramma (58), from their agricultural land where she had been buried. Police said Eeramma's death had earlier been registered as an Unnatural Death Report at Malebennur Police Station on April 29 under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). The two men suspected their mother's death to be a case of murder and were allegedly dissatisfied with the police probe. They dug up the body and wrapped it in a bedsheet and transported it on the two-wheeler for a second post-mortem. However, they were detained in connection with the incident, police said. According to the FIR, after an inquest and postmortem examination, the body had been handed over to her family for the last rites and was buried in their land. The UDR case is still under investigation.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, SILIGURI
Present Address: 2nd Floor, PCM Tower Building, 2nd Mile,
Sevoke Road, Siliguri-734001
SUMMONS/NOTICE
T.O.A. No. 24 of 2025
(Arising out of O.A. No: 49 of 2025)
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

.....Applicant

Vs.
MR. DIPAK AGARWAL AND ANR

.....Defendants

To
1. SRI DIPAK AGARWAL
S/o Late Satya Narayan Agarwal
Residing At: M.G. Road, Birpara, P.O.-Birpara, Dist.-Alipurduar,
P.S.-Birpara, Pin-735204
2. SRI SUSHIL AGARWAL
S/o Late Satya Narayan Agarwal
Residing At: M.G. Road, Birpara, P.O.-Birpara, Dist.-Alipurduar,
P.S.-Birpara, Pin-735204
3. SMT. RITA AGARWAL
W/o Sri Dipak Kumar Agarwal
Residing At: M.G. Road, Birpara, P.O.-Birpara, Dist.-Alipurduar,
P.S.-Birpara, Pin-735204

WHEREAS the instant application bearing **O.A. No. 49 of 2025** between the parties above named was registered under Debts Recovery Tribunal-II Kolkata under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

AND WHEREAS the said **O.A. No. 49 of 2025** has been transferred and renumbered in this Tribunal as **T.O.A. No. 24 of 2025** due to change in jurisdiction from DRT - II, Kolkata to DRT, Siliguri.

You are hereby directed to appear in person or through duly empowered legal practitioner or through duly authorized officer for further proceedings/hearing of the case on **28.07.2026 at 10.30 a'clock** or immediately thereafter, before the Tribunal / Registrar.

TAKE NOTICE that in default of your appearance on the date aforementioned, the application will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal on this **10.07.2026**.

By Order of the Tribunal
Assistant Register
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Siliguri

**WALK IN IN
INTERVIEW WANTED**

**1. FOUNDATION. (1)
2. PHYSICAL EDUCATION. (1)**

QUALIFICATION AS PER
NCTE FOR PRATICH1 B.ED
COLLEGE

VILL- SERGRAM, PO-
KRISHNABATI
DIST-U/DINAJPUR
PIN- 733129, W.B

EMAIL:
secretary@pratichi.org.in

ELECTRICAL WORK

E-Tender Notice No.: AP/EL/10/26-27. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Sl. No. 1. Tender No.: AP/EL/10/26-27.**

Name of work: At Alipurduar Division: Electrical work for : Construction of 6 units of type-II double storied staff Qtrs in replacement of dilapidated qtrs at officers colony & Construction of 2 units of type-V Qtrs at officers colony under the Jurisdiction of SSE/III/ Alipurduar Jn. **Advertised Tender Value:** ₹15,31,225.65. **Earnest Money:** ₹30,600.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 07-08-2026 and will be opened on 07-08-2026 at 15:30 hrs. at DRM/Elect. (G)/ Alipurduar Jn.'s office. The complete details of the work and the terms and conditions of above e-tender will be available in website <http://www.iregs.gov.in>

DRM/ Elect.(G) / Alipurduar Jn.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

"Serving Customers with a smile"

 सेन्ट्रल बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Central Bank of India						
"CENTRAL" TO YOU SINCE 1911						
Regional Office, Bangachatra Road, Cooch Behar, Pin-736101 gadcoocro@centralbank.co.in						
Sr. No.	Description	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 35%;">The Deadline for Submission of Tender and Place</th> <th style="width: 65%;">Contact Person for Bidders</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; vertical-align: top;">12.08.2026 up to 03:00 PM</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Manager (PF: 111435, Contact +91 89181 31460) Nabeel Islam, Assistant Manager (PF: 141857, Contact +91 70446 38551) Rohit Kumar Mishra, Assistant Manager (PF: 141790, Contact: +91 62904 53396) </td> </tr> </table>	The Deadline for Submission of Tender and Place	Contact Person for Bidders	12.08.2026 up to 03:00 PM	Sanjeev Kumar, Senior Manager (PF: 111435, Contact +91 89181 31460) Nabeel Islam, Assistant Manager (PF: 141857, Contact +91 70446 38551) Rohit Kumar Mishra, Assistant Manager (PF: 141790, Contact: +91 62904 53396)
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The said information and required documents are available in our bank's website:

- <http://www.centralbank.bank.in/en/active-tender>
- <http://centralbank.abcpocure.com/EPROC/>

Sd/- Sanjeev Kumar
Senior Manager, BSD
Regional Office Coochbehar

PWD (GOVT. OF WB) TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, PWD, Howrah Division invites on line item rate Tender for the works : Engagement of Consultancy Services for Conducting Topographical Survey, Identification of Out fall points, Preparation of Optimum Drainage Design, and Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Construction of Surface Drain along G.T. Road from 668.300km to 677.300 Km.
Estimated Amount up to Tender: To be quoted.
N.I.e.T. NO. : WBPWD/EE/HD/NleT_22/2026_2027. , Tender ID: 2026_WBPWD_5017120_1
Bid Submission start date (online) 22.06.2026 up to 10:00 A.M
Bid Submission end date (online) 29.06.2026 up to 13.30 P.M
Corrigendum if any will be published in website only.
Details of N I T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://tenders.wb.gov.in>
Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Howrah Division, PWD



Durgapur Municipal Corporation

City Centre, Durgapur - 713216, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman

Notice Inviting e-Tender

1) **Name of the Work:** Repairing of Bitumin Road by Mastic Asphalt from Roy Kmitto to Kalabagan Main Road within Ward No.- 23, under DMC area.
e-Tender No. : WBDMC/COMM/PW/NIT-048/26-27
Tender ID : 2026_MAD_5017139_1 • Estimated Amount : 18,26,361/-
Last Date : 05th August 2026, up to 05:00 pm

2) **Name of the Work:** Installation of Led Flood Light Fittings on existing Poles, Erection of new Poles for surrounding area illumination and Electrical Distribution Wiring for the Toilet Block at Major Park, under Ward No.- 07, DMC.
e-Tender No. : WBDMC/PW/ELEC/NIT-13/26-27
Tender ID : 2026_MAD_5017153_1 • Estimated Amount : 7,89,853/-
Last Date : 29th July 2026, up to 05:00 pm

For details : tenders.wb.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer
Durgapur Municipal Corporation

E-AUCTION FOR AWARDING PARKING STAND CONTRACT		
E-auction for awarding parking stand contract at following locations over Katihar Division. Auction Catalogue No.: RGJ-HCR-Parking, Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots): 10:00 hrs. on 03-08-2026; Auction Close Date & Time: 10:40 hrs. on 03-08-2026; Rate Unit: Annual Licensing Fee; Trips/Days: 1096.		
Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Description
AA/1	PARKING-KIR-RGJ-MX-176-26-1 (Parking - Mixed)	Parking Lot for Two Wheelers, Three Wheelers and Four Wheelers at location Raiganj.
AA/2	PARKING-KIR-HCR-MX-177-26-1 (Parking - Mixed)	Parking Lot for Two Wheelers, Three Wheelers and Four Wheelers at location Harishchandrapur.

WEST BENGAL
STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Cooch Behar-II Division, Cooch Behar

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/66/008/26-27 Dated: 17-07-2026 for Supply of Materials, E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.

Tender No. KT265597
Closing/Opening date: 07-08-2026

Brief Description: Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of a 14-passenger capacity lift (952 kg) for the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) inside the station building. All structures, components, dimensions, testing protocols, inspections and compliance conditions must strictly adhere to Specification No. RDSO/2013/EM/SPEC/0016 (Rev.2)-2025 dated 25.09.2025 (or latest amendment). Approved makes: only equipment from the following approved manufacturers will be accepted: Johnson, Schindler, Otis, Kone, Arohi (as per attached Technical Specification & Scope of Work: Passenger Lift Installation), Consignee: SSE/P/Malda Town, NFR; SSE/P/Kishanganj, NFR; SSE/P/Barsloi Jn., NFR. Qty: 10 Nos.

Note: For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in). Prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tender are required to log on themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with **IREPS**. In Case they are not registered with **IREPS**, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

Dy. Chief Materials Manager, New Jalpaiguri
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile



NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Invited by the Secretary Jalpaiguri Zilla R.M.C. for **NIT No.: WB/JALZRM/02-SEC/R1/JAL/2026-27** , **Dated: 21/07/2026**. **Tender ID- 2026_WBSMB_1033560_1**. The Period of Downloading of Bidding document From 22.07.2026, 10-00 Hours (IST) and last date of submission of BID is 04.08.2026, 13-00 Hours (IST). Details may be seen from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in from 22/07/2026. For details may contact the Office of the Jalpaiguri Zilla Regulated Market Committee.

Sd/-
Secretary,
Jalpaiguri Zilla RMC

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Memo No. 824/IPW-8/KM/26 Date: 21.07.2026

The following E-Tender is invited by the Executive Officer
Kaliyaganj Municipality, Kaliyaganj Uttar Dinajpur.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Submission Closing Date & Time
1.	2026_MAD_1033594_1	05.08.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.

All other details are available in <https://wbttenders.gov.in> as well as in this office Notice Board

Sd/-
Executive Officer
Kaliyaganj Municipality



बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा

Bank of Baroda

SEVOKE ROAD BRANCH

194, Mangal Jyoti Building, Sevoke Road, Siliguri, W.B.

Mob : 8373060022 / Tel No: 0353-2544970

E_mail: sevoke@bankofbaroda.com

E-AUCTION 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) 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 Secured Creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Bank of Baroda**, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is Where is"**, **As is What is** "and **Whatever there is**" basis on **28.08.2026 14:00 to 28.08.2026 18:00** for the recovery of respective amount, due to the **Bank of Baroda** (Secured Creditor) from the respective Borrower(s) and the Guarantor(s) as specified here under:

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower	Total Dues for recovery	Description of the Immovable properties	Reserve Price (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit EMD (In Rs.)	Data & Time for inspection of the properties
1.	Mrs. Barnali Adhikari & Mr. Kamakhya Nandan Dixit Mortgager : Mrs. Barnali Adhikari Branch Name : Sevoke Road For Enquiry : ARUP KUMAR GHOSH Authorised Officer Mohile No. : 9426263661	Rs. 48,48,888.00 (Rupees Forty Eight lakh Forty Eight thousand Eight hundred Eighty Eight only) as on 04.04.2026 together with further interest expenses and costs etc. thereon.	Equitable mortgage of Residential Flat, Flat No. Q/3, measuring 786 sq.ft. (RERA CARPET AREA), at the third floor of a Ground + three storied residential building identified as "URBANA", together with undivided proportionate right & share on the land measuring 48 Katha, 7 Chhatka recorded in Khatian No. 41 (Old), corresponding to L.R. Khatian No. 1262, Touzi No. 91, J.L. No. 48, appertaining to and forming part of old Plot No. 140, corresponding to L.R. Plot No. 190, situated within Mouza-Jadubhitar Chhat, Pargana-Patharghata, P.S Pradhan Nagar, Dist-Darjeeling, Siliguri, West Bengal, standing in the name of Mrs. Barnali Adhikari . Possession : Physical	Rs. 35,86,500.00 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Only) Bid Increment Amount : Rs. 15,000/- (Rupees Fifteen Thousand Only)	Rs. 3,58,650.00 (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Only)	From 19-08-2026 14:00:00 To 19-08-2026 18:00:00

The e-auction will be conducted through Bank's approved service provider M/s SISL Infotech Pvt. Ltd. at their web portal <https://baanknet.com>. The interested bidders shall ensure that they get themselves registered on the e-auction website and deposit earnest money in the virtual wallet created by service provider as per guidelines provided on <https://baanknet.com>

The interested bidders who require assistance in creating login ID & Password, uploading data, submitting, Bid documents. Training/Demonstration, Terms & conditions on online Inter-se Bidding etc., may visit the website <https://baanknet.com>

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in **Bank of Baroda**, the Secured Creditor's website <https://www.barb.co.in/> and website <https://baanknet.com>

Statutory Notice under Rule 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act : This is also a notice to the Borrower/Guarantor of the above loan under Rule 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 for conducting of Auction for the sale of secured assets on above mentioned date.

For Enquiry : **RAJARSHI DASGUPTA, Authorised Officer-scale-IV-CM, Mobile No. 8373061102**

Note :- 1. In case of refund of the bid/auction amount due to any reason, successful bidder/auction purchaser will not be entitled to claim the interest on the bid/auction amount.

Date : 21.07.2026

Place : Siliguri

Authorised Officer

Bank of Baroda



UK PM Burnham promotes British Indian AI minister to Cabinet post, purges Starmer supporters

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, JULY 21: British Prime Minister Andy Burnham finalised his top team within hours of taking charge at 10 Downing Street and promoted British Indian

elevation, as Minister for AI, falling jointly within the Cabinet Office and the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade, is a sign of the new PM's "deep commitment to AI's importance". "AI is likely the most significant technology in human history. Its impact will dwarf other things. The best case for it is compelling beyond our dreams: a reindustrialised Britain, stronger national security, public services transformed for the better," said Narayan, who was elected as the first Indian-origin member of Parliament from Wales in the July 2024 general election. The risks, too, are real: it is right that the British public shares those worries, for jobs, for the pace of change. The central fact is that it is happening. Nations have a

narrow window to decide whether they shape AI or get shaped by it. Britain is in that window right now, he said. The 36-year-old Bihar-born Labour MP for the Vale of Glamorgan, who held the AI brief as a junior minister in former prime minister Keir Starmer's team, pledged to act with "pace and ambition" and focus relentlessly on securing British influence in shaping AI. "I will also bring to this job the place I represent a constituency in Wales, a nation with industry and ambition at its heart, a proud history of punching above its weight on the global stage. A nation which welcomed a 12-year old and his family, gave us the best chance at opportunity, put me in Parliament as Wales' first ethnic minority MP, and now affords me the chance

to make a mark in Cabinet," he said. With roots in Muzaffarpur, Narayan's family moved to the Welsh capital of Cardiff when he was a little boy. He studied at Oxford and Stanford universities before entering politics after a stint in the private sector and has been vocal about the importance of the India-UK relationship. "The question being asked is one of policy continuity in a slightly transitioning political moment; on this question, I feel absolutely convinced that the stability of the depth of our relationship (with India) is a stability we'll continue to see in the months and years ahead," said Narayan, addressing the India All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) last month. Meanwhile, Lisa Nandy is reappointed to the

ministerial role she has been in charge of since July 2024 with the additional responsibility for digital services too. The 44-year-old Manchester-born daughter of Calcutta-born academic Dipak Nandy and English mother Luise Byers is a close ally of Burnham as his Makerfield constituency neighbour in Wigan, within the Greater Manchester region. In the lead-up to the elevation of the region's former mayor to prime minister, she vouched for her new boss being faster and bolder in the Labour Party's reform agenda. Among the other key Cabinet appointments, South Asian heritage Shabana Mahmood holds on to her role as Home Secretary, which she described as "the best job in the business". "We have begun the work of major

reform to make our streets safer and our immigration system fair for all. Now let's finish the job," she said, after her meeting with Burnham. Jonathan Reynolds, who oversaw the completion of the India-UK free trade agreement last year with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, resumes the trade brief in a bulked-up Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade. "I look forward to partnering with you once again to build on this momentum and strengthen investment flows, mobility provisions, and the shared vision of our leaders for a modern, resilient trade corridor between our two nations," said Goyal, with reference to the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) entering into force last week.

NSA Doval meets Saudi FM; discusses energy security and regional situation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI, JULY 21: National Security Advisor Ajit Doval visited Saudi Arabia and held talks with Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan on strengthening energy security and protection of maritime corridors. The visit comes amid heightened tensions in West Asia, with concerns over disruptions to key shipping routes and energy supplies following the continuing conflict between the US and Iran. According to the Saudi Foreign Ministry, Doval met Prince Faisal in Riyadh on Monday. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and discussed ways to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries. This is Doval's third visit to the Kingdom this year. "They also discussed the latest regional developments and the efforts to enhance energy

security and protect maritime corridors, the ministry posted on X. The meeting was also attended by Saudi Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Saud Al-Sati. Doval's visit comes amid heightened tensions in the region after Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels announced a "maritime embargo" against Saudi Arabia, saying they would block Saudi vessels in the Bab al-Mandab Strait in retaliation for what they described as Riyadh's blockade of ports and airports in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen. Saudi Arabia rejected the claim and said it would take all necessary measures to protect its vessels in accordance with international law. The development has added to concerns over the security of key global shipping routes at a time when traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has already been

disrupted by the ongoing US-Iran conflict. Doval had earlier visited Riyadh in February and again in April, when he held talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal, Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman and National Security Advisor Musaed bin Mohammed Al Aiban. India and Saudi Arabia share close strategic, energy and economic ties. Around 2.6 million Indians live and work in Saudi Arabia, the largest expatriate community in the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia is also among India's top crude oil suppliers. Doval's latest visit comes as India steps up diplomatic engagement with Gulf countries amid continuing regional instability, with New Delhi focusing on safeguarding energy supplies, securing vital sea lanes and ensuring the safety of Indian nationals and seafarers in the region.

Indian diplomats at UN mission still displaced three weeks after building evacuation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW YORK, JULY 21: Indian diplomats at the Permanent Mission of India to the UN are still displaced from their premises three weeks after evacuation orders were issued for them after structural damage was reported in a high-rise under-construction building. The building of the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, located just over a block away from the UN headquarters, houses the Mission offices as well as residences for Indian diplomats and officers posted to the Indian mission to the UN and their families. On July 7, the entire building was evacuated, along with other high-rises and businesses in the area, after structural issues were reported in the erstwhile headquarters of pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, a 37-story high-rise, active construction site between Second and Third Avenues on 42nd Street in Manhattan.

The Permanent Mission of India to the UN is located just across the street from the troubled high-rise. There are several UN missions, UN agency officers, prominent hotels and restaurants, residences and businesses in the area. All Indian diplomats and their families followed necessary precautions in the wake of the evacuation orders and had vacated the premises. The officers and their families had to find temporary lodging in hotels across the city.

Within one day, evacuation orders for almost the entire area in the vicinity of the Pfizer building were lifted, and people moved back into their residences and office buildings. Streets in and around the impacted building too were opened for pedestrian and vehicular traffic. However, the Indian mission, a school and a hotel in the area are still under evacuation orders and cannot be accessed.

Three weeks into the incident, there is still no clarity from the New York City Mayor's office or the Department of Buildings as to when the premises of the Indian mission to the UN will reopen for the officers and their

families to move back in. The prolonged displacement has caused an immense amount of disruption and inconvenience to the Indian diplomats and their families. The Indian diplomats continue to fulfil their work and duties amid these disruptions, including managing the visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to the UN on July 13 to launch India's official campaign for the 2028-29 non-permanent UN Security Council seat. That high-level visit also came amid the dislocation and as the Indian mission premises remained inaccessible for its diplomats. Sources have told PTI that the difficulties faced by the Indian mission have been raised with the relevant authorities as diplomats in the Indian Permanent Mission continue to perform their work.

PTI reached out to officials at the New York City Mayor's Office Department of Buildings about the status of the Indian mission building, disruption caused by the displacement now in its third week, and whether there is a timeline by which the building can be accessed again by officers and their families. There has been no response from the department. The Permanent Mission of India in New York is premised in a 27-story red granite-clad building built in 1993. The building was designed by Indian architect Charles Correa and is located between 43rd and 44th Street just off Second Avenue.

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani had described the situation at the Pfizer building as extremely serious and had said that the building remained unstable. NYC Department of Buildings Commissioner Ahmed Tigani has said in a video posted on X on July 18 that the agency had still not detected any movement in the impacted building for more than a week. While he gave an update on the measures being taken to secure the building, there has been no update from the Department or the Mayor's office as to when the premises of the Indian mission to the UN can be accessed again.

SNIPPETS

UAE expresses solidarity with India, conveys condolences over flood, landslide victims

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Tuesday expressed solidarity with India over the loss of lives and damage caused by floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains. The message came as several parts of India continued to reel under heavy monsoon rains. The UAE has expressed its solidarity with the Republic of India over the victims of floods and landslides caused by heavy rainfall, which resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries, as well as significant damage, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement. The ministry also conveyed its sincere condolences and sympathy to the victims' families, while wishing a speedy recovery to those injured. The Indian Embassy in the UAE thanked the Emirati government for the gesture. We deeply value this expression of friendship and support, the mission posted on X on Tuesday.

Man stabs tourists near Acropolis in Athens

ATHENS: A man stabbed and wounded two tourists Tuesday morning near the ancient Acropolis in Athens, Greece's top tourist attraction, police said. The assailant attacked a man and a woman, both Greek Americans, with a knife on a pedestrian street near an entrance to the Acropolis itself and near the entrance to the Acropolis Museum, which lies at the foot of the Acropolis hill. The woman suffered light injuries to the leg, while the man was more seriously hurt with wounds to the arm, police said. The attacker was detained at the scene, while the two victims were transported to the hospital by ambulance, authorities said. The identity of the attacker was not immediately clear, but police said he appeared to have been suffering from psychological problems.

Ministerial meet on political terrorism to deepen info sharing on far-left groups: Official

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, JULY 21: A ministerial meeting on political terrorism, hosted by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, resolved to deepen information sharing and coordination on imposing travel restrictions on persons supporting political terrorism, a senior US official said. The Ministerial on Resurgence of Political Terrorism, held at the Department of State on Thursday last, saw participation of representatives from 66 nations, including 17 ministers. India's envoy to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra participated in the meeting. This is the beginning of a sustained effort to ensure we address a new threat, and we look forward to continuing to work with our partners in the months ahead, Gregory D LoGerfo, Coordinator and Ambassador-at-Large for Counterterrorism, told reporters here on Monday. LoGerfo said at the Ministerial, participants discussed prospects to align their own legal frameworks to ensure that these far-left networks cannot simply relocate across borders.

As part of these designations, the US Treasury Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence will take steps to dismantle the funding which sustains these groups, he said, adding that the US State Department is offering awards of up to USD 10 million for information disrupting far-left terrorist financing. LoGerfo said the participants agreed to deepen information sharing, coordinate on travel restrictions, and strengthen protection of critical infrastructure, particularly transportation and energy systems, which have been repeated targets.

FBI on lookout for Harmanveer Singh over drug trafficking in US

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, JULY 21: The FBI is on the lookout for Indian national Harmanveer Singh for his alleged role in drug trafficking for the Ravinder Dhanda gang based out of Canada. The FBI action followed Operation Hard Ball, a coordinated international enforcement action targeting the gangs run by Lawrence Bishnoi, Jaggu Bhagwanpuria and Ravinder Dhanda. Harmanveer Singh is wanted for his alleged involvement in a transnational criminal organization engaged in a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute controlled substances, and conspiracy to export

controlled substances, the FBI said in a statement. It said the Ravinder Dhanda Organized Crime Group, is based out of Vancouver, Canada, and allegedly smuggled bulk quantities of cocaine and methamphetamine for drug trafficking organizations throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. On June 23, 2026, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Singh in the United States District Court, Central District of California, Los Angeles, California, after he was charged with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute, conspiracy to export, and possession with intent to distribute Controlled Substances.

President Murmu in North Macedonia; first visit by any Indian head of state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SKOPJE (NORTH MACEDONIA), JULY 21: President Droupadi Murmu arrived here on a two-day state visit, as part of her three-nation tour of European countries aimed at boosting ties. She is the first Indian President to visit North Macedonia. During the second leg of her visit to this landlocked country in southeastern Europe, beginning from Tuesday, Murmu will hold bilateral talks with her counterpart Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova. She will also meet Prime Minister Hristijan Mickoski, Speaker of the Assembly Afrim Gashi and address the Parliament

here. Murmu is scheduled to address the India-North Macedonia Business Forum as well.

Both sides have keen interest in deepening economic ties in priority sectors such as agriculture, pharmaceuticals, science and technology, Information Technology, and IT-enabled Services. President Murmu will also visit Memorial of Mother Teresa. Mother Teresa was born on August 26, 1910 in Skopje the modern day capital of North Macedonia. She lived in Skopje until 1928, when she left to join the Sisters of Loreto in Ireland before eventually moving to India. Built in 2009, this museum sits on Macedonia

Street in the heart of Skopje. It stands on the exact site of the former Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church, where she was baptised the day after her birth. Mother Teresa was awarded Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, in 1980.

North Macedonia, which shares land borders with Greece to the south, Albania to the west, Bulgaria to the east, Kosovo to the northwest and Serbia to the north, covers an area of 25,713 square kilometres. The Indian community in North Macedonia is very small. Most of them are engaged in the IT sector, teaching at universities or working as executives in

multinational companies.

In the final leg of her tour, Murmu will visit Romania from July 23-25 at the invitation of President Nicusor Dan. It will be the first visit by an Indian president to Romania in more than three decades. The state visit to the three nations reflects the importance India attaches to strengthening its bilateral ties with these countries, along with New Delhi's engagement with the wider Eastern European region. One of the most important focus of the visit is on 3Ts - trade, technology and tourism, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs Sibi George has said.



President Droupadi Murmu being welcomed by North Macedonia President Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova on her arrival, in North Macedonia---PTI

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Bollywood actors Sunny Deol and Dia Mirza during the special success party of film 'Ikka', in Mumbai—PTI



Actor Akanksha Puri at the launch of GOAT Brew Restaurant in Mumbai – IANS



FORTUNE FORECAST

ARIES



From time to time, you realize that you do not pay attention to your own wants and desires. You are too quick to please your partner but not so happy with this unequal footing you are in. Hence you could discuss a matter of vital importance with your mate. It would take lot of effort on your part to make him/her see your point of view.

TAURUS



A selfless approach always wins admirers, and you will have your share of them. Your image will be enhanced in the eyes of your lover who is going to praise you. You will have an animated discussion with your colleagues on a matter of vital importance. But they will accept your point of view. Health will remain ok.

GEMINI



You need to pause and think a bit before you set about making any big changes. Since the stakes are high, make personal decisions carefully and slowly. It would be wise to take counsel of your family members and well-wishers. You would also get support from unexpected quarters for your efforts. Income would be good.

CANCER



A stubborn attitude could go against you. You may want to compromise with your lover as neither wants to give way right now. Ego can spoil things for both of you. You need to think carefully about future relationships also and be a bit flexible. Give and take attitudes from both sides will make things happen in a positive direction.

LEO



Being sad for a while can be the outcome of a misunderstanding you may have had with your partner. A short distance journey could turn out to be a good distraction for this. You could also get involved in spiritual activities and visit a temple or a religious place. This will make you peaceful and you feel relaxed.

VIRGO



If you are single, you could meet someone who gives you a lot of attention. It could be a time when you fall in love and look forward to a good relationship. You will get involved in religious activities and prayers which will provide you with mental peace. Your intuitive power will get strong. Love will hold more importance for you.

LIBRA



It is an ideal day for love. Your sweetheart will give you company and do every bit to make you happy. Both of you will spend some time together. You can be transferred to your job. This will bring you stress. You will keep busy with matters of investment. You will get interested in meditation and religious activities.

SCORPIO



You may be thinking of discussing a matter of vital importance with your partner. Now time is appropriate to cherish some wonderful moments sharing hopes and aspirations of each other. You will get into an argument with some close person on a trivial matter. You need to keep a check on your emotions; anger and passion. War of words will lead you nowhere.

SAGITTARIUS



You are very insistent and very much involved in an ongoing relation. This has resulted in lot of joyous moments of togetherness, bonding and mutual love with your mate. Your performance at work will be better and splendid. Official and government work that had been pending for a long time will now be completed.

CAPRICORN



You are thinking of making major changes in your life. But it is not required because everything is going smoothly. Your partner will give you the right advice to keep things special. Your financial position will get better. Your bosses will be very much impressed with your attitude and commitment. It may bring you additional responsibility in your job.

AQUARIUS



You will be in a positive frame of mind. Your proposals at workplace will get a nod from bosses. You will be ready to take a major risk and plan to do something extraordinary. There are chances of meeting a new person in your life on a holiday outing. And you will think of tying the knot quite soon. Your life is changing for good.

PISCES



You will be enjoying great peace at home. Your married life will be very good. You will plan with your partner for a secure future ahead. Marriage prospects of someone younger in the family too will come up for discussion. You will think about having some property. And will make efforts in that direction.



Actress Pranitha Subhash attends the unveiling of fashion designer Gaurav Gupta's latest couture collection, 'Light Song' in Mumbai—IANS

Mahima Makwana calls for a more structured & disciplined film industry to protect actors' mental health

Actress Mahima Makwana believes that maintaining a structured routine, especially in the entertainment and glamour industry is essential for mental well-being.

She said that while the entertainment industry often lacks fixed schedules, finding a balance is crucial for staying in the right headspace.

Speaking to IANS in an exclusive interview, Mahima shared her thoughts on mental health and the importance of creating a sense of structure despite the unpredictable nature of an actor's profession.

"I feel a particular kind of structure is always important so that our

mental health is also in place because it's a kind of profession that demands you to be in your best headspace more than anything. So I feel every, any kind of a particular structure is extremely important and there is more awareness about it. Our profession is such that neither it is Monday nor it is Sunday as a fixed off day," she said.

She acknowledged that while conversations around healthier work practices are becoming more common, achieving a work-life balance also depends on where an actor is in their career and how comfortably they can communicate their needs.

"As far as the whole shift

thing is concerned, I think a particular kind of structure is being taken into consideration, but that also happens where you are in your career and how you can voice it out and how do you find a middle ground with your filmmakers as well."

She added, "Here I am speaking from my point of view, but I also have to consider everybody else's point of view where people have money, people have hard work. So you find a middle ground, you find what works for you and therefore you go about it. At least that's my take on it," she explained.

Mahima's remarks have come amidst the long standing debate around



fixed working hours in the industry, especially after Bollywood superstar Deepika Padukone put forth her demand for an 8 hour shift owing to motherhood duties.

On the work front, Mahima will next be seen in 'Musafir Cafe', which is set to premiere on July 24. The project also stars Vikrant Massey and Vedika Pinto.

Talking about the show, she added, "To speak in the context of the show, I think it just makes you want to live a little. It makes you want to... can I just pause and breathe and be in the present moment."

Musafir Cafe explores themes of love, relationships, heartbreak and self-discovery.—IANS

When Amrita Rao recalled her first meeting with 'Vivah' director Sooraj Barjatya

Actress Amrita Rao's iconic role as Poonam in Sooraj Barjatya's 'Vivah' enjoys a special place in the hearts of movie buffs. During a media interaction, Amrita had recalled how she bagged the role. Remembering her first meeting with the celebrated director, she revealed that, unaware of the role she was being approached for, she went to meet Barjatya wearing in jeans and

"When I met first time, I had no expectations were form he wanted to no idea. So I went completely in and a t-shirt like a contemporary find that the role he enacts as a small town Madhupur who is shared. Amrita remembered how absolutely shocked thought of her for seeing her in Bhagat Singh', a movie where she barely had any screen time. Sharing the first thing the director told her, Amrita continued, "But one thing I really, really will not forget is the first thing Suraj ji said to me was, 'I really liked you in that film of yours'. And in that split second, you know, my mind went to all the big box office hit films that I've usually been associated with. But to my surprise, he said something like 'Legend of Bhagat Singh', you know, jaha pe kul mila kar I think screen pe I was just barely enough for seven minutes.—IANS



When Jaya Bachchan revealed what made Aishwarya the ideal 'Mrs Bachchan'

Veteran actress and politician Jaya Bachchan once revealed what made Aishwarya Rai the ideal 'Mrs Bachchan' during her interaction with filmmaker Karan Johar on the popular chat show, "Koffee With Karan". Talking about which qualities of Aishwarya she admires the most, she said, "She is lovely. I love her". Jaya Bachchan went on to add that despite being such a huge star, Aishwarya maintains a low profile when with family. She added that Aishwarya is someone who prefers to listen instead of speaking too much. Jaya Bachchan stated, "She is such a big star herself, but when we are all together, I have never ever seen her push herself, and I like that quality. I like it that she stands behind, she is quiet, she listens." "Another beautiful thing is she has fitted so well. Not just into the family, but she knows this is family, these are good friends," the veteran actress further explained. Talking about Aishwarya and Abhishek's love saga, they



have worked together in multiple projects over the years, such as "Kuch Naa Kaho", "Dhoom 2", "Sarkar Raj", "Umrao Jaan", "Guru", and "Raavan". According to the reports, the couple first met back in 1999 for the photo shoot of their first project together, "Dhaai Akshar Prem Ke".

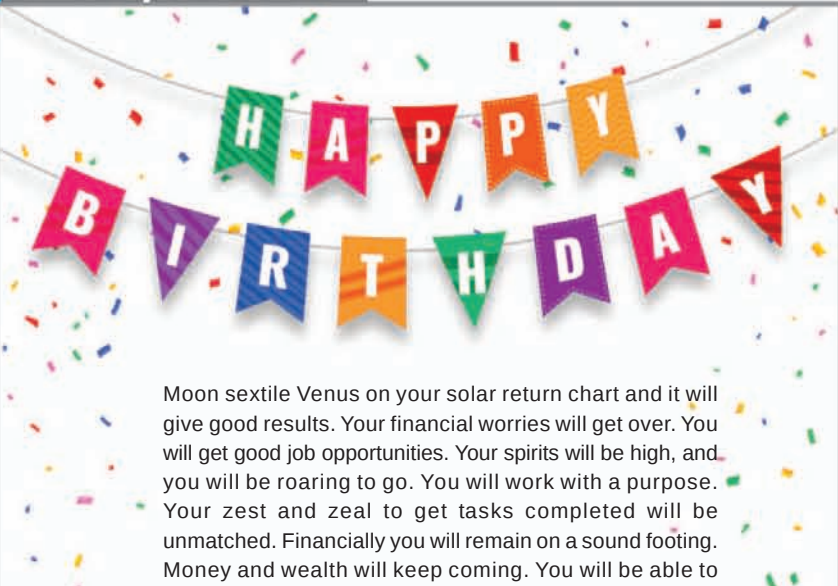
As their friendship eventually bloomed into love, Aishwarya and Abhishek finally tied the knot on April 20, 2007, in a lavish traditional ceremony

in the presence of family and friends.

On 16 November 2011, they entered the new blissful chapter of their lives as they welcomed their first child, daughter Aaradhy. On the professional front, Abhishek has been roped in for Shah Rukh Khan's highly-awaited next "King".

Helmed by 'Pathaan' maker Siddharth Anand, the project will also see Anil Kapoor, Suhana Khan, and Abhay Verma in key roles, along with others.—IANS

Birthday Forecast



Moon sextile Venus on your solar return chart and it will give good results. Your financial worries will get over. You will get good job opportunities. Your spirits will be high, and you will be roaring to go. You will work with a purpose. Your zest and zeal to get tasks completed will be unmatched. Financially you will remain on a sound footing. Money and wealth will keep coming. You will be able to improve your general standard of living. You will make good progress in job/profession. Business income will rise. You will also fall in love with someone who knows you. And decide to marry. You will have very joyous and cheerful atmosphere at home. Health will remain perfect. You will decide to go on short vacation with family. You will meet a very influential politician who will help you immensely in days ahead.

Lucky dates : 4, 13, 22, 31
Lucky days : Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday
Lucky colours : Amber, Cream, Peacock Blue

PEANUTS



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- Theme
- Fail to retain
- Holy
- Colour scheme
- Noteworthy act
- Vigilant
- Small imaginary being
- Footwear
- Prophet
- Tavern
- Presentation
- Servant
- Portion
- Barbers
- Horned ruminant
- Cut off

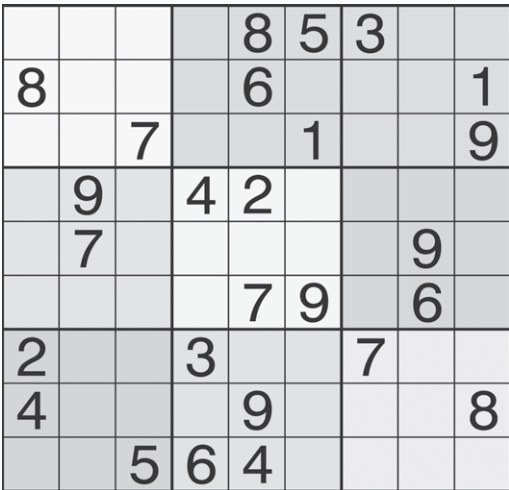
DOWN

- Insects
- Worshipped image
- Discharge
- Elevates
- United
- Time of the year
- Eating place
- Papal ambassador
- Conceal
- Make beloved
- Radiolocation
- Monkeys
- Get up
- Anger

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS FOR THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

SUDOKU

To solve the Sodoku Puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS





A cyclist passes participating nations' flags ahead of the Commonwealth Games 2026, in Glasgow, Scotland---PTI



Eoin Morgan and Kate Cross chatahead of the Women's Hundred curtain-raiser, The Oval



Deepthi Sharma takes a catch off her own bowling, MI London vs Sunrisers Leeds, The Hundred Women's, The Oval

Bowlers face entire match suspension for deliberate front foot no balls, non-landing balls: BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU, JULY 21 /-/-/ The BCCI has made a significant change to the playing conditions ahead of the 2026-27 domestic season, and, now, the bowler will be suspended for the remainder of the match for bowling deliberate front

foot no balls or non-landing deliveries. As per the existing rules, the bowler would have been suspended just for that particular innings for such deliveries. The BCCI has circulated the changes, mooted by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) recently, among all the state associations.

"Bowler suspended for deliberate front foot no ball cannot bowl in the whole match. ...but the change to the playing conditions (41.8), will be decided by the on-field umpires," the BCCI said in the circular, accessed by PTI. Another significant rule change pertains to the day's closure, and now, the last over will have to be completed even if a wicket falls in that over. At present, stumps will be drawn if a wicket falls in the middle of the last over of the day. But the MCC, and BCCI thereby, felt that rule 12.5.2 needed to be amended as it "prevented teams from sending a new batter out late in the day." Similarly, the teams

henceforth will not be permitted to declare or forfeiture (Rule 15.2) the final innings of the match, as the governing bodies thought "it was used for contrived results and bad for the game." Now, the head coach of a team will be allowed to enter the field during drinks breaks

during domestic one-day matches, as ICC has also proposed a rule change in this regard in international cricket. The

wicketkeepers also got some breather in the proposed changes as their gloves need to be behind the stumps (Rule 27.3) only at the time of the delivery. Earlier, the keepers had to ensure that their gloves remained behind the wicket once the bowler started his/her run-up. On a few instances earlier, the law led to the ball being called a no-ball or stumping gets nullified. The state associations have started informing umpires and match referees about the new rule changes ahead of the domestic season, starting next month with the Duleep Trophy.

"There will be some awareness programmes for officials, besides making the relevant parts of the circular available to them. We have good enough time to do all this as domestic season is almost a month away," an official told PTI.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADRID, JULY 21 /-/-/ Spain's World Cup-winning soccer team returned home on Monday and an estimated crowd of almost 2 million was on hand to greet the squad through the streets of Madrid. The 26 players and their coaching staff met with the country's royals, and then with Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, after arriving in the Spanish capital a day after beating Argentina 1-0 in the final in New Jersey.

"Thank you to the coaches and players for the style of play, the effort and the victory," Sánchez said. "We have truly enjoyed watching you play." The squad then boarded an open-top bus for a raucous parade through central Madrid. "Stars shine together" was written on the bus, which also carried photos of the footballers. Players — carrying the World Cup trophy and wearing shirts with the words Somos Campeones (We Are Champions) — danced and interacted with the fans along the route. "It's been an emotional and proud experience to represent a wonderful country with such passionate and devoted fans," Spain coach Luis de la Fuente said before the parade started. "We are filled with joy." The squad traveled down Madrid's historic avenues from near Moncloa Palace, the prime minister's official residence, to Cibeles Square, where authorities told local media that some 120,000 people were on hand for a ceremony. Players were introduced one by one before entering the stage set up at the square. Each picked the song to be played when they came in. Alex Baena, celebrating his 25th birthday, entered with the World Cup trophy. Coach De la Fuente was thrust into the air by his players after being introduced. The coach was among those who sang along to the song being played for them. Striker Borja Iglesias featured as a



Players from Spain's national soccer team perform for fans at Cibeles Square in Madrid---AP/PTI

D.J. at one point, with his teammates dancing on the stage. Singers Aitana, Ana Mena and Lola Índigo were among those entertaining the crowd and the players. The ceremony ended with the whole Spain squad lifting the trophy again, just like at the awards ceremony on Sunday, but now in front of the local crowd.

Groups of fans had begun securing their spots near Cibeles late Monday morning ahead of the team's arrival, bringing umbrellas to protect against the sun and temperatures of up to 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit). The square is where previous Spain teams and their supporters have typically gathered to celebrate. It's also the traditional celebration spot for Real Madrid when it wins titles. Officials estimated a total of 1.8 million people welcomed the team in Madrid. Spain walked off with the trophy Sunday after Ferran Torres scored the winner in extra time to

FIFA investigates Argentina players confronting Spain's on-field World Cup celebrations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EAST RUTHERFORD (US), JULY 21 /-/-/ FIFA opened an investigation Monday after Spain's celebrations on beating Argentina in the World Cup final took an ugly turn when players briefly clashed on the field.

Video replays showed several players involved in a scuffle, including Argentina midfielder Leandro Paredes. He appeared to shove Spain's Eric Garcia by the throat. When Spain substitute Gavi jumped in to intervene, Paredes pushed him to the ground. Spain captain Rodri also seemed to be hit in the stomach by Argentina defender Nahuel Molina as he ran past to join teammates celebrating the title win. Molina later crowded Rodri, who was the target of a verbal confrontation by his former Manchester City teammate Nicolas Otamendi. Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni and other players rushed in to deescalate the situation. FIFA said in a statement its "disciplinary committee has appointed a Disciplinary and Ethics Prosecutor to investigate potential breaches of the (FIFA disciplinary code) with regard to the post-match incidents."

The brief statement gave no timetable for an investigation and did not name Paredes, who was not shown a red card after the game yet could face a suspension. Spain needed extra time to win Sunday's final 1-0 after Argentina was reduced to 10 men.

As vice-captain, I have to play responsibly: Tilak on questions over his strike rate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

HARARE, JULY 21 /-/-/ The fall of early wickets in the UK and Ireland did not give middle order batters like him the license to go all guns blazing from the get go, said India T20 vice-captain Tilak Varma on Tuesday, insisting that his play is based on conditions and match situations.

Ahead of the first T20 against Zimbabwe on Thursday, Tilak was asked about the team's winless run in Ireland and England, its first tour after winning the T20 World Cup at home. Tilak's approach against slow bowlers too was questioned besides his strike rate though he did make a 25-ball 53 in the final T20 at Southampton.

"In this game, you have to bat in different places, and especially in such conditions, it's not easy. At the same point, I always say that I do whatever is required for the team. If I have to play the waiting game for the team, then I will play accordingly. If I have to hit, then I hit and play.

"So at that time, in the conditions of the team, if you look at it, from Ireland to England, you always had four or five wickets falling in the power play. So going there and hitting and getting out, it doesn't make a lot of sense." While he wants to attack from the word 'go', Tilak insisted that at times, he needs to show a bit of discretion.

"So that's what I always have in my mind, that I can go and hit the first ball. But at the same point, I'm playing for the country, so there are a lot of responsibilities. "When you have a vice-captaincy attached your name, team must have given me that after due deliberation. So I want to take the same responsibilities that the management gives me, so I'm playing according to that," said Tilak. Talking more about the defeats in the UK and Ireland, Tilak said the performance was down to the team not adapting to the conditions after playing majority of cricket in Asia over the past couple of years.

"Honestly, if you see, Shreyas bhai is leading a successful team



right now. So, of course, there will be responsibilities and expectations. At the same point, there were different conditions in Ireland. If you look at the last two years, we played more matches in Asia."

"And after two years, we came straight to the overseas conditions, that too good side. England is a very good side. We all saw how they played in the semifinals of the T20

World Cup. So, of course, it will be challenging to play in good conditions on the good side," said Tilak. Tilak expects Zimbabwe to come hard at them. Unlike last time, India are fielding a near full strength squad.

"Zimbabwe is also a very good team. They are a very competitive team. And you see last year when we started the series, they won the first game. We expect them to come hard at us." On the conditions, he added: "As you can see, the wickets were good last time around. So I was talking to them, because when we played in Zimbabwe last year, our junior team came in. So at that time, almost a lot of people from that team are still here.

"So I was talking to them (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi) about how the wicket will behave. At the same point, again, we have played two series, Ireland and England. So if you look at the ground, the dimensions are very big, and it's windy and the conditions are cool. It would be an advantage having played here."

Both India and Zimbabwe will have equal chance in T20I series: Sikandar Raza

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

HARARE, JULY 21 /-/-/ Zimbabwe T20 captain Sikandar Raza has dismissed any talk of India being overwhelming favourites, insisting the upcoming three-match T20I series will be a closely-fought contest with both teams having an equal chance of emerging victorious. The series gets underway on Thursday, with Zimbabwe sensing an opportunity against an Indian side looking to bounce back from a difficult white-ball tour of Ireland and England. India endured a 0-2 T20I series defeat to Ireland in Belfast before going down 0-4 in the five-match T20I series against England under new captain Shreyas Iyer. The visitors also lost the ODI series 1-2 under Shubman Gill.

"Both countries will have an equal chance in this series. But one thing I am very sure about is that because Zimbabwe has been playing very consistent and very entertaining cricket, I can say this for sure that this series will be very entertaining," Raza told Star Sports. Zimbabwe's memorable 23-run upset of Australia at the ICC T20 World Cup in Colombo in February sent shockwaves through the tournament, with the defeat ultimately contributing to Australia's stunning group-stage elimination. They have also secured



victories against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh this year. "As far as winning or losing is concerned, both countries have an equal chance to win the series," said Raza, the veteran all-rounder who has played 136 T20Is. He added that the Indian cricket was going through a transition phase, which will make the series interesting.

"Yes, India is going through a transition and to some extent you'll see Zimbabwe is also gonna have a little bit of transition happening as well. I don't see it as a one-sided series," he said. The second and third T20I will be played at the same venue on July 25 and 26.

Kuldeep's fighting spirit will see him through: Childhood coach Kapil Pandey

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, JULY 21 /-/-/ India's decision to go with four specialist fast bowlers in the third ODI against England at the Lord's without fielding Kuldeep Yadav has not shaken the left-arm wrist spinner's confidence, and his childhood coach Kapil Pandey insisted that the 31-year-old's fighting spirit will help him regain his place in the side.

Kuldeep's absence from the entire series has once again put the spotlight on

his role under head coach Gautam Gambhir. Since Gambhir took charge on July 9, 2024, Kuldeep has featured in only 38 internationals across formats despite India playing 104 matches during the period. Pandey said Kuldeep is not frustrated as team selection remains the prerogative of captain and coach.

"There is no question of disappointment for Kuldeep. He has prepared well and performed whenever he has got opportunities," Pandey told

PTI during an interaction. For Pandey, Kuldeep being a part of the squad is a matter of pride.

"It is always painful when the team loses, but the biggest thing is to remain part of the Indian team. Playing for the country is a matter of pride. Whether he is picked in the playing XI depends on the captain and the coach.

We cannot do anything about that. There is no problem in being benched." The veteran coach maintained that Kuldeep remains India's premier



spinner and would make an immediate impact whenever his chance arrives.

"Kuldeep is India's top spinner and one of the country's best bowlers. Whenever he gets a chance, he will perform." Pandey also dismissed suggestions that Kuldeep's modest tally of Test appearances reflected his worth, saying it was the impact that mattered.

Kuldeep has only played 18 Tests in nine and half years since his debut. "It is not about how many

Tests he has played but the kind of impact he has made in those games. Whenever Kuldeep has played, he has helped India win.

"Against England at home in 2024, he played a major role in India's victories. He is a fierce competitor," he said. He said Kuldeep's ODI record has consistently shown that he delivers when entrusted with responsibility.

"Whenever he gets an opportunity, Kuldeep delivers. It doesn't matter how many matches he has played. The more

opportunities he gets, the more matches he helps India win." Pandey pointed out that the spinner's improvements with the bat are often overlooked.

"If you look at Kuldeep's batting, he has scored a 100 for Uttar Pradesh and has made several half-centuries. He has worked hard on that aspect of his game as well."



I, Dip Kumar Das, S/o Dipak Das, residing at Sajherpar Ghoramara, Pundibari, Cooch Behar. do hereby solemnly affirm and declare vide an affidavit in the Court of EM Cooch Behar Sadar on 02-07-2026 that My Aadhar Card's name mistakenly has been recorded as Deep Das. I declare that Dip Kumar Das & Deep Das both are same person.