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DELHI

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 06		
RISE	05:46	SET 19:08
RISE	17:12	SET 02:22
THURSDAY, AUG. 07		
RISE	05:46	SET 19:08
RISE	18:00	SET 03:21
FRIDAY, AUG. 08		
RISE	05:47	SET 19:07
RISE	18:43	SET 04:23

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	33	27
Safdarjang	33	27
Palam	33	26

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

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

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ROCK MECHANICS
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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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Terms and conditions:

1. Candidates should apply ONLINE only. Interested may submit online applications by visiting our website (https://nirm.in). The online applications will start from 18-8-2025.

2. The candidate must be a citizen of India.

3. The appointment will be on regular basis with a probation period of 2 years.

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5. A person seeking appointment on the basis of reservation to OBC /SC / ST must ensure that he possesses the relevant certificate on the crucial date. Candidates may also note that in respect of the above, their candidature will remain provisional till the veracity of the concerned document is verified by the Institute. The candidates claim benefit of reservation under EWS are required to submit the Income and Asset Certificate (I & AC) in the prescribed format issued by a Competent Authority.

6. Age relaxation is applicable for SC / ST/ OBC candidates as per the Govt. norms.

7. The prescribed qualifications are the minimum required and the mere fact that a candidate possesses the same will not entitle for shortlisting of their candidature.

8. Application fee (non-refundable) of Rs. 1000/- is payable. SC/ST candidates are exempted from payment of application fee. Payment may be made by UPI mode by scanning the QR Code at the time submission of applications (or) NEFT/RTGS to National Institute of Rock Mechanics, Bank Account No. 520101219308736 (Union Bank of India, Padmanabnagar Branch, Bangalore, IFSC Code : UBIN0907049). After making the payment, the proof of payment need to be attached/uploaded.

9. Persons employed in Central/ State Government/ PSUs/ Universities/ Autonomous Bodies required to upload the endorsement from their employer or submit an undertaking that NOC will be submitted at the time of interview.

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.

11. 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.

13. 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 (https://nirm.in).

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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

The 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



Upping the ante: Parents staging a protest over 'shortcomings' in the private school fee regulation Bill on Tuesday. PTI

would be from the school, potentially compromising impartiality. "There 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

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-ghar in Delhi Assembly. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

the Assembly.

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

Nitin Gadkari to speak at The Hindu MIND today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari will be the guest on Wednesday for The Hindu MIND, a conversational series featuring leading newsmakers.

Popularly known as the 'Expressway Man of India', Mr. Gadkari is a strong advocate of bio-fuels 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

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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, sub-standard project reports, and negligent concessionaires, factors he says contribute significantly to the country's road fatalities.

The full interview will be available on www.thehindu.com.



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 de-

pening community engagement and inspiring public participation through the involvement of prominent personalities and celebrities.

"The initiative will symbolically 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.



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AUGUST

BHOPAL
18
AUGUST

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JUNE

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10
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22
JULY

PUNE
14
JULY

GTB NAGAR, DELHI

10 JULY, 8 AM | 29 JULY, 6 PM

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15 JULY, 2 PM | 7 AUGUST, 2 PM

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20 JULY

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INBRIEF



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; Priyanka Gandhi Vadra asks if the government is so weak that it can’t run the House

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid 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 run the House by taking up the Question Hour, the protests intensified.

“Your behaviour and activities have lowered the dignity and honour of the 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 Belagavi 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
JAIPUR

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 protesters 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 removed 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

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

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

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 expelled 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
SRINAGAR

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-



Family members of terror attack victims at an event in Srinagar on 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

years ago.

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

July 30, 2004, his brother, Aijaz Ahmad Dar, was also killed by terrorists.

‘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 Bhanwan.

‘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 43-year-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



Pulak Malakar was arrested in 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

six-day police remand.

“We received complaints about the man treating patients by using a fake degree. Investigation revealed that his certificate from a government medical 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.

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.

BJP alleges ₹650-cr. scam in Delhi hospital project, AAP hits back

CM
YK

ENTERPRISE CONNECT

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



Jamia Hamdard (A Government-Aided Deemed to be University), New Delhi, is pleased to announce the appointment of Col. Tahir Mustafa as the new Registrar of the University. He assumed charge from Dr. Sarfaraz Ahsan, Registrar (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 km 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



The newly introduced Uttar Pradesh Building Bye-Laws & Zoning Regulations-2025 will act as a "booster dose" for the state's economic growth, 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 multi-sector growth and ease complexities in building approvals.

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



Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across the state have been instructed to intensify their cleanliness efforts during the ongoing rainy season. Shri Anuj Kumar Jha, IAS, State Mission Director of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), has directed that no instances of drainage overflow or 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 Drive 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 Dadich – Director(HR), Sh. Birendra Prasad – Director(Operations) and encourages balanced pest control strategies.

other senior officers also participated in the drive and encouraged the employees to help in making Transco premises free from waste and garbage.

Acharya Balkrishna birthday celebrated as a Jadi Buti Diwas at Patanjali Yogpeeth.



Birthday of Patanjali Yogpeeth General Secretary, Acharya Balkrishna was celebrated on 04 August at Patanjali Wellness Centre as Jadi-Buti (herb) Diwas. On this occasion Swami Ramdev, Acharya Balkrishna 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, Acharya Balkrishna 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 Balkrishna and lauded his role in the establishment of Patanjali Ayurvedic Hospital, Yoggram, Patanjali Wellness and other Patanjali institutions. Acharya Balkrishna 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 Balkrishna were also released.

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



Corteva Agriscience, a pioneer in launching 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 system for construction and maintenance of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S. No.	Name of Work with Package No.	Tendered Cost including GST (Rs. in lacs.)			Cost of document (In Rs.)	Earned Money (Bid Security) (Rs. in lacs.)	Time for completion of construction of schemes	Tender Call	Time and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid)	Class of contractor.
		Construction	Maintenance	Total						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Construction and maintenance of road from L045 (Link Road) L045 to Pathrigaon Km 2nd RD 203 m To Razkan, JK01-4002 Length -2.70KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-V (Batch-4, 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology), PMGSY Division Anantnag.	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 80 m To Hukarhat, JK01-4012 Length -3.50 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-V (Batch-4, 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) Guwahat Pathrigaon Road Km 3rd RD 900 m To Dohmohalla, JK02-4015 Length -5.032 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-V (Batch-4, 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) L059 Km 1st RD 800 m To Thazrudder, JK02-4025 Length -5.44 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-V (Batch-4, 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) L054 Km 8th To Doodpatha via Sothlastrathi, JK02-4027 Length -4.405 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-V (Batch-4, 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) L053 Km 8th To Dohmohalla, JK02-4018 Length -5.967 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-V (Batch-4, 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) L048 Km 13th RD 900 m To Tichet via Chohan Mohalla, JK02-4009 Length -5.880 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-V (Batch-4, 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 GundAkhoor, JK16-4010, Length -1.5 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-V (Batch-4, 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- Behnigrao Dohmohalla to Karmachin 10 Monitors, JK08-4505, Length -3.20 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-V (Batch-4, 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 RD RR (VR) L04 To Mullaigul, JK15-4002 Length -3.50 KM, stage Complete, PMGSY-V (Batch-4, 2025-26), (Waste Plastic Technology), PMGSY Division Baramulla.	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

1. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement-04-08-2025.
2. The payment of Bid security and cost of Bid document is to be done online e-tendering website along with the submission of Bids.
3. Availability of Bid document and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgsytenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY-V may obtain the same from the website: <http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CA can use the same in this tender.
4. The Bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in> from 08-08-2025 10:30 AM to 05-08-2026 4:30 PM.
5. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in> from 08-08-2025 (10:00 AM) to 25-08-2025 4:30 PM. The bids uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened online on 26-08-2025 at 11:00 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the offer happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as the advertised rates are inclusive of GST. The bidder shall quote % age (above and below) for the construction component only in the BOQ. However, GST @18% shall be added separately at the time of allotment. All duties, taxes, royalties and other levies payable by the Contractor under the Contract, or for any other cause, shall be included in the rates and total Bid price submitted by the bidder.
6. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 08-08-2025 at 11:30 AM in the Office of Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kashmir at Engineering Complex, Bunt Road Rajbagh, Srinagar to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in Clause 5 of instruction to bidders of the Bidding documents. The intending Bidders, before attending the Pre-bid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site conditions. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.
7. The bidders are required to submit the bid in the form of a hard copy and a soft copy. The hard copy shall be submitted to the office of the Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) at Engineering Complex, Bunt Road Rajbagh, Srinagar on a date not later than three working days after the opening of Technical qualification part of the bid either by Registered Post or by hand delivery which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
8. The bidders are advised to upload the required documents/information strictly as per the formats given in Section 3-Qualification Information. The bidder who fails to comply with the said instructions shall be declared non-responsive.
9. The dates and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in>. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial bids shall be opened electronically on the same Web Site at the Office of Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kashmir, Engineering Complex, Rajbagh, Srinagar. Kashmir.
10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents and data sheet. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify and check the website for the latest information related to the tender. Correspondence if any will be posted on the <https://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in>. All future correspondence/ correspondence shall be published on the same website which should be regularly monitored by the intending tenderers.
11. The intending bidders are advised to study the entire bidding document before preparation and submission of their bids. This includes clause 3 (Eligible Bidders), 4 (Qualification of Bidders) of ITB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer
PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kmr.

DIP/K-4805/25

GENERAL

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TNP, a Government of Tamil Nadu Enterprise and a reputed Paper, Paper Board and Cement Manufacturing Company having its manufacturing facilities at Karur District (Unit-I), Trichy District (Unit-II) and Corporate Office, Chennai with a turnover of more than ₹ 4500 Crores, intends to hire the following executives:-

Sl. No.	Name of the post	No. of post	Reservation	Location
01.	Deputy General Manager (Accounts)	1	MBC/DNC	Corporate Office, Chennai
02.	Assistant General Manager (Finance) (for Treasury Management)	1	GT	Corporate Office, Chennai
03.	Deputy General Manager (Instrumentation)	1	MBC/DNC	Unit-II, Trichy District
04.	Deputy General Manager / Assistant General Manager (Tissue Machine Production)	1	GT	Unit-II, Trichy District
05.	Assistant Manager (Tissue Machine Production)	2	BC (other than BCM)	Unit-II, Trichy District
06.	Assistant Manager (Laboratory) (for Tissue Plant)	1	SC	Unit-II, Trichy District
07.	Officer (Digital Marketing) (Fixed Term Tenure basis)	2	GT	Corporate Office, Chennai

For details relating to age, qualification, experience, etc., please visit TNP's website: www.tnpl.com/careers. Bio-data format is available in our website. Candidates who conform to the job requirements as given in the website may apply in the prescribed format by post in strict confidence superscribing the name of the post (both in Bio-data and top of the Envelope) within 15 days from the date of release of this advertisement to the below mentioned address, giving full details of age, qualification with year of passing, experience, community, salary drawn and position being held along with copies of testimonials towards proof for the same. Bio-data form with insufficient documentary proof will be summarily rejected.

GENERAL MANAGER (HR)
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NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

Online open e-Tender are invited by Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (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, Earnest Money (in Rs.): 2,01,800.00.

ADE/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 : www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in
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 through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on www.irops.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 Gorakhpur
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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 E/PS/84/2025. The amendment made is as under: Tender No. & Short Description : 81255343A Description : Manufacture and Supply of Prestressed Concrete (PSC) Sleeper Set. Tender Opening Date : From : 04/08/2025 To:18/08/2025. Latest terms & condition and full information is available on Website <https://www.irops.gov.in>.

(SD)
For Principal Chief Material Manager
West Central Railway, Jabalpur
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ बैंकिंग पर्सनल सेलेक्शन
INSTITUTE OF BANKING PERSONNEL SELECTION
(An autonomous body set up by Reserve Bank of India, Central Financial Institutions and Public Sector Banks)
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नमस्ते हमें इन को चुनने में मदद करो

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://cgrrs.ibps.in>

The Online Examination (Preliminary and Main) for the upcoming Common 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 DATES	
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
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.

Mumbai
Date: 01.08.2025 DIRECTOR

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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.svsc.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
PRINCIPAL

एनटीपीसी
NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
Adv. No.: 13/25

Power Your Career with NTPC – India's Energy Leader
NTPC Limited, India's largest integrated power utility, is driving the nation's progress with an installed capacity of 82836 MW and a strong presence across the entire power generation value chain. As we set our sights on an ambitious 130 GW capacity by 2032, we are looking for talented and passionate individuals to contribute to our nuclear power capacity addition journey.

To support this ambitious growth, NTPC is looking for professionals with experience in the nuclear field in the disciplines of Mechanical, Civil, Electrical and C&I engineering at various levels. The details are as under:

Discipline	Post	Vacancies	Grade / Pay Scale for Recruitment
Civil	General Manager	01	E8 / IDA (Rs. 120000-280000) with the benefits of 06 increments on the minimum basic of pay scale
	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
	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/ C&I	General Manager	01	E8 / IDA (Rs. 120000-280000) with the benefits of 06 increments on the minimum basic of pay scale
	Additional General Manager	01	E8 / IDA (Rs. 120000-280000)
Electrical C&I	Senior Manager	02	E6 / IDA (Rs. 90000-240000)
	Manager	02	E5 / IDA (Rs. 80000-220000)

Interested eligible candidates should log on to our website careers.ntpc.co.in or visit careers section at www.ntpc.co.in for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, qualification criteria, experience criteria, full text of the advertisement and for applying. The online application portal will remain open from 07.08.2025 to 21.08.2025. Only online mode of application will be accepted. Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will be published only on our website.

Leading the Power Sector

Mentors Required for Civil Service Preparation
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4) Political Science & IR 5) Sociology 6) Geography 7) Economics
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Bullying tactics

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

After 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

President 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.

It 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 better 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 right.

The road ahead

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

With 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



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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-long 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 phase).

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 disembodied, 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 elusive.

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.

responsibility to be accommodative and not let things deteriorate.

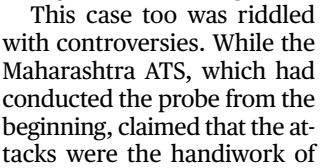
Ayyaseri Raveendranath, Aranmula, Kerala

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

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

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



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

Scatter plot showing the relationship between Out-migration index (Y-axis) and Elector difference (%) (X-axis) for various districts in West Bengal. The plot shows a moderate positive correlation ($r = 0.40$). Districts like Supaul, Madhubani, Purnia, Kishanganj, and Gopalganj are in the upper right quadrant, while Aurangabad and Avg5 are in the lower left quadrant. A regression line and an average line are shown.

District	Elector difference (%)	Out-migration index
Supaul	-7.5	30
Madhubani	-10.5	28
Purnia	-11.5	20
Kishanganj	-11.0	18
Gopalganj	-14.5	18
Aurangabad	-7.0	-12
Avg5	-7.0	-15
Bhagalpur	-10.0	0

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.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Arms funding for Ukraine by certain Nordic nations

500 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. AFF

Acres of crops submerged in Punjab after heavy rains

20,000 In acres. The 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

41.8 In degrees Celsius. It was recorded in Iseaki, 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. AFF

Lives lost in Himachal Pradesh since the onset of monsoon

192 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

250 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: A 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



ISTOCKPHOTO

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

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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: On 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

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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

Have 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 die.

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' survival.

In necropolitical systems, people are



Sanctioned death: A man who was shot while seeking food aid at an Israeli and U.S.-backed distribution point, is carried on a motorcycle in the central Gaza Strip on July 27. AFP

not killed through spectacle but through 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 system where certain lives are systematically devalued. First, state terror

suppresses dissent through surveillance, 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. Third, enmity becomes a governing principle, making the right to kill a measure of authority. Fourth, war and terror become self-sustaining economies, fuelling global surveillance and arms markets. Fifth, active predation of certain social groups displaces entire 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

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 them.

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 journalist.

THE DAILY QUIZ

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

agreement between the U.K. and the U.S., outlining the terms for coordinated 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

What is the Japanese term used to define a ‘bombing survivor’ or a ‘person affected by exposure to radioactivity’?



Visual question: 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 Rahman**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Arun Kumar Singh| Pranab Biswas| Tito Shiladitya| Sukdev Shet



FROM THE ARCHIVES

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.”
“Exactly!”
“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 town.”
“The what?”
“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 mean?”
“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. My...”
“...let me give an example. There’s some yoyo at the door. He says he wants to meet you. 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.

Word of the day

Launder:

cleanse with a cleaning agent, such as soap, and water; convert illegally obtained funds into legal ones

Synonyms: wash, change, convert, exchange

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

Pronunciation: newsth.live/laundrypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈbʌːnda/

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

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CM
YK

INBRIEF



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.

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.

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.

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

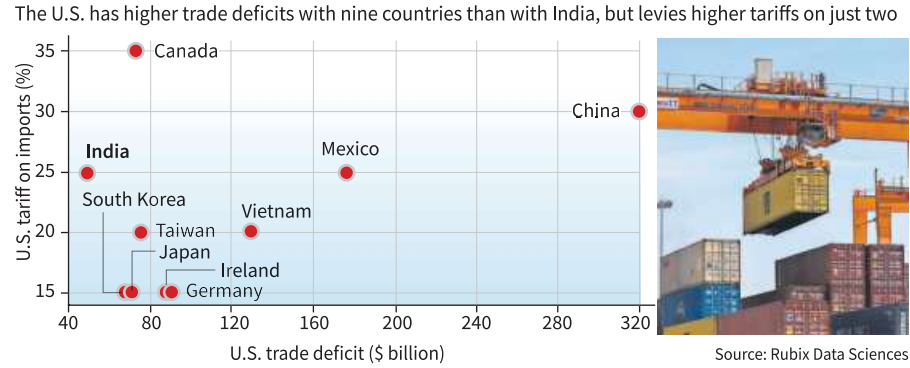
Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

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 RBI 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.

'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



T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The 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 Turkey (27%). China bought 47% of Russia's crude exports during this period, followed by India (38%), the EU (6%), and Turkey (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 disbursement 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 consumers have to undergo biometric authentication before release of connections, a release from the Ministry on Mr. Puri's reply said.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,710	-0.38
US Dollar	87.88	-0.25
Gold	98,820	0.81
Brent oil	67.26	-2.59

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter.....	2328.20	-35.40
Adani Ports.....	1358.10	-30.80
Apollo Hosp.....	7274.00	-34.00
Asian Paints.....	2436.80	-13.00
Axis Bank.....	1070.80	-2.20
Bajaj Auto.....	8230.50	43.00
Bajaj Finserv.....	1939.40	-5.80
Bajaj Finance.....	891.90	-6.60
Bharat Elec.....	386.65	-2.90
Bharti Airtel.....	1931.80	-17.20
Cipla.....	1499.80	-15.30
Coal India.....	379.50	-4.80
Dr Reddys Lab.....	1214.80	-10.20
Eicher Motors.....	568.00	60.00
Eternal Ltd.....	302.15	-3.10
Grasim Ind.....	2797.20	-9.40
HCL Tech.....	1482.70	-8.30
HDFC Bank.....	1977.60	-14.40
HDFC Life.....	738.50	-1.30
Hero MotoCorp.....	4546.80	10.90
Hindalco.....	687.10	-0.60
Hind Unilever.....	2524.70	-9.00
ICI Bank.....	1444.40	-18.80
IndusInd Bank.....	819.15	-15.10
Infosys.....	1460.30	-20.20
ITC.....	414.15	-2.70
Jio Financial Services Ltd.....	332.85	-1.05
JSW Steel.....	1053.40	-2.50
Kotak Bank.....	2003.00	6.00
L&T.....	3652.60	21.50
M&M.....	3212.20	12.00
Maruti Suzuki.....	12537.00	172.00
NestleIndia.....	2267.30	-10.10
NTPC.....	333.60	1.60
ONGC.....	234.48	-0.35
PowerGrid Corp.....	286.00	-1.95
Reliance Ind.....	1391.70	-19.80
SBI Life.....	1857.00	-2.50
State Bank.....	800.60	49.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.....	630.10	-5.20
Sun Pharma.....	1632.10	-9.50
TataConsumerProduct.....	1064.60	-8.00
Tata Motors.....	654.60	1.00
Tata Steel.....	159.62	0.06
TCS.....	3063.90	-10.50
Tech Mahindra.....	1485.40	10.40
Titan.....	2418.20	61.90
Trent Ltd.....	5317.50	68.50
UltraTech Cement.....	12298.00	41.00
Wipro.....	245.91	-0.14

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 05

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar.....	87.00	87.92
Euro.....	101.02	101.39
British Pound.....	116.28	116.70
Japanese Yen (100).....	59.31	59.53
Chinese Yuan.....	12.19	12.23
Swiss Franc.....	108.13	108.53
Singapore Dollar.....	67.95	68.21
Canadian Dollar.....	63.50	63.74
Malaysian Ringgit.....	20.70	20.81
Australian Dollar.....	56.62	56.83

Source:Indian Bank

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

Evolution of Temple Architecture in Tamil Nadu

When we marvel at the temples of South India, this coffee table book **'Evolution of Temple Architecture in Tamil Nadu'**, gently guides us through their story - tracing the birth, growth and transformation of this timeless art form. Tracing its modest origins from the times of the cave dwellers to its artistic and colossal rise in the hands of the Mauryas, the Chalukyas, the Pallavas, Pandyas and Cholas, this exhaustive volume also explains the various facets of temple architecture with the help of 250 vivid images by J. Ramanan and over 75 illustrations.

NEW ARRIVAL

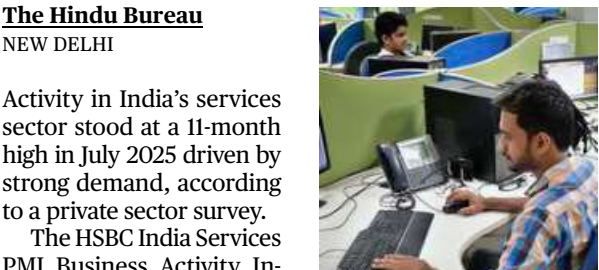
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The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

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 newly-set up Innovation Park on the city's outskirts. SAP



Ashwini Vaishnaw

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.

BRUSSELS

EU suspends tariff retaliation after striking a trade deal with Trump



AFP

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



AP

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



PTI

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 Gripen 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



REUTERS

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 Bhattacharjee
NEW DELHI

The 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 Dhaka.

The 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 Bangladesh. "Therefore, the people

of Bangladesh express their desire that the student-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 the Declaration.

The document started 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 said 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 remarks.

But on Sunday, his allies defied the order by sharing footage online of a call between the former Army captain 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.

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

Washington condemned the new restrictions on Monday night, with the State Depart-

ment'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 re-shared by Mr. Bolsonaro's politician son Eduardo Bolsonaro, who had successfully lobbied Washington to take punitive action against Brazil over the case.

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 Tuesday.

"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.

Israel kills 26 Gazans
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 said.

Mr. Bokhari, 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 restructuring, 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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e-procurement Tender Notice No. 09/EE/CBDD/TGTD/2025-26, Dated:05.08.2025 (2nd call)

Sl No.	Name of the Work	Est. Cost Rs. in Lakhs	Bid Downloading Start Date
1	REP for Supply, Installation, Integration, Testing, Commissioning and Onsite Operation & Maintenance of "Digital Experience Centre at Buddhavaram, Nagarjuna Sagar, Nalgonda, Telangana."	1490.52	06.08.2025

Bids are invited on e-Procurement platform from eligible contractors.
Further details can be seen @ e-procurement market place www.tender.telangana.gov.in
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252613 003299	Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Erection and commissioning of Fire Hydrant System Phase-I for RSPS#2 Project at TNPL Unit-I.	21.08.2025

Email
252613003246 - pmd8@tnpl.co.in
252613003299 - pmd3@tnpl.co.in

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : www.tnpl.com / <https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgepapp>
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Tender Notification- IISc/ Tender-CIV-09/2025-26

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform <https://eprocure.gov.in>. Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD/ CPWD/ railways/ MES/ Central PSUs/ or any Government department of Class I/ Class A Civil Contractors are eligible to apply for the work of **"Repairs, Renovation and allied works required for the NQM activities space on the 2nd floor of the SSCU Building at IISc, Bangalore"**. Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs.42,20,809/-**. Last date of receipt of application is **25th Aug 2025 at 15:30Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in
Sd/-, Registrar

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Duration: 8 Days
Only Week-ends (Saturday & Sunday)

Start Date:	Fees:	For Registration
09 th Aug 2025	Rs. 4,720/- (Inclusive of GST)	

Timing: (06.00 pm to 09.00 pm)

Duration: 5 Days
Only Week-days (Monday to Friday)

Start Date:	Fees:	For Registration
11 th Aug 2025	Rs. 4,130/- (Inclusive of GST)	

Timing: (06.00 pm to 09.00 pm)

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(Through KPP Portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for **"Design, Manufacturing and Supply of Open Bushing Type 250 kVA Star-2 (5-Star) Rated 11kV/433V, 3Phase, 50Cycle, Aluminium Wound, CRGO Core Distribution Transformers as per Tender Specification, GTP and Drawing."**

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2	BRAZ & CTAZ	BESCOM/2025-26/ IND0156

Bid Documents available : 06.08.2025. **Last date for Bid Submission :** 04.09.2025, 17:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document :** 06.09.2025, 17:15 Hrs.

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprocelpdesk.com. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

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INDIA'S GEM

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



PTI

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*.

INSPIRATIONAL

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



PTI

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



REUTERS

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

Not many had pinned hopes on India when the team 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



Day	Headingley (First Test)	Day	Lord's (Third)	Day	The Oval (Fifth)
1	India - 359/3 in 85 overs	11	England - 251/4 in 83 overs	21	India - 204/6 in 64 overs
2	India - 471 in 113 overs England - 209/3 in 49 overs	12	England - 387 in 112.3 overs India - 145/3 in 43 overs	22	India - 224 in 69.4 overs England - 247 in 51.2 overs India - 75/2 in 18 overs
3	England - 450 in 94.3 overs India - 90/2 in 23.5 overs	13	India - 387 in 119.2 overs England - 2/0 in one over	23	India - 396 in 88 overs England - 50/1 in 13.5 overs
4	India - 364 in 96 overs England - 21/0 in six overs	14	England - 192 in 62.1 overs India - 58/4 in 17.4 overs	24	England - 339/6 in 76.2 overs
5	England - 373/5 in 82 overs	15	India - 170 in 74.5 overs	25	England - 367 in 85.1 overs
England won by five wickets. PoM: Ben Duckett			England won by 22 runs. PoM: Ben Stokes		India won by six runs. PoM: Mohammed Siraj
Day	Edgbaston (Second)	Day	Old Trafford (Fourth)	 Player-of-the-Series: India: Shubman Gill; England: Harry Brook Series drawn 2-2	
6	India - 310/5 in 85 overs	16	India - 264/4 in 83 overs		
7	India - 587 in 151 overs England - 77/3 in 20 overs	17	India - 358 in 114.1 overs England - 225/2 in 46 overs		
8	England - 407 in 89.3 overs India - 64/1 in 13 overs	18	England - 544/7 in 135 overs		
9	India - 427/6 decl. in 83 overs England - 72/3 in 16 overs	19	England - 669 in 157.1 overs India - 174/2 in 63 overs		
10	England - 271 in 68.1 overs	20	India - 425/4 in 143 overs		
India won by 336 runs. PoM: Shubman Gill			Match drawn. PoM: Ben Stokes		

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 line-up 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 to a brilliant start. The left-hander 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 Bumrah, 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 inspired his new-ball 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 Test.

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 Easwaran and Arshdeep 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. GETTY IMAGES

We can dominate cricket for long if we work hard: Gambhir

Press Trust of India
LONDON

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 over time.

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 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 yourself."

"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
KOCHI

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 2024.

"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.



Cynosure of all eyes: World champion Argentina has a huge fan following in Kerala. 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 terms as 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 first-half goal secured Indian Army FT's 1-0 win over 10-man 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 its campaign with just one.

Consolation win

Malaysian Armed Forces ended on a high beating local challenger Rangdajied



Battling it out: Indian Army and Tribhuvan players vie for possession. X@THEDURANDCUP

United FC 1-0 in a Group-E 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.

The results:

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.

INBRIEF



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 Divya 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 Bhumiika Dahiya 7-5, 6-1; Suryanshi Shakhawat bt Ruma Gaikani 6-3 (ret); Samriti Punyani bt Jasmine Rawat 6-3, 6-4.

Suyash spins Warriors to victory in low-scoring affair

DPL

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 low-scoring Delhi Premier League (DPL) clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday.

Batting first, Outer Delhi was bowled out for 148 after medium-pace 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.



Key performers: Suyash, right, and Shaurya, centre, starred with 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' eight-wicket 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

Arjun will be the one to beat 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

CHESS

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

There'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 Quant-box Chennai Grandmasters tournament 2025 beginning here on Wednesday.

World No. 5 Arjun Erigaisi headlines a strong 10-player Masters field and will be the one to beat.

Anish Giri is the second highest-rated player in the section and the 10th-

ranked Dutchman is expected to provide a strong challenge for the ₹25 lakh top prize.

The experienced Vidit Gujrathi, Karthikeyan 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 compa-

triot 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.

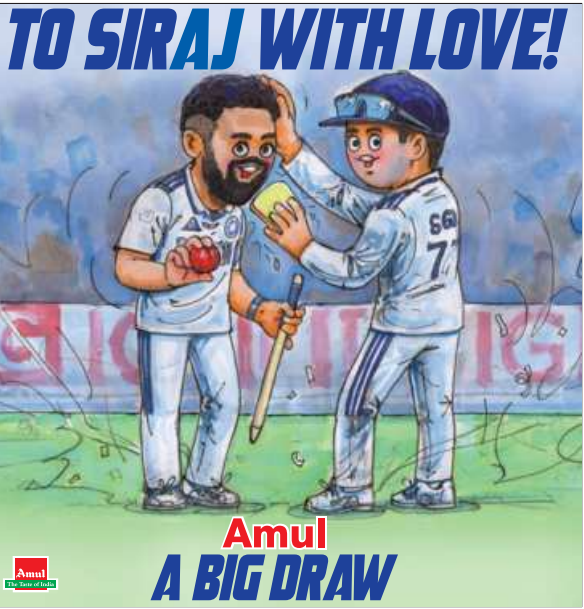
In the Challengers event, IM G.B. Harshavard-

han got a late call-up after Karthikeyan was moved to the Masters and would be testing out his wits against established names such as Pa. Iniyar, Abhimanyu Puranik, D. Harika and R. Vaishali. The Challengers' winner will book a spot in the Masters event next year.

First round pairings:

Masters: Pranav Venkatesh vs. Karthikeyan Murali, Vincent Keymer vs. Nihal Sarin, Anish Giri vs. Ray Robson, Vidit Gujrathi vs. Jorden van Foreest, Arjun Erigaisi vs. Awonder Liang.

Challengers: Leon Mendonca vs. G.B. Harshavardhan, Abhimanyu Puranik vs. B. Adhiban, R. Vaishali vs. Pa. Iniyar, 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 Kusuha (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.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): 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.

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, 6-4.

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 & Keerthivasan Suresh 6-4, 6-2.

\$30,000 ITF women, Roehampton, Britain: Singles (first round): Hannah Klugman (GBR) bt Ankita Raina 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.

Indian boxers do well

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

Indian boxers continued their march at the u-19 and u-22 Asian boxing championships with seven women pugilists assuring themselves of a podium finish here on Tuesday.

Competing in the u-19 category, Yakshika (51kg), Nisha (54kg), Muskan (57kg), Vini (60kg), Nisha (65kg), Akansha Phalasalwal (70kg) and Aarti Kumari (75kg) reached the semifinals.

The results (quarterfinals):

U-19: 48kg: Maftuna Musurmonova (Uzb) bt Suman Kumari 3:2; **51kg:** Yakshika bt Mukhtasar Alieva (Uzb) 3:2. **54kg:** Nisha bt Milana Shikhshabekova (Kgz) RSC. **57kg:** Muskan bt Robiya Ravshanova (Uzb) 5-0; **60kg:** Vini bt Adella Asylbek Kyzy (Kgz) RSC. **65kg:** Nisha bt Yu-En Li (Tpe) 5-0; **70kg:** Akansha Phalasalwal bt Enkhgerel Gerelmunkh (Mgl) RSC; **75kg:** Aarti Kumari bt Zarina Tolybai (Kaz) 4:1.

Anshul Kabthiyal joins the lead in Coal India Open

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):

1.T. Karandeep Kochhar, Anshul Kabthiyal, Angad Cheema, Amardeep Malik 69.

5.T. Yuvraj Sandhu, Manoj S, Om Prakash Chouhan, Ravi Kumar 70.

9.T. Federico Zucchetti, Arjun Prasad, Shaurya Bhattacharya, Aniket Sawant, K Prabakaran, N Thangaraja, Khalin Joshi, Shankar Das, Abhinav Lohan 71.

Pooja, Shamina, Anjali, Tanvi in quarterfinals

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, Anjali 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; Darren Pragasam

(Mas) bt Diwakar Singh 11-3, 11-3, 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 Tripathi 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



R. RAVINDRAN

INTERVIEW

Divyanshi Bhowmick

K. Keerthivasan

Divyanshi 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 to 30.

"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 special for me. B. Bhuvaneshwari, 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 1-3).

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 Japan.

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 Champion-

ships. 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 further?

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 mandatory.

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 your 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 Syndreela 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

A 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 Biology, 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 rises.

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 norm.”

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 PubMed, 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 PubMed.

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 14 to 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 journals each annually. While this may 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 Luis 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)



Heat haze is visible as pedestrians cross a railroad 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 Iseaki 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 said.

“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 fully blossoming – because autumns and winters are not cold enough to trigger flowering.

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 1973.

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.

For feedback and suggestions for ‘Science’, please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Daily page’