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Demolish all illegal structures within 15 km of IB: Shah

He has earlier said that the demographic changes due to illegal migration were not limited just to border areas, but their impact had extended, "affecting urban centres, industrial corridors, tribal regions, and other socially and economically sensitive areas".

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had announced the formation of the committee to assess demographic changes across India due to "illegal immigration and other unnatural causes".

Headquartered in New Delhi, the committee will also include the Census Commissioner, along with retired IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra, ex-IPS officer Balaji Srivastava and Dr Shamika Ravi as members and will submit its report in a year.

"The joint secretary (foreigners-I), Ministry of Home Affairs, will serve as the member secretary of this committee," Shah had said on Tuesday.

The notification said demographic changes have been observed in certain regions of the country, which are "not attributable to normal fertility or mortality trends" but are instead emerging due to external abnormal factors such as "illegal immigration, irregular population mobility, and administrative laxity". "Although these changes are most visibly concentrated in the border districts, their impact has extended beyond those areas, now affecting urban centres, industrial corridors, tribal regions, and other socially and economically sensitive areas, thereby severely impacting public service delivery, local governance, resource distribution, and social cohesion," it said.

Cabinet approves extension of Sarthak-PDS

Automation in PDS (Sarthak-PDS) as an umbrella scheme, in the 16th Finance Commission cycle award period, with an outlay of Rs 25,530 crore as the Central share.

The scheme will be implemented during five years - April 2026 to March 2031, informed I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw while briefing media about the cabinet decision.

ITBP-Ladakh Cooperatives Deptt sign MoU

dum of Understanding (MoU) was today signed between the Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP), North West Frontier (NWF), and the Department of Cooperatives, UT Ladakh.

The MoU will facilitate the procurement and supply of essential food items and allied products through local Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), thereby providing them with assured market linkages for their products.

The MoU was signed by Deputy Inspector General, ITBP NWF, Laxman Yadav, and Secretary, Cooperatives, UT Ladakh, Bhanu Prabha, in the presence of LG Vinai Kumar Saxena. The agreement has initially been signed for a period of three years.

The MoU is a major step towards overcoming the farmers' challenges to find market for their products, often leading to financial losses. It is aligned with the vision of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who has directed Army and CAPFs to procure local agricultural and handicraft products through cooperatives to generate employment and promote economic self-reliance in border regions. Under the arrangement, ITBP has earmarked an initial amount of Rs 21 lakh during the current financial year for procurement of vegetables and allied products through registered cooperative societies/FPOs/PACS in Ladakh.

Describing the initiative as a historic step, the LG stated that the MoU would economically empower local cooperative institutions and people of Ladakh, including those living in the border areas, while also strengthening local supply chains.

"The Rs 21 lakh allocation by ITBP for the procurement of vegetables and allied products is a good beginning. This initiative will encourage farmers in border villages to cultivate more vegetables, improve their livelihoods and strengthen local economic activity. Greenhouses being developed under the Vibrant Village Programme will further help farmers increase vegetable production, which can directly supply fresh produce to ITBP personnel deployed in remote areas," he said.

He said the initiative would also contribute towards reverse migration in border villages by creating livelihood opportunities and strengthening rural economies.

The MoU establishes a structured institutional mechanism for the procurement of locally produced agricultural, horticultural, livestock and dairy products through cooperative institutions functioning under the administrative control of the Additional Registrar, Cooperative Societies, UT Ladakh. The arrangement is expected to create assured market linkages for local producers and strengthen the financial sustainability of cooperative institutions operating in remote areas.

Air India to cut 22 pc domestic flights

ternational services between June and August 2026, we have temporarily rationalised operations on certain domestic routes during the same period, with a reduction in frequencies on select routes," Air India said in a statement on Wednesday.

Sources said 20-22 per cent of the domestic flights would be reduced. The airline said these adjustments are driven by the sustained impact of high fuel prices on overall operations.

"Air India will continue to monitor demand and operating conditions closely, with a view to restoring frequencies as conditions stabilise," it said in the statement.

The carrier also said that passengers impacted by these changes will be proactively assisted with re-accommodation on alternative flights, complimentary date changes, or full refunds, as applicable.

Rs 1,150 cr cocaine seized off Gujarat coast

said at a press conference here.

According to one of the accused, the contraband was loaded onto the vessel in Brazil and secretly hidden in the motor room in November last year without the knowledge of other crew members, the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) said.

While a Tanzanian national named Juma Nasir Omar was arrested from the boat, the Gujarat ATS, with help from Delhi police, apprehended from the national capital's Dwarka area two other foreign nationals who were supposed to take the delivery, he said. Search was on for another suspect, also a Tanzanian national, who jumped into the sea during the operation, the DGP added. GPS devices, satellite communication equipment and AirTags were also seized from the consignment bags, indicating the contraband may have been electronically tracked during transit, officials said.

The Anti-Terrorist Squad and the Coast Guard jointly carried out the operation following specific intelligence inputs gathered by an ATS officer about a large consignment of cocaine being smuggled from Brazil via the maritime route, Rao said.

Acting on the intelligence, ATS officers rushed to Mundra on the night of May 25 and coordinated with the Coast Guard for a joint operation. "In the early hours of May 26, the joint team intercepted the vessel 'Europe' at the outer anchorage and initiated a search operation," Rao said.

During the operation, the team learned that six bags containing narcotics had been concealed aboard the ship. As the Coast Guard vessel approached, two crew members on deck allegedly threw several heavy bags into the sea.

Officials said five floating bags were successfully recovered from the water despite poor visibility, while one bag could not be traced. Preliminary testing of samples using a drug detection kit confirmed the substance to be cocaine, they said.

A total of around 115 packets weighing nearly 115 kg were recovered from the five bags, the officials said. The estimated value of the seized cocaine is around Rs 1,150 crore, calculated at roughly Rs 10 crore per kg in the international market, they said.

The ATS team also recovered four Apple AirTags from the seized bags, indicating the narcotics consignment may have been electronically tracked during transit, Rao said.

Two Tanzanian nationals aboard the vessel, identified as Ngingite Nassoro Jumanne and Juma Nasir Omar, were allegedly transporting the cocaine shipment, the DGP said.

The contraband was meant to be handed over at sea and delivered further to two Delhi-based persons - Kelvin Chukwuama and Bairunge James - who are Nigerian and Ugandan nationals, respectively, an ATS release said.

"Currently, three accused are in police custody - one apprehended from the vessel and the two intended receivers detained from Delhi," Rao said. The ATS teams, with assistance from Delhi Police, caught two suspects from the Dwarka area of Delhi and were bringing them to Gujarat for further investigation, he said.

One of the crew members working in the vessel's steam motor room, who had allegedly hidden the cocaine consignment inside the ship, jumped into the sea after spotting the ATS and Coast Guard teams, the DGP said.

Search operations involving the Coast Guard are still underway to trace the missing suspect, Tanzanian national Jumanne, he added.

During interrogation, Omar disclosed that the cocaine had been loaded onto the vessel in Brazil and secretly concealed in the motor room in November 2025 without the knowledge of the other crew members, the ATS release said Omar further told that he was supposed to deliver the consignment as instructed by his handler, it said.

On questions about the narcotics' final destination after Delhi and whether the drugs were intended for distribution within India or abroad, Rao said further details would emerge only after sustained interrogation of the accused. Officials also recovered GPS and satellite communication devices concealed inside the boat's steering room during searches carried out after boarding the vessel.

The seized contraband and related electronic equipment have been taken into custody and further investigation under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act is underway.

The operation also involved personnel from the Special Operations Group (SOG) in Kutch-Bhuj, Coastal Police, Marine Police and the Mundra Port Authority.

Officials described the seizure as a major success against international maritime drug smuggling and an example of close coordination between multiple security and enforcement agencies.

This was the 15th successful anti-narcotics operation jointly conducted by the ICG and ATS Gujarat in the last five years, they added.

Jitendra interacts with civil servants

the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) here, he said modern governance no longer functions through rigid hierarchies and one-way communication.

Singh encouraged the officers to remain open-minded learners throughout their careers, saying the ability to adapt, unlearn and evolve is now more valuable than static knowledge.

He said the nature of administration had changed significantly in the last decade with greater emphasis on transparency, responsiveness and citizen participation.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's philosophy of "maximum governance, minimum government," the minister said technology must be used not merely for efficiency but also for improving trust between citizens and institutions.

Singh said future administrators would be expected to combine technological competence with empathy, sensitivity and ethical public conduct.

LG asks police to intensify crackdown against narco-terror ecosystem

The LG entrusted the school and higher education departments to organise sports tournaments and youth engagement programmes to steer youth away from drug abuse.

Justice Arun Palli recommended for SC

Court Chief Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia. Both judges belong to the parent Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The recommendation was made during the Collegium meetings held on May 22 and May 27, 2026, wherein five names were cleared for appointment as Judges of the apex court.

Justice Arun Palli, currently serving as the Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, was earlier elevated from the Punjab and Haryana High Court and took oath as Chief Justice of the J&K and Ladakh High Court in April 2025.

The Collegium's recommendation assumes significance as Justice Palli has been preferred over Justice Gurmeet Singh Sandhawalia, Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court, despite both tracing their parent High Court to Punjab and Haryana.

With Justice Palli's proposed elevation, the representation of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in the Supreme Court is set to increase further. At present, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice A.G. Masih also hail from the same High Court.

Apart from Justice Arun Palli, the Collegium has also recommended the names of Justice Sheel Nagu, Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court; Justice Shree Chandrashekhar, Chief Justice of Bombay High Court; Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva, Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court; and senior advocate V. Mohana for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court.

Doctor, Physics teacher held

The agency had already arrested Montegaonkar in the case. The CBI also arrested Tejas Harshadkumar Shah, a physics teacher at Dr Abhang Prabhu Medical Academy (APMA), a coaching centre in Pune.

Shah allegedly received leaked physics questions from NEET UG from arrested accused Manisha Havaladar, the officials said. With this, the total number of arrests made in the paper leak case went up to 13, the officials said.

"The investigation to unearth the chain as well as the conspiracy in this case is ongoing. The CBI has so far conducted searches at 49 locations and seized several incriminating documents, laptops, and mobile phones," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement.

On May 12, the National Testing Agency (NTA) cancelled the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (Undergraduate), or NEET, held on May 3 for medical admissions amid allegations of paper leak. A re-examination has been scheduled for June 21.

The CBI registered the case on the same day based on a written complaint by the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education.

The central probe agency formed special teams to probe the case, conducted searches across the country and made prompt arrests, the spokesperson said.

"So far, 13 accused have been arrested in this case from Delhi, Jaipur, Gurugram, Nasik, Pune, Latur and Ahliyanagar," he said.

The investigation conducted so far has brought out the actual source of the leakage of the question papers, the agency had said earlier.

"The middlemen, involved in mobilising the students who paid lakhs of rupees to attend special coaching classes where the questions which would come in the NEET UG 2026 were shared, have also been identified and arrested," the spokesperson had said.

The NEET was conducted on May 3 across 551 Indian cities and at 14 overseas centres. Nearly 23 lakh candidates had registered for the test, which was administered by the NTA.

According to the NTA, information regarding alleged malpractices was received on the evening of May 7, four days after the exam was held.

The NTA said the inputs were shared with the central agencies the next morning for "independent verification and necessary action".

Climate change main culprit behind India's extreme heat: UN

cooling to vulnerable populations and ensure more secure and affordable electricity for homes, businesses, vital health services, and electric transport.

This extreme heat is posing a double challenge to lives and livelihoods, coming amid the current fossil fuel cost crisis and spiralling prices of imported fossil fuels worldwide due to conflict in the Middle East, said Stiell.

Apex Court upholds EC's power to conduct SIR

overstepped its statutory powers.

The 124-page judgment, authored by the CJI, agreed with the EC's reasoning on the need for SIR. The passage of more than two decades since the last intensive revision, large-scale additions and deletions over that period, rapid urbanisation, migration, and the resulting possibility of repeated or defective entries are valid grounds for the SIR to preserve foundational integrity of polls, the judgment said.

"The impugned SIR, therefore, is not a process designed to subvert the established procedure, but one intended to secure the constitutional mandate of free and fair elections by ensuring that the roll on which the election rests is accurate and reliable," it said.

The verdict led to sharp political reactions from across the political spectrum.

"The Supreme Court declares the SIR process legal and constitutional. It is clear that Rahul Gandhi and Congress opposed (the SIR) all through because they stood with illegal infiltrators, not with Indian voters," BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said in a post on X.

TMP MP Mahua Moitra expressed a diametrically opposite view.

"The SC's Bihar SIR decision today puts a stamp of approval on EC's illogical, hurried & discriminatory practices that ultimately led to 27 lakh valid voters unable to vote after Bengal SIR & whose fate is still in limbo. Justice must be done & must also be seen to be done," she said.

Psephologist and activist Yogendra Yadav, one of the litigants in the case, said he stayed away from court because the outcome had been apparent long before the formal verdict.

"The news is not that the Supreme Court has today declared the Election Commission's SIR to be constitutional. The real news is that now in this country, the BJP will decide who can vote and who cannot. The news is that the part of the constitution of this country, which was perhaps the last pillar to save it, some parts of it have broken and fallen today," Yadav said in detailed posts on X.

According to the apex court, the credibility of the democratic process rests on the accuracy of the voter list.

"We are unable to conclude that the impugned exercise is a process resorted solely for administrative convenience," the bench said.

So long as the EC acts within the bounds of the statute, records reasons for recourse to the special power and does not transgress any express prohibition contained there, the SIR cannot be struck down as ultra vires merely because it adopts a procedure different from that applicable to an ordinary revision, it said.

There were sufficient procedural safeguards to prevent arbitrary exclusion, the court said.

The documentation regime prescribed by the EC represented a considered exercise of its administrative discretion in furtherance of its Constitutional mandate, it said.

The EC is empowered to undertake a limited enquiry into citizenship for the purpose of satisfying itself as to eligibility for inclusion in the electoral roll, it said.

"Such an enquiry does not amount to a determination of citizenship in the strict sense, and any action taken pursuant thereto is confined to electoral consequences alone. It does not, however, operate to divest the individual of claims of citizenship, nor does it foreclose a determination of that question by the Competent Authority under the Citizenship Act," it said.

According to the verdict, if the EC is satisfied that a person does not deserve to be in the electoral roll, then it would be incumbent upon it to refer such an individual to the competent authority of the Centre for adjudication in accordance with law.

On the issue of persons deleted from the electoral roll on account

of the Commission being of the opinion that they are not citizens, the verdict said the poll panel "shall refer such cases within four weeks to the Competent authority under the Citizenship Act, 1955, for adjudication of their citizenship".

"The Competent Authority shall take the necessary decision in accordance with law, preferably before the next Parliamentary, Assembly, Local Body elections, whichever is earlier, after giving notice and an opportunity of hearing to deleted individuals," it said. In the event the competent authority holds that such deleted individuals are citizens, they shall be included in the electoral roll, it said. In the first phase, the poll panel initiated the SIR in Bihar, where 65 lakh names were removed from electoral rolls on grounds of rapid urbanisation and large-scale migration over the last four decades. The bench examined three questions - whether the EC has the power to conduct an exercise like SIR, whether the inquiry under the SIR is founded on a legitimate purpose, and if the procedure adopted was contrary to or in violation of the provisions of the RPA.

It said the bench was satisfied that the object sought to be achieved by the SIR is directly connected to the constitutional goal of free and fair elections.

A key objection raised by the petitioners, including the NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), was that the SIR functioned as an "NRC-like process" with poll panel allegedly verifying citizenship, a power they argued vests solely with the Central government. The bench held that the EC has the authority to examine citizenship status only for the limited purpose of determining eligibility for the electoral roll.

The petitions were filed last year after the EC notified the SIR in Bihar ahead of the 2025 Assembly elections.

The apex court had reserved its verdict on January 29 this year after extensive hearings.

PM asks citizens to take precautions amid soaring mercury

the prime minister said that children, the elderly and those working outdoors are especially vulnerable to extreme heat and no one should ignore the warning signs of heat exhaustion as it can quickly turn dangerous and may even lead to heatstroke.

"Different parts of India are witnessing soaring temperatures and the challenges that come with it. This heat is harsh on all of us and I urge you all to take as many precautions as possible," he said.

Modi urged everyone to stay hydrated, carry water whenever stepping out and also offer a glass of water to others as such kindness goes a long way in such weather.

"Watch for signs of heat exhaustion like dizziness, nausea or extreme fatigue. If someone around you feels unwell, weak or develops a headache, it is best to help move them to a cool and shaded place immediately," he said.

Modi also urged citizens to help those affected by heat and ensure that they get water, ORS, etc., which give them relief.

"In such weather, timely care and attention go a long way," he said. The prime minister also urged the citizens to call and check on elderly parents, grandparents and loved ones whenever possible during the heatwave.

"Remind them to stay hydrated, avoid stepping out in peak afternoon hours and take rest whenever possible," he said.

Modi also appealed to people to remember birds and animals amid the harsh weather.

"In this extreme heat, let us also remember the birds and animals around us. A small bowl of water kept outside your home, balconies, terraces, shops or offices can become a lifeline for a thirsty bird. May compassion guide us in these difficult days," he said.

An intense spell of heat has gripped many parts of India with Banda in Uttar Pradesh topping the chart at 47.4 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, according to the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

A heatwave is declared in the plains if the maximum temperature exceeds 45 degrees, while temperatures above 47 degrees are categorised as a severe heatwave.

ED conducts overnight searches in Assam, Delhi

were allegedly received through cash and digital channels, including UPI and bank transfers, and later layered and projected as untainted assets through a network of family members and associates spread across Guwahati, Tinsukia and Delhi, it alleged.

Searches were conducted at the residences of the accused, besides a commercial establishment operating under the name "Roycee", previously known as "Playboy", in Guwahati.

The ED said it seized several digital devices, including mobile phones and electronic storage media, allegedly containing records of betting transactions, coded communications with punters and sub-agents, and digital trails linked to the movement of proceeds of crime. Unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 13 lakh was also seized during the searches, the agency said.

Three vehicles - a Mercedes-Benz, an MG Hector and a Toyota Fortuner -- suspected to have been purchased using proceeds of crime were also impounded, it added.

The ED further said several bank accounts allegedly used for illegal betting operations and routing of proceeds of crime have been frozen to prevent further dissipation of funds.

Canadian police arrest 17 men believed to be of Indian origin for extortion

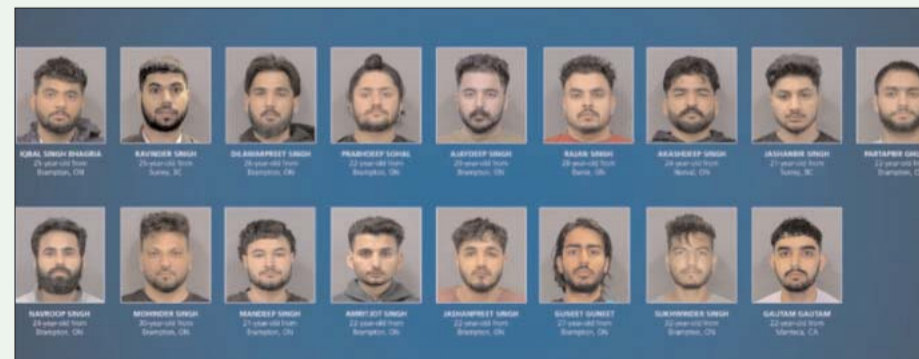
OTTAWA, MAY 27:

Canadian police have arrested 17 persons, believed to be of Indian origin, for their alleged involvement in extortion and organised crime targeting South Asian business owners and community members in the region.

The Extortion Task Force of the Peel Police "dismantled a coordinated campaign of intimidation, threats, and escalating violence used to extort local businesses", according to a press release issued by the Peel Regional Police on its official website on Monday.

The majority of the arrested individuals have ties to an international criminal network known as 'For Brothers', which targeted South Asian business owners and community members across the region in Canada and the United States, it said.

The organised criminal network was believed to have been active in Brampton, Mississauga, Caledon, and British Columbia, with links to California, it added.



ton, Mississauga, Caledon, and British Columbia, with links to California, it added.

"We recognize the fear and harm this has caused, particularly within the South Asian community, and remain committed to put a stop to these crimes and keep our communities safe," Chief Nishan Duraiah, Peel Regional Police, was quoted as saying in the release.

The 17 individuals were arrested in April 2026 after a joint investigation was launched in December 2025 by the Canadian police, se-

curity agencies, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the United States.

The accused are connected to 24 incidents, including 16 violent incidents associated with 'For Brothers'.

Six individuals charged by Peel Regional Police may face immigration action, including possible removal from the country, after their criminal cases are finished, police said.

During the investigation, police also seized six firearms, illicit drugs, multiple cell phones, SIM cards

and fraudulent identification cards.

Police said that the investigation in the case is still ongoing and further arrests are anticipated.

The accused were identified as Iqbal Singh Bhagria, Akashdeep Singh, Ravinder Singh, Jashanbir Singh, Dilwarpreet Singh, Mandep Singh, Prabhdeep Sohal, Partapbir Ghuman, Ajaydeep Singh, Navroop Singh, Rajan Singh, Amritjot Singh, Jashanpreet Singh, Guneet Guneet, Sukhwinder Singh, Mohinder Singh and Gautam. (PTI)