



INDIA'S PRIDE WORLD'S STRONGEST

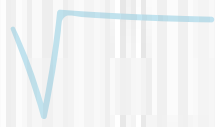
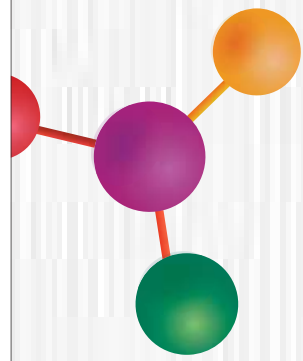
WORLD'S
STRONGEST
HOTEL BRAND 2025
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INDIA'S STRONGEST BRAND 2025

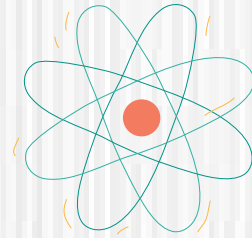
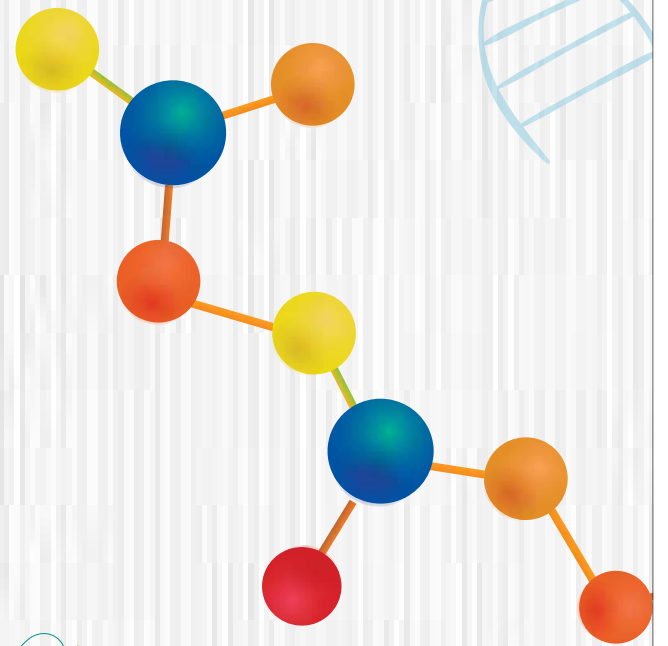
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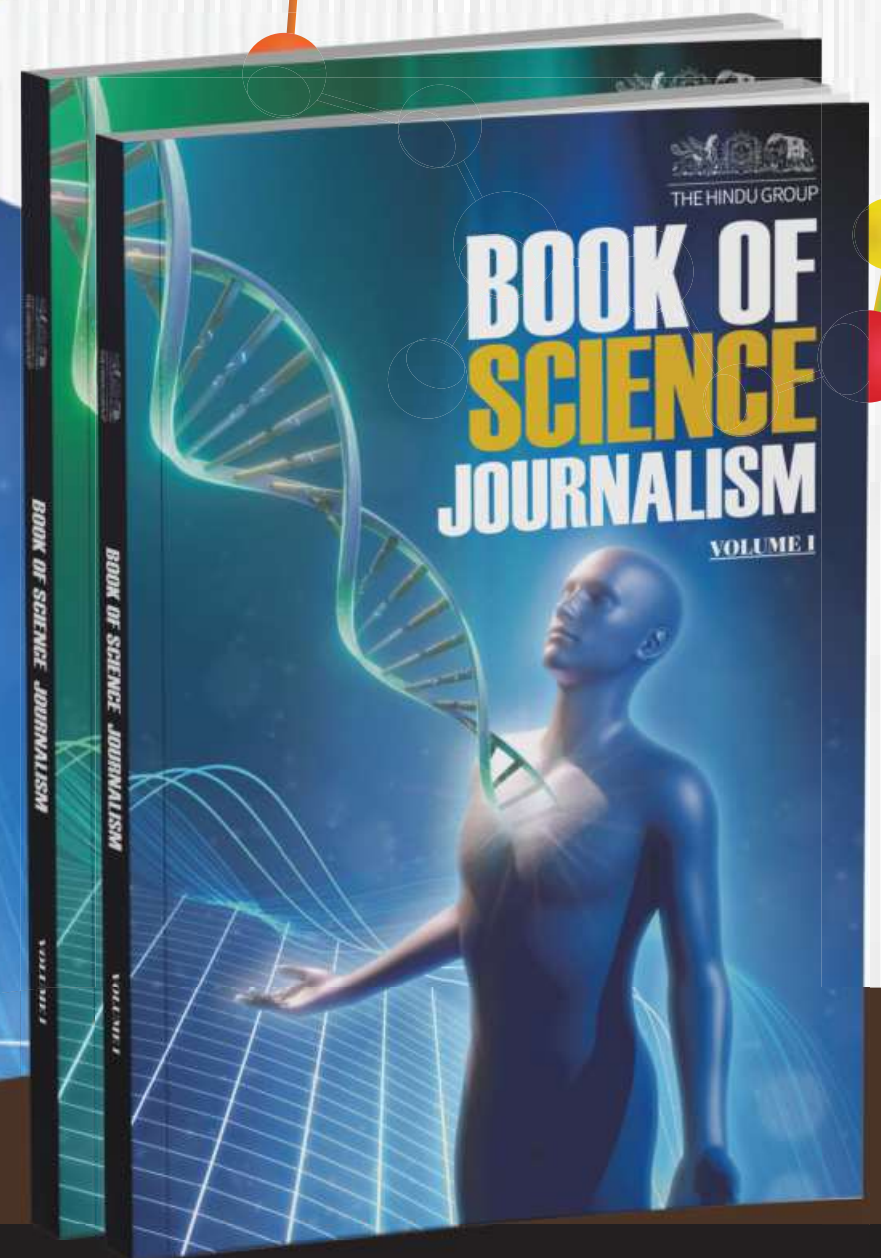
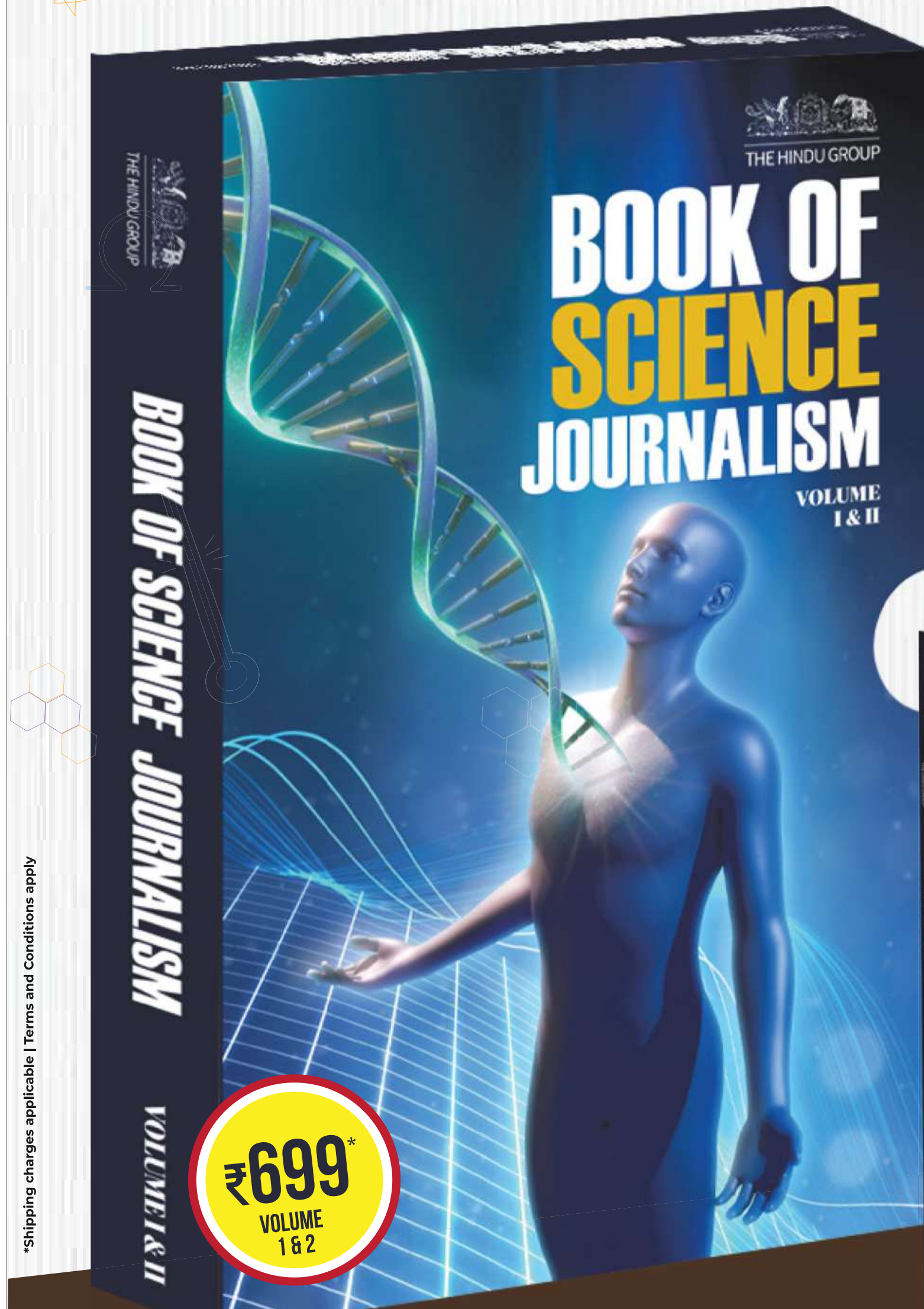
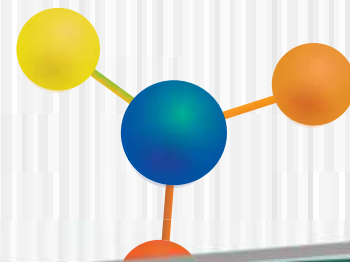


A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

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



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M ND-NDE



Humans and dogs are both suffering. Neither humans nor dogs are safe, said the court. FILE PHOTO

Stray dogs should be treated with dignity: Delhi HC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Calling dogs “great friends of humans”, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the authorities to treat them properly and ensure minimisation of dog-human conflict in the national capital.

‘Give solutions’

Justice Mini Pushkarna also directed the authorities and other parties concerned to give recommendations regarding the rehabilitation of stray dogs.

“Dog is the most loved animal in the world and great friends of humans. It should be ensured that dogs are protected and given dignity,” the court said.

“Either dogs are at home or shelter... not on roads eating garbage. Humans and dogs are both suffering. Neither humans nor dogs are safe,” Justice Pushkarna said.

Upon being informed that sterilisation of around 70% stray dogs would solve the issue,

the judge said the proposed solution has been lingering for the last three decades but nothing changed. “Sterilisation isn’t working at all. It’s not the solution,” the court said.

The court noted that the only proposal that came about in a meeting conducted by the Delhi Chief Secretary was the sterilisation of dogs.

The court said several animal birth control centres and vet hospitals were non-functional in the city.

It asked the Chief Secretary to call a meeting of all stakeholders concerned on steps for removing strays from the streets and rehabilitating them in an institutional shelter.

The court was hearing a plea filed by one Pratima Devi, who had challenged the Municipal Corporation of Delhi’s notice of demolition of a makeshift shelter in Saket, where she looked after more than 200 dogs.

The matter was posted for September 17.

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government on Wednesday submitted in the Punjab and Haryana High Court that the recently introduced Land Pooling Policy, 2025, would be kept on hold till the next date of hearing, i.e. Thursday.

The court was hearing a writ petition that challenged the Punjab government’s land pooling policy introduced in June this year.

The court asked the

State government to clarify whether an Environmental Impact Assessment had been carried out before notifying the Land Pooling Policy, 2025. The court, in its interim order, directed the government to inform the court if there was any provision in the policy for the rehabilitation of the landless labourers and others who do not own any land but are dependent on the land for their sustenance.

Petitioner Gurdeep Singh Gill had submitted that the policy was notified



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

without carrying out the necessary environmental and social impact assessment, which is an essential prerequisite for the acquisition of land under Sections

4 to 8 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

The petitioner, a resident of Phagla village in Ludhiana district, owns 6 acres of land, which was allotted to his father as a displaced person in lieu of their land in Lyallpur district in Pakistan.

The petitioner argued that they have invested and have made improvements to the land, which is now fertile but has been included in the policy. Mr. Gill al-

so contended that there is no provision for providing compensation at the time of acquisition, and only an annual meagre livelihood allowance would be paid.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has hit out at the Opposition parties for spreading “misleading propaganda” against the State government’s policy, with party leaders describing it as “farmer-friendly”.

The Punjab Cabinet in June gave its nod to the policy and asserted that not a single yard will be forcibly acquired from the owners.

IMA to suspend Ayushman Bharat services in Haryana

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Haryana Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Wednesday announced suspension of treatment for Ayushman Bharat scheme beneficiaries in the State from August 7 after its meeting with the senior government officials over delay in payments and alleged inaction of the State government over the issue remained inconclusive.

The meeting was attended by Haryana IMA president Mahaveer Jain and former president Ajay Mahajan, among others.

APPOINTMENT



No. 08/2025 Date: 05-08-2025

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

The Khaja Bandanawaz University invites application from the eligible citizens of India for the positions of **PROFESSORS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS, ASSISTANT PROFESSORS AND SENIOR RESIDENTS** in the Faculty of Medical Sciences in the following departments.

- ANATOMY, • PHYSIOLOGY, • BIOCHEMISTRY, • MICROBIOLOGY, • FORENSIC MEDICINE, • COMMUNITY MEDICINE,
- PHARMACOLOGY, • GENERAL MEDICINE, • GENERAL SURGERY, • TB & CHEST, • RADIOLOGY, • PSYCHIATRY.

Please visit www.kbn.university for further details and to fill the online application form. The last date to submit the application is 25th of August, 2025.

Registrar.

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LIMITED (SIIDCUL)
29 , IT Park, Dehradun-248001
Ph- 0135-2708100, 2608092,
Fax - 0135-2708109 Website:- www.siidcul.com

Recruitment Notice – 01 / 2025
State Infrastructure and Industrial Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (SIIDCUL) is a Government of Uttarakhand enterprise engaged in industrial development activity in the State of Uttarakhand. Applications are invited from eligible candidates working in Central Government/State Government/Central or State PSU's/Semi-Government Organisations in the prescribed form for recruitment to the following position/post in SIIDCUL on **Deputation** basis: -

Sl.	Post	Level/Pay Band	Category	No. of Post	Deputation Period
1.	AGM (Civil)	Pay Level 11 (Salary shall be payable based on last pay certificate issued by parent organisation)	UR	02	3 Years Extendable up to maximum 5 Years

The maximum age limit as on 1st July, 2025 shall be 45 years. Relaxation in age will be admissible as per rules of Government of Uttarakhand to the candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Classes. Government servants must submit their application through proper channel. **The last date for submission of application is 22nd August 2025** by their 4.30 P.M.

For details regarding qualification, experience, application format and other details and instructions please visit website www.siidcul.com on or after 7th August 2025.

Managing Director
SIIDCUL

TRIPURA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
(Department of Power, Government of Tripura)

PNle-T No.F.6(432)/TREDA/NCES/2024-25/Pt.-I/3114 Date 05/08/2025

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

On behalf of Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency (TREDA), Joint Director, TREDA invites e-tender for Appointment of Consulting Firm for setting up of Project Management Unit (PMU) at Tripura Renewable Energy Development Agency, Agartala for Renewable Energy Project in Tripura vide DNle-T No. F.6(432)/TREDA/NCES/2024-25/Pt.-I/3113, dated 05/08/2025.

The tender papers may be downloaded from e-procurement portal <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> and the deadline for submission of online e-bid is **27/08/2025** up to 3:00 PM.

(D S DAS)
Joint Director

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Call our toll-free number
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PH: 9820350726

selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice Date 01.08.2025
Sr. Divisional Electric Engineer / TRS / Electric Loco Shed, Tughlakabad, New Delhi-44, acting, for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against the following Tenders, with the closing date 25.08.2025. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored., **Tender/Bid No.:** TKD-20-2025, **Name of Work And Station:** "Retro Fitment of Air Conditioning in Cabs with provision of thermal insulation of Cabs in three phase locomotives", **Qty.:** As per schedule of rates, **Estimated Cost (In Rs.):** 82563304.04, **Cost of Tender Form (In Rs.):** Nil, **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** 562800/-, **Completion Period:** 18 Months, **Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender:** 25.08.2025, at 15:30 Hrs., **Note:-**1. E-Tender document and details of E-Tender will be available on Website www.irops.gov.in Portal, 2. Manual offer will not be acceptable for this E-Tender, in case manual offer received then offer will not be considered., 3. for any correction in this tender, corrigendum will be up-loaded on website, which may be seen up-to the date of tender opening., 4. Tender must have class-III, digital signature certificate and will have to register on IREPS portal. (SD)
For Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/TRS, Tughlakabad, West Central Railway, New Delhi
सख्त भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE DEATH

HEMALATHA RAMACHANDRAN
(Formerly called Chaitali, Charu, Hemu, Phema)
09.02.1932 – 04.08.2025
W/O Late C.V. Ramachandran
Forever on our minds
Deeply mourned by family & friends
Mobile: +91 99402 63005

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla PWD Complex, Baramulla, Srinagar-193101

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT)
e-NIT No. : 07/SE/PMGSY/SE-TENDERING-OF 2025-26 Dated:- 04-08-2025

The Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla on behalf of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites Percentage rate bids in the electronic tendering system for the 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 the 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.)	Construction	Maintenance	Total	Cost of Agreement (Rs Rs)	Eligible Bidders (Rs in Lacs.)	Time for completion of construction of schemes	Tender Call	Time and Date of opening of bids (Technical Bid)	Class of contractor.
1	Construction and maintenance of road from L030 (Link Road) Balhama Braman RD-3750 to Ladagan, Length: 2.20 Km, PK03-4003, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-1 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology) PMGSY Division Baramulla.	493.32	39.47	532.79	8500/-	10.56	548 days	1st	27.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments	
2	Construction and Maintenance of road,023 Link Road Chatoosa Puzalpura Hamam Km 8th to Marhoni, Length: 2.20 Km, PK03-4003, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV, Batch 1 2025-26 Waste Plastic Technology PMGSY Division Baramulla.	485.34	38.83	521.17	8500/-	10.48	548 days	1st	27.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments	
3	Construction and maintenance of road from L032 (Link Road) Degree College Gohar RD-4300 to Kallar, Length: 1.60 Km, PK03-4008, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-1 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology) PMGSY Division Baramulla.	334.07	26.72	360.79	8500/-	7.22	548 days	1st	27.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments	
4	Construction and maintenance of road from L028 (Link Road) Balhama Braman RD-3750 to Gollal, Length: 2.60 Km, PK03-4009, stage Complete, PMGSY-IV (Batch-1 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology) PMGSY Division Baramulla.	535.28	42.82	578.10	8500/-	11.56	548 days	1st	27.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments	
5	Construction and Maintenance of road from L021 (Link Road) Bad Dasa to Nai Basti Baidwan Wapora Stage Complete, Package No. JK-15-4014, Sanctioned Length: - 2.736 Km (Waste Plastic Technology, Carriage way 3.75mtr, PMGSY-IV Batch-1st (2025- 2026) Division Baramulla.	579.67	46.37	626.04	8500/-	12.52	548 days	1st	27.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments	
6	Construction and Maintenance of road from L026 (Link Road) Maidanra to Chatali RD 6400 to Sonhar, Length: 1.60 Km, PK03-4003, Sanctioned Length: 1.60 Km, Complete Stage, Carriage way Width - 3.75 Km, under PMGSY-IV, Batch -1 of 2025-26, PMGSY Division Uri	606.67	48.52	654.99	8500/-	13.10	548 days	1st	27.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments	
7	Construction and Maintenance of road from L021 (Link Road) Limber to Sachan, Package No. JK03-4008, Sanctioned Length: 1.60 Km, Complete Stage, Carriage way Width - 3.75 Km, under PMGSY-IV, Batch -1 of 2025-26, PMGSY Division Uri	420.19	33.61	453.80	8500/-	9.08	548 days	1st	27.08.2025 to 11.00 AM	"A" Class in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments	
8	Construction and Maintenance of road from L057 (Link Road) Marhoni to Tihangan RD 4000m to Baghar, Mohimari, Package No. JK03-4508, Sanctioned Length -2.00 Km, Complete Stage, Carriage way Width - 3.75 Km, under PMGSY-IV, Batch -1 of 2025-26, PMGSY Division Uri	457.92	36.63	494.55	8500/-	9.89	548 days	1st	27.08.2025 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 documents is to be done online one-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.pmgstyenders.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 PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: <http://pmgstenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

4. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgstenders.gov.in> from 04-08-2025 to 10:00 AM to 26-08-2025 upto 4:30 PM.

5. Other details can be seen in the bidding document/bid 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 pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.

6. 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 as non-responsive.

7. The advertised rates are inclusive of GST. The bidder shall quote % age (above or 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, prices, and total Bid price submitted by the Bidder.

8. A Pre-bid meeting will be held on 08-08-2025 at 11:30 AM in the Office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla at Engineering Complex Superintending Engineer PWD Complex Baramulla 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 Prebid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site of construction. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.

9. The bidders are required to quote rates for the 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 the J&K State Govt, CPWD, Railways, and other State Governments.

10. The bidders are required to quote rates for the 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 the J&K State Govt, CPWD, Railways, and other State Governments.

11. Bidders may bid for one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

12. The Hard Copy of original instruments in respect of original copy of affidavits, (cost of tender document, bid security (online mode) and credit facility must be delivered by participating bidders in the Office of Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla 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 falling which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

13. 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 as non-responsive.

14. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://pmgstenders.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 accordingly on the day and time as notified by the Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulla at Engineering Complex Superintending Engineer PWD Complex Baramulla 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 Prebid meeting, are advised to visit the site of work and acquaint themselves with the site of construction. It has been made mandatory for all the intending bidders to participate in the pre-bid meeting on the scheduled date and time.

Note:- 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) or ITR (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to ITR, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.&C. Section of ITR and Bidding Document.

SD/-
Superintending Engineer
PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kmr.

DIPK-4860/25

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (DESIGNS) PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PUDUCHERRY

No.489/PW/EE(D)/AE(D)/2025-26 Puducherry, the 05/08/2025

PRESS NOTICE:
Invitation for Contractor Engagement Survey & Virtual Meeting

PWD, Government of Puducherry has proposed to avail ADB loan (Phase-1) to a tune of Rs.1,500 Cr. for Urban Livability Project. Potential contractors who are interested may participate in the virtual meeting after filling the online survey form on or before 13/08/25 at 4.00 pm. For more details, please visit <https://pwd.py.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer (Designs)
No.309/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-26

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No: 546 **Time Extension Notice-03** Date: 06/08/2025

Due to unavoidable circumstances, due dates in respect of online Bid Identification Nos.: (i) T-01/EE(Solar)/2025-26 (ii) T-02/EE(Solar)/2025-26 (iii) T-03/EE(Solar)/2025-26 are extended as follows:
Date for availability of bid document on the portal: 25-08-2025 from 17:00 Hrs.

Last Date /Time of Receipt of bid on the portal: 22-09-2025 till 16:00 Hrs. Detail of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer (Solar)
"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA),
9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/1337/2025-26 Date: 04.08.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tender in two cover tender system from eligible tenderers for the work of **sinking of 6.5 inch dia new borewell with necessary accessories at various locations of Shivajinagar Constituency and East Zone coming under AEE (BW&PS)-1/1 Sub Division.**

Amount put to tender: **Rs. 1,85,81,279/-** EMD: **Rs. 2,78,800/-**

Last date and time for receipt of tenders will be on **28.08.2025 upto 16:00 hrs.** The bids will be opened on **29.08.2025 at 16:00 hrs.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Design & QA)
DIPR/CP/MA/2226/2025-26

TIDEL PARK LTD.
(An ISO 9001/14001/45001 Company)
CIN No. U74999TN1997PLC039523
No.4, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Taramani, Chennai - 600 113.Tel: 044 2254 0500 / 501, Fax: 2254 1744 www.tidelpark.com tenders@tidelpark.com

E-Tender Notice No: TIDEL/2025-26/16 Date: 07.08.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR OUTSOURCING OF SECURITY AND FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES

TIDEL Park Ltd invites e-tender for Outsourcing Security and Fire Fighting Services of its IT Park at Taramani, Chennai.

For more details and participation in the above e-tender, please visit the website <https://www.tntenders.gov.in/>. Last date for online submission of duly filled in tender documents is **3.00 p.m. on 08.09.2025**. TIDEL reserves the right to accept/reject any one/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Managing Director
DIPR/4231/TENDER/2025

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad dated 04.08.2025- **Sl. No. : 1 E-Tender No.:** 147-DHN-12025-26. **Name of the work with its location & completion period :** Repair to leaky roof of staff quarters and repairing of drain at PEH, PKA, SNMY, RKJE under ADEN/2/DHN. 09(Nine) months. **Approx. cost of work (In Rs.):** 54,98,944.19. **Sl. No. : 2 E-Tender No.:** 148-DHN-2025-26. **Name of the work with its location & completion period :** Upgradation of maintenance facility at pit no.01 in coaching depot DHN for maintenance for Vande Bharat and Amrit Bharat under ADEN/1/DHN. 04(Four) months. **Approx. cost of work (In Rs.):** 8,92,994.09 **Sl. No. : 3 E-Tender No.:** 149-DHN-2025-26. **Name of the work with its location & completion period :** Enhancement of Coach stabilizing capacity at coaching depot at DHN yard after CTR(S) of IOCL siding in non- interlocking area. 04(Four) months. **Approx. cost of work (In Rs.):** 13,65,597.60. **Sl. No. : 4 E-Tender No.:** 150-DHN-2025-26. **Name of the work with its location & completion period :** KOLE- TORI-BRWD- Improvement of cutting & construction of side drain & catch water drain in KOLE- TORI-BRWD Section. 12(Twelve) months. **Approx. cost of work (In Rs.):** 14,50,12,996.98. **Sl. No. : 5 E-Tender No.:** 151-DHN-2025-26. **Name of the work with its location & completion period :** Repairs to Hand Pump & Deep Tube Well from Km:-142/15-322/15 under Br. No.8 (North & South) in CIC Section under SSE (Bridge)/ Dhanbad. 09(Nine) Months. **Approx. cost of work (In Rs.):** 2,15,49,717.66 **Sl. No. : 8 E-Tender No.:** 154-DHN-2025-26. **Name of the work with its location & completion period :** Instrumentation of Bridge No.7 (2X30.50+5X76.20+1X30.50)m in CPU-MHDA section and Br.no. 334UP (3X12.20)m, 315UP (X12.20+7X18.30+2X 12.20)m, 310UP (1X30.50)m 278UP (X12.20)m, 253 UP (X12.20+7X30.50+ 1X12.20) in BRKA-GHD section under SSE/ BR/DTO in Dhanbad division. 12(Twelve) months. **Approx. cost of work (In Rs.):** 3,34,31,264.04 **Sl. No. : 9 E-Tender No.:** 155-DHN-2025-26. **Name of the work with its location & completion period :** Special repairs to old staff qtrs. at CNF to GHD for addressing the issues related to structure seepage and, and other ancillary works under ADEN/DTO. 06 (Six) Months. **Approx. cost of work (In Rs.):** 35,00,341.77. **Earnest Money (In Rs.):** Earnest Money is applicable as shown in <http://www.irops.gov.in> portal. **Date & Time for closing and opening of e-tender :** Date of closing of e-tender at 12.00 hours on 28.08.2025. Date of opening of e-tender from 12.30 hrs. on 28.08.2025. Website particulars: <http://www.irops.gov.in> No. manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

for Divisional Railway Manager(Engineering), East Central Railway/ Dhanbad
PR/0724/DHN/Engg./T/25-26/12

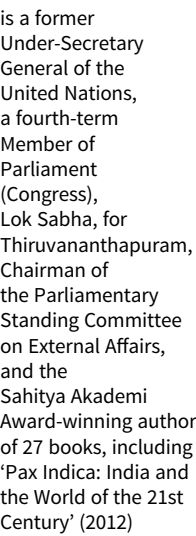


The proximate cause of the disaster is the extremely heavy rainfall from August 3 to 5, with some parts of the district reporting nearly 30 cm of rainfall over a single day due to the monsoon and its active phase over North India. The fury and the volume of the water that gushed through the town seemed to suggest that this was a sudden event, prompting State officials to categorise it as a 'cloudburst'. However, this has a very specific meaning in how the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the official forecaster, defines it. A large volume of rain, of at least 10 centimetres in an hour over 10 square kilometres, is what usually qualifies as a cloudburst. The lack of weather radars at those altitudes means that the IMD is incapable of such a computation. Therefore, it could very well be that continuous heavy rain over the past 48 hours may have loosened the soil and combined with the craggy, undulating terrain, unleashed large volumes of silt along with copious amounts of water. Whether it was a sudden event or the result of a gradual build-up might seem only of academic interest, given the loss of life, livelihood and property. The knee-jerk categorisation as a 'cloudburst' allows state authorities to claim helplessness. Once it is projected as a freak phenomenon, the event only elicits social media commiseration from public authorities in the form of 'prayers' and 'deep sadness' and a pre-defined token sum as disbursement. The recent past shows that these are anything but outliers. Climate change has increased the probability of extreme rainfall events and, therefore, the numerous infrastructure projects undertaken in the hills and the resulting debris act as latent explosives that are triggered from such rainfall. Following relief operations, the State government must – as soon as conditions are conducive – review debris and silt accumulation at critical points in the State to buffer the inevitable damage from climate change.

The Supreme Court's remarks on Rahul Gandhi threaten democratic dissent

Equally, Mr. Gandhi's statements regarding Chinese occupation of Indian territory and confrontations are not without backing in public and governmental sources. Open-source satellite imagery, parliamentary discussions, and journalistic reports have documented the aftermath of the Galwan Valley clash, including new Chinese activities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). A parliamentary committee report has acknowledged the loss of access to certain patrol points in eastern Ladakh. Military officials and independent analysts have corroborated, at various times, the ongoing disputes and loss of patrolling rights over substantial stretches of territory, including parts of Ladakh's Galwan and Depsang areas. Local residents are also unable to access grazing lands. The loss of about 2,000 square kilometres, cited by Mr. Gandhi, is also based on estimates by independent defence experts studying China's LAC transgressions. The general thrust of Mr. Gandhi's remarks – i.e., China has altered the status quo to India's disadvantage and that the government's public statements have not always aligned with ground realities – is supported by public evidence. Thus, the Court must resist the temptation to offer moral or patriotic judgments and instead direct its considerable energies to the rigorous and impartial adjudication of legal questions. Only by adhering to this principle can the Court reinforce its legitimacy and protect the tenets of free and open public debate.

In essence, China's strategy is multi-pronged, leveraging its control over crucial raw materials, manufacturing equipment, and even human capital to impede India's manufacturing ascent, especially in the high-stakes electronics and emerging technology sectors. These actions, when viewed through the prism of Beijing's anxieties concerning India's emergence as a potentially formidable manufacturing competitor



China's determined moves to target India are part of a meticulously calibrated plan to safeguard its core economic interests and its internal stability

China's formidable trade surplus, now on the cusp of a trillion dollars, is not solely a testament to its industrial prowess but also a stark manifestation of weak internal consumption and persistent industrial overcapacity. The People's Bank of China's repeated interest rate reductions on savings accounts have largely failed to ignite internal demand. This chronic overcapacity, therefore, constrains Chinese enterprises to aggressively depress prices and inundate international markets in a desperate bid to remain solvent – a strategy that has, perhaps ironically, severely eroded profitability across a plethora of sectors. As a result, China's determined endeavours to stymie competition are not merely a reflection of simple geopolitical rivalry. Rather, they are an undeniable reflection of profound domestic compulsions. Should India by dint of astute policy and diligent execution, succeed in getting its house in order and convincingly demonstrate the potential to compete comprehensively in the global manufacturing landscape, Beijing is highly likely to escalate its countermeasures. These could range from the insidious pressures of economic coercion to outright military posturing, all in a relentless quest to safeguard its core economic interests and, by extension, its internal stability.

However, the news of the U.S. raising India's tariffs to 50%, even while China enjoys a 90-day exemption from punitive tariffs despite buying more Russian oil and gas than India does, makes India less of a threat to China. While India has been seen as a key partner in western efforts to diversify supply chains away from China, the imposition of the new U.S. tariffs serves as a reminder that all alignments carry their own fragilities, and underscores the need for India to build true strategic autonomy. The Indian Prime Minister's forthcoming visit to Beijing comes against this complex backdrop.

From Beijing's vantage point, China has nothing to worry about yet; its actions against India are an effort to neutralise potential "noise" within its immediate periphery while it assiduously scales up its economic and political corridors with key strategic partners across the sprawling geographies of Pakistan, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Africa, and Latin America. India's narrative of offering an alternative to the Chinese behemoth falters on our own dependence. If India genuinely harbours the ambition to "compete" on the global stage, it needs a laser-like focus on its own foundational development. That is what China's behaviour has taught India: The onus is on us Indians.

is a former IPS officer who has served as Central Information Commissioner, Secretary, Security, Government of India and Special Director, Intelligence Bureau

The use of RTI filings
Perhaps the biggest message from this trial is how the Right to Information (RTI) Act, known as the sunshine legislation, enacted 20 years ago, has stood the test of time, bringing transparency and accountability in government functioning. Hundreds of RTIs were filed by the accused and the defence lawyers to elicit information from the police, hospitals, and the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited to build up their case and cross-examine the prosecution witnesses and prove them wrong on various counts. In one instance, it was the name of a non-existent person in a hospital, named by the prosecution witness or the shift in which one person was working was proven wrong. It is the noblest use of RTI, perhaps, if it is used to defend oneself. This is a fundamental aspect of free trial and constitution under Article 20(3).
Perhaps most embarrassing for the Mumbai

In fact, in 2008, the top man of SIMI, Saffdar Nagori, general secretary, was arrested along with his associates in March 2008 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, and was awarded life term in 2017. But how does this make any sense to the families of the victims of 7/11 or to a common man? How does it matter whether the police, the prosecution or the criminal justice system failed him? What matters is that 19 years later, he has no closure. For the accused who were incarcerated for 19 years, it is already a sentence served without proven guilty. They seek justice too.

Reform must begin

There are too many questions unanswered. The only way to answer them is to put the criminal justice system on track on a war footing. Formatting a new criminal law by changing a few old laws here and there is not enough. Every element of the criminal justice system should be reformed. Nineteen years for a decision is meaningless because the punishment has already been given. A prosecution overlooking basic issues is meaningless and an investigation overlooking the simplest of things is not worth it. Reform of the police, the judiciary, the prosecution and prisons cannot wait – we are sitting on a time bomb of people's expectations and frustrations, which may explode anytime.

U.S. President Donald Trump appears to be punishing India for obtuse reasons. India, a democratically, has tariffs slapped on it while the West's trade with

The fact is that this is an issue about India's right to energy security. Going

forward, global energy discussions must move towards cooperation and transparency, especially during uncertain times.

Ardra Mani,
Pathanamthitta, Kerala

The way America is trying to pressure and crush India is most unjustified which is made worse with the WTO watching silently. One hopes that this is a temporary setback and that

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

Quranic justice is restorative, not retributive

The case of the Malayali nurse Nimisha Priya in Yemen has spotlighted the legal and moral complexities of retributive justice in Muslim countries. Nimisha has been in prison since 2017 for the murder of her business associate, Talal Abdo Mahdi. While the Houthi Supreme Political Council dismissed her appeal in November 2023, the appeal court left open a path to clemency through the payment of blood money (*diyyah*) to the victim's family, as provided for under Shariah law.

The concept of *diyyah* finds mention in verse 4:92 of the Quran, which states that in cases when a believer kills another believer by mistake (*khata'an*), then, as compensation, the killer must free a believing slave, and also pay blood-money (*diyyah*) to the family of the slain. The Quran also talks about legal retribution (*qisas*) for murder and violent assault as a life-preserving deterrent (*lakum fil qisaasi hayaatun*) to curb criminal behaviour. (2:178-179 & 194, 5:45)

Restorative approach

It is essential to recognise that many of the Quranic injunctions concerning homicide and bodily harm were not retributive – they were fundamentally restorative.

Legal retribution (*lex talionis*) and compensation for murder and bodily harm had existed centuries before the advent of Islam. The Book of Exodus in the Hebrew Bible upheld capital punishment for intentional murder, exile for unintentional homicide, and either financial compensation or retaliatory injury for physical harm (Exodus 21:12-36).

Similar provisions are found in even earlier laws, such as the Sumerian and Babylonian codes. In *Law Collections from Mesopotamia and Asia Minor*, Martha Roth cites an edict from the Hittite Kingdom (1650-1180 BCE), which stipulates that in cases of murder, the decision regarding the offender's fate rested solely with the victim's heir.



A. Faizur Rahman

Secretary-General of the Chennai-based Islamic Forum for the Promotion of Moderate Thought

The Quran made a reformative switch from this sort of retributive punishment to restorative justice, inviting all those impacted by an offence to jointly determine how best to address its consequences and shape future relations. In 2:178, it asked the legal heirs of the victim to pardon (*faman ufiya lahu*) the killer, even while instructing the killer to offer fair compensation to the family out of sincere gratitude.

The same message is repeated in 5:45 with a compassionate appeal to the victim's family: "If anyone remits the retaliation by way of generosity, it would be an act of atonement (*kaffaara*) for him."

What is remarkable about this exhortation is its paradigm shift from retribution to the spiritual healing of the aggrieved party. It introduces a mechanism that not only fosters genuine remorse in the offender but also promotes social harmony and quiet dignity among all parties involved.

This is in keeping with the Quran's moral dictum (in 64:14) that God is forgiving and merciful to those who "pardon, overlook and forgive" (*in ta'fu wa tasfahu was taghfiru*). The prophet echoed this in a hadith found in Abu Dawud, encouraging Muslims to practice mercy on 'earth' so that mercy may be shown to them from 'the heavens'.

Implications for Nimisha

It may be noted that the Quran's appeal to give up retaliation pertains to intentional murder.

For non-premeditated killing without malice aforethought (*qatl khata*), the Quran prescribes only blood money, not a retaliatory death penalty, as stated in 4:92 above.

This carries serious implications for Nimisha. If, as reported, she did not sedate Mahdi with the intent to kill him – and this can be proven – then, under the Quranic injunctions in 4:92, his family would not have the right to demand the death penalty.

It is essential to recognise that many of the Quranic injunctions concerning homicide and bodily harm were not retributive – they were fundamentally restorative

Media reports suggest that Nimisha administered the sedative only to retrieve her passport, which Mahdi had allegedly confiscated unlawfully, and that his death was the result of an accidental overdose. Besides, if Mahdi had previously served time for criminal offences, as alleged, the claim of his complete innocence is open to challenge.

Therefore, for justice to be served in Nimisha's case, the Quranic law must prevail.

However, what reigns in most Muslim societies in its name is sectarian jurisprudence, which views Islam not as a moral order in which justice and rational logic are intrinsic, but a dogmatic 'religion' defined and dominated by male authority.

This internal subversion coincided with the rise of post-Prophetic schools of religious thought during the height of Muslim imperial expansion, when a convenient alliance developed between theologians and the ruling elite: rulers sought religious legitimacy for their authoritarian regimes, while theologians wanted the latitude to impose patriarchal structures.

It was the consolidation of this power dynamic that brought about Islam's shift from Quranic *deen* – a rational, justice-oriented ethical framework – to *mazhab* - a rigid, clerically dominated theology. Consequently, Islam ceased to be what is plainly stated in the Arabic text of the Quran and the Prophetic understanding of it.

This structural transformation remains one of the most significant and unresolved crises in Muslim history, reshaping the course of Islamic thought. Nowhere is this more evident than in criminal law, which often paints Islam as a harsh faith.

If Muslim theologians truly believe in the Quran's opening statement that the Islamic god is "most Gracious" (*Al-Rahman*) and "most Merciful" (*Al-Raheem*), then they must allow the merciful *deen* of Islam to prevail over their rigid juristic schools.

Rewriting the rules of school in A.P.

TDP government reworks school reforms, aiming for better access

STATE OF PLAY

P. Sujatha Varma
pothuri.varma@thehindu.co.in

The Telugu Desam Party-led NDA government in Andhra Pradesh is revisiting the education sector reforms introduced by its predecessor and is making changes wherever deemed necessary. Minister for Human Resources Development Nara Lokesh has stated that policies yielding positive outcomes will be retained, while those that failed to deliver tangible results will be rolled back. The task being both critical and challenging, the Minister is taking an objective and balanced view of the educational landscape, recognising that the well-being and future of students must remain at the heart of the new initiatives.

Officials in the education department are assessing what has worked, what needs improvement, and how best to move forward without causing inconvenience to stakeholders. The task at hand is to cater to the needs of 58,535 schools, 68,15,925 students, and 3,13,112 teachers across the State. Of these, 44,285 are government schools with 33,37,762 students and 1,84,898 teachers; 789 are aided schools with 87,612 students and 3,259 teachers; 13,461 private schools with 33,90,551 students and 1,24,955 teachers.

According to Mr. Lokesh, the TDP government inherited an education system in a state of paralysis, lacking essential frameworks and operational efficiency – a charge refuted by the YSR Congress Party, which has accused him of "systematically weakening the education sector in the State."



The data show that the State has 12,512 single-teacher schools, 5,312 government schools with single-digit enrolment, and 14,052 State-run schools with 20 or fewer students. The overall enrolment in government schools declined by 10,49,596 students between 2022 and 2024.

With declining learning outcomes, the government faces the formidable challenge of reversing the trend to secure children's futures. A recent survey suggested that 84.3% of Class III students could not read a Class-II level text, 62.5 % of Class V students struggled with basic reading, 47% of Class VIII students still could not read Class II level text, 59.1 % of Class III students could not perform basic subtraction, 54.8 % of Class VI-II students could not perform division and only 12.9% of Class III students could solve basic division problems.

One of the most controversial decisions of the previous YSRCP government was GO 117, which reorganised schools and reappointed teaching staff. The order divided schools into six categories and mandated the merger and demerger of classes. The fragmentation of schools led to the number of schools having fewer than 10 students rising from 1,215 in 2021-22 to 5,312 in 2024-25, and schools with fewer than or equal to 20 students increasing from 5,520 to 14,052 during the same pe-

riod, indicating a severe decline in student enrolment.

To curb the ill effects of GO 117, the NDA government introduced GO 21, which revises the restructuring model by creating nine categories of schools. However, this faced trouble, with teacher unions raising serious concerns over its "negative impact on the public education system". GO 21 is part of the transformative journey called Learning Excellence in Andhra Pradesh, which aims to improve access, learning outcomes, and future-ready skills.

The recently concluded 'Mega' DSC (District Selection Committee) exam, conducted to recruit 16,347 teachers in government schools after a gap of seven years, enhanced the government's image. Other welcomed steps include the introduction of academic star ratings to assess both student and teacher performance, targeted efforts to boost school enrolment in rural and tribal areas, and the consolidation of multiple teacher apps into a single platform.

In intermediate education, curriculum and textbook revisions for first-year students are being implemented from the current academic year, aligning with the syllabus with national competitive standards. The revisions would be introduced for second-year students from the academic year 2026-27.

The reach of the changes being made is very vast, and resistance to change is natural in large systems, especially when previous reforms are still being digested. The government should remain watchful of implementation gaps that often emerge. Due diligence is key to ensuring that the quality of learning improves without sacrificing stability.

More women than men deleted from Bihar's electoral rolls

It is concerning that more women have been deleted from the rolls, given that men out-migrate more from the State

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Srinivasan Ramani
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

An analysis of Bihar's draft electoral rolls released on August 1, prepared after the completion of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, shows that more women than men have been deleted from the rolls.

A total of 3.82 crore male electors are part of the latest electoral rolls – about 25 lakh male electors fewer than the rolls prepared in January this year. A total of 3.41 crore female electors are part of the latest electoral rolls – about 31 lakh female electors fewer than the rolls prepared in January. **Chart 1** shows the gender-wise number of electors in the January and August rolls.

In fact, in 37 out of Bihar's 38 districts, more women electors have been deleted from the rolls than men. In Gopalganj, the number of women electors fell from over 10 lakh in January to about 8.21 lakh in August – a 17.8% decline. In comparison, male electors in Gopalganj declined from over 10.37 lakh to 9.23 lakh – a drop of 11%. This means that deletions among women were 6.8 percentage points more than those among men (17.8% minus 11%) in the Gopalganj rolls. This was the highest among all districts. **Map 2** depicts the district-wise gender-gap in deletion rates.

The gender-divide in deletions raises many concerning questions. According to the Election Commission, the electors who are not part of the August list have either died, or are registered in multiple locations, or have permanently migrated out of Bihar, or are untraceable.

Death rates between men and women are generally similar. **Chart 3** shows male and female death rates in Bihar over the past five years. Except during the pandemic – when male death rates

briefly spiked above those for women – the trend has largely remained nearly equal. The number of deletions due to duplicate entries or untraceable addresses is likely to be relatively smaller.

This leaves one other major factor: out-migration from Bihar. Both anecdotal evidence and data suggest that when it comes to migrating out, men vastly outnumber women. **Chart 4** shows that, in 2020-21, for every 100 male migrants in India, 31.4 had migrated from another State and 65.6 within the same State. In contrast, among 100 female migrants, only 7.2 had migrated from another State, while 92.6 moved within their home State. This pattern holds true for Bihar as well and perhaps it is even more stark for men from the State.

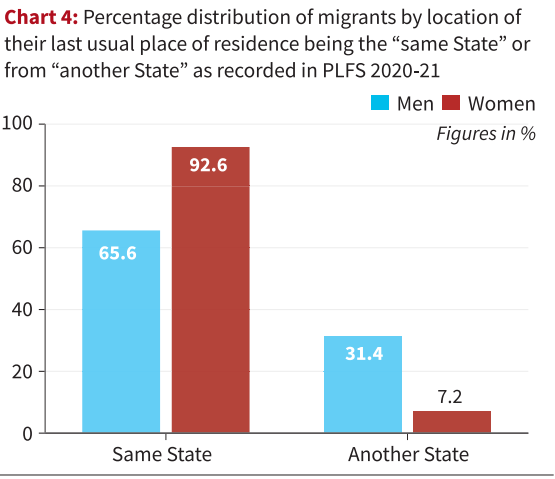
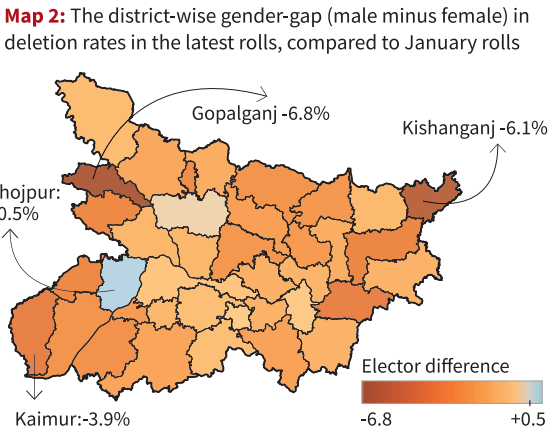
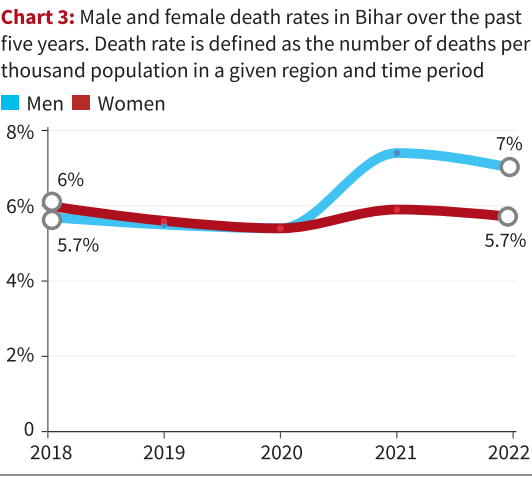
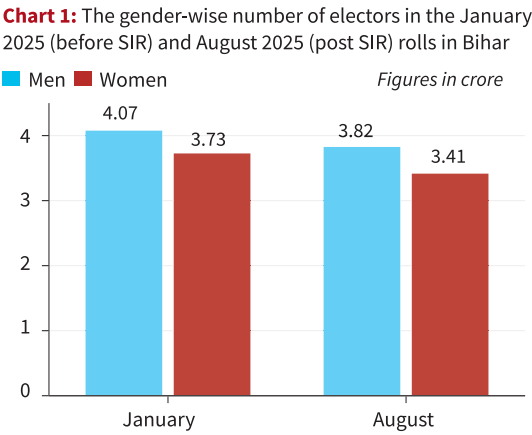
If men outnumber women in out-migration by this huge a margin, then why did more women get deleted than men in the post-SIR rolls? Given that deaths, the other major factor, cannot explain such a variance. A plausible explanation is a gender gap in the submission of enumeration forms during the SIR exercise. As of 2019-21, only 55% of women in Bihar were estimated to be literate – the lowest female literacy rate in the country – compared to over 76% among men. Could such low literacy levels have hindered women from properly filling out and submitting the forms?

In yesterday's Data Point, we found that more deletions occurred in districts where more women than men turned out to vote in absolute numbers, even though there were more registered male electors. We had suggested that these districts had higher out-migration of men. But deletions have been more among women. This suggests that the method of self-enumeration could have affected women, among whom there is a lower literacy rate, leading to their higher deletion rates.

More analysis of the SIR exercise will follow in these columns.

Gender disparity in deletions

The data for the charts were sourced from the Election Commission of India, Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletins, and Migration in India 2020-2021



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 7, 1975

Hitch delays flight of plane with Gunmen

Kuala Lumpur, August 6: Five terrorists who held 52 hostages in the U.S. Consulate for two days boarded a plane at Kuala Lumpur airport to-day and officials said they would leave for Libya at 8 a.m. local time (6 a.m. IST) to-morrow.

The five still held 15 of their hostages aboard the plane, including the U.S. Consul, Mr. R. Stebbins and the Swedish Charge d' Affaires Mr. Bergenstrahle.

Officials said they were to be released in exchange for two Malaysian and two Japanese Government officials who would accompany the terrorists to Libya as substitute hostages.

The two Malaysians were named as Mr. Ramli Omar, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Communications and Mr. Osman Cassim, Secretary-General of the Home Ministry.

According to American officials here, the Libyan Government had agreed to accept the guerillas.

Meanwhile, the five Japanese radicals who were released from Japanese prisons and flown to Kuala Lumpur as demanded by the terrorists, were waiting in an airport building to board the plane for the flight. After exhausting negotiations, the gunmen agreed this morning to leave the American International Assurance building which houses the U.S. and other embassies in downtown Kuala Lumpur and join their five comrades at the airport. Masked, wearing gloves and carrying automatic revolvers and hand grenades, they marched their 15 hostages along with them and made the 22 km drive to the airport in a large bus.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 7, 1925

Spinning and weaving mills still remain closed

The Anglo-French Textile Mill Co. Ltd., which suspended operations on the 11th of July and the Pondicherry cotton mills which closed its doors on the 1st of July still continue to remain closed. As per notice put up at the gates of the Anglo-French Textile Mills the labourers were paid their fortnightly wages at the rate of Rs. 10 per month. Whether the authorities will continue to do the same after the 11th instant or not remains yet to be seen.

Text & Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Public buildings made accessible by Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

1,835 In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment B.L.Verma said ₹564.5 crore had been released to States and Union territories for retrofitting government buildings to make them accessible. PTI

Amount cleared by Italy for world's longest suspension bridge

13.5 In billion euros. The Messina Bridge will link Sicily Island to mainland Italy, aiming to boost jobs and trade in the south. The government says the bridge includes features to withstand strong winds and seismic activity in a tectonically active region. AFP

The economic toll of natural disasters in the first half of this year

135 In \$ billion. Wildfires near Los Angeles accounted for \$40 billion in insured losses, followed by \$31 billion from severe thunderstorms. A deadly earthquake in Myanmar and other disasters added to the toll. Insured losses alone hit \$80 billion which is double the 10-year average. AFP

Armed Naxals who surrendered in Chhattisgarh

9 All of them surrendered in the Bijapur district, citing disillusionment with Maoist ideology. Six out of the nine Naxalites had a collective bounty of ₹24 lakh. They were influenced by the government's 'Niyad Nellanar' surrender policy. Each has received ₹50,000 in assistance. PTI

Additional CISF personnel sanctioned for Secretariat security

735 In fresh deployment, the Ministry of Home Affairs has cleared more than 700 additional CISF personnel to guard the upcoming Common Central Secretariat (CCS) buildings in Delhi. The force's CGBS wing will secure all 10 buildings. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is the potential of biochar?

What are the byproducts of biochar production and how can they generate additional electricity and fuels? How can biochar help the construction sector? Why does biochar remain underrepresented in carbon credit systems? How should one enable large-scale adoption of biochar?

EXPLAINER

Harishankar Kopperi
Suresh N.S.

The story so far:

With the Indian carbon market set to be launched in 2026, CO2 removal technologies such as biochar are expected to play a crucial role. Biochar is a type of charcoal rich in carbon and is produced from agricultural residue and organic municipal solid waste. It offers a sustainable alternative to manage waste and capture carbon. However, to truly serve as a scalable pathway for negative emissions across sectors, biochar requires participation and support from multiple stakeholders.

What is biochar's potential?

India generates over 600 million metric tonnes of agricultural residue and over 60 million tonnes of municipal solid waste every year. A significant portion of both is burnt openly or dumped in landfills, leading to air pollution from particulate matter and greenhouse gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and CO2.

By using 30% to 50% of surplus waste, India can produce 15-26 million tonnes of biochar and remove 0.1 gigatonnes of CO2-equivalent annually. Byproducts of biochar production, such as syngas (20-30 million tonnes) and bio-oil (24-40 million tonnes), can generate additional electricity and fuels. Theoretically, utilising syngas could generate around 8-13 TWh of power, equivalent to 0.5-0.7% of India's annual electricity generation, replacing 0.4-0.7 million tonnes of coal per year. Bio-oil can likewise potentially offset 12-19 million tonnes (or 8%) of diesel or kerosene production annually, leading to lower crude oil imports and reducing more than 2% of India's total fossil-fuel-based emissions.

How can biochar be a carbon sink?
Biochar can hold carbon in the soil for



Removing emissions: A biochar pit and graded sticks. GETTY IMAGES

100-1,000 years due to its strong and stable characteristics, making it an effective long-term carbon sink. Its application across different sectors provides scalable opportunities for reducing emissions.

In agriculture, applying biochar can improve water retention, particularly in semi-dry and nutrient-depleted soils. This, in turn, can abate nitrous oxide emissions by 30-50%. Notably, nitrous oxide is a greenhouse gas with 273-times the warming potential of CO2, making its mitigation a crucial benefit of biochar.

Biochar can also enhance soil organic carbon, helping restore degraded soils.

In carbon capture applications, modified biochar can adsorb CO2 from industrial exhaust gases. However, its carbon removal efficiency is currently lower than that of conventional methods.

In the construction sector, biochar can be explored as a low-carbon alternative to

building materials. Adding 2-5% of biochar to concrete can improve mechanical strength, increase heat resistance by 20%, and capture 115 kg of CO2 per cubic metre, making building materials a stable carbon sink.

In wastewater treatment, biochar offers a low-cost and effective option to reduce pollution. India generates more than 70 billion litres of wastewater every day, of which 72% is left untreated. A kilogram of biochar, along with other substances, can treat 200-500 litres of wastewater, implying a biochar demand potential of 2.5-6.3 million tonnes.

What hinders biochar's application?
Despite its theoretically substantial potential to capture carbon, biochar remains underrepresented in carbon credit systems due to the absence of standardised feedstock markets and consistent carbon accounting methods,

which undermine investor confidence.

While research confirms biochar's technical feasibility for applications across sectors, deployments are hindered by barriers such as limited resources, evolving technologies, market uncertainties, and insufficient policy support. Viable business models are yet to emerge for large-scale adoption. Market development is further constrained by limited awareness among stakeholders, weak 'monitoring, reporting, verification' frameworks, and a lack of coordination across areas such as agriculture, energy, and climate policy.

To enable large-scale adoption, sustained support for R&D is essential to create region-specific feedstock standards and to optimise biomass utilisation rates based on agro-climatic zones and crop types. Further, biochar should be systematically integrated into existing and upcoming frameworks, including crop residue management schemes, bioenergy initiatives in both urban and rural contexts, and state-level climate strategies under the State Action Plans on Climate Change. Recognising biochar as a verifiable carbon removal pathway within the Indian carbon market will generate additional income for investors and farmers through carbon credits.

Deploying biochar production equipment at the village level has the potential to create approximately 5.2 lakh rural jobs, linking climate action with inclusive economic development. The additional benefits of biochar, such as better soil health, lower fertilizer requirement (by 10-20%), and higher crop yield (by 10-25%), should be systematically integrated into policy and market frameworks to fully realise its potential.

In sum, although biochar is not a silver bullet, it offers a science-backed multisectoral pathway for India to achieve its climate and development goals.

Harishankar Kopperi is a senior associate and Suresh N.S. is a senior research scientist in the Strategic Initiatives group at Center for Study of Science Technology and Policy.

THE GIST

▼ By using 30% to 50% of surplus waste, India can produce 15-26 million tonnes of biochar and remove 0.1 gigatonnes of CO2-equivalent annually.

▼ Biochar can hold carbon in the soil for 100-1,000 years due to its strong and stable characteristics, making it an effective long-term carbon sink.

▼ While research confirms biochar's technical feasibility for applications across sectors, deployments are hindered by barriers such as limited resources, evolving technologies, market uncertainties, and insufficient policy support.

What is the status of the 'recall' vote in Taiwan?

Why did the ruling DPP push to remove opposition lawmakers? Did it polarise Taiwan further?

Femy Francis

The story so far:

On July 26, Taiwanese citizens voted to recall 24 Kuomintang (KMT) opposition party lawmakers from parliament (Legislative Yuan), but in round one, all 24 members managed to retain their seats with people in their districts voting against their removal. The second round is slated for late August. The Great Recall vote, supported by the Bluebird Movement and the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), accused KMT of being in cahoots with China and of threatening national security.

When did the movement begin?

The movement started in 2024, as local protesters accused the opposition of blocking DPP bills and pushing controversial laws later declared unconstitutional. The movement failed to

garner 25% support to recall opposition lawmakers in each district; DPP needed six KMT seats recalled to gain a legislative majority. Additionally, the second recall voting against seven seats of the KMT lawmakers will be conducted later this month. The DPP is pressured to get all seats in the upcoming recall vote. KMT, after its survival, is calling for a reshuffle of the cabinet.

What is the removal vote about?

The Taiwan Public Officials Election and Recall Act is a rarely used constitutional instrument, permitting citizens to remove elected officials. The act has three stages of checks to successfully remove an office holder. The first step requires a petition signed by at least 1% of the electorate, the second stage needs 10% support from the electorate, and in the final stage, 25% of the district's eligible voters need to support the recall. After the Bluebird Movement, the DPP petitioned against

KMT legislative lawmakers, accusing them of undermining national security by deferring to the Communist Party of China, and for passing bills without following procedural mandates. All 24 KMT lawmakers retained office by getting a majority of votes against their recall in their respective districts.

Why was the recall petition pushed?

The recall is a consequence of a divided government in Taiwan, with two different political parties leading the executive and legislative branches of government. The structural imbalance in the composition of parliament made the ruling party obsolete in fulfilling its legislative duties. Taiwan follows the unicameral system with 113 seats in its Legislative Yuan. DPP under former President Tsai Ing-wen enjoyed a majority in both the executive and legislative branches. This changed in the 2024 elections. The DPP's presidential candidate William Lai Ching-te won with

40.1% vote. But DPP lost its legislative majority with 51 seats against KMT's 52 seats and its ally Taiwan People's Party's (TPP) 8 seats, bringing the opposition's total to 60. With this legislative majority, the opposition party blocked crucial bills proposed by the DPP. What ignited the civic movement was the hasty approval of controversial bills by the opposition.

The KMT introduced several bills and amendments that undermined the judicial and executive branches' power, while awarding extrajudicial powers to the legislature. The proposed legislative reform bills ignored parliamentary deliberation and directly sent the bill to the plenary session to be passed. The Bluebird Movement, named after the street where the protest happened, was ignited by the egregious violation of the constitution. In May 2024, 1,00,000 protesters took to the streets of Taiwan calling against the violation of the law by the opposition.

Has it further polarised Taiwan?

The progressive recall vote, which empowered citizens to hold legislators accountable, has backfired by further polarising the parties and their support base. KMT's survival raised the question whether the recall was even necessary, and if the movement was politically motivated by the DPP.

Femy Francis is a project associate with Area Studies-China, at NIAS, Bengaluru.

THE GIST

▼ The movement started in 2024, as local protesters accused the opposition of blocking DPP bills and pushing controversial laws later declared unconstitutional.

▼ Taiwan follows the unicameral system with 113 seats in its Legislative Yuan. In the 2024 elections, the DPP's presidential candidate William Lai Ching-te won with 40.1% vote. But DPP lost its legislative majority with 51 seats against KMT's 52 seats and its ally Taiwan People's Party's (TPP) 8 seats, bringing the opposition's total to 60.

▼ The progressive recall vote, which empowered citizens to hold legislators accountable, has backfired by further polarising the parties.

LS cannot discuss revision of electoral rolls in Bihar: Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid repeated disruptions by Opposition members, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday informed the Lok Sabha that a discussion on the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar could not take place in the House as the matter was pending before the Supreme Court and the rules did not allow a discussion on issues under adjudication.

As soon as the House convened at 2 p.m. after two earlier disruptions, the Opposition continued to demand a discussion on the issue. Mr. Rijiju said the rules of the Lok Sabha did not permit such a discussion.

Citing a ruling by former Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar, he said the functioning and responsibilities of an autonomous body such as the Election Commission (EC) could not be deliberated in the House.

“I would like to ask the Opposition members if you want to break the rules of this House and throw away the provisions of the Con-

He says functioning of an autonomous body such as the EC cannot be discussed in House

stitution,” Mr. Rijiju said. Soon after, the Lok Sabha passed the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024.

The House was adjourned for the day following the passage of the Bill.

‘Move to remove voters’ Speaking to presspersons in the Parliament complex, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal described the SIR as an exercise “to remove targeted voters”.

“The EC introduced the system, they [the Centre] are justifying. Then why are they running away from a discussion on SIR in Parliament? What do they want to hide?,” he asked.

Earlier in the day, INDIA MPs staged a protest in the Parliament complex before proceedings commenced.

The morning session of the Lok Sabha also saw two adjournments over the same issue.

Work together to make India third largest economy: Modi

Prime Minister inaugurates Kartavya Bhavan 3, says policies of the future will be formulated in the building; landmark infrastructure projects are a reflection of India’s global vision, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged all stakeholders to work together to make India the world’s third largest economy and scale up national productivity.

Addressing a programme to inaugurate Kartavya Bhavan 3 in the national capital, Mr Modi encouraged all Indians to contribute to the success stories of government initiatives such as Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat. Strengthening India’s capabilities must become a shared pursuit and personal mission, he said.

India is witnessing key achievements associated with the making of a modern country, Mr. Modi said, listing recently built infrastructure landmarks such as Kartavya Path, the new Parliament Building, the new Defence Offices Complex, Bharat Mandapam, Yashobhoomi, and the National War Memorial dedi-



Grand opening: Prime Minister Narendra Modi watering a sapling during the inauguration of Kartavya Bhavan 3 in New Delhi. PTI

cated to the martyrs. He emphasised that these were not merely buildings or regular infrastructure, pointing out that policies shaping a developed India would be formulated in these very structures. In the coming decades, the nation’s trajectory would be determined from these institutions, he said.

For decades after Independence, India’s administrative machinery had operated from buildings constructed during the

British colonial era, he said. He noted the poor working conditions in these old administrative buildings, which “lack adequate space, lighting, and ventilation”.

Mr. Modi said it was difficult to imagine how an important Ministry such as the Home Ministry had functioned for nearly 100 years from a single building with insufficient infrastructure.

He said various Ministries of the government

currently operate from 50 locations across Delhi, many of which are rented buildings. He underlined that the annual expenditure on rental costs alone was a staggering ₹1,500 crore.

‘Global vision’

“The grand Kartavya Bhavan and other major infrastructure projects, including the new Defence Complexes, are not only a testament to India’s pace but also a reflection of its global vision,” the Prime Minister said.

The Kartavya Bhavans, the new Central Secretariat buildings which will house all Ministries and departments of the Centre, embody the resolve to fulfil the nation’s dreams and will guide the policies and direction of a developed India, he added.

He said that his government was engaged in nation-building with a holistic vision, and asserted that no part of the country was untouched by the stream of development today.

INBRIEF



Won’t allow any action against State govt. officers: Mamata

A day after the Election Commission suspended four officials of the West Bengal State Electoral Office, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee came down heavily on the poll body, saying she would not allow any State government official to be punished. “Our officers have been sent notice that they have been suspended... Has the election been already declared? Under which law have you [the EC] sent notice and threatened to suspend [them] and said that an FIR should be registered,” she said. On Tuesday, the EC sent a letter informing the Chief Secretary about the suspension of four officials for irregularities in the registration of names on the voter list.

Jharkhand court gives bail to Rahul in 2018 defamation case

Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, was granted bail by the MP-MLA court in Chaibasa of Jharkhand on Wednesday in connection with a defamation case related to alleged remarks against Union Minister Amit Shah made during a 2018 rally. “Jharkhand High Court had directed Rahul Gandhi *ji* to appear before the court on August 6. After his personal appearance the court has granted conditional bail to him,” Mr. Gandhi’s advocate, Pranav Daripa, said. The case was filed by BJP leader Pratap Kumar. In his plea, he alleged that Mr. Gandhi’s statements were defamatory and intended to malign the image of Mr. Shah.

Opposition cites Dhankhar’s remarks to counter govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Countering the government’s arguments against holding a debate on the ongoing special intensive revision of Bihar electoral rolls, the Opposition on Wednesday cited remarks of former Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar in the Upper House that Parliament was entitled to discuss everything.

It also referred to previous instances when debates were held on electoral reforms and

functioning of the Election Commission.

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge wrote a letter to Deputy Chairman Harivansh where he quoted Mr. Dhankhar’s remarks of July 21, 2023. The former Chairman had said that Parliament was “entitled to discuss everything on the planet with one restriction...” This restriction relates to the conduct of any judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court in the discharge of his ties ...



Hitting out: Members of the INDIA bloc addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

except upon a motion for presenting an address to the President praying for the removal of the judge...” Mr. Kharge claimed Mr. Dhankhar had ruled that

“the concept of *sub judice* is totally misconceived”. “It is clear from this ruling of the Chair that the Rajya Sabha is entitled to discuss the issue of revision of

electoral rolls, which is of fundamental importance in our democracy,” Mr. Kharge said in his letter.

Press conference

The INDIA bloc parties also addressed a press conference reiterating their demand for a debate on the SIR exercise.

At the press conference, Mr. Kharge claimed that minorities, Dalits, and adivasis were facing the risk of losing their voting rights.

“We have been urging the Speaker, Chairman, and the government again

and again that the voting rights of people should not be stolen...” he said.

Trinamool Congress leader Sagarika Ghose said they would continue protests inside and outside Parliament. DMK leader Tiruchi Siva said they would take the message to the people on what was happening in Parliament. “Having full trust in this temple of democracy, we are insisting on a debate on SIR. The EC, by way of revising electoral rolls, is disqualifying many from having voting rights,” he said.

Karat voices concerns over nod to mining in Hasdeo

In a letter to Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav, senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Brinda Karat has opposed a recent Chhattisgarh government approval of diversion of a large forest land in the Hasdeo region of the State for mining purposes. In her letter, Ms. Karat wrote there was no public interest involved in the project and it would only lead to exploitation of mineral resources for private gain. A recommendation letter dated June 26 in which the Forest Department has approved the proposal surfaced online on August 4. The Opposition and experts have also criticised the government.



Shashi Tharoor, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Kanimozhi, Gopalkrishna Gandhi and author Priyambada Jayakumar at the launch of a book on M.S. Swaminathan in New Delhi on Wednesday. DEEPIKA RAJESH

Leaders hail work of visionary scientist M.S. Swaminathan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The immunisation programme led by the country’s first Health Minister, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, and the Green Revolution initiated by M.S. Swaminathan were the reasons for the decrease in the death rate in India, former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi said here on Wednesday.

Speaking at the launch of *The Man Who Fed India*, a biography of Dr. Swaminathan by the Singapore-based author Priyambada Jayakumar, Mr. Gandhi said three English words known by all farmers in the country was “Swaminathan Farmer Commission”.

Mr. Gandhi said Dr. Swaminathan had been part of the group of scientists around the world who stood for humanity and

nuclear disarmament. “Swaminathan’s works for agriculture has given India’s farmers a life,” Mr. Gandhi said.

In a panel discussion that followed the book release, Shashi Tharoor, MP, said Dr. Swaminathan worked at a time when the memories of Bengal famine were haunting the country.

‘International contacts’ Former Planning Board Deputy Chairman Montek Singh Ahluwalia said Dr. Swaminathan revolutionised the country’s agriculture through his international contacts.

DMK leader Kanimozhi said Dr. Swaminathan’s works for empowering women and ensuring ecologically friendly agriculture practices were not discussed the way it deserved.

Refer sports Bills to JPC, Opposition urges Speaker

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leaders of several Opposition parties on Wednesday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, urging him to refer the National Sports Governance Bill, 2025 and the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, 2025 to a joint committee of Parliament for further scrutiny.

In a letter to the Speaker, they said the two Bills listed for consideration and passage in the House need broader consensus.

“In view of their national importance, the need for broad consensus, and the value of consulting relevant stakeholders, we respectfully request that both these Bills be referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for further deliberation,” they said.

The signatories include K.C. Venugopal, Gaurav Gogoi and K. Suresh of the Congress, Supriya Sule of the NCP(SP), Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar of the Trinamool Congress, Kanimozhi of the DMK, Arvind Sawant of the Shiv Sena (UBT), N.K. Premachandran of the RSP, D. Ravi Kumar of the VCK, Durai Vaiko of the MDMK and E.T. Mohammed Bashir of the IUML. They said the Bills proposed wide-ranging reforms in the governance, regulation, and ethical oversight of sports in India.

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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT KOZHIKODE

INM Kozhikode Campus (PO) Kozhikode – 6733570

Date: 21.07.2025

Ph: 0495 2808 461, 212

Corrigendum No - 1

निरिवा सूचना / TENDER NOTICE

INM invites Tender from eligible and qualified firms for **Tender for Providing Hospitality Management, General Maintenance, Catering Services etc. at INM Management Development Centre (Mvksa) and Running RASA Restaurant at INM Campus.**

Last date of bid submission has been extended to **22.08.2025 upto 1500 Hrs.**

<https://www.iimk.ac.in/announcements/Tender.php> or <https://mhrd.ewizard.in>

06.08.2025

Head - Admin & HR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION JHUNJHUNU

No.- 301

NIB Code: PWD2526A0848 and UBN is: PWD2526WLOB02727

Corrigendum

इस कार्यविनय के क्रमक 125 दिनांक 26.05.2025 द्वारा आयोजित ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा सूचना 08/2025-26 (NIB No. PWD2526A0848) के अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	विवरण	पूर्व में टेण्डर प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय	संशोधित टेण्डर प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक व समय
1	ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म डाउनलोड करने व अपलोड करने की दिनांक व समय	24.07.2025 सायं 05.00 बजे तक	08.08.2025 दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक
2	निविदा खोलने की दिनांक व समय	24.07.2025 सायं 06.00 बजे	08.08.2025 सायं 5.00 बजे

रोष शर्मा यकावत सौगो।
(NIB No.: PWD2526A0848)

DIPR/C/11049/2025

Executive Engineer, PWD Division JHUNJHUNU

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(Raichur Thermal Power Station)

CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

SHORT TERM TENDER / ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION

(Through KPP Portal only)

Tenders are invited through KPP portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from the contractors/agencies who are reputed individuals/company and having past experience, for the following works. **1) No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT 3015/CALL-2 Dtd 02.08.2025:** Overhauling & Emergency Works of Turbine Bearings, Valves, MS/HRH Strainer & Thermal Insulation. EMD: **Rs. 1,47,600/-** 2) **No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3213/CALL-2:** Periodical maintenance & Overhauling of main oil pump, inspection of bearings/bearing oil guards and strainers, thermal insulation works, governing rack servicing of turbine & auxiliaries of Unit 5, 6, 7 & 8 PMOH-3. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 74,24,573/-** Rs. EMD: **Rs. 1,48,500/-** Last date for submission of above tenders: **09.08.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from (for Sl. No. 1): **Executive Engineer(TM-1)**, Mobile: 9449597971 / (for Sl. No. 2): **Executive Engineer(TM-2)**, Mobile: 9449596545, 3) **No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3301:** Supply, Fabrication and Erection of platform MS Grills at Unit 5 & at Unit 8 mill bay. EMD: **Rs. 80,000/-** Last date for submission of the tender: **16.08.2025 upto 16:00 Hrs.** For further details can be obtained from **Executive Engineer(MM-2)**, Mobile: 9449596574, RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District, Karnataka State.

MP POORV KSHETRA VIDYUT VITARAN CO. LTD.

BLOCK NO.7, SHAKTI BHAWAN, RAMPUR, JABALPUR (M.P.), Tel No:0761 2702473, 270442

CIN: U40109MP2002SGC015120, e-mail: cepurez@yahoo.in

No. CGM(S&P)/EZ/GM-II/II/1118 Jabalpur, dtd:- 25.07.2025

ONLINE TENDER

Online Tenders are invited for following items:-

Sr. No.	TS No. (For e-Tendering) Discom/EZ/Pur	NAME OF ITEMS	APPROX. VALUE (Rs. in Lakhs)	TENDER FEE (in Rs)	Due date & time of opening of tender online from 15.00 Hrs (*)
1	TS-1609 (e-Tender No. 2025_PKVVC_439804_1)	Lightning Arresters	18.63	1180	20.08.2025

*For updated / extended due dates for opening of tender (EMD in Cover -1 & Techno-commercial bid in Cover-2) please refer to the online key dates. For other details visit Company's website- www.mpez.co.in or <https://mptenders.gov.in>

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C.G.M. (S&P)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (CIVIL), ODISHA

NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No- B-IV-H-(H&D)-47/2024 Lr. No.- 29977 Bhubaneswar, the 1st Aug., 2025

Invitation For Bids - Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 20 / 2025-26

1.	The Chief Engineer (Buildings-I), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works, (1) "Construction of CHC Building at Manada, Mayurbhanj, Odisha", (2) "Construction of CHC Building at Dhamnagar, Bhadrak, Odisha" & (3) "Construction of CHC Building at Barapada, Bhadrak, Odisha" as detailed below.	
2.	Nature of work	: Building Works
3.	No. of work	: 03 Nos.
4.	Bid Cost	: ₹ 10,000/- (each)
5.	Class of Contractor	: 'A' / Special Class
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	: From dt.12.08.2025 to 17.00 Hours of dt.26.08.2025.
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	: Dt.29.08.2025 at 11:30 AM
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

B-368:

Chief Engineer (Buildings-I), Odisha, OPR-34117/11/0126/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BOLANGIR.

e - Procurement NOTICE

1.	Name of Work	Construction of Court Building for JMFC at Muribahal in the District of Bolangir for the year 2023-24.				
2.	No. of Works	: 1 (One) work.				
3.	Time for Completion	: 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months				
4.	Approximate Estimated Cost	: Rs.709.44 lakhs				
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	: Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in				
6. Other details are as follow						
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid Financial Bid		
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Bolangir.	BLGR-Online-09/2025-26	11.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	26.08.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	25.08.2025 upto 5.00 P.M.	30.08.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated later on

• Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

• Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Sd/- S.Mahali,

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir

O-535:

OIPR-25118/11/0044/2526

M ND-NDE

INBRIEF



Former U.P. Minister Swami Prasad Maurya ‘slapped’

Former Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Swami Prasad Maurya was allegedly slapped by two youth near Rae Bareilly on Wednesday. The incident took place when he had stopped for an event. “An individual misbehaved with the former Minister while pretending to be waiting to garland him. Two people were caught by supporters and security guards of the leader. We have taken the duo into custody and further investigation is on,” said Circle Officer (Sadar) Amit Singh. A video purported to be of the attack went viral on social media. The Apni Janta Party chief, a leading Backward Class leader, blamed the Karni Sena for the incident.

‘Vantara to open rescue centre in Kolhapur for Madhuri’

With people in Kolhapur taking to the streets demanding the return of the elephant Madhuri, which was relocated to the Anant Ambani-founded Vantara following a court ruling, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Wednesday that the Jamnagar-based rehabilitation centre has offered to set up a facility at Nandani village for Madhuri and join the Maharashtra government’s application in the court for her return. The Nandani Math, where the elephant was kept for three decades, said the government should give a date for Madhuri’s return. The move comes after Mr. Fadnavis met the Vantara team.

SC begins hearing pleas of women Army officers denied permanent commissions

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court on Wednesday began hearing the pleas of women Army officers with short service commissions (SSC), who claim they are being denied permanent commissions as a result of discrimination by their male counterparts.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant, Ujjal Bhuyan, and N. Kotiswar Singh began hearing the petitions filed by two batches of officers, those serving and those released from service.

The top court said that after the Army officers, it would hear pleas from women Naval officers, followed by women officers in the Air Force, who are challenging the denial of permanent commissions.

Senior advocates Huzefa Ahmadi, Menaka Guruswamy, V. Mohana, and other lawyers represented the SSC woman officers, who contended there was systematic discrimination in not granting them permanent commissions. The women officers contended that there was casual grading of their annual confidential reports and denial of equal opportunities in comparison to their male counterparts.

Aadhaar face ID can ensure exam ‘transparency’: Centre

Staff Selection Commission and Railway Recruitment Board already authorised to use Aadhaar face recognition to authenticate examinees; it builds trust among aspirants, says IT Ministry

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Aadhaar face authentication will help enhance transparency of competitive examinations, build trust among aspirants, and strengthen administrative accountability, the Electronics and Information Technology Ministry told Parliament on Wednesday.

In a written response to a question endorsed by eight Lok Sabha members, the Ministry said the Staff Selection Commission and the Railway Recruitment Board were already authorised to use Aadhaar facial recognition to authenticate examinees.

Using the “liveness” factor with phone cameras, Aadhaar face authentication matches people with the photo they took when enrolling for Aadhaar, and the feature has seen increased interest among government bodies. For instance, the Employment Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) said in a circular last month that universal account numbers, the main identifying number for salaried employees and



Unique identity: Aadhaar authentication in general requires approval from the IT Ministry. REUTERS

retirees with PF accounts, would be generated henceforth only with this feature.

The feature has seen increased interest in view of Aadhaar authentication failures due to worn-out biometrics among labourers and elderly people.

In a separate response to DMK MP A. Raja, the Ministry said the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was undertaking “promotion of face and iris authentication for residents with worn fingerprints” to cater to people who could not use their fingerprints.

The India Post Payments Bank, under the Department of Posts, introduced Aadhaar face authentication this month. The feature “is aligned with Digital India and Financial Inclusion missions of the Government of India”, the bank said, adding that its use empowers “values of equity, access, and empowerment”.

Aadhaar authentication in general – not just facial recognition authentication – requires approval from the IT Ministry.

In the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, In-

novation, Knowledge) Amendment Rules, 2025 notified in January, the Ministry laid out a framework where private entities as well as government organisations could submit authentication proposals to the IT Ministry, which would have them vetted by the UIDAI.

The IT Ministry has set up a Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge (SWIK) portal where such proposals can be submitted. A review of the portal shows that up to half a dozen (or as little as one or two) proposals a month are being approved every month.

On Monday, the Sports Authority of India was authorised to use Aadhaar authentication to “verify the identity of athletes, coaches, and staff during registration, attendance marking, and DBT processing under schemes such as Khelo India, Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), and National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs)”.

As many as 312 Union and State government organisations have received approvals under SWIK rules since 2020.

Ex-BJP spokesperson cannot be HC judge, says Opposition

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI



Aarti Sathe

The Opposition parties in Maharashtra on Wednesday sought the revocation of the Supreme Court Collegium’s recommendation to appoint former BJP spokesperson Aarti Sathe as a judge of the Bombay High Court.

NCP(SP) MLA Rohit Pawar asked if people from other parties would get justice when a case was presented before her. “We are afraid that if people who have vociferously put forth the BJP’s voice are appointed as judges, then tomorrow common people will not get justice. We trust the judicial system. But we have no access to information about how the interviews were taken, who all were interviewed, who were rejected, on what grounds it had happened,” Mr. Pawar said.

“This is an effort by the BJP to control the judicial system,” Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said.

Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar too sought the revocation of the recommendation.

The debate was sparked after Mr. Rohit Pawar posted on X a statement on the Supreme Court Collegium’s meeting held on July

28 and its recommendation of three names for appointment as judges of the Bombay High Court. It included Aarti Arun Sathe’s name. The post also had the screenshot of Aarti Sathe’s social media post of two years ago, in which she had shared a press note of the BJP announcing the list of State spokespersons.

BJP reacts

The BJP was quick to jump to her defence on Wednesday. The party said that Ms. Sathe had severed ties with the party over two years ago. It pointed to a verdict of the Supreme Court (*Anna Mathew and others vs Supreme Court of India* RP(C) 147 and 148/2023, dated February 10, 2023), saying that there had been instances of judicial appointments of people previously associated with political parties.

Liquidate regulatory assets owed to discoms within four years: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave power distribution companies a four-year deadline, starting from April 1 last year, to liquidate their long-pending regulatory assets while noting that “electricity is a public good”.

A Bench headed by Justice P.S. Narasimha delivered the judgment on petitions filed by BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd., BSES Yamuna Power Ltd., and Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd., power supply companies in the national capital.

They had challenged the manner in which the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission had determined the tariff for retail supply of power over the years, leading to the creation and continuation of a

“regulatory asset”, which has led to liabilities burgeoning over decades.

“Regulatory assets are treated as assets in the balance sheet and are liquidated over a defined period of time through tariff adjustments or government subsidies. The regulatory asset is a cost incurred by the utility that the Regulatory Commission allows to be deferred on the balance sheet instead of being immediately expensed,” Justice Narasimha said.

He directed the liquidation of the existing dues by April 2028.

The court said that in future, regulatory assets must be liquidated within a period of three years. The judgment directed the State Regulatory Commissions to provide the roadmap for liquidation of the existing regulatory assets.

Fishing gear a major source of ‘microplastic’ contamination along Indian coasts: Minister

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The major sources of ‘microplastic’ pollution along India’s coasts are “riverine inputs” and abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said in a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), through the National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR), conducted field surveys along India’s coastline between 2022 and 2025 to assess microplastic and marine debris levels. Assessment of microplastics in both water and sediment has been carried out along the east and west coasts of India. On the west coast, 19 transects were



Plastic waste washed ashore after flowing into the sea in Visakhapatnam.

plastic particles, ranging in size from 1 micrometre to 5 millimetres. They can be either primary microplastics, manufactured at that size, or secondary microplastics, formed from the breakdown of larger plastic items. The major concern for microplastics is that they are being increasingly linked to tumours, and are said to be poisonous to marine and aquatic life.

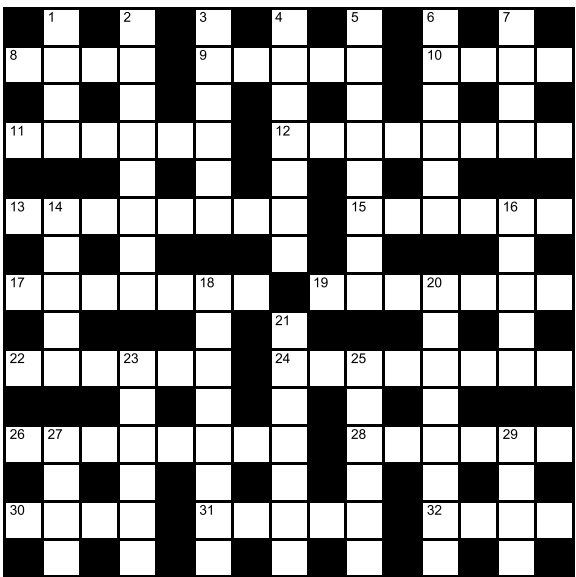
The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India commissioned a project to assess microplastic contamination in food products and develop methods for its detection. The environmental research organisation Toxics Link tested 10 types of salt that claimed to reveal the presence of microplastics in all salt and sugar samples, in various forms, including fibre, pellets and films.

surveyed from Porbandar (Gujarat) to Kanniyakumari (Tamil Nadu), while on the east coast, around 25 transects were sampled from Puri (Odisha) to Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu). The findings indicated that the predominant sources of microplastic pollution are riverine inputs and abandoned, lost, and discarded fishing gear (ALDFG), he said.

Microplastics are tiny

THE CROSSWORD+ 14557 (set by Gridzilla)

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



Across

- 8 Facts twisted a bit? (4)
- 9 Order lunch perhaps, including starter of dumplings (5)
- 10 Grass is basically recreational - enjoy every drag (4)
- 11 Part of mixed fraction having one number missing? (6)
- 12 Discovered best hotel - pricey, and private (8)
- 13 They have hopes of getting peace initially, in rocky sierras (8)

- 15 Nymphs love to look at butt of Adonis (6)
- 17 Manipulation of American company by Indian state, is over (7)
- 19 Boss went out with wife and apprentice (7)
- 22 Remove wrapping of fuse & cables to get current (6)
- 24 Like canines in Manhattan need - meals mostly cooked (8)
- 26 Bar owner is drunk all day and not active (8)
- 28 Plan of cycling team: winning competition ultimately (6)
- 30 First of all, men actually like erotic sex (4)
- 31 Big lake? Sounds scary (5)
- 32 Report is from Sweden possibly - not Germany (4)

Down

- 1 Hot stuff turning up in Lonavala (4)
- 2 "Mark goes," says Spooner, "to get some baked goodies" (8)
- 3 Fine cream whipped with a little egg (6)
- 4 Marketing jingle is bad (6)
- 5 Remove from below? (5,3)
- 6 Country has oil, reportedly (6)
- 7 Cheese seller made Limburger sandwiches (4)
- 14 Cracks seen after reviewing bridges (5)
- 16 What starts in discos and night clubs everywhere? (5)
- 18 Renegades managed to deliver ecstasy and explosives (8)
- 20 / 29 A robe Gwen & Doris used repeatedly (8,4)
- 21 From work, Roy went around the city (3,4)
- 23 Huge debt is hurting this economy, eh? (6)
- 25 Pulled top off, getting confused (6)
- 27 Horse in fair maybe overlooked periodically (4)
- 29 See 20

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

G	P	R	T	S	V	H
E	M	L	O	M	E	N
T	L	M	A	E	T	V
T	W	O	P	O	T	S
H	N	U	E	N	M	L
E	X	E	C	R	A	T
W	C					
I	N	K	I	N	G	
N	N	O				
D	I	T	C	H		
U	E					
P	O	R	T	A	N	T
R	A	T				
M	O	O	N			
R	E	L	Y	S	E	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Ramana Maharishi

It is universally acknowledged that one is blessed to view the sight of devotees streaming into Pandharpur on Ashada Ekadasi. It is a clear, crystalline display of deep devotion.

Sage Narada, widely held to be the guru of bhakti, was once asked what is bhakti and he said, “The nature of bhakti is indefinable, one that cannot be described.” It is that love of God, that *premam*, which one cannot understand, unless it is manifested through a devotee, said Ramanacharana Tirtha Swami (Nochur).

In his Saundarya Lahiri, Adi Sankara, speaking on how to see Siva through the heart of a devotee, says He is seen as the fruit of all the spiritual practices in, of and by a devotee. One cannot see the electricity that powers a bulb to burn, but can experience the light; similarly, one cannot see, but none can miss the devotee whose heart is in inunation (Lahiri); this ecstasy can only be experienced, something that countless devotees felt when in the presence of Ramana Maharishi.

One can read tomes of articles on the life and teachings of Ramana Maharishi, but that would only be like the tip of the proverbial iceberg. His devotees maintain to this day that the saint who made Tiruvannamalai his home was not something you experienced with mere eyes. It is something that comes from the heart. People who saw him, simply absorbed him. Those who came to question him fell silent in his presence, doubts forgotten, experiencing a never before calmness. Seeing him seated in his abode, like burnished gold, he seemed like Arunachaleswara to his devotees.

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,544	-0.21
US Dollar	87.72	-0.18
Gold	99,020	-0.20
Brent oil	67.33	-0.10

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2300.30	-27.90
Adani Ports	1367.10	9.00
Apollo Hosp	7189.50	-84.50
Asian Paints	2491.20	54.40
Axis Bank	1071.00	0.20
Bajaj Auto	8178.50	-52.00
Bajaj Finserv	1924.00	-15.40
Bajaj Finance	876.65	-15.25
Bharat Elec	389.70	3.05
Bharti Airtel	1929.70	-2.10
Cipla	1486.70	-13.10
Coal India	376.85	-2.65
Dr Reddys Lab	1196.70	-18.10
Eicher Motors	5668.00	-13.00
Eternal Ltd.	298.85	-3.30
Grasim Ind	2765.80	-31.40
HCL Tech	1463.20	-19.50
HDFC Bank	1985.30	7.70
HDFC Life	752.55	14.05
Hero MotoCorp	4474.90	-71.90
Hindalco	684.85	-2.25
Hind Unilever	2535.60	0.90
ICICI Bank	1443.60	-0.80
Indusind Bank	803.35	-15.80
Infosys	1436.70	-23.60
ITC	412.00	-2.15
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	326.55	-6.30
JSW Steel	1052.60	-0.80
Kotak Bank	2002.40	-0.60
L&T	3628.40	-24.20
M&M	3227.50	15.30
Maruti Suzuki	12524.00	-13.00
NestleIndia	2233.30	-34.00
NTPC	332.10	-1.50
ONGC	233.77	-0.71
PowerGrid Corp	284.80	-1.20
Reliance Ind	1392.80	1.10
SBI Life	1854.30	-2.70
State Bank	805.15	4.55
Shriram Finance Ltd.	630.60	0.50
Sun Pharma	1595.20	-36.90
TataConsumerProducts	1052.80	-11.80
Tata Motors	652.85	-1.75
Tata Steel	158.66	-0.96
TCS	3032.30	-21.60
Tech Mahindra	1459.00	-26.40
Titan	3417.70	-0.50
Trent Ltd.	5356.50	39.00
UltraTech Cement	12226.00	-72.00
Wipro	239.96	-5.95

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.53	87.85
Euro	101.62	102.00
British Pound	116.61	117.05
Japanese Yen (100)	59.36	59.58
Chinese Yuan	12.18	12.23
Swiss Franc	108.49	108.90
Singapore Dollar	68.05	68.30
Canadian Dollar	63.64	63.88
Malaysian Ringgit	20.69	20.78
Australian Dollar	56.94	57.15

Source:Indian Bank

MPC holds repo rate at 5.5%, maintains GDP growth at 6.5%

Headwinds emanating from prolonged geopolitical tensions, volatility in global financial markets posing risks to growth outlook, says committee

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday voted to maintain the policy repo rate at 5.50% and continue with its neutral stance after assessing the current and evolving macroeconomic situation.

Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) remains unchanged at 5.25% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate at 5.75%. This decision is towards achieving the medium-term target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/-2%, while supporting growth. The MPC took note that the global environment continues to be challenging. Global growth, though revised upwards by the IMF, remains muted. The pace of disinflation is slowing down, with some advanced economies even witnessing an uptick in inflation, it noted.

In this backdrop, the domestic growth remains resilient and is broadly evolving along the lines of our assessment, it stated.

However, the prospects of external demand remain uncertain amid ongoing tariff announcements and



Policy matters: RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra delivering the monetary policy statement on Wednesday. PTI

trade negotiations. The headwinds emanating from prolonged geopolitical tensions, persisting global uncertainties, and volatility in global financial markets pose risks to the growth outlook, it observed. Taking various factors into account, the projection for real GDP growth for 2025-26 has been retained at 6.5%, with Q1 at 6.5%, Q2 at 6.7%, Q3 at 6.6%, and Q4 at 6.3%.

Real GDP growth for Q1:2026-27 is projected at 6.6%. The risks are evenly balanced.

Stating that CPI headline inflation declined for the eighth consecutive month to a 77-month low of 2.1% (y-o-y) in June 2025, the MPC observed that this was driven primarily by a sharp decline in food inflation led by improved agricultural activity and various supply side

measures. However, core inflation, which remained within a narrow range of 4.1-4.2% during February-May, increased to 4.4% in June, driven partly by a continued increase in gold prices, it stated adding that the inflation outlook for 2025-26 had become more benign than expected in June.

Considering various factors, CPI inflation for 2025-26 has been projected at 3.1% [as compared with 3.7% previously] with Q2 at 2.1%; Q3 at 3.1%; and Q4 at 4.4%. CPI inflation for Q1:2026-27 is projected at 4.9%. The risks are evenly balanced.

"Despite a challenging external environment, the Indian economy is navigating a steady growth path with price stability," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in his Monetary Policy statement.

'India is doing better than the U.S., has robust growth rate'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The impact of the global uncertainties emanating from the tariff war have already been factored in in the revised growth forecast, and it would be very difficult to predict the likely impact now, Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra said at the post Monetary Policy Committee meeting press conference on Wednesday.

When asked by *The Hindu* for his comment on U.S. President Donald Trump's remark that India's is a dead economy, he said India is doing better than the U.S. "I am not the right person to react to the President. But yes, you are all aware that we have a very robust growth rate of 6.5%. And in fact, as per IMF, it is 6.4% and 3% growth rate of the world if you look at," Mr. Malhotra said.

"We are contributing about 18% which is more than the US whose contribution would be much lesser, I think 11% or some. So we are doing very well and we will continue for further improvement," he added. He said the RBI would maintain a close vigil on the incoming data and take appropriate measures as per need. "On the growth, we have already reduced our forecast which was earlier at 6.7% to 6.5%. Some of the global uncertainties have already been factored in.

However, there are still lot of uncertainties. It is very difficult to predict as to what the impact would be

The governor said amid uncertainties, the RBI had already reduced repo rate by 100 basis points

going forward," he said.

"We will maintain a close vigil on the incoming data and take a call. As of now we do not have sufficient data to revise our GDP forecast," he added.

He said amid the uncertainties, the RBI had already reduced repo rate by 100 basis points and the policy transmission was happening. "We will continue to do whatever is required to facilitate good growth while maintaining price stability," he emphasised. On whether external factors like the tariff war would have any impact on inflation, he replied in the negative. "We are less dependant on outside so far inflation is concerned. We do not see any major impact unless we have retaliatory tariff. The impact of the outside factor on inflation will be very very limited," he asserted.

Since the U.S. is forcing India to stop buying crude oil from Russia and in the likely event of India stopping it, there would be no impact on inflation despite crude oil having significant bearing on it, he said.

Mr. Malhotra clarified that UPI users will not have to pay for the transaction to banks as reported in some sections as the government is subsidising the cost of transaction to promote digital payments.

INBRIEF



Indosol plans IPO in FY27; awarded ₹5,175 cr. under PLI

Indosol Solar Pvt. Ltd., a solar PV manufacturer and a wholly owned subsidiary of Shirdi Sai Electricals Ltd., is planning to go for an initial public offering (IPO) next financial year after the company's ongoing 1 GW line in Andhra Pradesh is commissioned. Chairman and MD of Shirdi Sai Electricals N. Visweswara Reddy said Indosol Solar has been recognised under the PLI scheme and awarded a total incentive of ₹5,175 crore. PTI

SBI to begin recruitment of 5,583 junior associates

State Bank of India on Wednesday said it will begin hiring of junior associates for 5,583 vacant positions across the country. The online registration window for applications will be open from August 6-26, SBI said in a statement. This fresh recruitment for FY26 comes on the back of the bank's hiring of 505 probationary officers and 13,455 junior associates in previous months, aimed at enhancing its process and service delivery across the country, SBI said. PTI

Shriram Life Insurance individual NBP rose 21% in Q1

Shriram Life Insurance Company reported a 21% year-on-year increase in individual New Business Premium (NBP) for the quarter ended June to ₹257 crore from ₹212 crore a year earlier. The increase was driven by a broader distribution footprint, higher average ticket size and branch expansion, the company said. Renewal premium across individual business rose 25% year-on-year to ₹323 crore (₹259 crore). Total premium for Q1FY26 rose 27% YoY to ₹863 crore (₹679 crore).

'End of transmission fee waiver for solar, wind to hit 26 GW RE'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

About 26 gigawatt of renewable energy (RE) projects are expected to be impacted with the end of waiver on inter-State transmission system (ISTS) charges provided for solar and wind projects, according to CRI Ratings.

The deadline for announcing an extension on ISTS charges for setting up and commissioning solar and wind projects ended on June 30, 2025.

In a recent report, CRI Ratings said, "Around 26 gigawatt (GW) of under-construction utility scale renewable energy projects, for which power purchase agreements (PPAs) have already been signed, may face moderation in cash flow following expiry



ISTS charge waiver gave a boost to RE development.

of the 100% ISTS charge exemption on June 30, 2025." These projects, which have experienced commissioning delays due to procedural, regulatory and infrastructure challenges, may now be subject to a phased reduction in benefits, CRI Ratings said.

The ISTS charge waiver, was instrumental in encouraging renewable energy development.

M&M to give 23,000 staff ₹400-500-cr. stock options

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

In an industry-first initiative, Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) is introducing a one-time Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) for about 23,000 employees, including factory floor workers, as a reward for their contribution to the company's growth journey, Group CEO & MD Anish Shah said.

The initiative covers three of M&M's key subsidiaries viz. Mahindra & Mahindra (auto and farm sectors), Mahindra Electric Automobile and Mahindra Last Mile Mobility.

This marks a rare – and possibly first – instance of a large Indian conglomerate extending ESOPs to shop floor workers. The total disbursement would be between ₹400-₹500 crore.

OpenAI said to eye \$500 bn valuation in likely staff share sale

Reuters

ChatGPT maker OpenAI is in early-stage discussions about a stock sale that would allow employees to cash out and could value the company at about \$500 billion, a source familiar with the matter said.

That would represent an eye-popping bump-up from its current valuation of \$300 billion, with the sale underscoring OpenAI's rapid gains in users and revenue as well as the intense competition among AI firms to secure talented workers.

The transaction, which would come before a potential IPO, would allow current and former employees to sell several billion dollars worth of shares, said the source.

Bolstered by flagship



MS-backed OpenAI has about 700 million weekly active users.

product ChatGPT, OpenAI doubled its revenue in the first seven months of the year, reaching an annualized run rate of \$12 billion, and is on track to reach \$20 billion by year-end, the source added.

Microsoft-backed OpenAI has about 700 million weekly active users for its ChatGPT products, a surge from about 400 million in February.

'Burden of any rise in tariffs by U.S. will fall on low-income American households'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A day after U.S. President Donald Trump announced that he will raise tariffs on India "very substantially", Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) Member Shami-ka Ravi said the burden of any such increase will fall on low-income American households.

Mr. Trump on Tuesday said India has not been a good trading partner and announced he will raise tariffs on India "very substantially" over the next 24 hours.

"Mr. Trump's tariffs are effectively a tax on cheap goods available from the global markets, the burden of which will fall on low-income American



Trump tariffs are a tax on cheap goods available from the global markets, says Dr. Ravi. REUTERS

households.

"These tariffs are eventually a transfer from low-income American households to the U.S. government," Ms. Ravi said in a social media post on X.

On August 1, Mr. Trump signed an executive order titled 'Further Modifying The Reciprocal Tariff

Rates', raising tariffs for over five dozen countries, including a steep 25% for India. Last week, Mr. Trump mounted a sharp attack on India and Russia for close ties and said the two countries can take their "dead economies down together", a remark that prompted New Delhi to say India is the world's fastest-growing major economy.

Declaring the U.S. has a massive trade deficit with India, Mr. Trump had said while "India is our friend, we have, over the years, done relatively little business with them because their tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary Trade Barriers of any country."

Clean energy firm Hylennr raises \$3 mn to commercialise product

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Hylennr raised about \$3 million in a pre-series A funding round expected to aid the clean energy startup accelerate product commercialisation.

The fresh capital willenable it to fast-track from pilot to market launch. It signals growing investor confidence in Low Energy Nuclear Reactions (LENR) as a viable alternative to fossil fuels, Hylennr said.

The round was led by Valour Capital and Chhat-tisgarh Investments, early-



Hylennr is focused on carbon free heat energy systems.

stage investors focused on deep-tech/energy transition technologies. Individual investors Karthik Sundar Iyer and Anant Sarada also participated. Hylennr is focused on

harnessing LENR to develop scalable, carbon-free heat energy systems for industrial heat and power.

"LENR has the potential to be the safest and most energy-efficient thermal and electrical generation technology of the future," CMD Siddhartha Durairajan said.

The Hyderabad-based startup said its product pipeline range from 7.2KW for domestic consumption to 1MW for large-scale industrial applications.

The firm is targeting \$25 million in the next fundraising round.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI - 16
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.04/ 2025-2026/SDO/ Dated: 06.08.2025
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu a
Percentage tender through online only will be received
upto 16.09.2025, 14.00 hours by the **Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Chennai** for **One Bypass Road work** in respect of **Chennai (H) Projects Division** under **CRIDP 2025-26**.

Details of Name of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **13.08.2025**, onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in**. If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc. to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-16.

DIPR/4207/TENDER/2025

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Circle
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No.10/ 2025-2026/ D1 / Dated: 05.08.2025
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamilnadu sealed **Percentage tender for Two Bypass works in Double cover system** Separately through online only will be received **upto 15.00 hours on 09.09.2025** by the **Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD and Rural Roads, Tirunelveli circle** for the works approved in G.O.(Ms) No.105 Highways and Minor Ports (HF2) Department dated.02.07.2025 under Formation of Tenkasi Bypass Km 3/0 – 6/0 (Phase-II) and Sankarankovil Bypass Town Km 0/0 – 0/900 & 2/150 – 7/2 in **Tirunelveli (H) NABARD and Rural Roads Division**.

Details such as Name of work, approximate value of work, online EMD, documents to be uploaded, critical dates and all other details related to the work will be available from **08.08.2025** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** If any changes/ Corrections / Amendments etc related to this tender arises, it will be published on the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H), NABARD AND RURAL ROADS, TIRUNELVELI-2

DIPR/4205/TENDER/2025

PESHAWAR

Pakistan extends Afghan refugee deportation deadline to Sept. 1



AFP

Pakistan extended the deadline for the deportation of Afghan refugees to September 1, as the United Nations welcomed the decision while expressing concern over coerced returns. The refugees will be allowed a “grace period” of 25 days, from August 4 to August 31, to voluntarily return to their home country. AP

ISLAMABAD

Pak. Army denies ‘rumours’ that Munir plans to become President



AFP

The Pakistan Army has denied as “baseless” the rumours that Army chief Asim Munir plans to become the next President. The Army’s response came following rumours and a wave of disinformation on social media during the previous weeks that Mr. Munir plans to replace President Asif Ali Zardari. PTI

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka detains Shasheendra Rajapaksa on corruption charge



AFP

Sri Lanka’s anti-corruption authorities arrested a member of the once-powerful Rajapaksa family on Wednesday, accusing him of illegally claiming reparations for property loss when his uncle was toppled as President three years ago. Shasheendra Rajapaksa is a former Minister and nephew of Mr. Mahinda and Mr. Gotabaya. AFP

WASHINGTON

Five soldiers injured in shooting at U.S. military base; suspect held



AP

A shooter wounded five soldiers at Fort Stewart before being apprehended by law enforcement on Wednesday, the U.S. military base said. “All soldiers were treated on-site and moved to Winn Army Community Hospital for further treatment,” said the social media page of the base, located in Georgia. AFP

Trump moots Vance’s name as Republican pick for 2028

U.S. President floats the idea of the Vice-President teaming up with Secretary of State Marco Rubio to create a formidable Republican ticket; Trump not to seek a third term, though he wanted to

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump suggested on Tuesday Vice-President J.D. Vance is “most likely” to secure the Republican party nomination for President in 2028.

Mr. Trump has avoided naming a preferred successor and said in February that, while Mr. Vance was “very capable,” it was too soon to make such calls.

Asked on Tuesday whether Mr. Vance was the heir-apparent to his Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement, Mr. Trump told reporters: “Well, I think most likely.”

“In all fairness, he’s the Vice President,” he said.

The remarks followed speculation that Mr.



Heavyweight: J.D. Vance, left, acts as the chief domestic policy advocate and a key diplomatic envoy in the Trump government. AFP

Trump might attempt to defy constitutional limits and seek a third term.

“It’s too early, obviously, to talk about it, but certainly he’s doing a great job,” Mr. Trump said. “And he would be probably favoured at this point.”

Mr. Trump also floated

the idea of Vance teaming up with Secretary of State Marco Rubio to create a formidable Republican ticket.

“I think Marco is also somebody that maybe would get together with JD in some form,” Mr. Trump said.

Mr. Trump has suggested serving another term several times, despite the U.S. Constitution limiting Presidents to two terms.

T-shirts emblazoned with “Trump 2028” and “Rewrite the rules” continue to be sold on Mr. Trump’s official online store.

However, Mr. Trump said on *CNBC’s Squawk Box* on Tuesday he would “probably not” seek a third term.

“I’d like to,” he said. “I’d like to run. I have the best poll numbers I’ve ever had.”

Mr. Vance, a former Marine and lawyer, has taken on a prominent role in the administration, acting as chief domestic policy advocate and key diplomatic envoy.

Putin holds ‘constructive’ talks with U.S. envoy ahead of sanctions deadline

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin held “constructive” talks with U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff in Moscow on Wednesday, the Kremlin said, two days ahead of a U.S. deadline for Russia to halt its Ukraine offensive or face fresh sanctions.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who had boasted he could end the conflict within 24 hours of taking office, has given Russia until Friday to make progress towards peace or face new penalties.

But three rounds of Russia-Ukraine talks in Istanbul have failed to make headway on a ceasefire, with the two sides far apart in their demands.

Russia has escalated drone and missile attacks against its pro-Western neighbour to a record high and accelerated its advance on the ground.



New leaf: Vladimir Putin, left, and U.S. President Donald Trump’s special envoy Steve Witkoff meet in Moscow on Wednesday. AP

“A quite useful and constructive conversation took place,” Mr. Putin’s aide Yuri Ushakov told journalists after the three hour meeting.

Mr. Putin and Mr. Witkoff exchanged “signals” on their positions, Mr. Ushakov said, without elaborating.

The Kremlin released video of Mr. Putin shaking hands with Mr. Witkoff at

pose “secondary tariffs” targeting Russia’s key trade partners, such as China and India.

The move would aim to stifle Russian exports, but would risk significant international disruption.

Mr. Trump said on Tuesday that he would await the outcome of the Moscow talks before ordering any economic sanctions.

“We are going to see what happens,” he told reporters. “We will make that determination at that time.”

Without explicitly naming Mr. Trump, the Kremlin on Tuesday slammed “threats” to hike tariffs on Russia’s trading partners as “illegitimate”.

Russia’s campaign against Ukraine since February 2022 has killed tens of thousands of people, destroyed swathes of the country and forced millions of people to flee their homes.

Nawrocki, backed by Trump, assumes Polish presidency

Associated Press
WARSAW

Conservative Karol Nawrocki was inaugurated on Wednesday as Poland’s new President, which could set the country on a more nationalist course and cast doubt on the viability of the centrist government of Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

Most day-to-day power in Poland rests with the Prime Minister, chosen by parliament. However, the President holds the power to influence foreign policy and veto laws.

Mr. Nawrocki, who was supported by U.S. President Donald Trump ahead of a narrow victory in a run-off election in June, is a 42-year-old historian



Karol Nawrocki

who had no political experience prior to campaigning.

“I will of course support relations within the European Union, but I will never agree to the European Union taking competences away from Poland, especially in matters that are not enshrined in the European treaties,” he said.

‘Israeli military is directed to execute govt. orders on Gaza’

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

The Israeli military will have to execute any government decisions on Gaza, the Defence Minister said on Wednesday after reported disagreements over the prospect of a full occupation of the Palestinian territory.

The Israeli press has predicted an escalation of operations, including in densely populated areas where hostages are believed to be held, such as Gaza City and refugee camps. The reports also said Mr. Netanyahu and his Cabinet would order a full military occupation of Gaza, sparking dissension from the Army’s Chief of Staff, Eyal Zamir.

On Tuesday, Mr. Netanyahu held a restricted three-hour meeting with security chiefs, his office said in a statement. At the meeting, Mr. Zamir reportedly warned that a full occupation would be like “walking into a trap”.

The Army chief suggested alternatives to a full occupation, such as an encirclement of specific areas where Hamas is believed to be hunkering down.

But Defence Minister Israel Katz hit back with a message. “It is the right and duty of the Chief of Staff to express his position in the appropriate forums,” he wrote. “But once decisions are made by the political echelon, the IDF will execute them with professionalism,” he added.

Cuban activists complain of detentions on the anniversary of 1994 anti-Castro protest

Agence France-Presse
HAVANA

Activists, journalists and relatives of jailed dissidents say they were briefly detained or prevented from leaving their homes by state security agents on Tuesday on the anniversary of the “Maleconazo,” the largest protest Fidel Castro faced during his rule.

On August 5, 1994, hundreds of people took to the streets of Havana’s Malecon waterfront to protest, an event that triggered the rafter crisis during which many Cubans fled by sea to



Old scores: On August 5, 1994, hundreds of people took to the streets of Havana’s Malecon waterfront to protest. FILE PHOTO

the U.S. The government attributed the protests to incitement by Radio Marti, a Washington-funded station that broadcasts news

into Cuba.

Nearly five years after Castro’s death, historic protests shook the island on July 11, 2021. The go-

vernment claims those marches were also orchestrated by Washington.

President Miguel Diaz-Canel said the “Maleconazo” anniversary was a reminder that “there will always be dark forces lurking against a genuine Revolution in difficult moments”.

Tuesday saw “surveillance, house arrests, arbitrary detention, and selective internet shutdowns,” according to Cubalex, a Miami-based NGO.

The government “activated its repressive apparatus” said Yoani Sanchez, director of independent newspaper 14ymedio.

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Tender No : 2/2025-26/SRI/NTR; JUM 2022-23- Procurement of Ion Chromatograph at State Referral Institute for Water Quality Nettoor; **EMD :** Rs. 50000 ; **Tender fee :** Rs. 2755 ; **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 30-08-2025, 03:00 pm ; **Phone :** 8547605718.

Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

Superintending Engineer SRI Circle Nettoor

KWA-JB-GL-6-265-2025-26

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TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Advt.No.160) Date:06-08-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

V.O.Chidambaram Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Installation of Go Green Welcome Boards on the roadside at VOC Port	24,80,200/-	49,604/-	19.08.2025
2.	Renovation of Footpath at Link Road in VOC Port	26,03,960/-	52,080/-	26.08.2025
3.	Widening of Guest House road & Jawaharlal Nehru road and Improvement works for Foot path of JN Road at VOC Port	4,59,53,983/-	9,19,080/-	28.08.2025
4.	Providing Reception Facilities for collection, transportation & disposal of hazardous waste from Port Calling Ships at VOC Port.	23,05,980 /-	Nil	29.08.2025

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>
ii) <https://www.vocport.gov.in>

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KAVARATTI-682555, Phone: 04896 263650
Email: gnckkavaratti@gmail.com
F.No. 5/45/2021-DHS. Dated: 01.08.2025

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Government Nursing College Kavaratti invites applications from eligible candidates (10th & +2 Pass with Science) for admission in B.Sc Nursing (04 years Course) for the year 2025-26. The application form is available on the official website: www.lakshadweep.gov.in from 01.08.2025, 10 am to 15.08.2025, 05.00 pm.

Sd/- (M.BHARANI, DANICS) DIRECTOR HEALTH SERVICES

Market Sounding Notice
(Kerala Solid Waste Management Projects, Local Self Government Department, Government of Kerala)

The KSWMP, under LS&D, Govt. of Kerala, intends to conduct a market sounding process for 30 TPD Bio-CNG project, including collection and transportation services of biodegradable waste at Changanassery Municipality, Kottayam district, Kerala through design, build & operate model (PPP basis) on August 13, 2025, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

We request experienced technology providers, equipment suppliers, collection and transportation service providers, contractors & operators including commercial banks and financial institutions, to participate in this process. More details are provided at KSWMP web page (www.kswmp.org)

(This advertisement is published in compliance with World Bank procurement guidelines)
D3/582/2025/IR&PRD

Kerala Rural Employment & Welfare Society
(Govt. of Kerala Undertaking), Thiruvananthapuram

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RAJASTHAN POLICE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD, JAIPUR
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क्रमांक :- RPWCC/469/NTT/2025-26/D-2216 दिनांक :- 04/08/2025

ई-निविदा सूचना सं 0 20/2025-26

निम्न कार्यों के लिए राज्य/केन्द्र सरकार के अभियांत्रिकी विभागों/उपक्रमों में समकक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत योग्य एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से नियमानुसार तीन वर्षों की डीएलपी के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्र में 1 कार्य के लिए एकल बिड के तहत आमंत्रित की जाती है।

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ऑनलाइन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख	05 अगस्त 2025 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 14 अगस्त 2025 सायं 4.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख	14 अगस्त 2025 सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	18 अगस्त 2025 सायं 4.00 बजे

निविदा सम्बंधित जानकारी राजस्थान पुलिस की वेबसाइट www.police.rajasthan.gov.in/ एवं <http://epror.rajasthan.gov.in> पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी। इच्छुक संवेदकों को निविदा संबंधित जानकारी प्रकथ निदेशक कार्यालय से कार्यालय समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है। भविष्य में निविदाओं में संशोधन होने पर उपरोक्त वेबसाइटों पर ही प्रेषित किया जावेगा।

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महाप्रबंधक राजस्थान पुलिस आयाजुत संरचना विकास विभाग लिमिटेड, राजस्थान, जायपुर

रज.सं.सं/सी/25/7618

India pacer Siraj arrives in Hyderabad to a hero's welcome



India captain Gill shortlisted for ICC PoTM award



Root should have been England's Player-of-the-Series, says Brook



U.S. Open announces increase in prize money to around \$85 million



Chappell tears into the Bazball approach

Pakistan cites security reasons, withdraws from Asia Cup hockey



Super-sub Ahadad helps EBFC edge out Namdhari SA

Chennai GM chess put off by a day after a fire accident

Iniyan determined to keep his good form going

Pat for Divya, Humpy

Terming Divya Deshmukh's victory in the FIDE World Cup in Batumi as phenomenal, the Tamil Nadu GM said both Divya and runner-up Koneru Humpy had defeated some very strong players on the way.

The boxer reflects on her takeaways from the disappointment of the Paris 2024 Olympics, striking the right balance between career and life, staying in the present and more



S ND-ND

‘It’s like writing a poem’: maths prize winner Rajula Srivastava

Rajula Srivastava has won the Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prize for her work in harmonic analysis and analytic number theory. She discovered her love of maths in school, and then went on to major at the National Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhubaneswar

Rohini Subrahmanyam

When Rajula Srivastava was first notified about a prestigious prize, she was quick to dismiss it. All she got was a cryptic email from the personal email address of mathematician Terence Tao asking if she was free for a chat. Tao, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, is widely considered one of the most gifted mathematicians of our time. Srivastava couldn’t think of a reason why he would want to talk to her.

“I obviously thought it was a scam,” she said.

But then she got a second email from him ten minutes later, asking to Zoom. After ascertaining that the email was not fake, she proceeded to cautiously respond. During their chat, Tao broke the news that she had won the Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prize, an initiative of the Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics, for her work in harmonic analysis and analytic number theory. She couldn’t believe it.

“I told him I thought it was a scam, and he found that very funny, [saying] ‘maybe I want to scam a theorem out of you or something,’” she said with a laugh. “It was surreal, the way [the call] went.”

A fondness for puzzles

Srivastava, a Hirzebruch Research Instructor at the University of Bonn and the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Germany, grew up in a science-loving family.

In school, mathematics happened to be the subject she enjoyed the most among all the sciences: because it involved the least amount of memorisation. “Once you understand the logic behind things, you don’t have to memorize a lot of things ... beyond the multiplication tables in kindergarten,” she said.

She also realised she didn’t like doing lab work, but she did enjoy solving puzzles. At the age of 15, she decided she wanted to be a mathematician and went on to do an integrated master’s degree at the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER), Bhubaneswar, where she majored in maths.

She then wrote her master’s thesis in harmonic analysis, the study of functions and how they can be represented in terms of their frequencies – a topic she had begun to like. For her PhD, she chose to go to the University of Wisconsin-Madison mainly because of its big harmonic analysis group.

Just like music can be broken down into harmonies, signals can be broken down into the frequencies that make them up. “But you need to be able to do it in a sensible way, so that the information you have in this breakdown should be such that you should be able to reconstruct your complicated signal once more from these pieces,” Srivastava explained.

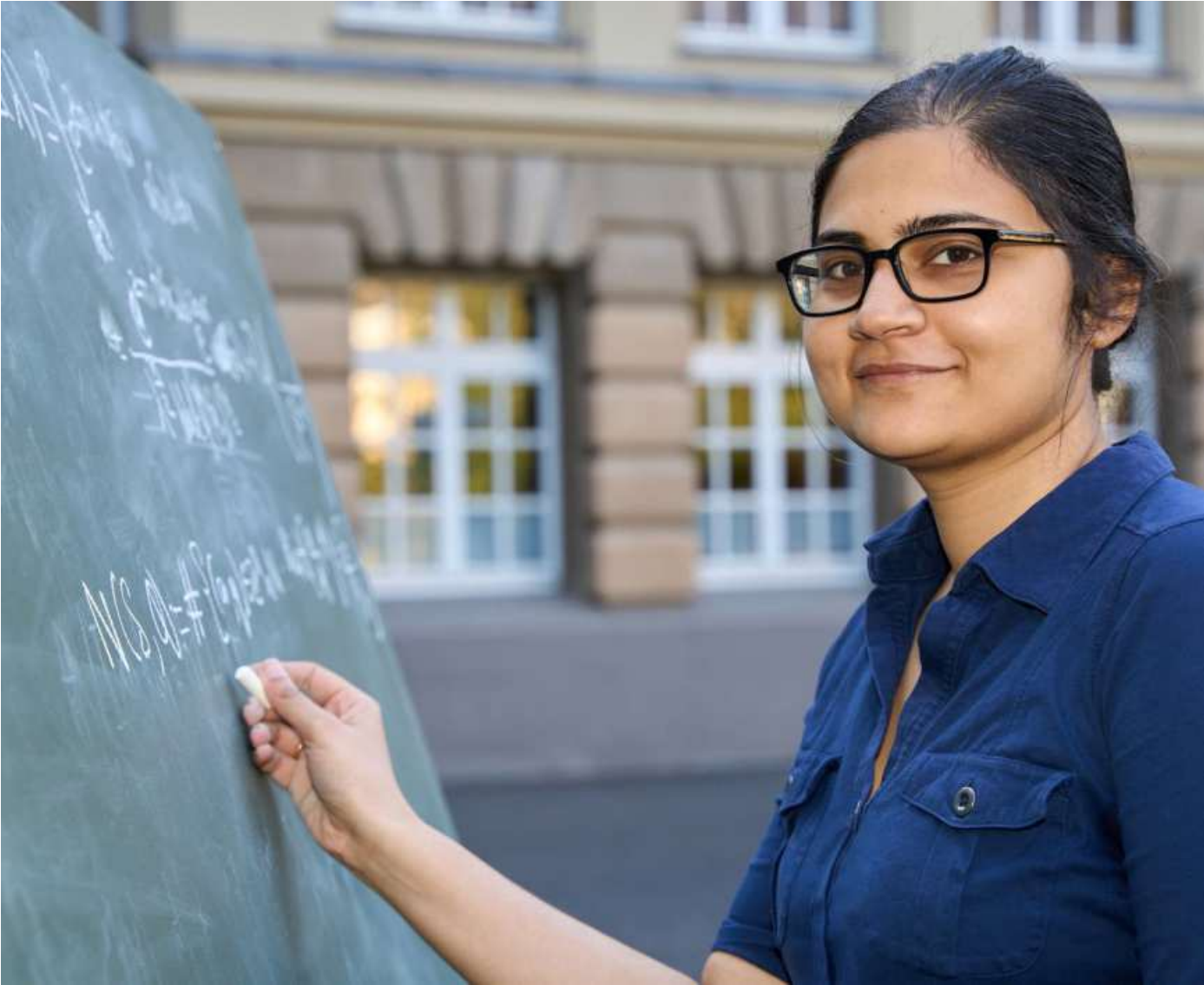
That’s the basic idea of harmonic analysis, where one breaks down functions in terms of their frequencies or “harmonics” using a method called the Fourier transformation. One can imagine these frequencies to lie on a line, but you can also ask these questions in higher dimensions, Srivastava said. “Then it’s also about geometry, about the patterns and the shapes in which these waves are arranged.”

To imagine a three-dimensional wave, picture a sound wave travelling in all directions via the molecules in air, or the ripples from an earthquake as it reverberates through the ground. In each case, there is a point at which the vibration originates, and the emanating waves then form the shape of a sphere. The vibrations travel radially outwards, perpendicular to the expanding wave. Her work mostly focused on waves in three or even higher dimensions.

Spotting numbers on a line

After her PhD, Srivastava went on to do her postdoctoral research in Germany, accepting a joint position between the mathematics department at the University of Bonn and the Max Planck Institute of Mathematics at Bonn. In her time there, from 2022 to 2024, she started diverging into problems at the interface of harmonic analysis and number theory.

Her husband, who is also a mathematician and a number theorist, first introduced her to counting problems. More than the potential applications of the number theoretical problems, however, Srivastava was motivated by sheer curiosity. With her expertise in harmonic analysis, she knew she had a bag of tools at her disposal. Could she



Rajula Srivastava is grateful for her early education in India and to the many Indian universities, including hers, that invest a lot in their students with scholarships and low fees. GREGOR HÜBL/UNI BONN/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

now use them to count things?

She offered a simple example. While positioning integers on the number line, we learn that rational numbers have an exact address on the line. Even if it is a fraction, like say 5/7, the number line can be chopped up into smaller and smaller parts until we have an exact location for it. Irrational numbers don’t have an exact address, but one can still make a well-educated guess.

“We can say that it’s between 1/1,000,000 and 2/1,000,000, [for example], which is a very tiny part and use those fractions to approximate your point,” she explained. “You’re saying up to this error, it is between these two fractions.”

But she worked on a similar question in higher dimensions. Instead of a line, imagine a three-dimensional shape like a sphere. Now if the point you want to map is somewhere on the manifold of this shape, what can you say about its approximability? “That’s how the geometry comes in,” she said.

In higher dimensions, the fractions lie on a grid or lattice instead of being equally spaced on a one-dimensional number line. “So I have a lattice, and I have a shape inside the lattice. And then I’m asking: how close can points of this lattice get to points on the manifold?”

That’s how the two ideas – of harmonic analysis and counting points in 3D space – converge. “If you know that your waves live on a nice shape, then you know something about those waves or [their] frequencies,” she said. As both the wave frequencies and lattices are periodic, she worked on using the waves’ periodicity to count points on a shape within a lattice. Working on these problems eventually went on to win her



In math, you pretty much just need pen and paper. You can be anywhere, and you can just start thinking about the problem

RAJULA SRIVASTAVA
HIRZEBRUCH RESEARCH INSTRUCTOR AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF BONN AND THE MAX PLANCK
INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICS

the Maryam Mirzakhani New Frontiers Prize.

More conferences in India

Even as one of only two women out of the 25 students doing maths in her department at NISER, she didn’t feel any specific barriers to her progress during her integrated master’s program in India. She was confident, doing well in her exams, and didn’t have the need to constantly prove herself to others. But that changed when she went abroad: now she was not only a woman, but she was also non-white. She eventually formed a community and received support from both men and women, but she still felt some alienation at the start when she moved out of India.

“You feel that you need to prove yourself more. You have less of a community to fall back on because there’s just less of you,” Srivastava said. “Sometimes if you’re the only brown woman in the room, you also somehow feel that you’re scrutinised more. Like, if you’re asking a question, then it better be a good question, not something stupid.” She thinks things are changing now, though, with more women of colour doing maths.



Rajula will soon move back to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and continue working on the intersection of harmonic analysis and number theory. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Srivastava is coming full circle in her own career. Currently a visiting research fellow at the University of Edinburgh, she will soon move back to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and continue working on the intersection of harmonic analysis and number theory. She decided to move abroad long term because her husband is German, and it was logistically easier to move to the US than to India for both of them.

Another reason was more exposure to people and resources and being updated on new research developments, since many of the big conferences don’t happen in India. “I feel like they should do more [conferences] in developing countries, not just India, but also other countries of the Global South,” she said.

Srivastava enjoys being part of a broader community: friends and associates who all speak the common language of maths and whom she was able to meet and collaborate with on problems once she moved out of India. But she’s also grateful for her early education in India and to the many Indian universities, including hers, that invest a lot in their students with scholarships and low fees.

Like writing a poem

But doing maths can also be very frustrating at times, she said. Like when one spends most of the time researching answers to a problem instead of being able to just sit down and solve it. “Sometimes you have the broad outline, that this is how it should work. But actually implementing all the steps might take time,” she said.

“Sometimes the ideas might come in a week, but just to write things might take months.”

The rewards from small victories, like penning down one small theorem as part of a larger proof, keep her going. She also greatly values the independence of not having immediate deadlines and not needing to rely on expensive resources to work on her research questions. The latter is often the case in other fields like biology. “In math, you pretty much just need pen and paper. You can be anywhere, and you can just start thinking about [the problem],” she said. “Maybe you need a board and chalk, and that’s it.”

On a day-to-day basis, if she’s really focused on a problem, maths is almost like meditation for Srivastava. She described how some think of it like a cross between art and science. “There’s something which is just in your brain and then somehow you prove [it], and then it’s true. Once it’s true, it will always stay,” she said.

“In some ways, it’s like writing a story or a poem. I like the fact that you can create something which lasts in that way.”

(Rohini Subrahmanyam is a freelance journalist in Bengaluru. roh.subb@gmail.com)



Plant flowers are unexpectedly monogamous. MURALI KUMAR K

Most flowers usually pick one father and stick with him

Vasudevan Mukunth

Conflicts lurk inside every flower with multiple seeds. The embryos jostle for food, the maternal and paternal genomes bargain over control, and pollen grains compete to be fertilised. Scientists have therefore wondered whether natural selection encourages one-parent broods that keep such quarrels to a minimum and, in so doing, make plant flowers unexpectedly monogamous, much like many animal families.

Scientists have also long believed that most large fruits mix the genes of several parents, a view already under fire from smaller case-studies that hinted at widespread single paternity.

In challenging that orthodoxy, a new study – including scientists from the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru and the Nature Conservancy and the Swaniti Initiative in New Delhi – provides a unifying picture of how kin conflict, pollinator behaviour, and flower design shape reproduction across the plant kingdom.

The scientists searched the research literature, focusing on papers published between 1984 and 2024, and selected 102 candidate studies. They finally shortlisted 63 species representing many flowering-plant families. For each of these species, they tracked down genetic studies that compared the DNA fingerprints of sibling seeds and converted the resulting “correlated paternity” values into a number of pollen donors per fruit.

Upon analysis, the scientists found that the headline numbers overturned the textbook story. Among the 63 species, 15 (or 24%) had strictly single paternity, and another 18 (28%) averaged fewer than 1.5 fathers per fruit. Taken together, 52% of the sample displayed de facto monogamy at the flower level. The remaining 48% did allow multiple fathers, yet even here most fruits harboured only two or three donors, a far cry from the genetic

The plant world may resemble animals more closely than once thought: single fathers dominate, with true genetic polyandry the exception rather than the rule

free-for-all that scientists once assumed was the case.

The patterns became clearer when the scientists split the species by mating system. In plants that couldn’t be mated with others of the same species, i.e. which must receive pollen from other individuals, 59% of fruits were sired by a single donor. In self-compatible plants, on the other hand, fruits had a single donor in only 41% of instances. Statistical tests also confirmed that the self-incompatible group consistently hosted fewer fathers per fruit.

The seed number also mattered less than expected. Although very large fruits sometimes had several donors, no overall rise in pollen parents accompanied an increase from tens to hundreds of seeds. Indeed, across all species, the link between seed count and paternity vanished after the scientists controlled for evolutionary relatedness.

The team also found that the breeding system, not the ancestry, best predicted paternity patterns, implying that kin conflict and pollinator precision evolve quickly when selection demands it. As a result, the plant world may resemble animals more closely than once thought: single fathers dominate, with true genetic polyandry the exception rather than the rule.

In their paper, published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on August 5, the scientists have urged more fieldwork, especially measurements of how many individual pollinators contribute to a single pollen load, to reveal exactly when and how plants shift from monogamy to polyandry. But for now their message is clear: most flowers, even crowded ones, usually pick one father and stick with him.

mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in



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