

Centre notifies census

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

The Government on Monday issued a notification for conducting India's 16th decadal census, 16 years after the last census in 2011. Census 2027 will include caste enumeration for the first time since the Independence. The census will be carried out with a reference date of October 1, 2026 in the snow-bound areas like Ladakh and March 1, 2027 in the rest of the country, the notification said.

"The reference date for the said census shall be 00.00 hours of the 1st day of March, 2027, except for the Union territory of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand," it said. In respect of Ladakh and snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date shall be 00:00 hours of the first day of October, 2026, it said.

The massive exercise, which is expected to cost the Government over ₹13,000 crore to give population-related data from across the country, will be conducted by about 34 lakh enumerators and supervisors and around 1.3 lakh census functionaries armed with digital devices. Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the preparation for the census with Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India



Home Minister Amit Shah reviewing preparations for the forthcoming census

PIONEER PHOTO

Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, and other senior officials here on Sunday.

This is the 16th census since the exercise started and the eighth after Independence, a Government statement said. According to Article 246 of the Constitution, the census is a subject listed at 69 in the Union List in the Seventh Schedule. The census is the primary source of data collection from every section of the society and a decennial activity.

The last comprehensive caste-based count was done by the Britishers between 1881 and 1931. Caste was excluded from all census operations conducted since Independence. The decision to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census was taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 30.

"Considering all these circumstances, and to ensure that

our social fabric does not come under political pressure, it has been decided that caste enumeration should be included in the main census instead of being conducted as a separate survey," an official statement had said. In 2010, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had assured the Lok Sabha that the matter of caste census would be considered in the cabinet. A group of ministers was formed to deliberate on this subject and majority of the political parties recommended conducting a caste census. However, the previous Congress-led Government opted for a survey instead of a caste census, known as the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC).

The SECC conducted in 2011 under the UPA Government did collect caste data but it was never fully published or utilised. Bihar and Telangana have conducted caste surveys in the last three

years. While some States have conducted surveys to enumerate castes, these surveys have varied in transparency and intent, with some conducted purely from a "political angle, creating doubts in society", the Government had said.

In the upcoming exercise, the provision of self-enumeration will also be made available to the people. The two-phased census will start with the first step of house-listing operation (HLO) in which the housing conditions, assets and amenities of each household will be collected. This will be followed by the second phase of population enumeration in which the demographic, socio-economic, cultural and other details of every person in each household will be gathered. Very stringent data security measures would be kept in place to ensure data security at the time of collection, transmission and storage.

The Bystander



India has nuclear edge: SIPRI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

India continues to maintain an edge over Pakistan in nuclear capabilities, with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) noting that New Delhi has not only expanded its nuclear arsenal from 172 warheads in 2024 to an estimated 180 in 2025, but also made significant progress in developing advanced nuclear delivery systems. However, the more significant development lies not in the number of warheads, but in technological advancements and evolving military posture.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report, India's new 'canisterised' missiles, which allow warheads to be pre-mounted and transported more safely, could potentially carry nuclear warheads even during "peacetime".

If these systems are deployed with warheads, it would mark a major doctrinal shift, enabling faster launch readiness and possibly indicating a move toward a more flexible deterrence strategy. These next-generation systems may also be able to deliver multiple warheads using a single missile in the near future.

Three India-bound 787s return mid-air

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi/Mumbai/Hyderabad

In a concerning turn of events, three Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft bound for India were forced to return mid-air within a span of just 36 hours due to a bomb threat and technical snags, raising fresh safety concerns among air passengers and authorities. The incidents involved flights heading to Delhi, Chennai, and Hyderabad, operated by Air India, British Airways, and Lufthansa respectively. These incidents comes days after an Air India Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft bound for London crashed in Ahmedabad, shortly after takeoff, killing 241 of the 242 passengers on board.

A Delhi-bound Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner from Hong Kong returned to its airport of origin on Monday within an hour of takeoff after the pilot in command suspected a technical issue. The pilots of the Delhi-bound Air India flight, which returned to Hong Kong after nearly 90 minutes of take-off, didn't want to continue their journey after a suspected technical glitch was

detected in the aircraft. The pilot could be heard telling Air Traffic Control, "We don't want to continue further." An audio of the pilot's conversation with the Air Traffic Control has emerged where they are heard saying that they don't want to continue and return to the airport.

The aircraft involved in the

Pilots of the Air India flight, which returned to Hong Kong didn't want to continue their journey after a suspected technical glitch was detected

incident was also a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, the same aircraft model which crashed shortly after taking-off from Ahmedabad airport on Thursday, June 12, killing 241 out of 242 on board.

The flight, AI 315, landed safely in Hong Kong and all passengers have disembarked from the plane, the airline said in a statement, adding that the aircraft is undergoing inspection.

BJMC anniversary shrouded in grief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
Ahmedabad

A year ago, the mood was celebratory as the BJ Medical College and Hospital marked its foundation day. On Monday, the scene spelt devastation and despair - families awaiting identification of their kin killed when an Air India plane crashed into the complex, medics who lost their colleagues soldiering on stoically and everywhere the ruins of what once was.

This foundation day, its 146th, will forever stand out for its stark sorrow. The BJMC, one of the oldest medical colleges in India, has been the epicentre of action following the June 12 crash, which killed 241 people on board and 29 on the ground, including five MBBS students.

While families, their faces grim with grief and anxiety, waited for DNA identification so they could claim the bodies of their loved ones, the environs reflected their state of mind.

Thick layers of soot are still deposited on its buildings, damaged as a result of the crash. On June 16 last year, many of its students and alumni had taken to social media to wish their college and alma mater a "happy birthday", but grief and chaotic

Iran missile attacks on Israel kill eight

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■
Tel Aviv

Iran fired a new wave of missile attacks at Israel early Monday, killing at least eight people, while Israel warned hundreds of thousands of people in the middle of Tehran to evacuate ahead of new strikes.

The warning came on the fourth day of the conflict, when the Israeli military claimed it had achieved air superiority above the Iranian capital and could fly over the city without facing major threats. The military has issued similar evacuation warnings for civilians in parts of Gaza and Lebanon ahead of strikes.

The warning affected up to 330,000 people in a part of

EMBASSY ENGAGED WITH INDIAN STUDENTS

New Delhi : Amid the Iran-Israel conflict, the Centre on Monday said the Indian Embassy in Tehran was continuously monitoring the security situation and engaging Indian students in Iran to ensure their safety while also relocating them to safer places in some cases.

The Ministry of External Affairs' statement read, "The Indian Embassy in Tehran is continuously monitoring the security situation and engaging Indian students in Iran to ensure their safety."

The statement continued, "In some cases, students are being relocated with Embassy's facilitation to safer places within Iran. Other feasible options are also under examination. Further updates will follow. Separately, the Embassy is in touch with community leaders regarding welfare and safety."

"ADVISORY In view of the current situation in Iran, all Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin in Iran are requested to remain vigilant, avoid all unnecessary movements, follow the Embassy's Social Media accounts and observe safety protocols as advised by local authorities," the Indian Embassy in Iran's post on X read.

central Tehran that includes the country's State TV and police headquarters, as well as three large hospitals, including one owned by Iran's para-

military Revolutionary Guard.

"At this time, we can say that we have achieved full aerial superiority over Tehran's

skies," said Israeli military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Effie Defrin. The military said it had destroyed more than 120 surface-to-surface missile launchers in central Iran, a third of Iran's total.

Israeli military officials also said fighter jets had struck 10 command centres in Tehran belonging to Iran's Quds Force, an elite arm of its Revolutionary Guard that conducts military and intelligence operations outside Iran.

The Israeli strikes "amount to a deep and comprehensive blow to the Iranian threat," Defrin said.

Iran's State-run news agency reported that State-run television abruptly stopped a live broadcast after an Israeli strike.

ED issues fresh summons to Vadra

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
New Delhi

The Enforcement Directorate has issued a fresh summons to Robert Vadra for questioning in a money laundering case linked to UK-based arms consultant Sanjay Bhandari. He has been asked to depose before the federal probe agency here on June 17 for the recording of his statement in this case that is being investigated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), said officials on Monday.

Vadra, 56, was called for questioning in the case on June 10 but he skipped, saying he had flu-like symptoms on June 9 and had undertaken a COVID test as per protocol. His lawyer had then said that Vadra had no intention of avoiding summons and was ready to appear before the ED anytime before or after his travel abroad later this month. The agency is understood to have summoned Vadra to record his statement under the PMLA and subsequently file a chargesheet in the case.

The ED had questioned the businessman for three consecutive days in April in a separate money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in a 2008 land deal in Haryana. He is being investigated in three money laundering cases by the ED. Bhandari (63) fled to London in 2016, soon after the Income Tax Department raided him in Delhi.

A UK court earlier this month refused an application filed by the Indian Government seeking permission to appeal in Britain's Supreme Court against the discharge of Bhandari in an extradition case, virtually ruling out chances of him being brought to the country to face the law.



People walk under umbrellas amid rains in Mumbai

PTI



Rescue operation underway after an Air India plane crashed in near the Ahmedabad airport

FILE PHOTO

scenes are what is evident on the campus right now, as survivors and family members struggle to come to terms with the crash.

The London-bound flight AI171 — Boeing Dreamliner 787-8 — crashed moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Thursday afternoon, and fell onto the campus of the medical college in the Meghaninagar area, before going up in flames.

A total of 99 victims have so far been identified through DNA matching, and 64 bodies, including that of former Gujarat

chief minister Vijay Rupani who was on board the ill-fated aircraft, have been handed over to their families, officials said on Monday.

Many medical students and resident doctors had just sat for their meal at the hostel mess when the tail-side portion of the aircraft rammed into it, turning an ordinary lunch hour into a horrific nightmare.

The images of the detached tail portion of the aircraft precariously lodged near the roof of the hostel mess building, pieces of the fuselage scattered on the ground and inside buildings,

500-year-old Banyan tree bears heritage fruits

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ Patna/
New Delhi

In a significant move toward preserving Bihar's ecological and cultural legacy, the Bihar Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through Bihar Biodiversity Board, has shortlisted 32 trees across five districts — Buxar, Aurangabad, Munger, Jamui, and Bhagalpur — for designation as Biodiversity Heritage Trees. A senior Bihar Government officer shared that among these, 28 trees are estimated to be over 100 years old, with most remarkable being the majestic Banyan tree in Madanpur block of Aurangabad near Gaya, believed to be approximately 500 years old.

Selection of tree was made from an initial list of over 1,500 trees following rigorous field verification through various sources including the chain of



PIONEER PHOTO

elderly people. Detailed guidelines for heritage tree identification were issued to district collectors and divisional forest officers.

Criteria included tree age (typically more than three generations), historical or mythological significance, ecological uniqueness, endangered species status, or scientific value.

Final list features a diverse range of species: Banyan (12), Peepal (6), Pakad (3), Mahua (2), Neem (2), Khirri (1), Semal (2), Gular (1), Tamarind (1), Kalpavriksha (1), Kanak Champa (1). 500-year-old Banyan tree in Aurangabad stands as the oldest among them, while remaining trees range in age from 70 to over 100

years. To foster citizen engagement and ensure sustained protection, Bihar Government has also launched a 'Bihar Heritage Tree App'. Through this digital platform individuals and local representatives can upload images and GPS-tagged details of notable trees in their locality, their district, neighborhood, panchayat, or block, along with GPS locations.

"If the information is verified and the tree is found to have unique significance, it will be considered for inclusion in the heritage list. Submissions that meet heritage criteria will be evaluated and potentially added to the official list. Nature not only sustains life but also preserves history. Some trees standing tall on the soil of Bihar are more than just trees—they are living witnesses to centuries of social, cultural, and natural legacy," added the Bihar Government official.



Goan women pick wild vegetables from the forest region

PTI

in their diet. These are organic varieties, naturally found in forest areas and untouched by pesticides and fertilisers," Tawadkar said.

"Life expectancy was higher in the earlier times. People used to consume vegetables according to seasons. There is a need to promote these vegetables today. You could say it is part of the BJP Government's

'Fit India' initiative," he said. These vegetables also have medicinal properties and are beneficial for people of all age groups, he said.

During the Raan Bhaji festival held in 2023 and 2024, it came to light that at least 40 different kind of wild vegetables are found in the forests of Goa, the 56-year-old legislator said.

A Goan sustenance secret

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Panaji

The Goa Government is taking steps to preserve the old tradition of locals foraging for wild vegetables during the monsoon in the State's forests, aimed at protecting the cultural heritage and promoting sustainable food practices, officials said.

Backed by the Government's initiative, Goa assembly speaker and Canacona MLA Ramesh Tawadkar has been spearheading a campaign to create awareness about the wild vegetables, popularly known as Raan Bhaji, in the coastal State.

The Pramod Sawant-led Government has been promoting the campaign during the monsoon and supporting the Raan Bhaji festival, which will be held sometime in September this year, Tawadkar said.

"In the olden days, villagers in Goa included wild vegetables

Classifieds

BEDKHALI NOTICE

I, Surindra Rani W/o Late shri Deshpal Kaushal R/o House no. 740 Sector-43A, Chandigarh, declare that my son Pralambh Kaushal and his wife Sushma Kaushal, they both are out of my control. So I disown them from all my moveable and immovable property. Anybody deals with them at their own risk.

I, Harbans Singh S/o Narender Singh R/o #126-S, Near Narula Park, Model Town, Hisar declare that my son Harpreet Singh & his wife Sareha are out of my control. So, I disown them from my all movable/ immovable properties. If anybody deals with them shall do their own risk in future.

I, Ashok S/o Kali Ram R/o Vill- Kalupur, Sonipat declare that my daughter Sneha are out of my control. So I disown them from my all movable/ immovable property any body deals with them at own risk.

I Shanti Devi W/o Rajjan Lal R/o Mauhar Village Sai Tehsil Bendki Fatehpur Uttar Pradesh declare that my son Himanshu Lal and his Wife Kajal are out of my control. So I Disown them from all our moveable/ immovable properties. If anybody deals with them they will do their own risk/ responsibility.

I Rani W/o Late Sh Satpal R/o House no 926 village Singha Devi Nada Naya Gaon Punjab declare that my son Samuel is out of my control. So I disowned him from all my movable and immovable properties. Anybody dealing with him on their own risk.

I Jagdish Singh S/o Late Surennder Singh R/o H.no. 1559, Adarsh nagar, Naya Gaon, Mohali, declared that Ajay Singh is out of my control, so I disown him from my moveable- immovable properties, anybody deals with him at their own risk.

I, Gyan Chand S/o Amar Nath R/o Pehowa District Kurukshetra, My Grandson Pardeep Kumar is Out Of Our Control. I, Disown them From All My Moveable and Immoveable Properties. If Anybody Deals With Him At Their Own Risk.

मैं मेरिंदर बमर पुँउर मी चमेल मिथ दामाँ भुवन नँधेर 109, मदीए ब्रडज मिथ नगर मगानुवर उडिमिल से सिद्धा पठानवेट्टा ए रगिटे दल्ला रा। भेरे लइका मदीए बमरप भेरे हुम सी पडती बिदरलपी बँर देनै, भेरे बिदेनै से घावर रग। मे अँम, मैं एतुनै राँनै नै आपुटी उमाम सँल अँरल, नाएदर से बेदखल बरला रा। अँम से बमरप एतुनै देतुनै ठाल से ही लेटे देटे बरेंगा एउ धुए निमेदर उदेगा। मरुपंड नैट वदत।

मैं सुरेश कुमार पुत्र सतनाम चंद निवासी बुर्ज तहसील रतिया जिला फतेहाबाद हल्फन बयान करता हूँ मेरा लड़का लपरीत मेरे कहने सुनने से बाहर है। मैं इसको अपनी चेल व अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल करता हूँ। भविष्य में मैं इसको किसी भी कार्य/लेनदेन का जिम्मेवार नहीं होऊंगा।

मै सौदगर सिंह पुत्र मेहर सिंह निवासी वार्ड नं. 12 अरोडा कलोनी रतिया तहसील रतिया जिला फतेहाबाद हल्फन ब्यान करता हूँ कि मेरा लड़का गुरपीत सिंह व उसकी पत्नी सदीप को मेरे व मेरे परिवार के कहने सुनने से बाहर है। मैं उनको दोनों गुरपीत सिंह व सदीप कोर को अपनी चेल व अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल करता हूँ। भविष्य में मैं और मेरा परिवार इनके किसी भी कार्य/लेनदेन के लिए जिम्मेवार नहीं होगा।

मैं पद्मलान सिंह पुत्र बाखटोर सिंह पुर्फ गुरबकश सिंह निवासी अलीका हालआबाद तेलीवाडा तहसील रतिया जिला फतेहाबाद हल्फन बयान करता हूँ कि मेरे लड़के सुरजीत सिंह व मूलकीत सिंह व पुत्रवधु बलविन्द कोर पत्नी सुरजीत सिंह व हर्षदीप पत्नी मलकीत सिंह उपरोक्त चारों मेरे कहने सुनने से बाहर है मैं उपरोक्त चारों को अपनी चेल-अचल सम्पत्ति से बेदखल करता हूँ। भविष्य में मैं इन सभी के किसी भी कार्य लेनदेन के लिए जिम्मेवार नहीं होऊंगा।

मैं अनिता रानी पत्नी स्वर्गीय श्री कृष्ण रोहिल्ला, निवासी हरी सिंह कालोनी, रोहतक घोषणा करती हूँ कि मैं, अपनी लड़की कमल रोहिल्ला पत्नी राजबीर, निवासी सेक्टर 17 रोहिणी, दिल्ली से सम्बन्ध विच्छेद करती हूँ। मेरी लड़की कमल रोहिल्ला व उसका पति राजबीर मेरे कहने सुनने से बाहर है। उनके गलत व्यवहार एवं गलत चल चलन के कारण मेरा व मेरे परिवार के किसी भी सदस्य से उनका कोई संबंध व नाता नहीं रहा, मैं दोनों से सम्बंध विच्छेद करती हूँ।

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Smt. Laxmi Basavant Chavan having Aadhar No 2713 3216 0266 Mother of War No. 15709795Y, Rank: Nk, Name: Santosh Chavan, Unit: 16 RSR, wish to state that, in my son's Army service record my name is registered as Laxmi, but it should be registered as Laxmi Basavant Chavan and Date of Birth Registered as 01-07-1958 instead of 01-06-1963 as per my aadhar card details.

I, Shri, Basavant Monappa Chavan having Aadhar No 8646 7339 6396 Father of Army No. 15709795Y, Rank: Nk, Name: Santosh Chavan, Unit: 16 RSR, wish to state that, in my son's Army service record my name is registered as Basavant, but it should be registered as Basavant Monappa Chavan and Date of Birth Registered as 01-07-1952 instead of 01-03-1948 as per my aadhar card details.

I, Lalsha Devi legally mother of No. 14440440A Hav (HK) Shashi Shekhar Kumar presently residing at Jadopur, East Champaran, Bihar - 845422 have changed my name from Lalsha Devi to Lalita Devi vide Affidavit dated 16/06/2025 before executive Magistrate Jalandhar, (PB).

I, Bkalyani Devi is legally mother of No. 1800369A Hav(L) Subodh Kachhap resident of Vill – Sithio Naya Toli, PO – Sithio, Distt – Ranchi, State – Jharkhand, PIN – 834004 have changed my name from Bkalyani Devi to Vikalyani Devi vide Affidavit dated 16/06/2025 before executive Magistrate Jalandhar, (PB).

I, Chamar Kachhap is legally father of No. 1800369A Rank Hav(L) Name Subodh Kachhap presently residing at Vill – Sithio Naya Toli, PO – Sithio, Distt – Ranchi, State – Jharkahnd, PIN – 834004 have changed my name from Chamar Kachhap to Chamar Kachhuwa vide Affidavit dated 16/06/2025 before executive Magistrate Jalandhar, (PB).

I, Balvinder Kaur Mother Of No. 4494300K Rank NK Gurdeep Singh R/O Kular Nagar, Moga, Punjab, 142001 Declare That My Name Balvinder Kaur And Date Of Birth 01/01/1981 Is Wrongly Mentioned In My Son's Army Record, But My Correct Name Is Balvinder Kaur And My Correct Date Of Birth Is 16/08/1971, Which May Correct As Balvinder Kaur And Date Of Birth As 16/08/1971 In My Son's Army Record.

I Smt Rajwant Kaur widow of No 1055493H Ex LD Late Sukhdarshan Singh R/o VPO Sudhar, Patti Gili, Teh Raikot, Distt Ludhiana Punjab-141104 declare that in army record of my husband my daughter name entered as Sukhjiewar Kaur is incorrect, her correct name is Sukhjiwan Kaur.

I, No 3403047M Ex Nk (TS) Narinder Singh S/o Santokh Singh R/o Vill: Budho Barket, PO/Teh: Dasuya, Distt Hoshiarpur have changed the date of birth of my father Santokh Singh from 06-4-1960 to 01-1-1943.

I, No 3403047M Ex Nk (TS) Narinder Singh S/o Santokh Singh R/o Vill: Budho Barket, PO/Teh: Dasuya, Distt Hoshiarpur have changed the name of my mother from Pretem Kaur to Pritam Kaur and her date of birth from 07-4-1965 to 01-1-1946.

I Lali is legally Mother of Army No. 15675437Y Rank Hav Name Kalu Ram of Unit 7 IDSR C/o 56 APO Residing at Ward No. 10, Beelahi, Beelahi, Alwar, Kotkasim State Rajasthan Pin-301702 Declare That my Name Lale and Date of birth 01.07.1946 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Lali and correct date of birth is 01.01.1946.

I Army No. 15334232W Rank Hav Name venkatarao satyavarapu Of Unit 20 Engr Regt. C/O 56 APO, Pin-914020, Have Changed My Mother Name From acchamma to satyavarapu acchamma & old Date Of Birth 01.07.1959 New date of birth 01.01.1966.

I Jay Narayan is legally Father of Army No. 15675437Y Rank Hav Name Kalu Ram of Unit 7 IDSR C/o 56 APO Permanent address Ward No. 10, Beelahi, Beelahi, Alwar, Kotkasim State Rajasthan-Pin-301702 Declare That my Name Jaynarayan and Date of birth 01.07.1941 Wrongly Mentioned in my Son Army Service Records but my correct Name is Jay Narayan and correct date of birth is 01.01.1942.

I Army No. 15334232W Rank Hav Name venkatarao satyavarapu Of Unit 20 Engr Regt. C/O 56 APO, Pin-914020, Have Changed My Father Name From PAPISETTI to SATYAVARAPU VENKATA PAPISETTI & Old Date Of Birth 01.07.1954. New Date Of Birth 01.01.1951.

I, Army No. 16117534Y Rank NK Name BAGMODE RAJUBHAI BHAGVANDAS of Unit 03 Engr Regt. C/o 56 APO, PIN-914003 Yol Cantt, have changed my Mother name from Bagmode Santa to Shanta Bhagavan Waghamode & Date of birth 01.07.1945 to 01.01.1966.

I, Sindubai Sanjay Lahamage w/o Sanjay Narayan Lahamage, resident of Village Barshingave PO Taked Tehsil Igatpuri District Nashik (Maharashtra) 422403 Declare That on my son's Army No. 15742637K Rank SIGMN Name Lahamage Amol Sanjay, service record my name is mentioned as SHNDHUBAI and date of birth is mentioned as 01.06.1976, which is wrong. My true name is Sindubai Sanjay Lahamage and true date of birth is 01.01.1976.

I, Sumitra Bai existing legal dependents of No 4491600A Rank L/NK Name Mangal Singh, Have changed my Date of birth 06 September 1969 (Date of birth Of as dependents per Army Record) to Date of birth 01 Jan 1976 which was Wrongly declared part II Order. However, my correct Date of birth 01 January 1976.

I, Bahal Singh existing legal dependents of No 4491600A Rank L/NK Name Mangal Singh, Have changed my Date of birth 04 May 1965 (Date of birth Of as dependents per Army Record) to Date of birth 01 Jan 1965 which was Wrongly declared part II Order. However, my correct Date of birth 01 Jan 1965.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rajinder Kumar S/o Maru Ram R/o #59A, Near Bus Stand, Barwala, Distt.Panchkula (Haryana) have changed my name from Rajinder Kumar to Rajender Kumar.

I, Nasib Singh Father of No. 15238754P Rank NK, Name Late Manu Unit 341 FD Regt, C/O 56 APO, Presently R/o Village Dumarkha Khurd, PO Dumarkha Khurd, Tehsil Uchana, Distt Jind State Haryana Pin 126116. In my son service record my DOB 01/01/1963 due to wrong entry. But My Right DOB is 12/03/1966 in all records at present concerned noted.

I, Santosh Mother of No. 15238754P Rank NK, Name Late Manu Unit 341 FD Regt, C/o 56 APO Presently R/o Village Dumarkha Khurd, PO Dumarkha Khurd, Tehsil Uchana, Distt Jind State Haryana Pin 126116. In my son service record my DOB is 01/01/1965 due to wrong entry. But My Right DOB is 02/04/1960 in all records at present concerned noted.

I, Nasib Singh Father of No. 15238754P Rank NK, Name Late Manu Unit 341 FD Regt, C/o 56 APO Presently R/o Village Dumarkha Khurd, PO Dumarkha Khurd, Tehsil Uchana, Distt Jind State Haryana Pin 126116. In my son service record my DOB is 01/01/1965 due to wrong entry. But My Right DOB is 02/04/1960 in all records at present concerned noted.

I, Neeraj Muthreja S/o Sh. Kesar dass H.No. 1157, 3rd floor, sec-2, Rohtak - 124001 declare that I have changed my minor son name Sujal to Sujal Muthreja in future he will be called as Sujal Muthreja for all purposes.

I, Rita Attri wife of Sh. Ishwar Dutt resident of village Dungiser post office Kotbeja Tehsil Kasauli District Solan Himachal Pradesh declare that my husband name is entered as Ishwar Dutt Sharma in my service record. The correct name of my husband is Ishwar Dutt. I want to change my husband's name from Ishwar Dutt Sharma to Ishwar Dutt in my service record and other concerned records. All concerned may note.

I, Sandhu Singh S/o Satpal R/o Village Dehriwal PO Bassi Jalal PS Tanda Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Sadhu Ram. Concerned Note.

I, Harjinder Singh S/o Sadhu Ram R/o Village Dehriwal PO Bassi Jalal Khan PS Tanda Distt. Hoshiarpur have changed my name to Singh Harjinder. Concerned Note.

I, No. 2996246W Hav Vijay Singh (Retd) resident of Village Mohiouldinpur Gazi, PO Sango Katrala, Tehsil Mukerian, Distt Hoshiarpur (Pb) have changed name of my dependent daughter from Simranjeet Kaur to Simranjit Kaur. Concerned note.

I, Hakim Ram S/o Late Manohar Lal R/o Adarsh Nagar, Saraswati Nagar, Distt Yamuna Nagar, Haryana have changed my name from Hakim Ram to Hakim Ram Singh.

I, Rina Chopal W/o Rajiv Chopal R/o Village Kharwan, Distt Yamuna Nagar have changed my name from Rina Chopal to Ravita.

I, Sunita Bishnoi W/o Sh. Anil Kumar R/o H.No. 14/79, Ram Colony, Barnala Road, Sirsa (Haryana). That I have changed my name from Sunita Bishnoi to Sunita, in future my name is to be called as Sunita.

I, Yamuna Nagarkoti Wife of Shri Prahlad Singh Address at Vill Ruina Post Bharkatia Distt. Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand) have changed my name from Yamuna Soun to Yamuna Nagarkoti Vide affidavit no. AA-378722 Year 2025 before Notary Regtd. No. HR-AJ-105.

I, Harjeet Kathuria W/o Jagdeep Singh Kathuria, R/O Kothi No. 293, Phase-7, SAS Nagar (Mohali), Punjab, 160062, have changed my name to Harjeet Kaur.

I, Anil Puri, son of Sh. Tilak Raj Puri, resident of House No. 272, Sector 55, Chandigarh, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Anil Puri to Anil Kumar Puri.

I, Manju Kapoor W/o Sanjeev Kapoor R/O 177 B. K Dutt Gate, Near Arun Rashmi School, Amritsar have changed my name to Shalu Kapoor.

It is for general information that I Ashok Kumar Son of Sh. Rajender Singh Residing at Village Balab, Distt. Rohtak, Haryana-124411 declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as JATIN in his 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my minor son is JATIN KUMAR which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

I, Sanju Rani W/o Anil Kumar # 1891, Mauli Jagran Complex, Chandigarh have changed my name to Sanju.

I, Lakshmi W/o Mangal Toppo # 19, Sector 3-A, Chandigarh have changed my name to Lakshmi Toppo.

I, Sushma W/o Saresh Kumar # 2009, Sector 45, Burali, Chandigarh have changed my name to Sushma Devi.

I, Shalu Attri W/o Kuldeep Singh R/o House No. 201/11, Railway Road, Kalayat, Tehsil Kalayat, Distt. Kaithal (Haryana) declares that I have changed my name from Shalu Attri to Shalu. In future, I will be known by the name of Shalu. All concerned please note.

I, Atipriya S/o Sh. Komal Makkar R/O 39/9 J Medical Campus, Rohtak-124001 declare That I have changed the name from Atipriya Singh to Atipriya In future I will be called as Atipriya Singh for all purposes.

I Neeraj Muthreja S/o Sh. Kesar dass H.No. 1157, 3rd floor, sec-2, Rohtak - 124001 declare that I have changed my minor son name Sujal to Sujal Muthreja in future he will be called as Sujal Muthreja for all purposes.

I, Rita Attri wife of Sh. Ishwar Dutt resident of village Dungiser post office Kotbeja Tehsil Kasauli District Solan Himachal Pradesh declare that my husband name is entered as Ishwar Dutt Sharma in my service record. The correct name of my husband is Ishwar Dutt. I want to change my husband's name from Ishwar Dutt Sharma to Ishwar Dutt in my service record and other concerned records. All concerned may note.

I, Rita Attri wife of Sh. Ishwar Dutt resident of village Dungiser post office Kotbeja Tehsil Kasauli District Solan Himachal Pradesh declare that in the school record of my son Hemang Sharma the father name is entered as Ishwar Dutt Sharma whereas correct name is Ishwar Dutt. I want to get my husband's name changed from Ishwar Dutt Sharma to Ishwar Dutt in my son's school record. All concerned may note.

I, Anju Maan W/o Manjeet Kumar R/O House No-36, Rasoi (42) Sonipat, Pritampura, Haryana-131029 Inform That Anju Maan & Anju Mann Both Name Is Same And One Person.

I, Umesh S/o Suraj Bhan R/o Krishna Colony, Tohana Distt Fatehabad have change my name Umesh to Umesh Kumar That Umesh is my name and Kumar Surname.

I, Vikram Sharma S/o Vijay Sharma R/o Near Hanuman Mandir Tohana Distt Fatehabad have change my name Vikram Sharma to Vikram Sharma

I, Sita Devi W/o Laxman Dass R/O H. No. 25 W No 15 Bhuna Road Durga Colony Tohana Distt Fatehabad have change my name Sita Devi to Sita Rani.

I, Rammik Kaur Rakhra / Narinder Kaur D/o Karam Singh W/o Ajay Pal Singh Rakhra R/O 2440, Phase XI, Mohali, have changed my name Rammik Kaur Rakhra / Narinder Kaur to Rammik Kaur Rakhra for all future purposes.

I, Shamsahd Khan S/o Sabar Khan R/o Villbinjoki Kalan Tehsil & Distt Malerkotla, have changed my name to Shamshad Khan.

I Anita W/o Homi Sharma, H.No. 1, Meda Majra, Tehsil Nangal (Rupnagar) have changed my name Anita Sharma after marriage.

I Swinder Singh S/o Jangir Singh VPO Mastgarh, Kaithal, have changed name from Swinder Singh to Sinder Singh

I Shaikh Ahmad Ward no.5, House no.155,Tehsil una, Mehatpur una,(HP) have change my minor daughter Musarrat Mahek name to Mehak Shaikh.

I, Geeta Kashyap W/o Surjeet Singh R/o # 594 Dadumajra Colony Chandigarh have Changed my name to Geeta.

I, Tajinder Singh S/o Amrik Singh Village Mangal Sain P/o Gurdas Nangal Tehsil/ Distt Gurdaspur declare that in my Passport No. F3772162 my Name Spelling wrongly written as Tajinder Singh. My Correct Name is Tajinder Singh.

I, Raj Pal S/o Ajit Ram R/o Nawpan Pind Mahmawala, Batala, Gurdaspur, Punjab-143505 have changed my name to Rajpal.

I, Nisha Devi D/o Jeevan Kumar R/o Ward No 5, Nurpur(T), Kangra, Himachal Pradesh-176202 have changed my name to Anisha Devi.

I, Manju W/o Ghansham R/o V.Semi PO-Khajuria, Distt-Jalandhar, Punjab-144024 have changed my name to Manju Kaur.

I, Balvir Kaur W/o Satnam Ram R/o Near Surinder Depot, Gobindpur, Phagwara, Kapurthala, Punjab-144401 have changed my name to Dalvir Kaur.

I, Gurpreet Singh S/o Mohinder Lal R/o Vill. Rajowal, P.O. Mandiala, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-144105 have changed my name to Gurpreet Toor.

I, Subhash Patial S/o Hukam Singh Patial R/o P 02 Tulip Officers Enclave Equine Breeding Stud Hisar, Haryana declare that I have changed my name from Subhash Patial to Subhash Chander Patial for all future purpose.

I, Ravinder Kaur, Revender Kaur and Rawinder Kour W/o Amarjit Singh R/o H.No.253-A, New Azad Nagar, Near Gurudwara, Dhan Dhan Baba Deep Singh ji Sultanwind Road, Amritsar have declare that above both names are mine one and same person

I, Cham W/o Karnail Singh R/o VPO Devi Dasspura Tehsil an District Amritsar have changed my name from Cham to Charan Kaur.

I, Bhajan Kaur W/o Charan Singh R/o VPO Dharawal Kaler Tehsil Ajnala Amritsar have changed my name to Harbhajan Kaur

I, Kawaljeet Singh S/o Sucha Singh Sandhu R/O 8/1, Sarkaria Enalave, Palah Sahib Road, Airport Road, Amritsar have chnged my name from Kawaljeet Singh to Kawajit Singh

I, Navroop Kaur W/o Harpreet Singh R/O H.No.26, Swaraj Enclave, Near Ridhi Tower Shivalik City, Sector 127, Kharar, PO Kharar District SAS Nagar (Mohali) have changed my minor daughter's name from Rajwinder Kaur to Jannat Kaur

I, Gagandeep Singh son of Partap Singh resident of Village Ahli Khurd, Kapurthala, have changed my name to Gagandeep as my Given name and Singh as my Surname

I, Prince Partap Singh S/O Ravinder Singh R/O H.No.3644/28 Gali No.2 Guru Ram Dass Nagar Sultanwind Road Amritsar Have Changed My Name To Prince Partap Singh Ahluwalia

I, Mandeep Khurana S/o Kanwarjit Singh Khurana R/O 152-A, Medical Enclave, Amritsar have changed my name from Mandeep Khurana to Mandeep Singh Khurana

I, Renu Bala W/o Gurbaj Singh R/o Bhabrohal, PO Bhaini Rajputtan Amritsar have changed my name from Renu Bala to Ramandeep Kaur

I, Samrat Singh Hazzra S/o Nishan Singh R/o Village Devi Dasspura Distt Amritsar have changed my name form Samrat Singh Hazzra to Samrat Singh

I, Ranjit Kaur Wife of Kashmir Singh R/o VPO Khiala Kalan Tehsil Ajnala Distt Amritsar Punjab have changed my name to Ranjeet Kaur.

I, Kanta Urf Guddi mother of No.13784879F RFN Ashish Kumar Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my sons's army service record my name has been wrongly entered as Savitabai but my correct name is Savita Sanjay Misal Vide affidavit No.IN-PB4488481876733694X Dt.16.06.2025 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Savitabai mother of No.13778809M NK Misal Ankush Sanjay Unit of 11 Jak Rif C/o 56 Apo that in my sons's army service record my name has been wrongly entered as Savitabai but my correct name is Savita Sanjay Misal Vide affidavit No.IN-PB44881876733694X Dt.16.06.2025 before Executive Magistrate Amritsar

I, Dia Singh S/o Charan Singh R/o Vill. Saidh Lehal PO Tarsikka Tehsil Baba Bakala Distt. Amritsar have changed my name to Daya Singh

I, Veena Devi W/o Kewal Krishan Resident of Jakria PO Bhatoya, Distt. Gurdaspur, Punjab. I have changed my name from Veena Devi to Veena Kumari. All concerned please note.

I, Pooja and Pooja Kaur W/o Gurwinder Singh R/O 127, G.T Road, Abadi Dalip Avenue, Amritsar have declare that above both names are mine one and same person.

I Amar Pal wife of Balvinder Singh son of Joginder Singh resident of VPO Bighar, Tehsil and District Fatehabad Haryana do solemnly declare that my correct name is AMAR PAL. But in some documents my name is written as Amarpal or Amarpal Bhayana. Hereafter I have changed my name to AMAR PAL for all purposes and records.

I, Rajni Bala W/o Sumit Bhalla R/o H No 298/2, Ward No 10, Ahmedgarh, Malerkotla, Punjab-148021 have changed my name to Kavita Bhalla.

I, Sonu jindal w/o Sh Rajeev jindal have changed my name from Sonu Jindal to Sonia Jindal. All concerned please note.

I, Yashpal Hooda (Service No.SS-37458-F) resident of H.No.312/24, Arya Nagar, Sonipat have changed my daughter's name from Arshia to Arshiya Hooda vide affidavit dated 16-06-2025 before Sonipat court.

I Kuljit Kaur Is Legally Wedded Spouse Of Jc-240447k Ex Risaldar, Puran Singh R/O Village Ghani Wala Po Golewala, Tehsil And District Faridkot (Punjab) Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Kuljit Kaur To Kuljeet Kaut And Date Of Birth From 15.2.1963 To 24.02.1963 Due To Change In Civil Documents

I Ramandeep Shira s/o Gurdev Singh r/o house no. 11, village Theh Newal tehsil Guhla distt. Kaithal Haryana inform that I have changed my name from Ramandeep Singh to Ramandeep Shira

I, Prince son of Bal Kishan resident of House No. 447 Ward No. 9 Loharan Chahrke Road Bhogpur, District Jalandhar Suffix my surname Price to my birth name and now my name is Prince Prince.

I, No.3203915K Rank HAV Name Rakesh Kumar Unit 22 JAT C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Ward No 7, Jato Ka Mohalla, Neemlaka, PO : Pur, Distt. Alwar, State-Rajasthan-301702 declare That in my army record my father name wrongly entitled as Bhagwana Ram Jat but his actual name is Bhagwana please correct this error, vide affidavit dated 14.06.2025

I, No.3203915K Rank HAV Name Rakesh Kumar Unit 22 JAT C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Ward No 7, Jato Ka Mohalla, Neemlaka, PO : Pur, Distt. Alwar, State-Rajasthan-301702 declare That in my husband army record my mother name wrongly entitled as Santosh Devi but her actual name is Santosh please correct this error, vide affidavit dated 14.06.2025

I, Anita Devi legally spouse of No.3203915K Rank HAV Name Rakesh Kumar Unit 22 JAT C/o 56 APO Bathinda cantt. (Punjab) permanent resident of Ward No 7, Jato Ka Mohalla, Neemlaka, PO : Pur, Distt. Alwar, State-Rajasthan-301702 declare That in my husband army record my name wrongly entitled as Anita Devi but my actual name is Anita Kumari please correct this error, vide affidavit dated 14.06.2025

I, Tamnna D/o No. 3194000N Ex Naik Narender Kumar R/o Vill. & P.O. Polangi, Teh. & Distt. Rohtak (Haryana) declare that my name is Kumari Tamanna and my DOB 01.01.2006 are wrongly mentioned in my father Army records. But my actual & correct name is Tamnna and my correct DOB is 09.09.2005. vide affidavit dated 10.06.2025 before Notary Public Rohtak.

I, Sukhbir S/o Prem Singh R/o Nimbran Patti Naguran, Teh Alewa Distt Jind have changed my name from Sukhbir to Sukhbir Singh.

I, Santosh W/o Sukhbir Singh R/o Nimbran Patti Naguran, Teh Alewa Distt Jind have changed my name from Santosh to Santosh Devi.

I, Shilpi Madan w/o Prince R/o #429/6, Patel Nagar, Patiala Chowk JIND-126102 (Haryana) have declared that my name changed from Shilpi madan To Shilpi.

I, Bharat Kansal S/o Rajender Pardeep Kansal R/O N-25, Inder Prastha Colony, Hisar declare that I have changed the name of my daughter from Kayra to Kayra Kansal for future purpose.

Continuity Pg. No. 11

THE FAZILKA COOPERATIVE SUGAR MILLS LTD.
VILLAGE BODIWALA PITHA PO: KHUHKHERA-152121
TEH. & DISTT. FAZILKA
Phone: 01638-296709, E-mail: csmfazilka@gmail.com

ONLINE E-TENDER & OFF-LINE TENDER NOTICE
On line e-tenders are invited for 1. Welding Electrode. Last date for submission of e-tender is **10.07.2025 upto 10.00 A.M.** Opening & negotiation of e-tender will be held on the same day at 2.00 PM. E-tender details are available on the Punjab Govt. website **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** Off-line tenders are invited for Stationery Items and Purchase of various Machinery Parts, and various contract jobs. Last date for submission of off-line tenders is **30.06.2025 upto 05.00 PM** and opening & negotiation will be held on **01.07.2025 at 10.00 AM** onwards in the office of undersigned. off-line tenders details are available on Mills website **www.fazilkasugar.com**. If Any change/corrigendum/addendum will be uploaded on above websites.

GENERAL MANAGER

न्यायालय तहसीलनादा-कम-सब रिजिस्ट्रार

Editor's TAKE

A watershed moment in India's policy and politics

The notification of Census 2027 marks a significant step towards building an inclusive India

On June 16, 2025, Union Home Minister Amit Shah officially notified the commencement of India's 16th national Census — marking the eighth since independence — setting in motion what may become the most significant demographic exercise in the country's history. But this is not just another count of people and households. For the first time, the Indian Census will include caste enumeration, a move with potentially transformative implications for policymaking, governance, and political discourse. Originally scheduled for 2021, Census 2027 comes after a six-year delay, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its prolonged disruptions to field operations. In addition, administrative hesitations and political sensitivity around the issue of caste enumeration contributed to the postponement. Bihar's caste-based survey in 2023 laid the groundwork for this national shift. The findings there challenged long-held assumptions and triggered a broader national conversation.

As states like Maharashtra, Odisha, and Karnataka began seeking their own surveys, pressure mounted on the Centre to rise above political hesitation. The inclusion of caste data was a matter of heated debate over the past few years, with the opposition consistently demanding a caste-based Census to better understand socio-economic disparities and frame more targeted welfare policies. The Modi Government, on its part, had long resisted these demands — arguing that caste enumeration could be divisive and logistically challenging. However, growing pressure from regional parties, and even some within the NDA fold — especially in light of Bihar's caste survey in 2023 — left the Centre with few choices. The entire exercise will be conducted digitally for the first time. About 34 lakh enumerators and 1.3 lakh functionaries will be deployed, armed with mobile applications to ensure efficiency, accuracy, and real-time data management. A significant feature of Census 2027 will be the option for self-enumeration via digital platforms, empowering citizens to directly participate in the data collection process. The inclusion of caste data marks a paradigm shift.

For decades, Indian policymakers have been working with incomplete caste data — largely based on the 1931 Census, the last time caste details were officially recorded. This outdated picture has led to ambiguous policy formation, skewed welfare targeting, and inconsistent reservation frameworks. Political parties across the spectrum — especially the opposition — have argued that affirmative action and socio-economic schemes cannot be equitable without accurate caste data. Caste influences access to education, employment, healthcare, and land ownership. A detailed Census would help craft data-driven social justice policies, recalibrate reservation quotas if needed, and direct resources more effectively. Census 2027 will be a social mirror. For the first time, policymakers and citizens alike may have access to reliable, granular caste data. This opens new possibilities for targeted welfare, social reform, and participative governance. Yes, challenges abound — data privacy, political misuse, administrative errors — but the potential rewards are immense.

Modi@11: India's cultural renaissance

From reviving sacred temples and pilgrimage routes to reclaiming lost artefacts and reinvigorating India's spiritual diplomacy, the Government's efforts have reignited a deep pride in India's identity

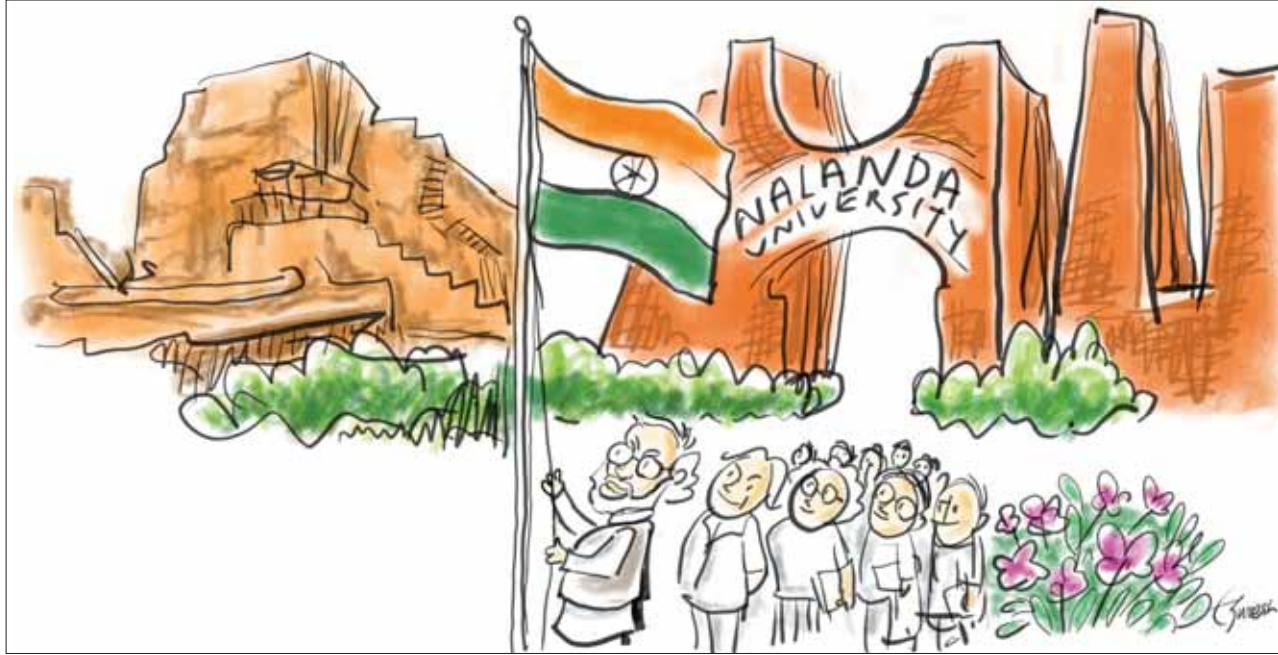
Over the past 11 years, India has witnessed a profound cultural resurgence that intertwines the richness of its ancient heritage with the aspirations of a modern nation. Spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this renaissance has placed India's civilisational identity at the forefront of national consciousness, transforming cultural restoration into a cornerstone of governance.

From revitalising sacred temples and pilgrimage routes to commemorating long-overlooked historical figures, the Government's efforts have rekindled a deep sense of pride and unity. These initiatives not only preserve India's timeless traditions but also integrate them into its journey towards progress and global prominence. Under the Modi Government, the cultural renaissance has not been confined to just traditions — it has become a celebration of India's spiritual diversity and civilisational unity. The inauguration of the Kartarpur Corridor in November 2019 stands as a symbol of this inclusive vision, enabling Indian Sikh pilgrims to directly access the revered Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan. This initiative reflects the BJP Government's deep respect for all faiths and their sacred geographical identities.

The consecration of Shri Ram Lalla in Ayodhya in January 2024 stands as a defining chapter in India's cultural renaissance. More than just the inauguration of a temple, it represents the realisation of a long-standing cultural commitment, restoring faith, identity, and a sense of justice. Its majestic presence reflects India's renewed spiritual pride and cultural self-confidence. The Kashi Vishwanath Corridor project is a powerful symbol of India's cultural revival, presenting a renewed connection with its sacred heritage.

What was once a labyrinth of narrow, congested lanes has been transformed into a majestic corridor, offering seamless access from the ghats of the Ganga to the revered temple. This transformation goes beyond the physical; it is a spiritual rejuvenation that has re-established Varanasi as a vibrant centre of devotion.

In Ujjain, the Mahakal Lok project has elevated the Mahakaleshwar temple complex with a harmonious blend of traditional architecture and modern infrastructure, creating a deeply immersive spiritual experience. Likewise, initiatives like the Parvati Temple and the scenic coastal precinct in Somnath continue to enrich the spiritual journeys of devotees. The revitalisation of infrastructure at the sacred Kamakhya Temple in Assam underscores the Government's commitment to cultural her-



itage that transcends regional boundaries, encompassing the spirit of a united Bharat. The nation's culture thrives not only in its temples and sculptures but also in its rich traditions of music, dance, language, and oral storytelling. By investing in digital preservation and institutional support, the Government has not just administered policy — it has honoured the higher duty of 'Rajdharma', safeguarding the soul of the nation.

Through the PRASAD scheme, the Government has carried out a comprehensive and dignified revival of religious sites across India. With over ₹1,900 crore invested, temples, mosques, churches, gurdwaras, and dargahs have been restored, not just preserving heritage but also energising local economies, promoting religious tourism, and fostering social harmony. India's spiritual and civilisational diplomacy has resonated globally as well. While only 13 stolen antiquities were recovered until 2013, more than 642 idols and artefacts have been repatriated since 2014, signalling a powerful reclaiming of the nation's cultural identity on the world stage. This cultural flame burns not just in monuments but deeply within the

common people. The restoration of Nalanda University, the worldwide recognition of International Yoga Day, and the grand celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and Guru Gobind Singh Ji's birth anniversaries showcase India's determination to reclaim its intellectual and spiritual heritage on the global stage. Programmes like "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat" and "Kashi Tamil Sangamam" highlight how India's regional diversity is its greatest strength. When artists, scholars, and practitioners from the South come together to celebrate culture in the North, it is the soul of India embracing its unity. The Kashi Tamil organisation in 2025, attended by over two lakh visitors and featuring hundreds of performers, is a powerful testament to India's awakened civilisational spirit. The Maha Kumbh 2025, which attracted 66 crore devotees in just one month, became a testament to India's spiritual leadership. It was not merely a festival of faith, but a grand celebration of the nation's soul, uniting every caste, community, region, and belief in harmonious togetherness. For a long time, India's judicial system was based on colonial laws aimed more at control than protecting citizens' rights.

The Modi Government's introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita marks not just a legal overhaul but a powerful affirmation of India's sovereign spirit. Since Independence, many critical issues remained unresolved due to a lack of political will and fear of losing vote banks. Controversial and sensitive topics such as the construction of

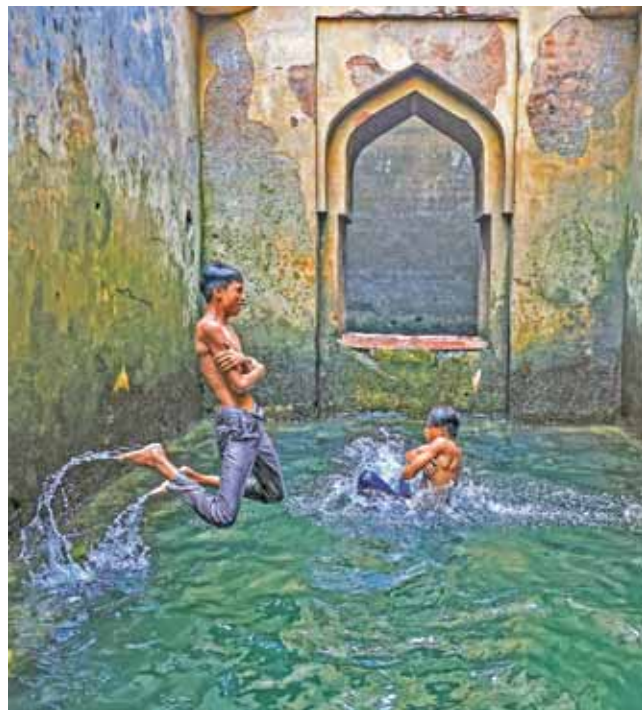
the Ram Mandir, the abolition of triple talaq, the removal of Article 370, and the Citizenship Amendment Act were considered too complex to tackle. Yet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, these challenges were confronted with clarity, determination, and a focus on long-term national interest rather than short-term political gains, thereby earning the trust and confidence of millions across the nation.

Prime Minister Modi is rebuilding more than just monuments; he is revitalising the soul of India. Today, the nation is rekindling its rich culture, deep pride, and timeless truths. This renewed awareness calls upon every citizen to remember their identity, heritage, and the direction in which the country must progress.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 11 years of decisive and effective leadership have gone beyond conventional governance to ignite a new era of national consciousness. By seamlessly blending development with heritage and progress with tradition, he has revived India's spirit and built the foundation for a self-reliant and confident nation. As India moves forward with assurance, it draws strength from the eternal wisdom of its past. This is the essence of a true renaissance, deeply rooted yet visionary. When a civilisation reconnects with its core identity, it not only awakens itself but also shines as a guiding light for the entire world.

(The author is a BJP media panelist and is known nationwide for his role in the restoration of temples. Views are personal)

PICTALK



Boys cool off in a stepwell amid scorching weather on a hot summer day, in Jaipur. PTI

Give blood, give hope: Together we save lives

SECOND Opinion

The theme for this year's World Blood Donor Day — "Give blood, give hope: together we save lives" — beautifully captures the essence of what it means to donate blood. It is more than a medical act; it is a gift of life, a symbol of solidarity, and a powerful expression of compassion. Blood donors are unsung heroes whose quiet generosity sustains the very heartbeat of healthcare systems across the world. My own journey with blood donation began early, shaped profoundly by my father's long battle with a bleeding disorder. He needed countless transfusions throughout his life, but none as urgent as during a sudden, life-threatening brain haemorrhage. Emergency surgery saved him — but only because blood had already been donated, stored, and made available. I will never forget the wave of gratitude I felt for the strangers who had given without knowing him. Each unit of blood was a thread in the web of life that held him together through the crisis. Every blood donor — whether a friend, family member, or total stranger — becomes part of a life-saving chain. Their selflessness is profound.

Blood transfusions are critical to modern medicine. They are essential for patients undergoing surgeries, dealing with trauma or accidents, suffering from severe anaemia or cancer, and managing inherited blood disorders like tha-

lassaemia, sickle cell anaemia, and haemophilia. Often, a single donation becomes a bridge between life and death. Globally, two main donor categories exist: voluntary donors and family/replacement donors. The World Health Organisation has strongly advocated for a shift to voluntary, unpaid blood donations since 1997. These donations are considered the safest, most ethical, and most sustainable. In contrast, family or replacement donations — when someone donates blood specifically for a relative or friend — often involve emotional pressure and are less safe. They may even pose health risks, like Graft Versus Host Disease, when genetically similar donor blood attacks the recipient's body.

Recognising the importance of a safe and stable blood supply, India has taken significant strides. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, through the National Health Mission (NHM), supports blood banks with funds, equipment, manpower, and vehicles for collection and transport. The Government promotes free availability of processed blood to patients, aiming to reduce out-of-pocket expenses and encourage voluntary donation. A notable initiative is e-RaktKosh, a centralised blood bank management system developed by C-DAC. It links over 4,300 blood centres, allowing real-time access to blood availability, online donor registration, and nationwide coordination. Integrated with platforms like UMANG, e-Hospital, and Aarogya Setu, it improves efficiency, transparency, and reach. Civil society plays a crucial role as well.



MANOHAR AGNANI

Organisations like the Indian Red Cross Society, Blood Connect, and Sankalp India Foundation have created robust ecosystems to support voluntary donation. From 24/7 helplines to well-organised blood camps and emergency services, their efforts save thousands of lives annually. Despite this progress, India still falls short of WHO's recommended donation rate of 1 per cent of the population. In 2022, only 0.8 per cent donated, resulting in a shortfall of nearly a million units annually.

This gap is especially alarming given India's ageing population. By 2050, over 347 million Indians will be over the age of 60 — a demographic more likely to need transfusions, yet often ineligible to donate. To meet future demands, we must strengthen both infrastructure and public awareness. Advanced technologies like AI will help optimise donor screening and inventory management, but voluntary human participation remains irreplaceable. We must continue to educate, inspire, and mobilise citizens — especially the youth — to become life-long donors. We also draw strength from past pioneers like Leela Moolgaokar and Sir Upendranath Brahmachari, and present-day heroes like Kiran Sharma and Suresh Kumar Saini, whose dedication to voluntary blood donation has transformed lives. Their legacy is a reminder: when we give blood, we don't just donate a fluid — we offer hope, healing, and humanity. Let us honour their spirit. Let us give blood. Let us give hope. Together, we save lives.

(The writer, a retired IAS officer, is professor, Public Health at Azim Premji University at Bhopal. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

The danger of nuclear war

The front page news 'Israel launches strike on Iran's nuclear sites' (June 14) and 'Israel warns of more attacks on Iran' (June 15) has substantially established that the nuclear ammunition, which once made countries invincible, is proving devastating for those countries themselves when drones guided by satellite images from distant locations can severely destroy the nuclear facilities, safest underground storage, their scientists, apart from radiation threats. Warfare has entirely changed in technology, ballistics, satellite data, espionage, and execution. Even Iran's major oilfields have been attacked. Iran underestimated Israel. The same blunder was made by Pakistan, and it met the fate it deserved through Operation Sindoor.

The world is determined against terrorism. The world has unmistakably identified sources of terrorism. Neither the US nor China could help Pakistan. Pakistan's case is still morose and funeral when IWT has been suspended. Doles from the IMF and World Bank can't salvage Pakistan. Currently, wars are being fought by drones and air forces while the army and navy extend logistics and field support. Iranian support to Hamas, Houthis, Hezbollah and other militant groups and militias has rendered West Asia and the Middle East disturbed and war-prone for a long time. It is the right time to dismantle nuclear arms and facilities.

VINOD JOHRI | DELHI

Arms and ammunition seized in Manipur

In a massive haul of arms, the Manipur police and security forces recovered 328 guns, including sophisticated rifles, on the intervening night of June 13 and 14 in the five districts of the Imphal valley.

This included 151 SLR rifles, 65 INSAS rifles, 73 unspecified rifle types, five carbine guns, two MP5 guns, 12 light machine gun rifles, six AK series rifles, two Amogh rifles, one mortar, six pistols, two barrels, an AR-15 gun and two flare guns, as well as hundreds of rounds of ammunition. The weapons were recovered after simultaneous search operations were conducted at different locations by joint teams of the Manipur police, the Central Armed Police Forces, the army and the paramilitary Assam Rifles. Since ethnic violence first broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023, about 7,000 weapons and lakhs of rounds of ammunition were looted from police armouries. Since May 2023, more than 250 people have been killed and over 60,000 have been displaced.

The state remains deeply divided, with physical and social barriers separating communities. Members of the Kuki-Zo community are unable to enter the capital, Imphal, while Meiteis cannot travel to the hill districts. A comprehensive approach, combining security operations with dialogue and reconciliation efforts, remains crucial for achieving lasting peace in the region.

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

The martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji

On June 16, 1606, the fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev Ji, sacrificed his life, igniting a flame of faith, truth, and humanity that continues to pierce the darkness of injustice. His martyrdom is not just a chapter in Sikh history but a beacon for all of civilisation, inspiring us to stand against oppression, embrace tolerance, and live for truth. Guru Arjan Dev Ji's sacrifice is a flame that burns in every heart that refuses to bow before injustice.

At the age of 18, in 1581, he ascended to the Guruship and, over the next 25 years, transformed Sikhism into not only a spiritual force but also a symbol of social equality and human welfare.

Under his leadership, the Sikh community became organised, and his contributions gave a new direction not only to Sikhism but to Indian society as a whole. His most notable achievement is the establishment of Sri Harmandir Sahib (the Golden Temple).

This temple is not just a religious site but a global symbol of religious harmony and equality. Its four open doors proclaim that God's house is accessible to all — regardless of religion, caste, or class — a revolutionary concept in an era rife with religious and social discrimination. Guru Ji's vision made the Golden Temple not only a sacred pilgrimage site for Sikhs but also a living emblem of human unity.

RITESH KUMAR JAIN | BARWANI

ISRAEL APOLOGISES FOR DEPICTING WRONG INDIA MAP

In a first, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has apologised for posting an incorrect map of India's international boundaries — which omitted Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, which are constitutionally integral parts of India. Aksai Chin, which is part of Ladakh, was also excluded from Indian territory. Arunachal Pradesh was also misrepresented in the map.

Though the Modi Government has not yet responded to the IDF's wrong map, people wonder how such an incorrect map reached the hands of Israel? After reading this, all patriotic Indians are unable to understand that over the past several years (particularly in the Modi era) India and Israel have developed a friendly relationship; in fact, in 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the first Indian leader to visit that country. Delhi is also now one of Tel Aviv's biggest trading partners, behind only the United States, the

United Kingdom, Hong Kong, and China, and those trading figures are only set to increase.

Besides, India is one of Israel's largest clients for military equipment sales. Hope, Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu must instruct the IDF to delete the incorrect map of India's international boundaries, correct it, and repost it. If not, then what's the point of this apology by the IDF? Israel should not forget that, like its patriotic soldiers, our soldiers are also fighting and dying to maintain territorial integrity.

Though we call Israel our friendly country, we should learn our own lessons first. Particularly, the Modi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), before getting carried away over Israel, should learn that every country works in its own interest.

BIDYUT K CHATTERJEE | FARIDABAD

Green Gold: India's Horticultural Leap into the Bioeconomy

Horticulture is a key catalyst to fuel a circular, green economy through its rich biodiversity, vast rural base, and untapped innovation potential. This transformation is not just an economic opportunity; it is a national imperative for sustainable prosperity

FIRST
Column

India stands at a pivotal moment in its developmental journey, where the convergence of science, sustainability, and sectoral innovation is redefining traditional agriculture and horticulture. Among the most promising shifts is the rise of the bioeconomy, which encompasses the production of renewable biological resources and their conversion into value-added products such as food, bioenergy, biochemicals, and bio-based materials. The Indian bioeconomy has expanded remarkably, from USD 10 billion in 2014 to an estimated USD 165.7 billion in 2024, and is projected to reach USD 300 billion by 2030, according to the India Bioeconomy Report (2024).

This remarkable growth is not merely a consequence of technological advancement; it reflects a strategic redirection towards climate resilience, ecological sustainability, and economic inclusivity. India's horticulture sector, being the world's second-largest producer of fruits and vegetables and pioneer in the production of plantation crops, spices, medicinal and aromatic plants and floriculture, is uniquely positioned to anchor this bio-economic transformation. Horticulture offers not only the biological raw material base for a wide spectrum of bio-based industries but also the potential to deliver income diversification, rural employment, and nutritional security. As such, aligning horticultural development with the principles of a circular bioeconomy presents a timely and transformative opportunity for the country.

Bioeconomic Powerhouse

The bioeconomy in horticulture extends well beyond the conventional practices of growing fruits vegetables and other crops. It involves the integration of biotechnology, bio-resource management, and value chain optimisation to develop products ranging from nutraceuticals, bioplastics, and bioenergy, to climate-resilient crop varieties. Bioconversion of post-harvest waste into compost, bio-fertilizers, or clean energy offers an opportunity to simultaneously reduce waste, lower greenhouse gas emissions, and generate additional rural incomes.

India's policy landscape has begun responding to this opportunity. The launch of the BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment, and Employment) represents a significant strategic shift. This policy promotes the establishment of advanced bio-manufacturing facilities, bio-foundry clusters, and Bio-AI hubs, all geared toward enabling lab-to-market transitions in bio-innovation. Initiatives such as the BioSaarthi mentorship program and the strengthening of biotech startup incubators have been instrumental in nurturing a vibrant ecosystem of entrepreneurship, innovation, and knowledge transfer.



One of the most impactful elements of this transformation is the rapid progress in bioenergy. The ethanol blending rate in India has surged from 1.53 per cent in 2013-14 to 15 per cent in 2023-24, saving approximately ₹78,000 crore in foreign exchange and preventing the emission of 318 lakh tonnes of Carbon dioxide, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (2024). This success has been driven by the development of second-generation ethanol refineries, which convert agricultural residues such as sugarcane bagasse, bamboo, and paddy straw into clean fuel,

thereby reinforcing circularity and climate sustainability in rural areas.

As India accelerates its transition to a low-carbon and resource-efficient economy, horticulture can be a critical driver in delivering scalable, inclusive, and market-aligned solutions within the bioeconomy framework.

Bridging the Gaps

Despite its potential, the integration of horticulture into the bioeconomy faces several structural and operational challenges that require urgent attention. One of the most pressing issues is the infrastructure gap. Many horticultural production zones lack access to reliable cold chains, pack houses, and processing units. According to NITI

Aayog (2023), post-harvest losses for perishable horticultural commodities can range from 15 to 20 per cent, primarily due to inefficient logistics, poor market access, and limited storage facilities. These losses not only reduce farmer incomes but also weaken the capacity of horticultural systems to support value addition and industrial linkage.

Equally concerning is the limited extent of value addition in horticultural produce. Most fruits, vegetables and other horticultural produce continue to be sold in raw or minimally processed forms, missing the opportunity for transformation into high-value bio-products such as bio-based packaging, plant-derived nutraceuticals, or fermented health foods. This not only restricts income potential but also prevents the sector from contributing fully to the bioeconomy's goals of waste reduction, innovation, and product diversification.

Financial constraints are another barrier. Bio-based enterprises, especially those involving new technologies or bioconversion processes, often require high initial investment, extended gestation Periods, and market uncertainties. The lack of targeted financial instruments and risk-sharing mechanisms deter private sector investment, impeding the commercialisation and scaling of bio-based ventures. Moreover, the human capital base needed to power a bioeconomy is still in development. There is an urgent need for training

programs and capacity-building tailored to farmers, rural entrepreneurs, processors, and women stakeholders, enabling them to adopt new technologies and participate meaningfully in bio-economic value chains.

Finally, there are environmental and biodiversity risks that must be managed. Without adequate ecological safeguards, the aggressive exploitation of plant-based resources for bio-economic use may result in habitat loss, monoculture expansion, and disruption of local agro-ecological balances. As such, the growth of India's bioeconomy must be carefully regulated to ensure that it remains sustainable, resilient, and equitable.

Strategic Interventions: Building a Resilient and Inclusive Bioeconomy To unlock the full potential of horticulture in India's bioeconomy, a series of strategic and coordinated interventions are necessary. First and foremost, there is a need to strengthen policy and regulatory frameworks. These must be science-based, transparent, and harmonised across sectors to encourage innovation while safeguarding bio-sources and indigenous knowledge systems.

Policy clarity around biosafety, intellectual property, and benefit sharing will help create a conducive environment for investment and public trust. Second, investment in infrastructure and value chains must be prioritised.

Expanding rural cold chain networks, establishing decentralised processing units, and incentivising public-private partnerships for bio-manufacturing clusters can significantly reduce post-harvest losses and promote local-level value addition.

Models such as Rural Bioeconomy Parks, where processing, research, and training facilities co-exist, can serve as hubs for innovation and rural development. Third, there is a compelling need to promote innovation and skill development. Strengthening institutional support through Bio-AI hubs, biotech incubators, and mentorship programs like Bio- Saarthi can nurture a new generation of bio-entrepreneurs. Simultaneously, capacity-building programs aimed at women, youth, and marginalised farmers must be institutionalised to ensure inclusive participation in bio-economic growth.

Fourth, advancing climate-smart and sustainable practices in horticulture is critical. Promoting precision farming, water-saving technologies, integrated pest and nutrient management, and climate-resilient varieties will ensure that productivity gains do not come at the expense of ecological integrity.

The use of bio-inputs such as bio-pesticides and biofertilisers should be expanded, both for environmental reasons and to meet consumer demand for residue-free produce.

Finally, expanding access to finance and markets is vital for scaling the bioeconomy. Dedicated Bioeconomy Investment Funds, blended finance models, and credit guarantees tailored to bio-based enterprises can mobilise private capital and reduce the burden of early-stage risk.

Equally important is the need to develop robust market linkages for bio-based horticultural products, through branding, certification, export promotion, and integration into national and global supply chains.

The Road Ahead

India's bioeconomy offers a powerful pathway to achieve economic prosperity, ecological sustainability, and social equity. The horticulture sector, by its diversity, biological richness, and economic relevance, is well-positioned to become a cornerstone of this transformation. However, realising this vision will require deliberate action, through policy coherence, institutional innovation, infrastructure development, skill empowerment, and ecological stewardship.

As India moves into a decade defined by climate challenges and global sustainability commitments, a bioeconomy anchored in resilient and inclusive horticulture can not only meet domestic needs but also establish India as a global leader in green growth. By aligning scientific innovation with rural empowerment, and bio-based solutions with climate resilience, India can shape a future that is productive, equitable, and ecologically secure for generations to come.

(Arpan A Chakravarty is a Research Fellow at India Foundation and Tejusvi Shukla is a Doctoral Candidate at OP Jindal University. Views expressed are personal)

Gender, Grit, and Altitude: Women on Everest Rewrite the Rules of Risk, Leadership, and Sustainability

Some recent news stories highlighted that Mt. Everest peak is set to be reached by women thousandth time. However, the claim stands contested, as it has been argued that several women mountaineers scaled the peak successfully many times, like Lhakpa Sherpa, from Nepal, who did it ten times, a record for female climbers. However, according to the Himalayan Database, which tracks expeditions to the top of Everest, women climbers had scaled the peak 962 times, while men did so 11,955 times by the end of May 2025. While mountains are said to be conquered and narrated by men' (Majastre 2009). 'Mountaineering landscapes have evolved as, and remain strongly masculinised concepts, and it has been, and still is, male-dominated' (Pomfret and Doran, 2015), and 'women mountaineers' continue to be marginalised by the overwhelming male-ness of popularised mountaineering' (Hunt, 2019). No wonder that essentially masculine leadership traits shaped perceptions of who can succeed in a mountaineering space (Barratt 2010; Robinson 2008), and mountaineering leadership programmes have been imbued with a 'culture of competition, confidence, strength, toughness and proving worth' (Sharp, 2001). As a result, 'female mountaineering suffered structural oppression within that culture'. Nevertheless, the ratio of women getting to the top of the Everest is on the rise, which was one to 16 men in the 2000s, and two decades later, it is one to 10. In India, too, as of December 2024, 74 women scaled Mount Everest, among them were Arunima Sinha, the first female amputee, and very recently, Chhonzin Angmo, the first visually impaired woman.

Undoubtedly, under-representation has placed many aspiring women at a disadvantage as they fail to look up to role models for inspiration. Women mountaineers on climbing expeditions, also face practical difficulties with ill-fitted mountaineering outfits and equipment, generally designed for men, which not only cause discomfort and injuries, but also psychological handicaps such as 'self-doubt and anxiety about their abilities, which considerably influence their risk perception, and decision-making in challenging climbing situations'.

While, Billi Bierling, Director, of Himalayan Database, who herself climbed Everest in 2009, commented that 'when it comes to taking risks on the mountain, women are probably a little bit more conservative... if it is too dangerous, she won't take chances and go down, while a male climber, would still go'. However, a 2018 study (Dr Jenny Hall, York St John University, UK), contended that in an essentially masculinised environment, women mountaineers created a 'place of difference while negotiating risk, amounting to the legitimate 'other' forms of mountaineering. While gendered experiences of mountaineering offered insights into different



ways of confronting 'fear as a tactical emotion to negotiate positionality and coping strategies while experiencing risk', women mountaineers displayed unique qualities of leadership like cooperation, emotion, personal development, consensual decision-making and being relationship orientated. However, such differing traits have been often interpreted as their 'insufficient physical strength to endure the challenges of hard mountaineering' (Sharp).

While research in leisure studies and effectual geographies exploring women's experience in extreme sports like mountaineering is limited, particularly, in terms of how to effect influences the sentiment and emotional behaviours of women (Humberstone 2016; Warren 2016; Waitt and Clifton 2013; Evers 2004, 2006, 2009). Yet, there is a persistent belief that 'gender is consequential in adventure tourism'.

The void in such scholarship demonstrates an emphasis on masculinity in the high-altitude mountaineering' (Eger et al., 2021). A 2020 study that examined the empowering benefits of constraint negotiation for women mountaineers, reiterated that the 'mountaineering space was used to resist gendered expectations and gaining empowerment' (Harris & Wilson, 2007; Little & Wilson, 2005). Analysing responses from 321 female mountaineers, it dismissed the contention that 'women are passive victims of constraints', rather 'they are active agents, motivated to pursue mountaineering aspirations despite having identified barriers'.

As in the wave of social transformation in the 20th century, the sporting milieu and mountain activities got feminised (Galissaire, Mennesson, 2004), a comparative study of 2,211 climbers making their first attempt on Everest between 1990 and 2005, and of 5,324 climbers between 2006-2019, revealed that the summit success rates have almost doubled, both, for men and women, from 32.7 per cent of 214 women and 32.9 per cent of 1,702 men to 68.2 per cent of 548 women and 64.4 per cent of 2,860

men (Himalayan Database). Between 2006 and 2019, only 0.5 per cent of 548 women vs. 1.1 per cent of 2,860 men attempting Everest did not return home alive, which led to the conclusion that 'women are more likely to reach the summit and less likely to die'.

Now adventure tourism market which includes mountaineering has been projected to reach USD 345.6 Billion this year and is expected to expand to USD 745.7 Billion by 2035, representing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8 per cent from 2025 to 2035. India is also slated to grow with a CAGR of 8 per cent during the period, and the tourism economy is targeted to reach USD 3 Trillion by 2047.

While, women, both, as mountaineers and inhabitants of mountainous regions, could contribute significantly to micro and macro economies. As primary managers of mountain resources and participants in local economies, particularly in agriculture, animal husbandry, and tourism, they play a vital role in generating local livelihoods and ensuring food security and biodiversity. Labour market activities like arranging homestays, crafts, and guiding will also have a broader impact on the country's overall development. Women as mountaineers can boost entrepreneurship by promoting eco-friendly mountain-related industries, sustainable tourism models, and high-altitude scientific research.

As many environmentalists and development economists red-flagged the issue of the 'commodification' of mountains, International Mountain Day 2024, rightly focused on mountain solutions for a sustainable future. While, the UN Environment, Executive Director, Erik Solheim, highlighted the role of 'women in protecting the mountain ecosystems'. Since, mountains form the most vulnerable part of the natural ecosystem, women with adequate financial and institutional support could act as change agents in building up sustainable economy and ecosystems.

(The writer is the former Director General of Doordarshan & All India Radio. Views expressed are personal)

AI-171 crash: A wake-up call for urban planning around airports

The Air India AI-171 crash near Ahmedabad airport has left behind more than just wreckage. It has left families devastated, careers cut short, and a city in grief. Amid all that's being said about aircraft performance, weather, and pilot decisions, a quieter but harsher truth is coming to light — this tragedy on the ground (at the medical college hostel) could have been avoided if proper building norms and smarter urban planning around airports had been followed. Past disasters have already shown how densely populated areas near runways can turn aviation accidents into large-scale tragedies. In 2020, Pakistan International Airlines Flight 8303 crashed into Karachi's Model Colony, a crowded residential area just short of the runway, killing 97 people. In 2012, Dana Air Flight 992 fell into a suburb of Lagos, wiping out entire families.

Even in New York, American Airlines Flight 587 crashed over the Belle Harbor neighbourhood in Queens. The tragic crash of Air India flight AI-171, along with the examples above, brings into sharp focus the urgent need for better urban planning - especially within the 5-kilometre radius of major airports. The 5 km radius around airports has long been considered a sensitive zone — not necessarily because buildings within it are illegal or too tall, but because it is a critical safety zone for aircraft during take-off and landing, the most vulnerable phases of flight. Traditionally in India, during British rule, airports (unlike railway stations) were built far away from populated areas. For example, when Delhi's Safdarjung Airport and Palam Airport were built, there were very few settlements nearby — only a few army barracks around Safdarjung (now known as Lodhi Colony) and the old, sparsely populated villages of Mehram Nagar and Palam around Palam Airport. In those days, air crashes were more frequent, and placing airports away from populated areas was a deliberate step to avoid ground casualties. Even today, airports in tier-II towns are located at a fair distance from cities, although the growing urban sprawl is now fast approaching them as well. After independence, as India witnessed a massive surge in population and rapid urbanisation, cities began expanding in all directions. The airports that were once located far from residential and commercial zones gradually found themselves surrounded by growing urban settlements. With the rise in land demand, areas around airports have become highly sought after due to their excellent connectivity and strategic location, significantly pushing up real estate values. This led to high-density development near airport boundaries.

However, this unchecked growth brought with it serious concerns like constructing buildings near active flight paths not just from a flight safety perspective, but also from a security point of view. As

a result, managing construction and land use near airports became a critical issue, demanding a careful balance between urban development and the uncompromising need for aviation safety and security. Globally, aviation authorities, including India's DGCA and AAI, have issued detailed zoning maps for every major airport. There is a formal process to apply for height clearance of any structure. All international airports in India follow Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS) — a set of 3D safety rules that make sure aircraft have enough space to climb and descend without danger. These OLS regulations, overseen by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and DGCA, are not optional. They are strict safety norms. Structures within 5 km of a runway face the toughest height limits.

The hostel where the recent crash caused casualties was most likely within the permitted height as per AAI rules. But what often escapes attention is not just height, but the density of the human population in such areas. Even if buildings technically follow all safety norms, the presence of thousands of people living or working near a runway increases the risk in case of crashes, aborted landings, or engine failure during low-altitude flights. This is what makes the crash of AI-171 even more tragic. This raises a critical and timely question: Is it time to completely rethink how we plan our cities around airports — or even relocate airports themselves?

Hyderabad has already done it. The old Begumpet Airport was relocated to Shamshabad, about 24 km south of the city centre, to allow for future expansion and improved safety. With urban sprawl rapidly swallowing earlier remote zones, many airports in cities like Ahmedabad, Mumbai, and Chennai now find themselves trapped amid dense residential, institutional, and commercial structures.

The AI-171 crash should serve as a wake-up call. Not necessarily because rules were violated, but because the current model of reactive urban planning — where development chases growth without long-term thinking — is failing to safeguard lives. If airports are to expand safely along with cities, we may need to reimagine their place on the map.

That means moving older airports beyond city boundaries where possible, enforcing no-build or low-density zones around newer ones, and treating the 5 km airport radius not just as a regulatory guideline, but as a life-saving buffer zone. Urban planning must take into account not just real estate needs, but safety and long-term sustainability. The tragedy of AI-171 is not just a story of an aircraft gone wrong - it's also a story of a city that grew too close to danger.

(The writer is an aviation expert. Views expressed are personal)



AJAY S JASRA

Narendra Modi conferred with Cyprus’ highest civilian honour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Nicosia

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on Monday conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III of Cyprus, the country’s highest civilian honour.

“Humbled to receive the ‘Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III’ of Cyprus. I dedicate it to the friendship between our nations,” Modi said after receiving the award.

Cyprus President Nikos Christodoulides conferred the award on the Prime Minister.

The Order of Makarios III is the senior order of knighthood awarded by the country named after the first President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III.

Dedicating the award to the 1.4 billion people of India, Modi said it was an award to the trusted India-Cyprus friendship.

“I am confident that in the time to come, our active partnership will touch new heights. Together, we will not only strengthen the progress of our two nations but also contribute towards building a peaceful



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being felicitated with Cyprus’ highest honour Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III by President Nikos Christodoulides in Cyprus

and secure world,” the prime minister said.

“President @Christodulides conferred PM @narendramodi with the ‘Grand Cross of the Order of Makarios III’ of Cyprus.

The honour reflects the enduring India-Cyprus bilateral partnership and shared commitment to work together for the common vision for peace, progress and prosperity,” the Ministry of External Affairs posted on X.

Cyprus’ award brings the total tally of international honours conferred upon the prime minister to 23.

Modi noted the award was a recognition of India’s age-old philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “The World is one Family” that guides its vision for global peace and progress, an MEA statement said.

The prime minister embraced the honour as a renewed commitment to strengthening and diversifying the partnership between India and Cyprus and emphasised the award was a symbol of the unwavering commitment of the two countries to peace, security, sovereignty, territorial integrity and prosperity, the statement added.

Modi is in Cyprus on the first leg of his three-nation tour.

From Cyprus, he will travel to Canada to attend the G7 Summit and then to Croatia for a bilateral visit.

G7 summit opens in Canada with focus on trade, wars

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Kananaskis (Canada)

When US President Donald Trump last came to Canada for a Group of Seven summit, the enduring image was of him seated with his arms folded defiantly as then-German Chancellor Angela Merkel stared daggers at him.

If there is a shared mission at this year’s G7 summit, which begins Monday in Canada’s Rocky Mountains, it is a desire to minimise any fireworks at a moment of combustible tensions.

The 2018 summit ended with Trump assailing his Canadian hosts on social media as he departed on Air Force One, saying he had instructed the US officials who remained in Quebec to oppose the G7 joint statement endorsed by the leaders of Japan, France, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and, of course, Canada.

“I have instructed our U.S. Reps not to endorse the Communiqué as we look at Tariffs on automobiles flooding the U.S. Market!” Trump posted on the site then known as Twitter.

This time, Trump already has hit several dozen nations with severe tariffs that risk a

global economic slowdown. There is little progress on settling the wars in Ukraine and Gaza and now a new and escalating conflict between Israel and Iran over Tehran’s nuclear programme.

Add to all of that the problems of climate change, immigration, drug trafficking, new technologies such as artificial intelligence and China’s continued manufacturing superiority and chokehold on key supply chains.

Asked if he planned to announce any trade agreements at the G7 as he left the White House on Sunday, Trump said: “We have our trade deals. All we have to do is send a letter, ‘This is what you’re going to have to pay.’ But I think we’ll have a few, few new trade deals.”

At stake might be the survival of the G7 itself at a time when the Trump administration has sent mixed signals about whether the president will attend the November Group of 20 summit in South Africa.

What Trump opposed at the 2018 summit in Quebec wasn’t just tariffs, but a focus on having alliances with a shared set of standards seeking to shape policies.

“The big dispute in Quebec were the references to the

rules-based international order and that’s where that famous photo comes from,” said Peter Boehm, Canada’s counselor at the 2018 G7 summit in Quebec and a veteran of six G7 summits. “I think it gave everyone the idea that G7s were maybe not business as usual.”

The German, UK, Japanese and Italian governments have each signalled a belief that a friendly relationship with Trump this year can reduce the likelihood of outbursts.

“Well, I have got a good relationship with President Trump, and that’s important,” UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Saturday as he flew to Canada. The UK prime minister said he will have a one-on-one meeting with Trump on the sidelines of the summit to discuss finalising a trade framework, though that does not appear in the White House schedule as an official meeting.

There is no plan for a joint statement this year from the G7, a sign that the Trump administration sees no need to build a shared consensus with fellow democracies if it views such a statement as contrary to its goals of new tariffs, more fossil fuel production and a Europe that is less dependent on the US military.

German court sentences Syrian doctor to life for crimes against humanity

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Berlin

A German court sentenced a Syrian doctor to life imprisonment for torture and war crimes in his Syrian homeland on Monday for killing two people and torturing nine in Syria between 2011 and 2012.

The Frankfurt Higher Regional Court also established the particular gravity of the guilt, which in practice virtually rules out early release after 15 years — as is often the case in Germany when people are sentenced to life imprisonment.

The 40-year-old Syrian, who was identified as Alaa M. In line with German privacy rules, was placed in preventive detention, German news agency dpa reported.

In his verdict, presiding judge Christoph Koller described the actions of the accused in the military hospital in the Syrian city of Homs in the early stages of the civil war that began in 2011. He



Syrian doctor (center) accused of torture, war crimes in his Syrian homeland, stands next to his lawyer Oussama Al-Agi (right) in the Higher Regional Court before the verdict is announced in Frankfurt, Germany

said the doctor had sadistic tendencies and acted them out during the torture.

“Above all, the accused enjoyed harming people that seemed inferior and low-value to him,” Koller said, according to dpa. During the trial, which lasted almost three and a half years, victims had described the most severe abuse, including beatings, kicks and the setting of wounds and body parts on fire, dpa reported.

Koller emphasised that without the willingness and courage of witnesses to share the details of their suffering the facts of the case could not have been clarified.

Mr Had lived in Germany for ten years and had worked as an orthopedic surgeon in several clinics, most recently in Bad Wildungen in northern Hesse.

UK PM appoints MI6 spy agency’s first-ever female chief

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Prime Minister Keir Starmer has announced the “historic” appointment of Blaise Metreweli as the first female chief of the UK’s Secret Intelligence Service, commonly known as MI6, in the 116-year history of the organisation.

Commonly referred to as ‘C’, the international spy agency’s chief has operational responsibility for MI6 and is the only publicly named member of the organisation, accountable to Foreign Secretary David Lammy.

Metreweli, 47, has been promoted from current role as Director General, or ‘Q’, responsible for technology and innovation in MI6 and has previously held a director-level role at MI5 — the UK’s domestic security service.

“The historic appointment of Blaise Metreweli comes at a time when the work of our intelligence services has never been more vital,” Starmer said on Sunday.

“The United Kingdom is facing threats on an unprecedented scale — be it aggressors who send their spy ships to our waters or hackers whose sophisticated cyber plots seek to disrupt our public services,” he said.

Metreweli will succeed Sir Richard Moore, who leaves the service in the autumn later this year.

“I’d like to thank Sir Richard Moore for his dedicated service and I know Blaise will continue to provide the excellent leadership needed to defend our county and keep our people safe — the foundation of my Plan for Change,” added Starmer.

The new spy chief expressed her pride and honour in leading the security service which she has been a part of since 1999 as a career intelligence officer, having joined the Security Service as a case officer. “MI6 plays a vital role — with MI5 and GCHQ [Government Communications Headquarters]

- in keeping the British people safe and promoting UK interests overseas. I look forward to continuing that work alongside the brave officers and agents of MI6 and our many international partners,” said the new ‘C’.

Metreweli, who studied Anthropology at Pembroke College, Cambridge University, has spent most of her career in operational roles in the Middle East and Europe.

“With a wealth of experience from across our national security community, Blaise is the ideal candidate to lead MI6 into the future,” said her boss David Lammy.

“At a time of global instability and emerging security threats, where technology is

Metreweli’s current role in charge of tech at the spy agency is depicted as ‘Q’ in the books and films

power and our adversaries are working ever closer together, Blaise will ensure the UK can tackle these challenges head on to keep Britain safe and secure at home and abroad,” he said.

“Every day, our intelligence services work behind the scenes to protect our national security and compete with our adversaries.

“That’s why I am proud that we are investing an extra GBP 600 million in our intelligence community so they can continue to defend our way of life,” added Lammy.

Metreweli will be the 18th chief of MI6 when she takes charge from Moore.

“I am absolutely delighted by this historic appointment of my colleague, Blaise Metreweli to succeed me as ‘C’. Blaise is a highly accomplished intelligence officer and leader and one of our foremost thinkers on technology. I am excited to welcome her as the first female head of MI6,” said the outgoing ‘C’.

Cabinet Secretary Christopher Wormald said the new C’s experience and leadership in the intelligence community will help MI6 protect the “foundation of our national security and project our interests overseas”.

“Blaise will be an excellent chief, who will embody the values of the Service and act as a fine role model to its staff. I would also like to thank Sir Richard Moore for his excellent leadership of the Service over the past five years and his contribution to UK national security during that time and over his long career,” said Wormald.

MI6 has been famously projected in Ian Fleming authored James Bond novels and the related Hollywood film franchise, where Dame Judi Dench has taken on the role of ‘C’ referenced as ‘M’ in the fictional scenario.

Meanwhile, Metreweli’s current role in charge of tech at the spy agency is depicted as ‘Q’ in the books and films.

Ireland prepares to excavate ‘mass grave’ at mother and baby home

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ London

Officials in Ireland began work Monday to excavate the site of a former church-run home for unmarried women and their babies to identify the remains of some 800 infants and young children who died there.

The long-awaited excavation at the former Bon Secours Mother and Baby Home in Tuam, County Galway in western Ireland, is part of a reckoning in an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country with a history of abuses in church-run institutions.

The home, which was run by an order of Catholic nuns and closed in 1961, was one of many such institutions that housed tens of thousands of orphans and unmarried pregnant women who were forced to give up their children throughout much of the 20th century.

In 2014, historian Catherine Corless tracked down death certificates for nearly 800 children who died at the home in Tuam between the 1920s and 1961 - but could only find a burial record for one child.

Investigators later found a mass grave containing the remains of babies and young children in an underground sewage structure on the grounds of the home. DNA analysis found that the ages of the dead ranged from 35 weeks gestation to 3 years.

Israel condemns black partition walls around its pavilions at Paris Air Show

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Paris

Israel’s Ministry of Defence has condemned the erection of black partition walls around its defence industry pavilions at the Paris Air Show, calling the move “outrageous and unprecedented” and demanding an immediate reversal by French authorities and event organisers.

The walls appeared overnight ahead of the air show’s opening Monday, visually isolating Israeli booths from dozens of other international exhibitors.

Israeli officials say the move followed a last-minute

demand from organisers to remove offensive weapons systems from display - a request they rejected.

“The French are hiding behind supposedly political considerations to exclude Israeli offensive weapons from an international exhibition - weapons that compete with French industries,” the ministry said in a statement Monday, calling the action “ugly and improper”.

A French appeals court ruled Friday against activist groups who sought to block Israeli companies from participating in the show due to the war in Gaza.

Despite the legal green light, Israel says it was effectively censored.

Sylvain Pavillet, a lawyer working with the air show organisers, said the final decision on who is allowed to exhibit lies with the French government, not the show itself.

“The fair is not the one who decides which countries are allowed to go to the show or not,” he told The Associated Press. “That decision belongs to the government. We are not a state. We are a commercial company.”

The Paris Air Show, held at Le Bourget Airport, is one of the world’s largest and most prestigious events for the aerospace and defence industry.

Volodymyr visits Austria for first time since Russia’s full-scale invasion of his country

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Vienna

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is visiting Austria on Monday in his first trip to the European Union member country since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Austria is famously neutral - a stance it declared in 1955 after World War II - and Vienna has come under heavy criticism since the start of the Russia-Ukraine war for maintaining ties with Moscow.

Ukraine’s air force said Russia fired 138 strike and decoy drones at Ukraine overnight, mainly at the eastern Donetsk region. Of those,



Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with his wife Olena Zelenska, 2nd left, Austrian President Alexander van Der Bellen (right) and his wife Doris Schmidauer stand together in Vienna, Austria on Monday

125 were either intercepted or jammed, while 10 reached their targets. Eight others caused damage as falling debris.

Zelenskyy was scheduled to meet with Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen and Chancellor Christian Stocker, and the two presidents were set to hold a news conference later Monday.

This is Stocker’s first high-profile visit from a foreign dignitary since he took office in March at the head of a previously untried three-party coalition after a record five-month wait for a new administration. Zelenskyy’s wife, First Lady Olena Zelenska and Doris Schmidauer, Van der Bellen’s spouse, will also host a discussion about the role of women in promoting peace and security during the trip.

A guide to what Juneteenth holiday is and how to celebrate it

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Washington

It was 160 years ago that enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, learned they had been freed - after the Civil War’s end and two years after President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.

The resulting Juneteenth holiday - it’s name combining “June” and “nineteenth” - has only grown in one-and-a-half centuries. In 2021, President Joe Biden designated it a federal holiday - expanding its recognition beyond Black America. This year will be the first Juneteenth under President Donald Trump’s second administration, which has banned diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, or DEI, in the federal government. This

has included removing Black American history content from federal websites. Trump officials have also discouraged some federal agencies from recognising other racial heritage celebrations.

Still, many people anticipate getting Juneteenth off work. There are a plethora of street festivals, fairs, concerts and other events planned throughout the week leading into the holiday. But with the current political climate, some may wonder if their company will honour it.

“I don’t think anyone should be intimidated or obligated into not celebrating the day,” said Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League. “I’ve not heard of anyone being denied. I think it would be absolutely reprehensible.” People who

never gave the occasion more than a passing thought may be asking themselves, is there a “right” way to celebrate Juneteenth?

For beginners and those brushing up on history, here are some answers:

Is Juneteenth more of a solemn day of remembrance or a party? It depends on what you want. Juneteenth festivities are rooted in cookouts and picnics. Originally celebrated as Black Americans’ true Independence Day, outdoor events allowed for large, raucous reunions among formerly enslaved family, many of whom had been separated.

The gatherings were especially revolutionary because they were free of restrictive measures, known as “Black Codes,” enforced in Confederate states. Codes con-

trolled whether liberated slaves could vote, buy property, gather for worship and other aspects of daily life.

Last year, the White House kicked things off early with a concert on the South Lawn for Juneteenth and Black Music Month. The atmosphere was primarily festive with Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black vice president, dancing on stage with gospel singer Kirk Franklin.

Plans for a Juneteenth event or proclamation this year have not been decided, according to the White House press office.

Others may choose to treat Juneteenth as a day of rest and remembrance. That can mean doing community service, attending an education panel or taking time off.

“The most important thing everyone should do is be able

to quickly answer the question ‘What is Juneteenth?’” Morial said.

What if you’ve never celebrated Juneteenth?

Dr David Anderson, a Black pastor and CEO of Gracism Global, a consulting firm helping leaders navigate conversations bridging divides across race and culture, never did anything on Juneteenth in his youth. He didn’t learn about it until his 30s.

“I think many folks haven’t known about it - who are even my colour as an African American male. Even if you heard about it and knew about it, you didn’t celebrate it,” Anderson said.

“It was like just a part of history. It wasn’t a celebration of history.” For many African Americans, the farther away from Texas that they grew up

increased the likelihood they didn’t have big Juneteenth celebrations regularly.

In the South, the day can vary based on when word of Emancipation reached each state.

What kind of public Juneteenth events are taking place?

Search online and you will find gatherings nationwide varying in scope and tone. Some are more carnival-esque festivals with food trucks, arts and crafts and parades. Within those festivals, you’ll likely find information on health care, finance and community resources.

There are also concerts and fashion shows to highlight Black creativity. There will also be panels to educate about Juneteenth’s history.

The National Park Service is

again making entry into all sites free on the holiday, according to its website.

Are there special Juneteenth decorations or foods?

The red, black and green African Liberation Flag, also known as the Pan-African flag, has historically been displayed at both Black History Month and Juneteenth celebrations. Red represents bloodshed and sacrifice of enslaved ancestors. Black symbolises Black people. Green represents richness of the land in Africa.

More people, however, have leaned into the Juneteenth flag created in 1997 by activist Ben Haith, who founded the National Juneteenth Celebration Foundation. Like the American flag, it is red, white and blue to indicate those freed are also Americans.

MODI INDUSTRIES LIMITED

CIN - U15429UP1932PLC000469

Regd. Office : P.O. - Modinagar - 201204. (U.P.) Tel : 01232- 243115, 9084786567

E-mail : modiindustrieslimited@gmail.com Website : www.modiindustries.net

NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT

Members are hereby informed that pursuant to Section 108 and Section 110 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and other applicable provisions of the Act, Rules, Regulations, Circulars and Notifications issued thereunder (including any statutory modifications or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force and as amended from time to time), the Company has

- On Monday, the 16th June, 2025, completed the dispatch of Postal Ballot Notice along with Postal Ballot Form and a postage pre-paid self-addressed reply envelope to the members for voting who have not registered their e-mail id's with Depository Participant (s) or with the Company; and
- On Monday, the 16th June, 2025, sent an e-mail through Mas Services Limited, Registrar and Share Transfer Agents (RTA) of the Company along with the Login ID and password to the Members for e-voting who have registered their e-mail id's with Depository Participant(s) or with the Company;

for seeking approval of Members of the Company for increase in borrowing powers of Board of Directors of the company under section 180 (1)(c) of the Companies Act, 2013, as detailed in the Postal Ballot Notice dated 31st May, 2025.

The Board of Directors of the Company have appointed M/s A.N. Jaiswal & Co., Practicing Company Secretaries of New Delhi., (Membership No. 19000- CP No. 14629), as the Scrutinizer for conducting the Postal Ballot and e-voting process.

Members have an option to vote either electronically or through the Postal Ballot Form. The Company has engaged NSDL for providing e-voting facility to the Members. The detailed procedure for e-voting is enumerated in the Notes to the Postal Ballot Notice. Members are requested to note that the voting both through Postal Ballot and electronic mode shall commence from Tuesday, the 17th June, 2025 (9:00 A.M. IST) and end on Wednesday, the 16th July, 2025 (5:00 P.M. IST).

Members are requested to note that the duly completed Postal Ballot Forms should reach the Scrutinizer not later than close of working hours i.e. 05:00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 16th July, 2025. Any responses received after the date will be treated as if the same have not been received and voting whether by post or by electronic means shall not be allowed beyond the said date.

The voting rights of Member shall be reckoned as on Friday, the 06th June, 2025 which is the cut-off-date. A person who is not a Member as on the cut-off date should treat the Notice of Postal Ballot for information purpose only. The copy of the Postal Ballot Notice is available on the Company's website at www.modiindustries.net.

Any person who is a Member as on Friday, the 06th June, 2025 and has not received the Postal Ballot Form may download it from the website of the Company or may send an email to modiindustrieslimited@gmail.com for issue of duplicate Postal Ballot Form. The Company shall forward the same along with postage prepaid self addressed reply envelope to the Member.

Members, who receive Postal Ballot Notice by e-mail and who wish to vote through physical Postal Ballot Form, can download Postal Ballot Form from the website of the Company www.modiindustries.net from the 'Postal Ballot' page on the website.

Members can opt for only one mode of voting i.e. either by Postal Ballot or e-voting. If members are opting for e-voting, then do not vote by Physical Ballot or vice versa. However, in case Members cast their vote by Physical Ballot and e-voting, then voting done through e-voting shall prevail and voting done by Physical Ballot will be treated as invalid.

In case of any queries/grievances, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting user manual for members available at the 'download section' of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on 022-48867000 or send a request to Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Senior Manager, NSDL at evoting@nsdl.com.

The result of the voting by Postal Ballot will be announced on Saturday, the 19th July, 2025 at the Registered Office of the Company and shall be available on the Company's website at www.modiindustries.net.

For Modi Industries Limited,

Sd/-
Shobhit Nehra
Company Secretary, DGM (Legal)
ACS-31863

Date: 16.06.2025

Place: Modinagar (U.P.) 201204

India-US to agree on early tranche of trade before July 9: Commerce Secy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Negotiations for the proposed India-US trade agreement are in good progress and the two sides are expected to agree on an early tranche of the pact before July 9, a top government official said on Monday.

“We are working on the early tranche and as you are aware that there is a date (July 9), before that we would like to conclude this early tranche,” Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal told reporters here.

He said that Indian and the US teams are making visits to each other's country for trade talks. “We also visited the US twice. The US team also came here twice. There is good progress and we are hopeful that this will be done within the timelines,” he added.

The US on April 2 imposed an additional 26 per cent reciprocal tariff on Indian goods but suspended it for 90 days till July 9. However, the 10 per cent baseline tariff imposed by America remains in place. India is seeking full exemption from the additional 26 per cent tariff. The US team was here from June 5 — 11 for the talks. The negotiations will continue both virtually and physically in the days to come.

When asked if the absence of the US Fast Track Trade Authority (also known as Trade Promotion Authority)



could delay the proposed trade pact with India, an official said that it is up to the US authorities to decide how to navigate its local regulations for the trade agreement with India. The next date of in-person negotiations on the BTA and its initial tranche is yet to be decided but both sides are engaging virtually without a break.

The US Fast Track Trade Authority is a special mechanism that allows the American President to negotiate trade agreements and present them to Congress for an up-or-down vote, without amendments or procedural

delays. According to think tank GTRI, since 2021, this authority has lapsed and has not been renewed and without this authority, any trade agreement negotiated by the US President is exposed to Congressional scrutiny, possible amendments, delays, or outright rejection.

On the FTA talks with the European Union, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce L Satya Srinivas said that the next round of negotiations will be held from July 7 in Brussels.

“There are some tracks, we are working together on this. Momentum has picked

up in the talks and frequency of meetings has gone up. Earlier negotiating rounds were held every quarter, but now we have reduced the time period between rounds,” Srinivas said. The India-EU trade pact negotiations cover 23 policy areas or chapters, including Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Trade Remedies, Rules of Origin, Customs and Trade Facilitation, Competition, Trade Defence, among others.

“We have a large number of issues on which we are trying

to find a convergence so that we move towards the closure of the agreement,” Srinivas said. India and the EU have agreed to conclude their FTA negotiations — which began in 2022 — by the end of this year.

On the India-UK trade pact, he said that the agreement is getting ready to be signed. The conclusion of the pact was announced on May 6. “Work on documentation is going on and legal scrubbing is in progress. The process will be completed within three months from the date of the completion of negotiations and we are sticking to that,” Srinivas said.

IRAN-ISRAEL WAR

Government to meet stakeholders to assess impact on India’s trade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

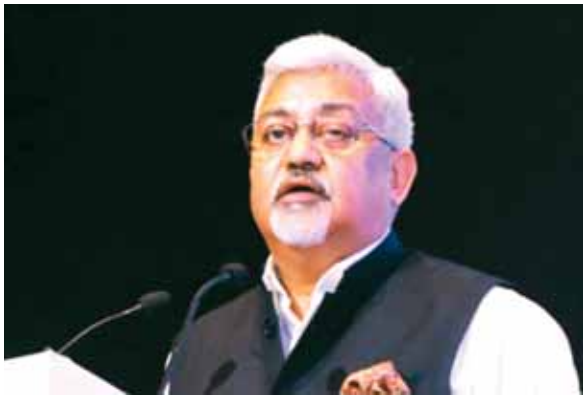
The Government is closely monitoring the situation arising from the Iran-Israel conflict, and a meeting with shipping lines, container firms, and other stakeholders will be held this week to assess the impact on the country's overseas trade and address any issue, a top official said on Monday.

Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said that the impact of the war on India's trade will depend on how the situation unfolds over a period of time.

“We are watching the situation. We are also calling a meeting (this week) of all the shipping lines, the container organisations and the concerned departments, and stakeholders to understand from them that what are the kind of issues they are facing and how we can sort it out,” he told reporters here. Exporters have stated that the war, if escalated further, would impact world trade and push both air and sea freight rates.

They have expressed apprehensions that the conflict is expected to impact movement of merchant ships from the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea. Nearly two-thirds of India's crude oil and half of its LNG imports pass through the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran has now threatened to close.

This narrow waterway, only 21 miles wide at its narrowest point, handles nearly a fifth of global oil trade and is indis-



Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal

pensible to India, which depends on imports for over 80 per cent of its energy needs. According to think tank GTRI, any closure or military disruption in the Strait of Hormuz would sharply increase oil prices, shipping costs, and insurance premiums, triggering inflation, pressuring the rupee, and complicating India's fiscal management.

Meanwhile, Israel's June 14-15 strike on Houthi military leadership in Yemen has also heightened tensions in the Red Sea region, where Houthi forces have already attacked commercial shipping.

For India, this poses another serious risk. Nearly 30 per cent of India's west-bound exports to Europe, North Africa, and the US East Coast travel through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, now vulnerable to further disruption, the GTRI has said. Indian export consignments gradually start-

ed moving through the Red Sea route but now again it may get impacted.

Cargo ships had gradually returned on Red Sea routes, saving them 15-20 days while moving to US and Europe from India and other parts of Asia. The present conflict that began with an attack on Israel on October 7, 2023 had brought cargo movement through Red Sea routes to a halt due to attacks by Houthi rebels on commercial shipping. After the US intervened with attacks on the rebels, the firing on commercial ships stopped.

Last year, the situation around the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, a crucial shipping route connecting the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean, escalated due to attacks by Yemen-based Houthi militants.

India's overall exports that had grown 6 per cent on year to \$825 billion in 2024-25.

Sensex, Nifty rebound nearly 1 per cent on value buying

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Shrugging off geopolitical concerns amid escalating tensions between Israel and Iran, stock markets rebounded by nearly 1 per cent on Monday following value buying in oil & gas and IT shares and gains in other Asian markets as Brent crude oil prices dropped.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 677.55 points or 0.84 per cent to settle at 81,796.15 with 27 of its constituents ending in the green and three with losses. During the day, it surged 747.22 points or 0.92 per cent to 81,865.82. The 50-share NSE Nifty climbed 227.90 points or 0.92 per cent to 24,946.50.

Among Sensex firms, UltraTech Cement rose the most by 2.39 per cent. Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services, Eterna, Asian Paints, Tata Steel and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the gainers. Tata Motors, Adani Ports and Sun Pharma were the laggards.

“Despite ongoing geopolitical tensions between Israel and Iran, the market moved higher, supported by gains in large-cap stocks, as investors maintained their focus on long-term fundamentals in the time of volatile situations. Geopolitical developments in the Middle East are



likely to influence near-term market sentiment, with any signs of de-escalation being closely monitored,” Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

“Among sectors, oil and gas recorded strong gains, while the IT sector outperformed in anticipation of the upcoming US Fed policy meeting, which is expected to provide further clarity on the interest rate outlook,” Nair added. The BSE midcap gauge jumped 0.93 per cent and smallcap index climbed 0.38 per cent.

All BSE sectoral indices ended higher. IT jumped 1.50 per cent, followed by BSE Focused IT (1.50 per cent), tech (1.35 per cent), oil and gas (1.22 per cent), realty (1.21 per cent), services (1.10 per cent) and consumer

durables (1.05 per cent).

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng settled in the positive territory. European markets were quoting in the green. US markets ended lower on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.81 per cent to \$73.63 a barrel. Wholesale price inflation (WPI) declined to a 14-month low of 0.39 per cent in May on easing prices of food articles and fuel.

“Despite mounting global uncertainty triggered by escalating tensions in the Middle East, Indian markets remained resilient,” Sundar Kewat, Technical and Derivatives Analyst, Ashika Institutional Equity — Ashika Stock Broking part of Ashika Group, said.

FATF enhances focus to combat terror financing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Condemning the brutal Pahalgam terror attack in April, global watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Monday said it has enhanced its focus on the effectiveness of measures countries have put in place to combat terror financing.

“Terrorist attacks kill, maim and inspire fear around the world. The FATF notes with grave concern and condemns the brutal terrorist attack in Pahalgam on 22 April 2025. This, and other recent attacks, could not occur without money and the means to move funds between terrorist supporters,” the FATF said in a statement.



The FATF statement comes in the backdrop of Indian authorities highlighting Pakistan's persistent support for terrorism and its funnelling of mul-

tilateral funds for arms procurement.

According to sources, such action by Pakistan warrants that the country be put in the “grey list” of the FATF.

On April 22, Pakistan-trained terrorists killed 26 people in Pahalgam, Kashmir. India has consistently held that Pakistan has given safe haven to designated terrorists and the same was evident when senior military officials were present at the funeral of the terrorists killed in Indian military attacks of May 7. Ahead of the next meeting of the Asia Pacific Group (APG) of FATF on August 25 and the next FATF plenary and working group meeting on October 20, India is preparing a dossier on the omissions and commissions by Pakistan with respect to FATF anti-money laundering and terror financing norms.

India will be submitting to the FATF for grey listing of Pakistan.

WPI inflation dips to 14-month low of 0.39 pc in May

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI) declined to a 14-month low of 0.39 per cent in May on easing prices of food articles and fuel, and experts said geopolitical tensions could push up prices. WPI-based inflation was 0.85 per cent in April. It was 2.74 per cent in May last year.

In a statement, the industry ministry said the inflation in May is in positive zone primarily due to “increase in prices of manufacture of food products, electricity, other manufacturing, chemicals and



chemical products, manufacture of other transport equipment and non-food articles”.

According to the WPI data, food articles saw a deflation of 1.56 per cent in May, against a deflation of 0.86 per cent in

April, with vegetables, onion, potato and pulses seeing negative inflation. Deflation in vegetables was 21.62 per cent in May, compared to 18.26 per cent in April.

Fuel and power, too, saw a

deflation of 2.27 pc in May, compared to a 2.18 per cent inflation in April. Manufactured products, however, saw positive inflation at 2.04 per cent, compared to 2.62 per cent in April. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mainly takes into account retail inflation while formulating monetary policy.

Data released last week showed retail inflation eased to over six-year low of 2.82 per cent in May mainly due to subdued food prices. The RBI this month cut benchmark policy interest rates by a sharp 0.50 per cent to 5.50 per cent amid easing inflation. The RBI has cut inflation projections for the current fiscal year to 3.7 per

cent from the earlier estimate of 4 per cent, as it expects core inflation to remain benign with the easing of international commodity prices.

The sub-4 per cent average retail inflation projection is the lowest in recent years.

ICRA Senior Economist Rahul Agrawal said the cooling in WPI was broad-based, with the food, non-food manufacturing, minerals, and fuel and power segments contributing to the dip in headline print between these months.

ICRA said crude oil prices have risen quite sharply in the ongoing month, following escalation of tensions between Israel and Iran.

STPI MedTech CoE: Pioneering India’s health-tech revolution

ARVIND KUMAR

In what could be seen as a turning point, that has brought a transformation in the healthcare system to cater to the needs of burgeoning population of India, the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), has established a MedTech, a Centre of Entrepreneurship (CoE) that is transforming India's healthcare ecosystem by nurturing innovation, supporting home grown startups and addressing critical medical challenges. Envisioned to support health-tech startups in developing groundbreaking, cost-effective solutions, MedTech CoE delivers a comprehensive incubation environment that includes state-of-the-art infrastructure, advanced IoT and Med labs, dedicated clinical mentorship, business guidance, regulatory assistance and access to investors and funding schemes. STPI has set up MedTech CoE in Lucknow with key stakeholders as Department of IT and Electronics,

Government of UP, SGPGI Lucknow, Association of Medical Device Industry (AIMED), Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ).

With the advancement of technological evolution, telemedicine and AI-powered diagnostics are enabling remote consultations and early disease detection, reducing the need for physical visits to hospitals. Portable diagnostic devices such as low-cost ultrasound machines and AI-driven screening tools for diseases make preventive care more accessible. Also, non-invasive monitoring solutions for neonatal and maternal health are boosting survival rates in far-flung areas. The MedTech-enabled integration of digital health records, mobile health apps and smart wearables leads to better health awareness among rural communities, even as Government-promoted telehealth facilities have proved to be a boon for remote villages with leading doctors from top medical institutions. A total of 53 startups have been onboarded by STPI

MedTech CoE, with 10 of them securing external funding amounting to ₹3.38 crore. Startups incubated under STPI's Lucknow-based MedTech Centre of Entrepreneurship are developing cost-effective and indigenous solutions suited to rural requirements. From AI-powered diagnostics and non-invasive medical devices to telemedicine and emergency healthcare solutions, MedTech startups are enhancing accessibility, affordability and efficiency in healthcare delivery.

Several startups fostered by the MedTech CoE have made remarkable strides in fields ranging from AI-driven diagnostics and medical training to emergency healthcare and assistive medical devices. Arficus Pvt Ltd, for instance, has developed MEDHINI, the world's first generative AI-based Software as a Medical Device (SaMD), already serving over 267 B2B clients across 12+ countries and generating significant revenue from markets like South Africa and the UAE.



Similarly, Dectrocel Healthcare has introduced an affordable AI-powered pulmonary disease detection system, making specialised diagnostics available at very nominal price. Their innovations have made a mark internationally, with accolades from Quebec Market Access, Denmark Technical University and UQ Ventures, Australia.

Other ambitious ventures are revolutionising medical training and mental healthcare.

ONE Learning Edusphere Pvt Ltd has created India's first simulation-based healthcare training platform, training over 5,000 professionals across India and expanding its footprint to London, Malaysia and Johannesburg.

In today's increasingly critical field of mental health, Manodayam Pvt Ltd has pioneered an AI-powered acoustic-based detection system that identifies and assesses conditions across the men-

tal health spectrum such as Depression, Panic, Stress, PTSD, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, Schizophrenia, Bipolar, ADHD, Dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Juvenile Delinquency, Autism, Sexual Disorders. Manodayam has received support from the NGIS Scheme Seed Fund.

Another key area of focus has been innovations in medical devices. Medblue Innovations Pvt Ltd has developed BiliSURE, a non-invasive bilirubin monitoring device for neonates, which has won a slew of national and international awards, including the BIRAC BIG 19 Grant and Tata Social Enterprise Competition.

Sukrati MedTech Pvt Ltd has introduced an advanced laryngoscope with an in-built suction module, addressing critical gaps in emergency procedures, while Amrit Meditech Pvt Ltd is working on an affordable, compact pulmonary disease detection system, which has already been clinically validated at AIIMS New Delhi and AIIMS Raipur.

Within the MedTech CoE

ecosystem, emergency healthcare and assistive medical solutions are also being actively pursued and implemented. MedCab Care Pvt Ltd has created a real-time ambulance booking platform that integrates air ambulance services across India, while Flexi Innovation Pvt Ltd has worked towards a Hybrid Assistive Chair for rehabilitation, incorporating virtual reality and gamification for better patient engagement.

Adding spin to the medical innovation, LogicBoots Pvt Ltd has introduced an AI-powered robotic nursing assistant to enhance hospital efficiency and reduce human intervention in routine medical tasks.

STPI's MedTech CoE is more than an incubator; it is a catalyst for change and a launchpad for healthcare startups driving India's self-reliance in medical technology. As a strong pillar of the Make in India and Digital India initiatives, it is paving the way for a future where cutting-edge healthcare solutions are built by India, in India, for

India and the world. It further aims at the collaborations between startups and institutions like AIIMS, Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital, and international accelerators, giving startups the exposure and mentorship needed to expand.

STPI's MedTech CoE is helping start-ups develop advanced healthcare low-cost solutions for serving the needs of the country as well as the world. These efforts are not just improving healthcare access and affordability but are also pushing India towards becoming Atmanirbhar in the MedTech sector. With strong Government support and a growing innovation ecosystem, these startups are helping realise the vision of a Viksit Bharat by transforming healthcare and enabling India to lead on the world stage in medical technology.

(The author is Director General, Software Technology Parks of India. The views and opinions expressed in the aforesaid article are personal)

BCCI to conduct second bone test for age determination in junior cricket

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

In a significant move, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to conduct an additional bone test at the junior level to ensure that no cricketer misses out on playing an extra season due to the “+1 factor” that is currently added to the calculation, which renders players ineligible by thinnest of margins.

As per the existing norms, a player undergoes a bone test for age determination via the TW3 method (test used for assessing bone age) and a +1 factor is added to determine his or her eligibility for the next season in the same age group.

However, with the rule change, a cricketer in the



Under-16 boys' category, will undergo a second bone test the following season to determine his eligibility to appear in the same age bracket in case the +1 factor rules him out in the previous year.

16 boys is 16.5 years and 15 years for U-15 girls competition.

“This means that the bone age of a player has to be 16.4 or below in the following season in male cricketers and 14.9 or below in case of females for participation,” the source said.

To explain the rule change further, if a male U-16 player undergoes a bone test in the 2025-26 season and the result shows a bone age of 15.4 years, he would not need to undergo another bone test the following season. Instead, a +1 factor is automatically added to their bone age.

In this instance, the player's bone age for the 2026-27 season would be arithmetically calculated to be 16.4 years, regardless of their actual bone growth, allowing them to participate in the U-16 tournament with a bone age of 16.4.

Similarly, if a player's bone age is determined to be 15.5 years or higher, the bone age automatically increases to 16.5 years or higher, making him ineligible for the U-16 tournament, since 16.4 is the final cutoff.

“It's possible that this arithmetical calculation does not accurately reflect a player's actual age, which could cause them to lose out on a year of eligibility,” the source added.

In the case of U-15 girls, if a player tests 13.9 years this season, she will be eligible for the same category the next season with a bone age of 14.9.

However, if she tests at 14 or above this season, she can play this season but not the next one with cut off being 14.9.

England will hold edge over India, feels Dale Steyn

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi



Matthew Hayden FILE PHOTO

Former Australia opener Matthew Hayden believes India will have a strong chance of winning the upcoming Test series against England if they can clinch the games in Leeds and Manchester, but South African pace great Dale Steyn has backed the hosts to triumph 3-2 in the five-match contest.

India and England kick off their new World Test Championship cycle with the five-match series, starting with the first game in Leeds on Friday. Manchester will host the fourth Test from July 23.

“I don't think England bowlers are that good, they have got a number of injuries and a number of retirees as well, that will be the challenge,” Hayden said. “The

northern Test matches when it's zipping around that will be key, win that one and it could well be a series that goes India's way,” he added.

Since India's last red ball tour of England, the hosts' two most experienced bowlers — James Anderson and Stuart Broad — have bid adieu to international cricket.

Additionally, England's bowling arsenal is also considerably depleted, with speedster

Mark Wood ruled out of at least the first three Tests due to injury.

Fellow quick Jofra Archer will also miss the opening game and Gus Atkinson is continuing to recover from a hamstring strain.

India, meanwhile, will take the field under new captain Shubman Gill, ushering in a fresh era following the retirements of stalwarts Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and R Ashwin. With a youthful batting line-up and limited red-ball exposure in recent months, the visitors will face a stern challenge. Steyn did not write India off but backed England to claim the trophy.

“It is a pretty young team. Probably going to say that England are going to win the series but it's not going to come without a fight,” Hayden said.

Head coach Gambhir to join India squad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi



Gautam Gambhir FILE PHOTO

India head coach Gautam Gambhir, who had flown back home last week due to a family emergency, will link up with the squad on Tuesday ahead of the opening Test against England at Leeds, beginning on June 20.

Gambhir had rushed back to India after his mother suffered a heart attack, and had to be hospitalised. “His mother is doing well now. Gautam will leave tomorrow and join the squad the same day,” a BCCI source said. The former India opener had missed the closed-door intra-squad match between India and India A in

Beckenham that ended on Sunday. In his absence, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate, batting coach Sitanshu Kotak and bowling coach Morne Morkel supervised the team's preparation ahead of the five-match rubber.

The Shubman Gill-led Indian Test squad is searching for its first series win in England since 2007.

D Deepesh, Pushpak drafted into India U19

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Deepesh and Naman Pushpak have been drafted into the India men's U19 squad for the upcoming tour of England as replacements for injured Aditya Rana and Khilan Patel, respectively, for the upcoming India U19 tour of England,” the BCCI said in a statement.

Both Deepesh and Naman were part of the standby players' list for the tour.

Aditya sustained a stress fracture in his lower back, while Khilan suffered a stress reaction in his right leg during the ongoing high-performance camp at the BCCI Centre of Excellence.

The team will be led by Ayush Mhatre, who shone for Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2025. The tour comprises a 50-over warm-up match at Loughborough University, followed by a five-match Youth One-Day series in Hove, Northampton and Worcester.

Two multi-day matches against England U19 will be played at Beckenham and Chelmsford respectively.

Wicketkeeper-batter Abhigyan Kundu has been appointed as the team's vice-captain.

WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP: INDIA TO FACE PAKISTAN ON OCTOBER 5 AT COLOMBO



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

India's WC schedule

- September 30: India vs Sri Lanka, Bengaluru.
- October 5: India vs Pakistan, Colombo.
- October 9: India vs South Africa, Visakhapatnam.
- October 12: India vs Australia, Visakhapatnam.
- October 19: India vs England, Indore
- October 23: India vs New Zealand, Guwahati

the matches after the recent stampede during the Royal Challengers Bengaluru victory celebrations.

India's contest against the Lankans is also the opening match of the ICC showpiece.

India, who are seeking their maiden title triumph, will lock horns with South Africa on October 9 and will meet defending champions Australia on October 12, and both the matches are at Visakhapatnam.

From there, India will move to Indore to face England on October 19 and then will proceed to Guwahati for the match with New Zealand on October 23.

“With the eight best teams in the women's game descending on India, alongside incredible venues and what promises to be record-breaking crowds, we are all looking forward to an unforgettable tournament,” said

Jay Shah, the ICC Chairman, in a release.

However, the BCCI is yet to form the Local Organising Committee (LOC) which will be in charge of the running of the tournament.

Australia will start their campaign against New Zealand on October 1 at Indore, while the high-profile match against England in a rematch of the previous edition's final is scheduled to be played on October 22 in Indore.

Meanwhile, Pakistan will play all their matches in Colombo as per the hybrid model.

Apart from the match against India, they will also play against Bangladesh (October 2), Australia (October 8), England (October 15), New Zealand (October 18), South Africa (October 21) and Sri Lanka (October 24) at the Premadasa Stadium.

The first semifinal is scheduled for October 29 either at Guwahati or Colombo depending on Pakistan's progress in the tournament.

The second semifinal will be held at Bengaluru on October 30, while the final will be held at Bengaluru or Colombo on November 2 as per Pakistan's standing in the event.

India are hosting this global event for the first time since 2013, and all the eight teams will play each other in a round-robin format, with the top four entering the semifinals.

Apart from hosts India, the

Aussies, England, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka achieved direct qualification to the World Cup while Pakistan

and Bangladesh entered the tournament through the Qualifiers at Lahore earlier this year.

Govt. of India
Department of Posts
Office of Chief Postmaster General, Punjab Circle
Chandigarh

No. CPT/11-1/2022/Vol-II

131st DAK ADALAT

Punjab Postal Circle is organizing 131st Dak Adalat on **26.06.2025** from 1100 Hours to 1200 Hours in the office of the Chief Postmaster General, Punjab Circle, Sandesh Bhawan, Sector-17E, Chandigarh-160017. The said Dak Adalat will be held through C-DOT video conferencing. The Adalat will attend all types of long pending complaints concerning **Postal Services** of Punjab Circle. The complaint must contain full details including reference number, date of letter received earlier from various Postal Authorities and the **Mobile number of complainant and forwarded in advance through Registered/Speed Post**. The complaint should be addressed to Sh. Atam Kharbanda, Assistant Director (CS,QA & I), O/o the Chief Postmaster General, Punjab Circle, Chandigarh-160017 so as to reach on or before **20.06.2025** by Registered/Speed Post. The Complainant is requested to attend Dak Adalat through C-DOT video conferencing through the link <https://cdotmeet.cdof.in/vmeet/pun-m7-t-z2f> on the above scheduled date and time. For any clarification Assistant Director (CS,QA & I) may be contacted in Telephone No. 0172 2706700.

Assistant Director (CS,QA & I)
O/o Chief PMG, Punjab Circle
Chandigarh - 160017

CBC 06341/11/0001/2526

USP

NHPG signs MoU with NSDF and Sports Authority of India to empower young talented Weightlifters

NHPG signed a tripartite MoU with the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to launch a major CSR initiative – “Shakti Saadhan – Empowering Weightlifters for Sporting Brilliance” on 16th June 2025 at SAI headquarters, New Delhi in the presence of Shri Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPG. Under this initiative, NHPG will provide support for the training of young weightlifting talent (aged 9–13) across 30 States/UTs in the country. The programme will include residential training, professional coaching, physiotherapy and other necessary facilities. The MOU was signed by Shri Miren Kumar Verma, HoD, CSR & SD Division, NHPG, Shri Kamkhan Singh, Under Secretary, NSDF and Col. N.S. Johal ,CEO (TOPS), SAI.

About Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL)
Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) is India's leading test preparatory company that specializes in providing comprehensive and effective preparation services for students preparing for high stakes Medical (NEET) and Engineering entrance examinations (JEE) and competitive exams such as NTSE and Olympiads. AESL has a pan India network of over 400 centres with over 400,000+ currently enrolled students and has established an unassailable market position and brand value over the last 36 years. It is committed to providing the highest quality test preparation services to unlock students' true potential and achieve success in their academic endeavours. AESL takes a student-centric approach to test preparation, recognizing that every student is unique and has individual needs. It has a team of highly qualified and experienced instructors who are passionate about helping students achieve their dreams.

FEI cancels at least 24 equestrian events in India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

In a development that will hurt the riders and the development of equestrian sport in the country, at least 24 domestic and international tournaments have been cancelled due to non-payment of dues to the world governing body, FEI, by the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI).

It has been learnt that EFI was supposed to pay about Rs 27 lakh to the FEI officials as remuneration and allied charges for various events held between January and March 2025. However, the federation's account stands frozen due to the infighting among the warring factions, leading to non-payments of dues, forcing FEI to take off the events from the calendar.

The EFI also needs to settle accounts for unpaid salaries, various costs of tournaments hosted in the past year and other expenses running into almost two crore.

“EFI was supposed to pay remuneration to FEI officials for various Eventing, Show Jumping and Dressage events held in Delhi, Meerut and Jaipur. However, the bank has frozen the account due to different factions within the Federation claiming operational access,” an EFI source said.



“It is embarrassing and the athletes are the biggest losers here, but that is the situation. The sports ministry has been apprised of the latest infighting,” the source added.

What led to the mess?

The EFI was supposed to hold its election in September 2023 but litigations delayed the polls, following which a Committee of Administrators (CoA) was appointed by the Delhi High Court on May 21, 2024.

The decision was challenged and, on May 29, the court rein-

stated the Executive Committee of the EFI as an interim measure, keeping in mind the participation of Indian riders in the Paris Olympics. The EC, in a meeting on April 11, 2025, without the presence of court-appointed observer SY Quraishi, decided to suspend Colonel Jaiveer Singh as secretary general of the Federation. Quraishi directed the EC to get the order approved from the court before its implementation.

Colonel SS Ahlawat moved the court on May 5, seeking

approval. However, the application was rejected on May 7 since the decision was not conforming to the law.

“The faction that removed the secretary general notified the development to FEI and also claimed the ownership of the bank account before getting the approval of the court. The bank then froze the account due to multiple stakes,” the source said.

When contacted, Col Jaiveer Singh confirmed the development.

“If you read the EFI statutes,

the constitution says that the General Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of votes, can terminate from the Federation any member of the Executive Committee, Selection Committee, Athletes' Commission and other sub-committees for gross misconduct or for activities contrary to the interests and objectives of the EFI.

“They decided on my removal without calling the General Assembly. It had to be rejected by the. Moreover, they attached the plea with an old

case that does not stand now,” Jaiveer said.

FEI Secretary General on February 11, 2025, had written to the EFI that it was cancelling the Eventing event that was to be held on February 24-28 in Meerut. EFI was supposed to clear the dues by February 7 but due to non-payment, FEI proceeded with the cancellation of the event. FEI made it clear that EFI will have to pay in advance for future events, and failure to comply will result in cancellation of future events.

Till June 16, 2025 EFI has lost 12 events, including a workshop on Para dressage, and is set to lose 12 more till mid-October.

These include the Para Dressage World Challenge in Bengaluru (Oct 10-12), World Dressage (Oct 8-9 in Bengaluru), and FEI Jumping (CDS Jul 24-27 in Bengaluru).

Asked how come EFI has not paid salaries and other expenses from the past when the bank account froze only recently, the source said, “You are right. The AGM held on August 18, 2024, had approved the budget and calendar, but the EC chose not to pay it.”

“We really need an intervention of the Sports Ministry here. Unless they do something about it and fresh elections are held, the mess is not going to clear.”