

ORRY IS EXPECTED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE ANTI NARCOTICS CELL TODAY

From a 2022 drug case to Bollywood's door, via a Sangli factory & UAE

Mohamed Thaver
Mumbai, November 25

ON MARCH 24, 2024, a team from the Mumbai Crime Branch busted a factory in Sangli, located over 350 km from Mumbai city, allegedly leading to seizure worth Rs 253 crore of 122 kg of high-quality mephedrone, cash, gold ornaments and a car. Six people were arrested.

The Sangli factory was also being looked at by the Anti Narcotics Cell, as part of a lesser-known, 2022 case, in which it had made two arrests.

Now, officers believe that the 2022 case trail leads to Bollywood, with summons issued so far by the Anti Narcotics Cell to thespian Shakti Kapoor's son Siddhanth Kapoor and Orhan Awatramani, a social media influencer and a friend to the

stars better known as Orry.

Earlier, police had secured deportation from the UAE of at least three persons, including the son of alleged drug lord Salim Dola, who is believed to take care of the narcotics business of fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim. According to sources, summons are being issued now based on claims of one of the deported, Mohammad Sohail Shaikh alias 'Lav-

ish', that he organised "drug parties" in India as well as abroad, attended by celebrities, where their cartel supplied the narcotics.

While Siddhanth appeared before the Anti Narcotics Cell Tuesday, Orry is expected to do so on Wednesday, having skipped the summons issued to him last week saying he was not in the city.

Other celebrities, including

Siddhanth's sister, as well as some politicians were mentioned by police before court while seeking further remand of Lavish, on November 13. Police said: "Further investigation into the said accused No. 05 (Lavish) has revealed that he is organizing drug parties in the country and abroad and supplying drugs to those parties." Police then went on to mention some celebrities, saying these had been named by Lavish.

After her name was mentioned in the police remand application, Nora Fatehi posted on social media platform, "I DON'T go to Parties... I'm constantly on flights... I'm a workaholic, I don't have a personal life... It seems like my name is an easy target! But I won't allow it to happen...!"

An officer said, "We will be calling those named by 'Lavish' to record their statement in light of the grave allegations by the accused. The next course of action will depend on the evidence that is found."

The 2022 case

As per the remand report submitted by police on November 13, the Ghatkopar unit of the Anti Narcotics Cell started an investigation on August 4, 2022, following the arrest of one Mohammad Shahrukh Shaikh (28), allegedly with 995 gram of mephedrone worth Rs 1 lakh on him, and more at his home.

Police said they found that Shaikh had made a passport using forged documents to go to Dubai, and to meet the man believed to be the head of the drug cartel. During investiga-



Siddhanth Kapoor at the Anti-Narcotics Cell office in Ghatkopar, Mumbai, on Tuesday. DEEPAK JOSHI

tion, police arrested two other people, Fazle Siddique and Mohammad Gulfaraz Shaikh, for allegedly being part of the network supplying mephedrone to Mumbai. A chargesheet was filed in the case.

A non-bailable warrant was issued against another wanted accused in the case, Salman Salim Shaikh alias Shera, who was suspected to be holed up in Dubai.

Eventually, on November 2 this year, police secured his deportation from Dubai, and the

Anti Narcotics Cell arrested him.

Police claimed that Shera had confessed to working for Salim Dola, and said they had extracted two deleted screenshots from his phone which showed instructions to him on what equipment and chemicals to use to manufacture mephedrone.

Shera allegedly also identified Lavish and Salim Dola, apart from a 'Ray', as those who had arranged the mephedrone seized in 2022.

Ray was later identified as Mohammad Mustafa, who along with an accomplice named Govind, allegedly procured drugs from a Sangli-based factory and provided it to local drug peddlers in Mumbai for selling.

In 2024, the Sangli factory was busted by the Crime Branch. On November 5, the Anti Narcotics Cell took custody of Lavish. In custody, he is alleged to have sung, mentioning the "drug parties" organised by the Dola cartel.

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD. (A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra) PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT PMRP Office, A2, A3 Block, District Court Pune, Nyayamurti Ranade Path, Shivaji Nagar, Pune-411005. Tel. : 020-26051074 E-mail: tenders.pmrp@mahametro.org | www.mahametro.org

Tender Notice No: P1-TL-06/2025 Date: 25/11/2025

Name of Work: Licensing of: A) Space on OHE Masts for 'Small Cell System' B) Space on Buildings for 'Installation of Telecom Towers' and C) Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) at Elevated Viaduct & Underground Tunnel of Pune Metro Rail Project (PMRP).

To view this Tender Notice, interested Agencies may also visit the PMRP website i.e. www.punemetrorail.org

Tender Document can be downloaded from 16:00 Hrs. on 25/11/2025 to 16:00 Hrs. on 23/12/2025 from 'e- Tender portal of Govt. of Maharashtra' i.e. https://imahatenders.gov.in

Executive Director / Procurement & Contracts, Maha-Metro, PMRP

Pune Metro : City's Transport Solution

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-I-15/2025-26

The Chief Engineer (Roads-I), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Roadwork as mentioned below:

2. Nature of work :- Road works

3. No. of work :- 7 Nos.

4. Tender Paper cost :- Rs. 10,000.00

5. Class of Contractor :- 'A' Class/Special Class/Super Class

6. Available of bid document :- From 10.00 A.M. of 25.11.2025 to 5.30 PM of 11.12.2025

7. Date of opening of Bid :- Dt.12.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M.

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tenderodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Roads-I), Odisha

AAYAS FINANCIERS LIMITED (CIN:L65922RJ2011PLCO34297) Regd. & Corp. Office: 201-202, 2nd Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, Jaipur. 302020

SAATHE AAPKE SAATH HAMARA

AUCTION NOTICE

Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of AAYAS FINANCIERS LIMITED Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis. The details of the cases are as under.

Name of Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors	Dues As on	Date of Amount of 13/2 Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Description of Property	Reserve Price For Property	Earnest Money For Property	Date & Time of Auction	Place of Tender Submission, Tender Open & Auction at Aayas Financiers Ltd.
AJAD BHARTI, BHARTI BHARTI, BHARTI BHARTI (AC NO.) LNHBW01819-200124219 GUARANTOR : GOVIND JI (AC NO.) LNHBW02119-200108604	Rs. 469938/- & Rs. 510231/- DUES AS ON 21 NOV 2025	9 MAY 24 Rs. 366940/- & Rs. 381534/- DUES AS ON 6 MAY 24	26 APR 25	PROPERTY NO. 1-PATTA S.NO. 266/14/04/17, PATTA NO. 11, BOOK NO. 518 SANKALP NO. 02 DATE 14/04/17 KHASRA NO 785 GRAM SARGAY GRAM PANCHAYAT SARMALIYA PANCHAYAT SAMATI JAWAJA TH BEAWAR DIST AJMER PROPERTY NO. 2-PATTA S.NO. 266/05.04.17, PATTA NO. 06, BOOK NO. 518, SANKALP NO. 02, DATE 14/04/17 KHASRA NO 785 GRAM SARGAY GRAM PANCHAYAT SARMALIYA PANCHAYAT SAMATI JAWAJA TH BEAWAR DIST AJMER ADMEASURING PROP NO.1 - 143.55 SQ. YRD PROP NO.2 - 124 SQ YD	Rs. 1166072/-	Rs. 1166072/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 27 DEC 2025	2ND FLOOR, SHREE SHARADHA VINAYAK MARKET OPP. CITY CINEMA STATION ROAD BEAWAR-305901, RAJASTHA N-INDIA
GHISU LAL, MRS. PHULI DEVI (AC NO.) LNPAL02917-180063669	Rs. 105805/- DUES AS ON 21 NOV 2025	1 JAN 22 Rs. 651484/- DUES AS ON 27 DEC 21	19 APR 25	PROPERTY SITUATED AT PATTA NO 13, BOOK NO. 27, MISAL NO. 61/2016-17, JAWALI, TH RAJ, DIST PALI, RAJASTHAN ADMEASURING 842.80 SQ. FT.	Rs. 789792/-	Rs. 789792/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 27 DEC 2025	2ND FLOOR, PLOT NO.-874, INDRAPATI NAGAR, OPP. SAINIK VISHRAM GRUH, NAYA GAON ROAD, PALI-306401, RAJASTHA N-INDIA
KAMLA BAI, CHANDIMAL DANGI, JASH RAJ GUARANTOR : MANOHAR LAL (AC NO.) LNCHI02918-190082699 & LNCHI04319-200122556	Rs. 1099058/- & Rs. 554389/- DUES AS ON 21 NOV 2025	6 DEC 24 Rs. 794568/- & Rs. 344964/- DUES AS ON 5 DEC 24	30 APR 25	PATTA NO. 18,VILLAGE LANGACH, TEH. KAPASAN & DISTT. CHITTORGARH, RAJASTHAN PIN-312207 ADMEASURING 1739 SQ. FT.	Rs. 1282981/-	Rs. 1282981/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 27 DEC 2025	PLOT NO.-3, VANKAR NAGAR, CHAMTI KHERA CHOWK, CHAMTI KHERA ROAD, CHITTORGARH-312001, RAJASTHAN-INDIA
KESHARI DEVI MAHARANIA, VINOD MAHARANIA, PREM CHAND MAHARANIYA (AC NO.) LNNKA03522-230244315	Rs. 641401/- DUES AS ON 21 NOV 2025	9 MAY 24 Rs. 437146/- DUES AS ON 6 MAY 24	28 MAY 25	A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY PATTA NO 56, BOOK NO.01, MISAL NO. 79, SITUATED AT GRAM PANCHAYAT CHALA, PANCHAYAT SAMITI NEEM KA THANA DIST. NEEMKATHANA (RAJ) ADMEASURING 94.34 SQ YARD	Rs. 613672/-	Rs. 613672/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 27 DEC 2025	1ST FLOOR, NEAR BSNL TOWER, SHAHPURA ROAD, ABOVE BAJAJ SHOWROOM, NEEM KA THANA-32713, RAJASTHA N-INDIA
RAJESH KUMAR SAINI, SURESH CHAND SAINI, BHAGWAN SAHAY SAINI, SANTOSH SAINI GUARANTOR : OM PRAKASH SAINI (AC NO.) LNDUA00517-180054244 & LNDUA04319-200127103	Rs. 1123124/- & Rs. 566936/- DUES AS ON 21 NOV 2025	8 APR 24 Rs. 714783/- & Rs. 378158/- DUES AS ON 4 APR 24	27 MAR 25	ABADI LAND PATTA NO 18, BOOK NO 02, MISAL NO 05, SITAUTED AT VILLAGE GEEJGARH, GRAM PANCHAYAT GEEJGARH, PANCHAYAT SAMITI SIKRAI, DISTRICT DAUSA RAJASTHAN ADMEASURING 380.0 SQ.YD	Rs. 1078400/-	Rs. 1078400/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 27 DEC 2025	OPP TIWARI DHARM KANTA NEAR CHOUDHARY PETROL PUMP, 1ST FLOOR, ABOVE TIP TOP FURNITURE, AGRA ROAD, DAUSA-303303, RAJASTHA N-INDIA
VINOD KUMAR SAINI, ANITA DEVI (AC NO.) LNSHP09820-21016637 & LNSHP11721-220180909 GUARANTOR : MANOJ KUMAR SAINI (AC NO.) LNSHH03719-200127310	Rs. 367546/- & Rs. 270433/- DUES AS ON 21 NOV 2025	22 OCT 24 Rs. 255708/- & Rs. 193889/- DUES AS ON 14 OCT 2024	21 MAY 25	RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY SITUATED AT VILLAGE AT VIRATNAGAR, KHASRA NO. 3168, PATWAR HALKA TH. VIRATNAGAR, DIST. JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN ADMEASURING 384.67 SQ. YARD	Rs. 1240057/-	Rs. 124006/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 27 DEC 2025	1ST FLOOR, OPP KOTAK VANKAR BANK, PALSANIA PARADISE, NEAR MAHALAXMI CINEMA, NH-8, SHAHPURA-303103, RAJASTHA N-INDIA
KASTUR MAL REGAR, DALI DEVI GUARANTOR : KAMLESH KAMLESH (AC NO.) LNASHH0619-200126614	Rs. 806390/- DUES AS ON 21 NOV 2025	6 DEC 23 Rs. 500165/- DUES AS ON 4 DEC 23	15 JUN 25	PATTA NO.-49, HOUSE AT GRAM- CHAUHANA KI KAMERI, GRAM PANCHAYAT-UMRI, PANCHAYAT SAMITI-KARERA, DIST-BHILWARA ADMEASURING 1379 SQ. FT.	Rs. 814877/-	Rs. 81488/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 27 DEC 2025	SHOP NO.1, ALBHASHAR COMPLEX, BHIM ROAD, CHHIM NAKA, ASINDO, DIST-BHILWARA-311301, RAJASTHAN-INDIA
VIKRAM SINGH, DAU (AC NO.) LNBAL00321-220221523	Rs. 2170374/- DUES AS ON 21 NOV 2025	7 AUG 23 Rs. 1390857/- DUES AS ON 7 AUG 23	14 JUN 25	RAJPUTO KA BASS, GRAM KITPALA, TEHSIL KITPALA, TEHSIL PANCHPADRA, BARMER, RAJASTHAN ADMEASURING 136.50 SQ. FT.	Rs. 1594890/-	Rs. 159489/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 27 DEC 2025	1ST FLOOR, VANKAL TOWER, RAI COLONY ROAD, BARMER-344001, RAJASTHA N-INDIA
HARSHPINDER SINGH, MRS. MANINDERJEET KAUR (AC NO.) LNSNG02921-220219882	Rs. 1195775/- DUES AS ON 21 NOV 2025	6 JUL 23 Rs. 604182/- DUES AS ON 5 JUL 23	2 JUN 25	RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY SITUATED AT PLOT NO. 243, BHAGATPURA, GRAM PANCHAYAT DEENGARH, SANGARIA, HANUMANGARH, RAJASTHAN ADMEASURING 2100 SQ. FT.	Rs. 875835/-	Rs. 87584/-	11.00 AM TO 01.00 PM 27 DEC 2025	GROUND FLOOR, MARKET CAMETI WALI GALLI, OPP. SHIV DHARMKANTA, MAIN GURUDWARA, SANGARIA, HANUMANGARH-330003, RAJASTHA N-INDIA

Terms & Conditions: 1). The person, taking part in the tender, will have to deposit his offer in the tender form provided by the AFL which is to be collected from the above branch offices during working hours of any working day, super scribing "Tender Offer for name of the property" on the sealed envelope along with the Cheque/DD/pay order of 10% of the Reserve Price as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in favour of AAYAS FINANCIERS LIMITED payable at Jaipur on/before time of auction during office hours at the above mentioned offices. The sealed envelopes will be opened in the presence of the available interested parties at above mentioned office of AAYAS FINANCIERS LIMITED The Inter-se bidding, if necessary will also take place among the available bidders. The EMD is refundable if the bid is not successful. 2). The successful bidder will deposit 25% of the bidding amount adjusting the EMD amount as initial deposit immediately or within 24hrs after the fall of the hammer towards the purchase of the asset. The successful bidder failing to deposit the said 25% towards initial payment, the entire EMD deposited will be forfeited & balance amount of the sale price will have to be deposited within 15 days after the confirmation of the sale by the secured creditor; otherwise his initial payment deposited amount will be forfeited. 3). The Authorised officer has absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone the sale process without assigning any reason therefore. If the date of tender depositing or the date of tender opening is declared as holiday by Government, then the auction will be held on next working day. 4). For inspection and interested parties who want to know about the procedure of tender may contact AAYAS FINANCIERS LIMITED 201, 202, 1Ind Floor, South End Square, Mansarovar Industrial Area, jaipur-302020 or Pushpendra Meena - 9875896876 or respective branch during office hours. Note: This is also a 15/30 days notice under Rule 9(1)(8)(6) of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagor of the above said loan accounts about tender inter se bidding sale on the above mentioned date. The property will be sold, if their out standing dues are not repaid in full.

Place : RAJASTHAN Date : 26-11-2025 Authorised Officer Aayas Financiers Limited

Corporate & Registered Office : Unit No. 801, Centrum House, CST Road, Vidyanyagar Marg, Kalina Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400098, CIN No. U65922MH2016PLC273826

POSSESSION NOTICE

(As per Appendix IV read with rule 8(1) and rule 8(2) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the outstanding amount mentioned in the notice along with contractual interest, penal interest, charges, costs etc. within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Centrum Housing Finance Ltd for an amount of along with the contractual interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Loan Account No. / Name Of The Borrower(S)/ Co-Borrower(S)	Description of secured assets (immovable property)	Date of Demand Notice & Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Possession Taken Date
1	KOTKO23013785 Harjeet Singh/ Sarjeet Kour/Amdeep Singh	In The Rights, Piece And Parcel Of Immovable Property at Patta Kramank 7310, adm 925 sqft, Gram Kanakardoli Gadegadi, Gram Panchayat Gadegadi, Panchayat Samiti Talera, Distt. Bundi-323022, Rajasthan. Boundaries:- East :- H/o Heera Singh West :- Road North :-H/o Sora Singh South :-Combined Rasta	21-Jan-25 Rs.9,00,663/- (Rupees Nine lakh Six Hundred Sixty Three Only)	20-11-2025
2	KOTDO23011683 Yashpal Nath/ Soniya Devi	In The Rights, Piece And Parcel Of Immovable Property Patta No. 1, adm. 650 sqft., Village Bardpara, Gram Panchayat Amaravasi, Panchayat Samiti & Tehsil- Jahazpur, Distt. Bhiwara-311201, Rajasthan. Boundaries:- East :- Aam Rasta West :-H/o Ghisail Nath North :-H/o Govind Nath South :-H/o Ghisail Nath	25-Jun-25 Rs. 5,62,193/- (Rupees Five lakh Sixty Two Thousand One Hundred Ninety Three Only)	20-11-2025
3	KOTDO23011855 Trilok Chand Ghosi/ Kamla Devi	In The Rights, Piece And Parcel Of Immovable Property Patta No.30/2010, Ward No.9, adm. 1152.85 sqft., Ghoshi Mohalla Jhajpur, Tehsil-Jahajpur, Distt. Bhiwara-311201, Rajasthan. Boundaries:- East :- Tarachandra Khatik West :- H/o Kanhaiyalal Ghosi North :-Samadhi seel South :-Aam Rasta	25-Jun-25 Rs.14,87,352/- (Rupees Fourteen lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Two Only)	21-11-2025
4	KOTDO23014377 Ramesh Chandra Meena/ Mathara Devi	In The Rights, Piece And Parcel Of Immovable Property Patta No.42, area 2660 sqft., Book No. 2250, Misal No. 112, Ward No.5, Village and Gram Panchayat - Gadoli, Panchayat Samiti & Tehsil - Jahazpur, Distt. Bhiwara-311201, Rajasthan. Boundaries:- East :- Nanda ram Meghwarani West :- Mathara devi North :-Ramesh Chand Meena South :-Road	25-Jun-25 Rs.9,82,887/- (Rupees Nine lakh Eighty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Seven Only)	21-11-2025
5	KOTKO24015281 Indrajeet Singh/ Narendra Kaur	In The Rights, Piece And Parcel Of Immovable Property Bearing Patra No. 152, Kh. No. 623, adm. 2538 sqft., Vill.-Dhola KJ Jhoriya, G.P. Kalpuria, P.S. & Distt.- Bundi-323022, Rajasthan. Boundaries:- East :- H/o Kulwant Singh West :- H/o Manjit Singh North :- H/o Sadusingh Singh :- Common Road	30-Aug-25 Rs.13,27,733/- (Rupees Thirteen lakh Twenty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Three Only)	20-11-2025
6	UDRDL20419958 SHANKAR LAL MEENA/ Geeta Meena	In The Rights, Piece And Parcel Of Immovable Property Bearing Arzi No. 904/906, Patta No. 1441, adm. 3608 sqft., Gram Gadoli, Gram Panchayat Gadoli, P.S.- Jahazpur, Tehsil-Jahajpur, Distt.- Bhiwara-311201, Rajasthan. Boundaries:- East :- Jasaddev W/o Gyarsa ram Meena West :- Road North :- Prem Singh S/o Deviram meena and Om Veer S/o Rughnath Meena South :- Saddev S/o Shrikishan Meena, Om Prakash S/o Prem Singh Meena	30-Aug-25 Rs.16,67,402/- (Rupees Sixteen lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Two Only)	21-11-2025

Date : 26.11.2025 Place : Rajasthan Sd/-, Authorised Officer, For Centrum Housing Finance Ltd

EU leadership accepts invite for chief guests at R-Day parade

Shubhajt Roy
New Delhi, November 25

THE EUROPEAN Union's leadership has conveyed its acceptance of the Indian invitation for the Republic Day parade as chief guests, sources have told *The Indian Express*.

This would mean that President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and President of the European Council Antonio Costa will be chief guests for the Republic Day celebrations next year. An official announcement is expected shortly. In fact, when the EU leaders come to India for the January 26 parade, the India-EU leaders summit — which was scheduled to be held in early 2025 — will be held in Delhi on Jan 26 or 27.

This puts a deadline for the negotiators from both sides to conclude the India-EU FTA before the summit. *The Indian Express* was the first to report on October 29 that India had sent invitations to EU's leaders for the Republic Day parade to be the chief guests.

An invitation to be the Republic Day chief guest is highly symbolic from the Indian government's perspective.

New Delhi has been weaving a strategy with hospitality to decide its chief guest and the decision to invite the EU leadership is a first. The choice is dictated by a number of reasons — strategic and diplomatic, business interests and international geopolitics.

The ties between India and the European Union of 27 member countries have been on an upswing in the last few months, especially since February this year when the EU's College of Commissioners visited India. Amid the unpredictability of the US administration led by President Donald Trump, the EU approved a new strategic agenda on October 20 to raise bilateral relations with India to a higher level, which includes finalising the ongoing negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), deepening cooperation across technology, defence and security, people-to-people ties.

EU's von der Leyen and Costa have spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi several times in the last few months, including on September 17, on the PM's birthday.

The timing is crucial as the US administration has given a reality check to both India and Europe about its unpredictability. As India and the EU work towards an ambitious and strategic roadmap, European leaders are pitching themselves as the "predictable" and "reliable" partners.