



SIGNIFICANT BREACHES

DGCA flags 51 safety lapses by Air India

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'WORST-CASE SCENARIO'

Death toll in Gaza crosses 60,000

WORLD » PAGE 14





GUN VIOLENCE

Policeman among 4 shot down in New York

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STATE OF PLAY

From glory to decline

The Chola capital needs basic infrastructure, not historic statues

OPINION » PAGE 7



VERBAL DUEL

Gambhir, Oval curator in a heated exchange

SPORT » PAGE 15

IN BRIEF

'Mass exclusion' in draft rolls to invite SC's intervention

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Tuesday vowed to step in if the draft electoral rolls in Bihar, as part of the special intensive revision, are found riddled with "mass exclusions". » Page 4

Outrage over nuns' arrest forces BJP on the defensive

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Even as the stir over the arrest of two nuns continued to roil Kerala on Tuesday, State BJP chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar disavowed the Bajrang Dal's accusation that the nuns were human traffickers. » Page 5

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OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

3 Pak. terrorists behind Pahalgam killed: Centre

LeT terrorists tracked for 2 months and killed in Dachigam, says Shah; ballistic, forensic reports used to confirm their identities, he adds; PM slams Opposition's questions over operation's timing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Three Pakistani terrorists who had carried out the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam were killed in a security operation in the Dachigam encounter in Srinagar on Monday, the Union government told the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah confirmed the operation, and that the three slain terrorists had been involved in the Pahalgam attack that left 26 people dead.

In his speech during a debate on Operation Sindoor, the Prime Minister said that despite the security forces' success in eliminating these terrorists, some sections of the Oppo-



Union Home Minister Amit Shah speaks in the Lok Sabha during the debate on Operation Sindoor on Tuesday. PTI

sition were raising questions on the timing of the operation. "What has happened to these people," he asked, pointing to Opposition MPs.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Shah informed the Lok Sabha about Operation Mahadev. "The three terrorists who killed our civi-

lians at Baisaran meadow in Pahalgam have been killed," the Minister said. Since residents of Jammu and Kashmir are not joining the militant ranks, Pakistan is sending terrorists from across the border to strike terror, he added.

"We ensured that the terrorists do not flee to Pa-

kistan," Mr. Shah said, in his own speech during the Operation Sindoor debate.

Sharing the details, Mr. Shah said that the three terrorists had been identified as Suleman, alias Faizal Jatt; Hamza Afghani; and Zibran, all Pakistani nationals and members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Suleman was an A-category terrorist who was also involved in the Gagangir terror attacks in October 2024. The three men were tracked with the help of human and technical intelligence by the Intelligence Bureau (IB), Army, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and J&K Police, the Minister said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
IDENTITIES REVEALED
» PAGE 11

No one asked India to stop Operation Sindoor: Modi

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Through Operation Sindoor, India has put Pakistan on notice of retaliation for terror attacks, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday during a debate on the military action that followed the terrorist attack in Pahalgam that left 26 people dead.

"Not a single world leader asked us to stop the operation. Our actions were precise and non-escalatory, just as we had committed," Mr. Modi said in a clear refutation of claims by the U.S. that it mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

He also launched an aggressive attack against the Congress, saying the party "seems to be taking its talking points from Pakistan".

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 11

SC to begin hearing on Presidential Reference with States' arguments

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to begin its August 19 hearing on a Presidential Reference by first hearing the simultaneous challenge raised by Tamil Nadu and Kerala against its maintainability. The reference questions the power of the Court to draw timelines for the President and Governors to deal with State Bills.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai said the two States, represented by senior advocates K.K. Venugopal, A.M. Singhvi, and P. Wilson, would get an hour to convince the court to return the reference unanswered.

Mr. Venugopal, appearing for Kerala, said the Bench must hear the States before the Union Government began its submissions in support of the pre-

sidential questions. "A preliminary hearing should be held on the maintainability of the reference. This should be done first," he pressed.

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani said the States must get their "full say", after which he would respond on the question of maintainability and continue with his submissions.

The Bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, P.S. Narasimha, and Atul Chandurkar, asked the parties to file their written submissions on or before August 12.

The Union government will be heard on August 19, 20, 21, and 26. The opposing parties will submit their response on August 28, and September 2, 3, and 9. The Union government will then rebut on September 10.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

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INBRIEF



DoE to open applications for 33 CM SHRI Schools today

A 17-day application window will be opened on Wednesday for the students of Classes 6, 7, and 8 to fill the vacant seats in 33 CM SHRI Schools, the Directorate of Education stated in a circular dated July 23. The students will be eligible for admissions based on their merit in the CM SHRI Schools Admission Test 2025, which will be conducted on August 30. The test results will be out on September 10, and the admission process will end on September 15. A total of 75 CM SHRI Schools have been established, while the Delhi government has decided to begin the admissions in 33 schools, the circular read.

Banking, NBFCs, gas supply brought under Lok Adalats

In a move aimed at reducing the burden on regular courts and ensuring accessible, low-cost, and time-bound legal remedies for the public, Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena on Tuesday approved the inclusion of banking, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and gas supply services under the category of public utility services. This classification will enable disputes involving these sectors to be taken up by Permanent Lok Adalats (PLAs), offering an alternative forum for resolution outside conventional courts. "Such inclusion would empower PLAs and allow for faster and more efficient redress mechanisms," said an official.

No HC relief for Medha Patkar in defamation case by L-G

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday upheld the conviction and punishment awarded to activist Medha Patkar in a defamation case filed by Delhi L-G V.K. Saxena in 2000 when he was heading an NGO in Gujarat.

"This court finds no illegality, perversity, or material irregularity in the findings recorded by the learned trial court," said Justice Shalinder Kaur.

The judge said that Ms. Patkar failed to demonstrate any defects in the procedure or any error in the law which resulted in the miscarriage of justice.

The court also upheld the order of the trial court to release Ms. Patkar, 70, on probation for good conduct.

Last year, a magisterial court had held that Ms. Patkar's statements calling Mr. Saxena a "coward" and alleging his involvement in "hawala transactions" were not only defamatory *per se* but also "crafted to incite negative perceptions" about him. The court had sentenced her to five months of simple imprisonment and slapped a ₹10 lakh fine on her.

Heavy rain claims two lives amid widespread flooding, traffic snarls

A wall collapse of an under-construction building kills two workers and injures as many, prompts inspections and questions over construction norms; police file a negligence case; the three-hour downpour leads to waterlogging across several areas

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A mother and her teenage son were killed, and two others injured, after a wall of an under-construction building collapsed in north Delhi's Civil Lines area on Tuesday following heavy rain that also led to waterlogging in many parts of the Capital, the police said.

The incident occurred in Sehgal Colony, just metres away from Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena's residence, which is close to the Lieutenant-Governor's residence. The Delhi Fire Services received a call around 9.53 a.m. about the collapse. The deceased were identified as Meera, 40, and her 17-year-old son Ganpath, while the injured were her elder son Dashrath, 19, and her 35-year-old brother-in-law Nanhe. All four were migrant labourers from Madhya Pradesh and had been working at the construction site, the police said.

"Meera and her sons were inside a makeshift hut when a 15-foot-high wall of the under-construction residential building gave way and fell on them. Nanhe



Students playing volleyball on a flooded road near Delhi University's North campus in New Delhi on Tuesday. R.V MOORTHY

was seated nearby," said a senior police officer. A case of causing death due to negligence has been registered at the Civil Lines police station, the police said, adding that the construction appeared to be unauthorised, and document verification is under way.

Water woes

Torrential rain from 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. led to widespread waterlogging and traffic disruptions. Safdarjung station recorded 63.5 mm of rain, while the Ridge area saw 129.4 mm - the highest in the city. Other areas reported varying

amounts, including Lodhi Road (64.5 mm), Pragati Maidan (44.4 mm), Pusa (37.5 mm), and Ayanagar (23 mm).

Authorities had issued a red alert for parts of Delhi, which was later downgraded to a yellow alert for south-west and south-east areas, and a green alert for the rest of the city. According to Delhi Traffic Police, rain affected traffic flow at Azad Market Railway underpass, Zakhira underpass, Bhishma Pitamah Marg, and Ring Road from Sarai Kale Khan to INA Market. Waterlogging was also reported at ITO.

AAP, BJP trade barbs over waterlogging

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Waterlogging across Delhi following Tuesday's downpour triggered a fresh political face-off between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with both sides blaming each other for the city's recurring waterlogging woes.

AAP criticised the BJP-led administration, saying that even a short spell of rain was enough to turn the Capital into a "pool". "Ten minutes of rain and Delhi is in chaos. This is the marvel of the BJP's four-engine government. Where are the CM and PWD Minister now?" said Leader of the Opposition Atishi. She posted videos showing severe waterlogging at several locations, including Panchkuian Road, Kamla Nagar Market, Sadar Bazar, Bhajanpura, Ambedkar Stadium, NDMC areas, and even outside MPs' residences. Ms. Atishi said these visuals

proved the government's "utter failure" to ensure basic civic upkeep.

'Water cleared faster'

Later in the day, CM Rekha Gupta visited ITO, one of the worst-hit areas in the morning, and hit back at AAP. "In the previous government's tenure, waterlogging used to persist for hours. Under our administration, drains are cleaned, new systems implemented, and the water is cleared much faster," Ms. Gupta said. The CM said that the government teams were on the ground since morning, monitoring all waterlogged locations. "Officials are assessing how long the water stayed, how fast it drained, and what more can be done," she said. The CM's Office added she directed officials to take action and said such situations were "wholly unacceptable". The BJP said the current issues stemmed from AAP's "years of neglect and mismanagement".

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PUBLIC NOTICE

HARERA GURUGRAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF REGISTRATION OF THE INDEPENDENT RESIDENTIAL FLOORS-AFFORDABLE RESIDENTIAL PLOTTED COLONY UNDER DDJAY POLICY NAMELY "SMARTWORLD GEMS"

HARERA RC NO. 70 OF 2021 SITUATED IN SECTOR-89, GURUGRAM BEING DEVELOPED BY M/S ADHIKAANSH REALTORS PVT. LTD.

It is for the information of the allottees of the project namely "Smartworld Gems" situated at Sector-89, Gurugram and for the general public that an application dated 24.07.2025 for the extension of registration of the project under Section 6 of the Act of 2016 is submitted in the Hon'ble Authority for the above project.

The Department of Town & Country Planning, Haryana has granted license no. 32 of 2021 dated 03.07.2021 to M/s Adhikaansh Realtors Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Awam Residency Pvt. Ltd. in collaboration with M/s Adhikaansh Realtors Pvt. Ltd. for setting up of an affordable residential plotted colony under DDJAY over an area measuring 52.275 acres in sector 89, Gurugram.

Now, the promoter i.e., M/s Adhikaansh Realtors Pvt. Ltd. has applied for the extension of registration of the residential floors under Section 6 of RERA Act, 2016 vide application dated 24.07.2025 with respect to the project measuring 57508.41 sq. m. registered with the Authority vide RC no. 70 of 2021 dated 25.10.2021 valid up to 30.09.2025.

The Authority is considering the application of the promoter to grant extension of the registration certificate under section 6 of the Act for this project and hereby invite objections from the allottees in particular and any other concerned persons in general in this regard. The relevant application and related documents are available in the office of the Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram which can be seen by any concerned on any working day during office hours upto 13.08.2025 from 11:00 AM to 04:00 PM. The objections if any, shall be filed in the registry of the Authority upto 13.08.2025. Also, if anyone wishes to appear, may appear before the Authority on 18.08.2025 at 11:00 am during the hearing.

Given under the approval of the Authority and its seal.

Dated: 30.07.2025

Sd/-
Secretary,
Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that M/s Dabas Indane, Regd. office: Plot no.74-A, Gali no.3, Chanchal Park, Bakkarwala, Delhi-110041 (Regd. no. 1500 dated 24.07.2018), has undergone reconstitution. Mr. Parth Lakra and Mr. Himanshu Lakra have joined as partners w.e.f. 05.06.2025. On the same date, Smt. Sonam Dabas and Mr. Akash Vijayan have retired and ceased to have any interest or liability in the firm. The firm will continue under the same name with Mr. Parth Lakra and Mr. Himanshu Lakra as partners.

Claims/objections, if any, may be submitted at the above address within 07 days of this notice.

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HON'BLE DISTRICT CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION THIRSIUR
C.C. 618/2024

Sabit Shanker : Complainant
Officer in charge
Western Digital etc. : Respondents

NOTICE TO R3 The Officer in charge Western Digital, Eros Corporate Tower, 204, 2nd floor Nehru Place, New Delhi, 110019

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Commission in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material question relating to complaint and able to answer all such question on 22.10.2025 at 11 O' clock in forenoon, and as day fixed for your appearance.. And you may produce all the documents and version you intend to rely in support of defense.

Take further notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the complaint will be head determined in your absence.

Dated this 25 day July 2025

By order : Advocate P. Pramod Counsel for Complainant

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF MANIPUR AT IMPHAL
PIL No. 39/2023

In the matter of Writ Petition under Article 226 of the Constitution of India in the nature of Public Interest Litigation praying for issuance of a Writ, direction to quash the impugned report of the EGI dated 02/09/2023 as null and void.

The International Meeteis Forum through its Secretary General, Thangjam Rolivin, aged about 52 years, S/o (L) Thangjam Irabot Singh a resident of Khurai Ahonglei Leikai, P.O. & P.S. Porompat, Imphal East District, Manipur-795010 (Regd. No. 710 of 2017 under MSR Act 1989, HQ: Yaikul, Moirangkhom, Imphal West, Manipur).

.....Petitioner

~Versus~

The Union of India represented by the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi, New Delhi -110003 & 8 Ors.Respondents

To,

1. Seema Guha, C/o Editors Guild of India, presently at 4/7-A, INS Building, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Respondent No. 7)

2. Sanjay Kapoor, C/o Editors Guild of India, presently at 4/7-A, INS Building, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Respondent No. 8)

3. Bharat Bhushan, C/o Editors Guild of India, presently at 4/7-A, INS Building, Rafi Marg, New Delhi -110001 (Respondent No. 9)

NOTICE UNDER ORDER V RULE 20C.P.C. (SUBSTITUTED SERVICE)

Whereas the above named Applicant/complainant has filed an application under Article 227 of the Constitution of India in the matter mentioned Above.

Whereas the Hon'ble Court vide its order dated 14.07.2025 has been pleased to allow the petitioners to serve the notice upon the remaining respondents by way of Substituted Service.

Now, therefore, notice is hereby issued to you by way of substituted service by making publication in the Newspaper requiring you to appear before the Court on or before the returnable date ie. 30th July 2025 at 10:00 a.m. either in person or by a lawyer duly authorized.

If no appearance is made on your behalf, by yourself or by your lawyer or by someone authorized by law to act for you in the aforementioned Case on the date of appearance or before such later date on which the Case may be heard and decide Ex-Parte in your absence.

Signed and sealed by order of the Court this the 24th July, 2025.

By Order
By: Mr. Ajoy Pebam, Id. Advocate Assistant Registrar-I High Court of Manipur

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone)
9th Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagar, 2nd Block, Bangalore -560011.

No: SADH(S)TENDER/11/2025-26 Dated: 29.07.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GoK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KPPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Development of Parks as per standard tender document KW-4.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
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2.	Beautification, Landscape development, water facility and other civil works in Vijayanagara Constituency Parks. Total estimated cost : 1,25,00,000/- EMD : Rs. 2,00,000/-.

Calendar of events:
1) Date of Notification: 29.07.2025. 2) Tender can be downloaded from : 01.08.2025. 3) Pre bid meeting : 08.08.2025 at 4.00 PM. 4) Tender Closing Date: 11.08.2025 at 4.00 PM. 5) Technical bid opening date: 12.08.2025 at 4.30 PM. 6) Financially bid opening date : After Approval Technical Bid.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone)

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TENDER NOTICE FOR REPAIR/ RECONDITIONING OF TRANSFORMER

Tender Notice No. SECRT/RS-BSP-25-26-OT-05. Dtd. 23.07.2025.
Tender No: TRS-BSP-2025-26-OT-05.

Work Name: Repair/Reconditioning of 6531 KVA Transformer for 3-Phase electric locomotive i.e. WAG9 of Electric Loco Shed, Bilaspur.

Tender Value : ₹ 4,05,18,672.00/- .
EMD : ₹ 3,52,600.00/- .
Submission of Tender : Upto 14:00 hrs. on 23/08/2025. **Opening of Tender :** 14:30 hrs. on 23/08/2025.

For further details, eligibility criteria & the complete details for the above work, please contact Office of the **Sr. Divisional Elect. Engineer (TRS)/BSP**, South East Central Railway or refer/download tender document which is available on our website www.gem.gov.in.

Asstt. Divl. Elect. Engg. (TRS) CPRI/10193 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur.

South East Central Railway X@ecrcall

NEET 2025: HC orders NTA to form grievance redress panel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the National Testing Agency to form a standing grievance redress committee to address issues raised by candidates who suffer a loss of time due to technical issues, without their fault, while appearing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) examination.

The direction came on Monday while dealing with a plea concerning NEET-UG 2025 in which a candidate, who appeared for the examination on May 4 at a centre in Meerut, sought compensatory marks for allegedly suffering loss of time and mental disturbance due to irregularities in biometric verification at the exam centre.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

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E-mail: dwsupjn@gmail.com

Letter No. : 720 /Nivida /74
Dated : 24.07.2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE INVITING TENDER (E-NIT)
On behalf of U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) online Bids for execution of "Supply of Manpower for Up Keep and Maintenance of Electrical Work at 200 Cusec and 270 Cusec Campuses at Murad Nagar and Raj Nagar Campuses in Ghaziabad" under Deposit Program invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible, reputed and experienced bidders. Tender documents will be available for sale from 30.07.2025 by 18:00 Hrs. onwards. Bids can be submitted till 14.08.2025 up to 15:00 Hrs. and technical bid shall be opened on 14.08.2025 at 15:30 Hrs. in the Office of The Executive Engineer, Delhi Water Supply Maintenance Unit, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Ghaziabad in presence of contractor or their authorized representative. Tender Cost is Rs. 2360/- (Rs. 2000.00+GST@18%). Details are available on U.P. Government e-procurement portal <https://etender.up.nic.in> & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website www.jn.upscd.gov.in.

Bombay HC grants bail to three charged under UAPA over PFI 'links'

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Aurangabad Bench of the Bombay High Court granted bail to three persons accused of being associated with Popular Front of India (PFI), a banned organisation, holding that "mere participation" in meetings, speeches, or physical training sessions cannot, prima facie, be equated with committing a terrorist act under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

A Division Bench of Justices Nitin B. Suryawanshi and Sandipkumar C. More passed the order while hearing appeals by Sayyad Faisal Sayyad Khaleel, Abdul Hadi, and Shaikh Irfan Shaikh Salim, who were named in a case registered under the UAPA and under various sections of the IPC, Arms Act, and Maharashtra Police Act.

"When the FIR was registered and the appellants were arrested, PFI was not declared a terrorist organisation within the meaning of Section 2(m) of UAPA. Merely because the appellants participated in the meetings, seminars or physical training, etc., it cannot be said that they indulged in any terrorist act," the Bench observed in its July 7 judgment.

Stringent bail conditions
The court directed the release of the three men on bail on appropriate, stringent terms, including surrendering passports and cooperating fully with the ongoing trial. Section 2(m) of the UAPA refers to the organisations considered unlawful due to their involvement in terrorist activities and listed in the First Schedule of the anti-terror law.

Timings DELHI

WEDNESDAY, JUL. 30		
RISE	05:42	SET 19:14
RISE	10:44	SET 22:27
THURSDAY, JUL. 31		
RISE	05:42	SET 19:13
RISE	11:38	SET 22:56
FRIDAY, AUG. 01		
RISE	05:43	SET 19:12
RISE	12:32	SET 23:27

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	37	29
Safdarjang	37	29
Palam	35	28

Delhi Palam Today
33°C The weather will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

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THE HINDU

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Mamata counters Delhi Police on 'harassment' of migrant worker

Day after police in the national capital called video she shared 'fabricated', West Bengal CM urges family to return to the State so that the real facts can emerge; Suvendu warns of more such 'fake' videos, targets CM for spreading 'misinformation'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

A day after Delhi Police said that the video shared by her about migrant workers alleging harassment in the national capital was fabricated, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee doubled down on her assertion on Tuesday and urged the family to return to the State.

"They [the woman and her child] were taken to various police stations, just as I had predicted. They were threatened. We want them to come back, and who is speaking the truth and who is lying will be proved eventually," Ms. Banerjee said at an event in Birbhum district.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson had on July 27 shared a 46-second video on social media where a child is seen. "Atrocious!! Terrible!! See how Delhi police brutally beat up a kid and his mother, members of a migrant family from Malda's Chanchal. See how even a child is not spared from the cruelty of violence in the regime of linguistic terror unleashed by BJP in the country against the Bengalis! Where are they taking our country now?" she wrote on social media. The post and the video has not been removed by the

DCP (East) Abhishek Dhania, the Delhi Police officer, said the woman, identified as Sanjanu Parveen, made the video at the request of his relative, who lives in the Malda district of West Bengal and is a political worker.



Mamata Banerjee

Chief Minister.

A senior officer of Delhi Police on Monday said that after a thorough investigation and inquiry, the entire video was found to be "baseless" and "fabricated" and deliberately circulated on social media to "tarnish the image of Delhi Police".

Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari targeted the Chief Minister and said she should receive "international awards for spreading misinformation". He warned of more such "fake" videos in future.

The contending claims come at a time when hundreds of migrant workers from West Bengal have alleged harassment and torture at the hands of police

on suspicion of being Bangladeshi nationals in different States including Delhi.

Seven workers freed

In a related development, seven migrant workers hailing from Harishchandrapur in Malda who were detained in Gurugram have been released and are on their way to their native place. Hundreds of migrant workers have returned to the State after being detained in different States.

The Trinamool Congress leadership has launched a "language movement" to protest against harassment of Bengali-speaking migrants on suspicion of being Bangladeshi nationals.

Farmers demand MSP of ₹3,000 per quintal as onion prices fall

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

With wholesale onion prices falling by nearly 15% over the past two weeks at Asia's largest onion market in Lasalgaon, Maharashtra, farmers' associations have

urged both the State and Central governments to intervene immediately.

In a meeting held at the Lasalgaon Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) premises on Monday, the Maharashtra State Onion Producers Farmers

Association passed resolutions seeking price support and long-term policy measures. The meeting, chaired by the association's founding president Bharat Dighole, was attended by farmer representatives, APMC members, and cooperative

leaders. The primary demand put forth was for an assured Minimum Support Price (MSP) of ₹3,000 per quintal - significantly above the current average market rate of ₹1,275 per quintal.

"Farmers are receiving prices far below their pro-

duction costs, which range between ₹1,800 and ₹2,000 per quintal," Mr. Dighole said. He added that if the government fails to respond by August 10, farmers would be compelled to launch a State-wide agitation.

Delhi CM approves amendments to allow women on night shifts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has approved amendments to the Delhi Shops and Establishments Act, 1954, to allow women to work on night shifts in establishments. The file has been sent to Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena for approval, a source at the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said on Tuesday.

Currently, the law prohibits a woman from working between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. during summer and between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. during winter.

However, to safeguard women, a comprehensive set of conditions will be mandated entailing CCTV surveillance, female security guards, secure transport facilities and the constitution of an internal complaints committee under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013. Moreover, written consent of women employees will be required before allotting them night shifts.

Factory licence

In another development, Ms. Gupta announced that factories operating in in-

dustrial areas recognised by the government will not need to obtain a factory licence separately from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

The decision was taken to empower 'Ease of Living' and 'Ease of Doing Business', said the CMO.

"If the factory has MSME enterprise registration or allotment letter, then the same document will now be valid as an MCD licence," it added.

Cleanliness drive

The CM also launched a one-month 'Delhi's Freedom from Garbage Cleanliness Drive' on Tuesday. To encourage participation, she announced rewards of ₹25 lakh for the best-performing Resident Welfare Association in cleanliness, with ₹15 lakh and ₹10 lakh for the second and third runner-ups.

Kerala Medical Services Corporation Limited
(Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Kerala)
Thiruvananthapuram-14
(Tel: 0471-2945600, 2945646), CIN: U24233KL2007SGC021616
email: admin.kmscl@kerala.gov.in, website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in

No.KMSCL/Admn/9567/2025 **Dated: 26.07.2025**

E-Tender Notice

Kerala Medical Services Corporation invites quotations from efficient courier agencies for the distribution of medicines and medical equipments from its various district Drug warehouses, Karunya Medicine Depots, and Karunya Community Pharmacies.

Tender Cost: ₹ 14,514 (including GST)

Last Date for Tender Submission: 16.08.2025

For more details, visit:
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in

Sd/- Managing Director

BIHAR SCHOOL EXAMINATION BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender Notice No. : PR 171/2025

Bihar School Examination Board, Patna invites e-tenders under two bid systems from the reputed Service Providers/ Firms /Companies/ Agencies/ Societies for "Hospitality Services, Housekeeping and Catering Services, Front Office Management (Reception Desk) & Facility Management for 3 Years at Guest House of Bihar School Examination Board Patna". Detailed tender document containing eligibility criteria, other terms and conditions are available on the website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> and <https://biharboardonline.bihar.gov.in>

Tender Schedule

Date and Time for Activity	Date/Time: Duration
Online Sale/ Download Date of Tender Documents	From: 31/07/2025 (15:00 Hrs.) to 21/08/2025 (14:00 Hrs.) (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
Pre-Bid Meeting	06/08/2025 at 12:30 Hrs. (Bihar School Examination Board, Sinha Library Road, Patna-800017)
Last Date/ Time for Submission/ uploading of Online Bid	21/08/2025 up to 14:00 Hrs. (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
Last Date and Time for submission of EMD in Hard Copy / Original (Only in case of BG)	23/08/2025 up to 14:00 Hrs.
Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	23/08/2025 at 15:00 Hrs (https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid	Date to be announced later by competent authority.
Cost of the Tender Document	₹3,540/- (Three Thousand Five Hundred Forty Rupees Only) (Non-Refundable)
Tender Processing Fee	₹590/- (Five Hundred Ninety Rupees Only) (Non-Refundable)
Earnest Money	₹1,00,000/- (One Lakh Rupees only) (Refundable)

- Contact Details:** Nodal Officer, Mobile No. : +91 62999 23095, E-Mail ID: eproc-bseb-bih@gov.in / eproc.bseb@gmail.com
- Note:** Bihar School Examination Board reserves the right to accept/ cancel/ reschedule tenders without assigning any reasons. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. Corrigendum/ Amendments etc., if any, will be notified on this portal only and no separate advertisement will be made.

Secretary

Government of Tamil Nadu
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

G.O. (Ms) No.124 Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (SGS-2(1)) Department.
Dated: 30.06.2025
Construction of 100 bridges in 28 Districts (2025-26)

- For details, visit www.tntenders.gov.in
- e-Bids are invited by the Additional Collector (Dev.)/Project Director, DRDA of Ariyalur, Chengalpattu, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Erode, Kancheepuram, Karur, Krishnagiri, Madurai, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Namakkal, Perambalur, Ranipet, Salem, Sivagangai, Thanjavur, Thoothukudi, Tiruchirappalli, Tirupathur, Tiruppur, Tiruvallur, Tiruvannamalai, Vellore, Villupuram, Virudhunagar and Kallakurichi districts for the Construction of bridge works package wise under two cover system.
- The package wise bid documents can be downloaded at free of cost from www.tntenders.gov.in 01.08.2025 onwards and upto the date mentioned below.
- Common date and time for downloading of Bid document, submission and opening:

i)	Last Date and Time for downloading and Online Submission of Bid documents	19.08.2025 upto 3.00 pm	27 Districts - 94 Bridges
ii)	Date and Time of online opening of Bid documents	19.08.2025 4.00 pm onwards	27 Districts - 94 Bridges
iii)	Last Date and Time for downloading and Online Submission of Bid documents	02.09.2025 upto 3.00 pm	4 Districts - 6 Bridges (Tiruvallur - 3, Cuddalore - 1, Perambalur - 1, Nagapattinam - 1)
iv)	Date and Time of online opening of Bid documents	02.09.2025 4.00 pm onwards	4 Districts - 6 Bridges (Tiruvallur - 3, Cuddalore - 1, Perambalur - 1, Nagapattinam - 1)

"Tender Cancellation Notice"

Note: Tender Notice issued vide DIPR No.3478/Tender/2025, dated 10.07.2025 Published in The Hindu (All India Edition) English daily stands cancelled.

Commissioner
Rural Development and Panchayat Raj

DIPR/3980/Tender/2025

Government of Tamil Nadu
Mangadu Municipality

Tender Notice
Form of Contract : Item rate, (Two Cover System)

Bids are invited by The Commissioner, Mangadu Municipality for Providing Under Ground Sewerage System in Mangadu Municipality at an estimate cost of **Rs.19.147 Crores** under KfW assisted SMIF-TN-II through online only. The bid documents can be downloaded from the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> at free of cost. 1% of value put to Tender to be paid towards bid security and Rs.25,000/- paid towards bid processing fees.

Important dates

- Bid document download from : 06.08.2025 at 10.00 AM Onwards
- Date and time of Pre bid meeting : 21.08.2025 at 11.00 AM
- Place of Pre-bid Meeting : Thiruvarkadu Municipal Office, (Commissioner Chamber)
- Last date and time for downloading bid documents : 24.09.2025 upto 3.00 PM
- Last Date and time for submission of bid document (Online submission only) : 24.09.2025 upto 3.00 PM
- Date and time of opening of the Technical Bids : 24.09.2025 at 3.30 PM

In the event of specified date for submission of bids is declared as a holiday, bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Date of opening of Price bids will be informed after scrutinizing the technical bids.

Commissioner
Mangadu Municipality

DIPR/3955/Tender/2025

BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Delhi
... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi

NOTICE INVITING TENDER **Date: 30.07.2025**

E-tender is invited under the Two-Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) for the following works:-

NIT No.	Brief Description	EMD Value (₹)	Estimated Cost (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
NIT No: CMC/BY/25-26/RS/AS/AVS/09	Hiring of Commercial Vehicles in BYPL	9 Lakh	4.50 Crore (Annual)	19.08.2025 14:30 Hrs	19.08.2025 15:30 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹1,180/-

For details with respect to Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents, corrigendum etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com --> **BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD--> Tender--> Open Tenders.** Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 | CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525
Website: www.bsesdelhi.com

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower

Jammu and Kashmir Bank Ltd
General Department,
Corporate Headquarters,
M.A. Road Srinagar, 190001, J&K

Online Request for Proposal (e-RFP) For Selection of Travel Agency for Providing Self Booking Portal for online Air Ticket Booking (Domestic/International) for officials of the bank

Tender Notice along with Complete Tender document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpurchase.com> w.e.f. July 16, 2025, 16.00 Hrs. Tender document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website www.jkbank.com. Last date for submission of Bids is August 06, 2025, 17.00 Hrs.

e-RFP Ref. No: JKB/CHQ/GD/Corporate-Travel/2025-1459
Dated: 14-07-2025

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

Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL

No. 2150 // **Dt. 25/07/25 //**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORKS IN ODISHA
Bid Identification No. Road Online AGL-08/2025-26

- Name of the Work : Road Works
- Total No. of Work : 07 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs.423.03 to Rs.551.29 Lakhs (Approx.)
- Class of Contractor : As per Annexure
- Period of Completion: As per Annexure
- Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Road Online AGL-08/2025-26	04.08.25 at 10.00 A.M.	18.08.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	16.08.25 up to 1.00 P.M.	19.08.25 at 10.00 AM

For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.
O-502: **DIPR-25180/11/0060/2526**

THE HINDU OPPORTUNITIES GENERAL

NALSAR UNIVERSITY OF LAW, HYDERABAD
Justice City, Shameerpet, Medchal District, Hyderabad - 500 101.
Ph: 040-23498104 / 115
Website: www.nalsar.ac.in Email: recruitments@nalsar.ac.in

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF LEGAL CONSULTANTS (MARITIME LAW)

NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad in collaboration with Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India, Mumbai invites applications from the interested applicants for the post of **Legal Consultants (Maritime Law)** on contractual basis. For full details visit www.nalsar.ac.in; & <https://www.dgshipping.gov.in/>

REGISTRAR

UDUPI COCHIN SHIPYARD LIMITED
Malpe, Karnataka
A Government of India Enterprise
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India
Ref. No. UCSL/JMS/HR/VN/II-MGR(P&BD)-DM(E-dsn) 2025/51 Dated 24 July 2025

RECRUITMENT
EXECUTIVE ON PERMANENT BASIS

Sl. No	Name of Posts	No. of Posts
01	Manager (Planning & Business Development)	01 Post
02	Deputy Manager (Electrical Design)	01 Post

For more details on age, qualification, remuneration, reservations, etc with regards to this advertisement visit www.cochinshipyard.in or www.udpicsl.com

Last date for Application: 14 August 2025. Sd/-
MANAGER (HR & IR)

HELICOPTER DIVISION HINDUSTAN AERONAUTICS LIMITED
POST BOX NO. 1790, VIMANAPURA POST, BANGALORE - 560017

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) is a Maharatna Central PSU & premier Aeronautical Industry of South East Asia, with 20 Production Divisions, 10 R & D Centers and one Facilities Management Division spread across the Country. HAL invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following positions for its units at **Helicopter Division-Tumakuru and Rotary Wing Academy (RWA) at HAL - Helicopter Division, Bangalore:-**

Sl. No.	Position	No. of Vacancies
1.	Administrative Officer	01 (UR)
2.	Technical Tradesman	01 (UR)
3.	Assistant Accounts	01 (PwBD -HI)
4.	Stores Clerical/ Commercial Asst	01 (PwBD-VI)

The detailed advertisement with regard to Age, Qualification, Experience, Mode of applying, Selection procedure etc. are available at HAL Website www.hal-india.co.in. The last date for receipt of online application is **16.08.2025**. Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any will be hosted on HAL website only.

Dy. General Manager (HR)
HAL, Helicopter Division

States

INBRIEF



Himachal apple growers stage protest against 'eviction' drive

Hundreds of apple growers staged a dharna outside the Secretariat in Shimla on Tuesday to protest against the removal of encroachments and the felling of apple-laden trees on forest and government lands. The farmers gathered outside the Secretariat and jumped over the police barriers, which resulted in huge traffic jams. The agitators said that they will keep fighting for their demand to regularise small encroachments. The demonstration was held a day after the Supreme Court stayed a Himachal Pradesh High Court order directing the removal of fruit-bearing orchards from encroached forest lands. PTI

Senior citizen dies in 'stray dog attack' in Bengaluru

A 68-year-old man was killed in a suspected case of a stray dog attack at Kodigehalli in Bengaluru, in the early hours of Monday. The deceased has been identified as Seetappa, who earned a living by rearing cows and supplying milk. He is believed to have been attacked by a pack of eight to nine dogs. He was shifted to the Government Hospital at Yelahanka, where the doctors declared him dead. A senior police officer said that while starvation is commonly found among dogs in the area, the man walking alone on a deserted road at 3.30 a.m., may have triggered one of the canines into attacking him and other dogs may have joined in.

Mahayuti govt. has committed '₹4,800-cr. scam' in Ladki Bahin Yojana, alleges Supriya Sule

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MP Supriya Sule on Tuesday accused the Maharashtra government of committing a "₹4,800-crore scam" in the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana and demanded a Special Investigation Team probe into the alleged irregularities.

Her allegations came two days after the Maharashtra government announced a temporary suspension of monthly aid to 26.34 lakh beneficiaries following a verification drive that reportedly revealed the presence of thousands of ineligible beneficiaries, including 14,000 men, on the list.

Announcing the halt in the disbursement of ₹1,500 on July 27, State Women and Child Development



NCP(SP) MP Supriya Sule

Minister Aditi Tatkare had said that the eligibility of the suspended beneficiaries would be verified by their respective District Collectors.

Ms. Sule questioned the process through which the government had verified the beneficiaries. "The government rejects, on the smallest of pretexts, the applications of people trying to access health, educa-

tion, and crop insurance schemes. How did it allow men to receive cash payments through direct benefit transfers?" she said.

Pinning the "scam" on Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, the Bara-mati MP said, "The men must take the responsibility. I won't accuse Tatkare as the decision was passed by the State Cabinet unanimously."

The Ladki Bahin scheme was launched in August 2024 ahead of the State poll held later that year in November. The scheme was cited as one of the reasons for the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance's victory.

After the election, the government has been scrutinising the list of beneficiaries and suspending monthly aid to those found ineligible.

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

ADMK Workers' Rights Retrieval Committee coordinator O. Panneerselvam on Tuesday condemned the BJP-led Centre for not releasing funds to Tamil Nadu under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for 2024-25, in a shift from his earlier stance towards the Union government.

"Citing this [the State's rejection of the Union government's conditions] as the reason for not providing the funds will affect not only the education of students but also the welfare of teachers. This goes against the Right to Education Act and the spirit of federalism," Mr. Panneerselvam said in a statement, urging the Centre to release around ₹2,151.59 crore to the State under the scheme.

Ever since Mr. Panneer-

selvam rebelled against AIADMK former interim general secretary V.K. Sasi-kala in February 2017, he was known as a staunch ally of the BJP. When he and the current general secretary of the party, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, came together six months later, he had credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi with facilitating the reunion.

'Hands-off attitude'

After the AIADMK revived its alliance with the BJP in April this year, Mr. Panneerselvam's position became uncertain because of the BJP's "hands-off" attitude towards him.

In fact, when asked about the former Chief Minister's place in the alliance, Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah made it clear that the BJP "will not interfere in the internal affairs of the AIADMK".

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has launched an eviction drive to clear 11,000 bighas of encroached forest land in Uriamghat area of Golaghat district.

The Rengma Reserve Forest, where the first phase of the drive was carried out on Tuesday, shares a boundary with Nagaland.

Security deployment

A large contingent of police and Assam Forest Protection Force personnel, along with more than 150 excavators, were deployed in the area, anticipating violence. Officials said the exercise passed off peacefully, as the majority of the illegal settlers had vacated the area after receiving notices.

Inspector-General of



The action follows CM Himanta Biswa Sarma's recent visit to the area in Golaghat district.

Police (Law and Order) Akhilesh Kumar Singh, who was at the site, told presspersons that shops and houses built in the reserve forest areas were demolished.

A Forest Department official in the district said more than 20% of the reserve forest has been cleared of encroachments so far.

Some 15,000 people,

mostly migrant Muslims, were living in the reserve forest after turning vast swathes of the land into betel nut plantations.

The eviction drive followed Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's visit to Uriamghat recently.

"People of Assam are victims of the mass-scale encroachment, demographic alteration, and violence, which is caused by illegal settlers. They are firmly behind our govt. in our crackdown against encroachment and realise the need to reclaim what's truly ours," he said on X.

'Land grab of Nagas'

Meanwhile, the Niki Sumi faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland stated that the eviction drive was a "well-planned" move by the Assam government to grab the land of the Nagas.

Will step in if 'mass exclusion' found in draft voter rolls: SC

Over 65 lakh voters in Bihar may be illegally excluded, allege petitioners; court asks to wait till Aug. 1, when SIR of electoral rolls will be published; won't hesitate to act, SC tells Election Commission

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court promised on Tuesday to step in without fail, and immediately, if, for instance, persons omitted as dead from the draft electoral rolls in Bihar, scheduled to be published on August 1 as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) conducted by the Election Commission (EC), are found "very much alive".

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi made it clear to the EC that the court would not hesitate to act if the list was riddled with "mass exclusions".

"Bring 15 people they [EC] say are dead, but found alive... we will look into it," Justice Bagchi assured senior advocate Kapil Sibal and advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners.

The oral statement came in response to apprehensions raised by the Opposition parties and NGOs that 65 lakh people have been excluded from the draft roll with the explanation that most of them were either dead or had permanently



MPs Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Kanimozhi Karunanidhi protest against SIR, in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

shifted.

During the hearing, Justice Kant asked the petitioners to wait for the publication of the draft list, saying their apprehensions were at best speculative now.

The petitioners had criticised the SIR as "citizenship screening".

Justice Bagchi reasoned that the draft roll would be prepared on the basis of a January 7, 2025, list of voters assembled after a special summary revision of the Bihar electoral rolls. An EC affidavit in the top court had stated that voters in the existing January 2025 electoral rolls would feature in the draft rolls on August 1, provided they submitted

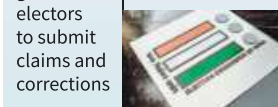
Final call

Petitioners have questioned the EC's claims regarding the status of 65 lakh voters who are likely to be excluded from the draft list in Bihar

■ The draft roll will be based on the **January 7 list**

31 days would be given for electors to submit claims and corrections

■ Final roll to be published on **September 30**



their enumeration forms, with or without documents.

"So, this January 2025 list would be the starting point. Your apprehension is that 65 lakh-odd voters in the January 2025 list would not feature in the draft list of August 1... However, the EC schedule allows time for persons omitted from the draft roll to apply for corrections. This means that these voters are not new. They would only be seeking correction vis-a-vis the 2025 entry," Justice Bagchi reasoned.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, for the EC, said electors who were unable to make it to the draft rolls

had a further period of 31 days, till September 1, to make their claims and get corrections done before the final rolls came out on September 30.

At this point, Mr. Sibal and Mr. Bhushan said there was a complete lack of information from the EC on whom they had identified as dead or relocated. The details were not available to them.

Next date of hearing

Justice Bagchi told the petitioners that the draft rolls on August 1 would anyway provide the names of those omitted as either dead or shifted permanently. Justice Kant intervened to point out that the EC is a constitutional institution, and the presumption was that it would act "perfectly in accordance with the law".

"The moment they deviate, we will definitely intervene... If someone omitted as dead comes and says, 'I am very much alive', we will intervene," Justice Kant assured. The court fixed the next hearing on August 12 and August 13, indicating it would primarily deal with issues regarding draft electoral rolls.

Is T.N. govt. trying to delay Senthilbalaji case trial, SC asks

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked if the State of Tamil Nadu was trying to delay the trial in the cases of "cash-for-jobs scam" involving former Minister V. Senthilbalaji by incriminating more than 2,000 people as accused.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi called for listing all pending cases involving the former Minister before the Supreme Court and posted them for hearing on August 6.

'Who were brokers?'

"We would like to know that, besides the Minister, who were the alleged brokers or middlemen? Who were the officers who acted on the recommendations of the Minister? Who were the members of the selection committee? Who were the authorities who gave the appointment?" the Bench said.

The top court was hearing a petition filed by Y. Balaji, challenging a Madras High Court order of March 28 dismissing petitions against clubbing of multiple chargesheets filed in cases related to the alleged scam.



Former Tamil Nadu Minister V. Senthilbalaji.

"You [State] are more keen to prosecute them so that in the entire lifetime of the Minister, the trial proceedings never come to an end. This is your modus operandi," the Bench observed.

It queried whether individuals compelled to pay for jobs were now being arraigned as accused.

'2,300 accused'

According to a report filed in the top court by a trial judge in April, there are around 2,300 accused in cases involving the former Tamil Nadu Minister in the "cash-for-jobs scam".

Mr. Senthilbalaji had resigned from the government in April after being pulled up by the court.

Experts flag rising debt in Punjab amid govt. claims of taking proactive steps for sound fiscal management

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Even as the Punjab government asserts that it is taking proactive steps to manage its debt obligations, experts highlight that the State, driven by "competitive political populism", is relying on additional loans, resulting in a "worrisome" increase in its debt liability.

'Legacy debt'

Earlier this month, State Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema had said that the government would borrow ₹8,500 crore in the second quarter of the current financial year to meet "redemption obligations of over ₹3,500 crore in legacy debt" incurred by the previous governments of the

Shiromani Akali Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party combine and the Congress.

The steadily rising outstanding liability over the years has pushed Punjab into a debt trap, according to a recent academic paper, 'Walking with Punjab's economy', authored by Ranjit Singh Ghuman, Professor of Eminence (Economics) at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.

According to the paper, the current Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's first three financial years (2022-23 to 2024-25) saw an "annual average debt increase of ₹33,721 crore".

The steadily increasing debt liability over the years showed a significant spike in the last decade, it stated.

The outstanding debt



State Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema presenting the 2025-26 budget. PTI

surged from ₹1,28,836 crore in 2015-16 to ₹1,82,526 crore in 2016-17, primarily due to the conversion of a ₹30,584-crore cash credit limit into long-term debt.

The State's debt swelled to ₹2,81,773 crore (48.24% of the Gross State Domestic

Product) in 2021-22. It continued to rise to ₹3,14,221 crore (46.68% of GSDP) in 2022-23 and reached ₹3,46,185 crore (46.66% of GSDP) in 2023-24.

In 2024-25, the debt increased to ₹3,82,935 crore (47.30% of GSDP), with projections indicating that it would grow to ₹4,17,136 crore (46.80% of GSDP) by the end of 2025-26, the paper stated.

According to the paper's author, this scenario is largely the result of "competitive political populism in the name of welfarism, under-mobilisation of financial resources, injudicious use of resources, pilferage in social welfare schemes and development finances, and over-centralisation of finances by the Union

government".

Lakhwinder Singh, an economist and visiting professor at the Institute for Human Development in New Delhi, also expressed concern over Punjab's rising debt.

"There's no doubt that the debt situation in Punjab is serious," he said.

'No resources'

"The average debt has been growing, and the government is borrowing to repay the rate of interest. Notably, the AAP government has taken borrowing to the highest level. The key problem in Punjab is that the State hardly has the resources to make new capital investment, bringing development to a near standstill," he added.

Medical student in Russia says he is being forced to fight in Ukraine

The Hindu Bureau
CUDDALORE

The last time Kishore Saravanan's family heard from him was when he sent them a frantic voice message about being forcibly sent to the front line in Ukraine. The 22-year-old from Palayamkottai in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu had gone to Russia to pursue MBBS.

He was previously arrested by the Russian police in 2023 in an alleged drug case, according to his family.

Mr. Kishore's father, J. Saravanan, said his son had sent a voice message on July 12, saying the Russian government had forcibly enlisted him to fight against Ukraine.

"I could not contact him



Kishore Saravanan

on his phone, and his friends informed me that he was taken away by the Russian police. Though my son refused to join the Russian army, he was beaten and forced to sign a few documents. He was also given a Russian identity card and passport," Mr. J. Saravanan told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Kishore's family has urged the Union government to ensure his safe return. "Kishore was reportedly given training for 10 days, and is now being taken to the conflict zone. Though we contacted the Indian Embassy in Russia seeking assistance, there has been no response," Mr. J. Saravanan said.

He said that his son, a third-year MBBS student at Volgograd State Medical University, was arrested on May 4, 2023.

When contacted, Cuddalore Collector Sibi Adhithya Senthil Kumar said the State government had escalated the issue, and the Ministry of External Affairs was in touch with the Indian Embassy. There had been no update so far, he said.

No skeletal remains recovered at first spot in Dharmasthala

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged “murders and burials” at Dharmasthala in Karnataka began the process of exhuming remains at the spots identified by the whistleblower/complainant on Tuesday, a long-standing demand of the complainant, his lawyers, and several activists. However, at the first spot the complainant had shown the SIT sleuths on Monday did not lead to any recovery of skeletal remains.

The SIT will go ahead and dig up the second of the 13 sites on Wednesday, sources said.

The SIT is also contemplating deploying ground penetrating radars, a handheld device, to ascertain if there is something buried in the ground and is in the process of procuring them, sources said.

After recording the statement of the 50-year-

old former sanitation worker, who had alleged he was forced to bury several bodies in Dharmasthala between 1995 and 2014, the SIT had carried out an inquest of 13 spots the whistleblower identified as burial sites in and around the temple and the bathing ghat on Monday.

On Tuesday, the SIT began digging at a wooded area next to the Netravati bathing ghat area where the complainant had claimed to have buried three bodies according to sources. “We have dug up an area of over 15 ft length, 10-11 ft width, and 8 ft depth. But we did not recover any remains and have concluded that there are no bodies at this site,” said a senior official.

Deputy Inspector-General of Police M.N. Anucheth, Superintendent of Police Jithendra Kumar Dayama, part of the SIT and Stella Verghese, Assistant Commissioner, Puttur, were at the spot.

Outrage over arrest of nuns forces BJP on the defensive

Protests roil Kerala for third consecutive day; Church leaders have announced a silent march to Raj Bhavan today; State BJP chief disavows Bajrang Dal's claim on proselytization and trafficking

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Bipartisan protests over the controversial arrest of two Keralite nuns at the Durg railway station in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled Chhattisgarh last Friday have roiled Kerala for the third consecutive day on Tuesday.

The Chhattisgarh police had arrested the nuns after Bajrang Dal workers mobbed them on the charge of spiriting out three women, including an adivasi, to Agra, allegedly for “coerced conversion to Christianity”.

Church leaders and party workers across the political aisle staged protests across Kerala. The protests also radiated out to Chhattisgarh and New Delhi.

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) and United Democratic Front (UDF) dele-



Mounting anger: A protest rally by the Thirissur Archdiocese, against the arrest of nuns in Chhattisgarh, on Tuesday. K.K NAJEEB

gations, led by their respective Lok Sabha members from New Delhi, demonstrated outside the Durg Central prison, demanding justice for the nuns, Vandana Francis and Preeti Mary of the order of the Assisi Sisters of Mary Immaculate (ASMI). They hail from Ernakulam and Kannur respectively.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of the Opposition V. D. Satheesan portrayed the arrests as a manifestation of the Sangh

Parivar's agenda to relegate minorities, including Christians and Muslims, as subaltern citizens in a prospective Hindu majoritarian State. Church leaders have announced a silent protest march to the Kerala Raj Bhavan on Wednesday.

Seemingly stung by widespread criticism and chary of losing the ground, the party believed it had gained among Christians in the State, the BJP Kerala president, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, disavowed the Bajrang Dal's accusation

that the nuns were human traffickers and proselytisers.

Mr. Chandrasekhar said the organisation did not bear the BJP's imprimatur and the law should take them to task for their alleged transgressions. He added that a BJP delegation from Kerala was in Durg to secure the early release of the nuns.

A “profound misunderstanding and miscommunication” had resulted in the unfortunate arrests, the BJP leader said. “The nuns were taking the three women to Agra for employment. The women were adults and travelling of their own volition. However, there was an inadvertent procedural lapse. The involved parties forgot to register the passage under the Chhattisgarh Private Placement Agencies (Regulation) Rules, 2014”, he stated.

Rajnath: stop foreign funding to Pak., it's a nursery of terrorism

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Describing Pakistan as a “nursery of terrorism, which must not be nourished”, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday called upon the international community to stop foreign funding to the neighbouring country.

Initiating a debate on Operation Sindoor in Rajya Sabha, Mr. Singh said providing financial assistance to Pakistan “amounted to supporting the infrastructure of terrorism”.

Commenting on Pakistan's recent appointment as Vice-Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee by the United Nations Security Council, he said the panel had been constituted following the 9/11 attacks. “It was well known that Pakistan had sheltered the mastermind of the attack,” he said, terming the decision akin to “making the cat guard the milk”.

He added that designated terrorists such as Hafiz Saeed and Masood Azhar move about freely in Pakistan, and that senior officers of the Pakistan Army are seen attending the funerals of terrorists.

“It is a mockery of the global fight against terrorism that Pakistan is expected to lead the global community against terrorism,” he said.

Mr. Singh said if Pakistan was unable to take effective steps to counter terrorism, it should seek India's assistance. “Indian armed forces are capable of taking effective action against terrorism on either side of the border. Pakistan witnessed it during Opera-



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. ANI

tion Sindoor, but it is stubborn. Therefore, it is necessary for the world to put every kind of strategic, diplomatic and economic pressure on Pakistan to end terrorism,” he said.

He said the Indian government had adopted a new strategy aimed at strengthening national security while effectively dealing with terrorism. Describing Operation Sindoor as a reflection of India's military capability, national resolve, morality and political maturity, he said it had transformed a vulnerable citizen of a soft State into “a proud citizen of a strong nation”.

“Under PM Modi's leadership, India no longer tolerates, it gives a befitting reply. It is not going to bow down to any kind of nuclear blackmailing or other pressures,” he said.

The Minister also congratulated the Indian Army and other security forces for neutralising three terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir on Monday. He added that the government had permitted emergency procurement to bolster the armed forces in preparation for any unforeseen contingencies.

Panel discussion series to explore Coimbatore's growth potential

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

Coimbatore Unlimited 3.0, a series of panel discussions that will be presented by G Square and powered by The Hindu Group, will be held in three cities starting with Chennai on July 31. The discussions will be on “Reimagining Growth in Coimbatore and Beyond”.

The event in Chennai on Thursday will have deliberations on “Coimbatore in

Focus - The Smart Investment Corridor”.

As Tamil Nadu marches toward its ambitious vision of becoming a \$1 trillion economy, Coimbatore is a pivotal city shaping the next wave of urban transformation and future-ready investments.

With a unique blend of industrial legacy, emerging innovation hubs, and a growing appetite for lifestyle-driven infrastructure, Coimbatore is fast becoming



ing a beacon for long-term value creation.

Investment destination
This edition of Coimbatore Unlimited will focus on how the city is evolving as a preferred destination for intelligent investments across technology, mobili-

ty, commercial, and residential infrastructure.

The event will explore the city's investment readiness, growth potential, and how policy, innovation, and private enterprises are coming together to reimagine urban expansion. Coimbatore Unlimited 3.0 will bring together some of the country's sharpest business minds, industry leaders, and real estate experts for high-impact discussions.

The panel discussion on July 31 will be moderated by chartered accountant G. Karthikeyan, who is the founder of the Startup Academy and former president of TIE Coimbatore.

The panellists will be P. Sivakumar, Global Business Head, G Square Group; Naved Narayan, Vice-President - Mobility Solutions

and R&D Centre Head - Coimbatore of Bosch Global Software Technologies; Susil S. Dungarwal, Chief

Mall Mechanic, Beyond Squarefeet, and Gururaja S.J., Senior Director, Co Head, Office Leasing Advisory, JLL India.

The panel discussion will be held at Taj Connemara, Chennai, on Thursday, July 31, 2025 from 6:30 pm. Entry is by invitation only.

Registrations can be done at newsth.live/GUNLCB2025 or by scanning the QR code.



DIG report flags 'grave' security lapses at Kannur Central jail

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A probe by the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Prisons (North Zone) has confirmed grave lapses and dereliction of duty by officials at the Kannur Central Jail in connection with the sensational escape of life sentence convict Govindachamy on July 25.

The findings submitted by DIG V. Jayakumar to Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services Balaram Kumar Upadhyay underline systematic failures in surveillance, staffing, and prison infrastructure in the jail. The report states that the escape was made possible by “unnoticed moments” during a critical four-hour window from 1.15 a.m. to 5 a.m.

The DIG also flagged the leaking of CCTV footage showing the escape as a serious breach of security.

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THE HINDU **businessline.**

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RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD

No. :- 5827 **NIB : 01/2025-26** Dated :- 25/07/2025

Online bids are invited from registered firm for various Civil and Plantation related works under Pratap Nagar, Jaipur and Dausa Awasiya Yojna through E-proc for S. no 1 to 11 from 01.08.2025 to 11.08.2025 up to 5.00 PM. Complete details like tender form, detailed information and condition etc. Are available on website <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> <http://sppp.raj.nic.in> & <http://rhib.rajjasthan.gov.in>

UBN No. :- RHB2526WSOB00130, 131, 132, 134, 135, 137, 138, 139, 142, 143, 144

Raj.Samwad/C/25/1712 Dy.Housing Commissioner Circle -I, Jaipur

RAJASTHAN POLICE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD, JAIPUR

(Government of Rajasthan Undertaking) CIN No. U45201RJ2013SC023014, Regd. Office : 756, Police Head Quarters, Lal Kothi, Jaipur (Raj.). Phone: 0141-2740794, Fax: 0141-2744294, e-mail: rpidd@rajasthan.gov.in

क्रा.वि. :- RPHCL/469/NIT/2025-26/D-0051 दिनांक :- 25/07/2025

ई-निविदा सूचना सं 18/2025-26

निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए राज्य/केन्द्र सरकार के अभियंत्रिकी विभागों/उपक्रमों में समकक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत योग्य एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से नियमानुसार पंच वर्ष की डीएलपी को अन्तर्गत विभाजित प्रपत्र में क्रम संख्या 01 से 09 तक की निविदा Two Bid System तथा क्रम संख्या 10 एवं 11 की निविदा एकल मद के तहत आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा की कुल लागत	रुपये 3224.05 लाख
ऑनलाइन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख	28 जुलाई 2025 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 18 अगस्त 2025 सायं 4.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख	18 अगस्त 2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	19 अगस्त 2025 सायं 4.00 बजे

निविदा सम्बंधित जानकारी राजस्थान पुलिस की वेबसाइट www.police.rajjasthan.gov.in/ www.sppp.raj.nic.in एवं <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> पर ही उपलब्ध रहेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को निविदा संबंधित जानकारी प्रपत्र निदेशक कार्यालय से कार्यालय समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है। नबिय में निविदाओं में संशोधन होने पर उपरोक्त वेबसाइटों पर ही प्रेषित किया जावेगा।

UBN No. : RID2526WLOB00205, RID2526WSOB00206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215

महाप्रबन्धक राजस्थान पुलिस आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड

क्र.सं.सं/सी/25/7136

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar, (UP)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <http://etender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

(A)

1. **26/S.M.-Jal-III/E.T./2025-26**, Strengthening of W/s (P/L Separate Water line from R.W. No.-5 to Administrative Building Sector-96), Noida. Cost Rs. 48.99 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 12.08.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 13.08.2025 at 11.00 AM.

(B)

1. **05/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2025-26**, Equipment and Machinery (Maintenance of Sewer Cleaning machine (UP-16-FT-4925 and UP-16-FT-4926), Tractor (UP-16GT- 1244, UP-16DT-8387, UP-16BT-6203), Trolley and Water Tanker in Jal-II Sector-37), Noida (For Two Year). Cost Rs.38.67 Lac

2. **08/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2025-26**, M/o W/s (Repair of Water line, S/F Sluice Valve, Reflex Valve making flushing point, M.S. Work, M.S. Jaal, Chamber and Allied work in Sector- 33, 34, 35 and Village- Morna), Noida (For Two Year). Cost Rs.55.65 Lac

3. **09/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2025-26**, Strengthening of W/s (Providing & Laying Rising Main Line from Ranney-4 New Location to Old Rising Main Line in Sector 15A), Noida. Cost Rs.59.10 Lac

4. **10/S.M.(Jal)-II/E.T./2025-26**, M/o Sewerage (Searching, Raising, Cleaning of Sewer Manholes, P/F Manhole Cover Frames and P/L of Damaged Sewer Line at Network Sector- 32, 32A, 33, 34, 35 and Village- Morna), Noida. (For Two Years). Cost Rs.59.04 Lac

5. **08/S.M.-Jal-III/E.T./2025-26**, Providing/Fixing Booster Pump Set in place Damaged/ Unserviceable/Booster pump at W.W.C Sector-41, 39 and 96, Noida Cost. Rs. 45.10 Lac

Which can be uploaded by date 05.08.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/ downloaded on date 06.08.2025 at 11.00 AM.

Office Sector-5 General Manager (Jal) Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

e-TENDER NOTICE

PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENT, HIMACHAL PRADESH, GHORA CHOWKI, SHIMLA- 171005.

Online Tenders are invited from the Printing Presses situated in Himachal Pradesh and neighboring States/UT namely Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh and J&K by the Controller, Printing and Stationery Department, Himachal Pradesh on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, for laser printing and stitching/binding of Electoral Rolls for Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies mentioned in BOQ of tender. The soft copy (CD/ Pen Drive) of printing material will be supplied in PDF form. Technical bid will be opened on the date and time given below, in presence of the tenderers who wish to be present. The schedule regarding submission/ uploading of bids and opening the technical bids is as under:-

Sr. No.	Description	Date upto which tender can be uploaded / submitted	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids.
1.	Lazer printing and stitching/ binding of Electoral Rolls for Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies in A-4 size Photo Copier Paper of 75 GSM of superior quality. Printing material will be supplied in soft copy (CD/ Pen Drive) in PDF form.	20-08-2025 upto 11:00 A.M.	20-08-2025 at 12:30 P.M.

If the date of opening the tender happens to be closed holiday, the tenders will be opened on the next working day. The description given above is in brief. The complete details including tender form, tender schedule (referred in e-tendering as Bill of Quantity) and terms & conditions will be available for downloading from 30.07.2025 (4:00 P.M.) onwards on website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The bid shall be submitted in electronic form on the Schedule-"A" (BOQ) of the concerned tender on the website <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The Earnest Money of Rs. 2,50,000/- (Two Lakhs Fifty Thousand) only in the shape of FDR duly pledged in favour of the Controller, Printing & Stationery Department, Himachal Pradesh should be submitted before the date of opening of Technical Bids. The cost of tender form is Rs. 500/- per tender which is non-refundable and is payable in favour of Controller, Printing and Stationery Department, Himachal Pradesh in the shape of Demand Draft, which shall be made available in the department by hand/bp post, before the date of opening of tenders.

Controller, Printing and Stationery Department, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla- 171005
Phone No. 0177-2830378
e-mail: ps-hp@nic.in

HP / 2094/25-26 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PWD (BUILDING)
ASSAM, CHANDMARI, GUWAHATI-3

No. CE/TB-VII/89/2025/3

PRESS NOTICE

The Addl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids from Govt. registered eligible Contractors having experience in similar nature of works for the following work.

Details of bid may be seen at e-procurement portal www.assamtenders.gov.in

The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sr. No.	Name of Work	LAC	Bid Security drawn in favour of	Approx value of work	Completion Period	Bid Security 2 % of Bid value for General category, and 1 % of Bid value for Reserved category	Cost of Bid
1	Jagannath Community and Skill Centre at Balijan T.E. under Golaghat LAC (Pkg. No. 147)	Golaghat LAC	EE Golaghat Dist. TBD	Rs. 1,40,73,143.00	12 (Twelve months)	Rs. 2,81,463.00 for General Category and Rs. 1,40,73,100 Reseved Category	Rs. 2900.00

N.B.:-

1. Value of work may vary according to the detail NIT.

2. The Press Notice will form a part of the Bidding Document.

DIPR /C/HIND/ 211/ 30-Jul-25

Addl. Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3



Interrupted growth

Industrial growth is still tied to government spends on infrastructure

The Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the nation's monthly barometer of goods output, revealed a 10-month low growth rate in June, at 1.5%, largely due to the sharp contraction in mining activity, by -8.7% (10.3% in June 2024), and electricity output, by -2.6% (8.6% in June 2024). The early onset of the southwest monsoon, with its erratic and uneven distribution, led to water logging in large parts of the mining belts in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal, hampering a key economic activity. Ranchi's regional meteorological office has said that Jharkhand recorded 504.8 mm (against a normal of 307 mm) between June 1 and July 12 – but five districts were categorised as rain deficient. The resultant damage to the power distribution infrastructure and disruptions to supply chains may have contributed to the sluggish growth in industrial output at 3.9% in June, up from 3.5% a year ago. This in turn, is likely to have led to subdued power demand. While mining and power production collectively make up for almost a quarter (22.3%) of the IIP's weightage, the rest is apportioned for manufacturing activities. The robust growth in capital (3.5%), intermediate (5.5%) and infrastructure (7.2%) goods output, indicates that much of industrial growth continues to hinge on the government's infrastructure spends.

There has been a general reluctance, both institutionally and in public economic discourse in India, to explicitly correlate disruptions in economic activity with climate-related events, especially in official narratives such as the IIP or GDP data releases. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tend to frame industrial and economic under-performance in terms of 'high base effects; supply chain bottlenecks; input cost fluctuations; global demand softening; and domestic consumption contraction'. Climate-related disruptions, such as in mining belts, are rarely mentioned in IIP or national accounts commentary. Economic data agencies in India have been slow to integrate climate risk frameworks into routine macroeconomic reporting, unlike institutions such as the European Central Bank or the Bank of England which have begun mapping climate risk to output and financial stability. True, climate attribution is complex: linking a specific event such as waterlogging in a coal mine to broader climate change involves scientific rigour and probabilistic modelling. Policymakers often avoid this due to fear of politicising economic data. Indeed, the RBI's Financial Stability Reports now include climate-related risks. But this has not yet filtered into production-side metrics such as the IIP. The time has come for India to make a systemic shift to integrate climate attribution to economic activity.

Deaths in school

Infrastructure of government schools needs urgent attention

On July 25, tragedy awaited students of Classes 6 and 7 at the Pipildi Government School in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district as they assembled for prayer. A part of their school building gave way leading to the deaths of seven and injuries to several others. Most of the students were from tribal communities. The school is in the southeastern part of the State bordering Madhya Pradesh. There was a similar incident the next day in Nagaur district but the school was closed being a holiday. There has been much public anger in the State over the incidents which, quite rightly, have thrown the spotlight on the state of government schools. As in UDISE 2023-24 data, there are more than 70,000 government schools in Rajasthan serving nearly 84 lakh students, especially from the poorer and marginalised sections. Of these, some 8,000 schools have been estimated by the Education Department to be in a poor condition. The Jhalawar school was not among the schools identified as being in a poor state, indicating the extent of the problems. Some ₹650 crore had been allocated in the past two State budgets for boosting the infrastructure but inefficiencies in government have ensured that the measures did not make much difference. Fixing the infrastructure of government schools should be a priority for the State's Bharatiya Janata Party government.

The tragedy in Rajasthan should serve as a wake-up call across India, given the current policy defocus on government-owned education institutions. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 had called for an immediate increase in spending on education, from some 4.6% of GDP to 6%, identifying one-time spends on infrastructure as the lead priority besides identifying other sectors for a boost in support. Five years into the NEP, there is little to suggest that this has been a focus area for governments, Union or State. Policy thrusts have been more towards reducing government support, self-financing, and encouraging private sector contribution. While these may be applicable to higher education, basic school education is a primary duty of the government – as it is across the world including in the most developed nations. Setting up model schools and funding them to serve as exemplars cannot be at the cost of mass school education. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy has been identified as a critical area for boosting workforce productivity and reaping the demographic dividend that will soon run its course as India's population ages. But the discourse on pathways towards achieving them is more on pedagogy, non-formal teaching and so on than the essentials – an infrastructure boost and teacher recruitment and training.

She left Chhattisgarh with a small bag and a dream. A man had convinced her family that she would be trained as a dancer, earn well and support them. Her parents, who were desperate and worn down by years of poverty, let her go. By the time she was found in Bihar, she was not the same girl. She had been broken by control, violence and rape. She was 14. Her story is not rare.

Until June this year, the Bihar police rescued 271 girls in the State – 153 of them trafficked into orchestras, the remaining 118 forced into the flesh trade. In Saran district, the number of girls rescued from these 'dance troupes' since January is 162. Between March and June this year, the Just Rights for Children (JRC) partners, working alongside district police forces, rescued 116 girls from orchestra groups.

The conditions in which these girls, stripped of dignity and brutalised into submission, were found were appalling – overcrowded, unhygienic rooms. They were presented on stage as performers, but in reality, they were victims of trafficking and sexual abuse.

Human trafficking is among the largest organised crimes globally. It inflicts severe physical, psychological and economic harm on individuals of all ages, but women and children are the most vulnerable. Once they are pulled in, getting out is almost impossible. Nearly 138 million children were engaged in child labour in 2024, including around 54 million in hazardous work, according to estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF.

Bihar as a trafficking destination

Bihar's emergence as one of India's most active destinations for trafficking is not incidental. At the heart of this crisis lies a complete absence of regulatory oversight and social acceptance for girls being commodified. Geography and poverty deepen this vulnerability. The State's porous border with Nepal and seamless railway connectivity to trafficking-prone States such as West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Assam and Uttar Pradesh facilitate trafficking flows through Bihar.

In States such as West Bengal, where music and dance are integral to cultural identity, parents encourage their daughters to pursue the arts. These aspirations are preyed upon by traffickers who promise good money and even stardom. False promises of love, marriage or employment are also used to lure girls. In districts such as Saran, Gopalganj, Muzaffarpur, Rohtas and West Champaran – the 'orchestra belt' – girls, some as young as 12, are being sold to orchestras for as little a sum as ₹10,000. They are forced to wear inappropriate clothing and dance to vulgar songs before inebriated men. The

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Bhuwan Ribhu

is a child rights activist and the Founder of Just Rights for Children

The State must act against the system of 'dance troupes' and 'orchestras' that fuel trafficking, which is also made worse by an absence of regulatory oversight, geography and poverty

girls are punished if they refuse and raped if they resist.

How the system fails children

According to the National Crime Records Bureau data, 2,878 children were trafficked in 2022, including 1,059 girls. This is a figure that barely scratches the surface. Many cases never reach a police station because families are either complicit or fear to speak. The laws are not inadequate, but in fact, comprehensive. The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, and provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita criminalise child labour, trafficking and sexual exploitation.

But conviction rates remain abysmal. Most cases are filed as kidnappings or missing person reports. Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) are under-resourced. Investigations that concern multiple States often collapse due to jurisdictional confusion and bureaucratic delay. When girls are rescued, many are sent right back to the same families that sold them.

Despite rescue after rescue, orchestras in Bihar continue to operate with impunity. Just Rights for Children, a network of over 250 NGOs working to end violence against children, approached the Patna High Court seeking urgent prohibitory orders against orchestras. The petition calls for an immediate ban on the employment of minors in orchestras.

In response, the High Court directed the Bihar government to act without delay, recognising the trafficking and exploitation of children in orchestras to be a "serious issue". Such an acknowledgement must translate into protection at every stage of the trafficking chain.

Prevention must begin where trafficking begins. Schools must monitor attendance. When a child goes missing for weeks, it must trigger alerts and reports. Panchayats must maintain migratory registers. When children disappear, someone in the village always knows and that someone must be required to act. Parents should be made aware of what might happen to their daughters.

Transport vigilance must be ramped up. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has been monitoring vulnerable corridors and conducting awareness drives at railway stations. This model must extend to inter-State bus routes, local terminals and private carriers. Transport departments must train their staff to identify signs of trafficking.

AHTUs need full-time officers trained to coordinate measures across borders, track

industries. In some industries, labour-cost gaps were as high as 78% to 85%, reflecting the severe level of exploitation that contract workers face.

Impact on productivity

Undoubtedly, contract workers can bring job-specific skills and serve as a buffer, enabling firms to respond swiftly to market fluctuations. However, contractual employment, particularly when mediated through third-party contractors for the short term, can suffer from principal-agent problem, i.e., the misalignment of long-term interests between employers and contractors. This can lead to moral hazard issues, such as an increased likelihood of worker shirking. Moreover, short-term employment contracts can create instability in the workforce due to high labour turnover, discouraging investments in on-the-job training and innovation, stifling productivity growth in the long run.

Our analysis of real net value added per worker, a standard measure of labour productivity, shows that contract labour-intensive (CLI) enterprises have, on an average, 31% lower labour productivity when compared to regular labour-intensive (RLI) enterprises. The labour productivity gap remains higher especially in small formal enterprises with less than 100 workers (36%), followed by medium-sized enterprises with 100-300 workers (23%). The unfavourable productivity gap for CLI enterprises further widens to 42% in labour-intensive enterprises. These differentials remain significant even after controlling for firm-specific and state-specific factors that could influence labour productivity.

The negative productivity differentials observed in relatively small, medium, and labour-intensive CLI enterprises may be attributed to their higher propensity to employ contract labour as a cost-cutting measure or as a means to circumvent regulations. These are practices that ultimately prove counterproductive in the long run.

However, labour productivity was 5% higher in

networks and follow a case from rescue to prosecution. They should be held accountable.

There should be an immediate and absolute prohibition on the employment of minors in orchestras. These groups must be identified, mapped and regulated. Premises where girls are confined must be sealed. Owners, landlords and organisers must be prosecuted and their assets must be attached. The Labour Department must be mandated to inspect, report and act. Prosecution must be time-bound and rehabilitation must be long-term and state-supervised. Children must not be sent back to the environments that enabled their exploitation. Victim compensation schemes must be enforced rigorously.

Prevention is protection. Prosecution is protection. Prosecution is prevention. Trafficking is not the failure of a few systems. It is the collapse of many. Laws and enforcement are only one part of the solution. Ending exploitation is possible through prosecution.

The Centre for Legal Action and Behaviour Change (C-Lab) recently released a report, 'Building the Case for Zero: How Prosecution Acts as the Tipping Point to End Child Labour - The Case from India', that drew data from 24 States. It showed that prosecution is key to securing justice. Along with law enforcement, the NGO network rescued 53,651 children from trafficking and kidnapping (in 27,320 raids), pursuing legal action in every case. Nearly 90% of these children were trapped in the worst forms of child labour.

A strategy rooted in prevention

To succeed, we need a strategy rooted in prevention, and we need to call it PICKET. First, it begins with 'Policy' – strong and clear policies that prohibit child labour and exploitation. Second, 'Institutions' must be required to monitor, prosecute and rehabilitate. Third, the 'Convergence' of agencies, digital infrastructure and survivor-centred response is essential to combat trafficking. Fourth, 'Knowledge' is key where community awareness and intelligence gathering are crucial. The insights of survivors are among the most powerful tools we have to dismantle trafficking networks. Fifth, 'Economically', trafficking must be made unviable. And, sixth, 'Technology' must be used to track traffickers, build databases, generate heat maps and predict movement patterns. None of this will work unless States share data, digitise case records and cooperate.

Justice is not punishment, but it is prevention before harm. The only way to prevent the next girl from being trafficked is to dismantle the system that allows it. We have the tools. We have the laws. All that remains is the will. The longer we wait, the more we lose.

Adopt formalisation to power productivity growth

In recent decades, India's formal manufacturing sector has witnessed a significant negative change in its employment structure. According to the Annual Surveys of Industries (ASI), the share of contract labour in the manufacturing workforce doubled from 20% in 1999-2000 to 40.7% in 2022-23, cutting across all industries. The growing trend towards informalisation within the formal sector has been widely written about in academic and policy circles. Our study, based on plant-level ASI longitudinal data (1999-2000 to 2018-19) at an all-India level, reveals that contractualisation is detrimental to productivity when misused, highlighting the need to promote formalisation to sustain long-term productivity growth.

Plight of contract workers

The shift towards contractualisation is often viewed as a strategy to enhance operational flexibility and access specialised skills as and when required. However, examination of the plight of contract workers suggests that cost avoidance, rather than genuine labour flexibility or skills, is a major factor driving their growing use. Contract workers, typically hired through third-party contractors, are excluded from core labour laws under the Industrial Disputes Act 1947, which governs layoffs, retrenchments, and safeguards against arbitrary dismissals. Consequently, their bargaining power remains weak, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation.

The wage payments of contract workers in 2018-19 were 14.47% lower than their regular counterparts. The unfavourable wage differentials against them were more pronounced in large enterprises (31%), followed by medium and small enterprises (23% and 12%, respectively). Furthermore, if we consider the difference in the overall labour cost for employers on contract and regular workers, the disparities look even starker. The average daily labour cost to the employer for contract workers was 24% lower when compared to regular workers. The labour costs on contract workers were less than 50% of that on regular workers, in at least nine three-digit level

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Irfan Ahmad Sofi

is In-charge Head, Department of Economics, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Kashmir

Contractualisation in India's formal manufacturing is linked more to cost avoidance than it being a focus on genuine labour flexibility or skills

are considered synonymous when it comes to legitimate and recognised systems of medicine, including Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani. This recognition has been established through court rulings and government notifications, especially after the enactment of The Indian Medicine Central Council

Act, 1970, and policies supporting AYUSH. The article fails to acknowledge the acceptance Ayurveda enjoys today, as a scientific

and evidence-based holistic medical system.
Dr. K.S. Vishnu Namboothiri,
Dr. P.K. Haridas,
Thiruvananthapuram

Corrections & Clarifications

The existing electoral roll was published in Bihar on January 7, 2025, and not 2015 as mentioned in a report, "Focus on inclusion, not exclusion, SC tells EC" (News page, July 29, 2025).

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

New queen
That Divya Deshmukh is the new chess queen is wonderful news. Parents and teachers need to identify children with an interest in chess.
Gudipati Anirudh,
Secunderabad

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

Why the Gini Index is wrong about India

The Gini Index ranked India among the world's most equal societies, by giving the country a score of 25.5. This places India in a 'moderately low' inequality category. While this may be cause for celebration, the lived reality in India paints a very different picture. Inequalities, lived and those captured in statistics, permeate into everyday life in urban and rural India. The question that therefore arises is, on what basis can India be considered one of the world's most equal societies? While there is sufficient critique on the flawed methodology used in the Gini Index, this article highlights the general state of inequality that plagues India. While gender, economic, health, educational, and social inequalities have always been endemic to India, with technology and a modern ways of life, new forms of inequality such as digital and banking inequality have arisen.

Forms of inequalities

One of the fundamental forms of inequality is wealth inequality. A ride through any busy street in urban India in a luxury car which costs an average of ₹30 lakh, driven by a chauffeur who earns and supports a family on approximately ₹3 lakh per year, will highlight the stark wealth inequality that exists. Statistics also supports this reality. According to a study titled 'Income and Wealth Inequality in India, 1922-2023: The Rise of the Billionaire Raj', in 2022-23, 22.6% of the national income went to just the top 1% of the population. Further, the study mentions that data on wealth inequality is challenging to capture because of the large-scale prevalence of informal employment, low-income levels, and high thresholds for non-taxable incomes, which means that data on tax pertains to less than 10% of the adult population. The reason for the lack of data itself is indicative of inherent wealth inequality, as a

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India has a lot of groundwork to cover in bridging all forms of divides

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large part of the population has to rely on the informal sector for employment, earning significantly less than those employed in the formal sector. Gender inequality is another fundamental form of inequality in India. Women have historically been marginalised from the workforce and comprise about 35.9% of the worker population ratio. The number is starker at senior and middle management levels where women accounted for only 12.7% leadership roles as of 2024. While India has the third largest startup ecosystem in the world, women-run start-ups stand at only 7.5% of all active startups in the country. Social norms aggravate gender inequality in terms of spending family resources on the girl child, and in matters of inheritance. With rapid development of technology, access to digital technology is crucial to broadly navigate through modern day life such as easily accessing formal banking channels. While India has made commendable progress in providing access to the Internet to a large part of the population, a careful analysis of the numbers points to a severe digital divide. Lack of access to the Internet and to digital technology exacerbates the digital divide, leading to lack of opportunities for a certain demography.

For instance, only 52.7% schools have functional computers, and Internet is accessible in only 53.9% of schools across India. This contributes to the digital divide because only students from a certain socio-economic background, who have access to schools with functional computers and the Internet, will be adept in the use of technology and computers, a critical skill in today's times. Access to quality higher education and even basic entry-level jobs are difficult for students left behind. They are then pushed into employment that requires lower skills. This digital divide will continue to

perpetuate the cycle of inequality at the household level.

Other forms of digital technology also contribute towards fuelling educational inequality. For instance, combined access to broadband within households, encompassing both urban and rural areas, stands at 41.8%. This deepens educational inequality because when education becomes virtual, which is a routine occurrence in New Delhi when schools are closed during November and December because of severe air pollution, only those students in households with access to a broadband system and digital technology can continue with their education.

Inequality across realms

Inequality in one realm often permeates into other realms. For instance, digital inequality severely affects the lower income demography. However, overall, digital inequality affects women more than men. For example, only 25% of women in rural India have access to the Internet, compared to 49% of men in rural India. The Internet is a fundamental medium in accessing opportunities and technology such as Internet banking. It guarantees financial freedom and job postings. Lack of access to the Internet disables women from accessing these opportunities that are readily available to male adults, further exacerbating digital and gender inequality.

While we have reasons to pat ourselves on our backs for achieving some amount of equality in the last few years, the methodology to adjudge the ranking by Gini Index, seen along with actual and lived realities, makes one wonder as to how we achieved this ranking. It is only when a large part of the population has access to equal opportunities can we truly be among the world's most equal societies. Until then, as a society and a country, we have a lot of groundwork to cover in bridging all forms of divide.

From glory to decline

Gangaikonda Cholapuram does not need statues; it needs basic infrastructure

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
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Pomp and gaiety marked the Aadi Thiruvathirai festival, which is organised every year in Gangaikonda Cholapuram, about 105 kilometres from Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu, to mark the birth anniversary of Rajendra Chola I (1012 to 1044 CE).

The festival, which the DMK government in the State began holding from 2022, became a high-profile event this time thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's participation in the valediction ceremony. The festival also coincided with the completion of 1,000 years of the maritime expedition of the Chola emperor to Southeast Asia and the commencement of the construction of the iconic temple.

In his book, *A History of South India: From Prehistoric Times to the Fall of Vijayanagar*, historian K.A. Nilakanta Sastri states that Rajendra Chola's empire was "the most extensive and most respected Hindu state of his time." Gangaikonda Cholapuram, established by the Chola ruler, served as the capital of the imperial Cholas for about 250 years (1025 CE-1279 CE). Along with the Brihadeeswara temple in Thanjavur, built by Rajendra Chola's father, Rajaraja Chola I, the temple at Gangaikonda Cholapuram was included by UNESCO in 2004 under the category of 'Great Living Chola Temples' and declared a World Heritage Site.

On July 27, Mr. Modi spent about two hours at the temple. Unlike most of his public events, which are characterised by formal speeches and the inauguration of projects and schemes, this event was

different. Wearing a white dhoti, a half-sleeve shirt, and an *angavastram* (upper cloth), the Prime Minister enjoyed devotional renderings by a group of *Oduvurs* (hymn singers) and by music director and composer Ilaiyaraaja. In his speech, Mr. Modi praised the contributions of the Cholas and explained how their rule remains an inspiration for modern India.

The Cholas undoubtedly set a benchmark in various aspects of governance. However, their erstwhile capital is today one of the most backward districts of Tamil Nadu, Ariyalur. It is hard to believe that it was once the seat of power of a great empire for 250 years.

"It is all fine for the Prime Minister to announce the installation of statues for the two Chola emperors. But people in the district had expected him to unveil plans for infrastructure development in the region," said N. Dhanapal, a resident of Thirumanur village in Ariyalur district. "We thought he would make a statement on the approval of two long-pending railway projects – from Kumbakonam to Namakkal through Ariyalur and Perambalur, and one connecting Pattukottai, Thanjavur, and Ariyalur. We were disappointed," he added.

A predominantly agrarian district, Ariyalur has cement factories. These were established by large companies gi-

ven the availability of good quality limestone in the region. After a spell of severe pest attacks about five years ago, farmers virtually stopped raising sugarcane. "The sugar mill that we had barely functions," a resident complained. Though the Small Industries Development Corporation set up an industrial estate at Malur in the district about 10 years ago, it found few takers.

The district has a fossil tree park and a fossil museum, which are examples of palaeozoology. In fact, the geological community regards the Ariyalur region as important as the Grand Canyon in Arizona, U.S. Yet, the place barely gets any visibility.

In fact, despite being a World Heritage Site for more than 20 years, even the Gangaikonda Cholapuram temple does not attract as many international visitors as it should, primarily due to connectivity issues and lack of amenities.

It is not that there have not been efforts made to improve the district. On the eve of the festival, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had announced that the Chola Gangam lake, locally known as the Ponneri lake, would be developed at a cost of ₹12 crore, and that facilities for tourists would be improved at a cost of ₹7.25 crore. He also said that renovation work of channels around the tank and other maintenance works would be undertaken. The State government has also planned to construct a museum, spread over 10 acres, at the cost of ₹22.10 crore.

However, these plans are not enough. What the people of the district, which was the seat of the ancient capital of the Cholas, want today is sustained attention and focus on economic development of the region. That is what finally matters to them.

Free bus schemes help, but rural India pays more to travel

The share of bus expenditure out of total conveyance expenditure is 20.6% in rural India

DATA POINT

Cledwyn Fernandez and Mohd. Tahoore

The latest World Bank report has commended India for pulling 171 million people out of poverty. Using the formulation of \$2.15 a day as the poverty line, it has said that extreme poverty fell from 16.2% in 2011-12 to 2.3% in 2022-23. However, how has the consumption basket of India changed?

The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) provides an understanding of where and how India is consuming. As of 2023-24, the per capita household expenditure was ₹4,122 in rural India, and ₹6,996 in urban India. The total consumption expenditure for a household can be broadly categorised into food and non-food. In 2023-24, food accounted for 47% of expenditure in rural India, and 39% in urban India. When compared to earlier years, the share of food expenditure is lower. It is interesting to understand which non-food items account for a higher share of the consumer's wallet. All expenditures in the story are per capita, unless mentioned otherwise.

Expenditure on conveyance formed the biggest share of non-food expenditure for an average Indian consumer. Conveyance includes bus, metro, flights and other modes. The conveyance expenditure accounts for 14% of total non-food expenditure across rural and urban India. Of these, bus expenditure contributed to 20% of the total conveyance expenditure. Given the lower per capita income in rural India, households are largely reliant on buses as their primary mode of transport.

Across all major States, bus travel accounts for a higher share of conveyance expenditure in rural areas when compared to urban ones. The share of bus expenditure out of total conveyance ex-

penditure is 20.6% in rural India, but only 16.2% in urban India (Chart 1). One reason is the availability of other modes of transportation in urban areas. Moreover, there is significant State-wise variation in the share of bus expenditure. For instance, rural households in Tamil Nadu, and Kerala spend 25% of the total conveyance expenditure on bus travel while in Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and Haryana the spend is less than 20%. Underscoring the importance of bus travel as a mode of transportation, certain State governments have provided free bus services for women. In 2019, Delhi became the first State to offer this. As of 2025, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Punjab and, Jammu & Kashmir are the seven States that offer this for women. However, there is mixed evidence of the impact of the scheme on household consumption expenditure on buses. For Delhi, Karnataka, and Telangana, there has been a decline in bus expenditure in rural and urban areas. However, in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, household bus expenditure has increased from 2022-23 to 2023-24. At an all-India level, while bus expenditure has decreased by 4% in urban India, it has increased by 0.6% in rural India (Chart 2). Thus, the effect of the transport policies is less pronounced in rural areas. This data is a wake-up call for policymakers to improve the transportation infrastructure, especially in rural India, and provide greater accessibility and affordability.

Moreover, while one would expect that lower-income households rely more on buses than higher-income households, data suggest the opposite. The share of bus expenditure to conveyance expenditure is greater among higher income households than lower-income households. One possible explanation is that lower-income households are engaged in the agricultural sector, where transportation requirements are mini-

mal. On the contrary, higher-income households might avail bus services more frequently due to work commute. To understand this further, we assess the association between non-agricultural workforce participation and the share of bus expenditure to the total conveyance expenditure in urban India. The analysis suggests that there is no significant association (Table 3). Hence, this implies that per-capita bus expenditure is not associated with non-agricultural workforce participation. This tends to suggest that urban households are not using bus services just for labour market opportunities alone – a point that policymakers should take into account.

Policies and infrastructure should be developed to cushion the cost of conveyance expenditure. First, States should transition from Internal Combustion Engine buses to electric buses. This will reduce the cost for the transportation department, leading to lower ticket prices. Second, the supply of buses should increase. India has only 1.5 lakh buses, with an average of only 17 buses per one lakh people. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recommends 60 buses per one lakh people, yet many cities have fewer than 10. While Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana have approximately 30 buses per one lakh population, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha have fewer than 10.

Third, it is imperative that the quality of buses is improved, alongside better affordability. Reducing the conveyance expenditure for households, will allow them to repurpose this share of expenditure into other categories that will improve the overall quality of livelihood.

Cledwyn Fernandez is a research fellow at The Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Mohd. Tahoore was a research intern at ICRIER and is currently a student of Economics at Azim Premji University

Missing the bus?

The data for the charts were sourced from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24



Chart 1: The share of bus expenditure out of the total conveyance expenditure (2023-24), across rural and urban areas, in States offering free bus rides for women

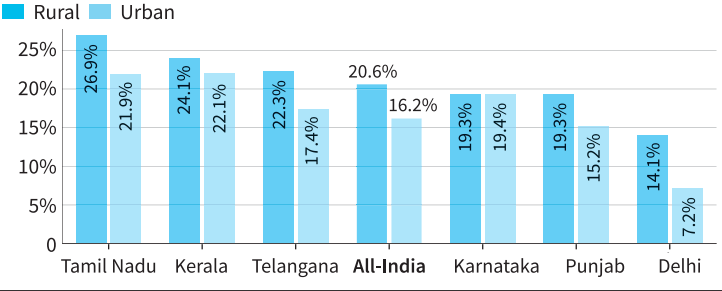


Chart 2: Year-on-year change in bus expenditure (2023-24) across rural and urban areas in States offering free bus travel schemes for women

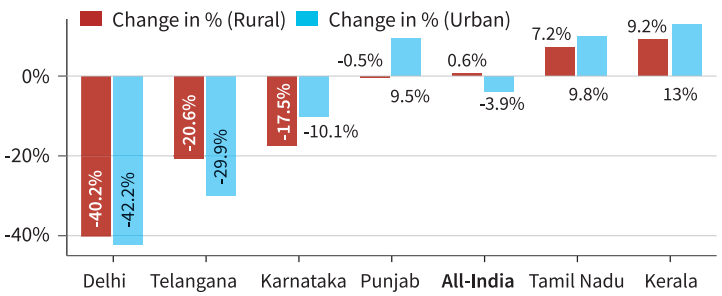


Table 3: The non-agricultural workforce participation and the share of bus expenditure to the total conveyance expenditure in urban India, in select States

	Non-agricultural workforce participation rate (%)	The share of bus to total conveyance expenditure (%)
Three States with the highest non-agricultural workforce participation rate		
Delhi	99	7.1
Kerala	73	22.1
Punjab	72.7	15.2
Three States with the lowest non-agricultural workforce participation rate		
Chhattisgarh	36.1	7.7
Madhya Pradesh	38.4	17.8
Uttar Pradesh	44	14.1

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 30, 1975

What caused poisonous gas in Apollo

Honolulu, July 29: Failure to throw two switches in the final minutes of their mission set off a sequence that resulted in poison gas streaming into the spacecraft of the three Apollo astronauts, space officials said.

Dr. Glynn Lunney, the Technical Director for the Apollo-Soyuz Mission, said that astronauts Stafford, Brand and Slayton failed to throw a switch to start the automatic landing system as the spacecraft fell towards the Pacific Ocean.

"This may have happened as a result of the crew's attention being diverted," said Dr. Lunney. There was an unexplained squeal on communications lines and it might have made the astronauts fail to throw the proper switches.

Moments later the astronauts manually jettisoned a spacecraft apex cover and deployed the parachutes, but did not shut off a small rocket thruster system.

The rocket thrusters fired rapidly in an apparently automatic effort to control the spacecraft's altitude. Then the crew quickly shut down the rocket thrusters.

However, said Dr. Lunney, vapours in the line were discharged and sucked into the cabin through an intake valve.

According to on-board tapes, he said, "there was a fair amount of coughing."

"The crew were recovering from their surprise and they activated the earth landing system," said Dr. Lunney, even though they were suffering from eye irritation and coughing.

The astronauts manually deployed the main parachutes at 9,000 feet, a thousand feet lesser than usual.

The spacecraft splashed down and immediately turned over placing the astronauts upside down and still coughing from the poison vapours.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 30, 1925

Sea bathing club, Madras

A surveyor has, we understand, been deputed by the Revenue Department to measure out the land (near Queen Mary's College), the lease of which had been applied for by the Sea Bathing Club. The premises of the Club will extend 50 feet east, 100 feet west and 150 feet north and south from the foundation stone. The buildings will be very near the high-water mark.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Tiger deaths that occurred outside tiger reserves since 2021

50 In per cent. More than half of the tiger deaths in India between 2021 and the end of 2025 have occurred outside protected reserves, with Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh accounting for the highest numbers. According to NTCA, 341 tiger deaths occurred outside tiger reserves. PTI

Number of countries to join International Big Cat Alliance

24 The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is an India-led global initiative to protect seven species of big cats. 12 countries — India, Armenia, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Guinea, Liberia, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Somalia and Suriname — are members of the alliance. PTI

Cost of U.S. tariffs on Poland as per preliminary estimates

2.16 In \$ billion. The new U.S. tariffs on European products could cost Poland around 8 billion zlotys (\$2.16 billion), according to preliminary estimates. Poland does not export many products directly to the U.S., but expects to suffer knock-on effects. REUTERS

Cost of Arunachal's plan to transform the State's power sector

6,519 In ₹ crore. The Arunachal Pradesh government rolled out a ₹6,519-crore plan to transform the State's power sector, aimed at reducing losses, by modernising the electricity grid, and ensuring a reliable power supply. PTI

Estimated increase in collections from surcharges in 2025-26

13 In per cent. The Centre aims to collect cess of over ₹4.18 lakh crore in the current fiscal, an 8% growth over the collections as per the Revised Estimates of Union Budget FY25. Collections from surcharges are expected to increase to over ₹1.72 lakh crore. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What did the ICJ say on climate obligations?

How has the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice reiterated the fundamental principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change? What does the opinion state about Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities? Does it introduce any new obligations?

EXPLAINER

T. Javaraman
Tejal Kanitkar

The advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the obligations of countries to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and the legal consequences of the harm occasioned by their failure to meet these obligations, on July 23 has been the subject of much discussion. While it is a welcome affirmation of the multilateral climate regime at a time when the U.S appears to have damaged it through its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, it also raises questions on, inter alia, its interpretation of the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement and its occlusion of the development imperatives of the global South.

How has it upheld the case for the global South?

The ICJ's opinion has several elements that the global South, including India, should be able to welcome. First, the Court has emphasised the significance of the totality of the climate regime, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. This is in sharp contrast to the view of developed countries that have argued for sidelining the Convention and dismissing the Protocol, stating that the Paris Agreement had become the sole binding instrument of the multilateral climate regime. Across several paragraphs in its opinion, the Court has set out how the obligations of countries, especially those of developed nations, flow from various articles of the UNFCCC, particularly the provision of extending climate finance, technology transfer and capacity building to developing countries by developed nations. In underlining the foundational role of the UNFCCC, the Court has also reiterated the significance of the Convention's Annex-I and Annex-II, noting that the developed countries listed therein will continue to have additional obligations compared to the rest of the world. This is a firm rebuff, not only to the governments of the global North, but also to a vocal section of climate academia, that had proclaimed the end of Annex-based differentiation since the Paris accord was signed.

In yet another affirmation of the global South's perspective, the ICJ opinion identifies the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR&RC), drawing on Article 3 of the Convention, as the "core guiding principle for determining the implementation of the climate change treaties". Further in para 152, it affirms universality to the CBDR&RC principle, noting that it "guides the interpretation of obligations under international environmental law beyond its express articulation in different treaties", opening up the possibility for extending the principle to arenas like biodiversity.

Additionally, the ICJ's opinion notes the qualification to differentiation between developed and developing nations introduced by the Paris Agreement with the addition of the phrase, "and in the light of national circumstances" to the term CBDR&RC. The Court views the qualification as a nuance which points out that what constitutes a 'developed' or 'developing' nations is not static. This will undoubtedly be a bone of contention in further interpretations of this opinion.

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Climate action now: Villagers gather around a well to draw water in Telamwadi, northeast of Mumbai, India, on May 6, 2023. AP

What about the temperature goal? While these reaffirmations of the fundamental principles and values of the climate regime are noteworthy there is also much in the opinion that conforms to the narrative that developed countries, allied with some of the small island states and a range of vulnerable developing countries, have attempted to build over the years in interpreting the Paris Agreement.

The opinion insists that the temperature target for limiting global warming as in Article 2.1 (a) of the Paris Agreement, no longer holds in defining the obligation of states. Article 2.1 clearly designates "well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels" as the primary goal, while "pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees C."

However, the Court argues that two paras from decisions of the 26th and 28th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC, in which Parties have expressed agreement with the need to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius, constitute an agreement among Parties to rewrite the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement itself. Hence, the opinion concludes, Parties' mitigation efforts must be aligned with collectively achieving the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal and not the range provided in the Agreement. This is a strange conclusion considering that the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold is likely to be passed in a very few years. Nor does the opinion engage itself with the consequences of the breach of the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal. Even to lay opinion, it appears very odd that decisions taken in implementing an agreement should be interpreted as modifying the terms of the agreement itself.

Much of the Court's enthusiasm for the 1.5 degrees Celsius target appears to stem from uncritical cherry-picking of a few headline statements from the Sixth Assessment Cycle reports (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Court has not considered it necessary that the IPCC reports themselves should be subject to scrutiny through the lens of equity. This is evident when it uncritically cites the IPCC's global target of GHG emissions reduction of 43% below 2020 levels by 2030 and 65% by 2035 for limiting

temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The recently concluded annual climate meeting of the UNFCCC held at Bonn, Germany, itself has now acknowledged the lack of equity and CBDR&RC in such projections.

Has the Court broken new ground on enforcing obligations?

Despite the extensive discussion on the obligations of states, in the context of climate laws and more generally in international law, the opinion does not articulate a more stringent framework of enforcement. In direct continuity with the established interpretation of the Paris Agreement by the global North, it holds that the provision of means of implementation as well as domestic mitigation action are only obligations of conduct (this means a duty which is to be performed towards achieving an outcome rather than guaranteeing the outcome itself). Only procedural aspects of the Paris Agreement, such as the timely and periodic submission of Nationally Determined Contributions are held to constitute stronger obligations of result. The opinion argues that even as obligations of conduct, the requirements on countries to meet their commitments can be sufficiently stringent. However, it depends on suitable courts with the requisite jurisdiction to enforce them and is contingent on the circumstances of every individual case.

At best, the Court's opinion may be welcomed for reiterating the original intent of the Paris Agreement, in the face of the growing reluctance of developed nations to meet their obligations, but it breaks no significant new ground in this regard. Given the lack of appetite for climate action in the global North, and their opposition to even these weak obligations, the reiteration by the Court is undoubtedly of some value.

What are some of the gaps in the opinion?

The most striking lacuna in the opinion is its near-total sidelining of the twin challenge that global warming poses to the development of the global South, that is extensively discussed even in the IPCC. On the one hand southern nations will be increasingly unable to meet their energy needs for rapid poverty eradication and

sustainable growth in the absence of adequate carbon space, while on the other hand low-carbon development requires finance and technology on a scale that remains out of reach.

As Judge Xue Hanqin notes, in concluding her separate opinion, "the Advisory Opinion fails to point out that, for peoples and individuals of the present and future generations affected by the adverse effects of climate change, the ultimate solution to guarantee them a clean, healthy and sustainable climate lies in a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all states based on international co-operation between developed and developing states."

With the opinion falling short on these two key issues for the global South, its qualification that equity and CBDR&RC would introduce no new obligations but only guide the interpretation and implementation of climate treaties, should be a matter of concern for developing countries. Much of the enthusiasm in global civil society for the opinion, stems from the prospect of further litigation at the national or regional level, with the opinion allowing the possibility that affected countries such as small island states could claim reparation or compensation. However, the opinion also makes clear that these would require independently establishing attribution, "wrongfulness" and causation regarding the actions of Parties held responsible for harm, though it opens the door to their more expansive interpretation.

On the issue of concerted global climate action though, and at the climate negotiations, it is unlikely that the advisory opinion would substantially move the needle, reproducing existing fault lines rather than overcoming them. As several of the separate opinions from various judges themselves indicate, the opinion may represent a missed opportunity rather than a game-changing intervention in the global climate discourse.

T. Javaraman is at the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, Chennai. Tejal Kanitkar is at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

The ICJ opinion identifies the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR&RC), drawing on Article 3 of the Convention, as the "core guiding principle for determining the implementation of the climate change treaties".

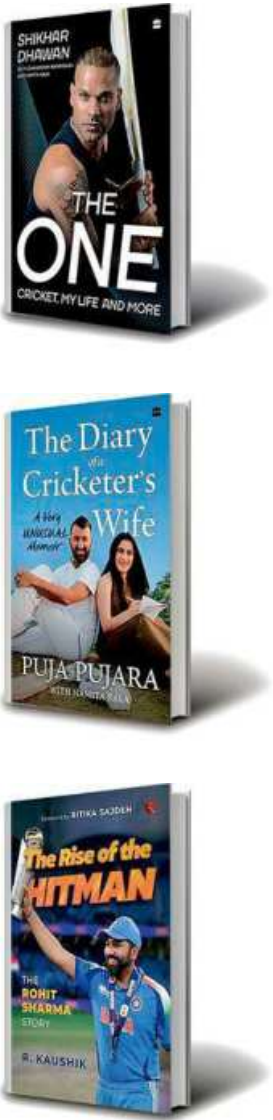
The opinion insists that the temperature target for limiting global warming as in Article 2.1 (a) of the Paris Agreement, no longer holds in defining the obligation of states.

The Court's opinion may be welcomed for reiterating the original intent of the Paris Agreement, in the face of the growing reluctance of developed nations to meet their obligations, but it breaks no significant new ground in this regard

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Cricket craze: Players of the T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricket team with the championship trophy during their open bus victory parade, in Mumbai, on July 4, 2024. PTI



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

“You attended Sheela’s wedding. How was the boy?”
“He has a good personality. He is tall and handsome.”
“Personality in Indian English refers to the physical features. In English it refers to the distinctive character or qualities of a person – not the physical features. The word nuptial refers to marriage or wedding in English. In South Indian English it refers to the consummation of the wedding (*Santhi Muhurtham*).”
“Now that your exams are over, what are you doing?”
“Keeping quiet.”
“You mean you are silent.”
“No. I am not doing anything.”
“If you are keeping quiet, you are silent. In Indian English it means you are not doing anything.”
“I am going to practise athletics and I am going to the sportsfield.”
“Do you know what gymnastics means? It means ‘naked’. In Greece, the athletes practised in the nude.”
“Oh God!”
“Yes. It was considered good for health. Boys and men practised in the nude.”
“Good, I don’t have to go nude.”
“Do you know who is a lord?”
“He is a keeper of the loaf. *Hlaf Weard*.”
“Who is a lady?”
“A lady is a kneader of the bread.”
“Who is an assassin?”
“Whether you picture the typical assassin as steely, cold, precise, and calculating or as wild, drug-crazed, and passionate, the original assassins were clearly of this second type. They were members of a widespread Islamic sect, who regarded the murder of enemies a religious duty. In Syria, during the Middle Ages, they harassed the Christian crusaders and the word reached Europe. It was believed, rightly or wrongly, that these fanatical warriors took hashish (an Arabic – and English – word for cannabis, originally meaning perhaps ‘dried grass’) before going on their terror raids, in order to intensify their courage and daring. It was their leader, known as ‘The Old Man of the Mountains,’ who apparently urged them to do this. So assassin goes back, through French and Medieval Latin, to the Arabic hashshashin, ‘hashish eaters.’”
Published in The Hindu on June 10, 1997.

From the pitch: looking back at the sporting journeys of three Indian batters

For the best part of the 2010s, Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and Cheteshwar Pujara formed the bedrock of Indian batting along with Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane. The book on Rohit, Dhawan’s memoir and Pujara’s biography, penned by his wife, recount both their successes and setbacks

Vivek Krishnan

To play cricket for India is an honour that is accorded to a handful. To do so for more than a decade and be remembered for their deeds on the big stage is a monumental accomplishment that even fewer can take pride in. To undertake this arduous journey to the pinnacle of the sport requires an abundance of skill, sacrifice, hard work, hunger, dedication and discipline. As well as perhaps a slice of luck and serendipity. A poignant reminder of the challenges involved in carving a long and successful career for India has come by virtue of recent books chronicling the lives of Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and Cheteshwar Pujara. For the best part of the 2010s, a period where India’s status as a dominant cricketing power grew exponentially, these three formed the bedrock of the batting unit along with Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane, although not in the same formats. Rohit and Dhawan forged an extremely successful opening combination in the 50-over game while Pujara enshrined himself as India’s No. 3 in Tests. Among the three, only Rohit gained recognition across all formats with the passage of time. The three books meticulously recount their successes and setbacks on the playing field. They also help us grasp the strenuous efforts in the early years that went into each of them, possessing distinctly varied personalities and playing styles, rising up the ranks from their respective cities and capturing a place in the hearts of a

cricket-crazy country.

Chronicling the rise of Rohit
The Rise of the Hitman: The Rohit Sharma Story (Rupa) by R. Kaushik pieces together the story of a boy from the bustling metropolis of Mumbai who matured into one of India’s great openers and captains. In the introductory section, Kaushik writes: “Whether he likes it or not, he is already a legend – a status cemented after he led India to the T20 World Cup crown in Bridgetown.” To back up the 2024 triumph by lifting the Champions Trophy title in March this year, the image of which adorns the book cover, means he is one of only two Indian captains – the other is M.S. Dhoni – to win two ICC trophies. While the book doesn’t encompass the protagonist’s account, Kaushik, a senior journalist who has extensively covered the 38-year-old’s international career right from its infancy, does a fine job of documenting Rohit’s rise and career. There are compelling insights and anecdotes from many of Rohit’s confidants, colleagues and coaches, including Rahul Dravid, V.V.S. Laxman, Anil Kumble, Yuvraj Singh and Ajit Agarkar among others. In the early pages, the author traces Rohit’s initiation into the game at the age of 12 as an off-spinner, and the rapid transition to a batting prodigy catching the attention of the who’s who of Indian cricket. He was called up to the Mumbai nets at around 17, and took just another three years to don the India jersey. While he swiftly sparked with his languid strokeplay in India’s triumph in the inaugural 2007 World T20, setbacks

were in store as Rohit navigated the cut-throat environment of international cricket. Two major ones were an injury on the morning of what should have been his Test debut against South Africa in 2010 and his omission from India’s ODI World Cup squad a year later. The snub from the 50-over spectacle spurred Rohit to put things right. All the decisive moments of Rohit’s journey are narrated in detail: the move to open the batting, hitting a record five centuries in the 2019 ODI World Cup, his legacy as a leader, the agony of losing the 2023 ODI World Cup final at home and the ecstasy of winning the 2024 T20 World Cup. **Dhawan’s memoir**
Rohit’s former opening partner, Dhawan, tells his story in *The One: Cricket, My Life and More* (HarperCollins), with co-authors Chandresh Narayanan and Namita Kala. Apart from elaborating on his achievements on the cricket field, the treatise throws light on Dhawan’s life experiences and convivial nature. He is also candid about his troubled marriage and separation with Aesha Mukerji. True to his character, the book has numerous anecdotes that bring a chuckle. Like the bit on how his ‘Gabbar’ moniker was given to him by a teammate because he rattled off the dialogues of the iconic character from Sholay while fielding at silly point during a domestic match for Delhi. There are also startling revelations about being approached to fix matches twice in his career, first in the now-defunct Indian Cricket League and then during the IPL. He dealt with it promptly and dutifully in both instances. On how he would want to be

remembered, Dhawan notes: “A man who played with heart, who smiled through his battles, who didn’t complicate life.” **Pujara’s story**
At the other end of the spectrum is Pujara, both in demeanour and style of play. And the book pertaining to the 37-year-old is a unique offering, for his wife Puja has turned author to tell his story from a partner’s outlook. *The Diary of a Cricketer’s Wife* (HarperCollins), co-written with Namita Kala, is an engaging read that depicts not just the struggles and sacrifices of the ace batter in acquiring prominence, but also of supportive family members. For example, on the morning of a Test in Perth during India’s tour of Australia in 2018-19, Pujara’s father suffered a heart issue in the wee hours in Rajkot for the second time in three months. Puja discloses how she and other relatives sprung into action and rushed the senior Pujara to hospital. They didn’t keep the junior Pujara in the know until the end of the Test so that his focus didn’t waver from the challenge of conquering the Australian bowlers. Puja is also forthcoming on the feeling of hurt and anger that festered inside her when her husband was dropped from India’s Test team in 2023. “I was outraged! And overwhelmed. Upset by the latest turn of events, I found it difficult to wrap my head round the fact that Cheteshwar was once again expected to shoulder the sole blame for India’s defeat,” she writes. Such passages remind us that these elite cricketers and their families, for all their stupendous efforts on and off the field, are human at the end of the day.

THE DAILY QUIZ

July 29 marks the death anniversary of Vincent van Gogh. The second part of a quiz on the Dutch master whose style continues to be an object of aesthetic attraction

Prathmesh Kher

- QUESTION 1**
What was the title of the art society exhibition in 1890 where Van Gogh’s work was displayed, and which drew critical attention in Paris?
- QUESTION 2**
What short-lived artist colony did Van Gogh hope to establish in Arles, and who was its first and only member besides Van Gogh?
- QUESTION 3**
The Red Vineyard was the only painting Van Gogh sold during his lifetime. Who purchased it?
- QUESTION 4**
Van Gogh died of a gunshot wound in 1890. What were his reported final words, and what do they reveal about his state of mind?
- QUESTION 5**
Which artist painted Van Gogh on his deathbed?



Visual question:
What is the title of this painting, how much did it sell for, and why does it stand out among Van Gogh’s body of work and the broader art market?

- Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz:** 1. Several historians say an argument with a fellow painter led to Van Gogh cutting off his ear. **Ans: Paul Gauguin**
2. Japanese auteur Akira Kurasawa paid homage to Van Gogh with this segment in this anthology. **Ans: Crows; Dreams**
3. Name the hand-painted animated feature that came out in 2017 as a homage to the artist. **Ans: Loving Vincent**
4. Van Gogh stayed here when he painted the Starry Nights. **Ans: Saint-Paul Asylum in Saint-Rémy-de-Provence**
5. Name the only painting by Van Gogh that was sold while he was alive. **A: The Red Vineyard**
Visual: The meaning Van Gogh intended to convey with his painting, the ‘Bedroom in Arles’. **Ans: A desire for absolute rest**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Sumana Dutta| Sunil Madhavan| Tamal Biswas| Sudhir Thapa

Please send in your answers to
dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Word of the day

Hewn:
cut or shaped with the hard blows of a heavy cutting instrument like an axe or chisel

Synonyms: cut, carve

Usage: While walking up the street, we saw a path hewn through the hedge of the mansion.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/hewnpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /hju:n/

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

From Page One

3 Pak. terrorists behind Pahalgam killed: Centre

Mr. Shah said that the identity of the terrorists and their involvement was confirmed with the help of ballistic and forensic reports and the testimony of four other witnesses, including two accused, who had given them shelter a day before the attack.

Pakistani voter identity cards and chocolates made in Pakistan were found on the terrorists, establishing they came from Pakistan, he said.

“Two AK-47 rifles and an M4 carbine rifle were recovered from their bodies. The spent cartridges recovered from Baisaran (Pahalgam) meadow were matched with the weapons recovered during Operation Mahadev yesterday,” the Minister added. He said that the first information about the presence of terrorists in the Dachigam area was received on May 22. “On May 22, IB got human intelligence that the presence of terrorists has been tracked in Dachigam. With the help of equipment made by our agencies, communication signals were tracked from May 22 to July 22 and continuous attempts were made to track them. IB and Army set out on foot patrolling to catch the signals, we got the first confirmation on July 22 with the help of sensors. 4 Para unit of the Army, CRPF, and J&K police jawans cornered the terrorists. Five human assets were also sent and we killed the three terrorists who killed the innocent civilians,” Mr. Shah said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had earlier arrested two men who provided food and shelter to the terrorists a day before the attack. “NIA has arrested two accused, Bashir and Parvez, who provided them food in their *dhok* (hut), two kilometres away [from Baisaran meadow] on April 21 at 8 p.m. The two were wearing black clothes, they had tea and food, and while leaving, also took some spices from the hut,” he said.

Mr. Shah said the NIA interviewed 1,055 people, including all the victims of the terror attack, their family members, pony riders, photographers, and others working nearby. More than 3,000 hours of interview footage has been recorded on video, he added.

SC to begin hearing on Presidential Reference

“Timelines must be followed scrupulously,” the Chief Justice told the lawyers. The Bench said that no lawyer, except Mr. Venugopal, would be allowed to appear online.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta supported this wholeheartedly, saying that the distinguished counsel was “sui generis (unique)”.

The States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala have urged the Court to dismiss the Presidential Reference, arguing it was really an “appeal in disguise”.

Kerala, represented by Mr. Venugopal and C.K. Sasi, said the President could only refer questions to the Supreme Court under its advisory jurisdiction of Article 143 of the Constitution if they had not been decided by the Supreme Court.

The State pointed out that the Tamil Nadu Governor case judgment authored by Justice J.B. Pardiwala on April 8 had already addressed in detail the questions raised in the Presidential Reference in May. Quoting judicial precedents, including the 1993 Reference in the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, the State said that the powers of the Governors and the President under Article 200 and 201 of the Constitution have been the subject of three separate authoritative judgments in the cases filed by Telangana, Punjab and, finally, Tamil Nadu on April 8. “When the Supreme Court in its adjudicatory jurisdiction pronounces its authoritative opinion on a question of law, it cannot be said that there is any doubt about the question of law or the same is res integra so as to require the President to know what the true position of law on the question is. The decision of this Court on a question of law is binding on all courts and authorities. Hence, the President can refer a question of law only when this Court has not decided it,” Kerala submitted.

If the government wanted to challenge the April 8 judgment, it should have filed a review or a curative petition in the Supreme Court, and not taken the route of a Presidential reference, Kerala has contended.

T.N. caste killing case: Sub-Inspector couple suspended

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Saravanan and Krishnaveni, both Sub-Inspectors attached to the Armed Police, have been placed under suspension after their names figured in the murder of a Scheduled Caste youth by their son in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu.

While their son Surjith, 23, was arrested for the murder of Kavin Selvaganesh, 27, an IT employee from Arumugamangalam near Eral in Thoothukudi district, on Sunday, investigators were questioning Sa-

ravanan and his wife Krishnaveni to find out their alleged involvement.

Kavin's family alleged that caste hatred was behind the gruesome murder. Surjith, who belongs to the Most Backward Class, suspected that Kavin was in a relationship with his sister. Acting on the complaint of the victim's mother Tamil Selvi, a teacher, the police registered a murder case against Surjith and his parents and invoked different Sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015.

Manipur preparing for special intensive revision, says Joint CEO

BLO training, meetings with political parties under way; Joint CEO adds no specific timelines have been communicated for SIR in Manipur; Opposition parties, including Congress, criticise exercise as a roundabout way of implementing the NRC

Abhinav Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Manipur has begun training sessions for booth-level officers (BLOs) and meetings with political parties for a special intensive revision (SIR) of the photo electoral rolls of the State, an exercise that the Election Commission is currently holding in Bihar drawing flak from Opposition parties for allegedly being a roundabout way to a National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Election officials in the State said the training and meetings were being conducted as per communication from the EC “both formally and informally”.

Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Manipur, Ramananda Nongmeikapam told *The Hindu*, “This is in keeping with the SIR preparation under way across several other States. In Bihar, this exercise is already under way. The preparation here is as per the EC's proposal to hold SIR across the country. So far, no communication has been given on specific timelines for this exercise in Manipur.”

According to notifications made public by the office of the District Election Officers across Manipur for meetings with political parties, there is a reference to “the ensuing special intensive revision



Extensive exercise: A meeting between election officials and representatives of political parties was held in Imphal on July 25 to discuss the revision of electoral rolls. @CEOMANIPUR/X Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nValQ

of Photo Electoral Rolls w.r.t. 1.1.2026 as the qualifying date”. One of these notifications – from Kakching district – said the meeting would be about SIR, house-to-house survey, and rationalisation of polling stations “under Pre-Revision activities as part of the upcoming Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls”.

On July 25, at a meeting chaired by the Joint CEO, “The participating parties were sensitised about the EC's proposal to conduct a special intensive revision across the country, aimed at safeguarding the integrity and accuracy of our democratic process,” the poll

body in the State said.

Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee president Keisham Meghachandra, who attended the July 25 meeting, told *The Hindu*, “It seemed like through the SIR, they also want to change voting address of internally displaced persons to the relief camp locations where they are temporarily living. This was opposed by us as it would lead the State away from peace.”

Training sessions
According to the CEO's official posts on social media, training sessions with BLOs and BLO supervisors and meetings with political

parties have been held this month across several Assembly constituencies in the State such as Khangabok, Phungyar, Lamlai, Heirok, Noney, Ukhrul, among others.

The Chief Electoral Officer of Nagaland has also held training sessions in the State this July where “duties of BLOs in special intensive revision” was among the topics for the sessions, according to a public statement issued through the Department of Information and Public Relations of Nagaland.

The training sessions for SIR in Manipur comes even as the State continues to deal with the crisis trig-

gered by the ethnic conflict between the valley-based Meitei community and the hills-based Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zo group of communities. Notably, one of the key issues that Meitei civil society organisations and erstwhile Chief Minister N. Biren Singh had blamed for the conflict was alleged “illegal immigration of Kukis” from neighbouring Myanmar.

During the Lok Sabha elections in the State in 2024, the Bharatiya Janata Party had included the promise of an NRC as one of its top poll planks during campaigning for the Inner Manipur constituency.

Mr. Meghachandra said, “We made it clear at the July 25 meeting that the process should be fair. There should not be any attempt to add bogus voters either. Even Home Minister Amit Shah and former CM N. Biren Singh have spoken about illegal immigration in the State.”

The last Assembly election in Manipur was held in 2022, which saw BJP emerge as the single largest party in the Assembly, with the government being formed with N. Biren Singh as Chief Minister.

Currently, the State is under President's Rule, imposed in February this year, almost two years after the ethnic conflict began in the State.

HC acquits 3 in 2002 riots case, cites lack of evidence

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Nearly two decades after their conviction, the Gujarat High Court has acquitted three men in a 2002 post-Godhra riots case, ruling that the evidence against them was unreliable and insufficient for conviction.

A Bench of Justice Gita Gopi overturned the May 29, 2006, judgment by a fast-track court in Anand, which had sentenced Sachin Patel, Ashok Patel, and Ashok Gupta to five years of rigorous imprisonment.

“The learned trial court judge had erred in the appreciation of the evidence. The conviction was not based on reliable and corroborative evidence. The identification of the accused has not been proved during the trial,” the High Court said in its order passed on Monday.

The case related to violence that broke out a day after two coaches of the Sabarmati Express were set on fire at Godhra station on February 27, 2002, killing 59 people and triggering widespread riots in Gujarat.

According to the prosecution, the three appellants were part of a mob that gathered in a locality in Anand, damaged shops, and set some of them on fire, allegedly violating prohibitory orders under Section 135 of the Bombay Police Act.

No decision has been taken to update National Population Register: Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that no decision had been taken to update the National Population Register (NPR) during the 2027 Census exercise.

The NPR is the first step for the creation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC), according to the Citizenship Rules, 2003 under the Citizenship Act, 1955. The NPR was first created in 2010 and data were collected simultaneously during the first phase of the 2011 Census – called the House Listing and Housing (HLO) schedule. The NPR database, which has the details of 119 crore residents, was updated in 2015-16.



Disputed project: Activists protest against the CAA, NRC and NPR at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi in March 2020. SANDEEP SAXENA

The Hindu reported on July 9 that during a conference of the Directors of Census Operations held on July 3 and 4, Home Ministry officials informed the participants that no decision had been made regarding update of the NPR.

Responding to a ques-

tion and housing Census will be notified in due course.”

He added that the Government of India had notified its intent to conduct Census in the Gazette on June 16 and the Census would be conducted in two phases – the houselisting and housing Census, where the housing conditions, assets and amenities of each household will be collected, and the population enumeration phase, where the demographic, socio-economic, cultural and other details of every person in each household will be collected.

“In Census, Caste enumeration will also be done,” the reply said.

It said that the estimated financial outlay for conducting Census was under finalisation.

Indian officials reach out to post-Assad government in Syria

Kallol Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

Marking a fresh beginning in ties with Damascus in the post-Assad era, India reached out to the Syrian provisional government under the leadership of President Ahmed Hussein al-Sharaa, also known as Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, this week.

Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary for the West Asia and North Africa division at the External Affairs Ministry, met the Syrian provisional government's Foreign Minister Asaad Hassan al-Shaibani on Monday in Damascus, according to officials here. Sources said he was accompanied by several other Indian officials, including the Indian Ambassador to Syria, Irshad Ahmed.

Both teams held “constructive dialogue on issues of mutual interest and explored new avenues to strengthen bilateral ties for the benefit of both nations”, Syria's Foreign Ministry said in its official Telegram channel.

This is India's first outreach to Syria since the fall of former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who was ousted in December 2024 after a quarter century in power. India had maintained close ties with the Syrian Arab Republic un-

This is India's first outreach to Syria since the fall of Assad, who was ousted in Dec. 2024

der his rule and that of his father Hafez al-Assad, who was President for three decades, from 1970 onwards.

Since the end of the Assad era though, India has been championing a “Syrian-led” government to resolve the political crisis that has gripped the country.

Medical aid
Apart from his meeting with the Syrian Foreign Minister, Mr. Kumar also met Syrian Health Minister MUSAAB AL-ALI. Syria has a large war-affected population in need of urgent medical care and the two sides discussed cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector and in the training of medical personnel to help the affected population.

In a post on X, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that India had also handed over a “consignment of 5 MT of essential life saving medicines, including anti-cancer, antibiotics and anti-hypertensives to Syria”. “India's humanitarian support to the people of Syria continues,” he added.

DRDO holds back-to-back Pralay missile test flights

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted consecutive test flights of the Pralay missile from Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha on Monday and Tuesday. These validated its maximum and minimum range capability with pinpoint accuracy.

Pralay is an indigenously developed solid-propellant quasi-ballistic missile with advanced guidance and multiple warhead capabilities.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh praised the successful test flights.

ACEnovation invites applications for National Storytelling Championship

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The National Storytelling Championship India 2025, organised by ACEnovation, is inviting participants from ages 3 to over 103, across six categories, to share their stories, whether folk tales, personal anecdotes, or original fiction, in any language. *The Hindu in School* is the event's official media partner.

In alignment with the National Education Policy, which recognises the importance of holistic development, the championship provides a unique platform to enhance narra-



tive abilities and confidently share their voices.

The pan-India event aims to empower storytellers to address social issues, preserve local folklore, and promote cultural diversity.

The registration fee is ₹400 per participant.

The last date to register is August 20. The stories can be submitted in any language. The grand finale will be held at the Vellore Institute of Technology,

Chennai campus, on October 2. Prizes include a trophy, and cash prizes of ₹25,000 for the junior category, and ₹1,00,00 for the senior category, among others. Visit www.national-storytellingchampionship.com for registration, guidelines, and more information. For inquiries, contact admin@acenovation.com, or call +91 8939951230.

The Hindu in School is the media partner, and the organising partners are VIT Chennai, *Amar Chitra Katha*, MCC BOYD Tandon School of Business, The Blu Hornbill Club, and the World Storytelling Championship.



APPEAL

Sivanesesh is 13 years old suffering from "Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia". He is advised to undergo Chemotherapy and Radiation at **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai**. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. He is from a very poor family and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to undergo the treatment. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai** will be acknowledged. The donations sent through Ch/D.D./M.O/NFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No.60182010063310, IFSC No.CNBR0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF 4, Corridal Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pyyroffs Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/131523781/7338978027. Email ID: womenswelfare syndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfare syndicate.org

WWS

Chidambaram gave clean chit to Pakistan: Amit Shah

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday accused former Union Minister and senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram of giving a clean chit to Pakistan as the latter said there was no evidence that the Pahalgam terrorists came from Pakistan.

In an interview with a media platform, Mr. Chidambaram said: "...they are unwilling to disclose what the NIA has done all these weeks. Have they identified the terrorists?...where they came from? For all we know, they could be home-grown terrorists. Why do you assume that they came from Pakistan? There is no evidence of that."

Mr. Shah said there was evidence that the three terrorists involved in the Pahalgam terror attack were Pakistanis because Pakistani voter numbers of two out of three terrorists are available and the chocolates found with them were also made in Pakistan.

"The former Home Minister of the country is giving a clean chit to Pakistan in front of the whole world and by doing so, he is also raising the question that why did we attack Pakistan? He asks for proof but today 140 crore people of the country have come to know about their conspiracy to defend Pakistan," Mr. Shah said.

No world leader asked us to stop operation: Modi

Through Operation Sindoor, India had put Pakistan on notice of retaliation for terror attacks, PM tells Lok Sabha; air defence has come out with a sterling reputation across the world, he adds

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that through Operation Sindoor, India had put Pakistan on notice of retaliation for terror attacks.

"Not a single world leader asked us to stop the operation. Our actions were precise and non-escalatory, just as we had committed," he said in a clear refutation of U.S. claims that it mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

He said this in his intervention during a debate in the Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor that had followed the terror attack in Pahalgam in J&K that left 26 people dead.

In a speech lasting one hour and 42 minutes, Mr. Modi gave a detailed statement on not just what led to Operation Sindoor and its aftermath but also his communication with U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance.

"Not a single world leader told India to stop its operations. On the night of May 9, the Vice-President of America tried to talk to me – he tried for an hour – but I was in a meeting with officers of the armed forces so I could not pick up his call. Later, I called him back. The Vice-President



Hitting back: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during a Lok Sabha debate on Tuesday. SANSAD TV/PTI

of America told me on the phone that Pakistan was going to launch a big attack on India. My answer was that if Pakistan has this intention, it will cost them a lot. If Pakistan attacks, we will respond by launching a big attack. This was my answer," he said.

While the government has been maintaining this claim since the ceasefire, the field got murky because of repeated assertions by U.S. President Donald Trump that he had brought about the ceasefire.

The Indian stand, also repeated by Mr. Modi in his speech, was that India's disabling of Pakistani air defence and airbases deep into its hinterlands got that country's Director-General of Military Operations

(DGMO) to call his Indian counterpart to ask for a ceasefire.

'Halted not ended'

The debate in the Lok Sabha on Operation Sindoor also saw the Prime Minister delineate five new factors that have emerged. He said that India's tough stance on terror, of retaliating, had Pakistan on notice that if it sent terror India's way, it would continue to face Operation Sindoor that had only been halted and not ended. He said that India's air defence had come out of Operation Sindoor with a sterling reputation across the world.

"This is an era of technology-driven war. Pakistan sent across over a 1,000 drones and other missiles on May 9, all of

which were brought down by India's air defence," he said, adding that a market for India's defence equipment had expanded to over 100 countries.

He said that his government's vision for national security included the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) that demonstrated during Operation Sindoor the synergy between the three wings of the armed forces as well.

A major part of his speech was devoted to an aggressive attack on the Congress, which had raised questions based on Mr. Trump's claims, but also had raised questions on the Uri operation and Bala-kot air strikes by the Indian government in the past. "The Congress seems to be taking its talking points from Pakistan," he said.

Mr. Modi then delved into history to "expose" what he said were diplomatic missteps of the Congress governments of the past. He spoke at length about the Indus Waters Treaty, finalised under then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, which he said not just gave away 80% of the Indus water, but came with an undertaking from India that it would not even desilt the dams on its side of the border.

Shah reveals identity of three Pahalgam attackers

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Soon after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, the Jammu and Kashmir Police had released sketches of three suspects – Adil Hussain Thoker, a resident of Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir; and Ali Bhai, alias Talha Bhai; and Suleiman, both Pakistani nationals.

However, Union Home Minister Amit Shah informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that the three terrorists who had carried out the carnage were killed in Dachigam in the Kashmir Valley on Monday and they were all Pakistanis. He identified them as Suleman, alias Faizal Jatt; Hamza Afghani; and Zibran.

He said Pakistani voter identity cards were found on two of the terrorists, and Pakistani chocolates were recovered near the bodies.

Mr. Shah said the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Army personnel set out on foot for several days to track the devices used by the terrorists.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the initial sketches were based on preliminary investigation and a photograph that was recovered from the phone of a terrorist killed near Dachigam in December 2024.

"There were conflicting reports on the number of terrorists at Baisaran meadow on the day of the incident. Eyewitnesses and



Close watch: The Quick Response Team of the CRPF patrols in Srinagar on Tuesday following Operation Mahadev. PTI

Names differ from what was revealed soon after the attack on April 22; no home-grown terrorist identified now

victims said there were four to six terrorists. After detailed interviews, it was concluded that there were three terrorists and all of them were killed on July 28 during Operation Mahadev," another official said.

The Home Minister said that ballistic and forensic reports of the two AK-47 and M4 Carbine found on the killed terrorists were matched with the empty cartridges recovered at the Baisaran meadow, leading to the conclusion that the three terrorists were involved in the Pahalgam terror attack. The three terrorists used "ultra high frequency wireless sets" to communicate with other operatives and also their aides across the border, the first official said.

They entered India from Pakistan around three years ago and were said to be hiding in the upper reaches of the Dachigam forests, around 20 km from Srinagar, since the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 civilians were killed. Last year, they split into two groups, one led by Suleman, and the other by another Pakistani terrorist identified as Musa.

"Freshly infiltrated LeT cadres joined Suleman last year and they were operating in Kashmir Valley," said the second official.

The wireless sets, which have a range of 20 km to 25 km, need a clear line of sight and a unique frequency for communication between two devices.

"Though the calls could not be intercepted, the security forces, with the help of a direction finder, picked up the signals on multiple occasions in the forest area, the first signal being intercepted on May 22," the first official said.

In RS, Opposition questions Centre on terms of ceasefire

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

During a special discussion in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday on 'India's strong, successful and decisive 'Operation Sindoor' in response to terrorist attack in Pahalgam', Opposition MPs asked the Centre to explain why the country had accepted a ceasefire with Pakistan when Pakistan was on the backfoot.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge asked the Union government why India accepted a ceasefire even when Pakistan was on the back foot and what are the terms of the ceasefire. He asked the Centre whether U.S. Government intervened during Operation Sindoor and at whose behest was that done.

He asked Union Minister Amit Shah to resign taking the moral responsibility for the "security lapse" in Pahalgam.



Mallikarjun Kharge

Ruling National Democratic Alliance members countered the arguments.

Operation Sindoor had proved that giving a befitting answer to terrorism was the "new normal" for India, unlike in the past Congress governments that "did not retaliate" even after the terrorist attack in November 2008, they said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India had accepted no third party intervention, and there had been no pressure from foreign powers to announce the ceasefire.

Ruling dispensation lacked will to carry out Operation Sindoor: Rahul

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that the ruling NDA lacked political will to carry out Operation Sindoor, and the entire exercise was carried out only to protect the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Participating in the special discussion on Operation Sindoor and Pahalgam attack in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Gandhi said he wanted to tell the Prime Minister that the nation was above his image, politics and public relations exercise and that Mr. Modi must have "the humility and the dignity" to understand that.

The problem which India faced, the leader said, was not just Pakistan and China, but "China and Pakistan fused militarily".

"If you want to fight, then go all out and defeat them once and for all... We cannot afford a PM who



Rahul Gandhi

doesn't have courage to use Army the way it has to be used... We need a Prime Minister who frees the Army, the Air Force, like Indira Gandhi did," he said.

Asserting that every Indian had felt pain when they thought of the Pahalgam attack, Mr. Gandhi said the Indian forces were tigers who would die for the country. But "tigers should be given freedom. You cannot tie them down".

He said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, in his speech on Monday, had

compared Operation Sindoor to the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. "But there was political will in 1971. The U.S. seventh fleet was on its way towards India and then the Prime Minister said we will do what we want to. The superpower was coming, but the Prime Minister says we don't care," he said.

Similarly, General Manekshaw told Indira Gandhi that he would not do the operation in summer and Indira Gandhi gave him the freedom of action and manoeuvre, he said.

'Asking for ceasefire'

Mr. Gandhi said the Defence Minister had revealed that the Director-General of Military Operations was told by the Government of India to ask for a ceasefire just 30 minutes after Operation Sindoor began. "You told them we will not hit military targets, we do not want escalation."

He alleged, "The Government of India informed the Government of Pakistan that we have no political will and we will not fight."

He said that while all countries mentioned by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar condemned terror, not a single country condemned Pakistan post the Pahalgam attack, which meant that the world was equating India with Pakistan.

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal said Home Minister Amit Shah did not speak a single word on the security failure over the Pahalgam attack. "If you are calling tourists to visit Kashmir, isn't it your primary duty to make security available to them? Around one crore tourists visited J&K during that period. Here even if 50 people are gathering, there will be security and surveillance." Mr. Shah's speech was completely baseless, he said.

Fix accountability for Pahalgam attack, says Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders, speaking in the Lok Sabha on the second day of the debate on Operation Sindoor on Tuesday, targeted the Narendra Modi government over "intelligence failure" and the "lack of security" that resulted in the Pahalgam terror attack and sought to fix responsibility.

They questioned the "abrupt ceasefire announcement" on social media by U.S. President Donald Trump, and attacked India's foreign policy for being unable to isolate Pakistan.

Lok Sabha member from Wayanad and Con-

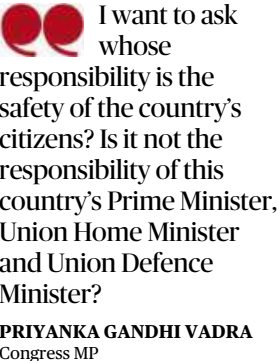
gress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asserted that leadership was not just about taking credit but also about owning responsibility. Ms. Vadra said that Mr. Trump announcing the ceasefire reflected the Prime Minister's "irresponsibility".

Taking on Home Minister Amit Shah, who, quoting former Union Minister Salman Khurshid, had said that "Sonia Gandhi cried for Batla House terrorists", Ms. Vadra replied, "I would like to answer to that point, my mother cried when her husband was martyred by terrorists."

No self-praise by the government about Operation Sindoor can take away



their culpability in leaving tourists without any security, she said. "I want to ask whose responsibility is the safety of the country's citizens? Is it not the responsibility of this country's Prime Minister, Union Home Minister and Union Defence Minister?"



Ms. Vadra asked. She read out the names of the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack. When BJP members shouted that they were all Hindus, she replied, "They were all Bharatiyas." In a sharp attack, Dravi-

da Munnetra Kazhagam MP Kanimozhi alleged that the government had failed the people of India and it was forced to send Opposition leaders on multi-party delegations for global outreach post Operation Sindoor.

'Blame game'

"We had to go because you have failed the people of India. The *vishwaguru* has failed us... Today it has become a blame game. Even today, the Home Minister, in his speech, only concentrated on blaming the Opposition," she said.

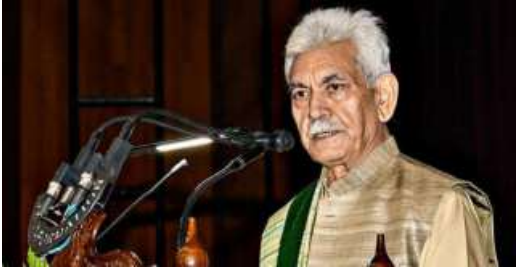
Former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav said the

Modi government had claimed that after the dilution of Article 370, there would be no more terror attacks but it was forced to launch Operation Sindoor after the Pahalgam attack.

"The launch of Operation Sindoor post the Pahalgam attack is itself a symbol of the government's failure," Mr. Yadav said. "During Operation Sindoor, no country stood by us. This is a dark phase for India's foreign diplomacy."

The SP chief also questioned the timing of Operation Mahadev, to eliminate the terrorists involved in the April 22 terror attack, on the day Parliament started the debate.

INBRIEF



Lieutenant-Governor briefed on Operation Mahadev

J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha was on Tuesday briefed by Lieutenant-General Pratik Sharma, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command, on Operation Mahadev, where three terrorists were left dead on Monday in the upper reaches of the Dachigam forest in Srinagar. The GOC-in-C Northern Command said search operations had been ongoing from south Kashmir to the Dachigam forest areas for the past few months. "A joint operation was then launched by the Army, J&K Police and CRPF, with the significant assistance of intelligence agencies, leading to the elimination of Pakistani terrorists," a Raj Bhavan spokesperson said.

ED filed closure reports in 49 cases under PMLA in 10 years

The Enforcement Directorate has filed closure reports in 49 cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) over 10 and a half years, the government submitted before the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. According to a written reply to a query, the government said the ED secured eight conviction orders involving 15 people from 2015 till June 2025. "During the period from January 1, 2015, to June 30, 2025, the ED has taken up 5,892 cases for investigation under the provisions of the PMLA," said the reply.

Court defers order on charge sheet in *National Herald* case

A Delhi court on Tuesday deferred order on taking cognisance of the chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate in the *National Herald* case in which Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi are accused. Special judge Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Court listed the matter for August 7 and 8 for certain clarifications. The case stems from assignment of a ₹90-crore loan advanced by the Congress to Associated Journals Ltd., the publisher of *National Herald*, to Young Indian for a consideration of ₹50 lakh. It has been alleged that there was misappropriation of assets of over ₹2,000 crore in an equity transaction.

INBRIEF



Torrential rain disrupts life across West Bengal

Life was severely affected across northern and southern parts of West Bengal as rain has been lashing the State for over two days. The Teesta river overflowed onto National Highway 10 in north Bengal, while houses collapsed in parts of Kolkata, injuring three persons. Between Monday and Tuesday, the water level of the Teesta river rose steadily and crossed the danger mark, said the daily flood reports issued by the Irrigation and Waterways Department of West Bengal. Landslides were reported in parts of north Bengal. The local administration has shifted people residing along the Teesta river to safer locations.

Govt. grants provisional award letters to selected candidates

Weeks after withholding provisional award letters to 66 selected candidates from marginalised backgrounds under the government's National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) scheme, the Social Justice Ministry informed Parliament on Tuesday that the letters had been issued to all selected candidates. On July 1, the Ministry declared the list of candidates selected under the NOS scheme meant for students from Scheduled Castes, Denotified, nomadic and semi-nomadic tribes. It said that for the 2025-26 period, it had selected 106 students who will get the scholarship to pursue postgraduate studies in top universities abroad.

Kaziranga in Assam records third-highest tiger density in India after Bandipur, Corbett

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Kaziranga Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Assam has recorded the third-highest tiger density in India after the Bandipur Tiger Reserve in Karnataka and the Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand, says a report on the status of tigers in the reserve, which is better known for its one-horned rhinoceros.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma released the report online to mark Global Tiger Day on Tuesday.

The report stated that 148 tigers were recorded across the 1,307.49-sq. km expanse of the KTR in 2024. The "remarkable" increase since the 2022 estimation was attributed to the first-ever sampling of the Biswanath Wildlife Division, where 27 tigers



A royal Bengal tiger inside the Kaziranga National Park. AP

were recorded.

The tiger count grew from 104 in 2022 to 115 in 2024 in the core Eastern Assam Wildlife Division, while the Nagaon Wildlife Division maintained a count of six tigers.

"From Kaziranga to Manas, Assam is not only limited to protecting the tiger, but it is also playing an important role in restoring the tiger's habitat. With the

third-highest tiger density in the world, extensive forest cover and bold steps against infiltration, the tiger, the treasure of Assam's forests, is walking proudly and bravely today," Mr. Sarma said.

The report said the KTR has 18.65 tigers per 100 sq. km — behind Bandipur's 19.83 tigers in 1,456 sq. km and Corbett's 19.56 in 1,288 sq. km. KTR officials said the survey was conducted between December 2023 and April 2024 using camera traps, following the protocol of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Wildlife Institute of India.

The spatially explicit capture-recapture method, which provides a more precise and ecologically relevant approach, was employed to determine tiger numbers.



This photo provided by NASA shows part of the NISAR satellite resting in a thermal vacuum chamber in August 2020. AP
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their relationship with the Indian space agency.

Ahead of the launch, Karen St. Germain, Director of Earth Science, NASA Headquarters, on Tuesday said: "Building a satellite on opposite sides of the world during a global pandemic was really hard, but it strengthened our relationship with ISRO. The collaboration, the cooperation, information sharing, and, frankly, joint learning between our two agencies

is a foundation that we look forward to continuing to build upon."

Ms. St. Germain said it was a model for the next generation of earth observation capability.

"India built the spacecraft bus and the S-band radar and is providing the launch vehicle, launch services, and satellite mission operations. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) built the L-band radar and the mission's radar reflector and boom. NASA is also providing a high-rated communications subsystem for science data, GPS receivers, a solid-state recorder, and the payload data subsystem," she said.

Phil Barela, NISAR project manager, JPL, said the two space agencies had learnt a lot from each other in the past decade.

"We have been at this for over a decade with our partner, ISRO, and it's been a phenomenal journey. The amount that we have learned from each other during this period has just been phenomenal," Mr. Barela said.

He said that during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 65 ISRO engineers had visited the JPL to work on the integration and to conduct tests.

"Over the last two-and-a-half years, NASA has sent out over 175 engineers to ISRO's facilities to keep the integration and tests going and get us ready for where we stand today and ready for launch. It has been a wonderful journey. I'm anticipating a lot of very happy people, not only in the U.S., but also in India," he added.

DGCA audit flags 51 safety lapses in Air India's operations

Reuters
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has found 51 safety lapses at Air India in its July audit, including lack of adequate training for some pilots, use of unapproved simulators and a poor rostering system, according to a government report seen by Reuters.

The Tata Group-owned airline is already facing warning notices for running planes without checking emergency equipment, not changing engine parts in time and forging records, along with other lapses related to crew fatigue management.

The 11-page confidential report from the DGCA said there were seven "Level 1" significant breaches which need to be fixed by Wednesday, and 44 other non-compliances classified which need to be resolved by August 23.

Officials said they found "recurrent training gaps" for some unspecified Boeing 787 and 777 pilots, saying they had not completed their monitoring duties ahead of mandatory periodic evaluations.

The annual audit was not related to the deadly Boeing 787 crash last



The annual audit was not related to the deadly crash last month in Ahmedabad.

month that killed 260 people in Ahmedabad, but its findings come as the airline faces renewed scrutiny after the accident.

The officials wrote in their report that Air India did not do "proper route assessments" for some so-called Category C airports — which may have challenging layouts or terrain — and conducted training for such airfields with simulators that did not meet qualification standards. "This may account to non-consideration of safety risks during approaches to challenging airports," the report said.

Air India said it was "fully transparent" during the audit. It added it will "submit our response to the regulator within the stipulated time frame, along with the details of the corrective actions."

Lols issued for campuses of 4 foreign varsities; Pradhan announces projects worth ₹4,000 cr.

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday issued Letters of Intent (LoIs) to four foreign universities for establishing their campuses in India. They are Western Sydney University (WSU), Victoria University, and La Trobe University of Australia and the University of Bristol of the U.K.

Speaking at the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS), an event to commemorate five years of the National Education Policy, 2020, Mr. Pradhan said that up to 15 international universities would establish their campuses in India.

"Of these, Australia's Deakin University and University of Wollongong have already established campus in Gujarat's GIFT city and U.K.'s Southamp-



Dharmendra Pradhan issues Letters of Intent to representatives of foreign universities at an event to mark five years of NEP 2020. PIB

ton University in Delhi NCR's Gurugram," Mr. Pradhan said.

The ABSS serves as a platform for policymakers, educators, industry leaders, and government representatives to review progress under the NEP, 2020 and chart the way forward.

The WSU will open a campus in Greater Noida and Victoria University in

Noida. La Trobe University will establish its campus in Bengaluru. The University of Bristol will establish a campus in Mumbai.

The WSU plans to offer BA programmes in business analytics and business marketing and MBA in innovation and entrepreneurship, and logistics and supply chain management on its Greater Noida campus.

Victoria University proposes to offer undergraduate degrees in business, data science and cybersecurity and MBA and Masters in Information and Technology.

La Trobe University is proposing to offer undergraduate degrees in business (finance, marketing, and Mmanagement), computer science (AI, software engineering), and public health and open a Joint Ph.D. academy with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur for health, water and urban planning.

The University of Bristol, planning to start operations in 2026, will offer joint undergraduate-to-Master's programmes, student exchange, and collaborative research in AI, design, and digital technologies in collaboration with ATLAS SkillTech University in Mumbai and a "3+1" degree pathway

with Krea University (Sri City), enabling students to complete undergraduate studies in India and pursue masters degrees at Bristol in innovation, policy, and analytics.

NEP features

Mr. Pradhan said various States had drawn up plans to implement pre-school or foundational level education in their mother tongue, which is the spirit of the NEP, 2020. He said introduction of new-age textbooks by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was a paradigm shift in education. He announced education projects worth over ₹4,000 crore while inaugurating the ABSS. These include infrastructure upgrades in Central Board of Secondary Education, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas.

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Business

INBRIEF



SC agrees to hear review pleas in Bhushan Steel verdict

The Supreme Court on Tuesday fixed July 31 for hearing pleas seeking a review of a May 2 verdict that set aside a resolution plan submitted by JSW Steel Limited for Bhushan Steel and Power Limited (BSPL), holding it illegal and in violation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavi and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma allowed an application for open-court hearing and fixed July 31 for hearing a batch of pleas seeking a review of the verdict. PTI

NCLT admits insolvency plea against Blu-Smart Mobility

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Ahmedabad, has admitted Blu-Smart Mobility Ltd., an electric vehicle ride-hailing service, for insolvency resolution following a petition filed by Catalyst Trusteeship Ltd. Catalyst Trusteeship, acting as a debenture trustee for Incred Credit Opportunities Fund-I and a financial creditor, filed a petition against Blu-Smart, a related entity of Gensol Engineering, alleging a default of about ₹1.28 crore.

Bank of India Q1 net profit rises 32% to ₹6,068 crore

Bank of India reported 32% YoY growth in net profit at ₹2,252 crore for the first quarter ended June 30, 2025. However the bank's net interest income fell 3.29% YoY to ₹6,068 crore. Global net interest margin for the quarter fell from 3.07% to 2.55%. Gross NPA reduced 29% YoY to ₹19,640 crore, while net NPA fell 13% to Rs 4.950 crore. Provision coverage ratio improved by 83 bps YoY and stood at 92.94%.The bank's slippage ratio improved by 2 bps YoY and stood at 0.33%.

L&T Q1 consolidated net profit surges 30% to ₹3,617 cr.

Engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T) reported 30% year-on-year growth in Q1 consolidated net profit to ₹3,617 crore. The company achieved consolidated revenues of ₹63,679 crore, registering a YoY growth of 16% with healthy execution witnessed in its key Projects & Manufacturing (P&M) portfolio. International revenues during the quarter were at ₹32,994 crore which constituted 52% of the total revenues.

‘India may replicate pro-MSME features in future trade deals’

This will be along the lines of what was included in the recently signed agreement with the U.K., according to Commerce Ministry officials

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Indian negotiators are trying to ensure future trade agreements, such as those with the U.S. and the EU, include similar carved-out features to benefit Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) along the lines of what was included in the recently signed agreement with the U.K., according to Commerce Ministry officials.

“The primary goal is to enhance cooperation and information sharing to improve the ability of MSMEs to participate in bilateral trade and investment,” an official in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry told *The Hindu* on the condition of anonymity as negotiations for a trade deal with the U.S. and the EU are still ongoing.

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between India and the U.K., signed last week, included a specific dedicated chapter on SMEs, which India had argued for, the official explained.

Among the key features included in the India-U.K. CETA that MSMEs stand to benefit is the provision for the establishment of an MSME contact point in both countries, the sharing of information on regula-

Solid push

The India-U.K. CETA signed last week included a specific dedicated chapter on SMEs, which India had argued for

■ A key feature of the agreement was provision for establishment of an MSME contact point in both countries

■ Indian suppliers, including MSMEs, will continue to receive preferential treatment as ‘Class-I local suppliers’

■ A mechanism for addressing non-tariff barriers that disproportionately affect MSMEs

tions, certifications and market opportunities, and provisions for cooperation on trade promotion activities, including exhibitions and business-to-business (B2B) events. When it comes to public procurement, U.K. suppliers looking to bid for Indian government contracts will be treated as ‘Class-II local suppliers’ in domestic tenders above agreed thresholds, while Indian suppliers, including MSMEs, will continue to receive preferential treatment as ‘Class-I local suppliers’.

“India is trying to include such carve-outs for MSMEs in ongoing trade deal discussions as well, as safeguarding our MSMEs is a priority,” the official said.

The CETA also includes a mechanism for addressing non-tariff barriers that disproportionately affect MSMEs. “The labour-inten-

sive sectors that have been the focus in CETA are textiles, footwear, leather products, marine products, toys, sports goods, and gems and jewellery,” Rumki Majumdar, Economist at Deloitte India, explained. “These sectors are not only labour-intensive but also have a huge contribution from the MSME sector.”

According to Ms. Majumdar, the export share of these sectors was 24.6% in 2024-25, down from 30.4% in 2018-19.

“Therefore, free access to the U.K. market will give a big thrust to these sectors, which in turn will have a multiplier effect on jobs and income as well as across rural and semi-urban MSME sectors,” she added. The CETA also encourages technical cooperation to enhance MSME capabilities and joint efforts by the two countries to promote women-owned and rural MSMEs.

IMF upgrades India’s growth forecast in line with global uptick

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has upgraded India's growth expectations to 6.4% in both 2025-26 and 2026-27 compared with what it had predicted in April. The growth upgrade, of 0.2 percentage points and 0.1 percentage points, respectively, is in line with the upgrades for global growth.

The IMF's World Economic Outlook July update upgraded its global growth forecast to 3% for 2025 and 3.1% in 2026, 0.2 percentage and 0.1 percentage points higher than that

The IMF has upgraded India’s growth expectations to 6.4% in both 2025-26 and 2026-27

predicted in the April 2025 edition.

“This reflects stronger-than-expected front-loading in anticipation of higher tariffs, lower average effective U.S. tariff rates than announced in April, an improvement in financial conditions, including due to a weaker U.S. dollar, and fiscal expansion in some major jurisdictions,” the report said.

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RBI caps investment by banks, NBFCs at 20% of corpus of AIF scheme

Lalathendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised guidelines capping investment by Regulated Entities (REs) at 20% of the corpus of an Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) scheme.

No RE can individually contribute more than 10% of the corpus of an AIF scheme, RBI said in a circular on Tuesday.

“Collective contribution by all REs in any AIF Scheme shall not be more than 20% of the corpus of that scheme,” it added.

If a regulated entity contributes more than 5% of the corpus of an AIF scheme, which also has downstream investment (excluding equity instruments) in a debtor company of the RE, then the regulated entity will be required to make 100% provision to the extent of its proportionate investment in the debtor company through the AIF scheme, subject to a maximum of the direct loan and/or investment exposure of the RE to the debtor company, the banking regulator said in the circular.

Minister moots integrating A.P. with Google’s server supply chain

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Minister for HRD, IT, and Electronics Nara Lokesh held a series of high-level meetings with global tech and infrastructure leaders in Singapore on Tuesday to attract

investments and accelerate digital transformation in the State.

In a key meeting with Drew Brynes, Director of Google Cloud, Mr. Lokesh urged the tech giant to expedite the establishment of its data centre campus proposed in Visakhapat-

nam. The MoU was signed in December 2023.

Highlighting the State's preparedness, Mr. Lokesh invited Google to explore setting up a chip-designing centre at the campus, considering Google's interest in proprietary server chips. He proposed inte-

grating AP into Google's global server supply chain and making the State a maintenance and repair hub, leveraging its robust air and port connectivity.

Mr. Lokesh also met Hiroyuki Niwa, MD of Murata Electronics, and invited the Japan-based firm to es-

tablish an advanced electronics manufacturing unit in the State.

Citing the State's Electronics 4.0 Policy and strong cluster support, he pitched AP as a future electronics manufacturing hub, with Tirupati already hosting major players such

as LG, Dixon, and Blue Star. In discussions with Arun Bhatia, Executive Director of Carrier, Mr. Lokesh emphasised collaboration on cold chain logistics and energy-efficient HVAC systems for cities such as Amaravati and Visakhapatnam.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,338	0.55
US Dollar	86.91	-0.24
Gold	97,820	-0.20
Brent oil	71.07	1.77

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.....	2547.90	-25.60
Adani Ports.....	1395.90	-19.90
Apollo Hosp.....	7456.00	-99.50
Asian Paints.....	2401.50	-41.90
Axis Bank.....	1064.20	-9.40
Bajaj Auto.....	8127.50	-38.00
Bajaj Finserv.....	1972.60	-5.20
Bajaj Finance.....	886.55	-6.05
Bharat Elec.....	388.25	-1.00
Bharti Airtel.....	1918.30	-28.00
Cipla.....	1574.00	-2.00
Coal India.....	383.65	-5.30
Dr Reddys Lab.....	1299.80	-12.40
Eicher Motors.....	5470.50	-84.50
Eternal Ltd.....	306.55	-4.75
Grasim Ind.....	2743.00	-15.80
HCL Tech.....	1472.40	-6.30
HDFC Bank.....	2021.60	-13.10
HDFC Life.....	756.35	-4.85
Hero MotoCorp.....	4325.20	-34.10
Hindalco.....	692.70	-3.35
Hind Unilever.....	2453.60	-12.00
ICIPI Bank.....	1486.20	-2.20
Indusind Bank.....	808.20	-6.15
Infosys.....	1513.70	-2.30
ITC.....	408.45	-1.45
Jio Financial Servic.....	321.10	-13.75
JSW Steel.....	1034.90	-6.10
Kotak Bank.....	1972.70	-6.10
L&T.....	3495.60	-73.40
M&M.....	3199.40	-10.40
Maruti Suzuki.....	12469.00	-129.00
NestleIndia.....	2223.70	-5.60
NTPC.....	334.60	-1.65
ONGC.....	241.44	-1.42
PowerGrid Corp.....	293.10	-1.20
Reliance Ind.....	1417.10	-29.50
SBI Life.....	1833.40	-17.10
State Bank.....	799.20	-2.05
Shriram Finance Ltd.....	638.35	-4.90
Sun Pharma.....	1710.50	-8.30
TataConsumerPro-duct.....	1061.60	-1.70
Tata Motors.....	692.35	-9.45
Tata Steel.....	161.69	-2.01
TCS.....	3056.00	-23.30
Tech Mahindra.....	1453.80	-3.20
Titan.....	3379.20	-13.80
Trent Ltd.....	5001.50	-7.50
UltraTech Cement.....	12221.00	-19.00
Wipro.....	251.80	-1.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 29

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar.....	86.62	86.94
Euro.....	99.91	100.29
British Pound.....	115.42	115.85
Japanese Yen (100).....	58.27	58.49
Chinese Yuan.....	12.07	12.11
Swiss Franc.....	107.33	107.74
Singapore Dollar.....	67.20	67.46
Canadian Dollar.....	62.89	63.13
Malaysian Ringgit.....	20.45	20.54
Australian Dollar.....	56.31	56.52

Source:Indian Bank

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
MAHANAGAR SEVA SADAN
STREETLIGHT / TR. SIGNAL DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE

Tender for Comprehensive Operation and Maintenance contract of Street Light Poles, S/C of Street Light work and SITC and Implementation of Centralized smart city Management System (CMS for street Light) at various places of Ahmedabad city for Five Years.

Prebid meeting Date & Time	7/08/2025 at 11:00 Hrs., Deputy Municipal commissioner (Light) Office, 2nd Floor, C-Wing, Danapith, Ahmedabad-380001
Last date of Tender Submission (Online)	Date : 21/08/2025 up to 18:00 Hrs.
Last date of Tender Submission (Hard Copy)	Date : 22/08/2025 up to 14:00 Hrs.
Detail and Tenders available on	On web site www.nprocure.com Or https://amc.nprocure.com

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidhyut Bhavan, Block-D2, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/33 kV VCB-2" call/25-26/15 Date: 30.07.2025
E-Tender is invited for procurement of 33 kV VCB. Bid documents can be downloaded from 30.07.2025, 11:00 A.M. and bid shall be submitted online up to 04:00 P.M., 27.08.2025. Visit the following websites - www.wbsetcl.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.

ICA- T16021(3)/2025

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 e-mail: md@kmmcl.com
TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmmcl.com

No.	Tender ID	Item
1.	2025_KMML_778807_1	For the supply of Plate Tantalum
2.	2025_KMML_778845_1	For the supply of FRP Pipe and Fittings(Vinyl ester)
3.	2025_KMML_779817_1	For the supply of Pipe Seamless CS 250mm-100MR
4.	2025_KMML_779555_1	For Supply of Uniform Cloths-Suiting & Shirting
5.	2025_KMML_779889_1	For the supply of 145KV SF-6 Gas Circuit Breaker
6.	2025_KMML_780110_1	For the supply of Class 1 Brick Acid Resistant for Digester
7.	2025_KMML_780259_1	For the supply of Chlorinator Bricks

Chavara 29.07.2025 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd,

Office of the Project Director PMU(RWSRPD) & Chief Engineer Water Resources(North) Hanumangarh
Notice Inviting Bid
(NIB Code-WRN2526A0057)
Bid for work related to Hiring of consultant for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for Desert Area estimated cost of work from Rs.283.19 Lakh is invited from prospective bidders up to 07.08.2025 Time 6.00 P.M. Other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, of the state and www.water.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
UBN No. - WRN2526SL0B00199

(Pradeep Rustagi)
Project Director PMU (RWSRPD) & Chief Engineer water resources(North) Hanumangarh

DIPRC/10312/2025

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. CIRCLE DAUSA
जमाक- जा / निविदा / 2025-28 / जी-1575-1589 दिनांक : 11-07-2025
Notice Inviting Bid
04/2025-28
Bids for Nit No 04/2025-26, 11 Nos. Road Work are invited from interested bidders upto Date 19.08.2025, 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state, and e-departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 4319.00 Lacs
NIB Code & UBN No.
NIB code PWD2526A1997 UBN No. PWD2526WSOB07189 PWD2526WSOB07189
NIB code PWD2526A1998 UBN No. PWD2526WSOB07202 PWD2526WL0B07203
NIB code PWD2526A2006 UBN No. PWD2526WSOB07207 PWD2526WSOB07208
NIB code PWD2526A2022 UBN No. PWD2526WSOB07273 PWD2526WSOB07274
NIB code PWD2526A2023 UBN No. PWD2526WSOB07275 PWD2526WL0B07276

(M.L. Meena)
Superintending Engineer PWD, Circle Dausa

DIPRC/10280/2025

NOTICE
Inviting Applications for the Post of Vice-Chancellor:

- Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand – 263145.
- The tenure of the present Vice-Chancellor of Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT), Pantnagar, will conclude on 28th August 2025. Accordingly, it is proposed to appoint a new Vice-Chancellor, and a Search Committee has been constituted to prepare a panel of eminent persons for this purpose.
- As the Principal Executive and Academic Officer of the University, the Vice-Chancellor must possess exceptional leadership qualities, administrative experience, and a strong academic background. The incumbent should be a person of integrity, vision, and commitment to steer the University towards academic and institutional excellence

Eligibility Criteria:

- At least 10 years of experience as Professor in a University or equivalent experience in a reputed academic/research organization in Teaching, Research or Extension in the field of Agriculture or allied sciences.
- Experience in senior management positions in the above areas will be considered a desirable qualification.
- The applicant should not be more than 67 years of age as on the last date of receipt of application, i.e., **18th August 2025.**

Tenure:

The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of joining or until the age of superannuation, whichever is earlier.

Application Procedure:

1. Applications in the prescribed format (available at www.gbpuat.ac.in) must be submitted either:
2. By Speed Post/In Person to the address mentioned below, or
3. By Email to: ukfarmerprosperitygoal@gmail.com.
4. Last Date for Submission: **18th August 2025.**

Applications received after the due date will not be considered.

Address for Submission:

(Dr. S. N. Pandey)
Secretary, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Vishwakarma Bhawan, Room No. 505, Uttarakhand Secretariat, 04-Subhash Road, Dehradun-248001
Email: ukfarmerprosperitygoal@gmail.com

भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र / VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE
तिरुवनंतपुरम / THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695 022
विज्ञापन सं. वीएसएससी/पी/विज्ञापन/399/2025 दिनांक 28.07.2025
ADVT. NO. VSSC/P/ADVT/399/2025 DT. 28.07.2025
भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिए तथा उनको और से वरिष्ठ प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार, विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र (वीएसएससी), तिरुवनंतपुरम, निर्मालिखित के लिए मोहरबंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित करता है।
For & on behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Head Purchase & Stores, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram invites Sealed Tender for the following:-

क्रम सं Sl No.	निविदा सं./Tender No.	वर्णन/Description	मात्रा Qty.	निविदा शुल्क Tender Fee
01.	8082 2025 1316 [पीटी - एकल भाग / PT - SINGLE PART]	फिसियोथेरापिस्ट के लिए कार्य सविदा/ Work contract for engaging physiotherapist	2 years	₹.560/-

नोट: विनिर्देशन तथा विस्तृत निबंधन एवं शर्तें निविदा दस्तावेज़ के अनुसार
Note :- Specification and detailed terms & conditions as per Tender document

निविदा दस्तावेज़ को डाउनलोड करने/बोली को प्रस्तुती/बोली खोलने की तिथि को समय सीमा से संबंधित व्यौरों के लिए, कृपया, हमारे वेबसाइट (www.isro.gov.in / www.vssc.gov.in) में प्रकाशित विस्तृत निविदा सूचना का अवलोकन करें।
For details regarding time limit for downloading Tender documents / Submission of bid / Bid opening date, please refer detailed tender notice published in our website (www.isro.gov.in / [**SKILL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, KOCHI**
Tender No: SDS/390 dt 30.07.25
TENDER for Selection of Training Partner \(TP\) for SDI-Kochi
Skill Development Institute, Kochi is an initiative of Oil & Gas PSUs, established for development of job skills of unemployed youth to make them industry ready for employment. Sealed tenders in two-bid system are invited from qualified firms for imparting training to the students. EMD is Rs. 2.5 lakhs. Tender documents can be downloaded from the website \[www.sdskochi.com\]\(http://www.sdskochi.com\) from 30.07.25 to 20.08.25. Tender submission last date is by or before 2 pm on 20.08.25. Further queries, if any, can be had from the SDS-Kochi Office during office hours \(Tel: 0484-2826851, \[umeshkumar@bharatpetroleum.in\]\(mailto:umeshkumar@bharatpetroleum.in\)\).

30.07.2025 Chief Executive Officer](http://www.vssc.gov.in)
हस्ताक्षरित /Sd/-
वरि. प्रधान, क्रय एवं भंडार/Sr. Head, Purchase & Stores</p></div><div data-bbox=)

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ITE&C Department
Expression of Interest (EOI)
The Amaravati Quantum computer centre invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for the physical installation of a Quantum Computer at the Amaravati Quantum Computer Centre (AQCC). The Proposal shall include the following
a. Detailed infrastructure requirements necessary for housing the system, including power supply specifications, quantum processing units (QPU) proposed, physical space, structural load conditions, thermodynamic and magnetic shield requirements, and cryogenic systems compatible with their equipment.
b. Rental rate per square foot per month (in Indian Rupees) they are willing to pay.
c. Percentage of quantum compute time they are willing to allocate to the GoAP for public, academic, research or other use.
d. The proposals may be sent by email to secy_ite@ap.gov.in or by registered post to the Office of the Secretary, ITE&C Department, 1st Floor, Building-4, AP Secretariat, Velagapudi on or before 12.08.2025.
EOI Calling Date: 30.07.2025 EOI Closing Date: 12.08.2025
Contact person:
1. K. Dhavuryan Naik, Director (communications), Mobile: 9963029418
2. B. Sundar, Special Secretary, ITE&C Department
Ph.0863-2444247 | spl_secy@ap.gov.in | <https://apit.ap.gov.in>
DIPR No.4300PPICL, Dt. 29.07.2025

EHV PC O&M Zone, Vashi
E-TENDER NOTICE (4th Call)
MSETCL SRM invites online RFx (e-Tender) from the Registered Contractors for MAHATRANSOCO e-Tendering (SRM) website for below mentioned work.
e-tender No./ RFx No. 7000036605 (4th Call) Name of work:
"1] Replacement of old 0.35 ACSR Sheer conductor with new 0.4 ACSR Zebra conductor and existing suspension tower with 30' Cut point towers 2] Height raising by new narrow base tower NDX+12 from Loc. No. 637 to 646 in Vichumbe & New Panvel area of 220 kV Kandalgaon – ONGC – Vilebhagad – Topworth D/C line under jurisdiction of EHV O&M Division Panvel & EHV O&M Circle, Mahad under EHV O&M Circle, Panvel."
Estimated Cost: Rs.46,11,81,820/- including GST Tender Fees: Rs. 25000/-+ GST. **Date for Sale and Submission of the e-Tender Documents:** From 29.07.2025 @ 11.00 Hrs to 19.08.2025 @ 11.15 Hrs. For detailed information visit our website: <https://srmtender.mahatransco.in>
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
EHV PC (O&M) Zone, Vashi

LONDON
Renowned economist, House of Lords peer Meghnad Desai, dies



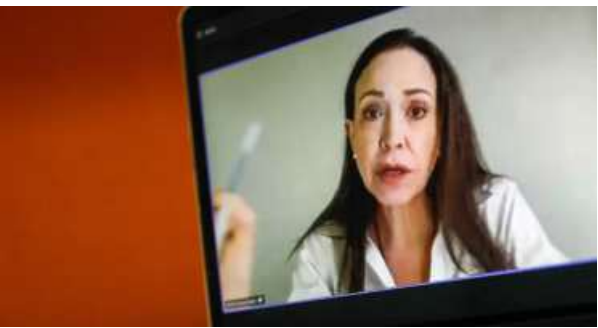
Lord Meghnad Desai, renowned British Indian economist and House of Lords peer, died on Tuesday aged 85. He passed away in a hospital in Gurugram following a health issue. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led tributes to the Gujarat-born parliamentarian and thinker, who played a crucial role in deepening India-U.K. ties. PTI

MIYUN
More than 30 killed as heavy rain, landslides lash northern China



Heavy rain killed more than 30 and forced authorities to evacuate tens of thousands as swaths of northern China were lashed by torrential downpours that sparked landslides and flooding. Officials have issued their second-highest rainfall warning for Beijing, neighbouring Hebei and Tianjin, as well as 10 other provinces. AFP

CARACAS
Opposition calls for resistance on anniversary of Maduro's victory



Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado (in picture) called for "clandestine" resistance against President Nicolas Maduro on the anniversary of his disputed re-election. Officials declared Maduro winner of the July 2024 polls despite allegations of fraud and without releasing a breakdown of voting results. AFP

BOGOTA
Colombia's former President Uribe found guilty of witness tampering



A Colombian court on Monday found Alvaro Uribe guilty of witness tampering, making him the South American country's first ex-president to be convicted of a crime. The 73-year-old — who led Colombia from 2002 to 2010 — was found guilty of asking right-wing paramilitaries to lie about their alleged links to him. AFP

U.K. to recognise state of Palestine in Sept. unless Israel commits to truce

British PM wants the Israeli government to take serious steps to 'end the appalling situation in Gaza' ahead of the UN General Assembly session; announcement comes a day after Starmer met with U.S. President who blessed the move

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K. government has said it would recognise the Palestinian state in September before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session, unless the Israeli government took serious steps to "end the appalling situation in Gaza".

The conditions, which were set out in a statement from Downing Street, included Israel having to commit to a long-term and sustainable peace, including by allowing the UN to immediately begin the supply of humanitarian support to Gaza, Israel agreeing to a ceasefire and Join FREE Whatsapp Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nValQ



About time: Protesters create a tableau about the situation in Gaza outside Downing Street in London on Tuesday. AFP
Join FREE Telegram Channel chat.whatsapp.com/HDvqPnxvwWb3Agy98nValQ

"making clear that there would be no annexations in the West Bank".

An assessment of the situation would be made before the UNGA, the statement said, with no one side having a veto on recognition via their "actions or inactions".

The news comes a day after U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer met with U.S. President Donald Trump at

the latter's Turnberry golf course in Scotland. "I'm not going to take a position, I don't mind him taking a position," Mr. Trump had said, apparently blessing Mr. Starmer's move towards recognising the state of Palestine.

France will recognise a Palestinian state at the UNGA, French President Emmanuel Macron announced on July 24.

On July 25, 221 British MPs, the majority from Mr. Starmer's Labour Party, wrote to the Prime Minister, asking him to recognise the State of Palestine. "I have always said that we will recognise a Palestinian State as a contribution to a proper peace process at

the moment of maximum impact for the two-state solution. With that solution now under threat, this is the moment to act," Mr. Starmer said on Tuesday.

"But recognition by itself will not change the situation on the ground," the U.K. government statement said, as it announced immediate steps along with Jordan to airdrop food into Gaza, evacuating injured children from the area, and pushing for UN deliveries of humanitarian assistance.

"Hamas are a terrorist organisation responsible for the October 7th atrocities. They must never be rewarded," the statement said.

Four killed as man opens fire in New York skyscraper

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

A gunman with mental health issues opened fire in a central Manhattan skyscraper on Monday, killing four persons, including a policeman before apparently taking his own life, officials said.

A fifth victim was in critical condition after being shot, Mayor Eric Adams told a late-night press briefing at a nearby hospital.

The man, identified as Shane Tamura from Las Vegas, claimed in a note to have a brain disease linked to contact sports and was trying to target the National Football League's headquarters but took the wrong elevator, officials said on Tuesday.

The gunman was caught on surveillance footage leaving a black BMW and



Police officials and others gather at a crime scene in mid-town Manhattan in New York City on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

carrying an M-4 rifle.

On entering the building, he immediately opened fire on a police officer before "spraying the lobby" with bullets.

The gunman then took an elevator to the 33rd floor of Rudin Management, which owns the building, and continued his spree before apparent-

ly shooting himself. He was later discovered by officers next to his weapon.

The incident began around 6:00 p.m. (3:30 a.m. IST) when reports of gunfire prompted hundreds of police to swarm a busy office district on Park Avenue, an area popular with tourists and businesspeople.

Famine chokes Gaza as toll from strikes tops 60,000

Reuters
GENEVA

A worst-case scenario of famine is unfolding in Gaza and immediate action is needed to end fighting and allow unimpeded aid access, a global hunger monitor warned on Tuesday, saying failure to act now would result in widespread death.

Its alert coincided with a statement from Gaza health authorities saying Israel's military campaign had now killed more than 60,000 Palestinians.

Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Tuesday that a trickle of aid into the Gaza Strip must become an ocean. "Food, water, medicine



Little effect: Humanitarian aid is airdropped to Palestinians over central Gaza Strip on Tuesday. AP

and fuel must flow in waves and without obstruction," he said.

Mounting evidence
The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) raised the prospect that the man-made starvation crisis could be formal-

ly classified as a famine, in the hope that this might raise the pressure on Israel to let far more food deliveries in. "Mounting evidence shows that widespread starvation, malnutrition, and disease are driving a rise in hunger-related deaths," the IPC said.

France slams violence by Israeli settlers in West Bank

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

France on Tuesday condemned the "murder" in the West Bank of a Palestinian activist who contributed to an Oscar-winning documentary, describing Israeli settler violence as "terrorism". Palestinian authorities said Israeli settlers killed Awdah Muhammad Hathaleen, a teacher, on Monday.

"France condemns this murder as well as all deliberate acts of violence committed by extremist settlers against the Palestinian population, which are multiplying across the West Bank," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

At least 27 killed as Russia targets prison, medical facilities in Ukraine

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian glide bombs and ballistic missiles struck a Ukrainian prison and a medical facility overnight as Russia's strikes on civilian areas killed at least 27 people across the country, officials said on Tuesday, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to soon punish Russia with sanctions and tariffs unless it stops.

Four powerful Russian glide bombs hit a prison in Ukraine's southeastern Zaporizhzhia region, authorities said. They killed at least 16 inmates and wounded more than 90 others, Ukraine's Justice Ministry said.



Taking stock: The penal colony that came under a Russian air strike in Zaporizhzhia region in Ukraine on Tuesday. REUTERS

In the Dnipro region of central Ukraine, authorities said Russian missiles partially destroyed a three-story building and damaged nearby medical facilities, including a maternity hospital and a city hospital

ward. At least three persons were killed, including a 23-year-old pregnant woman, and two other persons were killed elsewhere in the region. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that overnight

Russian strikes across the country hit 73 cities, towns and villages.

Mr. Trump said on Monday he is giving Russian President Vladimir Putin 10 to 12 days to stop the killing in Ukraine after three years of war, moving up a 50-day deadline he had given the Russian leader two weeks ago. The move meant Mr. Trump wants peace efforts to make progress by August 7-9.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday that Russia is determined to achieve its goals in Ukraine, though he said Moscow has "taken note" of Mr. Trump's announcement and is committed to seeking a peaceful solution.

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

A Business Initiative

PNB Hosts Mega MSME Outreach Programme Across India



Punjab National Bank (PNB), has organised Mega MSME Outreach Programme across the country at 200+ locations on July 25, reinforcing its commitment to empower the MSME sector and boost entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. PNB's top leadership actively participated in the outreach, with MD & CEO Shri Ashok Chandra leading the charge from outreach program at Ludhiana, Executive Directors and other Senior Officials from Corporate Office participated in various locations highlighting the bank's commitment for MSMEs and customer-first banking. Shri Ashok Chandra, MD & CEO, PNB, said "MSMEs are the backbone of India's economic progress and employment generation. With our Mega Outreach Programme, we aim to ensure that every deserving entrepreneur, trader, and self-employed individual gets timely access to credit, tailored solutions, and expert handholding. We have revamped multiple MSME Products to better align with customer need and suitability."

Central University of Punjab to Implement Innovative Pedagogy based on 'Student Co-Instructor' Model to Foster Learner-Centric Education



Central University of Punjab, Bathinda under the mentorship of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Education Minister and the visionary leadership of Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari, Vice-Chancellor, is set to implement an innovative teaching-learning practice titled the Student Co-Instructor Model from the current academic session. This initiative aims to cultivate a learner-centric educational environment by actively involving students as co-partners in the instructional process. Traditionally, Indian classrooms have relied heavily on lecture-based "chalk and talk" pedagogy, which often limits opportunities for critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. Under this one student will be assigned the role of co-instructor in each class on a rotational basis. The course teacher will allocate a topic in advance, allowing the designated student to prepare thoroughly. Each class will begin with a 20-minute presentation by the student co-instructor, who will share his/her insights and understanding of the topic. The teacher will

then build upon this foundation, elaborating on additional concepts and clarifying complex aspects. Speaking about this novel initiative, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Raghavendra P. Tiwari remarked, "The Student Co-Instructor Model is a step towards nurturing inquisitiveness, creativity, and team spirit among students. It will help us build a learner-centric ecosystem aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020."

'Victory of Hope' Event Honors Over 500 Cancer Survivors at Jagrani Hospital



Jagrani Hospital, in collaboration with Remedy Cancer Care, held the "Victory of Hope" program on Sunday to honor over 500 head and neck cancer patients successfully treated within six months. Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak lauded the hospital's achievement and emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and accessible cancer care. The event featured awareness talks, survivor stories, and felicitation of patients treated under Ayushman Bharat and other government schemes.

UPSIDA Pushes Green Industrial Growth Under Yogi Govt

Under the leadership of CEO Mayur Maheshwari, the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) is advancing Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of "Clean Water, Clean Industry" through eco-friendly industrial reforms. UPSIDA is upgrading STPs, WWTPs, and CETPs with modern technologies like SBR and MBBR to enable wastewater reuse for cooling, gardening, and road washing. Major projects include Surajpur (6 MLD) and Kasna (3.6 MLD), while CETP Loni will expand from 6 to 16 MLD. To boost energy self-reliance, solar panels are being installed at treatment plants—reducing costs and emissions. These efforts are shaping a green, sustainable industrial ecosystem across the state.

Punjab & Sind Bank Launched First Branch in Kerala



The first NRI Branch of Punjab & Sind Bank in Kerala is launched in Thiruvananthapuram.

Ms M.G. Jayasree, Deputy Director General, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance and Shri Swarnap Kumar Saha, MD & CEO Punjab & Sind Bank jointly inaugurated the branch. The new branch is expected to provide a range of benefits to the NRI community in Kerala, including personalized banking services, digital banking solutions and wealth management options. The branch offers investment products like FD, RD and Mutual funds, helping NRIs to grow their wealth.

ALLEN Kota Classroom Student Devesh Wins Gold and Debdatta Wins Silver at International Chemistry Olympiad

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya and Debdatta Priyadarshi during the 124th edition of his radio program Mann Ki Baat, broadcast on Sunday. Both are classroom students at ALLEN Career Institute Kota. The final round of the International Chemistry Olympiad was held in the UAE, where four students represented India — two of them were from ALLEN Kota. Devesh Pankaj Bhaiya won a Gold Medal, while Debdatta Priyadarshi secured a Silver Medal. Devesh achieved this feat while studying in Class 12, and Debdatta while in Class 10. Prime Minister Modi stated, "A few days ago, our students won medals at the International Chemistry Olympiad. Devesh Pankaj, Sandeep Kuchi, Debdatta Priyadarshi, and Ujjwal Kesari have made the country proud. Alongside this, India also strengthened its position in the International Mathematical Olympiad held in Australia, securing 3 Gold, 2 Silver, and 1 Bronze medal."

Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) enter into an MoU for a Skill Development Program Titled Project "SAKSHAM"



Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL) and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to implement HURL's Flagship Project "SAKSHAM" — a comprehensive skill development program under HURL's Corporate Environmental Responsibility (CER) initiative. The MoU signing ceremony was held at NSDC Headquarters, New Delhi, in the presence of Dr. S.P. Mohanty, Managing Director — HURL, senior officials from NSDC, and representatives from HURL. Project "Saksham" will be executed in the districts of Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), Begusarai (Bihar), and Dhanbad (Jharkhand). It has been meticulously designed following a demand-supply skill gap assessment study, carried out in consultation with public and private stakeholders, as well as members of the target communities.

WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT

England should rest Archer and play Atkinson in final Test: Broad



REUTERS

Premier England fast bowler Jofra Archer, *in pic*, who returned to the Test team after four years, should be rested for the final game against India to manage his workload ahead of the Ashes, feels Stuart Broad. “I think Gus Atkinson has to play. He hasn’t been really challenged against top-level opposition in Test cricket yet”.

PROBLEM AREA

Bowling remains a concern for Team India, says Rahane



PTI

Ajinkya Rahane believes that while the Indian batting unit has sung in harmony, the bowling remains a “concern” ahead of the fifth Test against England. “The batting has been fantastic. What concerns the Indian team is the bowling department. A couple of bowlers are performing well, but they are not getting the support,” Rahane said.

REHAB

Sable undergoes ACL surgery, to miss World Championships



INSTAGRAM@AVINASH_SABLE

Asian Games gold medallist 3000m steeplechaser Avinash Sable has undergone ACL surgery after suffering the injury during the Monaco Diamond League and has been ruled out of World Athletics Championships to be held in Tokyo from September 13-21. An ACL surgery normally takes at least six months to heal.

ON SONG

Satwik-Chirag duo returns to top-10 in the BWF rankings



PTI

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty returned to the top-10 in the BWF men’s doubles World rankings released on Tuesday, climbing three spots following their semifinal finish at the China Open last week. This was the duo’s third semifinal appearance on the BWF Tour this season.

Gambhir and The Oval curator in a heated exchange

The incident happened midway through the visitors’ optional training session; batting coach Kotak reveals that the pitch-in-charge ‘yelled at the support staff’ to not go near the square

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
LONDON

Tempers flared at The Oval on Tuesday as India head coach Gautam Gambhir got into a heated exchange with the venue’s chief curator, Lee Fortis. The incident happened midway through India’s optional training session when Gambhir and the other coaching staff walked up to the centre wicket to have a closer look at the surface.

A few minutes prior, England coach Brendon McCullum and Rob Key, the managing director of the men’s team, had examined the pitch.

Surprise

But according to India’s batting coach Sitanshu Kotak, who was with Gambhir during the incident, the curator sternly asked the Indian staff to stay two-and-a-half metres away from the surface, which came as a surprise to them. Things got ugly a few moments later when the support staff brought the ice box to the ground.

“He [Fortis] yelled at the support staff that we should not go near the square. He said something that irked the head coach,” Kotak said.

Fortis, a seasoned curator, could be seen in an argument with the visibly upset Indian coach. As the Indian players and the sup-



The trigger: Kotak says Gambhir asked curator Fortis not to speak to the support staff harshly, and things spiralled out of control after that. X@SHAYANACHARYA

India has decided not to lodge any official complaint

port staff gathered around Gambhir, he could be heard telling Fortis: “You can’t tell us what to do; you are just a groundsman and nothing beyond.”

Kotak had to step in and take Fortis aside.

As the news broke out, members of the Indian contingent and the ECB officials rushed to the scene, and there were rounds of discussions, with Kotak joining them as well.

“As he was yelling, Gautam told him not to speak to the support staff in that manner. It was very nor-



You can’t tell us what to do; you are just a groundsman and nothing beyond GAMBHIR

mal for him to defend us, but that’s when the curator walked up and things got a bit [heated up],” Kotak said.

“Even before coming to The Oval, we all knew that this curator was not the easiest person to deal with.”

According to Kotak, the support staff was just assessing the pitch when the curator interfered.

“He sent someone saying that we should stand away 2.5 metres from the pitch, which was surprising.

“We have all played cricket and we know that the curators could get over-protective with the square, but there’s nothing wrong in looking at the wicket two days before the game, with our rubber spikes on,” Kotak said, adding that the curators also need to understand that they are talking to “highly skilled and intelligent people”.

“For example, if you go to the ground now where we practised, you won’t even see any spike marks on the surface or the out-

KOTAKSPEAK

Even before coming to The Oval, we all knew that this curator was not the easiest person to deal with

There’s nothing wrong in looking at the wicket two days before the game with our rubber spikes on

You can be protective, but not arrogant. Ultimately, it’s a cricket pitch and not an antique that is 200 years old and can be broken

field. We ensure that the ground should not get damaged, and it all comes from the head coach. So, you can be protective, but not arrogant.

“Ultimately, it’s a cricket pitch and not an antique that is 200 years old and can be broken,” Kotak added.

Fortis later told the media that Gambhir was ‘a bit tetchy’ and refused to go into the details. “You saw what happened,” Fortis said.

After the incident, Gambhir returned to oversee the nets session and had discussions with the BCCI chairman of the selection committee, Ajit Agarkar.

India has decided not to lodge any official complaint.

India unlikely to field Bumrah; Arshdeep could make his debut

Shayan Acharya
LONDON

The Indian team management is unlikely to field Jasprit Bumrah in the fifth Test following the medical team’s advice.

Before the series got underway, it was decided that Bumrah would feature in only three fixtures to manage his workload. He has already played three Tests, and the medical team has informed the think-tank that it would not be advisable to make him play the fifth Test.

Earlier in the day, India’s batting coach Sitanshu Kotak had said: “Bumrah is fit now, and he bowled in one innings in the previous match, so the head coach, physio and the captain will come together and decide. We are yet to make the decision.”

After drawing the fourth Test at Old Trafford, head coach Gautam Gambhir confirmed that all the pacers were fit. During an optional training session on Tuesday, Akash Deep and Arshdeep Singh bowled in tandem. Both missed out on the previous game due to injuries. There is a possibility of Arshdeep making his debut, replacing An-



Fingers crossed: Arshdeep may well replace Kamboj in the playing XI. PTI

shul Kamboj. Akash, too, could return if the team decides to rest Mohammed Siraj, who has played in all four Tests.

During the practice session, Gambhir had a long chat with Kuldeep Yadav, who is yet to get a single game so far.

In the past, The Oval surface has had something in it for the tweekers and the team management could be tempted to play the left-arm wrist-spinner

in place of Shardul Thakur. However, Kotak said that a decision will be taken only on the eve of the game.

There are concerns over the No. 3 spot as well. Both Karun Nair and B. Sai Sudharsan have struggled to get going, even though Gambhir was happy with them building partnerships. Kotak said he expects a big innings from the No. 3 batter in the final Test. It could be a tricky call for the management.



Sciver-Brunt had a good series against India. GETTY IMAGES

Sciver-Brunt overtakes Smriti as No. 1 ODI batter

Press Trust of India
DUBAI

England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt displaced India batter Smriti Mandhana from the No. 1 spot in the latest ICC women’s ODI batting rankings released here on Tuesday.

Sciver-Brunt, who previously held the top position in 2023, regained the slot on the back of a series-high 160 runs across three ODIs against India recently.

Smriti dropped one spot to second after totalling 115 runs across the three matches against England. Sciver-Brunt has 731 points against Smriti’s 728.



Learning curve: Ambidextrous spinner Nivethan will be eager to make the most of the friendly conditions. GETTY IMAGES

Australian squad to visit MRF Academy

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

A 12-man squad chosen by the National Selection Panel (NSP) of Cricket Australia (CA) is scheduled to visit the MRF Academy here from July 31 to August 12.

Exposure trip

The visit is focused on emerging batters, wicket-keepers, and spin bowlers who the NSP feels will benefit from experiencing the conditions of the sub-continent. The squad is slated to have training sessions, and will play a three-day match from August 4 to 6 and a one-day game

on August 10.

Leg-spin bowling all-rounder Jason Sangha, who plays for Sydney Thunder in the Big Bash League (BBL), off-spinner Rafael MacMillan and left-handed batter Oliver Peake from the 2024 u-19 World Cup-winning squad, and ambidextrous spinner Nivethan Radhakrishnan (off-spin, left-arm spin) are some of the notable names in the squad.

The squad: Joel Curtis, Harry Dixon, Zanden Jeh, Campbell Kellaway, Angus Lovell, Rafael MacMillan, Oliver Peake, Lloyd Pope, Nivethan Radhakrishnan, Jason Sangha, Liam Scott, Lachlan Shaw.

India alongside Japan, Taiwan and Vietnam for Women’s Asian Cup

FOOTBALL

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India was on Tuesday drawn with powerhouse Japan, former champion Taiwan and Vietnam in Group-C of the AFC Women’s Asian Cup to be held in Australia next year.

The draw ceremony for the 12-team tournament to be run from March 1 to 21, 2026 was held at the Sydney Town Hall with Indian midfielder Sangita Basfore being one of the three draw assistants.

The 12 teams were divided into three groups of four teams each.

The Blue Tigresses will begin their campaign with a match against Vietnam on March 4, 2026. India will then face Japan on March 7 at the same venue, before squaring off against Taiwan on March 10 at the



All in readiness: India midfielder Sangita, left, took part in the draw ceremony held at the Sydney Town Hall. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Western Sydney Stadium.

The top two teams from each group and the two best third-placed sides will advance to the quarterfinals.

The four semifinalists will book their tickets to the 2027 FIFA Women’s World Cup in Brazil, while the losing sides from the quarterfinals will advance to the play offs, where two

more spots at the global show-piece will be at stake.

In Group-A, host Australia was drawn alongside Korea Republic, Iran and Philippines. Group-B consists of DPR Korea, China, Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.

China is the defending champion and it will be seeking a record-extending 10th title.

Satwik-Chirag pair advances in Macau Open

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
MACAU

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the men’s doubles second round of the Macau Open Super 300 with a straight-game win over Malaysia’s Low Hang Yee and Ng Eng Cheong here on Tuesday. The Asian Games champions, who on Tuesday regained their place in the top 10 of the BWF world rankings, produced a clinical performance to outclass the Malaysian pair 21-1, 21-15 in just 36 minutes.

In another match, A. Hariharan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi went down to Japan’s Tori Aizawa and Daisuke Sano 21-15, 19-21, 4-21.

The women’s pair of Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra also moved to the second round after battling past Taiwan’s Zih Ling

Huang and Wang Szu-Min 21-15, 16-21, 21-17 in a hard-fought three-game encounter. In another match, Malaysia’s Pei Kee Go and Mei Xing Teoh got the better of Apoorva and Sakshi Gahlawat 21-8, 21-11.

However, the top-seeded pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand also suffered a first-round exit after going down fighting 21-16, 20-22, 15-21 in an hour against Lin Xiao Min and Peng Yu Wei of Taiwan.

The results:

Men’s doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Zih Ling Huang & Wang Szu-Min (Tpe) 21-15, 16-21, 21-17; Lin Xiao Min & Peng Yu Wei (Tpe) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand (Tpe) 16-21, 22-20, 21-15; Pei Kee Go & Mei Xing Teoh (Mas) bt Apoorva & Sakshi Gahlawat 21-8, 21-11.

Women’s doubles: Priya Konjengbam & Shruti Mishra bt Zih Ling Huang & Wang Szu-Min (Tpe) 21-15, 16-21, 21-17; Lin Xiao Min & Peng Yu Wei (Tpe) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand (Tpe) 16-21, 22-20, 21-15; Pei Kee Go & Mei Xing Teoh (Mas) bt Apoorva & Sakshi Gahlawat 21-8, 21-11.

INBRIEF



Dwarshuis stars as Australia completes series sweep

Ben Dwarshuis removed the openers and took the crucial wicket of top-scorer Shimron Hetmyer as Australia beat the West Indies on Monday at Basseterre to sweep the T20I series 5-0. Chasing a modest 171, Australia recovered from 25 for three to romp home with three overs to spare.

The scores: West Indies 170 in 19.4 overs (Sherfane Rutherford 35, Shimron Hetmyer 52, Ben Dwarshuis 3/41, Nathan Eellis 2/32) lost to Australia 173/7 in 17 overs (Cameron Green 32, Tim David 30, Mitchell Owen 37, Jason Holder 2/36, Alzarri Joseph 2/21, Akeal Hosein 3/17). **Toss:** Australia; **PoM:** Dwarshuis; **Pos:** Green.

Mixed luck for India in Rod Laver junior challenge

Defending champion India lost to host Spain 2-4, after having gone down to Italy by a similar margin earlier, in the IC Rod Laver junior challenge tennis event in Barcelona. India did beat South Africa 5-1, but found itself fourth among the sixth teams. Spain led the table with three wins from as many matches.

The results: Spain bt India 4-2 (Maxi Carrascosa bt Samarth Sahita 7-6, 6-2; Yago Castellanos lost to Araadhya Kshitiij 2-6, 2-6; Gabriela Paun bt Saanvi Misra 6-0, 6-1; Celia Anson lost to Rishitha Basireddy 4-6, 6-3, [4-10]; Carrascosa & Castellanos bt Samarth & Araadhya 7-6(4), 6-3; Gabriela & Celia bt Saanvi & Rishitha 6-2, 6-1). **India bt South Africa 5-1** (Samarth Sahita bt Connor Doig 6-2, 6-4; Araadhya Kshitiij bt Jayden Summers 6-1, 6-4; Saanvi Misra lost to Morgan Jordaan 0-6, 2-6; Rishitha Basireddy bt Meri Sandembergh 6-1, 6-2; Samarth & Aaradhya bt Conor & Jayden 6-2, 6-4; Maaya Rajeshwaran & Rishitha Basireddy bt Morgan & Meri 5-7, 6-4, [11-9]).



Ageless Ledecky wins 1,500m freestyle for 22nd world gold

Katie Ledecky cruised to a dominant 1,500m freestyle gold in Singapore on Tuesday to claim the 22nd world title of her storied career. The American great touched the wall in 15min 26.44sec, ahead of Simona Quadarella of Italy in 15:31.79 and Australia's Lani Pallister in 15:41.18. The masterful win moved Ledecky four short of Michael Phelps's career tally of 26 world golds.

DPS, R.K. Puram and Govt. SSS, Faridabad triumph

Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram, emerged champion in the boys' category of the Oriental Cup football tournament at the Dr. Ambedkar Stadium on Tuesday after beating Mother's International School 5-4 in a penalty shootout. In the girls' event, Government Senior Secondary School, Faridabad, defeated Sanskriti School 4-3 on penalties. Both finals were curtailed to penalty shootouts due to rain.

Jaya downs Jennifer in pre-quarterfinals

Jaya Kapoor beat Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 6-4 in the women's pre-quarterfinals of the HPCL Mittal ₹200,000 AITA ranking tennis tournament in Chandigarh on Tuesday. In the men's section, Shanker Heisnam fought his way past Smit Patel 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 to enter the quarterfinals.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Men: Sarthak Suden bt Lokesh Pun 6-4, 5-7, 6-0; Svarmanyu Singh w.o. Shaurya Bhardwaj; S.M. Aadithya bt Jatin Nain 7-5, 6-4; Parv Nage bt Ashwajit Senjam 6-0, 6-1; Ricky Chaudhary bt Bikramjeet Chawla 6-4, 4-2 (retired); Jagmeet Singh bt Lakshit Soond 6-3, 6-2; Shanker Heisnam bt Smit Patel 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; Arjun Rathii bt Yashasvi Balhara 6-2, 7-5. **Women:** Sahira Singh bt Ruma Gaikaniwari 6-1, 6-0; Jaya Kapoor bt Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 6-4; Jeetesh Kumari bt Aditi Tyagi 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-4; Mahika Khanna bt S. Verma 6-3, 7-5; Divya Bhardwaj bt Durganshi Kumar 6-0, 6-3; Riya Sachdeva bt Lakshmi Gowda 6-3, 6-2; Manshi Singh bt Shagun Kumari 7-6(5), 6-4; Tejasvi Dabas bt Rhea Arora 6-3, 6-2.

LIVE TELECAST

Zimbabwe vs New Zealand: 1st Test, day 1, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.
Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 & 7 p.m.
Tennis: ATP Masters, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m.

We are preparing for Pakistan, says Fulton

Teams coming for the Asian Cup is not in our control but not being prepared cannot be an excuse, insists the India coach ahead of the forthcoming tour of Australia

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
BENGALURU

Back to full-strength training after the disappointing Pro League tour of Europe, the Indian men's hockey team is putting in the hard yards to ensure better results in the upcoming Australia tour, with one eye on the Asia Cup back home later next month.

The players have been training here for the last fortnight and, although the squad for Australia has been decided, the trials for the Asia Cup are scheduled for Friday as coach Craig Fulton zeroes in on his final 18 for the World Cup qualifying event in Rajgir.

"It's going good, and it's nice to have the India-A group back as well and good competition, we are excited about the Asia Cup, that's the main priority for the year.

"We specifically chose Australia to tour for that reason (tougher opponents than the teams in Asia Cup) because we want to make sure we have covered all bases. To play a top team like Australia, from a physical and a tacti-



Well-planned: Fulton believes the upcoming tour of Australia will help identify where the Indian team stands. GETTY IMAGES

cal point of view, it will highlight quite quickly if we are on track or not.

"It's not always easy, we had a tough time when we went there the last time but 3-4 months later, we beat Australia for the first time (in the Olympics). That's the ideal scenario,

to play someone better than you and then close the gap between where you started and where you finished," Fulton said after training on Tuesday.

The India-A side also had mixed results on its Europe tour recently, but Fulton insisted it was part

of a long-term process. "With the India-A, it's all development, they are not there to win games against Holland and Belgium and England.

"At the same time, we are looking at developing the next group of talented athletes. But they need good games, and they need to be tested, and I think we really got a good balance of seeing that.

"We just want to create more depth because what happens now with the Under-21s? They finish the World Cup, they can't come straight into the senior group, where do they go? This squad is for that, and then it's always really competitive so that whatever comes in is better than what's currently going out and that's how we are trying to manage that programme," he said.

As for the Asia Cup, he isn't thinking about the line-up just yet.

"I assume it's going to be Pakistan because if it's anyone lesser, I can't do anything about it. I'm preparing for Pakistan and that's how we're approaching it. The worst thing to do is not prepare and if they arrive, then use the excuse, 'Oh we didn't think they were coming.'"

Shillong Lajong, Jamshedpur notch up second wins in a row

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau

Shillong Lajong FC notched up a second successive win as it downed Rangdajied United FC 3-1 in a Group-E league match of the 134th Durand Cup at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong on Tuesday.

The traditional rivals fought hard for the lead, which came Lajong's way in the added time of the opening half as Everbrightson Sana found the mark. But Mebanshgain equalised for Rangdajied in the 58th minute.

Lajong shifted gears and scored through Damait Lyngdoh (66th) and Gladly Kharbuli (80th) to secure the win.

Lajong also went to the top of the standings with six points.

Sanan Mohammed pro-



Keen tussle: Indian Army's Samir Murmu thwarts an attempt by Jamshedpur's Nishu Kumar. PTI

duced the only goal of the match early in the second half to help Jamshedpur FC secure a win over Indian Army Football Team in a Group-C match at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur.

This was the second successive win for JFC, which now tops the group with

six points.

The results: **At Shillong: Group-E:** Shillong Lajong FC 3 (Everbrightson Sana 45+1, Damait Lyngdoh 66, Gladly Kharbuli 80) bt Rangdajied United FC 1 (Mebanshgain 58).

At Jamshedpur: Group-C: Jamshedpur FC 1 (Sanan Mohammed 52) bt Indian Army FT 0.

Romanian league a stepping stone for Harshika's ultimate dream

FOOTBALL

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Harshika Jain, after dabbling in just about every possible sport as a kid, found her calling in football.

It put her on a tough yet rewarding path, culminating in a move to the Romanian first division team CS Athletic Olimpia Gherla.

"Everything still feels new. But I need to get into the zone quickly because the league starts soon," she told *The Hindu*, reflecting on her first few days training with her new team.

At the helm of the club is Mirel Albon, a man with a legendary coaching career in Romania. He was so impressed with videos of



Harshika.

her time in India that he asked to see her in trials ahead of a permanent move.

"He is the father of women's football here. His aura and the environment that he creates are something else. The way he explains and understands you as a player is top class," she said.

The 22-year-old has already experienced how

different the approach to football is in Romania.

"The intensity, standard, speed. Everything is extremely different. The pre-season starts almost a month and a half before the tournament. In India, they call you a week before the tournament starts," she explained.

While she is yet to kick a ball in the Superliga Femina, she has zeroed in on her short-term and long-term goals.

"I want to score as many goals as possible and win the league. And then play the Champions League playoffs.

"Later, maybe get into a much better club in the distant future. Barcelona or Chelsea, those are the teams I would love to play for; they are also the ones I support".

Delhi Golf Club gears up for DP World India championship

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

The \$4 million DP World India championship will be the biggest golf event in the country and Raj Khosla, president, Delhi Golf Club (DGC), assured it would be "the best".

Khosla was delighted that multiple Major champion Rory McIlroy and company would compete in the event from October 16 to 19.

"It is not just the club, but it is the country's pride at stake. Already, experts have made several visits from Europe to ensure that every aspect is addressed, particularly the preparation of the grass. They want it to be at its pristine best during the event and are advising us on everything leading up to the event. It is transfer of technology and knowledge for us," said Khosla.

Stressing that logistics were being worked out, as

Chandrasekar spins himself into the record books with a 10-for innings haul

CRICKET

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

D.T. Chandrasekar bowled himself into the record books when he scalped a perfect ten for Sea Hawks against Globe Trotters on day two of their TNCA first division league clash on Tuesday.

The left-arm spinner's ten for 37 in a single unbroken spell of 15 overs ensured Trotters were bundled for just 91 in the second innings and helped his side clinch a thumping 10-wicket win.

Previously, former India off-spinner M. Venkataramana took 10 for 96 for Indian Bank against Southern Railways in the 1991-92 first division season.

"I am very happy. It is rare to take 10 wickets in any level of cricket, so it feels special. When I got six or seven wickets, I realised I had a chance to get all ten," said Chandrasekar.

Hailing from a humble background and having even worked as a marker, Chandrasekar made his First-Class debut in the 2015-16 season, taking 18 wickets in five games.

However, in a State blessed with rich spin ta-



D.T. Chandrasekar.



When I got six or seven wickets, I realised I had a chance to get all ten

lent, he did not get a chance after that. The 32-year-old, though, hasn't let that give up his love for the sport.

"In the last few years, I have improved my skills. I worked with R. Ramkumar when I was with Jolly Rovers, and focused on things like overspin and how to use the crease and angles. I am also grateful to the management at Freyer International and Tamil Kumaran, who have helped me.

"Though I haven't been able to make a comeback, I have not lost hope and will continue to do my job, which is to pick wickets," says Chandrasekar.



Raj Khosla, president, Delhi Golf Club. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

to whether to have tickets, or allow free entry for all, and decide how many fans can be at the venue at a time, ensuring safety and security for all, Khosla said Indian golf would benefit in a big way from the event.

Assuring that golf in the country had evolved nicely over the years, Khosla added that the club was doing its bit in every way, supporting junior players, grooming talent and helping the under-privileged to

play the game.

He was particularly appreciative of the splendid work done by Arjuna awardee Amit Luthra in guiding youngsters from the rural areas to play golf through his Foundation.

"You don't have to be a member of the club to play golf. You just pay the green fee, and you can play," said Khosla, even as he pointed out that the club had supported the young Shubham Jaglan's golf to the extent of helping him get his education in USA.

"We support women's golf, we give mini kits to the kids. You keep doing all the right things to nurture the ecosystem, and you will have a champion emerge," he said.

Appreciating the government for the support for sports, the DGC president insisted that the big event in October would inspire the Indian golf community to get to the next level in every way.

Mukund ousts fourth seed Purtseladze

Sports Bureau

Qualifier S. Mukund beat fourth seed Saba Purtseladze of Georgia 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the \$60,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Tuesday.

Other results: \$30,000 ITF men, Brazzaville, Congo: Singles (first round): Stephane Kamendje (Can) bt Ravishankar Sathiyaraj 6-3, 6-1; Dev Javia bt Vatsal Manikantan 6-2, 6-1; Constantin Kouzmine (Fra) bt Rishikrishna Ayyappa 6-0, 6-2; Darrshan Suresh (Mas) bt Chinmaya Dev Chauhan 6-3, 6-1.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Matteo Covato (Ita) & Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Laurence Teunissen (Ned) & Alexander Zgirovsky (Blr) 7-6(5), 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand: Singles (first round): Manish Sureshkumar bt Ofek Shimanov (Isr) 6-1, 6-4; Sidharth Rawat bt

Akira Santillan (Aus) 6-6 (retired); Soonwoo Kwon (Kor) bt Vishnu Vardhan 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(1).

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Congsup Congcar & Natthayut Nithithananont (Tha) bt Rishabdev Raman & Keerthiassan Suresh 6-3, 6-4.

\$15,000 ITF men, Bali: Singles (first round): Yuto Oki (Jpn) bt Parth Aggarwal 6-1, 7-5.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Nathan Barki (Ina) & Alexander Chang (USA) bt Sajal Kesarwani & Vivek Kolluru 6-0, 6-3.

\$30,000 ITF women, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand: Singles (first round): Miho Kuramochi (Jpn) bt Zeel Desai 6-0, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Shrivalli Bhamidipaty & Vaidehee Chaudhari bt Kamonwan Korsnla & Tanuchaporn Yongmod (Tha) 6-4, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Valeria Bhunu (Zim) & Tanisha Kashyap bt Kenza Abdelhfidh & Sarra Fredj (Tun) 6-0, 6-0.



GETTY IMAGES

Underbowled and underwhelming: the curious case of India’s fourth seamer

The team prioritising safety-net runs from the lower-order has resulted in the back-up pacer being selected for his batting prowess; this has led to captain Gill not being able to depend on the reserve speedster to keep things tight and give the lead bowlers a breather

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

India is at sixes and sevens when it comes to properly utilising its fourth seam bowler.

Of the 672.1 overs bowled by the visitors against England in the four Tests so far, the fourth pacer has delivered just 55 overs.

It is not a secret that the current Indian team is big on having as many all-rounders as possible in the playing XI.

The fourth seamer has also been selected bearing in mind the player’s batting prowess and that’s why Shardul Thakur (first and fourth Tests) and Nitish Kumar (second and third Tests) got the nod.

Ideally, the captain should have confidence in the fourth pacer’s abilities to keep things tight and provide the strike bowlers a breather. But the number of overs given to the ‘fourth man’ suggests otherwise.

It is not as if India did not require the services of its back-up pacer in the series, given that England has batted for more than 80 overs in five of its seven innings so far.

After the second day’s play at Old Trafford, Shardul was given the unenviable task of explaining why he was not getting to bowl more.

“Usually, the captain takes the call. The player doesn’t have much of a say. If we talk about the first Test, he said there was no chance of bowling, and I said okay. As far as this match is concerned, the way the game has progressed, I could have been given two more overs. But there is a lot of time left in the game. Hopefully, I’ll get more bowling,” Shardul had said. And the next day’s proceedings started with him bowling the first over!

However, that proved to be a false dawn as skipper Shubman Gill employed him just for one over and change ends for Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah.

Shardul also did not help his case as he had leaked 35 runs in his five overs the previous day. Even with the injury concerns for lead pacers Bumrah and Siraj during the game, Shardul sent down only 11 of the 157.1 overs India bowled in the fourth Test.

Intentional

Bowling coach Morne Morkel did not shy away from revealing that India relying more on the top speedsters was intentional.

“A bit of a tough fit when you have four seamers... when you’re going at five runs an over, I think as a captain, you want to bring the strike bowlers back to try and take the wickets. Unfortunately, it happened for Shardul in the first Test as

India’s fourth seamers

Test	Bowler	Innings No.	Overs	Runs conceded	Wkts	Total overs bowled by India	Overs%
First (Leeds)	Shardul Thakur	2	6	38	0	100.4	5.97
		4	10	51	2	82	12.19
Second (Birmingham)	Nitish Kumar	2	6	29	0	89.3	6.71
		4	DNB	-	-	68.1	-
Third (Lord’s)	Nitish Kumar	1	17	62	2	112.3	15.13
		3	5	20	1	62.1	8.05
Fourth (Manchester)	Shardul Thakur	2	11	55	0	157.1	7.00



PTI

well,” Morkel said after the third day’s play in Manchester.

England’s marathon first innings had not finished by then and India had to bowl another 22.1 overs to dismiss the hosts. The workload for the fourth pacer on day four of the fourth Test: zero (no overs).

Don’t put all your eggs in one basket is timeless wisdom; yet, it was almost as if India was happy to pin all its hopes on the main pacers running through the England batting line-up.

There’s a chance it may work, as it did when Akash Deep and Siraj took 17 of the 20 English wickets to bowl India to a famous victory in the Edgbaston Test. But such a performance should be treated as an outlier and not the norm.

As Morkel briefly touched upon during the press conference, the fourth seamer’s

high economy-rate would have made it difficult for the skipper to depend on the option heavily.

The Indian think-tank should have presumed that the Bazballing English batters would target the weak link before turning their attention to the others.

Either India was okay with the fourth seamer bowling less, or it was caught blindsided by the Englishmen’s aggressive approach to the back-up pacer. Neither option reflected well on the team’s decision-making.

The Lord’s Test was the one occasion where England batted conservatively, and this showed in Nitish’s figures. His tally of 17 overs in the first innings of the third Test remains the most by an Indian fourth pacer in the series.

Nitish’s economy rates in that match (3.64 and 4) read better compared to what

the Englishmen plundered off him and Shardul in the series. But to hope that England will use that strategy in every match is not smart thinking.

A major part of winning a Test and being a champion side is to have the ability to take 20 wickets consistently. And India will have to be brave in its selection and stop prioritising safety-net runs from the fourth seamer.

“What is coming through for everyone, despite India’s heroism with the bat, is that the selections have been quite poor. We saw what Shardul was capable of in the first Test. Despite that, he was picked again. And we saw the repeat of that inclination to have a bowler who can bat a bit. I think that thought has to be dumped,” Sanjay Manjrekar told *ESPNews* after the fourth day of the Old Trafford Test.

Instead of looking for more runs from its lower-order, what India needs is a crafty bowler who can add depth and variety to the attack. K.L. Rahul, Gill, Washington Sundar, and Ravindra Jadeja’s tenacious show in the second innings to earn a memorable draw at Old Trafford has been proof enough that the batting is in good shape and hands.

“It has been hard to understand why India looks to get players who have two skills rather than just go for quality. Kuldeep Yadav not playing so far tells you the approach of this Indian team management. They say that India needs 20 wickets, but it’s going to be difficult to convince me, because if that was the case, Kuldeep would have played by now,” Manjrekar added.

‘Kuldeep as fourth seamer’

Ahead of the fourth Test, former India off-spinner R. Ashwin had suggested that India play left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep ‘in the role of the fourth seamer.’ As weird as it may sound, there is some merit to the idea.

Kuldeep’s inclusion would have given another potent weapon for Gill to turn to. It also would have been a safe bet that Kuldeep would bowl more than the 11 overs Shardul did at Old Trafford.

“You should look at Kuldeep as the fourth seamer and play him according to that role. He could come in handy in the second innings and towards the fag end of England’s batting. Kuldeep could be a handful even on day one. He can definitely play the role of the fourth seamer,” said Ashwin on his YouTube channel.

As Gill’s men approach the fifth Test, there are two big questions: will Kuldeep be the ‘fourth seamer’ and whether the visitors can square the series at The Oval? The answers are just around the corner.

THE GIST

Of the 672.1 overs bowled by India in the four Tests so far, the fourth pacer has delivered just 55 overs

It is not as if the visitor did not require the services of its back-up pacer, given that England batted for more than 80 overs in five of its seven innings so far

Instead of looking for more runs from its lower-order, what India needs is a crafty bowler who can add depth and variety to the bowling attack

Science retracts arsenic bacteria paper after years of controversy

In 2010, Felisa Wolfe-Simon was hailed for a revolution; two years later, she exited NASA and science; her arc underscored a stark truth: the failures of science can play out just as visibly as its triumphs, leaving questions about how to correct course without crushing the people behind the work

Anirban Mukhopadhyay

In 2010, in the waters of Mono Lake in California, NASA-funded scientists claimed to have found a microbe called GFAJ-1 they said rewrote biology. It had allegedly replaced the phosphorus in its DNA with the toxic element arsenic. The announcement, made at a high-profile press conference on December 2 that year, stunned the world.

The findings, soon published in the journal *Science*, hinted that life could rely on a radically different chemistry. Lead author and microbial geobiologist Felisa Wolfe-Simon declared, “Life as we know it may be due for a revision.”

Speculation surged: had NASA stumbled onto alien biology?

Set the ball rolling

On July 24 this year, *Science* announced that it would be retracting the GFAJ-1 paper, nearly 15 years after its splashy debut, citing shifting editorial standards and lingering public confusion.

“It’s important to have any groundbreaking work independently evaluated before drawing far-reaching conclusions,” University of Minnesota synthetic biologist Kate Adamala said. “We want the public to be excited, but the message must match the strength of the data.”

Mainstream media amplified the drama. One headline read: ‘NASA Discovers Life Not As We Know It.’

Ivan Oransky, co-founder of Retraction Watch, a site that tracks withdrawn papers and promotes research transparency, and executive director of The Centre for Scientific Integrity, saw the media blitz as pivotal. “Without the hype, this paper might never have been retracted.”

He pointed to NASA’s style of communication as a key factor in the storm that followed in 2010.

“Historically, NASA hasn’t always had a respectful relationship with journalists,” he said. “They’re great at promoting themselves, and sometimes at overselling.”

Peer review in public

To the people at large, the prospect of arsenic life hinted at alien biochemistry. But for many scientists, the GFAJ-1 paper raised more questions than answers. Critics began pointing out that arsenate is unstable in water, so its role in DNA seemed chemically implausible.

“If true, this would have overturned nearly a century of data, but nothing in the chemistry suggested it was possible,” Steven Benner, an early critic and chemistry professor at the University of Florida said.

Others were initially intrigued. “I was very excited and impressed. It was a big deal in the origins community,” Adamala, then a graduate student, said.

But like many, her enthusiasm waned as flaws emerged. Microbiologist Rosemary Redfield became a leading critic and one of the first replicators to disprove the findings.

“It’s a fine example of how easy it is for scientists to be misled by an attractive hypothesis and of why we need both formal peer review and informal outside scrutiny.”

By late December, the backlash gained traction. Blogs and Twitter (now X.com) turned the paper into a case study on post-publication peer review.

Sheila Jasanoff, professor of science and technology studies at Harvard, noted that while such public spaces can foster valuable crowd-sourced peer review, they also risk overreach.

“These days science, like true crime, has spilled outside the constraints of officially authorised review. However, like



Limestone formations along the shores of Mono Lake. OCTAGON (CC BY)



Felisa Wolfe-Simon processes mud from Mono Lake to inoculate media to grow microbes on arsenic. FILE PHOTO

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all forms of democratisation, such informal policing can run out of control if it is driven by a mob mentality that is out to shame or undermine a researcher or a research program.”

The original team stood by their findings – but by now the tone had shifted.

Evidence falls apart

Over the next 18 months, multiple labs tested the paper’s core assertion.

In 2012, *Science* published two studies that refuted it. Redfield’s team found no arsenate in GFAJ-1’s DNA. Tobias Erb’s group confirmed the microbe still needed phosphorus to grow, i.e., it hadn’t rewritten biology, just tolerated low-phosphate conditions.

Wolfe-Simon maintained that her team’s methods showed arsenic was incorporated into DNA and were robust enough to rebut Benner’s contamination claims. *Science* did not retract or flag the paper, saying claims should be resolved by further research, not editorial action. And since no fraud was alleged, the rebuttals sufficed.

“The whole debate ends up circling around the semantics of words like ‘error’, ‘fraud,’ ‘misconduct,’” Oransky said. “But this paper, let’s be honest, has been understood as unreliable since at least 2012, if not earlier.”

Why science took so long

For Benner, the GFAJ-1 paper reflected differences in scientific perspectives. Biologists saw phosphorus as essential, chemists knew arsenate’s instability, geologists accepted mineral substitutions, and astrobiologists embraced radical possibilities.

“It wasn’t that reviewers were incompetent,” Benner said. “They just didn’t all speak the same scientific language.”

He saw another deeper flaw. NASA’s astrobiology community often relies on consensus panels that falter when no one challenges ideas outside their domain.

“Multidisciplinary science is essential,” he said, “but when it’s superficial, weak claims slip through. This wasn’t peer review breaking down; it was different communities assuming they shared standards while working from very different assumptions.”

Adamala echoed this concern: “Young scientists in interdisciplinary fields should embrace continuous peer review, as reliance on collaborators’ expertise can miss flaws that later scrutiny might catch.”

Correction sans closure

“They’re right to retract a paper whose high-profile conclusions were entirely



If true, this would have overturned nearly a century of data, but nothing in the chemistry suggested it was possible

STEVEN BENNER
CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

wrong,” Redfield said.

One senior researcher noted that the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines, which many journals have adopted as a measure to improve research integrity, justify a retraction if the findings are unreliable. Here, multiple labs found phosphate in the arsenate medium, undermining the paper’s core claim that the microbe grew by substituting arsenic for phosphorus.

“The growth experiments at the heart of the paper were flawed,” the researchers said. “Even if it was an honest mistake, the core conclusions didn’t hold up.”

Adamala said that it’s a good example of self-regulation in science. “Slowly but surely, mistakes do get corrected.”

Oransky was more measured: “*Science* is now acting on an expanded definition of retraction that’s consistent with what’s been possible for a long time but rarely used.”

Not everyone sees it as black and white. Jasanoff warned that retractions can erase the very messiness that makes science work.

“Rather than draw hard lines between truth and error, science advances through open debate,” she said. “It’s better to preserve a record that shows how scientists test, challenge, and refine their ideas, even when plausible claims later prove wrong.”

Benner, for his part, expressed worry that broadening retraction policies could weaken the informal scrutiny that exposed the paper’s flaws, raising questions about balancing error correction with preserving the scientific process.

Today, the whole saga has transformed into a cautionary tale. Adamala said the controversy may have cast a shadow over exotic chemistry research in astrobiology, making scientists more cautious about bold claims.

Who pays the price?

Wolfe-Simon’s rise and fall was swift. In 2010, she was hailed for a potential revolution in biology. Two years later, she quietly exited both NASA and mainstream science, her research career derailed by

controversy and lack of funding.

“Good scientists would have responded by getting back into the lab and doing the necessary follow-up work. But these authors still don’t admit mistakes,” Redfield said, pointing to their rebuttal letter in response to the retraction.

Ariel Anbar, a coauthor of the now retracted paper, said, “*Science* cited no misconduct or specific mistake. We stand firmly by the integrity of our data.”

He also criticised the journal for not sharing a blog post it published regarding the retraction with the authors, calling it a breach of COPE guidelines.

Oransky disagreed: “What guideline is this referring to? Furthermore, standing by your data doesn’t mean there aren’t errors in it.”

Anbar also said the team rejected “the alleged error” and that it was raised in 2011 and rebutted in a peer-reviewed exchange.

“They may reject it,” Oransky replied, “but that seems to be the rationale for the retraction.”

Nonetheless, Oransky also said *Science*’s retraction notice could have been clearer. He explained that retractions often imply misconduct, so when *Science* called the paper unreliable but not unethical, it still put the authors on the defensive.

“You can see that here, they’re saying, ‘But there was no misconduct. No clear error.’”

Jasanoff said she doesn’t see it completely as an individual failure. She argued that the unusually long delay until retraction may reflect less a concern with scientific uncertainty and more a broader institutional tendency to manage reputation, especially in an era of heightened fears over misinformation.

Wolfe-Simon’s arc underscored a stark truth: high-risk discoveries bring both acclaim and vulnerability. When science goes public, its failures play out just as visibly as its triumphs, leaving lasting questions about how to correct course without crushing the people behind the work.

A slow machine

Peer-reviewers cleared GFAJ-1, and media hype propelled it, but shifting editorial norms more than new data undid it 15 years later. Oransky singled out *Science*’s editor-in-chief, Holden Thorp, for leading that shift.

“Other journals have done it, but he’s been consistently engaged in a way that encourages open conversation, no matter whether people agree with specific decisions or not.”

That kind of editorial openness, he added, may be the real legacy of the arsenic life saga.

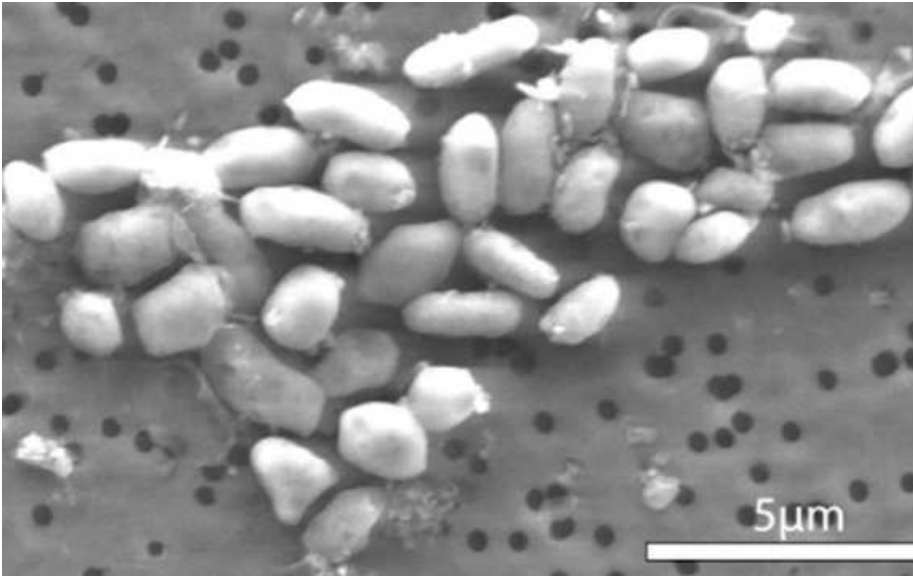
Jasanoff, however, cautioned that every retraction risks erasing the visible, iterative debate that builds trust. “It is better for people to understand that science moves through trial, and error, and gradual self-correction. It is not a binary. All science is provisional.”

Benner drew a parallel to the 1976 Viking missions, where a premature “no organics, no life” verdict in *Science* stifled debate.

“Calling the ballgame early had an unfortunate result. It prevented the dialectic the scientific process needs.”

The arsenic life case endures not because of its flawed claim, but for what it revealed about the pressures shaping modern science: how spectacular findings – especially from institutions like NASA – can short-circuit scrutiny, and how correcting course means confronting the very systems that made such claims irresistible in the first place.

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and a science communicator from Delhi. anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in)



A microscopic view of GFAJ-1 bacteria. NASA



A Barbados threadsnake atop a US quarter. AFP

World’s smallest known snake makes comeback in Barbados

Agence France Presse

For nearly two decades, no one had spotted the world’s smallest-known snake.

Some scientists worried that maybe the Barbados threadsnake had become extinct, but one sunny morning, Connor Blades lifted a rock in a tiny forest on the eastern Caribbean island and held his breath.

“After a year of searching, you begin to get a little pessimistic,” said Blades, project officer with the Ministry of Environment in Barbados.

The snake can fit comfortably on a coin, so it was able to elude scientists for almost 20 years. Too tiny to identify with the naked eye, Blades placed it in a small glass jar and added soil, substrate, and leaf litter.

Several hours later, in front of a microscope at the University of the West Indies, Blades looked at the specimen. It wriggled in the petri dish, making it nearly impossible to identify.

“It was a struggle,” Blades recalled, adding that he shot a video of the snake and finally identified it thanks to a still image.

It had pale yellow dorsal lines running through its body, and its eyes were located on the side of its head.

“I tried to keep a level head,” Blades recalled, knowing that the Barbados threadsnake looks very much like a flower pot snake, which is a bit longer and has no dorsal lines.

On July 23, the Re:wild conservation group, which is collaborating with the local environment ministry, announced the rediscovery of the Barbados threadsnake.

The snake is blind, burrows in the ground, eats termites and ants, and lays one single, slender egg. Fully grown, it measures up to 10 cm

“Rediscovering one of our endemics on many levels is significant,” said Justin Springer, Caribbean program officer for Re:wild, who helped rediscover the snake along with Blades. “It reminds us that we still have something important left that plays an important role in our ecosystem.”

The Barbados threadsnake has only been seen a handful of times since 1889. It was on a list of 4,800 plant, animal, and fungi species that Re:wild described as “lost to science.”

The snake is blind, burrows in the ground, eats termites and ants, and lays one single, slender egg. Fully grown, it measures up to 10 cm.

“They’re very cryptic,” Blades said. “You can do a survey for a number of hours, and even if they are there, you may actually not see them.”

But on March 20 at around 10:30 a.m., Blades and Springer surrounded a jack-in-the-box tree in central Barbados and started looking under rocks while the rest of the team began measuring the tree, whose distribution is very limited in Barbados.

“That’s why the story is so exciting,” Springer said. “It all happened around the same time.”

S. Blair Hedges, a professor at Temple University and director of its center for biology, was the first to identify the Barbados threadsnake. Previously, it was mistakenly lumped in with another species.

In 2008, Hedges’ discovery was published in a scientific journal, with the snake baptised *Tetracheilostoma carlae*, in honor of his wife.

“I spent days searching for them,” Hedges recalled. “Based on my observations and the hundreds of rocks objects that I turned over looking for this thing without success, I do think it is a rare species.”

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