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- Free bus services provided for school students
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Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

THE HINDU — Wednesday, August 6, 2025



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BANK LOAN 'FRAUD **ED records statement** of Anil Ambani

NEWS » PAGE 12





Last J&K Governor Satva Pal Malik dies NEWS » PAGE 13



OPINION » PAGE 9



Can dominate cricket for long: Gambhir SPORTS » PAGE 17



Gadkari to speak at The Hindu **MIND today**

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, popularly known as the 'Expressway Man of India', will be the guest on Wednesday for The Hindu MIND, a conversation series featuring

leading newsmakers. » Page 2

Lok Sabha passes Bill for ST quota in Goa Assembly

NEW DELHI The Lok Sabha on Tuesday

passed a Bill that seeks to provide reservations to Scheduled Tribes (ST) in the Goa Assembly. » Page 4

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 7

Flash floods in Uttarakhand leave four dead; over 60 feared trapped

Many feared washed away after water from Kheer Ganga river swept through Dharali in Uttarkashi district; heavy losses of life and property feared; nine Army personnel feared missing, 20 people rescued in first three hours, Army officer says

Ishita Mishra NEW DELHI

t least four persons were killed and dozens feared washed away in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand after flash floods triggered by torrential rain hit the Kheer Ganga river on Tuesday afternoon.

The floods hit hotels and residential buildings in Dharali town, situated 8,600 feet above sea level, where video footage recorded by residents showed giant waves of water gushing through the area and swallowing everything in their way, including people and homes.

Residents were heard yelling warnings to their acquaintances to run for their lives. The entire market area of the popular tou-







Blink of an eye: A series of images shows floodwater surging downhill and destroying buildings in Dharali town, located 8,600 feet above sea level, in Uttarakhand, on Tuesday. PTI

Colonel Manish Shrivasta-

va, the Army's Public Rela-

rist town was washed away in minutes, leaving the place looking like a sludgefilled river bed.

At least 25 establishments, including hotels, guest houses, and homes were completely destroyed. A rough estimate by the district administrations Officer at Dehradun. tion says that around 60-70 The Army rescued around people are missing or 20 people in the first three might be trapped in the hours of the rescue operaarea. As many as nine Artion, he added. my personnel are feared missing, said Lieutenant-

Uttarkashi District Magistrate Prashant Arya said that the floods, which hit the town around 1.45 p.m., had caused heavy losses of life and property.

Sources in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in the area said that 32 people were rescued by different teams. As many as 120 people were rescued and given first aid till the time of filing this report.

The administration has also set up relief camps for those affected. Hospitals in the area have been asked to reserve a separate wing for the treatment of injured people, and medical teams have been asked to be ready with beds, oxygen, and medicines.

"There has been heavy destruction in the area around the helipad in Harshil, another popular tourist spot," Mr. Arya said.

CONTINUED ON

India-Philippines ties elevated to strategic partnership, says PM

Kallol Bhattacherjee NEW DELHI

India and the Philippines have decided to boost their defence and maritime links, begin direct flights, and start negotiating a new trade deal as they upgraded their ties to the level of a "strategic partnership", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Welcoming visiting Filipino President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., Mr. Modi said that as both countries support "freedom of navigation", cooperation in the maritime domain is "natural and essential". The two sides also announced the commencement of talks for a preferential agreement.

"We have been consistently working together in areas such as humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and search and rescue operations. Today, as the

Announcement comes as Prime **Minister welcomes** Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on his visit to India

President is visiting India, three Indian naval ships are, for the very first time, participating in a naval exercise in the Philippines. India's hydrography ship is also a part of this important engagement," the Prime Minister said. He also expressed his "sincere gratitude" to Philippines for condemning the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

The Prime Minister discussed regional and global issues with the Filipino President, and also hinted at India's position on the disputes in the South China Sea.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Restore special status: J&K parties amid protests against Article 370 abrogation

Peerzada Ashiq SRINAGAR

Street protests by regional political parties and the demand for special status marked the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of provisions of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

The ruling National Conference (NC) organised street protests in several districts of J&K and demanded the restoration of special status.

"We live in a country known for its democracy that must reflect in Kashmir too," NC leader and MLA Salman Sagar said.

The Opposition PDP also held street protests. "August 5 marks a black

day not just for Jammu and Kashmir, but for the entire



Congress supporters hold placards as they demand the restoration of J&K Statehood in Srinagar on Tuesday. IMRAN NISSAR

nation. The unconstitutional abrogation of J&K's special status was not an end, it was the beginning of a broader assault on constitutional values," PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti said.

Police action

The Congress accused the police of preventing party

the Leader of the Opposi-

tion in the Lok Sabha, were

On Monday, hearing a

case regarding Mr. Gand-

hi's statement that China

had taken over 2,000 sq.

km of Indian territory, Jus-

tice Dipankar Datta ob-

served, "How do you [Mr.

Gandhi] get to know that

2,000 sq. km of Indian ter-

ritory had been occupied

by the Chinese? Were you

there? Do you have any

credible proof? If you are a

"unwarranted".

members from holding a

Tariq Hameed Karra said.

protest in Srinagar.

"On August 5, the identity of the 1.40 crore people of J&K was stripped. J&K was not only bifurcated, but degraded as well. We are observing it as a black day," J&K party unit chief-

CPI(M) leader M.Y. Tari-

SC observations on Rahul Gandhi

'unwarranted', say INDIA bloc parties

SC to hear plea on non-restoration of J&K Statehood

NEW DELHI The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to list on August 8 an application questioning the non-restoration of Statehood to J&K despite an assurance

the court. » Page 14

gami termed August 5 "the darkest day in Indian historv" and an "attack on our constitutional relationship with India". "We will continue our peaceful struggle

made on the Centre's behalf to

for justice," he said. Meanwhile, the BJP held special functions across the Union Territory to celebrate August 5.

Flocking to safety



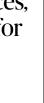
Dire circumstances: Residents, along with their livestock, wading through a flooded street in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. on Tuesday. ANI

Armed forces, PM hailed for Operation Sindoor

The National Democratic Alliance's parliamentary party group, meeting on Tuesday for the first time in over a year, felicitated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "exceptional leadership" and the armed forces for their valour during Operation Sindoor.

Mr. Modi appeared combative as he addressed the group, saying that by seeking a debate on the operation, the Opposition had made a strategic misstep.

DETAILS ON » PAGE 13



The Hindu Bureau

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI The INDIA bloc parties on Tuesday said the observations made by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court on Rahul Gandhi,

Rahul Gandhi

true Indian, you would not say all these things."

On Tuesday morning, floor leaders of several parties of the INDIA bloc who met in the Parliament office of Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, discussed the observation and issued a statement. "All the leaders of the

INDIA parties agreed that the sitting judge has made an extraordinary observation which is unwarranted on the democratic rights of political parties," the statement issued by the INDIA bloc parties said.

countable," it added.

'Moral duty'

"It is the responsibility of

the Leader of Opposition, to comment on issues of national interest. When a government fails so spectacularly to defend our borders, it is every citizen's moral duty to hold it ac-

political parties, especially

Congress leader Priyan-

ka Gandhi Vadra said it does not fall within the purview of the judges of the top court to decide who is a true Indian.

'Respect for Army' She said her brother had the highest respect for the Army and would never say

anything against it. As the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, it is Rahul Gandhi's duty to ask questions of the government, the Wayanad

MP said.

"My brother would never say anything against the Army. He holds the Army in the highest respect. So, it is a misinterpretation (of his remarks)," she said. (with inputs from PTI)

In top court, Centre rejects any move to lower age of consent

NEW DELHI

Krishnadas Rajagopal

The Union government has

objected before the Supreme Court to any move to reduce the age of consent under child protection laws from 18 to 16 years, warning that such a change would open the floodgates to trafficking and other forms of child abuse under the garb of

"Introducing a legislative close-in-age exception or reducing the age of consent would irrevocably dilute the statutory presumption of vulnerability that lies at the heart of child protection law," the Centre, represented by Ad-

assent.

Govt. warns that reducing it to 16 years from existing 18 will lead to trafficking problems

ditional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, clarified in written submissions placed on record.

To buttress its argument, the Centre cited a 2007 Ministry of Women and Child Development study, which found that 53.22% of children reported facing one or more

forms of sexual abuse. It noted that in 50% of these cases, the abusers were persons in positions of trust or authority, including parents, relatives, neighbours, and school employees. "The report concluded

that children are particularly vulnerable when the offender is a known figure, as the abuse is concealed, normalised, or silenced through emotional manipulation or fear," the Centre explained. The Centre's position is in contrast to that of senior advocate and amicus curiae Indira Jaising, who has argued before the court that consensual sexual activity between adolescents aged 16 to 18 should not be criminalised or classified as "abuse" under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

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RISE 05:47 SET 19:07 RISE 18:43 SET 04:23

Delhi Weather Delhi City Safdarjang

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32°C The weather will be little warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate to heavy

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and winds will occur. © Copyright Skymet Weather 2025



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NOTIFICATION NO. ADVT/01/2025-26 dated 04-08-2025 The National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM) is a premier

institute offering services in rock mechanics and rock engineering, set up under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India, in the year 1988. Presently, it has offices at Bengaluru (Head Office) and at Kolar Gold Fields (Regd. Office). The Institute invites ONLINE applications to fill up the following positions on regular basis through Direct Recruitment.

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- 10. Selection of candidate will be made based on personal interview of the sort-listed candidates by a designated selection committee at the Institute. Mere fulfilling the minimum qualifications and experience will not vest any right on a candidate for being called for interview.
- The Institute reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason. The Institute also reserves the right to cancel the advertisement/ recruitment process at any stage due to administrative reason. No correspondence will be entertained in this regard.
- 12. The Institute reserves the right to verify the antecedents and documents submitted by the candidate. In case it is found that the documents submitted by the candidate are not genuine, then the services shall be terminated after due process, and disciplinary/criminal proceedings will be initiated of such candidates even after appointment.
- The last date for submission of online applications is 8th September 2025.
- 14. Courts' Jurisdiction: Any dispute in regard to this recruitment will be subject to the courts in Bangalore.

Note: For any updates in this regard, visit NIRM's website

Sd/- Controller of Administration

BJP backs school fee Bill, **AAP seeks House scrutiny**

Oppn. questions regulation panel composition, slow redress process, wants Select Committee to examine Bill; parents seek uniformity in fee structure; it enhances checks and balances: Minister

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

he Delhi Assembly on Tuesday saw a heated discussion on the School Education (Fee Regulation and Transparency) Bill, 2025, with the Opposition demanding that it be sent to a Select Committee to incorporate feedback from parents and other stakeholders.

The debate came a day after Education Minister Ashish Sood tabled the Bill, which aims to regulate fee hikes in private schools. BJP MLA Satish Upadhyay lauded it as a "revolutionary step" in Delhi's education history, while party colleague Ajay Kumar Mahawar said, "With this Bill, CM Rekha Gupta is wiping away the tears of lakhs of parents.

However, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Prem Chauhan criticised the composition of the proposed fee regulation committees, pointing out that six out of 11 members



the private school fee regulation Bill on Tuesday. PTI

would be from the school, potentially compromising impartiality. should have been more parents than administrators." he said, cautioning that the multilayered redress process could result in delayed justice. "By the time a complaint is addressed, the child may have already passed out or left the school," Mr. Chauhan said.

He reiterated AAP's demand to refer the Bill to a Select Committee with members from both the BJP and AAP, and called for a freeze on fees for the current academic year, citing delays in the Bill's introduction. Responding to the Opposition, BJP MLA Mohan Singh Bisht said public turnout and support for the Bill demonstrated its urgency and relevance.

Parent protests

While the Assembly debated the Bill, some parent groups held protests and submitted their recommendations to Mr. Sood. One key demand of the protesters was that any parent, not just 15% of them, should be allowed to raise an issue with the districtlevel committee.

On fee-related clauses, parents objected to subjective criteria such as the school's location and educational standard. They demanded a uniform fee structure and standardised fee heads across all schools to avoid ambiguity.

'False narratives'

The Education Minister's office said he had met parents ahead of the Assembly debate and dismissed AAP's criticism as "false narratives". He clarified that the Bill supplements the Delhi School Education Act, 1973, by introducing stronger checks and balances to protect students and parents. The Minister assured that the Bill provides for three layers of oversight and includes penalties for violations.

Nitin Gadkari to speak at

U-Special buses to be relaunched, says CM

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday said her government will relaunch the youth special or U-Special bus service for students on various routes connecting Delhi University.

The U-Special buses, which were once a lifeline for college students, will return with modern upgrades, including air-conditioning, LED lighting, and music systems, to ensure a more comfortable and accessible commute, said Ms. Gupta.

The bus service, operated by the Delhi Transport Corporation, was suspended in March 2020 following the outbreak of the CO-VID-19 pandemic.

School facelift

Meanwhile, Ms. Gupta inaugurated a new academic block of Social Centre School, a co-ed school run by DU in Maurice Nagar, near North Campus. She said the school, now transformed into a four-storey modern facility, will be recognised to offer education up to Class 12.

Kejriwal 'misled' public by inaugurating fake phansi-ghar: Speaker

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Tuesday accused former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of "misleading the public" by inaugurating a "bogus" British-era phansi-ghar (execution room) in the Assembly premises in 2022.

"We contacted the National Archives to get the map of the building from 1911-12. From that, it was found that there was no phansi-ghar here," the Speaker said, adding that the wooden structure was a "lift" and used as a "tiffin room" by the members of



The phansi-ahar in Delhi Assembly. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the Assembly.

The ruling Bharatiya Jaiata Party members manded an apology from Mr. Kejriwal. The Aam Aadmi Party members questioned the Speaker for "not raising" the pressing issues affecting the Capital.

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin

Gadkari will be the guest on Wednesday for The Hindu MIND, a conversation series featuring leading newsmakers. Popularly known as

the 'Expressway Man of India', Mr. Gadkari is a strong advocate of biofuels and non-conventional energy sources to enhance India's energy security

His appearance comes amid the government's aggressive push for ethanol-blended petrol and electric vehicles.

The Minister is expected

The Hindu MIND today



The Hindu MIND: A conversational series featuring leading newsmakers.

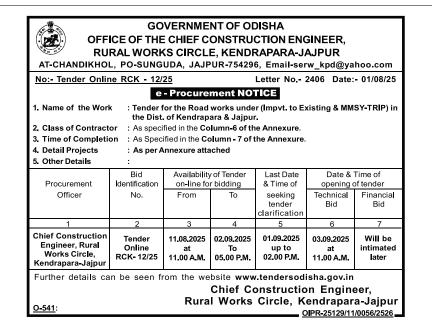
to address issues such as the toll tax hikes on national highways, which have raised concerns among commuters. A firm believer in safer

road travel, Mr. Gadkari has set an ambitious target to reduce road accidents by 50% by 2030.

His Ministry recently rolled out the Bharat New Car Safety Assessment Programme to evaluate vehicle crash safety. Mr. Gadkari has also

been a vocal critic of poor road engineering, substandard project reports, and negligent concessionaires factors he save contribute significantly to country's the fatalities.

The full interview will available www.thehindu.com.



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NOTICE for Online Application & Choice Filling

In continuation to BCECEB(UGMAC)-2025/01 & 2025/02 dated 29.07.2025, it is informed to all eligible & interested NEET(UG)-2025 qualified candidates and all concerned that in the light of extension of counselling schedule by MCC, Registration and Submission of Application form-cum-Choice Filling for UGMAC-2025 Round-1 Counselling is hereby extended as below;

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 - Last date of Choice Filling and Locking ...
- Publication of Rank Card ... Round-1 Provisional Seat Allotment Result publication date ...
- Downloading of Allotment order (Round-1)..... Documents Verification and Admission (Round-1) . Rest of the terms / conditions of the Advertisement No.- BCECEB(UGMAC)-2025/01 Dated 29.07.2025 will remain same.

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06.08.2025 (11.59 pm)

14.08.2025 to 19.08.2025

16.08.2025 to 19.08.2025

08.08.2025

14.08.2025



Clean sweep: CM Rekha Gupta taking part in a cleanliness drive in Timarpur, New Delhi on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Govt. agencies must coordinate to get rid of city's garbage: CM

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday emphasised that full coordination among all government agencies is needed to achieve a garbage-free Capital as she took part in an ongoing month-long cleanliness drive in the Timarpur area of north Delhi.

The Dilli Ko Kude Se Azaadi' campaign seeks to mobilise citizens across the Capital to take collective responsibility for their surroundings and improve urban sanitation. Ms. Gupta also announced the launch of the upcoming 'Swachhata Challenge' aimed at dee-

pening community engagement and inspiring participation through the involvement of prominent personalities and celebrities. "The initiative will sym-

bolically begin with the nomination of 78 citizens to mark the 78th year of India's independence. Each nominee will further nominate five more individuals, creating a multiplying network of cleanliness champions," she said. Celebrities will also be enlisted to boost the campaign's visibility and motivate people, especially the youth. "The spirit of public participation lies at the heart of our mission," Ms. Gupta said.

THE HINDU Wednesday, August 6, 2025





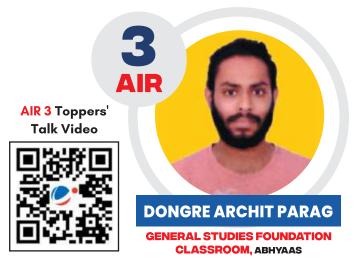


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दिल्ली 15 JULY, 2 PM | 7 AUGUST, 2 PM

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Dera Sacha Sauda chief Ram Rahim granted 40-day parole

Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, serving a 20-year jail term for raping two of his disciples, walked out of the Sunaria prison in Haryana's Rohtak district on Tuesday after being granted a 40-day parole. Singh will stay at his Sirsa-headquartered 'dera' during his parole, said his spokesperson and advocate Jitender Khurana. After reaching Sirsa, Singh appealed to his followers in a video message to not turn up at the 'dera' and adhere to the instructions of the sect elders. By the time Singh returns to jail at the end of his parole, he would have been out of prison for three months this year. PTI

Gujarat panel on UCC likely to submit report in a month

The committee set up by the Gujarat government to draft a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) for the State, on Tuesday said it will submit its report within a month. The committee, headed by retired Supreme Court Judge Ranjana Desai, held a meeting with Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and briefed him on the progress made so far, read a State government release. Law Minister Rushikesh Patel and Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi were also present, it added. "We took the CM's views during the meeting. The date for submitting the report is not fixed yet, but we hope to submit it within a month. I believe that we may not need any further extension," said Mr. Desai. PTI

Amid protests over SIR, Lok Sabha passes Bill for ST quota in Goa Assembly

LS passes first Bill in the ongoing Monsoon Session; Speaker accuses Oppn. members of impeding proceedings: Privanka Gandhi Vadra asks if the government is so weak that it can't run the House

The Hindu Bureau

mid disruptions by Opposition members over the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, the Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed a Bill that seeks to provide reservations to Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the Goa Assembly.

This is the first Bill to be passed by the Lok Sabha in the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament amid the logjam over SIR in Bihar.

Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal moved 'The Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2025' for consideration and passage, and the House passed it by a voice vote when it reassembled at 2 p.m. When the Lok Sabha convened for the day at 11 a.m., Speaker Om Birla paid tributes to three former members, including former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren who



Lok Sabha proceedings under way during the Monsoon Session of the Parliament, in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

passed away on Monday.

As soon as the obituary references were over, Opposition MPs, including those from the Congress. were on their feet, raising slogans and holding up placards.

The Opposition has been demanding a debate on the SIR exercise by the Election Commission in Bihar ahead of the upcoming Assembly election. When Mr. Birla tried to

the Question Hour, the protests intensified. "Your behaviour and activities have lowered the dignity and honour of the

run the House by taking up

House. You have been systematically obstructing the proceedings. This is not good," the Speaker remarked as he adjourned the House until 2 p.m. The Lok Sabha was finally adjourned for the day after the Bill for the Goa Assembly was passed.

Earlier in the day, before the start of Tuesday's proceedings, several Opposition MPs, including Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, staged a protest in the Parliament House complex against SIR.

Tenth day of protest

This was the tenth day of the Opposition's protest, with the MPs relenting only on Monday in view of Shibu Soren's death.

Speaking to presspersons, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra claimed that the government's inability to run the House showed its "weakness".

"Have they become so weak that they are unable to ensure that the House runs. Every day we have to do this [protest] because they don't want to discuss a particular issue. Why can't they debate it?" she said.

2 women killed, 3 injured at religious gathering in M.P.

The Hindu Bureau BHOPAL

Two women died and three others were injured after devotees tripped over each other at a jam-packed religious gathering in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district on Tuesday, said the police.

A senior officer said the incident took place around 12 p.m. at Kubereshwar Dham of religious preacher Pradip Mishra due to overcrowding at the ashram.

Mr. Mishra, a popular religious figure who is scheduled to take out a Kanwar Yatra from his ashram on Wednesday, had called upon devotees to join him, resulting in a large gathering at the ashram, the officer added.

'Not a stampede'

Sehore Additional Superintendent of Police Sunita Rawat told *The Hindu* that during the distribution of Rudraksha (prayer beads)', a woman at the front of a queue fainted and collapsed, due to which those behind her also fell and sustained injuries.

"There was no stampede, but some people in a queue fell, which led to the incident," said the officer.

Overcrowding at Kubereshwar Dham during distribution of prayer beads led to the incident, the police said

She added that the victims are yet to be identified.

Another officer said that about 50,000 to 60,000 devotees have been coming to the ashram every day during the holy month of Shravan, and that most of them hail from outside Madhya Pradesh.

'No police role'

"The responsibility of arrangements inside the ashram falls on the management. The police and the administration have no role there. Outside the ashram, we have deployed over 400 police personnel for security," said the officer who did not wish to be named.

"Before reaching the ashram, they had gone to a nearby stream to collect holy water by travelling 12 kilometres each side, and after that they stood in the queue amid heat and humidity. This may have led to the woman fainting," the officer added.

After cases of drinking water poisoning, SOP issued for Karnataka school headmasters

The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Following two incidents of miscreants poisoning the drinking water tanks of government schools in Shivamogga and Belagavi districts, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) to be followed by headmasters every day in their schools.

The police have arrested three persons, including Sagar Patil, the taluk president of right-wing outfit Sri Ram Sene, in Belagavi in connection with the June 14 incident that led to several children falling ill. Investigations are still on in the Shivamogga case.

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had on Sunday condemned the alleged water poisoning near the school at Hoolikatti village

Three persons, which includes a Sri Ram Sene leader, have been arrested in connection with the Belagavi incident

near Saundatti in Relagavi with "the intention of ensuring the transfer of a Muslim headmaster".

The circular issued by

the Commissioner of Public Instruction has a total of 25 points, including checking drinking water regularly and ensuring that the sump is locked. "These aspects should be checked, confirmed and documented by the headmaster of the school daily. He/she also has to obtain the signature of a visitor to confirm that the procedure has been followed," states the SOP.

Noting lapses in aspects related to the safety of chil-

dren in schools, the note said. "If headmasters check some basic factors on a daily basis and take precautionary measures, possible mishaps in schools can be avoided."

> The department also listed out duties to be performed by the officials at various levels, including district nodal officers, Deputy Directors of Public Instruction and Block Education Officers, regarding implementation of the SOP.

"The incident of miscreants poisoning school water tanks is shocking. In this regard, an SOP has been issued to be followed regularly in every school. All schools have to submit reports to the department. If they fail, action will be taken against the concerned headmasters," K.V. Trilok Chandra, the Commissioner of Public Instruction, told The Hindu.

Pilot joins NSUI protest for restoration of students' union elections in Rajasthan

Mohammed Iqbal

The Opposition Congress's student wing, National Students' Union of India (NSUI), staged a massive protest in Jaipur on Tuesday, demanding the restoration and conduct of students' union elections in the universities and colleges in Rajasthan. The prot esters clashed with the police when they were stopped from marching towards the Chief Minister's residence.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot, who joined the protest, expressed solidarity with the students' demand for starting the process for democratic representation on the campuses.

When the police used water cannons to disperse the crowd, Mr. Pilot was also hit by the water spray. He was forcibly re-

moved from the site. The protest took place



Congress leader Sachin Pilot drenched under the impact of a water cannon at a protest in Jaipur on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

at Shaheed Smarak on Mirza Ismail Road, where the traffic was stopped and a large number of policemen were deployed amid heightened tensions. Students and NSUI members, who arrived from all over the State, held up placards, raised slogans and marched in unison to press for their demand.

Police detained 36 NSUI members, including State president Vinod Jakhar, and Congress MLA Mukesh Bhakar, during the protest. The NSUI workers continued trying to break through the barricades

despite the heavy police

presence. The students' union elections were suspended in Rajasthan during the Bharatiya Janata Party government's tenure from 2003 to 2008. The polls were restarted in 2010, under the subsequent Con-

gress government. They were postponed in 2020 because of the pandemic and were later resumed in 2022.

In 2023, the elections were again deferred for a few months due to the acquisition of college buildings by the Election Commission for the Assembly poll and for the implementation of various parts of the New Education Policy 2020. Since the formation of the BJP government in December 2023, no action has been taken to resume the student elections.

'Sheer injustice'

Addressing the protesters, Mr. Pilot launched a scathing attack on the BJP government, while asserting the importance of the polls in a democracy. He said there can't be any justification for denying youth the opportunity to contest polls. "What is the compulsion that the student elections are not being held? This is sheer injustice," said Mr. Pilot.

Tej Pratap Yadav forms coalition of 5 smaller parties

<u>Amit Bhelari</u>

Former Bihar Minister Tej Pratap Yadav on Tuesday announced the formation of a coalition of five smaller parties to contest the upcoming Assembly election.

In May, Mr. Yadav was vnelled from the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) by his father and party chief Lalu Prasad.

Mr. Yadav made the announcement at a press conference in Patna, which was also attended by national presidents of the five parties - Vikas Vanchit Insaan Party, Bhojpuriya Jan Morcha, Pragatisheel Janta Party, Wajib Adhikar Party and Sanyukt Kisan Vikas Party.

The former Minister reiterated that he will contest from Mahua seat in Vaishali district as he has worked extensively in the constituency.

Moist eyes and emotional scenes as L-G hands over job letters to 158 relatives of terror victims in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq

Emotions ran high as J&K Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha handed over job appointment letters to 158 relatives of terror victims in Srinagar on Tuesday.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Sinha said he will do everything possible for the rehabilitation of relatives of terror victims.

"It is my promise to the next of kin of terror victims that the perpetrators will receive exemplary punishment. We will also ensure the harshest possible punishment to terror sympathisers," the L-G said.

Family members of terror victims had assembled from across the Valley. Ma-



Tuesday, where job letters were distributed by the L-G. IMRAN NISSAR

ny were children when their parents were killed by terrorists in the 1990s.

Families identified for jobs included that of Special Police Officer Manzoor Ahmad Rather, a resident of Baramulla, killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists 25

His son, Khurshid Ahmad Rather, was handed

an appointment letter. For Parvez Ahmad Dar, the event came as a ray of hope. On July 6, 1996, terrorists killed Mr. Dar's father, Ghulam Qadir Dar. On Aijaz Ahmad Dar, was also killed by terrorists.

July 30, 2004, his brother,

'Sense of closure'

"Twenty-nine years after his father's death, Parvez's nightmare is over. Wounds that have persisted for decades are now being healed. Today's event provided a sense of closure to the families who have silently suffered trauma for years," Mr. Sinha said.

"Abdul Majid's family lost their sole breadwinner and received ₹1 lakh as ex gratia under the Security Related Expenditure scheme. Despite Abdul Majid's martyrdom, his family struggled to live a life of dignity. Today, by providing a government job to his son.

Mudasir Majid, the admi-

nistration has fulfilled its long-overdue responsibility," said the L-G.

He praised the courage and perseverance of the families who have suffered from terrorism. "The long wait for justice and for healing to begin is over for these families. I assure them that I will not rest until every family that has been a victim of terrorists' atrocities gets justice," added Mr. Sinha.

Web portal for relief

The L-G administration has come up with a web portal to streamline and expedite the process of providing relief, compassionate appointments, and other forms of assistance to those who have suffered from terrorism in J&K, said Raj Bhawan.

'Fake' Assam doctor who performed over 50 caesarean sections arrested; had been 'practising' since 2016

The Hindu Bureau GUWAHATI

The police in southern Assam's Cachar district have arrested a "fake" doctor, who performed more than 50 caesarean sections over a decade.

Pulak Malakar, the 43year-old accused from the adjoining Sribhumi district, practised at a private hospital in Silchar, the Cachar district headquarters.

He had built a reputation as an obstetrician and gynaecologist.

The police said Malakar worked as a fourth-grade employee at various hospitals in Barak Valley, comprising the Cachar, Hailakandi, and Sribhumi



Assam's Silchar. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

districts, before becoming a "doctor" with a fake MBBS certificate.

Cachar's Senior Superintendent of Police, Numal Mahatta, said the accused was arrested on August 3 and produced before a local court the following day.

The court sent him to a

cal college in Odisha was fake," Mr. Mahatta said. "We came to know that

> he was using a fake degree to work as a doctor in Silchar since 2016," the officer said, adding that a case was registered against the accused under the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

six-day police remand.

"We received com-

plaints about the man

treating patients by using a

fake degree. Investigation

revealed that his certificate

from a government medi-

Several fake doctors and quacks have been arrested since January after the constitution of an Anti-Quackery and Vigilance Cell that works with the police.

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Maharashtra to approach SC to bring back Kolhapur elephant

Will explore all legal measures to bring 'Madhuri' back, assures Fadnavis; the move comes amid protests in Kolhapur and Sangli, where villagers signed petitions, participated in silent marches

KOLHAPUR

hief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said the Maharashtra government will file a review petition in the Supreme Court to bring back the 36-year-old elephant Mahadevi, popularly known as Madhuri, from NGO Vantara's wildlife rehabilitation facility in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

Vantara is the brainchild of Anant Ambani, son of industrialist Mukesh Ambani.

Speaking to mediapersons after chairing a review meeting on the issue, the Chief Minister said, "We will explore all the legal measures available to bring her back."

The move comes amid widespread protests across western Maharashtra's Kolhapur and Sangli districts, where thousands of villagers have signed petitions and participated in silent

The Hindu Bureau

Delhi Lieutenant-Governor

V.K. Saxena on Tuesday

approved a proposal to

make Aadhaar card man-

datory for issuing income

certificates to eliminate ir-

regularities, if any.



A billboard in Kolhapur seeking Madhuri's return. SNEHAL MUTHA

Delhi L-G approves proposal to make Aadhaar

card mandatory for issuing income certificate

marches to express their anger against the transfer the elephant from a local Jain Mutt on July 30, following a judgment by the Bombay High Court upholding a Supreme Court order to rehabilitate the "ailing" elephant to Vantara based on a petition by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

Mr. Fadnavis said he has also issued orders for the constitution of a team, including a veterinarian, to provide care for Mahadevi once she is back and esta-

The proposal, under

Section 7 of the Aadhaar

Act, 2016, endorsed by

Chief Minister Rekha Gup-

ta, was for income certifi-

cate issued by the Revenue

Department for determin-

ing the eligibility of benefi-

ciaries for various schemes

and subsidies, like reim-

blish a rescue centre if required. "We will also request the Supreme Court to appoint an independent committee to investigate the issue," the Chief Minister said, referring to PETA's purported claims about the animal being in distress in the Kolhapur Mutt, based on which the transf-

er was ordered. Former MP Raju Shetti, who led a protest march in Kolhapur on Sunday, accused the non-profit organisation of "stealing our elephants".

"PETA has misled the

bursement of tuition fees

for SC/ST/OBC category

students, pension, and fi-

nancial assistance under

can make Aadhaar-based

authentication compulso-

ry to establish the identity

of an individual under the

The Centre and States

Delhi Arogya Kosh.

government and the court. We will prove their fraud in the coming days," said Mr. Shetti. Congress MLC Satej Patil said, "We have no other option than to file a petition in the apex court. The State government's role is crucial. We expect a positive outcome."

Billboards for Madhuri Meanwhile, in Kolhapur, large hoardings have cropped up in almost ev-

ery locality, rallying for the

elephant's return. The billboards with Mahadevi's images and heartfelt slogans, put up by residents and local outfits, have been signed by the area residents.

One such billboard, near Sujata Park in Jaysingpur, demands the "beloved" elephant's return.

The Marathi hoarding, titled "One signature for our Madhuri", says: "No caste, no religion, no party, no State, no outfit... Just a fight for Madhuri".

Act, a Raj Niwas official

Aadhaar requirements, the

official said

'Publicise decision'

Re-E-Tender Notice No.: 18/2025-2026/Bio-Medical Equipment/IGIMS/Store

IGIMS, Patna invites bids from eligible and qualified manufacturers or their authorize distributors / agents for supply, installation and commissioning of various equipments for

the departments of Neurology. The last date & time for submission / uploading of complete tender document

www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in is 08/09/2025 up to 17:00 hours Details of specification of equipment's, terms and conditions can be seen and download from Institute website: www.igims.org & www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning

any reason. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly visit www.eproc2.bihar.gov.ii and www.igims.org for Corrigendum / Amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on thes portals only and no separate advertisement will be made.

DIRECTOR, IGIMS, PATNA

HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Sr. No1. Name of Work:- A/R & M/O WSS Manali Town in Tehsil Manali Distt. Kullu H.P. (SH: Operation and maintenance of intake structure WTPs, pump houses at Old Manali (old & new), sector storage tanks, other civil works, raw water gravity main, sector gravity mains entire distribution system, entire firefighting network i.e hydrants, generator, distribution

Estimated Cost:- Rs. 3,22,26,600/-, Earnest Money:- Rs. 3,97,260/-, Time Limit :-Sixty Months, Cost of tender Form:-Rs. 5000/-

Key Dates: -							
1	Date of online publication	01.08.2025 to, up to 01:00 PM					
=	Bid Submission Start date and Time	From 01.08.2025, 02:00 PM					
III	Bid submission end date and time.	Up to 11.08.2025, 11:00 AM					
IV	Physical submission of important tender related documents	Up to 11.00 AM 11.08.2025					
٧	Date of Opening of Bid i.e. Eligibility criteria.	11.08.2025 at 11:30 AM					
۷I	Date of opening of financial bid.	Date, time and place shall be notified separately online.					
_	Toponately entires						

Tender document and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed on line by the irms/ individual from the portal https://hptenders.gov.in free of cost

Executive Engineer HP / 2236/25-26 JSV Division Katrain

JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG e-Procurement Notice

Online bids on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division Nurpur Distt.Kangra HP on behalf of Governor of H.P,in electronic tendering system i Two Covers for the under mentioned works from the contractors/firms of appropriate

Sr	Description of work	Estimated	E/
No.		Cost	money
1.	Providing Sewerage Scheme to Nurpur Town in Tehsil Nurpur Distt. Kangra (HP) (Sub head:- Laying, jointing and testing of D.I. pipeK-7 to connect the existing sewerage network of Ward No.1,2,3,4 & 8 including Construction of R.C.C. man hole chamber, R.C.C. Pillars, Flushing Tank, Inspection Chamber, Anchor Block, Restoration of Street, Provision for road X-ing etc. complete in all respect. (Under SBM 2.0)		191810

Time Limit One Year

1.	Date of online publication.	04.08.2025 at 5:00 P.M		
2.	Documents Download start and End Date.	04.08.2025 at 5.00 P.M to 13-08-2025 at 11.00 AM		
3.	Bid upload Start and End Date.	04-08-2025 at 5.00 P.M to 13-08-2025 at 11.00 AM		
4.	EMD and cost of Tender Document through online mode (e-Payment)	04-08-2025 at 5.00 P.M to 13.08.2025 at 11.00 AM		
5.	Opening of Technical Bid.	13-08-2025 at 11:30 A.M		
6.	Opening of Financial Bid	After Evaluation of technical bid		

hotender.gov.in

Executive Enginee him suchana avam jan sampark Jal Shakti Division Nurpu

Tender Notice Invitation

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Porta from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/ Importer/ Authorized Agent for supply of **Sem** nated Coagulation Analyzer. The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2025/B/6484915
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	01-08-2025
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	11/08/2025 at 4:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	22/08/2025 up to 05:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	22/08/2025 at 05:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
The	details of tourism matter one observe on OaM Doutel O UD	MOOL

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.ir indly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.

अधिसूचना - जाहिर प्रगटण

कॉलेज ऑफ फिजिशियन्स ॲण्ड सर्जन्स ऑफ मुंबइ

All the Fellows, who have completed 10 years from the date of convocation are requested to renew their membership by paying fees of Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One Thousand Only) on or before 30th September, 2025, otherwise their names will be removed from electoral roll. The renewal form is made available on our official website www.cpsmumbai.org and/ or in the office, during office hours.

All the fellows who have been conferred with fellowship on orbefore 24th January 2025 are also requested to update their email id, permanent address and mobile number by sending email addressed to Dy. Secretary, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Mumbai, CPS house, on cpsadmin@cpsmumbai.org. on or before 30th September

All the fellows are further instructed to check in person whether their names are included in the present electoral roll, kept in the office of the Secretary of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Mumbai, during office hours, at CPS house, Dr. E. Borges road, Parel Mumbai 400 012, from 1st October 2025 to 8th October 2025 during office hours.

Dated: 06-08-2025.

Sd/-Registrar

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

E-Tender Notice 2025-26 **Re-Tender Notice**

E-Tender in B-1 form for the following Work Invited by Administrator, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Phone No. 0240-2333536-40) from Government Registered Contractors/Companies/ Firms of

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Tender Amount Rs.
01	Construction of Strom Water Drain in Harsul area under Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar Municipal Corporation	17,85,68,156/-

Details regarding the tender for the said works will be available on <u>ttp://mahatenders.gov.in</u> from dt. 30/07/2025, Administrator, Chhatrapati Sambhaiinagar Municipal Corporation. Chhatrapati Sambhaiinagar reserve all the rights to reject/ cancel any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

> **Executive Engineer (Drainage** Municipal Corporation, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar







राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली सरकार





आइए इस स्वतंत्रता पर्व पर लें कूड़े से आज़ादी का संकल्प

माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के "स्वच्छ भारत मिशन" और "कचरा मुक्त भारत" विजन को दिल्ली सरकार नई ऊर्जा और व्यापक जनसहभागिता के साथ आगे बढा रही है।

एक महीना

एक मिशन

हर गली, हर कॉलोनी, हर वार्ड, हर बाज़ार, हर सरकारी संस्थान में स्वच्छता अभियान

RWAS, बाज़ार संघ, स्कूल-कॉलेज, और सामाजिक संस्थाएं होंगी सहभागी

सबसे स्वच्छ RWAs, वार्ड और विधानसभा को पुरस्कार राशि

स्वच्छ दिल्ली हम सबकी ज़िम्मेदारी है आइए, मिलकर दिल्ली को स्वच्छ और सुंदर बनाएं।



शहरी विकास विभाग राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार

स्वच्छ दिल्ली, स्वस्थ दिल्ली

CM YK

The L-G has also advised the Revenue Department to publicise the decision to make people aware of the Karnataka RTC workers call

off strike following HC order

Bus services resume across Karnataka by Tuesday night; unions say protest is only postponed, not

withdrawn as the final round of talks with the State government failed to yield any breakthrough

CPI(M) slams Adoor's remarks on women, SC/ST filmmakers

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

CPI(M) Kerala secretary M.V. Govindan condemned director Adoor Gopalakrishnan's statement at a Kerala film conclave on Saturday that aspirant filmmakers hailing from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/STs) and also women require at least "three weeks of intense" training before getting State funding for movies and documentaries.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Mr. Govindan said Mr. Gopalakrishnan had later claimed that his words were in good faith had misconstrued.

"Mr. Gopalakrishnan says he did not mean them. Nonetheless, the



M.V. Govindan

colloquy smacked of feudal putrescence. Such discourses are an injustice to a modern, democratic, and progressive society such as ours," he said.

The State Commission for SCs and STs sought a report from the police to examine whether the statement violated provisions of the Scheduled Caste and/ Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

BENGALURU

The Hindu Bureau

he indefinite strike in Karnataka called by the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of Road Transport Corporation (RTC) employees was postponed on Tuesday evening after orders issued by the High Court.

KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation president Ananth Subbarao has instructed all employees of the four State-run transport corporations to resume duty immediately, leading to a gradual restoration of bus services across the State by Tuesday night.

The strike, which began



Deserted look: A scene at a bus stand in Mangaluru on Tuesday. The strike had partial impact on operations. H.S. MANJUNATH

at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, had severely impacted bus services across the State.

Speaking to The Hindu, Mr. Subbarao clarified that the strike was "postponed, not withdrawn," as a mark of respect to the judiciary. "I have directed all the unions and employees to report to work immediately. We will respect the court's direction," he said.

Despite the HC's direction on Sunday asking unions to defer the strike for a day, the JAC had gone ahead with the protest, citing failure of negotiations with the government. The final round of talks with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on August 4 failed to yield any breakthrough.

Key demands

The JAC has been pressing for a salary revision effective from January 1, 2024, and payment of pending arrears for 38 months; from January 2020 to February 2023. Additional demands include a hike in various allowances, improved medical facilities, regularisation of contractbased staff, and a policy that only permanent staff operate electric buses.

project, AAP hits back matter. He will forward it

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> NEW DELHI

BJP alleges ₹650-cr.

scam in Delhi hospital

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BIP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) were at odds on Tuesday after Delhi Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh alleged a ₹650crore "cost escalation" in the construction of an additional block at Lok Nayak Hospital during the previous Arvind Kejriwal-led government.

The accusation comes a day after a CBI court cleared former AAP Minister Satyendar Jain in a corruption case.

Mr. Singh stated that the file has been forwarded to Lieutenant Governor (L-G) V.K. Saxena for an investigation in the matter.

"The budget sanctioned for the construction of a new block at Lok Nayak Hospital increased by ₹650 crore. [Former] PWD Minister Satyendar Jain got the changes done. He would conduct inspections and suggest changes, which led to cost escalation. There was a scam of ₹650 crore. We have sent the file to the L-G on the to either the ACB or the CBI," Mr. Singh said.

The fresh allegations stemmed from the earlier findings of a committee constituted by the L-G in July 2024. The committee pointed out that the original contract was made for ₹465 crore, which later escalated by 243% to ₹1,139

AAP rejected the charges, saying the BJP leaders don't understand the fundamental definition of the word "corruption".

'Frivolous cases'

"The BJP is obsessed with the ACB, CBI, and ED. They hatch conspiracies against AAP leaders, waste time drafting frivolous cases, and squander taxpayers' money on these directionless investigations," AAP said in a statement.

"Just a day ago, the court taught them a lesson by closing one of the CBI cases against Satyendar Jain. The court stated that the CBI had registered a baseless case with no corruption, no criminality, and no evidence," the statement read.



L-G V.K. Saxena flagged 'corruption' in the construction of an additional block in Lok Nayak Hospital in 2024. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Trump's tariffs likely to severely affect aquaculture and seafood sector in A.P.

Rajulapudi Srinivas VIJAYAWADA

With the U.S. President Donald Trump announcing a 25% tariff on Indian products, the aquaculture sector in Andhra Pradesh is likely to be severely affected, particularly for the shrimp farmers.

Aquaculture farmers in A.P. exporting their produce to the U.S have to bear about 25% tariffs, 5.77% countervailing duty and 3.96% anti-dumping



A.P's seafood sector has been in a crisis since Trump's tariffs in April

duty from August 7, says the Seafood Exporters Association members

The contribution of A.P.

to seafood exports was 9.52% Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) in 2023-24, said Joint Director

(Aquaculture), Shaik Lal

Mohammad.

The sector has been facing a severe crisis after the U.S. imposed 26% tariff in April. As the prices fell of shrimp in the international market, many farmers announced crop holiday, the producers said.

"We are not in a position to continue aquaculture by paying a 35% tariff to the U.S. The Centre should take measures to save the sector," A. Veerraju, a farmer from Eluru district

'Tariff war to worsen the economy further'

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal said that the State needs to prepare well to tackle the 'tariff war' looming over the economy, propelled by the recent tariff policies of the United States and other global players.

Mr. Balagopal was speaking after inaugurating a two-day seminar, 'Post-COVID Development Challenges and Response: Kerala through the lens of State budgets,' organised by the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation (GIFT) here on Tuesday.

"It has to be examined how these policies impact the Indian economy and specifically Kerala, whose exports cover multiple sectors," he said.

Mr. Balagopal said he perceived a "dangerous situation" ahead, referring to recent demands that "India should reduce its tariffs." "The tariff war looming over us will worsen our economy further," he said.

Kerala CM seeks report on weak and rundown structures

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u> THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has directed the Disaster Management department to provide the details of weak and dilapidated structures, including schools and hospitals, in the State within two weeks.

Speaking at a high-level meeting here on Tuesday, Mr. Vijayan said the list of those structures that need to be demolished and those that need to be repaired should be provided separately.

School buildings should be demolished on holidays. Local self-government bodies, the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and the Education department should find an alternative to conduct classes until the demolished school buildings are built, he said. The CM also ordered safety assessment of unaided school buildings in the State along with this

Software will be developed to record details of public buildings in danger.

Electrical safety

An inspection system comprising the Chief Electrical Officer and electrical engineers from the Local Self-Government department and the Public Works department should be formed to inspect matters related to electrical, Mr. Viiavan said.



Kerala Minister moots idea for classes without backbenchers

Just days after proposing public discussions on rescheduling the April-May summer vacations for schoolchildren in Kerala to June-July, Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has mooted doing away with the idea of 'backbenchers' from public school classrooms. The Minister, in a Facebook post on Tuesday, touched upon how being deemed a backbencher could impact a student's confidence and learning. "No child should be left behind in education or in life," he said. He said the department is exploring how to implement the idea.

Leopard scare continues to haunt Tirumala residents

Leopard scare continues to haunt the denizens of Balaji Nagar in Tirumala, Andhra Pradesh. The inhabitants of the area on Tuesday woke up to the news of sighting of a leopard in the precincts of the Gangamma temple. The anxiety intensified as a video clip showing the leopard preying on a cat on the temple grounds went viral on social media. The area houses displaced owners and tenants who had given away their properties to the TTD, and is located on the fringes of the town abutting forests. The residents promptly notified forest officials, who alerted their staff.

Dharmasthala: SIT to probe new plaint on another burial

Director-General and Inspector-General of Police M.A. Saleem has asked the Special Investigation Team, probing the alleged burial of bodies in Dharmasthala village in Karnataka, to also investigate a complaint about the police allegedly burying a girl's body without registering a case. In the complaint filed with the police on August 4, a person alleged that the body of a 15-year-old girl was found lying on the roadside in the village between 2002 and 2003. No skeletal remains were found in sites 11 and 12 on Tuesday.

Accidental dive



Plunged in: A driver had a miraculous escape after he accidentally drove into a canal as flash floods triggered by heavy rain blurred the separation from the adjacent road at Petta in Tripunithura in Kerala on Tuesday. THULASI KAKKAT

BJP leader accuses Karnataka govt. of smuggling urea

B.S. Satish Kumar BENGALURU

Expressing shock over alleged illegal transportation of urea from Karnataka to Kerala, the Opposition BJP has alleged that consignments were being "quietly sent across the State border" with full knowledge of the State machinery, "to impress the Congress top leaders."

The party has also demanded a probe into urea diversion, while alleging that the shortage of fertilizer was "man-made", besides seeking a White Paper on fertilizers' supply and distribution situation.

"The shocking seizure of urea is not just illegal; it is also a direct betrayal of Karnataka's farmers," said Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, in a social media post on Tuesday. Maintaining that this

was not an isolated case, Mr. Ashok said, "They allowed medical waste from Kerala to be dumped on our border districts, endangering public health in Karnataka. And now, they're smuggling urea, prioritising Kerala over Karnataka." He claimed that the Central government had ensured adequate fertilizer supply to Karnataka.

reward boosts attention in humans The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

The researchers of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in a new study have probed how the expectation of a reward influences the attention of human beings.

Many studies have been conducted in the past on the topic. "However, they fell short in differentiating whether these processes are governed by the same or different regions and processes in the brain," the IISc said.

Sridharan Devarajan, associate professor at the Centre for Neuroscience, and his PhD student Ankita Sengupta, designed an ex-

periment to examine how the expectation of a reward modulates the two key components of attention: sensitivity (example: the ability to visually identify the ripest fruit) and bias (the decision to act to pick out the ripest fruit).

Study by IISc researchers reveals how

Two-part cognitive task Mr. Sridharan's team conducted trials with 24 participants, each performing a two-part cognitive task.

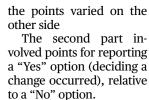
The first part involved the participant looking at a screen displaying two Gabor patches (smooth blackand-white stripes), one on each side of the screen. After a very brief pause (200 milliseconds), the patches flicker, and one (or both) of



The experiment was designed to track two key components of attention — sensitivity and bias

the patch orientations might change. For each accurate detection of change, the participants received a monetary reward.

The rewards were strategically rigged - the number of reward points was fixed on one side, whereas



In the first task, participants paid more attention towards the side associated with greater rewards. However, their decisional bias didn't change, indicating that only sensitivity was modulated. Participants in the second task were more likely (biased) to choose the option (yes/no) with the higher expected reward. But researchers noticed that none of the participants' gaze or brain patterns matched those associated with attention.

PNB Empowers Investors with Unified Demat-Trading Account Opening Journey via PNB One

Punjab National Bank offers digital Integrated Demat & Trading account opening functionality. This enables customers to open both Demat and Trading accounts simultaneously through the PNB One mobile application without requiring additional KYC documentation, offering customers convenience in Demat & Trading account opening. Through strategic partnership with the trading channel partners. PNB has created a unified platform that eliminates traditional barriers in Demat & Trading account opening. Shri Binay Kumar Gupta, CGM, PNB said "We are committed to innovating and improving the overall investment experience. Our integrated demat account and trading account opening facility in collaboration with Bank's trading partners, Aditya Birla Money Ltd. and SMC Global Securities Ltd. aims to empower investors to achieve their financial goals.'

Appointment of Col. Tahir Mustafa as Registrar of Jamia Hamdard



Government-Aided Deemed to be University), New Delhi, is pleased announce appointment of Col. Tahir Mustafa as the new Registrar of the University. He from Dr. Sarfaraz

(Officiating), on July 26, 2025. Col. Tahir Mustafa is widely recognized as an accomplished administrator and a seasoned officer in the Indian Armed Forces Known for his integrity leadership, and administrative acumen. Most recently, he served as Director at the Centre for Automated Military Survey (CAMS), IHQ of Ministry of Defence (Army), Government of India. He also held the post of Director International Boundary Directorate and Head of the Boundary Cell at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). Prior to that, he was Director (Administration and Training) at ADG Military Survey, New Delhi, and Director of the Bihar Geospatial Centre, Patna, His earlier assignments include serving as Survey Field In-Charge Indo-Nepal Border, and as Task Force Commander at the Eastern Border in Sikkim. Academically, he holds a B.Tech. in Civil Engineering from Aligarh Muslim University, M.Sc in Geography from Madras University, and has completed various basic and advanced courses of strategic importance.

POWERGRID Posts Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹ 3.631 Cr. and Total Income ₹ 11,444 Cr. for Q1FY26 on Consolidated **Basis**

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has announced unaudited financial results for Q1FY26 ended 30th June 2025, For Q1FY26, on standalone basis company has reported PAT of ₹ 3,653 Cr. and Total Income of ₹ 11,257 Cr. registering a YoY growth of 7% and 4% respectively. On consolidated basis, company has reported PAT of ₹ 3,631 Cr. and Total Income of ₹11,444 Cr. The Company incurred a Capital Expenditure of ₹ 6,981 Cr. and capitalized assets worth ₹ 1.683 Cr. (excluding FERV and including assets capitalized as finance lease) on consolidated basis till Q1FY26. POWERGRID's Gross Fixed Assets on consolidated basis stood at ₹2,92,446 Cr. (including Gross Lease Receivables) as on June 30, 2025. At the end of Q1FY26, the total transmission assets of POWERGRID and its subsidiaries stood at 1.80.533 ckm of transmission lines, 284 substations strategically located across the country and 5,66,831 MVA of transformation capacity.

New Building Bye-Laws to Boost UP's Growth



Bye-Laws & Zoning Regulations-2025 will act as a "booster dose" for the state's economic driving expansion in real estate hospitality, healthcare, education, and industry, In a workshop jointly organised by the Lucknow Development Authority and CREDAI at Hotel Hilton Garden, architects, builders, and investors praised the relaxations in FAR and setback norms. Principal Secretary, Housing & Urban Planning Department, P. Guruprasad, Secretary, Housing & Urban Planning Department, Dr. Balkar Singh and Divisional Commissioner Dr. Roshan Jacob said the new bye-laws would accelerate multisector growth and ease complexities in building

Anuj Kumar Jha Orders Swift Action to **Keep Cities Clean This Rainv Season**



(ULBs) across the state have been instructed to intensify their cleanliness efforts during the ongoing ainy season. Shri Anuj Kumar Jha, IAS, State Mission Director of Swachh Bharat Missior (Urban), has directed that no instances of drainage overflow

garbage accumulation should be visible in public areas. He emphasized that timely cleaning of drains has already been initiated, but immediate and effective measures must continue to ensure public convenience and prevent waterlogging or hygiene-related issues. The directive aims to maintain urban sanitation and safeguard residents from seasonal health hazards

Delhi Transco kick - starts month long **Swachhata Drive**



Delhi Transco Limited has not only been successfully illuminating National Capital but has always been on forefront for its social obligations. In its initiatives to keep its offices and other establishments clean and garbage free: Delhi Transco will conduct month long Swachhata Drive from 1st August 2025 to 31st August 2025. This Drive was started today by Sh. Shurbir Singh, CMD - Delhi Transco Limited. During the Drive the employees were administered Swachhata Pledge by the CMD and a cleanliness drive was conducted on the adjoining roads and the trash and waste was cleaned and disposed off. Speaking on the occasion Sh. Shurbir Singh motivated the employees not only to keep their offices and homes cleaned but also do Shramdan for two hours in slums and unauthorized colonies, every Saturday. Sh. Ravi Dadhich - Director(HR), Sh. Birendra Prasad - Director(Operations) and

A Business Initiative

other senior officers also participated in the drive and encouraged the employees to help in making Transco premises free from waste and garbage. Acharya Balkrishan birthday celebrated as a Jadi Buti Diwas at



Birthday of Patanjali Yogpeeth General Secretary, Acharya Balkrishan was celebrated on 04 August at Patanjali Wellness Centre as Jadi-Buti (herb) Diwas. On this occasion Swami Ramdev, Acharva Balkrishan and others participated in activities like plantation drive for the healthy world. Eye testing, dental check-up and blood donation camps were also organized on this occasion in which Swami Ramdev. Acharva Balkrishan and others donated their blood. About 450 units of blood were donated in these camps while eyes of 588 people were tested and 207 people were given free of cost spectacles and 470 people get their teeth checked in the dental camp. Speaking on the occasion Swami Ramdev extended birthday wishes to Acharya Balkrishan and lauded his role in the establishment of Patanjali Ayurvedic Hospital, Yoggram, Patanjali Wellness and other Patanjali institutions. Acharya Balkrishan said that we are healthy on this earth only because of herbs. "If we have to safeguard ourselves then we have to protect the herbs," he maintained. On this occasion 11 books written by Acharya Balkrishan were also released.

Corteva Agriscience Launches Bexavie, the unique Bait Formulation for Fall ArmyWorm Management



innovative solutions to enhance growers' lives launched for the first time in the country advanced Bait formulation product for effective FAW management - Bexavie® Insecticide. The product is one of its kind in the world offering excellent efficacy with its precision / targeted application, long duration control against different larval stages, and safety profile. It's a blessing to the corn crop and to the corn growers. Bexavie® Insecticide heralds a new chapter not only in corn growers' lives but also in sustainable corn cultivation. With its favourable toxicological profile, Bexavie® Insecticide is compatible with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. IPM promotes the judicious use of crop protection tools, based on field monitoring and threshold-based application, and encourages balanced pest control strategies.

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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) KASHMIR NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

E-NIT NO: 01/CE/PMGSY/KMR OF 2025-26 dated 02-08-2025 The Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kashmir on behalf of Government of Jammu & Kashmir invites Percentage rate bids in electronic tendering syster for construction and maintenance of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the following works including their maintenance for five years fror the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

uic	ingibic and approved contractors registered with	our our	0011.01	TTD, I Call	a you in a ou	noi otate ot	J V C I I II I I C I	110.		
			d Cost inclu (Rs in lacs.)		ıt	ey ,)	on of emes		opening line d)	Class of contractor.
S. No.	Name of Work with Package No.	Construction	Maintenance	Total	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.)	Time for completion of construction of	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid)	
1	2		3		4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction and maintenance of road from L045 (Link Road) Larnoo to Pehlipora Km 2nd RD 200 m To Razkan, JK01-4002 Length -2.70KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-I, 2025-26)(Waste Plastic Technology), PMGSY Division An	702.78	56.22	759.00	8500/-	15.18	548 days	1st	26.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
2	Construction and maintenance of road from L052 (Link Road) K P Road KM 3rd RD 50 m To Hukahard, Jk01-4012 Length 3.50 kM, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-1, 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology), PMGSY Division Anantnag	676.41	54.11	730.52	8500/-	14.61	548 days	1st	26.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
3	Construction and maintenance of road from L056 (Link Road) GurwailPahnar Road KM 3rd RD 900 m To Dolimohalla, JK02-4015, Length -5,032 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-I, 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology), PMGSY Division Budgam.	913.54	73.09	986.63	8500/-	19.73	548 days	1st	26.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
4	Construction and maintenance of road from L059 (Link Road) L030 KM 1st RD 800 m To Thazwudder, JK02-4025, Length -5.441 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-I, 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology), PMGSY Division Budgam.	947.63	75.81	1023.44	11000/-	20.47	548 days	1st	26.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
5	Construction and maintenance of road from L054 (Link Road) L031 KM 6th To Doodpathri via Sochalpathri, JK02-4027, Length -5.405 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-I, 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology), PMGSY Division Budgam	898.26	71.86	970.12	8500/-	19.41	548 days	1st	26.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
6	Construction and maintenance of road from L053 (Link Road) L09 Katyali To Dobri Konzabal Shalkani, JK02-4018 Length 5.957 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-I, 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology), PMGSY Division Budgam	1107.63	88.61	1196.24	11000/-	23.93	548 days	1st	26.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
7	Construction and maintenance of road from L048 (Link Road) L031 Km 13th RD 900 To Tedward via Chohan Mohalla, JK02-4009, Length 5.860 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-I, 2025-26), (Waste Plastic Technology) PMGSY Division Budgam.	1128.05	90.24	1218.29	11000/-	24.37	548 days	1st	26.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
8	Construction and maintenance of road from L024 (Link) from NHW GundAkhoo, Jk16-4010, Length- 4.00 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-I, 2025-26), (Waste Plastic Technology), PMGSY Division Ganderbal.	694.19	55.53	749.72	8500/-	15.00	548 days	1st	26.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
9	Construction and maintenance of road from L037- BehniporaDogriporaSarmarg Km 4th To Monidora, JK08-4505, Length -3.20 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY1V (Batch-I, 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology) PMGSY Division Handwara.	695.71	55.66	751.37	8500/-	15.03	548 days	1st	26.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
10	Construction and maintenance of road from L022 (Link Road) Km 5th of RR (VR) L04 To Malikdaji, JK15-4002, Length -3.50 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY1V (Batch-I, 2025-26), (Waste Plastic Technology)PMGSY Division Bandipora.	773.05	61.84	834.89	8500/-	16.70	548 days	1st	26.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments

red as non-responsive, poening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on the cial-bids shall be opened accordingly on line on same Web Site at the Office of Chief Engineer PMGSY Kashmir, Engineering Complex Rajbagh, Srinagar Kashmir, een in the bidding documentsbid data sheed, The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyends to control, Even though the system so of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder, it is the bidders responsibility to write yard check the website for to the terder. Congreadcum? congreadcum shall be published on the same web.

PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kmr

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Online open E-tender are invited by enior Divisional Electrical Enginee (TRS) / N.E. Railway/Loco Shed Gonda acting for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work. Tender Notice No. & Description: Tender No.:- LS-GD-25-Ovh-Aux-Motor-R2, "Overhauling of Auxiliary Motors of conventional and 3 phase elect. locos of GD and GKP shed for 2 years". Estimated Cost (in Rs.): 1,03,52,960.28, Period of Completion - 24 Months, Earnes Money (in Rs.): 2,01,800.00.

ADEE/TRS, N.E. Railway, CPRO/EL-108 Loco Shed Gonda "Never travel on roof and foot boards"

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No.-36 Dt. 04.08.2025 Website : <u>www.ner.indianrailways.gov.ir</u> Email : cos@ner.railnet.gov.in
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH **E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM**

Principal Chief Material Manager North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur 273012 and on behalf of The President of India, invites tenders supply of the following items Complete description of the item and other condition are available or www.ireps.gov.in, Item No.1-Tender Number: 24255013A. Due on 25/08/2025, Brief Description of Stores : Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of IP Based Video Surveillance System for Rolling etc. Qty.:372 Sets.

Principal Chief Material Manager CPRO/S-35 DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

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WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM No.. 30/2025

Kindly refer this Office advertised tender no. 81255343A opening date on 04/08/2025 published in advertised tender notice no EPS/84/2025. Th amendment made is as under: **Tende** No. & Short Description 1255343A Description Manufacture and Supply of Pre tensioned Pre stessed Concrete (PSC) Sleeper Set. **Tender Opening Date:** From: 04/08/2025, To:18/08/2025, Latest terms & available on Website https://www.ireps.gov.in. For Principal Chief Material Manage

West Central Railway, Jabalpu) स्वच्छ भारत अभि

OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL



इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ बैंकिंग पर्सोनेल सिलेक्शन

INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION



CRP CSA -XV

COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICE **ASSOCIATES (CSA) IN PARTICIPATING BANKS** (For Vacancies of 2026-27)

Official Website: www.ibps.in In case of queries / complaints please log in to https://cgrs.ibps.in

The Online Examination (Preliminary and Main) for the upcoming Commor Recruitment Process for Recruitment and Selection of personnel for the post of Customer Service Associates in the Participating Public Sector Banks is tentatively scheduled in the month of October, 2025 & November, 2025.

	IMPORTANT DA	ATES
	Activity	Timeline
	Online registration including Edit/Modification of Application	01.08.2025 to 21.08.2025
	Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges	01.08.2025 to 21.08.2025
	Conduct of Pre-Exam Training	September 2025
	Online Examination – Preliminary	October, 2025
	Result of Online exam – Preliminary	October / November, 2025
	Online Examination – Main	November, 2025
I	Provisional Allotment	March, 2026

Candidates are advised to regularly visit the official IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.

Candidates intending to apply for CRP CSA XV are advised to read the detailed Notification carefully and ensure that they fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria on the stipulated dates before registering online. Candidates must follow the instructions mentioned in the detailed

Notification

Date: 01.08.2025

DIRECTOR

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Applications, in the prescribed proforma at web link https://rec.uod.ac.in, ar nvited for the post(s) of Assistant Professors in various departments in the academic pay level 10 with rationalized entry pay of Rs.57,700/- of the 7th CPC pay matrix olus usual allowances under University of Delhi rules. Any addendum/corrigendum shall be posted only on the college website.

For qualifications, publications, experience, screening guidelines etc. are available on the college website www.svc.ac.in. The last date for receipt of applications is 31.08.2025 or two weeks from the date of publication of the advertisement in the Employment News, whichever is later

NTPC Limited

Advt. No.: 13/25

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experience in the nuclear field in the disciplines of Mechanical, Civil Electrical and C&I engineering at various levels. The details are as under: Vacancies Grade / Pay Scale for

Discipline	Post	Vacancies	Recruitment	
Civil	General Manager	01	E8 / IDA (Rs. 120000-280000) with the benefits of 06 increments on the minimum basic of pay scale	
Civii	Additional General Manager	01	E8 / IDA (Rs. 120000-280000)	
	Senior Manager	04	E6 / IDA (Rs. 90000-240000)	
	Manager	03	E5 / IDA (Rs. 80000-220000)	
Mechanical	General Manager	02	E8 / IDA (Rs. 120000-280000) with the benefits of 06 increments on the minimum basic of pay scale	
iviechanicai	Additional General Manager	01	E8 / IDA (Rs. 120000-280000)	
	Senior Manager	04	E6 / IDA (Rs. 90000-240000)	
	Manager	03	E5 / IDA (Rs. 80000-220000)	
Electrical/	General Manager	01	E8 / IDA (Rs. 120000-280000) with the benefits of 06 increments on the minimum basic of pay scale	
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Electrical	Senior Manager	02	E6 / IDA (Rs. 90000-240000)	
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Editorial



Bullying tactics

India cannot allow the U.S. or the EU to decide its choice of trade partners

fter months of considerable forbearance, the statement by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), on Monday, pushing back against the U.S. and the European Union (EU) for "targeting" India is significant. The statement came two hours after Mr. Trump had announced penalty tariffs against India, "substantially" above the current 25% rate set to go into place this week, for importing, processing and selling Russian oil. A day earlier, a senior Trump aide had accused India of "financing" Russia's war in Ukraine. And on July 18, the EU had announced sanctions on India's Vadinar refinery (partially Russian owned), and secondary sanctions that will affect Indian refiners. The MEA spokesperson said that the measures were "unjustified and unreasonable" as the U.S. and the EU continue to trade with Russia for goods including LNG, critical minerals and nuclear fuel requirements. The statement also said that it was the U.S. that had encouraged India to keep buying Russian oil to stabilise global markets, something the Biden administration had confirmed. The government said that in comparison to the western countries, India's Russian oil purchases are a "vital national compulsion" as a result of the conflict in Ukraine, adding that India would "... safeguard its national interests and economic security". The MEA's statement is the first such clear response on the issue since the Ukraine conflict. Taken with Union Minister Piyush Goyal's statement last week on the U.S. announcement of 25% reciprocal tariffs on India from August 7, Monday's statement indicates New Delhi's growing frustration with the U.S.'s increasingly offensive positions against India, including on immigration, trade negotiations, Operation Sindoor and Pakistan, and India's BRICS membership. It is unclear how and to what extent the government is prepared to stand up to the bullying tactics of Mr. Trump. Mr. Trump said on Tuesday that India has not been a "good trading partner" – a possible reference to trade talks and the failure of a mini-deal, ostensibly over India's resistance on agricultural market access, dairy products and GM foods.

While it is hoped that New Delhi will continue to engage Washington and Brussels to conclude their respective trade talks, the MEA statement is meant to make a larger point. Neither the U.S. nor the EU can decide which country India will partner or trade with. That message is being underlined in visits by Security Adviser Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to Moscow, to prepare for the Russian President's visit to India later this year. India's sovereignty is non-negotiable and its foreign policy choices cannot be manipulated by other countries, no matter how significant their own ties with India are.

Dangerous turn

Trump must stay the course on diplomacy to end the Ukraine war

resident Donald Trump's announcement that he has ordered "two nuclear submarines to be positioned in appropriate regions", in response to the "provocative statements" by former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, marks a dangerous turn in the U.S.-Russia relationship which the Republican leader had pledged to repair in the run-up to his election late last year. Mr. Medvedev, now the Deputy Chairman of Russia's Security Council, had said that Mr. Trump's threats of imposing tariffs on Russia were "a step towards war". Mr. Trump did not specify whether he has moved submarines capable of launching intercontinental ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads, or nuclear-powered boats equipped with conventional weapons. In recent weeks, Mr. Trump has expressed growing frustration with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin over the Ukraine war. Initially, he gave Mr. Putin a 50-day deadline to end the war or face American tariffs. On July 29, this was shortened to 10 to 12 days. Mr. Trump has also threatened secondary "penalty" tariffs on countries that trade with Russia such as India and China.

Mr. Trump's frustration is understandable. He pressured Ukraine into accepting a ceasefire proposal. His Defence Secretary publicly stated that Ukraine would not be taken into NATO. Yet, the most that he managed to extract from Mr. Putin was a limited truce in the Black Sea and a temporary pause in attacks on Ukrainian infrastructure. At the heart of the impasse are the divergent views in western capitals and Moscow on how to end the war. While western leaders insist on an immediate ceasefire, Moscow believes that this should be part of a comprehensive peace agreement addressing its core security concerns, including NATO's eastward expansion. Russia also finds little incentive to de-escalate at a time when its troops have strategic momentum. Ukraine has carried out deadly drone attacks on several Russian cities, but on the battlefield, is struggling to hold the line. Besides, Mr. Trump's decision to bomb Iran on behalf of Israel, at a time when Tehran was technically in talks with the U.S., appears to have hardened Russia's position. Nevertheless, diplomatic setbacks are not an excuse for nuclear sabre-rattling. The last thing the world wants today is a direct conflict between the U.S. and Russia. Instead of escalating the crisis, Mr. Trump must reflect on why America's current approach - combining sanctions against Russia with military support for Ukraine – has failed to deter Mr. Putin. His initial turn towards diplomacy was a step in the right direction. He must stay the course and narrow the gap between the western and Russian positions on ending the war.

India's presence amid a broken template of geopolitics

t is time for India to punch its weight and enhance its global presence at a time when global geopolitics is being reset. But, as of now, it is not moving India's way.

Operation Sindoor was a reality check when many of India's strategic partners were not willing to call out Pakistan for harbouring United Nations-sanctioned terrorist groups and terrorists. It is now known that three of the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack (April 22, 2025), who were eliminated recently, were Pakistanis belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiba. While India's retaliation against terror camps in Pakistan was decisive, it struggled to get this narrative out in the face of United States President Donald Trump repeatedly claiming that it was he who had brought about a ceasefire using trade as a weapon – a claim contradicted by the Government in the recent parliamentary debate. In an unkind twist, Pakistan's Field Marshal Asim Munir was invited to lunch with Mr. Trump after Operation Sindoor. However, the U.S. designated The Resistance Front (TRF), which claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack, as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). And in a welcome recognition, the report by the UN Security Council's Monitoring Team also named the TRF for the Pahalgam attack.

A path with Trump-created hurdles

But all is not well. On a historic day when the NISAR satellite (India-U.S. collaboration) was launched, Mr. Trump hit India with a 25% tariff. However, he made a purely trade issue, which could have been resolved in negotiations, into a geopolitical issue, threatening India by "substantially" raising tariffs for its importing Russian oil when Ukrainians are being killed by the "Russian War Machine." India was being trumped especially when Mr. Trump himself is a strong votary of U.S.-Russian rapprochement. While one can dismiss this as typical Trump-style last minute pressure, he has already called on U.S. companies not to invest in India but only in the U.S., and hire only Americans.

This comes on the heels of the U.S.'s lopsided security and trade deals with its Indo-Pacific allies and the European Union (EU). American tech giant Nvidia has been permitted by the U.S. to resume sales of its H20 AI chips to China, stopped earlier due to national security concerns. More time has been given to China to get the deal done. After getting bogged down in Ukraine and West Asia, the U.S. has less focus on East Asia. Consequently, if a broader geopolitical understanding between the U.S. and China on East Asia was to come about, it would constrict the space for India. East Asian countries are already hedging their bets.

The U.S.'s posturing on South Asia has not helped either. Growing U.S.-Pakistan relations have again become an irritant. Even if this is a reset in bilateral relations, the U.S. has displayed



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astonishing insensitivity to India's security concerns by praising Pakistan for counter-terrorism efforts, and regional stability. In Bangladesh, the U.S. had gone against Indian interests in supporting the ouster of Sheikh Hasina. In Myanmar, U.S. and European support for forces opposing the military government is destabilising India's north-east. After Galwan and Pahalgam, India's hope for better understanding and coordination with the U.S. on regional security interests has been belied. Mutual trust is being rapidly eroded.

Acting in concert with the U.S., the EU is targeting India's import-led energy security at a time when India is negotiating an India-EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement. The EU has sanctioned India's Vadinar Refinery, where Russian Rosneft has a large stake, knowing full well that stopping Russian oil into India will lead to huge pressure on oil prices. On the other hand, Hungary, Slovakia, Belgium, Spain and others are importing Russian oil, through pipelines and as LNG, by securing exemptions or under existing contracts. Europe receives 51% of Russian LNG exports. The EU's carbon border tax and digital and other trade barriers on India remain. India hopes that the recently concluded India-U.K. Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) will force the EU to climb down from its asks in its trade negotiations.

China's moves

All this has given China an opportunity to, once again, become active in India's neighbourhood. China has proposed new groupings and new deals to keep India out. For example, China's meeting with Pakistan and Bangladesh in Kunming on June 19, 2025 proposed formalising a trilateral initiative, but Bangladesh has not agreed. China is also helping Bangladesh revive a Second World War airbase at Lalmonirhat which is close to the Siliguri Corridor. China's support to Pakistan during Operation Sindoor was extensive. China has also standardised Mandarin names for locations within Arunachal Pradesh. And it wants to seize the future of the institution of the Dalai Lama from India. Riding on a huge trade surplus with India, China is squeezing India's crucial supply chains such as rare earths, fertilizers, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, tunnel boring machines and technical personnel. More worrying is the planned construction of China's largest dam in Tibet on the Yarlung Zangbo (Tibetan name for the Brahmaputra), which is near the Indian border. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the Maldives has been timely given China's influence.

To counterbalance an unpredictable, and even unreliable, U.S., an unresponsive EU and an aggressive China, India is carrying out a tightrope act. It has prioritised accelerating the current thaw in relations with China to reset equations after the Galwan conflict – despite there being no move towards de-escalation on the border after

the initial disengagement in October 2024. Further, India should seriously rethink its

stand to remain on the margins of global conflicts. India has been largely silent, if not openly pro-Israel, on the ongoing Israel-Gaza war an unfolding multidimensional human tragedy. India was also largely silent on the recent Israel-Iran conflict and American bombings, despite important relations with both warring parties and huge stakes in the Gulf. Though it rightly abstained on the UN votes on the Ukraine conflict, its overall approach of not taking a proactive stand on world conflicts may hurt its larger interests and diminish its geopolitical clout as long as it remains on the sidelines. Operation Sindoor has shown India that if it seeks a greater engagement of its partners with its conflicts and issues, India needs to engage more with their conflicts and issues.

Some argue that India should keep its head down and focus on becoming the third largest economy and that a larger geopolitical role may hurt its economic growth. The contrary is true. In a fragmenting world order, geopolitics, coercion and threats and protectionism are determining economic and technological outcomes – not most favoured nation or free trade or multilateral World Trade Organization-led trade norms. Therefore, to get its economic and technological trajectory right, India needs to get its geopolitics

Realising that the geopolitical space is shrinking, India is finally breaking free and has objected to the "targeting". It has called out the double-speak of the U.S. and the EU under the guise of safeguarding their economic interests – the EU for larger trade in goods and services with Russia than India in 2024, and the U.S. for importing Russian uranium, palladium, fertilizers and chemicals. India's call for a ceasefire in Gaza (it abstained on a similar UN General Assembly resolution two months ago), is a realisation that it needs to be assertive in global conflicts to preserve its strategic autonomy. Facing an erosion of trust with the U.S. and a U.S.-China deal, India needs to clinch an India-U.S. trade deal soon to prevent a further deterioration of relations and to persuade Mr. Trump to travel to India for the Quad summit (India-U.S.-Japan-Australia).

After Mr. Trump's outburst, it is a moot point whether India will revive the RIC (Russia-India-China). However, greater engagement with BRICS (2026 summit in India), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and with East Asia (having missed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership bus), will only reinforce India's policy of multi-alignment and push back those who constrain it. No more can India just put our head down, mind its own economic business and expect to grow. That template is now broken.

The technocratic calculus of India's welfare state

7 ith a billion Aadhaar enrollments, 1,206 schemes integrated into the Direct Benefit Transfer system, and 36 grievance portals across States/Union Territories, India's welfare orientation is transitioning into a technocratic calculus. The promise to deliver social welfare at scale, bypassing leaky pipelines and eliminating ghost beneficiaries, might have led to a 're-casting' that delivers 'efficiency' and 'coverage' at the cost of 'democratic norms' and 'political accountability'.

An offloading

Are we witnessing the emergence of a post-rights based welfare regime? Is the Indian digital welfare state headed towards a systemic impasse? What is the technocratic calculus behind all this? Recent game-theoretic work shows that technocratic rule thrives where parties are polarised. Evidently, our questions have changed. We have shifted from "who deserves support and why?" to "how do we minimise leakage and maximise coverage?" Our politicians across party lines have rationally offloaded hard-choices onto data-driven algorithms without questioning the complexities of constitutional values.

Contextualising Habermas's 'technocratic consciousness' and Foucault's 'governmentality', India's welfare architecture is increasingly shaped by measurable, auditable, and depoliticised rationality. Schemes such as E-SHRAM and PM KISAN embody a uni-directional, innovation-led logic that is streamlined, measurable, and intolerant of ambiguity or error. Conversely, we have deliberative calls for participatory planning and local feedback embodying the long forgotten core of democratic thinking resonating Giorgio Agamben's notion of homo sacer – a life stripped

of political agency. Seemingly, welfare, in the contemporary context, has ceased to exist as a site of democratic deliberations. On a microscopic level, a rights-bearing citizen has been replaced by the auditable beneficiary. Thus, it calls for an urgent need for the state to revisit (in a Rancierean sense) whether it is curating who is visible, who



To get its

economic and

technological

trajectory right,

India needs to

geopolitics right

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The promise to deliver social welfare at scale, using data-driven algorithms, may be at the cost of 'democratic norms' and 'political accountability'

can complain, and whose suffering is computable. Despite claims of a 'socialistic state', we observe a decade-low decline in India's social sector spending that has dwindled to 17% in 2024-25 from the 2014-24 average of 21%. Further, there are some interesting observations beyond plain statistics. Key social sector schemes have borne the brunt of such decline where minorities, labour, employment, nutrition and social security welfare saw a significant decline from 11% (in the pre-COVID-19 phase) to 3% (in post-COVID-19

Parallely, social commentators often comment the Right to Information (RTI) regime to be in 'existential crisis' and further uncovering the cloak on RTI exposes a critical issue within the institution of dysfunctional information commissions. As of June 30, 2024, the number of pending cases crossed the four lakh tally across 29 Information Commission's (ICs), and eight CIC posts were vacant (annual report of CIC, 2023-24).

The Indian welfare regime must recover its capacity for reflexivity and situated knowledge, elements that are very peculiar to gram sabhas and frontline bureaucratic discretions. To draw Rancière's critique on democracy, we highlight one major impending concern, that "democracy depends on whose suffering is rendered visible and contestable, not merely computable". This concern is further highlighted in Justice D.Y Chandrachud's Aadhaar dissent (2018), that warned precisely against such decontextualisation of identity which served as a caution against reducing citizens to disembedded, machinic data who are devoid of care, context, or even constitutional assurance in some cases.

Another instance of algorithmic insulation Another worrisome trend is the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System's flattening of the federal hierarchies into ticket-tracking systems. Although it is a novel initiative resolving tickets and routing complaints across state agencies, empirical data show that

lakhs of grievances were disposed of between 2022-24. But on a closer examination it might just be centralising the visibility but not the responsibility – a form of algorithmic insulation that renders political accountability increasingly

These observations are not to dismiss the value of such initiatives. Rather, they invite a deeper conversation on how welfare governance can evolve for a more resilient and responsive state. The government should now think along the lines of 'democratic antifragility' so that our systems built on perfect data and flawless infrastructure do not fail catastrophically under stress (consider Taleb's 'hyper-integrated systems').

We need to empower States to design context-sensitive regimes where federalism and welfare push for pluralism as a feature. Institutionalising community-driven impact audits (as reiterated by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty), by looping in the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and Gram Panchayat Development Plans should be the core target. All States must be made capable to build platform cooperatives where self-help groups act as intermediaries; functionally, lessons can be learnt from Kerala's Kudumbashree. Civil society must be incentivised to invest in grass-roots political education and legal aid clinics in order to strengthen the community accountability mechanisms. Lastly, it is time we strengthen and codify our offline fall-back mechanisms, human feedback safeguards, and statutory bias audits by embedding the "right to explanation and appeal" as proposed by the UN Human Rights for digital governance systems.

Focus on the citizen

We, as citizens of India, must realise that a welfare state stripped of democratic deliberations is a machine that works efficiently for everyone except those it is meant to help. For a Viksit Bharat we will have to reorient digitisation with democratic and anti-fragile principles so that citizens become partners in governance, and not mere entries in a ledger.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A tariff deluge

It is disturbing to read about the tensions between the United States and India on the issue of Russian oil and trade. The U.S. should understand one point — America's enemy is not

India's enemy. Despite this, if the U.S. still forces India to forego the use of Russian oil, India can oblige. But in reciprocation, the U.S. should offset the discounted amount that Russia gives to India for its

oil. This is not the first time that the U.S. is arm-twisting India. A few years ago, India was nagged the same way to drop the use of Iran's oil in total. For an energy-guzzling country such as India, with a

population of 1.4 billion people, its interests should be the centre when adopting policies. India must balance its interests, financially and politically. R. Bharathi Ravi Varma,

Palani, Tamil Nadu

In Parliament

Parliament must see discussion, dissent, debate and fully informed decision, but what we see now is the negation of what it is meant for. The government of the day has the prime

responsibility to be accommodative and not let things deteriorate. Ayyasseri Raveendranath, Aranmula, Kerala

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Eighty years on from Hiroshima

t 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945, a nuclear bomb exploded just above Hiroshima, instantly killing at least 70,000 people. Another 70,000 died of injuries and radiation sickness before the year ended. Three days later, a second weapon exploded over Nagasaki, killing 40,000 on the day. In the 80 years since, nuclear weapons have not been detonated again in anger even though the possessor states have swelled from one to nine, and the number and sophistication of the weapons has increased considerably. A norm of non-use appears to have been established. However, norms shared expectations of behaviour – are not immutable. Recent developments including hostilities involving nuclear possessors, an undermining of the global rules-based and treaties-based order, and nuclear modernisation are putting the norm of non-use under immense strain.

Lessons from 1945

Arguably, no one has worked more passionately to eliminate nuclear weapons entirely than the Hibakusha, the survivors of the atomic attacks. Their testimony created a powerful moral and ethical case against nuclear use, reminding us of the human consequences of – arguably for some – a demonstration of American resolve and technological prowess. Yet the respect that they are accorded today was hard won. Japan was under American occupation after the war, and information on the effects of the nuclear bombings was suppressed. According to one survivor from Nagasaki, shortly after the bombing, U.S. Brig Gen Thomas Farrell announced that all those affected by the attack had died and that there were no continuing effects of the bomb. Relief centres were shut down. An additional 50,000 people died by December without understanding what ailed them.

Knowledge about radiation sickness became widespread in



writes on politics and international relations

Japan only after a fishing boat, Fukuryu Maru, was accidentally exposed to nuclear fallout. The U.S.'s 1954 thermonuclear test. codenamed Castle Bravo, ended up twice as powerful as estimated, spreading radioactive ash well beyond the officially designated warning zone and to the vessel floating 86 miles away from the test site. All crew members fell seriously ill from acute radiation poisoning. Thus it was that nine years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that Japan began to understand the nature of radiation sickness: the bomb killed not just by explosion, instantly, but painfully, over time. The survivors then grouped together as the Nihon Hidankyo and fanned the globe to educate people on the horrors of their experience.

It is debatable whether the norm of non-use owes more to the moral and ethical case against nuclear use made by the Hibakusha or by the logic of nuclear deterrence. 'What deters' is a question that has occupied policymakers for decades. And while the total number of nuclear weapons has fallen from their Cold War peak, today's nukes are more sophisticated and designed for use in a range of situations. Much money and effort has been spent in developing more 'useable' nukes. It is difficult to know whether to worry more about a thermonuclear weapon that could destroy a city several times over, or to fear tactical weapons that are designed to target a specific location with deadly accuracy. For 80 years we have decided that nuclear weapons are beyond the pale: any nuclear use now would let the genie out of the bottle.

The norm of non-use Ultimately, the norm of non-use rests on a conscious decision to brand nuclear weapons as developments different. There is no legal basis are putting the for the circumscribing of their use. norm of non-use The Nuclear Non-Proliferation under immense Treaty (NPT) limits the spread of nukes; the Comprehensive

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty bans nuclear tests; neither prohibits use. (The 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has not been signed by any nuclear possessor.) However, the NPT's exhortation to nuclear states to work towards total nuclear disarmament "in good faith" puts the weapons in a separate category. The International Court of Justice's 1996 advisory opinion on nuclear weapons constrains their use by stating that the use or threat of use "would generally be contrary" to humanitarian and other international law, even though the Court was unable to reach a clear decision on their legality. Together, these treaties shore up the norm of non-use, without legally proscribing them.

Against this backdrop, recent nuclear threats bandied about by Russia over Ukraine have severely tested the special categorisation of nukes. Closer home, during Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that India "will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail". A "limited" operation appears to have escalated quickly to acquire a nuclear element.

We are influenced by the Hibakusha's testimony today only because Fukuryu Maru's misfortune connected radiation sickness to nukes. It is also unlikely to be a coincidence that the Nihon Hidankyo were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2024 for their disarmament efforts after the nuclear genie reared its head in Europe. They had been nominated multiple times, but it took almost 70 years for the survivors' efforts to be recognised.

Eighty years after nuclear weapons were used in anger, we are in danger of slipping into complacency over nuclear use. It took the miscalculation of America's thermonuclear test for the truth about nuclear fallout to become widely understood. We should not wait for another misstep before the dangers of nuclear miscalculation are appreciated again.

Justice delayed yet again

Two recent verdicts speak poorly of state investigating agencies

STATE OF PLAY

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit vinaya.deshpande@thehindu.co.in

ast week, a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court acquitted all the seven accused, including BJP MP Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, in the 2008 Malegaon blasts case. Six people were killed and 95 injured in the bombing that had struck the Muslim-majority town in Maharashtra.

The case, which was investigated by two different agencies, triggered accusations of 'saffron terror'. All the accused were charged by the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) in 2008 of being 'Hindutva extremists'. The trial was controversial as Rohini Salian, the former special public prosecutor, had alleged in 2015 that the government had put pressure on her, through the NIA, to "go soft" on the accused.

The case was initially probed by ATS chief Hemant Karkare, who was gunned down by terrorists during the November 26, 2008, terror attack on Mumbai. Eventually, it was handed over to the NIA.

While acquitting the seven accused, the court pointed out several lapses in the investigation and criticised the NIA for presenting 'inconclusive', 'unreliable', and 'legally inadmissible' evidence. It said that there were procedural lapses in the invocation of stringent laws such as the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. It added that the investigators had failed to link the motorcycle, allegedly used in the crime, to Ms. Thakur; that there were problems with witness statements; and that



there was no proof that Lt Col Prasad Purohit (retired) or the right-wing outfit, Abhinav Bharat, was linked to the blast.

In the order, Special Judge A.K. Lahoti observed, "The testimony of prosecution witnesses is riddled with material inconsistencies and contradictions. Such discrepancies undermine the credibility of the prosecution's case and fall short of establishing the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt." While he said that terrorism has no religion, the Special Judge also added that a court cannot convict someone based on mere perception.

Civil society members were critical of the verdict given the allegations that it was politically driven; and also since it came on the back of another verdict acquitting all the accused in another blast case.

On July 21, the Bombay High Court acquitted all the 12 accused in the 2006 serial bomb blasts case. Seven explosions had ripped through Mumbai's local trains on the evening of July 11, 2006, killing 189 people and seriously injuring 824. The coordinated blasts had scarred the estimated 70 lakh people of Mumbai who use the local trains, often dubbed the city's lifeline, every day. Many victims feared taking the local train again.

This case too was riddled with controversies. While the Maharashtra ATS, which had conducted the probe from the beginning, claimed that the attacks were the handiwork of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Students' Islamic Movement of India, several other investigating agencies, including the NIA, claimed that the Indian Mujahideen had carried out the terror attacks. While acquitting the 12 ac-

cused, the High Court laid bare the inconsistencies, loopholes, and lapses in the probe by the Maharashtra ATS. It asked how key witness statements were recorded after an unexplained delay of 100 days. It questioned the trustworthiness and credibility of witnesses, highlighted deep flaws in both the investigation as well as prosecution, and demanded to know why the circumstantial evidence. such as call detail records, which the investigators had relied on so much, was inconclusive. It pointed out that the witness statements were delayed and inconsistent; that there were procedural lapses and coercion allegations about the confessions retrieved; that there was no proof of actual explosives used; and that the chain of custody of the recoveries was broken. The High Court also rapped the trial court for the conviction order.

The judgments on two terror cases in India have left the victims, who have had to wait for nearly two decades for verdicts, without a sense of justice. The investigations raise serious questions about India's criminal justice system and specifically about the accountability of investigating agencies. Who are the agencies answerable to, for their contradictory claims and shoddy procedures, which have allowed extremist organisations to get away with such terrible crimes in Maharashtra? And when – if at all they do - will the victims of these blasts get a sense of closure?

Bihar electoral rolls after SIR show concerning trends

Preliminary analysis hints at higher voter deletions in Muslim-majority districts and possibly high out-migration areas

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy **Srinivasan Ramani** Nitika Francis Vignesh Radhakrishnan

n August 1, the draft electoral rolls for Bihar, following the completion of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, were released. A total of 7.24 crore electors are part of the latest electoral rolls – over 56 lakh electors fewer than the rolls prepared in January this year. According to the Election Commission of India, the voters who are not part of the August list have died, or are registered in two locations, or have permanently migrated out of Bihar, or are untraceable.

A district-wise analysis of the August electoral rolls shows that there was a tendency of a higher number of deletions from the rolls in districts with larger Muslim populations (2011 Census). Chart 1 plots the difference in the number of electors in the August rolls compared to the January rolls, on the horizontal axis. This serves as a measure of deletions from the January rolls. On the vertical axis, we have plotted the districts' Muslim population share. In essence, we have plotted Muslim population against deletion in the SIR.

The chart shows a moderate positive correlation (Pearson correlation $r \approx 0.43$), indicating that districts with a higher Muslim population generally saw more deletions. But confirming whether Muslims were disproportionately deleted in the revised rolls calls for a more granular analysis.

On the other hand, there is negative correlation ($r \approx -0.46$) in the change in electors compared to the share of Scheduled Caste (SC) population, district-wise (Chart 2). That is, districts with a higher SC population tend to have lower number of deletions. However, the earlier note of caution applies to this case as well.

A district-wise analysis of the August electoral rolls also shows that, in general, the higher the possible number of out-migrants from a district, the more the number of deletions from the roll. This confirms one of the ECI's reasons for the deletions – out-migration.

Recent

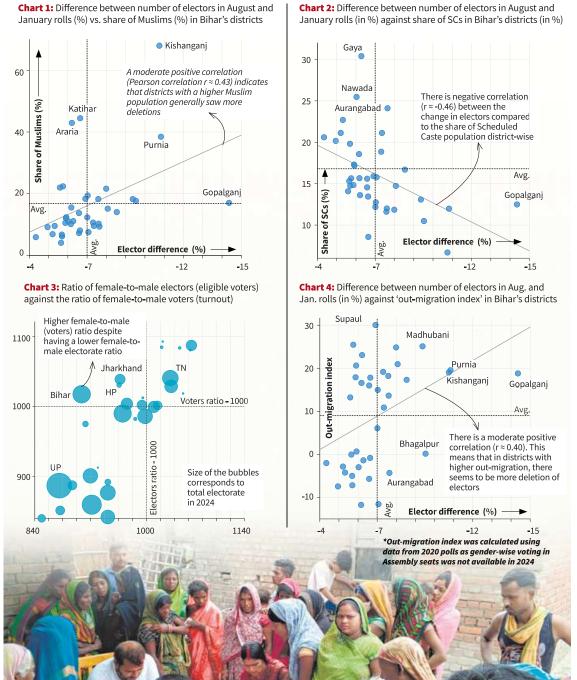
We used female turnout relative to the electorate in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as a proxy to measure district-wise out-migration in Bihar. We did this because, in 2024, Bihar stood out among the States that had a higher female-tomale voters ratio, despite having a lower female-to-male electorate ratio (Chart 3). This means that in Bihar, more women than men turned out to vote in absolute numbers even though there were more registered male electors. While there might be other factors explaining this gendered variation, the difference suggests that fewer men were available to vote despite being registered. Historically, Bihar is one of the largest sources of out-migration, which could ex-

plain the lower male turnout. **Chart 4** plots the district-wise 'out-migration index' on the vertical axis. This compares women's share among all voters (male plus female) to their share among all electors in the 2020 polls*. A positive value indicates more women voters turned out to vote in comparison to men despite higher male elector registration numbers. This is what we use as a proxy for higher out-migration. Chart 4 also plots the difference in the number of electors on the horizontal axis. In essence, we plot out-migration against deletion in the SIR.

The trend line shows that there is a moderate positive correlation (r \approx 0.40). This means that in districts with higher out-migration, there seems to be more deletion of electors. However, this does not mean that deletions occurred exactly along gender lines, to remove possible male migrants from the rolls. In a subsequent Data Point, we will examine the deletions further in light of these findings.

Troubling correlations

The data for the charts were sourced from the Election Commission of India and the 2011 Census





FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 6, 1975

Police raid 'bogus' crossword puzzle firms

New Delhi, Aug. 5: The office premises of 12 "bogus" firms allegedly cheating a large number of innocent persons through false crossword puzzle contests were to-day raided by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police in different parts of the city. "Proprietors" of two such firms, Chander Prakash of Rani Bagh and Sarinder Kumar of Anand Nagar were arrested on charges of cheating, according to a press note issued by the Delhi Police. The modus operandi of these rucketeers was to collect the postal addresses of a large number of people, the press note said. The "firm" would prepare a complete list of these people with their postal addresses and despatch literature regarding the crossword puzzle contest. For the first second and third prize winners, attractive articles such as motor cycles, tape recorders and transistors were offered as prizes. The puzzle contest would be so simple that anyone would be able to solve it without much mental exercise. Once the contestant despatched his puzzle entry he would fall in the trap of the racketeer. In due course of time the firm would inform all the contestants that they had won the first prize. All the winners were asked to send Rs. 50 as licence fee package and postal charges to enable the firm to despatch transistors to firms. In fact, a very inferior quality locally manufactured transistor would be sent to each one of them by VPP for Rs. 125. Invariably, the contestant would have already shelled out a sum of Rs. 48 to take delivery of the prize. He would thus be cheated by over Rs. 100 as the cost of the transistor will not be more than Rs. 70 to 73.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 6, 1925

Gandhiji on Ayurvedic physicians

Cawnpore, Aug. 5: The All-India Ayurveda Mahamandal has passed a resolution protesting against Gandhiji's remarks on Ayurvedic physicians, in a recent issue of 'Young India', that the majority of them are mere quacks and have no humility in them. The Mahamandal regrets that the statement should have emanated from the President of the very body (the Congress) which every year urges that the indigenous system of medicine should be revived and encouraged throughout the country.

l'extacontext

THEMAHINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Arms funding for Ukraine by certain Nordic nations

In \$ million. Sweden, Denmark, and Norway will jointly fund a major U.S. weapons package for Ukraine. The support includes Patriot air defence systems, anti-tank weapons, ammunition, and spares. Sweden alone is contributing \$275 million. AFP

Acres of crops submerged in Punjab after heavy rains

worst-hit subdivision was Fazilka. Farmers blamed clogged drains and inadequate pre-monsoon preparation. In some villages like Tahilwala Bodla, over 1,500 acres were affected, prompting road blocks. PTI

Japan records hottest temperature in its history amid heatwave

In degrees Celsius. It was recorded in Isesaki, Japan on August 5. The previous national record, set just a week earlier, stood at 41.2 degree Celsius in the Hyogo region. The extreme heat has led to more than 38,000 being hospitalised for heatstroke and 18 deaths. AFP

Lives lost in Himachal Pradesh since the onset of monsoon

Since June 20, the State has witnessed a sharp rise in fatalities amid ongoing monsoon devastation. Of these, more than 100 fatalities were from rain-related disasters like landslides and flash floods, while 86 were in road accidents. The estimated losses exceed ₹1,750 crore. ANI

Number of bird injuries in four days across Delhi

As the skies fill with kites ahead of Independence Day, wildlife groups in Delhi have responded to nearly 300 distress calls. Daily rescue operations averaged 50 birds, including pigeons, parrots, and even peacocks. PTI COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How should money laundering be tackled?

What did the Finance Minister report with respect to the number of cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act? What are the three stages through which money is laundered? How will the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement help to stop illegal transfer of money?

EXPLAINER

C. B. P. Srivastava

The story so far:

report submitted by the Finance Minister in the Rajya Sabha states that 5,892 cases were taken up by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002, since 2015. Of these cases, only 15 convictions have yet been ordered by special courts. The government claims that investigations have been initiated in more or less all cases, and that **Enforcement Case Information Reports** (ECIRs) have been issued to initiate proceedings. However, these figures raise two important aspects. First, that the number of convictions vis-a-vis total cases is far from satisfactory and secondly, that money laundering cases have been rising signalling that the government has not been able to check such financial crimes.

What is a laundromat?

The term is said to have originated from the use of laundromats by organised crime syndicates in the U.S. as cover for their crimes and under-the-table dealings. A laundromat is an all-purpose financial vehicle. It may be set up by a bank or any other company engaged in providing financial services. However, it can also help clients launder the proceeds of crime, hide ownership of assets, embezzle funds from companies, evade taxes or currency restrictions and move money offshore.

How is money laundered?

Money laundering, as defined under Section 3 of PMLA, is an act through which processes or activities connected to the proceeds of crime are concealed, possessed, acquired, or used and projected as untainted property or claiming to be untainted property.

In the first stage called placement, the launderer introduces money into the



financial system which might be done by breaking up large amounts of cash into smaller sums (a process called smurfing). In the second stage, that is layering, money is shifted to other locations through investments and transactions. And finally in the integration stage, the laundered money is brought into the financial system through real estate, business or asset formation etc. The Supreme Court in P. Chidambaram versus Enforcement Directorate (2019) held that hiding the illegal source of money affects the financial system and also the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. Other impacts of money laundering include expansion of money supply which might prove detrimental to monetary stability of the country

ultimately impacting inflation. Moreover, it may also affect trading, according to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

When about the PMLA?

In line with the UN Political Declaration and Global Programme of Action (adopted by the UN General Assembly in February 1990), the law has been made to prevent money laundering and to confiscate the property involved or obtained. The most significant part of the statute is that the burden of proof is on the accused. Another feature is that the ECIR is sufficient to initiate proceedings which has also been reiterated by the Supreme Court in Vir Bhadra Singh versus *ED* (2017) – that no FIR is required to initiate proceedings under the Act. The

only requirement as per the top court was that a scheduled offence (offence against the state) be essential for the offence of money laundering. However, despite being such a stringent law, the offence has become rampant.

What are the issues to be addressed?

The number of money laundering cases is seriously increasing, questioning the efficacy of the implementation of the law. Moreover, on many occasions, the law has been abused by authority which has been seen and referred to by the Supreme Court as well. In Vijay Madanlal Chaudhury versus Union of India (2022) the Court held that to initiate prosecution under Section 3 of the PMLA, registration as scheduled offence is a pre requisite but for initiating attachment of property

under Section 5, there need not be a pre-registered criminal case. This view has been very often misused by authorities with politically motivated intentions. It is important that the authorities

follow the recommendations of the FATF and ensure that money laundering cases are handled with care and caution so that misuse could be checked, and genuine cases reported and investigated properly to enhance the rate of conviction. Money laundering is a serious offence as it has a direct linkage with terror activities and is a major source of terror financing. Instead of political motives, the law should be used to address the issues and concerns involved in a genuine manner. Though India has signed the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with about 85 countries, which helps to check money laundering, things are not yet in the right direction and much needs to be done. These agreements promote the exchange of financial and tax-related information between tax authorities of participating countries. This facilitates the enforcement of tax regulations and helps prevent illegal activities like tax evasion and money laundering.

C. B. P. Srivastava is President of the Centre for Applied Research in Governance.

THE GIST

Money laundering, as defined under Section 3 of PMLA, is an act through which processes or activities connected to the proceeds of crime are concealed, possessed, acquired, or used and projected as untainted property or claiming to be untainted property.

The number of money laundering cases is seriously increasing, questioning the efficacy of the implementation of the law

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How is China extending its policing network overseas?

What are the joint patrols under the 2017 China-Croatia Agreement on Police Cooperation for?

Anushka Saxena

The story so far:

n July 16, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security (MPS) announced that an eight-member police team was despatched to Croatia for a "joint patrol mission." This would be the sixth joint patrol under the 2017 China-Croatia Agreement on Police Cooperation.

What are these joint patrols for? As the MPS itself highlighted, officers from China and Croatia have formed

mixed patrol units to address "the safety concerns of Chinese tourists in Croatia." The Chinese Ambassador to Croatia, Qi Qianjin, said that in 2024, 2,50,000 such tourists visited Croatia, up 41% year-on-year. A similar patrol was launched this time last year, and they operated in Croatian cities such as Zagreb, Dubrovnik, Zadar etc. At the time, it was

said that the patrols were to address the "safety-related concerns" of not just Chinese tourists, but also Chinese citizens and overseas Chinese people in Croatia.

What about other European nations? The Croatian project is not a one-off

endeavour of the Chinese state. Under its 2014 Operation, 'Fox Hunt', and the subsequent 2015 umbrella project 'Sky Net', the party-state has developed extensive policing and surveillance networks both within and beyond China. As part of 'Sky Net', joint police patrolling initiatives have been launched with Serbia, Italy and Hungary. Three month-long patrols have already been conducted in Serbia in 2019, 2023, and 2024. In Hungary, the Qingtian County Public Security Bureau has gone as far as creating 'police service centres' in the country. Concerns surrounding the creation of Chinese 'service centres' led Italy to suspend joint police patrols.

What is China aiming for?

The freedom accorded to Chinese police mobility in countries abroad has shown two things – first, that there is potential for officers to arrest Chinese dissidents abroad, and second, that their unchecked operations can lead to the establishment of police stations across the world.

It was discovered in 2023 that China operated two stations in the cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam in the Netherlands. The-then Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said that these 'service centres' were merely venues to assist overseas Chinese nationals to renew their driving licences and receive physical check-ups for that purpose. Around the same time, another media investigation said that the Chinese police service centre contacted a Chinese Dutch citizen who questioned Beijing's version of the 2020 Galwan Valley clashes with India. If true, there has been an obvious effort by covert Chinese operatives to target dissidents.

In April 2023, the FBI arrested two operatives from a similar 'service centre' affiliated with the MPS in Manhattan's Chinatown in the U.S. The Justice Department charged them with conspiracy to act as agents of the PRC government, and obstruction of justice for destroying evidence of their communications with an MPS official.

How are countries dealing with this?

The crackdown on covert operations of the MPS abroad seems to directly correlate with a particular nation's contemporary relations with China. In the U.S., Chinese espionage has been a topic of grave concern for a while. But as access to Chinese tourists, academics and officials visiting the U.S. has become restricted amid trade related tensions, the discovery of such covert operations has led U.S. authorities to take public action.

But in places like Mongolia, Serbia and Croatia, the policing programme, so far, has yielded no public investigations. These nations boast of enhancing economic and security ties with China. As long as ties with Beijing focus on resolving economic tensions and technological disputes, the issue of transnational repression is likely to take a back seat – unless the degree of surveillance rises to the level that it harms national and/ or European security.

Anushka Saxena is with The Takshashila Institution.

THE GIST

Officers from China and Croatia have formed mixed patrol units to address "the safety concerns of Chinese tourists in Croatia."

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KEYWORD

Necropolitics: who is allowed to live and who may die

Necropolitics is a theory that examines how modern nation states determine whose lives are disposable and may be sacrificed in the name of security, threat, or political control

Rebecca Rose Varghese

ave you ever noticed how an airstrike in Mumbai triggers national outrage, but a similar attack in Kashmir rarely breaks through the noise? We're so accustomed to hearing about violence there that it barely feels like news. It's as if deaths in these regions are already anticipated and normalised. These aren't just accidents of geography. They are symptoms of a deeper system, a politics that decides whose lives are worth grieving and whose deaths are simply part of the landscape.

Necropolitics is the use of political power to determine who is allowed to live and who can be made to die. It describes how states and institutions manage death by exposing certain populations, such as refugees, the poor, or racialised communities, to violence, abandonment, or structural neglect.

Coined by Cameroonian historian Achille Mbembe in a 2003 essay and later expanded in his book Necropolitics (2019), the concept builds on Michel Foucault's notion of biopolitics but shifts the focus. While biopolitics is concerned with managing life and populations, necropolitics interrogates the power to let people die, deciding who is disposable, who may be sacrificed, and whose suffering is structurally ignored.

Biopolitics versus necropolitics

Foucault traces how the organisation of power changed over time: from sovereign power, where rulers exercised authority through public spectacles of death, to disciplinary power, which works through institutions like schools and prisons to train individuals using surveillance and routine. This evolved into biopower – the control of entire populations through the optimisation of life via vaccination, sanitation, census-taking, and reproductive governance. Biopower appears progressive, but as Foucault warned, it carries within it the power to "make live and let die."

Mbembe takes this further. He asks: if biopolitics is truly about preserving life, why are so many still dying? Why are certain lives treated as expendable? Biopolitics tells only half the story. The other half is necropolitics, the deliberate exposure of certain populations to death, not by accident but by design. While biopolitics governs life, necropolitics governs death. It does not merely ignore suffering; it produces it with calculated precision. Necropolitics is not about letting people die, but about making them

Unlike sovereign power, necropolitics does not rely on the will of a single ruler. It operates through policies, institutions, and global indifference that erases the value of some lives. These lives are stripped of dignity, reduced to statistics, and rendered disposable. This logic, Mbembe argues, has deep colonial roots. Consider the Bengal famine of 1943. Millions died not due to a lack of food, but because British colonial policies prioritised imperial interests over Indian lives. Death was systemic, not accidental. People were treated as tools for the empire, valued only in relation to others'

In necropolitical systems, people are



distribution point, is carried on a motorcycle in the central Gaza Strip on July 27. AFP

not killed through spectacle but through suppresses dissent through surveillance, slow, structural abandonment. Death is normalised and bodies become data. The people, whether in borders, refugee camps, or detention centres, are managed, contained, and forgotten. For instance, during the HIV/AIDS crisis of the 1980s and '90s, queer people, especially Black, brown, trans, and working-class individuals, were abandoned by healthcare systems and denied dignity. As scholars like Judith Butler and Jasbir Puar note, only queer lives made respectable through whiteness or middle-class identity were grieved.

Puar calls this queer necropolitics, where some queer lives are protected while others are left to die.

Characteristics of necropolitics Necropolitics operates through several defining features that together create a

systematically devalued. First, state terror

system where certain lives are

communities, as seen in resource extraction projects. Sixth, death is administered in varied forms like torture, drone strikes, starvation, and disappearance. Finally, these acts are morally justified through ideologies like nationalism, religion, or utilitarianism. **Creating a state of exception**

social groups displaces entire

violence, imprisonment, or elimination,

even within democracies. Second, states

collaborate with private militias or

criminal groups, blurring the line

between state and non-state violence.

measure of authority. Fourth, war and

fuelling global surveillance and arms

terror become self-sustaining economies,

markets. Fifth, active predation of certain

Third, enmity becomes a governing

principle, making the right to kill a

Necropolitics is sustained not only through violence but through the

systematic invention of enemies. Modern states are driven by the desire for an enemy onto whom fear and blame can be projected. This enemy need not be real the fantasy alone justifies surveillance, exclusion, and elimination. In neoliberal regimes, the threat turns inward, prompting expanded policing and emergency laws that target not just the accused but also those who resemble

Italian philosopher Giorgio Agamben calls this condition the state of exception, when the law suspends itself in the name of preserving itself. Mbembe expands this to show how, for many populations, the exception is not temporary but permanent.

In such spaces, legality becomes hollow and rights are applied selectively. What governs is not justice but logistics, such as who gets care, who receives compensation, who can cross a border, and who is punished for trying. These decisions may seem administrative, but they are deeply necropolitical, revealing how life and death are unequally distributed.

The living dead

Mbembe also introduces a haunting concept within necropolitical thought the living dead: people who are not killed outright but are forced to live in conditions so degraded, unstable, and violent that life becomes a slow, continuous dying. These are individuals and communities who may remain biologically alive but are stripped of political, social, and moral recognition.

We saw this during India's COVID-19 lockdown, when migrant workers were left to walk for days without food, shelter, or transport. Many collapsed and died on highways or railway tracks, not from the virus, but from state neglect. Their deaths were quietly processed and bureaucratically explained and largely unmourned.

Mbembe calls these zones death worlds - spaces where populations are exposed to abandonment or sudden violence. Drawing from Agamben's "state of exception," Mbembe shows how these spaces operate outside the usual rule of law. Here, death is not a breakdown of governance but its very method.

Gaza is one of the starkest examples. After the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, Israeli strikes flattened hospitals, aid centres, and homes. Even the deaths of children were dismissed as collateral damage. The silence that followed reveals necropolitics at its clearest: some deaths are not just permitted but framed as necessary for political strategy and national security.

In everyday life

Necropolitics does not always come with bombs or guns. More often, it takes the form of law, policy, and bureaucracy sterilisation drives targeting Dalit and Adivasi women, police databases that profile Muslim names or Black people, drone strikes that label civilians as "targets," or detention centres where children sleep on cold floors. These are not failures of a protective system, but features of one designed to discard.

It also exists in silence – in the world. including states and global institutions looking away as thousands of civilians, including women and children, are killed in places like Gaza, while the rest of us carry on with our daily lives. Necropolitics is not confined to war zones. It thrives in the slow violence of poverty, caste, racism, and displacement.

So, if power today functions through abandonment and death, what does resistance look like? The goal must not simply be to survive, but to live lives that are recognised, valued, and grieved.

Rebecca Rose Varghese is a freelance



Know your English

K. Subrahmanian S. Upendran

"Hi. Haven't seen you in a while. Where have you been?"

"Busy studying. Did you watch the men's final?"

"No. I knew...."

'....you didn't watch the final! That's unbelievable."

"I knew Sampras was going to zap Pioline, so...."

"....he was going to what?"

"Z..a..p. It rhymes with map, cap, and tap. To zap someone means to defeat someone badly. For example, Sampras zapped Pioline to claim his tenth Grand Slam title."

"Can I say, my team got zapped 10-1 in a friendly football game?"

"You certainly can. Your team always gets zapped. Nothing unusual in that." "That's true. Maybe, the coach should zap you guys.'

"Our coach should zap us? You mean he should defeat us?"

"No, no. In this case, the word zap means to criticise someone severely." "So the word zap has more than one

meaning?" "That's right. Here's an example. I was

late for work and my boss zapped me." "Meaning your boss scolded you."

"Can I say, my mother zapped me for coming home late last night?"

"You certainly can. Whenever the Indian team doesn't perform well, it gets zapped by the press.

That's true. Why did your mother zap you last night? Where did you go?"

"I went to meet Gopa. He wanted to...." '....I didn't know, that yoyo was back in

"Yoyo! Both the o's are pronounced like the o in cone, bone, and phone. And the stress is on the first syllable."

"All that is fine. But what does yoyo "The word is often used in informal

American English to mean a stupid or silly person. For example, the yoyo in purple trousers is my boss' son."

"Your boss' son wears purple trousers?"

"Sometimes. Here's another example.

'....let me give an example. There's some yoyo at the door. He says he wants to meet vou. Sounds OK?"

"Sounds good to me. What did that yoyo Gopa want?'

"Nothing much. He was zapping his boss for not giving him a raise."

"Nobody will give that yoyo a raise. He's lucky to have a job.'

"Just like you!"

"What do you mean?"

"Even your boss refuses to give you a raise. I guess you and Gopa have something in common after all. Ha! Ha!"

Published in The Hindu on July 22, 1997.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to

On August 6 and 9, 1945, the U.S. detonated two atomic bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively. Here is a quiz on the bombings

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1

What are the names of the two types of atomic bombs that were dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

QUESTION 2

What was the research programme called, that was undertaken during World War II to produce the first nuclear weapons?

QUESTION 3

What was the Franck Report?

QUESTION 4 This was a secret

development of the science and engineering related to nuclear energy and specifically nuclear weapons. It was signed by Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt. What was this called? **QUESTION 5**

agreement between the

outlining the terms for

U.K. and the U.S.

coordinated

term used to define a 'bombing survivor' or a 'person affected by exposure to radioactivity'?



What is the Japanese



Identify this person and how was he connected to the bombings? FILE PHOTO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This decision by the Bangladesh high court triggered the students' protests that led to the fall of the government. Ans: Reinstating 30% reservation for descendants of freedom fighters

2. The banner under which students were

protesting. Ans: Students Against Discrimination 3. The derogatory word used to denote people who helped Pakistani troops during the Liberation War in 1971. Ans: Razakars

4. Name the organisation and economic instrument it was based on set up by Muhammad Yunus. Ans: **Grameen Bank: Microfinance**

5. Name the court in Bangladesh that began the trial of Ms. Hasina over crimes against humanity. Ans: **International Crimes Tribunal**

Visual: This building was razed by a mob on February 6. Name the person who used to reside here. Ans: 32, Dhanmondi; Sheikh Mujibur

Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan Arun Kumar Singh| Pranab Biswas| Tito Shiladitya| Sukdev Shet

Word of the day Launder: cleanse with a cleaning agent, such as soap, and

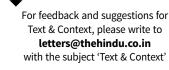
water; convert illegally obtained funds into legal

Synonyms: wash, change, convert,

Usage: He used a phony business to launder money from scams.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/launderpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈlɔːndə/



M ND-NDE

From Page One

Flash floods leave four dead in Uttarakhand

He added, "Teams of State Disaster Response Force, Army and ITBP were immediately rushed to the spot to carry out rescue operations on a war footing."

Given the poor weather conditions and further predictions of heavy rains over the next couple of days, the administration has announced that all schools will be shut on July 6. Disaster management officials have been asked to use loudspeakers and sirens to alert people living in villages near the river, in the Chilyanisaur, Bhatwari, and Dunda blocks, asking them to evacuate their homes for safer locations. Trekking permits in Uttarkashi have also been denied until further notice.

CM condoles losses

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami condoled the losses and ordered the administration to ensure speedy rescue and rehabilitation. "I am in constant contact with senior officials, and the situation is being closely monitored. I pray to God for everyone's safety," the Chief Mi-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah also spoke to Mr. Dhami and took stock of the situation and the rescue operation. The Union government has assured the State of its help in the rescue efforts.

Hours after the floods in Dharali, information of flash floods triggered by rains was received from Sukhi top, another tourists destination in Uttarkashi, said Vinay Shankar Pandey, Divisional Commissioner of Garhwal region. He added that no loss of life was reported from the spot but the water level in the river increased drastically.

India, Philippines now in strategic partnership

"We remain committed to peace, security, prosperity, and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. We support freedom of navigation in accordance with international law," he said.

Mr. Modi described the Philippines as an "important partner" in India's Act East Policy. "I am happy to share that we have decided to upgrade our ties to a strategic partnership. We have also prepared a detailed action plan to turn this partnership's potential into outcomes," he said. The Prime Minister also announced that direct flights between India and the Philippines will begin this year, while India will extend a free e-tourist visa facility to Filipino nationals for a period of one year, starting August 2025.

The two countries agreed on a number of defence-related mechanisms including the finalisation of the Terms of Reference between their armies, navies and air forces. These agreements will cover "capacity building, joint maritime activities, exchange of training programmes between our officials, and all standard elements when we talk about defence cooperation", according to P. Kumaran, Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs. The two countries also agreed on the Terms of Reference for enhanced maritime cooperation between the Indian Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard.

Mr. Kumaran also reiterated India's position on the South China Sea. "We consider the South China Sea as a part of the global commons. We support freedom of navigation and overflight in the region, and legitimate commerce through the waters of the South China Sea. India has an abiding interest in peace and stability in the region and our position is based on the UN Convention of the Law of the Seas, 1982," he said. India announced that it will extend its support to a pilot project to set up the infrastructure needed for the Philippines Sovereign Data Cloud. India also invited the Philippines to participate in its Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region.

₹1,054 cr. lost in cyber frauds in 4 years, says M.P. govt.

Mehul Malpani BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh has recorded cyber fraud cases of ₹1,054 crore in the past four years, of which only ₹1.94 crore have been recovered and handed back to the victims, which is less than 0.2% of the amount, the government informed the Assembly.

In response to a question raised by Congress MLA Jaivardhan Singh, the Home Department said that between May 1, 2021, and July 13, 2025, ₹1,054 crore had been siphoned off in cyber fraud related cases in the State. Citing the National Cyber Reporting Platform data, the Department headed by Chief Minister Mohan Yaday said ₹1.94 crore have been recovered and handed back to the victims, while ₹105.21 crore have been on hold.

The State has also recorded 6,046 cases of cyber fraud in over five years -January 2020 to July 15, 2025, the government said.

Trump says he will hike tariff on India 'over next 24 hours'

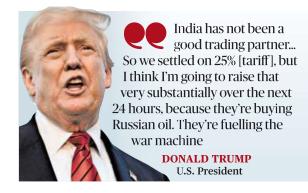
U.S. President reiterates charges about New Delhi buying Russian oil, saying 'they are fuelling the war machine'; he says the U.S. does 'very little business with India because their tariffs are so high'

Press Trust of India NEW YORK

.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday said India had not been a good trading partner, and announced that he would raise the tariffs on the country "very substantially" over the next 24 hours because it is buying Rus-

"With India, what people don't like to say about India, they're the highest tariff nation. They have the highest tariff of anybody. We do very, very little business with India because their tariffs are so high," he said in an interview with CNBC Squawk Box.

"India has not been a good trading partner, because they do a lot of business with us, but we don't do business with them. So we settled on 25% [tariff], but I think I'm going to raise that very substantial-



ly over the next 24 hours, because they're buying Russian oil. They're fuelling the war machine. And if they're going to do that, then I'm not going to be happy," he added.

'Sticking point'

Asked about a likely trade deal with India, Mr. Trump said the "sticking point" with India was that its tariffs were too high. "Now I will say this, India went from the highest tariffs ever, they will give us zero tariffs... But that's not good enough, because of what they're doing with oil."

A day earlier, Mr. Trump said he would "substantially" raise U.S. tariffs on India, accusing the country of buying massive amounts of Russian oil and selling it for big profits.

later, Hours mounted a sharp counterattack on the U.S. and the European Union for their "unjustified and unreasonable" targeting of New Delhi for its procurement of Russian crude oil. India pointed out the double

standards in targeting it on the issue and said both the U.S. and the EU are continuing their trade with Russia. "Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

The Europe-Russia trade includes not just energy but also fertilizers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel, and machinery and transport equipment, it said. "Where the U.S. is concerned, it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV industry, fertilizers as well as chemicals," it added.

"In this background, the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable. Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security," the Mi-

U.S. exerting 'illegal' trade pressure on **Îndia: Russia**

Reuters

Russia accused the United States on Tuesday of exerting "illegal" trade pressure on India after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened again to raise tariffs on India over its purchases of Russian oil.

"We hear many statements that are in fact threats, attempts to force countries to cut trade relations with Russia. We do not consider such statements to be legal," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"We believe that sovereign countries should have and do have the right to choose their own trading partners, partners for trade and economic cooperation...," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signalled no change in Russia's stance on the war, despite the looming deadline on August 8. India has called Mr. Trump's "unjustified".

Kartavya Bhavan: officials flag lack of privacy in new offices

Vijaita Singh NEW DELHI

The Central Secretariat Service (CSS) Forum, a body representing government officials, has written to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) saying the open office spaces in the new government buildings compromise privacy and pose risks serious confidentiality.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to inaugurate Kartavya Bhavan-3 - the first of the 10 buildings of the Common Central Secretariat (CCS) - on Wednesday. All Ministries will eventually move to the new office buildings being built at Kartavva Path in Lutyens' Delhi. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which had been synonymous with the North Block address on Raisina Hills for the past 90 years, is among the first offices to shift to the new building.

In a letter to the PMO and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the CSS Forum stated, "The seating arrangement in Kartavya Bhavan-3 lacks the necessary spatial integrity and functional separation of

Work on new buildings to be over by mid-2027

Union Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal on Tuesday said construction of all 10 buildings of the Common Central Secretariat would be over by mid-2027. The construction of all buildings would begin by December 31. Mr. Lal said.

sections. In addition, multiple sections are housed in a single work hall without demarcation tant Section Officers (ASOs), who are central to file processing and examining, lack dedicated storage for both physical files and stationery, as well as partitions between their workspaces," the Forum, which repre-13,000 sents officials, stated.

"Under Secretaries, who are entrusted with highly confidential matters, require a private workspace. They have been provided open office spaces, wherein their telephonic and in-person discussions... can easily be overheard, posing risk to confidentiality," it added.

India may change stance amid U.S. tariffs, EU sanctions over Russian oil

NEWS ANALYSIS

<u>Suhasini Haid</u>ar NEW DELHI

The statement by the Ministry of External Affairs on Monday, defending India's purchases of Russian oil, is its most explicit since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, making it clear that India will take "all necessary measures" to safeguard its interests.

The MEA's response followed the new threats by U.S. President Donald Trump to impose penalty tariffs over and above the massive 25% reciprocal tariffs the U.S. will impose on Indian goods as tariffs kick in worldwide on Thursday.

On Monday, Mr. Trump said India was selling "massive amounts" of Russian oil for "big profits" without "caring how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian war machine", which was why he would raise tariffs

"substantially". The MEA statement called out both the U.S. and the European Union for their double standard, given they themselves continued to purchase Russian



or seek alternative partners. FILE PHOTO

energy, critical minerals, fertilizers, iron and steel.

The statement left other ouble standard unsaid such as the U.S. and Europe's funding and arming Israel's war in Gaza, that has led to the killing of at least 60,000 Palestinians. Nor did it point out that the U.S. has not announced penalties on China, a bigger buyer of Russian oil.

This marks a shift from the past when New Delhi's response to low-impact U.S. and E.U. sanctions of Indian companies for Russian transactions was submissive. In 2017, the Modi government agreed to "zero out" all its oil imports from Iran and Venezuela after threats from the previous Trump administra-

Changing tack

The MEA's statement could indicate that it is prepared to change to a third tack that of considering "measures" against any further costs imposed by the West, even though Indian oil companies have begun reducing their Russian intake. These measures, according to experts could be three-fold: maintaining status quo, looking for alternative partners, and retaliatory actions.

The first option would be to continue to buy Russian energy and even double down on them, while weathering sanctions im-

posed by the U.S. and E.U., and continuing to pursue free trade agreements with both in the hope these would lessen such penalties. The next option, to search for alternative options for trading to circumvent U.S.-E.U. sanctions, could include moving to quickly conclude other FTA negotiations, ongoing with the GCC, EAEU, Australia, New Zealand and so on. It could also conclude talks on revising the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement or even a re-look at joining the 15nation ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership that India withdrew from in 2019, largely due to concerns about China. The third option, of counter-measures, could involve suspending talks with the E.U. on the BTIA, and with the U.S. on trade, nuclear energy, defence purchases and others until they prove more reasonable on the issue.

All eyes are now on whether the turbulence will impact the strongest pillar of India-U.S. ties their shared Indo-Pacific strategy and the Ouad summit that India is due to host this year.

Officers who are honest must be protected: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said a provision in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 that mandates prior sanction before prosecuting public servants serves to protect honest bureaucrats from becoming victims of political vendetta after a regime

change. Section 17A of the Act bars any "enquiry or inquiry or investigation" against a public servant for recommendations made during official duties without approval from the competent authority. "Honest officers who do not toe the line after a change in government will be protected," the Bench observed.

ED records statement of Reliance ADAG Group chairman Anil Ambani

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday recorded the statement of Reliance ADAG Group chairman Anil Ambani in connection with an alleged bank loan fraud case involving the companies.

Mr. Ambani reached the ED office in the national capital around 11 a.m. and got his statement recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Seeks seven days

It is learnt that during the examination, various questions related to loan transactions were put to him. Mr. Ambani sought a period of seven days to furnish the requisite details



Industrialist Anil Ambani arrives at the Enforcement Directorate office for questioning in a money laundering case on Tuesday. PTI

and supporting documents to the probe agency. The ED summoned the businessman following searches at 35 locations of

50 companies and 25 individuals in the last week of In a statement, Reliance Infrastructure had then

said the issue pertained to

an over 10-year-old matter

regarding alleged diversion of ₹10,000 crore to an undisclosed related party, when the exposure as per the disclosures in the company's financial statements was around ₹6,500 "In this connection, at-

tention is invited that Re-

liance Infrastructure had

publicly disclosed this

2025, nearly six months ago. Reliance Infrastructure Limited had a net exposure of around ₹6,500 crore which was duly disclosed in its financial statements since four years. Re-Infrastructure diligently pursued recovery of its dues in this matter," it said. "Through mandatory

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

DAC clears procurement proposals of ₹67,000 crore

Saurabh Trivedi NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, sanctioned multiple procurement proposals worth nearly ₹67,000 crore to strengthen the nation's military preparedness.

According to Ministry of Defence, Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) was accorded for the Indian Army to procure Thermal Imager-based Driver Night Sight for BMP, a Soviet-era amphibious infantry fighting vehicle. The DAC has also accorded AoN for comprehensive annual maintenance contract of S-400 Long Range Air De-

fence Missile System.

Govt. can issue national IDs to citizens: Centre

Vijaita Singh NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha was recently informed that the Citizenship Act, 1955 provides that the Union government should compulsorily register every citizen of India and issue national Identity Cards to them.

The Ministry of Home Affairs was responding to a

question by Trinamool Congress member Mala Roy about details of cards, which, as per the court of law, is an admissible identity proof as an Indian citizen.

Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar, in a written reply, said the particulars of citizens are entered in the National Register of Citizens (NRC).



be conducted at NAMAR HOSPITAL, Chennai. The Total expenditure of the treatment is Rs.2,00,000/-Her parents are not willing to take care of her and her grandparents are looking after her. They are very poor and not in a position to meet the expenses. Please help the baby to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/M.O/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY(Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/T Transfer & GOOGLE PAY(Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No.CNRB0016018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, FlatNo.GF1, CorddelApartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/31523781/7338978027, E Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com Website: WWW. womenswelfaresyndicate.org

Venugopal writes to Shah, Chhattisgarh CM, seeks closure of case against 2 Kerala nuns

Shubhomoy Sikdar

Three days after two Catholic nuns from Kerala - arrested on charges of religious conversion and human trafficking in Chhattisgarh's Durg - were released on bail, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal on Tuesday wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, seeking the closure of the cases against them.

MPs belonging to the Congress-led United Democratic Front, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, protested over the issue in the Parliament complex.

In his letters to the two leaders, Mr. Venugopal also sought action against Bajrang Dal members on whose complaint the two nuns and a man from Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur were arrested on July 25.

In his letter, Mr. Venugopal wrote that the three accused were unjustly arrested and imprisoned on false charges of human trafficking and forced religious conversion. "Their arrest,



Congress leader K.C. Venugopal

and the events leading up to it, represent a gross misuse of state power, driven not by law but by communal prejudice and political malice," he wrote, while also highlighting the nuns' allegations that they were assaulted and coerced by Bajrang Dal members.

The Congress leader added that the conditional bail granted to the accused after eight days of "unjust incarceration, following sustained protests by the Opposition and the public including the Christian community", was itself an indictment of the injustice they were subjected to.

"Considering these disturbing developments, I urge you to take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of this fabricated case in a time-bound manner," he wrote.

NDA hails armed forces and **PM for Operation Sindoor**

At group meeting, PM criticises Opposition for insisting on debates about operation, asserting that it backfired on them; SC remarks on Rahul are significant, no greater reprimand, he says

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

he National Democratic Alliance's parliamentary party group, meeting on Tuesday for the first time in over a year, felicitated Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "exceptional leadership" and the armed forces for their valour during Operation Sindoor. Mr. Modi appeared combative as he addressed the group, saying that by demanding a debate on the operation, the Opposition had made a

strategic misstep. The meeting passed a resolution, moved by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, commending the armed forces for their valour and Mr. Modi's leadership during both Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev, which led to the death of the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack.

Sources present at the meeting said Mr. Modi had criticised the Opposition for insisting on debates over Operation Sindoor. He



Big resolution: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers Rainath Singh, Amit Shah and others after the meeting. PTI

reportedly described the demand as a strategic error, asserting that it had backfired.

"Where else will you find an Opposition that hits its own foot with a stone," the Prime Minister is reported to have said, according to sources.

On SC's remarks

He also referred to the recent remarks by the Supreme Court directed at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi regarding his statements on a purported Chinese land grab. Mr. Modi, sources said, viewed the top court's comments as significant. "There can be no greater reprimand than the one delivered by the Supreme Court yesterday," he is reported to have said.

Elaborating on the court's observations, he reportedly said, "What more can we say, when the Supreme Court itself has spoken. This isn't just stepping on a stone – this is inviting the bull to charge."

During the meeting, the Prime Minister suggested that Opposition-led debates ultimately favoured the NDA. "The Opposition should hold such debates every day. By demanding such discussions, the Opposition ended up shooting itself in the foot," he said.

He commended Union Home Minister Amit Shah for having achieved the longest tenure as Home Minister since India's Inde-

Following the passage of the resolution, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar posted on the social media platform X, "The NDA parliamentary party resolution adopted today is a strong and determined reaffirmation of India's commitment to peace and zero tolerance against terrorism. It also attests to the courage and bravery of our armed forces during Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev. India will -Give a fitting reply to any terror attack on India on its own terms, not tolerate nuclear blackmail, not differentiate between the government sponsoring terrorism and the masterminds of terrorism."

Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar to be Trinamool's Chief Whip in LS

RS clears resolution to extend

The Rajya Sabha cleared a statutory resolution on

Tuesday extending President's Rule in Manipur

for another six months. The Lok Sabha passed

the resolution last week. The resolution came

demanding a discussion on the special intensive

revision of the electoral rolls in Bihar. Minister of

State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai moved the

resolution in the Upper House. He said the State

witnessed only one incident of violence since the

imposition of President's Rule. The Upper House

also passed a resolution to amend the Second

Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

amid protests by Opposition members

President's Rule in Manipur

The Trinamool Congress accepted MP Kalyan Banerjee's resignation as Lok Sabha Chief Whip and named Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar as his replacement, in a clear signal to the party rank and file that statements outside the party line will not be tolerated. Four-time Trinamool MP and actor Satabdi Roy was appointed the Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha. "It is a straightforward message to all, no distractions from the party agenda will be tolerated," a party leader said. Without naming anyone, Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee, at a meeting with party MPs on Monday, expressed displeasure with lack of coordination in the Lok Sabha team. Mr. Kalyan resigned from the post after the meeting.

Manifold increase in rabies deaths in two years: Centre

Though the number of presumptive cases of

rabies in humans has come down from 4,885 in 2022 to 1,079 in 2024, the number of rabies deaths has increased manifold to 180 in 2024 from 22 in 2022, the Animal Husbandry Ministry informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. In 2024, the highest number of deaths was reported from Tamil Nadu (43), followed by Karnataka (42) and Andhra Pradesh (39). In 2023, 121 people died of rabies and 2,223 presumptive cases were reported, the Ministry said.

Leader slams Malviya over 'Bangladeshi language' row

A former BJP MP from the Bengali-speaking Barak Valley in Assam hit out at party leader Amit Malviya for his take on Sylheti, a variant of Bengali. Defending a Delhi Police communique, Mr. Malviya, who heads the BJP's information technology cell, said the Sylheti dialect of Bengali was "nearly incomprehensible to Indian Bengalis". Pointing out that Sylheti is the *lingua* franca of the Barak Valley, Rajdeep Roy said over 70 lakh people speak it. He said dismissing it as alien to Bengalis in India was "inaccurate, deeply unfortunate, and condemnable".

Deputy Chairman rejects Opposition's claim of CISF deployment in Rajya Sabha

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh on Tuesday rejected the Opposition's charge that Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel had been deployed inside the House.

He castigated the Oppotion for continued ruptions, questioning whether entering the Well of the House and disturbing other members could be termed a "democratic right of protest".

Mr. Harivansh was responding to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's letter from last week. Mr. Kharge, who is the Leader of the Opposition, had said that he was shocked to see CISF personnel blocking MPs from entering the Well



of the House.

Mr. Harivansh's remarks led to a sharp exchange between the Opposition and Treasury benches. Mr. Kharge reiterated his allegation, and complained that the Opposition members were being treated as terrorists. He asked if the Chair or Union Home Minister Amit Shah, to whom the CISF reports, was con-

Strongly objecting to Mr. Kharge's remarks and the repeated disruptions, Union Minister J.P. Nadda, who is the Leader of the House, said the Opposition members should take tuition from him on how to function from the Opposi-

The Rajya nessed its first adjournment at 11.45 a.m. Soon after it resumed at 2 p.m., the proceedings were adjourned for the day amid protests over the special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar.

tion benches.

Calling the continued disruption worrying, Mr. Harivansh said, "We members should self-introspect whether such actions enhance the dignity and decorum of the House."

EC suspends 4 West Bengal officers for 'wrongful addition of names in electoral rolls'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Four officials of the State Electoral Office of West Bengal have been put under suspension by the Election Commission on Tuesday for their "failure in supervising election-related work".

The action was taken following a report by the State's Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) about wrongful addition in electoral rolls by **Electoral Registration Offic**ers (ERO) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AERO).

The complaint by the CEO West Bengal, dated July 29, informed about wrongful addition of names in the electoral rolls of Assembly Constituency numbers 137 Baruipur Purba (South 24 Parganas district)

The poll panel has also asked the **West Bengal Chief** Secretary to lodge FIRs against the four officials

and 206 Moyna (Purba Medinipur district). It has been stated in the complaint that the said officers have not only failed to perform their duty as EROs and AEROs while disposing of applications but also violated the policy of data security while sharing their login credentials of the electoral roll database with unauthorised persons, the EC said in a letter dated August 5 to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal. The EC said it has taken serious note of the "grave lapses" and has decided that the four offic-

ers would be placed under suspension for their failure in supervising election-related work with immediate effect and suitable disciplinary proceedings be initiated against them without any delay.

The poll panel has also directed the Chief Secretary to lodge FIRs against the officials for their actions which notentially amount to "criminal misconduct". The poll body asked for a compliance report at the earliest.

The EC had last week instructed the State CEO to begin preparations for special intensive revision of electoral rolls in West Bengal. Assembly polls are due in the State next year.

The SIR is being currently implemented in Bihar amid criticism from the Opposition.

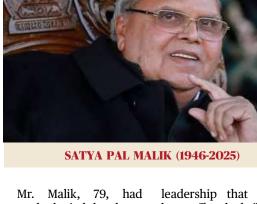
Satya Pal Malik: last Governor of J&K who became a staunch critic of Modi

Anuj Kumar

Satya Pal Malik, the last Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, who became a trenchant critic of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 2021 farmer agitation, passed away in Delhi after a prolonged illness on Tuesday, the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370.

He is survived by his teacher-environmentalist wife, Iqbal Malik, and son Dev Kabir, a well-known graphic designer.

The seasoned grassroots politician from western Uttar Pradesh, who weathered many a political storm spanning over five decades, was ailing from kidney issues and was admitted to the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in May, hours after the CBI filed a chargesheet against him and five others in the ₹2,200-crore Kiru hydropower project case on alleged corruption charges.



strongly denied the charges, and called them politically motivated. In a social media post on June 7, he reiterated that he was being targeted because he supported the farmers' movement and women wrestlers' agitation against sexual harassment.

Earlier, in media interviews, he accused the government of engaging in a witch-hunt, claiming that he had informed the top leadership that he had been offered a bribe twice during his tenure as the J&K Governor and had been praised for his honesty. Following the abrogation of Article 370, which reduced the status of J&K to a Union Territory, Mr. Malik was transferred to Goa and subsequently to Meghalaya.

Not one to pull his punches, Mr. Malik was the only politician who openly spoke against the Modi government while holding a Constitutional post. After demitting office, Mr. Malik created a stir when he alleged that Mr. Modi had shut him up when he blamed the Centre's lapses for the deaths in the Pulwama attack in 2019, and highlighted the Home Ministry's refusal of an aircraft that had forced the convoy to travel by road. Recently, he raised

questions about Mr. Modi's handling of the Pahalgam attack. However, he remained neutral on Article 370 throughout, and said he signed on the dotted line set by the Centre.

His detractors viewed him as an opportunist who abandoned the party when he was superseded by another Jat and former Governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, in the race for the Vice-President's chair. However, Mr. Malik maintained that it was a fight for his principles and the interests of farmers until the end.

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Email : pmd.civil@tnpl.co.in NOTICE INVITING TENDER Tender No. Work Description Due date

Replacement of existing damaged galvalume AC sheet roofing with aluminium sheet upto + 23.0 mtr level in Paper machine #1 and 252613 22.08.2025 #2 (Phase II) at TNPL Unit - I.

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites: www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app DIPR/4145/Tender/2025 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper



NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) Urban Development Department (UDD), Government of Uttarakhand (GoU) has received financin rom Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project (ULIP) in the State of Uttarakhand. The Project involves development of urban infrastructure facilities like Bus Terminus, Administration Building, Command and Control Center and Intelligent Traffic Management system in Haldwani and intends to apply part of the proceeds of the Loan for the works

The "Program Director", Uttarakhand Urban Sector Development Agency (UUSDA), Governmen of Uttarakhand" (the Employer) invites online bids through the Uttarakhand state e-procuremen portal https://uktenders.gov.in, from eligible Bidders for the execution of the work as detailed below

Name of Work	Package No.	No.	Submission
Development of Integrated Urban cacilities, including Bus Terminus, udministration Building, Command Ind Control Center and Intelligent raffic Management system, with is years of O&M, at Haldwani, Ittarakhand	IUF/HDW-01: R1	ULIP/OCB-N/ IUF/HDW-01: R1	04 th September 2025 till 03:00 PM, (15:00 Hrs.)
Pate of publication of bid document		06.08.2025 at 05:00	PM, (17:00 Hrs.)
Site Visit		18.08.2025	
Note of Day Did Months		40.00.0005 -4.44-00	A B 4 (44 : 00 I I)

Bid document may be uploaded from Last Date/Time for downloading of the bid Last Date & Time of Submission Last Date/Time for opening of the bid The prospective bidders can download the detailed bid document in the prescribed format an upload the bid on the website, https://uktenders.gov.in. Program Director, UUSDA reserve the right to reject any or all the proposals or to cancel the entire process without assigning an reason thereof. Further details of the bid document including subsequent addend cancellation etc. may be downloaded from the website https://uktenders.gov.in

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD (A Govt. Of India Enterprise-Nav Ratna)

<u>TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPAT</u>

Health Office, TTD, Tirumala is inviting online bids from the suppliers / manufacturi

firms for supply of Sanitary Items consisting 17 items. Date of upload of Tendo

document 06-08-2025 and last date of submission of Tender document 25-08-2025 For tender document log on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and http://

tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact Phone Nos:0877-226368

& 9866132451 and mail ID:ttdhealthoffice@gmail.com during office working hours.

HEALTH OFFICE, TTD, TIRUMALA.

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.157) Date:05-08-2025

Notice Inviting Open E-Tender GGM/SZ invites E-Tender (Through two bids system) for setting up of Refreshmen

S No	I. D. Unit type	E-Tender no.	Sale of Tender	Last Date & Time for submission of E- Tender
1	. RR - KU	SZ/NIT/RR/2025/02	06.08.2025	04.09.2025 at 15:00 hrs
2	. FP & FFU	SZ/NIT/FP-FFU/2025/03	06.08.2025	04.09.2025 at 15:00 hrs

Tender document downloading & participation can be done on website: < www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC > In case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertiseme it will be published only on IRCTC's website < www.irctc.com >

PUNJAB STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

PSWC invites online tenders through GeM Portal for creation of 16.70 LMT godo capacities at 27 locations in the State of Puniab for guaranteed lease of 10 years of Build, Own and Operate/Lease basis for storage requirements of FCI under two bid system 'Technical Bid' and 'Financial Bid'.

NIT(alongwith GeM Bid IDs) is available on Department's website i.e. https://pswc.i PSWC reserves the right to scrap the tender at any stage without assigning an reason and PSWC will not be held liable for any costs and consequences incurred by the intending bidders.

Note: Any corrigendum(s)/Notification(s) to this Notice Inviting E-Tender shall be published Department's website & GeM Portal. 1004/12/2025-26/1935

Managing Director, PSWC

EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Ex-Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren cremated at Nemra

The mortal remains of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren were consigned to flames by his elder son and Chief Minister Hemant Soren at their native village Nemra in Ramgarh district. People from near and far thronged the village to catch a last glimpse of the leader, who was fondly known as 'Dishom Guru'. His body was laid on a flower-decked charpoy at his ancestral home, in adherence to full tribal customs. Near and dear ones queued up to offer shrouds, chadar, shawls, and bouquets. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and party leader Rahul Gandhi also travelled to the village to attend the funeral of the veteran tribal leader.

U.P. defends Bankey Bihari temple ordinance in SC

The Uttar Pradesh government maintained in the Supreme Court on Tuesday that it did not intend to interfere with religious rights by promulgating an ordinance taking over the management of the ancient Bankey Bihari temple at Vrindavan in Mathura. The State was responding to a query from a Bench headed by Justice Surva Kant on July 4 about its "undue haste" in bringing out the ordinance. Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, for Uttar Pradesh, said the ambit of the ordinance was limited to secular activities and administration of the temple. He said the ordinance was expected to be ratified in the State Assembly.

Top court to hear plea on J&K Statehood non-restoration

Supreme Court lists application questioning the continuance of Jammu and Kashmir's Union Territory status despite assurance of Statehood made on behalf of the Centre for August 8

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

he Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to list on August 8 an application questioning the non-restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir despite an assurance made on behalf of the Centre to the court.

The application was orally mentioned before Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai by senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan on August 5, which is the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of the special status of Iammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution.

The application, filed by Zahoor Ahmed Bhat and activist Khurshaid Ahmad Malik, pointed out that the court had in its 2023 judgment upholding the abrogation, merely accepted the assurance of the Centre to restore Statehood to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir "at the earliest". They pointed out that the Assembly poll in the Union Territory was held peacefully.

"Therefore, there is no impediment of security concerns, violence or any



A man feeds pigeons in front of the Clock Tower (Ghanta Ghar) in Srinagar of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday as the erstwhile State marks six years since the abrogation of Article 370. IMRAN NISSAR

other disturbances which would hinder or prevent the grant/restoration of the status of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as had been assured by the Union of India in the present proceedings," the application said.

'Violation of federalism' The applicants argued that the lack of restoration of Statehood in a time-bound manner amounted to a violation of federalism, which was part of the Basic Structure of Constitution.

In its 2023 verdict, a Constitution Bench of the apex court had unanimously upheld the power of the President to abrogate Article 370 in August 2019, leading to the reorganisation of the fullfledged State of Jammu and Kashmir to two Union Territories and denuding it of its special privileges.

The five-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud (now retired) had confirmed that the President could "unilaterally issue a notification that Article 370 ceases to exist".

The court held that the President had the power to abrogate Article 370 if

circumstances "special special warrant solution".

The judgment had reasoned that the abrogation of Article 370 was the culmination of a "gradual and collaborative exercise" spread over the past 70 years between the Centre and the State to integrate Jammu and Kashmir with the Union.

The objective of the integration process was to make the entirety of the rights and obligations enshrined in the Indian Constitution applicable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the court held.

UPSC plans to send recruitment alerts to institutions via email

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

In a first, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will alert educational and professional institutions to recruitment advertisements as many vacancies remained unfulfilled due to lack of information among jobseekers.

The UPSC does the recruitment to fill Group A and Group B gazetted posts in the Ministries and departments of the Government of India and conducts regular examinations. Depending on the nature of duties, these recruitments require essential qualifications of educational and experience criteria.

UPSC Chairman Ajay Kumar said, "Apart from our regular examinations, UPSC receives recruitment requests from various Ministries and departments for various government positions.

To streamline and expedite the process, we are ensuring that the requests are received well in advance within a three-month window, from January to March, so that the process is planned in a better manner by clubbing similar recruitment cases and holding their common tests to complete the recruitment



UPSC recruits to fill Group A and Group B gazetted posts.

drive in a time-bound manner." "In the past, some disparities were observed in the number of applications we receive for different posts. During the scrutiny of cases, sometimes, the case becomes infructuous as no suitable applicant meeting the Recruitment Rules criteria is found," Mr. Kumar said.

"Sometimes the posts remained vacant or became infructuous during the interview stage as suitable candidates are not found. In order to address these issues, we are rolling out new outreach measures... it is planned to send email alerts/updates to relevant institutions and organisations."

Email alerts would be sent to universities, institutions, associations, professional and recognised bodies, and other institutions can also request the information by writing to raupsc@gov.in.

Ayush Ministry and FSSAI release a list of 'Ayurveda Aahara' food preparations

Bindu Shajan Perappadan

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), in consultation with the Ayush Ministry, has released a list of Ayurvedic food preparations under the category of Ayurveda Aahara.

Ayurveda Aahara refers to foods developed according to Ayurvedic dietary guidelines, focusing on balance, seasonal suitability, and natural ingredients and herbs with therapeutic benefits

With rising public interest in preventive health and sustainable living, Ayurveda Aahara is viewed as a trusted nutritional choice that combines tradition with modern dietary habits, noted a release issued by the Ministry.

Across

8 Wage battle at last instant shelling coasts of Lebu (9)

10 Toper crew's most wasted Australian chaps? (3-3,9)

12 Denounces case charging former partners (9)

9 Metallic gold hinges in clips (4)

13 Matter remains on appeal (5)

Ayurvedic food is viewed as a trusted choice that combines modern dietary habits with tradition

"This move will bring India's traditional food wisdom into the mainstream, following the introduction of the Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations in 2022. These regulations recognise foods based on recipes, ingredients, and processes from authoritative Ayurvedic texts, and the new list brings clarity and confidence to consumers and businesses alike," explained an Ayush Ministry official, adding that the list, issued under Note (1) of Schedule B of the regulations, draws directly from classical Avurvedic texts listed in Schedule A.

To facilitate future additions, FSSAI has established a process for FBOs to request inclusion of additional Category A products not yet listed and such requests need supporting references from authoritative texts in Sche-

Prataprao Jadhav, Minister of State for Ayush and Health & Family Welfare, urged citizens to incorporate Ayurveda Aahara into their daily lives to experience its long-term health

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ayush Ministry, stated that the release of the list of Ayurveda Aahara aligns India's traditional knowledge systems with modern regulatory frameworks.

DMK MP urges India to take lead role in Geneva plastic talks

Jacob Koshy NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Plastics Treaty Negotiations, which began in Geneva on Tuesday. DMK MP Thamizhachi Thangapandian submitted a memorandum to Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Monday, exhorting that India play a "lead role" in advocating a "robust, time bound and enforceable agreement" to address the full life cycle of plastic.

Ms. Thangapandian expressed her position on behalf of the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition to End Plastic Pollution. This is a collective of parliamentarians from about 30 countries who are pushing for stronger action from member states on addressing plastic pollution. Their position doesn't necessarily

converge with their countries' current stance at the Plastics Treaty negotiations, formally called the **International Negotiations** Committee meeting.

Since 2022, when the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted a mandate to create the world's first Plastics Treaty, member-countries been negotiating ways to end dependence on plastic and eliminating plastic waste.

While countries are all agreed in principle, there are sharp differences on the approach to this. Some insist on a cap on production, others aver that improving plastic waste recycling is adequate; yet others say that developed countries must pay developing countries for the costs of transitioning to a non-plastic economy.

Allahabad HC judge 'cut a sorry figure for himself, made mockery of justice': SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has passed a scathing order reprimanding an Allahabad High Court judge, choosing to name him while saying that he not only "cut a so ry figure for himself but has made a mockery of justice".

The court recorded that the judge in question, Justice Prashant Kumar, found nothing wrong in a litigant filing a criminal case against a buyer in a purely civil dispute over an unpaid balance of money in a sale transaction.

"We are at our wits' end to understand what is wrong with the Indian judiciary at the level of the High Court. At times, we are left wondering whether such orders are passed



on some extraneous considerations or it is sheer ignorance of law. Whatever it be, passing of such absurd and erroneous orders is something unpardonable," a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan wrote in a 19-page order dictated in open court on August 4. In fact, the Bench said the High Court judge had found that registering a criminal case for "criminal breach of trust" would be a quicker way to get the unpaid balance.

"The judge has gone to the extent of saying that asking the complainant to pursue civil remedy for the purpose of recovery of the balance amount will be very unreasonable as civil suit may take a long time... It was expected of the High Court to know that in cases of civil dispute a complainant cannot be permitted to resort to criminal proceedings as the same would amount to abuse of process," the Supreme Court noted.

Justice Pardiwala, the lead judge on the top court Bench, asked how the ingredients of the offence of 'criminal breach of trust' would apply to a sale transaction.

"Mere transaction of sale cannot amount to an entrustment," the top court explained.

TH CROSSWORD+ 14556

get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn





To solve this puzzle online,

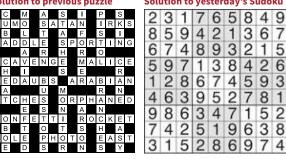
- 17 Roving swindler back to snare enthusiastic one (7) **19** Drop dead with desire (5)
- **21** Bones from a fish piercing rounded object (9)
- 24 Chopping rule to pound raw meat blend (11,4) 25 Month to be idle (4)
- One referred to habit inspired by adult education, in short, turning point (9)

- Become frightened when it mysteriously died in wake
- Style of jumper once, almost polka dancing (4,4) **3** Odd time for speaker's talk (6)
- 4 Some service tips in table tennis to gain edge (3,3) Timber in ship second to none, not wanting ordinary sort
- Supplement section from affidavit, am in memorandum
- Babies raised and left end up with rich relatives (12) **11** Wretched holes? Very! (6)
- **15** Hellish stink in void (8)
- **16** New parts matched in design blow a gasket (2,6) Rodent lifting its front half before creative inspiration
- takes over (8) 20 Slip under cot ultimately in dread (6)
- 22 Tax nets close in (6)
- 23 Agencies united in specific situations (6)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



Moksha in Kali yuga easy

There are four yugas - Krita, Treta, Dwapara and Kali. Of these, Kali yuga has earned the reputation of being a not so good yuga to live in. But Kali yuga has a huge advantage. It is easier to attain mukti in Kali yuga than in any of the other yugas, said Velukkudi Krishnan in a discourse. The process of attaining moksha has been simplified for Kali yuga. Then we may ask if this is fair. How can things be made simpler in one yuga? A person with a capacity to achieve something does not need much help. But a person who faces drawbacks in life needs a helping hand.

In Krita yuga, a person's lifespan was several thousand years. So, there was a lot of time available in which he could work towards moksha. With good food, clean water and unpolluted air available, people were healthier in Krita yuga. In Kali yuga, a person's lifespan is on average not more than 80 or 85 years. Besides, people are not as healthy in Kali yuga as they were in the other yugas. So, naturally, Bhagavan had to make it easier for those born in Kali yuga to attain mukti. In Krita yuga, it took hundred years of dedication to attain liberation. To reach the same goal, it took just 10 years in Treta yuga. In Dwapara yuga just a year was needed. In Kali yuga just a day is needed for a person to attain moksha. Those in past yugas were blessed with favourable conditions for their spiritual endeavours. So, it was not necessary to give them easy options to attain moksha. The people of Kali yuga need some concessions to break free from the samsaric cycle. Lord Narayana, the merciful One, has, therefore, made it easier for people in Kali yuga to reach His lotus feet. He is aware of our limitations and guides us accordingly.



Rajiv Anand appointed MD and CEO of IndusInd Bank

IndusInd International Holdings Ltd. (IIHL), the holding company of IndusInd Bank, has appointed Rajiv Anand as the Managing Director and CEO of the bank, according to a statement from the company's Chairman Ashok Hinduja. The former CEO Sumant Kathpalia along with the Deputy CEO had stepped down from their positions after accounting lapses were found in the derivatives department, cutting net profit by ₹1959.98 crore in the quarter ended March 31.

Ant Financial exits Paytm; sells 5.84% stake for ₹3.803 cr.

Billionaire Jack Ma's Ant Financial on Tuesday exited One97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, by selling its entire 5.84% stake for around ₹3,803 crore. Following the stake sale, shares of One97 Communications fell 1.45% to ₹1,062.60 apiece on the NSE, while the scrip of the company went lower by 1.23% to ₹1,065 on the BSE. Ant Group, through its affiliate Antfin (Netherlands) Holding BV, has offloaded shares of Noida-based One97 Communications.

Bank of Baroda unveils digital forex platform bob FxOne

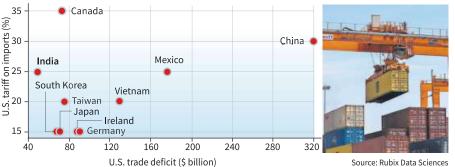
Bank of Baroda has announced the launch of bob FxOne, a digital foreign exchange platform designed for the bank's corporate and MSME customers. "bob FxOne empowers customers to seamlessly execute forex and derivative transactions with real-time live rates, instant confirmations, downloadable deal tickets and a personalised dashboard with alerts, in a secure, user-friendly and cost-effective manner," Bank of Baroda said in a statement.

'U.S. trade deficit with nine countries higher than that of India'

The only two countries with which the U.S. has higher deficits than India and also levies a higher import tariff are China (30%) and Canada (35%)

Tariff dynamics

The U.S. has higher trade deficits with nine countries than with India, but levies higher tariffs on just two



T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan NEW DELHI

he U.S. has levied the third-highest tariff on India among the top 10 countries with which it has the highest trade deficits, an analysis has revealed. In other words, while the U.S. has a higher trade deficit with nine other countries than with India, it has levied higher tariffs on just two – China and Canada.

This comes against the backdrop of the Ministry of External Affairs saying that Mr. Trump's targeting of India is "unjustified and unreasonable".

An analysis by Rubix Data Sciences, a risk management and monitoring company, shows that the U.S. had a \$49.5 billion trade deficit with India in 2024, the 10th highest among all its trading partners. Ho-

wever, the U.S. has levied a tariff of 25% "plus penalties" on imports from India, the third-highest among these countries.

For example, the U.S. had a trade deficit of \$175.9 billion with Mexico in 2024 - 3.5 times that with India - but has levied the same 25% tariff on that country.

Similarly, the U.S. had higher trade deficits with Vietnam (\$129.4 billion), Germany (\$87.9 billion), Ireland (\$87.2 billion), Taiwan (\$76.4 billion), Japan (\$72.3 billion), and South Korea (\$69.9 billion) than with India, but levies lower tariffs on those countries than it does on India.

The only two countries with which the U.S. has higher deficits than with India and also levies a higher import tariff are China (30%) and Canada (35%).

On India's purchase of oil from Russia, Mr. Trump

on Monday said that "they (India) don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian war machine".

However, data from the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, which regularly tracks Russia's energy exports, show that the EU was the largest buyer of Russian liquified natural gas (LNG), accounting for 51% of Russia's exports of these products between December 2022 and June 2025, followed by China (21%) and Japan (18%). Even when it comes to pipeline gas, the EU was the largest buyer of Russian gas, purchasing 37% of Russia's exports, followed by China (30%) and Turkiye (27%).

China bought 47% of Russia's crude exports during this period, followed by India (38%), the EU (6%), and Turkiye (6%).

DBT helped deactivate 4.08 cr. fake, inactive LPG connections: Puri

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

The Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (DBTL) of the Centre, under which domestic cooking gas subsidy is paid into the bank account of consumers has helped block, suspend or deactivate 4.08 crore duplicate, fake/non-existent or inactive liquefied petroleum gas connections.

The DBTL or PAHAL scheme has played a crucial role in identifying and blocking 'ghost' accounts, multiple accounts, and inactive LPG connections, thus curbing diversion of subsidised LPG for commercial use, Petroleum Minister Hardeep S. Puri said in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha.

Sharing details as on July 1, 2025, the Minister said the scheme, whose implementation began in January 2015, has contributed to transparent and effective disbursal of subsidies across the country.

Besides the scheme, other initiatives like Aadhaar-based verification, biometric authentication and the weeding out of ineligible or duplicate connections resulted in significantly strengthening the system of transfer of targeted subsidies.

All domestic LPG cylinders are sold at non-subsidised prices and the subsidy transferred directly to the respective bank accounts under the DBTL scheme, he said.

The government has also introduced a Common LPG Database Platform



All domestic LPG cylinders are sold at non-subsidised prices.

(CLDP) through which duplicate connections are identified and removed from the database. Deduplication is carried

out using Aadhaar number, bank account details, AHL TIN number, ration card details, name, and address as key parameters. Aadhaar-based authentication for DBT schemes enables accurate, real-time and cost-effective identification, authentication and de-duplication of beneficiaries, ensuring targeted delivery of benefits.

Public sector oil marketing companies have been advised to undertake and complete biometric Aadhaar authentication of PMUY and PAHAL beneficiaries.

As of July 1, biometric Aadhaar authentication has been completed for 67% of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) beneficiaries. All new PMUY consum-

metric authentication berelease connections, a release from the Ministry on Mr. Puri's reply said.

ers have to undergo bio-

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an Paints	2436.80	-13.00	
s Bank	1070.80	2.20	
aj Auto	8230.50	43.00	
aj Finserv	1939.40	5.80	
aj Finance	891.90	6.60	
arat Elec	386.65	-2.90	
arti Airtel	1931.80	17.20	
la	1499.80	15.30	
al India	379.50	4.80	
Reddys Lab	1214.80	10.20	
her Motors	5681.00	60.00	
rnal Ltd	302.15	3.10	
sim Ind	2797.20	9.40	
L Tech	1482.70	8.30	
FC Bank			
FC Life	738.50	-1.30	
ro MotoCorp	4546.80	10.90	
ıdalco			
d Unilever			
CI Bank	1444.40	18.80	
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osys	1460.30	20.20	
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Ltd.	332.85	1.05	
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EXCHANGE RATES

TT BUY	TT SELL
87.00	87.92
101.02	101.39
116.28	116.70
59.31	59.53
12.19	12.23
108.13	108.53
67.95	68.21
63.50	63.74
20.70	20.81
56.62	56.83
	87.00. 101.02. 116.28. 59.31. 12.19. 108.13. 67.95. 63.50. 20.70.

Bharti Q1 net surges 43% to ₹5,948 crore on tariff rise

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel Ltd. clocked a consolidated revenue of ₹49,463 crore in Q1 FY 2025-26, a growth of 28.5% year-on-year. Net profit surged 43% to ₹5,948 crore which CEO Gopal Vittal credited to 'greater realisation' of the tariff increases put in place in January.

Those increases have given the company an average revenue per user of ₹250 a month against ₹211 in Q1 2024-25.

Mr. Vittal said in a statement the growth was also attributable to "portfolio premiumisation," or leveraging higher-paying customers. "40% of customers contribute 80% of revenue," Mr. Vittal added.

'NBFC AUM's FY26 growth may soften as banks cut funding'

Ashokamithran T.

Non Banking Finance Corporations' (NBFC) assets under management (AUM) growth may soften to 18.5% in FY26 from 25% in FY25 after bank funding to the sector reduced even as the normalised risk weights, credit rating agency India Ratings said.

"Ind-Ra has maintained a neutral sector outlook for NBFCs and stable rating outlook for FY26. Ability of lenders to get funding for growth will depend on asset quality progress in 2HFY26, especially for lenders in the unsecured segment," said Karan Gupta, head and director, financial institutions at Ind-Ra.

NBFCs turned more cautious in lending as they are concerned about asset quality, especially in microfinance and unsecured business loans, Ind Ra said, adding it expects higher-rated NBFCs to rely on capital market funding and operate in areas with limited competition from banks for higher margins.

100-basis-point The (bps) cut in repo rate led to 10-year government bond yields drop by 50 bps to 6.3% in mid-2025 resulting in lower borrowing costs for higher-rated NBFCs.

It said unsecured business loans and microfinance will face asset-quality stress and repayment behaviour of property loans may be volatile.

nel, the firm said.

The regulator inspected Policybazaar in 2020, following which PB Fintech received a so-called showcause notice in October 2024. After additional submissions and hearings, the IRDAI decided on the penalty on Monday, PB Fintech said.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) identified violations related to tagging of policies and pre-

IRDAI fines Policybazaar ₹50 million for 'lapses'

India's insurance regulator fined PB Fintech's online insurance aggregator arm, Policybazaar, ₹50 million for regulatory lapses, including directorships held by key managerial person-

mium remittance.

Services PMI stood at 11-month high in July on strong demand

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Activity in India's services sector stood at a 11-month high in July 2025 driven by strong demand, according to a private sector survey.

The HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index increased marginally to 60.5 in July from 60.4 in June. Where a score of below 50 denotes a contraction in activity, one above 50 shows an expansion.

The relatively high score in July, thus, "signalled another sharp increase in output," the report said.



PMI shows sharp hike in output.

This is the highest score the index achieved since August 2024. "Sustained increase in new business intakes were identified by survey members as the main aspect behind output growth," it added.

'India lucky to have steady growth at a transformative time'

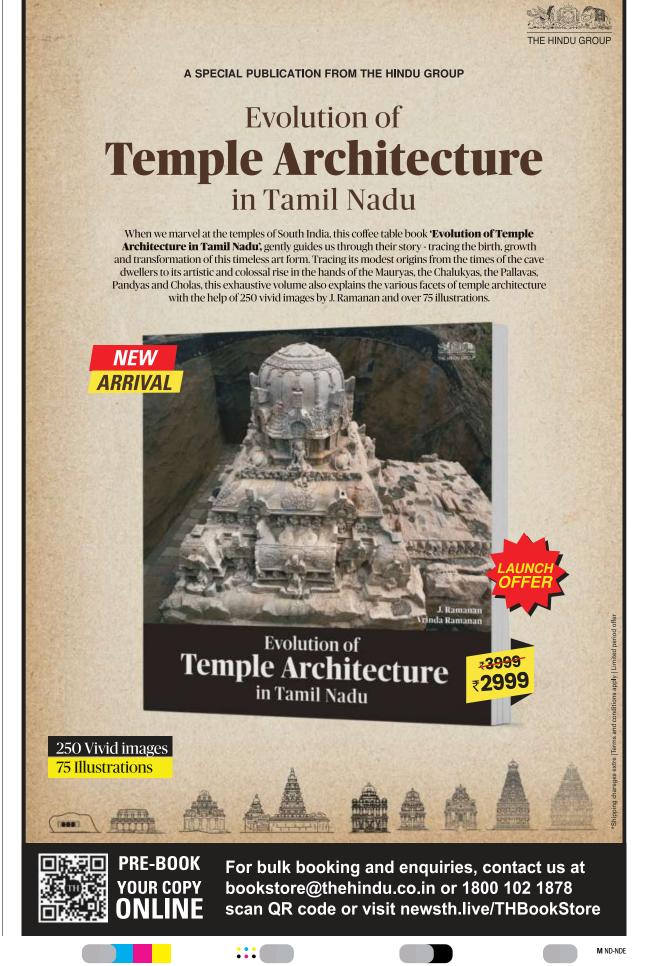
The Hindu Bureau BENGALURU

Geopolitics, geoeconomics and geotechnology are changing the world order and impacting businesses and economies globally, said Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology.

During this transformative period, India was fortunate to have a steady growth, he said while speaking to SAP Labs' leadership and staff at the German tech firm's newlyset up Innovation Park on the city's outskirts. SAP



Labs invested €194 million to set up the facility which is expected to create 15,000 jobs for AI innovators. The campus is envisioned as an innovation and R&D hub for India and the Asia-Pacific region.



EU suspends tariff retaliation after striking a trade deal with Trump



The EU announced the suspension on Tuesday of its retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods worth \$107 billion after Brussels struck a deal with Washington last month. "The commission adopted necessary procedures to suspend the implementation of countermeasures, due to kick in on August 7," EU trade spokesman Olof Gill said. AFP

KIGALI

Rwanda to 'accept up to 250 migrants' from U.S. as part of deal



Rwanda said on Tuesday it would accept up to 250 migrants from the U.S. under a deal agreed with Washington. The U.S. has been pushing a deportation drive, with Donald Trump's administration negotiating controversial arrangements to send people to third countries, among them South Sudan and Eswatini, AFP

BANGKOK

Thailand approves \$600-million deal for Swedish fighter aircraft



Thailand approved the purchase of four Swedish-made Gripen fighter jets on Tuesday, a week after reaching a ceasefire in deadly border clashes with Cambodia. The \$600 million agreement for the Saab JAS 39 Gripens was first announced in June as part of a long-term plan to modernise the air force's combat capabilities. AFP

MOSCOW

Russian Army seizes new village in Ukraine's Dnipropetrovsk region



Russia said its Army had seized a new village in Ukraine's central Dnipropetrovsk region, accelerating its claimed advance into the key industrial area. Kyiv has in the past week denied any Russian presence in Dnipropetrovsk. However, Russia's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday that its forces had captured Sichneve. AFP

Yunus vows constitutional status for 2024 uprising in July Declaration'

Bangladesh Chief Adviser slams former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for turning the country into a 'mafia state'; he vows to write to the Election Commission to organise national polls in February 2026; Awami League criticises the Declaration

Kallol Bhattacherjee NEW DELHI

he student-people uprising of 2024 that overthrew the Sheikh Hasina-led government of Bangladesh will get "constitutional recognition", said the July Declaration that was launched by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus on Tuesday in Dha-

Declaration, launched on the anniversary of the fall of the Hasina government, blamed the Awami League for creating a one-party state in Bangladesh after 1971 and said the party was



Course reset: Bangladeshis celebrate at an event organised by the interim government in Dhaka on Tuesday. AFP

"loyal to external forces". In a statement sent to The Hindu, the Awami League hit back at the interim government and said

the Declaration did not offer anything to the "protesting job seekers" of Bangla-

"Therefore, the people

dent-people uprising of 2024 will get proper state and constitutional recognition and that the July declaration will feature in the schedule of the reformed constitution as framed by the government formed through the next national election," said Declaration. The document started

of Bangladesh express their desire that the stu-

by paying tribute to the Liberation War of 1971 while avoiding any mention of founding figure of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The Declaration, presented by Mr. Yunus at a

public event held on parliament premises, stated, "...during the rule of Sheikh Hasina, an extreme force that was anti-people, autocratic and against human rights turned Bangladesh into a fascist, mafia and failed state and thereby tarnished Bangladesh's international image."

In a televised speech later in the evening, Mr. Yunus said he will write to the Election Commission to organise election in February 2026. "All of you should pray so that we can progress towards creating a 'New Bangladesh' by conducting a smooth election," Mr. Yunus said.

Brazil judge puts Bolsonaro under house arrest for breaking social media ban

Agence France-Presse BRASÍLIA

A Brazilian judge on Monday placed former President Jair Bolsonaro under house arrest for breaking a social media ban, escalating a dramatic stand-off between the court and the politician, who is accused of plotting a coup.

Mr. Bolsonaro is on trial at the Supreme Court for allegedly plotting to cling onto power after losing the 2022 elections to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

U.S. President Donald Trump has sought to punish Brazil, a long-time U.S. ally, for what he sees as a politically motivated "witch hunt" targeting Mr. Bolsonaro by imposing eye-watering tariffs on Latin America's biggest economy.

The 70-year-old Mr. Bolsonaro is banned from social media for the duration of the proceedings, and third parties are barred from sharing his public re-

But on Sunday, his allies defied the order by sharing footage online of a call betcaptain and his eldest son Flavio at a solidarity rally in Rio de Janeiro.

Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes reacted furiously, declar-



Tough times: Jair Bolsonaro (second from right) at his home in Brasilia on Monday after being placed in house arrest. REUTERS

ing that the judiciary would not allow a defendant to "treat it like a fool" because of his "political and economic power."

Criticising Mr. Bolsonaro's "repeated failure" to comply with the court's restrictions on him during the trial, he placed him under house arrest at his home in the capital Brasilia.

He also barred the country's former leader (2019-2022) from receiving visitors, apart from his lawyers, and from using mobile phones, and warned that any new transgression would lead to him being detained.

were seized at his home on Monday, the police said.

Washington demned the new restrictions on Monday night, with the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs issuing a statement on X. "Minister Alexandre de

Moraes, already sanctioned by the United States for human rights violations, continues to use Brazilian institutions to silence the opposition and threaten democracy," the bureau posted. "Let Bolsonaro speak!"

U.S. officials added that they would "hold accountable all those who collaborate with or facilitate sanctioned conduct."

The U.S. post was reshared by Mr. Bolsonaro's politician son Eduardo Bolsonaro, who had successto take punitive action against Brazil over the

In a separate post, he wrote: "Brazil is no longer a democracy."

+ Israel to partially reopen Gaza private goods trade

Agence France-Presse JERUSALEM

Israel will partially reopen private sector trade with Gaza to reduce its reliance on humanitarian aid, the Defence Ministry civil affairs agency for the Palestinian territories said on

"As part of formulating the mechanism, a limited number of local merchants

were approved by the defence establishment, subject to several criteria and strict security screening," COGAT said.

The COGAT statement said private sector deliveries would be paid for by monitored bank transfers and be subject to inspections by the Israeli military before entering Gaza, "to prevent the involvement of the Hamas terrorist organi-

sation". Permitted goods under the new mechanism will include food staples, fruit, vegetables, baby formula and hygiene products, COGAT said.

Meanwhile, Gaza's civil defence agency said 26 people were killed by Israeli gunfire and air strikes on Tuesday, including 14 who were waiting near an aid

distribution site inside the Palestinian territory. Israel's Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday that the Army must "complete" the defeat of Hamas in Gaza to secure the release of hostages, ahead of an expected meeting with security chiefs on an updated war plan. "It is necessary to complete the defeat of the enemy in Gaza, to free all our hostages and to ensure that Gaza will no longer pose a threat to Israel," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Israeli media reported that the premier was expected to sit down in Jerusalem later on Tuesday with the chief of staff and the Defence Minister, and that Mr. Netanyahu was considering ordering the total occupation of the Palestinian territory.

Over 500 held as Imran's party organises nationwide protests seeking his release

Press Trust of India ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party on Tuesday organised protest rallies in different parts of the country, demanding the release of former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was arrested two years ago on corruption charges.

The party claimed that its more than 500 workers and supporters who took to the streets were arrested by police, mostly in Punjab province.

Mr. Khan, 72, was arrested on August 5, 2023, from his residence in Lahore after being convicted by a court in a corruption case. He has been incarcerated since his arrest due to conviction in other cases, and is being held at the Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi.

The call for the protest was given by Mr. Khan. His party claimed that supporters of the jailed leader responded by coming out in big numbers.

'Today, August 5, marks the second anniversary of the incarceration of former Prime Minister Imran Khan with all basic human



Leader's cause: Supporters of Imran Khan's PTI party take part in a rally in Hyderabad in Pakistan on Tuesday. AP

rights revoked, no or very limited access to his legal team or family, no access to his political leadership other than a couple of people now and then," senior party leader Zulfi Bokhari

Mr. Bukhari, who is the spokesperson of Mr. Khan for international relations as well as international media, said the government has imposed a ban on gatherings, blocking main highways, wrecking cars with party flags and raiding the residences of active party leaders and workers.

"Over 500 PTI leaders and workers have been arrested so far in Punjab alone, mostly from Lahore, including several lawmakers," he said.

"The protesters will continue to demonstrate peacefully till the end of the day. However, the government seems weak in the knees, despite being in power," he said.

According to Mr. Khan's party, most arrests were made in Lahore. The police in Punjab province, which is ruled by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, arrested PTI supporters for allegedly violating Section 144, which bans the assembly of four or more persons.

Australia to buy advanced warships from Japan

Agence France-Presse SYDNEY

Australia will upgrade its Navy with 11 Mogami-class frigates built by Japan's Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Defence Minister Richard Marles said on Tuesday.

Billed as one of Japan's biggest defence export deals since the Second World War, Australia will pay \$ 6 billion (Aus\$ 10 billion) over the next 10 years to acquire the fleet of stealth frigates.

Australia is in the midst of a major military restructure, bolstering its Navy with long-range firepower in an effort to deter China. It is striving to expand its fleet of major warships from 11 to 26 over the next decade.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries was awarded the tender over Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems.

Mogami-class warships are advanced stealth frigates equipped with a potent array of weapons. Mr. Marles said they would replace Australia's ageing Anzac-class vessels, with the first Mogami-class ship to be on the water by 2030.

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INDIA'S GEM

Washington is the 'Impact Player' in Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy



Washington Sundar was named by the Indian team as its 'Impact Player' in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. Ravindra Jadeja announced the winner in a dressing room ceremony after The Oval Test. Washington scored 284 runs at 47.33, including a fifty and a ton from four Tests. He also scalped seven at an average of 38.57.

KEY MAN

England sorely missed Stokes in the final Test, says Vaughan



REUTERS

Former captain Michael Vaughan felt England panicked on the final day of the fifth Test against India in the absence of skipper Ben Stokes. "Stokes in that team, England would've won this Test. He plays such a big role in this team, the mentality... England did panic [on the fifth morning]," Vaughan told BBC's Test Match Special.

The 25-day

In a series for the ages, India and

England pushed their limits and

went the distance in all five Tests

England - 251/4 in 83 overs

England - 387 in 112.3 overs

India - 145/3 in 43 overs

India - 387 in 119.2 overs

England - 2/0 in one over

India - 58/4 in 17.4 overs

India - 170 in 74.5 overs

Old Trafford (Fourth)

India - 264/4 in 83 overs

India - 358 in 114.1 overs

England - 225/2 in 46 overs

England - 544/7 in 135 overs

England - 669 in 157.1 overs

India - 174/2 in 63 overs

India - 425/4 in 143 overs

England - 192 in 62.1 overs

England won by 22 runs. PoM: Ben Stokes

INSPIRATIONAL

'Missed Jassi *bhai*, had he been there it would have been special'



Mohammed Siraj said he sorely missed Jasprit Bumrah's presence in his hour of glory during India's victory in the fifth Test against England."I miss Jassi bhai because had he been there, it would have been special. I believe in Jassi bhai and myself," said an emotional Siraj in a video posted by BCCI.

PURE SKILL

Siraj's movement with the old ball proved the difference, says Carey



Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey termed India's win over England in the fifth Test "spectacular". He felt that Mohammed Siraj's ability to get the old ball to swing made the difference on the final morning. "We saw Siraj bowl that first over [on day 5], and there was quite a bit of movement with a 77-over old ball".

Gill's young guns show plenty of fight and character

The skipper leads from the front with his stupendous batting; Siraj bowls his heart out and inspires the others, especially in Bumrah's absence; Rahul, Jaiswal, Jadeja and Washington pull their weight

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya LONDON

ot many had pinned hopes on India when the landed in England for the five-match Test series a couple of months ago. With Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma moving on from the format, the team certainly lacked experience. Under Shubman Gill, the onus was on the youngsters to step up.

For most of the players, it was their maiden, or second, tour of England, and there were apprehension about how they would adapt to the conditions, handle the pressure and deliver.

Doubts

Of course, there were doubts about the bowling unit, too. As it was decided well in advance that Jasprit Bumrah would play just three games in the series, there were questions about whether Indian fast bowlers, sans Bumrah, had the ability to claim 20 wickets?

But as they say, cricket stops for no one. This England tour once again proved that.

Safe hands

A rather inexperienced team coming from behind to draw the inaugural edition of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy 2-2 also proved that the future of Indian cricket is in safe

India - 359/3 in 85 overs India - 471 in 113 overs England - 209/3 in 49 overs England - 450 in 94.3 overs India - 90/2 in 23.5 overs India - 364 in 96 overs England - 21/0 in six overs 5 England - 373/5 in 82 overs England won by five wickets. India - 310/5 in 85 overs India - 587 in 151 overs

England - 77/3 in 20 overs

England - 407 in 89.3 overs

India - 427/6 decl. in 83 overs

ndia won by 336 runs. PoM: Shubman Gill

England - 72/3 in 16 overs

India - 64/1 in 13 overs

10 England - 271 in 68.1 overs

hands. Coming on the back of two consecutive Test series defeats - to New Zealand at home and at the hands of Australia away – the pressure was mounting on the team.

But, Gill led from the front and went on to score 754 runs in 10 innings to give the Indian batting lineup the much-needed stability. He had initial troubles with the incoming

ball, but the elegant player made a few adjustments to his batting and ended the tour with four centuries, including a double ton.

And, as Gill led by example, it came as a motivation to his teammates, too. Yashasvi Jaiswal got off

India - 204/6 in 64 overs

India - 224 in 69.4 overs

India - 75/2 in 18 overs

India - 396 in 88 overs

24 England - 339/6 in 76.2 overs

25 England - 367 in 85.1 overs

India won by six runs.

England - 247 in 51.2 overs

England - 50/1 in 13.5 overs

to a brilliant start. The lefthander set the tone before going through a lull. However, he came good in the crucial final Test with a century. K.L. Rahul looked solid at the top of the order, and then, there were Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar who ensured that the middle-order was taken care of. India managed to stay alive in the series, courtesy Washington and Jadeja's battling hundreds at Old Trafford in the fourth Test. As captain Gill said, it

was a 'team effort'. In the absence of Bum-

rah, Siraj operated tirelessly. He bowled 185.3 overs in the series – 1,113 deliveries to be specific - and finished as the top wicket-taker with 23 scalps. He innew-ball spired his partners - Akash Deep and Prasidh Krishna – and tested the England batters throughout.

Siraj bowled his heart out and wore his heart on his sleeve. It was a similar story with Rishabh Pant too as he braved a broken foot to take his side to a fighting total in the first innings of the Old Trafford

Those moments defined the team.

Bizarre decisions

Of course, there were some bizarre decisions. Benching a wrist-spinner of Kuldeep Yadav's calibre wasn't ideal. One also got to feel for Abhimanyu Easand Arshdeep waran Singh.

But, in the end, as India tied a Test series in the Old Blighty for the second successive time, all that took a back seat.



Spirited display: Head coach Gambhir, right, and batting coach Kotak, left, will be delighted with the gumption shown by Siraj.

We can dominate cricket for long if we work hard: Gambhir

Press Trust of India

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has emphasised on building a strong team culture comprising qualities of hard work and improvement, one that should attract players even with a change of personnel

Gambhir conveyed his thoughts in a short dressing room speech after India secured a memorable 2-2 draw against England for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy on Monday.

"The way this series has panned out, 2-2, is an outstanding result. Congratulations to everyone," Gambhir said in a video shared by the BCCI.

"Remember, we will keep getting better. We will keep working hard. We will keep improving our areas because if we keep doing that, we can dominate cricket for a very long time," the India head coach added.

"People will come and go, but the culture of the dressing room should always be like this, where people want to be a part of this culture. That is what we want to create," asserted Gambhir.

"Good luck, enjoy your-

"You can take a couple of days off, and you deserve every bit of it. What you guys have achieved, you have earned every bit of it," he added.

Sponsor mulls legal recourse if Messi's Argentina does not play in Kerala this year

FOOTBALL

Stan Rayan

The Reporter Broadcasting Company, Kerala Government's commercial partner for bringing the Argentina football team and its star Lionel Messi to the State, has said that it might be forced to take legal recourse if the World Cup champion does not play in

October or November. Reporter, the sponsor for the team's visit to Kerala, said it had paid the full amount of ₹130 crore to the Argentine Football Association (AFA) on June 6 this year as per the agreement signed in December

"As per the agreement, we had sent the full amount and they (AFA) also acknowledged it. But after five days, we received an email asking whether we are okay with having the match in September 2026," said Anto Augustine, managing director of Reporter, on Tuesday.



FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

"That violates the terms of the agreement we have with the AFA. We are not okay with it. As per our agreement with the AFA, the deal was to have the match in October-November this year. They had even told us that the match can be held in October and

we had fulfilled all the per the agreement."

The next World Cup will be held in June-July 2026 in Canada, Mexico and the USA and Anto feels the scene could be very different after the quadrennial event.

"We are interested in having the match only this year, as per the agreed terms. If the agreement is not honoured, there will be huge financial loss. So we may have to handle this

legally," he said. Kerala Sports Minister V. Abdurahiman, who had



As per the agreement, we had sent the full amount and they (Argentine Football Association) also acknowledged it. But after five days, we received an email asking whether we are okay with having the match in September 2026

ANTO AUGUSTINE Managing director, Reporter Broadcasting Company

announced that Argentina would play in Kerala in October, had told the media in Kozhikode on Monday that that the team would not visit Kerala this year.

The minister explained that the team had difficulties in visiting the State in October.

However, Anto felt it was not proper to announce that Messi and Argentina would not be coming to Kerala till the AFA officially declares that the team would not be playing in the State this year.

Kamei ensures Army's victory over Tribhuvan

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau

Christopher Kamei's firsthalf goal secured Indian Army FT's 1-0 win over 10man Tribhuvan Army FC of Nepal in a Group-C match of the 134th Durand Cup at the JRD Tata Sports Complex in Jamshedpur on Tuesday. Indian Army found the lead in the 21st minute as Kamei got on the end of a Wangden Tamang cross.

Reckless foul

Tribhuvan Army was reduced to 10 in the 29th minute as goalkeeper Bikash Kuthu was shown a straight red card for a reckless foul on forward Liton Shil. Indian Army with three points is second in the standings behind Jamshedpur (six points), while Tribhuvan Army finished

Consolation win Malaysian Armed Forces

ended on a high beating lo-

cal challenger Rangdajied

United FC 1-0 in a Group-E its campaign with just one.

match at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong.

Nasir Yasa scored in the 67th minute to ensure a consolation win for the Malaysian side which lost its previous two matches.



Battling it out: Indian Army and Tribhuvan players vie for possession. X@THEDURANDCUP

Group-C (Jamshedpur): Indian Army FT 1 (Christopher Kamei 21)

bt Tribhuvan Army FC 0. Group-E (Shillong):

Malaysian Armed Forces FT 1 (Nasir Yasa 67) bt Rangdajied United FC 0.

M ND-NDE



Djokovic withdraws from **ATP Cincinnati Masters**

Novak Djokovic withdrew on Monday from this week's ATP Cincinnati Masters meaning the Serb will have played no matches between his Wimbledon semifinal loss and the US Open start.

Gritty India goes down to Jordan

India matched Jordan for most part and was tied at 80 in regulation time before falling apart in overtime to lose 84-91 in their opening Group-C match of the FIBA Asia Cup men's basketball championship in Jeddah on Tuesday.

The scores: Jordan 91 (Hashem Abbas 24, Dar Tucker 30) bt India 84 (Muthu Krishnan 14, Harsh Dagar 12, Pranav Prince 12).

Karnataka wins sub-junior National swimming c'ships

Karnataka emerged as the overall champion in the 41st sub-junior National swimming championships, which concluded in Bengaluru on Tuesday. Manipur took the runner-up spot.

Fifth seed Aditi gets past Mahi in the pre-quarterfinals

Fifth seed Aditi Tyagi beat Mahi Trivedi 5-7, 7-5, 6-1 in the ₹100,000 AITA women's tennis pre-quarterfinals at the DLTA Complex.

Other results (pre-quarters): Mahika Khanna bt Divva Bhardwaj 6-2, 6-2; Jennifer Luikham bt Shatakshi Choudhary 6-0, 6-2; Riya Sachdeva bt Snigdha Patibandla 6-2, 6-2Shagun Kumari bt Yashika Shokeen 6-5 (retired); Jeetesh Kumari bt Bhumika Dahiya 7-5, 6-1; Suryanshi Shakhawat bt Ruma Gaikaiwari 6-3 (retd); Samriti Punyani bt Jasmine Rawat 6-3, 6-4.

Arjun will be the one to beat **TO SIRAJ W** in a strong Masters field

The World No. 5 will strive to strike gold and earn crucial FIDE circuit points; Dutchman Giri, the second highest-rated player in the section, is expected to provide a strong challenge



Star-studded: Karthikeyan, Pranav, Nihal, Arjun, Keymer, Liang, Robson, Vidit, van Foreest, and Giri will battle it out over nine rounds for the top honours. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

C. Shyam Sundar **CHENNAI**

here's something about chess and Chennai. The land of the legendary Viswanathan Anand will see some of the world's best battle it out in the Quantbox Chennai Grandmasters tournament 2025 beginning here Wednesday.

World No. 5 Arjun Erigaisi headlines a strong 10player Masters field and will be the one to beat.

Anish Giri is the second highest-rated player in the section and the 10thranked Dutchman is expected to provide a strong challenge for the ₹25 lakh top prize.

The experienced Vidit Gujrathi, Karthikevan Murali, Nihal Sarin and Pranav Venkatesh are the other Indians in the fray as the host players are expected to mount a strong challenge for the title.

Make an impression

World No. 21 Vincent Keymer from Germany will look to make an impression and take a huge step towards qualification for the Candidates tournament.

The American duo of Awonder Liang and Ray Robson and Giri's compatriot Jorden Van Foreest, all fine players in their own right, will hope to fight it out for top honours.

Keymer had remarked on Monday that with many young and ambitious players in the fray, he expected a lot of closely fought games. Arjun, who missed out

on making it to the Candidates event in 2024, would be keen to strike gold here and earn crucial FIDE circuit points.

Karthikeyan, who was promoted to the Masters category thanks to Vladimir Fedoseev's withdrawal, will fancy a few upsets.

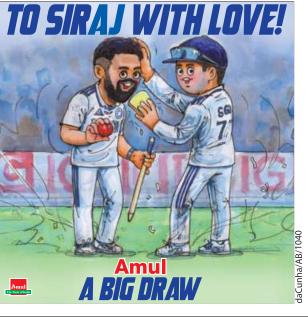
In the Challengers event, IM G.B. Harshavardhan got a late call-up after Karthikevan was moved to the Masters and would be testing out his wits against established names such as Pa. Iniyan, Abhimanyu Puranik, D. Harika and R. Vaishali. The Challengers' winner will book a spot in the Masters event next

First round pairings:

year.

Masters: Pranav Venkatesh vs. Karthikeyan Murali, Vincent Keymer vs. Nihal Sarin, Anish Giri vs. Ray Robson, Vidit Gujrathi vs. Jorden van Foreest, Ariun Erigaisi vs. Awonder Liang.

Challengers: Leon Mendonca vs. G.B. Harshavardhan, Abhimanyu Puranik vs. B. Adhiban, R. Vaishali vs. Pa. Iniyan, D. Harika vs. Diptayan Ghosh, M. Pranesh vs. Aryan Chopra.



Nagal exits early in Bonn Challenger

Sports Bureau

Sumit Nagal was beaten 7-6 (2), 6-3 by the seventh seed Jurij Rodionov of Austria in the first round of the €91,250 Challenger tennis tournament in Bonn, Germany.

The results: €91.250 Challenger, Bonn. **Germany: Singles (first** round): Jurij Rodionov (Aut) bt Sumit Nagal 7-6(2), 6-3. \$30,000 ITF men, Bali, Indonesia:

Singles (first round): Sidharth Rawat bt Yusuke Kusuhara (Jpn) 6-1, 6-3; Leo Borg (Swe) bt Maan Kesharwani 6-2, 6-2; philip Sekulic (Aus) bt Atharva Sharma 6-3, 6-2,

Patricio Alvarado (Ecu) & Koki Matsuda (Jpn) bt Sidharth Rawat & Dharmil Shah 6-1, 6-3; Alexander Chang (USA) & Anthony Susanto (Ina) bt Atharva Sharma & Yash Yadav 7-6(2), 6-2; Yanki Erel (Tur) & Karan Singh bt Lucky Kurniawan & Renaldi Salim (Ina) 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):

Pietro Mugelli (Ita) & Michael Zhu (USA) bt Ajay Malik & Caheer Warik 4-6, 6-4, [10-5].

\$30,000 ITF men, Brazzaville, Congo: Singles (first round):

Alexander Agirovsky (Blr) bt Chinmaya Dev Chauhan 6-2, 6-0; Stephane Kamendje (Can) bt Julappagari Reddy 7-5, 4-6, 6-1; Dev Javia bt Alexey Dubinin 6-1,

Doubles (pre-quarterfinal): Rishikrishna Ayyappan & Darrshan Suresh (Mas) bt Kryce Kassa & Wolfgang Liyombi (Gab) 6-0.6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Singapore: First round: Bill Chan (Sgp) bt Manish Sureshkumar 6-4, 6-4. Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Luke Koh & Maximus Wong (Sgp) bt Rishabhdev Raman &

\$30,000 ITF women, Roehampton, Britain: Singles (first round): Hannah Klugman (GBR) bt Ankita Raina

Keerthiyassan Suresh 6-4, 6-2,

6-3, 6-3, Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Aglaya Fedorova & Daria Khomutsianskaya (Blr) bt Prathyusha Rachapudi & Anjali Rathi 6-4, 6-3.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Durand Cup, Sony

Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.

Suyash spins Warriors to victory in low-scoring affair

Sports Bureau NEW DELHI

Leg-spinner Suyash Sharma starred with figures of four for 17 as Outer Delhi Warriors defeated Purani Dilli 6 by 82 runs in a lowscoring Delhi Premier League (DPL) clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday. Batting first, Outer Delhi

was bowled out for 148 after medium-pacer Udhav Mohan claimed five for 26 in four overs. Mohan has been picked in India's U-19 squad for its upcoming multi-format tour of Australia.

But the target proved too stiff for Purani Dilli 6, which was bundled for a paltry 66 in 14.3 overs. Shaurya Malik chipped in with three scalps.

Anshul Kabthiyal

joins the lead in

Coal India Open



the ball for the Warriors on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

An opening stand of 158 runs between Ankit Kumar and Krish Yadav set up West Delhi Lions' eightwicket win while chasing 186 against South Delhi Superstarz. Ankit smashed 96 off 46 deliveries while Krish hit a 42-ball 67.

The scores: Outer Delhi Warriors

148 in 20 overs (Udhay Mohan 5/26) bt Purani Dilli 6 66 in 14.3 overs (Suyash Sharma 4/17, Shaurya Malik 3/10).

South Delhi Superstarz 185/7 in 20 overs (Ayush Badoni 48, Kunwar Bidhuri 42, Sumit Mathur 33. Anirudh Chowdhary 3/25) lost to West Delhi Lions 189/2 in 15.4 overs (Ankit Kumar 96, Krish Yadav 67).

Press Trust of India

Indian boxers continued u-22 Asian boxing championships with seven women pugilists assuring themselves of a podium

Competing in the u-19 category, Yakshika (51kg), Nisha (54kg), Muskan (57kg), Vini (60kg), Nisha (65kg), Akansha Phalaswal (70kg) and Aarti Kumari (75kg) reached the semifi-

The results (quarterfinals):

Musurmonova (Uzb) bt Suman Kumari 3:2; 51kg: Yakshika bt

57kg: Muskan bt Robiya Ravshanova (Uzb) 5-0; 60kg: Vini bt Adelia Asylbek Kyzy (Kgz) RSC. 65kg: Nisha bt Yu-En Li (Tpe) 5-0; 70kg: Akansha Phalaswal bt Enkhgerel Gerelmunkh (Mgl) RSC; 75kg: Aarti Kumari bt Zarina

Indian boxers do well

BANGKOK

finish here on Tuesday.

U-19: 48kg: Maftuna

Mukhtasar Alieva (Uzb) 3:2. 54kg: Nisha bt Milana Shikhshabekova (Kgz) RSC.

Tolybai (Kaz) 4:1.

Pooja, Shamina, Anjalli, Tanvi in quarterfinals (Mas) bt Diwakar Singh 11-3, 11-3,

GOLF

Sports Bureau

Young Anshul Kabthiyal led along with three others Amardeep Malik, Angad Cheema and Karandeep Kochhar with a 3-under 69 in the first round of the Coal India Open ₹1 crore golf championship at the Kensville Golf and Country Club in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

"I hardly missed a green today.

"I struck the ball well.

The putting was also good.

"My best moment was recovery for birdie on the 14th after landing my tee shot in the trees," said Anshul.

The scores (first round):

1T. Karandeep Kochhar, Anshul Kabthiyal, Angad Cheema, Amardeep Malik 69.

5T. Yuvraj Sandhu, Manoj S, Om Prakash Chouhan, Ravi Kumar

9T. Federico Zucchetti, Arjun Prasad, Shaurya Bhattacharya, Aniket Sawant, K Prabagaran, N Thangaraja, Khalin Joshi, Shankar Das, Abhinav Lohan 71.

Sports Bureau Lap Man Au of Hong Kong

knocked out second seed Tomotaka Endo of Japan 5-11, 11-9, 10-12, 11-8, 14-12 in the men's pre-quarterfinals of the HCL PSA Challenger squash tournament in Jaipur on Tuesday.

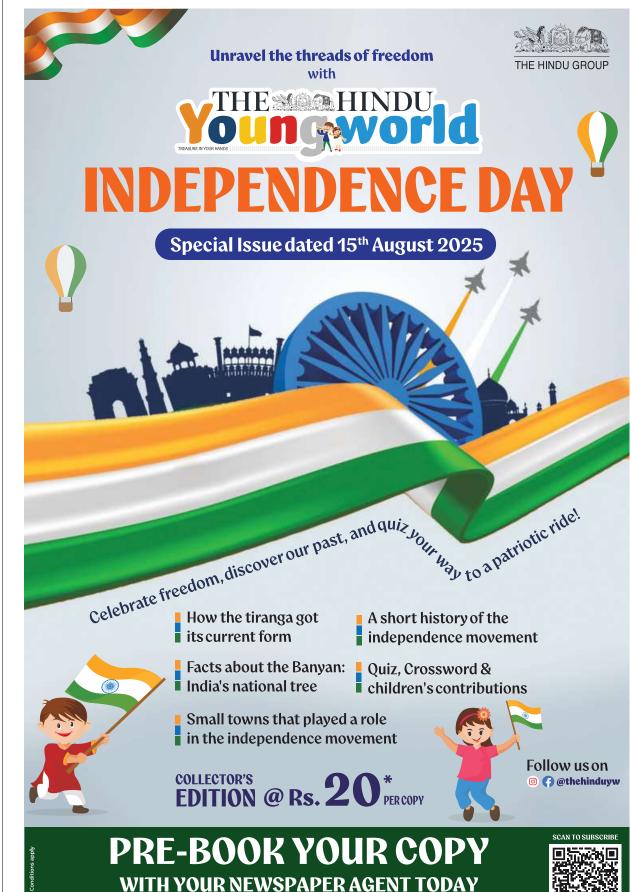
Pooja Aarti, Shamina Riaz, Anjalli Semwal and Tanvi Khanna qualified for the women's quarterfinals.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Men:

Yassin Shahody (Egy) bt Ayaan Ali 7-11, 11-1, 11-6, 13-11; Naoki Hayashi (Jpn) bt Harley Lam (Hkg) 11-8, 12-14, 11-9, 11-9; Saif Rafay (Egy) bt Suraj Chand 12-10, 11-7, 11-5; Darrren Pragasam

11-6; Ravindu Laskiri (Sri) bt Aryaveer Dewan 11-9, 11-4, 7-11, 11-3; Karim Aguib (Can) bt Om Semwal 11-7, 15-13, 11-4; Mohamed Gohar (Egy) bt Sandhesh Ravikumar 9-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-5; Lap Man Au (Hkg) bt Tomotaka Endo (Jpn) 5-11, 11-9, 10-12, 11-8, 14-12. Women: Nour Khafagi (Egy) bt

Mahak Talati 11-2, 11-1, 11-3; Pooja Aarti bt Janet Vidhi 11-3, 11-4, 11-8; Shamina Riaz bt Anika Dubey 11-8, 11-1, 10-12, 12-10; Akari Midorikawa (Jpn) bt Unnati Tripath 11-3, 11-9, 7-11, 11-2; Goh Jin Juan (Mas) bt Sunita Patel 11-3, 11-3, 11-5; Anjali Semwal bt Isha Srivastava 3-11, 11-3, 6-11, 12-10, 11-9; Tanvi Khanna bt Ratika Seelan 11-5, 11-3, 11-1; Menna Walid (Egy) bt Aradhana Podwal 11-8, 11-7, 11-9.



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After winning the Asians, I am more confident of doing well at the World Championships

Divyanshi will look to sustain the momentum on the big stage in Tokyo later this year and eventually book a berth in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics



INTERVIEW

Divyanshi Bhowmick

K. Keerthivasan

ivyanshi Bhowmick is India's finest in her age category, girls' u-15, and second best in u-17. At the International level, the 14-year-old from Mumbai is progressing on the right track to be among the top in the world's charts.

After winning the girls' u-15 crown in the Asian youth championships, she bagged another major title in her fledgling career recently by winning the u-19 girls' title in the WTT Youth Contender in Almaty. In fact, Divyanshi has had an outstanding International season in the youth category in 2025. She has won five WTT titles in the u-19, 17 and 15 categories.

Divyanshi rocked the senior category when she, as a qualifier, outplayed Giorgia Piccolin of Italy, then ranked 64 in the world, in the first round of the WTT Star Contender in Chennai in March this year.

An attacking player on both flanks, Piccolin is a paddler difficult to deal with at the best of times. More so, when a 14-year-old is taking on the Italian.

Armed with a long-pimpled rubber on backhand and regular inverted rubber on forehand, Divyanshi turned the tables on the Paris Olympian with a display that had chops, blocks sprinkled with dollops of aggression on the forehand side. The win was no fluke as she continued to make waves, winning the girls' u-15 singles crown in the Asian youth table tennis championships held in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) from June 26 to July 2, beating three top Chinese players on the way.

Coached by her father Rahul Bhowmick at Kandivali (Mumbai) and Anshuman Roy (in Bengaluru), Divyanshi is keen to play more senior tournaments on the International circuit and focus on playing more events on the domestic front, hoping to break into the world's top 100 (she is 194 now) sooner than later. Her immediate goal is to perform well in the World youth championships in u-15 section to be held in Romania from November 23

"After winning the Asians, I am more confident of doing well at the World Championships this year" said Divyanshi. **Excerpts:**

How important was the girls' under-15 crown, and how did you prepare for it as the second seed?

I had prepared really well for this tournament. We had an India camp before this tour-

nament in Bengaluru. And over there, all the coaches and the head coach, Massimo Costantini, really helped. And being the second seed, I was hoping to play in the final. And to win gold for India after 36 years was really necial for me R. Rhuvaneshwari, the former India paddler, was the first to do so.

You had beaten three Chinese including Zhu Qihui in the final, how was the feeling?

I was going step by step. In the quarter-final, I was playing against Huize Yang (China). I was confident as I had beaten her earlier. Yes, I had gone with a plan on what to play. I did discuss with my coach and my dad, and executed it. Even the semi-finals was a really tough one, because the last two times I had lost to her (Ziling Liu). I went one step at a time with every Chinese. In the final against Zhu Qihui, I had confidence that I would beat her because I had defeated her earlier also (WTT Youth Contender in Bangkok).

What was the strategy against Zhu?

The match was really tough. I did what we had planned but she forced me to change it. However, I adapted to the situation and I won. Beating one Japanese and three Chinese on the way was really special.

India lost to Japan in the quarterfinals of the team event which was before the individuals. Did the defeat prod you to do well in singles?

In the groups, the whole team played really well. We defeated Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Kyrgyzstan to top the group. But with Japan, seeded third, we couldn't win (losing

We (India was seeded fifth) all felt sad after the match because we were expecting that we could win. It was quite a close match. I lost the fourth rubber. I got the extra motivation to win the singles event after the defeat to Ja-

The last two years (2024-25) have been really good. You won the u-15 and u-17 titles in Vadodara and also reached six finals, four semifinals and six quarterfinals in both the sections....

I feel very happy. Right now, I am ranked World No. 3 in the world in girls' u-15. That gives me huge confidence. I want to grow steadily and do well in the tournaments I compete while also enjoying the experience and working on my weaknesses. And after every tournament, of course, I sit with my coaches and my dad to work on the mistakes which I made and try to overcome them in the next tournament.

The last two years have been good. Last year, I missed out on the Asian Championships. And even in the Worlds, I lost in the pre-quarter finals. So, last year, it was okay. But this year, it started really nice with me winning the Asian Championships and doing well on WTT youth tournaments. I have to work harder for the World Championships (to be held in Tokyo) now.

Any special training you took before the Asian youth championships?

Before the Asian Championship we were in the National camp, with head coach Massimo Costantini helping the team. I focused more on my forehand and the need to attack.

Your game revolves around chops and blocks on the backhand and a good attack on the forehand. How do you plan to improve your game awareness

Along with the chops and blocks, I need to improve my attack. With the long-pimpled rubber, I do practice the twiddling act (twiddling is switching racquet between the long pimple rubber (backhand) and a regular plain rubber on forehand), allowing one to play more aggressively and making the opponent difficult to read the spin of the ball) like Manika Batra, who is my idol. I am yet to master it (twiddling).

You did create ripples, by beating a top 100 player in Giorgia Piccolin in the first round of the WTT Star Contender in Chennai early this year. Do you plan to play in more senior events?

This year, I am going to try and play more senior events on my own expenses, with the help of my Foundation, Dani Sports.

And of course, in the domestic circuit, try to be in the top 10 or even top eight in the women's category. In the domestic season last year, I just played one or two tournaments in my category. This year I am going to play in all of them.

At 14 years and 8 months, school plays an important part for Indians especially. How do you juggle academics and professional sports?

Studies are important. This year, I have my Std. 10th board exams. So, yes, I am playing my matches and then trying to find time to do online tuition also, because that is mandato-

What was coach Anshuman Roy's impact on your game?

I've been training with him for the last two years, but I also train in Mumbai with my dad and whenever I have time, I go to Bengaluru. He has really helped me improve, make those changes and improve my backhand and block and everything. Yasashwini (Ghorpade), one of India's top paddlers, also trains with Anshuman sir.

In Mumbai, I train with my dad. I have a robot at my house and many practice partners come to train with me. The robot has been of big use to me. It keeps giving balls at a certain speed, it has helped my consistency.

What has been the most memorable win in vour career?

It was winning the silver medal in the 2023 World youth Championship with my partner Jennifer Verghese in girls' u-15 doubles in Slovenia, and it was a historic victory.

And, I became World No. 3 in under-15 singles, I am also now. And the next big moment was winning double gold (clinching the u-15 &u-17 singles title) in the WTT Youth Contender at home (Vadodara) this year.

And even defeating Italy's Giorgia Piccolin in the first round of WTT Star Contender in Chennai this year was a great moment. And then playing four games (3-1) with Shin Yubin, who was seeded fourth in the tournament's second round.

When I look back, I felt good as I was 10-9 up in the fourth game against Shin Yubin, before I lost. It was special, nevertheless. It gave me a lot of experience.

How do you see the future panning out?

I need to work harder, especially this year for the ITTF World Youth Championships to be held in Romania from November 23 to 30. After winning the Asians, I am more confident of doing well at the World Championships u-15 category this year. I want to qualify for the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

How much has Manika Batra been an

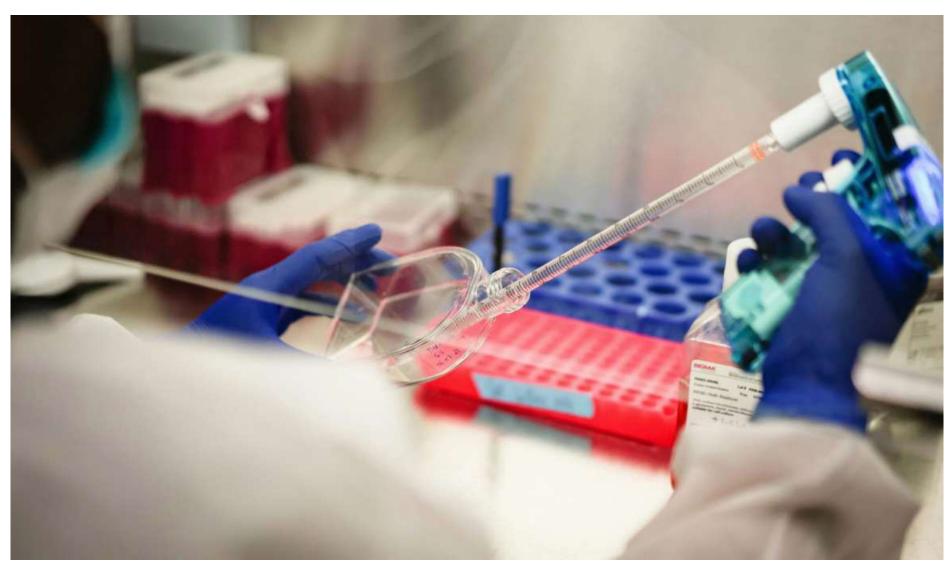
inspiration for you? She is my idol and I really look up to her game and attitude. I have not got the chance to talk much to her. But by seeing her game, I try to learn as much as I can.

Does Divyanshi have friends in the TT

circuit? Yes, it is Syndrela Das. We are best friends and also play as a pair in doubles.



Divyanshi with her coach Anshuman Roy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



While all of science is susceptible, the extent of infiltration of organised fraudulent publishing was found to be uneven across subfields. NIAID

'Defect to win': science is set to be overwhelmed by fraud papers

Without independent, coordinated, and better-funded systems to detect, investigate, and punish misconduct, science risks being shaped by those who see bad-faith behaviour as the most rational path forward, according to a major study that drew on multiple data sources and analytic tools

Vasudevan Mukunth

meticulous new study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on August 4 has warned that systematic scientific fraud is no longer a fringe concern but a pervasive, organised, and rapidly growing threat that jeopardises the foundations of research worldwide. The study has revealed a fine-grained break-up of the actors, methods, and scale behind industrialised academic misconduct.

Drawing on a trove of bibliometric and forensic data, the team – from Northwestern University and the NSF-Simons National Institute for Theory and Mathematics in Riology both in the US, and the University of Sydney in Australia – has revealed how coordinated entities like paper mills, brokerage firms, compliant editors, and unscrupulous journals work together to mass-produce fraudulent research.

In a personal blog post about the effort, Reese Richardson, the study's lead author and a postdoctoral fellow at the Amaral Lab at Northwestern University, wrote, "The scientific enterprise is now witness to widespread, organised defection from the scientific public goods game. Large swaths of players, among them many scientists, reviewers, editors, and publishers, are choosing to no longer make genuine contributions to the pot."

A public goods game

The team framed its analysis using game theory, likening science to a sprawling public goods game in which progress is driven by collaboration, trust, and mutual investment. In the study's framework, in exchange for generating knowledge and training the next generation, scientists receive societal rewards like funding and career advancement. However, as the size and complexity of science have both ballooned, so too have the incentives and opportunities to defect.

"While there has always been some concern that these pressures may compel some to defect from the scientific research ethos ... the focus has largely been on the actions of lone individuals," the team wrote in its paper. "Recently, however, reports of coordinated scientific fraud activities have increased."

Richardson wrote that 'defection' was defined as "the act of choosing to contribute less than other players despite having the means to contribute."

He added that in repeated public goods games simulated in the laboratory, players understand over time that defecting yields the greater advantage, leading to them contributing less and less to the collective pool. And although there is usually a group of players that cooperate to play the game in good faith, most players gradually lower their input. As a result, the total benefits from the pool dwindle while the number of defectors

The paper also rationalised the use of the game theoretic framework as a means to analyse research misconduct as an

organised activity rather than as errors committed by specific individuals: "Unethical behaviour in science is often viewed as a character failure of an individual, not something perpetrated, enabled, and promoted by a cohort of individuals and entities. Indeed, even the definition of a now standard term such as 'paper mill' remains nebulous. Some of the organisations we describe may be better characterised as 'brokerages' than paper mills. We also cannot ascertain where our observations are due to the involvement of commercial paper mills or where they arise as a result of less formal peer networks operating on a noncommercial basis (as could be the case among some of the editors we flag)."

The authors added that the framework is also useful "because it frames some behaviour not in ethical terms but in terms of rationality. ... For many junior doctors and budding scientists, engaging in defecting behavior may be the new

At the heart of this breakdown is the modern system of academic incentives. Funding and recognition increasingly hinge on quantitative proxies like publication and citation counts, h-indices, and journal impact factors, all of which can be artificially inflated.

Architecture of fraud

For their analysis, the team members used multiple data sources and analytic tools. Their sources included journal and article metadata from Clarivate's Web of Science, Elsevier's Scopus, PubMed/MEDLINE, and the OpenAlex databases – spanning several thousand journals and millions of articles - as well as lists of deindexed journals from the major indexing services and early-warning lists from Chinese oversight authorities. They combined this with data about retracted papers from the Retraction Watch database; metadata and content from PubPeer, a post-publication critique platform; and programmatic analyses of publisher data, notably from PLOS ONE and Hindawi, both of which label each article with its handling editor.

Upon analysis, the team found that certain editors at large journals, such as PLOS ONE and the stable of Hindawi journals, consistently handled disproportionately many articles that were eventually retracted or which received critical comments on PubPeer.

Using probabilistic modelling and statistical controls, the team could identify individuals whose pattern of acceptance couldn't be explained by chance. These editors, many of whom also published each other's work, formed tightly-knit clusters that, despite making up less than 1% of all editors, were implicated in most problematic articles at their journals.

One particular insight was that the fraud ecosystem has become resilient and adaptable. For example, as the paper put it, organisations such as the Academic Research and Development Association (ARDA) in India don't only write and submit papers on behalf of clients but

The team identified individuals whose pattern of acceptance couldn't be explained by chance. These editors, many of whom also published each other's work, formed tightly-knit clusters that, despite making up less than 1% of all editors, were implicated in most problematic articles

actively "journal hopped," shifting its business to new journals as soon as existing venues were deindexed or scrutiny of its activities increased.

The team wrote that between 2018 and 2024, ARDA's roster of guaranteed publication venues ballooned from more than 86 journals, including obscure or hijacked periodicals as well as journals indexed in Scopus, Web of Science, and MEDLINE. They added that the journals listed by ARDA have also been deindexed at rates vastly exceeding the baseline, often in apparent response to exposure events – although the deindexing also occurred too slowly to offset the tide of fraudulent output.

Evidence from journal archives has indicated that most articles published through ARDA's network are beyond scope, with a significant share also representing improbable international collaborations. For example, the researchers found that of the five journals they comprehensively inspected from ARDA's offerings, 10.1% of publications had authors from different countries; they also spotted a paper about roasting hazelnuts appearing in a journal about HIV/AIDS care. The team interpreted this to mean ARDA was selling papers' authorships to the highest bidders.

Sobering numbers

An important plank of the analysis is the team's construction of networks based on image duplication, which has become a hallmark of fabricated science. The researchers identified large clusters of articles published in the same journal, in the same year, and by the same publishers, all connected through shared or manipulated images. They were able to use statistical methods to show that this was not a random occurrence: instead, the numbers are consistent with mass production and coordinated placement.

While all of science is susceptible, the extent of infiltration seems to be uneven. By comparing closely related subfields in RNA biology, Richardson et al. found that while error rates were similar across disparate new and expanding fields, the retraction rates differed dramatically. Subfields with formulaic, template-driven research, such as lncRNAs, miRNAs, and cancer, had retraction rates peaking at 4%, which significantly exceeded what the researchers said can be expected from honest error.

Perhaps the most sobering data exposed a mismatch between the scale of fraudulent output and the integrity of the mechanisms designed to address it. The corpus of suspected paper mill products

has been doubling every 1.5 years, which the team has estimated is 10x faster than legitimate scientific publishing and far outpacing the growth of both retracted and flagged articles.

Even aggressive measures such as deindexing journals have been dwarfed by the sheer volume of compromised outlets. For example, fewer than 100 journals have been deindexed every year whereas there have been tens of thousands of journals and a staggering number of suspect publications.

According to the paper, "In response to concerns about editorial practices, [a few bibliometric aggregators] can deindex a journal. Web of Science and Scopus deindex on the order of a hundred iournals each annually While this ma appear to be a large number, it is ten-fold smaller than the number of journals that publish paper mill products."

"Extrapolating from current trends," the paper added, "we estimate that only around 25% of suspected paper mill products will ever be retracted and that only around 10% of suspected paper mill products will ever reside in a deindexed journal."

The winning strategy

The researchers also acknowledged some important limitations of their work. Foremost was that scientific fraud is by nature clandestine and even comprehensive data is not likely to accurately estimate its full scale. The patterns of detection and exposure are themselves biased by resources, attention, and field-specific vulnerabilities. Even so, the team wrote, the aggregate evidence "shows that the integrity of the extant scientific record and of future science is being undermined through the shortcomings in the very systems through which scientists infer the trustworthiness of each other's work."

The study and its accompanying reflections constitute both an urgent warning and a call for collective action within the scientific community. Industrialised scientific fraud is no longer a marginal concern, nor is it adequately deterred by current measures. Instead, the researchers have revealed a resilient ecosystem of actors who have been incentivised to defect repeatedly, by exploiting the metrics and weaknesses of the current system at the expense of honest research and scientific progress.

"These networks are essentially criminal organisations, acting together to fake the process of science," the study's senior author and Northwestern University professor of engineering sciences and applied mathematics Luís A. Nunes Amaral said in a statement. "Millions of dollars are involved in these processes."

Without coordinated, better-resourced, and systematically independent approaches to detect, investigate, and sanction misconduct, the study's findings suggest that the future of science is at risk of being shaped by those for whom defection is the rational way to go. (mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in)



on a hot day in Tokyo on August 5, 2025. AFP

Japan sets temperature record, worries mount over rice crops

Agence France Presse

Japan logged a new heat record on August 5, with the mercury hitting 41.8 C, the weather office said, warning temperatures may rise further still.

Temperatures the world over have soared in recent years as climate change creates ever more erratic weather patterns, and Japan is no exception.

The scorching temperature in the city of Isesaki on Tuesday surpassed the previous record seen in the western Hyogo region of 41.2° C only last week. Tokyo has also been struggling with extreme heat.

"I'm really concerned about global warming, but when it comes to my daily life, I can't live without turning on the air conditioner," office worker Mayomi Saito

"I don't really know what I should be doing, I'm just desperately getting through each day."

Japan's summer last year was the joint hottest on record, equalling the level seen in 2023, followed by the warmest autumn since records began 126 years ago.

Last week in tourist hotspot Kyoto the mercury hit 40° C, the first time any of its observation points – the oldest opened in 1880, the newest in 2002 - had seen such a high, authorities said.

In Japan some dams and paddies nationwide are experiencing a water shortage, with farmers complaining that the sizzling heat combined with the lack of rain is slowing rice cultivation

Experts warn Japan's beloved cherry trees are blooming earlier due to the warmer climate – or sometimes not full blossoming - because autumns and winters are not cold enough to trigger

The famous snowcap of Mount Fuji was absent for the longest recorded period last year, not appearing until early November, compared with the average of early October.

July was also the hottest since records began in 1898, the weather agency said Friday, with the average monthly temperature 2.89° C above the 1991-2020 average.

Blistering heatwaves have also hit other parts of Asia this summer, from South Korea to Vietnam, as well as Europe.

South Korea saw its second-hottest July, with an average temperature of 27.1° C, according the meteorological office, which has been collecting such data since

The hottest July on record in South Korea was in 1994, when the average temperature reached 27.7° C.

In northern Vietnam, 17 places across seven provinces reported record highs for the month of August, with electricity demand spiking as people try to stay cool, authorities said Tuesday.

The capital Hanoi experienced its first ever August day above 40° C on Monday.

In Japan some dams and paddies nationwide are experiencing a water shortage, with farmers complaining that the sizzling heat combined with the lack of rain is slowing rice cultivation.

Precipitation in July was low over wide areas of Japan, with northern regions facing the Sea of Japan experiencing record low rainfall, it added.

The rainy season ended about three weeks earlier than usual in western regions of Japan, another record.

Every summer, Japanese officials urge the public to seek shelter in air-conditioned rooms to avoid heatstroke.

The elderly in Japan – which has the world's second-oldest population after Monaco – are particularly at risk.



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