

Modi meets Trump, raises safety of Indian seafarers

PM commends Trump for his efforts to restore peace in West Asia, stresses importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open; Trump praises Modi, says U.S. and India 'very close' to trade agreement

Sriram Lakshman

LONDON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday raised the issue, in broad terms, of the safety of seafarers with U.S. President Trump during their bilateral meeting in Evian, France, on the fringes of the G7 Summit.

“Mr. President, you are aware across the world, Indian seafarers in the hundreds of thousands are working and performing their duties across global maritime trade routes, including the Strait of Hormuz, and their safety is of utmost importance to us,” Mr. Modi said, referring to the killing of three Indian seafarers in a U.S. strike last week off the coast of Oman.



Holding hands: PM Narendra Modi with U.S. President Donald Trump on the sidelines of the G7 meet in France on Wednesday. AP

“I’m confident that the issue of seafarers will receive the highest priority during the implementation of this agreement,” Mr. Modi said. The Prime Minister “commended” Mr. Trump for his efforts to restore peace in West Asia and said he was confident this would lead to a long-term

peace in the region. The Prime Minister told the President that they both agreed that keeping the Strait of Hormuz open was vital for the world economy.

Mr. Trump was asked by a pressperson if he had words of condolence for the grieving families of the

sailors. “I heard about that. It is a rough profession. There is no question about it,” he said, adding, “this has been happening throughout time, but we work together. We love all of those people.”

Mr. Trump said Iran would not have a nuclear weapon and that Mr. Modi felt “very strongly” about that as well. Mr. Trump said the U.S. and India were “very close” to finalising a trade deal, calling Mr. Modi a “very tough” negotiator. The two countries

announced the finalisation of a deal in February this year but it is yet to be signed, held up partly over changes to U.S. tariff policies and some gaps in the finer details.

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Modi raises seafarers' safety in Trump meet

The U.S. President also dismissed perceptions that the India-U.S. relationship was fraying, saying that as long as he was President, India would have a “great friend” in the White House. He lavished praise on Mr. Modi repeatedly and their friendship, painting a picture at odds with the mounting challenges the relationship has had to weather in recent times, including a protracted trade negotiation, restrictions on skilled migration, the death of Indian sailors, and a closeness with the Pakistan government that has ruffled feathers in New Delhi.

“He’s the most beautiful looking man. He looks so nice. He’s like an angel, but actually he’s a killer,” Mr. Trump said, praising Mr. Modi. “He’s as tough as they come, but he looks so good. So he gets you by surprise,” he added.

Mr. Trump said he appreciated Mr. Modi (i.e., India) investing in the U.S.

Asked to speak on the India-U.S. defence relationship, Mr. Trump said that though they did not have a contract, if India were to be attacked “we would be there to help”, stretching out his hand to hold Mr. Modi’s.

Mr. Trump suggested he would go to India at some point in the future.

Following the meeting, Mr. Modi posted on social media saying the two sides had reviewed U.S.-India cooperation in trade, energy, defence, technology and people-to-people ties.

Iran-U.S. framework deal outlines nuclear pledge, financial relief

Stanly Johny

The U.S. has agreed to facilitate the release of frozen Iranian assets, contingent on progress in negotiations towards a final agreement, and create a plan for Iran's economic development, involving \$300 billion, according to a text of the 14-point framework agreement reached between Tehran and Washington which was published by Saudi Arabia's *Al Arabiya* network and the Bloomberg news agency on Wednesday.

The memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed in Geneva on Friday. The draft stated that Iran has pledged never to produce nuclear weapons and, pending a final agreement, maintain a status quo on its nuclear programme. However, the AP reported later that unnamed U.S. officials read out the draft to pressper-

Peace process

The 14-point framework is expected to be signed in Geneva tomorrow

U.S. PLEDGES



- Lifting sanctions on Iran's products and services, including crude and banking
- Immediate lifting of naval blockade

- Withdrawing forces from 'surrounding areas'

IRAN PLEDGES



- Restoring pre-war traffic through Strait of Hormuz
- Never produce nuclear weapons

sons, according to which Iran has agreed to downblend (dilute) its highly enriched uranium under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

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UNLOCKING ACCESS

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Framework deal reveals nuclear commitment

On its part, the U.S. will lift sanctions on the sale of Iranian crude oil, petrochemical products, and financial services, including banking, during the negotiation period.

The draft, which has not been released officially, calls for an “immediate and permanent end to the war on all fronts, including Lebanon” – a key Iranian demand.

Under the agreement, the U.S. and Iran have pledged to “respect each other’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, and to refrain from interfering in each other’s internal affairs”.

The U.S. will immediately lift its naval blockade and Iran will allow traffic through the Strait of Hormuz to reach pre-war volumes within 30 days. Mr. Trump has said that traffic through the Strait will be toll-free. According to Iran’s Foreign Ministry, however, Tehran will not impose a toll but ships will have to pay a fee to Iran’s newly created Persian Gulf Strait Authority, for environmental upkeep and other services

Nuclear talks in next phase

“Iran reiterates that it will never produce nuclear weapons. Iran and the U.S. have agreed that the fate of enriched material and the fate of all other mutually agreed nuclear-related issues, including Iran’s nuclear needs, will be adequately addressed in a final agreement,” the leaked text says.

Iran has hundreds of kilograms of highly enriched uranium, which the U.S. and Israel want to take out of the country and dilute or destroy.

Two of the contentious points of the MoU are Iran’s demands for the unfreezing of its assets and reparation for the war damage. The leaked text says Iran would get access to the funds and financing for reconstruction.

“The U.S. undertakes that, in light of the progress of negotiations towards a final agreement, frozen or restricted funds and assets of Iran will be released and made fully available.”

India, U.K. announce July 15 as trade deal implementation date

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

NEW DELHI

India and the United Kingdom have overcome last-minute differences over steel import duties to finally announce July 15 as the implementation date for the trade deal between the two countries, the two governments announced on Wednesday.

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed by the two countries in July 2025 and was all set to be implemented by April or early May 2026.

However, a fresh regulation by the U.K. announced in May and applicable to all countries cut the quota for duty-free steel imports by 60% and doubled the tariff on above-quota imports to 50%. These new rules are to come into effect from July 1, 2026.

These tariffs and quotas were not part of the trade deal negotiations and suddenly halted the implementation process.

According to Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal, a team from India has been in the U.K. over the last few days to move things along.

“Delighted to note that the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement will enter into force on 15th July 2026,” Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X following the announcement. “This agreement will significantly boost our bilateral trade and investment.”

The implementation of the trade deal, under which the U.K. will remove



PM Modi with his British counterpart Keir Starmer during the G7 Summit.

tariffs on 99% of its product lines, will be accompanied by the implementation of the Agreement on Social Security, also referred to as the Double Contribution Convention (DCC), on July 15. It further said that such protections would be through a mix of country-specific quotas, residual quotas and access under an Authorised Use Scheme (AUS).

‘Landmark consensus’

“Demonstrating the collaborative strength of the India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CETA), India and the United Kingdom have successfully reached a landmark consensus to safeguard and promote bilateral steel trade,” the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said in a release.

Without revealing details on what exactly the solution to the U.K. steel tariff issue would entail, the release added that “both sides mutually agreed to protect commercial interests, minimise market disruptions, and ensure an overall balanced and stable trading environment for exporters”.

Defence production hits record ₹1.78 lakh cr.

Saurabh Trivedi

NEW DELHI

India's annual defence production has surged to an all-time high of ₹1.78 lakh crore in the financial year (FY) 2025-26, the Defence Ministry said on Wednesday.

According to the Ministry, the milestone represents a 15.6% growth over the previous fiscal year's output of ₹1.54 lakh crore and a staggering 110% increase since FY 2020-21 when the figure was ₹84,643 crore.

The indigenous defence production has increased almost four times from ₹43,746 crore in FY 2013-14.

Defence Public Sector Undertakings and other PSUs accounted for approximately 76% of total production, while the private sector contributed 24%.

DESPITE FORMATION OF SPECIAL POLICE UNIT, CONVICTION RATE AT 1.82%

Accused not identified in 55% cases: Data on crimes against North-East Indians

Sakshi Chand
New Delhi, June 17

MORE THAN half of the accused persons in the FIRs registered in Delhi over the past 12 years for crimes against people from the North-East have remained "untraced", according to Delhi Police data accessed by

The Indian Express, underscoring persistent gaps in investigations despite the creation of a specialised police unit intended to address such cases.

"Untraced" here refers to accused whom the police could not identify, locate or apprehend despite conducting probes. For more than a decade, the Delhi Police has registered thousands of complaints involving crimes against people from India's North-East. But in most of those cases, data now reveals, investigators have not identified those responsible. Of the 2,656 FIRs filed between 2014 and April 30, 2026, 1,465 — nearly 55% — were classified as untraced. Only 33 cases resulted in conviction, producing a conviction rate of 1.82 per cent.

Sources said that senior police officers have recently directed the ACP Headquarters to

• Majority of crimes reported in 4 of 15 police district in last 12 years

DISTRICT	NO. OF FIRs FILED	PENDING INVESTIGATION	PENDING TRIAL	QUASHED**	UNTRACED	CONVICTED	CONVICTED (IN %)
South	412	15	130	47	219	1	0.37
South East	226	8	85	25	106	2	1.5
South West	982	18	269	101	583	11	1.58
Dwarka	223	10	47	34	129	3	1.8
ACROSS CITY	2,656	74	771	313	1,465	33	1.82

**QUASHED/CANCELLED/COMPROMISED/DISCHARGED/ACQUITTAL. *BETWEEN 2014 TO 30.04.26. SOURCE: DELHI POLICE

review cases in which investigations have remained pending for more than two years.

Data also shows that another 771 cases remain pending trial, while 74 are still under investigation. The concentration of cases is uneven across 15 police districts in Delhi.

South West district recorded 982 FIRs — roughly 37 per cent of all complaints during the period — and also reported the largest number of untraced cases, at 583. South district registered 412 FIRs, including 219 untraced cases. South East district and Dwarka recorded 226 and 223 FIRs respectively. Combined, the four districts account

for nearly 70% of all FIRs involving members of the North-East community.

Outcomes varied sharply across districts.

Outer North recorded the highest conviction rate at 11.7%, followed by Rohini at 11.1%, West district at 7.69% and Dwarka at 7.14%. But those districts accounted for comparatively few cases. South West district, despite recording the highest volume of complaints, reported only 11 convictions. Several districts and specialised units — including North East, East, Railway, Metro, IGI Airport and Special Cell — recorded no convictions

during the period covered by the data.

The figures arrive more than a decade after Delhi Police created its North-East Cell, a specialised unit established in 2014 following recommendations made by the M. P. Bezbaruah Committee. The committee was constituted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs after the death of Nido Tania, a student from Arunachal Pradesh, and was tasked with examining racial discrimination, harassment and violence faced by people from the North-East in Indian cities. The North-East Cell was intended to serve as a nodal agency: addressing

grievances, monitoring criminal cases, coordinating with district police, maintaining data and conducting outreach among residents from the region living in Delhi.

Its creation, police officers said, reflected an institutional recognition that members of the North-East often faced distinct barriers in reporting crimes and navigating the justice system.

"More than a decade after the death of Nido Tania prompted calls for institutional reform, the data raises broader questions about whether improvements in reporting mechanisms have translated into stronger investigations, faster trials and better outcomes for victims. Yet the latest data suggests that those structural concerns remain unresolved," a senior officer said.

Significantly, this year has seen a rise in crime against people from the North-East. Earlier in 2026, two women from Assam alleged they were assaulted and subjected to racist remarks near South Delhi's Nehru Place. In another case, three women from Arunachal Pradesh alleged racial abuse by neighbours in Malviya Nagar.

Exam failures run deeper than Telegram

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to temporarily block Telegram ahead of the re-conducted National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) to medical institutions is an ill-thought-out move. Investigators probing the May 3 exam fiasco believe that the messaging app was used to circulate leaked papers. The National Testing Agency (NTA) — which conducts NEET and other important examinations — has argued that fraudsters were exploiting the platform to spread misinformation. Acting on its recommendation, the government has directed Telegram to disable message-editing features allegedly used to create fake evidence of paper leaks. The NTA's argument may well be valid. Identifying where the illicit papers appeared is important. But the more crucial question is how this subterfuge escaped scrutiny in the first place. As investigations into last month's leak have indicated, the roots of the illegal activity lie in the chain of custody which governs the setting, printing, transportation and distribution of the NEET papers. Proscribing one platform will not eliminate these underlying vulnerabilities.

In the aftermath of last month's exam cancellation, the government has taken some meaningful steps. It has strengthened coordination between the NTA, cybercrime units, and law enforcement agencies. Investigative agencies have widened inquiries into the paper mafia, and law enforcers have clamped down on networks allegedly involved in circulating leaked materials. These targeted actions need to be expanded and given institutional heft. In contrast, the ban on Telegram is a blunt measure that could inconvenience a large section of people. With an estimated 150 million users, the platform is second only to Meta's WhatsApp in reach. The stringent measures against the messaging app, therefore, speak of executive overreach and go against the principles of proportionality.

In the past two decades, repeated instances of malpractice have raised questions over the examination system's integrity. Last month's failure was the second controversy over the medical entrance test in two years. The Radhakrishnan Committee, appointed by the government on the SC's nudge — after the 2024 examinations were roiled by allegations of irregularities — recommended strengthening the NTA's accountability mechanism. The agency's use of private vendors has drawn criticism from parliamentary panels. Experts are unanimous about the importance of sustained vigilance in making the system foolproof. As the Radhakrishnan Committee underlined, safeguarding the sanctity of examinations should be a continuous process. The government's imperative, in other words, should not just be to secure the NEET examination on June 21, but all entrance and job application tests. By picking on Telegram, it appears to be lapsing into a familiar failing — treating the NEET cancellation as an isolated case, and not a symptom of a broken system.

Delhi HC issues notice to govt. on Telegram's plea over suspension

Firm alerted to fabricated NEET questions being sold on its platform, but issues persisted, says Centre; company tells court it acted on complaints

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday issued notice to the Union government on a petition filed by messaging app Telegram against the Centre's decision to suspend access to its services in India until June 22, citing concerns linked to the conduct of the NEET-UG re-examination.

Justice Tejas Karia directed the government to submit its response by Thursday.

The matter stems from the Centre's temporary suspension of Telegram amid concerns that organised cheating networks involved in the NEET-UG controversy were using the messaging app to circulate leaked or fabricated question papers and coordinate fraudulent activities. The restrictions were issued by



Our app is used by students who regularly get study material over it.

Teachers use our platform to teach. It's used for business purposes and even for several other things. This is a curtailment of fundamental rights of those who use our app

TELEGRAM
In Delhi High Court

the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. A separate direction also requires Telegram to disable the editing of previously sent messages until June 30.

During the hearing, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, who represented the Centre, alleged that several channels on the platform were being used to offer leaked examination questions in exchange for money. He added that the authorities had repeatedly alerted the company to these concerns and shared specific examples, but the issues persisted. He said,

“If you give me time till tomorrow morning at 8 a.m., I will place shocking things before the court.”

Senior Advocate Dhruv Mehta, who appeared for Telegram, challenged the legality of the blocking order and contended that it reflected a failure to consider the company's responses. He told the court that Telegram had acted on lists of objectionable channels supplied by authorities. “We have removed all the contents that you have pointed out,” he said, adding that the company had cooperated throughout the process.

India to meet 3% compressed biogas blending goal for FY27

Saptaparno Ghosh

NEW DELHI

The Centre is on track to meet the goal of blending 3% compressed biogas (CBG) with CNG and domestic piped natural gas for FY27 with the blending percentage having already nearly doubled to about 2% at present, officials told *The Hindu*.

They added with more CBG plants under varied stages of construction, this would provide a fillip towards achieving the target.

India's present consumption of natural gas for domestic PNG and CNG in transport combined is



A biogas Plant at Bengaluru in the State of Karnataka.

about 34-35 million metric standard cubic metre per day (MMSCMD).

“In April, CBG sales were approximately 0.66 mmscmd and about 0.63 mmscmd in May,” they

stated, explaining that at the present rate of consumption they amount to nearly 2% of blending.

More plants

According to the Petroleum Ministry's Gobardhan portal, construction of 324 CBG/bio-CNG plants are under progress while construction work is yet to start on 1,261 plants.

Suresh N.S., senior research scientist, Strategic Initiatives Group at think-tank CSTEP said geopolitical developments underscore urgency of boosting India's domestic energy security and reducing dependence on imported fuels.

Rupee up for fourth session in row on softer oil price

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

Indian currency appreciated for the fourth consecutive session on Wednesday, closing at ₹94.50 a dollar, up 10 paise as easing tensions between U.S. and Iran cooled crude prices.

“Local currency outperformed Asian peers as oil prices continued to soften on expectation of easing energy supply pressures from a U.S.-Iran deal. Technically, spot USD-INR faces resistance at 95.10,” said Dilip Parmar, research analyst at HDFC Securities

U.S.-Iran deal could remove restrictions on tankers; unlock banking, insurance access

Before the conflict, international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz operated without tolls, service fees or any mandatory reporting to national authorities; while the U.S. says no tolls should be imposed, Iran says ships transiting the strait will have to pay a service fee and report to authorities

NEWS ANALYSIS

M. Kalyanaraman

The 14-point Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Iran and the U.S., as published by Al Arabiya English, contains several commitments by the U.S. and Iran relating to shipping and transit through the Strait of Hormuz.

Under the agreement, the U.S. will lift its naval blockade and help restore maritime traffic within 30 days. Iran, in turn, has committed to restoring traffic “proportional to the pre-war volume” and to fa-



Tankers and cargo vessels in the Gulf of Oman, along shipping routes linking the Strait of Hormuz and the Arabian Sea. AP

cilitating the movement of merchant vessels to and from the Persian Gulf within the same period.

According to the text published by Al Arabiya, Washington has agreed to

immediately lift Treasury Department sanctions on exports of Iranian crude oil, petroleum products and derivatives, along with related services such as banking, insurance and

transportation.

In practical terms, this would remove restrictions on tankers previously sanctioned for carrying Iranian oil and enable them to access international banking systems, insurance markets and credit facilities more easily.

Days before the MoU was signed, the U.S. carried out punitive strikes on vessels allegedly transporting Iranian oil, including two ships bound for India and crewed by Indian seafarers, three of whom were killed. Subsequently, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio maintained that the transport of “illicit” Iranian oil would not be per-

mitted. However, negotiations on sanctions relief had reportedly been nearing completion for several days. Before the conflict, international shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a naturally occurring one, operated without tolls, service fees or any mandatory reporting to national authorities. Malacca-Singapore straits involve reporting to national authorities for the purpose of safe navigation but no fee, so is the Gibraltar.

In Bosphorus and Dardanelles, vessels pay service charges, including for pilotage to Türkiye. In the artificial Suez and Panama canals, ships pay substan-

tial transit fees, though alternative longer and more expensive routes remain available if those waterways are disrupted.

“Any fee to any authority for Strait of Hormuz would be vehemently opposed by global shipping for various reasons,” said Capt. Ritesh Kumar, a veteran master mariner.

While the U.S. has indicated that no tolls should be imposed, Iran has signalled that it may seek to levy service charges. Iranian officials had also suggested that future arrangements could require ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz to report to Iran and/or Oman.

● **KEY POINTS FROM DRAFT US-IRAN DEAL**

- An immediate and permanent end to the war on all fronts, including in Lebanon.
- Respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- To negotiate and reach a final agreement within a maximum period of 60 days; extendable.
- US lifts the naval blockade and prevents any obstruction against Iran, and restores traffic within 30 days to its full capacity.
- Iran to ensure movement of merchant ships from Persian Gulf to Sea of Oman, and back, is resumed within 30 days.
- The US undertakes to create a comprehensive plan for the rehabilitation and economic development of Iran; \$300 bn financing.
- The US commits to ending all types of sanctions against Iran.
- Iran reiterates that it will never produce nuclear weapons. The fate of enriched material to be addressed in a final agreement.
- Iran will maintain the status quo on its nuclear programme.
- US Treasury Department will issue waivers for exports of Iranian crude oil, petrochemical products.
- The US undertakes that frozen or restricted funds and assets of Iran will be released and made fully available.
- Final agreement will be approved through a binding resolution of the UN Security Council.

REUTERS

Elon Musk's AI tool Grok was used in strikes against Iran: U.S.

Agence France-Presse
SAN FRANCISCO

Elon Musk's artificial intelligence tool Grok was used in strikes against Iran, the United States government revealed in a legal briefing seen on Tuesday.

The June 15 brief defends the gas turbines used by a giant data centre belonging to the trillionaire's company xAI, which are the target of an environmental lawsuit.

In the brief, the U.S. Department of Justice argued that the lawsuit "threatens American national, economic, and energy security by seeking to shut off the power supply for artificial intelligence innovation that supports the Department of War's military operations."

To support the argument, federal prosecutors presented testimony from Pentagon AI chief Cameron Stanley in which he states, under oath, that Grok is already in use within Project



The project's Maven Smart Systems 'enabled U.S. forces to deploy over 2,000 munitions to 2,000 distinct targets within 96 hours,' a statement said. REUTERS

Maven, the U.S. military's AI-assisted targeting program that was initially powered by Anthropic's Claude model.

The project's Maven Smart Systems (MSS) "enabled U.S. forces to deploy over 2,000 munitions to 2,000 distinct targets within 96 hours during Operation Epic Fury," Mr. Stanley's statement said.

Mr. Stanley praised Mr. Musk's technology and "the

greatly increased operational efficiency made possible by the Grok Gov Model".

At the end of February, the government terminated its contracts with Anthropic after it refused to allow its tools to be used for fully automated strikes or the mass surveillance of Americans. The Pentagon then turned to Anthropic's competitors, like Google, OpenAI and xAI, to continue its pursuit of AI.

● JEFF BEZOS PAINTS A ROSY VISION OF TECHNOLOGY, SPOTLIGHTING HIS SPACE VENTURE BLUE ORIGIN AND HIS NEW A.I. STARTUP PROMETHEUS

AI will lead to labour shortages, not job losses, says Bezos

Reuters

Paris, June 17

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE will lead to labour shortages, not the replacement of humans, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos predicted in a highly optimistic appearance at the VivaTech technology conference in Paris on Wednesday.

Bezos put forward a rosy vision of how technology will help humanity, speaking about projects including his space venture Blue Origin and his new AI startup Prometheus, which is aimed at speeding up physical manufacturing.

"I know there's a lot of concern that many people have, in-

cluding many smart people, that AI is going to make humans redundant and so on," Bezos said. "I totally disagree with this point of view. And I think, in fact, AI is going to create a labor shortage."

Half of Americans fear the rise of AI could put them or someone in their household out of work, a *Reuters/Ipsos* poll found this month.

Bezos, the world's fourth-richest person with a net worth around \$250 billion, argued that people have "endless" things to do, and are currently limited by barriers that he said AI would lower.

One goal of space exploration is to move polluting indus-



Jeff Bezos at the 10th edition of the VivaTech technology startups and innovation fair in Paris on Wednesday. REUTERS

tries off Earth, said Bezos, whose Blue Origin aims to compete with trillionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX in rockets. "If space travel gets reliable enough and inexpensive

"I know there's a lot of concern that many people have... that AI is going to make humans redundant and so on. I totally disagree with this point of view. I think, in fact, AI is going to create a labour shortage."

JEFF BEZOS,
FOUNDER OF AMAZON, BLUE ORIGIN

enough, and we can get materials from asteroids and near-

Earth objects and the moon, then this garden planet can be returned to its pre-Industrial Revolution state," Bezos said.

Appearing together with Bezos was Blue Origin CEO David Limp, who said reconstruction of the firm's launch pad for New Glenn rockets has begun in Florida following a dramatic explosion in May.

Musk has also put forward a lofty vision for space ahead of last week's SpaceX IPO, including plans to create cities on the moon and Mars. In an interview with JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon last week, he talked about firing AI data centres into space and having vacations on the moon.

UCC Bill to be tabled in Monsoon Session of M.P. Assembly in July, says CM

The Hindu Bureau

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday said that a Bill on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) would be introduced in the upcoming Monsoon Session of the Legislative Assembly, slated to be held from July 20.

“In the [upcoming] Assembly session, the government will bring up various important and contemporary issues. One of them will be the common civil code, and we are progressing towards that,” Mr. Yadav said addressing reporters on the Assembly premises.

He hoped that “it will be passed in this session itself”.

A six-member high-level committee formed by the State government in April is currently working on a draft Bill after touring various parts of the State.

On June 16, the As-



The Bill will be passed in this session itself, said M.P. CM Mohan Yadav. FILE PHOTO

sembly Secretariat issued a notification, saying that the Monsoon Session would be convened over five days from July 20 to 24.

Public's suggestions

Earlier this month, Mr. Yadav invited the public to share their suggestions regarding the UCC on a recently launched government portal, saying that a law would soon be implemented in the State.

The committee, headed by retired Supreme

Court judge Justice Ranjana Prasad Desai, has been tasked with submitting the draft Bill along with a detailed report of its findings to the State government within 60 days.

The government has also asked the panel to study models adopted by other BJP-ruled States that have already implemented UCC, especially Uttarakhand and Gujarat.

Apart from these two States, the Assam Legislative Assembly also passed a UCC Bill in May.