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Operation Sindoor a stern message to Pak.: Army chief

NEW DELHI

Operation Sindoor was a message to Pakistan as well as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack that supporters of terrorism would not be spared, said Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Saturday. » Page 7

Vehicles must be phased out based on fitness: Gupta

NEW DELHI

There should be a uniform rule across the country for overage vehicles, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta said on Saturday. She said her government has submitted to the Supreme Court that vehicles that pass the fitness test should be allowed to ply in the national capital without any age cap. » Page 2

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 6 **MAGAZINE** » 8 PAGES

Modi, Muizzu signal major reset in bilateral relations

PM highlights support for 'time-tested' friendship between India and the Maldives; President of island nation stresses territorial safeguards, but acknowledges foreign support in key sectors

Meera Srinivasan

ndia is looking forward to deepening its ties with the Maldives across multiple sectors, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, highlighting the "bipartisan support" within the island nation for the "strong time-tested" friendship. Mr. Modi, who was in

the Maldives on a two-day state visit, held talks with top Maldivian leaders across the political spectrum, including Vice-President Uz. Hussain Mohamed Latheef, parliamentary Speaker Abdul Raheem Abdulla, former President Mohamed Nasheed, and key members of the Opposition. He also attended the island nation's 60th Independence Day event at the Republic Square in its capital, Male.

Mr. Modi's major reset in bilateral ties



Guest of honour: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu on his left during the 60th Independence Day celebrations of the Maldives in Male on Saturday. PTI

that had soured after Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu came to power in 2023, campaigning mostly on an 'India [military] out'

While "every square inch" of Maldivian territory will be safeguarded by its citizens, the country

needs other nations for "certain resources and technical expertise", Mr. Muizzu said on Saturday, appearing to be alluding to the country's revived partnership with India in key sectors. He was addressing the Maldives National De-

fence Force and the Mal-

dives Police Service on the country's Independence Day, seeking to balance the Maldives's sovereignty with its need for external support, especially to cope with economic pressures.

I feel sorry to be backing Bihar govt., says Chirag Paswan

Amarnath Tewary

In the wake of the gangrape of a Bihar Military Police aspirant in Bodh Gaya on Thursday, and the recent spate of violent crimes in the State ahead of the Assembly election due in October-November, Union Minister and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) leader Chirag Paswan on Saturday said the situation in the State "was scary" and that he was sorry for supporting the Nitish Kumar-led government.

"I feel sorry to be supporting the government in Bihar, which is failing on the law and order front like this," he said.

"The administration has totally bowed down before criminals. This incident [the gang-rape in Bodh Gaya] deserves condemnation, but why are such incidents happening? There is a series of crimes, and if it continues like this, the situation will become frightening or is already so. Paswan said, adding



Chirag Paswan

"crime has become uncontrolled" in Bihar.

The Hajipur MP accused the government led by the Janata Dal(U), a member of the National Democratic Alliance, of "either trying to hush up the situation or being unable to handle it any more". "If it is said that this is happening because of election, I can say it might possibly be so, and it might be a conspiracy to defame the government, even then, it's the responsibility of the administration to control it. How are criminals getting away, " he asked.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

2 held in Bihar over rape of police aspirant in ambulance

The Hindu Bureau PATNA

An ambulance driver and a technician were arrested on Friday for raping a Bihar Military Police aspirant in an ambulance in Bodh Gaya.

The woman, who had fainted during the recruitment's physical test on Thursday, alleged that she was gang-raped by three to four persons on her way to a hospital.

She said she became aware of the sexual assault after regaining consciousness. The woman is undergoing treatment at a hospi-

Police said Vinay Kumar, the driver, and Ajit Kumar were arrested within two hours after the complaint was filed.

A Special Investigation Team was formed after the FIR was registered, Senior Superintendent of Police, Gaya, Anand Kumar told presspersons. "The team monitored CCTV footage and other technical surveillance. Investigation is on," he said.

Rain looms large



Urgent repairs: Dark clouds gather in the sky as people fix a boat on the banks of the Ganga river in Patna on Saturday. PTI

Bihar SIR to restore trust in poll rolls: EC

Sreeparna Chakrabarty NEW DELHI

Defending its decision to conduct a special intensive revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls in the Supreme Court, the Election Commission of India (EC) has pointed to the numerous complaints made by political parties about the inaccuracy of voter lists.

"[I]n response, and to restore public confidence in the integrity of the electoral roll, the Commission has initiated the SIR," it told the court in a counteraffidavit filed on July 21.

The Commission even submitted copies of these complaints in an annexure to the affidavit, running into 625 pages.

On Monday, the Supreme Court will hear petitions filed by Opposition parties and activists challenging the SIR. The first phase of the process ended on Friday, with around 66 lakh names potentially being struck off the State's draft electoral roll.

CONTINUED ON

4 Maoists killed in encounter in Bijapur

The Hindu Bureau RAIPUR

forces have Security gunned down at least four Maoists in an ongoing operation in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur, the police said on Saturday.

"So far [update issued at 7 p.m.], four bodies have been recovered in the ongoing exchange of fire between security forces and Maoists in Bijapur district. A huge quantity of weapons, including INSAS and SLR rifles, has been recovered from the spot," a police statement said.

It added that as the operation was still in progress, details such as the exact location and the troops involved in the operation could not be shared to ensure the safety of the personnel involved.

With the latest deaths, 225 Maoists have been killed in encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year. Of them, 208 were killed in the Bastar division, which comprises the districts of Bijapur, Bastar, Kanker, Kondagaon, Narayanpur, Sukma, and Dantewada.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said on more than one occasion that the Centre is committed to eradicating Maoism by March 31, 2026.



Film producer Sandra Thomas arriving at the office of the Kerala Film Producers' Association in Kochi on Saturday. R.K. NITHIN

Kerala film producer files nomination for top post clad in burqa

The Hindu Bureau

Malayalam film producer Sandra Thomas arrived at the office of the Kerala Film Producers' Association (KFPA) on Saturday wearing a burqa to submit her nomination papers for the election to the executive committee of the body scheduled for August 14.

Ms. Thomas is contesting for the post of president amid her rift with the current leadership of the association. She said wearing a burga was the safest option while visiting a space that has been dominated by men. She said she will be part of a panel that will contest the election against the current leadership. It will include women and producers who wanted to usher in a positive

change, she said.

The rift between Ms. Thomas and the association widened after she had written a letter to the executive committee blaming the office-bearers for their "silence" on the findings of the K. Hema Committee report on the issues faced by women in the Malayalam film industry. She had also raised allegations of misconduct against the current office-bearers.

Suspension stayed

The executive committee had expelled Ms. Thomas from the primary membership of the association in November 2024 on charges of having breached the disciplinary norms.

In December 2024, the Ernakulam Sub-Court stayed the decision by the KFPA to suspend her.

reported for local publications, in Hindi or other regional languages, were most impacted, and their cases often did not receive

Vijaita Singh

Reporting on public offi-

cials, religious matters,

and protests were the

three most common rea-

sons for which a journalist

in India faced criminal

charges, a study, co-auth-

ored by the National Law

University (NLU), Delhi,

The study said that jour-

nalists from small cities

and towns, or those who

NEW DELHI

has found.

The other two authors

Reported charges

A study finds that a journalist's encounters with the justice

system varied by location ■ 24% of incidents recorded in metropolises resulted in arrest of journalists, while the number rose to 58% in small cities/towns

■ 65% of the incidents in big cities saw journalists get interim protection from arrest, but the figure dropped to 3% in smaller towns



Clooney Foundation for

'Reports on officials, religion land journalists in trouble'

national or international of the report are Trialmedia attention. Watch, an initiative of the

Institute at Columbia Law School. **Detailed numbers**

Justice, and Human Rights

The report, "Pressing charges: a study of criminal cases against journalists across States in India", was based on an analysis of 423 criminal cases registered against 427 journalists covering a total of 624 incidents of "criminalisation of journalists" in relation to their work from 2012 to 2022. At least 40% of the journalists covered in the dataset were arrested, the study found.

"Our dataset revealed

ficials was the most common reason journalists faced charges, the basis for charges in 147 incidents. The second most common reason was for reporting on religious matters - 99 times, while the third most common was reporting on protests - 79 times," the report said. Significantly, in over 100 incidents, the charges related to the reporters' alleged conduct while reporting, instead of what they were reporting on, the report showed. **CONTINUED ON**

that reporting on public of-

» PAGE 7



Revenue Dept. to be licensing authority for cinema halls: L-G

To liberalise the licensing regime and promote ease of doing business in Delhi, L-G V.K. Saxena has withdrawn from the Delhi police the authority to grant licences to cinema halls and theatres. He has authorised the Revenue Department as the licensing authority. The move follows the government's recent decision to withdraw from the police the power to issue permits for seven categories of businesses.

New road over Munak Canal to reduce traffic snarls: Gupta

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday said an elevated road will soon be built over the Munak Canal, which is expected to significantly reduce traffic snarls in the area. "The elevated road will connect the Inderlok metro station with the Delhi-Haryana border and improve connectivity between the Outer and Inner Ring Roads," the CM said after inaugurating several projects in Shalimar Bagh, her Assembly constituency.

Vehicles must be phased out based on fitness, not age: CM

Rules in Delhi must be same as those applicable elsewhere in country, says Gupta on her govt's plea in SC against ban on overage vehicles in Delhi-NCR: AAP govt's 'failure' led to this situation, she adds

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

here should be a uniform rule across the country for overage or 'end of life' vehicles (ELVs), Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Saturday. The Delhi government had, earlier this week, moved the Supreme Court challenging its 2018 order that upheld the National Green Tribunal's ban on ELVs - diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years - in Delhi-NCR.

Three-judge Bench

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai is likely to hear a plea seeking a comprehensive study by the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) to assess the actual environmental benefits of age-



CM Rekha Gupta paying tribute at the National War Memorial on the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on Saturday. PTI

based restrictions versus emission-based criteria.

Speaking to mediapersons on the sidelines of an event, the CM said her government has submitted to the apex court that vehicles that pass the fitness test and don't emit pollution should be allowed to ply in the national capital without the age cap.

"A polluting vehicle should be phased out even if it is five years old. However, if a vehicle does not cause pollution and passes the fitness test, it should be allowed on roads," Ms. Gupta said.

"The rules in Delhi must be the same as those applicable anywhere else in the country," said the CM, adding that her government is making all possible efforts for a better environment in the Capital.

The CAQM had announced on April 23 a ban on the refuelling of overage vehicles in Delhi from July 1. It had directed authorities to impound overage vehicles.

The Delhi government had initially supported the directive, but after facing public backlash, it sought the directive to be put on hold due to "operational and infrastructural challenges". The Centre's pollution control body subsequently deferred the ban to November 1.

The CM hit out at the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for "failing to control air pollution in the Capital", which she said led to the enforcement of such restrictions.

"The previous governments in Delhi did nothing to control pollution. They let people choke, which is why the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal had to prohibit 10year-old diesel and 15-yearold petrol vehicles," Ms. Gupta said.

Will consider naming city schools after Kargil heroes from Delhi: Sood

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Education Minister Ashish Sood paid tribute to fallen soldiers of the Kargil War on Saturday, the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, at an event in Shivaji College, Delhi University, and said the government will explore the possibility of renaming prominent schools in the city after heroes of the war from Delhi.

Mr. Sood paid floral tributes to Captain Sumit Roy, Captain Hanif-ud-Din, and Captain Anuj Nayyar, all alumni of Shivaji College who laid down their lives in the 1999 war.

"Naming prominent government schools after the martyrs from Delhi will help inspire students and



Education Minister Ashish Sood. FILE PHOTO

citizens alike, and instil a sense of duty and patriotism among the younger generation," he said.

He added, "We all want a secure and prosperous nation, but expect the ultimate sacrifice by someone else's family. Yet, such is the spirit in our country that even today, youngsters are ready to serve in the armed forces with unwavering commitment."

HC upholds action against assistant professor at DU

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has upheld the compulsory retirement of an assistant professor of Political Science in Delhi University's Bharati College over multiple complaints by students about sexual harassment. The court described the accused's conduct as "so profane" that it refrained from reproducing in its judgment the messag-

es he had allegedly sent to

17.08.2025

were filed against him by students

Four complaints of

sexual harassment

the complainants. The teacher had chal-

lenged the compulsory retirement order by the college's governing body in December 2020. Four complaints were filed against him by students, alleging sexual harassment through online messages.

Delhi riots: court points out 'serious discrepancies' in police's case, acquits 6

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Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has acquitted six persons in a case related to the 2020 north-east Delhi riots, remarking that the prosecution had "completely failed" to prove its case against them.

HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Tank and Side Development)

HP / 2062/25-26

publishing

Name of Work

In an order dated July 23, Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Parveen Singh said, "I find that there are serious discrepancies in the story of the prosecution, and the prosecution failed to explain them."

In his 26-page order, the ASJ pointed out a "serious

for down-

29.07.2025

-loading Bid

Estimated Starting date Earnest Deadline for Time

Jawalamukhi Division HP.PWD., Jawalamukhi, Pin No. 176031. Tel. No. 01970-222270. e-mail:-eepwd-jawalamukhi@hp.gov.in

Government of Maharashtra

Water Resources Department

Executive Engineer Mechanical Division Solapur

Ujjani Colony, Kumtha Naka Solapur

Budgetory Notice No. 05 of 2025

Krishna Marathawada Lift Irrigation Scheme no-1, stage 2, Taluka - Paranda, Dist- Dharashiv

(for the Estimate Purpose Only)

Budgetory Offers for Design, Manufacture, Test, Supply, Transport with all Loading and unloading,

storing, Errection, Testing and commissioning, of EOT crane for Krishna Marathawada Lift

Irrigation Scheme no-1, stage 2 Tal- Paranda, Dist-Dharashiv are invited by the Executive Engineer,

Mechanical Division, Kumtha Naka, Ujani Colony, Solapur 413003 on behalf of Govt of Maharashtra

Any technical suggestions, relevant literature if any in the matter are welcomed. Considering the

nature of work it must be noted while quoting the rate, agency will be totally responsible for the

safe design, reliability of system & each activity, parameter suggested & conducted. Before quoting

Budgetory offer should reach in the division office within the period of 10 days from the date of

Name of Work: Design, Manufacture, Test, Supply, Transport with all Loading and unloading, storing,

Errection, Testing and commissioning, of EOT crane for Krishna Marathawada Lift Irrigation Scheme

The rates should be quoted excluding the GST and all taxes & duties/Cess separately.

8.34.000/- 5.00 PM

on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

Executive Engineer

Unit

No

Qty.

Sub Total Amount Rs =

Grand Total Amount Rs =

Rate/Unit

Sd/-

Executive engineer,

Amount

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Jawalamukhi Division HPPWD Jawalamukhi H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invite

the percentage rate bids, in the electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with

Cost (Rs.)

4.16.96.251/-

The bidders are advised to note other details of tender form the department website www.hptenders.gov in. Date of opening of tender 08.08.202511.30PM

HIM LOK SAMPARK

for the Estimation Purpose from the Reputed Firm

rates agency should visit the site at their own cost, if required.

no-1, stage 2 Tal- Paranda, Dist- Dharashiv (Maharashtra)

Description of Item

Design, fabrication, supply, erection, testing and commissioning EOT crane of 50/10 MT consisting of double girder

box type construction, rail mounted end carriages with long and cross travel arrangement, main and auxiliary hoists of specified capacity, rails, pendant control, gear boxes, electric

motors, brakes, rope drums, wire ropes, sheaves, end buffer

stoppers, pendant operated DSL bus bars with all accessories for main and auxiliary hoists for handling pumps and accesso-

ries in pump house including cost of all materials, machinery

labour, cutting, aligning, welding, finishing, cleaning, greas-

ing, applying two coats of zinc chromate red oxide primer

lary operations complete as per specifications and approved

and three coats of synthetic enamel paint and all other ancil-

drawings for Krishna Marathawada Lift Irrigation Scheme no-

2, stage 1 Tal- Paranda, Dist- Dharashiv

b) Longitudinal Travel - 22 mtr x 02 side

d) Head room available - 03 mtr Approx.

a) Span - 10 to 12 mtr

c) Lift - 12 mtr to 16 mtr

Rattan Govt. Degree Collage Jawalamukhi Distt kangra (H.P.) SUB-HEAD: -Construction of Civil Work

Building & Building portion, Water Supply & Sanitary Installation, Septic Tank, Rain Water Harvesting

contradiction" regarding the identity of the six persons – Rajendar Jha, Tejveer Chaudhary, Rajesh Jha, Govind Singh Manral, Peetamber Jha, and Devendar Kumar alias Monu Pandit – whom the police ac-

cused of being part of a

riotous mob that had loot-

ed, vandalised, and ransacked shops and houses.

The court said the testimony of a prosecution witness - head constable Vipin Tomar – had been put under a "cloud of doubt by his conduct, when before the start of his testimony, he took the photographs of

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the accused from his phone, and not only that, deleted them immediately, but the photos were found in his phone's deleted fol-

"Therefore, an adverse inference has to be drawn that he had done so to ascertain their identity," said the court. It added that Mr. Tomar's credibility was also weakened by statements contradictory to the site plan prepared by the investigating officer.

The six men were named in a chargesheet that was filed by the Khajuri Khas police.

E-mail ID: eepwd-jawalamukhi@hp.gov.in INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

C/O Raiiv Gandhi Govt. Model Day

Boarding School at Banu, Da Khu,

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Executive Engineer Jawalamukhi Division HPPWD Jawalamukhi H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites

the percentage rate bids, in the electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with

for down-

8.08.2025

-loading Bid

Cost (Rs.)

4,60,79,617/-

(Lahru) (Jawalamukhi Constituency) Distt. Kangra HP (SH:- Primary Block

The bidders are advised to note other details of tender form the department

www.hptenders.gov in. Date of opening of tender 18.08.202511.30PM

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

QR code to

register your

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER R&B DIVISION SOPORE E-Auction Notice No 40 of 2025-26 dated 24 .07.2025

Auctio	nd on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K (UT), it is on Notice/sale of 04 No. Buildings at Tehsil of y made as given below:-				
S. No	Name of work	Minimum reserve Bid (Rs. In lacs)	(in	Time of completion	Time & Date o Opening of Bio

			l		l			
1	Auction of old 04 No Buildings in the Premises of Tehsil office Sopore	4.12	500.00	8500/-	30 days	09-08-2025		
	 The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below. 							
1	Date of issue of Auction Notice	24.07	24.07.2025					
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From	From 24.07.2025 To 08.08.2025 4.00 PM					
3	Bid submission Start date	24.07	24.07.2025					
4	Bid Submission End Date	08.08.2025 upto 4:00PM						
5 Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online) 9.08.2025 upto 11:00AM in the off Executive Engineer R&B Division								

1. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End ng there in the Auction Notice Number in favour of Executive Engineer R&E

The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in.
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declared H-1 after opening of bids shall submit hard copies of original instruments in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore within 03 days.

Engineer R&B Division Sopore within 03 days.

b. CDR means 'Call Deposit Receipt' and FDR means 'Fixed Deposit Receipt' issued by any Nationalized. Scheduled Bank pledged to the bid Receiving Authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. Bids will be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore by the committee comprising of following members under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sopore: a) Tehsildar Sopore.

Asstt. Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore

o) Asstit. Executive Engineer R&B Sub- Division Zaingeer.

In case of some un-foreseen circumstances, holiday or otherwise, the date of opening of the bids as specified shall be the next working day, or else notified separately. a) The bidders shall be required to submit a sum as Earnest Money Deposit specified in the bid document for due

performance of contract. The bid for work shall remain open for acceptance for a period of 07 days from the date of opening of bids. If any bidder withdraws his/her bid before the said period or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid, the Earnest Money shall be liable to be forfeited.

(b) If the bid is accepted, the Earnest Money will be retained as part of security for due fulfillment of the contract.
(c) Bids uploaded without details of Earnest Money Deposit of requisite amount shall be rejected.
(d) In case it is found that the bidder(s) has/have furnished misleading/wrong or fraudulen information/documents, the Earnest Money Deposit of the bidder(s) will be forfeited.

The prospective bidders shall have to deposit earnest money equal to the amount as shown above in the shape of CDR/FDR, corresponding to the location above pledged to the Executive Engineer R&B Division Sopore. The same shall be treated as security deposit in respect of the Successful Bidder.

No person shall be allowed to participate in the auction unless he/she deposit the earnest money in the shape of CDR/FDR

The successful bidder (H-1) shall have to deposit 25% of the bid amount within 03 days and balance 75% within

a period of next 07 days in the shape of Bank Draft from any nationalized/scheduled bank of India pledged to Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore over and above the specified earnest money. The bidder shall have to draw an agreement with the department. The terms and condition of this auction notice shall be part of the Additional Deputy Commissioner soppore over and above the specimed earnest money. The blodder shall have to draw an agreement with the department. The terms and condition of this auction notice shall be part of the agreement. Cash/Cheque will not be accepted. In case of the successful bidder does not deposit 100% payment within the stipulated time. The earnest money in addition to twenty five percent deposit shall be forfeited.

The security deposit of the successful bidder shall be released after the successful completion of the work within a prescribed time schedule.

Successful bidder have to demolish the structure and remove the salvage material from the site within a period of 30 days from the date, work order is issued. Once the offer of the highest bidder is accepted and the acceptance is communicated in the shape of allotment the contract shall come into force and it will be obligatory on the part of the successful bidder to fulfill the

contractual obligations
The successful bidder shall have to use the standard tools and equipment's, required for extraction work at his own cost and without causing damage to other infrastructure, e.g Cable lines, electric poles, telephone lines Govt. and public property.

The watch and ward of all material shall be responsibility of the bidder/ agency.

The successful bidder/ bidders shall have to pay GST/Tax in addition to the bid value as admissible under rules. Only PAN Card holder shall participate in the auction process.

The Auction Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any bid with assigning any notice or reasons. 13. Any other information that may be required by the bidder can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer

R&B Division Sopore on any working day during the office hour. 14. Any other conditions if found necessary, the same shall be announced/ issued separately before opening of the

15. In case of any dispute between committee and the successful bidder in respect of any sale coverauction notice, the decision of the ADC Sopore shall be final and binding on the both parties.

16. If the bid does not reach the reserve price , the property shall remain unsold.

Dated: 24 .07.2025

DIPK-4312/25

Member Secretary (Auction Committee

J&K Bank

ender 18.08.202511.30PM Executive Enginee Jawalamukhi Division HP.PWD., Jawalamukhi, Pin No. 17603

Tel. No. 01970-222270. e-mail:- eepwd-jawalamukhi@hp.gov.i RK on behalf of Governor of Himachal Prades

Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited Central Stationery Department,

190015 J&K On-Line RFP (e-RFP) For Printing & Supply of Computer Statement Paper (80 GSM)

RFP Notice along with Complete RFP document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal https://jkbank.abcprocure.com w.e.f. July 28, 2025, 16.00 Hrs. RFP Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is August 07, 2025, 17.00 Hrs.

e-RFP Ref. No JKB/CSD/Computer-Statement-Paper/2025-1475 Dated: 25.07.2025

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India CIN: L65110JK1938SGC000048 ; T : +91 (0)194 2481 930-35 ; F : +91 (0)194 248 1928; E : info⊚jkbmail.com ; W : www.jkbank.com

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

E. SELVARAJ (73), Retired Assistant Engineer (Composing), The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 25-July-2025 Address: 3/546, Third Street, Thiruvalluvar Nagar, Jelladianpet, Medavak-kam, Chennai - 600100. Contact: 7092161111



DOB: 02/04/1943 DOD: 25/07/2025 With profound grief we inform that our beloved mother passed away on 25 July, 2025. Lovingly remembered by:

Sanjay Laul and Rajni Bhatla

honor the visionary who laid the foundation of our journey - Mr. Balasubramanian our beloved Managing Director His unwavering dedication and foresight have been instrumental in shaping wha BASE stands for today. His legacy continues to guide and inspire every milestone we achieve. His values are deeply embedded in our culture, and BASE

ANNIVERSARIES

Mr. P.BALASUBRAMANIAN

23.06.1957 to 27.07.2009

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urgently. This budgetory offer is also available on www.wrd.maharashtra.gov.in

The information is required for the purpose of framing the estimate and hence required

Note: If any queries and any other additional information regarding the above, please

Add Insurance 1% to Sub Total Amount Rs =

THE HINDU

Farmers' group condemns Goa CM's remarks on Mahadayi

The Hindu Bureau HUBBALLI

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant's statement in the Legislative Assembly that Union Minister for Forest and Environment Bhupender Yadav would not give permission for the Mahadayi project in Karnataka has been condemned by

fighting for the Kalasa-Ban-

duri Nala Project, which is

part of the Mahadayi

farmers'

organisations

project. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil have condemned the statement and said such a development was an "injustice to

Urging politicians not to use the issue for their politics, farmers' organisations, which have been fighting for the implementation of the long-pending project, have not taken the statement lightly and have condemned it in strong terms.

the federal system".

Timings

SUNDAY, JUL. 27

- RISE 05:40 SET 19:15 RISE 07:58 SET 21:05
- MONDAY, JUL. 28 RISE 05:41 SET 19:15
- RISE 08:55 SET 21:33
- TUESDAY, JUL. 29 RISE 05:41 SET 19:14
- RISE 09:51 SET 22:00 **Delhi Weather** max

Delhi City Safdarjang 27

Delhi Palam Today 37°C The weather will be very warm and uneasy. Night also

will be uneasy. Chances of light rain and thundershower **Delhi Palam Tomorrow**

thundershower with gusty

33°C The intermittent spells of moderate to heavy rain and winds will occur.

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THEMAHINDU

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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit **U.P. JAL NIGAM** (URBAN)

Administrative Building, 245 M.L.D. Gangajal WTP Campus Sidhdharth Vihar, Ghaziabad-201009

Email: dwsupjn@gmail.com etter No.: 719/Nivida/73 Date: 24.07.2025

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) offline tenders in two bid system or percentage rate basis from eligible reputed and experienced bidders are invited for "Supply, Fabrication, Erection & Fixing of chain link wire mesh type MS fencing along park and residences in Jal Nigam Residential Colony, Rajnagar Ghaziabad" under Deposit Program Tender documents will be available for sale from 25.07.2025 from 12:00 Hrs. onwards. Bids can be submitted till 11.08.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 11.08.2025 up to 15:30 Hrs. in the office of The Executive Engineer, Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Ghaziabad in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. Tender Cost is Rs. 1180.00 (Rs.1000.00+ GST @ 18%). Details are available o U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website www.jn.upsdc.gov.in.

🝘 NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDERING NOTICE Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical/General), North Eastern Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India invites Online (E-Tendering) "Single Tenders" for the following work:-

Sl.No.-01, Tender reference No. E-Tender-L-19-25-26. Name of work: Varanasi Division:-Provision of balance LED Signages at Banaras Varanasi City & Gazipur city ABSS stations. Approx. Cost (in Rs.): ₹ 23.27.478.05, Earnest Money (in Rs.): ₹ 46,600/-, Completion period: 04 Months. Date & time of Closing Tender: 18-08-2025, 14:30 Hrs. Date & time of Opening Tender: 18-08-2025, 14:30 Hrs.

• For full details of above E-Tender work and to participate in tenders please visit Indian Railway Website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer (General), CPRO/Vidvut-101

Central projects will help create a 'developed Tamil Nadu', says Modi

Prime Minister launches new terminal building at Thoothukudi airport; he says the Union govt. had released over ₹3 lakh crore since 2014 for strengthening infrastructure in the State

The Hindu Bureau THOOTHUKUDI

he Union government-funded infrastructure projects being implemented in Tamil Nadu on an outlay of over ₹3 lakh crore will help the Centre realise its dream of achieving 'Viksit Tamil Nadu', Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

Inaugurating the new terminal building at the Thoothukudi airport, he said his government, which had promised a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), was according the highest priority for infrastructure development. Hence, the port, rail and energy sectors were getting an unprecedented facelift nationwide, from Iammu and Kashmir to Tamil Nadu, and even Assam.

Mr. Modi said the Centre had released over ₹3 lakh crore since 2014 for strengthening Tamil Nadu's infrastructure to make it 'Developed Tamil Nadu'. This was thrice more than what the previous United Progressive Alliance government had given to the State. He also said the north cargo berth at VOC

Notice of Invitation E-Tender

ndia invites sealed open tender for the

nder No.: S&T-BKN-ET-08-25-26 Nar

unning line no.4 into running line at MB

tation over Bikaner Division." Approacts of work: 10714877.13 Bid Securit

Amount (in Rs.): 203600.00 Date & time for submission of Tender & opening of tender: Up to 15.00 Hrs. of 20.08,2025

Website from which complete Tend

ww.ireps.gov.in

IIMA

IIM

following works on the date shown as below



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Thoothukudi airport for the inauguration of the new terminal building on Saturday, N. RAJESH

Port, Thoothukudi, sixlane VOC Port Road, and four-lane Sethiyathope-Chozhapuram Highway would significantly catalyse the trade opportunities and employment generation for the locals.

Mr. Modi recalled that the National Democratic Alliance government had sanctioned 11 new medical colleges for Tamil Nadu, and the Centre was also developing harbours to improve their livelihood.

Terming India's recent

free trade agreement with the United Kingdom as a 'historic' move, Mr. Modi said this agreement would open unprecedented export opportunities for Indian products to the United Kingdom.

'Will generate jobs'

"As more than 99% of the 'Make in India' products will be available in the United Kingdom at lesser price, the rise in demand will lead to more production of these products in India and it will generate more employment in the micro and small industries here. It will enhance the world's faith in India, which will become the third-largest economy in the world soon," the Prime Minister said.

He also said homegrown weapon systems, which were used in the recent Operation Sindoor, had destroyed the terrorists' hideouts and had given sleepless nights to the sponsors of terror.

'Won't be afraid of BJP's intimidation': Pilot meets Baghel's son in Raipur jail

Press Trust of India RAIPUR

The BJP governments at the Centre and in Chhattisgarh are using probe agencies to intimidate the Opposition and suppress its voice, senior Congress leader and former Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot said on Saturday.

He was talking to reporters outside Raipur Central Jail, where former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's son Chaitanya is lodged following his arrest by the Enforcement

Cong. leader accused **BJP** of threatening and suppressing the voice of political opponents

Directorate (ED) last week in an alleged liquor scam running into several hundred crores of rupees.

The alleged liquor scam, according to the ED, was orchestrated between 2019 and 2022, when Chhattisgarh was under the Mr. Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government, resulting in "massive loss" to the State exchequer, while beneficiaries of a liquor syndicate pocketed more than ₹2,100 crore.

"I met Chaitanya Baghel today. We have been saying that the BJP and its governments at the Centre and the State have been continuously trying to threaten and intimidate opponents. The action against Congress leaders and now against former CM Baghel's son proves Central and State investigative agencies have been trying to suppress the voice of political opponents of the BJP," Mr. Pilot alleged.

Cong. district chief in Kerala quits after leaked phone call

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A leaked telephone call purportedly involving Thiruvananthapuram District Congress Committee (DCC) president Palode Ravi embarrassed the Congress on Saturday, leading to Mr. Ravi's resignation from the post at the close of the day. Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president Sunny Joseph accept-

ed the resignation.

The also party expelled A. Jaleel, its Vamanapuram block general secretary, who, it is said, was at the other end of the phone call, upon finding that he was involved in anti-party activities.

The leaked tape, containing disparaging predictions about the Congress faring poorly in the local body polls later this year and falling headlong in the Assembly, had put the party on the defensive.

Rajasthan CMO, Jaipur airport get bomb threat

Press Trust of India

A search operation was launched at the Rajasthan Chief Minister's Office and Jaipur airport on Saturday after a bomb threat, officials said. The threat sent to the official email ID of Jaipur airport warned that both the places would be blown up within one to two hours, prompting immediate action from security forces.

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI (Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi)

Special Drive Admission Notice for Academic Year 2025-26 for Postgraduate Programmes

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi, a State University established by the Government of NCT of Delhi invites applications for admissions to its various PG programmes under different School of Studies in Kashmere Gate, Karampura, Lodhi Road & Qutab Institutional Area Campuses for the academic

Particulars of Candidates who can apply	Last Date to apply online
CUET applicants who have not applied to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi in the first round	
Candidates with UG scores only (Merit based admission)	

For the latest admission related information, kindly visit university website www.aud.delhi.gov.in

Dated: 24.07.2025

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG

"NOTICE INVITING TENDER"

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Kangra invites online tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from

S No. 1 Name of work: - Annual repair and maintenance of Sewerage Scheme Kangra Town in Tehsil and Distt Kangra,

(HP) (SH:- Operation and maintenance of complete sewer network, manhole chambers and sewerage treatment plant

Last date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering 11/08/2025 upto 11.00AM. The tender form and other

The CAT 2025 advertisement has been published in several newspapers in multiple languages across the

country, however the information contained in the CAT website shall be considered as final

Estimated Cost: -15830232/-, Earnest Money: -233310/-, Time Limit: -Three Years, Cost of from: -5000/-

HIM SUCHNA AVAM JANS SAMPARK

approved eligible contractors for the following work(s) through e-tendering process:-

detailed condition can be obtained from the website <u>www.hptenders.gov.in</u>

1.68MLD, Sewer network (Zone No.1) for three years.

DIRECTORATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI

www.aud.delhi.gov.in Registrar

CORRIGENDUM

NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Empanelment of Urban Designers /Urban Planners, Architects Conservation Architects, and Landscape Architects in NDMC

NDMC proposes to empanel Urban Designers, Urban Planners, Architects, Conservation Architects, and Landscape Architects for the upcoming projects in the New Delhi Municipal Council. Interested professionals, having expertise & experience in the respective fields, as per the eligibility criteria defined in the EOI. The applicants may apply with all the required supporting documents. The last date for submission of the application has been

extended to 01.08.2025 till 6:00 PM For details, please visit NDMC's website at www.ndmc.gov.in under Notices. Any further addenda/Corrigendum/Extension of dates etc. shall only be posted on NDMC's website. Sd./-**Chief Architect, NDMC**

APPOINTMENT

DHIGRAM INSTITUTE OF RURA AND FAMILY WELFARE TRUST utonomous Body under the Ministry of Heal

VACANCY NOTIFICATION Applications are invited to fill up the following vacant positions at the

Population Research Centre (PRC), Gandhigram: Assistant Professor - Regular Research Investigator - 1 No. Regular

3. Research Investigator - 1 No. Contractual 4. Field Investigator - 1 No. - Contractual - Contractual 6. Office Superintendent

For further details: www.girhfwt.org

Last date for receipt of applications: 29.08.2025 at 5.00 pm Dr. K. Vanaja Date:27.07.2025



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STANDALONE



CONSOLIDATED

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE AND UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

		Th	ree Months Er	nded	Year Ended	Thi	ree Months En	Year Ended	
SI. No.	Particulars	30.06.2025	31.03.2025	30.06.2024	31.03.2025	30.06.2025	31.03.2025	30.06.2024	31.03.2025
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total income from operations	18692.61	20592.98	20365.28	71093.43	18692.74	20593.00	20365.28	71075.19
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(80.10)	581,71	469.64	208,10	(63.58)	601,68	484.07	248,66
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(80.10)	581.71	469.64	208.10	(63.58)	601.68	484.07	248.66
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(56.62)	449.96	342.60	173.53	(40.10)	469.93	357.03	214.09
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(49.99)	447.25	340.93	164.55	(33.47)	466.85	355.36	204.74
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)		7539.55	8534.94	7539.55	7774.23	7807.70	8777.33	7807.70
8	Securities Premium Account		250.04	250.04	250.04	250.04	250.04	250.04	250.04
9	Networth	7888.51	7938.50	8933.89	7938.50	8173.18	8206.65	9176.28	8206.65
10	Paid up Debt Captial / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	810.00	810.00	810.00	810.00	810.00	810.00	810.00	810.00
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (50,00,00,000 {2024:50,00,00,000} Non-Convertible Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.50	0.39	0.49	0.39	0.48	0.38	0.48	0.38
13	Earnings Per Share (of ₹. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)								
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	(3.80)	30.22	23.01	11.65	(2.69)	31.56	23.98	14.38
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	(3.80)	30.22	23.01	11.65	(2.69)	31.56	23.98	14.38
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1000.00
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve				-				
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.65	6.13	0.65	0.90	1.85	6.31	0.66	0.93
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.91	12.11	14.00	4.33	3.36	12.42	14.30	4.50

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also

For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to stock exchanges (BSE and NSE) and can be accessed on www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

> bolil kionau Aranelo Rohit Kumar Agrawala Director (Finance)

Place : Chenna Date : July 25, 2025

the jurisdiction of the competent Courts within the territorial jurisdiction of the city of Kozhikode only.

throughout the selection process.

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Jal Shakti Division, Kangra

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COMMON ADMISSION TEST CAT 2025

The Indian Institutes of Management will conduct a IMPORTANT DATES computer-based Common Admission Test 2025 (CAT 2025) on November 30, 2025 in three sessions. Detailed information on CAT 2025 may be obtained from the CAT website

CAT website: https://iimcat.ac.in

CAT 2025 is a prerequisite for admission to various Post Graduate and Fellow/Doctorate programmes of IIMs. CAT 2025 scores are allowed to be used by listed non-IIM member institutions. A list of such institutions is provided on the CAT website. IIMs have no role in the selection process of non-IIM institutions.

CAT 2025 ELIGIBILITY

Please refer to the detailed notification on the CAT website. Applicants should note that mere fulfillment of the minimum eligibility criteria will not ensure consideration for shortlisting by IIMs.

RESERVATIONS Refer to the CAT website for information regarding reservation of seats for various categories of applicants. No change in the category will be entertained after

₹2600 for all other categories of candidates.

CAT registration. **REGISTRATION FEES** ₹1300 for SC, ST and PwD category candidates.

Please note that a candidate needs to pay the registration fees only once, irrespective of the number of institutes he/she is applying for Fees once paid cannot be refunded under any circumstances.

Registration opens : August 01, 2025 (10:00 am)

Registration closes : September 13, 2025 (5:00 pm) Admit card download: November 05-November 30, 2025 November 30, 2025 :First week of January, 2026 Result declaration (Tentative)

TEST CENTRES

CAT will be conducted in test centres spread across around 170 test cities. Candidates will be given the option to select any five test cities in order of their preference. The list of cities may be subject to changes based on the discretion of the CAT authorities.

DISCLAIMER

This advertisement is only intended to be an announcement for CAT 2025. For detailed information. rules and procedures regarding CAT and the admission process of various IIMs and other updates, candidates should visit the CAT website. Any dispute concerning CAT 2025 would be subject to

Candidates must declare and maintain a valid and unique email account and a mobile phone number

DIN: 10048961

States



Mann hits back at Amarinder's remarks on Majithia arrest

A day after former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh accused the AAP government of "targeted harassment" of Akali leader Bikram Singh Majithia, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday accused Mr. Singh of being "double-faced" on the issue of drug menace. "You are concerned about the human rights of drug smugglers," Mr. Mann said in an X post, and also questioned the former CM on his "failure" to fulfil the 2017 poll promise of eradicating the State's drug menace within four weeks. The CM was reacting to Mr. Singh's allegations that the AAP government "believes that cheap sensationalism, political vendetta, and ruthless repression are substitutes for governance". PTI

NHRC notice to Rajasthan govt. over sewer worker's death

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Saturday said it has issued a notice to the Rajasthan government and the Ajmer Police Commissioner over reports that a labourer got buried when soil caved in while digging a sewer pit on the campus of a power house. A few labourers, including the victim, were digging a 30-foot well when the purported incident happened, the NHRC said. The commission observed that, if true, the incident is a serious violation of human rights. It has sought a detailed report within two weeks, including compensation, if any, provided to the next of kin of the deceased. PTI

Ajit Pawar's visit to Pune reignites Oppn. charge of 'flight' of industries

Cong. accuses Mahayuti govt. of presiding over IT companies moving base to other States, cities, after viral video of Deputy CM's outburst over civic issues during visit to Hinjewadi infotech park

The Hindu Bureau MUMBAI

he spectre of industries, jobs and economic opportunities moving out or away from Maharashtra to other States reared its head again on Saturday as a video of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in conversation with a sarpanch from a Pune suburb referenced the

Conducting a 6 a.m. surprise visit to the Hinjewadi area of the city on Thursday to review ongoing efforts to tackle civic infrastructure issues that have worsened during the monsoon, Mr. Pawar was heard confronting Hinjewadi sarpanch Ganesh Jambhulkar, "We are ruined. The entire Hinjewadi IT Park is moving out. It's going out of my Pune, out of Maharashtra, to Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Don't you care at all?"

The Deputy CM and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader was referring to the condition of the Rajiv Gandhi Infotech Park in



Ajit Pawar at the review meeting of the Rajiv Gandhi IT Park in Pune's Hinjewadi on Thursday. X/@AJITPAWARSPEAKS

Hinjewadi, spread over 2,800 acres and developed by the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation in the mid-1990s, which houses over 800 IT and business entities, including majors such as Infosys, Wipro, Cognizant, and Tech Mahindra. The visit came in response to severe waterlogging and traffic chaos during the first spell of monsoon, which had triggered public complaints.

Following the video going viral, the Congress accused the Mahayuti government of failing to maintain Maharashtra's industrial dominance, citing crumbling infrastructure, corruption and lawless-

"The IT industry that once flourished in Hinjewadi during Congress rule is now migrating to Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar himself has admitted this," said Harshvardhan Sapkal, president of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee.

"Was Ajit Pawar asleep while Pune declined? He must take responsibility and resign," he demanded. Launching a sharp cri-

tique of the BJP-led alliance government, Mr. Sapkal said, "Basic infrastructure is collapsing, and entrepreneurs are losing faith. As a result, not just existing businesses but even future investments are moving away - largely to Gujarat."

The Maharashtra Congress chief cited the ₹1.6lakh-crore Vedanta-Foxconn project, which was lost to Gujarat, as an example of "BJP's administrative

Hinjewadi's decline In May 2024, the Hinjewadi

Association Industries (HIA) had claimed that 37 IT companies moved out from the infotech park over the previous 10 years due to the deteriorating infrastructure and traffic congestion in the locality.

A month later, NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule said she would hold meetings with the infotech park companies and convince them to stay back.

Haryana CM's charge of Mamata playing vote bank politics

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

TMC MP refutes

Refuting allegations made by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini who accused his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee of "compromising the security of the country for vote bank politics", Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP and chairperson of West Bengal Migrant Welfare Board Samirul Islam on Saturday said that a "witch-hunt" is going on against migrants in the name of "Bangladeshis".

In a social media post, the Harvana Chief Minister said there is no place for Bangladeshis in the country, and accused Ms. Banerjee of being "sympathtowards those "compromising national interests".

"From Day 1, we have said that there is no issue if the administration takes action against genuine infiltrators. But in the name of a witch-hunt against 'Bangladeshis', BJP-ruled States – including yours – have been unlawfully detaining our brothers and sisters who are working there. We strongly protest against the atrocities being

Navab Singh Saini had recently accused W.B. CM of showing 'sympathy' to those compromising national interests

committed against Bengalispeaking Indian citizens, and it is unfortunate that people like you are trying to falsely blame us," Mr. Islam said.

The MP also posed several questions to the Haryana Chief Minister, such as whether it is illegal for someone to travel from one State to another to work and, if not, why the Haryana police was harassing those who went to work from West Bengal.

Mr. Islam also asked if Bengali is spoken only by Bangladeshis and if Mr. Saini had ever heard the name of Rabindranath Tagore, who was a Bengali and composed the national anthem.

A few days ago, the West Bengal Chief Minister and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had also engaged in a war of words on social media on the topic of migrant workers.

Why is DMK afraid to conduct a caste census in Tamil Nadu, asks Anbumani

The Hindu Bureau CHENNAI

Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) president Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss on Saturday questioned why the ruling DMK leadership is afraid to conduct a caste

On the second day of his padayatra in Uthiramerur, he said that Chief Minister M.K. Stalin "lied" in the Assembly when he said the State government does not have the powers to conduct a caste census, when the Congress governments in Telangana

The PMK leader said the T.N. CM was 'lying' when he claimed the State did not have the power to conduct a caste census

and Karnataka have completed it, and Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are currently in the process of doing it and Rihar has done it already.

"Even a panchayat president has the power to conduct a caste census to take stock of how many people are living in the village, how many own a bike/car, how many houses have a toilet. The CM should stop lying," he said.

At an earlier public meeting, Dr. Anbumani said that the DMK government had implemented just 60 of the 541 promises made in its election manifesto but was misleading the public by claiming that 90% of the promises had been realised

The PMK leader said that he was not undertaking this *padayatra* to seek votes for his party, but to primarily appeal to the people to reject the DMK.

Religious agenda behind renaming of Jharkhand's **Atal Mohalla Clinics: BJP**

Press Trust of India

Senior BJP leader Amar Kumar Bauri on Saturday alleged that the Jharkhand government's decision to rename Atal Mohalla Clinics as Mother Teresa Advanced Health Clinics was a conspiracy to promote religious conversion in the State. He said the BJP will launch an agitation against

the government's decision. "Religious conversion is a major problem in the State. Now, a conspiracy is being hatched by the State government to accelerate it through the Mother Teresa clinics," Mr. Bauri said.

The Jharkhand Cabinet on Thursday approved the proposal to rename the Atal Mohalla Clinic scheme.

The Bharativa Janata va Morcha on Saturday burnt effigies of Chief Minister Hemant Soren in protest against the decision in Ranchi, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur and other areas.

India-Bangladesh bus services remain suspended amid unease in relations

Syed Sajjad Ali AGARTALA

The diplomatic unease between India and Bangladesh following the ousting of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government in August last year and her subsequent stay in India has hit bilateral relations, including crucial bus services between the two countries

The Agartala-Dhaka bus service, which was operational for years, came to a grinding halt within weeks of the student-led protests in Bangladesh and remains suspended to date. The bus service for visa-

holding passengers was established in 2003. The Tripura Road Transport Corporation (TRTC) and the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) had been regularly operating services on this route.

Put on hold

The Agartala-Dhaka-Kolkata bus service, launched in 2015, has also been put on hold. The service, which resumed in June 2022 after occasional disruptions, enabled passengers to cover

the 450-km journey to Kol-

kata in just 17 hours.

A TRTC official on Saturday said the significant decrease in the number of passengers, owing to the countries issuing fewer visas, is a major reason for the suspension of bus services on the Agartala-Dhaka and Agartala-Dhaka-Kolkata routes. The office of 'Shymali Paribahan', an affiliate of the BRTC, in Agartala has been closed the official added.

The current state of bilateral ties has also raised concerns about the future of the Agartala-Akhaura (Bangladesh) rail project.

SPOTLIGHT

Ashok Kumar

The Yamuna river near Khoikipur village in Panipat is dry, its exposed riverbed dotted with birds cormorants, herons, and migratory gulls - circling a pool of residual water. On a hot June afternoon, a herd of cows and buffalo grazes nearby.

Rajbir, a paali (cowherd) in his mid-30s, watches from under a tree, concerned not by the heat, but by his cattle frequently falling ill after cooling off in the polluted pools of water.

"The nallah (Drain No. 2) carrying effluents from Panipat's factories falls into the river ahead of our village, contaminating it with hard chemicals. With the onset of the monsoon, the water flow goes up in the river, diluting these chemicals and mitigating their harmful effects," explains Rajbir. With no village pond, cattle resort to this toxic source, says Rajbir, who shields his head with a gamcha against the 40 degrees Celsius heat.

Panipat, 90 km from Delhi, once known for historic battles, is now Asia's largest hub for textile recycling and processing. Panipat is a processing hub for around 30 lakh tonnes of textile waste, says Sanjay

Garg, Northern India Rotor Spinners Association president, comprising about 100 units.

Cloth to yarn

Cloth scraps from the U.S., U.K., Canada, Europe, and Asia are turned into yarn and further sold in Tanda (Uttar Pradesh), Solapur (Maharashtra), and Tirupur (Tamil Nadu), for use in blankets, cushions, bed sheets, carpets, and several other products.

This is called shoddy yarn. Made from short and weak fibres, it is often downcycled into low-grade products, says Kriti Srivastava, assistant professor at the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Kangra. "This isn't just inefficient recycling, it's a form of waste colonisation, where developed countries offload their textile waste onto the Global South, burdening already vulnerable nations with environmental and economic costs,"

she adds. Illegal bleaching units operate on Panipat's outskirts, lacking systems for safe chemical disposal. "This highly contaminated water is allowed to seep underground, polluting the groundwater, or is drained into open land and local drains. It eventually travels to Drain 2 that merges with the Yamuna," says Varun

Gulati, a Delhi-based envi-

Cast-off capital

The historical city of Panipat, Haryana, now a textile recycling hub, houses several illegal bleaching and dyeing units. Effluents from these illegal units are a major cause behind the pollution of the Yamuna river



A dye-ing land: A bleach unit in Didwari village in Panipat, Haryana. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Krishan, who owns a couple of acres of land, says the groundwater in Khojkipur and the neighbouring villages along Drain No. 2 is smelly. "It is not fit for drinking and irrigation. Those residing in these villages suffer from various skin-related ailments and, in some cases, even cancer. We avoid installing hand pumps near this drain," he says. Then, laughing ironically, adds, "Imagine people in Delhi who have to drink this contaminated water.'

In his March 2025 Mann Ki Baat broadcast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi acknowledged the textile waste problem, calling Panipat a global textile recycling hub. Garg says the city processes nearly 90% of imported textile scraps. His Akshay Spinning Mills is one of over 250 mills in Pa-

nipat. While large spinning mills claim adherence to environmental norms, Garg downplays illegal bleaching units, insisting they are "non-polluting units" that give "a fresh lease

of life to the garbage collected from across the globe".

Bleach-washed

However, Gulati's complaint to the Central Pollution Control Board in January listed illegal units in multiple villages.

"Chemicals containing acid and chlorine are added to the water to wash scraps, and this poisonous water is later released into the ground by digging pits or into storm water drains," he said in his complaint.

A 38-year-old bleaching

unit owner in Didwari village, who did not wish to be identified, admits his Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) is non-functional. It exists only to secure official permission.

"The water is reused once or twice, then discharged," he says. His land has tanks leased to a mill owner, and he provides bleach powder made using chlorine gas. He says he has constructed tanks on his agricultural land and rented them out to a spinning mill owner. "I only provide the land and the bleach powder, which I make using chlorine gas. The mill owners' contractors hire the labour for the bleach job," he says.

Yamuna Bachao Abhiyan convener Shiv Singh Rawat says untreated discharges from illegal units reach the Yamuna via drains. "The discharge either flows through sewer lines or is dumped via tankers into open land. Ultimately, it ends up in the Yamuna through Drain No. 2. The visual discolouration of the water at the point of merger of Drain No. 2 and the Yamuna is a stark indicator of the contamination," he says.

Multiple water sample reports of Drain No. 2 by the Haryana State Pollution Control Laboratory in April this year confirm that several parameters were much higher than the permissible levels fixed by the Central Pollution Control Board.

Rishi Kumar, another bleaching unit owner in Didwari, says there could be 400-odd units in Panipat, and only one-fourth were running with permission. "The profit in the bleaching business is around 10-20 paisa per kg of scrap. But running a unit as per the norms increases the cost by ₹1 per kg. So, it is not financially viable," says Kumar, who runs his unit with due permission from the HSPCB.

Following media reports, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) took suo motu cognisance of the matter. A hearing oif the case s scheduled on August 29. The NGT issued notices to the HSPCB and Panipat Deputy Commissioner, demanding affidavits before the hearing. HSPCB's regional officer Bhupinder Singh Chahal says 20 units have been shut and a dozen issued show-cause notices. The department doesn't have exact figures for illegal units.

Dip in demand

Panipat imports two types of waste: cloth scraps and second-hand clothes. Barsat Road is a hub. Ramjan, a worker at a warehouse there, says his employer imports 30 tonnes per sea-

son from Korea and China. Scraps sell for ₹20/kg; used clothes for ₹100-120 apiece. Some are resold in Delhi markets like Sarojini Nagar. "We sell it to the spinning mill owners through agents. A small percentage of the wastage, not accepted by the spinning mills, ends up as fuel for local industry," says Ravinder Garg, who runs the A.R. Traders firm on Barsat Road.

Mukesh Gulati, executive director at Foundation for MSME Clusters, suggests India introduce an eco-mark to boost recycled products. "We must correct the perception that recycled products are inferior," he says, citing France, Germany, and Nordic countries promoting green procurement and recycled content.

Scraps not used by spinning mills are burned as cheap fuel. Half-burnt bits of cloth often show up on terraces. "The waste cloth ends up as cheap fuel in furnaces and boilers. Panipat has a thermal power plant, a petroleum refinery, sugar mills, and fertilizer factories. At dusk, Panipat's air turns toxic," says lawyer Amit Rathee, who practises in Panipat.

> ashok.kumar @thehindu.co.in

LINK TO FULL STORY » http://bit.ly/4od8D9S

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Surjewala didn't meet govt. officials: Karnataka Dy. CM

Karnataka Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday refuted allegations that Congress general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala had met State government officials, terming it "completely false". Speaking to reporters, Mr. Shivakumar clarified that Mr. Surjewala has neither met nor spoken to any officials. "This is our government. If there is anything to be conveyed, he [Mr. Surjewala] will tell us directly," he said. PTI

Two senior police officers killed in A.P. road accident

Two Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) rank officers working with the Intelligence Department of the Andhra Pradesh police died on spot in a road accident in Choutuppal, Yadadri district in Telangana on Saturday. The officers have been identified as Chakradhar Rao and Shantha Rao. Additional Superintendent of Police K.V.S. Prasad, who was in the vehicle, and the driver sustained serious injuries and have been shifted to a hospital for treatment.

Manager of Kollam school dismissed over student death

The Kerala government dismissed the manager of High School for Boys, Thevalakkara, in Kollam district and entrusted the District Education Officer with the school's administration after the death of a 13-year-old student by electrocution from an overhead power line on the school premises on July 17. Minister V. Sivankutty told media that a report of Director of General Education had found grave dereliction of duty by manager R. Thulasidharan Pillai.

Day after Kannur jailbreak, CM orders high-level probe

Pinarayi Vijayan orders comprehensive inquiry by a special team headed by a former HC judge and ex-State police chief; new Central Prison, staff transfers, better video recordings mooted

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

erala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has directed a comprehensive inquiry into the incident of Govindachamy, convicted of the rape and murder of a 23year-old woman in 2011, escaping from the high-security block of the Kannur Central Prison on Friday. The police captured him a few hours later.

A police investigation and department-level inspections are under way. In addition to these, a detailed investigation will be conducted by a special team headed by former Kerala High Court judge C.N. Ramachandran Nair and former State police chief Jacob Punnoose.

The decision was taken at a high-level meeting called by the Chief Minis-



Security lapse: Govindachamy was caught hours after his escape and brought back to the Kannur Central Prison on Friday. S.K. MOHAN

ter. He said the incident is extremely serious and warrants a detailed investigation to take corrective ac-

It has been decided to make electric fencing fully operational in all four major jails in the State within the next three months. Intelligent CCTV that can capture detailed footage will be installed in the four major jails. Staff who have completed five years in each jail will be transferred to other places. Further, intelligence activities will be strengthened inside

Many of the convicted criminals are currently lodged in high-security jails. Inter-State jail transfers will also be considered for such convicts, the Chief

Convict moved to another jail

Govindachamy was shifted to Viyyur Central Jail in Thrissur under tight security on Saturday. Three officials were suspended for dereliction of duty following the convict's short-lived jailbreak. The incident has raised serious questions about prison security protocols in Kerala.

Minister said.

Steps would be taken to strengthen the existing video conferencing system in the jails.

A new central jail will be started given the fact that existing jails have more prisoners than their carrying capacity. Efforts will be made to find land in Kottayam and Pathanamthitta for this purpose

The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) has issued a flood warning to people living in the downstream of the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) reservoir as the outflow from the dam was increased to 50,000

Reacting to the pro-'Apologise to community' National Commission for

Minorities chairman and BJP leader Iqbal Singh Lalpura too expressed deep anguish, saying the event has gravely hurt the sentiments of Sikhs, and demanded that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains apologise to the community.

Press Trust of India

dent Sukhbir Singh Badal

on Saturday alleged that

the Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) government commit-

ted an act of "grave sacri-

lege" against the Sikh religion by "shamelessly"

trying to convert the so-

lemn occasion of the 350th

martyrdom anniversary of

Guru Teg Bahadur into an

"entertainment event" at

Srinagar.

CHANDIGARH

The event, organised on Thursday by the Punjab government's Language Department in Srinagar, has sparked a controversy, with the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) calling it a direct affront to Sikh religious values.

Akal Takht's officiating jathedar Giani Kuldip Singh Gargaj on Saturday asked Mr. Bains to appear before five 'Singh Sahiban' (high priests) on August 1. Mr. Gargaj on Saturday also summoned the Director of the State Language Depart-



'Grave sacrilege': Akali

Shiromani Akali Dal leader

Sukhbir Singh Badal. FILE PHOTO

gramme in Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir, Akali chief Badal said, "This is shocking beyond belief. This act cannot be dismissed as an inadvertent blunder because Chief Minister Mann, Bains and several other members of this government claim to be steeped in Sikh heritage and come from Sikh families." "No one in Punjab, not even a non-Sikh, is unaware of the profound solemnity of the occasion of the ninth Guru Sahib's martyrdom and none can think of it as an occasion for entertainment," he said in a statement.

Mr. Badal called it "a part of a deep-rooted conspiracy to dilute and belittle the unrivalled Sikh heritage"

He said the real motive behind this "act of sacrilege" is to distance future generations from the "uniqueness of our glorious history and religious legacy of our great Guru Sahiban".

One killed as rain batters Kodagu district

The Hindu Bureau

MYSURU

Incessant rain has been lashing many parts of Kodagu in Karnataka for the past few days, and multiple incidents of damage to property have been reported from across the district in the last 24 hours.

A woman was killed and another person was injured when their house hours of Saturday at Hanagallu village in Somwarpet At Biligunda village Vi-

collapsed in the early

rajpet taluk, a portion of the roof of a house and the rear wall collapsed due to rains. At Shanivarasanthe, a house was damaged when a tree got uprooted and fell on the roof, forcing the residents to vacate the

house damage as a result of heavy rains were reported in several villages across Sampaje hobli, Napoklu hobli, Somwarpet taluk, Kushalnagar taluk, and Bhagamandala hobli.

Similar incidents of

The district received 54.01 mm of rainfall during the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday. An orange alert has been issued for the district till 8.30 a.m. on Sunday. **Flood warning**

cusecs on Saturday evening. ment, Jaswant Singh.



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Groom.

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9841329471

HINDU/SC AD, 29 years, 5'4" MCA Team lead @ an MNC, 13LPA, owns a

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KONGU VELLA GOUNDER, 33, 165 cms, Doctor MD. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

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HINDU- NAIR boy 33/175 B.Tech, Asst. Manager in a well Reputed

NAIDU, 30 Pooratathi, BTech, MS,

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pelow 28, fair, normal physique.

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9080758678

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Mudaliar/ Pillai/ any Sub Caste nennai/ Bangalore/ Hyderabad om Upper Middle Class families

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Tamil Vanniyar Girl, Mumbai, Dob 19/09/93, MNC, Sal: 1 LPM, Rich, Caste No Bar, Contact: 8667248379.

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Looking SM for Dec 1983 born Punjabi Handsome Never-Married Boy. MSc 25 L/yr. Ct: 94877 19495. PGD working in a MNC at Sr Post 70 LPA. Contact: 9820727061

CHRISTIAN 39 years engineer working in MNC+BUSINESS well settled at chennai wanted a graduate girl from a decent Christian family-

cont 9884825317

CHRISTIAN RC 1973 born 165cm MBA Sr. Manager 1.1 L/Pm Govt PSU divorce seeks suitable bride Ct.

sham Bharani Well Settled in Chennai. Seek Christian Tall, Fair Girl. CNB. Cont: 9789847577 MUSLIM 31 Divorced Tamil/Urdu Chen-

LECTURER 27.06.92, 182cm MA Phd Me-

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN, 29yrs, BE, MS, 170cms, Robotics Engineer in USA, H1B Visa, seeks Born again, God fearing Bride. Parents whose daughter is either working or studing in USA. Contact WhatsApp:

RC Christian B.Tech (CSE) working in MNC 16LPA seeks bride between 21-27yrs. CNB. Ct: 97909 07244 Own Business at Coimbatore, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900412 MNC 16LPA seeks bride between 21-27yrs. CNB. Ct: 97909 07244

HINDU UDAYAR, 28, 178 cms, B.Tech.

Software professional, TCS, deputed to UK.Looking for a like minded

match from same community. Con-

THULUVA VELLALA Agamudaya Mudali-

HINDU NADAR 29/178 B.E MBA well

settled MNC Chennai seeks educated good looking bride.Cont:9445663691

CHENNAI-BASED HINDU Divorced Groom

(US Citizenship) 46 yrs, Height 180cm, MS Engg., Working (60LPA). Seeks Divorced/Widowed Bride (1

SEEKING BRIDE from a good family background from Mudaliar / Pillai, for my son born in 1994. Tall, Fair & Handsome with clean habits

Presently working in the US. 9841457050

HINDU, MUDALIYAR, age 28, MBBS, MD, looking for a Doctor bride. Ct 8138900312.

HINDU, CASTE NO BAR, age 29, B.E,

SAIVA PILLAI 39, Divorcee.BE/MBA, MNC, Bangalore, Seeks First Mar-riage Bride in Thirunelveli/ Than-javur Saiva Pillai/ Karkathar Soci-

ety only.Ct: 8072215374/ 9344701672

ELITE MUDALIYAR, 27yrs, B.Tech,

Kid Ok). Contact: 8220765305

tact:8754503002

Christian BC, 1995, 171cm B.Tech (NIT)M.S.(USA)works in USA, H1B HINDU, REDDIAR, Age 26, MBA, IT professional at Bangalore, PA 12 Lakhs. Contact 8138009235 AGE 51, 168cm Good body structure RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Soft-

ing Suita 9940507235

Very comfortable Expectation Good comfort Beautiful helpful attitude Bride needed Age Religion No re-Engineer, never married, for mnc, Chennai. CT-9500188067 striction. Mail: arunbalaji2333@ CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee TAMILIAN, 57, WORKING for an Aus-

36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride.9003983230 tralian university, non-smoker, non-drinker, seeks Tamilian lady around 50 for matrimony. Religion, caste, children, wealth no bar. Contact: mthalaivan@yahoo.com

9380791999/

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, Age 28, ME, Private, 50 Lakhs. CT 8138009235 Job, Well Educated Family, Seeks

Bride.

SM4 HINDU, 56/155cm, Sengunthar, widower, engineer, financially seyar, 31, Rishabam, Kiruthikai II Patham, B.E., Software Company Job, Good Salary Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 96119 66466, 98860 70800 cure, non-vegetarian, non-smoker, seeks homely woman, 40-50, for remarriage. Contact 9514551155 or Ravibalasubra@gmail.com with bioda-

KARUNEEGAR, VEG, 28, 174cm, LLM, Lawyer, Law Firm, 8 LPA, Seeks Lawyer, Law Firm, 8 LP Bride. Contact: 8056012034

Clean habits, Head of marketing at London. Family in Pondy. Seeking educated bride 30–38 caste/status no bar. Ph: Whatsapp +44–7760779256

32. CHRISTIAN. Working in a PSB.

Looking for financially indepen-

dent, intellectually inclined Tamil/ Malayali woman as life part ner. Caste/ Division no bar. Ctct:9789227517 AGE-52, HINDU, Mudaliyar, Business, Divorcee. Seeks Any Mudaliar OK. Divorcee/ Widower Ok. Ct:

IT professional, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900537 9840776650 WANTED WORKING bride for Brahmin VELLORE AGAMUDAYA Mudaliyar HINDU. VANNIYAR. Age 26, B.E, Ban-Rishabam 39/165 BE, SWE,MNC/Chica go/USA,1L USD/A,Seeks working SWE.9487624807 king professional, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900316.

> NAIDU, 32, 162 cms, MS in Eng, Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking

HINDU, 38/18/30M, fair, nandsome. PG Engg. Consultant. Divorced (no kids). Seeks well-educated, good-looking girl, unmarried/divorcee (no kids) from good Tamil family (Mudaliar, Pillali, Chettiar, Naidu professed). Ct. 0566231110. preferred). Ct: 9566221110

HINDU, MUDALIAR, Age 28, MBBS, Doctor, 10 Lakhs. CT 8138901227 RICH MUDALIYAR, 35yrs, M.sc, Well Educated Family background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride. PILLAI/ MUDALIYAR 38/BE, Swathi,

suitable bride. GEN/OBC.

HINDU, 38/183CM, fair, handsome,

Chennai. WhatsApp: 96290 Employed Upper Middle Class Seeks Suitable Bride. Coimbatore HINDU, CASTE NO BAR, Age 25, Self employed, 15 Lakhs. CT 8138901097 32 YEARS BTech graduate self entrepreneur office in S Korea and India never married brides from Suitable Bride Contact K.A.Raman

6385293227

HINDU, NADAR, Age 28, MS, Doctor, 5 Lakhs. CT 8138900412 and brother doctors WhatsApp 1985 MUDALIYAR Chennai Assistant HINDU CHETTIAR 31 / 178cm M. Manager Private, Decent Background Seeks Bride 9952010118, 8610518808 S(ECE), Puratathi, Handsome, set-tled in Australia, Seeks Bride m Equal or Sub Caste. Contact

> lothor 30 178 Cm working in US H1B financially well off looking for a bride same community either in US GOUNDER CHENNAI-BASED Canadian Citizen Sr Software Engg BE MS-USA 89 born height 167cm Fair Slim Affluthose who willing to go. Ct ent Caste No bar Ct: 9363635101 CHENNAI, MUDLR. Any Cast, PhD, VANNIAKULAKSHTRIAR GROOM

> Tetolr Divorcd, 41yrs.GM Chess Govt 2Lac /mth.Edu Girl.No expt 43yrs, Divorced shortlived no issue. B.E., M.B.A(UK). Working in IT Company Chennai. 15laks/PA Contact: 9944928521, 9487935521. PERMANENT RESIDENT in United Kingdom, post graduate software engineer seeks doctor/engineer/C.A bride living in India or abroad. Hindu B.C., 33yrs,178cm,70 Kg. Con-

PAHVATHA HAJA kulam (CNB): 417
Handsome, Master in Nautical Science, Captain (Merchant Navy Officer), Chennai, 80,00,000 PA,Well Settled Family, Seeks Bride preference of the Company of tact /WApp message parents in Chennai /Nagercoil (Tamilnadu) HINDU MUDALIYAR 48, Handsome, VIP, Remarriage, Chennai, seeks good looking Decent, VIP bride. 7401489892

BALIJA NAIDU 32yrs Rohini Rishabam Fair Business (Surgical Manufacturer & Distributors) Seeks Any Telugu Caste Bride. 9790963402. doctorsam, 37-43 yr old Brahmin girl for 43 yr old Brahmin Engineer, AGM Japanese (VIP, Remarriage, Chennai, seeks

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, VANNIYAKULA Kshatriva 1987 MS MBA employed in UK Glasgow wants bride employed in UK or willing to mo-ve to UK.Ct:9342994247, 9442910057 31yrs, B.Tech, MS (US), Working in US, Elite business family Ct:

SC (AD), 32yrs, MBBS, MD, Well Edu- MUDALIYAR 34YRS /165cm B.Tech

cated Family background in Chen- Msc,Revathy/Meenam.Well Paid Job Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: in Germany Seeks Suitable Bride. 9442135216 DKV Divorce Son with Mother 44 / 1.5 LPM DGM PSU CNB 8903778148 / IYER, Meena Rasi, 27 Yrs /178 cm Fair/Slim, MBA Groom, Chennai nov Bangalore @ KPMG. Seek

Slim, Bride. Contact: 9791158816 MUDHALIAR 39 /185cm Msc Citibank TAMIL IYER, 1986, Hastham, BE, ME, MBA, PhD Asst. Prof. B'lore 12.5L PA, Seeks Any Brahmin girl. WA: seeks professional Mud /pillai ok Geetham 9092501181 jsshyammohan@gmail.com

AYIRAVAISHYAR 38 ReMarriage 174cm Advocate Pondy seeks Suitable Bride Mud /Pillai ok Geetham WANTED BRAHMIN Bride below 42y, for 49y old bachelor, Koundinyam Makham. Chennai based SW profes B.Tech Bits Pilani 183cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC Bangalore Sal Contact pbjmatrimonial@ yahoo.com.

WANTED BRIDE for a Well-Educated

Cultured Family Invites Alliance for their Son:39years, Height :174/

MNC, based in Bangalore, Looking HINDU, CHETTIYAR, Age 26, B.Tech, MBA, Analyst, Income 20 Lakhs. Contact 8138901097 for a Professionally Qualified Girl, 33–39 years, Preferably from a Reputed Family, Any Metro City Caste- Any Brahmin. Serious quiries Only. M ID:manikandan.tvg@gmail.com. PH:+91-9500118505 / 8825509525

THEMOMHINDU

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Manager Working In PSU Bank 18 Lac PA Chennai Seek-Ing Suitable Bride. Call: Living together considered. WUSLIM, TAMIL speaking, Age 42/
BE BRAHMIN 1973 differently abled bride. B.Sc. seeking suitable bride +2/
BE BRAHMIN 1973 differently abled bride. B.Sc. seeking suitable bride +2/
BE BRAHMIN 1973 differently abled bride. B.Sc. seeking suitable bride +2/
Considered. any Deg. Ct: 9360285747 / together

IYER GIRL above 162cm for 1994/
181cm lyer boy Kaushika Anushum
BTech/MS Proj Management Professional working in Ireland.Contact
MD/M.S. religious bride TN/Pondy

ost-graduate software enginee

well employed, non-vegetarian

teetotaller, non-smoker.

Affluent, ultra high net worth

Chennai and Bengaluru based Elite Tamil Vellalar family.

Looking for suitable bride

from similar background

(Caste No Bar).

Contact: +91-6381<u>09289</u>9

BRIDE WANTED

and strong financial

background based in

Chennai, from a well

settled, affluent

Agamudayar family.

family-oriented bride below 28 yrs) from a goo

family background (Tamil)(CNB).

+91 78458 21205

Seeking BRIDE

eking an educated, and

MD/M.S. religious bride TN/Pondy Cell 9952828485

BRIDE WANTED SMU 34/168, B.Tech., MBA, Software Engr in MMC Chennai, well todo family seeks Educated Bride. Ct:8122989086 Fair, B.Tech NIT Trichy,

US UK Canada All Caste Religion

DOCTORS, BRIDES, Grooms All Cast, Religions 1st & RE-Marriage Ct: 7358638363

good-looking, high-earning tech professional with established career

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First Marriage Only CT: 93842 **7**6066

Naidu Affluent Family Chenna 29/165 Thiruvonam, ME Structural Engineer in MNC additional own Business and Rental Income. CNB Contact: 9841097110.

open for discussion.

Business Family background, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9962791888 Hindu 58years 165cm Central Govt. Jr. Engineer Rs.1.40 Lakhs PM. Never TAMIL HINDU graduate bride from TN, good family background, willing to relocate – for UK graduate (British Indian, 34, 183cm, MNC) from good family background. Pls send all details to punaggai@ vimalkrishna@tamiffilmmakerspro.com SC / Intercaste, Hindu, 30 yrs B.Com MBA, Manager (HDFC Bank) Chennai, seeks bride.9444123939 /9176265079

Tago P 7 7 5 0 1 1990 P 7 7 7 1990 P 7 7 1990 P 7 7 1990 P 7

1990, B.TECH MBA, Chennai, Works from home in US IT firm. Seeks OMR, Chennai, seeks Fair Bride Ct.

94456 67237 / 86672 15468 AD/ 42/ Divorcee/ V.Fair/ MS (Engg), MUDALIAR BE Mech Very Fair Age 24
165' Star Anusham working in TVS.
House in Annanagar Chennai R610889128

MUDALIAR BE Mech Very Fair Age 24
Phd, Scientist, Bangalore needs BE/
MCA Employed Girl, CT: 7358485802
CSI NADAR, 1995 born/ 167cm, Fair, Slim, B.Tech., Family business /manufacturing Factory in Nagercoil seeks Fair, Slim Bride same community MBBS/ BDS/ BArch/ B.E./ B.Tech.

Contact: 9442616881

KAMMA 34/171, MCA, working in MNC, contact: 9840269792 GAVARA, 24, Associate Analyst Wells Fargo, Hyderabad, 10 Lakhs, working Chennai girls preferable, Contact: 8939835453

RICH REDIYAR, 34yrs, M.sc (UK), Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:6385293227

AGE 28, Male, B.E., Software Engineer, Chennai is seeking BRIDE 24-27yrs, educated & employed Balija/ Gavara Naidu #9094937080

RICH NAIDU, 31yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 6385293227

NAIDU 27/180, Handsome, MBBS MS-Doing- 900000.PA, Well Settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029 (CNB) NAIDU, Fair & Handsome 32yrs/ 172cm/ B.tech/ Salary 1.3L pm. Own House and Property settled in Chennai. Looking: Suitable edu-cated and working Bride. Contact

PARVATHA RAJA kulam (CNB): 41/ CHENNAI TELUGU, 30 years 168 cm B.Tech. MBA. Business Entrepreneur settled family, looking for able bride. Caste No Bar. 9003239626

FIND

1st Marriage Ct:8248757840

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AUTOMOTIVE

Factory required **INVESTORS**

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itact: Anand - 97107 28526 (OF

(AGE: 52)

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DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of

THEMAHINDU with (Astrological) details via WhatsApp 9677284433 / 8939915105

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MATCHES.



Classifieds

FAIR, SMART, Pretty, cultured, homely Doctor Girl, 35/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist Reputed Hos-

pital, Chennai from affluent family of Doctors, Father Cardiac Sur-

BRAHMIN GIRI 1996 / 173cm

BA-LLB, Company Secretary, Working in Mumbai, Known Business Family of

ALLIED SERVICES

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For daughters

(32/157 & 34/156) both M.Tech.

Examiners of Patents &

Designs, Level-10, Gr. 'A'

Civil Services, IP Office,

Delhi, Govt. of India

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Iother: Medical Officer (Expire

Father: Former Joint Registrai

Trade Marks, Govt. of India

o Moradahad, U.P. (nowat Dell

Caste: Rathore (Teli), OBC

Group 'A' Gazetted Officers in P Office/ Central Civil Services

CASTE: NO BAR

No dowry, Simple marriage

rathorebc@hotmail.com

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KANNADA

Coimbatore seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 97917 68175.

WARM, BEAUTIFUL 35, 157cm, well-ed-

GROOM WANTED

Keralite Nair Doctor MBBS, MS serving

n Indian Airforce, born in June

1993,160 cm is looking for alliances

from forward communities especially

doctors, engineers, officers, scientists

and professors, ideally those in defence,

CONTACT: 9497855381

Harithsa Gothram, Madhwa Desistha,

Thanjavur Marathi speaking,BE comp

science, working Bangalore.25 LPA

Bangalore based working Marathi speaking Groom preferred Contact +91 7868815488, 7825847444

CHRISTIAN GIRL 35 years engineer

SEEKING NEVER Married Tamil/ Tel-

ugu Bridegroom age 42–45 for a Software Engineer Girl, 42. Ct:9962956416

CHRISTIAN, RC, Age 30, B.E, MS, Project manager at MNC, PA 30 Lakhs. Contact 8138901383

CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, age 31, MD studied settled at USA, well settled family. Ct 8138900498.

christian

9445931257

central government and civil services.

+971504947205

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

INDEX OF

SURGEON BC 27,174 cm, Good Looking, Seeks Suitable Doctors. Contact :7200365364 **BRIDEGROOMS WANTED**

BRIDES & GROOMS Classification Common

ASSAMESE

BIHARI **CHHATTISGARHI**

KANNADA **KASHMIRI** KONKANI

NEPALI **ORIYA**

ENGINEER

DIVORCEE **PHYSICALLY**

Hindu girl only daughter Very rich 28 yrs Divorcee. Boy should be from Rich V. Bhavna Harithsa, 25, Anusham,

COSMOPOLITAN

ATTRACTIVE. FAMILY-ORIENTED architect 27, 168cm, affluent, open-minded S. Indian family. Seeking

CHRISTIAN -27 Fair Female, Dr. MBBS, Optician. Gods Fear Groom Dr. Chennai ,Blr Or Any Dist. 7358





From Page One

Modi, Muizzu signal major reset in relations

The revival in ties between India and the Maldives could be seen in the memorandums of understanding (MoUs) and agreements signed during the Prime Minister's visit to the island nation. Notably, Mr. Muizzu and Mr. Modi inaugurated a new building of the Maldives' Ministry of Defence in Malé, along with other jointly executed infrastructure projects.

The sentiment also came through in Mr. Muizzu's address at the state banquet hosted for Mr. Modi on Friday. Asserting that India has long stood as the "closest and most trusted partner" of the Maldives, he pointed to this year marking 60 years of diplomatic relations between the Maldives and India. He called it "a milestone" that reflects the shared history of the countries, and "the depth and resilience" of the partnership.

The political opposition in the Maldives welcomed the Muizzu government's shift in its India

A senior politician, who requested anonymity, told The Hindu that the turnaround in ties was possible after Mr. Muizzu's "realisation" that he needed to work with India "no matter what". He added: "India's broad shoulders and thick skin al-

I feel sorry to be backing Bihar govt.'

Opposition Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Mrityunjay Tiwari, in a response to Mr. Paswan's remarks on the Nitish Kumar-led government's 'inability' to manage law and order, said his party had been drawing attention to the issue. "What Mr. Paswan is saying today, we have been crying for months – that the law and order situation in the State has collapsed. Our party leader, Tejashwi Yadav, has been flagging the ever-spiralling criminal incidents in the State daily. Mr. Paswan has called a spade a spade," he said.

The Congress shared a video of Mr. Paswan's remarks in an attempt to highlight apparent cracks in the ruling NDA. "We agree with what Chirag Paswan has said over the deteriorating law and order situation in Bihar. Every citizen in the State is feeling the same and that's why we have shared Mr. Paswan's video," party spokesperson Rajesh Rathore told *The Hindu* over phone.

Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular chief and former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, also an NDA partner in Bihar, disagreed that Mr. Paswan's remarks suggested a rift between the allies.

Bihar SIR to restore trust in poll rolls: EC

The annexure includes complaints made by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) before the Delhi Assembly polls, and by the Congress and its allies about alleged additions made to voter lists during the Maharashtra Assembly polls last year, as well as by the BJP, AIADMK, and Shiv Sena.

"...several recognised political parties across the spectrum have raised serious concerns with the Commission regarding inaccuracies in the electoral rolls – citing the inclusion of ineligible and deceased individuals and exclusion of eligible voters. These concerns arise from the limitations of the summary revision process which does not require fresh preparation of electoral rolls," the EC affidavit said.

Some of the names that could be struck off the draft roll belong to deceased voters, or those who have migrated out of the State, while other voters were registered to vote in two locations or failed to complete their enumeration forms.

Opposition parties, led by the Congress, have been consistently attacking the Election Commission alleging that electoral rolls were manipulated during the Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly

The poll body said that political parties across the spectrum have also voiced concerns regarding the accuracy of the electoral rolls revised through the summary revision process, regarding the wrongful inclusion of the names of deceased, migrated and non-citizen voters. In order to restore public confidence and address these concerns, it has decided to undertake the SIR, the EC said.

Journalists in trouble over reports on officials'

The criminal charges most frequently invoked against journalists were offences related to public tranquility, criminal intimidation and insult, promoting enmity, defamation, offences against public servants, and offences relating to religion.

G.S. Bajpai, vice-chancellor, NLU, told The Hindu that the growing trend of invoking criminal laws against journalists raises serious constitutional concerns. "This report reveals that journalists, particularly from smaller towns, are increasingly being targeted through penal provisions. While it is true that journalists must uphold professional standards and exercise due responsibility in their reporting, the data emerging from this study points to a troubling pattern of criminalisation. Such developments do not bode well for the health of a constitutional democracy, where freedom of the press is a foundational pillar," he said.

Operation Sindoor a stern message to Pak.: Army chief

Any power that tries to challenge the sovereignty of India will be given a befitting reply, says General Dwivedi; President, Prime Minister, and Defence Minister pay tributes to Kargil heroes on Vijay Divas

Saurabh Trivedi NEW DELHI

peration Sindoor was a message to Pakistan as well as a response to the Pahalgam terror attack that supporters of terrorism would not be spared, said the Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, on Saturday.

"This time India did not only mourn but also showed that the response would be decisive," Gen. Dwivedi said at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass. Addressing a gathering on Vijay Divas, he said a stern response to the adversary was the new normal established by India.

"Any power that tries to challenge the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of India or harm its people will be given a befitting reply," he said.

Gen. Dwivedi said that during the operation, the Army had eliminated nine high-value terrorist targets in Pakistan with zero collateral damage. "India attained a decisive victory by effective targeting of terror infrastructure in Pakistan during Operation Sindoor," he said.



Warm gesture: Students of a government school tying rakhis on General Upendra Dwivedi at the Kargil War Memorial on the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Divas at Drass in Kargil on Saturday. PTI

In his keynote address, Gen. Dwivedi paid a heartfelt tribute to the fallen soldiers of the Kargil War. He reflected on the Indian Army's historic victory in 1999 and its resolute defence of national sovereignty during recent Operation Sindoor.

Calling upon youth to serve the nation with honesty and dedication, he closed with a resolute commitment to safeguarding India's unity, sovereignty, and honour.

Tributes on Vijay Divas President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday led the nation in paying tributes to the armed forces personnel who fought to defend India's territory and handed a crushing defeat to Pakistan in the 1999 Kargil conflict.

On July 26, 1999, the Indian Army announced the successful culmination of Operation Vijay, declaring victory after a nearly threemonth-long battle on the icy heights of Kargil in Ladakh. More than 500 Indian soldiers died in the conflict that began with Pakistani soldiers intruding into Indian territory. The day is observed as Kargil Vijay Diwas every year.

"This day symbolises the extraordinary valour, courage, and steadfast determination of our jawans. Their dedication and supreme sacrifice for the nation will forever inspire its citizens," Ms. Murmu said in a social media post.

Various events were organised across the country to mark the occasion. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Kargil Vijay Diwas reminds the country of the unparalleled courage and valour of its soldiers who sacrificed their lives in defending the country's pride.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the top military brass paid tributes to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial. (With inputs from PTI)

'India's rising stature will lead to security challenges in future'

Vijaita Singh NEW DELHI

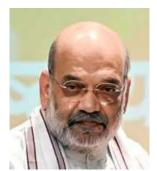
Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that India's rising stature would lead to increasing national security challenges in the years to come. He said such challenges need to be addressed through better coordination for which "homogenous teams of Central and State agencies should be formed".

Mr. Shah was speaking at the conclusion of the two-day 8th National Security Strategies (NSS) Conference-2025 organised by the Intelligence Bureau

The conference, held in hybrid format, was attended by around 800 police and intelligence officers from across the country.

He also instructed the involvement of young police officers in each State to brainstorm on national challenges and devise solutions to address them.

The Union Minister emphasised that the next 5-10 years would be very important for the development and security of the country. He said that internal security challenges would remain dynamic in view of India's geopolitical neighbourhood, asking State and Central security agen-



Amit Shah

cies to adopt the motto of "Suraksha, Sajagta, and Samanvay (Security, alertness, and coordination)".

Action on drug cartels

He asked for strict action against big drug cartels, besides focusing on extradition of narco-offenders. The Director Generals of Police (DGPs) were directed to make anti-narcotics drive the prime agenda of the police for the next three years, pointing out that the police station was the focal point of intelli-

gence collection. Stressing upon the need for all-round development in left-wing extremism affected areas, the Minister urged the DGPs to coordinate with State administrations to ensure the implementation of more than 300 Central and State development schemes at the grassroots level.

Rajasthan govt. announces ₹10 lakh each to kin of children killed in school roof collapse

The Hindu Bureau

Amid demands for the resignation of State Education Minister Madan Dilawar, the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Rajasthan on Saturday announced an ex-gratia assisthe next of kin of seven children killed in the school building collapse in Jhalawar district. One member of each family will also get a contractual job with the State government.

The bodies of six children were cremated together in Piplodi village, where a portion of the government school in which they were studying collapsed on Friday morning. The seventh child was cremated in Chandpura Bheelan village, situated nearby. The police stopped Con-

gress MLA from Khanpur, Suresh Gurjar, and student leader from Jaipur, Nirmal Choudhary, on the Kota-Jhalawar road when they were going to meet the injured students admitted to ospital. Another political leader, Naresh Meena, was detained when he staged a dharna outside the District Hospital in Jhalawar.

Panel to review safety

Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma announced the formation of a permanent committee to review the safety of government schools, colleges, hostels and Anganwadi centres and to undertake the repairing of dilapidated



Gross negligence: Parents mourning the children who lost their lives in the Jhalawar school roof collapse, on Saturday. ANI

buildings. He also announced an increase from 15% to 20% in the permissible allocation for these buildings in Dang, Magra and Mewat regions.

Mr. Sharma said at a high-level meeting here that a provision of ₹375 crore was made in this year's Budget for repairing of schools and construction of new school buildings, besides the release of ₹3 crore to each Assembly constituency for the pur-

"The MLAs will also be

entitled to recommend an expenditure of 20% of their annual allocation under the local area development fund in schools," Mr. Sharma said.

Civil rights groups in the State have termed Friday's mishap as an instance of "gross administrative negliimmediate resignation of Education Minister Mr. Dilawar. People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)-Rajasthan president Bhanwar Meghwanshi said, "Mr. Dilawar's sole focus has been on communalising educa-

tional institutions. The PUCL urged the State government to learn from the Piplodi accident and immediately conduct a comprehensive safety audit of all school buildings.

728 rounds of ammunition,

90 firearms and explosives

seized from Imphal Valley

Safety audits must be done in schools, says Centre

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Education has issued a directive to all States and Union Territories mandating them to conduct audits of safety mechanisms and facilities for children in schools, officials said on Saturday.

"States and UTs must take urgent steps to ensure student's safety and their well-being. This includes mandatory safety audits of schools and child-related facilities as per national safety codes, training for staff and students in emergency preparedness, and the provision of psychosocial support through counselling and peer networks," says the directive.

Cong. demands CBI-led, judge-supervised probe into 'organic cotton scam'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Alleging a "scam" worth over ₹2.1 lakh crore in the name of organic cotton in India, the Congress on Saturday demanded the formation of a Special Investigation Team led by the Central Bureau of Investigation under the supervision of a High Court judge.

The party said that the scam had severely harmed the global credibility of India's organic products.

Speaking at a press conference at the All India Congress Committee headquarters, senior Congress leader and former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Digvijaya Singh, alleged that certain traders were falsely labelling nonorganic cotton as "organic" and earning six-fold profits, while genuine



Digvijaya Singh

farmers struggled to get even the minimum support price. He added that the scam involved massive tax and GST evasion.

'Govt. aware of scam'

The Congress leader said that the government had been aware of irregularities in the certification process and the scam since 2017, but had not taken any strict action.

Mr. Singh explained that he said.

in 2001, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), which is implemented by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. The goal is to certify and regulate organic exports. Under this programme, NPOP accredits certification bodies that verify Internal Control Systems (ICS). After ICS verification, a transaction certificate is issued, declaring the group as organic.

"Most farmers shown as registered in these ICS groups neither grow organic cotton nor are aware of their inclusion in the system. These ICS groups have deliberately committed fraud by including farmers' names to obtain Joint operation transaction certificates,"

Press Trust of India IMPHAL Security forces on Satur-

day seized at least 90 firearms and over 700 rounds of ammunition and explosives from multiple operations across five districts of Manipur, the police said. A senior police officer said that several of the seized firearms were reportedly looted from police armouries after ethnic conflict erupted in the State in May 2023.

Acting on a tip-off, coordinated operations were launched simultaneously at multiple sites in Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching, and Bishnupur districts, a police statement said.

During the operations by joint teams, comprising



Seized booty: Security personnel with the arms and ammunition recovered during a joint operation in Manipur on Saturday. PTI

the Manipur Police, Central Reserve Police Force, Border Security Force, Army and Assam Rifles, 90 weapons, including three from the AK series, one M16 rifle, five INSAS rifles, one INSAS LMG, four SLRs, 20 pistols, four carbines, seven .303 rifles and eight other rifles, were seized.

"A total of 728 ammunition [rounds] and explosives, including 21 grenades and six IEDs. besides 21 magazines and 24 wireless handsets, were also seized," it said. Miscreants had looted

over 6,000 firearms from police armouries after ethnic violence broke out in the State on May 3, 2023. More than 3,000 of the looted firearms have been recovered, including over 1,500 after President's Rule was imposed in February.

Cong. accuses BJP of doing 'petty politics' in Justice Varma row

Opposition party cites Dhankhar to say notice for Justice Varma's removal was admitted in Rajya Sabha, countering reports to contrary

NEW DELHI

he Congress on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of doing "petty politics", ignoring Constitutional principles.

The party was referring to reports that the Opposition-backed notice in the Rajya Sabha for the removal of Justice Yashwant Varma, who faces allegations of corruption, had only been submitted and not admitted in the Upper House.

At a press conference, Congress spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Singhvi quoted former Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar's July 21 statement in the House to argue that the notice, signed by 63 Opposition members, had been admitted by the Chair.

Mr. Singhvi further argued that the former Chair-

This is the BJP's typical double standard. The BJP's game of motions is less about law and more about optics... On judicial propriety, on anti-corruption movement, and on judicial accountability, the BJP's mantra is talk the talk, never walk the walk **ABHISHEK SINGHVI** Congress spokesperson and Rajya Sabha member

man's comments had made it clear that only a statutory committee of inquiry, under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, had to be formed after consulting with the Lok Sabha Speaker since an identical motion was submitted in the Lower House.

Mr. Singhvi accused the BJP of adopting double standard in its approach to judicial matters, particularly regarding Justices Varma and Shekhar Yadav, against whom the Opposition had moved a notice for remo-

"We are very concerned about this selective outrage and selective silence... This is typical BJP's double standard. The BJP's game of motions is less about law and more about optics... On judicial propriety, on anti-corruption movement and on judicial accountability, the BJP's mantra is talk the talk, never walk the walk. It is the worst example of hypocrisy on this entire episode," he said.

Rejection of widely held documents in SIR 'inconsistent, arbitrary': ADR

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Association for Democratic Reforms on Saturday countered the Election Commission's refusal to accept Aadhaar, voter ID, and ration card as valid "standalone" proof for inclusion on the electoral roll during the special intensive revision (SIR) as "patently absurd".

In a rejoinder filed in a batch of petitions challenging the EC decision, the ADR, represented by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi, said any of the 11 documents listed by the commission for the verification of voters was equally prone to fraud.

On July 10, the Supreme Court had asked the commission to consider these three documents for the SIR, reasoning that they formed the foundational records to obtain any of the 11 documents, including residence and caste certificates, listed. The EC justified that Aadhaar, the elector photo identity card, and the ration card could easily be faked.

"It is pertinent to note that the 11 documents in-



electoral rolls at Kamalpur village in Bihar. ANI

cluded in the approved list are equally susceptible to being procured on the basis of fake or false documentation, thereby rendering the EC's rationale baseless, inconsistent and arbitrary," the NGO's rejoinder said.

The NGO referred to data in the EC's affidavit detailing the expansive coverage of the 11 eligibility documents, including 13.89 crore residence certificates and 8.72 crore caste certificates issued from 2011 to 2025.

"It is interesting to note that the same far exceeds the total number of electors in the electoral rolls. If residence certificates can be accepted as eligibility

proof of SIR 2025, despite their total number exceeding Bihar's current aggregate population, there is no reason why ration cards should be rejected as a document on the grounds of being prone to forgery," the NGO argued.

It said Aadhaar was accepted as proof for obtaining several of the 11 eligibility documents, including a permanent residence certificate, Other Backward (OBC)/Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificate, and passport. "This makes the EC's rejection of Aadhaar, which is the most widely held document, patently

The EC had filed a coun-

absurd," the rejoinder said.

ter-affidavit on July 21 claiming plenary powers to conduct the SIR and the authority to determine citizenship. It said a large portion of the population in Bihar already possessed one or more of the 11 documents.

The NGO countered a claim by the EC that political parties were fully backing the SIR.

"Not a single political party had asked EC for a *de* novo exercise such as the one prescribed in the instant SIR order. The concerns were on the issue of addition of non-existent votes, and deletion of genuine votes supporting the Opposition parties, and on the issue of casting of votes after closure of polls... the EC's counter affidavit fails to substantiate or justify the necessity of the SIR in Bihar, or the broader push for a nationwide citizenship verification of electors," the NGO said.

It said people whose names are not found in the draft electoral roll for Bihar would not have the time to file appeals, prove their citizenship, and get re-enrolled in time for the Bihar Assembly election.

Cong. must shift focus to Gujarat, says Rahul Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau AHMEDABAD

In a sharp political pitch from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's home turf, Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday called the Election Commission (EC) a "biased umpire". He stressed that defeating the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in its base in Gujarat, which is also Union Home Minister Amit Shah's stronghold, was critical for the party's na-

tional resurgence. Addressing newly appointed District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents at a training camp, Mr. Gandhi said the Congress must shift its focus from just Uttar Pradesh or Bihar to Gujarat if it aims to defeat the BJP across the country.

The training camp is part of the Congress's preparations for the 2027 Gujarat Assembly election. It follows the appointment of new DCC chiefs across the State and will conclude on July 28.

Surendranagar gress president Naushad Solanki quoted Mr. Gandhi as saying, "We believed we must work hard in U.P. and Bihar to defeat the BJP. But Rahulji told us: if you defeat the BJP in Gujarat, it can defeated everywhere."

Mr. Gandhi also accused the EC of playing unfairly. "In cricket, if you keep getting out, you start doubting yourself. But then you realise, it's the umpire who is biased," Mr. Solanki quoted him as saying.

Newly appointed Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda said that Mr. Gandhi had assured the cadre that the party leadership stood firmly with them. "He guided the district presidents and assured them that their inputs would be considered during candidate selec-

17 MPs named for Sansad Ratna Awards for performance in LS

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Seventeen Members of Parliament - including Supriya Sule (Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar), Ravi Kishan (Bharatiya Janata Party), Nishikant Dubey (BJP), and Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) – have been selected for the Sansad Ratna Awards, 2025 for their exemplary performance in the Lok Sabha.

The honours also include four special jury awards, recognising their consistent contributions to parliamentary democracy across three successive terms.

The special awards have been conferred on Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJP, Odisha), N.K. Premachandran (Revolutionary Socialist

Party, Kerala), Supriya Sule Maharashtra), (NCP-SP, and Shrirang Appa Barne (Shiv Sena, Maharashtra). All of these leaders have maintained top performance since the 16th Lok

The award-winning MPs include Smita Uday Wagh (BJP), Naresh Mhaske (Shiv Sena), Varsha Gaikwad (Congress), Medha Kulkarni (BJP), Praveen Patel (BJP), Bidyut Baran Mahato and Dilip Saikia (BJP), among others.

In the committee category, the Standing Committee on Finance, chaired by Mr. Bhartruhari Mahtab, and the Standing Committee on Agriculture, chaired by Dr. Charaniit Singh Channi (Congress), were recognised for the quality of their reports and contributions to legislative oversight.

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE

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Thiruvananthapuram
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Last Date: 21.08,2025 05.00 pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/E572/E-tender/2025

Tej Pratap Yadav to contest Bihar | Frequent disruptions Assembly polls as Independent

The Hindu Bureau

Tej Pratap Yadav, who is the elder son of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad, announced on Saturday that he would contest the upcoming State Assembly election from the Mahua constituency in Vaishali district as an Independent candidate.

In the 2020 Assembly polls, Mr. Tej Pratap Yadav had won on RJD ticket from the Hasanpur Assembly constituency



Tej Pratap Yadav

neighbouring Samastipur district, and before that, in 2015, he was elected from the Mahua Assembly constituency.

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Advertisement No. ICMR-VCRC/Admn.Recruit/2025-26 dated 25.07.2025

controversy recently over a relationship with a girl in a video post, he was expelled from the party and ousted from the family by his father.

Since then, he has been mulling over contesting the upcoming Assembly poll as an Independent candidate.

While speaking to presspersons in Patna, Mr. Tej Pratap Yadav also announced that Nitish Kumar would not be the Chief Minister again after the election

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Date: 27.07.2025

Director

Classification

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(Ministerial)

Group-C

(Ministerial)

Group-C

(Ministerial)

Total

in Parliament harm Opposition, says Rijiju

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

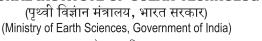
Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Saturday said that frequent disruptions in the House hurt the Opposition more, as they lost the crucial opportunity to hold the government accountable.

The remarks came after the first week of the ongoing Monsoon Session was largely washed out by repeated protests by Opposi"Officers are relieved

when Parliament doesn't function because they escape the grilling. When the House runs, Ministers face tough questions. When it adjourns within minutes, those questions don't even get raised," he said.

"Those who stall the House think they are damaging the government, but in truth, they are weakening their own role in a democracy," he added.

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MoES-DOM-PDF स्थिति के अतर्गत प्रस्ताव हेत् आमत्रण Call for proposal under MoES-DOM-Post Doctoral Fellowship

विज्ञापन संख्या Advertisement No.: NIOT/MoES-DOM-V6/01/2025

ऑनलाइन आवेदन की शुरूआती तिथि: Starting date of submission of online application: 28/07/2025 at 10:00 IST

ऑनलाइन आवेदन की अंतिम तिथि:

Last date for receipt / submission of online application: 11/09/2025 at 17:30 IST

पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय (एमओईएस), डीप ओशन मिशन (डीओएम) के अंतर्गत राष्ट्रीय समुद्र प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (रासप्रौस), चेन्नई, डीओएम वर्टिकल-६ द्वारा वित्तपोषित पोस्ट—डॉक्टरल फेलोशिप के लिए अत्यधिक प्रेरित और योग्य भारतीय नागरिक उम्मीदवारों से आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है। जो मिशन के सभी छह वर्टिकल को कवर करने वाले एमओईएस—डीओएम पोस्ट-डॉक्टरल फेलोशिप (एमओईएस–डीओएम–पीडीएफ) कार्यक्रम का हिस्सा है। / National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), $Chennai \, under \, the \, Ministry \, of \, Earth \, Sciences \, (MoES), \,\, Govt. \, of \, India \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, Indian \, invites \, applications \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, from \, highly \, motivated \, and \, eligible \, from \, highly \, applications \, from \, highly \, applicati$ citizens for Post-Doctoral Fellowship, funded under Vertical-6 of the Deep Ocean Mission covering all six verticals of the mission.

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पास्ट — डाक्टरल फेलोशिप	V2	2 + 1	INCOIS/External*	ii) Research grant	2,50,000/Year	
વગભારાવ	V3	2+2+1	NIOT/CMLRE/BARC	'		
Post-Doctoral	V4	2 + 1	NCPOR/External*	iii) Overhead charges	1,00,000/Year	
Fellowship	lowship V5 2+1	NIOT/External*	iv) Travel (National)	30,000/Year &		
	V6	3 + 3	NIOT/External*	& International***	1,00,000 for 2 Years	
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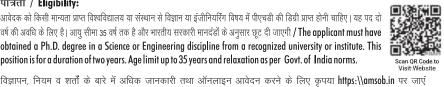
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must be submitted through mail id cgmpc@idco.in before prebid meeting). The Technical Bid will be opened online on 21.08.2025 at 11:30 A.M. IDCO has the right to accept or reject the Notice/ EOI without assigning any reasons thereof.

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4.	Corporate Relations Manager	01	
5.	Food Analyst	01	NIFTEM -T, Liaison Office Guwahati, Assam
6.	Senior Research Fellow	01	Guwanau, Assam

Application Fee: Rs. 500/- (exempted for SC/ST/PWD/Women Candidates). For online application and further details on Age, Educational qualification, Eligibility criteria, Emoluments, tenure and terms & conditions, visit our website: https://niftem-t.ac.in/careers.php Commencement of online application is on 28th July 2025 @ 10.00 am onwards.

Last date for the submission Online application is 18th August 2025 @ 6.00 pm.

Registrar

THE HINDU



Ashok Gajapathi Raju takes oath as Goa Governor

Former Union Minister for Civil Aviation and veteran politician Pusapati Ashok Gajapathi Raju was sworn in as the 22nd Governor of Goa on Saturday, replacing P.S. Sreedharan Pillai. The swearing-in ceremony was held in the Raj Bhavan at Dona Paula, Goa. Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court Alok Aradhe administered the oath of office to the new Governor. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and other dignitaries were present at the ceremony. A veteran Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader from Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Raju served as the Civil Aviation Minister between May 27, 2014, and March 10, 2018.

Interim compensation paid to 166 families, says Air India

Private carrier Air India on Saturday said it had paid interim compensation to the families of 166 victims of the Ahmedabad plane crash last month. Besides, payment to the families of another 52 victims is in the process, it added. The plane crash involved a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner operating as Air India flight AI171. On June 14, Air India announced that it will provide an interim compensation of ₹25 lakh to the families of each of the deceased and survivors of the Ahmedabad plane crash to help address immediate financial needs. The interim payment will be adjusted against any final compensation, the Tata Group airline clarified. PTI

Over 1,600 Kedarnath pilgrims evacuated amid heavy rains

More than 1,600 pilgrims were evacuated on Saturday as heavy overnight rains lashed Rudraprayag district, causing big boulders to slide down the hillside and block the trek route to Kedarnath near Gaurikund. Water and debris also entered around a dozen homes in several villages of the district, Secretary, Disaster Management and Rehabilitation, Vinod Kumar Suman said. Relief and rescue operations were launched from 6 a.m, he said. There was no loss of human or animal life. The process of evacuating about 700 more pilgrims is under way, Mr. Suman said. PTI

Fishing boat capsizes off Alibaug coast, three missing

Three fishermen went missing after a boat carrying them and five of their colleagues capsized in the Arabian Sea in Raigad district of Maharashtra on Saturday morning, triggering a multi-agency search operation, the police said. The incident occurred around 8.30 a.m. off Khanderi when the boat from Karanja in Uran had gone for fishing in the sea near Alibaug, an official said. Due to heavy rain and rough weather, the boat toppled and started sinking, prompting the fishermen to jump into the water and start swimming to save themselves, he said. Of the eight fishermen on board the boat, five swam to the Alibaug coast, but three remained missing, he said. PTI

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DIFFICULTY RATING:

'Targeting of Bengali-speakers in BJP-ruled States must stop'

West Bengal CM calls the development a 'shame' and adds that now even international human rights organisations have started taking note 'of the linguistic terrorism unleashed in India'

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

ighlighting that the Human Rights Watch (HRW), an international human rights organisation, has raised the issues of harassment, persecution, and illegal deportation of Bengali-speaking people of India by the BJP governments in various States, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday said that such targeting should stop at once.

She called the development a "shame", and said that now even international human rights organisations had started taking note "of the linguistic terrorism unleashed in India".

Taking to social media, Ms. Baneriee said the human rights organisation had released a report saying what she had been saying: Bengali-speaking Indians (of different castes and communities) were being arbitrarily abused and



Three persons who were allegedly detained by the Odisha police on suspicion of being Bangladeshi nationals and later released. ANI

pushed out in a concerted manner by the BIP establishment.

'Arbitrary expulsion' "Elaine Pearson, Asia Director at HRW, has on re-

cord said, BJP is fuelling discrimination by arbitrarily expelling Bengalis from the country, including Indian citizens. The authorities' claims that they are managing irregular migration are unconvincing," the Trinamool Congress chairperson has said.

Citing HRW, Ms. Banerjee said the international NGO reported that the targeting of migrants was happening systematically in the BJP-ruled States of Assam, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, and Delhi, following a directive by the Union Home Ministry.

The remarks by the Trinamool Congress chairper-

Police launch workers' helpline

The West Bengal Police have started a helpline for workers to seek assistance in case of any harassment. In a social media post on X, the police said workers or their family members can send a message with their name, address and details of the issue on WhatsApp to 9147727666. The information will be verified and action taken in coordination with other State authorities. the police said.

son come amid calls given by her to start a "language movement" to protest against targeting of migrants from West Bengal in BJP-ruled States. There have been reports of migrants from West Bengal being detained in Odisha, Haryana and Delhi on suspicion of being Bangladeshi nationals. Some migrant workers from the State have been pushed into Bangladesh.

Bengal BJP to launch protest for 'Bengali Hindu homeland'

Moyurie Som KOLKATA

As the Trinamool Congress stepped up its campaign over the reported attacks on Bengali migrant workers in other States, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified its rhetoric on "Bangladeshi and Rohingya infiltrators", with Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Suvendu Adhikari announcing that he would take to the streets to demand a "Bengali Hindu homeland".

"I will take to the streets after August 15 to demand a West Bengal free of Rohingya and Bangladeshi infiltrators, as was imagined by Syama Prasad Mookerjee as the Bengali Hindu homeland," Mr. Adhikari told local presspersons on

Saturday. Reiterating his demand for a special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in West Bengal, on the lines of a similar exercise in Bihar, the BJP MLA alleged that several Muslim families in the State had married Bangladeshi Muslim women they met on social

Hindus facing harassment'

West Bengal Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said that Hindus in West Bengal were frequently harassed by the police. "If you have been harassed by the police, please feel free to inform me with details via adhikarisuvenduwb1@ gmail.com," he posted on social media, also seeking information on illegal immigrants and infiltrators.

media, and they were subsequently issued "false Aadhar and EPIC cards" by the State government.

"Many of these Bangladeshi women stayed back with or without visas thanks to Mamata not fencing 540 km of our border. If 50 lakh voters are dropped in Bihar, 1 crore 25 lakh Bangladeshi Muslims and Rohingya will get dropped in West Bengal," Mr. Adhikari said.

He alleged that the State government had directed district authorities to issue large numbers of domicile certificates.

Foreigners' Tribunals in Assam disregard constitutional safeguards, says NLSIU report

Rahul Karmakar **GUWAHATI**

The quasi-judicial Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs) in Assam have become routine instruments of exclusion by disregarding due process and constitutional safeguards, a comprehensive study of these tribunals and the broader legal crisis of India's citizenship adjudication has found.

The report by the Bengaluru-based National Law hool of India University (NLSIU) and the Queen Mary University of London, to be formally released on Sunday, called for an urgent, fundamental rethinking of the legal structures governing citizenship in India given the possibility of an Assam-like exercise to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) across



In this 2019 photo, people wait at the Foreigner's Tribunal office in Barpeta in Assam. The State currently has 100 FTs. AP

Titled "Unmaking citizens: the architecture of rights violations and exclusion in India's citizenship trials", the report has been authored by Mohsin Alam Bhat of Queen Mary University, Arushi Gupta, and Shardul Gopujkar, with the support of researchers and law students from the

NLSIII, and members of Parichay Legal Aid Clinic. "As of 2025, Assam's tribunals have declared nearly 166,000 people as 'foreigners'. In addition to more than 85,000 pending cases, these tribunals may also soon hear more than a million appeals from those excluded from the NRC," Mr. Bhat said. The report

analyses more than 1,200 Gauhati High Court orders, key Supreme Court judgments, and extensive interviews with lawyers and litigants. It documents "widespread arbitrariness in decision-making, including the wholesale rejection of documentary and oral evidence, and the absence of legal norms to protect individuals from wrongful targeting".

Lacks legal foundation

engages constitutionally significant questions with profound consequences, including the risk of statelessness. Such determinations require bodies that are legally constituted, independent, impartial, and composed of competent legal officers," the study summarises in a chapter

"institutionalised arbitrariness". The report argued that

the FT system fails on all these counts. "It lacks a secure legal foundation, is vulnerable to executive interference, and is staffed by inadequately qualified adjudicators. It thus stands in stark violation of the rule of law and the right to an effective remedy under both domestic and international law," it said.

Assam currently has 100 FTs each headed by a judge-like member, which were formed after the Supreme Court scrapped the controversial Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act of 1983 in 2005. Of these 100 tribunals, 36 are permanent and 54 require periodic extension of terms from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

India issues advisory amid border clashes in Cambodia

Press Trust of India PHNOM PENH

India on Saturday advised its citizens in Cambodia to avoid travelling to border areas as the clash between Thailand and Cambodia over a disputed border entered its third day.

The flare-up, which began on Thursday, has killed at least 32 people - 19 in Thailand and 13 in Cambodia, according to reports.

"In view of the ongoing clashes at the Cambodia-Thailand border, Indian nationals are advised to avoid travelling to the border areas," the Indian embassy said in a post on X.

Indian citizens have been urged to contact the mission in case of any emergency at 92881676.

Two half-dose combination of drugs right for BP control in Indians: study

Ramya Kannan

With evidence lacking thus far for guiding optimal combination hypertension therapy in South Asian patients, a recent study has recommended half doses of two drugs in a single pill combination right from starting treatment for hypertension.

The paper, "Comparison of dual therapies for hypertension treatment in India", published in the journal Nature Medicine, investigated the blood pressure (BP)-lowering efficacy and safety of three commonly recommended anti-hypertensive combinations in a single pill in a multi-centre trial across 32 sites in India. Nearly 2,000 adults with uncontrolled or untreated hypertension were studied and interventions included three single pill dual combinations amlodipine with perindo-

pamide, and amlodipine with indapamide. All three combinations,

pril, perindopril with inda-



Around 2,000 adults with uncontrolled BP were studied and the interventions included three pill combinations. ISTOCKPHOTO

in patients aged 30-79, delivered equivalent reductions in BP and similar rates of BP control, researchers said. All combinations were equally safe and effective with high tolerability over six months, they wrote in the paper.

"It must be noted that we are not recommending a multi-drug regimen. Polypharmacy will only lead to discontinuation of treatment," says Prabhakaran Dorairaj, principal investigator of the study, from the Centre for Chronic Disease Control, New Delhi. "What

we are recommending is to start with half doses of two drugs in a single pill combination. If BP control does not happen, then it is important to titrate to full doses. Despite this, if BP continues to be higher than 140/90, then additional drugs are to be added," he explains. "It is really astounding we have been basing treatment on Western guidelines, so far," Dr. Prabhakaran adds. This study tests the global guidelines for hypertension

treatment among patients

in India, since these combi-

nations are already available here. These drugs work through multiple pathways and are synergistic, with low side effects, he says.

"Many physicians, even cardiologists, think that they should start with a low dose and then keep escalating it," says Nagendra Boopathy, co-author, and interventional cardiologist, Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre, Chennai. "Even patients are reluctant to start on drugs, but these combinations we have tested are really effective in bringing down BP, and the side effects are minor," he adds. The side effects observed during the trial included cough, swelling of feet and lower potassium in some sub-groups, not statistically significant.

Dr. Prabhakaran adds: "The biggest problem in India is poor control of hypertension. Only around 20% of individuals with hypertension are treated to target in urban areas and it is even lower in rural areas."

HC sets three-month deadline for setting sample standards

Soibam Rocky Singh NEW DELHI

In a move that could significantly improve diagnostic accuracy and patient safety, the Delhi High Court has directed the Union government to notify longpending minimum standards in the collection of medical samples or specimens by laboratories and collection centres, and guidelines to transport them, within the next three

months. The order, if implemented, could help curb inaccuracy in test reports, especially when the samples are collected from the home of a patient, experts said. It could also reduce unsafe handling of biological specimens, and treatment errors caused by degraded samples, potentially saving lives, they added.

Currently, India lacks specific regulations governing how medical samples, such as blood, urine, or swabs, are collected,

stored, and transported to diagnostic laboratories. This regulatory gap has led to widespread inconsistencies, particularly with private labs and home sample collection services that opwithout strict erate oversight. "Patients often assume

their test results are scientifically reliable. But when samples are exposed to extreme heat or delayed in reaching the lab, the entire result can become invalid without anyone realising it," Dr. Rohit Jain, who had filed a public interest litigation (PIL) plea on the issue in 2019, said. "Wrong results lead to wrong treatment. That's not just unethical - it's dangerous," he said. The court, while hearing Dr. Jain's plea on July 18, recorded the Union Health Ministry's assurance that the draft minimum standards, which the Ministry said had already been approved by the Directorate General of Health Services, were in advanced stages of being notified.

U.K.-India FTA may work in favour of patent owners'

Certain intellectual property and regulatory clauses may delay or limit the production of life-saving generics, impacting patients in India and across the Global South, warn experts

Bindu Shajan **Perappadan**

he U.K.-India Free Trade Agreement has provisions on patents that tilt the balance in favour of patent owners and undermines access to medicines, experts said at a discussion on the agreement's implication for access to medicines.

Expressing concern over provisions in the recently-signed agreement that could impact access and affordability of medicines in India, they noted that certain intellectual property (IP) and regulatory clauses may delay or limit the production of life-saving generics, impacting patients in India and across the Global South. "There is a progressive movement towards accepting the demands of FTA partners, which systematically debase public interest safeguards available in the Indian Patents Act," warned Biswajit Dhar, former professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He explained that the

preference on voluntary licenses leaves the access to medicines in the hands of market forces and undermines the role of the government in facilitating access to medicines.

"Often voluntary licenses contain onerous conditions on the licensee and fail to bring sharp price re-

Alarm bells

Some provisions in the recently-signed agreement could impact access, affordability of medicines in India, caution experts



- Preference on voluntary licenses leaves access to medicines in the hands of market forces
- It also undermines the role of the government in facilitating access to medicines
- Voluntary licenses often contain onerous conditions on licensee. fail to bring sharp price cuts

ductions compared with the compulsory licenses," he said. He further said that under the Indian Patents Act, every year, the patent holder must submit details of working of patents in India

The annual submission information will now be submitted once in three years and the confidential information contained in the submission shall not be made available in the public domain. "This effectively com-

promises the ability of potential compulsory license applicants to prove unmet demands, which constitute a ground for compulsory license. It clearly tilts the balance heavily in favor of pharmaceutical transnational corporations allowing them to easily get away by hiding the denial of access to medicines due to high prices on access," said Jyotsna Singh, co-convenor of the working group on Access to Medicines and Treatment. "There are also provisions in the IP chapter which can potentially undermine the safeguards preventing evergreening of patents," said K.M. Gopakumar, another co-convenor of Working Group on Access to Medicines and Treatment, adding that though couched in best endeavor language there are provisions that "facilitate the sharing and use of search and examination work of the parties."

'Weakens safeguards'

The implementation of this provision would lead to the harmonisation of patentability criteria and undermine safeguards against evergreening such as Section 3 (d) of the Indian Patents Act," he said.

However, Sanjaya Mariwala, executive chairman and MD of OmniActive Health Technologies said that India's exports to the U.K. had gone up by 12.6% last year, and the deal would provide a chance to build on that growth.

"But it's not just about volumes-what stands out is the scope it opens-up in healthcare. With regulatory barriers coming down, Indian healthcare companies will find it easier to operate in the U.K., and that can lead to more affordable services

and better collaboration

between the two systems.

That's a space worth watching. At the same time, we can't lose sight of the fact that Free Trade Agreement (FTAs) only work well when businesses at home are strong. As more of these agreements are signed, we need to back our local entrepreneurs and MSMEs with the right support-finance, infrastructure, policy clarity," he said.

"The India-U.K. FTA, by formalising zero duty access for nearly 99% of Indian pharmaceutical and medical device exports, provides long-term clarity and a much-needed boost for the Indian pharmaceutical industry.

With the U.K.'s pharma market projected to grow from about \$45 billion now to \$73 billion by 2033, and India's generics segment already crossing \$910 million in exports in FY24, this agreement will strengthen India's presence in U.K. drug stores and broader supply chains. For niche, high quality manufacturers that align with global standards, this is truly a game-changer," said Bhavin Mukund Mehta, director, Kilitch Drugs.

'Tariff risks and geopolitical shifts call for supply chain reset'

Persistent disruption is setting the stage for supply chain diversification,: Allcargo founder

INTERVIEW

Shashi Kiran Shetty

Lalatendu Mishra

s the world is grappling to deal with geopolitical realignments and tariff risks leading to global supply chain disruptions, a new order is emerging in which India would gain from this realignment, says Shashi Kiran Shetty, Founder & Chairman, Allcargo Group.

How do you view the prevailing global supply chain scenario on the back of a tariff war and geopolitical realignments?

The global supply chain landscape remains volatile on the back of ongoing geopolitical shifts and economic uncertainties, particularly in Europe. The tariff war had posed a significant threat to trade flows, but recent signs of de-escalation, especially the progress in U.S.-China trade talks offer some respite. Nevertheless, the persistent disruption is setting the stage for supply chain diversification. Companies are reassessing their sourcing strategies and India stands to gain from this realignment. Tariff risks, changing global trade dynamics and geopolitical



realignments call for a supply chain reset. Having said that, despite volatility, there are early signs of stabilisation, offering cautious optimism for stable global trade dynamics.

What were the challenges in turning around Gati?

After acquiring the controlling stake in Gati in 2020, we focussed on a strategic overhaul which included technology upgrades and cost optimisation. Our core focus areas included infrastructure. digitisation, sales acceleration, talent pool creation and operations. The goal was to align the company with the Group's common culture and values. By strengthening the leadership team, reducing debt by divesting non-core business, developing cloudbased Gati Enterprise Management System or GEMS 2.0, rationalising resources, expanding shipment hubs and adopting sustainable mobility, we have created a path to sustained growth for Allcargo Gati.



IRDAI slaps ₹3.39 cr. penalty on Star Health Insurance

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has imposed a penalty of ₹3.39 crore and issued a warning to Star Health and Allied Insurance Company for violations under IRDAI Information & Cyber Security Guidelines, 2023. The regulator, however, did not elaborate on the violations in its July 25 communication. Star Health said the penalty has been levied with respect to certain aspects pertaining to safeguard of data and cyber security.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q1 net profit falls 7% to ₹3,282 crore

Kotak Mahindra Bank reported a 7% decline in Q1 standalone net profit to ₹3,282 crore from ₹3,520 crore in the year-ago period excluding gain of Kotak General Insurance (KGI) divestment. Net interest income increased to ₹7,259 crore, up 6% YoY from ₹6,842 crore. Net interest margin was 4.65% for Q1FY26, the bank said in a filing. Consolidated net profit increased to ₹4,472 crore, up 1% YoY from ₹4,435 crore excluding gain of KGI divestment in Q1FY25.

IDFC First Bank Q1 net profit slumps 32% to ₹463 crore

IDFC First Bank reported a 32% fall in Q1 net profit to ₹463 crore from the same period last year largely impacted by microfinance business and interest rate movement. Net interest income grew 5.1% YoY from ₹4,695 crore to ₹4,933 crore. Net interest margin on AUM reduced by 24 bps QoQ, from 5.95% in Q4FY25 to 5.71% in Q1FY26, largely due to repo impact, asset mix change (including sharp decline in the micro-finance business) and decline in investment yields.

Software developers at risk as AI may eat up coding jobs

<u>Mini Tejaswi</u> BENGALURU

Tech India is witnessing a transformational with its bellwethers currently busy deploying their AI-first strategy to nurture increased human+AI collaborations at their workplaces.

This means a few unpleasant things for the software developer communiof the most low-hanging, also some of the not so low-hanging coding jobs will go to their AI colleagues; AI will make some developers and their current contribution to coding fully redundant; developers will need to adapt and learn how to work with their AI partners. However, AI has the potential to free up developers from boring, repetitive tasks, allowing them to focus on deep-coding, for complex, intelligent and creative projects.

Lead tech players have been quite vocal about their focus on human+AI play, more so in the last couple of months, signalling an impending shift in the tech talent space.

Interestingly, both Wipro and Infosys recently announced the deployment of 200 AI agents each on certain functions to free up people.

"Given the transformational and disruptive capacity of AI, organisations no longer require an army of coders, most of them with low single digit experience in software development. The immediate impact we are seeing is the reduction in intake of junior level talent, and shrinking in size of project teams," said Muthu Kuma-

'AI tools are capable of writing codes, providing real time suggestions and even writing full functions on simple prompts'

ran, Operating Partner and Head of India Operations, Recognize, a U.S.-based private equity firm.

Dr. Vikas Khare, Associate Dean School of Technology, Management and Engineering, NMIMS, at Indore said, many repetitive and template coding chores, including bug fixes, basic HTML/CSS web construction, basic CRUD operations, boilerplate generation, and test case writing, were currently being automated by AI.

Neeti Sharma, CEO, TeamLease Digital, said many AI tools were capable of writing codes, providing real time suggestions and even writing full functions on simple prompts, and therefore many junior developer roles such as web or mobile app development, testing and documentation would be replaced by AI in the next few years.

Flip side

However, she said, any kind of coding that involved creative problemsolving, strategic design, and understanding complex user needs is likely to remain human-centric. Developers would evolve into supervisors and collaborators who focus on strategic decisions, ethical considerations, domain-specific logic, security planning and creative problem-solving that AI cannot replicate, said experts.

NephroPlus to raise ₹353.4 crore via IPO

The Hindu Bureau

Dialysis services provider Nephrocare Health Services, better known by its NephroPlus brand, has filed draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO proposed by the Hyderabad based company will be a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares aggregating up to ₹353.4 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of nearly 1.28 crore equity shares by the selling shareholders.

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Terming the India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement a 'game changer' Commerce Minister Piyush Goval said that the Indian government had ensured the protection of all sensitive sectors of the Indian economy, while benefiting every section including



'India-U.K. FTA a game changer for trade'

Piyush Goyal

farmers and the MSME sector. Addressing a press conference at the BJP

headquarters here on Saturday, Mr. Goyal also said that trade talks with the U.S. and Oman were continuing apace.

"With this FTA], India would be able to ship 99% of its exports to U.K. duty-free," he said.

The Minister asserted that the agreement was signed with the U.K. "confidently" on India's terms

"I believe that this FTA carries a very big message for the future economy of

while protecting "sensitive

items" like agriculture and

India. We will all see the benefits that India will get under it in the coming years," he said. Mr. Goval added that the agreement will open doors for India to the developed world.

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521) BRIEF SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

No. CEE/T&P/SEE-1/2025-26/3729-41 Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following Works against the following Enquiry Number on Partial Turnkey Basis.

Bid Enquiry No. / Name of the Works

KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK INDENT2464 Combined Package of the following works:

Work-A: Establishing 1x20 MVA, 110/33 kV and 2x20 MVA, 110/11kV substation at Nekkilady and construction of 110kV LILO line using Lynx conductor from existing 110kV Puttur-Karaya line to the proposed 110/11kV substation at Nekkilady for a distance of 0.03km in Puttur Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District.

Work-B: Establishing 2x20MVA, 110/11kV Sub-station at Kuthlur and Construction of 110kV LILO line on DC Towers using Lynx Conductor from one circuit of existing 110kV Kemar-Guruvayanakere DC line (on MCMV towers) to proposed 110/11kV Sub-station at Kuthlur for a distance of 0.362km in Belthangady Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District.

Work-C: Providing alternate source to 66/11kV Hulimangala Substation by running of 66kV, 1000Sq.mm single circuit UG Cable from 66/11kV Hulimangala substation to 66/11kV Electronic City (Velankani) Sub-station for a distance of 4.145kms with associated 66kV Terminal Bay's at 66/11kV Hulimangala and Electronic City (Velankani) Sub-stations in Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

Work-D: Running of 66kV 1000Sq.mm Single Circuit UG cable from existing 220/66/11kV Brindavan Alloys sub-station to existing 66/11kV Byadarahalli Sub-station for a route length of 6.170kms and connecting existing 66kV OH HTLS line from SRS Peenya directly to the outgoing 66kV Drake line of 66kV Byadrahalli-Kodigehalli - Tavrakere - V.G.doddi - Magadi line in Bengaluru North taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 28.07.2025 @ 15:00hrs. Last date & time for receipt of Bids is 07.08.2025 @ 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy. Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL 3rd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560 009.



DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY **GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**





DBT - BIOTECH INDUSTRIAL TRAINING PROGRAMME (BITP) 2025-26 UNDER SKILL VIGYAN

Applications are invited from bonafide Indian citizens residing in India for hands-on training in Industry. Th programme provides excellent opportunity to biotech/bioinformatics students who have completed their education and intend to start their career in Industry to acquire practical skills and experience working on projects alongside industry experts as well as an opportunity to industry to identify potential candidates for their human resource requirements. The training will be for six months during which stipend will be paid to trainees and bench fee of @ Rs. 23,350/-per candidate will be paid to companies to cover the expenses towards training. The program is being implemented by DBT-HRD Project Management Unit at Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad on behalf of Department of Biotechnology

ATTN: BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

Requisitions are invited from companies operating in areas of biotechnology & life sciences including Drugs & Pharmaceuticals, Diagnostics, Agri-Biotechnology, Biomedical, Environmental, Industrial Biotechnology, Therapeutics, Genomics & Proteomics, Bio-services, Veterinary, Bioinformatics and Computational Biotechnology, Contract research & manufacturing, Intellectual property, Food industry etc. interested to provide hands-on training for six months. The companies will also have to pay the stipend to the trainees as per the apprenticeship norms in addition to stipend paid by DBT. 'Requisition Form' can be downloaded from RCB website (https://rcb.res.in/DBTBITP/). Duly filled and signed 'Requisition Forms' shall be submitted to bitp.dbt@rcb.res.in.

ATTN: BIOTECHNOLOGY STUDENTS

Eliqibility: Students with B.E/B.Tech/M.Sc./M.Tech./M.VSc./MBA in Biotechnology/ Bioinformatics and students admitted under DBT PG teaching program in Biotechnology. The degree should be from an Indian recognized university with a minimum of 50% marks or equivalent grades completed in year 2022-23, 2023-24 or 2024-25. Mode of Selection: Candidates will be selected based on computer based test conducted in multiple city/centers across the country. Selection would be subject to meeting the eligibility criteria. Trainer company would be provided

Mode of Application: Candidates may apply online by visiting website https://bitp25.onlineapplicationform.org/BITP/. Detailed information on filling the application form, payment of application fee and uploading of required documents/ certificates in the prescribed format is given on the website. Stipend structure: DBT will disburse a stipend @ Rs. 10,000/- per candidate per month upon successful completion of six months of training and assessment. Students will also get a minimum stipend of Rs. 9.000/- per month from trainer companies for the period of training, as per apprenticeship norms.

Certification: After completion of training, trainees will have to undergo an online 'Assessment' conducted by Sector Skill Council. Trainees who will qualify the Assessment will be awarded 'Apprenticeship Certificate' under National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) by Sector Skill Council. Important Dates

Ш	5. NO	Events	Dates		
	1.	Start date for submission of online applications	25 th July 2025		
	2.	Closing date for submission of online applications	24th August 2025		
	3.	Period of training	Six months from date of joining		
- Li	Moto: In	asso of any quory plasso sond amail to hita dht@ro	h roc in		

| Note: In case of any query, please send email to <u>bitp.dbt@rcb.res.in</u>

Altermagnet's charge carriers change in different directions

The Hindu Bureau

Some materials conduct electricity mainly with one kind of charge-carrier everywhere: either negative electrons (n-type) or positive 'holes' (p-type). A rare class can breach this behaviour depending on direction, a feature called direction-dependent

conduction (DDCP). That is, it can conduct with electrons in one direction and holes in another. Such materials could act as both *n*- and *p*-

type parts of a circuit or a thermoelectric device without needing two different crystals.

However, only a handful of such materials have been found thus far, and most of them are hard to make or unstable.

A study by researchers at the S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences and the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, both in Kolkata, has reported that the inexpensive and stable magnetic compound chromiumantimony (CrSb) also belongs to this elite group.

The researchers grew single-crystal plates of CrSb in sealed quartz tubes chemical-vapour using transport.

Then they measured the

Hall effect and the Seebeck

effect along the length and breadth of the crystal. The Hall effect shows how a magnetic field bends moving charges, revealing

whether electrons or holes dominate. In the Seebeck effect, a voltage appears when one side of the crystal is warmed and switches sign between electrons and holes. Both effects revealed that along the plane of the crystal, electrons dominated whereas holes took over along the vertical axis. This behaviour proved that CrSb exhibited

First altermagnet

CrSb is thus the first altermagnet, a recently discovered type of magnet, that displays DDCP.

Its easy synthesis, com-

position of abundant elements, and switchable polarity make it a promising platform for future electronics and thermoelectrics, where a single crystal can act as both halves of a *p-n* pair, and for spintronic devices.

In altermagnets, the minuscule magnetic moments, or spins, of atoms are arranged in a pattern where they cancel each other out, so the material has no overall magnetism. However, the way the atoms are arranged in the crystal causes electrons with different spins behave differently, even though the material isn't magnetic

These unique properties make altermagnets exciting for future technologies like spintronics.

The scientists also found that when they replaced 2% of the Cr atoms with vanadium, the Hall and Seebeck signals both turned uniformly positive, meaning the whole crystal behaved as p-type, just as theory predicted.

Android phones brought early quake warnings to 98 countries

Google and the University of California Berkeley's Seismology Laboratory have released data pertaining to the Android Earthquake Alert system, detailing its methods and performance

Sandhya Ramesh

ndroid smartphones around the world have been actively helping provide earthquake alerts using their acceleration sensors. Between 2021 and 2024, these phones sent thousands of successful warnings to people living in quake-prone regions in 98 countries.

Since 2020, Google has included its Android Earthquake Alert (AEA) system in its phones to detect seismic P- and S-waves that precede an earthquake and provide alerts.

The company and the University of California Berkeley's Seismology Laboratory have released data in a new paper in Science, detailing the performance and methods of the algorithm over the last three

Monitoring and alerting

The AEA system was first rolled out in the U.S. in 2020, followed by New Zealand and Greece in 2021, and then the rest of

It issued alerts for 11,231 events, including ahead of the Turkey-Syria (magnitude 7.8), the Philippines (6.7), and Nepal (5.7) events, all in 2023, and the 6.2-magnitude event in Turkey in April 2025. In the Philippines, Turkey-Syria, and Nepal quakes, users received 10 to 60 seconds of advance warning.

The system has thus far detected more than 18,000 quakes of varying magnitudes, including more than



Sensors abound

The AEA has increased the number of people with access to quake early-warnings from 25 crore people in 2019 to 250 crore people

- Since 2020, the Android Earthquake Alert (AEA) system has used smartphone accelerometers to detect early seismic P-waves worldwide
- The AEA has issued over 79 crore alerts for more than 18,000 earthquakes in 98 countries, warning
- Users in recent major earthquakes, such as Turkey-Syria and Nepal, received advance warnings 10-60
- The system crowdsources vibration data from stationary phones to confirm earthquakes rapidly, aiming to alert users before S-waves arrive
- AEA issues two alerts: 'BeAware' for light shaking and
- TakeAction' for stronger shaking, plus audio warnings

AEA sometimes struggles with magnitude accuracy and late warnings; improvements have been made to address these issues

2,000 strong quakes (moderate shaking or more on the MMI scale) and issued a total of 79 crore alerts. The AEA team also surveyed users between February 2023 and April 2024. Some 79% of 1.5 lakh users said they found the alerts very helpful.

nals from a phone's accelerometer, a sensor that measures acceleration. On stationary phones, accelerometers can sense the faster-moving P-waves from an earthquake, which stretch and squeeze the geological material they pass

When an accelerometer senses these waves, it sends a signal to Google's earthquake detection server, which then analyses data from other phones nearby to confirm the wave is real.

This data is collected and processed rapidly together with the waves' location and magnitude. The goal is to issue an alert before the slower and more destructive S-waves arrive. While P-waves can travel through both solids and liquids, S-waves move only through solids. They also move up and down, displacing the material they move through.

AEA doesn't monitor surface waves, the third type of wave to arrive in an earthquake. Surface waves are much slower and traverse only the outermost layer of the crust, and are typically responsible for the most aboveground damage.

Algorithm at work

To detect an earthquake, all smartphones bank on their accelerometers to

sense vibrations on surfaces and in the air. Earthquakes produce many such vibrations before the energy that causes damage actually reaches a location. The extent of damage caused by a quake increases with each type of wave that reaches a location on the surface.

The algorithm estimates the distance to the epicentre in one of two ways. If it's within 200 km of the surface, it's equal to the time difference between the arrival of the S- and Pwaves multiplied by 8 km/s. For deeper epicentres, the algorithm includes additional methods to account for the waves' through motion

The algorithm issues two kinds of alerts: 'BeAware' alerts for impending light shaking and 'TakeAction' alerts for stronger shaking; the latter are accompanied by an audio warning that overrides 'do not disturb' settings. Alerts can also be manually enabled and disabled.

According to the paper, the system has increased the number of people with access to earthquake early warning by nearly a factor of 10: from around 25 crore people in 2019 to 250 crore people in 98 countries.

The authors of the paper, who are also affiliated with Harvard University and Google Germany, also highlighted the AEA's shortcomings - including its inability to accurately estimate the magnitude and tendency to relay warnings after shaking has begun.

They also documented these issues in detail and specified tweaks to fix many issues, including lowering the median absolute error in the first estimates of a quake's magnitude from 0.5 to 0.25. They also traced three false positives in the 11.321 events to two hurricanes and one mass phone vibration from an unrelated alert, and included fixes for alerts to be issued faster.

"The proliferation of low-cost sensors in consumer products provides opportunities for new observations of our physical environment that are both dense and global in scale. AEA makes it possible to make global observations of earthquakes," the authors wrote.

(Sandhya Ramesh is a free*lance science journalist)*



Ocean heatwaves imply earth close to tipping point

Scientists found that the 2023 marine heatwaves were the most extreme recorded. Sea-surface temperatures stayed above the 90th percentile for up to 120 days over 96% of ocean, producing 53.6 billion degrees C-days of thermal stress. The heatwaves were found to have been triggered by extra sunshine and a shallow mixed layer in the North Atlantic; fewer clouds and stronger currents in the Southwest Pacific; sustained heat gain in the North Pacific; and El Niño-driven ocean flows in the equatorial east Pacific.



Meta band tracks wrist muscles to use computer

Reality Labs has built a light wristband that listens to feeble electrical signals in forearm muscles to steer a cursor, write text, and zoom in/out on a computer. The team trained deep-learning models on recordings from thousands of volunteers, so the band worked out of the box for new users. The generic model lets users type at 20.9 words per minute, compared to the typical 36. The authors have called it the first scalable muscle-computer interface to match many tasks of a mouse, joystick or keyboard.



Quarter of people at some risk of zoonotic disease

Researchers combined disease records since 1975 with satellite and population data to find where animal diseases could jump to people next. Their analysis showed warm places that receive heavy rain are most outbreak-prone. After correcting for reporting blindspots, they found 9.3% of earth's land, mostly in Latin America and Oceania, was at high or very-high risk of zoonotic outbreaks. High-risk areas hosted 3% of people and those with moderate risk another 20%.

The virtues of the tomato, a healthy vegetable mato intake decreases high



The evolution and growth of the humble tomato as an essential ingredient of our daily diet across the world is a fascinating story. Yolanda Evans writes in the June 5, 2025, issue of Na-

tional Geographic magazine about the rise in tomatoes with myth and folklore and how tomatoes weren't always a beloved ingredient. Once deemed sinful,

stinky, and "poison apples", they were linked to superstition and illness, in part due to their reaction with lead in copper-based dinnerware. The use of a more appropriate vessel by farmers from Salem, New Jersey, to cook tomatoes shifted public opinion in

Tomatoes were not native to India but brought to us by the Portuguese traders in the 15th century. They were then adopted by the British colonisers in the 16th century who started growing them across the country and added them to their menu. But the people were still wary of it. the independent

journalist Ms. Sohel Sarkar has written, in 1938 the physician Dr Tara Chitale and her colleagues tried to convince people about the benefits of using tomatoes to cure common cold, scurvy, and iron deficiency, but the response was lukewarm.

The change finally transpired when more and more inputs came from travellers who recommended tomatoes in our diet, and experts from the National Institute of Nutrition in India pointed out



by Portuguese traders in the 15th century. AP

the importance of vitamins and minerals in our daily diet and how tomatoes are rich in them.

Health benefits

Plant biologists classify tomato as a fruit. The benefits that tomatoes offer to our daily health have been described among others by

the dietitian and public health specialist Ms. Cynthia Saas of California. Let us highlight some of these. Tomatoes are rich sources of antioxidants that offer health benefits for the heart and brain. They have nutrients that reduce the risk factor for heart disease significantly. Increased toblood pressure, a noteworthy point for senior citizens. The cellulose fibre content in tomatoes helps to prevent constipation. The red carotenoid pigment called lycopene in tomatoes might help protect people above 70 years of age from Alzheimer's disease. Ms. Saas has warned that before cooking tomatoes, one must ensure they are thoroughly washed and free of any dust-borne Tomatoes are grown in

farmlands all over India, numbering between 5,000 and 10,000 plants per acre. According to one estifrom Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University, India produced 210 lakh tonnes in the year 2022-2023, second only to China (680 lakh tonnes).

The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, has been researching a variety of tomato plants. One, called 'Arka Rakshak', is a disease-resistant hybrid while another, 'Arka Shreshta', has a long shelf-life, making it easier to transport.

The top seven tomato cultivating States are Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu. The average wholesale price is estimated to be about ₹1,700 per quintal.

Today, just about every house in the country uses tomatoes in their daily diet. A typical Indian dish these days invariably has some tomatoes in it, be it as a soup, added to a vegetable curry, chutney, added to rice or wheat as a 'rasam', and as ketchup for sandwiches and pizzas.

Having tasted the tomato and learnt that it is not sinful but in fact has several health benefits, let us enjoy this vegetable.

Question Corner Air pollution

How does air pollution affect the brain?

Air pollution is increasingly being recognised as an important threat to brain health. Research has demonstrated that exposure to airborne pollutants like fine particulate matter (PM2.5). nitrogen dioxide (NO2), and ozone can affect brain structure, functioning, and even increase the risk of neurological and mental health disorders. On July 24, for example, scientists reported in *The Lancet* Planetary Health that after analysing data in 51 studies representing more than 26 million adults across four

continents and follow-ups

additional 5 micrograms per cubic m (µg/m³) of PM2.5 particles in the air increased the risk of dementia by about 8%. They also found a 10 μg/m³ increase in NO2 increased the same risk by around 3% and a 1 µg/m³ increase of soot did so by 13%. The researchers rated the overall certainty of the evidence to be 'moderate'. They argued that improving air quality could cut future dementia risk in the population, lower healthcare expenses and ease familial burdens.

of up to 23 years, every

Readers may send their questions /

How do internal complaints committees work?

Are ICCs able to stop sexual harassment in institutions and workplaces across the country?

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

young student's self-immolation at a college in Balasore, Odisha has put the spotlight on the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) which failed to validate her complaints of sexual harassment against her head of the department. The victim's family has claimed the members of the ICC were not trained adequately and that the environment in the college and within the ICC was biased in favour of the accused.

What is the law behind the ICC?

The Supreme Court first called for complaint committees to be set up in its 1997 judgment in response to a petition filed after Bhanwari Devi, a social worker in Rajasthan, was gang-raped when she tried to stop a child marriage. The Court provided basic definitions of sexual harassment in the workplace, and guidelines to combat it. Known as the Vishaka Guidelines, they called for an appropriate mechanism to be created by employers to ensure time bound treatment of complaints of sexual harassment. It said that the Complaints Committee should be headed by a woman, and include women as at least half its members, as well as a third party to prevent undue pressure from senior levels within the organisation.

It was not until the Nirbhaya killing in Delhi in

In December 2024, the Supreme Court took stock of the 'sorry state of affairs', noting 'serious lapses' in the enforcement of the POSH Act. It directed a survey of public and private organisations

December 2012 that the provisions were actually written into law. One of the several legislations that were enacted was The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention,

Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, often called the POSH Act, which superceded the Vishaka Guidelines. It mandated the constitution of ICCs at all workplaces which employed more than 10 people. Women working in smaller enterprises in the informal sector could complain to Local Committees to be set up by district authorities.

What are the powers of an ICC?

Each ICC is to be headed by a Presiding Officer, who is to be a woman employed at a senior level at the workplace. At least two members should be employees preferably committed to the cause of women or who have had experience in social work or have legal knowledge, and another member should be from an NGO devoted to women's rights or a person familiar with sexual harassment issues. At least half of the members should be women. Any aggrieved woman can complain in writing to the ICC or local committee within three months of the date of the harassment incident or series of incidents. The committee can help to settle the matter at the request of the woman or begin an inquiry into the complaint.

The ICC has the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure. The inquiry is to be completed within 90 days. If the complaint is proved, the ICC must recommend the action to be taken against the accused. The employer is also required to aid the victim if she wishes to file a criminal complaint.

The law mandates confidentiality regarding the contents of the complaint, the identity and addresses of the aggrieved woman, the respondent and witnesses, any information relating to conciliation and inquiry proceedings, and the recommendations of the ICC.

What is the status of their implementation? In the decade since the law was passed, though

ICCs have been set up in some institutions, their coverage is far from universal. In December 2024, the Supreme Court took stock of the "sorry state of affairs", pointing out that it was "disquieting" to note "serious lapses" in the enforcement of the POSH Act. It directed immediate compliance within the government. and a survey of public and private organisations as well. "This law was designed to be monitored, but who is doing it? District officers are supposed to collect annual reports on compliance and sexual harassment cases from the Local Committees and ICCs, but what is done with that material?" asks Madhu Mehra, a lawyer advocating for women's rights, and the founder of Partners for Law in Development. Ms. Mehra points out that while the Women and Child Development Ministry is the line Ministry for the POSH Act, it is the Labour Ministry and Industries Ministry that deal with workplaces and employers. "Accountability is falling between the cracks. Where is the evidence-based analysis on how this law is functioning? It's a black hole."

She says the Balasore case shows that even where ICCs are in place, they are merely a "dead letter" if there is insufficient training for members, if the power imbalance in a workplace is not addressed, and if there is no confidentiality being maintained.

What makes NASA-ISRO NISAR satellite special?

What is the need for NISAR? What is synthetic aperture radar? How will NISAR serve India's needs, especially on agriculture, forestry, and disaster management? How was NISAR built? How soon will the data NISAR produces be available for users?

for 'damage

proxy maps'

delivered in

under five

to be

hours

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

he Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch the NISAR satellite from Sriharikota on July 30 onboard a GSLV Mk-II rocket. 'NISAR' stands for NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar and is a joint mission of the two space agencies. It is a sophisticated earth-observation satellite designed to study changes on the earth's surface in fine detail, covering earthquakes, volcanoes, ecosystems, ice sheets, farmland, floods, and landslides.

What's the need for NISAR?

NISAR is the first major earth-observing mission with a dual-band radar, which will allow it to observe changes more precisely than any other satellite. It will be able to see through clouds, smoke, and even thick vegetation, both at day and night, in all weather conditions. The three-tonne machine costs more than \$1.5 billion, making it one of the most expensive earth-observing satellites to date.

The earth's surface is constantly changing. Natural disasters, human-driven changes, and climate shifts all affect environments and human societies. Satellites provide critical information by taking snapshots of these changes from space, helping scientists, governments, and relief agencies prepare for, respond to or study them. To this end, NASA and ISRO have created a powerful global mission that also allows ISRO guaranteed access to a stream of high-resolution data tailored to India's needs.

NISAR's science and application goals span six areas: solid earth processes, ecosystems, ice dynamics, coastal and ocean processes, disaster response, and additional applications (including tracking groundwater, oil reservoirs, and infrastructure like levees, dams etc.). The planned mission lifetime is three years although its design lifetime is at least five years. Notably,



Ready for lift-off: A view of the NASA-ISRO NISAR ahead of its launch on July 30 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, ANI

the mission's data policy entails that the data disaster, NISAR produces will be freely available to all users (typically) within a few hours. NISAR can collect data

How does NISAR work?

Once it is launched, NISAR will enter into a sun-synchronous polar orbit at 747 km altitude and an inclination of 98.4°. From here, instead of snapping pictures, NISAR's synthetic aperture radar (SAR) will bounce radar waves off the planet's surface and measure how long the signal takes to come back and how its phase changes. The ability of a radar antenna to resolve smaller details increases with its length, called its aperture. In orbit, deploying an antenna hundreds of metres long is impractical. SAR gets around this by mimicking a giant antenna. As the spacecraft moves forward, it transmits a train of radar pulses and records the echoes. Later, a computer coherently combines all those echoes as if they had been captured simultaneously by one very long antenna, hence the "synthetic aperture".

NISAR will combine an L-band SAR (1.257 GHz), which uses longer-wavelength radiowaves to track changes under thick forests and soil and deformations on the ground, and an S-band SAR (3.2 GHz), which uses shorter-wavelength radiowaves to capture surface details, such as crops and water surfaces.

Although NISAR will operate globally at L-band, ISRO has reserved routine, planned acquisitions with the S-band SAR over India. The latter acquisitions have extended sensitivity to biomass, better soil-moisture retrieval, and mitigate ionospheric noise – all capabilities tuned to India's needs in agriculture, forestry, and disaster management. Because the L-band radar is the principal tool for NASA's mission goals, the instrument is expected to operate in up to 70% of every orbit. This said, operating both radars together is an official implementation goal so that mode conflicts over the Indian subcontinent are minimised.

Polarisation is the direction in which the electric field of some electromagnetic radiation, like radiowaves, oscillates. SAR can transmit and receive radar signals with horizontal or vertical polarisation. Using different combinations will allow the instruments to identify the structure and types of different surface materials, like soil, snow, crop or wood.

The swath width, that is, the breadth of the bands on the ground the SARs will scan, is an ultra-wide 240 km. The radars' SweepSAR design will transmit this beam and, upon its return, digitally steer multiple small sub-apertures in sequence, synthesising beams that sweep across the ground track. This scan-on-receive method allows the 240-km swath without compromising resolution.

The resulting scans will have a spatial resolution of 3-10 m and centimetre-scale vertical mapping - enough to spot impending land subsidence in cities, for example depending on the mode. Each spot on the ground will be scanned once every 12 days. The satellite also features a large 12-m-wide mesh antenna. NISAR will produce annual maps of aboveground woody biomass of 1 ha resolution and quarterly maps of active and inactive cropland. High-resolution maps of flooded versus dry areas will be available as well. During a disaster, NISAR can also be directed to collect data for 'damage proxy maps' to be delivered in under five hours.

This said, for certain acquisition modes, NISAR won't be able to achieve full global coverage at the highest resolution. Above roughly 60° latitude, every alternative observation will be skipped due to converging ground tracks. Similarly, some 10% of the surface may not be mapped from either direction (of the satellite's passage over the ground) in any given 12-day cycle.

How was NISAR built?

At the time the two space organisations agreed to build NISAR, NASA and ISRO decided each body would contribute equivalent-scale hardware, expertise, and funding.

ISRO supplied the I-3K spacecraft bus, the platform that houses the controls to handle command and data, propulsion, and attitude, plus 4kW of solar power. The same package also included the entire S-band radar electronics, a high-rate Ka-band telecom subsystem, and a gimballed high-gain antenna. The S-band electronics were designed and built at the Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad.

NASA's biggest contribution was the complete L-band SAR system. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) supplied all radio-frequency electronics, the 12-m antenna, a 9-m carbon-composite boom, and the instrument structure that carries both radars. The agency also fabricated the L-band feed aperture and provided the supporting avionics, including a high-capacity solid-state recorder, a GPS receiver, an autonomous payload data system, and a Ka-band payload communications subsystem. The spacecraft was to be integrated at the ISRO Satellite Centre in Bengaluru after the two radars were mated at JPL. Following observatory-level tests, the mission will lift off from Sriharikota onboard a GSLV Mk-II rocket, with ISRO providing end-to-end launch services.

While the mission operations are to be centred at the JPL Mission Operations Center, day-to-day flight operations will be led from the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network in Bengaluru.

Once NISAR is in orbit, most of its data will be sent through NASA's Near Earth Network facilities in Alaska, Svalbard (Norway), and Punta Arenas (Chile), which can together receive around 3 TB of radar data per day. They will be complemented by ISRO's ground stations in Shadnagar and Antarctica. After the raw data arrive, India's National Remote Sensing Centre will process and distribute all products required for Indian users, mirroring NASA's pipeline.

What does the new U.K.-India trade deal entail?

What are the contours and implications of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement? How will opening up the service sector to the U.K. help India? What is the Double Contribution Convention? When will the trade deal come into effect?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

ndia and the U.K. signed a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) on Thursday, after having announced the conclusion of negotiations on the deal in May this year. With negotiations starting in January 2022, the deal marks a more than three-year effort to enhance bilateral trade between the two countries.

What has broadly been agreed to?

Under the deal, the U.K. has removed tariffs on 99% of its product lines. However, not all of these product lines are exported by India to the U.K. According to an analysis by the Global Trade Research Initiative, about \$6.5 billion or 45% of what India currently exports to the U.K. such as textiles, footwear, carpets, automobiles, seafood, and fresh fruits such as grapes and mangoes – will now enter the U.K.

New pact: Union Minister Piyush Goyal and U.K. Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds sign India-U.K. CETA on July 24. ANI

duty-free. The remaining \$8 billion worth of For the first goods that India exports to the U.K. time, India petroleum, pharmaceuticals, diamonds, and has included aircraft components – already enjoy zero duty cuts in its access. India has agreed to either eliminate or tariffs on reduce duties on 90% of its tariff lines, which imported comprises about 92% of what the U.K. exports to us, according to data with the U.K. government. cars in a Alcohol from the U.K., especially whiskey, is set trade deal to become cheaper in India, as are British cars, and engineering products.

The U.K. is a relatively small trading partner for India. About 3.3% of India's exports in 2024-25 went to the U.K., and the U.K. made up 1.2% of India's imports that year.

Is the deal restricted to the goods trade?

No, the CETA incorporates a significant section on services, which is especially of interest to India since services exports are a vital engine of growth. Under the 'economic' component of the deal, India has agreed to open up some key sectors of its service economy to U.K. firms, such as accounting, auditing, financial services, telecom, and environmental services.

What this means is that U.K. companies operating in these sectors can offer their services to Indian customers without first having to establish a local presence here. Despite this, they will be treated at par with Indian firms. India has also agreed to recognise U.K. professional qualifications in law and accounting, but not in legal services.

The U.K. has agreed to grant commercial presence rights to Indian companies in sectors such as computer services, consultancy, and environmental services. This means Indian companies operating in these sectors can set up branches, subsidiaries, or representative offices in the U.K.

One major positive for India arises out of the Double Contribution Convention (DCC), which is a parallel agreement between the two countries that was negotiated simultaneously, and that will come into force when the CETA does. Under the

DCC, the U.K. will allow 75,000 Indian workers on short U.K. assignments to continue paying into India's social security system without also having to pay the same in the U.K. This is highly beneficial for Indian workers in the U.K. since many of them work there for so short a stint that they do not get to avail of the benefits of social security there while having to contribute to it.

Is the deal a standard one or does it include unusual aspects?

While the broad contours of the deal are pretty standard, dealing with tariff and non-tariff barriers, there are some aspects that are unusual. The first is to do with auto tariffs. India has, for the first time, included cuts in its tariffs on imported cars in a trade deal.

Large-engine luxury petrol cars imported into India from the U.K. will see their import duty cut to 10% over 15 years from the current maximum of 110%. However, this is subject to a quota starting at 10,000 units and rising to 19,000 in the fifth year of the deal. For mid-sized cars, the tariff has been cut to 50% subject to a quota, which will fall to 10% by year five.

Small cars will enjoy a similar tariff reduction and growing quota.

The idea behind the quota, according to government sources, is to allow the domestic industry enough time to prepare to compete with U.K. imports. Further, nascent industries such as electric vehicles have been further protected with no duty concessions being given for electric, hybrid, and hydrogen-powered vehicles for the first five years.

The other unusual aspect of the deal is that U.K. firms will now be allowed to participate in Indian central government procurement bids. India will open about 40,000 high-value contracts from central ministries and departments in sectors such as transport, green energy, and infrastructure.

So what next?

The deal does not come into effect immediately. It needs to be ratified by the Cabinets of both countries, a process that could take as long as six months to a year. For India, the deal also serves as a template for future deals with other economies, such as the U.S. and the EU, both of which are in various stages of negotiation.

PROFILES

Under the current UN Convention, genocide refers to any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group

DEFINING GENOCIDE

Causing serious bodily $members\,of\,the\,group$ Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part

Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

59,676

Killed as of July 26, 2025. The number of Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks continue to rise with no end in sight. More than a lakh have also been injured and over 10,000 remain missing

Israel's war on Gaza

Life and death

Twenty-one months into the war, Gaza lies in ruins: over 2.5% of its pre-war population has been killed, more than 6% wounded, nearly all of its 2.3 million people displaced and mass hunger is spreading across the strip; the scale of death, destruction of infrastructure, and starvation has intensified accusations that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians in the enclave. By Stanly Johny, Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Sambavi Parthasarathy, Devyanshi Bihani, Milan Cijo and Renuka Ramakrishna

hen Israel launched its war on Gaza, following the October 7, 2023 cross-border attack by Hamas which killed at least 1,200 people - it declared two objectives: the destruction of Hamas and the release of the 251 hostages taken by the Palestinian militant group. Twenty-one months later, both goals remain largely unmet. Hamas is far from being destroyed. Of the hostages, 148 were released and 56 bodies returned during two short ceasefires - in November 2023, and between January and March 2025. Israeli troops rescued eight hostages, while around 50 remain in captivity.

On the other side, Israel's war has devastated Gaza, a 365 sq. km territory, home to 2.3 million people, sandwiched between Israel proper and the Mediterranean Sea. At least 59,000 Palestinians have been killed since the war began – that is 2.57% of Gaza's entire population. Of the dead, more than 17,000 are children. Thousands more remain missing. More than 1,40,000 people, over 6% of Gaza's population, have been wounded. These figures make Gaza one of the deadliest battlefields in the 21st century. Nearly the entire population of Gaza has been displaced, most of them multiple times. Since March, when the second ceasefire collapsed, Israel has tightened its blockade of the enclave, triggering a mass starvation crisis. According to the UN, at least 1,000 Palestinians were shot dead at aid centres while seeking food since May. Dozens of children have died from starvation and malnutrition. The scale of death, starvation and displacement has intensified accusations that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has rejected these charges, insisting that Israel is fighting Hamas. Efforts to reach a ceasefire have stalled, as there is no consensus on the "day after" in Gaza. Hamas demands a full Israeli withdrawal, while Mr. Netanyahu insists on "total victory". As the war grinds on, the suffering in Gaza deepens, with no end in sight.

ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

GRAPHICS:

A. GANESHAN



NUMBER OF CHILDREN KILLED

The chart shows the cumulative monthly



July 2024

Breakdown of child deaths by age group ■ 0-12 months: 937 ■ 1-5 years: 4,517 ■ 6-12 years: 6,325 ■ 13-17 years: 5,342 (Data available till

NUMBER OF PERSONS

June 2025)

The chart shows the cumulative monthly number of people injured

in Gaza

1.5 lakh

1 lakh An average of 6,400 persons have been 0.5 lakh injured every month Oct. 2023 July 2024 July 2025

> the Gaza Strip has the highest number of child amputees per capita than anywhere else in the world

According to the UNICEF,

1.42 lakh

40,221 persons injured crossed the **90,000** mark

DISRUPTED **FOOD SUPPLY**

The number of food trucks entering Gaza per month is much lesser than the UN's estimated requirement of population's basic needs

According to OCHA,

~700 more than two million Palestinians are now Nearly 500 aid squeezed into an area workers and more esser than 45 square than 200 journalists

20,063

The number of persons injured

touched the 56,000 mark

Israel and Hamas agreed for a temporary pause in fighting in November 2023, which lasted seven days

88% of the Gaza Strip currently falls within

Israeli-militarised zones

or has been placed

under displacement

The line shows the cumulative number of deaths in Gaza due to Israeli attacks since

CROPLAND DESTROYED

In Gaza, 80% of the total cropland was

May 2024

March 2025

damaged in the ongoing conflict

Dec. 2023

October 7, 2023

due to starvation

in Gaza as of July 26, 2025. The toll

includes 85 children

A brief truce: After 15 months of conflict, a ceasefire

deal was reached on January 19, 2025. But it wasn't long before the killings began again

The chart shows the number of food aid trucks that entered Gaza every month. After Israel imposed new customs rules that affected UN convoys, aid deliveries dropped in October 2024 to their lowest point that

year - just 1,111 food trucks 10,000 6.000 July 2024

On July 23, 2025, over 100 aid organisations and human rights groups warned that "mass starvation" was spreading in Gaza

SURGING CASES OF

48,033

Sept.-Oct. 2024

The chart shows acute malnutrition cases

among children aged 6 months to 5 years

Severely acute Moderately acute

56,425

April - May 2025

MALNUTRITION

80,000

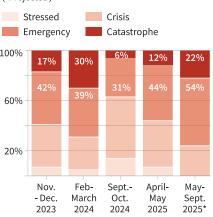
60,000

40,000

20,000

ALARMING FOOD INSECURITY

The chart depicts acute food insecurity levels (as defined by IPC) based on the severity of food consumption gaps at the household level (*Projected)



- Crisis: Barely meet minimum food needs by depleting key livelihood assets
- Emergency: Severe food gaps managed only through extreme coping and asset liquidation: high malnutrition and excess deaths
- Catastrophe: Total lack of food and basic needs despite all coping efforts; marked by starvation,



AID-SEEKERS KILLED AT DISTRIBUTION SITES

The chart shows the cumulative number of $persons\,killed\,near\,aid\,distribution\,centres\,in$



Sources: Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Mapping Tool, OCHA Health Cluster, ACLED, UNOSTAT, FAOSTAT, COGAT. Figures for July 2025 in the charts are as of July 23, 2025 | Milan Cijo and Renuka Ramakrishna are interning with The Hindu Data Team



REDUCED TO RUBBLE

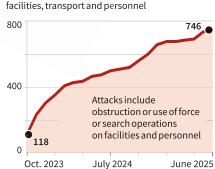
The chart shows the number of buildings





ATTACKS ON HEALTH SERVICES

The cumulative number of attacks on health aid,



A ND-NDE

World

KUALA LUMPUR

Thousands of Malaysians protest rising living costs, 'lack of reform'



Tens of thousands of Malaysians protested at Merdeka (Independence) Square in Kuala Lumpur against rising living costs and unfulfilled reform promises by Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's government. Organised by Opposition parties, the rally demanded his resignation despite his recent populist economic measures. AFP

LAGOS

Over 600 malnourished children die in six months in Nigeria: MSF



Over 600 malnourished children died in northern Nigeria within six months as foreign aid sharply declined, a medical charity has said. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) reported a 208% rise in severe child malnutrition. Aid cuts from the U.S., U.K., and EU, combined with insecurity and rising costs, intensified the crisis. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia says it seized two villages in central Ukraine; strikes kill six



Russia on Saturday said it captured Maliyevka in Dnipropetrovsk and Zeleny Gai in Donetsk, marking rare advances in Ukraine's mining heartland since the 2022 invasion. Overnight strikes by both countries killed at least six persons, as Russian troops push closer to kev Ukrainian cities. AFP

WASHINGTON

Pakistan says it is close to U.S. trade deal, Washington gives no timeline



Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar on Friday said the U.S. and Pakistan are "very close" to finalising a trade deal, possibly within days, after meeting Secretary of State Marco Rubio. However, U.S. officials have not confirmed any timeline, only discussing expanded trade in critical minerals. REUTERS

At least 25 killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza, some while seeking food

The majority of victims were killed by gunfire as they waited for aid trucks close to the Zikim crossing; UN experts say Palestinians are at risk of famine, with reports of increasing numbers of people dving from causes related to malnutrition

Associated Press DEIR AL-BALAH

t least 25 people were killed by Is-raeli air strikes and gunshots overnight, according to health officials and the ambulance service on Saturday, as ceasefire talks appear to have stalled and Palestinians in Gaza face famine.

The majority of victims were killed by gunfire as they waited for aid trucks close to the Zikim crossing with Israel, said staff at Shifa hospital, where the bodies were brought.

Israel's army did not respond to request for comments about the latest shootings.



Palestinians struggle as they wait to receive food from a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, in Gaza City on Saturday. REUTERS

Those killed in strikes include four persons in an apartment building in Gaza City among others, hospital staff and the ambulance service said.

The strikes come as cea-

sefire talks between Israel and Hamas have hit a standstill after the United States and Israel recalled their negotiating teams on Thursday, throwing the future of the ceasefire talks

into further uncertainty. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Friday his government was considering "alternative options" to ceasefire talks with Hamas. His com-

ments came as a Hamas official said negotiations were expected to resume next week and portrayed the recall of the Israeli and American delegations as a pressure tactic.

'Temporary' pause

Egypt and Qatar, which are mediating the talks alongside the United States, said the pause was only temporary and that talks would resume, though they did not say when.

For desperate Palesti-

nians a ceasefire cannot come soon enough.

The United Nations and experts say that Palestinians in Gaza are at risk of famine, with reports of increasing numbers of people dying from causes related to malnutrition.

While Israel's army says it is allowing aid into the enclave with no limit on the number of trucks that can enter, the UN says it is hampered by Israeli military restrictions on its movements and incidents of criminal looting.

The Zikim crossing shootings come days after at least 79 Palestinians were killed trying to reach aid entering through the same crossing.

Voters in Taiwan reject bid to oust KMT lawmakers

Associated Press

Taiwanese voters rejected a bid to oust about onefifth of their lawmakers, all from the Opposition Nationalist Party, in a recall election on Saturday, dampening hopes for the ruling party to flip the balance of power in the self-ruled island's legislature.

The independence-leaning ruling Democratic Progressive Party won last year's presidential election, but the China-friendly Nationalists, also known as the KMT, and the smaller Taiwan People's Party have enough seats to form a majority bloc.

While vote-counting was still under way, preliminary results showed that the recall efforts failed to remove any of the two dozen KMT lawmakers. The



Moment of relief: Taiwan's KMT chairman Eric Chu (third from left), hugs lawmakers after a recall election in Taipei on Saturday. AFP

scale of the recall elections is unprecedented, with another seven KMT lawmakers facing a similar vote on August 23.

The KMT currently holds 52 seats, while the ruling DPP holds 51 seats. For the DPP to secure a legislative majority, at least six KMT lawmakers would need to be ousted, and the ruling party would need to win the by-elections,

which must be held within three months of the announcement of results.

For the recall to pass, more than a quarter of eligible voters in the electoral district must vote in favour of it, and the total number of supporters must exceed those voting against.

Taiwan's Central Election Commission will announce the official results on August 1.

At least six persons killed in southeast Iran 'terror' attack

Agence France-Presse TEHRAN

At least six persons, including law enforcement, were killed on Saturday during a "terrorist attack" on a judicial building in southeast Iran, the judiciary said.

"The number of martyrs increased to six," the judiciary's Mizan online said following earlier reports of a death toll of five, with 13 injured.

Provincial chief iustice Ali Movahedi-Rad, cited by Mizan, later announced

the injured count had reached 22.

All three of the gunmen, who had tried to enter the building disguised as visitors and were wearing explosive vests, were killed, he added. The death toll also included three law enforcement members.

Iranian media said shortly after the attack that Jaish al-Adl (Arabic for "Army of Justice"), a Baloch jihadist group based in Pakistan but active in Iran, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Trump tees off in Scotland as protesters take to the streets and criticise his visit

Reuters EDINBURG

U.S. President Donald Trump kept a low profile on his Scottish golf course on Saturday, ahead of meetings with top British and European leaders, as questions swirled at home about his ties to disgraced financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Mr. Trump arrived on Friday on a visit that has triggered protests in Scotland, with hundreds lining the streets of the capital Edinburgh waving placards saying: "NOT MY



A demonstrator holds a cut-out during a rally, protesting the visit of Donald Trump in Scotland on Saturday. REUTERS

PRESIDENT."

The U.S. leader told reporters on arrival that he would visit his two golf properties in Scotland one in Turnberry and the

other near Aberdeen. He is also due to meet British PM Keir Starmer, Scottish leader John Swinney and European Commission Presi-

dent Ursula von der Leven,

whom he called a "highly respected woman

Frustrated by continued questions about his administration's handling of investigative files related to Epstein's criminal charges and his 2019 death in prison, Mr. Trump told reporters to focus on bigger issues and other people.

"You make it a very big thing over something that's not a big thing," Mr. Trump said. "Don't talk about Trump. What you should be talking about is the fact that we have the greatest six months in the history of a presidency."

clashes spread along frontier as toll rises

Thailand-Cambodia

Agence France-Presse SAMRAONG

Thailand and Cambodia pounded each other with heavy artillery fire for a third day on Saturday, as a border conflict that killed at least 33 people and displaced more than 1.50,000 from their homes spread across the frontier.

Both sides say they are open to a truce in the combat, but have accused the other of undermining armistice efforts.

Cambodia's Defence Mi-

nistry said 13 people have been confirmed killed in the fighting since Thursday, including eight civilians and five soldiers, with 71 people wounded.

Thai authorities say 13 civilians and seven soldiers have been killed on their side, taking the toll across both nations higher than it was in the last major round of fighting between 2008 and 2011.

Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra visited shelters on Saturday to meet evacuees.

Sport

Tanvi, Vennala sign off with bronze medals

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India SOLO (INDONESIA)

Rising shuttlers Tanvi Sharma and Vennala Kalagotla signed off with bronze medals as India ended its impressive campaign at the Badminton Asia junior championships here on Saturday.

It was a historic first for India, with two women's shuttlers finishing on the podium in the same edition of the event.

Vennala fought valiantly against China's Liu Si Ya before going down 15-21, 18-21 in 37 minutes.

Down 15-20 in the se-

cond game, the Indian saved three match points to raise hopes of a comeback. However, an error at crucial time allowed Liu to seal the contest in straight games.

On the other hand, second seed Tanvi Sharma lost 13-21, 14-21 to eighth seed Yin Yi Qing of China in 35 minutes.

Up and down

After dropping the opening game, Tanvi staged a spirited fightback, racing to a 6-1 lead in the second.

However, Yin clawed her way back to make it 8-8 before racing to the finish.

It was another good show by Tanvi, who had finished runner-up at the U.S. Open Super 300 tournament last month.

RACING

BENGALURU: Adiraj S. Jodhatrained Time And Tide (Sandesh up) won the Bangalore City Sprint Championship Gold Cup (1,200m), the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (July 26). The winner is owned by Bachhawat Farms Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Vikram Bachhawat

1. BRAVE DANCER PLATE (1,800M): DOUBLE SCOTCH (Antony) 1, Sea Diamond (Vinod Shinde) 2 and (Abhishek Mhatre) 3. Not run: Royal Whisper. 2-1/4 and Shd. 1m 58.21s. Rs. 21 (w), SHP: 20, FP: 35. Favourite:

Owner: Mr. Ramesh R. Trainer: S. 2. RED DIVINE PLATE (1,100M): EF-FICACY (Shreyas S) 1, My Honey (L.A. Rozario) 2, Midnight Blue

A. Vikrant) 3 and White Secret (A. Ramu) 4. Not run: Agrima. 7-1/2, 1-3/4 and 2. Im 08.20s. Rs. 14 (w), 11, 15 and 14 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 42, FP: 31, Q: 32, Trinella: 70/21, Exacta: 309/227. Favourite: Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria, Mr.

Maloji Baburao Bhosale & Mrs.

Anasuya Gupta. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

Time And Tide wins Bangalore City

Sprint Championship Gold Cup

DOUBLE VISION (G. Vivek) 1, Able One (Salman Khan) 2, Super Kind (Abhishek Mhatre) 3 and Gandolfini (Akshay K) 4. 3-1/4, 3/4 and dolfini.

Owner: Mr. A. Muniraja. Trainer: S. Shobhan Babu.
4. LUMBINI STUD PLATE (1,200M):

DEFENCE COUNSEL (Abhishek Mhatre) 1, Knotty Scotty (G. Vivek) 2. Storm Shadow (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Darrion (L.A. Rozario) 4. Not run: Felisa. 3/4, 2-3/4 and 5-1/2. 1m 14.98s. Rs. 78 (w), 18, 10 and 31 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 52, FP: 212, Q: 103, Trinella: 1,328/1,012, Exacta: 5,602/1,846. Favourite: Knotty Scotty.

Mr. M. Venkatesh. Trainer: S. Dominic. 5. LT.COL. GAUNT MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200M): DON CARLOS (G. Vivek) 1, Knotty Blush (Srinath) 2. Whirlwind (Hindu S) 3 and Perfect Legend (Abhishek Mhatre) 4. 4-1/2, Shd and 1-1/4. Im 15.25s. Rs. 69 (w), 16, 22 and 14 (p), SHP: 52, THP: 37, FP: 448, Q:

193, Trinella: 1,502/339, Exacta:

5,204/1,911. Favourite: Perfect Le-

Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

6. BANGALORE CITY SPRINT

CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD CHAMPIONSHIP GOLD CUP (1,200M): TIME AND TIDE (Sandesh) I, Imperial Blue (Arvind K) 2, Aldgate (4) Antony 3 and Crown Drive (Hindu S) 4. 5-1/4, 1/2 and Shd. Im 13.54s. Rs. 12 (w), 10 and 41 (p), SHP: 55, THP: 30, FP: 65, Q: 57, Trinella: 227/67, Exacta: 346/III. Expounting Time And Tide 346/111. Favourite: Time And Tide. Owner: Bachhawat Farms Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Vikram Bachhawat. Trainer: Adiraj S Jodha.

7. XISCA PLATE (1,500M): KISS OF GREY (Suraj) 1, Sunlit Path (Srinath) 2, Thrill Of Brazil (Antony) 3 and Hyperdrive (Pavan) 4. 6-1/2, Lnk and Nk. Im 34.98s. Rs. 21 (w), 12, 17 and 11 (p), SHP: 48, THP: 36, FP: 102. Q: 73, Trinella: 197/88, Exacta: 399/200. Favourite: Kiss Of Grey. Owners: M/s. Rapar Galloping

Stars LLP, Mr. B.P. Devaraja, Mr. Teja Gollapudi & Dr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni. Trainer: S. Narredu. Jackpot: Rs. 5,055 (94 tkts); Runner-up: 1,138 (179 tkts); Treble (i):

448 (21 tkts); (ii): 158 (94 tkts).

Prana and Mayne Magic may fight out the finish

BENGALURU: Prana and Mayne Magic may fight out the finish of the Karnataka Mile Championship Cup (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (July 27).

False rails (width about 3.5m from1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

LIVELY **EMPREY** LIVELY EMPREY FLATE (1,200m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 2.00 p.m.: 1. Princess Jasmine (6) Suhas K 62.5, 2. Chinky Pinky (2) Trevor 61.5, 3. Emeraldo (9) R. Pradeep 59, 4. N R I Millennium (4) Dhanu S 58.5, 5. Phoenix Surprise (3) Pavan 57.5, 6. Meghann (1) Laxman S 57, 7. Embosom (5) G. Vivek 56.5, 8. Estefania (8) Aleemuddin 54.5 and 9. Chiraag (7) Akshay K 54.

2. PRINCESS JASMINE, 3. EMBOSOM

2 CAMINETO PLATE (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 2.30: 1. Roadrunner (8) Abhishek Mhatre 60, 2. Cascais (1) Trevor 59.5, 3. Silicon Star (3) A. Ramu 59.5, 4. Temperance (5) Shreyas S 58, 5. Legendary Impact (7) G. Vivek 57, 6. Royal Deccan (2) Antony 57, 7. Whitney (6) L.A. Rozario 57 and 8. Equalizer (4) M. Rajesh K 54.5. 1. ŠILICON STAR,

2. CASCAIS, 3. LEGENDARY IMPACT **3** ESQUIRE PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms),

3.00: 1. Aces Up (11) A. Ramu 56, 2. Get Set Go (12) Salman Khan 56, 3. Konkrah (10) Sandesh 56, 4. Power Of Gold (4) Antony 56, 5. Striker (9) A.S. Peter 56, 6. Zeppelin (1) L.A. Rozario 56, 7. Divine Right (5) Hindu S 54.5, 8. Hushed (8) R. Pradeep 54.5, 9. Mai Tai (6) Trevor 54.5, 10. Romping Home (2) Yash 54.5, 11. Solara (3) Akshay K 54.5 and 12. Zephyrine (7) Arvind K 54.5.

1. ROMPING HOME, 3. KONKRAH

SALAZAAR PLATE (1,200m), rated 60 to 85, 3.30: 1. Never Give In (1) Antony 61, 2. Del Aviz (6) Akshay K 59.5, 3. Dun It Again (7) Koshi K 59.5, 4. Jersey King (9) Abhishek Mhatre 58.5, 5. All Attraction (2) G. Vivek 57, 6. Mazal Tov (3) Trevor 56, 7. Metzinger (5) Vinod Shinde 56, 8. Victoria Doresaani (11) Sandesh 55, 9. Excellent Lass (8) Suraj 54.5, 10. Invincible (10) Angad 53.5 and 12. Grizzly (4) Laxman S 53. 1. EXCELLENT LASS, 2. MAZAL TOV, 3. GRIZZLY

5 ADMIRAL HENRY JOHN ROUS TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4.00: 1. Sensational (1) A.A.

Vikrant 61.5, 2. Asagiri (7) Darshan 61, 3. Circle Of Dreams (6) Trevor 58.5, 4. Elfin Knight (2) R. Pradeep 58, 5. Pole Star (5) G. Vivek 58, 6. Power Of Beauty (8) Antony 58, 7. Stravinsky (4) Angad 55.5 and 8. Sir Winston (3) Neeraj 1. CIRCLE OF DREAMS,

3. ELFIN KNIGHT

6 KARNATAKA MILE CHAMPIONSHIP CUP (1,600m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4.30: 1. Prana (3) Surai 60, 2, Monteverdi (4) Neerai 58.5, 3. Galahad (2) Trevor 55.5 and 4. Mayne Magic (1) Antony 55. 1. PRANA, 2. MAYNE MAGIC

CAMINETO PLATE (Div. 1), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5.00: 1. Eleanora (3) Suraj 61.5, 2. True Punch (2) Antony 61, 3. Monterio (8) R. Pradeep 60.5, 4. Carat Love (6) G. Vivek 60, 5. Sira (7) Abhishek Mhatre 58.5, 6. Joyful Spirit (5) Shreyas S 57.5, 7. Mutual Trust (1) Trevor 57.5 and 8. Bold Act (4) G. Praveen 57. 1. MUTUAL TRUST, 2. ELEANORA

3. CARAT LOVE Day's best: CIRCLE OF DREAMS Double: EXCELLENT LASS - MU-TUAL TRUST Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and

4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

THIRD IN HISTORY

Stokes achieves the double of 7000 runs and 200 wickets



England captain Ben Stokes became the third player in Test history to achieve the double of 7000 runs and 200 wickets, joining the likes of Sir Garfield Sobers and Jacques Kallis. Stokes breached the 7000-mark during his ton against India at Manchester. He had brought up his 200th wicket last year at Lord's against West Indies.

MASTER OF ALL TRADES

Stokes is fourth Englishman with a ton and a five-for in the same Test



England skipper Ben Stokes became the fourth all-rounder from the country to score a century and pick up a five-wicket haul in the same Test. Tony Greig, Ian Botham and Gus Atkinson are the other players to achieve the feat. Only Botham (five) has achieved this feat more than once.

BIG BOOST

Pant will be available to bat in the second innings: Kotak



India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak confirmed that Rishabh Pant, who fractured his foot on the opening day of the fourth Test, will be available for batting in the second innings. "I think he will bat," Kotak said. Pant scored a half-century in the first essay, and with India fighting to save the Test, his presence could be a huge boost.

CUP OF JOY

Black Caps beat Proteas in a thriller, clinch tri-series title



New Zealand edged out South Africa by three runs in the Twenty20 International tri-series final at the Harare Sports Club on Saturday. The scores: NZ 180/5 in 20 overs (Seifert 30, Conway 47, Rachin 47, Ngidi 2/24) bt SA 177/6 in 20 overs (Pretorius 51, Hendricks 37, Brevis 31, Henry 2/19). Toss: SA; PoM & PoS: Henry.

Stokes' ton hands England huge lead; Rahul, Gill live to fight another day

The tourists concede 600-plus runs in a Test innings for the first time since 2014; Woakes sends back Jaiswal and Sai Sudharsan for ducks

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya MANCHESTER

calm Ben Stokes glanced through the stands as the trumpets belted out the tune of the Superman theme and the Barmy Army chanted his name.

The England captain was on 99 and was beaten by Washington Sundar a couple of times. As the sound of the trumpets grew louder and the fans waited with bated breath for him to score a muchdeserved Test century his first in more than two years – Stokes adjusted his helmet and eventually legglanced Mohammed Siraj to the fence.

Special occasion

The Old Trafford was on its feet as Stokes took off his helmet and did the two-fingered salute to the skies. It, indeed, turned out to be a special outing as he brought up his 14th century, following a five-for.

Stokes (141, 198b, 11x4, 3x6) eventually guided England to 669 as the hosts gained a massive lead.

Chris Woakes added to India's woes in just five balls before the lunch as he removed Yashasvi Jaiswal and B. Sai Sudharsan off consecutive deliveries with nothing on the scoreboard. However, showing resilience, K.L. Rahul (87 batting, 210b, 8x4) and captain Shubman Gill (78



batting, 167b, 10x4) defied the English bowlers for more than 62 overs as India ended the day at 174 for

Trailing by 137 runs, saving the match is still a long way, but Gill and Rahul

have instilled belief in the Indian camp. Making the most of a reprieve, Gill counter-attacked with a cover drive and executed an upper cut as well for two fours off Jofra Archer, while Rahul was more on

the defensive. With the surface easing out as the sun played hide and seek, Stokes did not bowl due to a hamstring pull and England's attack didn't have the same venom. Gill and Rahul overcame a barrage

Skipper Stokes brings the best

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS 358 in 114.1 overs **ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS**

Zak Crawley c Rahul b Jadeja 84 (113b, 13x4, 1x6), Ben Duckett c sub (Jurel) b Kamboj 94 (100b, 13x4), Ollie Pope c Rahul b Washington 71 (128b, 7x4), Joe Root st. Jurel b Jadeja 150 (248b, 14x4), Harry Brook st. Jurel b Washington 3 (12b), Ben Stokes c Sai Sudharsan b Jadeja 141 (198b, 11x4, 3x6), Jamie Smith c Jurel b Bumrah 9 (19b, 1x4), Liam Dawson b Bumrah 26 (65b, 3x4); Chris Woakes b Siraj 4 (17b), Brydon Carse c Siraj b Jadeja 47 (54b, 3x4, 2x6), Jofra Archer (not out) 2 (3b); Extras (b-8, lb-15, nb-14, w-1): 38; Total (in 157.1 overs): 669.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-166 (Crawley, 31.6 overs), 2-197 (Duckett, 38.1), 3-341 (Pope, 76.1), 4-349 (Brook, 80.1), 5-499

of short balls and showed could do. Anshul Kamboj steel to create milestones.

Rahul became the second Asian opener to aggregate 500-plus (508) runs in a Test series in England after Sunil Gavaskar (542 in 1979). With the two well set, India dominated the final session

Elite club

On a day when records tumbled, Stokes made it to an elite club of all-rounders with 7,000 runs and 200 wickets in the format, alongside Garry Sobers and Jacques Kallis.

As the day's proceedings began, India fancied its chances of wrapping up things quickly, but with Stokes around, there was not much that the bowlers (Stokes, 155.3). **INDIA BOWLING** Bumrah 33-5-112-2, Kamboj 18-1-89-1, Siraj 30-4-140-1, Shardul 11-0-55-0, Jadeja

(Root, 119.2), 6-515 (Smith, 124.1), 7-528 (Woakes, 129.1),

8-563 (Dawson, 139.3), 9-658

37.1-0-143-4, Washington

28-4-107-2. INDIA — 2ND INNINGS Yashasvi Jaiswal c Root b Woakes 0 (4b), K.L. Rahul (batting) 87 (210b. 8x4). B. Sai Sudharsan c Brook b Woakes 0 (1b), Shubman Gill (batting) 78 (167b, 10x4);

(for two wkts. in 63 overs): 174. **FALL OF WICKETS** 1-0 (Jaiswal, 0.4), 2-0 (Sai

Extras (b-4, nb-4, w-1): 9; Total

Sudharsan, 0.5). **ENGLAND BOWLING** Woakes 15-3-48-2, Archer

11-2-40-0. Carse 10-2-29-0. Dawson 22-8-36-0, Root 5-1-17-0.

wasn't given a single over, while Jasprit Bumrah leaked 100-plus (112) runs for the first time in his 48-Test career.

This was also the first time, since 2014, that India conceded 600-plus runs in a Test innings

As India registered a durecord, Brydon Carse and Stokes extended the lead as the latter took on the spinners and went on to add 38 runs off just 34 balls after his ton before holing out to long-on, attempting a big shot against the left-arm spinner.

Stokes has put England in a commanding position. But with Gill and Rahul rising to the occasion, there's still hope for India.



No breakthrough: Divya, right, couldn't press home the advantage

Humpy and Divya draw opening game

CHESS WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India BATUMI

Young Indian International Master Divya Deshmukh held her nerve to hold stalwart Koneru Humpy to a draw in game one of the FIDE Women's World Cup final, with both players having their share of opportunities to take the lead here on Saturday.

The draw with black means Humpy, the twotime World Rapid champion, holds a slight edge going in to the second and final game under the classical chess rules in the twogame mini-match, and should the deadlock continue, games of shorter duration will be played to determine the winner.

Humpy employed the Queen's gambit accepted as black and it turned out to be a pretty fascinating game as Divya, 19, came up with a piece sacrifice early to deny the black king the right to castle.

Humpy was the first to err and, according to computers, Divya had things under control on the 14th

move. However, in her bid to recover the extra material, the Nagpur girl, who has secured a place in the Candidates tournament with her sterling performance here, missed an opportunity.

What followed the exchange of all minor pieces and the ensuing queen and rook endgame enough counter-play to both players. The game was eventually drawn after Humpy sacrificed her rook to force perpetual checks.

"The game saw an extremely sharp battle with the game ending in a draw in 41 moves. On move seven, Divya made her aggressive intentions clear by offering another pawn, which looked like home preparation. Humpy made a practical decision of refraining from taking the pawn and a balanced position was reached by move 10 by white," said Grandmaster Pravin Thipsay.

In the play-off for the third place, Chinese players Zhongyi Tan, the former women's World champion and top seed Lei Tingjie also decided to split points in a Queen's Gambit declined game.

Asia Cup: India and Pakistan in same group

Amol Karhadkar MUMBAI

The Asia Cup men's T20 tournament will be played from September 9 to 28 in the United Arab Emirates. India and Pakistan are likely to face each other thrice. with the first confirmed match to be played on September 14 in Dubai.

Mohsin Naqvi, the Asian Cricket Council president, confirmed the window and the venue for the tournament, to be hosted by the Board of Control for Cricket in India at a neutral venue, in a social media post. The ACC then announced the detailed fixtures on Saturday evening.

The eight-team tournament will witness two groups of four sides each. While India, Pakistan, the UAE and Oman are clubbed together in Group A, Group B comprises Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Hong Kong. The tournament will be played in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

The top two teams from each group will proceed to the Super Fours stage, with the top two facing each other in the final. After the first match between India and Pakistan on Sept. 14, both teams will play each other the following Sunday (Sept. 21), unless either team fails to progress to the Super Fours.

The groups: Group A: India, Pakistan, UAE, Oman. Group B: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Hong Kong The schedule: League stage:

September 9: Afghanistan vs Hong Kong; **Sept. 10:** India vs UAE; **Sept. 11:** Bangladesh vs Hong Kong; Sept. 12: Pakistan vs Oman; Sept. 13: Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka; Sept. 14: India vs Pakistan; **Sept. 15:** UAE vs Oman; Sept. 15: Sri Lanka vs Hong Kong; Sept. 16: Bangladesh vs Afghanistan: Sept. 17: Pakistan vs UAE; Sept. 18: Sri Lanka vs Afghanistan; **Sept. 19:**

Super Fours: Sept. 20: B1 vs B2; **Sept. 21:** A1 vs A2; **Sept. 23:** A2 vs B1; Sept. 24: A1 vs B2; Sept. 25: A2 vs B2; Sept. 26: A1 vs B1. Final: Sept. 28.

out of the players, says Moeen Shayan Acharya

In his nearly decade-long Test career, Moeen Ali played under three different captains – Alastair Cook, Joe Root and Ben Stokes. Having witnessed England's cricketing metamorphosis up close, the former all-rounder has no hesitation in admitting that 'full-on leader' Stokes has been able to bring the best out of his players as he leads by example.

As Stokes brought up his 14th Test century at Old Trafford on Saturday and put England in command of the fourth Test, Moeen heaped praise on his former teammate.

"He's a full-on leader who always leads from the front. Whatever he asks of the team, he does himself first - whether it's being aggressive or playing a certain way – and everyone follows," Moeen told *The*



Inspirational: According to Moeen, Stokes' impact on the team has been huge. GETTY IMAGES

Hindu. "That's what people love about him in the dressing room, including senior players like Joe Root and Jimmy Anderson, who have been there longer than him. It is love for his captaincy and commitment that make him stand out as captain..."

Moving on from its tradi-

tional approach, England has changed the template of Test cricket with Bazball, and Stokes' fearless leadership has been at its "Stokes has played a

massive role in the team. His impact on the way they play has been huge – even better than when I was still



From the start, Stokes knew exactly what he wanted as captain

playing. They've had many more wins in a shorter period. Both Stokes and (Brendon) McCullum have identified players who can score runs at this level and handle different types of bowling," Moeen said.

Clear vision

"From the start, Stokes knew exactly what he wanted as captain. Having played in sides that struggled over the years, he had a clear vision and stuck to it, backing himself and his method. He's especially good with younger players, giving them the freedom to play their natural game..."

Stokes has led England in 37 Tests, winning 22, losing 13 and drawing one.



Sathiyan-Akash wins; Sreeja loses in final

Sports Bureau

G. Sathiyan and Akash Pal beat Jules Rolland and Leo De Nodrest of France 11-9, 11-4, 11-9 to win their maiden Tour men's doubles title together at the WTT Contender Lagos on Saturday.

This was Sathiyan's second WTT men's doubles crown after the one with Harmeet Desai in Tunis in 2021. "Fantastic. We both were unseeded. Still, to beat the French pair by a 3-0 margin was great. Akash has a powerful game, and I could place the ball well. We complemented each other," Sathiyan told The Hindu.

Sreeja Akula's confidence would have been sky high going into the singles final. She had beaten the likes of top seed Hina Hayata (first round), seventh seed Jieni Shao (quarters) and fourth-seeded Prithika Pavade in the semifinals. However, Japanese se-

cond seed Honoka Hashimoto beat Sreeja 11-7, 11-3, 11-4, 9-11, 13-11 to clinch the crown.

Other results: Women's semifinals: Sreeja bt

Prithika Pavade (Fra) 11-7, 11-4, Mixed doubles final: Jules Rolland & Pavade (Fra) bt Akash

Pal & Poymantee Baisya 12-10, 11-6, 6-11, 11-7.



Bhavani Devi in third round of fencing World Cup

Coming through the preliminaries, India's C.A. Bhavani Devi overcame Chu Wing Kiu of Hong Kong 15-12 in the second-round (main draw) women's individual sabre bout of the World fencing championships at Tbilisi, Georgia on Saturday. The 31-year-old Indian will next take on Anastassiya Gulik of Kazakhstan. Shreya Gupta lost to Yuina Kaneko of Japan 15-9 in the women's sabre second round (round of 64).



Groves wins penultimate stage, Pogacar still in yellow

Alpecin rider Kaden Groves won stage 20 of the Tour de France at Pontarlier on Saturday after a long-range escape that saw the Australian finish well ahead of the big guns. Runaway overall race leader Tadej Pogacar maintained his lead over Jonas Vingegaard ahead of Sunday's 21st and final stage in Paris. This was the third stage success for Alpecin after Jasper Philipsen and Mathieu van der Poel's wins.



Shillong Lajong hits six past Malaysian Armed Forces FT

Shillong Lajong FC began its Durand Cup campaign in style, breezing past Malaysian Armed Forces Football Team 6-0 in its opening Group E league match at Shillong on Saturday. Everbrightson Sana, in pic, and Phrangki Buam scored a brace each while substitutes Treimiki Lamurong and Deibormame Tongper added a goal apiece for the Shillong outfit.

The result: Shillong Lajong FC 6 (Everbrightson Sana 12 & 66, Phrangki Buam 47 & 49, Treimiki Lamurong 73, Deibormame Tongper 90) bt Malaysian Armed Forces FT 0.

David blasts Australia out of trouble and to series win

Tim David scored the fastest century for Australia in a T20I which lifted the tourists to a series-clinching six-wicket win over West Indies in the third game of a five-match series at Basseterre, St. Kitts, on Friday. David and Mitchell Owen's unbroken 128-run stand guided Australia to 215 for four off 16.1 overs to seal the victory and an unassailable 3-0 series lead.

The scores: West Indies 214/4 in 20 overs (Brandon King 62, Shai Hope 102) lost to Australia 215/4 in 16.1 overs (Tim David 102, Mitchell Owen 36, Romario Shepherd 2/39). Toss: Australia. PoM: David.

Sumit Nagal fails to clear the semifinal hurdle

Sumit Nagal lost 7-5, 6-2 to Sascha Wayenburg of France in the €91,250 Challenger tennis semifinals in Tampere, Finland, on Saturday.

Other results: \$2,396,115 ATP, Washington: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Neal Skupski (GBr) & John-Patrick Smith (Aus) bt Yuki Bhambri & Michael Venus (Nzl) 3-6, 6-4, [10-7]. €91,250 Challenger, Segovia, Spain: Quarterfinals: Aryan

Shah bt Oliver Crawford (GBr) 7-6(4), 6-4 \$30,000 ITF men, Champaign, USA: Quarterfinals: Blaise Bicknell (Jam) bt Dhakshineswar Suresh 6-4, 6-2.

\$30,000 ITF men, Denia, Spain: Doubles: Final: Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Mario Diez (Esp) & Mark Vervoort

\$15,000 ITF men, Nakhon Pathom: Doubles: Final: Yun Seong Chung & Soonwoo Kwon (Kor) bt Sai Karteek Reddy & Tomohiro Masabayashi (Jpn) 6-3, 6-3,

\$100,000 ITF women, Evansville, USA: Doubles: **Ouarterfinals:** Ariane Hartono (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare bt Fiona Crawley & Sara Daavettila (USA) 6-1, 2-6, [10-6].

\$30,000 ITF women, Monastir: Doubles: Semifinals: Dayeon Back (Kor) & Vaidehee Chaudhari bt Julia Adams & Carol Lee (USA) 7-6(3), 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF women, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain: **Doubles: Semifinals:** Sravya Shivani & Emma Kamper (Den) bt Nahia Berecoechea (Fra) & Demi Tran (Ned) 6-2, 6-1.

Verstappen grabs sprint win in maiden post-Horner race

The Red Bull driver holds off the McLaren duo of Piastri and Norris to seal the victory; Haas has an impressive outing as Ocon and Bearman finish fifth and seventh; Ferrari's Leclerc is fourth

FORMULA ONE

Associated Press SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Verstappen overtook Oscar Piastri and drove "15 qualifying laps" to win the Formula 1 sprint race at the Belgian Grand Prix on Saturday as Red Bull begins a new era without fired team principal Christian Horner.

Verstappen surged past Piastri on the straight on the first lap.

The Australian was close behind Verstappen for the rest of the 15-lap sprint race but couldn't find a way past the fourtime champion.

Lando Norris, in the other McLaren, was third after retaking the place from Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and catching up to Piastri.

'Over the limit'

"You're keeping faster cars behind, so you have to drive over the limit of what you think is possible," Ver-



in May. GETTY IMAGES

stappen said.

"Tire management is out of the window, so that's what's making it really difficult. I'm just doing 15 qualifying laps to try and keep them behind on a track where tire management is important."

It was Verstappen's first race win of any sort since the Emilia-Romagna Grand

Prix in May, and his first in a sprint since the United States Grand Prix last October.

Piastri extended his lead over Norris in the standings to nine points from eight. Verstappen is third, 68 points off the lead. Leclerc held on to fourth, and it was an impressive result for Haas, with Esteban Ocon fifth and Oliver Bearman seventh. Carlos Sainz Jr. was sixth for Williams, and Isack Hadjar took the final point for Racing Bulls in eighth.

Sprint results (top eight): 1. Verstappen (Red Bull), 2. Piastri (McLaren), 3. Norris (McLaren), 4. Leclerc (Ferrari), 5. Ocon (Haas), 6. Sainz (Williams), 7. Bearman

(Haas), 8. Hadjar (Racing Bulls).



Norris and Piastri lock front row at Belgian GP

Agence France-Presse SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Lando Norris will start on pole for the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday with his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri alongside him on the front row.

Charles Leclerc's Ferrari is on the second row next to Max Verstappen's Red Bull after qualifying at Spa-Francorchamps Saturday.

Norris has won the last two races and goes into Sunday's Grand Prix nine points behind Piastri in the drivers' standings.

"I was confident coming in to today so it's nice to be on pole," said Norris after his 13th career pole. "Oscar has been doing a good job all weekend and we've been pushing each other a

lot. It's tough because you see where your strengths and weaknesses are clearly and you learn from each other quickly, it's good but a tough battle that we have at the minute."

Piastri said: "We're a good team-mate pairing and we learn a lot from each other each weekend."

The grid: Front row: Norris (McLaren), Piastri (McLaren); Second: Leclerc (Ferrari),

Verstappen (Red Bull). Third: Albon (Williams), Russell (Mercedes); Fourth: Tsunoda (Red Bull), Hadjar (Racing Bulls); Fifth: Lawson (Racing Bulls), Bortoleto (Sauber).

Sixth: Ocon (Haas), Bearman (Haas); Seventh: Gasly (Alpine). Hulkenberg (Sauber). Eighth: Sainz (Williams), Hamilton (Ferrari); Ninth:

Colapinto (Williams), Antonell (Mercedes): Tenth: Alonso (Aston Martin), Stroll (Aston Martin).

Sahil claims gold, silver for Parneet

ARCHERY

Sports Bureau

Sahil Jadhav won the compound men's individual gold, while Parneet Kaur picked up the women's individual silver to help India finish second with five medals, including two gold, two silver and a bronze, in archery at the World University Games in Essen, Germany, on Saturday.

Sahil edged out compa-(30-29, 30-29, 30-30, 29-30, 29-30, shoot-off: 10*-10; shot closer to the centre) in an all-Indian semifinal before stunning World Cup Stage team gold winning British archer Ajay Scott 149-148 (30-30, 30-29, 30-30, 30-30, 29-29) in a

keenly-contested final.

Sahil, who claimed a team silver with Kushal, held his nerve to shoot perfect scores for four consecutive ends and managed to thwart Scott's challenge in a high-pressure duel.

Kushal was beaten 150-148 (30-29, 30-30, 30-30, 30-30, 30-29) by a flawless Polish archer, Przemyslaw Konecki, in the bronze medal match.

Parneet, who had secured a mixed team gold and a women's team Kim Sooyeon 145-144 (30-29, 28-27, 30-28, 28-30, 29-30) in the semifinals, but lost 146-147 (30-29, 30-29, 28-30, 29-30, 29-29) to another Korean, Moon Yeeyun, in a closely-fought summit clash and settled for the silver.

LIVE TELECAST

England vs India: 4th Test, day 5, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & Jio-Hotstar, 3.30 p.m.

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m. Formula One: Belgian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.

PGTI president Kapil upbeat about more events in season's second half

GOLF

Sports Bureau NEW DELHI

The President of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), Kapil Dev expressed delight about being able to elevate the overall vibrancy of the sport with more events and a total prize money of ₹33 crore while unveiling the calendar for the second half of the season at the Delhi Golf Club on Saturday.

It will be a packed line up of events, starting with the ₹1 crore Coal India Open in Ahmedabad from August 3. There will be 15 tournaments, with two of the events offering a higher prize purse of ₹.2 crore in Dwarka, Delhi, Jamshedpur.

There will also be three events for the NextGen in Patna, Lucknow and Bhubaneswar, offering ₹.20 lakh each.

The Chief Executive Of-



the media on Saturday. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

ficer of PGTI, Amandeep Johl, pointed out that the DP World India Championship, a \$4 million dollar event scheduled at the iconic Delhi Golf Club from October 16 to 19, would alone be offering nearly 35 crore prize money.

Kapil Dev insisted that it was important to offer a better life for the players, as their career span is limited to about 15 years, with more playing opportunities leading to better earning.

"From next year we want to have events with a

2020 Euro Championship.

sive discussions and a rigo-

rous selection process, 10

candidates were selected

for the committee to re-

view, following which, the

TC shortlisted three," the

needs of the national team,

it is advisable to recom-

mend three coaches from

the short-listed pool for fi-

nal consideration," former

India skipper Vijayan was

quoted as saying in the re-

lease. "Other prominent

applicants, many of whom

are highly qualified inter-

national coaches, will be

taken into account for

long-term strategic roles in

the future," he added.

"Given the immediate

release also stated.

"Following comprehen-

minimum prize money of two crore rupees," said Kapil, quite keen to "raise the bar" for golf and bring it close to cricket, a game that had seen him entertain the world. It was pointed out that

the prize money for the current season was eight crore rupees more than last vear.

The Chairman of Indian Oil, A.S. Sahney was pleased to support golf, along with many other games and the Paralympics. "We are going to have the 25th edition of the In-

Women's kabaddi

dian Oil Servo Masters in Digboi. We are told that it is the only golf tournament in Asia to have continued for this long. "We will have a befitting

celebration in November," said Sahney.

When queried about the Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL), Kapil said that creating more opportunities for the sport was welcome, but insisted that the PGTI had the responsibility of taking care of about 350 players, and "loyalty important".

While insisting that it was natural to "be with the system" and play four-day golf to ensure players get global ranking, Kapil visualised change at some stage, and said, "two-day golf will happen".

When probed on cricket, Kapil said that he was surprised with the way Jasprit Bumrah had delivered for the national team so well, despite having such a difficult action that took so much toll on his body.

Xavi Hernandez and Pep Guardiola's applications were not genuine: AIFF

FOOTBALL

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

A day after its top official claimed that World Cupwinning Spanish great Xavi Hernandez was among the applicants for India football coach's position, the All India Football Federation said that the e-mail received in his name was found to be "not genuine" and three others have been short-listed for the job.

The AIFF did not reveal the names in the pruned list but it is widely believed that Khalid Jamil, currently the head coach of Indian Super League side Jamshedpur FC, is the frontrunner for the post left vacant by Spaniard Manolo Marquez.

"The AIFF received an



e-mail furnishing the applications from Spanish coaches Pep Guardiola and Xavi Hernandez. The authenticity of their applications could not be confirmed, and it has since emerged that the e-mail applications were not genuine," AIFF stated in a media release.

One of its officials, on conditions of anonymity, had stated on Friday that



the application of Xavi could not be processed as the AIFF did not have resources to hire his services.

The IM Vijayan-headed Technical Committee, it is learnt, has also kept Englishman Stephen Constantine, who has previously coached India, and Slovakia's Stefan Tarkovic in the short-list.

Constantine has coached the Indian team in

World Cup postponed indefinitely two phases earlier, while Tarkovic is the most deco-Anirudh Velamuri rated among the shortlisted candidates having managed Slovakia during the

The second women's kabaddi World Cup, scheduled from August 3 to 10 at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here, has been indefinitely postponed.

Second time

This is the second time the event has been rescheduled after it was originally slated to be held in Bihar in June.

The Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI), in a letter to the International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) which *The Hindu* has seen, stated that the decision was made due to the "non-timely submissions of team contingent administrative details", which caused an issue in "obtain-

ing clearances from the concerned Ministries".

AKFI added it will not accept any changes to the existing list of participating countries, stating it would "derail the administrative process for timely clearances".

Participating countries

Argentina, Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei, Germany, Netherlands, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Nepal, Thailand, Uganda, Zanzibar, Poland and India are the 14 countries taking part in the event.

According to various sources, the tournament will now take place here following the conclusion of the Pro Kabaddi League, which gets underway in Visakhapatnam on August 29.



One-stop shopping complex: In the Meitei language, the market is known as Nupi Keithel (Women's Market) and also as Ima Keithel, which translates to Mothers' Market.



Staying up-to-date: A vendor catches up with news in her spare time. Hosting stalls for several generations, the women's market is a home away from home for many vendors.



The right pitch: A vendor shows bangles to a customer at her stall. The stalls offer a variety of products such as vegetables, fruits, textiles, toys, fish, spices, and utensils.



Cool-off point: A vendor sells ice cream at the buzzling Ima Market in the heart of Imphal. The market hosts 5,000-6,000 stalls and serves as a generational bridge.

Women's business

Ima Market in Manipur's capital Imphal is entirely run by women and hosts 5,000-6,000 vendors, who sell a variety of products catering to needs of the local people as well as tourists; the market stands testimony to the empowerment of women in the State and the socio-economic role they play



Ritu Raj Konwar rituraj.k@thehindu.co.in

he Ima Market located in the centre of Manipur capital's Imphal is a market entirely run by women. Known as Ima Keithel (Mothers' Market) in the Meitei language or as Nupi Keithel (Women's Market), the bustling hub consists of three large buildings with pagoda-style roofs. It is a commercial centre as well as a popular tourist attraction. It was established in the 16th century and hosts 5,000-6,000 women vendors, who sell a variety of products such as vegetables, fruits, textiles, toys, fish, spices, and utensils.

Male shopkeepers and vendors are not allowed to set up or run stalls in the market and the State government has made it a punishable

offence. Vendors at the market, dressed in traditional phaneks (long skirts tightly draped around the waist) and innaphis (shoulder drapes very similar to shawls), get ready every morning to welcome shoppers, many of them tourists. The economic backbone of many families, the market has served to empower women at the

socio-economic level. Women in Manipur enjoy a unique status in society. Their empowerment is visible through their active participation in the economic realm.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, who visited the market in November 2022, in a post on X, had lauded the market for being "a great example of Nari Shakti (women's strength) powering economic growth".

Women from diverse faiths and tribes run their own stalls with pride and purpose.

"All of us come together and actively participate when it comes to issues concerning Manipur as a whole. We are not only contributing to the State's economy and supporting our families financially, but we also take part in important social and political matters. This involvement is not limited to just one district – women from all districts and communities, including Muslims and tribal groups, come together. They bring their local products to this market, sell them to us at wholesale rates, and we, in turn, sell those items. It's a wonderful and effective system," a vendor told ANI last July.

"We want to bring peace. We all want to live together in harmony. Whether it's the Tangkhul, Naga, Kuki, or any other tribe in Manipur, we all wish to come together, work together, and live with love and unity," said another vendor. (With ANI inputs)



Money makes money: Women running a money exchange business at the market.

News in Frames



Bait for buyers: Vendors sell dry fish at the Ima Market. Dry fish is a key part of Manipuri cuisine used in many of beloved dishes.



Break time: An elderly woman takes a breather. Women from diverse faiths and tribes run their own stalls with pride and purpose at the market.



Letting her hair down: Two vendors take a break from business and relax. Women at the market unwind by sharing stories and anecdotes.



Tea time: As dusk falls, eateries and snack outlets come to life as they get busy to welcome customers with lip-smacking delicacies.



Who's next?: A woman clears the table at her eatery, which serves dishes made with rice.



Goodies to take home: Customers laden with purchases and provisions after a round of shopping.

S ND-NDE