



## Prajwal gets jail 'for remainder of natural life' in sex abuse case

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

Former Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna was sentenced to the remainder of his natural life by a special court on Saturday, a day after he was convicted of raping a domestic worker multiple times on his family's farm, one of four cases of rape and sexual abuse filed against him.

Delivering his verdict, Judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat of the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs convicted Prajwal of all the charges framed against him in this case.

He was sentenced to "imprisonment for life which shall mean remainder of natural life" under Section 376(2)(n) of the Indian Penal Code (repeated rape on the same woman), the maximum punishment possible under the Section, and "imprisonment for life" under Section 376(2) (k) (being in a position of control or dominance over



Prajwal Revanna

a woman, commits rape on such woman) apart from a host of other sections of the IPC and Information Technology Act, 2000.

In a packed court on Saturday, Prajwal, the former MP from Hassan in Karnataka, broke down after the verdict was declared, alleging a "political conspiracy" behind the case. The judgment also imposed a total penalty of ₹11.60 lakh on the convict and ordered that ₹11.25 lakh be paid to the victim in the case.

Prajwal is the grandson of former Prime Minister and JD(S) chief H.D. Deve Gowda.

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## Rahul claims 2024 polls rigged; EC labels it 'baseless accusation'

Congress leader says he has '100% proof' to substantiate claims, party suspects manipulation in 70-100 seats during the LS election; he says election system in India is 'already dead'; 'misleading' claims seek to discredit 'impartial hard work', says EC

**Abhinav Lakshman**  
**Sandeep Phukan**  
NEW DELHI

In a no-holds-barred attack on the Election Commission (EC) on Saturday, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, alleged that the 2024 Lok Sabha election was rigged, and claimed that the Congress suspected that the polls in anywhere between 70 and 100 seats were manipulated.

The BJP had won 240 of the 543 seats and the Congress 99 in that election.

The Congress leader, speaking at a party event, alleged that "the election system in India is already dead" and he had "100% proof" to substantiate his claim. Without spelling out the details, he cited the example of one constituency in which "6.5 lakh voters voted, out of which 1.5 lakh were fake".

Rejecting the claims, the



**All-out attack:** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the party's annual conclave in New Delhi on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

EC said Mr. Gandhi had been making "baseless and misleading" accusations, "intended to discredit the election officials' impartial and transparent hard work".

The agency said it had shared the electoral rolls of the 2024 election with all parties, but no objections were raised by the Congress then.

Mr. Gandhi was speaking at the annual conclave on law, human rights, and RTI conducted by the All

India Congress Committee. "The Prime Minister of India is Prime Minister with a very slim majority. If 10-15 seats were rigged, it would have been possible. Although our suspicion is closer to 70, 80, 100 seats. We are going to prove to you in the coming few days how that Lok Sabha election was rigged," he added.

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## Present evidence against EC, Rajnath dares Rahul

**Amit Bhelari**  
PATNA

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday attacked Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his claim of possessing an "atom bomb of evidence" which would prove that the Election Commission (EC) was engaging in "vote-theft" in Bihar under the pretext of special intensive revision (SIR).

Asking the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha to present all the evidence before the public, Mr. Singh, while speaking at a function in Patna, said making baseless allegations on a credible constitutional institution like the EC does not suit Mr. Gand-

hi's post. Mr. Singh also noted that the Opposition had disrupted Parliament the previous day over the SIR issue.

Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal also reacted to Mr. Gandhi's allegations on Saturday, telling a news wire service that he should present his findings to the EC.

Mr. Meghwal also accused the Leader of the Opposition of "overlooking" facts and "defaming constitutional bodies".

Lashing out at the Congress leader, the Defence Minister recalled that Mr. Gandhi had previously said that "the day he speaks, there will be an earthquake".

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### IN BRIEF



#### Name missing from draft roll: Tejashwi; EC rebuts claim

PATNA/NEW DELHI

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday claimed that his name was missing from the draft voter roll, which was published a day earlier. However, the Election Commission (EC) termed the former Deputy Chief Minister's claim "baseless" and shared an extract of the draft roll with his name. » PAGE 9

#### Delhi govt. to table school fee Bill in Monsoon Session

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said her government will table a Bill in the upcoming Monsoon Session, which will commence on Monday, to regulate fee hikes by private schools. » PAGE 2

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**MAGAZINE** » 8 PAGES

## Odisha girl set afire dies; police reject attack angle

**Satyasundar Barik**  
BHUBANESWAR

A 15-year-old girl who sustained over 75% burns after allegedly being set afire by unidentified miscreants in Odisha on July 19, died at AIIMS, Delhi, on Saturday.

After her death, Odisha Police said "no other person" was involved in the case. Earlier reports said she was waylaid by three persons and set ablaze.

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### Faith in motion



**Crowd-puller:** A group of devotees making their way past curious onlookers in Kolkata to Tarkeshwar Mahadev Temple on Saturday. PTI

## Our air defence systems, missiles, drones showcased power of self-reliant India: Modi

**Mavank Kumar**  
LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi invoked Lord Shiva's "Rudra roop (fierce form)" in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, on Saturday to hail the country's resolute action against terrorism.

"My promise to avenge the *sindoor* of our daughters was fulfilled with the blessings of Mahadev," he said at a public gathering at Banauli village in Varanasi's Sevapuri district. Recalling the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahal-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacting with a beneficiary at an event in his parliamentary constituency of Varanasi on Saturday. PTI

gam, Mr. Modi said that the grief of the victims' families had deeply moved 140 crore Indians, who vowed to avenge their pain.

He also hit out at the Opposition, saying, "The Con-

gress and its friends can't digest that India destroyed Pakistan's terror bases. Pakistan's sorrow is understandable – but why are the Congress and the Samajwadi Party grieving?"

Stressing India's growing self-reliance in defence, the PM said the whole world had witnessed the strength of indigenous weapons during Operation Sindoor.

"Our air defence systems, missiles, and drones showcased the power of a self-reliant India," he said, adding that BrahMos missiles would soon be manufactured in Lucknow.

"Weapons made in the U.P. Defence Corridor will become the backbone of India's military strength," he said.

## Kerala nuns walk out of Chhattisgarh prison on bail

**Shubhomoy Sikdar**  
RAIPUR

Eight days after their arrest on charges of human trafficking and forced religious conversions, which sparked a major political controversy, two Christian nuns from Kerala and a tribal man from Chhattisgarh walked out of the Durg Central Jail on Saturday after receiving bail from a National Investigation Agency (NIA) court.

The nuns were received on their release in the evening by a group of MPs and politicians representing all Kerala parties, in-



The two Kerala nuns and the tribal man from Chhattisgarh being welcomed after they were released from prison on Saturday. PTI

cluding the BJP. Catholic nuns Preethi Merry and Vandana Francis, along with Sukaman Mandavi, had been arrest-

ed at the Durg railway station on July 25, after a group of Bajrang Dal members created a ruckus and filed a police complaint.

In his complaint, Bajrang Dal member Ravi Nigam had alleged that the three were taking three tribal women from Narayanpur to Agra to convert them to Christianity.

#### 'Mere suspicion'

In its order, the NIA court in Bilaspur said that the FIR was "primarily based on a mere apprehension and suspicion of commission of an offence by the accused persons".

Earlier on Friday, the defence lawyers had argued that there was no material evidence to slap charges of either traffick-

ing or forced conversion on the three.

Meanwhile, the three young women who were the alleged victims of trafficking went to the office of the Superintendent of Police in Narayanpur district, seeking to register an FIR against the Bajrang Dal members for allegedly assaulting them and forcing them to give false statements against the nuns.

At least one of the women had already said the same thing to mediapersons following the arrests.

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## Meghalaya probing disappearance of coal from depots, says Deputy CM

**The Hindu Bureau**  
GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya government has begun probing the disappearance of 3,960.95 metric tonnes of coal from two designated depots, the State's Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong said on Saturday.

Authorities in the Ri-Bhoi and West Khasi Hills districts had been directed to conduct a thorough investigation, Mr. Tynsong said. According to a report submitted by the Justice B.P. Katakey (retired)-

headed committee to the High Court of Meghalaya in July, the coal was found missing from the Diengnagan and Rajaju villages in these two districts.

The High Court had constituted the panel to assess the extent of illegal mining and transportation of coal in the State. The National Green Tribunal banned the hazardous practice of rat-hole coal mining in the State in April 2014.

"The Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of the districts concerned have been

asked to investigate what happened to the coal in the depots," the Deputy CM said.

The coal missing from the two designated storage sites had been declared as extracted and inventoried, indicating theft or diversion by people involved in illegal mining, the panel stated.

Mr. Tynsong's Cabinet colleague, State Excise Minister Kyrmey Shylla, said a few days ago that the coal from the two depots "could have been washed away by rain".



INBRIEF



IIT-D holds 56th convocation; 2,764 students receive degrees

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on Saturday held its 56th convocation ceremony with Dr. Tessy Thomas, former Director General of Defence Research and Development Organisation, also known as the ‘Missile Woman of India’, as the chief guest. As many as 2,764 students, including 530 PhD scholars, were awarded degrees. Of these, 735 were female students. “It is with immense pride and a deep sense of honour that I stand before you at the convocation of IIT Delhi - a cradle of innovation, knowledge, and nation-building,” said Ms. Thomas.

Water quality of Yamuna river improved sharply in July: Sirsa

Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Saturday said the Delhi Pollution Control Committee has reported a significant improvement in the water quality of the Yamuna in July, with key pollution indicators showing marked progress compared to June. “These improvements are not incidental or seasonal. They are the result of deliberate and sustained effort,” said Mr. Sirsa. According to the report, Biochemical Oxygen Demand, a key indicator of water pollution, fell from 70 mg/l in June to 20 mg/l in July at the ITO bridge, he added.

Govt. to table private school fee Bill in Monsoon Session: CM

The Bill specifies a three-level verification to keep a check on the fee hikes in schools, levies penalties ranging between ₹1 lakh and ₹10 lakh for the violators; 15% of total strength of parents needed to raise a complaint ‘near-impossible task’: AAP

Ashna Butani  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday said the Delhi government will table a Bill to regulate fee hikes by private schools during the upcoming Monsoon Session of the Assembly, beginning August 4.

Amid ongoing protests by parents, the Delhi government had earlier approved a draft of the Bill and proposed bringing an Ordinance, since the Assembly was not in session. Now, it has decided to table the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Bill, 2025.

“The Delhi government will table the Bill to regulate fee hikes by private schools in the Monsoon Session of Assembly beginning from August 4,” Ms. Gupta said while addressing the media.

The parents’ groups, while pointing out issues in the Bill, said that they will send their detailed suggestions to the government on



Parents’ groups will send detailed suggestions regarding the Bill to the government on Sunday. FILE PHOTO

Sunday.

Three-level checks

A three-level verification will be implemented to regulate fee hikes, according to the Bill seen by *The Hindu*.

First, schools will form an 11-member committee comprising the school management representative and principal - three teachers, five parents from the parent-teacher association,

selected by a draw of lots, and a nominee of the Directorate of Education (DoE).

A District Fee Appellate Committee will hear appeals against the decisions taken by school-level committees. A similar procedure will be followed with a State-level revision committee, which will be the highest appellate authority.

An aggrieved parents’ group, which the Bill de-

scribes as 15% of the total strength of parents in an affected school, may appeal to the District Fee Appellate Committee within 30 days from the time the fees are approved, against the decisions of school-level committees.

The Bill also specifies that if a school is found levying a fee that is not determined in the provisions of the Act, the DoE will direct the school to roll back the fee and refund the excess amount to the parents.

The penalty for violators can range between ₹1 lakh and ₹10 lakh.

Meanwhile, a fine of ₹50,000 will be levied on schools for harassing students over delayed payment of fees.

The Bill also mentions the 10 factors that will determine the fee structure, including the location of the school, infrastructure made available, the education standard of schools, and a reasonable revenue surplus as may be prescribed.

Divya Matthey, a parent of a student who studies in

Delhi Public School, Dwarka, said, “It will be difficult to get a minimum of 15% of the parent body to raise a question.”

Mr. Matthey said that parents have noted that the penalties might not affect bigger schools, for whom “₹50,000 might be a small amount”.

AAP, BJP at odds

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Delhi State president Saurabh Bharadwaj criticised the Bill, saying, “Until now, even under the 1973 law, if a single parent felt that fees had been unfairly hiked, they could file a complaint with the DoE. Now, that has been scrapped. Under the new law, you’ll need a minimum of 15% of parents to raise a complaint. In a school with 3,000 students, that means identifying 450 parents - a near-impossible task.”

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said, “It would have been better if Saurabh Bharadwaj had waited until the Bill was tabled in the upcoming session before commenting on it.”

L-G, CM meet to rationalise licence norms

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had held a meeting with senior officials to rationalise and simplify the licensing regime and create a unified database of commercial establishments, a source said on Saturday.

The meeting’s agenda was to unite multiple agencies on a single platform, simplifying licensing processes and promoting ease of doing business.

At the meeting, Ms. Gupta said multiplicity of licensing authorities in Delhi, at times, resulted in the harassment of traders and business persons, the source said.

“It was brought out in the meeting that fragmented databases, absence of a unified portal for licences and complicated licence fee structure, led to revenue loss,” the source said.

The Cabinet Secretariat, following a recent review meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had asked Mr. Saxena to undertake specific short-term urgent reforms to ease compliance and improve governance in the Capital.

Rape-accused man out on bail shoots woman, arrested

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Two persons - a convict out on interim bail in a rape case and his associate - were arrested for alleged shooting at a woman on

Wednesday in south-west Delhi’s Vasant Vihar, the police said on Saturday. Police officials also confirmed that the victim had named the main accused, Abuzair Safi, 30, in a rape case in 2024. The police ar-

rested his associate, Aman Sukhla, seized a two-wheeler, and recovered a country-made pistol.

A case was registered under Sections 109(I) (attempted murder) and 3(5) (common intent) of the

BNS and relevant sections of the Arms Act. Safi was granted interim bail last month.

The police said the woman was rushed to AIIMS Trauma Centre after being shot. “The victim, found

conscious and medically fit, stated that two motorcycle-borne persons came from behind. One of them, Safi, fired a shot that struck her in the chest,” DCP (South West) Amit Goel said.

CM vows one million homes for poor, digital overhaul

The Hindu Bureau  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday said that the Delhi government is developing a comprehensive strategy to address the demand for one million houses for economically weaker sections (EWS) and slum dwellers across the Capital.

During a visit to EWS flats built in 2011 in Sultanpuri, which are now in a dilapidated state, Ms. Gupta stated that the government plans to renovate around 50,000 unused flats constructed under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and allocate them to slum residents.

“Our government is committed to ensuring dignified housing and a better life for slum dwellers. In the first phase, 50,000 flats will be allocated. These efforts are fully aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s resolve of providing housing for every poor,” she said.

The CM said the govern-



CM Rekha Gupta inspecting flats in Sultanpuri. PTI

Responding to her remarks, AAP said if the BJP was serious about protecting slum dwellers, it should urge Central agencies to withdraw legal cases pending against slum clusters in the High Court and the Supreme Court.

Online reforms

Ms. Gupta also announced a push towards digitising governance, stating that the Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) has now fully transitioned to an e-office platform. “The Delhi Secretariat is already digitised. All files now move through the e-office system and are e-signed. We aim to make the entire Secretariat paperless soon,” she said, adding that digitisation has improved transparency and sped up decision-making.

According to the CMO, the e-office system saw rapid adoption in July. Of 199 departments, 119 now operate fully as e-office, up from 22% in June. Digital file usage surged past 1.18 lakh, marking a 250% month-on-month increase.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Puthenvittil Chandapillai (Babu) Mathew

May 17, 1950 - August 2, 2025



We mourn the passing of Puthenvittil Chandapillai (Babu) Mathew (Age 75) who left us peacefully, in Chennai, on Saturday, August 2, 2025.

A distinguished and accomplished professional, Babu’s executive career took him from Chennai to London, to the United States, and back to Bangalore. He built a life marked by integrity, leadership, and quiet strength. His legacy lives on through the many colleagues, friends, and family, whose lives he touched.

He is survived by his wife Annamma, his sons, Nikhil, Abraham, and Matthen, their spouses, Sarah, Radhika, and Laju, and his grandchildren, Alisha, Basu, Zoe, Markus, Leo, Luke, and Miles.

The funeral service was held yesterday, August 2, 2025, at the Kilpauk Cemetery, Chennai.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

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Dr.A.Ganesan, M.A. Phd.,  
Former Vice Principal  
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Admission to Physics Department through Visvesvaraya PhD scheme: Phase II, August- 2025

IISER Tirupati (www.iisertirupati.ac.in) invites online applications for admission to the Physics Department through the Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics and IT: Phase II August 2025. For details of educational qualifications, eligibility criteria, selection procedure, online application, and last date of submission, please visit: For Ph.D.: https://www.iisertirupati.ac.in/visvesvaraya-phd-scheme/ Sd/- Director

Adv. No. 43/2025/IISER-T/Admissions/30-07-2025



# Bengal govt. launches ₹8,000-crore drive to address local issues

27,000 camps will be set up to cover 80,000 polling booths, says Mamata; move amid BJP's push to reclaim Matua vote by launching CAA help desks

Press Trust of India  
KOLKATA

In the run-up to the 2026 Assembly election in West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress government on Saturday launched a ₹8,000-crore outreach programme to address local issues such as setting up street lamps, repairing roads, and ensuring water supply across districts in the State.

On the first day of the programme, ‘Amader Para, Amader Samadhan’ (Our neighbourhood, our solution), Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said in a post on X that “632 APAS camps are being held across the State”.

The programme is aimed at “institutionalising participatory governance and re-imagining grass-roots service delivery through the engagement and empowerment of people”, she said in the post.

“(An) APAS camp is a platform where local people shall deliberate, identify, and prioritise their local-level infrastructure needs. ₹8,000+ crore is the outlay for APAS with ₹10 lakh allocated per booth and 80,000+ polling



People taking part in a camp set up as part of the ‘Amader Para, Amader Samadhan’ programme on Saturday. X/@MAMATAOFFICIAL

booths being covered by 27,000+ camps,” said Ms. Banerjee. She added that ‘Duare Sarkar’ (Government at doorstep)’ counters have also been set up at the APAS camps.

The government had launched its flagship ‘Duare Sarkar’ scheme of doorstep delivery of rations in December 2020.

“I invite the people to visit these camps and participate in the discussions to make APAS a grand success,” she said.

### Task force formed

A task force headed by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant would monitor the programme, even as district-level task forces have already been constituted.

While these camps will be held for two months, there will be an administrative evaluation for 30 days, a government statement said.

The initiative comes amid the BJP’s push to reclaim the Matua vote and blunt Ms. Banerjee’s “Bengali *asmita* (pride)” pitch by launching Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) help desks in parts of West Bengal.

The help desks, branded ‘CAA Sahajogita Shibir’, aim to facilitate citizenship applications.

These first emerged in Bagda in North 24 Parganas and are now spreading rapidly to Bongaon South and other Matua-majority pockets in the district.

## PMK leaders in a spot as Ramadoss, Anbumani call separate meetings

The Hindu Bureau  
CHENNAI

With Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK) president Anbumani Ramadoss convening a general body meeting (GBM) on August 9, and party founder S. Ramadoss calling one on August 17, senior party leaders say the intra-party conflict has put the cadre in a spot.

Meeting reporters on Saturday, Mr. Ramadoss said the general body members should be given a notice of at least 15 days, and that he had called for the GBM as per the party’s bylaws.

“I founded the PMK and built the party by visiting 96,000 villages. Nobody else can claim ownership... It is against the party rules and regulations for the

working president to call for a GBM,” he said.

However, advocate K. Balu, who has been the face of the party, and is now with Mr. Anbumani, said seven days’ prior notice was enough.

“We announced the GBM nine days earlier. Moreover, the party rules clearly state who can call for the meeting.”

## 4 policemen suspended for buying liquor after escorting Himachal CM to Chandigarh

Press Trust of India  
SHIMLA

The Himachal Pradesh police on Saturday announced the suspension of four policemen, including a Sub-Inspector, following a video showing them purchasing liquor and keeping it in a police vehicle that went viral on social media.

The action was taken after a preliminary inquiry found that the video was authentic, said police sources, adding that a departmental inquiry has

been ordered into the incident. The policemen had escorted Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu to Chandigarh on Friday.

While Mr. Sukhu proceeded to Delhi, they returned to Himachal Pradesh.

On their way back, they stopped at a liquor shop in Chandigarh, where they were spotted buying liquor in uniform. The video clip, which shows a worker placing crates of liquor in a police vehicle, went viral within minutes.

## Two held in Bengal for beating up Muslim men transporting cattle

Shiv Sahay Singh  
KOLKATA

A group of Muslim men were beaten up in the Durgapur area of West Bengal when they were transporting cattle for farm work.

“A case has been registered. Two of the miscreants were arrested on Friday. Raids are on to nab all those involved,” said the West Bengal Police.

The incident occurred

under the Coke Oven police station limits on Thursday.

A purported video of the assault, which went viral, shows the alleged cow vigilantes beating up the men, whose hands are tied up, and forcing them to do sit-ups while holding their ears. In a social media post, the police assured that “nothing and no one will be allowed to dent our State’s tradition of inclusiv-

ity and harmony”.

‘BJP youth wing leader’ Commissioner of Police (Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate) Sunil Kumar Chaudhary said the minority community members were transporting cattle for farm work when they were assaulted. He added that the victims were stopped by assailants led by a BJP youth wing leader, Parijat Ganguly.

## Punjab vigilance officials raid former Akali leader’s house after he joins BJP

Press Trust of India  
CHANDIGARH


The Punjab Vigilance Bureau on Saturday raided the premises of former Shiromani Akali Dal leader and realtor Ranjit Singh Gill, a day after he joined the BJP.

The BJP condemned the action, accusing the Aam Aadmi Party government


of “political vendetta”.

Vigilance Bureau officers raided Mr. Gill’s house in Chandigarh and his office in Mohali’s Kharar area. There was no official word on the raid at the time of going to press.

Meanwhile, a Mohali court on Saturday extended the judicial custody of Akali leader Bikram Singh Majithia till August 14.




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Chairperson,  
Tamil Nadu Real Estate  
Regulatory Authority (TNRERA)

#### Session 1 - 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

##### Fireside Chat: Vision for Tamil Nadu's Real Estate Growth

Arun M N, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director, Casagrand  
Moderated by Rosella Stephen R, Senior Associate Editor, The Hindu

#### Session 2 - 11:05 AM - 12:05 PM

##### Tamil Nadu @ \$1 Trillion: Role of Real Estate in Urban Transformation

W S Habib, President, CREDAI Tamil Nadu  
Jerry Kingsley, Head of Value & Risk Advisory in India & City Capital Markets, Chennai JLL  
Julian Francis, Senior Vice President - Asset Management, Chennai, and Head of Industrial & Logistics (I&L) at RMZ  
Sripriya Ganesan, Co-founder of Studio Neon Attic  
C G Sathish, Deputy Managing Director, Casagrand  
Moderated by Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, The Hindu

#### Session 3 - 12:10 PM - 13:10 PM

##### Policy to Prosperity: RERA, Ease of Doing Business & Regulatory Outlook

Sanjay Chugh, City Head & Director ANAROCK Property Consultants Pvt Ltd, Chennai  
Sridharan Swaminathan, Chairman, Sabari & LYRA Properties Pvt Ltd, Executive Committee Member, CREDAI National Delhi  
Jayaprakash Padmanaban, Senior Partner, Fox Mandal & Associates  
Moderated by Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, The Hindu

#### Session 4 - 14:20 PM - 15:20 PM

##### Affordable Housing: Bridging the Urban Housing Gap

A Srivathsan, Professor, Head of the Centre for Research on Architecture and Urbanism at CEPT University  
Vaneesa Peter, Founder, Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC)  
R V Shekar, Chairman, Managing Director Lancor Group  
P Suresh, Managing Director, Arun Excelllo Group  
Moderated by R Sujatha, Former Deputy editor, The Hindu

#### Session 5 - 15:25 PM - 16:40 PM

##### Green is Gold: Sustainable Construction & Energy-Efficient Buildings

Dr. C Velan, CEO, CEEBROS Group  
Sumitra Vasudevan, Associate Partner, APRObuild  
Ajit Kumar Chordia, Managing Director Olympia Group, India  
Nataraj S, Senior Assistant Vice President, Swelect  
Moderated by Geetha Srimalathi S, Senior Reporter, The Hindu

#### Session 6 - 16:45 PM - 17:15 PM


##### Fireside Chat: Building Champions, Building Cities: The Role of Sports Infrastructure in Tamil Nadu's Growth

J Meghanatha Reddy, IAS, Member Secretary & CEO, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT)  
Moderated by K. C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports Editor, The Hindu

#### Session 7 - 17:20 PM - 18:20 PM

##### Tier II & III Cities: The Next Real Estate Frontier

V S Sridhar, Executive Managing Director at Cushman & Wakefield Chennai  
A Shankar, India Head - Government Advisory & Solutions, JLL India  
Moderated by Sangeetha Kandavel, Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu



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## Indian Bank



### ALLAHABAD

Corporate Office, 254-260, Avvai Shanmugam Salai, Royapettah, Chennai-600014

## PUBLIC NOTICE FOR ACTIVATION OF INOPERATIVE ACCOUNTS

Our Bank has observed that in some accounts there is no customer-induced transactions for over two years.

Account holders of such Inoperative accounts are hereby requested to reactivate their accounts by visiting their home branch or any Indian Bank branch by submitting fresh KYC documents like Aadhar / Driving License / Voter ID / etc.

For any queries or assistance, please contact your nearest Indian Bank branch.

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INBRIEF



Pilgrimage to Kedarnath resumes via trek route

The pilgrimage to Kedarnath resumed on Saturday via the trek route after remaining closed for a few days. A group of pilgrims was sent to Kedarnath from Sonprayag via Gaurikund when the road meant for pedestrians became walkable to some extent on Saturday, Rudraprayag SP Akshay Prahlad Konde said. However, the NH leading to the temple continues to remain closed between Sonprayag and Gaurikund, and efforts are being made to clear it, Mr. Konde said. Until the highway is restored, pilgrims will have to walk 22 km to reach Kedarnath, he added. PTI

18 arrested over communal violence in Pune’s Yavat

Police have arrested 18 people and registered five FIRs against more than 500 individuals in connection with the communal violence in Yavat village of Pune district that broke out over an alleged objectionable status on a social messaging platform, officers said on Saturday. The youth who had posted it on WhatsApp is among those arrested along with 17 others held for their alleged involvement in arson and vandalism. A local court remanded 15 of them in police custody for four days. Pune SP Sandeep Singh Gill said preliminary probe does not point to any planned conspiracy and that conclusions cannot be drawn until the inquiry is over. PTI

Marathi made mandatory, but nothing wrong with learning another Indian language: CM

Devendra Fadnavis wades into language debate again, says he opposes mindset that rejects native languages and lays out red carpet for English; on cue, Thackeray cousins criticise Maharashtra CM

The Hindu Bureau  
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, speaking to the media in Nagpur, said on Saturday that there is nothing wrong in Marathi students learning another Indian language instead of valorising English.

“I firmly believe that Marathi must be compulsorily taught in Maharashtra, and we have already made it mandatory. But if Marathi students in Maharashtra also get a chance to learn another Indian language along with Marathi, what is wrong with that? I oppose the mindset that rejects Indian languages and lays out the red carpet only for English,” he said, emphasising that Marathi was essential for the State’s cultural and linguistic identity.

The Chief Minister’s comments came amid an ongoing ‘Marathi versus Hindi’ debate in the State, with the Opposition claiming success in getting the Mahayuti government to



Proud moment: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis along with other dignitaries felicitating Grandmaster and Women’s World Cup champion Divya Deshmukh during a ceremony in Nagpur on Saturday. PTI

shelve its plan to introduce Hindi as a third language from Classes 1 to 5.

On cue, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and his cousin, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leader Raj Thackeray – both of whom were at the forefront of resisting what they called “Hindi imposition” – criticised Mr. Fadnavis for his comments.

“The Chief Minister of Maharashtra thinks about how schoolchildren can learn Hindi. But he does not think how people who

come to Maharashtra for work can learn Marathi,” Mr. Raj Thackeray said while addressing the foundation day of the Peasants and Workers Party, an event also attended by Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut.

‘Don’t impose language’ Mr. Uddhav alleged that the Fadnavis government is trying to “finish Marathi” in Maharashtra.

“We have no hatred towards any language but do not impose any language

on us,” he said at a separate event in Shivalay, the Sena (UBT)’s office.

The government had issued two government resolutions (GRs) about the three-language policy for students of Classes 1 to 5 in line with the National Education Policy, 2020.

The GRs were withdrawn after an outcry from several quarters. On July 5, the Thackeray cousins had made a joint appearance at a rally after decades to celebrate the rollback of the Hindi language GRs.

‘KTR-Lokesh secret meeting shows BRS backing A.P. projects’

The Hindu Bureau  
HYDERABAD

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Saturday said the “secret meeting” between Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao and Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh was a “conspiracy of the BRS” to extend full support to the Banakacherla project.

The project, which will link the Godavari and Krishna river basins via reservoirs, canals, and lift irrigation scheme, is Andhra Pradesh CM N. Chandrababu Naidu’s pet project.

Mr. Vikramarka issued a stern warning over what he called a “conspiracy” by the BRS, BJP, and TDP to compromise Telangana’s interests in the name of the Banakacherla and Polavaram projects. He was speaking at a public meeting in Kollapur constituency to launch new electricity substations, distribute ration cards, and allocate Indiramma housing pattas.

The Deputy CM questioned why the BRS government remained silent on the Banakacherla project for a decade. “The proposal was halted only after



Telangana Deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. FILE PHOTO

CM Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy sought intervention in Delhi,” he said.

In response to Mr. Lokesh’s comments that Telangana was “wasting floodwater”, Mr. Vikramarka said floodwater was available for Andhra Pradesh only because Telangana’s upstream projects were never completed. “Only after securing our rightful needs will Telangana consider any discussion on Banakacherla,” he said.

The Deputy CM criticised former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao for “discarding the Pranahita-Chevella project and opting for the Kaleshwaram project”. “KCR spent ₹1.2 lakh crore on Kaleshwaram, which failed. Pranahita-Chevella could have been completed with just ₹38,000 crore,” he said.

BJP will go solo in BTC polls, may contest all 40 seats, says Himanta

The Hindu Bureau  
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will contest the upcoming elections to the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) independently and may field candidates in all 40 constituencies across the region it administers, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

The BJP is currently a minor ally of the United People’s Party Liberal (UPPL) in the BTC, which governs the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), comprising five districts in northern

The BTC governs the Bodoland Territorial Region, comprising 5 districts in northern and western Assam

and western Assam. The UPPL is one of the two regional allies of the BJP in the Assam government.

Addressing a BJP event at Mwdwibari in the BTR’s Udalguri district, the Chief Minister said his party was firm on contesting the BTC elections independently. “We are considering fielding candidates in all 40 constituencies in the coun-

cil,” he said, insisting that the BJP does not regard either the UPPL or its rival, the Bodoland People’s Front, as its enemy.

‘Taking polls seriously’ “We are taking the elections seriously this time and we want to move forward on our strength with a focus on comprehensive development of the region after ensuring peace in the last five years,” the Chief Minister said.

The BJP is speculated to snap ties with the UPPL as it is no longer keen on playing second fiddle to a regional party in the BTC.

Gujarat police remove ‘women’s safety’ posters after row

Abhinay Deshpande  
AHMEDABAD

The Ahmedabad City Traffic Police have removed a series of controversial posters on “women’s safety” after widespread criticism and public outcry.

The posters, which mentioned the traffic police as the “sponsor”, were put up by an NGO, Satarkta. However, the content of the posters sparked outrage, with many citizens and politicians questioning the approach to women’s safety in the State.

One poster in Gujarati read, “Attending late-night parties could invite rape or gang rape”, while another



One of the posters put up in Gujarat that sparked a row. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

added, “Do not go with your friend to dark, isolated areas – what if she is raped or gang-graped?”

The posters were put up on road dividers in areas like Chandlodia and Sola.

Clarification issued

Faced with mounting criticism, the traffic police swiftly removed the posters, issued a public clarification, and pulled up the NGO for “crossing the line”. The police said the NGO had only been given permission to display traffic awareness messages, not content with references to sexual violence.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic (West), Neeta Desai, the NGO had been associated with the traffic department to create awareness

on key issues, but this time, “they put up posters on a completely unrelated subject” without informing the police. “We have removed the posters and issued them a stern warning,” Ms. Desai said.

Joint CP (Traffic) N.N. Chaudhary issued a clarification, stating that the NGO had “not obtained prior intimation or approval for the creation or display of these posters containing objectionable text”. “These posters were immediately removed, and the group was instructed not to display such content in the future,” he said.

The controversy also drew the attention of the

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which slammed the State government over the posters. “The BJP government talks about women’s empowerment, but the ground reality tells a different story,” AAP said in a statement.

“In the last three years alone, Gujarat has reported over 6,500 rape cases and more than 36 gang rapes – that’s more than five rapes every single day,” the party added.

The Opposition party said while the Chief Minister and BJP leaders boast about creating a secure environment for women, these posters reflect the actual situation in Gujarat.

SPOTLIGHT

Shubhomoy Sikdar

The car cannot proceed any further. On its way from the district headquarters in Chhattisgarh’s Narayanpur to Garpa, a village in the district’s interiors, the sedan is forced to stop nearly 15 km before the destination as it cannot navigate through a muddy *murum* (red gravel) pathway. Garpa, like many other villages in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh, was inaccessible to the district administration until last year, because the Maoists controlled it.

Inside the car is Mahru Potai, the secretary of the Garpa village panchayat and its main link to Chhattisgarh’s administration. During the commute that takes over an hour, he has been discussing the incremental changes in mainstreaming Garpa and other villages that dot this stretch of the road that runs through the Abujhmad forests. In Bastar, Maoists have been in conflict with the Indian state for the past five decades.

This pathway – which will serve as a base for a *pucca* road to link Narayanpur with Kanker districts – has come up after a security camp was established here six months ago. Its

construction has cut down Potai’s daily commute on a bike from nearly five hours to two, and has also helped villagers access services and benefits that they would earlier miss out on or not demand in fear of the Maoists. There are now five pockets of government access to people, and the administration calls these areas “accesses”.

The largely tribal administrative division of Bastar comprises seven districts, including Narayanpur. It is here that security forces have mounted an aggressive campaign, gunning down over 425 alleged Maoists since December 2023. Earlier in 2025, Home Minister Amit Shah had said on social media that all Naxals would be ‘eradicated’ by March 2026.

An ‘uphill’ task

Narayanpur comprises two blocks: Narayanpur and Orchha. Orchha, of which Garpa village is a part, is geographically more spread out but the population is just around 41,000, say people from the administration. Out of 377 villages, 133 are still inaccessible to them. A family living in one of the difficult-to-reach villages must walk four days to a market for basic provisions. Distances are measured here in how many hills a person must cross to

The Naxals are receding. Now what?

After carrying out a targeted campaign against left-wing extremists since 2023, the Chhattisgarh administration’s new challenge is to bring people to the mainstream despite its limited resources



Long road ahead: Residents of several villages in Bastar have to walk four days to reach a market that sells basic provisions; (right) camps set up by various departments of the Central and State governments in the weekly markets to offer services or schemes. SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR

reach their destination. Officials say the upcoming population Census exercise will be an uphill task in these areas.

The terrain and scattered population makes reaching people expensive. “We have to utilise funds in a cost-effective manner. For example, the government is in a quandary to balance its financial and social obligations when residents of a village with a population as low as 10 families demand a new road that would cost around ₹1 crore for construction,” says Akancha Siksha Khalkho, the Zila Panchayat Chief Executive Officer of Narayanpur district.

The ‘Niyad Nellanar’ scheme of the Chhattisgarh government aims at enhancing basic facilities and welfare benefits in a 10-km radius of the new camps set up in the Maoist-affected areas. The word ‘camp’ means two different things in Bastar: one set up for security, where the jawans of the forces live; another, tents and counters set up temporarily for people to avail themselves of welfare schemes. When the first is established, the second follows.

The welfare camps have a carefully thought-through action plan. “We have to be very cautious about choosing which peo-

ple will be acceptable inside because we cannot compromise lives. For example, the Health Department and the Forest Department people go in because they have been dealing with the villagers in the past too,” says Niharika Barik Singh, Principal Secretary for both the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development of the State government. Her department coordinates the delivery of the Niyad Nellanar scheme.

Niyad Nellanar covers all eligible beneficiaries of State government schemes, at both the individual and community level. Delivering these in hith-

erto ungoverned areas poses multifold challenges, says Potai.

“Take a cash assistance scheme such as the Mahtari Vandan Yojana, under which women are eligible for ₹1,000 every month. But they have to go to Narayanpur 52 km away on a bus that will cost them ₹200 to and fro. There is a provision of sending the money to the nearest post office but that circles back to the need for a mobile phone, which many here won’t be able to afford,” he says. The bus service is new too, so villagers are not used to taking it yet.

Once government employees began meeting pe-

ople, they realised that there was little demand for schools. There was, however, demand for rations, health facilities and houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Rural.

Learnings and challenges

Brick-and-mortar houses are not easy to build here. Rajesh Usandi, 32, a farmer, says he has applied for a house and received the first instalment of the total ₹2 lakh that the government provides as assistance. “But the challenge is getting the construction material from Narayanpur. Seven tractor trips have to be made, and each trip costs ₹3,000. This takes away nearly half the assistance amount in transportation,” he says.

Availability of skilled labourers is another issue. Bastar Inspector General P. Sundarraj says that among the skill development programmes being run for the surrendered Maoists, there are plans to introduce construction and telecom tower-building training programmes so that what they learn during rehabilitation is more relevant to the region.

For regions that have been outside the government’s purview and yet have been receiving rations and some rudimentary health services, some challenges are unexpected

enough to stump officials. Khalkho shares one instance where, in some interior villages, people had an Aadhaar card made in 2011-12, but don’t have the document. “Now when we try to make their Aadhaar to allow them access to other facilities, we find a duplication problem. We send them to the UIDAI portal to remove the anomaly but the process may take anywhere from four to six weeks, delaying everything else,” she says.

Another problem is connectivity. “Garpa and the areas beyond are non-electrified and the telecom network connectivity is either poor or non-existent. In one particular case, we had to ferry almost an entire village on a tractor 25 km to get through the process,” Potai says.

However, Khalkho says, people themselves are coming forward to ask for services and assert their rights, shedding the fear instilled by the Maoists. “Late last year, people had come from Thulthuli. It was near the area where 38 Maoists were killed in an encounter last year. They were looking for work under the MGNREG scheme,” she says.

shubhomoy.s@  
thehindu.co.in

LINK TO FULL STORY  
» <http://bit.ly/45fv9yb>



## 'No data on SL refugees willing to return or apply for Indian citizenship'

T. Ramakrishnan  
CHENNAI

The Commissionerate of Rehabilitation and Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils, which handles matters concerning Sri Lankan Tamil refugees living in camps in Tamil Nadu, does not have information on refugees who are willing to return to their home country or those who have sought Indian citizenship.

This has been stated in a reply to a Chennai resident under the Right to Information Act.

On the issue of voluntary repatriation of the refugees to Sri Lanka, a government official said there is no scope for forcible repatriation of refugees. Even


if conditions in the country of their origin have genuinely improved, repatriation can be done only with "their full and voluntary consent", the official added. International law and evolving case law firmly prohibit forced repatriation in situations where refugees may still face persecution or unsafe conditions. It is because of this reason that the commissionerate does not collect the data, the official said.

On citizenship, the Union government's stand has been that any foreigner can acquire citizenship by registration under Section 5 of the Citizenship Act, 1955 or by naturalisation. However, an illegal migrant is not eligible to apply.

## U.P. Ministers to oversee flood relief operations

The Hindu Bureau  
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday deployed an 11-member Ministerial team to oversee flood relief operations across 12 flood-affected districts in the State. "The CM directed all Ministers to inspect relief camps and directly engage with affected families in their assigned districts," an official statement from the State government read.



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CIN: L65110JK19385SGC000048

**NOTICE OF 87<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING PROCEDURE AND RECORD DATE**

Notice is hereby given that the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Shareholders of the Jammu and Kashmir Bank Limited ("Bank"), will be held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 1100 hours at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Srinagar J&K - 190001 to transact the business as set out in the Notice of Annual General Meeting.

The Bank has sent Notice of the 87<sup>th</sup> AGM along with the Annual Report for the Financial Year 2024-25 on Saturday, August 02, 2025 through electronic mode to Members whose email addresses are registered with the Bank/Registrar & Transfer Agent/Depository Participants. A letter providing Direct Web Link, QR Code and Navigation Path where Notice of 87<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Annual Report for Financial Year 2024-2025 can be assessed has been dispatched to those Members whose email addresses are not registered.

The Notice of the AGM and Annual Report for the Financial Year 2024-25 is available on the Bank's website at [jkbank.com/sites/default/files/2025-07/Annual-Report-2024-25.pdf](http://jkbank.com/sites/default/files/2025-07/Annual-Report-2024-25.pdf), on the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. The BSE Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com), National Stock Exchange of India Limited at [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) and on the website of the M/s National Securities Depositories Limited at <http://evoting.nsdl.com>

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 as amended from time to time, Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and Secretarial Standards on General Meetings issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), Bank is pleased to provide e-voting facility through M/s National Securities Depositories Limited for all shareholders of the Bank to enable them to cast their votes electronically on the items mentioned in the Notice of the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Bank.

The remote e-voting facility shall be available during the following period:

E-Voting Event ID	134893
Cut-off date for determining Members entitled to vote	Tuesday, August 19, 2025
Commencement of remote e-voting period	Saturday, August 23, 2025 from 0900 Hours
End of remote e-voting period	Monday, August 25, 2025 upto 1700 Hours

Members holding shares of the Bank as on Cut-Off Date shall be entitled to vote during remote e-voting or voting at the AGM. Members can select Event ID: 134893 to cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module will be disabled by M/s National Securities Depositories Limited after the end of remote e-voting. The facility for voting shall also be provided at the AGM. A Member can opt for only single mode of voting i.e. through remote e-voting or voting at the AGM. If a Member casts vote(s) by both modes, then voting done through remote e-voting shall prevail and vote(s) cast at the Meeting shall be treated as "INVALID". However, Members who have voted through remote e-voting shall be eligible to attend the AGM. Details of the process/method of casting votes by Members is included in the AGM Notice. Any person who acquires shares of the Bank and become Member of the Bank after dispatch of the notice and holding shares as on cut-off date, may obtain the Login ID and Password by sending a request at [evoting@nsdl.com](mailto:evoting@nsdl.com).

The voting rights of Members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them in the Paid-up Equity Share Capital of the Bank as on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 being the "Cut-Off Date" for this purpose. A person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the Cut-Off Date shall only be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as voting at the AGM.

Members who are holding shares in physical form or who have not registered their email addresses are requested to refer to the Notice of the AGM for the process to be adopted for obtaining the User ID and Password for casting the vote through remote e-voting. In case of any difficulty in casting vote through remote e-voting, Members may contact:

Ms. Pallavi Mhatre,  
Senior Manager,  
National Securities Depository Limited  
Address: 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Naman Chambers Plot C32,  
G - Block Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E),  
Mumbai - 400051  
Email: [evoting@nsdl.com](mailto:evoting@nsdl.com)  
Tel No. 022-48867000  
Website: <http://evoting.nsdl.com>.

**Dividend related Information:**  
The Board of Directors of the Bank at its meeting held on 05<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, recommended a dividend of Rs.2.15 per equity share (215%) on the face value of ₹1/- each for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2025.

The record date for determining eligibility of members entitled to receive the dividend on equity shares, if approved by the shareholders of the Bank at the AGM is Tuesday, August 19, 2025. Dividend shall be paid to those shareholders whose names appear in the Bank's Register of Members/Statements of Beneficial Position received from the National Securities Depository Limited and the Central Depository Services (India) Limited as at the close of business hours on Tuesday, August 19, 2025. Further, the dividend for FY 2024-25, if approved by the shareholders at the 87<sup>th</sup> AGM, will be paid to the eligible equity shareholders of the Bank on or after Wednesday, August 27, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of applicable laws.


Members are also requested to note that pursuant to the provisions of the Finance Act, 2020, the Bank would be required to deduct Tax at Source ('TDS') at the prescribed rates in respect of payment of dividend to its Members, resident as well as non-resident, if so approved by the Shareholders of the Bank at the AGM. For more details, Members are requested to refer the dividend related information provided in the Notice of the AGM.

You may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting User Manual for Shareholders available at the download section of <http://evoting.nsdl.com> or contact M/s National Securities Depositories Limited at Tel No. 022-48867000. You may also send an e-mail to the Bank at: [sharedeptt\\_qc@jkbankmail.com](mailto:sharedeptt_qc@jkbankmail.com).

We look forward for your participation at the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Bank.

Place: Srinagar  
Date: 02<sup>nd</sup> August, 2025

By order of the Board of Directors  
Mohammad Shaif Mir  
(Company Secretary)



**J&K Bank**  
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Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd  
Technology & Development,  
Ground Floor, Air India building  
Residency Road, Srinagar 190001

**Online Request for Quotation (e-RFQ) For Renewal of Annual Technical Support ATS for SolarWinds NPM NTA and WHD Licenses**

RFQ Notice along with Complete RFQ document outlining the minimum requirements can be downloaded from and BIDs can be submitted on the Banks' e-Tendering Portal <https://jkbank.abcpocure.com> w.e.f. August 05, 2025, 16.00 Hrs. Tender Document can also be downloaded from Bank's Official Website [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com). Last date for submission of Bids is August 26, 2025, 17.00 Hrs.

**e- RFQ Ref.No JKB/CHQ/T&D/Solar-winds/2025-1484  
Dated : 01-08-2025**

Registered office : Corporate Headquarters, M.A.Road, Srinagar 190001, Kashmir, India  
CIN: L65110JK19385SGC000048; T: +91 (0194) 2481 930-35; F: +91 (0194) 248 1928;  
E: [info@jkbankmail.com](mailto:info@jkbankmail.com) ; W : [www.jkbank.com](http://www.jkbank.com)

THE HINDU  
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**Restoration of earlier regulated trains for Non-Interlocking work over Asansol Division**

In reference to the earlier notification regarding regulation of trains due to Pre Non-Interlocking work for 10 days from 08.09.2025 (Monday) to 17.09.2025 (Wednesday) and Non-Interlocking work for 04 days from 18.09.2025 (Thursday) to 21.09.2025 (Sunday) at Durgapur station in Bardhaman-Asansol section over Asansol Division, it is to be stated that the said work have been **Postponed** till further advice. Accordingly, the trains which were earlier notified as Cancelled/Diverted/Short Terminated & Short Originated/Rescheduled have been **Restored** and will run as per schedule.

**Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol**

**EASTERN RAILWAY**



**RAJIV GANDHI HOUSING CORPORATION LIMITED**

9<sup>th</sup> floor, E & F Block, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560009.  
Telephone: 080-22106888/23118888  
Website: <https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in> E-mail: [rgrhclgmtech@gmail.com](mailto:rgrhclgmtech@gmail.com)

Tender Notification No: RGHCL 01 TECH (GEN) 21 2024 Date: 01.08.2025

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Portal)**

Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation Limited invites Short Term tenders for the following work through e-procurement from the eligible contractors. Last date of submission of bid is Date: 15.08.2025.

Name of Work:-

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Rs. (in Lakhs)
1	Construction of Moulana Azad Model School / College (04 No's) in different Taluk of Belagavi District" - G+2 truss and galvanized and poly carbonate sheet roofing works at second floor - Package -1 (Hukkeri-1, Chikkodi-2, Bailahongal-1) (Fixed Price No Variation)" Indent No: RGRHCL/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT3/CALL-3.	1611.50	16.11

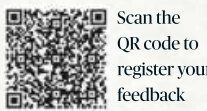
further information visit: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>, <https://ashraya.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-  
General Manager (S D)  
RGHCL, Bengaluru


DIPR/CP/SPAN COMMUNICATIONS/2156/2025-26

## Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder


Call our toll-free number  
**1800 102 1878**  
Or write to us at  
[customercare@thehindu.co.in](mailto:customercare@thehindu.co.in)



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**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DIVISION, AWANTIPORA**  
e-mail : [phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com](mailto:phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com)/ Ph : 01933-247152



**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
e-NIT No. 10 / 2025-26 Dated: 31 -07-2025

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of J&K, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Division, AWANTIPORA e-tenders in Double cover system are invited on Percentage Rate Basis from Registered Soil Investigation Agencies having sufficient relevant experience for the work mentioned below:

The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in Double Cover consisting of both technical and Financial Bid on percentage rate basis, in the prescribed BOQ format.

Table 1.1

S. No	Particulars of the work	Estimated Cost (Lacs)	Tender Fee (in Rs)	Earnest money Deposit	Bid Validity	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Conducting of Soil Bearing Capacity Test for Augmentation of WSS Kahakhabagh for providing water supply Facilities to Estate Quarters at 02 No. Proposed sites viz 1.Near filtration plant site at Khankabagh 2. Inside Estate Quarters at Sempora Pampore Under UT Capital Deposit Contribution)	0.66 Complete job	Rs 200/= As Per Table 1.2	2% of Estimated/ Advertised Cost	180 Days	10 Days

**Position of funds:** Under contingencies provision of WSS KHANKAHBAGH (ESTATE QUARTERS SEMPORA/ PAMPORE) (Under UT Capex)

The tender inviting and awarding authority is Executive Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Awantipora

Table 1.2: Tender Fee Details.		
S.No.	Tentative Cost of Tender	Tender Fee
1	For tenders Upto Rs. 5.00 Lakhs	Rs. 200/-
2	For tenders more than Rs. 5.00 Lakhs and upto 10.00 Lakhs	Rs. 500/-
3	For tenders more than Rs. 10.00 Lakhs and upto 50.00 Lakhs	Rs. 1000/-
4	For tenders more than Rs. 50.00 Lakhs and upto 1.00 Cr.	Rs. 2000/-
5	For tenders more than Rs.1.00 Cr. And upto 2.50 Cr	Rs. 3000/-
6	For tenders more than Rs.2.50 Cr and upto 5.00 Cr	Rs. 4000/-
7	For tenders more than Rs. 5.00 Cr and upto 10.00 Cr	Rs. 5000/-
8	For tenders more than Rs. 10.00 Cr and upto 20.00 Cr	Rs. 10000/-
9	Above Rs. 10.00 Cr.	Rs. 20000/-

**Critical Dates:**

1	Publish Date	31-07-2025 (05:00 PM)
2	Document Download/sale start Date	31-07-2025 (05:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start date	31-07-2025 (05:00 PM)
4	Bid submission End date	07-08-2025 (12:00 PM)
5	Date and time of Bid opening	08-08-2025 (12:00 PM)


1. Bid documents can be accessed and downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in)  
2. The whole bidding process shall be completed online on tender portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in). The intending bidders can download the bid document from the tender portal and can submit their bids by uploading them on the tender portal.  
3. The valid bids received shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Awantipora.  
4. Bids must be accompanied by cost of Tender Document as specified in column 4 of the table and shall be payable at Divisional Office.  
5. Bid Security declaration: Bidder to sign bid security declaration (on Affidavit duly attested as per appendix (FORM 'III')  
6. The cost of tender documents should be in form of DD /TR/e-challan in favour of Executive Engineer, Kashmir, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Awantipora..  
7. The hard copies of cost of tender document in shape of DD/TR/e-challan and other relevant documents shall be obtained from the bidder who is declared as successful after opening of financial cover.  
8. The bid shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the last date of submission of bids. If any bidder/bidders withdraws his bid/tender before the said period or makes any modifications in the terms and conditions of the bid, the said earnest money shall stand forfeited and the bid shall be declared non-responsive.  
9. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).  
10. Queries by email if any, should be made at **Divisional Office Mail**: [phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com](mailto:phedivisionawantipora@gmail.com)  
11. **Unbalanced Bid: The successful bidder L1 shall have to deposit an additional performance security in the shape of CDR / FDR/ B.G before award of contract in case the bid of the successful bidder is found to be unbalanced and the following scale shall apply (as per PWD Manual Chapter 20 Clause 26.4) there to :-**

S.No	Percentage of unbalanced bid viz a- viz Adv. cost	Additional performance security to be deposited on quoted bid by L1
01	Up to and including 15 % below	Nil
02	Greater than 15 % and up to 20 %	5%
03	Greater than 20 % and up to 25 %	10%
04	Greater than 25 % and up to 30 %	15%
05	Greater than 30%	20%


The Additional Performance Security shall be released after successful completion of work duly reported by the concerned Assst. Executive Engineer.

Sd/  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti (PHE) Division  
Awantipora

DIPK/4689/25



**Himachal Pradesh  
State Disaster Management Authority**



**A CLARION CALL FOR PREPAREDNESS  
BUILD SAFE HOUSES BEFORE THE NEXT DISASTER**


Himalayan Region has been experiencing large changes due to climate change in the recent past. Himachal Pradesh has experienced severe disasters during monsoons resulting in loss of lives, livestock and livelihood. Most of the damages and losses have been observed on slopes and low lying areas near water streams. Unplanned constructions is one of the main factors contributing to this damage and loss. Besides, the State is highly prone to high intensity earthquakes as State falls in seismic Zone IV and V and ensuring that our house withstands the shock, it is important to build earthquake resistant houses and strengthen existing housing stock after conducting structural audit.

**CITIZENS ARE THEREFORE ADVISED AS UNDER:**

- Don't construct houses on steep, fragile, unstable and unsaturated slopes.
- Houses and other infrastructure should be far away from water streams, flood plains, older rever/stream terraces/courses.
- If house is being built without the guidance of Engineer, we should construct traditional houses such as Dhajji wall and Kashthkuni (Steel bars and cement concrete can be used as replacement of wood).
- Take measure for surface, subsurface and proper water drainage, slope stabilisation and protection work around the house.
- If you have already constructed your house, it should be got structurally examined and retrofitted for seismic safety.
- If your house is near to water stream, take adequate protections measure against flash floods and cloudbursts. Be alert during heavy downpour.
- Identify safe location and route in case of emergency.
- Take house insurance and insure household items against disaster.
- Keep ration, other essential items and medical kit ready. Also keep adequate stock of medication taken by the members of the family. Stock should be for at least 30 days. Keep stock of food that requires little cooking and no refrigeration.

**For more information please visit**  
<http://www.hpsdma-nic.in>  
**For emergency contact DDMA or SDMA:**  
**Toll Free No. 1077, 1070, 1100**

**तैयारी में ही समझदारी।  
विकास ऐसा हो जो आफत से बचाए, विकास ऐसा हो जो आफत न बन जाए।**



**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK**

e-mail:- [serw\\_etc@yahoo.com](mailto:serw_etc@yahoo.com)

No:-Tender Online RWC -13/2025, Letter No.:- 2625 Date : 26.07.2025

**e - Procurement NOTICE**

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Road, Bridge & Building works.

2. Class of Contractor : Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.

c) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.50.00 Crore : A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.

d) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs.20.00 Crore : B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities.

e) Estimated cost more than Rs.20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore : As specified in the Column-7 of the Annexure

3. Time for Completion : As per Annexure attached


4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached

5. Other Details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender		
				Technical Bid Financial Bid		
1	2	3	4	5	1	2
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.	Tender Online RWC - 13/25	04.08.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	25.08.2025 upto 05.00 P.M.	25.08.2025 upto 11.30 A.M.	26.08.2025 at 11.30 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

**Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.**  
O-511: OIPR-2509711/0025/2526



**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL IRRIGATION DIVISION SRINAGAR, NEAR J&K BANK (ZALDAGAR)**

Telefax No. 0194-2952696 e.mailId: [xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com](mailto:xenmidsrinagar@gmail.com)

Sub:- Extension in bidding time for e-NIT No. 03 OF 2025-26, Dated: 20-05-2025 for below mentioned work:-  
Revamping / Modernization of Marval Lift Irrigation Scheme, Pulwama.

Ref: - JK Government official e-Procurement portal Tender ID No.: - 2025-IFC- 277504- 1

**EXTENSION NOTICE 4**

Due to the unavailability of the Chairman of the Tender Committee (Chief Engineer, Kashmir I&FC Department, Srinagar), the tender deadline is hereby extended by 15 days.  
The critical dates are extended as under: -

Bid submission / Document download / sale end Date	11/8/2025 at 1400 hrs
Date and time of Bid opening	12/8/2025 at 1200 hrs

Rest of the terms and conditions shall remain un-altered as laid down in the original e-NIT.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Mechanical Irrigation Division  
Srinagar

DIPK-4725/25

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

1.The **Executive Engineer Thalout Division HP.PWD, Thalout** on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on percentage rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time period	Eligible Class of Contractor
1.	Median plantation on Bhangbar (Near Ranital) to Kangra Bypass section of Shimla-Matour 4 lane (Sh- Laying grass turf, planting shrubs plants).	Rs. 3,40,64,310/-	Rs. 6,82,000/-	Rs. 7000/-	Six Months	Class "B and A"

Starting date of downloading bid: -04.08.2025 at 5.00 PM  
Deadline for submission of Bid: 11.08.2025 at 10.00 AM  
Date of opening of Bid at 11.08.2025 at 11.00 AM

1. The rates beyond the limit over +5% will be rejected besides this the Additional Performance security will have to borne @ 20 % & 30 % for unbalanced bid in case the rates is lower than 10 % but upto 20 % & lower than 20 % upto 30 % respectively. The tender will be accepted beyond the limit of -30 % also.

2. Only scanned copy of original documents as uploaded on the tender website are required for technical & financial elevation. The original documents shall be required only from the successful bidder before issue of letter of award.

3. The participants should have the work done of similar nature & sufficient machinery as required in bid document.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in).

Executive Engineer,  
Thalout, Division HP.PWD, Thalout Distt. Mandi.  
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh  
Phone No.01905- 293767.

HP / 2174/25-26



INBRIEF



Two arrested for posting vulgar comments on Ramya

Investigating the alleged vulgar messages posted on social media against actor and former MP Ramya, the Cyber Crime officials arrested two among the 13 accused identified by the Karnataka police, on Saturday. The accused – Obanna, 25, and Gangadhar, 18 – are said to be fans of actor Darshan. They posted ‘vulgar comments’ against her in response to a post she had put up on the murder case in the Supreme Court in which Darshan is the prime accused.

Man arrested for assault, inciting communal hatred

A 24-year-old bike-taxi rider, Mohammed Raheel, was arrested by the Saifabad police for assaulting a man and a woman in Hyderabad, and circulating a video of it on social media in an attempt to incite communal hatred. On July 29, the accused intercepted an IT employee and his 24-year-old colleague on their way home. Police say the accused began filming them without their consent, questioning the woman about being with a man from a different religion.

People bid tearful adieu to actor Kalabhavan Navas

The mortal remains of popular mimicry artiste and actor in Kerala, Kalabhavan Navas, were interred at the Aluva Town Juma Masjid on Saturday evening. Hundreds of people from various walks of life, including his colleagues in the film industry, paid homage to him when the body was kept at his residence in Nalam. Navas was found unconscious in a hotel room at Chottanikkara on Friday evening. His death was confirmed owing to heart failure.

Trust in Kerala got foreign contribution to tune of ₹220 cr.: ED

The Hindu Bureau  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A search conducted by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Kochi Zonal Office, revealed that Kunnahmed Musliyar Memorial (KMM) Trust, a charitable organisation, and its chairperson Ibrahim Ahmad Ali, an NRI, had reportedly received a foreign contribution to the tune of ₹220 crore during the period 2021 till date from Ibrahim Ahmad Ali, which was reflected in the books of accounts as unsecured loans.

The search operations were conducted on July 31 under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 at two locations in Kasaragod in connection with suspected violations of the Act and receipt of foreign contributions by the trust and its chairperson. Though it was reflected in the books of accounts as unsecured loans, no loan agreement, interest rate terms, or repayment schedule was available, and no repayment had been made till date. Mr. Ali received the funds from Universal Lubricants LLC, a company incorporated in UAE. In the absence of supporting documentation and in view of clarification given under Section 2(i)(h) of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010, the said “loan” prima facie qualifies as foreign contribution under FCRA.

The trust is not registered under the FCRA and does not possess the mandatory permission to receive foreign contributions.

Nostalgia trip



Past perfect: Classic cars arrive at Kowdiar Palace ahead of a rally organised as part of the celebration of 75 years of Mar Ivanios college in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. The rally will feature vintage cars owned by the former students of the college. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Bengaluru Metro facilitates life-saving liver delivery

According to officials, this is second instance of organ transportation through Metro in India, following the first initiative in Hyderabad; team covered 31-km journey in less than an hour — a trip that could have taken over three hours by road

The Hindu Bureau  
BENGALURU

For the first time, Bengaluru's Namma Metro successfully facilitated the transportation of an organ via Metro train on Friday. Officials from Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) said the operation was executed with clockwork precision.

A donated human liver, intended for transplant, was transported from Vydehi Hospital in Whitefield to Sparsh Hospital in Rajarajeshwari (R.R.) Nagar using a combination of ambulance



In good time: A donated human liver being transported by a team in a Namma Metro train in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and Metro train services. The liver was moved in an ambulance from Vydehi Hospital to the Metro station by a team

comprising one doctor and seven medical staffers. “Upon arrival at the station, the medical team was received by an

Assistant Security Officer and Metro personnel, who facilitated documentation and security checks. The organ was then transported on a Metro train that departed from Whitefield at 8.42 p.m. and arrived at R.R. Nagar Metro Station at 9.48 p.m.,” an official said.

**Green corridor** Green corridors were created to cover the distance from the hospital to the Metro station in Whitefield and from the Metro station to the hospital in R.R. Nagar. The team covered the 31-km journey in less than an

hour — a trip that could have taken over three hours by road on a congested Friday evening. At the destination, another team of Metro and security personnel assisted the team in transferring the organ to an ambulance. The complex transplant surgery, concluded successfully around 3 a.m. on Saturday. The patient is currently in the ICU, and is stable. According to BMRL officials, this is the second instance of organ transportation via Metro, following the first initiative in Hyderabad in January.

Dharmasthala case: advocate says SI threatened her client

The advocate alleged that the police officer instructed the complainant to make a statement on camera retracting the charge, and implicate unknown persons as responsible for the complaint

The Hindu Bureau  
MANGALURU

The advocate representing a 50-year-old sanitation worker, who has complained of being forced to bury many bodies in Dharmasthala town in Karnataka a decade ago, has accused a sub-inspector in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of coercing her client into retracting his complaint.

In a mail addressed to the SIT office and a few SIT officers, advocate Ananya Gowda claimed that her client has confided that he was threatened by SI Manjunath Gowda in the SIT camp office at Belthangady on Friday.

The SI threatened the complainant about dire



Call for action: Members of Samana Manaskara Vedhike stage a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

consequences that the whistleblower will have to face owing to the complaint filed by him.

The advocate alleged that the SI told the complainant to make a state-

ment on camera to retract and disown his complaint.

He was told to implicate unknown persons as responsible for his complaint. The SI recorded the statement on his mobile phone,

the advocate alleged.

The SIT is yet to react to the allegation.

No remains found

The fifth day of exhuming at burial sites, which were shown by the complainant, ended on Saturday, and the SIT did not find any skeletal remains in site no. 9 and 10. The process of digging will resume on Monday, the SIT officials said.

Protest in Bengaluru

Meanwhile, Samana Manaskara Vedhike, a forum of social activists, held a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru demanding a speedy investigation by the authorities into all the alleged cases of rape and murder that reportedly occurred at Dharmasthala.

Leaders slam award for The Kerala Story

The Hindu Bureau  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] and the Congress have condemned the national award for *The Kerala Story*, an allegedly Islamophobic movie, which purportedly shows a negative depiction of the State as a fertile ground for radical Islamists to trick Hindu wo-

men into marriage for recruitment to the jihadist cause.

Culture Minister Saji Cherian termed the award the latest salvo in the cultural war the Central government has unleashed against ‘secular’ Kerala.

K.C. Venugopal, Congress MP, said, “The award is BJP’s payback for shutting the door on Sangh Parivar.”

Sharp dip in applicants seeking admission to W.B. govt.-run colleges

Bishwanath Ghosh  
KOLKATA

West Bengal has witnessed a sharp decline in the number of applicants seeking admission to undergraduate courses in colleges either run or aided by the State government.

On July 30, the last date for submitting applications to various undergraduate courses, West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu announced that 3,59,114 applicants had registered on the State’s centralised portal, with 4,311 of them being residents of other States. The first merit list, he said, would be published on the portal on August 7. As many as 5.3 lakh applicants had registered on the portal when it was launched last year. This year, the number of applicants has dipped by 1.7 lakh.

Most academicians attribute this drop to the unusual delay of almost three months from the publication of the Higher Secondary exam results to the start of the college admission process. Initially, the last date for filing applications was July 1, but it was repeatedly postponed and finally pushed to July 30. This was mainly because a new list of communities prepared by the State government to come under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category was caught in a legal battle. The Supreme Court finally decided in the government’s favour on July 28.

Many college principals feel that the State should



The last date to submit forms for admissions was repeatedly postponed. FILE PHOTO

have gone ahead with the admission process anyway. Some of them feel that the repeated postponements of the last date were also because the number of applicants was not as high as in previous years — something now confirmed by the Minister’s announcement.

‘Moving to other States’

“It is disappointing as an academician to see the number of students showing interest in our colleges declining drastically. The picture is not this disheartening in other States, which are quite agile in their procedures. Consequently, young aspirants are migrating to other States,” the principal of a reputed college in Kolkata said on condition of anonymity.

“Another significant reason for the remarkable drop is that students are now more interested in courses that enhance and promote skills-based learning and vocational training, and not traditional courses offered in degree colleges,” the principal added.

ISRO targets 2027 launch for LVM3 semi-cryogenic stage

Tiki Rajwi  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is aiming for a 2027 launch for its first LVM3 launch vehicle equipped with a semi-cryogenic propulsion stage. “Right now we are on track. The power head tests [on the engine] are progressing with great success. Five to six tests have been completed. We have set the launch target for the first quarter of 2027,” ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said during a visit to Thiruvananthapuram.

Formerly known as GSLV Mk III, the three-stage LVM3 had its first experimental flight in December, 2014, and is ISRO’s most powerful rocket to date. The semi-cryogenic



V. Narayanan

stage is designed to enhance payload capability while keeping costs down, Mr. Narayanan said.

Currently capable of lifting 4200 kg payloads to the geosynchronous transfer orbit (GTO), the LVM3 will see significant changes when it is fitted with the semi-cryogenic stage. The L110 core stage, which uses liquid propellant, will be replaced by the semi-cryo

stage which uses a propellant combination of refined kerosene and liquid oxygen (LOX). The propellant loading in the cryogenic upper stage, which uses a Liquid Hydrogen-LOX combination, will increase from 28 tonnes to 32 tonnes.

Mr. Narayanan described the semi-cryogenic engine as a “very complex one” that uses special materials to withstand high temperatures and oxidiser-rich combustion. Whereas the liquid-fuelled Vikas engine gives a nominal thrust of 80 tonnes, the SE2000 semi-cryogenic engine is designed to supply 200 tonnes, he said.

Once perfected, the semi-cryogenic engines will see use in ISRO’s future launch vehicles.

Kerala film meet flags minimum wages, women safety on sets

The Hindu Bureau  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The first day of the Kerala Film Policy Conclave, organised by the Culture department here on Saturday, witnessed discussions on a host of issues related to the Malayalam film industry, ranging from contractual agreements and minimum wages to gender justice and the high price of food in cinemas.

Briefing the media on the discussions, Minister for Cultural Affairs Saji Cherian said the suggestions would be published on a website for public comments after which the

government planned to prepare the film policy within two months.

A major issue raised regarding women’s safety on sets was the need for improving the functioning of the internal complaints committee with clear definitions of workplace. Safe places to stay and all basic facilities should be ensured for women during the period of the shoot. Legal protection against cyber attacks and online hate campaigns was demanded.

Complaints were raised on how 80% of the budget of some films was spent on lead actors, while a large section was underpaid.



# Classifieds

LIFE MADE SIMPLE

## Matrimonial

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL
BRIDEGROOMS WANTED
BRIDES WANTED
BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED
Classification Common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms
ASSAMESE
AWADHI
BENGALI
BHOJPURI
BIHARI
CHHATTISGARHI
ENGLISH
GUJARATI
HARYANI
HINDI
KANNADA
KASHMIRI
KONKANI
MALAYALAM
MANIPURI
MARATHI
MARWARI
NEPALI
ORIYA
PARSI
PUNJABI
SAURASHTRA
SINDHI
TAMIL
TELGU
TULU
URDU
ADVOCATE
BUSINESS
DEFENCE
DOCTOR
ENGINEER
FINANCE/ BANKING
GOVERNMENT/ QUASI-GOVERNMENT
IAS/ ALLIED SERVICES
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MBA/ CA/ ICWA
NRI
COSMOPOLITAN
DIVORCEE
PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED
MARRIAGE BUREAUS
WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

### BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

#### BUSINESS

Hindu girl only daughter Very rich 28 yrs Divorcee. Boy should be from Rich Hindu Upper Class Family or from elite services. Divorcee, widower (without child) or first marriage. Age below 33. Preferable from Chennai and around. Send all details to email [ajayn143@gmail.com](mailto:ajayn143@gmail.com), No Brokers.

#### COSMOPOLITAN

ATTRACTIVE, FAMILY-ORIENTED architect 27, 168cm, affluent, open-minded S. Indian family. Seeking accomplished, compatible groom. Community no bar. Call/WhatsApp 9345634365.

#### DEFENCE

CHRISTIAN, LLM, 24 yrs, 176 cms, very fair. Progressive & cosmopolitan Army family background. Please Contact 6000621002

#### DIVORCEE

SC AD 33/B.E., [ECE] Govt.Job [Manager - Canara Bank] Rs.1 lakh p.m. Fair/Seeks Bridegroom. Ph:7397674481

#### DOCTOR

SURGEON BD 27,174 cm, Good Looking, Seeks Suitable Doctors. Contact :7200365364

FAIR, SMART, Pretty, cultured, homely Doctor Girl, 35/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist Reputed Hospital, Chennai from affluent family of Doctors, Father Cardiac Surgeon from Kerala based in Chennai. Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for PG Doctor & Engineer grooms from good families.98400 50361 / 98409 85383

#### DOCTOR

COIMBATORE BASED Doctor Girl, Pursuing M.S., Kettai / Viruchigam, 25/160, Gavara Naidu ( Sub Sects No Bar) Upper Middle Class seeking around Coimbatore based PG Doctor Groom (or) Any Professionals. Contact: 99656 66888

GROOM WANTED SC(AD) 27yrs MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family background in Chennai Need doctors Ct: 6385293227

GROOM WANTED Rediyyar, 32yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family in Chennai. Need only doctors Ct: 9962791888

HINDU Vannar (MBC) 28 yrs Girl MBBS MD Radiology UPSC [CHS] passed, Seeks DR's Groom. CNB B.Com/MBC preferable. Ct: 9003796291.

SC (AD) MDS (Pedo) 31yrs seeks suitable groom from medical graduates / professionals preferably Thanjavur, Trichy , Tiruvannur and Nagapattinam districts. Ph: 9840149288

#### IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

LOOKING GROOMS For daughters (32/157 & 34/156) both M.Tech., Examiners of Patents & Designs, Level-10, Gr. 'A' Gazetted Officers, Central Civil Services, IP Office, Delhi, Govt. of India

Brother: Doiing Ph.D in USA Mother: Medical Officer (Expired) Father: Former Joint Registrar Trade Marks, Govt. of India R/o Moradabad, U.P. (nowat Delhi)

Caste: Rathore (Teli), OBC Preferable: Group 'A' Gazetted Officers in IP Office/ Central Civil Services

CASTE : NO BAR No dowry, Simple marriage Share profile with recent photo: [rathorebc@hotmail.com](mailto:rathorebc@hotmail.com) Call/W'App : 8130408940

#### MALAYALAM

AFFLUENT MALAYALEE Nair girl 28/Sep/96, 155, Karkhika, CA(UK), employed in UAE, seeks alliance from professionally qualified (PG) and well settled Nair boys employed in India or abroad. Please Whatsapp +971504947205

WARM, BEAUTIFUL 35, 157cm, well-educated (MS), US-based professional. Seeks kind, compatible, sorted groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365

BEAUTIFUL MALAYALI Nair, Height 155 cm, Age 30 years, Doing PhD E-Mail: [nishavijaynm@gmail.com](mailto:nishavijaynm@gmail.com) / Call on 9495623644

NAIR GIRL 92born/168cm,Atham,native palakkad,MBBS,chennai settled seeks suitable Nair grooms watsapp 9042526302

V. Bhavna Harithasa, 25, Anusham, Harithasa Gothram, Madhwa Desistha, Thanjavur Marathi speaking BE comp science, working Bangalore 25 LPA, Bangalore based working Marathi speaking Groom preferred Contact +91 7868815488, 7265847444

NAIR GIRL 92born/168cm,Atham,native palakkad,MBBS,chennai settled seeks suitable Nair grooms watsapp 9042526302

WARM, BEAUTIFUL 35, 157cm, well-educated (MS), US-based professional. Seeks kind, compatible, sorted groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365

BEAUTIFUL MALAYALI Nair, Height 155 cm, Age 30 years, Doing PhD E-Mail: [nishavijaynm@gmail.com](mailto:nishavijaynm@gmail.com) / Call on 9495623644

NAIR GIRL 92born/168cm,Atham,native palakkad,MBBS,chennai settled seeks suitable Nair grooms watsapp 9042526302

V. Bhavna Harithasa, 25, Anusham, Harithasa Gothram, Madhwa Desistha, Thanjavur Marathi speaking BE comp science, working Bangalore 25 LPA, Bangalore based working Marathi speaking Groom preferred Contact +91 7868815488, 7265847444

NAIR GIRL 92born/168cm,Atham,native palakkad,MBBS,chennai settled seeks suitable Nair grooms watsapp 9042526302

WARM, BEAUTIFUL 35, 157cm, well-educated (MS), US-based professional. Seeks kind, compatible, sorted groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365

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#### TAMIL

HINDU, NADAR, Divorced, Age 25, B.Tech, PGDCA, Business at Madurai, Well settled family. Ct: 8138901189

HINDU, MUDALIYAR, Divorced, Age 28, B.E, Analyst at MNC, PA 8 Lakhs. Contact 8138901294

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 22yrs, B.Com, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai Cont:9380791999/ 9841329471

RICH MUDALIYAR, 28yrs, BE, Divorcee, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 6385293227

HINDU/SC AD, 29 years, 5'4" MCA Team lead @ an MNC, 13LPA, owns a new 2BHK Flat in Chennai, Sirimam Magam Bride(same caste) 9840365908

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, age 32, MS, IT professional, income 1 crore. Ct: 7356483111.

HINDU, NADAR, age 26, B.Com, CMA, Business, Income 1 crore. Ct: 8138900412.

RC NADAR, 27yrs, ME, 1lakh pm, Business Family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9380791999/ 9841329471

TAMIL CHETTIYAR, 25yrs, BE, Elite business family in Coimbatore, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

MUDALIAR, 36, Pusam, MTECH working as a Senior Manager in a Big4 company, Father- IPS, Mother - Doctor seeking like minded well educated elite Hindu groom from respectable family. CNB,community no bar. 9884938344

HINDU, NADAR, Age 28, Divorced, MS, Doctor, 12 Lakhs. CT 8138900553

HINDU, PILLAI, Age 28, MBBS, Private, 5 Lakhs. CT 8138901294

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 30, BE, Banking, 12 Lakhs. CT 8138901189

DKV/SC MAY 1994/ 167cm Fair BE Parents Hindu / CSI. Seeks Groom Dr./Ex. Govt Employee. 8056143638

TAMIL MUSLIM, 31yrs/158cm, MCA., AVP (IT) in financial Firm, earning 27LPA seeks never married, well-educated Tamil speaking groom from a good family, with strong career vision and comperable professional standing. Ct: 9080501299.

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar 26yrs B.Tech, MS(US) Working in US, Elite business family 9380791999/ 9841329471

24 Years, Studied MS & Working in Melbourne, Australia, Father & Mother well Settled Business in Coimbatore, Seeking Educated well Settled Working/Business Groom with good values, from Tamilnadu or Australia preferably from Vishwakarma / Kongu Velala Gounder Contact - 9894043614.

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

HINDU REDDY Fair,Slim PG Specialist Doctor 34/165cms in Private Practice from Elite Family,Seeks Never Married Suitable Groom CNB:892540111

38 Year Old Naidu Engineering Post Graduate Girl Working in London needs a suitable Bridegroom from Naidu Or Any Caste. Rajan:7358787538

KAMMA NAIDU 32/174 well settled family. seeks groom Chennai Kamma/ Balija, business/ salarnd good family background. 9444885060/ 9003190983

NAIDU 29/168 Fair Beautiful, MBBS Billoth, 2000000.PA, Well Settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

TELGU YADAVA Homely looking aged 25, cosmetologist, wheatish, 155 cms height, seeks graduate or PG business/professional well settled bridegroom aged below 30 with decent family background & Prefers to stay in Chennai.

26/163 cm / MBBS PG Girl Seeks IAS, Dr. Group1, (Caste No Bar: Kamma, Kapu, Reddy) 100 or Hyderabad Boy Phone: 7660803720, 6305502298.

SINGAPORE TAMIL Muslim Girl 33 years seeks abroad well settled Engineer Groom. Contact 6380744638

MUSLIM, SEEKING 45-50 yrs Groom with Clean Habits, Permanent Income for Govt. Employee Bride. 1st marriage, 43 Yrs Whatsapp: 79048 81441

URDU SMU M.Tech Employed Very Fair 33/165 Seeks Graduate/Working Bride. Preferably Malayalee Christians. 9840839191

SEEKING US based girl for 30 yr old Software Engineer boy of Kerala origin, raised in an interreligious (Christian) family and settled in US. Wts app +91 701 208 6580.

NRI NAIDU, 30 Pooratathi, B.Tech, MS, Research Engineer, Sweden Citizen, Upper Middle Class CNB bride willing to relocate call father 9566682220

THULUVA VELLALA Agamudaya Mudaliyar, 31, Rishabam, Kiruthikalai Pattanam, B.E., Software Company Job, Good Salary Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct: 96119 66466, 98860 78080

WANTED WORKING bride for Brahmin boy 29, 170cm, works in MNC ex Class I Officer. 9424676820, 8770456112

SC (AD), 32yrs, MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 6385293227

DKY Divorcee Son with Mother 44 / 1.5 P.M DGM PSU CNB 8903778148 / 9994567839.

MUDHALIAR 39 /185cm Msc Citibank IT Chennai seeks professional Bride Mud /pillai ok Geetham 9884858014

AYIRAVASHAYAR 38 ReMarriage 174cm Advocate Pandy seeks Suitable Bride Mud /pillai ok Geetham 9884858014

B.Tech Bts Pili 183cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC Bangalore Sal 80 lacs seeks Bride from same Allied castes, Tamil, Telugu. Ph: 7382620365

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, Age 31, B.E Completed, Working as Engineer, PA 8 Lakhs. Contact 8138901227

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 26, DME, Own Business at Coimbatore, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900412

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Manager Working in PSU Bank 18 Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Bride. Call: 9940507235

HINDU, REDDIAR, Age 26, MBA, IT professional at Bangalore, PA 12 Lakhs. Contact 8138009235

AGE 51, 168cm Good body structure Very comfortable Expectation Good comfort Beautiful helpful attitude Bride needed Age Religion No restriction. Mail: [arunbalaji2333@gmail.com](mailto:arunbalaji2333@gmail.com)

### BRIDES WANTED

#### COSMOPOLITAN

KARKATHAR PILLAI 37, height 170cm, fair and handsome, BE (Telecom), Officer Indian Army IT Branch, 30 lacs PA, never married, son of reted army officer looking for affable and well educated girl. Equal and sub caste no bar. 9446307862.

HINDU, 32/ 174cms, well educated and good looking Maharashtrian boy having own business in Chennai. From an affluent family, looking for a bride from similar community. Contact - 9840882465

Mumbai based 35 year old Muslim IIM graduate (5'10) from a highly educated and affluent family working in a MNC with roots in Kerala looking for a well educated girl from a reputed family. Father a retired Class One officer now working in Riyadh. Had a brief 6 month long nikah that ended legally in 2021 without any liabilities on both sides. Ct: +91 7045253856/ 7021185489

SUITABLE BRIDE from Tamil/Malayalam BC or FC CNB any degree job status no bar for intercaste groom F-Kongu Vellalar, M-Nair 40/180 Sathayam Clean Habits Well settled B.Tech MNC Projects Asst Manager- 25LPA Coimbatore. CT-99524 85966, 88076 59287

RC NADAR, 31yrs, BE, Central Govt Job, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Bride. 9380791999/ 9841329471

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT- 9500188067

SPECIALITY DOCTOR Groom 33/173cm Tamil Muslim, never married working abroad looking for suitable bride. 8870279396 whatsapp.

SMART, SORTED 34, 178cm, thoughtful, Ivy Master's, US-based Strategy Consultant. Seeks compatible bride, Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

ALLAINCE INVITED from non- Srivatsam, 37-43 yrs old Brahmin girl for 43 yrs old Brahmin Engineer, AQM Japanese firm, Kancheepuram/ Chennai. Salary 25 Lyr. Ct: 94877 19495.

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#### PUNJABI

Looking SM for Dec 1983 born Punjabi Handsome Never-Married Boy, MSc PGD working in a MNC at Sr Post 70 LPA. Contact: 9820727061

TAMIL CHRISTIAN 39 years engineer working in MNC->BUSINESS well settled at Chennai wanted a graduate girl from a decent Christian family- cont 9884825317

MUSLIM 31 Divorced Tamil/Urdu Chennai Native/UK Resident seeks Muslim Bride willing to reside in UK 00447440730671 (W)/M:basha17294@gmail.com

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN, 29yrs, BE, MS, 170cms, Robotics Engineer in USA, H1B Visa, seeks Born again, God fearing Bride. Parents whose daughter is either working or studying in USA. Contact WhatsApp: 8122785230

Christian BC, 1995, 171cm B.Tech (NIT)M.S.(USA)works in USA, H1B Visa, Seeks Educated Girl Working/ willing to settle in USA. Ct: 9443714023

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in N



From Page One

Rahul claims 2024 polls rigged; EC says ‘baseless’

Whoever he had “shown this investigation to has fallen off their chair”, he said. “It makes it clear that the institution that defends the Constitution has been obliterated and taken over. Now, there is absolutely no doubt that we have proof that will show that the Election Commission of India does not exist. It has disappeared. It has taken us over six months to find this proof. Because the Election Commission does not give us electronic voter lists. It gives us paper-wise voter lists,” he added.

Speaking in the context of its investigation, Mr. Gandhi said, “When they gave us booth-wise paper voter list, that document cannot be scanned. Why would the ECI copy-proof, scan-proof the voter lists? We found that 6.5 lakh voters voted, and 1.5 lakh of them were fake. Physical paper we have from ECI. We compared each photo on the lists. You will see soon when we release this. It’s like an atom bomb. The election system in India is dead.”

The Opposition leader said he had been suspicious about the election results since 2014, especially as the BJP managed sweeping victories in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh but the turning point was the 2024 Assembly election results in Maharashtra.

“In the [2024] Lok Sabha, we won the election. And then four months later, we didn’t just lose, we were obliterated. Three formidable parties suddenly just evaporated. We started to look seriously for electoral malpractice. We found that in Maharashtra, one crore new voters appeared between the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections and the bulk of those votes go to the BJP,” he said.

Unsubstantiated allegations: EC

Hours after Mr. Gandhi’s remarks, the EC posted a “fact-check” on its social media account, saying that he had been making “unsubstantiated” accusations to discredit election officials’ “impartial hard work” and to “exert undue pressure on the election machinery and even threaten it”.

Give evidence against EC, Rajnath dares Rahul

“When he spoke, *Khoda Pahad Nikli Chuhiya* (dug up a mountain and found a mouse). I would just say to Rahul ji, detonate the bomb quickly. But keep yourself balanced and safe. Let the constitutional institutions do their work. This is better for the health of Congress and for the health of democracy,” Mr. Singh said.

Praising the EC, Mr. Singh asserted that it has started preparations for the Bihar elections in full swing and has initiated the SIR in Bihar. *(With PTI inputs)*

Prajwal gets life term in sexual abuse case

He was suspended from the party in the wake of multiple rape allegations.

The victim in this case was a 48-year-old domestic worker employed on the family’s farm who was raped twice in 2021, with the act being filmed by the former MP. The video of the rape was leaked, along with several other explicit clips featuring nearly a hundred women, in April 2024, days ahead of the Lok Sabha election.

‘Victim’s fight is inspiring’

Following the verdict, B.K. Singh, chief of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe the allegations against Prajwal, said the victim in the case belonged to the lowest strata of society. Her fight against the accused, who belongs to the most powerful political family of the State, was “inspiring”, he said.

Special Public Prosecutor Asok Nayak said the trial being completed within a year and four months after the case was registered, and the conviction of a former MP, had sent out a strong message.

Of the four cases filed against Prajwal, this is the first where the trial has been completed. While trial has begun in another case, it is yet to begin in two other cases.

Kerala nuns walk out of Chhattisgarh prison

“[T]here is no apprehension of absconding of the accused. It is also significant that the parents of the three victims have also filed their affidavits stating that the accused persons/applicants have not allured or forced or coerced their daughters for religious conversion or human trafficking. Out of the three major/adult victim girls, two victim girls in their statement before the Police under Section 180 of B.N.S.S. 2023, deposed that they have been followers of Christianity since childhood,” the court noted while granting bail to the trio.

While Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai had backed the arrests, the BJP’s own Kerala unit later expressed solidarity with the nuns. Kerala BJP president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, along with other MPs from Kerala including John Brittas of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Jebi Mather from the Congress, were at the Durg Central Jail to receive the nuns post their release.

Operation Mahadev: photos from encounter site in 2024 helped identify terrorists

The LeT terrorists’ photos were found in a phone; security personnel began searches for them after matching the photographs with accounts of eyewitnesses present at Baisaran meadow on April 22

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

The three Pahalgam terrorists who were killed during Operation Mahadev on July 28 were identified and tracked with the help of photographs recovered from a mobile phone seized by the security forces after an encounter in south Kashmir in 2024, a senior government official said.

The phone contained several pictures of the three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists identified as Suleman, alias Faizal Jatt, Hamza Afghani, and Zibran posing with guns and ammunition.

Hid in Dachigam forest

The photographs were then matched with the accounts of eyewitnesses present at the Baisaran meadow on April 22 and a search was launched for them in the Dachigam forest, around 20 km from Srinagar, where they were hiding after the terror attack.

The terrorists were using a long-range wireless



Killed in encounter: (From left) Suleman, Zibran and Hamza Afghani. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

module to communicate, and its signals helped the intelligence agencies track their location. The device was likely assembled, and has been sent for forensic examination, the official said.

Home Minister Amit Shah informed the Lok Sabha on July 29 that indigenous technology was used to track the three terrorists in the Dachigam forest. The Minister said that on May 22, the Intelligence Bureau (IB) received information about the presence of terrorists in the Dachigam area through human intelligence. He said, “Continuous efforts were made by the IB and the Army

from May 22 to July 22 to confirm the information with an equipment made by our agencies to capture ultra signals in Dachigam.”

“All three are Pakistanis,” the official said.

The official added that the terrorists were sighted multiple times in the forest but they always managed to get away. Security forces combed the forests and monitored areas close to streams and rivers as the terrorists came there to fetch water.

As reported by *The Hindu*, a group of 20-25 hardened terrorists from Pakistan infiltrated around three years ago and are said to be operating in the

forest and mountains across Pir Panjal in Jammu and the forests in south Kashmir.

In 2024, the foreign terrorists split into two groups, one led by Suleman who was killed during Operation Mahadev on July 28 and the other group led by another Pakistani identified as Musa. Since 2021, around 135 security personnel have been killed in Jammu and Kashmir likely by the same group.

“After Operation Mahadev, we have received crucial information about the other foreign terrorists and we have launched operations to track them down,” said the official.

One terrorist killed in encounter with security forces in Kulgam district

Peerzada Ashiq  
SRINAGAR

A terrorist was killed in an ongoing anti-terror operation by security forces in Kulgam district of south Kashmir on Saturday.

“Intermittent and intense fire fight continued through the night. Alert troops responded with calibrated fire and tightened the noose while maintaining contact. One terrorist has been neutralised by the security forces so far. Operation continues,” the Army’s Chinar Corps said in a post on X.

Security forces on Friday evening engaged a group of hiding terrorists in a firefight in the jungles of south Kashmir’s Kul-



High vigil: Security personnel stand guard amid an encounter between terrorists and security forces at Akhal in Kulgam. PTI

gam. “An encounter has started at Akhal area of Kulgam (south Kashmir). The police’s Special Operations Group, Army and CRPF are on job,” a police spokesman said.

This is the third encounter in J&K this week.

Six terrorists were left killed in these encounters, including all the three involved in the Pahalgam terror attack.

Calls grow to set up permanent National Commission for DNTs

Abhinav Lakshman  
NEW DELHI

Calls are growing for the establishment of a permanent national commission for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes with the issue finding primacy in discussions at the national conference of Denotified Tribes (DNTs) held this week in New Delhi.

During the event, BJP OBC Morcha chief and Rajya Sabha MP K. Laxman met with community leaders from all over the country. Mr. Laxman was presented with a consolidated list of demands, at the top of which was the call to set up a permanent national commission for the communities that had been declared “criminal” under the erstwhile colonial government.

Community leaders urged Mr. Laxman to take up their issues on the floor of the House and with the Government.

The national conference was put together by the Development and Welfare Board for Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic communities. Members spoke of the importance of the work done by the Idatte Commission, the last national commission that was set up to investigate the issues of the community.

The commission headed by Bhiku Ramji Idatte had submitted its report on actions to be taken for the protection and development of DNT communities in 2018. This included completion of classification of these communities, and setting up of a permanent national commission.

Delhi court issues notice to Robert Vadra and others in Gurugram land deal case

Ishita Mishra  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Saturday issued notice to Robert Vadra, husband of Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi, and others in a money laundering case linked to a land deal at Shikohpur village in Haryana’s Gurugram.

Special Judge Sushant Changotra of the Rouse Avenue Court issued the notice after hearing submissions of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which had filed chargesheets in the case last month.

The accused will be given the opportunity to be heard during the pre-cognisance stage of the case.

The next hearing of the case is scheduled for August 28. The court observed that the issue relat-



Robert Vadra

ing to territorial jurisdiction of the court to entertain the present complaint has to be considered when it decides on taking cognisance of offences. Therefore, it said the issue will be decided at the relevant stage.

“Since the present complaint has been filed on 18.07.2025 i.e. subsequent to 01.07.2024, therefore, in view of the aforemen-

Rahul Gandhi’s ‘Arun Jaitley threat’ claim triggers war of words

Abhinav Lakshman  
NEW DELHI

The allegation made by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday that former Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was allegedly sent to threaten him over his position on the controversial farm laws triggered a war of words between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the Opposition Congress with the BJP fact-checking Mr. Gandhi over his claims.

Congress leaders, however, pointed to meetings Mr. Jaitley had with Mr. Gandhi in 2015 and 2018.

‘We are not cowards’

Speaking at the All India Congress Committee’s annual legal conclave on Saturday, Mr. Gandhi said, “I shouldn’t be saying this since he is no longer with us but I will still say it. I remember when I was fighting the farm laws, Arun Jaitley ji was sent to threaten me.

He said “if you continued down this path, opposing us on farm laws, we will have to act against you”. “I said I don’t think you know who you’re talking to. We are Congress, not cowards. British couldn’t bend us,” Mr. Gandhi said.

These remarks triggered



Rahul Gandhi

reactions from senior BJP leaders, and Union Ministers, even as Mr. Jaitley’s son Rohan Jaitley posted on social media.

Mr. Rohan said on X, “Rahul Gandhi now claims my late father, Arun Jaitley, threatened him over the farm laws. Let me remind him, my father passed away in 2019. The farm laws were introduced in 2020. More importantly, it was not in my father’s nature to threaten anyone over an opposing view. He was a staunch democrat and always believed in building consensus.”

Irresponsible, says BJP

Reactions poured in from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who called Mr. Gandhi the “face of irresponsibility”, Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, and BJP leader B.L. Santosh said Jaitley died in 2019 while the farm laws were brought in 2020.

Trump says he ‘heard’ India won’t buy Russia oil

Press Trust of India  
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday said he had heard that India was no longer going to buy oil from Russia, which he hailed as a “good step”, but added that he was not sure about the development.

“Well, I understand India no longer is going to be buying oil from Russia. That’s what I heard. I don’t know if that’s right or not, but that’s a good step. We’ll see what happens,” Mr. Trump told presspersons on Friday.

Mr. Trump’s comments come a day after the White House announced tariffs the U.S. would impose on exports from about 70 nations.

According to the executive order, India will face tariffs of 25%, but it did not mention the “penalty” that Mr. Trump had said India will have to pay because of its purchases of Russian military equipment and energy.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was asked at the weekly media briefing on Friday about the reports claiming that Indian oil companies have stopped buying oil from Russia in the past week.

‘Not aware of specifics’

Mr. Jaiswal responded that as far as sourcing India’s energy requirements is concerned, “we take decisions based on the price at which oil is available in the international market and depending on the global situation at that time.

As for the specifics of your particular question, I am not aware of it. I don’t have details of these specifics.”

Earlier, Mr. Trump had also mounted a sharp attack on India and Russia for their close ties and said that the two countries can take their “dead economies down together.”



# No complaints yet on Bihar draft roll from parties: EC

Commission to issue new EPIC cards to electors after special revision of rolls; it opens special camps to help people file objections, and shares list of excluded names with political parties

**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
NEW DELHI

A day after the publication of the draft electoral rolls following the special intensive revision (SIR) in Bihar, the Election Commission on Saturday said all eligible voters would be given new elector photo identity cards (EPIC). Hence, they should provide new photographs by September 1 when the deadline to file claims and objections ends, it said.

The commission said that in the 24 hours – from 3 p.m. on Friday to 3 p.m. on Saturday – since the publication of the draft rolls, no claims were filed by political parties regarding inclusion in, or exclusion from, the rolls.

By the draft rolls, the number of voters in Bihar had dropped by 65 lakh from those on the electoral list prior to the revision. The draft rolls of the



As per the draft roll published on Friday, the number of voters in Bihar had dropped by 65 lakh. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

90,712 polling booths in all 243 Assembly constituencies and the list of those electors whose names were present on the electoral rolls till June 24 but not there on the draft have been shared with all the political parties for verification, the EC said in a statement here.

The 12 political parties on the ground in Bihar have 1.6 lakh booth-level agents (BLAs), nominated

by their district presidents.

**Details online**  
Apart from this, any elector of Bihar can check his name on the draft electoral rolls by filling his EPIC number directly on the link <https://voters.eci.gov.in>. The voter can also file his claim or objection for addition or deletion of his name.

The poll body said that to make this process easy,

special camps had been opened in all block-cum-circle offices and urban local body municipal offices from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all days up to September 1. In addition to this, advertisements have been given in newspapers and on television and social media.

A special campaign was organised on August 1 and 2 for the addition of names of young electors who turned 18 or will attain that age from July 1 to October 1. As of now, 3,223 young electors have filled the requisite forms.

The commission has decided to double the annual remuneration of BLOs, and also enhanced the remuneration of BLO supervisors involved in the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. The last such revision was done in 2015. Also, an honorarium has been provided for electoral registration officers and assistant electoral registration officers for the first time.

# Name is missing on draft roll, says Tejashwi; EC counters with extract

**Amit Bhelari**  
**Sreeparna Chakrabarty**  
PATNA/NEW DELHI

Tejashwi Yadav, Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, raked up a controversy on Saturday, just a day after the draft electoral rolls of the State were published, saying his name was missing from the list.

The Election Commission (EC) said the former Deputy Chief Minister was making “baseless” claims, and furnished the extract of the draft roll in which his name is present.

However, confusion prevailed over the fact that the EPIC (elector photo identity card) number quoted by Mr. Yadav was different from the one which the commission gave him on the list it showed. While Mr. Yadav said he voted in the Lok Sabha election in 2024 using the voter ID card having the number RAB2916I20, which is now missing from the draft rolls, the EC list shows the number as RAB0456228.

EC sources in Delhi said that Mr. Yadav had used EPIC no. RAB0456228 for



**Name row:** RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav addressing a press conference in Patna on Saturday. PTI

filing his nomination papers on affidavit in the 2020 Assembly election and he was listed with this number even on the 2015 electoral roll. The sources said the other EPIC id RAB2916I20 had been found to be non-existent after checking records of more than 10 years.

“No records have been found for the second EPIC number yet. It is highly likely that the second EPIC was never made through official channel and further inquiries are on to understand the reality of the second EPIC number, whether that is a forged document,” a source told *The Hindu*.

Both the EPIC cards bear the same address.

Mr. Yadav is a voter in the Digha Assembly constituency and represents the Raghapur Assembly seat. In the current draft roll published on Friday, his name is listed in polling station number 204, Library Building of Bihar Animal Science University, at serial number 416.

Addressing a press conference in Patna, Mr. Yadav said, “You all can see that my name is not found on the EC website. If this is the thing with the Leader of the Opposition, then just think about the common man. What kind of difficulties they must be facing to

provide the details and to register their name on the draft list,” he said.

Patna District Magistrate Thiagarajan S.M.’s office issued a press statement saying that an investigation was conducted by the district administration and it was clear that Mr. Yadav’s name is on the draft rolls.

The DM’s office also shared Mr. Yadav’s 2020 Assembly election affidavit. “In the Bihar Assembly Election, 2020, the Leader of Opposition has mentioned the above EPIC number in his affidavit. It can be seen at serial number 511 in the attached electoral roll,” it said.

Despite the clarification, Mr. Yadav repeated the allegation when he attended a public event in Patna.

“After the chaos, the EC is saying that my name is there on the draft list but the EPIC number is different. EPIC number cannot be changed and it only happens when you delete your name from the present State and add it in another State,” the RJD leader said.

# I was tortured, asked to name Narendra Modi in Malegaon blast case: Pragya Singh Thakur

**Press Trust of India**  
MUMBAI

Former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, who was recently acquitted in the September 2008 Malegaon blast case, on Saturday alleged that the officers probing the case had tortured her and asked her to name several persons, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

She claimed she had put all this in writing.

However, Ms. Thakur’s claim found no mention in the 1,036-page judgment of the special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court, which acquitted all seven accused in the case on July 31, almost 17 years after six persons were killed in the bomb blast in the north Maharashtra city on September 29, 2008. It criticised the probe agency



Former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur outside a Mumbai sessions court where she completed her surety formalities. PTI

for presenting what it called “inconclusive”, “unreliable” and “legally inadmissible” evidence.

The former Bhopal MP made the allegation while speaking to reporters outside the Mumbai sessions court, where she completed her surety formalities.

“They (officers) told me to take PM Modi’s name, as

at the time I was staying in Surat (Gujarat),” Ms. Thakur said. She added that the officers threatened to torture her unless she named several persons such as “Bhagwat (apparent reference to RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat) and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath”.

“But I did not take

anyone’s name as I did not want to lie,” she told reporters. The BJP leader alleged that she was detained illegally in a hospital where she had fainted and her lungs had collapsed.

“I am writing my story in which I will mention all this. The truth will come out. This is a victory of religion, a victory of *Sanatana dharma*, and a victory of Hindutva,” she said.

Notably, special judge A.K. Lahoti in his July 31 judgment had dismissed Ms. Thakur’s claims of torture and ill-treatment, stating that no evidence was presented to support her claims.

The court had also referred to a Supreme Court order of 2011 rejecting her claims of illegal custody, torture and detention. The trial court further said that Ms. Thakur had not made

any complaint when she was produced for remand after her arrest.

**‘No evidence of torture’**  
“There is no evidence (of torture and ill-treatment) brought to my notice and hence, I am not inclined to accept the submission,” stated the special judge. He had acknowledged the “agony, frustration, and trauma” caused by the fact that a heinous crime had 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 the offence, the higher the standard of proof required. Admittedly, in the present case, there is no reliable, cogent and acceptable evidence on record... to warrant the conviction,” he said.

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing row over the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday alleged that the Election Commission had become a “puppet” of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He added that the draft voter list published in Bihar indicated that as many as 65 lakh voters could

be disenfranchised.

Mr. Kharge, who was addressing the All India Congress Committee’s annual legal conclave here on Saturday, added that the EC “wants to take away” the voting rights of all the poor, marginalised and minorities, who would otherwise vote for the Congress as they were “fed up” with BJP’s rule. “Let them vote for whoever they want to,” he said. At the event titled “Constitutional challenges

- perspectives and pathways”, in addition to Mr. Kharge and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, senior leaders like Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and K.C. Venugopal spoke.

“The soul of India is enshrined in the Constitution. It is the strength of every citizen, their right to move forward and live with dignity. We will protect the Constitution at all costs,” Mr. Kharge said.

## BJP deletes controversial post on nuns after backlash

**The Hindu Bureau**  
RAIPUR

A cartoon posted by the Bharatiya Janata Party in Chhattisgarh on the social media platform X which referred to the controversy over the arrest of two Christian nuns in the State, resulted in a backlash, forcing the party to delete the post on Saturday.

The cartoon, depicting Congress leaders such as Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and K.C. Venugopal bowing to nuns and as well-wishers of those indulging in human trafficking and religious conversions, was posted and deleted in quick succession on Saturday morning after some users said it mocked Christianity.

The deleted cartoon, too, prompted a strong rebuttal from the Opposition Congress in the State. The party said the BJP had been forced to delete the post fearing electoral losses in Kerala.

The nuns hail from the southern State.

**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT) PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, BHARATPUR**  
Chambal Head Works Mallah Road, Bharatpur (321001)  
E-mail:- acproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

**Notice Inviting Bid No.03/2024-25**  
**Corrigendum No.09**

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 03/2024-25 (Kalifer Water Supply Project) has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 08.09.2025. Other terms and conditions as per Tender Documents.

UBN No.: PHE2425WLOB07189  
NIB Code: PHE2425A3388  
DIPR/C/10556/2025

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

**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT) PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, BHARATPUR**  
Chambal Head Works Mallah Road, Bharatpur (321001)  
E-mail:-aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.n

**Notice Inviting Bid No. 07, 08 & 09/2024-25**  
**Corrigendum No. 05**

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 07/2024-25, 08/2024-25 & 09/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 08.09.2025. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Document.

UBN No: NIT 07/2024-25: PHE2425WLOB07196 (NIB Code: PHE2425A3383)  
NIT 08/2024-25: PHE2425WLOB07199 (NIB Code: PHE2425A3384)  
NIT 09/2024-25: PHE2425WLOB07201 (NIB Code: PHE2425A3395)

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

DIPR/C/10558/2025

**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN**  
**DIRECTORATE OF TREASURIES & ACCOUNTS**  
"A" BLOCK, VITTA BHAWAN, JANPATH, JYOTI NAGAR, JAIPUR-302005  
No. F.8/STORE/DTA/ORACLE RESOURCES/2025-26/643 DATED: 22.7.2025

**Notice Inviting Bid**

Request for Proposal (RFP) of Rate Contract for Supply of Oracle Services (OEM Resources) under IFMS 3.0 Project of Government of Rajasthan are invited from interested eligible bidders upto 3.00 PM dated 20.08.2025. The estimated value of the procurement is about Rs. 16.25 crores. Interested eligible bidders may obtain detailed information of the bidding documents at the sites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> and the departmental website <http://dta.rajasthan.gov.in>.

UBN: DTA2526SLRC00091  
DIPR/C/10586/25

Joint Director (Admin.)

E-mail:- aaczone1@yahoo.com/aceproj.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in

**Additional Chief Engineer P.W.D. Zone-II, Jaipur**  
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Jaipur  
Phone:- 0141-2226537 Ex. -299

File No. 1350 Date- 21/7/2025

**NIB NO-14/2025-26**

Bids (on EPC Mode) for "Construction of RUB in between Sitawali Phatak and Benar Phatak, JDA, Jaipur (Between 91spl & 92Spl)" in Jaipur District are invited from interested bidders upto 3-00 PM on 20-08-2025. Other particulars of the bid may be seen on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>) of the state; and <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in>. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 1250.31 lacs.

UBN : PWD2526WLOB07863

Addl. Chief Engineer  
PWD Zone-II, Jaipur

DIPR/C/10618/2025

**LOOKOUT NOTICE**

The person in the photo is the accused in the case under Crime No. 451/25 u/s 63(a), 63(b), 64(1), 351(3) BNS, 4(1), 3(a), 3(b), 7, 8 of POCSO Act. Any information about the accused Mirajul Haq, a native of Nagaon district, Assam State, who is absconding after the crime, please inform the Edathala Police, Kerala State on the following phone numbers.

**STATION HOUSE OFFICER :**  
9497947279

**SUB INSPECTOR OF POLICE :**  
9497975488

**EDATHALA POLICE STATION :**  
0484-2838550

F2/421/2025/I&PRD

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that, our client intends to acquire the immovable property, morefully described in the **Schedule** hereto ("**Schedule Property**") from its owner, Mrs. Mira Angeline Cummins alias Mira Fordyce Cummins (daughter of Mrs.Dhanalakshmi Fordyce) having her permanent residence at No. 3, Banool Avenue Kew, 3101, Melbourne Victoria, Australia ("**Owner**"). The said Owner has represented that she is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property and having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.


Public is notified that any person/s having any right, title, claim or interest in the Schedule Property or to the above transaction are hereby called upon to file their objections to the undersigned with supporting documents within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of this notice. If no such claim is received, it would be deemed that no person, except the said owner, has any right over the Schedule Property and claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Municipal No. 50 (Old No. 4/A and later No. 14), BBMP EPID No. 5156959377 having a sital area of 25,824 square feet along with buildings constructed thereon situated at Lavelle Road, Shantala Nagara, Ward No. 111, Bengaluru and bounded on its : **East by :** Municipal Drain and Walkers Property; **West by :** Lavelle Road ; **North by :** Property bearing No. 15, Lavelle Road; and **South by :** Property bearing No. 12, Lavelle Road.


N.K. Dilip  
Tatva Legal Bangalore, Advocates  
4th Floor, Phoenix Pinnacle,  
No. 46, Ulsoor Road, Bengaluru 560 042.

Date : 03.08.2025



**Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise & Group Company of IndianOil)

[CIN-L40101TN1965GOI005389]  
Regd. Office: No.536, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai-600 018. Tel: 044-24346807/24349959  
Email Id: shankarp@cpcl.co.in/investors@cpcl.co.in Website: www.cpcl.co.in



**NOTICE OF 59<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

NOTICE is hereby given that the **59<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM")** of the members of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited ("Company") will be held on **Monday, the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 10:00 AM** (IST) through Video Conference / Other Audio Visual Means ("**VC/OAVM**") to transact the businesses as set out in the notice of the AGM.

**Notice of AGM and Annual Report:**

In compliance with the MCA & SEBI Circular(s), the Notice setting out the businesses to be transacted at the 59<sup>th</sup> AGM together with the Integrated Annual Report of the Company for the year 2024-25 has been sent on **Friday, the 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2025** through electronic mode to the members whose email address is registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s). The Notice and the Integrated Annual Report are also available on the Company's website at <https://cpcl.co.in/investors/financials/annual-reports/> and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively, and on the website of KFin Technologies Ltd. at [www.kfintech.com](http://www.kfintech.com).

**Remote e-voting and e-voting during AGM:**

The Company provides to the members through KFin Technologies Ltd. the facility to cast their vote(s) on the Business as set out in the Notice of the 59<sup>th</sup> AGM through remote e-voting facility ("remote e-voting") as well as during the AGM to those members who could not cast their vote(s) through remote e-voting. Members are requested to note the following:

- i. the company has fixed **Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025** as the 'Cut Off date' to ascertain the eligibility of members to vote through remote e-voting or by e-voting at the AGM.
- ii. a person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date i.e. **Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025**, only, shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting for voting at the AGM.
- iii. the remote e-voting period shall be available as under:  
**Commencement of remote e-voting : from 09:00 am (IST) on Thursday, the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2025**  
**End of remote e-voting : till 05:00 pm (IST) on Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2025**
- iv. any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice and holds shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at [evoting.cpcl@kfintech.com](mailto:evoting.cpcl@kfintech.com). However, if the member is already registered with KFin Technologies Ltd. for remote e-voting then he/she can use their existing User ID and password for casting the vote.
- v. the members who have cast their vote through remote e-voting prior to the AGM can also attend / participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again at the AGM.
- vi. the remote e-voting module shall be disabled by KFin Technologies Ltd. after **5.00 PM (IST) on Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup> August 2025**. The votes once cast by the member, cannot be changed subsequently.
- vii. those members, who intend to participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM facility and could not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting during the AGM.
- viii. the manner of voting for members holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM.

Members are requested to carefully read all the Notes set out in the Notice of the AGM with respect to instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting vote etc.

**Contact Details:**

In case of any queries related to e-voting, the members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for members and e-voting user manual for members available at the download section of <https://evoting.kfintech.com> or call on toll free no.: 1800-309-4001 or contact Mr.Mohd. Mohsin, Senior Manager, KFin Technologies Ltd., at the designated email ID: [evoting.cpcl@kfintech.com](mailto:evoting.cpcl@kfintech.com) or Phone No.: +91 40 6716 1700 / 09177401094 to get their grievances on e-voting addressed.

**For Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited**  
Sd/-  
**P. Shankar**  
Company Secretary  
M.No. A7624

Place : Chennai  
Dated : 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2025



Former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has vacated the official residence of the head of the judiciary in the national capital. Justice Chandrachud, who was the 50th Chief Justice of India, had superannuated on November 8, 2024. Recently, a controversy had arisen over his stay at the official residence of the CJI at 5 Krishna Menon Marg, New Delhi, beyond permissible time. Talking to *PTI* on July 7, Justice Chandrachud had cleared the air saying that his luggage was packed and he, along with his wife and children, would soon move to a paid government accommodation. *PTI*

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren is currently on ventilator support and in a critical condition, sources said on Saturday. He has been admitted to the Sri Ganga Ram Hospital in the national capital for over a month due to a kidney-related issue. Mr. Shibu, 81, has been receiving regular treatment at the hospital for an extended period. "He was admitted here recently, so we came to see him. His health issues are currently being examined," Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said on June 24 when his father was admitted. Shibu Soren has been the leader of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha for the past 38 years and is recognised as the party's founding patron. <sup>PTI</sup>

Congress leader Manish Tewari has called the government's decision to privatise Air India and transfer its ownership to the Tata Group a "disaster" over complaints about cancellations and delays. In a post on X on Friday, Mr. Tewari described the airline as a "management mess". "Government of India should take Air India back from the Tata Group. They have run the airline into the ground," he wrote. He claimed that the cancellations and delays by Air India were happening without any explanations. Tata Group took over Air India in January 2022 after it won the bid invited by the government for selling its 100% stake in the erstwhile national carrier.

British families, waiting for the remains of relatives aboard the London-bound Air India 171 plane that crashed soon after take-off from the Ahmedabad airport, are expecting confirmation on DNA matches after high-level India-U.K. government talks, their legal team has said. Keystone Law, which has been working with aviation experts to assist many of the families who lost loved ones in the June 12 crash, called for urgency in the process this week. “The U.K. and Indian governments have held high-level talks, as a result of the international media coverage of this problem,” said James Healy-Pratt, Aviation Partner at Keystone Law. PTI

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CM  
YK



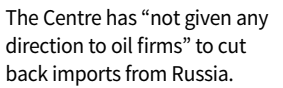
Federal Bank's net profit slid 15% to ₹862 crore in the June quarter as a compression in margins hit core income and an uptick in bad assets led to higher provisions. The bank management said that the second half of the fiscal year must see higher credit growth, and also an uptick in the net interest margins and blamed industry-wide issues on the microfinance front for the uptick in non-performing assets. Core net interest income rose by just 2% to ₹2,337 crore. PTI

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Ltd., the financial services division of the diversified conglomerate Murugappa Group, reported a 21% growth in its April-June 2025 net profit to ₹1,135.91 crore, company officials said. The total income during the quarter under review grew by 26% to ₹7,330.78 crore compared with ₹5,828.97 crore registered in the corresponding quarter of the last financial year, the company said in a release on Saturday. PTI

GHV Infra Projects said it bagged a project worth ₹2,645 crore from Rana Exim FT-LLC in the UAE for the development of a smart manufacturing hub. The project is valued at about ₹2,645 crore and likely to be completed within 24 months, excluding 90 days of initial set-up and mobilisation period, the company said in a filing. "With this order, the total order book of the company has risen to over ₹7,000 crore," said GHV Group chairman Jahid Vijapura. <sup>PTI</sup>

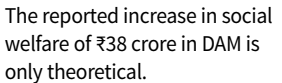
"The succession planning will kick start from October. A panel has to send names to the regulator for approval and a final decision would be taken. It will take another 3-4 months," he added.

Now, they will face higher cost disadvantages due to tariffs. Hence, the government should resume the interest subvention scheme. Exporters have also sought other supportive steps such as a moratorium on loan repayment from the government so that they can supply at competing prices to the U.S. buyers, they said.



*The New York Times* on Saturday quoted two unnamed senior Indian officials as saying there had been no change in Indian government policy, with one official saying the government had “not given any direction to oil companies” to cut back imports from Russia.

Further, the increase of social welfare by ₹38 crore



in case of DAM coupling doesn't mean there will be saving of ₹38 crore, the official said.

“Savings will be miniscule, if at all. The reported increase in social welfare of ₹38 crore in DAM is theoretical, used for algorithmic modelling and does not imply actual consumer savings,” the official added.

"Introducing central bank coupling mechanism risks adding complexity, delaying market operations and duplicating functions, without resolving core challenges such as market liquidity, deepening of participation, or improving investor confidence," the official said.

Industry officials said while the idea was presented as 'market coupling', the proposed design more closely resembles 'exchange coupling' with no precedence globally.

While Grid-India gave a detailed report to CERC, the Commission's order does not adequately reflect the comprehensive findings of that report.

Mr. Sahay who is a member of the group executive board of Mahindra Group, in addition to his new role in SML Isuzu Ltd, will continue to serve as president - aerospace & defence, trucks, buses and construction equipment sector of Mahindra Group.

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THE HINDU GROUP

# INDEPENDENCE DAY

Special Issue dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025



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- How the tiranga got its current form
- Facts about the Banyan: India's national tree
- Small towns that played a role in the independence movement

- A short history of the independence movement
- Quiz, Crossword & children's contributions



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# Tropical rain destabilises oceans only when it falls lightly

Vasudevan Mukunth

When it rains over the ocean, does it make the surface water more buoyant? Scientists have long assumed so because rainwater is fresh and freshwater is lighter than seawater. However, a new study by researchers at the University of Washington in Seattle, U.S., has found that the answer is actually more complicated. The study was published in July.

Rain in the tropics often comes with large clouds and cold, dry air called cold pools. These cold pools can actually cool the ocean's surface by blocking sunlight and increasing the transfer of heat from the water to the air. So instead of making the surface lighter, which would help mix waters in the ocean, rain sometimes makes the surface heavier and more stable.

**Buoyancy flux**  
The researchers used data

from 22 buoys across the equatorial oceans that measure rainfall, sea surface temperature, wind speed, and heat transfer. The duo analysed more than 31,000 hours of rainfall events from this data, focusing on the buoyancy flux, which combines the effects of heat and freshwater. If the buoyancy flux is positive, the ocean surface is less stable and promotes mixing. They found that during

light rain (0.2-4 mm/hr), buoyancy flux was often positive, meaning it tends to destabilise the ocean and promote mixing. But during heavier rain, the buoyancy flux was almost always negative, meaning the ocean surface was more stable. This is because heavy rain is usually accompanied by stronger cold pools that pull heat out of the ocean more effectively. The study also found that at night, rainfall was

more likely to cause instability than during the day. Geography also mattered: the researchers identified a 'cold rain zone', mainly in the western Pacific and Indian Oceans, where rain was associated with more heat loss, and a 'hot rain zone' in the central Pacific where heat loss was less intense. These differences were tied to sea surface temperatures and the strength of the accompanying atmospheric downdrafts.

"The sky doesn't just water the sea, it alters its balance," Dipanjan Chaudhuri, a postdoc at the Applied Physics Laboratory at the University of Washington and the study's first author, said. "This matters because ocean mixing plays a key role in regulating the climate by transporting heat, carbon, and nutrients. Any gaps in understanding how rainfall affects the ocean can lead to inaccuracies in weather and climate predictions."

## SNAPSHOTS



### Potatoes evolved from tomatoes 9M years ago

Scientists studied the DNA of over 100 potato and related plants and found that every potato species is a genetic mix that formed when wild tomatoes and *Euberosum* plants crossed about 90 lakh years ago. Each modern potato still carries roughly 40% tomato-type and 60% *Euberosum* genes. The new lineage could survive drought, cold mountain climates, and reproduce asexually. The cross triggered a burst of evolution: today potatoes include 107 wild species and form the crop that feeds millions.



### Diet changes can drive evolutionary anatomy, too

Scientists tracked what ancient monkeys and human relatives ate by measuring isotopes levels in fossil teeth. They found that in *Theropithecus* monkeys, the diet shifted about 42 lakh years ago but their teeth only changed 9 lakh years later. In human lineage, grass-eating came first and dental remodelling followed 7 lakh years later. But around 23 lakh years ago, early humans switched from grasses to tubers. Altogether, the study showed that diets could steer evolutionary anatomy across vast timescales.



### Signs of 828-km lightning bolt found in 2017 storm data

Scientists found the longest lightning bolt to date, spanning 828 km, in the data of an October 2017 thunderstorm over the southern US. The data was captured by space-based lightning sensors onboard the NOAA GOES-16 and other weather satellites. The colossal bolt beat the previous record by 61 km. Since the data also showed lightning can shoot beyond its parent cloud, the team reminded people to stay under cover for at least 30 minutes after thunder fades.

# World's highest bird death rates at Thar Desert wind farms

Across seven multi-season surveys, Wildlife Institute of India researchers searched for bird carcasses within a 150-m radius of 90 randomly selected wind turbines and found 124

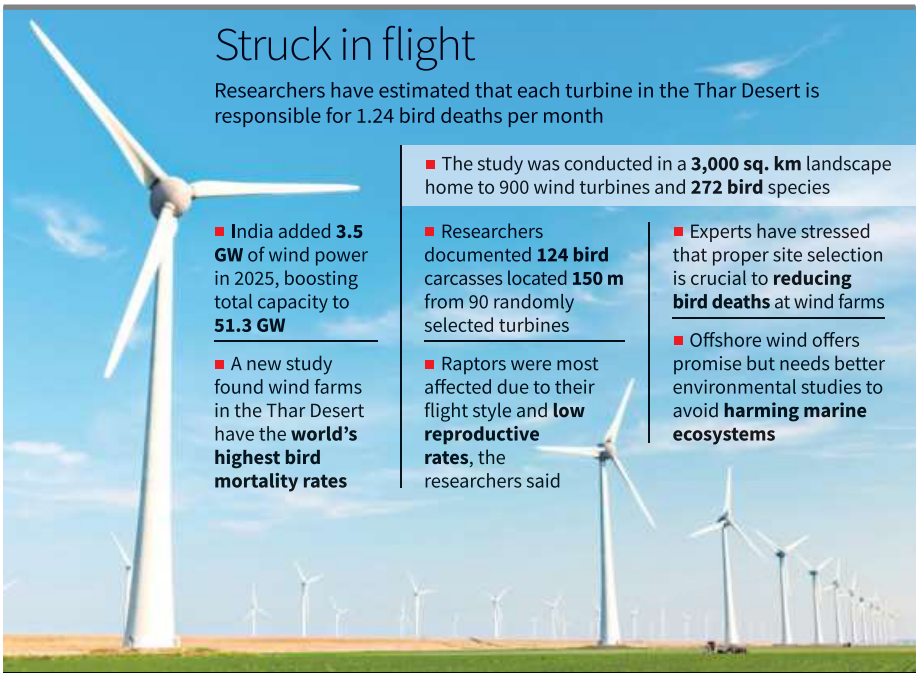
Nikhil Sreekandan

In the first half of 2025, India added around 3.5 GW to the wind sector - an 82% year-on-year growth - taking the total installed capacity to 51.3 GW. According to the National Institute of Wind Energy, India's gross wind power potential is 1163.9 GW at 150 m above ground level. India's ambitious climate goals and surging energy demands mean renewable energy development will continue to accelerate.

Experts are concerned, however, that the addition of wind power capacity has been coming at the expense of avian welfare. For years, researchers have raised concerns about the impact of wind turbines on fauna, particularly birds. A study by the Wildlife Institute of India, published recently in *Scientific Reports*, has estimated that bird mortality rates at wind farms are the highest in the world in India's Thar Desert.

The study was conducted in a 3,000 sq. km desert landscape in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, home to around 900 wind turbines and 272 bird species, including the critically endangered great Indian bustard (*Ardeotis nigripes*). Across seven multi-season surveys, Wildlife Institute researchers searched for bird carcasses within a 150-m radius of 90 randomly selected wind turbines and found 124.

The estimated annual bird mortality per 1,000 sq. km came up to 4,464



birds after correcting for non-detection due to vegetation cover or carcass degradation during the survey and due to carcass scavenging before the survey. The researchers conducted similar surveys at 28 randomly selected control sites (between 500 and 2,000 m of any turbine) to account for the natural mortality of birds and found no carcasses.

"Very few studies have robust data to have accurate assessments that correct for detection issues and have controls for comparison," Yadvendradev Jhala, one of the authors of the study, said.

A 2019 study documented bird deaths at wind farms in Kutch and Davangere. However, the estimate of 0.47 bird deaths per turbine per year at both sites now pale in com-

parison to the 1.24 bird deaths per turbine per month in Thar.

"It's quite a high estimate, but that's quite possible," Ramesh Kumar Selvaraj, an independent consultant and author of the 2019 paper, said. The mortality rate "will vary depending on geography, season, and other factors."

Bird density, infrastructure density, and configuration are also crucial factors, according to Jhala. The Thar Desert is also part of the Central Asian Flyway, a major migration route for birds across Eurasia, and a prominent wintering destination.

The desert mortality estimates also included bird collisions with power lines linked to the wind turbines. The Gujarat and Karnataka study didn't include this cause.

Per both studies, raptors were the most affected group of birds, echoing findings worldwide.

Organisations like Birdlife International have proposed several mitigation measures to reduce bird collisions with wind turbines, including painting one of the turbine blades to increase visibility and shutting turbines down at a certain time of day or season. However, Selvaraj said the most crucial step in mitigation is to carefully select the site of a wind farm.

**From land to ocean**  
Offshore wind farms are emerging as a valuable renewable energy resource worldwide. According to the Global Wind Energy Council, operational offshore wind capacity worldwide is currently around

# Simpler tests could slash biosimilar costs, widen access

Gayatri Saberwal

Most of the drugs that we consume are called 'small molecule drugs'. Their chemical structure is reasonably simple. Disprin, for instance, has a molecular weight of around 180 daltons. There is another breed of drugs that are very large, complex molecules. For instance, the molecular weight of insulin is around 5,800 daltons and that of the monoclonal antibody remicade, about 150,000 daltons. (One dalton is equal to one-12th the mass of a carbon-12 atom.)

Small molecule drugs also tend to have fixed structures that do not change for the duration of their use. In contrast, the complex molecules, which we call biologics, are produced in biological systems and therefore during their production slight variations may arise. However, these variations may have no im-

pact on the stability of the molecule, its efficacy or its side effects.

## 'No competitor'

When a company produces a small molecule drug for the first time, it seeks patent protection for that drug. That is, no competitor may make that drug for several years. It is only when the drug goes 'off patent' that competitors may make it.

In the absence of competition, the originator company can price the drug very high.

Once there is competition, the competitor companies produce generics, which are copies of the original drug. They don't undertake the research and development to make the drug and they may not spend as much on marketing and sales, so the costs of generics are also much lower. Most of the drugs that you and I take are generics and are priced very



A supervisor inspects syringes of a biosimilar of Adalimumab at a Zydus Group facility in Changodar, Gujarat, 2014. AFP

cheaply compared to the originator drug. A good example is Sovaldi, a drug used to treat hepatitis C: it originally cost \$84,000 for

a 12-week course in the U.S. but that dropped to \$1,000 once Indian generic firms started making it. Largely, it is generic drugs that keep

us in India alive and well.

Since biologics made by a generic firm will be produced by different biological systems, they may not be identical to those made by the originator company. Thus they are called biosimilars, not generics.

For many years, a debate has raged over how much proof is required for a manufacturer to prove that a given biosimilar will work as well as the original biologic drug. Therefore, whereas much simpler testing was required to show that a generic small molecule was working like the originator molecule, there are more elaborate and expensive tests for biosimilars.

Major drug regulators such as those of the U.S., the U.K., and in Europe have been working to determine how they can simplify the requirements for approving a biosimilar, in view of the availability of modern analytical tech-

niques. For example, the U.K. has removed animal trials and the US has planned to replace them with more human-relevant methods (like using organoids). In India, this requirement has not yet been updated although there is a proposal to waive animal studies on a case-by-case basis. Some have also argued that India should follow the practices of the U.K. and the U.S. The same holds for the more expensive clinical trials, which in the U.K. are currently required only in certain cases.

## More options

Biosimilars need to be made less expensively while ensuring efficacy and minimal adverse effects. The larger the number of affordable biosimilars, the more options we will have for our patients. (Gayatri Saberwal is a consultant at the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society)



## Question Corner

### New depths

**How deep in the ocean does life exist?**

Life often finds a way to survive even in extreme conditions. For example, in 1960, when Don Walsh and Jacques Piccard explored the bottom of the Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, they spotted a small fish at a depth of 8.1 km. On July 30, researchers exploring the Kuril-Kamchatka and Aleutian trenches discovered the deepest known communities of life powered by chemosynthesis, where organisms get energy from chemicals like methane and hydrogen sulphide instead of sunlight. The communities, dominated

by worms called siboglinids and clams, thrived where chemical-rich fluids rose through geological faults. These fluids were created by microbes breaking down organic matter, producing methane that may form gas hydrates in the high-pressure conditions. Per the researchers, the finding suggests these ecosystems may be more widespread and highlights a potential new role for deep-sea microbes in the earth's carbon cycle: storing methane underground instead of letting it escape.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in



FAQ

Why is the U.K.'s stand on Palestine significant?

What role did Britain play in the Israel-Palestine question in 1917? What bearing does it have now?

Stanly Johny

**The story so far**  
British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced last week that his government would recognise the state of Palestine during the coming UN General Assembly session in September unless Israel agrees to a ceasefire in Gaza, allows more humanitarian aid and commits itself towards long-term peace based on the two-state formula.

**What have other countries announced?**  
Mr. Starmer's remarks came shortly after French President Emmanuel Macron declared that Paris would recognise Palestinian statehood in September. Canada and Portugal have also expressed their intention to do the same. As the 21-month-long war on Gaza rages on, Israel is facing one of its biggest diplomatic crises with more and more countries in the West. Israel's traditional allies, adopting a favourable position towards Palestinian statehood.

**How significant is this recognition drive?**  
Of the 193 UN member states, 147 have already recognised the state of Palestine. Until now, powerful Western countries had resisted such recognition, insisting it should be part of a final diplomatic settlement to the Israel-Palestine conflict. But that position is beginning to shift. Among the five members of the UN Security Council, Russia and China have already recognised Palestine. If France and the U.K. follow through with their recent statements, the U.S., Israel's closest ally and patron, will be isolated at the Council. France, the U.K. and Canada are also members of the G7 group of advanced economies, and their recognition could influence other countries to follow suit. Britain's move, in particular, carries historic weight, given its central role in the Israel-Palestine question. In the 1917 Balfour Declaration, Britain became the first major power to endorse the Zionist demand for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

**What is the Balfour Declaration?**  
The declaration was issued by Sir Arthur Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, on November 2, 1917, addressed to Lord Lionel Walter Rothschild, a Zionist and leader of the British Jewish community. In the letter, written in the midst of the First World War, Balfour stated: "His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object." Jews in Europe had already started migrating to Palestine, which was part of the Ottoman Empire until the end of the First World War, in the late 19th century. By the time the Balfour Declaration was issued, there were roughly 60,000 Jews in Palestine, accounting for over 9% of the total population. Zionist leaders then argued that the only viable solution to the 'Jewish question' was the establishment of a national home in Palestine.

**What did Britain do after the war?**  
While Britain pledged support for a Jewish home 'in Palestine', it had also promised to support Arab independence if the Arabs revolted against the Ottomans. But Britain and France had already entered into a secret agreement (Sykes-Picot) to divide the Ottoman lands once the war was over. After the war, Britain established a colonial administration in Palestine under the League of Nations Mandate. Over the following decades, Jewish migration to Palestine intensified. The Jewish community in Palestine began building their own institutions, from trade unions and industries to paramilitary groups and administrative frameworks. By the end of the Second World War, Jews made up 30% of the population. Britain had concluded in the late 1930s that the mandate was unworkable, and supported the partition of Palestine. After the war, Britain informed the UN of its intention to end the Mandate, which was set to expire on May 15, 1948. On May 14, Zionist leaders unilaterally declared the state of Israel. Within minutes, the U.S. recognised the state. The declaration immediately triggered the First Arab Israel war.

**Why will Britain recognise Palestine now?**  
Given the historical role Britain has played in the crisis, a British recognition of the state of Palestine, 108 years after the Balfour Declaration was issued, assumes enormous symbolic significance. It may not have an immediate impact on Israel's occupation of Palestine, but it clearly reflects a change in London's policy towards Israel and Palestine. As Israel is facing accusations of committing genocide against Palestinians, and images of Gaza's devastation and starving children are coming out, it becomes untenable for many Western nations to continue to back Israel unconditionally.

How will Trump's tariffs impact India?

What are the sectors that will need to rework their export strategies? Why are India's dealings with Russia under scrutiny? Will the 25% tariff and penalty affect GDP? Why hasn't a trade deal worked out between the two countries? What are the main areas of contention?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

**The story so far:**  
On July 30, U.S. President Donald Trump announced 25% tariffs on imports from India "plus a penalty". While this puts to rest months of speculation over what the tariffs would be on Indian imports into the U.S., it opens up fresh uncertainties with respect to a potential bilateral trade agreement between India and the U.S.

**What did Mr. Trump announce?**  
Taking to social media, Mr. Trump cited India's tariff and non-tariff measures on trade, and its dealing with Russia on energy and military equipment, as the main reasons behind imposing the 25% tariffs and the penalty. There is no clarity yet on what the penalty will look like, but Mr. Trump has in the past threatened a 10% additional tariff on BRICS countries. If this comes to pass, then effective tariffs on Indian imports would be 35%. There is also a legislation in the U.S. in the process of being passed that could see an additional 500% tariff on India, China, and Brazil for their dealings with Russia.

**What does it mean for India?**  
Tariffs are paid by importers. Therefore, tariffs on Indian imports would be paid by those in the U.S. that are importing Indian goods. That is, Indian goods will become more expensive for them. Therein lies the true problem for India. On a macro level, the tariffs and the impact they will have on Indian exports are expected to only lower India's GDP by 0.2%, according to research by the Bank of Baroda. So, if India's growth forecast had been 6.6%, then these



**Economic shakedown:** A student of Gurukul school of Art completes artwork around U.S. tariffs in Mumbai, on August 1. AP

India wants to keep core parts of its agriculture and dairy sectors out of trade deals

tariffs – if they are imposed – could lower growth to 6.4%. However, the issue arises in individual sectors. According to the Bank of Baroda, sectors such as garments, precious stones, auto parts, leather products, and electronics (although their inclusion is uncertain) could face the pinch and would have to rework their strategies. "The issue really is that some of the competing nations like Vietnam (20%), Korea (15%) and Indonesia (19%) have lower tariffs compared with India," the Bank of Baroda added in its research note.

**How did things come to such a pass?**  
While most trade deals are negotiated over years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Trump in February 2025 announced that they would conclude the first tranche of a trade deal by fall. To put this in perspective, the recently-signed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between India and the U.K. took about three years to negotiate.

What made the announcement by Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump notable was that it came before the latter's big moves on reciprocal tariffs, which is what pushed other countries to start negotiating with the U.S. The announcement was thus a strong and positive commitment towards strengthening ties between the two countries. But then, on April 2, Mr. Trump announced his Liberation Day reciprocal tariffs. These included a 10% baseline tariff for all countries, and additional tariffs on a country-by-country case. For India, this total was 26%. However, just a week later, Mr. Trump announced a 90-day pause on these tariffs so that bilateral deals could be struck so as to reduce the U.S.'s trade deficit with most of its trading partners. The 90-day pause was to end in July, but Mr. Trump extended it to August 1.

**What are the points of friction?**  
It's hard to pinpoint any single recent development that has soured relations, but there have been several points of friction between the two countries in the past few months. The matter of India's tariffs and non-tariff barriers has been something Mr. Trump has been highlighting since his first term as President. It was no surprise that he would take up the issue in his second term. Mr. Trump has brought up India's engagement with Russia, too, saying countries like India are partly financing Russia's war with Ukraine. India, however, has reiterated that it will secure its national and energy security, and if that means buying cheap Russian oil, then that is what it would do. Russia currently accounts for about 35-40% of India's oil imports, making it

Why is NE on edge about Assam evictions?

What is the reason for an aggressive eviction drive from forestlands? What has been the reaction in neighbouring States? Why does Assam have boundary disputes with Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland? What has the Gauhati High Court directed the States to do?

Rahul Karmakar

**The story so far:**  
The Assam government's drive to evict encroachers from forestlands has sent alarm bells ringing in other States of the region. Now, States bordering Assam are taking measures to ensure that those evicted from Assam do not cross over.

**When did the eviction drive start in Assam?**  
The BJP came to power in 2016 by promising to secure *jaati* (race), *maati* (land), and *bheti* (hearth). Based on a Gauhati High Court order to reclaim encroached forestlands, the first eviction drive was carried out in three fringe villages of eastern Assam's Kaziranga National Park in September 2016. Two people died at Gorukhuti in north-central Assam's Darrang district when the eviction drive resumed in September 2021, five months after the BJP retained power and Himanta Biswa Sarma became Chief Minister. The eviction drives, allegedly targeted at Bengali Muslims, resumed in June 2025, coinciding with charges of corruption against the BJP-led government, one of them involving the purchase and redistribution of Gir cows for an agricultural project at Gorukhuti, from where migrant

Assam claims four neighbouring States have been occupying almost 83,000 hectares of land belonging to it

Muslims were evicted.

**What are the roots of the problem?**  
Evicting encroachers from forestlands, wetlands, and government revenue lands is not a new phenomenon in Assam. However, the operation has been high on optics as the BJP and its sub-nationalist regional allies have accused the 15-year rule by Congress of having paved the ground for encroachment by the 'Bangladeshi', 'Miya', or 'illegal infiltrators' – pejoratives for Muslims with roots in present-day Bangladesh – for votes. This category of Muslims has long polarised electoral politics in Assam during and after the anti-foreigners Assam Agitation (1979-'85), which led to the signing of an accord prescribing a cut-off date – midnight of March 24, 1971 – for the detection, deletion (from electoral rolls), and deportation of "illegal immigrants" or Bangladeshi nationals.

**Why is the drive overtly aggressive?**  
The eviction drives have impacted non-Muslims as well, including 130 families whose houses were bulldozed to clear the Silsako Beel, a major wetland in Guwahati, of encroachment in 2022. Those against migrant Muslims, however, has garnered more attention for their scale and intensity, as it has led to the death of at least five people between 2016 and July 2025, when 1,080 families were evicted from 135 hectares of the Paikan Reserve Forest in Assam's Goalpara district. This aggression is also reflected in the rhetoric of the Chief Minister and other BJP leaders, who refer to the drive as a long-term exercise to save Assam from 'land jihad'. Before the drive was launched this year, the Chief Minister said 15,288.52 bighas of satra (Vaishnav monastery) lands remain illegally occupied by people of doubtful citizenship across 29 districts. He also referred to the Union Environment Ministry's report to the National Green Tribunal that 3,620.9 square kilometres of forest area in Assam were under encroachment as of March 2024. The Chief Minister vowed to continue the eviction drive until Assam is encroachment-free in "at least 10 years", while clarifying that tribal people living in forest areas from before 2005 and covered by the Forest



**Homes razed:** Villagers watch the demolition of houses during an eviction drive inside the Paikan Reserve Forest in Goalpara, Assam on July 12. AFP

a significant partner. In addition, India has remained adamant about keeping core parts of its agriculture and dairy sectors out of trade deals, including with the U.S. This has upset negotiators on the U.S. side, but it is a 'red line' India will not cross. Opening up these sectors would expose India's relatively low-productivity farmers to global competition, which will likely have devastating impacts on their livelihoods. Then, there is the fact that Mr. Trump has repeatedly stated that it was him, and his trade talks, that encouraged India and Pakistan to agree to a ceasefire following the launch of Operation Sindoor by India. The fact that the Indian government has refuted it has only further angered Mr. Trump. Mr. Trump's claims have irked the Indian establishment as well, since it has provided the Opposition a means to attack the government. India has informed the World Trade Organization that it reserves the right to impose additional tariffs on imports from the U.S. to retaliate against its higher tariffs on items like steel, aluminium, and automobiles. Taking these things together, Mr. Trump's tariff announcement comes as a confirmation that at least one, if not all of these factors, worked toward souring relations.

**Will India continue paying these tariffs?**  
Although there has been a lot of talk about a 'mini-deal' between India and the U.S. to walk back the reciprocal tariffs, Indian officials have been cagey about the date for such a deal. The tariff announcement by Mr. Trump confirms that such a deal is not coming. However, the two sides have been remarkably consistent about their commitment of having some sort of trade deal finalised by the fall 2025 deadline. So far, negotiators from the two sides have met in New Delhi and Washington five times, including the first meeting in March where the Terms of Reference for the negotiations were finalised. The team from the U.S. will visit India in late August to take forward the talks. Things have, however, become trickier for Indian negotiators because Mr. Trump has now directly linked India's dealings with Russia to India's trade relationship with the U.S. The tariffs will come into effect soon. According to an Executive Order dated July 31, Mr. Trump said that his duties on India and other countries would come into effect "7 days after the date of this order".

**What about deals with other countries?**  
Over the last month, Mr. Trump has concluded deals with the U.K., Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan, the EU, and South Korea. The deal with the U.K. does not specify a general tariff level, but it will see British car exports to the U.S. attract a 10% tariff, down from the earlier 27.5% and a removal of tariffs on aerospace exports to the U.S. Japan negotiated lower tariffs of 15% for its exports to the U.S., the same as the EU.

Rights Act would not be touched. This followed the fast-track resettlement of at least 12 Ahom families who were evicted along with migrant Muslims from village grazing reserves across four locations in northeastern Assam's Lakhimpur district.

**Why are Assam's neighbours jittery?**  
Assam's neighbours were passive as long as the eviction drives were in areas far from the interstate borders. NGOs in Nagaland stirred into action after the Assam government announced an anti-encroachment drive in Golaghat district's Uriamghat. They saw it as a move to push "illegal Bangladeshi immigrants" inside Nagaland under the agenda of usurping "ancestral Naga lands". Before the drive commenced, the police in Nagaland's Nuland district intercepted and turned 200 vehicles carrying "illegal migrants" back to Assam. A few days later, a conglomerate of extremist groups announced a task force to guard the Assam-Nagaland border against infiltrators. The governments of Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram followed suit. They issued orders to the authorities in areas bordering Assam to increase vigilance, prevent the evicted people from coming in, and make the issuance of the inner-line permit, a temporary travel document, stricter.

**How are border disputes linked to eviction?**  
Although opposition political parties in Assam see the eviction drive against Bengali-speaking Muslims as a part of the BJP's agenda of polarisation ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls, encroachment is at the core of the State's boundary disputes with Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Nagaland. These States were carved out of Assam between 1963 and 1972. In March 2025, the Assam Assembly was told that the four States have been occupying almost 83,000 hectares of land belonging to the State. These States have, off and on, driven migrant Muslims out to Assam, a State they accuse of having patronised "illegal immigrants" and made them settle along the borders as a ploy to claim disputed lands. More than 350 people have died due to the inter-State disputes, which Assam has partially resolved with Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya. On July 30, the Gauhati High Court directed these five States to constitute a high-level committee to facilitate a coordinated action to clear illegal settlements from forestlands.



PROFILES

Friendless in Dravidian politics

O. Panneerselvam

The former Jayalalithaa loyalist and three-time Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, who revolted against Sasikala within the AIADMK and joined hands with the BJP, is now facing a moment of uncertainty after he was expelled from his party and became estranged from the BJP-led alliance

T. Ramakrishnan

Three-time Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and former coordinator of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), O. Panneerselvam, could scarcely have imagined, even at the time of his expulsion from the party in July 2022, that he would one day visit the residence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and interact with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president twice in 12 hours.

On July 31, both met at the historic and salubrious Theosophical Society in Adyar during their morning walk. In the evening, accompanied by his son and former Theni MP P. Ravindhranath Kumar, Mr. Panneerselvam held discussions with the Chief Minister and his son and Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin for about 45 minutes at Mr. Stalin's residence in south Chennai's upmarket Alwarpet. The actions of the tea seller-turned-politician raised many eyebrows because he had all along fashioned himself as a quintessential loyalist of Jayalalithaa, who wore anti-DMKism on her sleeve on the lines of the AIADMK's founder and former Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran.

For the 74-year-old, who hails from the caste and communally sensitive southern region of the State, time seems to be running out for stitching the right alliance to face the Assembly election, due for April-May next year. Mr. Panneerselvam, widely known as OPS, is still considered a persona non grata, as far as the AIADMK general secretary, Edappadi K. Palaniswami, is concerned. As for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), a party which Mr. Panneerselvam and his son had assiduously cultivated after Jayalalithaa's death in December 2016, the "spell of love" towards the septuagenarian does not appear to exist any more. It has been sometime since Mr. Panneerselvam met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Home Affairs Amit Shah.

When Mr. Modi visited Tamil Nadu to take part in the Aadi Thiruvathirai

festival in Gangaikondacholapuram on July 26-27, Mr. Panneerselvam's request for a meeting was not granted. But Mr. Palaniswami, once a colleague-turned-foe of Mr. Panneerselvam, met PM Modi at the Tiruchi airport, along with his senior colleagues. At the time of announcing the revival of ties between his party and the AIADMK in April, Mr. Shah made it clear that the BJP would not like to "interfere in the internal affairs" of the Dravidian party.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha poll, Mr. Panneerselvam contested unsuccessfully from the Ramanathapuram constituency as part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance. Before holding the July 31 evening meeting with Mr. Stalin came the announcement that the 'OPS' camp had decided to exit the Alliance, a move that was attributed to the Union government's refusal to provide funds to Tamil Nadu under the Samagra Shiksha scheme.

Modi's man

All the recent developments must have been odd for the Mr. Panneerselvam, who was not long ago seen as Mr. Modi's loyal supporter. He was present when Mr. Modi filed his nomination papers in Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency in 2019. He surprised many in November 2020 when he used a government function, where Amit Shah and Mr. Palaniswami were present, to announce that the AIADMK, for which he was the coordinator then, and the BJP would continue their alliance for the 2021 Assembly polls. At the function, the veteran political leader, who joined the AIADMK in 1977, had hailed the Union Minister as a "modern day Chanakya".

The perception generated by Mr. Panneerselvam's meetings with Mr. Stalin may be hard to digest for the traditional supporters of the AIADMK, who have been schooled in viewing the DMK as an "evil force". But he seems to be having limited options. Even though he still has the option of going along with the fledgling Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) led by actor Vijay, the seasoned leader knows fully

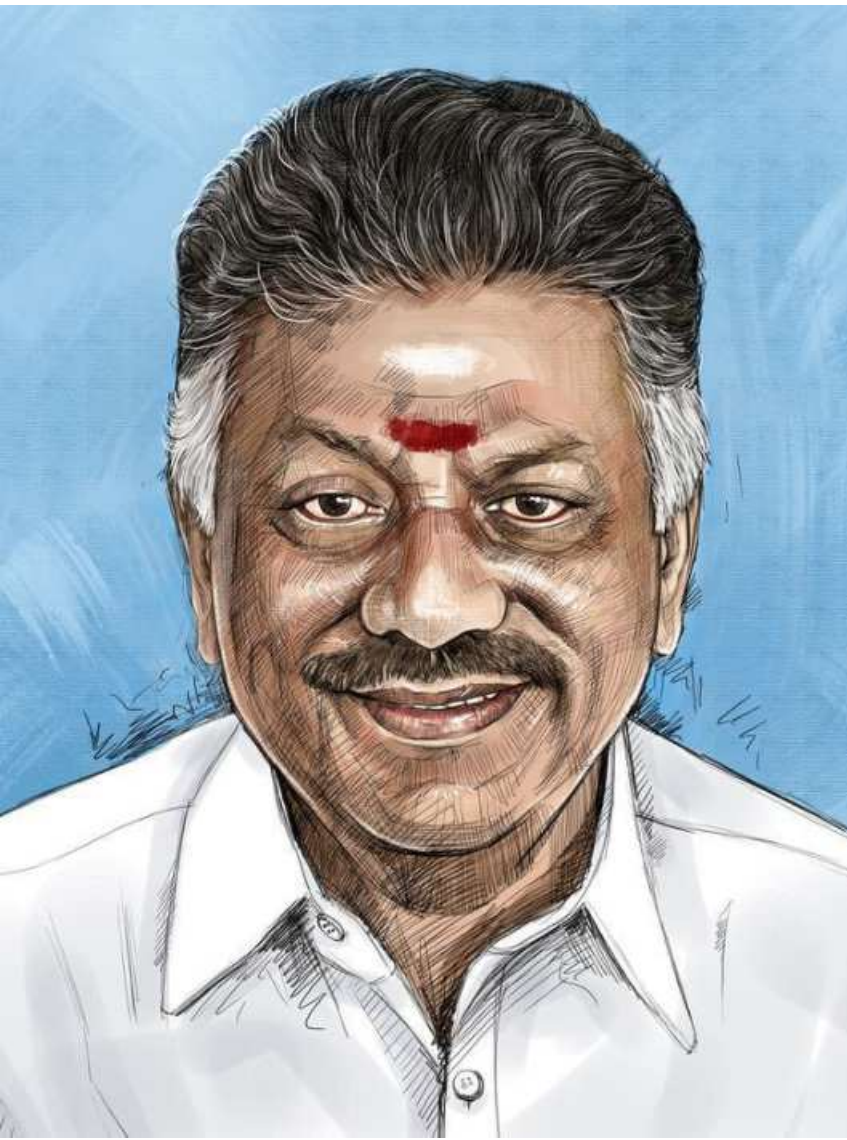


ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

well that given the grip of the bipolar system in the State, it is next to impossible for a third force to capture even a handful of seats.

Not everyone views Mr. Panneerselvam sympathetically and there are critics who say he has "proved yet again" that he is "unreliable". Originally, he drew his strength from his proximity to former interim general secretary of the AIADMK V.K. Sasikala, who had served as an aide of Jayalalithaa for about 30 years, and her nephew T.T.V. Dhinakaran, who is now heading the

Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK). All of them belong to the same caste group – Mukkulathor – though they are from different sub-groups: Mr. Panneerselvam from Maravar and Ms. Sasikala and Mr. Dhinakaran from Kallar.

Once called 'Mr. Faithful', Mr. Panneerselvam, who was with the Janaki Ramachandran group of the party at the time of the party split in 1988, came to be noted for qualities such as humility and fierce loyalty. No wonder, he became the party's nominee for the chairmanship of the

Periyakulam Municipality in 1996. His stock in the party began growing, particularly after he served as a key member of the campaign team when Mr. Dhinakaran contested from the Periyakulam Lok Sabha constituency in 1999 and won. Next year, Mr. Panneerselvam became the Theni district secretary of the AIADMK.

His qualities and the reputation of an archetypal feudal supplicant had stood him in good stead. He was the party's "natural choice" for the CM post in September 2001 after the Supreme Court unseated Jayalalithaa; in September 2014, when she was convicted in a disproportionate assets case; and in December 2016 after her death. In Jayalalithaa's Cabinet, he was, at one time, Minister in charge of 13 portfolios.

'Righteous war'

The high point in his political career came in February 2017 when he went out all guns blazing against Ms. Sasikala. After quitting the CM post and a 40-minute long "meditation" at the Jayalalithaa mausoleum on the Marina, he made a dramatic announcement, claiming that he was "compelled to quit the post". This marked the launch of his 'dharmayudham' (righteous war) against the "domination" of Ms. Sasikala's family in the party affairs. In no time, he patched up with Mr. Palaniswami, and became the Deputy Chief Minister six months later. Feeling that he had only a limited space to operate in the party and the government under Mr. Palaniswami, he swiftly re-established ties with Mr. Dhinakaran. At the time of the 2021 Assembly polls, he tried hard for the AMMK's accommodation under the AIADMK fold, but to no avail.

As he seems to have exhausted the "goodwill of his benefactors", including Mr. Modi, Mr. Panneerselvam, a survivor of many trials, is now at the mercy of Mr. Stalin to keep himself and his loyalists afloat. The traditional supporters of the AIADMK may not like it, but for Mr. Panneerselvam, it is a matter of life and death in electoral politics.

THE GIST

Panneerselvam was the AIADMK's "natural choice" for the CM post in September 2001 after the Supreme Court unseated Jayalalithaa; in September 2014, when Jayalalithaa was convicted in a disproportionate assets case; and in December 2016, after her death

After his resignation, he patched up with Palaniswami and became the Deputy Chief Minister. He was seen as a close supporter of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Late last month, the 'OPS' camp decided to exit the NDA, a move that was attributed to the Union government's refusal to provide funds to Tamil Nadu under the Samagra Shiksha scheme

A man of many persuasions

Jagdeep Dhankhar

In his political career spanning four decades, the former Vice President had worked in three political parties of different ideologies – the Janata Dal, the Congress and finally the BJP

Sobhana K. Nair

It was an unexpected phone call. Home Minister Amit Shah was on line. Jagdeep Dhankhar didn't expect the caller or the message. A few days later, on July 30, 2019, he took oath as Governor of West Bengal. Till he assumed the post, he had never met Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The former Vice President had taken to relaying this story often to illustrate perhaps his distance from the government.

In his four-decade-long political career, Mr. Dhankhar, 74, had worked in three parties of distinct persuasions – the Janata Dal, the Congress and finally the BJP. He may not have known Mr. Modi personally, but people close to him claim that he knew RSS intimately. In August 2024, while speaking in the upper house, he referred to the RSS as a "global think tank" with "unimpeachable credibility".

Jagdeep Dhankhar was born in 1951 in Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan and studied at Sainik School in Chittorgarh on scholarship. A graduate in Physics, he decided to pursue a career in law.

Mr. Dhankhar appeared on behalf of those accused of murdering 18-year-old Roop Kanwar, by burning her alive on her husband's pyre on September 4, 1987. All the 45 persons charged



for her death have been acquitted.

His political career began with a meeting with socialist leader Chaudhary Devi Lal. "I was not his relative... I remember the day when I saw him for the first time. When he asked me to contest the election, I replied that I was a pleader. He said to remove the 'P' and become a leader," said Mr. Dhankhar, while addressing a convocation ceremony in Haryana in March this year.

His appearance in favour of Roop Kanwar's in-laws gained him favour among the Rajputs, who ran an agitation against the state for taking legal action in the case. It was one of the factors leading to Mr. Dhankhar's victory in the 1989 general elections as the Janata Dal candidate. In the 11-month stint of the Janata Dal government at the Centre, Mr. Dhankhar became Minister of State (parliamentary affairs).

In 1991, he joined the Congress and contested from the Ajmer Lok Sabha constituency, but lost by

over 25,000 votes to the BJP candidate. Two years later, he contested the Assembly elections in Rajasthan from Kishangarh, which he won by 1,958 votes defeating the BJP candidate.

In 1998, he appeared for actor Salman Khan in the 1998 blackbuck poaching case. In 2003, he joined the BJP. Eventually, he grew closer to the RSS and was one of the lawyers advising senior RSS leader Indresh Kumar, who was linked to the 2007 Ajmer bomb blast case.

Role of Governor

On July 30, 2019, he was sworn in as the Governor of West Bengal. His tenure was marked by several public confrontations with the State government and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The Trinamool Congress referred to him as the "real Leader of the Opposition". But when the BJP fielded him as the Vice Presidential candidate, the Trinamool chose to abstain, accusing the Congress, which fielded Marga-

ret Alva, of not consulting them. Mr. Dhankhar won the 2022 election with 74.37% votes and recorded the highest poll-victory margin since 1992.

As the Rajya Sabha chairman and Vice President, Mr. Dhankhar hit headlines for his frequent critical remarks against the judiciary, insisting that the courts should only interpret the laws and not interfere in its making. The Opposition accused him of bias towards the government and had threatened to move a no-confidence motion against him in December 2024.

Since his resignation on July 21, nearly two years ahead of completing his tenure, citing health reasons, the opposition MPs have suggested that a farewell should be organised for him and many have reached out to Mr. Dhankhar but haven't got any response.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had welcomed the announcement of his name as the NDA's Vice Presidential candidate with a post on X praising him for his "illustrious legal, legislative and gubernatorial career", bade him goodbye with short post, "Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji has got many opportunities to serve our country in various capacities, including as the Vice President of India. Wishing him good health."

Defender of the Kremlin

Dmitry Medvedev

The former President and former Prime Minister of Russia has now morphed into one of the most aggressive voices of the establishment

Sruthi Darbhamulla

On August 1, U.S. President Donald Trump wrote on the social media that he had ordered two "nuclear submarines" to be positioned in "the appropriate regions", in a direct threat to Russia. Pete Hegseth, the Secretary of Defence, reposted Mr. Trump's post. The reason for Mr. Trump's escalatory move: back-to-back social media posts by Dmitry Medvedev, a former Russian President and Prime Minister. Mr. Trump also slammed the "foolish, inflammatory and provocative" statements by Mr. Medvedev.

Mr. Medvedev had evoked the fabled Dead Hand mechanism (also known as 'Perimeter'), a secretive semi-automated Russian command system that could launch a nuclear strike if its leaders were killed in enemy attacks.

Born on September 14, 1965 in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg), Dmitry Medvedev is the son of professors Yulia and Anatoly Medvedev. He earned a degree in law and then completed post-graduate studies at Leningrad State University, graduating in 1990. In 1989, he married Svetlana; their son Ilya, now 29, joined the United Russia Party of Vladimir Putin in 2022.

A PhD in law, Mr. Medvedev taught for nine years at the St. Petersburg State



ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

University. During this time, he also worked as an adviser to the city council, and in 1991, he joined the legal team working for the then Mayor of St. Petersburg, Anatoly Sobchak. It was here that he met Mr. Putin.

Mr. Putin became the acting President of Russia in December 1999, and Mr. Medvedev was tapped to become a member of his team. In 2000, he led Mr. Putin's presidential campaign, and was appointed the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Presidential Executive Office. In November 2005, he became the first Deputy Prime Minister, and was named by Mr. Putin as his successor in 2007. On May 7, 2008, Mr. Medvedev became the President of Russia, for a one-term stint since Mr. Putin was barred under the then Constitution from occupying the post for a third consecutive term. Soon after his inauguration, he nominated Mr. Putin as his Prime Minister.

Mr. Medvedev had campaigned with the slogan "Freedom is better than no

freedom," and during his stint as President, he undertook several reforms, such as the decriminalisation of defamation. He negotiated with the then U.S. President, Barack Obama, to reduce the number of nuclear warheads in the two nations, and presided over Russia's accession to the WTO. He also announced an end to counterinsurgency operations in Chechnya. He was at the helm when war broke out in Georgia in 2008.

New role

Mr. Putin returned as President in March 2012, and Mr. Medvedev became the head of the United Russia party and the Prime Minister of Russia, occupying this position from May 8, 2012 to 2020. He slowly faded into the background and eventually resigned as Prime Minister in 2020.

Post this, Mr. Medvedev was appointed as the deputy of the newly created National Security Council, an advisory body with Mr. Putin at its head.

Since the beginning of

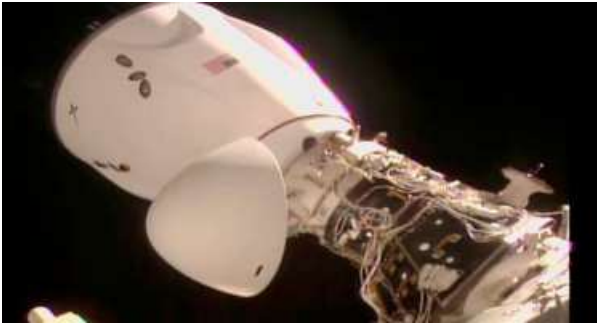
the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Mr. Medvedev has been a strong supporter of Mr. Putin's actions. He started a Telegram channel soon after the invasion, becoming Russia's most popular blogger by the end of 2022. This also turned around his image in the eyes of the public: from a public trust rating of 23% in 2021 from pollster VTsIOM, he notched a rating of 45.7% in June 2025.

While Mr. Trump and Mr. Medvedev have sparred before, the current exchange was sparked by Mr. Trump's post on July 29, warning that the U.S. would sanction Russia in 10 days if it did not take measures to end the war with Ukraine. Mr. Medvedev called this a "theatrical ultimatum", and said "each new ultimatum is a threat and a step towards war". He also warned that Russia was not "Israel or even Iran", and warned Mr. Trump to not "go down the Sleepy Joe road." In response, Mr. Trump called him "the failed former President of Russia, who thinks he's still President".

Mr. Medvedev responded via a message on Telegram, "If some words from the former president of Russia trigger such a nervous reaction from the high-and-mighty president of the U.S., then Russia is doing everything right and will continue to proceed along its own path."



FLORIDA  
SpaceX Crew Dragon docks with International Space Station



AP  
An international team of four astronauts aboard a SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule docked on Saturday with the orbiting International Space Station (ISS). American astronauts Zena Cardman and Mike Fincke, Japan's Kimiya Yui, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Oleg Platonov are joining the ISS on a six-month mission. AFP

PHNOM PENH  
Thailand returns two soldiers to Cambodia but holds on to 18



GETTY IMAGES  
Cambodia on Friday welcomed the return of two wounded soldiers who had been captured by the Thai Army after the two sides had already implemented a ceasefire to end five days of combat over competing territorial claims. Cambodia sought the release of the rest of the 20-member group captured on Tuesday. AP

MOSCOW  
Three persons die in overnight Ukrainian drone strikes on Russia



AFF  
Ukrainian drone attacks overnight into Saturday killed three persons, Russian officials said, as the two sides continued to trade air strikes. Russia's Defence Ministry said air defences intercepted or destroyed 112 drones across eight Russian regions and the Russian-occupied Crimean Peninsula. AP

ISLAMABAD  
Iranian President Pezeshkian arrives in Pakistan on official visit



AFF  
Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian arrived in Pakistan on Saturday on a two-day official visit to promote bilateral ties in the wake of recent regional conflicts. Former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and other senior officials received Mr. Pezeshkian on arrival in Lahore, according to the Foreign Office (FO). PTI

Bangladesh interim government to unveil 'July Declaration' on August 5

The Yunus govt. wants to give constitutional recognition to the student-led uprising that led to Hasina's ouster; the plan has sparked debate among political parties — not only over the declaration's content but over whether it should be legitimised

Press Trust of India  
DHAKA

The Bangladesh interim government of Muhammad Yunus on Saturday said it would unveil on August 5 the "July Declaration", coinciding with the first anniversary of the ouster of then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime. "The interim government has finalised the draft of the July Declaration. It will be presented on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, before the nation," Mr. Yunus's press wing said. The Yunus-led interim government wants to give constitutional recognition to the student-led uprising



Glory moment: Anti-government protestors celebrate in Shahbagh near Dhaka university area in Dhaka on August 5, 2024. AFP

that took place last year in July-August, which led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. This recognition is known as the July Declaration.

Information adviser Mahfuj Alam, whom Mr. Yunus earlier called the "main brain" or the mastermind of what is dubbed the July uprising, mean-

while, said the much-anticipated July Declaration was now a "reality". The Students Against Discrimination (SAD) led last year's violent campaign that eventually toppled the Awami League regime, prompting Ms. Hasina to flee the country on August 5, 2024. However, the idea for the July Declaration arose to SAD leaders by the end of December last year. Mr. Yunus's government initially preferred to distance itself from the move, calling it a "private initiative", but in a surprise announcement later said the government itself would prepare the "proclamation of July uprising".

The proponents of the declaration say it is aimed at "unifying the nation around last year's core values of anti-fascism, democratic resurgence, and state reform" but it sparked debate among political parties — not only over its content alone but also over whether it should be granted constitutional status. Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said there was no scope to bring any change in the political process outside parliament, which does not exist in the country.

More than a dozen seeking aid killed in Israeli firing in Gaza

Associated Press  
DEIR AL-BALAH

More than a dozen people, eight of them food-seekers, were killed by Israeli fire on Saturday, health officials in Gaza said, as Palestinians endured severe risks searching for food amid airdrops and restrictions on overland aid delivery. Near a Gaza Humanitarian Foundation distribution site, Yahia Youssef, who had come to seek aid on Saturday morning, described a panicked scene now grimly familiar. After helping carry out three persons wounded by gunshots, he said he looked around and saw others lying on the ground bleeding. "It's the same daily episode," Mr. Youssef said. In response to questions about several eyewitness accounts of violence at the



Placation bid: White House special envoy Steve Witkoff arrives in Tel Aviv on Saturday to meet families of hostages held in Gaza. AP

northernmost of the Israeli-backed American contractor's four facilities, the GHF said "nothing (happened) at or near our sites." The episode came a day after U.S. officials visited one site and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee called the distribution "an incredible feat."

Seven Palestinians died of malnutrition-related causes in the Gaza Strip over the past 24 hours, the territory's Health Ministry said on Saturday. They include a child bringing total deaths among children from causes related to malnutrition in Gaza to 93 since the war began.

Indians in Ireland urged to take 'reasonable precautions'

Kallol Bhattacharjee  
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of racist attacks on foreigners in Dublin, the Embassy of India in Ireland has issued an advisory for citizens urging them to take "reasonable precautions". The advisory came soon after an Indian national took to social media, on July 31, reporting that he became the latest victim of an attack by teenage gang members. "There has been an increase in the instances of physical attacks reported against Indian citizens in Ireland recently. The Embassy is in touch with the authorities concerned of Ireland in this regard. At the same time, all Indian citizens in Ireland are advised to take reasonable precautions for their personal security and avoid deserted areas, especially

In the latest incident, a Multimodal AI Scientist was assaulted by teenage gang members

in odd hours," said the Indian Embassy in Ireland in the advisory. The announcement urged Indian citizens to contact 0899423734 in case of emergency. The Hindu had earlier reported that an Indian employee working with Amazon was assaulted by teenage gang members on July 19. Indian Ambassador Akhilesh Mishra had said the incident had caused "widespread concern and fear" among the 90,000-strong Indian community in Ireland. The latest incident took place on July 31 when Dr. Santosh Yadav, a Multimodal AI Scientist,

was assaulted, leaving him with a fractured cheekbone and other injuries. Dr. Yadav took to social network LinkedIn to share images of the injuries, and said, "This is not an isolated incident. Racist attacks on Indian men and other minorities are surging across Dublin." Ambassador Mishra has said the Indian mission is in touch with the wider Indian community. "The recurrence of attacks on innocent, highly qualified technical experts and professionals has caused widespread fear among the community all over Ireland. Well-being of the Indian community is a matter of high priority to the embassy and the Ministry of External Affairs. The matter has been taken up with the relevant Irish authorities in Dublin and also in Delhi."

Turkiye starts supplying Azerbaijani gas to Syria

Agence France-Presse  
ISTANBUL

Turkiye on Saturday turned on a supply of natural gas from Azerbaijan to Syria, whose infrastructure was ravaged by civil war, with annual deliveries expected to reach up to two billion cubic metres. Syria's Islamist authorities, who toppled President Bashar al-Assad in December, are seeking to rebuild the battered country where power cuts can last for more than 20 hours a day. Speaking at a ceremony attended by Syria's Energy Minister, Azerbaijan's Economy Minister and the head of Qatar's development fund, Turkish Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said the initiative would help normalise Syria.

Attacks in China, Japan raise concerns about xenophobia in both countries

Associated Press

A Japanese woman living in China was attacked and injured by a man in a Suzhou subway station, Japanese media outlets said, hours after two Chinese men were seriously injured in violence in Tokyo. The attacks on Thursday raised concern about xenophobic sentiment in both China and Japan that have been blamed for assaults in both countries. It was the third attack involving Japanese living in China since last year. In the two previous cases in China, Chinese authorities have



A Japanese woman who was with her child was injured in an attack at the Suzhou subway station in eastern China on Thursday. AP

insisted they were isolated incidents. The Japanese broadcaster NHK did not identify the woman injured in Suz-

hou by name but, citing the Japanese Consulate General in Shanghai, said she was with her child inside a subway station when

the attack took place. The child was not injured, and the mother had returned home after reportedly getting treated at a hospital, NHK reported. The Japanese news agency Kyodo said the suspect had been detained. In Tokyo earlier on Thursday, two Chinese men were seriously injured in attacks, and four men wielding unspecified weapons remained at large, according to a statement released by the Chinese Embassy in Japan. The identities of the assailants had remained unclear.

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RELISHING THE CHALLENGE

The wicket was spicy... was fun batting on that surface: Jaiswal



GETTY IMAGES

The wicket was spicy. It was fun batting on that surface because you expect such wickets in England. Mentally I was ready, and it was about pushing myself. I was trying to plan on how to go about it, and I played according to the situation — Yashasvi Jaiswal after scoring his second century of the series.

PROLIFIC, BUT...

Gill's splendid series not enough to surmount Gavaskar's epic 774



AP

Shubman Gill (754 runs) fell short of Sunil Gavaskar's record of 774 (in four Tests vs West Indies, 1970-71) for the most runs by an Indian in a Test series. Gill's sequence in the current series against England read: 147 & 8 (Leeds), 269 & 161 (Birmingham), 16 & 6 (Lord's), 12 & 103 (Manchester), 21 & 11 (The Oval).

CHASING HISTORY

England looks at a record pursuit at The Oval in the last 100 years



PTI

Since the turn of the century, only one team has successfully chased more than 200 at The Oval in the fourth innings (Sri Lanka's 219 vs England in 2024). The record for the highest fourth-innings chase in the last 100 years at the venue is with the West Indies (253 vs England in 1963).

STAR WATCH

Rohit makes an appearance during the third day's play at The Oval



GETTY IMAGES

As India dominated the third day's play, Rohit Sharma was in attendance at The Oval. Rohit, who retired from Test cricket just before the England series, watched two sessions, along with Mumbai Indians owner Akash Ambani and former West Indies cricketer Kieron Pollard, among others.

Jaiswal's ton, Jadeja and Washington's knocks put India in the driver's seat

The opener puts on 107 for the third wicket with nightwatcher Akash; Siraj strikes in the last over to send back Crawley in England's chase of 374

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shavan Acharya  
LONDON

Yashasvi Jaiswal broke the shackles when it mattered the most. After a memorable start to the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, with a century in the first Test and an 87 in the second, the young Indian opener struggled in his next six innings, notching up only 101 runs.

But, at The Oval on Saturday, Jaiswal proved why he is rated so highly. Making the most of three dropped catches, the southpaw raced to his sixth Test hundred (118, 164b, 14x4, 2x6) as India set England a target of 374 after posting 396 in its second innings.

It was Jaiswal and nightwatcher Akash Deep who set the tone before Jadeja scored another fifty and Washington Sundar spiced up the third day of the fifth Test with a 46-ball-53. Washington added 39 runs for the last wicket partnering Prasidh Krishna.

Pursuing what could be the highest run-chase at the iconic venue, England looked fairly comfortable before Mohammed Siraj cleaned up Zak Crawley with the final ball of the day as the home sided ended at 50 for one.

Earlier, as the sun shone bright, Jaiswal forged a 107-stand for the third wicket with Akash (66, 94b, 12x4).



Standing tall: Jaiswal delivered under pressure while Washington's late blitz took India close to the 400-run mark. GETTY IMAGES & PTI

Having lost two wickets, it was a test of patience for the Indian batters, and with Jaiswal holding firm, Akash frustrated the England bowlers as runs flowed.

Akash went on to score his maiden international fifty and also became the third Indian nightwatcher — after Chetan Sharma and Amit Mishra — to score a Test half-century. Incidentally, back in 2011, Mishra scored 84 against England at the same venue.

At a crucial juncture of the match, Akash stepped up and built that long partnership, which eventually put India in the driver's seat. By the time Jamie Overton broke the stand, with Akash offering a leading edge that carried to point, India was on course.

And, with the butter-fingered England fielders dropping six catches, Jaiswal flexed his muscles. Playing every ball on its merit, Jaiswal brought up 82 of his first 100 runs be-

hind square, and significantly, his second hundred of the series also came with a nudge in the same area.

England, however, started the second session well as Shubman Gill was trapped in front off an in-swinging delivery by Gus Atkinson. The dejected Indian captain fell 20 runs short of Sunil Gavaskar's record tally of 774 runs — the most by an Indian batter in a Test series.

Karun Nair, walking in



SCOREBOARD

<b>INDIA — 1ST INNINGS</b>
224 in 69.4 overs
<b>ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS</b>
247 in 51.2 overs
<b>INDIA — 2ND INNINGS</b>
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Overton b Tongue 118 (164b, 14x4, 2x6), K.L. Rahul c Root b Tongue 7 (28b, 1x4), B. Sai Sudharsan lbw b Atkinson 11 (29b, 1x4), Akash Deep c Atkinson b Overton 66 (94b, 12x4), Shubman Gill lbw b Atkinson 11 (9b, 2x4), Karun Nair c Smith b Atkinson 17 (32b, 3x4), Ravindra Jadeja c Brook b Tongue 53 (77b, 5x4), Dhruv Jurel lbw b Overton 34 (46b, 4x4), Washington Sundar c Crawley b Tongue 53 (46b, 4x4, 4x6), Mohammed Siraj lbw b Tongue 0 (3b), Prasidh Krishna (not out) 0 (2b); Extras (b-13, lb-5, nb-2, w-6): 26; Total (in 88 overs): 396.
<b>FALL OF WICKETS</b>
1-46 (Rahul, 9.5 overs), 2-70 (Sai Sudharsan, 17.2), 3-177 (Akash, 42.1), 4-189 (Gill, 44.1), 5-229 (Karun, 54.3), 6-273 (Jaiswal, 64.2), 7-323 (Jurel, 76.2), 8-357 (Jadeja, 83.2), 9-357 (Siraj, 83.5).
<b>ENGLAND BOWLING</b>
Atkinson 27-3-127-3, Tongue 30-4-125-5, Overton 22-2-98-2, Bethell 4-0-13-0, Root 5-1-15-0.
<b>ENGLAND — 2ND INNINGS (Target 374)</b>
Zak Crawley b Siraj 14 (36b, 2x4), Ben Duckett (batting) 34 (48b, 4x4); Extras (lb-1, nb-1): 2; Total (for one wkt. in 13.5 overs): 50.
<b>FALL OF WICKET</b>
1-50 (Crawley, 13.5).
<b>INDIA BOWLING</b>
Akash 5-1-15-0, Prasidh 5-1-23-0, Siraj 3.5-0-11-1.

tremendous fighting spirit. Josh Tongue (five for 125) ended Jaiswal's vigil. Jadeja and Washington ensured India remained on top before Siraj provided a psychological boost.



Gutsy effort: Akash was not afraid to play his shots as he registered his maiden Test fifty. GETTY IMAGES

Nightwatcher Akash has a productive day

Shavan Acharya  
LONDON

A couple of days before the final Test, Akash Deep posted a picture of himself on social media, captioned: 'Every ball counts — even in practice'.

And at The Oval on Saturday, he walked the talk, making every ball count — albeit with the bat. Coming in as a nightwatcher, Akash made the most of a reprieve and went on to score a gritty half-century.

He became the first Indian nightwatcher to register a Test fifty since Amit Mishra, who made 84 against England at the same ground in 2011. Mishra had also scored 50 against Bangladesh in 2010 in his role as a nightwatcher. In fact Mishra and Akash are the only Indian nightwatchers to register a fifty in the 21st century.

When Akash walked out to bat at the fag end of the second day, India had lost two wickets and was in a tricky position. On a rather

sunny third morning, Akash forged a crucial 107-run partnership for the third wicket with opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and helped India go past the 150-run lead.

It was a test of character, and Akash looked at ease while facing the England pacers. As he reached his maiden fifty, he pumped his fist and pointed to the India crest. Jaiswal hugged him, while his teammates in the dressing room, too, were delighted.

He was caught by Gus Atkinson at backward point off Jamie Overton's bowling with the total on 177. The right-hander's 94-ball 66 included 12 hits to the fence.

This wasn't the first time that Akash proved his mettle with the willow. In December last year, he forged a crucial 47-run partnership with Jasprit Bumrah for the last wicket as India went past the follow-on mark during the rain-marred Gabba Test, which ended in a draw.

Asia Cup: India-Pakistan game in Dubai

Press Trust of India  
DUBAI

The marquee India-Pakistan game will be held in Dubai during the upcoming Asia Cup which is scheduled to start in the UAE from September 9.

India and Pakistan will square off on September 14 in Dubai and one more time, potentially on September 21, at the same venue. The final on September 28 will also be held in Dubai. The tournament will be held in T20I format keeping in mind the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka early next year.

Out of 19 games in the tournament, 11 will be held in Dubai and eight in Abu Dhabi.

India will play two of its league games on September 10 (vs. UAE) and September 14 (vs. Pakistan) at Dubai while the final league game against Oman will be held at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on September 19.

Gaps in CSK squad plugged in second half of IPL 2025: Dhoni

S. Dipak Ragav  
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings had a forgettable time in the IPL earlier this year, but M.S. Dhoni feels the team plugged the gaps in the squad in the second half of the season and exuded confidence about the future.

Dhoni led the team in nine matches after regular skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad was injured, and the team finished last with just four wins.

"There were certain holes that we needed to plug. We were slightly worried about our batting order. But I think our batting order is quite sorted out now. Rutu (Gaikwad) will be coming back. So it looks like we are quite sorted," Dhoni said at the launch of Maxivision Super Speciality Eye Hospitals here on Saturday.

Though CSK hasn't qualified for the Playoffs in the last two seasons, the form-



Making a point: Dhoni is confident about Super Kings' future. AKHILA EASWARAN

er India skipper explained that the team has always been good at identifying the shortcomings and addressing them.

"I feel more often than not, we have been able to figure out what exactly went wrong. A small auction is coming in December, some loopholes are there, and we will try to plug those," he added.

"You have to be at your best at the start of the tournament and get the planning right. You have to use the resources in the best possible manner. We will

try to sort out most of the things and will hopefully be at our best."

Between seasons, there is always speculation about Dhoni's future.

While he did not explicitly reveal his plans, the 44-year-old dropped a hint when he quipped, "I just got a tick mark that I can play cricket for the next five years. But the catch is that I have been given clearance only for eyesight. I need clearance for my body as well. I cannot play cricket just with my eyes alone".



Ajaraie.

Ajaraie's 'trick' does it for NEUFC

Sports Bureau

Defending champion NorthEast United FC rode on its Moroccan forward Alaeddine Ajaraie's hat-trick to beat Malaysian Armed Forces 3-1 in a Group-E match in the Durand Cup at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong on Saturday.

Tribhuvan Army FC and debutant ILadakh FC played out a 1-1 draw in a Group-C encounter at the JRD Tata Sports Complex Stadium in Jamshedpur.

**The results: Group C (Jamshedpur):** Tribhuvan Army FC 1 (Niranjan 40) drew with 1Ladakh FC 1 (Siju 23); **Group E (Shillong):** NorthEast United FC 3 (Ajaraie 23, 29, 70) bt Malaysian Armed Forces 1 (Amir 88).

Leclerc takes McLaren by surprise, grabs pole position

FORMULA ONE

Associated Press  
BUDAPEST

Charles Leclerc snatched a surprise first pole position of the year for Ferrari at the Hungarian Grand Prix on Saturday, beating both the McLarens.

Leclerc punched the air in delight as he climbed out of the car after beating Oscar Piastri by 0.026s and Lando Norris by 0.041s.

The Ferrari driver had consistently been the best of the rest behind the McLarens in practice but remained well off Piastri and Norris' pace.

That changed in qualifying, with the help of conditions working against the McLarens. Norris and Piastri were each about half a second slower per lap in the final part of qualifying, compared to the second segment.

Hamilton qualified 12th as his troubles in his first



Shocking turn of events: Leclerc will be on pole for the first time this season. AP

season with Ferrari continued.

Defending champion Max Verstappen was only eighth after struggling with the balance of his Red Bull, and his teammate Yuki Tsunoda was 16th. That piles more pressure on the Japanese driver, who hasn't scored a point in six races.

**The grid:** Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) and Oscar Piastri (McLaren); **Second:** Lando Norris (McLaren) and George Russell

(Mercedes); **Third:** Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin) and Lance Stroll (Aston Martin); **Fourth:** Gabriel Bortoleto (Saubert) and Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing); **Fifth:** Liam Lawson (Racing Bulls) and Isack Hadjar (Racing Bulls). **Sixth:** Oliver Bearman (Haas) and Lewis Hamilton (Ferrari); **Seventh:** Carlos Sainz (Williams) and Franco Colapinto (Alpine); **Eighth:** Andrea Kimi Antonelli (Mercedes) and Yuki Tsunoda (Red Bull Racing); **Ninth:** Pierre Gasly (Alpine) and Esteban Ocon (Haas); **10th:** Nico Hulkenberg (Saubert) and Alexander Albon (Williams).



INBRIEF



USA sets world record in mixed 4x100 freestyle relay

USA set a world record in the mixed 4x100 metres freestyle relay at the World championships in Singapore on Saturday. The U.S. team of Jack Alexy, Patrick Sammon, Kate Douglass and Torri Huske clocked 3:18.48, breaking Australia's previous mark of 3:18.83 set at the 2023 Worlds in Fukuoka. Meanwhile, Katie Ledecky beat Summer McIntosh in a titanic three-way battle to win a thrilling 800m freestyle title. Ledecky won her seventh career gold in the event.

Yashita goes down to Tania, finishes with silver in 61kg

Yashita lost 11-0 to USA's Tania Fernandez in the women's 61kg final to finish with a silver medal at the World under-17 wrestling championships in Athens. With two gold, three silver and a bronze, India (151 points) finished atop the women's team rankings ahead of USA (142) and Japan (113). Sitender made it to men's freestyle 60kg final.

Bayern Munich's Pavlovic fractures eye socket

Bayern Munich midfielder Aleksandar Pavlovic's bad luck with injuries and illness seems to have struck again. The team said on Saturday that Pavlovic has undergone surgery after fracturing his eye socket in a team training session on Friday. Bayern didn't say exactly how the injury happened or how long Pavlovic would be out.



Son to leave Tottenham this summer after a decade

Tottenham captain Son Heung-min said on Saturday that he intends to leave the club this summer after a decade in north London. The 33-year-old attacker joined the Premier League side from Bayer Leverkusen in 2015 and went on to play more than 450 times for Spurs. "Before we start the press conference I wanted to say I have decided to leave the club this summer," the South Korean told reporters in Seoul, where Tottenham is on a pre-season tour.

LIVE TELECAST

- England vs India:** 5th Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.
- Football:** Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.
- Formula One:** Hungarian GP, F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 6.30 p.m.
- Tennis:** ATP Masters, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 p.m. & 4.30 a.m. (Monday).
- WI vs Pakistan:** 3rd T20I, FanCode, 5.30 a.m. (Monday).

Dhakshineswar loses to second seed Spizzirri

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Qualifier Dhakshineswar Suresh lost 7-6(4), 6-4 to second seed Eliot Spizzirri of USA in the quarterfinals of the \$100,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Lexington, USA. Dhakshineswar fired aces by the dozen in the tournament as he collected 16 ATP points, including six for qualification, and \$2,890.

The Indian challenge, however, was sustained by Anirudh Chandrasekar and Ramkumar Ramanathan as they set up the dou-

bles final against Yu Hsiou Hsu and Tsung-Hao Huang of Chinese Taipei.

**The results:** **\$100,000 Challenger, Lexington, USA: Quarterfinals:** Eliot Spizzirri (USA) bt Dhakshineswar Suresh 7-6(4), 6-4. **Doubles: Semifinals:** Anirudh Chandrasekar & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Pranav Kumar (USA) & Kody Pearson (Aus) 7-6(3), 4-6, [10-3]. **\$30,000 ITF men, Brazzaville, Congo: Semifinals:** Florent Bax (Fra) bt Dev Javia 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. **Doubles: Semifinals:** Florent Bax & Paul Inchauspe (Fra) bt Chinmaya Dev Chauhan & Dev Javia 6-0, 6-3; Seydina Andre (Sen) & Nicolas Jadoun (Fra) bt Matteo Covato (Ita) & Digvijay Pratap Singh 6-4, 7-5.

Lakshya and Tharun bow out in semis

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India  
MACAU

India's campaign at the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament came to an end on Saturday after Lakshya Sen and Tharun Manneapalli suffered semifinal defeats in their respective men's singles matches.

Lakshya couldn't match the pace and precision of Indonesia's Alwi Farhan, going down 21-16, 21-9 in a 39-minute contest.

In the other semifinal, India's Tharun went down fighting against Malaysia's Justin Hoh in a gripping three-game contest that lasted an hour and 21 minutes. The 23-year-old Tharun, ranked 47th, squandered a strong start to lose 19-21, 21-16, 21-16.

It has been a tough season for world number 17 Lakshya, who has had seven first-round exits and two second-round ousters.

However, it was Farhan, the 2023 World junior champion and a member of Indonesia's bronze-medal-winning Sudirman Cup squad, who produced a dominating performance to knock him out of the tournament.

**The results: Men: Semifinals:** Alwi Farhan bt Lakshya Sen 21-16, 21-9; Justin Hoh bt Tharun Manneapalli 19-21, 21-16, 21-16.

India's first FIFA Talent Academy for girls launched

Anirudh Velamuri  
HYDERABAD

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Government of Telangana signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to launch India's first FIFA Talent Academy for girls at the Gachibowli Stadium Complex. The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the Telangana Sports Conclave here on Saturday.

The national federation, in coordination with FIFA, will lead operations, technical framework, talent scouting and training curriculum. The Sports Authority of Telangana (SATG) will oversee infrastructure, logistics, education, financial and welfare support.

"This marks a defining moment in our journey towards equitable football development. The academy will inspire a generation of footballers who can dream of representing India at the highest levels.

Kirpal's 53.62m throw lands him discus gold

Yashvir claims the javelin throw event; Anakha registers her first-ever sub-54 timing winning the 400m; Sherin edges Sandra to clinch top spot in women's long jump

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Discus thrower Kirpal Singh won his second consecutive competition at the Indian Grand Prix 3 at the Guru Nanak Stadium, Ludhiana, on Saturday.

The former Inter-State and Federation Cup champion followed up on his gold-winning performance at the Indian Open meet last week with a best throw of 53.62m. Kirpal, the last Indian and one of only five to cross the 60m mark in 2022, is returning from a two-year dope ban.

Also winning was Yashvir Singh in javelin throw with a best of 77.79m even as his main competitors – Sahil Silwal and Vikrant Malik – did not start. Talented youngster Dipanshu Sharma failed to reach 70m, settling for a fifth place finish with 66.98m.

Among the women, quartermiler Anakha B.A. registered her personal best with her first-ever sub-54 timing, winning the 400m in 53.40s. Anakha was also part of the 4x400m relay squad at the



On a roll: Kirpal followed up on his Indian Open win last week with another top show in the Indian Grand Prix 3. FILE PHOTO: B. VELANKANNI RAJ

recent World University Games, where the team finished fifth.

In long jump, only Sherin A. and Sandra Babu crossed the 6m mark, the former winning with 6.12m while Amandeep Kaur ran alone in the 1500m after the only other entrant, Shivechha Patil of Maharashtra, failed to turn up.

**The results (winners only): Men: 100m:** Harjit Singh (Air Force, 10.50s), **200m:** Jishnu

Prasad P.K. (BSF, 21.48s), **800m:** Nilkantha Ray (Army, 1:51.49), **5000m:** Onkar Panhalkar (Army, 14:32.36), **400mH:** Aswin Krishnan L. (TN, 50.98s).

**3000m steeple chase:** Benjamin Babu (Ker, 9:47.59), **Long jump:** Mohd. Atta Sazid (Har, 7.79m).

**High jump:** Sarvesh Kushare (Mah, 2.23m), **Triple jump:** Jay Shah (Mah, 15.67m), **Shot put:** Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Pun, 18.93m), **Discus throw:** Kirpal Singh (ONGC, 53.62m), **Hammer throw:** Shantanu Uchale (Mah, 62.76m), **Javelin throw:** Yashvir

Singh (Raj, 77.79m).

**Women: 100m:** Jilna M.V. (AIPSCB, 11.70s), **400m:** Anakha B.A. (JSW, 53.40s), **800m:** Amandeep Kaur (Pun, 2:09.31), **1500m:** Amandeep (4:38.42), **5000m:** Antima Pal (Rel, 17:30.60), **100mH:** Nithya Ramraj (TN, 13.29s), **400mH:** R. Vithya Ramraj (TN, 1:01.01), **Long jump:** Sherin A (TN, 6.12m), **High jump:** Jonika Pahal (Har, 1.75m).

**Shot put:** Shiksha (NCOE, 15.27m), **Discus throw:** Anisha (Har, 49.38m), **Hammer throw:** Tanya Chaudhary (UP, 60.34m).



Kishan. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Ishan to lead East in Duleep Trophy

Sports Bureau  
KOLKATA

Jharkhand wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan will lead East Zone in the Duleep Trophy to be held in Bengaluru from August 28.

The team includes pacers Mohammed Shami, Akash Deep and Mukesh Kumar, apart from prominent batters Abhimanyu Easwaran and Riyan Parag. Teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi is among the standbys.

East will first take on North from August 28 to 31.

**The squad:** Ishan Kishan (capt., wk), Abhimanyu Easwaran (vice-capt.), Sandeep Patnaik, Virat Singh, Denish Das, Sridam Paul, Sharandeep Singh, Kumar Kushagra (wk), Riyan Parag, Utkarsh Singh, Manishi, Suraj Jaiswal, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep and Mohammed Shami. **Standbys:** Mukhtar Hussain, Aasirwad Swain, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Swastik Samal, Sudip Kumar Gharami and Rahul Singh.

Sarthak pulls off a fighting win; grand triple for Jagathishree

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau  
COIMBATORE

Pune teenager Sarthak Chavan (Petronas TVS Racing) pulled off a brilliant win, his second in three starts, in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open category at the Rolon Round of the MRF-MMSC FMSCI National Motorcycle Racing Championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Saturday.

Starting from third on the grid, 18-year-old Sarthak survived some close calls and contacts with pole-sitter, Hyderabad's Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1), who eventually finished third behind Chennai teenager Johann Reeves Emmanuel (Motul KTM Gusto Racing India) to win an incident-filled 10-lap race.

Later, One Racing's Jagathishree Kumaresan, the 21-year-old from Chennai, won all three races she



Sarthak Chavan

took part in. The defending champion won both her outings in the Girls' Stock 165cc category of the National Championship and, in between, topped the women's race in the Petronas TVS India One-Make Championship.

**The results (Provisional – all 10 laps unless mentioned):** National C'ship: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (Race-1): 1. Sarthak Chavan (Petronas TVS Racing) 12:11.514s; 2. Johann Reeves Emmanuel (Motul KTM Gusto Racing India) 12:13.197; 3. Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1) 12:14.197.



Jagathishree Kumaresan

**Pro-Stock 165-200cc Open (Race-1):** 1. Savion Sabu (Mad Rabbit Racing) 13:15.722; 2. P.M. Soorya (LGE Racing) 13:15.784; 3. Senthilkumar (RDX Torque Racing) 13:16.156.

**Super Stock 165cc Intermediate (Race-1):** 1. Raj Kumar (Motul Sparks Racing) 14:01.641; 2. Mohammed Samrul Zubair (Motul Sparks Racing) 14:08.520; 3. Kamal Navas (Rockers Racing) 14:22.495.

**Stock 301-400cc (Novice, Race-1, 3 laps):** 1. Mohamed Mikail (Mad Rabbit Racing) 4:03.706; 2. Varun Patil (Mad Rabbit Racing) 4:05.823; 3. Raivat Dhar (MAI Racing) 4:06.348. **Stock 165cc (Novice, Race-1, 4**

**laps):** 1. Amit Prasad (Mad Rabbit Racing) 6:00.854; 2. Lal Nunsunga (Motul Sparks Racing) 6:00.884; 3. Hari Haran (RACR Castrol Power1) 6:00.958.

**Girls (Stock 165cc, Race-1, 3 laps):** 1. Jagathishree Kumaresan (One Racing) 4:28.857; 2. Lani Zena Fernandez (RACR Castrol Power1) 4:37.835; 3. Saima Ajaz Baig (KYT Helmet ISBK Racing) 4:38.480.

**Race-2 (8 laps):** 1. Jagathishree Kumaresan 11:53.637; 2. Ryhana Bee (KYT Helmet ISBK Racing) 11:53.817; 3. Ann Jennifer (Motul Sparks Racing) 11:58.437.

**Petronas TVS India One-Make Championship: Expert (Apache RR 310) (Race-1):** 1. P. Mohan Babu 12:58.967; 2. Manoj Yesuadiyan 13:02.937; 3. G. Balaji 13:06.195.

**Women (RTR 200, 8 laps):** 1. Jagathishree Kumaresan 11:49.700; 2. S.P. Shurua 12:03.542; 3. Sarah Khan 12:15.987.

**Rookie (RTR 200, Race-1):** 1. Hari Haran 14:47.447; 2. A. Joshua 15:01.602; 3. Steve Waugh Sushu 15:01.775.

**Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup: Honda CB 300F (Race-1):** 1. B.A. Tejash (Tumakuru) 14:07.625; 2. Raivat Dhar 14:08.219; 3. Anit Prasad 14:14.584.

Rathi's last-ball six takes East Delhi to a thrilling victory over South Delhi

DPL

Vivek Krishnan  
NEW DELHI

Defending champion East Delhi Riders began the second edition of the Delhi Premier League (DPL) with a thrilling five-wicket win over South Delhi Superstarz at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Saturday.

With East Delhi chasing 170 for a victory, the equation boiled down to three runs off the final ball.

Rohan Rathi delivered a handsome six over deep midwicket off Himanshu Chauhan to seal the deal.

Opting to bat on winning the toss, South Delhi Superstarz rode on useful



In vain: Sarthak's unbeaten knock of 41 was not enough for Superstarz as Riders scampered home. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

contributions from Sarthak Ray (41 n.o.) and Abhishek Khandelwal (40 n.o.) to post 169 for six in its allotted 20 overs.

While opener Sarthak provided a sturdy foundation and went on to bat

right through the innings, Abhishek applied the finishing touches with a blistering cameo that was studded with four fours and two sixes.

For East Delhi, left-arm spinner Ashish Meena was

the pick of the bowlers with figures of 3-0-14-2.

In the chase, Hardik Sharma and Anuj Rawat stitched together a 49-run stand for the third wicket. Anuj took a liking to mystery spinner Digvesh Rathi in the 12th over with two fours and a towering maximum over long-on.

With Hardik dismissed by Divansh Rawat soon after, Anuj and Mayank Rawat took East Delhi closer to the finish line with a 50-run partnership.

The scores:

South Delhi Superstarz 169/6 in 20 overs (Sarthak Ray 41 n.o., Abhishek Khandelwal 40 n.o.) lost to East Delhi Riders 173/5 in 20 overs (Anuj Rawat 55, Mayank Rawat 30, Divansh Rawat 3/43).

Messi's India tour: opening leg in Kolkata

Press Trust of India  
KOLKATA

If all the pieces fall in place, football fans in Kolkata will have the first sighting of Lionel Messi after a decade on December 13. The Argentine's whirlwind journey will also see him go to Ahmedabad, Mumbai and New Delhi, culminating in a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Sources privy to the development said all arrangements have been finalised but an official confirmation from Messi is still awaited.

Messi's Kolkata schedule includes unveiling of a

70-foot statue of himself at Lake Town Sribhumi.

"He will play the GOAT Cup in a seven-side soft-ball, soft-touch game with Sourav Ganguly, Leander Paes, John Abraham, Bhai-chung Bhutia among others," the source said. "This will be at Eden Gardens and it will be a ticketing event." West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is expected to felicitate Messi.

On December 13 evening, Messi is slated to travel to Ahmedabad to attend a private event hosted by the Adani Foundation. He will then reach Mumbai for events on December 14.



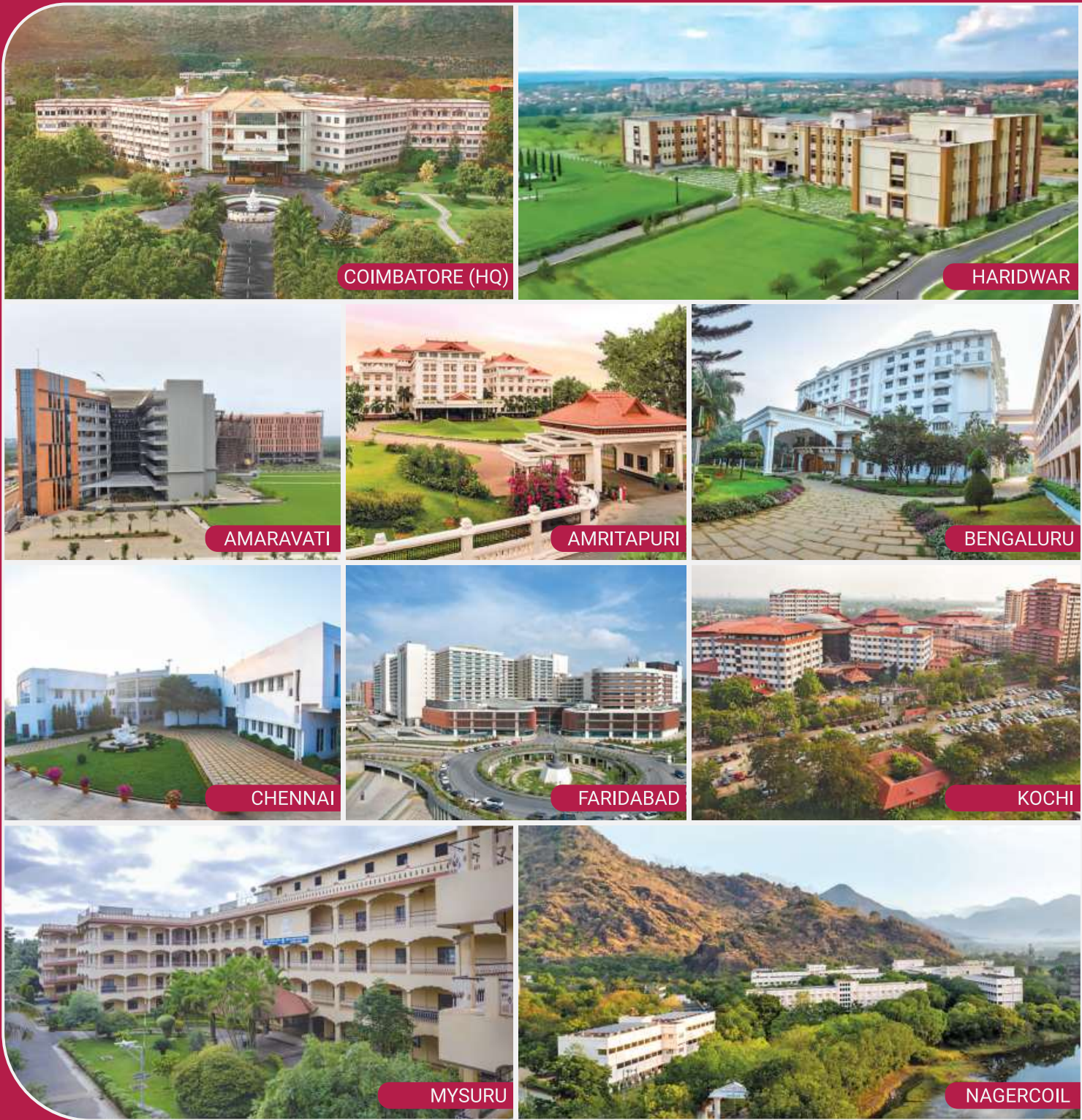


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\*T&C APPLY





**Before the dash:** A farmer tries to control an ox before the race on the mud-filled track.



**Cooling down:** Farmers wash a bull in a puddle before the race begins.



**Waiting their turn:** Organisers use chits to determine the racing order.



**Fields of fury:** An oxen team competes in the traditional ploughing race known as *Naangarni Spardha* at Ringane village in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri district.

# Konkan's own derby

Despite heavy rain and a red alert, villages in Ratnagiri turned up in large numbers for the traditional *Naangarni Spardha*, where farmers race their prized oxen



**Emmanuel Yogini**  
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Despite heavy rain and a red alert issued by the India Meteorological Department, villages in Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra witnessed a massive turnout for *Naangarni Spardha*, the traditional ploughing race, on July 26 and 27. The event was held at Vahal-Ambitgaon and Ringane villages, about 100 kilometres apart, showcasing a unique rural sporting tradition that thrives during the Konkan monsoon. During this time of the year, Ratnagiri transforms into a lush green landscape, with rolling hills, tall coconut palms, and rain-soaked paddy fields forming the backdrop for the high-energy competition. Farmers transported their prized oxen in mini-lorries from neighbouring villages to participate in the races. The contest begins with participants drawing chits to determine their racing order. The races are held on a horseshoe-shaped, mud-filled track where each farmer is allowed a warm-up lap

before competing. Strict rules are enforced – any oxen pair that touches the track flags or steps outside the boundaries is immediately disqualified. Victory is determined solely by speed. Crowds gathered, with some people travelling across districts to follow the races. Popular oxen pairs and skilled jockeys received thunderous cheers from the spectators. Many participating farmers own oxen solely for racing purposes rather than agricultural work. At Vahal-Ambitgaon, 99 oxen pairs competed for seven prizes, with the top winner receiving ₹15,000 and a trophy. In Ringane, around 70 traditional oxen and 50 prized Khillar oxen took part, competing for ₹15,000 and ₹25,000 prizes respectively. This long-standing tradition continues to unite rural communities, honouring the bond between farmers and their oxen while celebrating the vibrant culture and spirit of Konkan's monsoon season.



**Gearing up:** Farmers fasten wooden ploughs to the yoke, preparing their oxen for the race.





**Down to earth:** Competitors and spectators stand in deep mud.



**Reins in rain:** A farmer runs with his prized oxen on the rain-soaked track.



**Chasing the trophy:** Crossing the finish line with his oxen, a farmer jumps in triumph.



**Eyes on track:** Women from nearby villages sit outside the boundary to watch the competition.



**Raised to run:** Some farmers raise oxen solely for racing, not farming. Each pair is trained and transported for events.