

'Nation being undermined cannot be tolerated,' says Oli on Nepal govt's ban on social media

■ AGENCY
KATHMANDU: Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli on Sunday, speaking about the government's decision to ban unregistered social media platforms, said the "nation being undermined can never be tolerated", even as various groups opposed the move.

Nepal on Thursday banned social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube among others for failing to register with the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology within the given deadline.

According to the notice issued by the ministry, the social media companies were given seven days from August 28 to register.

Even when the deadline expired on Wednesday night, none of the large social media platforms - including Meta (Facebook), Instagram, WhatsApp, Alphabet (YouTube), X (formerly Twitter), Reddit, and LinkedIn - submitted applications.

Oli, addressing party representatives on the final day of a convention by the ruling Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), said that the party would "always oppose anomalies and arrogance, and would never accept any act that undermines the nation".

The prime minister said the party is not against social media "but what cannot be accepted is those doing business in Nepal, making money, and yet not complying with the law", MyRepublica reported.

"The independence of the nation is greater than the loss of jobs of a handful of individuals. How can it be acceptable to defy the law, disregard the constitution, and disrespect national dignity, independence, and sovereignty," he said.

Referring to the recent mounting criticism, he called protesters and agitating voices "puppets who only oppose for the sake of opposing".

Meanwhile, dozens of journalists demonstrated at Maitighar Mandala in the heart of Kathmandu on Sunday protesting the government's decision to ban 26 social media platforms.

They also demanded immediate lifting of the ban, saying the move breaches press freedom and freedom of expression of the citizens.

The protesting journalists were carrying placards with slogans such as "People's voice cannot be suppressed" and "Let's Speak" during the peaceful demonstration.

Separately, the Computer Association of Nepal (CAN) in a statement said that shutting down important platforms like Facebook, X, and YouTube all at once can have a serious impact on education, business, communication, and the daily lives of ordinary citizens. This move of the government also poses the risk of Nepal falling behind the world digitally," CAN president Sunaina Ghimire said, adding that sufficient discussions should be held with stakeholders to bring practical solutions.

"Similarly, due to the large number of users earning income by posting content on social media, there is a risk that the ban could lead to job losses and businesses collapsing," reads the statement.

Meanwhile, the Gen Z group of Kathmandu, composed of people below the age of 28, are taking out protest rallies in Maitighar Mandala and various other places on Monday to protest the government's move.

Kathmandu Metropolitan City Mayor Balen Shah in a social media post extended his "full support" to the protests by the youths.

"I cannot attend due to age restrictions, but it is important to understand their voices. I fully support them," he said. Another group of youngsters, who launched a campaign called "Nepo Kid" on various social media platforms, are also joining the protest rally.

"Nepo Kid", a social media trend, has become viral in recent days, with youngsters accusing the children of politicians and influential people of "enjoying privileges with money earned from corruption".

Looking at India as potential market for small e-cars, GST cut makes it attractive: VW Group CEO

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
MUNICH: German automotive group Volkswagen is looking at India as a potential market for its affordable small electric cars and is working with partners on how to best introduce them in the market, its CEO Oliver Blume said on Sunday.

The group, which presented an all-electric small car family in its entirety for the first time at IAA Mobility, feels that the reduction of goods and services tax (GST) on automobiles in India makes the Indian automotive market, already the third largest, more attractive, Blume told PTI here on the sidelines of the event.

Under the electric small car family, the VW Group showcased 'ID. CROSS Concept' SUV from Volkswagen brand, Skoda Epiq SUV along with sister models Volkswagen ID. Polo and CUPRA Raval.

Blume said the group has been working on the entry level electric mobility across its various brands to offer affordable sustainable mobility under its project called electric urban car family.

When asked how the group is looking at India as a market for the electric urban car family, he said, "India is a fantastic market, now the third biggest in the world. We see potential in India. We are sorting out what we can do with partners and also bringing a small car to India."

Govt keeping 'good watch' on rupee, several currencies declined against USD: Sitharaman

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the government is keeping a 'good watch' on exchange rates, stressing that besides rupee several other currencies have depreciated against the US dollar.

"The rupee slide is largely against the dollar, not against any other currencies. That's also because of the way globally, the dollar has strengthened," she said when asked if the slide of rupee against greenback is a concern.

"This is not the case only with rupee versus dollar, it's the case with many other currencies versus the dollar. So we are keeping a good watch on this," she told PTI in an interview.

The rupee plummeted to a record low and closed at 88.27 against dollar after touching an intra-day low of 88.38 on Friday. The fall came amid concerns over US tariffs, while intervention by the Reserve Bank of India through state-run banks helped limit further losses.

The steep tariff of 50 per cent imposed by the US on Indian goods took effect on August 27. The tariffs - among the highest in the world - include a 25 per cent penalty for buying crude oil from Russia.

On August 7, President Donald Trump administration enforced a 25 per cent tariff on Indian goods, citing India's persistent oil imports from Russia and long-standing trade barriers.

The sectors which are impacted due to high import duties include textiles/clothing, gems and jewellery, shrimp, leather and footwear, animal products, chemicals, and electrical and mechanical machinery.

Sectors such as pharma, energy products and electronic goods are out of the ambit of these sweeping duties. The US accounted for about 20 per cent of India's USD 437.42 billion worth of goods exports in 2024-25.

The US has been the largest trading partner of India since 2021-22. In 2024-25, the bilateral trade in goods stood at USD 131.8 billion (USD 86.5 billion exports and USD 45.3 billion imports).

Calling the landmark GST overhaul a 'people's reform', Sitharaman said that rationalisation of tax rates for a wide swath of products will benefit every family, boost consumption, and bolster the economy.

The finance minister said, she will personally monitor passing on of goods and services tax (GST) rate cuts in the form of price reduction even as some of the industries have already announced price moderation.

Within days of the decision, from car makers to public sector insurance companies and shoe and apparel brands have already announced significant price cuts and the rest are likely to follow suit

By the time new GST rates are implemented, she said.

Nearly 400 products - from soaps to cars, shampoos to tractors and air conditioners - will cost less when the rejig of the GST is effective from the first day of Navaratri on September 22. Premium paid on individual health and life insurance will be tax-free. A third slab of 40 per cent tax has been earmarked for a small list of sin goods and ultra-luxury items.

"This is a reform which touches the lives of all 140 crore people. There is no individual in this country who is untouched by GST. The poorest of the poor also have something small that they buy, touched by GST," she said.

Starting September 22, the GST slab structure will change - 5 per cent for common use goods and 18 per cent for everything else. The existing slab of 12 and 28 per cent rates have been done away with.

In the revamped GST structure, most daily food and grocery items will fall under the 5 per cent GST slab with bread, milk and paneer attracting no tax at all.

Sitharaman said the reform - the single biggest since the 2017 roll-out of the one-nation, one tax regime - has been carried out with a focus on the common man. Every tax on daily use items has gone through a rigorous review and in most cases the rates have come down drastically.

BJP youth wing to hold 'NAMO Yuva Run' on Sep 21 against drug menace, promote 'swadeshi' products

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
NEW DELHI: The BJP's youth wing will organise 'NAMO Yuva Run: For A Nasha Mukht Bharat' on September 21 to make youth aware about the harm of drug abuse and also exhort people to adopt 'swadeshi' products.

Announcing the launch of the programme, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday said the event will be organised at 75 places across the country.

A similar event will be organised by the Bharatiya Yuva Diaspora in 75 cities around the world, he added.

Lakhs of youth will participate in the programme to be organised by the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) to create awareness among youth about drug addiction and sensitise people about the importance of adopting 'swadeshi' products, the senior BJP leader said.

"Through this event, the youth of the country will connect with the soil (the nation) with resolve and remember the duty that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has fulfilled towards the country in the last 11 years," Mandaviya told a press conference at the BJP headquarters here.

Actor-Model Milind Soman, who has been officially appointed as the National Run Ambassador of the initiative, was present at the press conference, among others.

Prime Minister Modi will turn 75 on September 17. Mandaviya hailed Modi's tenure as prime minister and said he has given "a lot to this country" over the last 11 years with his "thoughts and work".

"Today, the country is progressing, marching on the path of development, and a new India is in the making under Modi's leadership," he said.

The Union minister hailed the latest GST rate cuts as a "big gift" by the prime minister to the people of the country.

"Before Modi ji became the prime minister, there were 18 types of taxes, including VAT and Excise. Modi ji brought in one nation, one tax (system). He simplified the tax regime and also reduced taxes," he said in a veiled attack at the Congress.

"During Modi's tenure, taxes were reduced year by year. People's burden was reduced and the country's budget was increased," the Union Minister added.

Addressing the press conference, BJP MP and Yuva Morcha president Tejasvi Surya said that around one million youths will participate in the 'NAMO Yuva Run: For A Nasha Mukht Bharat' programme at 75 locations across the country on September 21.

"It's Prime Minister Modi's 75th birthday on September 17. Perhaps, there is no bigger icon for fitness, good health and inspiration to the youth of this country than our prime minister," he said.

Highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse, the BJP leader said the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah has done "some incredible work" and achieved "success" in the fight against the drug menace.

"About 10 lakh kg of drugs have been seized and destroyed in just one year. From 2014 to 2024, total seizure of drugs all over the country swelled up to 22 lakh kg from 3.6 lakh kg between 2004 and 2014," Surya said, drawing an apparent comparison between the performance of the Modi government and that of the Congress-led UPA on this front.

"This is how India is fighting the war on drugs," he said.

Surya called upon the country's youth to join the war against the drug menace, saying success cannot be achieved without their participation and resolve.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, REW POONCH

TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 80 of REW POONCH 2025-26 Dated:-04-09-2025 1st Call
For & on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, the Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch, as his representative invites tenders by e-tendering mode from approved and eligible contractors registered with J&K Union Territory Govt/CPWD/JES for the following work under:

S. No.	Name of Work	Name of Division	Est. Cost (Rs in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor	Position of Funds
1	Construction of Graveyard moh. Qazian Lower Sandote Pyl. Balakote Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	1.00	200	2000	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 16-09-2025 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
2	Development of Graveyard Golata Pyl. Behrool Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
3	Construction of R/wall/B/wall W.No. 3 mohalla Pyl. ghar Pyl. Bhata Dhurian Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
4	Upgradation of Graveyard W.No. 3 mohalla ghai Pyl. Bhata Dhurian Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
5	Upgradation of Graveyard Moh. Dornalan W. No1 Pyl. Dhargaloon Lower Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
6	Construction Of Graveyard Moh Quershan W. No 7 Pyl. Dhargaloon Lower Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
7	Construction Of Graveyard Moh Sudan W.No 6 Pyl. Dhargaloon Lower Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
8	Construction of Graveyard Moh Juma Mohra W.No 3 Pyl. Dhargaloon Lower Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
9	Construction and Dev. of Eidgh Moh Khet W.No 6 Pyl. Dhargaloon Upper Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		3.00	200	6000	30 days			
10	Construction of Pacca Danga P/wall Nr Mohd Reyaz W.No 3 Pyl. Galhuta Kangra Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
11	Construction of Boundary Wall of Graveyard Nr Wahid Iqbal and others W. No 7 Pyl. Galhuta Kangra Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
12	Construction of P/work Moh bajarana (U) W.No 1 Nr. Main road Nr Graveyard Pyl. Jarranwali Gali Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		2.00	200	4000	30 days			

13	Construction Of P/Work/R/wall nr graveyard W.No.3 Pyl. Jarranwali Gali Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26	Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	1.30	200	2600	30 days	(1000 Hrs) on or after 16-09-2025 in the office of Executive Engineer REW Division Poonch	DEE	Partially Available/ Demanded
14	Construction of protection work of playground GMS Dhara W. No.4 Pyl. Jarranwali Gali Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
15	Construction of R/wall protection work Nr. graveyard W.No.6 Lamna Gali Pyl. Jarranwali Gali Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		2.00	200	4000	30 days			
16	Construction of R/wall protection work at W.No.7 mohalla taki nr. Graveyard Pyl. Jarranwali Gali Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.00	200	2000	30 days			
17	Upgradation of graveyard moh kalia upper W.No. 1 Pyl. Naka Manjhari Lower Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.38	200	2760	30 days			
18	Construction Of Boundary wall of Ziarat W.No 5 Pyl. Naka Manjhari Lower Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.40	200	2800	30 days			
19	Construction of Boundary wall of graveyard middle janjua mohalla kangri W.No. 6 Pyl. Naka Manjhari Lower Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.50	200	3000	30 days			
20	Construction of Boundary wall of graveyard W.No. 3 Pyl. Naka Manjhari Lower Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.20	200	2400	30 days			
21	Construction of Graveyard Moh Dharabakerwallan Pyl. Naka Manjhari Middle Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		2.20	200	4400	30 days			
22	Construction of Retaining Wall Fencing Wall in front of Masjid Jaglan Pyl. Naka Manjhari Upper Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		2.51	200	5020	30 days			
23	Construction of Retaining Wall Nr Qubarstan Moh. Mughlan W. No 4. Pyl. Naka Manjhari Upper Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.40	200	2800	30 days			
24	Construction of Fencing Wall Graveyard Moh. Manyalan W. No 9. Pyl. Naka Manjhari Upper Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		1.40	200	2800	30 days			
25	Construction of Fencing Wall Graveyard Moh. Quershan Upper W. No.1. Pyl. Naka Manjhari Upper Block Balakote Under PRI Grant Year 2025-26		2.30	200	4600	30 days			

NOTE: No PRI member shall be allowed to take part in Tendering process

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	04-09-2025.
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-09-2025 to 15-09-2025, 1855 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	04-09-2025 from 1855 Hrs onwards
4	Bid Submission End Date	15-09-2025 up to 1855 Hrs
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online) (in case of holiday, the bid shall be opened on next day)	16-09-2025 on or after 1000 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer REW, Poonch
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) (of only successful technical bidders)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids.
- The earnest money shall be forfeited, if-
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period.
 - In case contractor fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
- Instruction to bidders regarding e-tendering process.**
 - Bidders are advised to download bid submission manual from the "Downloads" option as well as from "Bidders Manual Kit" on website <https://www.jkenders.gov.in/> to acquaint bid submission process.

No.- XEN/REW/P/1075-81
Dated:- 04-09-2025

DIP/J-5412/25
Dated:- 06/09/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Rural Engineering Wing
Poonch

Head of US lobbying firm hired by India meets Trump

■ AGENCY
WASHINGTON: Political lobbyist Jason Miller, whose lobbying was hired by India, met US President Donald Trump and a few officials of his administration, against the backdrop of tensions in ties between the two countries over Washington's policy on trade and tariffs.

Miller heads SHW Partners LLC that was hired by the Indian embassy in April reportedly for USD 1.8 million for a year.

Miller did not mention the purpose of his meeting with Trump and other officials, but posted several photos including one with Trump on social media.

"Fantastic week in Washington with so many friends being in town, topped off of course by having the opportunity to step in and see our President in-action! Keep up the great work, @POTUS @realDonaldTrump," he posted.

IN THE COURT OF MUNSIFF KATRA
Present Vishal Bharti
Anju Devi W/o Lt Sh Sanjay Kumar R/O Chack Bhagtha Tehsil Katra District Reasi. -Plaintiff

V/S
1. Mohinder Lal, 2. Subash Chander, 3. Sobha Ram, All sons Sh. Dharam Chand, All R/O Chack Bhagtha Tehsil Katra and District Reasi -Defendant

In the Matter of: Suit for Declaration to effect that plaintiff is registered owner in possession of vehicle bearing Registration NO. JK20-0242, Chassis Number MD2AA24Z2SW165942 and Engine Number AEMBSJ70044 (THREE WHEELER).

And
Consequential Relief Prohibitory injunction restraining defendants not to cause interference in any manner for plying the said vehicle or creating any hurdle for transferring the said vehicle before ARTO Reasi in the Name of Plaintiff.

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC
Whereas the above title suit filed by the plaintiff(s) against the descendants is pending adjudication in this court. Public at large, through the medium of this publication is hereby informed that if anybody having objections to the passing of the relief regarding the subject matter cited above, may appear before this court either in person or through counsel and file his/her their objections by or below the next date which is fixed 27-09-25 failing which appropriate order will be passed under the law. The date fixed happens to be a public holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day. Given under my hand and seal today of this court on 06-09-2025

Sd/-
Court of Munsiff Katra

J&K SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
(A J&K Government Undertaking)
ESTATE OFFICE SICOP GANGYAL

ATTENTION BANKS/FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS/INDIVIDUALS

It is for the information of all the concerned that M/s P.M DWARKADAS EXIM a Permanently registered unit with DIC Jammu vide No. 07/004/11/14880 dated 25/06/2022 for the "Manufacturing of Moulds for Gold/Silver Jewellery only," who has been leased out Plot No. 111-A measuring 0.90 Kanal of land in Industrial Estate Gangyal phase-II, Jammu. Now Sh. Rajesh Uppal S/o Sh. Kamal Kishore Uppal H.No 93-C Shastri Nagar, Jammu as Attorney Holder on behalf of Partners of M/s P.M DWARKADAS EXIM namely Sh. Vibhu Kapoor S/o Vishwamitter Kapoor and Smt. Saloni Kapoor W/o Vibhu Kapoor R/o 2703-2704 Kingston Tower Parel Tank Road GD Ambekar Marg Parel Mumbai 4000033 has applied this office for issuance of NOC for Transfer of lease hold rights/ Merger of unit M/s P.M Dawarkadass Exim with M/s Bahu Plaster Industries having Plot no 112 & 112A, Phase III SICOP Industrial Estate Gangyal having Proprietor Sh. Manu Sharma S/o Late Sh. Satya Pal Sharma R/o 20/9, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Any financial Institutions/ Govt. Departments/ Individuals having any interest in the above said concern may file objections, if any, in writing with the office of the Divisional Manager (Estates), Estate Office SICOP Gangyal, Jammu within 7 days from the date of its publication in the newspaper. Any claim whatsoever; shall not be entertained after the above specified period.

No. SICOP/EMG/920/1777
Dated:- 04/09/2025

Sd/-
Divisional Manager (Estate)
SICOP Gangyal, Jammu

IN THE COURT OF MUNSIFF KATRA
Present Vishal Bharti
Anju Devi W/o Lt Sh Sanjay Kumar R/O Chack Bhagtha Tehsil Katra District Reasi. -Plaintiff

V/S
1. Mohinder Lal, 2. Subash Chander, 3. Sobha Ram, All sons Sh. Dharam Chand, All R/O Chack Bhagtha Tehsil Katra and District Reasi -Defendant

In the Matter of: Suit for Declaration to effect that plaintiff is registered owner in possession of vehicle bearing Registration NO. JK14A-9196, Chassis Number MD2AA24Z2RW0A1476 and Engine Number AME-BRA01951 (THREE-WHEELER)

And
Consequential Relief Prohibitory injunction restraining defendants not to cause interference in any manner for plying the said vehicle or creating any hurdles for transferring the said vehicle before ARTO udhampur in the name of plaintiff.

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC
Whereas the above title suit filed by the plaintiff(s) against the descendants is pending adjudication in this court. Public at large, through the medium of this publication is hereby informed that if anybody having objections to the passing of the relief regarding the subject matter cited above, may appear before this court either in person or through counsel and file his/her their objections by or below the next date which is fixed 27-09-25 failing which appropriate order will be passed under the law. The date fixed happens to be a public holiday, the matter will be taken on the next working day. Given under my hand and seal today of this court on 06-09-2025

Sd/-
Court of Munsiff Katra