

INBRIEF



MCD committee polls to be held on August 6 and 7: Mayor

Elections to the posts of chairperson and vice-chairperson of the special and ad hoc committees of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will be held on August 6 and 7, Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh said on Thursday after a special session, which was adjourned within 10 minutes following ruckus by AAP councillors. The Mayor said the Leader of the House had moved a proposal to nominate three members each to the Education Committee and ad hoc Committee on Scheduled Caste Welfare and Reservation Implementation. However, AAP councillors protested against the reduction of members in the SC committee from 35 to 21.

Parliament breach case: HC seeks police reply on bail plea

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked Delhi Police to respond to a bail plea of two accused in the December 2023 Parliament security breach case. During the hearing, the counsel for the accused – Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D. – told a Division Bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Shalinder Kaur that the act of opening smoke canisters inside Parliament while sloganeering “did not amount to a terrorist act” as the smoke was not obnoxious and the intention of the accused was to only “highlight unemployment and not create terror”. The Bench, however, said, “The best way to create terror in India is to disrupt Parliament. You disrupted Parliament.” The duo had challenged a trial court’s order denying them bail.

CM launches health initiatives to offer patients timely care

New digital system unveiled to ensure treatment begins instantly, says Gupta; 34 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, eight Jan Aushadhi Kendras opened; 93 lakh digital health cards issued, 1,350 posts filled

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday launched a slew of initiatives, including 34 new Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and eight Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs), to build a “digital, affordable, and accessible” healthcare system in Delhi. Speaking at the launch event at the Delhi Secretariat, Ms. Gupta said these steps would ensure patients receive timely and efficient care.

The Chief Minister also launched the Hospital Information Management System (HIMS), which will allow patients to book OPD appointments, access lab and radiology reports, view medical records, billing and more – all through a single digital platform.

“True progress” “Appointments can now be scheduled from home, eliminating long queues. Once a patient presents their health card, treatment can begin immediately. This is true progress,” Ms. Gupta said. Officials said training for HIMS-based OPD registration has already been conducted across hospitals, with implementation un-



CM Rekha Gupta with Health Minister Pankaj Singh launching new health initiatives in New Delhi on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

der way. The system, developed with support from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will also complement the existing HIMS used for monitoring national health schemes and programmes. The CM said over 93 lakh Ayushman Bharat Health Account IDs were issued in the Capital, giving every resident a unique digital health identity. Ms. Gupta said corruption in medicine procurement has been curbed with end-to-end digital processing. “To tackle overpriced medicines, JAKs were opened. Permanent re-

cruitment has also been initiated and over 1,350 nursing posts lying vacant for over a decade have now been filled,” she said.

Three-tier model On the Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, Ms. Gupta said they will serve as community-level health centres, offering multiple lab tests and basic services under a three-tier healthcare model covering primary, general, and super-specialty care. “Our goal is to open 15 such centres in every constituency,” she said. She also criticised the previous Aam Aadmi Party

(AAP) government, saying her administration was “still searching for their so-called health model”.

“Despite all the hype, people of Delhi continued to suffer without basic care. Not even one hospital was completed. Their Mohalla Clinics couldn’t offer basic services like a tetanus injection,” she said.

AAP said in a statement that “the L-G did not start the process of hiring doctors and paramedic staff for new hospitals and blocks despite multiple reminders”.

Health Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh said the government plans to set up 1,139 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs across Delhi. With the additions, 67 centres are now operational.

Each facility offers a package of 12 essential health services, including vaccination, antenatal and postnatal care, mental health, TB and leprosy elimination, screening for non-communicable diseases, along with in-house lab tests, yoga sessions, and telemedicine.

While some Mohalla Clinics have been rebranded and upgraded as Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, the government is scouting for more vacant spaces for expansion.



CM Rekha Gupta said the city’s waterlogging woes were due to ‘misgovernance’ during the previous AAP government. FILE PHOTO

AAP leader takes boat ride on flooded road; CM hits back

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Delhi’s monsoon-induced waterlogging woes continued to spark a political blame game on Thursday, with an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader taking a boat ride on a flooded road in north-east Delhi’s Khajuri Khas area and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta holding the previous AAP government responsible for the city’s current situation.

“During the Delhi Assembly election campaign, BJP leader Kapil Mishra repeatedly claimed that if his party formed the government, he would become a Minister and permanently resolve Karawal Nagar’s waterlogging problem. The people trusted him and elected him, but still the area’s residents are suffering,” said former AAP councillor Manoj Tyagi,

who took a boat ride on the road outside the Khajuri Khas police station.

Ms. Gupta attributed the waterlogging woes to “misgovernance” during the previous AAP government and said her government is working to rectify the issue. “To those who talk about waterlogging, I say thank you. You keep pointing out these issues. Tell us where the problems lie and we will fix them immediately,” she said.

Yamuna level recedes Meanwhile, the water level of the Yamuna river in Delhi receded on Thursday after coming close to the ‘danger mark’ a day earlier. According to officials, there was no threat of a flood-like situation. The meteorological department has forecast thunderstorms accompanied by rain on Friday.

Woman’s degrees no ground to deny financial support: HC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has upheld the grant of maintenance to a woman holding B.Tech and MBA degrees, observing that the capability to earn and actual earnings are two separate things.

A Bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Renu Bhatnagar noted that a woman’s educational qualifications alone cannot be a reason to deny her financial support, especially if she had to leave her job for childcare responsibilities.

“A wife may leave her job due to family circumstances or to care for a child, and over time, may find it difficult to secure suitable employment due to a lack

of experience or other factors. In such circumstances, merely on the basis of her capability to earn, she cannot be denied maintenance for herself and the child,” the court said in the judgment that was passed on July 1.

‘Irreconcilable rift’ The case involved a couple residing in Dwarka and living separately since March 2021. They have a minor daughter, who is in the custody of the woman. The husband had filed for divorce, citing “irreconcilable differences”. He had challenged a Family Court order from December last year directing him to pay ₹10,000 per month to the wife and ₹15,000 to

the child as interim maintenance.

He contended that his wife had worked as a finance executive and was a registered insurance planner, earning around ₹3 lakh per annum before marriage, and continued to earn even after filing the petition.

The court rejected this argument, noting that the amount awarded was not excessive considering the cost of living, inflation, and the child’s growing needs. Given the man’s monthly income of ₹1,74,354, the interim maintenance amount was “just, apt, appropriate, and necessary for the wife to maintain a lifestyle commensurate with that of the husband”, the court said.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR UT
Office Ofthe Executive Engineer JSD (PHE) Rural Water Supply Division,
Ganderbal/Sgr.H.Q: Cheki-Duderhama Ganderbal.
e mail: phersd@gmail.com, Phone/Fax: 0194 2416292

NOTICE INVITING e TENDERS:
GIST OFFRESH e NIT No. - 16JS-PHE/RWSD/Civil of 2025 - 25

For and on behalf of the LT, Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders (Two cover System) are invited on "Percentage Rate basis" from "A" Class - Reputed and resourceful contractors/Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments, which should be uploaded on the Procurement e web portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in> up to last bidding date i.e. 12.08.2025 up to 04.00 PM for the subject work(s) referred below to be received by the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar / Ganderbal (Hq: Engg. Complex Silk Factory Road Rajbagh Srinagar) and as per the details mentioned in this e-tender notification (SBD) and to whom all the terms and conditions of detailed e-NIT, Tender Documents/PWD Form No.-25 double are accepted. The detailed tender document and Specifications etc. can be downloaded on the e-procurement Portal <http://www.jktenders.gov.in>. The cost of tender documents (Non-refundable/Non-transferable) should be the name of e-Challan or Treasury Challan/Receipt in favour of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal/Sgr (Hq: Cheki-Duderhama Ganderbal) (Table II)

S. No.	Name of Work	Tendered cost including all Taxes (Rs. in lacs.)	Cost of document (In shape of PWD Form No. 25) (Rs. in lacs.)	Cost of e-NIT (Rs. in lacs.)	Time of completion	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid)	Class of contractor
1	Water Supply Scheme Gasabo and its adjoining areas under UT Capex	₹ 226.33 Lacs	₹ 1000/- (For e-NIT)	₹ 4.53 Lacs (Pledged to the Executive Engineer JS-PHE Rural Water Supply Division Ganderbal/Sgr)	12 months	2nd	Office of the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar/ Ganderbal (Hq: Srinagar) on 13.08.2025 at 11:30 PM	"A" Class - Reputed and resourceful contractors/Firms/Companies/Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments

Head of Account:- UT-CAPEX.
Position of Fund:- Available.
The tender inviting authority is the Executive Engineer, Jai Shakti (PHE) RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr. The awarding authority is the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar/Ganderbal (Hq: Srinagar). The Bidding documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://jktenders.gov.in> From 23.03.2025 (16:45pm.) UPTO 19.04.2025 (12:00 p.m.)

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings(if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below Table II

Key/Critical Dates:

Date	Event
22/07/2025	Publish Date
23/07/2025 from 10:00 am	Document Download/Sale Start Date
23/07/2025 from 10:00 am	Clarification Start Date
02/08/2025 upto 4:00 pm	Pre-Bid Meeting date
04/08/2025 at 11:30 am	Pre-Bid Meeting date (In the office of the Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Sgr/GM Hq: Engg. Complex Silk Factory Road Rajbagh Sgr.)
23/07/2025 from 10:00 am	Sub Submission Start Date
12/08/2025 upto 4:00 PM	Sub Submission End Date
13/08/2025 at 11:30 AM	Date and time of Bid opening

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/DRBG and Document fee in shape of TR/Challan mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the e-NIT & cost of Tender Document Under M.J.0215 to be deposited in favour of the Executive Engineer JS-PHE RWS Division Ganderbal/Sgr (H.Q. Cheki-Duderhama Ganderbal) (as specified in the table I) (labour & all other requisite documents mentioned in the Detailed / Uploaded SBD of the work. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar/Ganderbal (Hq: Srinagar) on 13.08.2025 at 11:30 AM. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

Sd/-
(Er. Fayaz Ahmad Bhat)
Executive Engineer JS-PHE
RWSD Ganderbal/Sgr

DIPK-4188/25

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HP PWD Division Manali at Katrain on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the Percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system, for construction of following work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firm registered with HP PWD,

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated cost of the Work	Bid Security / EMD	Cost of Document	Period of Completion.
1.	Construction of Bye-pass road from NH-03 (SABHA RESTAURANT) to Club House, Palchan road Km. 0/00 to 1/800 (SH- Formation cutting, R/Wall, B/Wall and CD work).	2,58,97,101/-	5,18,000/-	7,000/-	Eighteen Months

Key dates:-

Sr.	Event	Date
1.	Date of Online Publication	26.07.2025 at 11.30 AM.
2.	Document Download Start and End Date	26.07.2025 to 04.08.2025 at 05.00 PM
3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	26.07.2025 to 04.08.2025 at 05.00 PM
4.	Physical submission of EMD and cost of tender document	05.08.2025 at 10.00 AM
5.	Date of Technical Bid opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid	05.08.2025 at 10.00 AM

Bidders documents can be downloaded from the website <http://hptenders.gov.in>. The documents downloaded from the Missing site should not be tempered, and if any such tempering is detected before or after the opening of bids, the bidder shall be penalized and blacklisted.

The Bidder is requested to study ITB, HP, PWD, Form-6 and 7/8 and general Rule and Direction, conditions of contract clauses and upload all required document in pdf from on the website <http://hptenders.gov.in> and submit all desired documents in original with in specified period to the office of the Executive Engineer HP PWD Manali at Katrain. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder, it is the bidders responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related the tender.

Other terms and condition shall remain same as given in the bid document.

Terms & Conditions:-
Scanned copy of Registration Enlistment with H.P.P.W.D. Deptt.
Scanned copy of PAN TIN Income Tax clearance certificate.
Scanned copy of work done certificate of similar nature of work.
Scanned copy of Earnest Money and Cost of Form.
Scanned copy of Machinery i.e. Air Compressor, Vibrator needle type, Concrete Mixer, s Tipper, JCB etc.

Executive Engineer,
HP PWD Division Manali,
at Katrain,

HP / 2008-25-26 **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMAPRK**

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL & HOSPITAL DIVISION SRINAGAR
(Erstwhile Mechanical Hospital & Central Heating Division Srinagar)
Contact No: 0194-2496089, Email Id: xnmhcdh@yaboo.in

GIST of e-tender
e-NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/51/e-tendering, Dated: 22-07-2025

For and on behalf of the LT, Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited in two cover system on percentage basis from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. Rupees)	Cost of T.Doc. (In rupees)	Time of completion (In Days)	AA Accorded Vide No:	TS No	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Position of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Emergent/Repair/Repl acement Works to be carried out for the Departmental Pumping Unit installed at STP Sewage/Sump arrangement for 500 Bedded Govt. Children's Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar	11,500/-	50	10	04 MCS of 2025 Dt: 08.05.2025	M&H SD-Is/ TS/ 08 of 07/2025	2% of the estimated cost	Available with Intending Department

The bidding document consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule given below:-

Sr.	Event	Date
1.	Publish date	22-07-2025 (17:00 hrs)
2.	Period of downloading of bidding document	22-07-2025 (17:00 hrs)
3.	Bid submission start date	22-07-2025 (08:00 hrs)
4.	Bid submission end date	31-07-2025 (13:00 hrs)
5.	Date and time of opening of bids	31-07-2025 (15:00 hrs)

DIPK-4209/25

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M&H, Srinagar

SECTION I
Superintending Engineer 4th Circle, HPPWD Shimla HP
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The Superintending Engineer 4th Circle, HPPWD Shimla-3 on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of road/bridge under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for following work, if any, from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD and HP Jai Shakti Vibhag (Contractors of HP Jai Shakti Vibhag are eligible to participate for the works having amount put to tender above Rs. 100 Lacs). Non registered contractors may submit the bids, however successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD.

District	RIDF	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lacs)	Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Form Cost	Bid Security (Rs.Lakh)
Shimla	XXX	C/o Link road Nehwat, Nayaser, Ghaini, Devidhar road Km 0/00 to 13/691 (SH- C/o 24 mtr. Span RCC T-Beam bridge at RD 4/813 to 4/837), C/o Protection Work, Crash Barrier in Km 2/000 to 5/220 (In bridge approaches)	310.63	Nil	310.63	7000/- 6.21

Period of Completion:- 18 months, **Starting date for downloading bid :** 26.07.2025, **Deadline for submission of bid:-** 04.08.2025.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website www.hptender.gov.in. The Superintending Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Superintending Engineer,
4th Circle, H.P.P.W.D., Shimla-3
E-mail: hp-shi3@nic.in

HP / 2019/25-26 **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK**

GVK Power (Goindwal Sahib) Limited
Regd. Office Plot No. 10, Paigah Colony, Sardar Patel Road, Secunderabad-500003,
Telangana, India CIN U40109TG1997PLC028483
(A wholly owned subsidiary of Guru Amar Das Thermal Power Limited, GATPL)
(A step down wholly owned subsidiary of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, PSPCL)
HOD-HR & Admin, GATP, Goindwal Sahib, invites E-Tender for the work of :

Tender Enquiry No. 051/GATP/ADMINVEHICLE/50007353 dated 24/07/2025
"Services for Vehicle Hiring of 2 x 270 MW Thermal Power Plant GATP, Goindwal Sahib"
at 2x270 MW Guru Amardas Thermal Plant (GATP), Goindwal Sahib, Distt: Tarn Taran, Punjab as per details given in the tender specifications"

For detailed NIT & tender specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> in from 24/07/2025 from 17:00 Hrs. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
GATP-38/25

107912/2025-26/1554

आनंद विकास एवं प्रबन्धन प्राधिकरण
पुनर्वसि विमानतट सहाय, उपनगर के पास, कटपु, देवीद्वारा नगर - 0141-2600032
ई-मेल आई.डी. :- admin.jalpur@gmail.com

क्रमांक :- कार्ड दिनांक एएम/लेखा/2025-26/1885 दिनांक :- 21/07/2025

अल्पकालीन ई-विड संख्या-07/2025-26

वित्त मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार SANSI योजना में स्वीकृत Development of ICONIC Amber, Nahargarh and Surrounding Area, Jaipur में विभिन्न स्थित एवं विद्युत कार्यों हेतु राज्य सरकारों/केन्द्र सरकार/निगमों/बोर्ड कार्यालयों में सक्षम/निर्वाचित श्रेणी में संजीकृत संवेदकों से विभागीय खुली बिड ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से ऑनलाइन वेबसाइट <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर आमंत्रित की जाती है जिनका विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> एवं <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर उपलब्ध है, जो देवी व पढ़ी जा सकती है।

(अल्पकालीन ई-विड संख्या-07 / 2025-26 की कुल लागत राशि रुपये 1194.00 लाख)
NIB Code: ADA2526A0008
बिड सूची.एन. नम्बर :- ADA2526WSOB00029, 00030, 00031, 00032
एच.एस.आर/सी/25/6815 कार्यकारी निदेशक (कार्ड)

देवी अहिल्या विश्वविद्यालय
विश्वविद्यालय भवन, आर.एन.टी. मार्ग, इन्दौर - 452001
संपर्क : मो. : 9827574485
क्रमांक : भण्डारट्रेक सू.क्रय नि./2025/60 दिनांक : 24.07.2025

ऑनलाइन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण

देवी अहिल्या विश्वविद्यालय, इन्दौर द्वारा mptender के माध्यम से Track Suit क्रय करने हेतु निविदा क्रमांक No./Stores/Track Suit/2024-25/01 Tender ID 2025 DAVV 412843_3 पुनः आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण देवी अहिल्या विश्वविद्यालय, इन्दौर की वेबसाइट www.davuniv.ac.in पर भी देखा जा सकता है।
म.प्र. माध्यम/121260/2025 कुलसचिव

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU thehindu.businessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR youngworld THE HINDU



The group set out on an 18-kilometre trek and got stuck due to the heavy rain. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

17 tourists stranded in Odisha forest rescued by police

Satvasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

What began as a pilgrimage trek between two temples in western Odisha turned into a night-long ordeal of fear and endurance for a group of tourists from Jharsuguda district before they were finally rescued early on Thursday.

Seventeen tourists, including 13 women, were stranded on the Gandhamardhan Hills following heavy rain and were rescued by the Odisha police, officers said on Thursday.

According to the police, around 2 p.m. on Wednesday, the group set out on an 18-kilometre trek through the forested, hilly terrain that connects the twin shrines of Nrusinghnath and Harishankar on the Gandhamardhan Hills. Due to heavy rain and poor visibility, they lost their way and were stranded on the hills overnight. After being alerted, police personnel stationed nearby were quickly mobilised and a

rescue operation was launched.

‘Challenging operation’
“From Wednesday evening through early Thursday, our teams tracked their movements and worked tirelessly through one of the most challenging rescue operations,” said Bargarh Superintendent of Police Prahlad Sahai Meena, who monitored the mission.

Upon receiving the distress call, a dedicated team of the District Voluntary Force, comprising 30 commandos, equipped with food supplies, first-aid kits, and rescue gear, was dispatched. Navigating the difficult terrain, they reached the stranded group at 4 a.m. on Thursday and brought them to safety, added the officer.

“One of the girls was visually impaired, making it difficult to bring her down the hill,” the SP said.

The visibly traumatised tourists were not in a mood to speak to mediapersons.

SC to hear Bengal govt.’s challenge to HC stay on fresh OBC list exercise

Chief Justice refers to *Indra Sawhney* judgment, says backward classes in the society could be identified through executive directions; indicates that the court would pass orders on Monday; Sibal says contempt action against State shouldn’t go on

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday raised doubts about the Calcutta High Court decision to stay an effort by the West Bengal government to finalise a new list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the State.

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai remarked that judicial precedent, right from the nine-judge Bench historic verdict in the *Indra Sawhney* case in 1992, dictated that backward classes in the society could be identified through executive directions.

Orally mentioning the plea for West Bengal, senior advocate Kapil Sibal



The Supreme Court Bench listed the case for hearing on July 28. FILE PHOTO

said the State was even facing contempt action from the High Court. He said a writ petition was filed in the High Court claiming that a new list could be prepared only if the exercise was backed by legislation. The High Court had consequently stayed the State exercise on June 17.

“The High Court orders came on the writ petition saying classification of backward classes should be on the basis of a legislation... That State has to legislate... This morning the case was listed for contempt,” Mr. Sibal submitted.

The CJ responded orally that “it [classification] can be done by Executive instructions... This has been so since the *Indra Sawhney* judgment”.

The Bench listed the case for hearing on July 28. “The contempt should not go on,” Mr. Sibal urged. The Chief Justice indicated that the court would pass orders on July 28.

In March, West Bengal had opted to withdraw

from the Supreme Court its appeal against a High Court judgment of May 2024 which struck down a State policy to include several castes, largely Muslim communities, in the OBC list.

The High Court had concluded that religion was the “sole criterion for declaring these communities as OBC”. It had found the “selection of 77 classes of Muslims as backwards an affront to the Muslim community as a whole”.

At the time of the withdrawal of the appeal from the top court, Mr. Sibal had informed that the State Backward Classes Commission would prepare a fresh list after identifying socially and educa-

tionally backward communities.

The 2024 High Court judgment had impacted five lakh OBC certificates issued in the State since 2010. It had struck down portions of the West Bengal Backward Classes (Other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) (Reservation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Act, 2012. Among the Sections nullified were Section 16, the second part of Section 2(h), and Section 5(a) of the Act, which distributed reservation percentages of 10% and 7% to the sub-classified categories. Consequently, the sub-classified categories OBC-A and OBC-B were removed from Schedule I of the Act.

IIT Guwahati students step up protest against fee hike

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Research scholars and postgraduate students of the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-G) have stepped up their protest against a “steep” fee hike, which the institute said was necessary to support enhanced student welfare and activities.

The students began protesting on July 22 after talks with the management failed.

“None of the 8,500 students was informed about the fee revision, which popped up suddenly on the fee payment portal,” one of the scholars said, declining to be named.

IIT-G defended the upward revision of the fee by ₹8,900 per semester after a gap of seven years.

MNS workers remove Gujarati signboards of hotels along NH

Press Trust of India
THANE/PALGHAR

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) workers on Thursday forcibly removed Gujarati signboards of several hotels along the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway in Thane and Palghar districts, demanding Marathi

signage. The Palghar district of Maharashtra shares border with Gujarat.

Hindi row

The agitation came soon after a row over Hindi being made mandatory at primary schools in the State. MNS supporters

smashed the Gujarati board of a hotel near Haloli village, local sources said.

Several hotels covered their Gujarati boards with black cloth, they said.

When contacted, the local police said they have not received any complaint regarding the action by MNS activists.

Ramadoss files plaint seeking ban on Anbumani’s padayatra

The Hindu Bureau
VILLUPURAM


The tussle between PMK founder S. Ramadoss and his son Anbumani Ramadoss has intensified, with the former lodging a complaint with the Director General of Police, seeking measures to prevent the

latter’s upcoming 100-day *padayatra* “to reclaim the rights of the Tamil people”.

Speaking to reporters at his Thailapuram residence near Tindivanam on Thursday, Mr. Ramadoss said the police should prevent Mr. Anbumani from taking out the *padayatra* as

it would cause law and order issues in north T.N.

He also sought police intervention to prevent the use of the PMK flag during the *padayatra*. Mr. Ramadoss reiterated that his name should not be used by his son in any context, though he may use his initial.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e tender through BEML SRM Portal

BEML LIMITED, BANGALORE COMPLEX invites Public Tender-E mode (Two Bid System)
Civil works tender ref: **6300039777**
Work Description : Design & Construction of Pre-Engineered Hangar for storage of materials of High Speed Trains and future Metro items to carry a load of 10 Ton overhead crane capacity at a given point, area adjacent to Cylinder stores in BEML Limited, Bangalore complex, Bangalore-75
Approx. estimated value : Rs. 9,35,00,000 /- inclusive of GST
EMD amount : Rs. 28,05,000/-
Period of contract: 08 Months
Last date & time for submission of bids : 18.08.2025 at 15.00 Hrs
Further details of tender can be obtained from following website:
https://bemlepci.bemlindia.in:50001/irjportal & https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app
Bidders are advised to visit above websites frequently for any corrigendum, extension, etc.
The management has the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereon.
Sd/- Deputy General Manager

HIMACHAL PRADESH
JAI SHAKTI VIBHAG
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
sExecutive Engineer, Jai Shakti Division, Dharamshala on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors / Firms enlisted in the appropriate class with HP Jai Shakti Vibhag for the following work through online tendering process: - **Name of Work:- Improvement of WSS Ram Nagar Sham Nagar Ward 10 & 11 of Municipal Corporation under SMART CITY Dharamshala in Tehsil Dharamshala Distt. Kangra (HP),/SI/- C/O Pump House attendant cum staff room, C/o Underground tank 40000ltr., S/E of Pumping machinery, laying, jointing & testing of Rising main and U.V Based Disinfection system)**


Estimated Cost:	Rs. 11995376/-Only
Earnest Money:	Rs 194960/-Only
Time Limit :	Two Year.
Cost of Form :	5000/- only.

Last date for the submission of e-tender through online mode 02.08.2025 at 11:00 A.M. Others terms and conditions ,tender documents of tender please refer website: <https://hptenders.gov.in>.


Executive Engineer,
Jai Shakti Division,
Dharamshala

HP / 2018/25-26

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS VARANASI-221004
Bid No.: E-23/2025-26 **E-Tenders** Date: 23-07-2025
E-Tenders are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for supply of following items. Only e-offer will be acceptable for which vendors must have class III Digital Signature and registration on **IREPS**. The details of tenders are in the following sequence:- **S.No., Tender No., (Due Date), Description and Quantity.**
1. 03251180, (20/08/2025, 15:00), COUPLING 4" FLEX, (PL No.2917452879) 1198 Nos. 2. 03251036C, (11/08/2025), Roof Assy Complete, (PL No.29170941), 127 Set. 3. 03251009A, (13/08/2025), Complete Shell Assembly, (PL No.29176591), 117 Set. 4. 03251063, (11/08/2025), Tube Cu 12.7mm, (PL No.29170096), 10810 MTR., Tube Cu 9.52mm, (PLNo.29170114), 16023 MTR. and Tube Cu 25.4mm, (PL No.29170321), 10649 MTR. 5. 10241597A, (05/08/2025), Lube oil strainer ASM (PL No.16080118), 41 Nos. 6. 10251132, (06/08/2025), Kit main bearing lower (PL No.16080830), 351 Nos. 7. 10241303A, (22/09/2025), Kit of Turbo dwelling components (PL No.16081110), 67 Nos. 8. 08251078, Open Tender, (05/08/2025), JOINT CENTER BONDED RUBBER as per Drg. No. 8234958 ALT Fd specn: 1. SPECIFICATION No. MISC-456. 2. PURCHASE SPECIFICATION No. MISC-558 Rev.2. (PL No.17456010), 11476 Nos. 9. 08251050, Open Tender, (12/08/2025), GAUGE & BYPASS VALVE as per Drg. No. 10632529 ALT a specn: SPECIFICATION FOR CLEANING, SURFACE/RUST PREVENTIV, I-MARK AND PACKING CONDITIONS MISC-457, (PL No.17390310), 650 Nos. 10. 08251061, Open Tender, (25/08/2025), FUEL PUMP MOTOR PART NO. 11815565 DRG. No. 11815565 ALT-NIL Spec: MISC-632 REV. - R2, (PL No.11815565), 393 Nos. 11. 11251384, (31/07/2025), EMPAGLIFIOZIN 10 MG TAB/CAP (PL No.82029611), 82290 Nos. 12. Global Tender,11255196, (08/08/2025), INJ INSULIN ASPART PENFILLS 100 IU/ML 3 ML, (PL No.820196410020), 2100 Nos., INSULIN DEGLUDASC/INSULIN ASPART (1ML of SOLUTION CONTAINS 100 UNITS OF INSULIN DEGLUDAC 70% & 30% INSULIN ASPART), (PL No.820102540016), 450 Nos., INJ INSULIN DEGLUDAC 100 IU/ML IN 3ML PPP, (PL No.820205390015), 1000 Nos. 13. Global Tender, 10241645A, (13/08/2025), Governor for 4500 HP, (PL No.16340036), 31 Nos. 14. 09251135, E-16/2024-25, 01, Existing Due Date (23/07/2025), Revise Due Date (30-07-2025), 15, 06251049, E-17/2025-26, 01, Existing Due Date (23/07/2025), Revise Due Date (30-07-2025). For details of above tenders are available on Website www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in and www.ireps.gov.in.
P.R./BLWS-24 **PCMM.**
 /blwvaranasi "website:- blw.indianrailways.gov.in"

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Telephones:- 0135-2763808, Fax:- 0135- 2763508,
CIN No. U040101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

R.O.No.- 511 **Time Extension Notice-02** **Date: 23.07.2025**
Due to unavoidable circumstances, due dates in respect of online Bid Identification Nos.: (i) **T-01/EE(Solar)/2025-26**, (ii) **T-02/EE (Solar)/2025-26**, (iii) **T-03/EE(Solar)/2025-26** are extended as follows:
Date for availability of bid document on the portal : 08.08.2025 from 17:00 Hrs.
Last Date /Time of Receipt of bid on the portal : 30.08.2025 till 16:00 Hrs.
Detail of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>.
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**Timings**
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FRIDAY, JUL. 25
RISE 05:39 SET 19:17
RISE 05:52 SET 19:58
SATURDAY, JUL. 26
RISE 05:40 SET 19:16
RISE 06:56 SET 20:33
SUNDAY, JUL. 27
RISE 05:40 SET 19:15
RISE 07:58 SET 21:05


Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 36 25
Safdarjang 36 25
Palam 36 24


Delhi Palam Today
35°C The weather will be warm. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur. Night will be comfortable.
Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be very warm and uneasy. Night will be comfortable. Mostly dry weather to prevail.
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Himachal Pradesh
Jai Shakti Vibhag
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Executive Engineer,
Jai Shakti Division,
Ghumarwin (H.P.).
Telephone No. 01978255287
e-mail: zeniphgm@rediffmail.com
On line bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jai Shakti Division, Ghumarwin on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system in two covers for the under mentioned work from the contractor/firms of appropriate class enlisted with HP JAI SHAKTI VIBHAG. The Contractor/Firm who have experience in construction of similar work and have established organization for taking up such work and who satisfy the qualification criteria of bid document need only apply. The scope of the work will be as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of tender Form	Time limit
1.	Improvement of sewerage distribution network under M.C. Ghumarwin of existing sewerage scheme alongwith STP and I&D construction in Tehsil Ghumarwin Distt. Bilaspur (HP) (Under Water Management Component under SBM (U) 2.0).	Rs. 24907731/-	Rs. 324077/-	Rs. 5000/-	Two Year

Date of filling /uploading the tender through e-tender 24/07/2025 from 5.00 PM to 06/08/2025 upto 5.00 PM and the same will be open on 07/08/2025 at 11.30 AM. The tender form and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.hpihp.org.
Executive Engineer,
Jai Shakti Division
Ghumarwin
HP / 2024/25-26 **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

**THE HINDU**
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ADMISSION NOTICE-2025 **Dated:**
Delhi Teachers University, a State University established by an Act of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, invites applications for admission to the M.A. (Education) programme-

Programme Name	Opening Date of Application	Last Date of Application	Admission Criteria
M.A. (Education) (2 Year Programme)	25th July 2025	24th August 2025	CUET PG 2025 score

For details regarding eligibility criteria and admission procedure, please visit the University website: www.delhiteachersuniversity.edu.in. Online applications would be filled up on the Samarth portal - the link for the admission portal will be provided on the university's website.

Registrar
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0153/25-26 **Delhi Teachers University**

**BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED**
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,BSWML, 1st Floor,
BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052
No:DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/07/2025-26 **Date: 24.07.2025**
INVITATION FOR TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works mention in the below table.

Sl No.	Package Name	Approx. Amount Put to Bid (Rs.in Crores)	EMD Amount (in Rs)	Stipulated Period of Completion (including Monsoon Period)
1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Material Recovery Facility having sorting, shredding, baling & storage system for handling a minimum 200 TPD of Dry Waste at Doddabidarakallu Plant under BBMP jurisdiction. (Package -P1) on own design build & transfer basis.(DBT)	28.39 (Including GST)	28,39,000/-	12 Months
2	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Material Recovery Facility having sorting, shredding, baling & storage system for handling a minimum 200 TPD of Dry Waste at Subbarayanapalya Plant under BBMP jurisdiction. (Package -P2) on own design build & transfer basis.(DBT)	20.69 (Including GST)	20,69,000/-	12 Months
3	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Material Recovery Facility having sorting shredding, baling & storage system for handling a minimum 826 TPD of Dry Waste at Tarahunase under BBMP jurisdiction (Package -P3) on own design build & transfer basis. (DBT)	76.44 (Including GST)	76,44,000/-	12 Months

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: 1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in kpp portal: 04.08.2025 before 4:00 pm. 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: 05.08.2025 at 3:00 pm at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender 28.08.2025 before 4:00 pm. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: 29.08.2025 after 4:30 pm.
For more details please visit KPP Portal <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1,
BSWML, Bengaluru
DIPRC/CP/2025/CCL/2025-26

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXV ADDL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE (CCH - 23)
Misc. No. 976 / 2024
Petitioners: M/s Payrocket Technology Private Limited and Anr., Having registered office at: No. 32, Kumbharhall, Hesaragatta, Holli, Bangalore-560 009.
Vs.
Respondent : Sri Kamal Nayan Goyal S/o Satish Kumar Goyal, Residing at: #49, Janna Apartments, Sector 9, Rohini, Delhi - 110085.
NOTICE TO RESPONDENT UNDER ORDER V RULE 2 (2)(A) OF THE CIVIL PROCEDURE CODE

Whereas the Petitioners in the above petition have filed this miscellaneous petition against you, i.e. Sri Kamal Nayan Goyal, seeking detention for a period of 3 months for breach of injunction Order dated 02.02.2024 passed by this Hon'ble Court on O.S. No. 4637/2023 and such other reliefs and you are summoned to appear before the CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE (CCH -23), Bangalore. Take notice that in default of your appearance on the 7th day of August 2025, at 11:00 AM to defend the above suit, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on this 7th day of July, 2025.
By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristadar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for the Petitioners
Address : Ashlar Law,
Municipal No. 96, 79, Second Floor,
Infantry Road Cross,
Bangalore - 560 001.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, Ms. Rajinder Kaur wife of Sh. Palvinder Singh, residing at S-221/62, Gali No. 7, Vishnu garden, New Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Harjinder Kaur for all purposes.

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States

INBRIEF



Mamata inciting conflict to garner votes, says Mithun

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and actor Mithun Chakraborty on Thursday denied allegations that Bengali migrant workers were being attacked in other States. “These are utter lies. Which Bengalis are being attacked? [Trinamool Congress] is trying to secure its vote by inciting conflict... that is what the Chief Minister does; she instigates,” the BJP leader said, denying the Trinamool Congress’s allegations that Bengali workers were being harassed in BJP-ruled States. He added that he has worked in other States and “never faced hostility for being a Bengali.”

Seven killed, 27 injured as bus falls into gorge in Himachal

At least seven persons were killed and 27 sustained injuries on Thursday, after a State transport bus they were travelling in, skidded off the road and fell into a deep gorge near Sarkaghat town in Himachal Pradesh’s Mandi district. The bus was on its way from Sarkaghat to Durgapur, according to a government statement. The injured have been admitted to the civil hospital at Sarkaghat and the medical college in Nerchowk. The seriously injured were referred to AIIMS Bilaspur. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu directed the Mandi district administration to provide ex gratia grant to the next of kin of the deceased and best treatment to the injured.

Monsoon fury: Oppn. hits out at Congress govt. over ‘poor’ rescue and relief in Himachal

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and current Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Jai-ram Thakur, on Thursday hit out at the Congress government, accusing it of failing to carry out relief, rescue, and reconstruction efforts effectively during the ongoing monsoon-related disaster.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Mr. Thakur said the relief and reconstruction work was “very slow and inadequate” in areas affected by the ongoing monsoon season.

“Roads remain closed, and electricity and water services are still not fully restored. The region’s economy relies heavily on agriculture, horticulture,



BJP leader and former Himachal CM Jai-ram Thakur addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and flower cultivation, but road closures are preventing the remaining post-disaster produce from reaching markets,” he said.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader added that while the Central government had provided ₹5,150 crore in financial assistance to the Himachal Pradesh government for the 2023 disaster, the State had not distributed the

funds to all eligible affected persons.

Meeting with Ministers Earlier in the day, a delegation of BJP leaders from Himachal Pradesh, led by the party’s national president Jagat Prakash Nadda, who hails from the State, met several Union Ministers to apprise them of the recent disaster and to seek additional relief.

High Court reviews legislation affecting choice of surname in matrilineal Meghalaya

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A law that restricts the issuance of Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates to individuals who adopt their father’s or husband’s surname has come under judicial scrutiny in matrilineal Meghalaya.

On Wednesday, the High Court of Meghalaya sought a response from the State’s Advocate General to a petition challenging certain provisions of the Khasi Hills Autonomous District (Khasi Social Custom of Lineage) Act, 1997, which aims to preserve the matrilineal structure of the Khasi community.

The public interest litigation plea was filed by Syngkhong Rymphai Thymmai, a group advocating reforms and a shift from the



The PIL was filed by a group advocating reforms and a shift from traditional matrilineal to a patrilineal system in the State. FILE PHOTO Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Ag98nValQ

matrilineal to a patrilineal system. The group has questioned the legal validity of restrictions imposed under the Act.

‘Letter withdrawn’ However, the department subsequently withdrew the letter on May 21, 2024. Fol-

lowing this, authorities allegedly began denying ST certificates to Khasi individuals who used their father’s or husband’s surname.

The group contended that surname preference should not form the basis for denying an ST certificate, provided the applicant met the bloodline and lineage criteria under the Act, as amended in 2023.

“We do not think, at this stage, that for the disposal of the public interest litigation, affidavits are required. If affidavits are required at a later stage, we shall call for them, but in the interest of the Khasi community at large, this issue should be resolved as expeditiously as possible,” an order by a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji and Justice Wanlura Diengdoh read.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking strong exception to Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant’s statement that the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change would not give permission for Karnataka’s Mahadayi project, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said the State will go ahead with the river project.

Addressing the Goa Assembly on Tuesday, Mr. Sawant had claimed that the Centre would not approve the project. He had also said the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Goa government would file a contempt petition in the Supreme Court against Karnataka for carrying out activities aimed at diverting the river water.

Mr. Shivakumar said the State would take an all-party leaders’ delegation to New Delhi to convince the Centre about the need to provide all the clearances for the project. He said he would also meet all the MPs



Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah with his deputy D.K. Shivakumar. The diversion of Mahadayi water has long been a point of contention between Karnataka and Goa. FILE PHOTO

from Karnataka to seek their support. “We will withdraw our application in this regard from the Supreme Court and start work on the project,” said Mr. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio.

“The tribunal concerned has given its verdict on Mahadayi and we have already floated a tender. BJP leaders, including Basavaraj Bommai and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, had even celebrated saying that the project would take off soon after the promise of approval by the Centre,” he added. “I urge the State MPs to put pressure on the

Centre. I will try to take an all-party delegation to Delhi,” Mr. Shivakumar said.

Asked if the Centre was “misleading” the State on the Mahadayi project, he said: “The Union Jal Shakti Minister [C.R. Patil] is impartial on the matter and he won’t politicise this. I have already met him four-five times. The Union Environment Minister [Bhupendra Yadav] will also not indulge in politics on this issue. Both of them support development works. The issue is with Goa.”

Goa has been opposing the project, which proposes diverting Mahadayi water into the Malaprabha riv-

er to enhance the drinking water supply in parts of Dharwad, Belagavi, Bagalkote, and Gadag districts of Karnataka.

The diversion of Mahadayi water has long been a point of contention between Karnataka and Goa, with the latter claiming it would impact the its flora and fauna. The Mahadayi flows through Karnataka and Goa before joining the Arabian Sea.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also criticised Mr. Sawant’s remarks on Wednesday, calling them an “insult” to the people of Karnataka. Reacting to the comments of the Chief Minister and his deputy, BJP leader and Deputy Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Arvind Bellad sought to know why the ruling Congress in Karnataka was trying to “politicise” Goa CM’s statement. “Instead, the State government should do its job and make necessary submissions legally and get clearances,” he said.

(With inputs from PTI)

Mamata flags more reports of detentions of Bengali migrants

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said that she has been increasingly receiving reports of detentions of and atrocities on Bengali-speaking people from different districts of West Bengal in Gurugram, Haryana.

This, the Trinamool Congress chairperson said, is in addition to reports from other States such as Rajasthan about illegal “pushbacks” of West Bengal residents directly to Bangladesh or detentions totalling about 1,000.

‘Terrible atrocities’

“There are tortures and tortures on hapless poor Bengali workers from West Bengal in these States. I am shocked to see these terrible atrocities of double-engine governments on Bengalis in India,” Ms. Banerjee posted on social media about BJP-ruled States in north India. “We are not going to tolerate this. Stop this linguistic terror.”

Earlier on July 21, during the ruling Trinamool Congress’s Martyrs’ Day rally, the Chief Minister had announced a movement to protest against the target-



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the ‘Mahanayak Samman’ award function in Kolkata on Thursday. PTI

ting of West Bengal migrants elsewhere.

‘Language movement’ “If required, there will be another language movement against the BJP’s terrorism on the Bengali language... From July 27, a movement will start in Bengal in protest against the attack on Bengalis, Bengali language and *Bhasha santras* (linguistic terrorism),” Ms. Banerjee had said at the rally.

On Thursday, women from Harishchandrapur in Malda held protests against the harassment of migrants from the State. The protests included both Hindu and Muslim women who raised slogans against the alleged atrocities on migrants from the area working in Haryana.

Namperumalsamy, India’s first retina specialist, passes away

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

Madurai-based Aravind Eye Hospital’s chairman emeritus P. Namperumalsamy died at the age of 85 on Thursday. He is survived by his wife Nachiar and two sons, Venkatesh Prajna and Vishnu Prasad.

Born on July 9, 1940, to an agricultural family in a small hamlet in Theni district of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Namperumalsamy – well known as Dr. Nam – did his MBBS at Madurai Medical College and moved to Boston, U.S., to pursue higher education.

He was the first retina specialist in the country. He practised at Erskine Hospital, Madurai (now known as Government Rajaji Hospital), before starting his own venture, Mr. Venkatesh Prajna said.

Dr. Namperumalsamy



Aravind Eye Hospital chairman emeritus P. Namperumalsamy

received the Padma Shri in 2007 for his contributions to the field of ophthalmology. He received several awards over the course of a long and illustrious career.

The cremation is expected to be performed at Ambasamudram in Theni district on Friday.

In a social media post, the Raj Bhavan said Governor R.N. Ravi was deeply pained by the passing of Dr. P. Namperumalsamy.

Every SC/ST complaint must lead to filing of FIR without preliminary inquiry, says HC

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

In a significant verdict, the Madras High Court has held that the police cannot conduct a preliminary inquiry on receipt of complaints disclosing cognisable offences under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989, and that the law enforcing agency should straightaway register a First Information Report (FIR) against the suspects.

Justice P. Velmurugan said Section 18A(1)(a) of the Act, introduced by way of an amendment in 2018, categorically states that no preliminary inquiry would be required for registration of FIR. “The legislative intent is to ensure immediate and unfiltered registration of complaints alleging



The Madras High Court agreed with advocate R. Thirumoorthy that the police often do not follow the legal mandate.

caste-based atrocities, without procedural obstructions or administrative discretion,” he said.

The judge agreed with advocate R. Thirumoorthy that the police often do not follow the legal mandate. Therefore, he directed the Director-General of Police/Head of Police Force (DGP/HoPF) to communicate a copy of his order to all Commissioners as well as Superintendents of Police in the

State to avoid infraction of the legal requirement as far as SC/ST cases were concerned.

The judge said he had been coming across instances of preliminary inquiries being conducted in SC/ST cases, and such inquiries being conducted by officers below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), though Rule 7(i) of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, mandates inquiry in such cases by police officers not below the rank of DSP.

Stating that procedural lapses should not recur, the judge made it clear that the investigation in SC/ST cases must be completed, and final reports/chargesheets must be filed before the special courts within 60 days from the date of registration of FIR.

Fans erupt in joy as ‘Power Star’ Pawan Kalyan makes cinematic comeback after two years

Harish Gilai
VISAKHAPATNAM

Fans erupted in celebration as *Hari Hara Veera Mallu*, starring Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party (JSP) president K. Pawan Kalyan, hit theatres on Thursday. The movie marks his return to the big screen after more than two years. The premiere drew overwhelming crowds despite increased ticket prices.

Fans flocked to theatres across Visakhapatnam to witness the premier shows, which began screening from late on Wednesday night. Celebrations broke out at multiple venues, with fans bursting firecrackers and performing ‘abhishekam’ on posters and large cut-outs of their beloved star. At Jagadamba theatre,



Pawan Kalyan’s fans pose for selfies outside the Jagadamba theatre in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. V RAJU

a giant cut-out of Mr. Pawan Kalyan was unveiled.

Social media platforms were flooded with selfies and videos, especially from women fans, capturing their excitement. As Mr. Pawan Kalyan appeared on screen, theatres turned into festive grounds, with fans throwing ‘pieces of coloured papers’, dancing

and even climbing onto the podiums. Many fans shared their status on social media with photos of Mr. Pawan Kalyan, and captioned it “long time no see”, marking the actor’s cinematic comeback.

On Friday, screenings will begin as early as 7 a.m. Single-screen theatres are running up to five shows a

day, while multiplexes have scheduled up to 10 to 15 screenings daily through the weekend.

In Visakhapatnam alone, over 180 shows are scheduled for Friday, all of which have sold out in advance, with similar demand expected to continue on Saturday and Sunday.

Bike rallies, prayers

Adding to the celebratory mood, JSP leaders and supporters held bike rallies and prayer ceremonies at temples for the film’s success. “Our Power Star’s powerful entry, fight sequences and the first half have been spectacular. VFX and the second half of the movie could have been better,” said K. Krishna, who works in the city Police Department and is a hardcore fan of Mr. Pawan Kalyan.



Writer Imayam in conversation with Justice Prabha Sridevan (retired) at *The Hindu* in Chennai on Thursday. THAMODHARAN B.

‘A writer creates a work, but a translator brings new life to it’

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The task of a writer is to create, while the translator, in turn, breathes new life into it through another language, said Sahitya Akademi award-winning Tamil writer Imayam on Thursday.

Mr. Imayam was in conversation with Justice (retired) Prabha Sridevan, former judge of the Madras High Court, who has translated three of his books into English, at *The Hindu* office in Chennai.

Sharing her experience of working with Mr. Imayam, Justice Sridevan said, “Translating *vattara vazhakku* (regional dialect) into English is difficult. But Mr. Imayam does not use *vattara vazhakku* in his writing. His language is unique.”

While talking about translating Mr. Imayam’s *Ippodhu Uyirodirukkiren* into the English edition (*I’m alive... for now*), Justice Sridevan said, “The story is narrated by a 15-year-old boy. I cannot use words like ‘dichotomy’ or ‘parameters’ while tran-

slating his voice. I have to be conscious of the kind of words he would have used if he had known English. I cannot use polysyllabic words. The language has to be simple and true to his age and background.”

“Love is the foundation of all my stories,” Mr. Imayam said, while talking about where he draws inspiration for his stories. As society continues to change, it is the duty of a writer to document that transformation. The foremost responsibility of a writer is to keep renewing and reshaping the language through creative evolution, to ensure that the language remains alive and relevant, he said.

“To me, storytelling comes second. Reviving and refreshing the language comes first. That is my identity. In the past two thousand years, many kings and wealthy people have come and gone. Only Tholkappiyar, Thiruvalluvar, and Kambar still live on through their writings,” he added.

(This conversation was held as part of *The Hindu’s Out of Print* series with writers)

Karnataka govt. to take legal action against RCB and KSCA

State govt. to act against event management firm and initiate inquiry against 5 suspended police officers; Law Minister says those responsible for stampede have been indicted in Cunha report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Approving the findings of the John Michael Cunha’s report on the stampede near M. Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru, the State Cabinet on Thursday decided to initiate legal action against multiple parties, including IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), and event management company DNA Networks.

Briefing presspersons after a Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said a decision was also taken to initiate departmental inquiry against five suspended police officers, including former Bengaluru city Police Commis-



Eleven persons died in a stampede outside M. Chinnaswamy stadium during RCB’s victory celebrations. K. MURALI KUMAR

sioner B. Dayananda, who failed to manage the situation. The stampede, which occurred on June 4, 2025, during the RCB victory celebrations, claimed 11 lives and left several injured.

Cabinet accepts report

Last week, the Cabinet had accepted the report of Michael Cunha Inquiry Com-

mission. When asked whether legal action involved filing criminal cases against the organisers of the event, including RCB, Mr. Patil said, “Legal action includes both civil and criminal cases.”

Mr. Patil said a departmental inquiry would be initiated against police officers who had been sus-

DNA Networks moves HC against probe report

BENGALURU
DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt. Ltd., an event management company, on Thursday moved the High Court of Karnataka challenging the report of Michael Cunha Inquiry Commission on the incident of Bengaluru stampede.

pending following their inability to control the situation. The Minister said that whoever was responsible for the stampede and negligence had been indicted in the Cunha report. The judicial probe was ordered by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on June 5, a day after the tragedy occurred.

No plans to immediately deport Russian woman’s daughters, Centre tells High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Union government has told the High Court of Karnataka that no decision has been taken on deportation of two minor children of Russian woman Nina Kutina, who was taken into custody after she was

found living in a cave deep inside the forest at Gokarna in Uttara Kannada district on July 11.

The submissions in this regard were made before Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav on Wednesday during the hearing of a petition filed by Dror Shlomo Goldstein, children’s father and Ms.

Kutina’s former husband.

The petitioner, an Israeli national, had sought a direction to the Centre not to immediately deport minor children, Prema, 6, and Ama, 5, and permit him to meet the children, who have been kept in detention centre, and hand over the custody of children to

him. Arvind Kamath, Additional Solicitor-General of India, appearing for the Centre, told the court that Ms. Kutina had no records evidencing her birth nor does she possess any travel documents. The court gave two weeks to the Centre to take a stand on the petitioner’s pleas.



Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis garlanding a Chhatrapati Shivaji statue at JNU in New Delhi on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

No Hindi-Marathi debate, says Fadnavis as he inaugurates special centre in JNU

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing controversy in Maharashtra over a now-shelved proposal to introduce Hindi in primary education, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday inaugurated the Kusumagraj Special Centre for Marathi Language, Literature and Culture at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). He also laid the foundation stone of the Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Special Centre for Security and Strategic Studies, which is envisioned to become a hub for military history.

Touching upon the emotive Marathi-Hindi issue in his address, Mr. Fadnavis said, “The debate is not Marathi versus Hindi. There is no alternative to Marathi. But we should learn Marathi and also know other languages.”

JNU Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit in her address thanked the Maharashtra government for its enthusiasm in

setting up the centres. She said the university has sent proposals to the Maharashtra government, with the seed money for the two centres amounting to ₹45 crore.

Regarding the Maharashtra government’s request for a statue of Maratha king Chhatrapati Shivaji on campus, Ms. Pandit said the university will respond to them in writing and once a concrete plan is established, it will go to JNU’s Executive Council for approval.

JNUSU protest

Meanwhile, the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students’ Union (JNUSU) held a demonstration outside the Convention Centre where the inauguration took place. JNUSU president Nitish Kumar said they were not opposing the new centres but against the “safricanisation of JNU and other educational institutions” and the “regional chauvinism shown by the BJP-led Maharashtra government”.

Two-member committee to probe charges against Kerala IAS officer

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has ordered an inquiry by a two-member panel of IAS officers into the charges levelled against N. Prasanth, the IAS officer who has been on suspension since November 2024.

Rajan N. Khobragade, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, has been appointed the inquiring authority. Tinku Biswal, Principal Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management, will act as the Presenting Officer, according to a July 22 order issued by the government.

Mr. Prasanth was placed on suspension on charges of levelling serious allegations against A. Jayathilak, the then Additional Chief Secretary who is now the Chief Secretary.

Mr. Khobragade and Ms. Biswal will inquire into the charges against Mr. Prasanth, a 2007 batch officer, in the Articles of Charges and Statement of Imputations served on him in December 2024. The officers have been directed to submit their report to the government within three months.

The government has decided to carry out a “detailed enquiry” into the matter as Mr. Prasanth has not admitted to any of the charges against him.

The entire issue is related to an inquiry report allegedly prepared by Dr. Jayathilak blaming Mr. Prasanth for the disappearance of files related to the Unnathi project, when he was its chief executive officer (CEO), and anomalies in his attendance record.

Off to new home



Workers at the Bannerughatta Biological Park in Bengaluru try to shift an elephant into a carriage to be sent to the Himeji Central Park in Japan. The second batch of four elephants will be transported through a cargo plane from Bengaluru to Osaka. Veterinary doctors and keepers will accompany the elephants and be with them for two weeks to help them adapt to the new environment. K. MURALI KUMAR

Sattankulam custodial death: CBI and victim’s wife object to accused’s plea to turn approver

The Hindu Bureau
MADURAI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and J. Selvarani, whose husband P. Jayaraj and son J. Benicks died of custodial torture at the Sattankulam police station in 2020, have objected to the application filed by suspended Inspector S. Sridhar, the main accused, seeking to turn approver in the case.

They filed their counter-affidavits before the trial court – the First Additional District and Sessions Court in Madurai. The CBI, in its counter-affidavit, submitted that the investigation revealed that Sridhar was the main conspirator and

the prime accused in the case.

Jayaraj and Benicks were brutally tortured at the behest of Sridhar, who was the Station House Officer of the Sattankulam police station. He repeatedly instigated/abetted the other accused police personnel to brutalise Jayaraj and Benicks. As a result, the two sustained multiple injuries and subsequently died. The evidence adduced by the prosecution clearly proved the case against Sridhar and the other accused police personnel, the CBI said, seeking the dismissal of Sridhar’s application. The CBI said no leniency should be shown to Sridhar in the case.

Selvarani submitted that there were several eye-witnesses in the case, including police personnel, and there was no necessity for Sridhar to turn approver in the case and depose as a witness.

The application was filed by Sridhar with the intention of delaying the trial proceedings, she said, and sought the dismissal of the application.

Sridhar recently filed an application before the trial court, stating that he was willing to turn approver, depose as a witness, and disclose the truth in the case. He also sought a pardon.

The trial court has posted the matter to July 28.

24-year survey reveals that coral cover in Lakshadweep saw a 50% reduction

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Concerning revelations have emerged from one of the longest-running coral reef monitoring programmes in the Indian Ocean. The 24-year-long study shows that corals in the Lakshadweep archipelago have declined to half of what they were in 1998 as a result of repeated marine heatwaves, exacerbated by climate change.

However, local conditions, such as wave exposure and depth, play essential roles in shaping how reefs respond to and recover from these events.

The study, ‘Local Environmental Filtering and Frequency of Marine Heatwaves Influence Decadal



The researchers have been tracking reef condition at three atolls across the Lakshadweep archipelago to understand how reefs respond to climate change. REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nValQ

Trends in Coral Composition’, published in the journal *Diversity and Distributions*, uses long-term data sets to propose a predictive framework, which could help identify vulnerable reefs, and reefs that may still have the potential

to recover.

Since 1998, researchers from the Nature Conservation Foundation have been tracking reef condition at three atolls across the Lakshadweep archipelago – Agatti, Kadmat and Kavaratti – to understand how

reefs respond to climate change. This programme has monitored reefs as they declined and recovered from three major El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events – in 1998, 2010 and 2016.

Reduced recovery rate

“Over 24 years, coral cover declined from 37.24% to 19.6%, reflecting a roughly 50% reduction from the 1998 baseline. This decline was explained by reduced recovery rates after each bleaching event, despite coral mortality decreasing with successive events. Recovery rates dramatically increased after six years, suggesting a critical period of bleaching-free years needed for reefs to recover.”

SPOTLIGHT

Ajay Kumar, the supervisor at Vikas Bhatta, in Jhajjar, Haryana, pointing to the area in the brick kiln where the police allegedly entered. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



Citizenship under suspicion

Following the recent detention of residents of West Bengal by the Delhi police on suspicion of being illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, **Alisha Dutta** finds out how an exchange of land parcels between the two neighbouring nations in 2015 is affecting those who opted for Indian citizenship

Bharat Karmakar is jolted when oil droplets from an overheated *kadhui* hit his arms on a sultry June afternoon. Having absent-mindedly dropped a chunky fish head into the wok, Karmakar, instead of stirring, had carelessly held on to the *khunti* (spoon for deep-frying, in Bengali), while staring at the speeding vans of the Delhi police.

For the 50-year-old, who has been single-handedly managing a Bengali eatery on the Delhi-Haryana border, seeing the police vans was not new. However, in the past few months, the connotations have changed. "The Delhi police would often enter this part of the highway to patrol or follow illicit liquor traders, but now they are looking for Bengali-speaking labourers who work in brick kilns," he says.

The road in front of Karmakar's shop leads to Haryana and ends on the Rajasthan border, with both sides of the road dotted with brick kilns. He says in the 37 years he has been running the eatery, this is the first time that there is vigilance on Bengali-speaking people. Police in plain clothes have come by in the past few months asking about the number of Bengali-speaking people coming to the shop and if he ever suspected that they were Bangladeshis from their accents.

"In this part of the world, only people from West Bengal and Bihar come in search of *maach-bhaat* (fish-rice). Following their trail, the police come to ask questions," he says, while stirring the *kadhui* full of *macher matha diye chorchori*.

The police arrive

On the same day, about 15 km from his shop, six Bengali-speaking persons from West Bengal's Cooch Behar district were detained by the Delhi police on suspicion of being illegal Bangladeshi immigrants. While one of them was released two days later, the remaining five were released six days later following the intervention of the West Bengal government.

The persons who were detained say they hail from Dinhata in Cooch Behar and were employed as daily wage workers for 10 years in the National Capital Region (NCR). They claim that they used to reside in one of the 111 Indian enclaves located deep inside Bangladesh that were exchanged with 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India as per the Land Boundary Agreement signed between the two countries in 2015. Following the agreement, they decided to move to Dinhata.

They say people living in the enclaves in India were given the choice of moving to Bangladesh or staying put and becoming Indian citizens. The Delhi police had seen Bangladesh-related documents on the mobile phones of women and men from this part of India.

Around 4 p.m. on June 25, two vans of the Delhi police zoomed into Vikas Bhatta, a brick kiln in Jhajjar, Haryana, recalls Trilok Kumar, 50, the manager of the kiln. At least six police officers,



My brothers and I chose to become Indian citizens, while *Ammi* (mother) and *Abbu* (father) wished to take their last breath in our ancestral home in Bangladesh

RIZAU HAQUE
One of the six migrant workers who were detained

some in uniform and others in plain clothes, stepped out and walked straight to the staff quarters, he says. "They did not stop to answer our questions about why they were here," he adds.

Inside the cluster of bare-brick rooms, with a common kitchen and two bathrooms, the police officers looked around and asked for labourers who spoke Bengali, he recalls.

In the next few minutes, Shamshul Haque, Rizaul Haque, Rabiul Haque, Rashida Begum, Roman Haque, and Johurul Miyan were allegedly asked to produce their government IDs to prove that they were Indian citizens.

"We informed them that the verification of each of the workers had been done by the Bahadurgarh police (in Haryana). Yet, the officers of the Delhi police said the workers were lying and took them away in their vans," says Trilok.

They were taken to the Shalimar Bagh police station in Delhi and detained on suspicion of being illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, he adds.

As Trilok and his supervisor, Ajay Kumar, paced up and down near the main gate of the *bhatti* (kiln), they received a call from the police station. "The SHO (station house officer) told me that the workers had all confessed that they were from Bangladesh and that they were to be deported the next day by flight. He said I must arrange to send their families to the *chowki* (police station) by 10 that night," says Ajay.

Connecting families

Ajay dialled the sole number he had of one of the families of the detained persons in West Bengal.

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Belongings at the staff quarters at Vikas Bhatta, a brick kiln in Jhajjar, Haryana, from where six Bengali-speaking migrant workers were detained by the Delhi police on June 25. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

He got in touch with Sharmeen Khatun, Shamshul's 19-year-old daughter, and told her that her father and uncle, along with their neighbours, had been picked up by the police. He reassured her that they had not committed any crime.

Sharmeen was not surprised by the development, but was scared about what would happen to her relatives. "I reached out to the West Bengal Migrant Welfare Board and asked for help," says Sharmeen, adding that barring the information Ajay had given her, she had no other details for close to 48 hours since the detainment. The West Bengal government had set up the board in 2023 to take care of the needs of migrant workers.

Ajay and Trilok booked a car and took the wife and minor son of one of the detainees to the police station. "We packed all their documents – Aadhaar cards, voter ID cards, land documents, and travel passes (issued by the Indian government to those who had changed their nationality in 2015) – to show the police that they were innocent," says Trilok.

However, when they reached the police station at 8 p.m., the police allegedly took the documents and detained the woman and her child.

On June 27, Ajay recalls 52-year-old Johurul getting out of an autorickshaw in front of the iron gates of Vikas Bhatta. "He had bruises on his legs and hands, and they were swollen," he says.

Johurul broke down and claimed that the police had thrashed him, says Ajay.

Johurul says the police used a belt-like *patta* made of coarse material to beat him up. "They took me aside in the same cell where all of us were kept. They began incessantly hitting the soles of my feet and then my arms, coercing me to say that I was a Bangladeshi, but I stuck to the truth," he says.

He adds that the detainees were first kept in a lock-up at the police station and a day later taken to a detention centre near Azadpur Mandi, a wholesale fruit and vegetable market in Delhi. "At the detention camp, the men were kept separately from the women and children," he says.

Action and reaction

Trinamool Congress MP Samirul Islam, who heads the West Bengal Migrant Welfare Board, alleges that the migrants were harassed simply because they were "Bengali-speaking Muslims". He claims that BJP-ruled States are hounding Bengali Muslims by branding them as Bangladeshis.

On July 4, Deputy Commissioner of Police (North West) Bhisham Singh said he was told by his subordinates that the six persons were picked up from a railway station in Delhi. The kiln in Ha-

ryana is outside the Delhi police's jurisdiction. "They were detained just for a day for verification when they were trying to flee," he said. "People who work in the brick kiln have been leaving the city ever since the monsoon hit the northern States," he added.

This is standard practice as the kiln is shut through the rains. Singh said he was told that the six workers were from Bagerhat in Bangladesh.

On July 9, he admitted they were "illegally detained" and that people should not be kept in detention for more than 24 hours. "However, we never beat up anyone, even if it is proved that they are Bangladeshi nationals."

He said the six had produced their Aadhaar cards, but the document is no longer considered a proof of Indian citizenship. "People must have a voter ID card to prove that they are from India."

In the first term of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre (2014-2019), there was a push for Aadhaar cards. Many government facilities were inaccessible unless an Indian national possessed the document.

Singh said while all six detainees were released after their documents were verified, they "confessed" that they were originally from Bangladesh. He also said the police found call detail records and monetary transactions linked to mobile numbers in the neighbouring country.

Bengalis in Delhi

Rizaul confirms this. "They found Bangladeshi documents on our devices because five of us were Bangladeshi citizens till 2015. After the Land Boundary Agreement, it was left to us to choose which country's citizenship we wanted," he says.

The 42-year-old adds that while they tried telling the police the full story, the investigators did not want to listen.

He adds that the transactions were money transfers to his ageing parents, who live in the Phulbari subdivision of Bangladesh. Rizaul is one of the 922 people who registered their names for Indian citizenship in 2015.

"My brothers and I chose to become Indian citizens, while *Ammi* (mother) and *Abbu* (father) wished to take their last breath in our ancestral home in Bangladesh," says Rizaul.

The family found a place in Dinhata, while several people settled in two other camps in the district: Haldibari and Mekhliganj.

In August 2024, sources say the Ministry of Home Affairs had ordered a nationwide crackdown on Bangladeshi nationals staying illegally in India. Bengali and Bangladeshi language, food, and dress habits are similar.

A senior official of the West Bengal government says on condition of anonymity that those who hail from the enclaves have been struggling more than other Bengalis. "The sight of an old Bangladeshi document has become proof enough for officials to harass and later deport people who possess them," he says.

On July 2, Shamshul and the five others boarded a train back to their home town.

"In 2016, when I got this job offer, I gathered some of my neighbours and brothers from my village and set out for work in Delhi and Haryana. However, we have to leave now as we are being targeted for speaking Bengali and wearing *lungis*," he says, unsure of their future.

Shamshul, who is a contractor, says they can make up to ₹300 a day in West Bengal, but there is no regular work. In the NCR, they can make up to ₹600 a day, with guaranteed work.

Rizaul agrees, saying they would not have put their safety at risk if there was work in their home State. "After the monsoon, despite the risks, I will consider going back. How else will I feed my wife and children?" he says.

The government official says almost all men in West Bengal's villages work outside the State.

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“Is home a memory, an emotion, or just four walls?” The quandary returned to trouble Shekhar Kapur during the COVID-19 pandemic. The celebrated filmmaker, who is fondly addressed as Ibn Batuta by his close friend Shabana Azmi, found refuge in the Jones Estate of Bhimtal, which he discovered during the recce for *Masoom* in the early 1980s. At the serene retreat, his “constant search for identity” began to take shape as a spiritual sequel over the next three months.

A product of the Partition, Kapur says the concept of home has haunted him forever. “My parents were refugees from Lahore. When they came to Delhi, my mother wanted her own space. She would forever say *mainu ghar chahida hai*, and my doctor-father would remind her that they had just lost their home.” Kapur remembers when construction started in Maharani Bagh; his mother, having seen two earthquakes, would tell the young architect to make it earthquake-proof.

“We were perhaps the first in Delhi to have a house built on stilts. Now my parents are gone, my sister lives there, and I wander from one city to another. The kind

In search of home

As filmmaker Shekhar Kapur pens the sequel to *Masoom* and preps for a Korean musical, he discusses creativity in times of artificial intelligence

of calls I get, it seems the home has been reduced to a piece of real estate. I would joke that an earthquake does not shake the house, but the tremors in real estate prices do. All this spurred me to write. After all, we are a country of migrants.”

The pangs of the Partition, Kapur clarifies, did not make him bitter but rendered him forever restless. At 24, he decided that he would not have a career. “If the idea of a film comes to me, I go to the sets; if a musical excites my imagination, I take the stage. Right now, I am as excited about working on a Korean musical on the life of Beethoven with K-Pop stars as working with Naseeruddin Shah and Manoj Bajpayee on *Masoom-2*.”

Bestowed with the Padma

Bhushan this year, Kapur was in Delhi to hold meetings for the International Film Festival of India in his capacity as festival director. Creative expression is facing a big challenge from artificial intelligence, says Kapur. “It is a democratic technology, but it cannot make you a better storyteller.

“If we are predictable in our creativity, AI will catch up. For instance, if we want every *Game of Thrones* season to have similar character graphs and ambience, AI can do that job. People at the top will lose their jobs as AI will cause the

Content before style Stills from *Elizabeth* and *Masoom*; (left) Shekhar Kapur. ANUJ KUMAR AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



pyramid to collapse. Highest form of creativity emerges from chaos. Life and love exist because there is uncertainty. We can explore the uncertainty between does she love me, does she not in myriad ways by putting ourselves on the line, a machine can’t.”

Discussing his struggles with content and form, Kapur notes that among his three illustrious maternal uncles, he was emotionally closest to Chetan Anand, known for directing classics like *Neecha Nagar*, the only Indian film to win the Palme d’Or at Cannes, whose basic theme echoes in Kapur’s jinxed project, *Paani*. “Like him, content comes before style for me.”

He firmly faced the detractors who equated his restlessness with laziness. Kapur says he seeks “to climb a new mountain every time”. A nomad at 79 sounds unconventional. “Settling down is a middle-class idea,” he chuckles. But is the search for home liberating or provoking more



questions? Elizabeth poses the same question towards the end. Did she become a prisoner of herself, or was she liberated from herself? “I am not sure, but I like the idea of not being sure. It drives me to try...”



Glamour and Rustic A view of the Latango’s bar; Prawns takosu served at the restaurant; and Chef Joe Stanchi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



A two-storey show kitchen

Latango is the city’s newest culinary hotspot. Helmed by two European chefs, it is a European diner with a Japanese accent

Anubhuti Krishna

“After Japonico, our contemporary Japanese bar in Gurgaon, I knew I wanted to create a European space next – one that is layered with stories and experiences,” says Sahil Sambhi, founder of Latango, the 165-cover space, spread across two floors and a large alfresco area. The place bears the signature flamboyance of Sahil’s restaurants – a sculptural bar, double height ceiling, Instagrammable washrooms and arguably India’s only two-storey show kitchen.

A European diner with a Japanese accent (as the team likes to call it), Latango brings home two European chefs. Chef Roberto Blondi, who hails from Parma in Italy is the current head chef at Japonico. Chef Joe Stanchi, who trained at Naples’ legendary Starita a Materdei, is known to be among the finest pizzaiolos in the world.

“At Latango, our recipes are drawn from my mother’s recipe



books, passed down through generations. Every dish reflects the tradition, warmth, and rustic technique that defines true Italian home cooking – no shortcuts, just honest, hand-crafted pasta,” explains Joe. Pristine table covers, etched porcelain plates, and delicate crystal glassware lend an unmissable European vibe.

We are served a house bread and butter combo; the bread, soft and warm, is comforting and the butter is unusually – and pleasantly – tart. We are told it is

made by whisking a house-made onion and white wine compote with salted butter and served topped with Italian lemon zest and fresh roe.

Next, we sample salads. While I am excited to try the spinach and parmesan, a safe choice, I am unsure about the octopus. The octopus, Joe tells us, is sourced from Japan and the salad is put together to suit the city’s palate – cooked with lemon and herbs, trimmed and arranged in a roulade and sliced just before dressing.

The menu also presents a good mix of novel flavours and comfort staples. The idea, says Joe, is to offer something for everyone. After tasting mostly Japanese inspired small plates we move on to the mains. The homestyle lobster linguine, is perfectly al-dente, with enough sauce to be mopped with bread. I also order the king mushroom, but it has too much dill which takes away all the flavours from the mushroom.

With desserts becoming an integral part of all menus, Latango’s dessert section does not disappoint. Our pick is the tableside chocolate mousse and tiramisu with chocolate caviar. “We wanted to offer a sense of surprise to our guests – so we reimaged tiramisu to look like a caviar tin,” says Joe, as he walks us through the making of the coffee caviar that sits over the tiramisu. “It’s an illusionist dessert – familiar in flavour, but completely unexpected in presentation.”

Tughlaqabad: A fort misunderstood

Anamta Fatima and Mohammad Asaad Hasan Khan

“Don’t visit Tughlaqabad Fort, it is cursed”: That’s the caution that has long surrounded the 700-year-old fort constructed by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq, founder of the Tughlaq dynasty. Nestled in the rocky terrain of the Aravali Hills, this vast fortress has become a relic wrapped in rumours.

While sites like Qutub Minar, Red Fort, and Humayun’s Tomb enjoy footfall, Tughlaqabad fort remains under-visited, under-appreciated, and overwhelmingly misunderstood.

The legend of the fort’s so-called “curse” has run through centuries. Ghiyasuddin, who came to power in 1320 AD was eager to build a stronghold capable of withstanding Mongol invasions. But his ambition collided with the spiritual authority. The revered Sufi saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya was constructing a stepwell (baoli) for his community. When Tughlaq diverted labourers from the saint’s project to speed up construction of his fortress, tensions escalated. The saint is believed to have uttered a curse: “May it remain desolate...”

Historian SM Azizuddin Husain challenges the version: “Tughlaqabad was built for defence; there is no historical record of any curse affecting the fort. These stories emerged later, when the site was deserted and people began filling in the blanks with fantasy.”

With towering stone walls over 15 metres high enclosing a city-within-a-city complete with water reservoirs, granaries, watchtowers, and

This 700-year old fort in the Aravali hills is an architectural marvel. Why is it empty?



Forgotten monument A view of the Tughlaqabad Fort. MOHAMMAD ASAAD HASAN KHAN

escape tunnels, Tughlaqabad was strategically designed.

“The Agra or Red Fort that came up later couldn’t match the military logic of Tughlaqabad,” says Husain. “Ghiyasuddin used the landscape intelligently building into the Aravalis, surrounding the complex with water bodies, and creating multiple lines of defence,” he adds.

With its formidable design, Tughlaqabad was never breached in

battle but politically sidelined. When Ghiyasuddin’s son, Muhammad bin Tughlaq, shifted the capital to Daulatabad in the Deccan, the fort lost its importance and was subsequently abandoned. But never destroyed.

Ghiyasuddin’s death, however, added fuel to the myth. Returning triumphantly from a Bengal campaign, the sultan was received with a grand wooden pavilion built in his honour which collapsed and killed him. Was it coincidence? Prophecy? Political theatre? No one can say with certainty.

Heritage activist Sohail Hashmi sees the myth as a distraction from the real story. He says the feud between the sultan and the saint was real but more political than mystical. “Nizamuddin commanded an enormous public following. For a ruler used to absolute power, this was threatening. Their conflict was about authority.” Husain cites a *mehfil* held within its walls where more than 400 scholars debated the permissibility of Sama (spiritual music). Hazrat Nizamuddin’s arguments prevailed, and qawwali was officially accepted in the Indian Sufi tradition. “This one event alone makes the fort historically and culturally significant,” he says. “It was not just a site of military brilliance, but of spiritual transformation too.”

Tughlaqabad today remains eerily empty when compared to the crowds at other monuments in the city. Says Sohail, “This should be a classroom under the sky, not a ghost town.”

Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, near Govindpuri Metro station; 9am to 5pm; Entry Fee: ₹25



Artistic depth

Natya Vriksha presents arangetram by Geeta Chandran’s disciple, Kavya Navani. Delhi Minister for Art and Culture Kapil Mishra and actor Raj Babbar are the chief guests. At Chinmaya Mission auditorium. 189 Lodhi Estate; July 27; 6pm



Musical night

Singer Rekha Bhardwaj will be in a live concert Jazbaa: Dilon ko Dilon Se Jodne Ka, dedicated to the grace, power and purpose of womanhood. At Plenary Hall, Bharat Mandapam, near Supreme Court Metro Station; July 27; 7pm; Tickets on BookMyShow



Grace in stillness

Harmandeep Keerti takes inspiration from the 15th Century poet-saint Guru Ravidas’s vision of a city free from sorrow for his solo exhibition Begumpura: Shoots and Leaves. Through 28 finely detailed pen and ink drawings, based on observations of his native Sahranpur trees, the artist captures Nature in its quiet, contemplative beauty. At Triveni Art Gallery, Tansen Marg, Mandi House; July 21 to July 31; 11am to 7pm; Entry free.

STEP OUT



A slow revival

India's ties with China are on the mend, but mutual trust needs rebuilding

India's decision to restart issuing tourist visas for Chinese nationals is a strong signal that diplomacy over restoring ties rent apart by the LAC military standoff and Galwan clash of 2020 is moving smoothly. Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Kazan last October, there have been a number of high-level meetings; the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) has been convened three times. The visa decision comes a month after China reopened the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra pilgrimage. The two sides have also agreed in principle to revive direct flights, and it is hoped visas for journalists will follow. A joint statement last month said that they would hold "certain functional dialogues" to discuss economic issues and trade, presumably to address India's restrictions on Chinese investment, and China's export restrictions on fertilizer and critical minerals. The export restrictions are causing considerable disruption in Indian technology sector companies, and even Japanese and South Korean automotive companies based in India have raised concerns over supply chain issues. The measures are expected to continue to roll out as preparations begin for the expected visit of Mr. Modi for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit in August. The WMCC held on Wednesday in Delhi discussed preparations for the next meeting of Special Representatives on the China-India boundary question, to discuss dispute resolution; China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs says that it is speaking to India about New Delhi's concerns over the mega-dam project on the Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo) in Tibet.

However, both sides have been muted about the reason for the rupture in ties in the first place. There has been little discussion over what prompted the Chinese PLA to transgress the LAC in 2020, which led to the Galwan clash, and what guarantees Beijing has given that this would not be repeated. While in December 2024, the government told Parliament that normalcy in ties could only follow the restoration of "peace and tranquillity in the border areas", it appears it is now prepared to continue to normalise other parts of the relationship without achieving troop de-escalation, dismantling of infrastructure in disputed areas and buffer zones that would lead to restoring patrolling to pre-2020 levels. Ties have also been impacted over Operation Sindoor, with revelations that the PLA was in lock-step with Pakistan's army. The government must realise that restoring mechanisms of bilateral ties are not by themselves sufficient for rebuilding trust. Sweeping key issues under the carpet, without some transparency on the path ahead, could put the whole process of reviving relations at risk.

Clean house

Septic tank desludging must be mechanised completely

Behind the hazardous cleaning deaths of 150 people in 2022 and 2023, a social audit of 54 of which the Ministry of Justice has tabled in Parliament, lies a deleterious business model. Local contractors had hired 38; only five were on a government payroll. The rest were public sector workers 'loaned' to private employers, obscuring liability. Progress on this front has lagged despite the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013, court orders, Swachh Bharat advisories, and the 2023 National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) scheme. A 2024 Parliament reply said 57,758 workers were engaged in hazardous cleaning nationwide but only 16,791 PPE kits were supplied. Fewer than 14,000 had received health cards and only 837 safety workshops had been conducted in 4,800 urban local bodies. There are at least two bright spots, however. In Odisha, identified workers have PPE kits and access to mechanised desludging vehicles and Tamil Nadu has piloted sewer robots in Chennai to clean over 5,000 manholes. Technology and political will can thus deliver the desired results but little has reached most districts. Experts also flagged a near-complete lack of data on rural sanitation workers.

India's real problem is enforcement. Industry members have said most underground infrastructure can be cleaned robotically if capital subsidies and operator training expand, yet government tenders often solicit manual bids. Most emergency response sanitation units are paper tigers. Only ₹14 crore has been released so far under the NAMASTE scheme, insufficient to mechanise sewer cleaning in even one major city. In the event of a worker death, police routinely book the lowest ranking supervisor or classify the death as an accident. The Supreme Court has asked for offending contracts to be cancelled and monetary liabilities imposed on principal employers, but local bodies are still to notify such rules. Two-thirds of validated workers are also Dalits, yet rehabilitation packages rarely include housing or scholarships that might help families exit contemptible occupations. Women who still sweep dry latrines receive even less policy attention. Among other measures, urban local bodies must mechanise sewer-cleaning post haste, and make it a licensed trade, and operating without a valid certificate a cognisable offence. Loans for workers to operate the machines that replace manual entry should be upscaled and linked to guaranteed service contracts from municipalities. Finally, the national government should include septic tank desludging under the Swachh Bharat rural budget and extend NAMASTE profiling to gram panchayats.

The India-U.K. FTA spells a poor deal for public health

India and the United Kingdom have signed their Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with the Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, and the British Business and Trade Secretary, Jonathan Reynolds, signing the deal on July 24, 2025, during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the U.K. On July 22, 2025, the Union Cabinet, Government of India had approved the FTA. Officially called the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, this FTA was first announced on the conclusion of negotiations on May 6, 2025.

The India-U.K. FTA is good news from the economic perspectives of both countries. However, the FTA could pose a public health challenge for India. It will allow tariff-free entry – and thus lower prices – for U.K.-made food products such as biscuits, chocolates and soft drinks in India, many of which would fit into the categorisation of High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS), posing grave long-term health risks. Cheaper prices supplemented by the expected aggressive marketing and advertising campaigns could prove harmful from the point of view of the health of citizens.

The case of Mexico

Concerns about the FTA and its adverse public health impact are not hypothetical. In 1992, when the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was signed between Mexico, the United States and Canada, Mexico made the mistake of not implementing robust public health safeguards. In the years that followed, Mexico experienced the following: a dramatic rise in imports of cheap, sugary drinks, snacks and processed foods; a surge in the consumption of HFSS food products, and a steep rise in diet-related diseases, obesity and diabetes. Mexico could halt the rise in the sale of HFSS products and manage lifestyle diseases only when it introduced stringent public health regulatory mechanisms such as a 'Soda Tax' and warning labels upfront in 2014.

From a public health viewpoint, the India-U.K. FTA is a concern for India. While the sale of unhealthy food products in the U.K. is relatively better regulated, the regulatory framework is sub-optimal in India. For example, the U.K. has implemented a ban on the advertising of HFSS products on television and online. The ban on such TV advertisements before 9 p.m., and a complete ban on paid online advertisements for HFSS products will come into effect on October 1, 2025. Similarly, the U.K.'s traffic light Front-of-Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL) system uses a colour-coded system to help consumers quickly understand the nutritional content of packaged foods and drinks. For example, green indicates low levels of fat, saturated fat, sugar, and salt, amber indicates medium, while red indicates high. This system helps consumers make healthier choices.

India lacks binding restrictions on junk food

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Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya

is a practising physician who has worked with the World Health Organization and other United Nations agencies for nearly 17 years



Dr. Arun Gupta

is a paediatrician and the lead of Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest-India (NAPI)

advertisements targeting children; the existing regulations are not effectively enforced and routinely flouted. India relies on self-regulation through the Advertising Standards Council of India, which is an industry body. There is ample evidence that in the food sector 'industry self-regulation' is rarely and partially effective. There are a few regulations that prohibit misleading advertisements, i.e., the Advertising Code of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; however, regulatory bodies are often unable to identify misleading advertisements or, if done so, no penalty is assigned. The cartoon mascots on food products targeted at children on the one hand and celebrity endorsements on the other normalise unhealthy choices. The use of celebrities and sportspersons are key to these tactics. Many of these celebrities have privately acknowledged that they do not use the products which they publicly promote and advertise. Yet, such deceitful behaviour has never resulted in social or public outrage.

The problem with India's 'star rating'

In India, the issue of a mandatory FOPNL is pending for want of a decision on the right type of labels and amendments under the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020. While evidence from various studies is that all types of warning labels help in reducing the consumption of HFSS, the most effective are the use of warning labels. Yet, Indian authorities are more interested in the use of "star rating", which could be misleading and less effective. Therefore, the process of introducing a warning system on packaged food is slow. For example, in September 2022, there were proposed amendments to introduce mandatory warning labels. Yet, three years later, the amendments remain on paper. After a Public Interest Litigation in April 2025, the Supreme Court of India has directed the authorities to make a decision on warning labels in a time-bound manner. Many independent subject experts believe that a part of the reason for the delay in the adoption of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s 2022 draft regulations for FOPNL is because of industry lobbying – this has diluted the proposals, opting for "star ratings" that are confusing instead of clear warnings such as Chile's black octagonal labels (when 'food products exceed certain thresholds of sugar, sodium, saturated fat, and/or calories').

India and many parts of the world are already facing a challenge of rising lifestyle diseases. In March 2025, *The Lancet* published two studies which indicated that obesity is on the rise across large parts of the world. Ultra Processed Food (UPF) and HFSS food items have witnessed a CAGR of 13.3%, in India, from 2011-21. Not surprisingly, the burden of lifestyle diseases such as obesity, diabetes and hypertension is rising at

The entry of cheaper junk food as a result of a free trade agreement can prove to be expensive in terms of public health

The fault lines in India's electoral architecture are visible

As the Election Commission of India (ECI) nears the completion of the first phase of its Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar (August 1, 2025), there has been a predictable cycle of contestation. Allegations of a disenfranchisement of the poor, minorities and migrants, are saturating political discourse. Opposition leaders have criticised the ECI's methodology as partisan and exclusionary, framing routine deletions as targeted assaults on vulnerable constituencies. Conversely, supporters of the exercise have invoked the need for sanctity of election rolls and dismissed such accusations as cynical politicking.

Both positions are inadequate and fail to interrogate the structural incongruities of India's electoral architecture. They conflate fixed notions of "ordinary residence" with an increasingly mobile citizenry and obscure the deeper problem. The law itself is poorly attuned to the socio-economic realities that it purports to govern. The ECI, though institutionally constrained, has been content to administer this dissonance rather than challenge it.

Historical context

The Representation of the People Act, 1950 was drafted in a post-colonial context of largely sedentary populations – over 82% rural and less than 8% migratory at the time. It assumed that most Indians lived and voted where they were born. The assumption has endured despite evidence to the contrary. While present laws privilege fixity as the basis of political membership in a constituency, India's internal migrants number over 450 million, making up 37% of the population. In Bihar, the proportion is even higher.

Bihar records the highest rate of internal migration in India – 36% of households report at least having one migrant. Over 20% of the working-age population lives outside the State at any given point in time. This distinction is more than semantic. It produces material exclusions.

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Shubhbrastra

is a columnist, an author and Founder, The Churn

The Bihar poll rolls revision only strengthens the point that the Election Commission of India must back alternative models of enrolment

Census 2011 already documented that nearly 13.9 million Biharis lived outside the State. Today, the number is likely to be between 17 million to 18 million.

According to Bihar's Chief Electoral Office, over 1.2 million names were deleted across the State this year. The majority were removed due to "non-residency" at the time of verification. In districts with high rates of out-migration such as Gopalganj and Sitamarhi, deletions approached 5%-7% of enrolled voters. These are not marginal figures and highlight the structural disenfranchisement of those whose economic precarity necessitates migration.

Two distinct concepts

Much of the public debate collapses two distinct concepts – citizenship and residency. Citizenship, as enshrined in the Constitution and the Citizenship Act, is of juridical status. One is either, or is not, a citizen of the Republic of India. Residency, by contrast, is a contingent and contextual condition, determining the constituency in which a citizen is enrolled to vote. The Representation of the People Act makes residency, not citizenship, the operative criterion for inclusion in a constituency roll. Millions of workers circulate between their natal villages and industrial zones elsewhere, caught in a liminal space – neither fully here nor there. For the migrant subject, disenfranchisement is not merely bureaucratic but existential – a quiet but potent signal of not belonging.

This predicament of legislative inertia is more than the result of administrative indifference. The ECI has inherited this mismatch between law and reality. Its institutional response has been of administrative minimalism – a rigid adherence to procedural compliance that often comes at the cost of substantive inclusion. Neither is impartiality neutrality in the face of structural disadvantage nor is "cleaning up" the rolls synonymous with justice if the very rules of residency systematically exclude certain classes

an alarming rate, in all age groups – more so in children and adolescents. A position statement on FOPNL in India, released in June 2025 and signed by 29 organisations, provided comprehensive evidence on the harmful effects of HFSS and UPF; it also advocated having warning labels being a mandatory part of HFSS and UPF packages.

Commercial activities, i.e., trade and treaties have been integral part of human life and the economic ambitions of nations. The FTAs have economic benefits and multiple rationales. However, getting cheaper junk food as a result of an FTA can be costly in public health terms. These apprehensions are founded in sound global evidence. In fact, in the last decade, global health agencies have begun talking about the Commercial Determinants of Health – the conditions, actions and omissions by commercial actors that affect health.

There is news that India may sign another deal, the India-European Free Trade Agreement Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), involving Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland, in October 2025. Trade deals and FTAs are likely to be signed with some more countries. They could be good for the economy, but from the point of view of public health they could prove to be the Trojan horses of non-communicable diseases, unless sufficient safe-guards are implemented. There is a need to balance the economic benefits of FTAs with the need to protect public health and ensure restrictions on the marketing and labelling of food products.

It is still not late

Now that the India-U.K. FTA has been signed, the legal text will be drafted in the weeks ahead, and this is the opportunity for India to make the right move, it needs to act immediately to mitigate the FTA's public health impact. It is time for strong measures to regulate the advertising of HFSS, as also suggested in the Economic Survey 2024-25 and in line with the recent 'Dietary Guidelines for Indians', published by the National Institute of Nutrition in May 2024. The mandatory FOPNL in the form of warning labels should be implemented at the earliest. The proposed 'sugar boards' and 'Oil Boards' in schools are a good entry point to having 'health promoting schools. However, 'a more holistic approach of 'HFSS boards' needs to be considered. School meals and school college canteens should stop the sale of packaged and unhealthy food items. Protective measures must be implemented with urgency to counter the potential effects of current and future FTAs. Public health practitioners and health policymakers need to be more engaged on issues that are related to trade deals, and when it comes to ultra-processed food and high fat, salt and sugar food. It is an issue of public health, which affects nearly every Indian in every age group, and a subject that must be treated with urgency.

of citizens.

Examples from abroad

Other democracies have confronted similar dilemmas with greater imagination. In the United States, an estimated 30 million-35 million voters reside in States other than their home precincts. Absentee and mail-in ballots allow them to remain registered in their home districts while voting from where they live. The Philippines facilitates absentee voting for its 1.8 million overseas workers – turnout rates exceed 60%. Australia deploys mobile polling stations in remote and transient communities, contributing to over 90% voter participation. These examples demonstrate that the perceived trade-off between roll integrity and inclusiveness is neither inevitable nor necessary. It is a function of institutional design and political will.

The ECI is correct to say that it cannot rewrite the law on its own. But it must aggressively advocate for reform. Its own experience in administering rolls in migrant-heavy States is evidence enough of the need for legislative review. At a minimum, it should pilot alternative models of enrolment and outreach within its existing authority.

Political actors are obviously complicit in perpetuating confusion. They prefer to instrumentalise disenfranchisement as a mobilisation tool rather than invest in educating voters and assisting them through claims and objections processes. Draft rolls are theoretically open to public scrutiny but literacy barriers, poor communication and burdens of migratory livelihoods make such procedural safeguards inaccessible to most. Surveys show that over 60% of voters in Bihar were unaware of the claims and objections window. Among migrants, awareness drops below 25%. Exhorting "voter responsibility" – as much of the official discourse does – risks bordering on victim-blaming.

To defend the ECI is important. But to demand more of it and of ourselves is imperative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maharashtra Bill

I write this letter as the Deputy Director (News), Directorate General Of Information and Public Relation, Government of Maharashtra. The Editorial ("Danger of thought", July 24) is a gross misrepresentation of a

necessary and carefully considered legislative measure. The Maharashtra Special Public Security (MSPS) Bill is aimed at providing the legal framework for handling unlawful activities of unlawful organisations that are a part of the united

front of banned CPI(Maoist) and other left-wing extremist organisations. The Government of Maharashtra is steadfast in its commitment to upholding both the security of its citizens and the democratic freedom enshrined in the Constitution. The MSPS Bill

does not exhibit police thought. The legislation targets organisations whose actions, whether through the written or spoken word, signs, or other activities, "constitute a danger or menace to public order, peace and tranquillity". This is a critical distinction. The

Bill is not aimed at commentators, critics, or political opponents engaging in legitimate dissent. It is designed to tackle the insidious, overground network of Maoist front organisations that engage in the recruitment, fundraising,

and radicalisation of youth and professionals, thereby fuelling violence and threatening to undermine the constitutional order.

Varsha Andhale, Mumbai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Should India relax its adoption procedures?



Aloma Lobo

Adoptive parent, a former chairperson of CARA, and an adoption counsellor



Smriti Gupta

Adoptive parent. She runs an NGO called 'Where Are India's Children?', which supports efforts to bring eligible children into the adoption pool

PARLEY

By analysing data from the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), *The Hindu* data team recently found that for every child free for adoption in India, 13 parents wait in line. The Supreme Court has directed CARA to take measures to streamline and expedite the adoption process. Should India relax its adoption procedure? Aloma Lobo and Smriti Gupta discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Priscilla Jebaraj. Edited excerpts:

Many people believe that CARA's strict requirements and lengthy procedures for adoptive parents are responsible for the long waiting period for a child. Is this true?

Smriti Gupta: No, procedures are not the reason for these delays. The delays stem mostly from the fact that the number of people waiting to adopt a child is higher than the number of children who are legally free for adoption. There are children with special needs and older children who could be adopted immediately. But a majority of people wait to adopt a young child in the 'normal health' category. Most of the delay is the waiting time to be matched (with a child), so changing procedures is not going to do anything to solve the problem of delays.

Aloma Lobo: In the past, we could place children (up for adoption) almost immediately because there were very few parents (willing to adopt). The procedures are necessary. The checks and balances ensure that we don't have trafficking and improper placements. There have been cases filed in several parts of the world by children who were placed illegally, and we don't want that to happen here.

Apart from the procedures that parents must follow, there are also procedures involved in bringing children into the adoption pool. Are there ways to speed up this process?

SG: Only children in adoption agencies get evaluated for potential adoptability. I think children in child shelters should also be evaluated. Many children in these shelters, who were abandoned and orphaned, have been there for years and they could be brought into the legal adoption pool. Or at least, their cases should be looked at. This is not being done – because of apathy, lack of training, or lack of resources. That is where our focus needs to be – to bring eligible children into the legal adoption pool at each district level.

Our NGO works with the approval of the State Women and Child Development Department.



Sisters who lost their parents during the Covid-19 pandemic play with their toys in Bhopal. AFP

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When we approach these shelters, our first step is to digitise the data of all the children. Using our own open-source software, we have 22 categories, so we can analyse whether a child should continue to be in the shelter or should be brought into the legal adoption pool. We collect data on whether the child was abandoned. On whether the child has parents – and if yes, why the child is there. There are six reasons why a child could be in a shelter. So, we digitise all the data and then the system flags, let's say, 30 out of 100 children. Then our social workers work on those cases on a case-by-case basis, study the files, complete due diligence, and do the paperwork for those identified as potentially adoptable. Then the child is presented to the Child Welfare Committee of the district, which decides whether the child should be declared legally free for adoption or not.

The 2020 World Orphan Report estimated that there are 3.1 crore children in India who are orphans. We all see children on the streets. Should all these children be available for adoption? Why are there only 2,000-odd children in CARA's pool?

AL: The word 'orphan' is often loosely used. Many of these children have families. Or if they don't have parents, but may have extended families. Most of the children who come into the adoption stream as babies are those who were relinquished by unwed mothers or because they are girl children; they were not abandoned.

There are children everywhere on the streets. But are they all orphans? Or are they just children with families roaming the streets? Are they truly free for adoption? We need to evaluate that. There are also cases coming to light in several countries of children illegally taken away from their mothers or parents. The parents were told the children had disappeared or died

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The checks and balances ensure that we don't have trafficking and improper placements. There have been cases filed in several parts of the world by children who were placed illegally, and we don't want that to happen here.

ALOMA LOBO

whereas in reality they were given for adoption.

SG: To put it crudely, there cannot be that many parents who have passed away, to say there are millions of orphans. So what we are essentially saying is that there are that many parents who are not raising their children on a day-to-day basis. They have abandoned their children, or they have put their children in shelters, or they have relinquished them. And those children do need a second family, a permanent home. We need to examine the status of all these children. Are they being raised in a safe environment where they are wanted? And if not, what is the next step for them?

There have been multiple exposés of international adoption abuse. There is an acknowledgement that such abuse arose partly due to high 'demand' by adoptive parents, leading to the trafficking of children to ensure adequate 'supply'. What safeguards do we need to ensure that children are not treated as commodities in a 'demand-supply' situation, leading to trafficking?

SG: That is where the procedures come into play, and should not be relaxed. The checks and balances are needed for parents to make sure that people who are adopting children are prepared for it; that they are doing it for the right reasons. And they are needed for children so that only truly eligible children are brought into the legal adoption pool. There has been a lot of improvement over the last few years.

On the demand-supply concept: we work with shelters where children tend to be more than 6 years old. The age group you are talking about comprises babies and very young children. And in that case, we do hear of a grey area or black market. Children are not coming into adoption agencies and are not being placed for adoption. They are just being given away. So I would say the bigger risk is, they are not coming into the legal adoption system. I think that is where the trouble is. What you want to do for them – whether they are babies, 10 years old, or 15 years old – is to route them through the legal

adoption pool. That is how you avoid all this.

AL: An important factor to remember is that we are finding a family for a child, not a child for a family. We need to go through these checks and balances in the best interest of the child, for the child's safety and secure placement. The fact is that children can be trafficked easily from nursing homes and hospitals; it happens quite a bit.

This idea that there are very few adoptable children in the CARA system also largely comes down to need for babies. There are many children waiting for families who are over the age of six, as well as children who have special needs. What needs to be done to increase their adoption rates?

AL: I think the worst repercussions come for children who have special needs. I've done many placements of children with special needs. I have a child with special needs. And I find that the quicker a child with special needs is placed, the better the child is. But there is a list called the immediate placement list, which I frown upon. There are parents who say, we can't wait 3-5 years for a baby, so we will take a child from the immediate placement list. And they take a child with special needs and they are not prepared for it. They don't understand that a child with special needs is a long-term commitment. And they simply return these children. So we must just stop and pause over here and think, should we really place them as "fast" as possible or should we really be child-centric here and be a little careful?

SG: From the time that I adopted a decade ago, I see a change in parents. I do see more children with special needs being adopted, more older children being adopted. But parents need more training and counseling. In international adoption, the agencies conduct a formal training that the prospective parents have to go through. We don't have an equivalent mandatory training for domestic adoptions here.

AL: The most important thing is to find out is the motivation to adopt. In the past, we did have several sessions of group counseling and individual counseling. But that is gone. Many of the home studies are like intake forms, which are not really adequate. If you compare them to foreign home studies, they are quite different.



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NOTEBOOK

V.S. Achuthanandan, the man of the masses

Had it not been for him, many cases and issues deserving public attention and debate would have easily gone under the carpet

S. Anandan

Communist veteran V.S. Achuthanandan was 101 when he died early this week. He had been away from public life for six years, confined to his son's home in Thiruvananthapuram after suffering a stroke in 2019. But the outpouring of grief on the crowded streets of Kerala, as his funeral cortege travelled the 150-kilometre distance to his hometown Alappuzha, revealed that he was never out of the public mind.

The young and the old, who made a beeline to the hearse for one last glimpse of their beloved comrade, with '*Kanne Karale VS-ey* (V.S., our sight, our heart)' rending the air, had an unmistakable emotional connection to him. It is not every day that thousands of people across age groups tear up or wail inconsolably for a political leader not related to them.

V.S. belonged to that rare breed of politicians whose moral compass was shaped by the stifling social conditions of the pre-Independence era. Orphaned at a very young age, he dropped out of school after Class 7. He was at the forefront of agitations at the age of 17, mobilising coir workers to fight for their rightful wages in 1940. The days he spent organising peasants and paddy workers of Central Travancore to stake claim to their rights were marked by intense spells of starvation and toil, which made his life spartan. He would wash his only pair of clothes, a typical white *jubba* and *mundu*, and wear it before drying to avoid creasing. It was because of V.S.'s care for paddy and agricultural land that his government enacted the Kerala Paddy and Wetlands Act, 2008, to restrict the indiscriminate conversion of land. His development vision was tempered by his love for agriculture and nature, which got him brickbats.

If the media flayed him for his *vettinirathal samaram*, an anti-paddy land reclamation drive in the late-1990s, in early 2002, media persons accompanied a resurgent V.S., then 78, as he undertook an arduous trek to the hills of Mathikettan in

Idukki to inspect for himself the extent of forests occupied by encroachers. Senior journalists who accompanied him said later that encroachers attempted to waylay him, but he was determined to proceed. The journalists, most of them young, couldn't keep pace with the septuagenarian Leader of the Opposition. He shared his food packets with everyone and asked them to catch their breath as he resumed the hike. Mathikettan Shola was subsequently declared a national park.

Those who worked with him closely vouched for his deep empathy and his ability to compensate for his incomplete schooling by keenly listening to experts. This led him to play a key role in the people's planning (decentralisation) programme, the introduction of free and open-source software, the expansion of the IT sector, the development of the national waterway-III, and the like. But it was his interventions for gender rights, secularism, environment, and against sex crimes and corruption endeared him to the masses. He was accessible, unostentatious, and grounded, while he lived a disciplined life personally.

With Pinarayi Vijayan emerging as a new power centre in the CPI(M) in Kerala, allegations arose of a 'media syndicate' tacitly supporting V.S. But V.S. himself had previously complained of the selective leaking of inner-party happenings to the media at the 2005 Malappuram State conference. He knew the power of the media and possessed inimitable presentation skills to gain media attention. A close confidante of his told me years later that V.S. never encouraged any activity against the party which he co-founded. "He was of unimpeachable integrity. This was why he was described as the conscience-keeper of the people. He was a Communist till the last breath," he said.

Had it not been for V.S., many cases and issues deserving public attention and debate would have easily gone under the carpet. A journalist can vouch for that.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A reverse reclamation in Mumbai



Thick vegetation covers wet-leased mini buses at the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST)'s Anik depot in Wadala, Mumbai. The buses have been lying unused for more than a year because of pending legal proceedings and arrears to contractors. EMMANUAL YOGINI

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The *Hindu*

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 25, 1975

Water allowance for ICF staff suggested

New Delhi, July 24: The Committee on petitions of the Rajya Sabha has suggested grant of 'water allowance' to the employees of the Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Madras, in view of the expenses they had to incur in procuring water for their daily use.

In its 48th report presented to the House to-day, the Committee said the quantum of water allowance to be granted might be decided by the Government in a "sympathetic and realistic manner."

The Committee also recommended that the Government should ensure that adequate water supply was maintained in the factory area where employees had to work for long hours. The Government should take some long-term measures in the light of the present experience to ensure that the hardship caused by water scarcity in future might be minimised to the extent possible, the Committee said.

A petition signed by more than 2,000 ICF employees was presented to the Rajya Sabha on May 9 by Mr. Subramanian Swamy (JS) requesting that in view of the drought conditions prevailing in Tamil Nadu and lack of drinking water, an interest-free loan of Rs. 1,000 be granted to each employee so that new wells were dug and the existing ones deepened.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 25, 1925

The new electric scheme

The total power that is now being generated at Sivasamudram is about 32,000 H.P., the whole of which has already been taken up. The demand for additional power likely to be required during the next three years including that for small industries, fans, and other domestic purposes works out to about 12,800 H.P. After a careful investigation of the various schemes for the generation of the additional power required, Government have sanctioned necessary estimates for a VIIth installation, providing for the generation of an additional 14,000 H.P. at Sivasamudram Generating Station at a total approximate cost of Rs. 45.5 lakhs.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Share of Indian households with access to toilets

95.1 in per cent. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Jal Shakti V. Somanna quoted findings from the Swachh Survekshan Grameen survey 2023-24. Only 39.9% households reported segregating waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories, it said. PTI

The number of Palestinians who died of malnutrition in July

48 Gaza's Health Ministry has said that 59 Palestinians died of malnutrition so far in 2025, up from 50 in 2024. A man and a woman died of malnutrition on Wednesday, the Shifa hospital said. Of the 113 that died of malnutrition in Gaza since 2023, 81 were children, Gaza's Health Ministry said. PTI

Border clash deaths in Thailand-Cambodia conflict

11 In an escalating border clash on Thursday, along with the deaths, at least 28 others were injured. Six locations saw fighting with tanks, artillery, and jets. Most civilian casualties occurred in Thailand's Sisaket province when rockets struck a petrol station. Both nations shut border crossings. AFP

Aircraft technical defects reported by Indian airlines

183 Five Indian airlines reported technical defects in their aircraft to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), the Civil Aviation Ministry told the Lok Sabha. Of these, 85 were from the Air India Group, 62 from IndiGo, and 28 from Akasa Air. SpiceJet reported eight cases. PTI

People killed in aircraft crash in Russia's Amur region

48 A passenger plane crashed in Russia's Amur region on Thursday, killing everyone. The twin-propeller Antonov-24, was en route from Blagoveshchensk to Tynda. Among the passengers were several children and one foreign national. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Decoding ECI's counter affidavit on SIR

What has the Election Commission of India argued in its counter affidavit filed in the Supreme Court? Why is seeking a citizenship test through the Special Intensive Revision exercise in Bihar problematic? What are the legal and logistical challenges involved?

EXPLAINER

Prasenjit Bose

The story so far:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) filed a counter affidavit in the Supreme Court on July 21, in response to the writ petition challenging the constitutionality of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise currently underway in Bihar. The text in the 789-page ECI affidavit is only 88 pages long; bulky annexures run into almost 700 pages. Around 625 pages of these annexures comprise representations received by the ECI from various political parties, along with their annexures.

What's the rationale for a citizenship test?

A preliminary review of the complaints annexed with the ECI's affidavit reveals that they mostly pertain to typical defects like duplication of names in the voter list, non-deletion of deceased voters, exclusion of eligible voters and fake or fraudulent voter registration.

None of the complaints involve the electoral rolls of Bihar, nor does any of the complaints allege instances of illegal migrants from foreign countries being included in the electoral rolls in any State. The complaints, which account for almost 80% of the volume of ECI's counter affidavit, do not provide any evidence or justification for the ongoing SIR exercise in Bihar or a nationwide citizenship test of electors across the country, for which the affidavit vehemently argues.

Is it legally tenable?

The counter affidavit invokes Article 326 which specifies that "every person who is a citizen of India... shall be entitled to be registered as a voter", and also Section 15 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 which mandates the preparation of electoral rolls "under the superintendence, direction and control" of the ECI, to insist on its having statutory authority to undertake a 'de novo' preparation of electoral rolls, requiring electors already registered in the electoral rolls to submit fresh documentary proof of their citizenship. The affidavit also rebuffs the apex court's advisory to include Aadhaar card, the Elector's Photo Identity card (EPIC) and ration card in the list of permissible documents for the SIR exercise.

There are several fallacies in the ECI's arguments. First, the SIR process shifts the onus of citizenship proof on all existing electors whose names were registered by the ECI through due process. Another due process is also available for the deletion of non-citizens from electoral rolls on the basis of specific complaints backed by evidence. Have those due processes been rendered dysfunctional by the overwhelming nature of inclusion errors vis-a-vis illegal migrants?

If so, the ECI's affidavit should have been able to present precise data on the number of complaints received on the inclusion of foreign nationals or illegal migrants in the electoral rolls of Bihar, and all other States for that matter. In the absence of such evidence, ECI's logic that inclusion in electoral rolls through summary revisions are only provisional and only those added or verified through intensive revisions like SIR have more authenticity, does not hold.

Second, the Representation of the People Act, 1950, does not make any distinction between electors added through summary revisions and those added through "special intensive revisions". While section 21(3) of the law permits the ECI to direct a "special

Chasing the rolls

Table 1 presents the updated statistics of the special intensive revision in Bihar, as released by the Election Commission of India, on July 22.



A booth level officer checks documents during the special investigation revision to electoral rolls at Kamalpur village, in Bihar. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

TABLE 1 Join FREE Whatsapp Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDVqPnxvwWb3Agy98nValQ

	Total	Percentage (%)
Total Electors (as on 24th June 2025)	7,89,69,844	100.00
Enumeration Forms Received	7,16,04,102	90.67
Enumeration Forms Digitised	7,13,65,460	90.37
Electors not found at their addresses so far	52,30,126	6.62
Probably Deceased Electors reported so far	18,66,869	2.36
Probably Permanently Shifted Electors reported so far	26,01,031	3.29
Electors Identified as Enrolled at Multiple places	7,50,742	0.95
Electors not traceable	11,484	0.01
Total electors covered	7,68,34,228	97.30
Remaining Enumeration Forms yet to be received	21,35,616	2.70

Source: Election Commission of India

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revision" for individual constituencies or their parts, the word "intensive" does not find any mention in the law. The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 were amended in 1987 to introduce two separate categories of electoral roll revisions, summary and intensive. However, even the 1960 rules do not provide any specific definition or modalities for "intensive" revisions. The statutory foundation of SIR, therefore, remains fuzzy.

Third, the arguments provided by ECI's affidavit in rejecting the Supreme Court's advice to include EPIC, as one of the documents to prove eligibility, contradicts the exemption granted to electors included in the 2003 electoral roll from furnishing any document under SIR 2025 other than "the relevant extracts of the said part showing their name in the 2003 electoral roll". ECI's affidavit states that the children of electors included in the 2003 rolls have also been allowed to use this avenue to prove their eligibility. Such privileging of the inclusions in the 2003 electoral rolls, over and above all electoral rolls published by the ECI in two subsequent decades, is legally questionable.

The ECI's affidavit mentions that the 2003 Bihar SIR guidelines prescribed four indicative documents as proof of citizenship, namely "NRC Register where available; Citizenship Certificate; valid passport; or Birth Certificate." However, a copy of the 2003 SIR guidelines have not been provided with the affidavit. Was there any house-to-house enumeration and citizenship verification for the entire electorate during the 2003 Bihar SIR on the basis of such documentary requirements? How many illegal migrants were detected and deleted from rolls in 2003? These facts need to be ascertained and debated before accepting inclusions in the 2003 electoral rolls as probative evidence of citizenship under SIR.

Fourth, the ECI's affidavit asserts the applicability of the contrived citizenship criteria introduced by the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2003 in SIR 2025;

whereby (a) Each voter has to submit documentary proof of his/her date and place of birth; (b) For those born between July 1, 1987 and December 2, 2004, additional documentary proof of date and place of birth of either father or mother is required; and (c) For those voters born after December 2, 2004, both parents' date and place of birth are required to be submitted.

The constitutionality of this controversial citizenship amendment legislation, which had proposed to introduce a National Register of Indian Citizens (NRC), remains under challenge before the apex court. The rules under this Act were notified even before the CAA, 2003, was passed and notified, casting doubts over its legal status. Most importantly, the Registrar General of India never issued any order to initiate the NRC, as stipulated in the citizenship rules. Hence, the NRC does not exist anywhere in India, except for the State of Assam. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had clarified in December 2019 that his Cabinet had never discussed the initiation of the NRC since 2014.

When the authorities statutorily mandated to initiate the NRC and its underlying citizenship scheme apropos CAA, 2003 have decided not to proceed with it till date, can the ECI claim to have any legal mandate to implement the same citizenship test in Bihar, in lieu of an electoral roll revision?

What will be the impact?

The ECI's counter affidavit has tried to counter criticisms regarding the exclusionary nature of the SIR exercise by highlighting that filled up enumeration forms have already been collected and digitised from over 90% of the 7.89 crore electors in Bihar. The moot point here is that the ECI's affidavit does not disclose the number or proportion of digitised enumeration forms which are accompanied with the required documents. Rather, the affidavit mentions that "each elector who has submitted the

enumeration form with or without documents will be included in the draft roll to be published August 1, 2025."

Thus, the coverage of over 90% of the electors in the SIR process has been attained by postponing the requirement for document submission along with the enumeration forms. The scrutiny of enumeration forms and documents by the electoral registration officers are to commence only after the draft rolls are published. This does not testify for the inclusivity of the entire SIR process.

The status of the SIR exercise reported in the ECI's affidavit contains data till July 18, 2025. The updated status provided by the ECI's press note on July 22 is reproduced in Table 1. Till then, around 21.35 lakh (2.7%) electors were yet to receive and submit their enumeration forms. Major political parties of Bihar were officially requested by the ECI to connect with the remaining electors, through their functionaries and booth level agents.

Till July 24, around 7 lakh forms were not received. Inability of the ECI in ensuring cent percent coverage through its own machinery of booth level officers (BLOs) and volunteers further exposes the impracticality of the SIR schedule.

Moreover, over 53 lakh (6.7%) electors were not found at their residential addresses by the BLOs. While around 1 lakh among them are reported as "not traceable" and another 7 lakh as multiple enrolments, the numbers of deceased electors at over 21.6 lakh (2.7%) and those permanently migrated at 31.5 lakh (4%), are quite significant. Whether errors are involved in such exclusions can be known only after the publication of the draft rolls.

The constituency-wise distribution of these exclusions also remains unreported. The impact of deletion of migrated electors can be substantial if they are clustered within a few constituencies and demographics.

Why is ECI not accepting Aadhaar, ration cards?

ECI's non-acceptance of the apex court's advisory on including Aadhaar and ration cards in the list of indicative documents rests on tenuous grounds. The ECI's own enumeration form for SIR 2025 seeks the Aadhaar number from all electors, albeit on a voluntary basis. The ECI's affidavit states that statutorily "Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship", which is specious logic, because statutorily the ECI has no mandate to conduct a citizenship test.

In the case of ration cards, the ECI has cited "widespread existence of fake ration cards" as the ground for non-acceptance. A data table in ECI's affidavit on the coverage of some of the eleven eligibility documents for SIR 2025 in Bihar show 13.89 crore "Residence certificates" and 8.72 crore caste certificates issued from 2011 to 2025, far exceeding 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, how can ration cards be rejected as a document on the grounds of being forgery-prone?

Any widely accessible official card or document in a vast country like India would be prone to counterfeits – currency notes offering the most common example. Solutions need to be found in plugging systemic loopholes, enhanced vigilance and effectively designed counter-measures.

Unless the ECI revises its rigid insistence on citizenship determination, the Bihar SIR exercise is likely to result in a fiasco bigger than the four-year-long NRC process in Assam between 2015 and 2019, which was eventually rejected by all those who demanded it after reportedly spending ₹1,600 crore of public money. (Prasenjit Bose is an economist and activist)

THE GIST

▼ The Election Commission of India's (ECI) counter affidavit in response to the ongoing special intensive revision exercise in Bihar defends its statutory authority to require electors to prove citizenship through fresh documentation.

▼ However, the affidavit faces criticism for lacking concrete evidence of illegal migrants in the State's electoral rolls, questioning the legal and practical basis of the SIR process.

▼ The ECI's refusal to accept Aadhaar and ration cards as documents of eligibility, despite their widespread use, further complicates the legitimacy and inclusivity of the ongoing electoral revision.

IN THE LIMELIGHT



A still from the 'Vinland Saga' anime. CRUNCHYROLL

The gospel of ‘Vinland Saga’ and its life-changing meditations on pacifism

As Makoto Yukimura’s moving historical treatise on non-violence drops its final chapter after a two-decade long run, fans find a hopeful blueprint for a gentler way of living, as its titular utopia embodies the inextinguishable optimism of a world devoid of bloodshed

Ayaan Paul Chowdhury

By the time Japanese author Makoto Yukimura’s seminal seinen manga publishes its 220th and final chapter today, it will have spanned two decades, 28 collected volumes, and two critically acclaimed seasons of anime. Widely considered as one of modern manga’s most influential and evocative stories, *Vinland Saga* has sold over seven million copies, won the prestigious Kodansha Manga Award, and built a global congregation of devout fans. Despite its success, it still resists easy summary. It presents as a Viking epic of blood, vengeance and conquest, but harbours a stirring moral parable about remorse, forgiveness, and the long, difficult work of laying down one’s sword.

Inspired by the real-life Norse explorer Thorfinn Karlsefni, who led an expedition to North America around the turn of the 11th century, Yukimura set out to reconstruct the world of medieval Scandinavia with fastidious detail. He read Icelandic sagas – *Erik the Red*, *The Greenlanders*, *The Flateyjarbók* – though he later confessed that the source material was too long and dense to fully absorb. Instead, he travelled to Scandinavia, studied Viking law and shipbuilding, consulted anthropologists, and even created full-scale models to ensure historical fidelity with near-scholarly devotion. But the facts were never the point. The real Thorfinn’s journey ended in failure, and Yukimura wanted to imagine what it would look like if it didn’t.

As a child, Thorfinn watches his father die and is consumed by a Hamletian thirst

for revenge. By the series’ midpoint, hollowed by grief, he finds a new vision: a vow of nonviolence, and a dream of a land where no one owns another, and no one draws a sword. This becomes the essence of Vinland – a utopia worth striving for, even if never found.

‘Echoes of great moral epics’

Yukimura has rarely drawn attention to his influences, but his story hums with echoes of the great moral epics that preceded it. He has often cited *Fist of the North Star* as his entry point into manga, but *Vinland Saga* draws from a broader lineage of Dostoevsky’s psychological torment, Kurosawa’s tragic grandeur, and the lyrical, spiritual minimalism of Terrence Malick and Shūsaku Endō.

At first, the story seduced readers with brutality. In its early arcs, *Vinland Saga* offered the baity spectacle of Nordic warbands slashing their way through medieval England. But as the chapters wore on, Yukimura gradually subverted the expectations he had so carefully cultivated. The swordplay gave way to introspection, and the battlefield faded into farmland. The manga became slower, quieter, and immeasurably deeper.

The phrase “I have no enemies,” first spoken by Thorfinn’s father and later claimed by Thorfinn himself, has become the story’s most striking refrain. It appears on posters, surfaces in comment threads, and circulates online like a secular prayer; emblematic of the story’s moral arc. Though it sounds simple, in the context of the story, it marks a hard-earned philosophical commitment. In Buddhist thought, it echoes *metta*, or the cultivation of boundless goodwill toward all beings. In Christianity, it recalls

Christ’s command to love one’s enemies. In Stoicism, it aligns with Marcus Aurelius’ belief in understanding over judgment, and action guided by reason rather than impulse. In postcolonial thought, it resists the machinery of ‘othering’ that makes violence seem natural. Yukimura draws on this rich theological lineage to suggest that “I have no enemies” doesn’t deny conflict, but rather rejects the moral architecture that makes violence seem inevitable.

Yukimura, a self-avowed pacifist, has said he would sooner go to prison than take up arms, even under government coercion. That conviction gives *Vinland Saga* its definitive force as a story set a millennium ago that speaks directly to the carnage of now. With clannish bloodlust and righteous warfare currently fueling the most defining atrocities of our time, *Vinland Saga*’s radical, almost naive faith in a world without violence feels more vital than ever. That its titular utopia would later birth one of history’s most brutal empires only deepens the irony. And yet in its belief in redemption, it insists a better world is still worth the reach.

Questions that linger

The parallels may not be precise, and *Vinland Saga* does not offer prescriptive solutions to modern crises. But its questions linger: How do people break free from cycles of violence? What does justice look like when forgiveness is possible, but memory endures? Can a society built on conquest ever truly become peaceful? The story doesn’t pretend these are easy questions, and Thorfinn’s path is full of doubt and contradiction. But Yukimura insists, again

and again, that refusing to dehumanise others is the first step.

Over time, *Vinland Saga* has cultivated a devoted, soul-searching following. Many have turned to it for solace in depression or as a catalyst to let go of rage. Its hopeful creed offered a blueprint for a kinder, gentler way of living, and nurtured one of the most thoughtful, generous fandoms in contemporary pop culture. As online spaces grow louder with manospheric posturing, Thorfinn has fostered a countercurrent of healthy masculinity, encouraging a generation of men to pursue empathy, accountability, and emotional growth over dominance or vengeance. That a slow, meditative story could thrive alongside testosterone shounen offerings is a testament to its emotional gravity. YouTube essays, Reddit confessions, and blog threads have long extolled the virtues of this beautiful alchemy Yukimura has achieved.

Vinland Saga is often grouped with *Berserk* and *Vagabond* as part of a loose cannon of modern seinen – three extraordinary, long-running epics centred on men forged in violence, each quietly threaded with pacifism. Today, it will become the only one of the three to reach its intended conclusion. As the final chapter approaches, there is a palpable sense of farewell in the air. Fans across the globe are bracing for the inevitable goodbye, already penning long letters of gratitude to a story that helped them survive the years.

A millennium ago, a Norse explorer imagined a land without swords. In our time, a Japanese mangaka handed us that dream again. Now it’s ours to carry forward, as far as it will go. Vinland is somewhere just past the horizon.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Some significant events occurred today. Here is a quiz on observances, birthdays and everything else that happened on the day

Abhinava K

- QUESTION 1**
On this day in 2007, a woman was sworn in to this top post in the country. She was the first woman to hold the post. After her, only one other woman has held the post. Identify the person.
- QUESTION 2**
World Embryologist Day is celebrated every year on July 25 to mark the progress in fertility and reproductive medicine. Why is it celebrated on July 25?
- QUESTION 3**
On this day in 1984, this woman

- astronaut became the first woman to perform this activity in space. Identify the astronaut and activity.
- QUESTION 4**
Air France flight 4590 crashed on this day in 2000, killing all aboard and four others on the ground. Where did the incident occur?
- QUESTION 5**
American painter Thomas Eakins was born on this day in 1844. Which of the following is not one of his paintings: The Chess Players, Maud Cook, Cowboy Singing and Blue Dancers.



Visual Question:
Identify this iconic movie that was released on this day in 1993 starring Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks. Also name the director of the film. AP

- Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz:** 1. What is the most common type of arthritis that causes joint pain and stiffness due to wear and tear of cartilage? **Ans: Osteoarthritis**
2. Name one autoimmune form of arthritis that primarily affects the joints and can also impact organs like the lungs or eyes. **Ans: Rheumatoid arthritis**
3. The medical specialist who treats arthritis is called a _____. **Ans: Rheumatologist**
4. Regular physical activity can help reduce arthritis symptoms. True or False? **Ans: True**
5. Which parts of the hand are commonly affected by osteoarthritis? **Ans: Fingertips and the base of the thumb (also wrist)**
- Visual: Identify this historical figure who made an important medical discovery related to arthritis. **Ans: Sir Alfred Baring Garrod**
- Early Birds:** K.N. Viswanathan | Sonali Das | Tom Alan Faith | Sukdev Shet | Mohan Lal Patel



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

“I don’t like attending those classes. I wish I didn’t have to attend them. You know...”

“...stop whining, will you? I am sick and tired...”

“...stop what? Did you say wining? You know I don’t drink.”

“W.h.i.n.e. is pronounced the same way as w.i.n.e., but their meanings are entirely different.”

“What does w.h.i.n.e. mean?”

“It has several different meanings. When someone whines about something, it means he/ she complains about it in a manner that annoys you. For example, there are days when my boss whines non stop.”

“What does he whine about?”

“About everything. When things don’t go according to plan, he starts whining.”

“He sounds like my uncle. He whines all the time. My sister, on the other hand, is pretty tough. Even if she is in a bad situation, she never whines.”

“Unlike you! You are a whiner!”

“A whiner! Is a whiner someone who whines?”

“That’s right! You are the biggest whiner I’ve ever met.”

“I certainly am not a whiner. You should meet some of my friends. They...”

“Let’s not get into an argument. But tell me, why are you taking so many extra classes?”

“My father thinks it will help me do better in school.”

“I can understand that. But by taking so many classes, aren’t you spreading yourself too thin?”

“Spreading yourself too thin? What’s that supposed to mean?”

“When you spread yourself too thin, you try to do so many things that you don’t end up doing anything well. Nowadays parents want their children to get involved in all kinds of activities. They actually spread them thin.”

“That’s true. My cousin attends computer classes in the morning and as soon as he gets back from school, he takes tennis lessons. And every other day, he takes music lessons. He is really tired by the end of the day.”

“I can imagine. I don’t like to spread myself too thin.”

“Maybe you should.”

“What do you mean?”

“You could lose a little weight, you know! Ha! Ha!”

“What! Are you saying I’m fat?”

“Not fat, exactly. But you’re getting there. You’ve put on a lot of weight, you know.”

“L. well. I I.. er.”

“...what’s the matter? You’re not saying anything.”

“I guess I am tongue-tied.”

“Tongue-tied? Does that mean speechless?”

“Yes, that’s right. When someone is tongue-tied, they are unable to say anything because they feel shy or nervous. For example, when the little boy saw the audience, he became completely tongue-tied. Most people become tongue-tied at some time or the other.”

“That’s true.”

“So you think I should lose weight?”

“Yes, you do.”

“But I’m not fat. You know...”

“...stop whining.”

Published in The Hindu on May 27, 1997

Word of the day

Desultory:
marked by a lack of definite plan or regularity, or purpose

Synonyms: random, aimless, inconstant

Usage: *His desultory answers made it clear he wasn't paying attention*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/desultorypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /desəltri/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to letters@thehindu.co.in with the subject 'Text & Context'

From Page One

India and U.K. ink trade agreement



Narendra Modi with U.K. PM Keir Starmer during an interaction with business leaders after the signing of the trade agreement in the U.K. on Thursday. PTI

“... And it’s the best deal that India has ever offered anyone,” Mr. Reynolds said.

The deal was announced in May, more than three years after negotiations were relaunched.

India and the U.K. also agreed to negotiate a reciprocal Double Contributions Convention (DCC). This agreement - when it comes into effect - would ensure that employers and employees working across borders, for a period of up to three years, would pay social contributions only in one country at a given time. The current exemption period is for one year.

The DCC had earlier been announced as a part of the trade deal in the U.K., where exemptions from social security payments are politically sensitive. The DCC is legally linked to the CETA, and must come into effect for the CETA to become operational, L. Satya Srinivas, a Ministry of Commerce bureaucrat, told *The Hindu*.

The Vision 2035 statement comprises several pillars: growth and jobs; technology (building on the Technology Security Initiative launched exactly a year ago); climate; defence and security. The two sides agreed to regular interaction between the two Prime Ministers and an annual review of how Vision 2035 was being implemented, conducted at the Foreign Minister level.

The sides also discussed global and regional issues during Thursday’s talks. They committed to strengthening and reforming multilateralism, specifically at the United Nations and its Security Council, the Commonwealth, the World Trade Organization, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank to “reflect contemporary global realities”.

The U.K. is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and supports India’s permanent membership to the body.

During a press briefing on Thursday, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri emphasised the significance of such a deal being struck in a challenging environment for trade, globally. He was responding to a question from *The Hindu* on whether the United States’s retrenchment from the world and trade discussions of both the countries with the U.S. were brought up during Mr. Modi’s and Mr. Starmer’s bilateral talks.

Mr. Modi thanked Mr. Starmer for his support following the Pahalgam terror attack of April 22.

“We are united in the belief that there is no place for double standards in the fight against terrorism,” Mr. Modi said.

“We also agree that the forces which espouse extremist ideologies should not be allowed to misuse democratic freedoms. Those who misuse democratic freedoms to undermine democracy itself must be held to account,” he said.

The two countries would also enhance cooperation on the extradition of economic offenders, Mr. Modi said.

The U.K. is host to several individuals who are considered economic fugitives under Indian law, including jeweller Nirav Modi, and businessmen Lalit Modi and Vijay Malloya.

“We have continued to exchange views on peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and the situation in West Asia,” the Prime Minister said, adding that India supported the “early restoration of peace and stability” and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

“Today’s era demands development, not expansionism,” he said.

Several industry bodies welcomed the trade agreement.

“It creates a strong foundation for deeper market access, regulatory cooperation, and next-generation partnerships between Indian and U.K. businesses,” the Confederation of Indian Industry’s Director General, Chandrajit Banerjee, said.

Supreme Court stays 2006 blasts verdict

In a brief mentioning of the case by Maharashtra regarding a technical hitch in the case records, Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai had remarked that a stay of a judgment of acquittal was “rarest of rare”.

The Bombay High Court had concluded that the prosecution “utterly failed” to establish guilt beyond reasonable doubt. It had set aside the 2025 judgment of the Special Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court, which had awarded death penalty to five and life imprisonment to seven others.

On July 11, 2006, a series of seven bomb blasts occurred in the first-class compartments of seven suburban local trains of Mumbai. The coordinated explosions led to the tragic loss of 187 lives and left over 800 people injured.

61 lakh names may be out of Bihar’s draft electoral rolls

Day before deadline, EC data show seven lakh yet to submit forms, 21.6 lakh dead, 31.5 lakh left the State, one lakh untraceable; claims of missing names or wrongful inclusions can be filed till Sept. 1

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Over 61 lakh Bihar names may not figure on the State’s new draft electoral rolls, which are to be published on August 1.

They include seven lakh people who are yet to submit their enumeration forms under the special intensive revision (SIR) process, a day ahead of the July 25 deadline, according to Election Commission of India data released on Thursday. There are also 21.6 lakh deceased electors, 31.5 lakh people who have permanently shifted from the State, seven lakh who have enrolled at more than one place, and one lakh who are “untraceable”, the EC said in a statement.

The poll body said the enumeration forms of 7.21 crore electors (91.32%) have been received and digitised. All of their names will be included on the draft electoral rolls. The remaining forms are also being digitised, along with re-



Enumeration forms of 7.21 crore electors (91.32%) digitised. All of their names will be included in draft rolls. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP
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ports from booth-level officers (BLOs) and booth-level agents (BLAs) to facilitate their verification during the claims and objections period.

Bihar has 7,89,69,844 voters, according to the 2025 electoral rolls, which are now being revised through the SIR.

Accepted till Sept. 1
As per the SIR order, after the publication of the new draft electoral roll, copies will be provided to all 12

major political parties in the State. The draft roll will also be available on the EC’s website.

The booth-level lists of electors who have not filled their forms, of deceased electors, and electors who have permanently migrated had already been shared with all political parties on July 20, so that they can point out any errors. Any elector or any political party can file a claim in case of any missing names or raise an ob-

jection in case of any wrong inclusion till September 1. Thus, inclusion of names on the electoral roll will continue till September 1.

CEC’s take
Faced with Opposition attacks against the SIR process, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar asked whether the EC should allow the names of the dead and those who had migrated to other places to be included on the voters list.

Allowing ineligible people to vote, first in Bihar and later in the entire country, is against the Constitution, Mr. Kumar said. “On these questions, someday or the other, all of us and all the citizens of India will have to think deeply, going beyond political ideologies,” he added, defending the SIR.

The Opposition has claimed that the move will disenfranchise crores of eligible citizens. Parliament remained stalled on Thursday as well over the issue.

Have 100% proof that EC is ‘allowing cheating’: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Rahul Gandhi

Launching a scathing attack on the Election Commission of India (EC), Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the poll body of “allowing cheating” in a constituency in Karnataka. He said he had “100% concrete proof” of malpractice.

Mr. Gandhi said the Congress would not allow EC officials to get away and was “going to come for them”.

Unwarranted, says EC
Reacting to the Mr. Gandhi’s statement, an EC spokesperson termed it “an unwarranted threatening statement” against a constitutional body, and pointed out that no appeal was filed with regard to the electoral rolls in Karnataka.

The spokesperson added that of the 10 election petitions filed regarding the conduct of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, no Congress candidate had filed any petition to challenge the outcome. “EC is wondering as to why such

baseless and threatening allegations are being made against CEC and that too now,” the spokesperson asked.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Gandhi alleged that the poll panel was not functional and was “not doing its job”.

Asked about the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav’s reported remarks that the option of boycotting the Bihar Assembly election was open, Mr. Gandhi, who leads the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said his party had “concrete 100% proof” of the EC allowing malpractice in a seat in Karnataka.

“Not 90%, when we decide to show it to you, it is a 100% proof,” he said.

DGCA issues four notices to Air India for safety violations

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued four show-cause notices to Air India over 29 violations, including non-compliance with crew rest norms, under-deployment of cabin crew on ultra long-haul flights, and lapses in pilot and crew training. The notices also flagged unresolved “systemic issues” and deficiencies in “safety management” despite previous regulatory interventions.

A total of 19 violations pertain to violations in pilot training and the timelines within which they have to complete refresher training programme where pilots operate commercial flights under the guidance of an instructor. These were observed for a 12-month period from July 2024 to June 2025.

The Hindu has reviewed the show-cause notices, obtained through industry sources. The violations were voluntarily disclosed by Air India.

Three violations concerning weekly rest periods for one first officer and two captains were recorded between June 2024 and June 2025.

“In its show-cause notices, the regulator has said that despite repeated warnings and enforcement action for non-compliance in the past, systemic issues related to compliance monitoring, crew planning, and training governance remain unresolved,” an official said.

The DGCA has given Air India 14 days to respond to the notices.

An Air India spokesperson said in a statement, “...We will respond to the said notices within the stipulated period.”

JD(U) leader questions SIR exercise in Bihar, says it will affect ‘genuine’ voters

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

After Banka MP Giridhari Yadav, another leader belonging to the Janata Dal (United) has expressed reservations about the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) process in Bihar.

Sanjeev Kumar, MLA from the Parbatta Assembly constituency, told *The Hindu* that voters who worked outside the State could be left out of the SIR exercise. “In my own Assembly constituency, many such names have been left out. The SIR should be conducted during festivals such as Holi, Deepavali and Chhath, when people working outside the State return. I am unable to contact my voters,” Mr. Kumar said.

He said many migrant workers will not be able to afford the costs of return-

MLA Sanjeev Kumar argues that migrants left out cannot afford to frequently come to Bihar from outside

ing to Bihar more than once or twice a year. Mr. Kumar also said many migrant workers are bound by contracts that prevent them from travelling frequently.

“It is very unfortunate that such migrant workers’ names would be removed and I think the Election Commission should do something about this,” Mr. Kumar said.

As per the EC’s official statement on Thursday, “99% electors have already been covered” by the exercise and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) had “reported names of 21.6 lakh de-

ceased electors and 31.5 lakh electors who have permanently migrated..., while 1 lakh electors are untraceable”.

However, Mr. Kumar said: “Even though the EC claims [to have covered] 99%, I am sure at least 1% of genuine voters have been removed. I think more time should have been given for this exercise. These are National Democratic Alliance [NDA] voters.”

JD(U) MLC Khalid Anwar said the SIR should go ahead, but the EC was not the “final authority”.

On Thursday, the JD(U) issued a show-cause notice to Giridhari Yadav for raising questions on the SIR. It said the comments caused “embarrassment” to the party and lent credibility to “politically motivated allegations made by the Opposition”.

Opposition may boycott Bihar election, says Tejashwi

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav has indicated that Opposition parties might boycott the upcoming Assembly election in Bihar after taking feedback from people and alliance partners.

Earlier, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader had taken on the Election Commission of India (EC), alleging that it has been working “at the behest of the BJP and ruling NDA”.

“We will see what people want and what our allies say. If the State polls are conducted in a partial and manipulative manner where it is already decided who would win what number of seats, what is the use of conducting such an election?” Mr. Yadav told a news agency on Wednesday.

At UNSC, India says Gaza ceasefire a ‘must’, reaffirms support to Palestine

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Raising concerns over the ongoing “humanitarian crisis” in Gaza at the United Nations Security Council, India said that a ceasefire is a “must”, as is the release of all hostages. India’s support to the Palestinian cause is “unwavering”, said Parvathaneni Harish, India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

Mr. Harish’s statement was delivered during the UNSC’s quarterly open debate on the ‘Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question’ on Wednesday. It comes just a month after India abstained on a resolution at the UN General Assembly that called on Israel to implement an immediate ceasefire. The debate was convened by Pakistan, which holds the Security Council



Presidency for July, and was chaired by Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

“Intermittent pauses in hostilities are not enough to address the scale of humanitarian challenges confronting the people, who grapple daily with acute shortages of food and fuel, inadequate medical services and lack of access to education,” Mr. Harish said during his intervention, citing UN and WHO estimates that 95% of all hospitals in Gaza are damaged or destroyed, and that more than 6,50,000 chil-

A ceasefire must be put in place. All hostages must be released. Dialogue and diplomacy remain only viable paths...

PARVATHANENI HARISH
India’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations

dren have had no schooling for over 20 months.

Changing position
“A ceasefire must be put in place. All hostages must be released. Dialogue and diplomacy remain the only viable paths to achieving these objectives. There are no other fixes or solutions,” he added.

The MEA did not respond to a request for comment on why India’s position appears to have shifted over the past month, with a stronger statement on the need for

a ceasefire than before. In the UNGA vote on June 12, India was one of only 19 abstentions, while 12 countries voted against a resolution pressing Israel for an immediate ceasefire. In all, 149 countries voted for the resolution, while the Indian representative said only that releasing hostages and a ceasefire were “important to ameliorate the humanitarian situation in Gaza”.

At the UNSC debate, where India was a special invitee, Mr. Harish also reiterated India’s position that a “two-State” solution was the only “pathway to enduring peace” between Israel and Palestine.

“India shares historic and strong ties with our Palestinian brothers and sisters. We have always stood by them and our commitment towards the Palestinian cause is unwavering,” he said.

Chinese surveillance gear banned for I-Day

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

In the wake of Operation Sindoor, this year’s Independence Day celebrations will feature enhanced aerial monitoring and a complete ban on the usage of ‘Made In China’ surveillance equipment in and around the Red Fort in the national capital.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to make his Independence Day address from the ramparts of

Red Fort on August 15, the venue was taken over by the Ministry of Defence from July 15.

This year, more guests are being invited to attend the Independence Day celebrations in comparison to previous years, sources said.

Security agencies held a detailed discussion on possible security breaches through unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).



APPEAL

Selvi Shalini, P. MRD No. 1309125, 10 years daughter of late Mr. Pushparaj admitted G.Kruppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital Diagnosed with T-LBL (T Lymphoblastic Lymphoma/Blood Cancer). She needs intensive Chemotherapy for 6 months. The Estimate Cost for Chemotherapy is approximately Rs.5,00,000/-

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Committee to look into 'legal structure' for IMD

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has constituted a committee, comprising members from various organisations, for “formulating a legal framework” pertaining to meteorological services in India and the role of agencies involved in it, Minister Jitendra Singh said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The move results from a long-standing mandate of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), of which India is a member, requiring all member countries to develop legislation, Act or policy for hydro-meteorological services. “The committee constituted by the MoES will take cognisance and examine the legislation carried out in this regard in other countries,” he said.

Despite being the official source of monsoon forecasts, cyclone warnings, and all aspects involving weather, besides being entirely government-funded, there is no single law that defines the structure, function and responsibilities of the India Meteorological Department, which was established during the colonial period. The IMD is a subsidiary under the MoES.

Opposition to opt for consensus candidate in V-P election unlike 2022

Trinamool and AAP abstained from the 2022 election after Congress went against the broader agreement and fielded party veteran Margaret Alva; 55 members stayed away from that election

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission is expected to notify the vice-presidential election any time now, but the Opposition parties have not begun a formal conversation on their position in the election. However, there is an informal consensus building in the Opposition camp towards the idea that the mistakes made in the 2022 contest should not be repeated.

In 2022, going against the broader agreement, the Congress fielded its veteran leader Margaret Alva. Miffed at not being consulted, the Trinamool Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) decided to abstain from the election, instead of voting for either Ms. Alva from the Opposition camp or Jagdeep Dhankhar from the government side.

Announcing the Trinamool’s decision to abstain from the election, the party’s national general secretary, Abhishek Banerjee, had said, “If you want to keep Opposition unity,



Proceedings of the Rajya Sabha under way during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Thursday. The Vice-President of India holds the post of ex-officio Chair of the Rajya Sabha. SANSAD TV

you have to rise above ego and self-interest.” A total of 55 members abstained from the election and Mr. Dhankhar won it by 346 votes.

‘In better position’

Voices from both within and outside the Congress articulated that the selection of Ms. Alva was a mistake since it split the Opposition votes. But even with the AAP and the Trinamool support, it still did not

have the requisite numbers.

“This time the contest is keener, we have better numbers. It is time to ensure that we keep our numbers intact,” a senior Opposition leader said. The difference in the votes between the two sides, if there is 100 per cent voting, is a little over 150.

The Opposition, however, will wait for the government to declare its candidate before beginning

consultations on who to field. With the upcoming Bihar Assembly election, which is expected to see a heated contest between the ruling National Democratic Alliance and the Opposition’s coalition, *Mahagatbandhan*, the Opposition is clear that it won’t concede the position without putting up a fight.

The Opposition is looking for a candidate who, if not popular, is acceptable to all sides equally.

BJP begins search for the next Vice-President, party insider could make the cut

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The initial shock over the resignation of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar appears to be giving way to concerns within the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) over his possible successor.

Senior coalition leaders indicated that the next nominee may be a Bharatiya Janata Party leader from Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s close circle, with the political acumen required to manage proceedings in the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Dhankhar, who became Vice-President following a term as Governor of West Bengal, had earlier been associated with the Janata Dal and the Congress. Senior BJP leaders said a shortlist was being prepared, largely comprising BJP leaders, particularly those with gubernatorial experience.

The NDA partners have been informally conveyed that the replacement may be from the BJP.

Short list of candidates

“Prime Minister Narendra Modi will only be back by July 26th after the conclusion of his visit to the U.K. and the Maldives. By that time we will have a short



Sudden move: Jagdeep Dhankhar with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

list ready, of possible candidates,” a senior BJP leader said.

Tensions between Mr. Dhankhar and the government had reportedly been simmering, especially over his public remarks on the judiciary and other institutions. The Government managers felt these comments were avoidable, particularly at a time when the Centre was seeking to move beyond the confrontational legacy of the National Judicial Appointments Committee Bill.

“The government also felt that he could have used more tact in dealing with issues in the Rajya Sabha, while at the same time making sure that the government had its say,” the senior BJP leader said.

According to informed

sources, Mr. Dhankhar was reportedly aggrieved by the government’s lack of visible support when the Opposition moved a motion to remove him from the post – unprecedented for a presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha. While Deputy Chairperson Harivansh dismissed the motion, no senior Union Minister publicly defended Mr. Dhankhar, a development that reportedly left him disappointed.

The Election Commission has said that it has begun preparations for the election of the next Vice-President.

The government is hopeful that a new appointment will help bring closure to what it sees as a dramatic chapter for the post.

Shah to move notice to extend President’s Rule in Manipur

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to move a statutory resolution in the Rajya Sabha in the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament to extend President’s Rule in Manipur for another six months.

According to the Rajya Sabha bulletin, Mr. Shah’s notice was admitted for Thursday but the House was adjourned around 2.15 p.m. following protest by the Opposition against the Election Commission’s special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The statutory resolution notice said, “That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 13 February, 2025 in respect of Manipur, issued under Article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from 13 August, 2025.”

Manipur was placed under President’s Rule on February 13 following the resignation of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on February

The State was placed under President’s Rule on February 13 following resignation of CM Biren Singh

9. As per Article 356(3) of the Constitution, President’s Rule, which is enforced through the Governor’s office, usually lasts six months and can be extended every six months with the approval of Parliament for up to three years.

The Hindu had reported on July 17 that Central rule is likely to be extended for another six months in the State as government focusses on opening of national highways and recovery of looted police weapons.

The ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei people that erupted in the State on May 3, 2023 has claimed the lives of 250 people and displaced more than 60,000 people from their homes.

Meitei people who live in the valley have not been able to access the highways since the violence began.

Protests continue in Lok Sabha, while brief calm prevails in the Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha functioned briefly to bid farewell to the retiring members but Opposition protests continued in the Lok Sabha over the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, disrupting the proceedings for the fourth consecutive day.

Soon after the Lower House sat for the day, Speaker Om Birla had to adjourn proceedings when Opposition members raised slogans, entered the Well of the House and also displayed placards. Addressing senior Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, Mr. Birla said it was not the culture of his party to indulge in sloganeering in the House and lamented about crores of tax payers’ money being wasted.

As the din continued, the Speaker adjourned the proceedings until 2 p.m. in less than seven minutes.

When the House reassembled, Krishna Prasad Tenneti, Telugu Desam Party member who was chairing the proceedings, urged members to partici-



Speaking out: Opposition MPs protesting in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on Thursday. SANSAD TV/ANI

pate in the discussion on a Bill which seeks to provide seats for Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Goa Assembly.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal questioned why the Opposition was not allowing a discussion on the Bill that seeks to give tribal representation for the first time in the Assembly. As protests continued unabated, the proceedings were adjourned for the day.

Farewell to MPs

The Rajya Sabha had a brief period of calm, as the House bid farewell to six retiring members from Tamil Nadu – M. Mohamed Abdulla (DMK), N. Chan-

drasegharan (AIADMK), Anbumani Ramadoss (PMK), M. Shanmugam (DMK), Vaiko (MDMK), and P. Wilson (DMK). Mr. Wilson has been re-elected and will be returning to the Upper House.

Earlier in the day, Deputy Chairman Harivansh had announced that he had received 30 notices under Rule 267 to suspend the day’s business; the majority of these notices were demanded for a debate on the ongoing special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Shortly after the farewell addresses ended, the Opposition resumed its

protest demanding a debate on SIR forcing an adjournment till 2 p.m. When it reconvened post lunch, the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025 was taken up for discussion. AIADMK MP M. Thambidurai, who could not complete his speech on the Bill on Wednesday amid protests, was asked to continue by the Chair, Bhubaneswar Kalita.

Raised slogans

Opposition MPs continued their protest and raised slogans demanding that the SIR exercise be stopped. Several MPs trooped into the Well of the House, while many others were standing.

After Mr. Thambidurai, Ayodhya Rami Reddy of the YSR Congress Party started speaking on the Bill. However, the protests continued and Opposition MPs came close to the member’s seat, raising slogans ‘SIR *wapas lo*’ (roll back SIR). Amid the din, the Chair adjourned the House for the day.

Ujjwal Deorao Nikam (nominated) also took oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

INBRIEF



Utpal Kumar Singh to take over as CEO of Sansad TV

Utpal Kumar Singh, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, is set to replace Rajit Punhani as the CEO of Sansad TV, a public broadcaster that telecasts parliamentary proceedings. “The Governing Council of Sansad TV decided that Shri Utpal Kumar Singh, IAS (ret’d), presently holding the charge of Secretary General Lok Sabha, will additionally discharge the function of the Sansad TV with immediate effect and until further orders,” an order issued on Wednesday said.

Bhagwat meets Muslim leaders to promote dialogue

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat held a closed-door meeting with Muslim religious leaders in Delhi on Thursday. Organised by Ahmed Ilyasi, chief imam of the All India Imam Organisation (AIIO), the meeting saw the participation of around 60 Muslims clerics, chiefs of mosques and intellectuals from the minority community from across the country. The discussion at Haryana Bhavan lasted for over three hours. Mr. Bhagwat and Muslim leaders exchanged ideas to promote “communal harmony” and “end hatred”.

Supreme Court working with govt. to clear months-long pending judicial appointments to High Courts, says CJI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Thursday said the administrative side of the Supreme Court is engaging with the government to clear the collegium recommendations for judicial appointments to the High Courts, pending for months together.

“We are pursuing on the administrative side... some names are being cleared,” Chief Justice Gavai said.

The Chief Justice expressed concern about

some of the fine young lawyers withdrawing their names recently.

‘Delay and segregation’ He was responding to an oral mentioning made by senior advocate Arvind Datar and advocates Prashant Bhushan and Amit Pai for an early hearing of petitions highlighting the government’s unexplainable delay and unilateral segregation of names recommended by the collegium. He listed the case for hearing after two weeks.

The Chief Justice re-



Chief Justice B.R. Gavai

ferred to how two lawyers, one from Delhi and the other practising in Mumbai, withdrew their consent to judgeship.

Earlier in July, the Cam-

paign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms, an NGO, had issued a public statement about the withdrawal of consent by advocate Swetashree Majumder, who had been recommended for the Delhi High Court Bench a year ago by the Collegium. The government had been sitting on her name without assigning reasons. Fed up, the lawyer had bowed out.

Similarly, advocate Rajesh Dattar, in Mumbai, had found that his name was segregated by the government. His juniors in

the legal profession were appointed additional judges of the Bombay High Court, while no action was taken about his appointment. The Chief Justice agreed with Mr. Datar and Mr. Bhushan that these were “some of the finest lawyers” who would have come to the Bench.

Mr. Datar said the government has continued to stall appointments despite the timelines set by the court in judgments submitted. “There are names recommended in 2019 and reiterated in 2021 and 2022

still pending with the government,” he said.

‘Losing talent’

In October 2023, a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul (now retired), who had been hearing these petitions, criticised the government’s nonchalance at judiciary losing future talent. The Bench had denounced the Centre’s pick-and-choose policy. The court had said the government’s conduct may ultimately affect the public and litigants.

371 judge posts vacant in HCs: Law Minister

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Amid the backlog of cases, a total of 371 posts of judges are vacant in various High Courts, and the High Court Collegiums have not sent any recommendation yet for more than 50% of these vacancies, Minister of State for Law Arjun Ram Meghwal told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

He said this in a written reply to a question raised by Congress MP Mallikarjun Kharge, who had asked the details of pending re-

commendations made by the Supreme Court Collegium regarding appointment of judges to various High Courts. Mr. Meghwal said 178 proposals for appointment of High Court judges are at various stages of processing between the government and the Supreme Court Collegium. The recommendations against 193 vacancies are yet to be received from the High Court Collegiums.

In HCs, against the sanctioned strength of 1,122 judges, 751 are working and 371 posts are vacant.

INBRIEF



India sends team of burn injury specialists to Dhaka

India on Wednesday sent a medical team to assist Bangladesh as it deals with the aftermath of the crash of an Air Force jet that killed dozens of students and teachers at the Milestone College in Dhaka. More than a hundred people were injured as the aircraft crashed on the college packed with students on Monday. Randhir Jaiswal, official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, announced that two burn injury specialists and a nursing assistant from Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi reached Dhaka on Wednesday to help the injured who have been admitted in nine different hospitals in Dhaka.

Bring down age of consent from 18 to 16, top court told

Amicus curiae Indira Jaising urged the Supreme Court on Wednesday to read down the statutory age of consent from 18 to 16. Ms. Jaising, who is assisting the top court in *Nipun Saxena vs Union of India* case, has filed her submissions challenging the blanket criminalisation of sexual activity involving adolescents aged 16 to 18 under the POCSO Act, 2012 and Section 375 of the IPC. She argued that the current law criminalises consensual relationships among adolescents and violates their constitutional rights. She called for a review of the mandatory reporting obligations under Section 19 of the POCSO Act which deter adolescents from seeking safe medical care.

‘Minor’ increase in sick leaves by Air India pilots since crash

There was a “minor increase” in sick leaves by Air India pilots in the aftermath of the June 12 Air India crash, the government informed Parliament on Thursday. “Air India reported a minor increase in sick leaves by pilots across all fleets in the aftermath of the AI-171 accident,” Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol informed the Lok Sabha. He was responding to a question from BJP MP Jai Prakash on whether there was mass sick leave by airline’s crew after the crash. The Minister provided data for June 16, four days after the crash, and said 112 pilots reported sick. These included 52 Commanders and 61 First Officers.

66 Maoists with a total bounty of ₹2.54 cr. surrender in Bastar

As many as 66 Maoist cadres, carrying a combined bounty of ₹2.54 crore, surrendered in five districts of Chhattisgarh’s Bastar division on Thursday. As many as 25 of them surrendered in Bijapur while 15 surrendered in Dantewada, said Bastar Inspector-General of Police P. Sundarraj. In the other districts, 13 surrendered in Kanker while eight and five Maoists surrendered in Narayanpur and Sukma respectively. The cadres include one sub-zonal committee member carrying a reward of ₹25 lakh and four divisional committee members. Over the past 18 months, 1,570 Maoists have surrendered in the Bastar division, the police said.

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the Maldives’s 60th Independence Day celebration in capital Male on Thursday, his presence will mark a major turnaround in ties between the neighbours – something that neither side might have foreseen 18 months ago. Although Mohamed Muizzu used the ‘India out’ plank – taking off on a campaign by former President Abdulla Yameen – for his successful presidential bid in September 2023, there was a notable thaw in the Maldives’s India ties within months, seen in the meeting of the leaders of both countries on the sidelines of the UN COP-28 climate summit in Dubai in December 2023, where they agreed to bolster economic partnership and people-to-people ties.

Ups and downs
However, early 2024 saw a rapid decline in the relationship again, with junior

Maldivian Ministers making derogatory remarks against Mr. Modi in connection with his Lakshadweep visit, and a shrill, apparently well-coordinated “Boycott Maldives” campaign that dominated Indian social media soon after, threatening the country’s tourism-reliant economy.

Returning from a five-day visit to China in January 2024, President Muizzu told local media that the Maldives might be a small island nation, but that did not allow others to “bully” the country and that the Maldives “is not in anyone’s backyard”. In March 2024, Mr. Muizzu said no Indian military personnel, not even those in civilian clothing, would be present in his country after May 10, 2024. By early May last year, India fully pulled out its troops from the Maldives, meeting the deadline set by President Muizzu, with a compromise of replacing them with technical personnel.

Subsequently, ties saw an improvement, paving the way for President Muiz-



Diplomatic meeting: Narendra Modi and Mohamed Muizzu during the COP28 climate summit in the UAE on December 1, 2023. PTI
Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDVqPnxvwWb3Agy98nValQ

Modi’s state visit to India in October 2024, even as the island nation was struggling with its debt burden and widening fiscal deficit that some feared might push it towards default.

After the two leaders met in New Delhi, India signed a crucial currency swap agreement – available until 2027 – with the Maldives for \$750 million, to help the island nation

been put up across Male, sources based in the capital city told *The Hindu* on Thursday, to welcome India’s Prime Minister, who is scheduled to arrive on Friday morning from the United Kingdom. This is amid considerable social media criticism of the Maldivian government from detractors. Mr. Modi is the first head of state to visit the Maldives since President Muizzu assumed office in November 2023.

‘Hard work’
“It’s a question of working hard at a relationship,” Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said, in a special media briefing on Tuesday, referring to the positive shift in India-Maldives ties. Observing that “there will always be events that will impact or try to intrude on the relationship”, he pointed to the “kind of attention” that has been paid to the relationship, including at the highest levels.

“We have continued to work at it ...we have also been in very close discussions with our partners in the Maldives to provide

clarity and assurances about what it is that we want to do bilaterally, and I think the result is there for all to see,” he told reporters in New Delhi.

Describing the joint vision for an “India-Maldives comprehensive economic and maritime security partnership” as the “guiding framework” for bilateral ties, Mr. Misri said New Delhi has seen nearly half-a-dozen Ministerial-level visits from the Maldives in the first six months of this year. During Mr. Modi’s visit a set of agreements across sectors is expected. The two sides are likely to agree on the terms of reference for the Free Trade Agreement under negotiation. Agreements in new areas of cooperation, including renewable energy, fisheries, digital infrastructure are to be firm up.

Prior to Mr. Modi, former Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif participated as Guests of Honour in the Maldives’s Independence Day events in 2015 and 2017 respectively.

Dalits, Adivasis, and women at core of new cooperation policy of Centre, says Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aiming to connect 50 crore people with the cooperative sector, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah unveiled the National Cooperation Policy, 2025 on Thursday.

Dalits, Adivasis and women are at the core of the new cooperative policy, Mr. Shah said. This is only the second such policy for the sector since Independence, with the first being introduced in 2002 by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government.

Expressing confidence that India will become the third largest economy by 2027, the Minister emphasised the need for the inclusive development of 130 crore people, noting that it was the cooperative sector that had the potential to change the lives of people.

“The 80 crore people who have got cylinders and houses from the government are wondering what to do next? Many people



Amit Shah

This is only the second such policy for the sector since Independence, with the first introduced in 2002. Shah says

received electricity for the first time. They have a vacuum in their life and now they aspire for an iron [for clothes] or a scooter... but they do not have the capital. Only the cooperative sector can help them achieve their aspirations,” Mr. Shah said.

The Home Minister said that the policy defined six

pillars to achieve the set goals for the cooperative sector – strengthening the foundation, promoting vibrancy, preparing cooperative societies for the future, enhancing inclusivity and expanding reach, expanding into new sectors, and preparing the younger generation for cooperative development.

The Ministry of Cooperation has prepared a detailed plan for sectors such as tourism, taxi services, insurance, and green energy, Mr. Shah said, adding that a start will be made in the taxi and insurance sectors in a very short time.

The profits generated through these units would ultimately reach the members of the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) at the rural level.

He emphasised that the goal was to build a large and robust cooperative ecosystem and establish the belief that cooperation could be a vital instrument in development for future generations.

ED searches over 35 places in case involving Reliance Group led by Anil Ambani

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday conducted searches on over 35 premises, covering 50 companies and more than 25 individuals, in connection with a case involving Anil Ambani’s Reliance Group companies, agency sources said.

The ED investigation is based on two FIRs registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation. “Other agencies and institutions also shared information with the ED, such as the National Housing Bank, SEBI, National Financial Reporting Authority, and Bank of Baroda,” a source said.

‘Gross violations’
“Preliminary investigation by the ED has revealed a well-planned and thought-after scheme to divert/siphon off public money by cheating banks, shareholders, investors and other public institutions. The of-



Digging deep: ED officials during a search at industrialist Anil Ambani’s office in Mumbai on Thursday. PTI

fence of bribing bank officials including the promoter of Yes Bank Ltd. is also under scanner,” the source said. An alleged illegal diversion of a loan of around ₹3,000 crore from Yes Bank between 2017 and 2019 is being examined.

“The ED found that just before the loan was granted, the Yes Bank promoters received money in their concerns,” the source added. The ED said “gross violations” were found in Yes Bank’s loan approvals to Anil Ambani’s Reliance Group companies. “Credit Approval Memorandums

were back-dated and investments proposed without any due diligence or credit analysis in violation of the bank’s credit policy.”

The ED has alleged that the sanctioned loans were further diverted to various group and shell companies, in contravention of loan terms. Red flags identified include loans extended to entities with weak financials, absence of proper documentation, inadequate due diligence, common addresses and directors among borrowers, and diversion of funds to promoter group entities.

TH

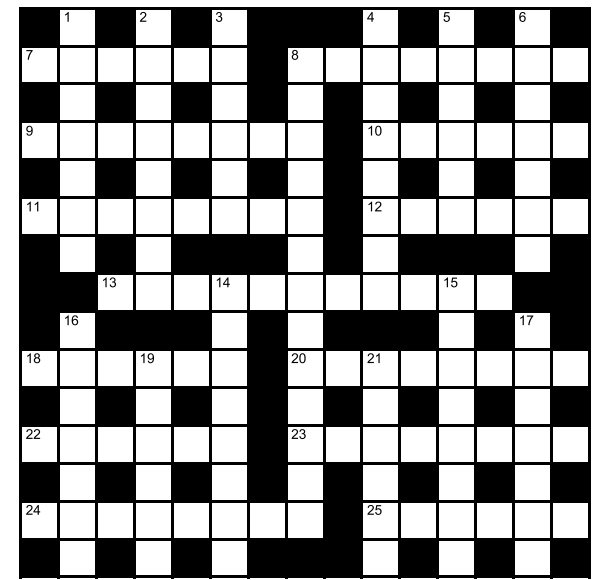
CROSSWORD

14546

(set by Pixie Dust)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>

SCAN TO PLAY



- Across**
- 7 Partly miss our celebrity author (6)
 - 8 Drunk and beaten (8)
 - 9 Capital of Finland's impressing and enchanting (8)
 - 10 Oppose somewhat difficult sis, erratically backtracking (6)

- 11 To raise money, boy is married the next day (8)
 - 12 Look Noel lay oddly withdrawn (6)
 - 13 Broken nails, yet used often substantially? (11)
 - 18 Hired help's extremely lonesome here (6)
 - 20 Ruled as monarch over decades, finally stepped down (8)
 - 22 Stu and Zan missed last letters in verse (6)
 - 23 Accommodating Bill, performing without Charlie around 3rd of September (8)
 - 24 Log from Spooner's craft corner? (8)
 - 25 First signs of respite is seen in North Gujarat revolt (6)
- Down**
- 1 Thus build home with wife by hook or crook (7)
 - 2 Short path to hills in vehicles (8)
 - 3 Major sore in pants (6)
 - 4 Rain check? (8)
 - 5 Almost bare model (6)
 - 6 Boisterous teens, extremely lively in a nervous way (7)
 - 8 Market war at peak? (4-5,4)
 - 14 Leave crazy conservative missing the last lift (8)
 - 15 Most fair polygraph picked up (8)
 - 16 Notices corrupt department (7)
 - 17 Shrinking wife leaves following the French in tendency (7)
 - 19 Small animals pose in disguise (6)
 - 21 In audition looks fixedly at steps (6)

SUDOKU

				8	7	2		4
					4			
4			1			8	6	
	8		9				1	5
1	3	7				9	4	8
5	4				1		3	
	2	3			5			9
9		8	4	3				

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

Be righteous and polite

The world will not accept or recognise unrighteous people. We must earn a good name, even at the cost of our lives. Ravana earned ill will and a bad name even after his death. His wife, Mandodari, cautioned him to give up the thought of Sita, but he turned a deaf ear.

The battlefield between the Kauravas and the Pandavas is called “Dharma Kshetra” because it transforms the unrighteous into righteous. Even Duryodhana realised at last, but his father, Dhritarashtra, had not, because he had not been to the Dharma Kshetra. People need to be humble and polite. The reason for Yudhishtira’s victory was his politeness. Winning in life will be tough if we are not submissive.

Trichy. Sri. Kalyanaraman said in a discourse that, though Arjuna and Krishna had met several times before, Arjuna had not asked for Krishna’s counsel before. Only when he was confused on the battlefield did he ask Krishna to tender saner advice.

The *Gita*, though told by the Lord to Arjuna, is still followed by people. Krishna advised Arjuna, “You would kill only the mortal coils of the enemies but not their souls, which are indestructible.” Krishna also cautioned Arjuna not to grieve in discharging his duties. “Holding pleasure and pain, gain and loss, victory and defeat, gird yourself up for the battle.” (*Sukha Dukhe samey kruthva* – Ch 2-Verse 38). Thiruvalluvar says, “Perseverance leads to prosperity, and effortlessness results in poverty.” (*Kural* 616)

Lord Krishna advised Arjuna on the duties of a man, citing his own example as Rama. People are expected to perform their duties, leaving the outcome to God.

INBRIEF



Indian Bank Q1 net up 24%, driven by non-interest income

State-run Indian Bank's first-quarter 2025-2026 net profit increased 23.69% year-on-year to ₹2,973 crore driven by growth in non-interest income and lower slippages. Net interest income increased by 2.93% to ₹6,359 crore. Net interest margin declined to 3.23% from 3.44% on repo rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Gross Non-Performing Asset (NPA) slid 76 basis points to 3.01% while Net NPAs declined to 0.18% from 0.39%, the bank said.

Coromandel Intl to add \$8 mn stake in Senegal's BMCC

Coromandel International will buy an additional 17.69% stake for \$7.70 million in Senegalese rock phosphate miner Baobab Mining and Chemicals Corporation (BMCC). This will take its stake in BMCC to 71.51%, the agriculture solutions firm said. The board also approved the setting up of a 3,888 TPD bagging plant at Kakinada facility for ₹137 crore. For the quarter ended June, the firm's consolidated net profit grew 62% to ₹501.59 crore while total income rose 49% to ₹7,126.04 crore.

Canara Bank Q1 net rises 22% as non-interest income grows

Canara Bank reported a 21.69% year-on-year increase in first quarter (FY26) net profit to ₹4,752 crore. The bank said a significant rise in non-interest income drove the growth. The lender's Q1 net interest income fell 1.7% to ₹9,009 crore, however, other income jumped 32.7% to ₹7,060.48 crore. Gross non-performing assets ratio improved to 2.69% from 4.14% while Net NPA ratio bettered to 0.63% from 1.24%.

Centre releases new telecom policy draft

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

The government will soon release a new National Telecom Policy, seven years after the last one was put out. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) on Thursday published the draft text for comment, with a vision statement emphasizing a “telecom product nation that is driven by innovation and that universally connects its citizens meaningfully, securely and sustainably.” The terminology is back to “telecom” from 2018’s National Digital Communications Policy, with a sector-specific focus on increasing connectivity, modernising the domestic telecom supply chain, and adding 10 lakh jobs in the industry (a fourth of the NDCP’s four million target), while “upskilling” existing workers. The policy also emphasises on reducing the sector’s carbon footprint by 30% and improving cybersecurity of telecom firms.

The government has set a target of covering 90% of the population with 5G by 2030, and 100% with 4G. Towers that are connected by fiber to telecom networks (as opposed to wireless links to other towers), are sought to be increased from 46% to 80%. One million wi-fi hotspots are targeted to be set up (a tenth of the 2018 policy’s target), and encouraging satellite internet where needed.

The Centre has also proposed a boost to local research and development (R&D) efforts in telecom, and increased Indian participation in global standardisation discussions, particularly on 6G. Domestic

Aims to build quantum-secure communications and develop AI for cyberspace

manufacturing should increase 150% by 2030, the document states.

The draft encourages the use and development of AI specifically for cyberspace, such as in cybersecurity, where AI is touted as both a challenge in offensive terms (such as through generative AI-fueled bots attacking telecom networks), and in defensive strategies, like systems that use AI to detect large attacks and thwart them at an early stage. It also suggests using AI in complaint resolution “through unified portal and use of ... chatbots”.

The focus on security is carried on from the 2018 policy, with specific strategies to “monitor Indian and foreign satellites and improve mitigation of satellite carrier interference,” and “increasing monitoring ... along the border areas to reduce cross-border spillage”.

Some of the objectives are activities where work has already begun, such as the mobile number validation service, to allow institutions to verify an individual mobile user’s identity.

The “lawful interception” language from the 2018 policy has been eliminated in Thursday’s draft, and focuses instead on building quantum-secure communications.

On sustainability, the new policy also adds the “circular economy” imperative of recycling materials from telecom equipment in use.

India U.K. trade deal likely to boost farm export growth by 20%

The India-United Kingdom CETA ‘sharpens’ India’s competitive edge on a number of agricultural and food-related items, according to an official

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The government expects the India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) signed by the two countries on Thursday to lead to substantial benefits for a variety of Indian export-oriented sectors such as agriculture, textiles, leather, chemicals, and engineering goods, according to officials who are aware of the calculations.

Under the deal, the U.K. will benefit from a 12 percentage point average tariff reduction – from the current average of 15% to a new average of 3% – for exports to India. It will see a removal or reduction of tariffs on 90% of the tariff lines, covering 92% of the items currently exported from the U.K. to India.

Among the items that will find cheaper access to the India market from the U.K. are whiskey, items related to aerospace, automobiles and electrical machinery.

The economic and trade deal was signed in the UK by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and the U.K.’s Secretary of State for Business and Trade Jonathan Reynolds, in the presence of



Win-win deal: PM Narendra Modi, U.K. PM Keir Starmer, Piyush Goyal and Jonathan Reynolds at Chequers, England. AP

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the Prime Ministers of both the countries.

“In agriculture, India exports \$36.63 billion globally, while the U.K. imports \$37.52 billion, but imports just \$811 million from India, showing room for growth in high-value agri products,” a government official said. “Duty-free access is expected to raise agriculture exports by over 20% in next three years.”

No sensitive sectors India has not provided the U.K access to its most sensitive sectors such as dairy products, apples, oats, and edible oils.

“These exclusions reflect India’s calibrated trade strategy – one that prioritises food security, domestic price stability, and vulnerable farming communities,” according to the official.

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Former Finance and Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth was appointed as the chairman of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for a three-year term on Thursday.

Engineering, textile MSMEs set to benefit

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Two major sectors that have a dominant presence of Micro, Small and Medium-scale Enterprises (MSMEs) and are expected to gain immensely from the India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) are textiles and engineering.

Elimination of tariffs on textiles and garments from the earlier average 12% will remove the duty disadvantage that the Indian exporters faced in the U.K. with competitors such as Bangladesh and Cambodia, said government officials.

The segments poised for exponential growth include ready-made garments, home textiles, carpets, and handicrafts. While the U.K.’s total imports of \$26.95 billion of textile and clothing are lower than India’s global exports of \$ 36.71 billion, India still supplies only \$1.79 billion to the U.K.



Ready-made garment exports are likely to get a fillip.

With the CETA promising duty-free access and removal of trade barriers, this sector is well-positioned to increase its footprint in the U.K. market, they said.

In engineering, 1,659 tariff lines have been made duty-free giving a major export boost. The expectation is duty-free engineering goods exports will double in five years to \$7.5 billion by 2029-2030. U.K. is India’s sixth largest export market for engineering goods with a growth of 12% in 2024-2025.

Ajay Seth appointed as IRDAI chairman

He succeeds Debasish Panda, also a former IAS officer. Mr. Panda’s three-year term ended in March and ever since the post at IRDAI had remained vacant.

Mr. Seth, a 1987-batch Karnataka cadre IAS officer, retired as the Union Finance Secretary in June.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH		
	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,184	-0.66
US Dollar	96.40	0.01
Gold	99,620	-1.39
Brent oil	69.26	1.66

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.....	2608.40	-6.10
Adani Ports.....	1411.60	-9.20
Apollo Hosp.....	7363.50	-10.00
Asian Paints.....	2352.10	-23.30
Axis Bank.....	1095.10	-9.70
Bajaj Auto.....	8288.50	-108.50
Bajaj Finserv.....	2032.30	-28.20
Bajaj Finance.....	958.95	-9.35
Bharat Elec.....	398.25	-1.95
Bharti Airtel.....	1936.10	-7.70
Cipla.....	1487.90	14.40
Coal India.....	385.55	-5.20
Dr Reddys Lab.....	1265.50	18.10
Eicher Motors.....	5469.00	27.50
Eternal Ltd.....	313.15	11.10
Grasim Ind.....	2735.90	26.80
HCL Tech.....	1501.20	-22.60
HDFC Bank.....	2014.20	-10.10
HDFC Life.....	757.30	-5.20
Hero MotoCorp.....	4301.90	-61.80
Hindalco.....	695.60	0.20
Hind Unilever.....	2437.80	-12.60
ICI Bank.....	1483.40	-5.20
IndusInd Bank.....	847.90	-3.25
Infosys.....	1552.50	-22.00
ITC.....	409.95	-5.00

Jio Financial Services Ltd.....	316.45	2.00
JSW Steel.....	1033.80	0.00
Kotak Bank.....	2142.10	-28.30
L&T.....	3477.50	-7.40
M&M.....	3260.90	-7.90
Maruti Suzuki.....	12557.00	-70.00
NestleIndia.....	2322.10	-130.40
NTPC.....	338.90	-4.15
ONGC.....	244.83	-0.72
PowerGrid Corp.....	299.35	0.10
Reliance Ind.....	1402.90	-21.70
SBI Life.....	1793.60	-15.90
State Bank.....	815.70	-4.95
Shriram Finance Ltd.....	633.55	-20.50
Sun Pharma.....	1692.00	-9.50
TataConsumerProducts.....	1072.80	10.20
Tata Motors.....	700.50	10.40
Tata Steel.....	163.48	-0.71
TCS.....	3148.00	-31.10
Tech Mahindra.....	1498.60	-48.00
Titan.....	3484.40	13.00
Trent Ltd.....	5154.00	-205.00
UltraTech Cement.....	12304.00	-68.00
Wipro.....	261.85	-0.45

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 24

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar.....	86.21	86.53
Euro.....	101.15	101.54
British Pound.....	116.67	117.10
Japanese Yen (100).....	58.71	58.93
Chinese Yuan.....	12.05	12.09
Swiss Franc.....	108.35	108.77
Singapore Dollar.....	67.44	67.70
Canadian Dollar.....	63.29	63.53
Malaysian Ringgit.....	20.43	20.54
Australian Dollar.....	56.94	57.15

Source:Indian Bank

TUNGABHADRA BOARD: TB DAM
e-Procurement Long Term Tender Notice IFBNo.31/2025-26
Dt. 09.07.2025 (2nd Call)

Tender for the Work of “Empanelment of Quality Assurance and Management consultancy services for Inspection, Testing, Quality control and Monitoring of Dam spillway gate work, TB Dam for the works of Removing of stoplog elements, removing of 32 old spillway gates and providing 33 new spillway gates of TB Dam” in respect of HW & HLC Division, TB Dam under ‘Works Category’ is re-invited through ‘e-Procurement’

Bid Document downloading Start Date & Time:	25.07.2025 at 11:00 AM
Bid Document downloading End Date & Time:	07.08.2025 at 3:00 PM
Bid Submission End Date & Time:	07.08.2025 at 5:30 PM
Date of opening of Commercial Stage:	07.08.2025 at 6:00 PM

Further details can be seen @ <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in>

PH: 08394 - 259114 Sd/- Superintending Engineer I.B, TB Board, TB Dam
Email: seibtb@yahoo.com

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)

Unit - 2 : Mondipatti, Manapparai Tk, Trichy - 621 306, Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description of work	Due date
252613 002937	Procurement of Green Bamboo from open market sources of Tamil Nadu to TNPL Unit - I at Kagithapuram.	08.08.2025
252623 001569	Procurement of debarked Bluegum pulpwood from open market sources of Tamil Nadu to TNPL Unit-II at Mondipatti.	09.08.2025
82025016	TNPL Unit - II invites Tender for sale of Wood Dust from TNPL Unit - II on four months Rate Contract/ 'As is where is basis'	08.08.2025

Email: 252613002937; 252623001569 - purchase.wood@tnpl.co.in 82025016 - storesdis.u2@tnpl.co.in

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from website : www.tnpl.com

DIPR/3772/Tender/2025 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

राष्ट्रीय सिद्धा संस्थान / NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SIDDHA
आयुष मंत्रालय / Ministry of Ayush
भारत सरकार / Government of India
ताम्रम्बर सनटोरियम / Tambaram Sanatorium
चेन्नई / Chennai - 600 047.
फ़ोन / Tele : 044-22411611, 044-22381314
ईमेल / Email: director.nis-tn@gov.in
वेब / Website: nischennai.org

संख्या / No.NIS/1-3/Recruitment-Contract/2025/Vol 2
तारीख / Date : 24.07.2025

EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION NO: 05 / 2025

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for filling up the following posts on contract basis at National Institute of Siddha, Chennai

Consultant Posts :

- (i) **Consultant (Senior Research Officer)** - 01 post (on Contract basis)
- (ii) **Consultant (Librarian)** - 01 post (on Contract basis)
- (iii) **IT Consultant** - 01 post (on Contract basis)
- (iv) **Media Consultant** - 01 post (on Contract basis)

For details regarding the details of the above posts, educational qualifications, age, experience, general conditions etc., please visit “NOTIFICATIONS” in the Institute website <https://nischennai.org>.

Any updates / modifications in this regard will be posted in the above website only.

Director (ic)

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise & group company of IndianOil)
[CIN - L40101TN1965GO1005389]
Regd. Office: No.536, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai – 600 018
Website: www.cpcd.co.in, Email ID: shankarp@cpcd.co.in Phone No.: (044)24346807

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Special Window for Re-Lodgement of Transfer Requests of Physical Shares

Pursuant to SEBI Circular dated 2nd July 2025, shareholders are informed that a special window has been opened only for re-lodgement of transfer deeds along with physical share certificates which were lodged prior to the deadline of 1st April 2019 and were rejected/returned/not attended to, due to deficiency in the documents process or otherwise.

This facility of re-lodgement will be available to the eligible physical shareholders till 6th January 2026. Shareholders are requested to re-submit their transfer requests along with physical share certificates with our Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, KFin Technologies Ltd. whose details are given below:

Kfin Technologies Ltd.
Unit: Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
Selenium Tower B, Plot number 31 & 32
Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500032
Toll Free No – 1800 309 4001
E-mail Address: einward.ris@kfintech.com

For Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
Sd/-
Place : Chennai P. Shankar
Dated : 25th July, 2025 Company Secretary

TELANGANA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
“Tourism House” # 3-5-891, Himayathnagar, Hyderabad-500029
e-Procurement Tender Notice No.11/SE/TGTC/2025-26, Dated:19.07.2025

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Est. cost Rs. in Lakhs	Bid Downloading Start Date
1	Development of “Somasila Wellness & Spiritual Retreat” (Amaragiri Island) in Nallamala, Telangana under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme	4744.78	26.07.2025

Bids are invited on e-Procurement platform from eligible contractors. Further details can be seen @ e-procurement market place www.tender.telangana.gov.in.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, TGTC Ltd, Hyderabad.

DIPR R.O.No.403-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/11/2025-26 Dt:24.07.2025

Government of Telangana
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o. Chief General Manager (Engg), PCC-II, 5th Floor, Administrative Building, Khairatabad, Hyd-04, Telangana.

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Providing PMC & TPQA&QC for the work of “Godavari Drinking Water Supply Scheme Phase-II & III and Filling up of Osmanagar & Himayathnagar Reservoirs for Rejuvenation of Musi River-‘PACKAGE-I’”
EOI.No. 04/HMWSSB/CGM(E)/PCC-II/Godavari-Pkg-II/PMC&TPQA&QC/EOI/2025-26, dt : 24.07.2025

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) is implementing the project of “Godavari Drinking Water Supply Scheme Phase-II & III and Filling up of Osmanagar & Himayathnagar Reservoirs for Rejuvenation of Musi River - Laying of 2200mm, 2400mm, 3000mm dia MS pumping mains, Construction of 80 ML, 22.5 ML, MBRs, 18ML RWR/CWRs, 120, 70 ML WTPs & Pump Houses and Electro-Mechanical Equipment, Transformers, Substation at various locations and 1500/1200/1000 trunk mains and 800/600/400mm dia Distribution mains under HAM of Contract - Including Manning, Operation and Maintenance of Project for 10 years - ‘PACKAGE-II’”. The HMWSSB is interested in employing Engineering Consultants to provide the PMC & TPQA&QC services and the Expressions of Interest (EOI) is hereby invited from the consultants having experience in the job of conducting Project Management Consultancy & Third Party Quality Assurance and Quality Control (PMC & TPQA&QC) for the above work. The agencies having experience of similar nature of works are required to apply with their credentials indicating that they are qualified to perform the said services with Central Govt / State Govt/ULBs client certificates on similar assignments, organization details with their technical expertise of personnel, projects etc capable to undertake such assignments performed for similar nature of Projects.

The interested consultants may submit their application from Date: 28.07.2025 to Date: 02.08.2025 to O/o. Chief General Manager (E), PCC-II, HMWSSB, 5th Floor, Administrative Building, Front Block, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 500 004 along with non-refundable fee of Rs.10000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favor of “HMWSSB” for issue of RFP Document.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), PCC-II, 5th Floor, Administrative Building, Khairatabad, Hyderabad - 04, Telangana.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUMALA
SRI TI DEPARTMENT, TIRUMALA. Roc. No. TTD-14023(31)/17/2024-AEO(VQC)-TID

NAME OF THE WORK: Supply of Manpower - 23 Nos., of Unskilled Workers as attendants to work at VQC-II, TTD, Tirumala for attending to maintain Q-lines at VQC-II compartments, Tirumala as assigned by the department from time to time for a period of 24 months (02 years) to work at VQC-II, Tirumala. **•NIT download starting dates: 24.07.2025 @ 5.00 PM •NIT download ending date: 05-08-2025 @ 1.00 PM.** For further details including terms and conditions please visit log on to the web site <http://www.tirumala.org> and <http://tender.approcurement.gov.in>. For enquiry, please contact Phone Nos:0877-2263758/2263592, 9849575952, TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.143) Date:24-07-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

ONGC ओएनजीसी **ONGC** **ONGC**
ENERGY Now And Next

Regd. Office: Plot No. 5A-5B, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070
CIN No L74899DL1993GO154155 | Website: www.ongcindia.com | Email: secretariat@ongc.co.in

CORRIGENDUM
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST NOTICE

EOI Notice No. - ONGC/NTA/PTC/2025-26

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), a leading E&P company of India intends to procure tubing & casing pipes of various sizes having Premium Thread Connections (Threaded & Coupled – T & C, HPHT, Flush Joint etc.) from reputed Manufacturers / Suppliers/ Threader.

The company/organization who have requisite experience and capabilities in the field and meet the qualification criteria are requested to see the details of this EOI on the website www.tenders.ongc.co.in (Contact phone +91-7170091106 & +91-9968282453 and E-mail – singh_paranmanand@ongc.co.in & ajay_vinodkumar@ongc.co.in on any working day for further details, if any). Based on the information provided, ONGC will short list the Premium Thread Connections as per the requirement.

The submission date of the proposal has been extended to on or before 15.08.2025. Interested company/ organization are requested to submit their proposal as per details given on the ONGC website.

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252623 001543	Supply and Installation of Low Side Air Conditioning Works for TM#5 in TNPL Unit -II.	08.08.2025
252633 000132	Imported Limestone for LSFM - Cement Plant.	07.08.2025
252623 001600	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Fire Hydrant System for TM#5 of TNPL Unit-II	08.08.2025
252613 002970	Heavy Duty LDPE Shrink Film 80/90 Microns of various sizes for Unit -I.	06.08.2025
252613 002739	A4 70 GSM, A4 75 GSM & A4 80 GSM Copier Laminated Wrapper Reels (Base Paper 100 GSM with 15 Micron BOPP) for Unit -I.	06.08.2025
252613 002964	180 GSM Kraft Reels of various sizes for Unit -I & II.	06.08.2025

Email: 252623001543 - pmd1@tnpl.co.in 252633000132 - purchase.fuel@tnpl.co.in 252623001600 - pmd2@tnpl.co.in 252613002970 / 2739; 2964 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : www.tnpl.com / tntenders.gov.in/nicgeapp

DIPR/3770/Tender/2025 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
BANGALORE-560 012

IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2025-26 Date: 22.07.2025

Tender Notification- IISc/Tender-ELE-03/2025-26

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform <https://eprocure.gov.in>. Any specialised firms company registered under KPWD /CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of Class I/Class A Electrical Contractors are eligible to apply for the work of “Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of 2 x 1000 KVA Compact substation for UG Complex in IISc, Bangalore.” Estimated Cost of Project is Rs.2,02,67,172.00/-. Last date of receipt of application is 11th August 2025 at 1530Hrs .Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in **REGISTRAR**

KANO

Troops kill at least 95 ‘bandits’ in
shootout and air strikes in Nigeria



AFP

Nigerian troops killed at least 95 members of an armed criminal gang, known as ‘bandits’, in shootout and air strikes earlier this week, according to a situation report shared with the UN on Thursday. The military put out a statement, saying that forces “engaged terrorists in a firefight, neutralising several”. AFP

NAIROBI

Kenya police watchdog says 65
were killed after recent protests



AFP

Sixty-five people were killed during recent violent protests in Kenya, police watchdog IPOA said on Thursday. It said authorities used “disproportionate force” amid protests against police brutality and poor governance under President Ruto. IPOA also criticised the lack of professionalism and accountability of the police. AFP

BRASILIA

Brazil to join South Africa’s Gaza
genocide case against Israel at ICJ



AFP

Brazil finalises its submission to join South Africa’s genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday. South Africa accuses Israel of violating the 1948 Genocide Convention, claiming attacks on civilians. Brazil cites violence, annexation, starvation as weapons. REUTERS

CLEARWATER

Hulk Hogan, icon in professional
wrestling, dies at age 71, says WWE



AP

Hulk Hogan, the moustachioed, headscarf-wearing icon in the world of professional wrestling, has died at the age of 71, Florida police and WWE said on Thursday. Hogan, whose real name was Terry Bollea, was perhaps the biggest star in WWE’s history. WWE posted a note on X saying it was saddened to learn about Hogan’s death. AP

11 killed in clashes between
Thai and Cambodian forces

The two sides fired small arms, artillery and rockets, and Thailand also called in air strikes; the trigger for the clashes was a mine explosion along the border that injured five Thai soldiers

Associated Press
BANGKOK

Thai and Cambodian soldiers clashed in several areas along their border on Thursday in a major escalation of their conflict that left at least 11 people dead, mostly civilians. The two sides fired small arms, artillery and rockets, and Thailand also called in air strikes.

Thai villagers could be seen on video fleeing their homes to seek shelter as the clashes began in the morning.

Fighting was ongoing in at least six areas along the border, Thai Defence Ministry spokesperson Surasant Kongsiri said. The trigger for the clashes was a mine explosion along the border on Wednesday that wounded five Thai soldiers and led Bangkok to withdraw its Ambassador to Cambodia and expelled Cambodia’s.

Thailand has also sealed all land border crossings while urging its citizens to



REUTERS

People wait in line to get food at a shelter in Thailand’s Buriram province on Thursday, following clashes along the border.

leave Cambodia.

The Southeast Asian neighbours have long-standing border disputes that periodically flare along their 800-km frontier and usually result in brief confrontations that sometimes involves exchanges of gunfire.

But relations have deteriorated sharply since a confrontation in May that killed a Cambodian soldier, and Thursday’s clashes were far bigger in scale and intensity than usual.

The first clash on Thurs-

day morning happened in an area near the ancient Ta Muen Thom temple along the border of Thailand’s Surin province and Cambodia’s Oddar Meanchey province.

A video from the Thai side showed people running from their homes and hiding in a concrete bunker as explosions sounded.

The Thai army said its forces heard a drone before seeing six armed Cambodian soldiers moving closer to Thai military positions at the border. It said

Thai soldiers tried to shout at them to defuse the situation, but the Cambodian side started to open fire.

Cambodia’s Defence Ministry, however, said Thailand deployed a drone first before opening fire, and that Cambodia “acted strictly within the bounds of self-defence, responding to an unprovoked incursion by Thai troops that violated our territorial integrity”.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet wrote to the current President of the UN Security Council asking for an urgent meeting “to stop Thailand’s aggression”.

The Thai army said it later launched airstrikes on military targets in Cambodia, while the Cambodian Defence Ministry said the Thai jets dropped bombs on a road near the ancient Preah Vihear temple, which has been the site of some of the most prominent and violent past conflicts between the countries.

Russian
attacks kill
five in east
Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russian attacks killed at least five persons, including three members of a displaced family, in separate attacks across Ukraine’s war-scarred east, Ukrainian authorities said on Thursday.

A couple and their 36-year-old son were killed in a village in the eastern Kharkiv region late Wednesday, local officials said. Two more women were killed in the Donetsk region on Thursday.

Russia has stepped up drone and missile attacks on Ukraine more than three years into its invasion, even as the warring parties meet for ceasefire talks.

The Russian army has also been making advances on the ground. Families with children were ordered out of 10 settlements in Donetsk, including the town of Dobropillia, where 28,000 people lived before the war.

A strike later on Kharkiv city wounded 37 people, including a 10-year-old girl, the governor said.

Nearly 50 killed as plane
crashes in Russia’s far east

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

A passenger plane carrying nearly 50 people crashed in a remote area of Russia’s far eastern Amur region on Thursday, killing all on board, authorities said.

The plane, a Soviet-made twin-propeller Antonov-24, went down in remote, thickly forested terrain, leaving a column of smoke pouring from the crash site and no signs of survivors, according to state media and videos published by investigators.

The Angara Airlines flight was headed to the town of Tynda from the city of Blagoveshchensk when it disappeared from radar at around 1.00 p.m. local time.

A rescue helicopter later spotted the burning fuselage of the plane on a forested mountain slope about 15 kilometres south of Tynda’s airport.

Videos published by Russian investigators showed smoke rising from the crash site and what appeared to be fragments of the plane strewn across the forest floor.

A search and rescue



AFP

The Antonov AN-24 passenger plane at what is said to be the crash site, outside the town of Tynda in Russia’s eastern Amur region. AFP

team arrived only hours after the crash at the remote, hard-to-reach site and found no evidence of survivors, according to the state news agency TASS.

Investigators did not say what caused the crash.

Weather conditions at the time of the incident were poor, Angara Airlines CEO Sergei Salamanov told Russia’s REN TV channel.

“The commander made the decision to carry out the flight,” he was quoted as saying.

Tynda, home to around 30,000 people, lies in an area of thick taiga forest about 200 kilometres from the Chinese border.

At least one Chinese national was on the flight,

state media in China reported.

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a message of condolence to Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

“I would like to express my deep condolences to the victims and sincere sympathy to the families of the victims,” Mr. Xi said, according to Chinese state broadcaster CCTV.

The plane appeared to have been manufactured almost 50 years ago, during the Soviet era, according to civil aviation database [Russianplanes.net](https://russianplanes.net).

In 2021, the aircraft’s airworthiness certificate was extended until 2036, data from the site showed.

International media
groups urge Israel to
allow access to Gaza

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

International news agencies Agence France-Presse (AFP), Associated Press (AP) and Reuters as well as the BBC on Thursday called on Israel to allow journalists in and out of Gaza, which is subject to a strict blockade.

“We are desperately concerned for our journalists in Gaza, who are increasingly unable to feed themselves and their families,” the media groups said in a joint statement. They added that “journalists endure many deprivations and hardships in war zones. We are deeply alarmed that the threat of starvation is now one of them.”

“We once again urge the Israeli authorities to allow

Many news groups
around the world
depend on photo,
video and text
coverage of the
conflict provided by
Palestinian reporters

journalists in and out of Gaza. It is essential that adequate food supplies reach the people there,” they concluded.

With Gaza sealed off, many media groups around the world depend on photo, video and text coverage of the conflict provided by Palestinian reporters.

Media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said in early July that more than 200 journalists had been killed in Gaza since the war began.

Columbia varsity to pay \$200 mn
to settle dispute with Trump govt.

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Columbia University said on Wednesday it will pay \$200 million to the U.S. government after President Donald Trump threatened to pull federal funding over what he said was its unwillingness to protect Jewish students.

In a sweeping deal that will restore the prestigious New York institution’s federal monies, Columbia has pledged to obey rules that bar it from taking race into consideration in admissions or hiring, among other concessions.

“Columbia University has reached an agreement with the United States government to resolve multiple federal agency investigations into alleged violations of federal anti-discrimination laws,” a statement said, adding that the \$200 million would be paid over three years.

The university will also pay



Donald Trump

\$21 million to settle investigations brought by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, it said.

“Under today’s agreement, a vast majority of the federal grants which were terminated or paused in March 2025 will be reinstated and Columbia’s access to billions of dollars in current and future grants will be restored,” the statement said.

The promise of the federal funding spigot reopening offers relief for the university, which was under growing financial

pressure, despite a comfortable endowment and a reputation it can bank on.

The agreement also represents a victory for Mr. Trump, who has repeatedly claimed elite universities brainwash students against his nationalist ideas with left-wing bias.

Disciplinary actions

Under the settlement, Columbia will maintain a security force to prevent demonstrations in academic spaces, such as those that rocked the campus last year when pro-Palestinian protestors clashed with law enforcement and occupied university buildings.

The school also agreed to “promptly provide” federal authorities with any requested information on “disciplinary actions involving student visa-holders resulting in expulsions or suspensions, and arrest records that Columbia is aware of for criminal activity, including trespass or other violation of law.”

Israel recalls negotiators after
Hamas responds to truce plan

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel on Thursday said that after Hamas had submitted its response to mediators on the latest ceasefire proposal, the Israeli negotiators were being brought back for consultations.

A Palestinian source said that

Hamas’s response included proposed amendments to clauses on the entry of aid, maps of areas from which the Israeli army should withdraw, and guarantees on securing a permanent end to the war.

The White House said on Wednesday that U.S. envoy was meeting “key leaders” from the region.

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TENDER NOTICE
GUVNL, a Govt. of Gujarat Undertaking hereby invites e-tender for purchase of 300-600 MWRTC power and 500-600 MW in Peak hours for the period from 18-08-2025 to 31-12-2025 as per Ministry of Power (MoP), Govt. of India Guidelines dated 30-03-2016 read with amendment to the guideline notified on 21-02-2022. RFP is available at www.msceccommerce.com from 24-07-2025. Bid has to be submitted online through DEEP Portal of MoP. All terms and conditions shall be as per RFP.
Date: 24-07-2025
General Manager (F&A)

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.: (0674) 2380608; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in; Email: proc.osmcl.od@od.gov.in
Assessing Quality, Saving Lives
Notification No.6554/OSMCL/2025 Date : 23.07.2025
NOTICE INVITING Re-tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Radiology Equipments on Rate Contract Basis
Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2025-26/ Radiology_Equipment/02	Re-tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Radiology Equipments on Rate Contract Basis	Rs.5,900/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	23/07/2025, 5 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	30/07/2025, 11.30 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time End Date & Time 07/08/2025, 3 PM 22/08/2025, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	29/08/2025, 3 PM
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to reject or modify any conditions of the tender or cancel the tender or cancel the issued purchase order at any stage without assigning any reason therefor.
Managing Director, OSMCL
OIPR-10112/11/0029/2526

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION (CHENNAI) LIMITED
PALLAVAN ILLAM, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI - 600 002.
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited for the Procurement of Automobile Spares, Preparation, Supply and Serving of Mid-Day Meals (Lunch) to the respective Cooking Centre Depots and Special Tea at Headquarters of MTC (Chennai) Ltd., Supply of 350 Grams Sweet Bread and 20 Litres BT Drinking water jars to the MTC Depots, Provision of Driving Services (Drivers), Fare Collection person (Conductors), Welder and Tinker services at MTC depots and Housekeeping services at MTC Depots, Workshops and Bus Terminals from the eligible tenderers who shall submit documentary evidence on behalf of the Managing Director in the Government e-procurement web portal <https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>.

Sl. No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE TENDER	E.M.D. Amount (Rs.)
1	Procurement of Rear Air Suspension for Leyland Vehicles	Rs.1,00,000/-
2	Procurement of Filters for BSVI & BSVI Leyland Vehicles	Rs.70,000/-
3	Procurement of Rear Brake Lining & Front wheel disc Brake pad for Leyland BSVI (ULE 2512) Vehicles	Rs.90,000/-
4	Preparation, Supply and Serving of Mid-Day Meals (Lunch) to the respective Cooking Centre Depots and Special Tea at Headquarters of MTC (Chennai) Ltd.	Rs.1,00,000/-
5	Supply of 350 Grams Sweet Bread to all MTC Depots	Rs.35,000/-
6	Supply of 20 Litres (BT) Drinking Water Can to the respective MTC Depots	Rs.50,000/-
7	Provision of Services for Bus Body Repair Welder and Tinker Work in MTC (Chennai) Ltd.	Rs.1,00,000/-
8	Provision of Driving Services (Drivers) to operate regular Bus Operation in MTC (Chennai) Ltd.	Rs.10,00,000/-
9	Provision of Fare collection person (Conductors) services to Operate regular Bus Operation in MTC (Chennai) Ltd.	Rs.10,00,000/-
10	Provision of Services for cleaning of Toilets and Housekeeping services at MTC Depots, Workshops and Bus Terminals in MTC (Chennai) Ltd.	Rs.1,50,000/-

Last date for submission of tender : Upto 14.30 Hrs on 29.08.2025
Date of opening : At 15.00 Hrs on 29.08.2025
EMD details and other Tender related details is available in Government e-portal website (<https://ntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>). Any modification (if any) in tender terms and tender invitation period will be uploaded in the website and the tenderers are requested to go through the above website periodically.
DIPR/ 3808 /TENDER/2025
MANAGING DIRECTOR

MAXIMUMS

Pant equals Sehwag’s six record in Tests, surpasses Rohit in WTC runs



PTI

Rishabh Pant pulled level with Virender Sehwag for the most sixes by an Indian in Tests. Both have 90 maximums in the longest format. The wicketkeeper-batter (2731 runs) overtook Rohit Sharma (2719) to become India’s leading run-scorer in the WTC. A limping Pant scored 54 off 75 balls with three fours and two sixes.

PLANNED MOVE

We always wanted to make Pant available for batting; Shardul



GETTY IMAGES

Not many expected Rishabh Pant to come out to bat on Thursday with a fractured foot. Shardul Thakur, however, revealed that the Indian team management, always had plans to make Pant available for batting. “It was always our plan. Kudos to the medical team for getting Rishabh back onto the field,” Shardul said.

CONSOLATION WIN

Farhan shines as Pakistan beats Bangladesh in third T20I



AFF

Opener Sahibzada Farhan, *in pic*, hit a half-century as Pakistan ended its Bangladesh tour with a 74-run win in the third T20I in Dhaka, losing the series 1-2. **The scores:** Pakistan 178/7 in 20 overs (Farhan 63, Taskin 3/38) bt Bangladesh 104 in 16.4 overs (Mirza 3/19). **Toss:** Bangladesh; **PoM:** Farhan.

SCALING UP

O’Connor wins stage 18, but Pogacar extends his lead



REUTERS

Australian Ben O’Connor won Tour de France’s stage 18 with a world class climb over three Alpine mountains on Thursday as Tadej Pogacar extended his race lead on Jonas Vingegaard. Second-placed Vingegaard attacked a 71km out with Pogacar tracking him and eventually dropping the Dane to gain another 15s.

Crawley, Duckett make merry after Stokes’ five-for

The openers add 166 as England ends the second day at 225 for two; India rides on Pant’s gritty 54 to reach 358 in its first innings; Shardul chips in with a fighting 41 while Archer claims three

INDIA IN ENGLAND
Shavan Acharya
MANCHESTER

The Old Trafford has witnessed some of Indian cricket’s memorable and heart-breaking moments. In 1990, a young Sachin Tendulkar scored his maiden Test century here, whereas in 2019, India’s hopes of making it to the ODI World Cup final were dashed as it went down to New Zealand in a rain-interrupted semifinal. On Thursday, a story of grit and determination was written at the iconic venue as Rishabh Pant (54, 75b, 3x4, 2x6) batted with a fractured foot, brought up his 18th Test fifty and guided India to 358 in its first innings. However, England openers Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett turned up the heat on the visitors, guiding the team to 225 for two. The two backed up their captain Ben Stokes’ five-for – his first since September, 2017 – with a partnership



Star performers: Stokes claimed his first five-wicket haul in eight years before Crawley and Duckett put England on top. GETTY IMAGES & PTI



of 166 as the Indian bowlers toiled hard. Although neither Crawley (84, 113b, 13x4, 1x6) nor Duckett (94, 100b, 13x4) could go on to a century, they laid the foundation as the Indian seamers could

extract little from the surface. The expectations were high with Jasprit Bumrah leading the pack, but erring line and length meant India was poor with the new ball. Anshul Kamboj, making his debut, was visibly under pressure as he conceded three fours in his opening over, while trying to target Duckett’s pads. While Bumrah kept Crawley on his toes, mixing the away-going and in-

coming deliveries perfectly, his plan to target Duckett on the pads did not yield the desired results as he went for a few boundaries. Crawley glanced Mohammed Siraj for his first

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Brook b Dawson 58 (107b, 10x4, 1x6), K.L. Rahul c Crawley b Woakes 46 (98b, 4x4), B. Sai Sudharsan c Carse b Stokes 61 (151b, 7x4), Shubman Gill lbw b Stokes 12 (23b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant b Archer 54 (75b, 3x4, 2x6), Ravindra Jadeja c Brook b Archer 20 (40b, 3x4), Shardul Thakur c Duckett b Stokes 41 (88b, 5x4), Washington Sundar c Woakes b Stokes 27 (90b, 2x4), Anshul Kamboj c Smith b Stokes 0 (3b), Jasprit Bumrah c Smith b Archer 4 (7b, 1x4), Mohammed Siraj (not out) 5

ENGLAND BOWLING
Woakes 23-5-66-1, Archer 26-1-3-73-3, Carse 21-1-71-0, Stokes 24-3-72-5, Dawson 15-1-45-1, Root 5-0-19-0.

ENGLAND – 1ST INNINGS
(7b, 1x4); Extras (b-4, lb-8, nb-4, w-14): 30; Total (in 114.1 overs): 358.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-94 (Rahul, 29.6 overs), 2-120 (Jaiswal, 40.1), 3-140 (Gill, 49.1), 4-235 (Sai Sudharsan, 73.5), 5-266 (Jadeja, 84.5), 6-314 (Shardul, 101.4), 7-337 (Washington, 109.2), 8-337 (Kamboj, 109.5), 9-349 (Pant, 112.3).

FALL OF WICKETS
1-166 (Crawley, 31.6), 2-197 (Duckett, 38.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 13-4-37-0, Kamboj 10-1-48-1, Siraj 10-0-58-0, Shardul 5-0-35-0, Jadeja 8-0-37-1.

boundary and followed it up with another through the cover. The England batters capitalised on the loose balls and brought up the 50 in just 11 overs. As both Crawley and Duckett looked set for three figures, India struck. Crawley fell to Jadeja at first slip, while Kamboj claimed his first wicket as Duckett was caught behind. But with Ollie Pope and Joe Root around, England avoided further loss. Earlier, Pant was the centre of attention. Having

retired hurt on 37 on the opening day due to a foot fracture, not many expected Pant to turn up. But with India at 314 for six, having lost Shardul Thakur, who played a fighting knock, before lunch, Pant limped his way to the middle. He was visibly in pain and discomfort, and struggled to run. But he stuck around with Washington Sundar to ensure there were no further dents in the rain-curtailed pre-lunch session. As Stokes and Archer

continued to find movement, it posed a challenge for Pant and Washington. Stokes struck as Washington was caught at fine-leg while attempting a pull. Stokes claimed his five-for in the same over as Kamboj was caught behind for a duck. Pant brought up his fifty with a boundary through the covers, before being bowled by Archer. India lost its last four wickets for 21 runs. Stokes finished with figures of five for 72 while Archer claimed three for 73.



Pant. GETTY IMAGES

Pant shows his indomitable spirit

Shavan Acharya
MANCHESTER

As Rishabh Pant walked out to bat on Thursday, with a fractured foot, he received the loudest of cheers from the fans. The Old Trafford crowd gave a standing ovation as a nonchalant Pant limped his way to the middle, kissing the boundary rope on the way. He was visibly in pain and discomfort, but with India six down, Pant took painkillers and followed all the necessary medical protocols to take the field. Despite moving gingerly, Pant occasionally took a

few singles before dealing in boundaries. He eventually brought up his 18th Test fifty, with a boundary through the covers off Ben Stokes, before falling to Jofra Archer for 54. His dedication towards the game reminded one of Anil Kumble’s heroics when the leg-spinner bowled with a broken jaw during the fourth Test of the 2002 tour of West Indies. Pant displayed similar steel on Thursday. With the series on the line and the team needing him the most, Pant once again showcased his indomitable spirit. Since his formative years, Pant talks to himself

throughout the innings. This was something his coach, the late Tarak Sinha, taught him. Things were no different this time either. After he completed every run, Pant could be seen muttering something to himself, while Washington Sundar walked up to him at frequent intervals to check whether he was feeling alright. Pant will not feature in the final Test at The Oval and will also not keep wickets in the ongoing Test as he has been advised six weeks’ rest. In Pant’s absence, Dhruv Jurel donned the big gloves.



Jagadeesan.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Jagadeesan called up for The Oval Test

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

It might have come out of the blue, but for N. Jagadeesan, it is the realisation of a long-held dream. The TN player has received a maiden call-up to the national squad for the fifth Test between India and England at The Oval from July 31 as a replacement for the injured Rishabh Pant. The 29-year-old has been a consistent performer in domestic cricket and TN’s highest run-scorer in the last two Ranji seasons, scoring 816 and 674. After moving to the opener’s slot, the wicket-keeper-batter has scored four hundreds in the last two years. A key aspect of his batting has been the way he has built his innings. He has shown the intent to score at a fast clip but without taking risks. Last year, he was part of Tamil Nadu Colts’ UK tour and will look to use that experience.

Humpy ousts Lei, sets up all-Indian final against Divya



Top moves: Humpy held her nerve in the tie-breaks against Tingjie to make it to the summit clash. FIDE

CHESS WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
BATUMI
Grandmaster Koneru Humpy held her nerve to score a come-from-behind victory over China’s Lei Tingjie in the tiebreaker to set up an all-Indian summit clash against Divya Deshmukh at the FIDE Women’s World Cup here on Thursday. Humpy will clash with Divya in the final starting after a day’s rest starting on Saturday. With Humpy winning, both she and Divya have now qualified for the Women’s candidates’ tournament next year. Having drawn the first two games in the normal time control, Humpy had to settle for another 1-1 draw in the tiebreaker that comprised two games with 15 minutes time control.

BCCI to host Asia Cup in UAE in Sept.

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Asian Cricket Council (ACC) has in principle agreed to go ahead with the Asia Cup as per the existing plan. The ACC AGM held in Dhaka confirmed that the event will be hosted by the BCCI in the UAE in September. “That (the schedule) will also be announced soon. We are in consultation with the BCCI and, hopefully, we will resolve things soon,” Mohsin Naqvi, ACC chair, said in Dhaka after the AGM was adjourned. “The BCCI is in discussion with a few event partners, and they have told us they will announce the schedule soon.” The Hindu understands that the AGM was briefed about the September 5 to 21 window for the event. Eight teams, including India and Pakistan, are set to participate. Asked specifically about the India-Pakistan clash, Naqvi – who also heads the Pakistan Cricket Board besides being a high-profile minister – said: “Let’s wait for the (schedule) announcement first.” The BCCI joined the meeting online, with vice-president Rajeev Shukla being its official representative. Meanwhile, the AGM was adjourned as BCCI and Sri Lanka Cricket thwarted the vice-president’s election.

USA Cricket chair confirms elections despite ongoing dispute with ACE

Avan Acharya
Avon Sengupta

USA Cricket chairman Venu Pisike has confirmed the Board will meet the ICC’s three-month deadline to hold overdue elections, and fill vacant positions despite an ongoing dispute with its commercial partner, American Cricket Enterprises (ACE). The elections are a key step towards aligning with US Olympic & Paralympic Committee bylaws and retaining ICC membership. In an interview, Pisike said delays in holding athlete director elections stemmed from compliance

requirements. “We had to align with USOPC guidelines – setting up an Athlete Advisory Council, drafting bylaws, and finalising eligibility rules. That took more than six months,” he said. Currently, USA Cricket has no athlete directors, with one independent director seat vacant and another awaiting reappointment. Asked about the ICC’s directive for the Board to resign, Pisike said the majority declined. “Resigning would unjustly damage their reputations,” he said. “They did not create these legacy issues and are

publicly accountable.” He added that a new Board unfamiliar with the ACE deal would struggle to resolve the issues. “Installing an entirely new Board without any history of the contract’s complexity could mean it takes years to understand and address the problems – and by then it might be too late, given the influence MLC is trying to exert.” Pisike believes the ACE agreement breaches both USOPC and ICC governance norms, as well as U.S. antitrust law. “ACE has discretion over contract decisions and amounts, which could in-

fluence selections. We see that as another direct violation,” he said. He also argued that the agreement may not meet key U.S. compliance requirements. “We strongly believe the contract violates the Ted Stevens Act and ICC membership guidelines,” Pisike said. “At drafting, I don’t think those considerations were properly addressed. It was treated as a short-form agreement, with a promised long-form to follow within three months; that never materialised, yet the short-form became binding.”

INBRIEF



New Zealand maintains unbeaten run in tri-series

Tim Seifert and Rachin Ravindra smashed half-centuries while leg-spinner Ish Sodhi claimed a four-wicket haul as New Zealand outplayed Zimbabwe by 60 runs to maintain its unbeaten run in the tri-series T20 tournament at the Harare Sports Club on Thursday. The Black Caps will meet South Africa in Saturday's final.

The scores: New Zealand 190/6 in 20 overs (Seifert 75, Rachin 63; Ngarava 4/34, Maposa 2/33) bt Zimbabwe 130 in 18.5 overs (Munyonga 40; Sodhi 4/12, Henry 2/34). **Toss:** New Zealand. **PoM:** Sodhi.

Shreyanka, Priya out; Dhara, Prema get India-A call-up

Off-spinner Shreyanka Patil and leg-spinner Priya Mishra have been ruled out of the upcoming India-A tour of Australia due to fitness concerns and the selection committee has named medium-pacer Dhara Gujar and leggie Prema Rawat as replacements. Additionally, Yastika Bhatia has been added to the one-day squad.

Anahat makes it to semifinals at World junior squash

India's Anahat Singh, seeded two, defeated Malika Elkarasky of Egypt (5/8) 11-6, 13-11, 11-5 in the girls' quarterfinals of the WSF World junior squash in Cairo on Thursday.

Double hat-trick by Amina in Sanskriti's big win

Sanskriti School, led by a six-goal performance from Amina Abdali, romped to a 9-0 win over Tagore International School in a Group A fixture in the girls' section of the Oriental Cup football tournament on Thursday. In the second round of the boys' category, DPS Vasant Kunj, DPS RK Puram, Navy Children School and New Greenfield School, Saket registered victories.

Compound archers assure India of two medals at WUG

Compound archers assured India of at least two medals in team events at the World University Games in Essen, Germany, on Thursday. The Indian men and mixed teams reached the summit clashes, while the women's team made it to the bronze medal match. The top-ranked Indian men's team, comprising Kushal Dalal, Sahil Jadhav and Hritik Sharma, got a bye before beating the USA 236-229 and Chinese Taipei 235-233 to set up a clash with Turkey. The second-ranked mixed team, featuring Parneet Kaur and Kushal, enjoyed a bye and went on to defeat Singapore 158-153, the USA 158-157 and Chinese Taipei 158-151 to book a place in the final. It will meet Korea in the gold contest. The women's team, consisting of Parneet, Madhura Dhamangaonkar and Avneet Kaur, received a bye and defeated Italy 232-226 before losing 233-230 to the USA in the semifinals. India's recurve men and women's teams lost in the quarterfinals.

Jamshedpur beats Tribhuvan Army in a five-goal thriller

Jamshedpur FC beat Tribhuvan Army of Nepal FC 3-2 in the 134th Durand Cup in Jamshedpur on Thursday.

The result: Jamshedpur FC 3 (Sarthak Golui 4, Manvir Singh 31, Nikhil Barla 71) bt Tribhuvan Army FC 2 (George Karki 26, Ananta Tamang 64).

Powell rallies to down Advani for World 6-Red snooker crown

Welsh teenager Riley Powell spoilt Pankaj Advani's birthday party and denied the Indian a 29th World title with a 5-4 come-from-behind triumph at the IBSF World 6-Red snooker championship in Manama, Bahrain, on Thursday. Earlier, Advani had edged compatriot Aditya Mehta by a similar scoreline in the semifinals.

The results: Final: Powell bt Advani 5-4 (41-6, 10-38, 0-73 (73), 35-42, 38-15, 39-1, 42 (35)-0, 0-44, 38 (32)-9).

LIVE TELECAST

▼

England vs India: 4th Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

Formula One: Belgian GP, (Sprint Shootout), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 8 p.m.

West Indies vs Australia: 4th T20I, FanCode, 4.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Unnati stuns Sindhu, enters quarterfinals of a Super 1000 event for the first time

The men's doubles pair of Satwik and Chirag also progresses to the last eight; Prannoy goes down fighting to Tien Chen in the second round



Breakthrough victory: Unnati became the first Indian after Saina to beat Sindhu in six years. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
CHANGZHOU

Young Unnati Hooda stunned two-time Olympic medallist and Indian badminton stalwart P.V. Sindhu in a gripping three-game contest to storm into the quarterfinals of China Open Super here Thursday.

Facing her decorated compatriot for only the second time, 17-year-old Unnati held her nerve to register a sensational 21-16, 19-21, 21-13 victory in 73 minutes, marking her maiden quarterfinal appearance at a Super 1000 event.

To meet Yamaguchi
The teenager from Rohtak, who has won Super 100 titles at the 2022 Odisha Masters and 2023 Abu Dhabi

Masters, will next take on Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, the third seed and a two-time World champion.

The men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also displayed tactical discipline and composure to notch up a 21-19, 21-19 victory over the eighth-seeded Indonesian combination of Leo Rolly Carnando and Bagas Maulana and progress to the quarterfinals.

It was, however, the end of the road for H.S. Prannoy, who bowed out after a hard-fought 21-18, 15-21, 8-21 loss to sixth seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in a 65-minute men's second-round match.

Sindhu, ranked World No. 15, came into the match on the back of a solid win over Japan's Tomoka Miyazaki but found herself outplayed by Unnati's speed, precision, and un-

relenting energy. This is the first time that Sindhu has lost to a fellow Indian in an international event in seven years, the last being the 2018 Commonwealth Games final loss to Saina Nehwal.

She had lost to Saina in the 2019 National Championships final as well.

Fearless approach
In a match that featured high-octane rallies, momentum shifts, and moments of brilliance from both ends, it was Unnati's fearless approach that made the difference.

Unnati said she herself was surprised with the win.

"I didn't expect that I would win today. But I came thinking that I will give my all. I am happy that I was able to win against her. It was a very tough match for me," she said.

Earlier, the duo of Satwik and Chirag prevailed in the key junctures to overcome the challenge posed by the Indonesian pair.

The opening game saw the Indonesians leading 14-12, but Satwik-Chirag surged ahead with a five-point streak to take control.

The second game was similarly close.

Trailing 10-14 at one point, the Indians clawed back to 18-all and managed to go past their opponents and seal a straight-game win.

The results: (second round): Men: Chou Tien Chen (Tpe) bt H.S. Prannoy 18-21, 21-15, 21-8. **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Leo Rolly Carnando & Bagas Maulana (Ina) 21-19, 21-19. **Women:** Unnati Hooda bt P.V. Sindhu 21-16, 19-21, 21-13.

A 'united' IOA insists on working together in push for 2036 Olympics

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI



All smiles: IOA president Usha and CEO Raghuram Iyer. AP Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nValQ

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) put up a united front on Thursday with the entire Executive Council appearing together in public for the first time in almost 18 months, confirming the appointment of Raghuram Iyer as the CEO, and setting up a panel to tackle doping.

Raghuram's appointment by Usha in January 2024 at a salary of ₹20 lakh per month and other perks had been the biggest bone of contention between IOA president P.T. Usha and other members and had remained unrati ed.

A majority of EC members had even brought in a no-confidence motion against Usha last year before it was dropped.

Officially titled 'Powering India's Sporting Aspirations: IOA's Vision 2036' there was no denying the meet was primarily to af-

further helped bring about a rapprochement.

"We are focused on our long-term goal of transforming India into a sporting powerhouse. It's part of our resolve to power through India's sporting aspirations via Mission 2036," Usha said, adding that the IOA was committed to inclusivity and gender parity in Indian sport.

"We are equally committed to making sports an inclusive space for women, young athletes, those from tribal areas and every Indian who dreams of sporting excellence," she said.

On the new Sports Bill, Choubey said that "it clearly mentions that the government has brought some guidelines and it is not to interfere".

The seven-member anti-doping panel, meanwhile, will be headed by India's Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal after India's poor record was flagged by the IOC.

Yuki in doubles quarterfinals

Sports Bureau

Forth seeds Yuki Bhambri and Michael Venus beat Andre Goransson and Sem Verbeek 6-7(1), 7-6(3), [10-6] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the \$2,396,115 ATP tennis tournament in Washington DC.

The results: \$2,396,115 ATP, Washington: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Yuki Bhambri & Michael Venus (Nzl) bt Andre Goransson (Swe) & Sem Verbeek (Ned) 7-6(1), 7-6(3), [10-6]. **€596,035 ATP, Kitzbuhel, Austria: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Neal Oberleitner & Joel Schwaerzler (Aut) bt Sriram Balaji & Rithvik Bollipalli 6-4, 6-2. **\$160,000 Challenger, Bloomsfield Hills, USA: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Niki Poonacha & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Jody Maginley (Ant) & Eliot Spizzirri (USA) 6-7(4), 6-4, [10-8]. **€181,250 Challenger, Zug, Switzerland: Doubles (quarterfinals):** Szymon Kielan & Filip Pieczonka (Pol) bt Arjun Kadhe & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-3, 6-4. **€91,250 Challenger, Tampere: Pre-quarterfinals:** Sumit Nagal bt Max Houkes (Ned) 6-2, 6-4. **€100,000 WTA, Palermo, Italy:**

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Rutuja Bhosale & Peangtarn Plipuech (Tha) bt Ines Ibbou (Aus) & Naima Karamoko (Sui) 7-6(4), 6-3. **\$30,000 ITF women, Porto: Doubles (pre-quarterfinal):** Ignasi Forcano (Esp) & Leonardo Rossi (Ita) bt Manas Dhamne & Vadym Ursu (Ukr) 5-7, 7-5, [10-6]. **\$30,000 ITF men, Denia, Spain: Doubles (quarters):** Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Alvaro Serrano (Esp) & Darius Pop (Rou) 6-2, 6-4. **\$15,000 ITF men, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand: Singles (first round):** Uising Park (Kor) bt Vishnu Vardhan 6-3, 7-6(3). **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Jake Delaney (Aus) & Wishaya Trongcharoenchaikul (Tha) bt Manish Sureshkumar & Vishnu Vardhan 6-4, 5-7, [10-8]. **\$30,000 ITF women, Monastir: Singles (pre-quarterfinals):** Jia-Jing Lu (Chn) bt Vaidehee Chaudhari 6-2, 6-2. **\$15,000 ITF women, Huamantla: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Gala Arangio (Arg) & Diva Bhatia bt Sarah Barry (Nzl) & Dilana Rsovac (Aus) 5-7, 6-4, [10-2]. **\$15,000 ITF women, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand: Singles (pre-quarterfinals):** Zeel Desai bt Sarah Rokusek (Aus) 6-3, 7-5.

The stars of Indian golf expect new league to draw young fans

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Three of the best golfers in the country who have shared rooms on the professional tour – Shiv Kapur, Gaurav Ghei and S.S.P. Chawrasia – and pride about having more than 100 years of combined experience between them, were excited about the forthcoming Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL).

In an interaction with the media, the three observed that golf in its new avatar, "with no cut, decent prize money, fast-paced action", would attract the young talent to the game and help them grow into superstars.

"This league, combined with men, women, amateurs and juniors, will do what IPL has done for cricket. It will help promote the nextgen players," said Kapur.

Chawrasia felt that it would be a win-win situation both for the experienced players and the youngsters as both would learn from each other in



Big hopes: The top Indian stars believe golf in a new format will attract new talent.

dealing with the new format.

Ghei pointed out that Europe and USA had tried different formats over the years, but they were one-off events. "To have a Tour, followed by the league in a short, concise format is exciting. It will engage youngsters and bring new viewership to the game," said Ghei.

The star professionals were unanimous that young fans did not have

the patience to watch golf for long hours, and the quick format would provide the "excitement for the fan."

Kapur was confident that Indian golf would look up once again and there was no reason why an Indian can't win a Major or be world No.1 in the times ahead.

The professionals were equally unanimous that the team event would foster camaraderie and ener-

This league, combined with men, women, amateurs and juniors, will do what IPL has done for cricket. It will help promote the nextgen players – SHIV KAPUR

gise players to pull their weight for the team.

The IGPL would also mean more opportunities for players to compete through the year. It would mean access to golf for more aspirants, giving the chance for players to represent teams and be seen on television.

Kapur said that he was keen to be fully involved as a mentor and leader in building a franchise, the team, and experience the joy of sharing.

"The pressure while playing for a team is a lot different. When Karthik Singh plays Gaganjeet Bhullar, it will be a learning experience for both players," said Ghei.

A global leader's CSR initiative is driving the country's aspiration of hosting marquee events like the Olympics; it is also providing budding athletes a platform to hone their skills



Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

As climate change events spike, key focus should be drowning prevention: experts

**WORLD DROWNING
PREVENTION DAY**

Zubeda Hamid

“We, as the community, have a major role in this. If we do not use unsafe facilities and equipment, we reduce the chance of drowning and we also then force the facilities for upkeep,” says Dr. Dandona. As the WHO says anyone can drown; no one should. (zubeda.h@thehindu.co.in)