

Gurugram launches drive against stray cattle

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) on Friday launched a special campaign to address the growing issue of stray cattle in the city.

Cattle roaming on roads, streets, and markets are being rounded up and sent to cow shelters as part of the drive. The initiative follows an intensive cleanliness campaign that began on July 28 after a high-level meeting chaired by the Commissioner and Secretary of the Urban Local Bodies Department, Vikas Gupta, to review Gurugram's sanitation measures.

On the first day of the stray cattle drive, MCG teams conducted inspections in areas such as Sector-15 Part-2, DLF Phase-5, and Sector-42.

A total of seven animals were caught - two from Sector-15 Part-2, three from DLF Phase-5, and two from Sector-42 - and transported to MCG-run cow shelters.

The special drive was initiated after residents, including prominent citizens, took to social media to criticise the MCG for the civic mess.



New beginnings: First-year undergraduate students at Delhi University's Miranda House on Friday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

DU begins new session, 55% of FYUP students opt for fourth year

Ashna Butani
NEW DELHI

Delhi University (DU) on Friday commenced its new academic session and welcomed the first batch of last year Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUP) students.

“Of the 66,000 FYUP [third-year] students, 30,014 students [45%] have opted out of the fourth year,” DU Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh told *The Hindu*. On concerns over the lack of infrastructure and staff for fourth-year FYUP students, the V-C said, “Everything is sorted now, and if there are any issues, we will resolve them gradually.”

Teachers reported low attendance among fourth-

year students, but they expect a good turnout on Monday.

Extended timings

The university notified on Thursday that it has advised colleges to extend their timings. “The Executive Council noted that the university has already advised the colleges/institutions to function from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for optimal utilisation of the available resources,” the notice read.

Objecting to the notification, Mithuraaj Dhusiya, a professor and Executive Council member, said, “The extended timings pose significant safety risks to students and teachers. Moreover, making students stay for long hours is neither feasible nor practical.”

Rajasthan to raze 2,699 unsafe buildings

Govt. embarks on drive to prevent disasters; all dangerous buildings to be marked with warning boards as part of monsoon safety preparedness; 8 children were killed last week in separate incidents after portions of school buildings collapsed

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Following the collapse of some portions of school buildings at several places, the Rajasthan government has identified as many as 2,699 dilapidated structures across the State, which are in a state of disrepair, decay, or ruin, and initiated the process for their sealing and demolition. The exercise forms part of the Statewide drive to prevent accidents.

Local Self-Government Department Secretary Ravi Jain said here on Friday that a comprehensive review of building safety and



Locals helping in rescue work after a government school building collapsed in Rajasthan's Jhalawar district. FILE PHOTO

disaster preparedness was in progress during the ongoing monsoon season. The move comes amid growing concerns over the

vulnerability of school infrastructure.

Seven children were killed in Jhalawar district and one in Jaisalmer last

week when some portions of school buildings caved in under the impact of continuous rain. The roofs and walls of some schools also collapsed in a few other districts, though no one was injured because of holiday or forced closure.

High alert

Mr. Jain asked the civic officials to remain on high alert and act swiftly to ensure public safety during the drive. “All dangerous buildings will be marked with clear warning boards to alert the residents and prevent any untoward incident,” he said.

Mr. Jain said the regular on-site inspections would

help expedite the demolition of unsafe structures and ensure the safety of citizens.

Laying emphasis on identifying the electrical hazards, he said the local bodies would coordinate with the engineers of power discoms to fix loose or exposed wiring near roads, poles, transformer boxes, and switchboards.

The Education Department has also launched a series of urgent measures, including closure and demolition of unsafe school buildings, GIS-mapping of all vulnerable structures, and the use of artificial intelligence to monitor structural safety.

HC: consider relocating burial site of Bhopal toxic residue

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed the State government to consider relocating the burial site for residue generated from the incineration of toxic waste from the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal to a location far from human habitation, and to submit a plan in this regard.

A Division Bench of Justices Atul Sreedharan and Anuradha Shukla issued the directions on July 31 while hearing a batch of pleas filed by activists.

Timings

DELHI

SATURDAY, AUG. 02
RISE 05:44 SET 19:11
RISE 13:29 SET 00:00

SUNDAY, AUG. 03
RISE 05:44 SET 19:11
RISE 14:25 SET 00:02


MONDAY, AUG. 04
RISE 05:45 SET 19:10
RISE 15:23 SET 00:42

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	30	25
Safdarjang	30	25
Palam	29	24

Delhi Palam Today
32°C The weather will be little warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025
All rights reserved.



Registered Office: ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chakli Circle, Old Padra Road, Vadodara – 390007, Gujarat

Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai – 400051, Maharashtra

Branch Relocation Notice
On Behalf of ICICI Bank Ltd., Chomu Branch

Dear Customers,

We wish to inform you that with effect from September 15, 2025, we are relocating to a more convenient location. The address is as mentioned below:

New address: ICICI Bank Ltd., Ward No. 22, Brijdul Ji Mandir, Near Thana Mod, Jaipur Road, Chomu, Rajasthan-303702.

There would be no change in your account numbers or the security items issued to you. Assuring you of the best services at all times.

Sincerely,
Branch Manager, Chomu Branch



RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SADASHIVANAGAR, BENGALURU – 560 080

Advt. No. 19/2025 – Dt. 02.08.2025

Raman Research Institute is a premier autonomous institute engaged in research in Basic Sciences funded by the Government of India. The Institute is inviting applications for various faculty positions in Pay Level 12, 13 and 13A.

For more details, please visit : <https://www.rr.i.res.in/careers/other-openings>
Last date for receipt of online application is 31st December 2025.

Sd/- Administrative Officer

M.P. STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

State IT Centre, 47-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011 (M.P.)
www.mpsecd.m.p.gov.in, 0755-2518300, marketing@mpsecd.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)

MPSEDC invites online proposals for following bids on MP Tender:

S. No.	Tender No.	NIT
1	MPSEDC/F&A/2025/636	RFP for Annual Rate Contract for Hiring of tea and coffee vending machine and supply of Consumables Materials at MPSEDC Offices.
2	MPSEDC/HR/2025-26/637	RFP for Providing fully furnished Plug-and-Play Office Space on lease for Establishing Development Centre of MPSEDC at Noida (Third Call).

For detailed scope of work, terms and conditions please refer to the respective bid document available on MP Tender Portal (www.mptenders.gov.in).

M.P. Madhyam/121376/2025 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
FISHERIES AND FISHERMEN WELFARE DEPARTMENT
FISHING HARBOUR PROJECT CIRCLE, CHENNAI - 600 035.

E-TENDER FOR CONTRACT: RATE TENDER SYSTEM - LUMP SUM CONTRACT (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
E-Tender Notice No:10/DB/F.114N/2025. Dated: 29.07.2025

For and On behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-Tender is invited by the Chief Engineer, Fishing Harbour Project Circle, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department, Chennai from the eligible Registered Contractors of Water Resources Department and Public Works Department for **Six works through online.**

1) Tender Documents available at website upto 08.09.2025, 03.00 PM
2) The Last date for submission of tender through online at 08.09.2025, 03.00 PM
3) Date and Time of Opening of the E-Tender 09.09.2025, 03.30 PM

The tender documents, Approximate value of work, EMD details, Period of contract, Eligibility of contractor and other details will be available through online in the Government website <https://mtenders.gov.in> and it can be downloaded at free of cost. For further details and in case of any Changes / Corrections/Amendments/Corrigendum in the tender/tender notice will be intimated in the above website only.

Chief Engineer,
Fishing Harbour Project Circle,
Chennai-600035

DIPR/4053/Tender/2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
DIRECTORATE OF FLORICULTURE (G&P) KASHMIR
Tel-0194-2474234 Fax -2482032 Email:kash.flori@ik.gov.in

GIST of e-Tender Notice No.25 of 2025
Dated:- 30/07/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory, J&K, bids are invited (In Single Cover system) from the Registered Contractors/Firms/Bidders with J&K UT/Central Govt., CPWD for the following work:-

S.No.	Name of Work/ Contract	Reserve Bid (In Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) @ 10 % (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Documents in shape of Demand Draft (Non-Refundable) (In Rs.)	Validity of Contract
1	2	3	4	5	6
01.	Outsourcing of entry ticketing System of Ashmuqam Park Pahalgam	3,08,550.00	30,855.00	500/-	One (1) year from the date of award of contract

The bidding document(s) consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, BOQ (Bill of quantity) terms and conditions and other details can be seen/downloaded through the website www.iktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-

1.	Period of downloading of bidding document	30.07.2025 from 03:00 PM to 19.08.2025 up to 02:00 PM
2.	Bid submission Start Date	30.07.2025 from 03:30 PM
3.	Bid submission End date	19.08.2025 up to 02:00 PM
4.	Date and time of Opening of Tenders (Online)	22.08.2025 at 02:00 PM

Sd/-
Accounts Officer,
(Member Secretary)
Floriculture Department,
Kashmir.

DIPK-4669/25

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (HEALTH & EDUCATION)
PW(H&E) DEPTT., CHANDMARI: GUWAHATI-3
No. CE/TB-VI/T/RIDF- XXX/27/2025/17

PRESS NOTICE (RE-TENDER)

In continuation of the tender cancellation notice vide no. CE/TB-VI/T/RIDF-XXX/27/2025/16 Dated Guwahati the 1st August, 2025 for the work, “Construction of 126 Secondary School in 35 Districts of Assam under RIDF-XXX (2024-25) for (i) Bokata Nemuguri Higher Secondary School, Sivsagar, under Sivsagar DTBD (ii) Konwerpur Higher Secondary School, Sivasagar under Sivasagar DTBD (Gr 57) the Chief Engineer (Health & Education), P.W. (H&E) Deptt., Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam, again re-invites fresh bid only for the above said work of (Phase-II) in online EPC Mode-I e-tenders in two bid system (Eligibility and Financial) on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode-1 basis from eligible firms / contractors of repute having experience in similar nature of work for the following works.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in. The bidders must be enrolled with e-tendering web-portal www.assamtenders.gov.in. All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of work	Bid Value (Rs. in Lakh)	Completion Period	Bid Security	Cost of Bid
1	Gr-57 (A)	Construction of 126 Secondary Schools in 35 Districts of Assam under RIDF-XXX (2024-25) for (i) Bokata Nemuguri Higher Secondary School, Sivsagar, under Sivsagar DTBD under Sivasagar DTBD	Rs. 721.85	3+21 (Twenty Four) months	2% of Bid value for General, 1% of Bid Value for Reserve category	Rs. 14500.00
2	Gr-57 (B)	Construction of 126 Secondary Schools in 35 Districts of Assam under RIDF-XXX (2024-25) for (i) Konwerpur Higher Secondary School, Sivasagar under Sivasagar DTBD	Rs. 721.85	3+21 (Twenty Four) months	2% of Bid value for General, 1% of Bid Value for Reserve category	Rs. 14500.00

The Bid price may vary at the time of detail tendering for which no claim will be admissible.

The Work will be allotted only after receiving Government approval.

Chief Engineer (Health & Education),
PW(H&E) Deptt., Chandmari, Guwahati-3

DIPR /C/HIND/ 230/ 2-Aug-25

Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Srinagar Kashmir
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)
e-NIT NO.- 03/SE/PMGSY/S/E-TENDERING-OF 2025-26 Dated:- 29-07-2025

Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Srinagar, on behalf of the Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, invite online percentage rate tenders on e-procurement portal <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from the Contractors registered in appropriate class/category with State P.W.D. or Contractors of equivalent categories registered with other States/ Central Government, Departments, Institutions, Undertakings and Authorities on standard schedule of rate given below for the packages shown in the column 2 of table, for Initial Rectification (IR) / Periodic Renewal (PR) / Routine Maintenance (RM) of the Rural Roads/CDs for five years after the completion of Renewal Work on roads, constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Contractors not registered with State PWD will have to get themselves registered with them before signing the agreement.

SOR Applicable - SOR issued by Jammu & Kashmir State Rural Road Development Authority, (JKRRDA) effective from 2023 and amendments up to issue date of NIT

S. No.	Package Number	Name of District	Name of PU	No. of Roads	Total length of Roads (in KMs.)	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)				Total Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Completing Period of Initial Rectification (IR) / Periodic Renewal (PR) / Routine Maintenance (RM) and Emergency Repairs (in Days)	Cost of Tender Document including 10% GST	Whether First Call?			
						Part-I	Part-II	Part-III	Part-IV							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
01	JK-0-160	Pulwama	PU Pulwama	Kakpora to Fakher Pora (Kakpora & Rehmoor Kamaazpora	11.85	335.63	52.22	147.89	-	535.74	90 days (3 Months)	2 Years* (60 Months)	5 years (60 months)	As and when required	6000	1ST

1. Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Bid : Date-Month-Year 29-07-2025
2. Period of availability of Bidding Documents on website www.pmgsytenders.gov.in Date-Month-Year From 30-07-2025, 9:00 AM To 09-08-2025 Time: 4:30 PM
3. Date-Month-Year, Time Upto To 09-08-2025 Time: 4:30 PM
4. Time, Date and Place of Pre-bid Meeting, Date-Month-Year Date: 04-08-2025 Time: 11:30 AM
5. Time-Hours, Place (if so required) Place: Office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle Srinagar
6.1. Deadline for receiving Bids online, including on line payment of bid, security and cost of bid document from a scheduled, Date-Month-Year 09-08-2025 Time: 4:30 PM commercial bank and scanned copy of affidavits.(Time Upto)
The on line payment of bid security and cost of Bid document is to be done simultaneously on e-tendering website along with the submission of Bids
6.2. Date of submission of original affidavit.
(This Date should be no later than three working days after the submission of Technical Qualification part of the bid),The cost of bid document and Bid security is to be paid on line along with bid submission as mentioned in clause 6.1 above. As such no other document is required to be submitted. Date-Month-Year, 12-08-2025
Till the online payment system is made functional, following Clauses shall be applicable for off-line submission, clause 6.1, 6.2 is deemed to be replaced as 6.1 (a), 6.2 (a)
6.1 (a) Deadline for Receiving Bids online, including Scanned copy of demand. Date-Month-Year 09-08-2025
draft of Bid Security and of Demand. Time Upto, Hours: 04:30 PM
Draft towards cost of Bid Document from a Scheduled Commercial Bank and scanned copy of Affidavit.
6.2 (a) Date of Submission of original documents such as Date-Month-Year 12-08-2025 Bid Security, Cost of Bid document and Affidavit (this date should be no later than three working days after the submission of Technical Qualification part of the bid)

Superintending Engineer PMGSY Circle
Srinagar, Engineering Complex Rajbagh, Srinagar Kashmir.

DIPK-4625/25

JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(CIN No.:U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002
Fax No.:0651-2400123 (E-mail:ce@jusnl@gmail.com)

e-TENDER NOTICE

E-tender in two parts i.e. Technical (Part-I) and Financial (Part – II) is invited from reputed, capable, experienced and financially sound firm for the following works :-

NIT No.	Name of the works	Estimated cost (In Rs.)	Earnest money online mode (In Rs.)	Cost of BOQ (Non-Refundable) online mode (in Rs.)
298/PR/JUSNL/2025-26	Design, Engineering, Supply of Materials/ Equipments, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 02 nos. additional 132 kV Line bay at GSS, Bhawanathpur (Nagarantari) on turnkey basis.	7,80,88,005.48	15,61,800.00	10,00,00 + GST
299/PR/JUSNL/2025-26	Design, Engineering, Supply of Materials/ Equipments, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 02 nos. additional 132 kV Line bay at GSS, Japla on turnkey basis.	8,75,19,375.00	17,50,400.00	10,00,00 + GST
300/PR/JUSNL/2025-26	Design, Engineering, Supply of Materials/ Equipments, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132 kV D/C 3ph Muhamadganj TSS – 132/33 kV GSS, Japla Transmission Line on turnkey basis.	21,02,88,234.00	42,05,800.00	15,00,00 + GST
301/PR/JUSNL/2025-26	Design, Engineering, Supply of Materials/ Equipments, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132 kV D/C 3ph Nagrantari TSS – 132/33 kV GSS, Bhawanathpur (Nagarantari) Transmission Line on turnkey basis.	20,41,14,285.00	40,82,300.00	15,00,00 + GST

Start Date & Time of Download the Tender Documents	08.08.2025 at 11:00 AM
Start Date and time of upload of BID	08.08.2025 at 11:00 AM
End date and time of upload of BID	28.08.2025 upto 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for technical part	29.08.2025 at 04:00 PM
BID Opening date for price part	Will be communicated
Procurement Officer and address for communication	General Manager, C&M (NWBP), 2 nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi – 834002

1. e-Tender document and BOQ including terms & conditions, tender specification can be downloaded from website <https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned (**6202162568**) during office hours.

2. The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only.

3. No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag.

स्वाहित एवं राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचत। कृपया अपनी शिकयती को 18003456570 (कॉल सेंटर) पर दर्ज करावें।

Sd/-
General Manager C&M (NWBP)
PR 358778 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd (25-26)_D

INBRIEF



Mock drill held in Delhi-NCR to assess disaster preparedness

A multi-agency mock drill was conducted at 55 locations across Delhi-NCR on Friday to assess preparedness in case of an earthquake or industrial accidents like chemical and gas leaks. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Delhi Disaster Management Authority, Krishan Kumar, said, “The mock drill went smoothly at all the locations. A feedback of some gaps was received. We hope to resolve them soon.” The CEO said Yamuna floodplains and the Ridge areas are highly critical zones requiring an enhanced level of preparation. The drill also aimed to improve coordination and communication between local authorities during a disaster.

MGNREGS yet to resume in W.B. despite HC order: workers

Despite an order by the Calcutta High Court to resume MGNREGS in West Bengal from August 1, there has been no resumption of 100 days work, Paschim Banga Khet Majoor Samity (PBKMS), a union of agricultural workers, said on Friday. “Even after this landmark victory for rural workers, both the Central and State governments have chosen to brazenly defy the court’s order. Instead of preparing for the resumption of work, block offices in multiple districts are refusing to even accept job applications. This is a deliberate attack on the right to work of the State’s poorest,” a press statement by PBKMS said.

Sonowal: ports embracing sustainable practices

The Hindu Bureau
THOOTHUKUDI

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Friday said the Indian maritime sector is undergoing a transformational shift, not just as a gateway for commerce but also as a champion of climate resilience. Addressing an event organised by the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority in Thoothukudi, Mr. Sonowal said the country’s ports are embracing sustainable practices globally. VOC Port chairman Sushanta Kumar Purohit said, “We aim to build momentum and foster collaborations that will save India’s maritime future.” Addressing the media later, Mr. Purohit said Thoothukudi has become the first Indian port to successfully produce green hydrogen and achieve over 1 MW of roof-top power generation.

Was instructed to arrest Mohan Bhagwat over Malegaon blast case, claims former policeman

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

On Friday, a day after a special court acquitted all the accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, a former policeman, who was with Maharashtra Police’s Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) at the time, claimed that he was asked to arrest Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat for “saffron terror”. “They told me that the accused persons had met Bhagwat before committing the crime. There was pressure on me. But I did not act on their instructions. They talked about ‘saffron terror’. But how could I do something that was wrong?” claimed Mehboob Mujawar, the former policeman. The remark prompted Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to claim that the Congress, which was then



RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat. FILE PHOTO

in power at the Centre, had made a “failed attempt” to implicate RSS and right-wing Hindu leaders on fake charges of “saffron terror”. “There was no saffron terror or Hindu terror or Sanatana terror. They don’t exist,” he said. When asked about Mr. Mujawar’s claim about the instructions to arrest Mr. Bhagwat, the Chief Minister said: “The Congress’s Hindu terror narrative has been busted by the Male-

gaon verdict.” Addressing a press conference on the issue in New Delhi, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra claimed, “Individuals associated with the BJP, followers of Hinduism, and senior RSS functionaries were deliberately humiliated, arrested, and targeted for personal revenge. The Congress was operating in a completely retaliatory mode, and all of this was happening at the behest of the Gandhi family.”



O. Panneerselvam calling on T.N. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin at his residence on Thursday. The Panneerselvam-led AIADMK Cadres Rights Retrieval Committee walked out of the BJP-led NDA a year after joining the bloc. PTI

ram, also called SDS, was dismissed from the Cabinet and expelled from the AIADMK. In the 1984 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, he tried to strike a deal with the DMK, but the talks failed. SDS’s party, Namadhu Kazhagam, fielded candidates in 150 Assembly constituencies and 15 Lok Sabha constituencies, but

its performance was disastrous. SDS himself lost the deposit in his home constituency of Pattukottai, from where he was elected in 1980 on the AIADMK ticket. In 1986, he returned to his parent party. After the Dravidian major’s defeat in the 1996 poll, SDS briefly aligned himself with rebels. Again, he led a party, Pu-

ratchi Thalaivar Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, which merged with the AIADMK after his death in 2001. S. Thirunavukkarasar [earlier known as S. Thirunavukkarasu], once a close aide of Jayalalithaa, fell out of favour with her on two occasions. Between 1988 and 1997, he was shown the door by her thrice. His expulsion in 1990 forced him to launch a party, Anna Puratchi Thalaivar Tamizhaga Munnetra Kazhagam (APTTMK), along with his colleagues including K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, now with the DMK and serving as Revenue Minister. In the 1991 Assembly poll, the APTTMK clinched a tie-up with the DMK and won two out of the nine seats it contested. Considering that the election took place against the back-

drop of Rajiv Gandhi’s assassination, the APTTMK’s performance was considered impressive. Mr. Thirunavukkarasar, currently with the Congress, later renamed his party as MGR ADMK. After a brief reunion with Jayalalithaa during 1996-97, he revived his party and contested the 1998 Lok Sabha election as an ally of the Congress. In the now-abolished Pudukottai constituency, he finished third but polled about 2.26 lakh votes with a vote share of 29.28%. The following year, he was part of the DMK-led front and bagged the seat. However, he could not run his party for long, and merged it with the BJP a few years later. R.M. Veerappan, once a powerful Minister in the MGR Cabinet, found himself on the wrong side

when he was in the AIADMK led by Jayalalithaa. During her first innings as Chief Minister (1991-96), Veerappan was dropped in September 1995 from the Cabinet in the wake of a controversy over what the party considered his silence when the film actor Rajinikanth, in his presence, talked of the “bomb culture” in the State at a function. Though he launched MGR Kazhagam in January 1996, his party had remained an ally of the DMK and largely refrained itself from putting up candidates in the elections. A veteran political leader, who was with the AIADMK, says it is the party name and symbol that matter more than anything else and this is why those who leave the party, for one reason or the other, fade away gradually.

Panneerselvam sets out to do what other AIADMK leaders failed to

NEWS ANALYSIS

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

Can former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and expelled AIADMK coordinator O. Panneerselvam, who is inching closer to the DMK, defy the trend of AIADMK leaders failing to make a mark after aligning themselves with the DMK? The earliest case of a senior AIADMK leader turning a critic of the party was S.D. Somasundaram, who was Minister for Revenue, Commercial Taxes and Food in the Cabinet headed by M.G. Ramachandran during 1978-84, according to a perusal of materials available with *The Hindu* archives. When he began openly accusing MGR of corruption, Somasunda-

BJP’s Chhattisgarh, Kerala units at odds over arrests

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The recent arrest of two Catholic nuns from Kerala on charges of human trafficking and forced religious conversion in BJP-ruled Chhattisgarh has led to a disagreement between the party’s units in the State and Kerala, prompting the senior leadership to step in and facilitate a resolution. On Friday, Kerala BJP chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the Chhattisgarh government would not oppose the bail applications of the two nuns who were arrested at the Durg railway station on July 25. “We hope that they get bail in the coming days because the State government has agreed not to oppose their bail,” he said, adding that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had clearly said that justice would be given to the nuns. As voices grew stronger demanding the release of the nuns, the matter drew wider attention. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on July 28 – via his X handle – said that “through inducement, an attempt was being made to

Kerala BJP chief says the Chhattisgarh govt. will not oppose the bail applications of the arrested nuns

engage in human trafficking and conversion” and that it was “a serious matter related to women’s safety”. Hours later, Mr. Chandrasekhar termed the arrests a case of “misunderstanding”, stating that the unit had contacted the Home Minister of Chhattisgarh and the State government, and the Union Home Ministry. “We received tremendous support from the authorities... the accompanying girls are adults, and they had parental consent...,” he said. “While Chhattisgarh, being a tribal state, has an anti-conversion law in place, we are convinced that the allegations of conversion against the Malayali nuns are not true,” posted Mr. Chandrasekhar on X. However, the next day, BJP MP from Durg, Vijay Baghel, spoke during Zero Hour in Lok Sabha on the issue. He came out in support of the Chhattisgarh government for arresting the nuns.

In Malegaon judgment, court rapped NIA over the ‘inadmissible evidence’

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

In a 1,036-page judgment acquitting all seven accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case delivered on Thursday and made available a day later, Special Judge A.K. Lahoti criticised the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for presenting what it called “inconclusive”, “unreliable” and “legally inadmissible” evidence.



Police personnel outside the City Civil and Sessions Court in Mumbai ahead of the NIA special court’s verdict in the Malegaon blast case. FILE PHOTO

Flags inconsistencies “Upon a comprehensive evaluation of the entire evidence available on record, I am of the considered view that the prosecution has failed to adduce cogent, reliable, and legally acceptable evidence. The testimony of prosecution witnesses is riddled with material inconsistencies and contradictions. Such discrepancies undermine the credibility of the prosecution’s case and fall short

Mumbai; and later, the NIA in New Delhi, which took over the case in 2011. The judge, while pronouncing his verdict, said, “I have gone through written notes of arguments, chargesheets and the entire evidence on record in the form of oral and documentary. In the backdrop of the facts, it is also necessary to mention that the evidence on record creates grave suspicion against the accused but on mere suspicion there cannot be a conviction. Hence, I am extending the benefit of doubt.” ‘Suspicion not enough’ Special Judge Lahoti acknowledged the agony, frustration, and trauma caused by the fact that a heinous crime of this nature has gone unpunished. “However, the law does not permit courts to convict an accused solely on the basis of moral conviction or suspicion... The more serious

offence, the higher standard of proof required for conviction. Admittedly, in the present case there is no reliable, cogent and acceptable evidence on record... to warrant the conviction,” he said. The court noted that most witnesses turned hostile, stating during their testimony that their earlier statements were not given voluntarily but were dictated under coercion by ATS officers. The court noted that the prosecution failed to examine several material witnesses whose names were referenced in specific portions of the judgment. “While it is the prosecutor’s discretion to decide which witnesses to present, this discretion must be exercised fairly and in the interest of justice. The prosecution must not withhold witnesses merely because their testimony may weaken its case,” the court said.

M.P. Minister faces Oppn. heat in Assembly over remarks on Colonel Sofiya

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh Assembly on Friday witnessed an uproar after the Opposition MLAs demanded the removal of Minister Vijay Shah for his remarks on Indian Army officer Colonel Sofiya Qureshi. During the Question Hour, Mr. Shah, who holds the Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation portfolio among others, rose to respond to a question from Congress MLA from Bhopal Madhya (Central) Arif Masood regarding the victims of the 1984 tragedy. The Congress legislators, however, began to protest and trooped into the well of the House seeking Mr. Shah’s

resignation or dismissal from the post. The renewed demand from the Congress came days after the Supreme Court pulled up Mr. Shah over the nature of apology he had issued. As the Opposition MLAs continued their chants demanding his sacking, the BJP MLAs accused the Congress of disrespecting the Armed Forces. Sloganeering from both the Treasury and Opposition benches prompted Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar to adjourn the House proceedings briefly. However, the protest by Congress MLAs continued when the proceedings resumed, after which Mr. Tomar adjourned the House for the day.

Two held over murder of 13-year-old in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after finding the half-burnt body of a 13-year-old, who was reportedly kidnapped for ransom of ₹5 lakh in the Bannerghatta forest in Bengaluru on July 31, the police arrested two kidnapper-killers on Friday.

The arrested have been identified as Shivaprakash, 25, and Gopi, 27. Shivaprakash was reportedly working as a driver earlier and is known to the boy, Nishchith A., and his parents.

Shivaprakash first befriended the boy's mother and through her got to know the victim as well. The boy went missing on the night of July 30 while returning home from his tuition classes.

The police found CCTV footage of the boy riding pillion on a bike with one of the accused.

Governor picks 2 interim VCs amid Kerala govt.'s objection

Kerala CM says the appointments violate university laws; Minister calls it 'open challenge' to an SC order; Governor's decision likely to undermine State government's reconciliation attempts

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar reappointed Ciza Thomas and K. Sivaprasad as interim Vice-Chancellors of Digital University Kerala (DUK) and APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU) on Friday.

The reappointments appear to undermine the State government's attempts to ease the growing tensions with the Governor, who, in his capacity as Chancellor of State-run universities, has been at odds with the administrative dispensation over various issues.

The appointments come in the wake of a Supreme Court judgment which, the government



A file photo of Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar being escorted out of University of Kerala amid student protests in June. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

firmly believes, mandates that the Chancellor should consult the government before appointing V-Cs.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan flagged the appointments as a violation of the university laws in a letter sent to the Governor. He said that those appoint-

ed are not from the official panels of nominees submitted by the government.

Law Minister P. Rajeev told the media that the move amounts to an "open challenge" to the top court's judgment. He said the government would apprise the Supreme Court of

its apprehensions.

Raj Bhavan's stance

However, the Raj Bhavan has maintained that the reappointments comply with the court's directive and the relevant provisions of the laws governing the universities. According to the Raj Bhavan notification, the interim V-Cs will hold office for six months or until regular appointments are made.

However, this marks the second time Raj Bhavan has disregarded the government's recommendations, the first instance being when Ms. Thomas and Mr. Sivaprasad were initially appointed on November last year. In turn, Higher Education Minister R. Bindu accused the government of undermining the government's authority.

Bulandshahr violence: five awarded life term, 7-year jail term for 33

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Six and a half years after Inspector Subodh Kumar and a civilian were killed in the violence over alleged cow slaughter in Siyana village of Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, a local court on Friday sentenced five persons to life imprisonment for murder and 33 to seven years of rigorous imprisonment for attempt to murder and rioting.

Those convicted of murder are Prashant Nat, Rahul, David, Lokendra Singh and Johnny, said special government counsel Yashpal Singh Raghav.

The court, however, did not find two persons whom the police had booked as "key conspirators" – Yogesh Raj, a Bajrang Dal leader, and Jee-tendra Malik, a former Rashtriya Rifles jawan – guilty of murder.

Inspector Subodh Kumar and a civilian were killed by a mob enraged over alleged 'cow slaughter'

On December 3, 2018, a mob in Siyana launched a protest against "cow slaughter" after having claimed to have found a cow carcass. They placed the "carcass" on a tractor and blocked the highway outside the Chingravati police outpost in Siyana. Inspector Subodh, posted at the police station, reached the spot and tried to pacify the mob. However, the mob started pelting stones at the police personnel and set the police outpost on fire. Some among the mob also fired a few rounds at the police. The Inspector and a 20-year-old civilian, Sumit Kumar, died of bullet injuries.

Dharmasthala case: court lifts media gag order

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Setting aside a John Doe order passed by a civil court restraining even "unknown persons" from publishing defamatory content against Harshendra Kumar D., his family members, in connection with "mass burial" case, the High Court of Karnataka on Friday directed the civil court to pass a fresh order on a defamation suit filed by Mr. Kumar.

The High Court said the temporary injunction "is unsustainable, as the order passed which has sweeping effect, on all 338 defendants could not have been passed as an interim measure, by an ex-parte interim injunction.

Meanwhile, the Special Investigation Team found no remains in spots 7 and 8 of the temple on day 4 of the exhumation operation.

TO ADVERTISE
PLEASE CONTACT
Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 9820350726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

Government of Arunachal Pradesh
Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods
Mission Itanagar-791111
Email: srlmcco@gmail.com/ cooskills.arsrlm@gmail.com
Website: srlm.arunachal.gov.in

File No.: ArSRLM-15021(11)/5/2025-ArSRLM-ASRLM, E-Comp. No.: 245891/25611-17
Dated: Itanagar, 1st August 2025

Corrigendum-II: Notice inviting Expression of Interest (EoI)
References:
1. ArSRLM-15021(11)/5/2025-ArSRLM-ASRLM, E-Comp No. 245891/21223-28 dated 28.05.2025
2. ArSRLM-15021(11)/5/2025-ArSRLM-ASRLM, E-Comp. No.:245891/ 23618-23 dated 30.06.2025

In inviting reference to the Expression of Interest (EoI) issued by this office vide No: ArSRLM-15021(11)/5/2025-ArSRLM-ASRLM, E-Comp No.245891/21223-28 dated 28.05.2025 for the empanelment of Project Implementing Agencies under the DDU-GKY 2.0 and Captive Employment Projects in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, it is to inform the prospective applicants that due to unavoidable technical and administrative reasons, the last date of project proposal submission in the integrated ERP/ MIS portal (<https://kaushal.rural.gov.in>) has been extended upto **30th August 2025** (Saturday). All other terms and conditions of the original EoI shall remain unchanged.

The interested agencies may visit kaushal.rural.gov.in. The detailed EoI is uploaded in the portal.

(Sangeeta Yirang) APCS (AG)
CEO-cum-SMD
Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission
DIPR /RO-0075-76 Government of Arunachal Pradesh

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

M MANI (84), Retired Supervisor (Comp News), The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 01-August-2025. Address: 18/38, Poes Road, Teynampet, Chennai-600018. Contact: 9841119952

DEATH

Sri K RAMASAMY (75)
Consultant, Accounts Department, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 01-08-2025.
Address: Plot No:7, Door No:8, Sri Gayathri, Maheswari Avenue, Ullagam, Chennai-600091.
Ph: 7299971671

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

IN GRATITUDE
For Her Love, Wisdom and Grace

Smt. Kala Kaarthikeyan
Forever our inspiration
From D.R.Kaarthikeyan Family & Friends
Email: drkaarthikeyan@gmail.com

“युवाओं को नौकरी देने का हमारा अभियान निरंतर जारी है।
भारत सरकार रोज़गार के नए अवसर
उपलब्ध कराने पर भी ध्यान केंद्रित कर रही है।”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

असरदार सरकार - सुशासन ही आधार

State Level Induction Programme
of Newly Appointed
Government Employees of Group 'D'
August 2, 2025 | 12 PM
Indradhanush Auditorium, Sector-5, Panchkula

Chief Guest
Sh. Nayab Singh Saini
Chief Minister, Haryana

- During the tenure of the present Government, about 1.75 lakh youth have been given Government jobs on the basis of transparency and merit
- Job of contractual employees has been secured till retirement; contractual employees who have completed 5 years will be benefitted by the policy
- About 23,000 youth have been given jobs through HKRNL
- Interviews abolished in recruitments of Group 'C' and 'D'
- Common Eligibility Test (CET) to get rid of repeated competitive examinations
- Establishment of Overseas Placement Cell to send youth abroad

You are cordially invited

Scan the QR code to join the program

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana
www.prharyana.gov.in | Follow us on [social media icons] @diprharyana

1089/13/2222/2026/37499/199/7



House of wars

Attacking political rivals cannot be a way to evade responsibility

The government and the Opposition crossed swords in Parliament during a discussion on Operation Sindoor this week. There was unanimity in praising India's armed forces, but there was little common ground beyond that. Operation Sindoor was India's military response to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, on April 22, 2025, which claimed 26 lives. The elimination of three terrorists behind the attack, just before the parliamentary debate, helped the government's case. It told Parliament that these terrorists were Lashkar-e-Taiba members from Pakistan. The Narendra Modi government's strident approach seeks to change the behaviour of Pakistan and reassure its domestic audience. The success of this approach is debatable and the Opposition sought to put the government on the spot on both counts. A demonstrated willingness to use force against Pakistan in the event of a terrorism incident is a definitive turn in India's strategy, and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) takes pride in that. But there is no evidence yet that it is working though there has been chest thumping around it by the ruling party. The discussion in Parliament barely addressed the implications of this approach, which is being touted as the new normal. The Opposition and the government agreed on the need to punish Pakistan, and also disagreed on who would do it better.

The government claimed success in meeting its objectives of launching a military operation and denied that it had acted under pressure in ending the war. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi demanded a pointed response to repeated claims by U.S. President Donald Trump that he mediated the ceasefire but the Prime Minister evaded a direct response on it. The government contradicts itself when it says that the operation was a success, and that it is continuing. It is also exasperating to hear a party that is now in its eleventh year of uninterrupted power, blame people who passed away decades ago for any challenge that India faces now. There was little self-reflection regarding the lapses that led to the terrorism incident, and whether and how the government plans to address them. The government had sent joint teams including several MPs from the Opposition abroad to garner support for India in the aftermath of the operation, but that sign of statesmanship was a short-lived aberration, as it turns out. The world is changing rapidly and India's capacity to navigate those changes will be largely determined by its own character. Questioning the patriotism of political opponents is an easy route to take to evade tough questions, but the BJP must realise that such an approach has diminishing returns.

Deep ties

India needs to engage its neighbours more closely

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Maldives last week, after an invitation by Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu to be a special guest for the country's 60th Independence Day, signalled the full return of relations to the closeness they held during the previous Ibrahim Solih government. Although the two leaders had not gotten off to the best start in 2023, after Mr. Muizzu's surprise win, backed by an "India Out" campaign – this was followed by a "Boycott Maldives" social media campaign in India – they have been on the mend for the past year. During Mr. Muizzu's 2024 state visit to India, India had announced measures including lines of credit and a currency swap arrangement to support the Maldives during its economic troubles. Mr. Muizzu reflected gratitude when he described India's role in the Maldives as "pivotal" and Mr. Modi reciprocated the warmth. India announced a line of credit worth \$565 million (₹4,850 crore) and reduced the annual debt burden for Maldives on previous Indian lines of credit by 40%. There was also the launch of India-Maldives Free Trade Agreement negotiations, which will be a significant driver of future engagement. There was the signing too of MoUs for cooperation in fisheries, meteorological sciences, digital solutions and pharma, as well as a digital and rupee-rufiyaa national currency payments agreement. Over the past six decades, India has cultivated a strong security partnership with the Maldives, including trilateral national security consultations with Sri Lanka, and it is significant that after Mr. Modi's visit, Mr. Muizzu welcomed Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disسانayake for a state visit.

The Maldives visit was also a reaffirmation of the importance of India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, at a time when Indian foreign policy is facing headwinds linked to the U.S.'s trade tariffs and the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza. The conflict with Pakistan after the Pahalgam attacks, and tensions with Bangladesh have engaged the government's attention. New Delhi has also been preoccupied with reaching out to different countries, following Operation Sindoor, but did not send delegations to neighbouring countries. It is heartening that New Delhi is preparing to welcome Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, who has not been invited to India since he took office a year ago. A commemorative stamp by the Maldives for its national day celebrations showed traditional Indian and Maldives boats, which Mr. Modi described as a reflection of India and the Maldives being not just neighbours "but also fellow voyagers on a shared journey". In a time of global economic turmoil, a closer engagement with the neighbours – one that shores up their economic needs and supports their plans for development where possible – is essential.

The India-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA), called the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), has been lauded by the Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, as the 'gold standard' for all India's trade deals. Mr. Goyal has asserted that no compromise was made in any sensitive sector. Evidently, the Minister seemed to be counting only agriculture and labour-intensive manufacturing as sensitive sectors – which they are. But remarkably, despite the wide coverage the FTA has received, the impact on India's other, highly sensitive digital sector, which permeates every sphere of national activity and holds the key to our future, has gone without official comment or media scrutiny.

We argue that the compromises made in the digital sector through the India-U.K. FTA have profound consequences for India's digital sovereignty – a term frequently invoked in high-level political discourse. India has completely flipped on several core positions that it has long maintained at global forums, including at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Source code disclosure

The most surprising giveaway is on India's sovereign right to seek ex ante access to the source code for foreign digital goods or services, even for those deemed sensitive. This is very different from getting source code ex post for a specific investigation or remedy, which is allowed under the agreement. Regulators in different sectors often have strict disclosure rules, such as for food and medicine ingredients. Software now permeates nearly every product, including telecom, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and health applications, whereby it may be crucial for the regulators to be able to 'look under the hood' of software, for safety, security and general compliance requirements, and to enable urgent, real-time upgrades.

Giving up this right is a 180-degree turn from India's steadfast stand at the WTO and other forums. Even the United States, which first included source code related prohibitions in its FTAs and at the WTO, withdrew this formulation last year, recognising its domestic regulatory, law enforcement and security imperatives. In the U.S. driven Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP),



Smita Purushottam

is India's former Ambassador to Switzerland



Parminder Jeet Singh

is a Delhi-based digital society researcher

The compromises that India made in the digital sector through the India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement will have profound consequences for India's digital sovereignty

the 'source code disclosure' provision applied only to mass-market software such as Microsoft's operating systems – meaning not to niche and custom-made software. It specifically excluded software for critical infrastructure. In the U.K. FTA text, the prohibition applies to all software. Businesses are always free to enter, or avoid, transactions requiring disclosure of source code. What is sacrificed here are India's regulatory rights in this regard, for all times to come, in a sector that has just begun to take shape.

Surrendering a critical national resource

Granting equal and non-discriminatory access for U.K. parties to 'Open Government Data' – a term from the pre-digital era which then meant government transparency, and access to its statistics – constitutes another major giveaway. This is because data is not what it used to be. Today, it has acquired an entirely new avatar, being the digital era's most valuable resource. AI, where heated competition for global mastery is raging, is but patterns derived from data, which is why data is deemed to be priceless.

This concession is very significant, even though this provision is yet at a 'best endeavour' level, and non-binding. It is incomprehensible why India (where the intention to be an AI superpower is a staple of top-level political rhetoric), has conceded that national data held by the government is not a sovereign resource but an international free for all. Facilitating foreign access to such data poses risks of eroding India's competitive advantage in using India's own data to create Indian AI products, and also serious security risks as national data can be weaponised.

The most contested issues in digital trade are the 'free flow of data' and 'data localisation'. While India seems to have largely stood its ground on these issues, its commitment to "enter into consultations to extend appropriate equivalent disciplines" to the U.K. if India agrees to any concessions with another country, denotes a dangerous regress, and visible vulnerability, with regard to India's long-held positions on these key issues.

This matter links to the one above on India's data being an important national economic resource as well as the need to safeguard it from a security point of view. Again, last year, owing to similar considerations, the U.S., the original proponent of 'free flow of data' and 'prohibition

on data localisation', withdrew from these stances at the WTO.

It is difficult to understand how Indian negotiators could be so naive or negligent in agreeing to the above concessions. Digital trade concessions are not like those on commodities, where tariffs can be applied one day and removed on another.

Digital trade texts are essentially about rule making for a new global digital order. We either fully opt into western, Big Tech -oriented, digital architectures, or we maintain sufficient autonomy and sovereignty. This is because once the digital rules and agriculture are set, they are almost impossible to roll back. India's digital concessions are thus buttressing a set of rules for a global digital ecosystem from which India cannot extricate itself later. And India is doing all this in a reactive mode without a clear road map of its own.

It seems that the U.K. was able to extract all the above concessions, the absolute opposite to what India has stood for till now, because, unlike manufacturing and agriculture, there is no specific political 'constituency' for digital sovereignty. But it is perhaps an even more important issue in the mid to long term. We may be seeing a repeat of how India lost out on early industrialisation and had to suffer grievous colonial exploitation, causing a loss of wealth and independence. In making these digital concessions, we may be giving up our digital future, independence and prosperity.

India must act quickly

India needs to develop and negotiate towards a global digital architecture that protects and furthers its digital sovereignty. As a late starter in 'digital industrialisation', it should create the space required for India to become a digital superpower and not a digital colony.

For this, India needs to urgently formulate a full-fledged digital sovereignty and 'digital industrialisation' policy which should then inform and guide its trade negotiations. Our negotiators must be accompanied by digital sovereignty experts with access to the top political leadership, which has the core responsibility for safeguarding India's long-term digital interests. These interests are often not so visible, and, therefore, tend to get by-passed and not fought for.

The fact is mangroves drive business

Mangroves have, historically, been on the margins of planning and policy priorities in spite of their vital role in anchoring coastal economies and protecting millions from climate extremes. Their loss is not just an environmental concern. Their loss erodes natural infrastructure that acts as a buffer for urban coastlines, underpins fisheries, and quietly contributes billions in ecosystem services and avoided damages.

As the world grapples with extreme weather events and rising sea levels, blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves are critical to climate and economic resilience. Yet, their value rarely features in balance sheets or policy frameworks. How can businesses, governments, and communities reimagine these ecosystems as active drivers of sustainable growth and security? Three pillars of our work through the Mangrove Coalition offer ideas for the path forward.

Mapping with technology

First, embracing technology can help us better understand the value of "Natural Capital". Satellite and drone data with advanced geospatial Artificial Intelligence algorithms have improved accurate mangrove mapping and blue carbon quantification. This is crucial for informing policies and restoration efforts. The economic and ecosystem services valuation of mangroves ranges from ₹3,535 million in Pichavaram (Tamil Nadu) to ₹664 billion in the Sundarbans (West Bengal). Carbon sequestration alone is valued at ₹462 million per year in the Sundarbans, reflecting the ecological and economic importance of this habitat. Communities that possess deep knowledge of mangrove ecosystems

Madhav Pai

is the CEO of WRI India

Soumva Swaminathan

is the Chair of the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation

Sejal Worah

is the Programme Director of WWF India

It is unfortunate that the value of blue carbon ecosystems such as mangroves rarely features in balance sheets or policy frameworks

and rely on them for their livelihoods, must be prioritised and equitably benefited – socially and economically.

Involving communities

Second, community-led conservation efforts are key to strengthening symbiotic and mutually respectful relationships of people and nature. Fisherfolk especially value the role of mangroves as nurseries for juvenile fish. Healthy mangroves often translate into robust fish stocks, ensuring sustainable catch. The livelihoods of these coastal communities are intrinsically linked to the quality of mangrove and estuarine systems.

In dense urban settings such as Mumbai and Chennai, mangroves are often distressed, polluted and degraded. Since they are unable to support flourishing biodiversity, coastal livelihoods and socio-cultural interdependencies are compromised. However, when communities directly experience the benefits (more fish, cleaner air, protected homes) and are empowered to make decisions about their local environment, they become effective and enduring stewards. Mangroves and other coastal ecosystems can also create opportunities for alternative livelihoods such as aquaculture, beekeeping and eco-tourism. Integrated ownership models such as Eco-Development Committees (EDCs) or Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) can be translated for urban mangroves.

Third, citizen science can engage stakeholders to generate wonder and investment in this undervalued ecosystem and mobilise collective action for conservation. When community members from varied backgrounds are skilled to

understand and monitor ecosystems, this can either supplement existing assessment efforts or substitute for formal monitoring. Mangrove health is intertwined with the vitality of associated ecosystems and wetlands, and the health of rivers from source to the sea, as they contribute freshwater, sediments and biota. Regular monitoring can provide a good indication of how the system is faring.

Platforms can play a pivotal role

Key components of a mangrove health tool should include indicators around changes in mangrove area; quantity, quality and timing of freshwater flows; avian, floral, molluscan and fish diversity; and, crucially, community dependence and a perception of the ecosystem services. Such assessments can provide key insights to support management actions. Engagement platforms such as "Mangrove Mitras" or Friends of Mangroves can open avenues for urban citizens and local communities to engage constructively in the conservation of mangroves. This could help to rebuild a people-wetland-river-mangrove connection through an immersive experience on the magical value of mangroves.

Sustainable stewardship is not a top-down mandate but a symbiotic relationship where mangrove health and people's well-being are mutually reinforcing. Policymakers and businesses must recognise mangroves as vital climate and economic infrastructure rather than mere biodiversity zones. Protecting and restoring these ecosystems demands a coalition where science, business and community voices work in harmony – each bringing unique strengths to secure their future.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Misplaced remark

U.S. President Donald Trump's remark, calling India a "dead economy", is both inaccurate and disappointing, especially when leading global institutions continue to recognise India as among the fastest-growing major economies. That the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have all projected India's economic stability is a clear indication of economic vitality, not decline. With a young and dynamic population – in sharp contrast to aging demographics and slowing growth in many advanced economies, India's demographic strength, combined with prudent macroeconomic policies and digital advancement, positions it as a key driver

of future global growth. Mr. Trump's comments appear to be politically charged rather than fact-based.

Rukma Sharma,
Jalandhar, Punjab

What is odious is that Mr. Trump did not stop with just announcing tariffs. He has revived the U.S.'s old myopic game of trying to maintain a geo-political strategic balance in South Asia by supporting Pakistan, India's war-happy neighbour. One cannot but notice the fact that Mr Trump has been upping the ante against India ever since it successfully carried out post-Pahalgam retaliatory strikes against Pakistan's terror infrastructure. That India proved its military prowess with minimum collateral damage and the

use of indigenous armaments has not gone down well with the Trump administration.

Nalini Vijayaraghavan,
Thiruvananthapuram

The cartoon (Inside pages, 'On the draw' August 1), on Mr. Trump's decision, may be a correct portrayal. The U.S. President is publicity savvy and wants to take the credit when it comes to all major global events. He wants the Nobel Prize and has shamelessly expressed his desire. He is just another politician and not a statesman. Imposing shockingly high tariffs will hurt the business of the exporters to the United States of America, which will, in turn, affect the economies of many countries. Mr. Trump does not care one bit about the sufferings of others. He is

whimsical, which is a bad trait for anyone in power. Here is an elected leader who is an example of how one should not be.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

One cannot help notice these contrasts — ISRO and NASA have successfully launched their NISAR satellite into orbit, which highlights the power of science and cooperation, but the U.S. President seems intent on giving pinpricks to India and the Indian government. One wonders how things will play out.

Dhanaraj S.,
Bodinayakanur, Tamil Nadu

The debate in Parliament

The parliamentary debate on Operation Sindoor unfolded as expected, with few surprises. The ruling

party remained determined to portray the operation as an unqualified success, while key questions raised by the Opposition were left unanswered. Vital issues deserving serious deliberation such as Mr. Trump's repeated claims of brokering a ceasefire, and the alarming security lapses in Pahalgam were largely ignored. From the outset, the ruling party's reluctance to engage in a substantive debate was unmistakable. Repeated references to events under the past dispensation did little more than deflect attention from the core concerns. One can only hope that future parliamentary discussions will rise above partisan posturing and offer genuine, meaningful exchanges.

V. Nagarajan,
Chennai

Civic responsibility

India-Bangladesh relations may be strained but there are areas of policy in that country which may be worth considering in India. I recently came across a video on YouTube, on an organisation called BD Clean (bdclean.org). It is a platform of 50,000 volunteers who work with the aim of ensuring a clean Bangladesh and bringing about a change in mentality in the disposal of garbage. The transformation in the country has been spectacular with heavily polluted areas undergoing remarkable transformations. It is an idea that is worth emulating in Indian cities and towns.

V. Subramaniam,
Chennai

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

GROUND ZERO



Billboards advertise fertility centres in Hyderabad. The city, along with Secunderabad, is a significant hub for medical tourism in India. G. RAMAKRISHNA

The business of selling babies

In August 2024, a couple from Rajasthan travelled to Secunderabad for an IVF procedure. A doctor at a clinic they approached convinced them to opt for surrogacy instead. After paying ₹30 lakh and getting a baby a year later, the couple realised through DNA testing that the child was not theirs. **Serish Nanisetti and Siddharth Kumar Singh** report on the surrogacy scam in Telangana

The Secunderabad railway station in Telangana is a noisy transit hub. Thousands of people enter and exit the concourse every day. Ad jingles in Hindi, Telugu, English, and Bengali, about the various medical procedures offered by hospitals across the city, blare over the din. Billboards outside the station feature smiling couples with babies. The city, along with Hyderabad, is a significant hub for medical tourism in India.

In August 2024, after having done some research, Sonam Singh and her husband Akshay travelled to Secunderabad from Kuharwas village near Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan for an in vitro fertilisation (IVF) procedure. They rented a house near the railway station and began searching on the Internet for hospitals nearby.

Near the railway station, they found the Universal Srushti Fertility Centre, which promised them an 85% success rate for an IVF procedure. The hopeful couple met the owner, Pachipala Namratha aka Athaluri Namratha, 64.

“The test results showed that we were medically fit to conceive,” says Sonam, speaking over the phone from Kuharwas. “But the doctor insisted that we opt for surrogacy. She told us that it was safer and more reliable. She also assured us that the clinic would use our sperm and egg, and also handle all the paperwork and legalities.”

While an IVF procedure can cost anywhere between ₹2 lakh and ₹6 lakh per cycle, Namratha told the couple that surrogacy would cost them ₹30 lakh. She asked Sonam and Akshay to transfer half the amount through their bank account and pay the remaining in cash, supposedly for the surrogate. Convinced, the couple made their first payment on August 16, 2024. According to the First Information Report filed by Akshay, Namratha also promised the couple that “a healthy child [would be] delivered... after DNA confirmation.”

Nearly a year later, on June 5, Sonam and Akshay were handed a baby at Lotus Hospital in Visakhapatnam. However, the couple grew suspicious when Namratha’s clinic refused to perform the DNA test. They took the infant to the DNA Forensics Laboratory in Vasant Kunj, Delhi. To their shock, the results showed that the baby was not theirs. When they returned to Secunderabad to confront Namratha, she had disappeared.

Sonam and Akshay approached the Gopalpuram police in Secunderabad, which investigated the matter and uncovered a baby-selling racket. The police booked Namratha under Sections 61, 316, 335, 336, and 340 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Act, 2023, which deal with criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust by carriers, forgery of documents, and related offences. They also booked her under Sections 38, 39, and 40 of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, which deal with prohibitions, punishments, and penalties related to surrogacy practices.



Instead of getting ₹15 lakh, the couple from Assam got ₹90,000 for selling their baby

POLICE OFFICER

couples. Promising these couples a baby through surrogacy, it has charged them between ₹20 lakh and ₹30 lakh each, and handed them babies not related to them. It has also furnished falsified documents, say the police. An investigation has revealed that the clinic paid commissions to smaller centres for referrals of potential surrogate mothers and women who wanted to undergo abortions, forged medical reports, and operated without proper licensing.

According to the police, an agent called Dhanasri Santoshi struck a deal between a couple from Assam and the clinic. They say the Assamese couple’s baby was given to the couple from Rajasthan. The police have arrested the couple from Assam on charges of selling their baby.

“Instead of getting ₹15 lakh, the couple from Assam got ₹90,000 for selling their baby,” says a police officer. The baby has been moved to foster care at Shishu Vihar, a childcare centre under the Women and Child Welfare Department.

The police add that they have discovered a disturbing pattern in how surrogates are sourced. The sealed medical facility in Secunderabad is surrounded by lodges and bed-and-breakfast rooms. These lodging facilities were used to house women. A police officer says, “The agents would approach vulnerable women, particularly those seeking abortions, and offer them money to continue their pregnancy so that they could take the baby later. These newborns would then be passed off as children conceived through surrogacy. This is how people were misled into believing that the babies were biologically theirs.” In at least four known cases in Telangana, women were not paid at all and completely abandoned post-delivery, the officer adds.

On November 26, 2024, a woman engaged as a surrogate by a couple died after falling from the ninth floor of a building in Raidurgam in the western part of Hyderabad. According to the police, the victim and her husband, both natives of Odisha, were given accommodation by Rajesh Babu and his wife at their residence. When Rajesh allegedly tried to sexually assault the 26-year-old woman, she tried to escape through the balcony and slipped and died. She was purportedly brought to the city through middlemen for



A view of the Srushti Fertility Centre in Secunderabad. G. RAMAKRISHNA

surrogacy for ₹10 lakh, say police reports.

Donors in queue

As the police widened their probe, they raided a facility operating under the name, Indian Sperm Tech, near Secunderabad East Metro Station, located about 400 metres away from the fertility clinic. They found 17 sperm donors and 11 egg donors waiting in queue at the facility.

“The women donors were brought from Delhi, and the men from Andhra Pradesh and other parts of Telangana. The sperm donors, mostly aged between 22 and 30, were paid ₹1,000-₹1,500 per sample. The men were in need of quick cash,” says a police officer who led the raid.

“The women donors were brought from Delhi, and the men from Andhra Pradesh and other parts of Telangana. The sperm donors, mostly aged between 22 and 30, were paid ₹1,000-₹1,500 per sample. The men were in need of quick cash,” says a police officer who led the raid.

L. Shiva was among the people arrested by the police in the midnight raid. Shiva, 35, from Vizianagaram, brought egg and sperm donors and connected them to the hospital. Another broker who was arrested hails from Indore in Madhya Pradesh. One of the egg donors caught in the raid was a 30-year-old resident from Baksa, Assam.

Indian Sperm Tech, reportedly headquartered in Ahmedabad, had allegedly set up the sperm collection unit in Secunderabad without a valid license. “It is a diagnostic centre,” says an officer from the District Medical and Health Officer’s office. “They collect sperm samples, freeze them, and send them to Ahmedabad. The processed samples (isolated and concentrated to select the healthiest sperm) are then returned with reports and sold to clinics across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh. The place has been operating for two years without registration.”

In trouble before

It is a typically busy weekday afternoon on St. Johns Road in Secunderabad. But just a short turn away from this arterial road, the noise fades. A narrow bylane, about 20 feet wide, is almost hidden in plain sight. Two old gates, one swung wide open and the other barely ajar, lead into it. Two policemen sit here, silent witnesses to what the North Zone police uncovered.

The building of Namratha’s clinic has been sealed and the clinic shut down, following an investigation that exposed the baby-selling racket running under the guise of fertility treatments. “The hospital operated only on the first two floors. The rest were empty,” says one constable. The two floors were filled with equipment required for childcare and fertility treatment.

Rajesh Ravi lived here for 16 years before moving closer to the city centre. He is shocked by the revelations. “You live somewhere for over a decade and you think you know your neighbourhood. I found nothing suspicious. The only time we were mildly inconvenienced was when too many patients came and there would be many cars on the street,” he says.

Rajesh says there was a police case involving the same place about 10 years ago. “No one talked about it much because back then, news on social media did not reach us as fast as it does now,” he says.

“We knew what was happening here,” says Manu, a lawyer who lives across the street of the four-storied Rushi Test Tube Bab Cent. While the name in English has missing letters, the name in Telugu etched beneath it reveals the complete name – Srusthi Test Tube Baby Centre. “This place was sealed five times earlier. But eventually things got back to ‘normal’. This time I think it is serious and she (Namratha) will not be allowed to carry on the business.”

The Telangana Medical Council says Namratha was involved in a surrogacy scandal in 2016. A U.S.-based couple, who had used the clinic’s services, had discovered that the child born to them through a surrogate was not biologically related to them. “Following a police case and court hearings, we suspended the doctor’s license for five years, with a lifetime ban on conducting surrogacy procedures,” says Dr. G Srinivas, Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Yet, when the suspension period ended, the doctor returned, seeking to have her license rein-



This place was sealed five times. But things got back to ‘normal’. This time I think it is serious and Namratha will not be allowed to carry on the business

MANU
Lawyer

stated. “We refused. She was still involved in a court case, and our rules are clear on that,” Dr. Srinivas adds.

A stringent law

As surrogacy has become an increasingly popular option for couples grappling with infertility, Indian law has become more stringent to ensure that the practice remains ethical and free from commercial exploitation. What once operated in legal grey zones is now bound by clear rules, thanks to the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021.

Under the Act, only altruistic surrogacy is permitted in India. This means a surrogate mother cannot be paid for carrying a child, except for her medical expenses and insurance coverage. Commercial surrogacy, any arrangement involving monetary compensation or profit, is banned and is a punishable offence.

According to the Act, all surrogacy procedures must take place at clinics registered under the Act and authorised by the office officially designated as the State Appropriate Authority.

These clinics must comply with strict medical standards and ethical norms. Any attempt to bypass the law, whether through brokers, unregistered clinics, or financial inducements, is considered a criminal offence, punishable with imprisonment of up to 10 years and fines reaching ₹10 lakh.

Fertility specialists say the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Regulation Act, 2021, and the Surrogacy (Regulation) Act, 2021, have brought much-needed order to what was once a loosely regulated and, at times, opaque system.

Dr. Preethi Dayal, who runs the Preethi Fertility Centre in Jangaon district, says prior to the enforcement of the ART law in January 2023, “many centres operated without oversight. You could bring in any random donor, collect the sample, and proceed with checks or documentation. But we are now bound by very strict protocols. Every donor must be sourced only through a registered ART bank, which keeps Aadhaar-linked records of every sample, though the identity is never disclosed to either doctors or patients.” She adds that the new law mandates comprehensive screening of all donors, including genetic testing, and imposes tight eligibility criteria based on age and health. “There is no room for ambiguity now. Everything has to be documented and traceable.”

Dr. Preethi also points out that, legally and ethically, all third-party donor procedures must be conducted with confidentiality. “Patients are never informed about the identity of the donor. The child born through surrogacy belongs legally and emotionally to the intended parents. That is the framework we follow,” Dr. Preethi says.

To reduce the risk of human error, the doctor says many IVF clinics have now adopted the RI Witness system, a high-tech safety protocol that tracks every sample using barcode verification. “Every patient is given a barcode-linked card. Before processing a sample, we scan the card in the system. If there is any mismatch, the entire hospital is alerted,” she says.

While many corporate hospitals have already adopted this system, Dr. Preethi says smaller or less-regulated clinics may not yet have the infrastructure or the will to comply. “Some centres are still conducting 10 to 15 IVF cycles a day. Without safeguards like the RI Witness system, the chances of mix-ups increase,” she says.

Additional reporting by Naveen Kumar
Names have been changed to protect privacy

From Page One

Bihar’s draft voter rolls: voters dip by 65 lakh

“In the one-month period from August 1 to September 1, any elector or political party can file claims and objections in a prescribed form before the ERO to add the name of any eligible elector or to delete the name of any ineligible one,” the EC statement said.

No State-wide compiled list was made available, but booth-wise lists of all the 90,712 polling booths of all 243 Assembly constituencies have been shared with all political parties by the State’s 38 Deputy Electoral Officers (DEO).

However, the voters included in the draft list are still required to submit proof of residence and birth unless they have already done so, using the list of 11 documents which the EC had listed in the SIR rules. Neither Aadhaar nor voter ID cards are in the list of eligible documents.

Opposition parties have dubbed the SIR as an effort to bring in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) through a “backdoor” process. They have approached the Supreme Court in the matter, along with several civil society groups.

The top court had suggested to the EC, that it consider Aadhaar and Voter ID cards as proof as well. The next date of hearing has been fixed for August 12.

Prajwal Revanna convicted of rape

Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Ashok Nayak said they were happy that they could get justice for the victim. The case, speedy trial, and conviction were like a “lesson” to others, he said and thanked the Special Investigation Team (SIT) chief B.K. Singh and other officers for it.

Another SPP B.N. Jagadeesha said the court that began the trial in the case on May 2, and held daily hearings as per the guidelines by the Supreme Court in cases against MLAs and MPs.

He pointed out that the accused changed lawyers midway, approached the High Court twice, which he described as “delay tactics”, but said that did not work, and the trial was completed on July 18, and an order issued on Friday.

Forensic proof

Of the four cases, this case had the strongest evidence. The survivor, 48, was raped once in the family’s residence in Hassan and again in the family’s home in Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, in 2021. Prajwal recorded the act on his mobile in the first instance. In the video, the victim is seen pleading with him to spare her.

Forensic reports indicated that the man in the video is Prajwal. The victim had kept her saris in a wardrobe where she was working, and DNA analysis found Prajwal’s DNA on one of them. These, apart from the victim’s testimony, formed key evidence in the trial. The SIT had filed a 1,632-page chargesheet with 118 witnesses in the case in September 2024.

The victim was also allegedly abducted at the behest of Prajwal’s parents, H.D. Revanna and Bhavani Revanna, to prevent her from testifying and was rescued from a farmhouse. The SIT has also filed a chargesheet against them for abduction. The trial in that case is yet to begin.

Hundreds of explicit videos of many women, allegedly recorded by Prajwal, were leaked in Hassan in the last week of April 2024, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe, headed by Mr. Singh, Additional Director General of Police, Criminal Investigation Department, led to four cases against Prajwal – three rape cases and one sexual harassment case.

India-U.S. ties will ‘move forward’, says MEA

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump had placed the trade relationship within the context of his ongoing efforts to bring Russia to the negotiating table regarding the Ukraine crisis and said on social media platform Truth Social, “Remember, while India is our friend, we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their Tariffs are.. among the highest in the World, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary Trade Barriers of any Country. Also, they have always bought a vast majority of their military equipment from Russia, and are Russia’s largest buyer of ENERGY, along with China...”

Apart from targeting India for sourcing energy, and military hardware from Russia, President Trump had slammed the BRICS grouping where India and Russia have been the founding members. “You know, they have BRICS, which is basically a group of countries that are anti the United States, and India is a member of that...,” Mr. Trump told the media on Wednesday.

Responding to this, Mr. Jaiswal said, “Our bilateral relationships with various countries stand on their own merit and should not be seen from the prism of a third country. India and Russia have a steady and time-tested partnership.” He further highlighted the “strong defence partnership with the U.S.” that India has developed over the past years and mentioned the decisions taken during Mr. Trump’s February 13 meeting with Prime Minister Modi in Washington D.C. which had led to the new initiative named “U.S.-India COMPACT (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce & Technology) for the 21st Century”.

India’s fuel exports going on without import duty in U.S.

The U.S. President had announced plans to impose penalty on India over Delhi’s ties with Moscow; but the order Trump signed excludes petroleum products from the 25% tariff on Indian goods

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India’s exports of petroleum products such as diesel and jet fuel to the U.S. continue to be exempted from the levy of any import duty or tariff, and President Donald Trump has, for now, not indicated the penalty he plans to impose to deter New Delhi’s energy trade with Russia.

On Wednesday, Mr. Trump had announced plans to impose a 25% tariff on India, along with an additional penalty, citing concerns over the country’s energy and defence ties with Russia, as well as existing trade barriers.

However, the executive order he signed thereafter only gives effect to the 25% tariff on Indian goods coming to the U.S. Even this has an exclusion list that includes finished pharmaceutical products (tablets, injectables and syrups), active pharmaceutical ingredients, electronics and ICT goods (semiconductors,



Pharmaceutical products and electronics have also been excluded from the 25% tariff on Indian goods. FILE PHOTO

smartphones, SSDs and computers), and petroleum products (crude oil, LNG, refined fuels, electricity and coal).

The executive order also does not indicate any penalty that is to be levied for Russian trade.

According to official data, India exported 4.86 million tonnes of petroleum products to the U.S. in fiscal year 2024-25 for over \$4 billion. Reliance Industries Ltd. is the biggest exporter of fuel to the U.S.

With fuel exports continuing to be on the exemption list, it means business

as usual for India and companies such as Reliance, analysts said.

Big relief

Also, a relief would be if no penalty is imposed to punish India for its oil imports from Russia, they said, adding that for now, the U.S. administration has not indicated any penalty. “For now, there is nothing but you never know,” an analyst said.

From just 0.2% before the Russia-Ukraine war to now accounting for 35-40% of total crude imports, India’s reliance on

Amid trade turmoil, U.S. to send White House adviser Ricky Gill to Delhi for IMEC conference

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Amidst turmoil over the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and impending 25% tariffs on U.S. imports of Indian goods, U.S. President Donald Trump’s most senior point-person for the region will lead a delegation to Delhi next week.

Ricky Gill, who is the Special Assistant to the U.S. President for National Security Affairs and the U.S. National Security Council’s Senior Director for South and Central Asia, has been invited by India’s National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) to discuss the future of the long-delayed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) on August 5 and 6.



Critical dialogue: Ricky Gill and the U.S. delegation are expected to hold talks with MEA officials during their visit to New Delhi. x/USIBC

Officials of the NSCS, which is led by National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, did not respond to requests for details of the conference. According to sources, a number of countries involved in the project have been invited to attend apart from the U.S.

While the IMEC was

launched on the sidelines of the G-20 in September 2023, it has not made much progress since, due to the October 7 terror attacks in Israel, and Israel’s bombardment of Gaza in which more than 60,000 people have been killed. The Israeli port of Haifa is a key part of the original

IMEC project, although scholars have suggested considering alternative alignments.

Sanctions impact

During their stay in Delhi, Mr. Gill and the U.S. delegation are also expected to hold talks with MEA officials. “The visit underscores the United States’ continued commitment to advancing regional connectivity and infrastructure cooperation with key partners across South Asia, the Middle East and the Mediterranean,” the U.S. Embassy spokesperson told *The Hindu*.

Officials said the visit had been planned several weeks in advance and is not connected to the current trade issues between the two countries. However,

Anil Ambani gets ED summons in loan fraud case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Anil Ambani

The Enforcement Directorate has summoned Reliance ADA Group chairman Anil Ambani for recording his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on August 5 in connection with a bank loan fraud case.

Mr. Ambani has been asked to join the investigating team at the ED headquarters in Delhi. Some functionaries of the group entities have also been summoned. The summonses follow the agency’s searches at 35 locations of 50 companies and 25 individuals launched last week. In a statement, Reliance Infrastructure said the issue pertained to an over 10-year-old matter regarding alleged diversion of ₹10,000 crore to an undisclosed related party, when the exposure as per the disclosures in the company’s financial statements was around ₹6,500 crore.

“In this connection, attention is invited that Reliance Infrastructure had publicly disclosed this mat-

ter on February 9, nearly six months ago. Reliance Infrastructure Limited had a net exposure of ₹6,500 crore which was duly disclosed in its financial statements for four years. Reliance Infrastructure diligently pursued recovery of its dues in this matter,” the statement said.

“Through mandatory mediation proceedings conducted by a retired Supreme Court Judge and the mediation award filed before the Bombay High Court, Reliance Infrastructure arrived at a settlement to recover its 100% exposure of ₹6,500 crore,” said the company, adding that Mr. Ambani was not on the Board of Reliance Infrastructure since March 2022.

‘Trump must receive Nobel Peace Prize’

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump should be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt has said, claiming that the U.S. President ended several conflicts around the world including the one between India and Pakistan.

At a White House press briefing on Thursday, she said Mr. Trump brokered, about one peace deal or ceasefire per month during his six months in office.

Since May 10, when he announced that India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire after talks mediated by Washington, he has repeated his claim on several occasions that he helped settle the tensions between the two countries.

Congress, Left parties should strengthen ties: Telangana CM

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister and Congress leader A. Revanth Reddy has underlined the need for further strengthening the cooperation between the Congress and the Left parties, as the understanding between the two will help in serving people.

The Chief Minister recalled the role played by Communists in helping the Congress come to power in the past as well as present, and said that the coordination should continue in future too. He was speaking at the anniversary celebrations of Telugu daily *Nava Telangana*, which is backed by the CPI (Marxist), in Hyderabad on Friday.

‘Created awareness’

The dailies backed by the Left parties especially strove to create awareness among people on social evils or stigmas and *Nava Telangana* was one among

Revanth said some newspapers are trying to ‘hide the mistakes’ of the parties that are promoting them

them, Mr. Revanth said. “Parties of the yesteryears used dailies to spread their ideology,” he recalled.

However, Mr. Reddy expressed concern that newspapers, those launched with political motivation in particular, were working to protect their monetary interests as well as hide the mistakes of the parties promoting them. “People should keenly observe the behaviour of some political dailies which are trying to influence them in the garb of journalism,” he said.

Added to this was the influence of the social media allowing unqualified people to masquerade as journalists. “The time has come when genuine journalists are forced to define the meaning of journalism holding seminars,” he said.

Tamil Nadu’s engine of progress: education for all

As the State proudly sends off another batch of students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds to the most prestigious educational institutions in the country, one must look back at Tamil Nadu’s legacy in pushing to make education accessible to all; the success stories are not isolated, they reflect a systemic change



M.K. Stalin
Chief Minister of
Tamil Nadu

There are many reasons for Tamil Nadu’s tremendous economic and social progress over the last century, but if I had to choose just one, it would be education. If social justice is our ideology, then education is its most effective instrument to carry it forward. Education for all, not just those who can afford it or have the “merit” for it, is an equaliser and an enabler. It is the foundation upon which we continue to build an equitable Tamil society.

The seeds of this vision were sown more than a century ago. In the year 1920, a school in Thousand Lights area under the then Municipal Corporation of Madras became the first in India to serve mid-day meals to its students. The initiative, approved by the then Madras Corporation Council and inspired by Justice Party leader P. Theagaraya Chetty, was a pioneering act of both compassion and foresight.

Today, that idea has evolved into one of the largest and most effective school meal programmes in the world, topped up with the Breakfast Scheme which was launched in 2022 by this government. It is one of many reforms that illustrate how Tamil Nadu has used its education policy not just to improve learning outcomes, but to bring about equality in society.

Recently, we witnessed another powerful expression of that vision in action. A total of 135 students from Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Schools have secured admission to some of India’s most presti-

gious higher educational institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology, the National Institutes of Technology, the National Institutes of Fashion Technology, the National Law Universities, Miranda House and other leading colleges of the University of Delhi, and more. Further, all the six seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes students at the Rajiv Gandhi National Aviation University were bagged by students from Tamil Nadu through the national counselling process.

This is the outcome of consistent, targeted and well-implemented policy. These students, most of whom studied in government schools from Class 6 to 12, were felicitated by the Government of Tamil Nadu with laptops and certificates of appreciation. Each of these students has achieved something remarkable not just in the context of their personal journey, but in the context of Tamil Nadu’s long-standing goals of equity and access.

These successes are the result of carefully designed support systems. The students received focused training in exams for admissions into various reputed institutions. We have built a strong support system to ensure that Adi Dravidar and tribal students are not left behind in their pursuit of education.

At every stage, from primary school to research, students receive scholarships that ease the financial pressures and help them stay in school. Free education, textbooks and uniforms further re-



Step by step: The Tamil Nadu government’s breakfast scheme is among the many measures taken to improve access to education for the marginalised. FILE PHOTO

duce the cost of learning, making it easier for families to keep their children in classrooms rather than at work.

For students from remote areas, the government provides safe hostels with food and accommodation, removing the daily struggle of travel or lack of basic facilities. Alongside academic support, skill training programmes are conducted to prepare students for real-world employment. To ensure these students do not face entry barriers, the government also offers fee waivers and concessions for entrance exams to top institutions.

Together, these measures create a support ecosystem that extends beyond classrooms. These are efforts rooted in evidence and guided by principles of equality, beginning early and continuing throughout the student’s educational journey. The impact of these efforts is visible in the increasing number of students from marginal-

ised backgrounds securing seats in top institutions. In recent years, Tamil Nadu has consistently produced one of the most inclusive higher education landscapes in India.

Tamil Nadu’s Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education stands at 47%, while the national average is 28.4%. Among women, Tamil Nadu’s GER is 47.3%, against the national figure of 28.5%. These figures are the result of a political movement that placed social equity at the heart of governance, and an administrative system that has pursued that goal with seriousness and clarity.

The roots of this achievement lie in the social justice movement and the educational reforms initiated by the Justice Party and later institutionalised by the Dravidian movement.

In the year 1921, the Justice Party passed the historic Government Order, which came to be known as

the Communal GO, that ensured access to education for children from all communities, particularly the marginalised.

Such early interventions laid the foundation for today’s system. The governments formed by the DMK since 1967, built upon this legacy with transformative policies and schemes. These moves were not without resistance, but the party held firm to the belief that educational opportunity is a fundamental right for all, not only for a privileged few.

Our government continues to innovate. Schemes such as the Pudhumai Penn Thittam, which offers ₹1,000 per month as stipend to girl students from government or aided schools pursuing college education, are making a measurable impact in promoting higher education among women. The Il-lam Thedi Kalvi initiative, launched in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, has helped ensure educational continuity, bridging learning gaps among vulnerable communities. The free breakfast scheme for primary school students has improved attendance and nutrition, especially in rural and disadvantaged areas. Taken together, these schemes have contributed to the growing pipeline of students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are excelling in competitive environments. Importantly, these are not isolated success stories. They reflect a systemic change.

When students from disadvantaged sections of society make it to institutions of eminence, it reaffirms our core belief that excel-

lence in education is not the preserve of the privileged, but the natural outcome of providing equal opportunity and support.

The 135 students we felicitated on July 31, 2025, represent more than individual achievement. They remind us that the governance model of Tamil Nadu, built on social justice, inclusivity and rational planning, works, and works well.

Their success is a collective one. It belongs to the families who supported them, to the teachers who guided them and to this government which designed and implemented the schemes that enabled them.

As we send them off to embark on the next stage of their academic journeys, we do so with pride and hope. We are confident that they will succeed in their chosen fields of study and become bright professionals in their future careers. Inspired by them, many more will follow in their footsteps, turning these few success stories into a wave of prosperity and upliftment.

We are aware that there are still inequalities to correct and challenges to be met, but we are clear-eyed about the path forward and the steps we need to take. The government will keep investing in schemes that unlock the potential of those who need them the most. We will ensure equal opportunities for all, guided by our cherished principles of social justice. We will empower our people through education, so we can keep building a Tamil Nadu that is just, prosperous and humane.

Congress has ‘atom bomb’ of evidence against EC, says Rahul; panel calls it ‘wild allegation’

Alleging ‘vote theft’ by the poll body at the behest of the BJP, the Congress leader warns officials that they won’t be spared for being ‘involved’ in such manipulation; EC says it is ‘deplorable’ that its staff are being threatened; Parliament disrupted over Bihar SIR, INDIA demands discussion on the issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Accusing the Election Commission (EC) of being involved in “vote *chori*” (vote theft), Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that his party had discovered evidence that would leave the poll body with “no place to hide”. He compared the evidence in their possession to an “atom bomb”.

Responding to Mr. Gandhi, the EC accused him of making “wild allegations” and said it was “deplorable” that the Opposition leader had started threatening the poll panel and its staff.

Mr. Gandhi asserted that it was an “open and shut case”, and accused the poll panel of “stealing votes for the BJP”. He also held out a warning to EC officials that they will not be spared as they were working against the country.

“I want to say that the persons in the EC doing this – right from the top to the bottom – we won’t spare. You are working against India and this is treason. No matter where you are, retired or otherwise, we will find you,” the Congress leader said.

“We believe that vote theft has happened at the State level [in Maharashtra]. Voter revision had happened and one crore voters were added. Then



Matter of discussion: Mallikarjun Kharge, Priyanka Gandhi and other leaders protesting on Parliament premises on Friday. ANI

we went into detail, and with the EC not helping, decided to dig deep into this,” he said.

“We got our own investigation done, it took six months and what we found is an atom bomb.

When it explodes, the EC would have no place to hide anywhere in the country,” he added.

A senior EC official said: “The Election Commission ignores such baseless allegations being made on a

daily basis, and despite the daily threats being given, asks all election officials to ignore such irresponsible statements and work in a fair and transparent manner.”

The exchanges came on a day when leaders of the INDIA bloc submitted a joint letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla demanding a discussion on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The issue also forced multiple disruptions in the Lok Sabha as Opposition members trooped into the well of the House with placards in their hands. Eventually, the House was adjourned for the day.

“I have said vote *chori* is happening and now we

have open-and-shut proof that the EC is involved in vote *chori*. I am saying this with 100% proof. As soon as we release it, the whole country would know that the EC is indulging in vote *chori*. It is doing it for the BJP,” Mr. Gandhi alleged.

On a day when the EC published its draft electoral rolls for Bihar, the Opposition intensified its campaign against the SIR, alleging the EC’s exercise was aimed at “disenfranchising voters” ahead of the Assembly election.

The INDIA bloc leaders protested outside Parliament and wrote to the Lok Sabha Speaker, urging him to schedule a special discussion without any further delay.

Vice-Presidential poll to be held on Sept. 9; counting same day

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The election to the post of Vice-President will be held on September 9, and the counting of votes will take place the same day, the Election Commission (EC) announced on Friday.

The notification will be issued on August 7, and the last date for filing nomination papers will be August 21. The date for the scrutiny of nominations will be August 22 and the last date for withdrawal of candidatures is August 25.

September 9 is the date on which polling, if necessary, will be held, the EC said in a statement. The polling shall take place in Room No. F-101, Vasudha, First Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

The election has been

necessitated due to the sudden resignation of Jag-deep Dhankhar on July 21.

The Vice-President is elected by the members of an electoral college consisting of the members of Parliament.

For the election this year, which would be the 17th Vice-Presidential polls, the electoral college consists of 233 elected members of the Rajya Sabha (five seats are now vacant), 12 nominated members of the Rajya Sabha, and 543 elected members of the Lok Sabha (one seat is vacant).

The electoral college comprises a total of 788 members, out of which 782 will be able to vote. Since all the electors are members of Parliament, the value of the vote of each MP would be the same: one.

Opposition protest over Bihar electoral roll revision stalls Rajya Sabha proceedings

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha failed to function on Friday, as the Opposition intensified its protest demanding a discussion on the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

At 11 a.m., following the laying of papers, Deputy Chairman Harivansh informed the House that he had received 30 notices for adjournment motions, of which 21 were related to the SIR in Bihar. Citing precedents, he rejected the motions, which led to an uproar from the Opposition benches.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Manoj Kumar Jha urged the Chair to allow a discussion on the issue.

“This is a *sub judice* mat-



Uproar in House: Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh conducts proceedings in the House amid protest on Friday. ANI

ter and the rules of this House are very clear. I cannot allow [a discussion],” he said, urging the protesting members to return to their seats. The House was then adjourned till noon.

When the House reconvened, Opposition members resumed their protest. Trinamool Congress Parliamentary Party leader

Derek O’Brien, DMK floor leader Tiruchi Siva, and Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh attempted to enter the well of the House. They were initially stopped by marshals but eventually pushed past the blockade, following which the House was adjourned for the day.

Minutes after this, the

Leader of the Opposition and Congress president, Mallikarjun Kharge, wrote to Mr. Harivansh, objecting to the deployment of security personnel. He said he was “shocked and astonished” to see CISF personnel being made to run inside the House.

Sharing the letter on X, Congress chief whip Jairam Ramesh said, “After the sudden and unprecedented resignation of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, we are now seeing the takeover of the chamber of the Council of States by the personnel of the CISF.”

Mr. O’Brien also criticised the government, stating: “Ten sittings of the monsoon session have gone by, we have been asking since Day One that we want a debate on SIR... But instead of listening to our

demand, the government is continuing to disrupt Parliament. What we witnessed today has never happened in the history of the Rajya Sabha.”

Government response Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju denied the Opposition’s allegations. He said it was the MPs themselves who had demanded increased security, which led to the deployment of CISF personnel.

“Members have sometimes physically taken a stand atop the treasury table and near the well. Security has been deployed to stop them from doing this. Marshals and security inside the House will not take any action till the time MPs indulge in something malicious,” he said.

Deletion of 65 lakh names just a beginning: Yogendra Yadav on draft voter list

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Yogendra Yadav, political analyst and founder of Swaraj Abhiyan, on Friday said that though the overall number of 7.24 crore voters on the draft voter list released by the Election Commission was not surprising, it was disappointing that the poll panel had not yet released the 65 lakh names that had been removed.

He said Bihar had 8.18 crore adults, according to the Census, but the draft rolls had only 7.24 crore names. “The EC is not even ashamed of it,” he told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Yadav said, “The real game begins now.” The category called “not

recommended by the booth-level officer” would come up for special scrutiny, and the names in that category were likely to become the first candidates for deletion, he said, adding that those who failed to submit documents in the next month could also face deletion.

“The numbers could be huge,” Mr. Yadav said, and added that, if anyone made objections, a lot of other voters could also find their names deleted from the list. “On these three grounds, people may still be eliminated. So 65 lakh is just the beginning,” he said.

‘Where is the list?’

“The EC has been proclaiming from the rooftop

that they have made these deleted names available to the political parties. Where is the list? Sadly, the EC has not released that list and the format in which the EC has released the information today makes it virtually impossible to compare it with the previous list,” he added. “It is virtually impossible to extract that information, and that is not befitting a constitutional authority like the EC. The list conceals more than it reveals,” he said.

Mr. Yadav urged that the special intensive revision exercise should be scrapped. “This is not just an exercise for revision of electoral roll. It is an exercise for changing the architecture of India’s universal adult franchise,” he said.

INBRIEF



Vice-Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan takes charge as Navy vice-chief

Vice-Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan assumed charge as the Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS) on Friday. Upon assuming office, he paid homage to fallen personnel who made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. The Indian Navy stated that Vice-Admiral Vatsayan is a specialist in gunnery and missile systems, and has held a broad spectrum of command, operational and staff appointments over a distinguished naval career spanning more than three decades. At sea, he has served aboard several frontline warships, including the guided missile destroyer *INS Mysore* and *INS Nishank*.

Indian naval ships arrive in Manila to strengthen ties

Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet arrived in Manila with *INS Delhi*, *Shakti*, and *Kiltan*, reaffirming maritime ties with the Philippines and commitment to the Indo-Pacific. The Navy said that as part of its ongoing operational deployment to Southeast Asia, the ships of the Eastern Fleet, commanded by Rear Admiral Susheel Menon, Flag Officer Commanding, Eastern Fleet, arrived at Manila. The ships were welcomed by personnel of the Philippine Navy. The visit is a testimony to Indian Navy's commitment to strengthening partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.

SC extends stay on defamation case against Shashi Tharoor

The Supreme Court on Friday asked why the complainant who initiated defamation proceedings against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor for his alleged "scorpion on Shivering" remark targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi is being "so touchy" and remarked there is hardly a case. "Why do you want to be so touchy about all this? Let us close all this," Justice M.M. Sundresh addressed BJP leader Rajeev Babbar's counsel. The court continued to extend the stay on the defamation proceedings in the trial court. The stay was originally granted in September 2024. On Friday, the court posted the case next for September 15. The case is based on a complaint filed by Mr. Babbar against Mr. Tharoor in 2018.

Centre halts order granting release of film Udaipur Files

The Centre on Friday informed the Delhi High Court that it was withdrawing its decision granting nod to the release of the film *Udaipur Files - Kanhaiya Lal Tailor Murder*, and will take a decision on the revision petitions "afresh". The court, which was hearing two pleas challenging the Centre's decision allowing the release of the movie, directed the parties to appear before the government on August 4 and make their submissions. The court was informed by counsel for the film's producer that the movie was scheduled to be released on August 8 and they would take some time for making arrangements for releasing it by engaging the theatres.

12th Fail named best film; Shah Rukh, Vikrant Massey, and Rani best actors

71st National Film Awards announced; best male actor award for a supporting role shared by Vijayaraghavan and Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar; Urvashi and Janki Bodiwala share best female actor award in the same category

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The best male actor award was shared by Shah Rukh Khan for *Jawan* and Vikrant Massey for *12th Fail*, which won the best feature film award at the 71st National Film Awards announced on Friday. Rani Mukerji was adjudged the best female actor for her role in *Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway*. This year, a total of 332 feature films, 115 non-feature films, 27 books, and 16 critics came for selection for the awards for 2023. Mr. Khan and Ms. Mukerji, senior artists, won the best actor awards for the first time.

The best male actor award for a supporting role was shared by Vijayaraghavan for *Pookkaalam* (Malayalam) and Muthupettai Somu Bhaskar for *Parking* (Tamil); Urvashi won the best female actor award for a supporting role for *Ullozhukku* (Malayalam) along with Janki Bodiwala for *Vash* (Gujarati). The best child artist award went to Sukriti Veni Bandreddi; Kabir Khandare; and Treesha Thosar, Shrinivas Pokale and Bhargav Jagtap, for *Gandhi Tatha Chettu* (Telu-

The credits roll...

The jury for the 71st National Film Awards picked the winners from 332 feature film entries for 2023

■ Best film on national values
Sam Bahadur (Hindi)

■ Best direction
The Kerala Story (Hindi) | Sudipto Sen

■ Best documentary
God Vulture and Human

■ Best Editing
Pookkaalam (Malayalam)

■ Best short film
Giddh The Scavenger (Hindi)

■ Best screenplay
Baby (Telugu), *Parking* (Tamil), *Sirf Ek Bandaa Kaafi Hai* (Hindi)

■ Best children's film
Naal 2 (Marathi)

■ Best production design: 2018 - *Everyone Is A Hero* (Malayalam)

■ Best music direction
G.V. Prakash Kumar (*Vaathi*) and Harshavardhan Rameshwar (*Animal*)

■ Best choreography
Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani (Hindi)

■ Best film: *12th Fail* (Hindi)

■ Best male actor
Shah Rukh Khan (*Jawan*) and Vikrant Massey (*12th Fail*)

■ Best female actor
Rani Mukerji (*Mrs. Chatterjee vs Norway*)

gu), *Gypsy* (Marathi), and *Naal 2*, respectively.

The best direction award went to Sudipto Sen for *The Kerala Story* (Hindi), which was also recognised for best cinematography (Prasantanu Mohapatra). PVNS Rohit was adjudged the best male singer for the song *Premisthuma* in the film *Baby* (Telugu), which also won for the best screenplay (Sai Rajesh Neelam). Shilpa Rao won the title of best female singer for *Chaley*a in *Jawan* (Hindi).

The award for best debut film was bagged by Ashish Bende for *Aatma-pamphlet* (Marathi), and the best popular film by *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani* directed by Karan Johar. *Sam Bahadur*, directed by Meghna Gulzar, was recognised as the best film promoting national, social, and environmental values.

Naal 2 (Marathi), directed by Sudhakar Reddy Yakanti, topped the best children's film category, while *Hanu-Man* (Telugu) won for best film in anima-

tion, visual effects, gaming and comic category.

The awards for sound design were bagged by *Animal* (Hindi) (Sachin Sudhakaran and Hariharan Muralidharan); for editing by Midhun Murali in *Pookkaalam*; production design by Mohandas in 2018: *Everyone Is A Hero* (Malayalam), music direction by G.V. Prakash Kumar in *Vaathi* (Tamil) and Harshavardhan Rameshwar in *Animal*; and lyrics by Kar-sarla Shyam in *Balagam* (*Ooru Palleturu* - Telugu).

'Report on failure analysis of PSLV-C61/EOS-09 mission to be submitted to PM soon'

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



The ISRO had said the PSLV-C61 performance was normal till Stage 2, but due to a snag in the third stage, the mission failed. PTI

The failure analysis committee has pinpointed the problem that caused the failure of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C61/Earth Observation Satellite-09 (PSLV-C61/EOS-09) mission in May, V. Narayanan, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), said on Friday.

The analysis is over and the committee's report will shortly be handed over to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Narayanan said on the sidelines of a programme here.

Mr. Narayanan described the problem as a "small" one, but said he could reveal the details only after the report is submitted to the Prime Minister.

The PSLV-C61/EOS-09 had a perfect lift-off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on May 18. The mission's objective was to place the EOS-09 satellite in a sun-synchronous polar orbit. The mission failed to achieve its objective, causing an unusual setback for

the space agency with the PSLV, often described as its trusted workhorse for its reliability. Immediately afterwards, the ISRO had stated that the "PSLV-C61 performance was normal till second stage. Due to an observation in the third stage, the mission could not be accomplished."

ISRO gearing up for next U.S. collaboration with BlueBird communications satellite

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is hoping to launch the Block 2 BlueBird communications satellite developed by the U.S.-based AST SpaceMobile in three or four months, Chairman of the space agency V. Narayanan said here on Friday.

This Indo-U.S. collaboration follows the NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar Mission (NISAR) which the ISRO successfully launched on July 30 using the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV). The BlueBird satellite will be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, aboard LVM3, ISRO's heaviest launch vehicle which was formerly known as the GSLV-Mk III,



V. Narayanan

he said.

The BlueBird satellite, weighing around 6,500 kg, is expected to arrive in India in September. Work is also progressing on the mission launch vehicle.

On whether U.S. President Donald Trump's trade policies would affect collaboration in science and technology, Mr. Narayanan said he "fully believes that whatever technology contracts that India has signed

Whole nation fights war, not just military: Rajnath Singh

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Calling for an enhanced civil-military synergy, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday that war was not fought by the military alone, but by the whole nation.

Mr. Singh was addressing the 84th Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services Day at DRDO Bhavan, where he said that in the "rapidly changing security scenario, there is a need to move ahead with dynamism and innovative spirit while making constant improvements according to the evolving needs", said a statement from the government.

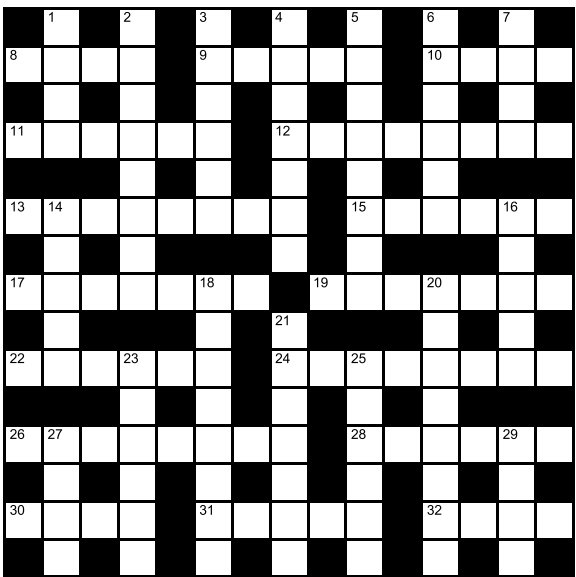
The Minister said the "exceptional back-end support" provided by different departments of the Ministry of Defence to the Armed Forces was key to the success of Operation Sindoor.

"AFHQ Services acts as an institutional memory for the Ministry of Defence (MoD). It provides consistency, domain expertise and uniformity in the administration, while playing a key role in policy continuity and establishing civil-military synergy. It is a strong pillar of a modern and integrated national defence system," he said.

TH CROSSWORD+ 14553
(set by Incognito)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

- 8 Toneless singer at seaside town (4)
- 9 Place for heartbreak? (5)
- 10 Threw rose for cupid (4)
- 11 Believe director lost gold when travelling (6)
- 12 Mum's taking in tough dogs (8)
- 13 One on the Rolls, perhaps? (8)

- 15 Mohawk, for example, hid oar deviously (6)
 - 17 Capital one invested in casino renovation (7)
 - 19 Military unit starts to battle desperate extremists around country capital (7)
 - 22 Women's rowing team's tonnage, perhaps (6)
 - 24 Sailor boy in enclosure gets a bit of salad vegetables (8)
 - 26 Badly hated fight in part of prison holding inmates awaiting execution (5,3)
 - 28 Measure of volume of ship having no energy source (6)
 - 30 This, for example: "Caught girl leaving glue" (4)
 - 31 Guide cattle (5)
 - 32 Military organisation running amok in the middle of mutiny? (4)
- Down
- 1 Couple's normal around 1 (4)
 - 2 Before John, Virginia consumes Indian dish (8)
 - 3 Southern gate guard (6)
 - 4 Instrument got from alien following president (7)
 - 5 Luminous substance produced when developing photographs not having tag (8)
 - 6 Celestial twins's jewel in India (6)
 - 7 See a female kill time (4)
 - 14 Ms West travels across Indiana state (5)
 - 16 Avoid admitting director in Department of Government Efficiency at first (5)
 - 18 What an uncle might want to collect unreasonably? (8)
 - 20 Cad following aim put in full effort (2,3,3)
 - 21 Animal in vehicle glared (7)
 - 23 Drain person disembowelling carcass (6)
 - 25 Garbo went around with model actor (6)
 - 27 General returned with small fishes (4)
 - 29 Drop ring at premier technical institution (4)

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

FAITH

Bhakta Ramadasu

God does not forsake anyone during difficult times; on the contrary, He comes closer to the devotee who is beseeching Him for divine grace, said Suchithra Balasubramanian. The devotion of Bhadrachala Ramadasu is a case in point. An ardent devotee of Rama, who gets initiated into Rama mantra, he falls upon bad times and is unable to conduct Rama Navami festivities. On the advice of his wife, he approaches his uncles who are high officials in the Moghul court. Rather than giving a handout, the uncles get the ruler to appoint him as tax collector of Bhadrachalam. An ecstatic Ramadasu proceeds there, only to find the temple in a dilapidated condition. With tacit agreement from the residents, he uses the money collected as tax to renovate the temple, hoping to replace the same once the harvest is done. However, the ruler notices the absence of tax money and Ramadasu is summoned. He tries to explain to the ruler that he had diverted the funds for a noble cause, but the ruler is firm. Ramadasu is sent on solitary confinement for 12 years; he is also caned. The poet composes numerous *kritis*, alternatively beseeching Rama for His forgiveness, pleading with Him, and even getting angry with Him. Ramadasu asks, "These hands which served you are beaten with rods. Who else will I tell all this to, Rama? You have a title that says you will save those who surrender to You," he reminds the Lord in his compositions. Rama and Lakshmana appear in a dream to the ruler, wherein Lakshmana gently pulls a thread from a piece of fabric belonging to Sita, and the exact amount of gold coins fall next to the ruler, as settlement of dues and Ramadasu is freed.

BEIRUT

At least four killed in Israeli strikes on southern and eastern Lebanon



A series of Israeli air strikes killed four in south and east Lebanon, the Health Ministry said on Friday, referring to strikes that occurred the previous evening. The Israeli military said it targeted Hezbollah "infrastructure that was used for producing and storing strategic weapons" in south Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa Valley. AFP

QUETTA

Afghans throng border as Pakistan issues a new call for them to leave



Pakistan issued a new call on Friday for Afghans living in the southwest to leave the country, triggering thousands to rush to the border. A deportation drive first launched in 2023 was renewed in April when Pakistan's government rescinded thousands of permits for Afghans, threatening to arrest anyone who did not leave. AFP

BOGOTA

Colombian former President Uribe sentenced to 12-year house arrest



A Colombian judge on Friday sentenced still-powerful former president Alvaro Uribe to 12 years of house arrest, capping a long and contentious career that defined Colombian politics for a generation. Mr. Uribe, aged 73, received the maximum possible sentence after being found guilty of witness tampering. AFP

SWEIDA

Protesters in Syria's Druze locality demand that govt. forces withdraw



Hundreds gathered in Syria's Druze heartland on Friday to demand the withdrawal of government forces after deadly sectarian violence last month and the opening of an aid corridor from Jordan. Sweida has seen tough humanitarian conditions since week-long clashes killed around 1,400 last month, according to a war monitor. AFP

Trump to deploy nuclear submarines in response to Medvedev's comments

Words are important, and can often lead to unintended consequences, says U.S. President; he does not specify if he meant nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed submarines; neither does he elaborate on the locations, kept secret by the U.S. military

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that he had ordered the deployment of two nuclear submarines in response to "highly provocative" comments by a senior Russian official.

"Based on the highly provocative statements of the Former President of Russia, Dmitry Medvedev..., I have ordered two Nuclear Submarines to be positioned in the appropriate regions, just in case these foolish and inflammatory statements are more than just that," Mr.



The U.S. keeps nuclear-armed submarines on patrol as part of its nuclear triad of land, sea and air-launched weapons. REUTERS

Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

"Words are very important, and can often lead to unintended consequences,

I hope this will not be one of those instances."

Mr. Trump did not say whether he meant nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed

submarines. He also did not elaborate on the locations, which are kept secret by the U.S. military.

The United States and Russia control the vast majority of the world's nuclear weaponry, and Washington keeps nuclear-armed submarines on patrol as part of its so-called nuclear triad of land, sea and air-launched weapons.

Mr. Trump did not refer specifically to what Mr. Medvedev had said to prompt the highly unusual public display of nuclear saber-rattling.

However, Mr. Medvedev posted criticism on Thurs-

day of Mr. Trump on his Telegram account and alluded to the "fabled 'Dead Hand'" – a reference to a highly secret automated system put in place during the Cold War to control the country's nuclear weapons.

This came after Mr. Trump had lashed out at what he called the "dead economies" of Russia and India.

Mr. Medvedev is currently deputy chairman of Russia's Security Council and a vocal proponent of President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine – and generally antagonistic relations with the West.

Pakistan hails 19% tariffs under U.S. trade deal

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Friday announced that the U.S. has imposed a 19% tariff on its exports and termed the step as a "balanced and forward-looking" move that enhances the country's competitiveness in the American market. The new rate is down from the previous 29% tariff announced by U.S. President Donald Trump.

Welcoming the "successful conclusion" of the tariff-related discussions with the U.S., the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "As per the outcome of these talks, a tariff of 19% will be applicable for Pakistani exports to the U.S. market."

Trump unveils slew of new tariffs while punishing Canada

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled new tariffs Thursday on nearly 70 countries – including a blistering 35% on neighbour Canada – as he seeks to reshape global trade to benefit the U.S. economy.

However, in a minor reprieve that opens the door to further negotiations, the White House said the measures will take effect in a week for most countries, not Friday as previously expected.

Mr. Trump raised duties on nearly 70 economies, from a current 10% level imposed in April when he unleashed "reciprocal" tariffs citing unfair trade practices.



Donald Trump

ties would be hit with an additional 40% tariff, the order said.

The American leader separately hiked tariffs on Canadian goods from 25% to 35% – starting on Friday.

Mr. Trump gave more time to neighbour and major trading partner Mexico, delaying for 90 days a threat to increase tariffs from 25% to 30%, after holding talks with President Claudia Sheinbaum.

Exemptions remain, however, for a wide range of Canadian and Mexican goods entering the U.S. under a North American trade pact.

Israel has killed more than 1,300 Gazans while seeking aid: UN

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Israeli forces have killed hundreds of hungry Palestinians waiting for aid outside U.S.-backed food distribution points, the UN's rights office said on Friday.

The UN's rights office in the Palestinian territories said at least 1,373 people had been killed seeking aid in Gaza since May 27 – 105 of them in the past two days.

"Most of these killings were committed by the Israeli military," the office said, breaking down the death toll into 859 killed near the U.S.-backed food sites and 514 along routes used by UN and aid agency convoys.

"These victims, the majority of whom appear to be young men and boys,

are not just numbers," the office said.

Gaza's civil defence agency said 22 persons were killed by Israeli fire and air strikes on Friday, including two who were waiting near an aid distribution site run by the U.S.- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF).

Daily killings

In its report on the GHF centres on Friday, Human Rights Watch accused the Israeli military of illegally using starvation as a weapon of war. "Israeli forces are not only deliberately starving Palestinian civilians, but they are now gunning them down almost every day," said Belkis Wille, associate crisis and conflict director at Human Rights Watch.

Toll from Russian air strike on Ukraine capital reaches 31; at least 159 injured

Reuters
KYIV

Ukrainian rescuers recovered more than a dozen more bodies from the rubble of a collapsed apartment block in Kyiv overnight, bringing the death toll from Russia's worst air strike of the year on Ukraine's capital to 31.

A two-year-old was among the five children found dead after Thursday's sweeping Russian drone and missile attack, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday, announcing the end of a more than 24-hour-long rescue operation.

A total of 159 people were wounded in the multi-wave strike, in which Russia launched more than 300 drones and eight missiles early on Thursday, the latest in a campaign of fierce strikes on Ukrainian



Women cry in front of a residential building in Kyiv on Friday, that was destroyed in a Russian strike in the previous morning. AFP

towns and cities.

The worst damage was to an apartment building that partially collapsed in the Sviatoshyn district in western Kyiv. Damage was also reported in at least three other districts of the capital.

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday sharply criticised Russia's "distasteful" behaviour against

Ukraine, while saying he was not sure whether sanctions would deter Russia. He has given President Vladimir Putin until August 8 to make a deal or else he will respond with economic pressure.

Natalia Matviyenko, 65, sitting near the damaged apartment building, said she did not place much faith in the U.S. President's

tough rhetoric.

"Trump just says, 'I'm upset with President Putin's behaviour.' And what? No results," she said.

The U.S. leader, who returned to power on a pledge to swiftly end the war, has in recent weeks rolled back his earlier cordiality approach toward Moscow and signalled openness to arming Ukraine.

Intense strikes

Kyiv's air force said on Friday that Ukrainian air defences had destroyed more than 6,000 drones and missiles across the country in July alone.

"The world possesses every instrument required to ensure Russia is brought to justice," Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko wrote on X on Friday. "What is lacking is not power – but will," he added.

RD55-8856/24, ED1-4028/25, ED1-4029/25, DSMCell-4072/16-Vol-II
Dated: 30.07.2025

THRISSUR CORPORATION
ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT
Re-e-TENDER NOTICE

RD55-8856/24 – Supply of Web Cam & Micro
Phone, DSMCell-4072/16-Supply & Installation of
50 KW 3ph Solar Inverter, ED1-4028/25-Supply of
Steel Posts, ED1-4029/25-Supply A type Steel Posts

visit us: www.tced.in
log on to www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Sd/-
Assistant Secretary,
Electricity Department,
Thrissur Municipal Corporation

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER IGPN BIKANER
Ph: 0151-2226401, Email: ce.igpn.bkn@rajasthan.gov.in

No.: E-NIT 02/2025-26 Date: 21.08.2025

Bid for the following work are invited from interested bidders upto 6:00 PM dated 21.08.2025

S. NO.	Name of work	Estimated Cost of work (Rs. In lacs)
1	Renovation of Khidrat distributary	2496.00
2	Renovation of Kolayat distributary	3496.00

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> & <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>, www.dipronline.org.
NIB CODE: IGB2526A0041
UBN No: IGB2526WLOB00144, UBN No: IGB2526WLOB00145
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अधियन्ता
इन्दिरा गांधी नहर परियोजना बीकानेर
DIPRC/10502/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
HIDCO BHABAN, Premises No. 35-1111, Biswa Bangla Sarani, 3rd Rotary,
New Town, Kolkata-700156

Memo No. C-229/1/HIDCO/Admn-4206/2024 Date 30.07.2025

Abridged Notice for e-Auction

E-AUCTION FOR ALLOTMENT OF 5.97 ACRES (24160 Sq. Mtr) OF LAND IN PLOT NO. IIF/12 & IIF/15 IN ACTION AREA III OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA ON FREEHOLD BASIS FOR "EDUCATIONAL / INSTITUTIONAL" PURPOSE. (2nd Call)

[e-Auction ID: 2025_WB_4912] dtd. 30.07.2025

PLOT NO.	PLOT SIZE	E-AUCTION DATE	LAST DATE OF APPLICATION
PLOT NO.IIIF/12 & IIF/15 IN ACTION AREA III OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	5.97 Acres	08.09.2025	01.09.2025 upto 14:00 hrs.

For details, please visit <https://eauction.gov.in> or www.wbhidcoltd.com
Contact no :- 2324-6032/6037/6038

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

TAMIL NADU SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
MetroS Building, 8th Floor, 327, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035.

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

TNSDC invites applications from eligible candidates for the following positions on contractual basis

S.No	Position Code	Position Name	No. of Posts
1	TNSDC-NM-AVP01	Associate Vice President – Services	1
2	TNSDC-NM-AVP02	Associate Vice President – Media	1
3	TNSDC-A-AVP01	Associate Vice President – Assessment	1
4	TNSDC-VN-PM01	Program Manager – Vetri Nichayam	5
5	TNSDC-NM-PM01	Program Manager – Naan Mudhalvan	13
6	TNSDC-A-PM01	Program Manager – Assessment	1
7	TNSDC-C-PM01	Program Manager – Curriculum Development	2
8	TNSDC-A-SA01	Senior Associate – Assessment	1
9	TNSDC-VN-SA01	Senior Associate – Vetri Nichayam	1
10	TNSDC-VN-JA01	Senior Associate – IT (Frontend Developer)	1
11	TNSDC-NM-SA02	Senior Associate – IT (Full Stack Developer)	1
12	TNSDC-NM-SA03	Senior Associate – HR	1
13	TNSDC-NM-SA04	Senior Associate – Media	2
14	TNSDC-NM-SA05	Senior Associate – Services	1
15	TNSDC-VN-ZAM01	Zonal Account Manager	5
16	TNSDC-A-PA01	Project Associate – Assessment	2
17	TNSDC-NM-PA01	Project Associate – Naan Mudhalvan	31
18	TNSDC-C-PA01	Project Associate – Curriculum Development	1
19	TNSDC-VN-JA01	Junior Associate – Vetri Nichayam	1
20	TNSDC-NM-YP01	Young Professional – Naan Mudhalvan	13
21	TNSDC-C-YP03	Young Professional – Curriculum Development	2
22	TNSDC-A-YP03	Young Professional – Assessment	1
23	TNSDC-VN-PE01	Program Executive – Vetri Nichayam	38
Total			126

For details of educational qualification, experience and professional fee of the respective job profiles, Click the link <https://portal.naanmudhalvan.tn.gov.in/pdfs/job-notification.pdf>
For applying online, please log on to the following link: <https://portal.naanmudhalvan.tn.gov.in/tnsdc-recruitment>
If there are any changes / corrections in the notification it will be published in the websites of www.naanmudhalvan.tn.gov.in and www.tnskill.tn.gov.in only

Last Date of the Receipt of application is 17.08.2025.

Managing Director
TNSDC, Nandanam, Chennai – 35

DIPRC/864/DISPLAY/2025

इंटरनेशनल एडवांस्ड रिसर्च सेंटर फॉर पाउडर मेटलर्जी
एंड न्यू मटेरियल्स (एआरसीआई), हैदराबाद
(विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, भारत सरकार का स्वातंत्र्य अनुसंधान एवं विकास केंद्र)
आरसीआई, न्यू एयरपोर्ट रोड, बालापुर, हैदराबाद - 500 005, तेलंगाना

International Advanced Research Centre
for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI)
(An Autonomous R&D Centre of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
R&D New Airport Road, Balapur, Hyderabad-500 005, Telangana.
Ph. Nos. 040-24452515/425/356, Email: rect@arci.res.in

विज्ञान विभाग/Admn. No.: ARCI/HRD/Projects/1/2025

बॉक्स-इन इंटरव्यू /AMALK-IN INTERVIEWS
परियोजना एक्सपर्ट/एकनोमी सहायक/तकनीशियन
Project Associate/Technical Assistant/Technician

एआरसीआई बॉक्स-इन इंटरव्यू के माध्यम द्वारा निम्नलिखित परियोजना स्टाफ को नियोजित करना चाहता है:
ARCI is looking to engage following Project Staff through walk-in interviews:

	Project Associate II	Project Associate I	Project Technical Assistant	Project Technician
No. of Posts	01	02	19	6
Fixed salary Rs.	35,000/- or 28,000/- + HRA	31,000/- or 25,000/- + HRA	27,000/- or 25,000/- or 20,000/- + HRA	27,000/- + HRA
Interview Date	11 th August, 2025	11 th August, 2025	12 th & 13 th August, 2025	14 th August, 2025

ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 06.08.2025 है
Last Date for submission of Online Applications is 06.08.2025

पूरी जानकारी के लिए लॉग इन करें/For complete details, log on to:
<https://www.arci.res.in/careers.html>

Office of the Medical Superintendent
RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur
Sector-11, Kumbha Marg, Pratap Nagar, Tonk Road, Jaipur-302033(Raj.)
दूरभाष: 0141-2795577, Email: suptd.hms@ruhsraj.org, ruhsamstore@ruhsraj.org

No. :- F. () RUHS HMS/Store/2025-26/7501 Date :- 31/07/2025

Notice Inviting e-Bids

Single Stage Two envelope Online bids (e-bids) are invited up to 02.00 pm of 28-08-2025 for Supply and Installation of Various Equipment/Items at Dept. of Ophthalmology, RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur. (Total Est. Cost Rs. 6,17,00,000.00). Details may be seen in the Bidding Documents at the Website sppp.raj.nic.in, or eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. UBN : CMS2526GLOB00064-68, 71-72, 75-77, CMS2526GSOB00069-70, 73-74

Medical Superintendent,
Raj.Samwad/C/25/7349
RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E mail : aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Bid No. 04/2024-25 & 05/2024-25. Corrigendum No. 08

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 04/2024-25 & 05/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 08.09.2025. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Documents.

NIT 04/2025-25 UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07192
NIB Code: PHE2425A3390

NIT 05/2025-25 UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07193
NIB Code: PHE2425A3391

(Surendra Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (P)
PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan

DIPRC/10594/2025

Kolkata Municipal Corporation
Sustainability, Hygiene and Resilience Project
(KMC-SHARP)

Notice Inviting EOI

"Expression of Interest" is invited from the bonafide I.T. firms for "Design, Development and Implementation of Online Project Management System (PMS) For Billing & Accounting under ADB Contract Package No. KMC-SHARP/KCS/06/2025-26".

Intending firms/companies are requested to submit Expression of Interest in ADB CMS Portal <https://csrn.adb.org> within 01.09.2025. Details of tender can be obtained from ADB CMS Portal, www.keiip.in and www.kmcgov.in

Weekend Sport

The summer of McIntosh: when an 18-year-old comes for Ledecky’s crown

Summer McIntosh is in the fast lane to greatness. A three-time Olympic champion, the Canadian teen has already beaten Katie Ledecky at the ongoing World Championships. She is hoping for an encore in the 800m freestyle, an event the reigning queen has kept a tight grip on



GETTY IMAGES

ing to equal a Phelps record and has already defeated Ledecky over 400 metres in the freestyle final.

Phelps is the only swimmer to have won five individual gold medals in a single edition of the World Championships. McIntosh, who hopes to compete in five individual events at the 2028 Los Angeles Games, is using this year’s championships as something of a test run!

“I’m trying to see if I can do five events individually and how well I can do in them and how I can manage it... doing that run through now, three years out, is definitely something that will give me lots of confidence,” she said ahead of the Worlds’ swimming portion, which began on July 27.

McIntosh arrived in Singapore after completing one of the greatest weeks in swimming history with a hat-trick of world records in June, becoming the first to set three different individual long-course records in one meet since Phelps in 2008. At the Canadian trials, she broke the world marks in the 200m and 400m individual medleys (IM), as well as the 400m freestyle.

Despite owning the 400 free world record, McIntosh had failed to win gold in the event at the Olympics or previous Worlds. She remedied that in ominous fashion, launching her packed programme with a statement win. The highly anticipated battle between McIntosh and Ledecky – an appetiser to the 800m freestyle – failed to materialise, as the Canadian led from start to finish and the American took bronze.

McIntosh had little time to savour her first major 400m triumph. The teen sensation exited quickly to prepare for the 200m IM semifinals, where she was again in a class of her own.

“While preparing mentally, I thought this was my biggest night of the whole meet,” she said. “I’ve never done a double like that. And the 400m free, at past World Championships and Olympics, I haven’t been where I wanted to be. So I’m really happy.”

Her joy doubled a day later, when she bagged a second gold, in the 200m IM. On Thursday, she completed a hat-trick of triumphs, clinching the 200m butterfly. The events remaining in her bid to equal Phelps will be swum this weekend: Saturday’s 800m free and Sunday’s 400m IM.

It’s a gruelling schedule, especially when you add all the heats and semifinals. “It means 14 or 15 races in eight days, demanding races,” Canada’s head coach Iain McDonald said. Which of those races is her best event? “She’s such a versatile athlete, it’s kind of tough to nail what her best events are,” McDonald said. “She’s pretty good right across the spectrum.”

Blockbuster main-event

There are no doubts, however, about which event the world is waiting for. McIntosh is coming for Ledecky’s 800m crown, which the American has kept a tight grip on. In addition to four Olympic wins, Ledecky is hoping to become the first swimmer to claim seven world titles in a single event. In May, Ledecky improbably took down her nine-year-old world record from the 2016 Rio Olympics. But McIntosh represents a clear and present danger.

The 18-year-old came within two seconds of



SUMMER MCINTOSH



SUMMER MCINTOSH AND KATIE LEDECKY

the 28-year-old’s mark recently, signalling the chance that fans could soon see a changing of the guard. McIntosh famously ended Ledecky’s 13-year unbeaten streak in the event in 2024, when she bested the American by nearly six seconds at a sectionals meeting in Orlando, Florida.

What’s more, the rivalry doesn’t faze her. “Katie always brings the best out of me,” McIntosh said. “Which is why I’m never nervous to race her.”

Ledecky, who won the 1500m freestyle gold in Singapore on Tuesday, is aware of the contender’s prowess, but has been mentally preparing to meet an equal for years. “I’ve always approached each race with a mindset that something like that could happen,” Ledecky once said. “Even as that didn’t happen for many, many years, I still maintain that approach.”

Learning opportunity

Irrespective of how the race goes, what is certain is that McIntosh will look at it as another learning opportunity. It’s this desire to constantly improve, a trait common to great athletes, that has lifted her to soaring heights in a short career. She is never satisfied.

After winning three gold medals at the Paris Olympics, McIntosh felt there was room for growth. Her attitude after breaking three world records in June was similar. “Absolutely wild,” she said of the accomplishment, before promptly pointing to a litany of things she could improve on in each race, saying the self-criticism is part of her mission to keep testing the boundaries of her sport. “I don’t think there is such a thing as a perfect race, at least I haven’t done it yet,” she said. “I always want more. And I’m also still so young, I know I can get so much stronger.”

That competitive spirit runs deep in the McIntosh family. Her mother Jill competed at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics in swimming and older sis-



I don’t think there is such a thing as a perfect race, at least I haven’t done it yet. I always want more

ter Brooke is a top pairs figure skater. “We knew even at seven or eight years old that she was going to be an exceptional swimmer... beating 10 and 12-year-olds by a pool length,” her father Greg McIntosh said. “She is a force of nature. She has been since she was a child.”

McIntosh’s rapid journey to the pinnacle of swimming has taken her from Canada to Florida, where she trained with the Sarasota Sharks from 2022 and through the Paris Games. After the World Championships, she will begin training with Phelps’ mentor Bob Bowman in Texas, as she builds to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Hunter and hunted

But even as she is hurtling towards greatness, McIntosh knows the wheel of sport will turn. Just as she is hunting down Ledecky, others will soon pursue her. In Singapore, a pre-teen Chinese swimmer showed she could be nipping at McIntosh’s heels. Just 12, Yu Zidi created a sensation at the Worlds after missing the podium by only 0.06 seconds in the 200 IM.

Yu is recording faster times than McIntosh did as a 12-year-old, but the Canadian looks at it as further motivation. “World records are made to be broken. So by the time I leave this sport, I want to make sure that [my] records are as fast as possible,” she said.

“I know there’s always going to be the next generation of kids growing up, and they’re going to be chasing the record. So I’ve got to give them my best effort to see how long it can stand.”

Reuters
Agence France-Presse

rowing up in Toronto, Summer McIntosh chose her idols well. She named the family cat, an orange tabby, Mikey, for Michael Phelps, the most decorated swimmer of all time. McIntosh’s bedroom wall was covered with photos and inspirational quotes from Katie Ledecky, swimming’s dominant queen with nine Olympic and 22 world titles.

At 18, she is well on her way to joining them in the sport’s pantheon – indeed, at the ongoing World Championships in Singapore, she is look-



Katie always brings the best out of me. Which is why I’m never nervous to race her

STACKING UP



ATP Men’s Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	23	12,030	16
2	Carlos Alcaraz	22	8,600	20
3	Alexander Zverev	28	6,030	23
4	Taylor Fritz	27	5,135	22
5	Jack Draper	23	4,650	17
6	Novak Djokovic	38	4,130	19
7	Ben Shelton	22	3,520	24
8	Alex de Minaur	26	3,335	23
9	Holger Rune	22	3,250	22
10	Lorenzo Musetti	23	3,195	20
11	Andrey Rublev	27	3,110	29
12	Frances Tiafoe	27	2,990	25
13	Casper Ruud	26	2,905	23
14	Daniil Medvedev	29	2,720	22
15	Tommy Paul	28	2,620	21



F1 Drivers' standings

#	Driver	Team	Points	Wins
1	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	266	6
2	Lando Norris	McLaren	250	4
3	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	185	2
4	George Russell	Mercedes	157	1
5	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	139	0
6	Lewis Hamilton	Ferrari	109	0
7	Kimi Antonelli	Mercedes	63	0
8	Alexander Albon	Williams	54	0
9	Nico Hulkenberg	Sauber	37	0
10	Esteban Ocon	Haas	27	0
11	Isack Hadjar	Racing Bulls	22	0
12	Pierre Gasly	Alpine	20	0
13	Lance Stroll	Aston Martin	20	0
14	Fernando Alonso	Aston Martin	16	0
15	Carlos Sainz	Williams	16	0
16	Liam Lawson	Racing Bulls	16	0
17	Yuki Tsunoda	Red Bull	10	0
18	Oliver Bearman	Haas	8	0
19	Gabriel Bortoleto	Sauber	6	0
20	Franco Colapinto	Alpine	0	0



Badminton Men's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	Shi Yu Qi	1,02,317	13
2	Kunlavut Vitidsarn	95,079	19
3	Anders Antonsen	94,353	17
4	Li Shi Feng	81,078	19
5	Chou Tien Chen	78,769	24
6	Jonatan Christie	76,514	17
7	Alex Lanier	67,821	15
8	Loh Kean Yew	66,719	17
9	Viktor Axelsen	66,140	9
10	Kodai Naraoka	65,094	20
11	Christo Popov	62,217	18
12	Lu Guang Zu	61,860	18
13	Kenta Nishimoto	58,442	23
14	Lin Chun-Yi	57,340	16
15	Lee Cheuk Yiu	57,192	20



Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	904	932
2	Kane Williamson	867	919
3	Harry Brook	834	898
4	Steve Smith	816	947
5	Temba Bavuma	790	806
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Rishabh Pant	776	801
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	769	858
9	Shubman Gill	754	807
10	Ben Duckett	743	787

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	898	908
2	Kagiso Rabada	851	902
3	Pat Cummins	838	914
4	Josh Hazlewood	815	864
5	Noman Ali	806	806
6	Scott Boland	784	784
7	Matt Henry	782	782
8	Nathan Lyon	769	812
9	Marco Jansen	767	803
10	Mitchell Starc	766	807

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Shubman Gill	784	847
2	Babar Azam	766	898
3	Rohit Sharma	756	882
4	Virat Kohli	736	909
5	Daryl Mitchell	720	751
6	Charith Asalanka	719	725
7	Harry Tector	708	767
8	Shreyas Iyer	704	710
9	Ibrahim Zadran	676	693
10	Kusal Mendis	669	802

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Maheesh Theekshana	671	686
2	Kuldeep Yadav	650	761
3	Keshav Maharaj	648	741
4	Bernard Scholtz	644	648
5	Rashid Khan	640	799
6	Mitchell Santner	637	657
7	Matt Henry	622	691
8	Wanindu Hasaranga	619	619
9	Ravindra Jadeja	616	733
10	Adam Zampa	614	699

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	829	829
2	Travis Head	814	885
3	Tilak Varma	804	845
4	Philip Salt	791	881
5	Jos Buttler	772	774
6	Suryakumar Yadav	739	912
7	Pathum Nissanka	736	736
8	Tim Seifert	725	727
9	Josh Inglis	717	781
10	Shai Hope	690	712

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jacob Duffy	717	723
2	Adil Rashid	710	747
3	Varun Chakravarthy	706	706
4	Akeal Hosein	701	714
5	Adam Zampa	694	746
6	Wanindu Hasaranga	679	809
7	Ravi Bishnoi	674	707
8	Rashid Khan	664	828
8	Nathan Ellis	664	664
10	Arshdeep Singh	653	679

WTA Women’s Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	27	12,420	19
2	Coco Gauff	21	7,669	19
3	Iga Swiatek	24	6,813	16
4	Jessica Pegula	31	6,423	22
5	Mirra Andreeva	18	4,914	18
6	Qinwen Zheng	22	4,553	18
7	Amanda Anisimova	23	4,470	22
8	Madison Keys	30	4,374	19
9	Jasmine Paolini	29	3,576	19
10	Paula Badosa	27	3,454	22
11	Emma Navarro	24	3,420	26
12	Elena Rybakina	26	2,893	21
13	Elina Svitolina	30	2,794	16
14	Karolina Muchova	28	2,718	16
15	Ekaterina Alexandrova	30	2,666	25



Oscar Piastri



Lando Norris

F1 Constructors' standings

Pos	Team	Points	Wins
1	McLaren	516	10
2	Ferrari	248	0
3	Mercedes	220	1
4	Red Bull	192	2
5	Williams	70	0
6	Kick Sauber	43	0
7	RB	41	0
8	Aston Martin	36	0
9	Haas	35	0
10	Alpine	20	0

Badminton Women's ranking

#	Player	Points	Events
1	An Se Young	1,15,270	13
2	Wang Zhi Yi	1,06,862	17
3	Han Yue	91,000	17
4	Akane Yamaguchi	83,064	14
5	Chen Yu Fei	81,385	12
6	Gregoria Mariska Tunjung	73,860	14
7	Pornpawee Chochuwong	69,708	21
8	Tomoka Miyazaki	65,364	22
9	Ratchanok Intanon	64,144	20
10	Putri Kusuma Wardani	63,600	19
11	Supanida Katethong	62,207	14
12	Gao Fang Jie	60,130	13
13	Yeo Jia Min	59,223	16
14	Sim Yu Jin	58,309	16
15	P.V. Sindhu	54,034	17

Top Indians ▶



P.V. Sindhu Rank 15



Malvika Bansod Rank 30



VIJAY SONEJI

Echoes of Moregard & Kohli: meet disruptive TT prodigy Ankur Bhattacharjee

The 18-year-old paddler's ability to disconcert quality players has catapulted him to the top of 'the next big thing' stakes in India, where the men's game is at a crossroads. But how well will his unconventional style — richly successful at the junior level — translate to the big stage?

Amol Karhadkar

His aggression at the table evokes visions of Virat Kohli. So do more than the dozen tattoos he sports. His unconventional technique reminds you of Truls Moregard, the Swede who stormed into the men's singles final at the Paris Olympics. And he worships Grand Slam winner Zhang Jike.

Creating a stir

But, amidst all this, there are a few who wonder whether he can translate his exploits at the junior level to the open category. The house is definitely divided on how to bill Ankur Bhattacharjee, the teenager from Kolkata who has created a stir in the world of table tennis. More than his consistent top-five Under-19 World ranking, it's his uncanny ability to force formidable opponents onto the back foot that has catapulted him to the top of 'the next big thing' ladder in Indian table tennis. The men's game in the country finds itself at a crossroads. A. Sharath Kamal — the flagbearer for two decades — has hung up his boots. Harmeet Desai and G. Sathiyam are in the latter half of their careers. Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar, the



Since 2017, I have heard that you can't have your backhand as your main weapon. First of all, I don't think of myself as a backhand-only player. And I work on my overall technique anyway

spectacled duo, have been close to cementing themselves at the top of the Indian charts. Against this backdrop, Ankur's rise from sapling to slowly spreading banyan offers hope. His achievements at 18 have rarely been matched even by the best at this age. Unbeaten in age-group categories on the domestic circuit for three years, he has already tasted success in Senior National Ranking events. He broke into the national squad for the World Championships earlier this year. On the world circuit, Ankur — he is coached by father Anshuman; mother Kuntali is also a former paddler — is placed at No. 3. He has not left the top-10 since February 2025. Despite Ankur having excelled at various levels, many believe he is far from being the finished product. One of them is Jorg Bitzigeio, the German coach with whom Ankur spent three weeks training earlier this year. Much of the scepticism has to do with the Indian's maverick technique. While table tennis is a forehand-dominant sport, with the backhand playing the supporting role, Ankur is an exception. He covers most of the ta-

ble with his backhand, producing both top-spin and rocket winners that breach even the best defence. His wrong-footed stance leaves his extreme forehand corner vulnerable, but he compensates with his ability to surprise opponents. He uses the jab effectively, imparts side-spin from various angles and is super-agile, reaching virtually every possible ball. The combination makes Ankur an effective, watchable proposition. Justifying the faith This was on display time and again during Ultimate Table Tennis' sixth edition, where he justified the faith shown in him by his home franchise Kolkata ThunderBlades. For the second year in succession, he was among the leading Indians, accounting for fancied opponents. As a result, while Indian table tennis is divided over Ankur's ability and his backhand-oriented technique, he isn't rattled by it. "Since 2017, I have been hearing that you can't have your backhand as your main weapon. First of all, I don't think of myself as a backhand-only player. And I have been working on my game over the last two years," Ankur told *The Hindu* during UTT. "No player is perfect and everyone has a stronger flank. There is no harm in having your backhand as your strong suit, but I am working on my overall technique anyway." For the last two years, Ankur



PHOTO: UTT

GAME THEORY

Line of succession: from Bannerman to Tendulkar

With Joe Root in pursuit of Sachin Tendulkar's tally for the most Test runs, we look at the batters who have held the prestigious record. Charles Bannerman claimed it first. Arthur Shrewsbury became the first to take it past the 1,000-run mark and keep it for more than decade. Wally Hammond owned it longest. Sunil Gavaskar advanced the record into the 10,000-run territory and Tendulkar lifted it over 15,000.



Arthur Shrewsbury



Wally Hammond



Sunil Gavaskar

MOST TEST RUNS: RECORD PROGRESSION

Record	Batter	Country	Record held until	Record held for
239	Charles Bannerman	Australia	4 January 1882	4 years, 295 days
676	George Ulyett	England	13 August 1884	2 years, 222 days
860	Billy Murdoch	Australia	14 August 1886	2 years, 1 day
1,277	Arthur Shrewsbury	England	23 January 1902	15 years, 162 days
1,293	Joe Darling	Australia	18 February 1902	26 days
1,366	Syd Gregory	Australia	14 June 1902	116 days
1,531	Archie MacLaren	England	13 August 1902	60 days
3,412	Clem Hill	Australia	27 December 1924	22 years, 136 days
5,410	Jack Hobbs	England	29 June 1937	12 years, 184 days
7,249	Wally Hammond	England	27 November 1970	33 years, 151 days
7,459	Colin Cowdrey	England	23 March 1972	1 year, 117 days
8,032	Garfield Sobers	West Indies	23 December 1981	9 years, 275 days
8,114	Geoffrey Boycott	England	12 November 1983	1 year, 324 days
10,122	Sunil Gavaskar	India	25 February 1993	9 years, 105 days
11,174	Allan Border	Australia	25 November 2005	12 years, 273 days
11,953	Brian Lara	West Indies	17 October 2008	2 years, 327 days
15,921	Sachin Tendulkar	India	Current	16 years & counting



Sachin Tendulkar

SOURCE: ESPNCRINFO.COM

PICTURE THIS



Touche!

Fencing — as this photograph from the FISU World University Games in Essen, Germany, shows — demands skill, agility, cat-like reflexes and quick thinking. Often described as 'high-speed chess', the discipline trac-

es its origins to sword-fighting in combat. Its evolution as a sport appears to have begun in the mid-18th century in London, where Italian sword-master Domenico Angelo set up a fencing school. The military art became all the rage among the aristocracy, developing into a fashionable

pastime that helped cultivate health and grace. It's no surprise then that honour and etiquette continue to be prized in the sport. Fencing has three primary competitive categories: foil, epee, and sabre. Each has its own blade and set of rules. The foil, seen in this picture, is a

light, thrusting weapon that targets the torso, not the arms and legs. Touches are scored only with the tip. Given the dangers involved, the protective clothing must satisfy stringent safety requirements and incorporates ballistic fabrics that resist punctures, such as Kevlar and Dyneema.



All I need to do is to keep improving. If I can do that, I know I will achieve much more than what I have. The goals can keep getting revised, I am only starting now. There's a long way to go

and Anshuman have been focusing on improving his efficiency in the forehand corner without sacrificing the backhand as his USP. It's his ability to execute unimaginable backhand strokes that has drawn comparisons with Moregard.

"I have heard this a lot — rather overheard it — that he can be India's Truls, but I know I have a long way to go. Playing the men's World Championships is just the start."

Had it not been for a parental push, though, Ankur could well have followed in the footsteps of his sporting idol — Kohli. Sensing that cricket is an expensive sport even for beginners, his paddler parents directed him to a table. In less than two years after first gripping a racquet, Ankur became India No. 2 in the cadet category. There has been no looking back.

Ankur's day in Kolkata, when he is not travelling the world, is consumed with table tennis. "The day starts with fitness training from 8 to 10 a.m. Then a half-hour break. From 10.30 to 3 o'clock, I practise, and again in the evening from 6 to 9, I am back at the table," he says. Mental training? "Nothing formal yet, but I have found my own little techniques that help me."

One recent method is listening to the Hanuman Chalisa, a devotional hymn. Early in 2025, he was feeling low at the start of a WTT event in Cappadocia, Turkey. "I wasn't playing well. Before the first match over there, I listened to it by accident and won."

"I kept on playing it before every match that week and went on to win the U-19 title, beating Benjamin Faraji [a top junior], who had entered the tournament on a high, beating a men's top-30 player in the earlier week. Since then, I play Hanuman Chalisa before every match."

It doesn't take much time to figure out that Ankur is a religious youngster. After all, his first tattoo was a depiction of "Lord Shiva, since I am a Shiv-bhakt". "They have started calling me a Bengal tiger, so I recently got a tiger tattooed as well," he says, with a sheepish smile.

God-fearing and soft-spoken in general, he turns into a livewire at the table, even rubbing his opponents the wrong way. "Being aggressive comes naturally to me. In fact, it spurs me on. Sometimes I need that adrenaline rush, so I don't mind being ultra-aggressive," Ankur says.

Perhaps it's a trait he has imbibed from Kohli. He can't choose among Kohli, Hardik Pandya and Zhang, should he be given the opportunity to meet one. "I am in awe of all of them. When I am not playing table tennis, I am either watching cricket or a Zhang Jike match," he says.

During the IPL, when Punjab Kings checked into the same hotel as the UTT entourage, Ankur had hoped for Royal Challengers Bengaluru to join them in the final. But Kohli & Co. were in another hotel and Ankur's demanding schedule meant he could neither seek an audience with his hero nor watch him in action.

Keeping it simple

But he knows he has plenty of time to fulfil his wish-list of meeting the trio. And he realises that rather than trying to make it happen — or spell out his aspirations of winning an Olympic or a Commonwealth medal — he wants to keep it simple.

"All I need to do is to keep improving and working harder with every passing day," he says. "If I can do that, I know I will achieve much more than what I have. The goals can keep getting revised, I am only starting now. There's a long way to go."

I've been picked because I can do the job for the team, says Prasidh



Atkinson has second-best figures by a pacer versus India at The Oval



Duckett-Crawley duo has most 50-plus stands against India



Injured Woakes will take no further part in Oval Test



Prasidh and Siraj lead India's spirited fightback

A day for Thorpey: remembering Graham on his birth anniversary

A photograph of two women standing next to a large, ornate bell. The bell is inscribed with 'MAGILLUS' and '1982'. The woman on the left is wearing a patterned dress and a headband, and the woman on the right is wearing a red dress and sunglasses. They are both smiling and holding the bell's rope.

Norris completes Hungarian practice double as McLaren dominates

Sunday's race is the last before Formula One's August break.

Jamil pips Constantine and Tarkovic, gets the nod to coach Indian football team

He becomes the first Indian after 13 years to coach the national side; the 48-year-old will succeed Spaniard Marquez; his first task at hand will be the CAFA Nations Cup from August 29

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Khalid Jamil became the first Indian to be appointed as the head coach of national football team in 13 years as he pipped Stephen Constantine and Stefan Tarkovic to grab the coveted post.

The last Indian to serve as the head coach of the national men's team was Savio Medeira, who held the position from 2011 to 2012.

Tenure not decided

"The AIFF Executive Committee has picked Khalid Jamil as the new head coach but his tenure has not yet been decided.

"It will be a long-term tenure, may be two or three years, and performance-based," said AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey.

Constantine was a former India head coach while Tarkovic has managed the Slovakia national team in the past.

The 48-year-old Jamil had guided the unheralded Aizawl Football Club to a famous I-League title in 2017. Jamil has long been a trailblazer in Indian football.

A former India international and currently in charge of Indian Super League side Jamshedpur FC, Jamil was selected by



In the hot seat: Jamil has the tough job of driving Indian football forward. ISL

the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) executive committee. An AFC Pro Licence Diploma holder, Jamil will succeed Spaniard Manolo Marquez, who parted ways with the AIFF last month following India's recent struggles.

The AIFF president also made it clear that Jamil will be a full-time national team head coach and will not be associated with any other club unlike his predecessor Manolo who played a

dual role during his one year tenure, taking charge of ISL side FC Goa. He will have the tough task of reversing India's poor performances in recent past.

After losing 0-1 to lower-ranked Hong Kong in an away match of the AFC Asian Cup qualifiers on June 10, the country has been left in danger of missing out on qualifying for the continental showpiece in 2027.

Jamil's first assignment

in his new role will be the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) Nations Cup, to be held in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan starting from August 29.

After the CAFA Nations Cup, India will play AFC Asian Cup qualifying round games on October 9 and 14 against Singapore.

Jamil was considered the frontrunner even before his appointment.

He got support from Vijayan and Ali, Technical Committee chairperson and vice chairperson respectively and former India coach Armando Colaco.

Other contenders

Colaco and Ali also pitched in for an Indian head coach.

"Mr. Colaco and Mr. Ali expressed their views that the AIFF should prioritise selecting an Indian coach for the senior men's national team during their respective coaching careers.

"They, too, had no national team experience. However, they believe that Indian coaches need to be given a fair chance to prove themselves," the AIFF said.

Former India players and current executive committee members Pinky Bompal Magar, Thongam Tababi Devi and Climax Lawrence also supported giving an opportunity to an Indian coach.

'Accidental coach' Jamil's rise to the top

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The last eight years has been nothing less than extraordinary for Khalid Jamil. In the summer of 2008, he was reluctant to coach the under-19 team in Mumbai FC. On August 1, once an accidental coach is now at helm of country's national team.

From carrying Aizawl FC to an emotional I-League triumph which was a shot in the arm for football in the north east to facing immense pressure while coaching Kolkata giants East Bengal and Mohun Bagan, Jamil has earned his stripes through

the bump and grind of Indian football.

Jamil is also the AIFF 'Coach of the Year' in the last two seasons. The unassuming Mumbaikar is a quintessential hard-worker known for meticulous planning before matches. His philosophy has been 'train hard and play harder'.

Originally born in Kuwait his family shifted to Mumbai after the Gulf War. While studying he made it to the university team. He later played for Mahindra United, Air India and Mumbai FC for major part of his club career.

"I always liked football from childhood, but when

I always liked football from childhood, but when I started, I didn't play the sport thinking of it as a profession

KHALID JAMIL
India head coach

I started, I didn't play the sport thinking of it as a profession," he had said.

Initial days

The 48-year-old made his national team debut in 1997 in a SAFF Cup match against Bangladesh.

He played 15 matches till his retirement in 2006 due to injuries.

While playing for the Mumbai FC senior team, he was asked to coach the junior side in 2008 and he reluctantly did that, and that changed his life.

"The u-19 team did very well, won the league. Since David Booth has left the senior team, I was asked to take charge."

At just 33, he became the youngest coach in the I-League.

Jamil will have the tough task of reversing India's poor performances in recent past.

Jamil has spoken about allowing his players the freedom to express themselves while maintaining defensive discipline.

Diamond Harbour FC thrashes BSF; Indian Navy edges out Real Kashmir

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Debutant Diamond Harbour FC (DHFC) announced its arrival in style, outclassing Border Security Force (BSF) 8-1 in a Group-B league match of the 134th Durand Cup at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Friday.

Brazilian forward Clayton DaSilva scored four goals to lead Diamond Harbour's demolition.

Slovenian forward Luka Majcen found the net twice while Paul Ramfangzauva and Jobby Justin scored one each to complete the rout. Kishori scored BSF's solitary goal in the final minute.



On the ramp: Clayton starred for Diamond Harbour FC with a four-goal effort. DEBASISH BHADURI

nute. The win took DHFC to the top of the group standings with six points from successive wins. It will meet ISL champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant

in its concluding league match on August 9 to decide the group topper.

Earlier, Indian Navy started its campaign on a winning note as it beat the

I-League side Real Kashmir FC (RKFC) 2-1 in a Group-F league encounter at the Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal.

Vijay Marandi put the sailors ahead early in the sixth minute before Franck William Sessegnon's restored parity for Real Kashmir in the 64th minute. Sreyas V.G. finished with a nice angular effort in the 70th minute to ensure Navy earned its first win in the competition since 2021.

The results: Group-B (Kolkata): Diamond Harbour FC 8 (Clayton DaSilva 1, 35, 71, 90+2, Luka Majcen 7, 39, Paul 53, Jobby Justin 67) bt BSF 1 (Kishori 90).

Group-F (Imphal): Indian Navy 2 (Vijay Marandi 6, Sreyas V.G. 70) bt Real Kashmir FC 1 (Franck Sessegnon 64).

THE HINDU GROUP

BOOK OF SCIENCE JOURNALISM
VOLUME I & II

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Book of Science Journalism vol. I and II is a collection of 100 articles published over two years showcasing some of the best English-language science journalism in India. The articles sweep a broad range of topics across both the physical and the life sciences. They sensitively interrogate scientific ideas while navigating the human choices and aspirations that motivate them.

₹699*
VOLUME 1 & 2

NEW ARRIVAL

BOOK YOUR COPY ONLINE

To avail this limited period offer, scan QR code or visit newsth.live/THBookStore

*Shipping charges applicable | Terms and Conditions apply

