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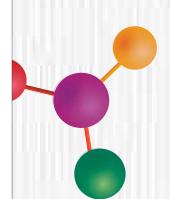
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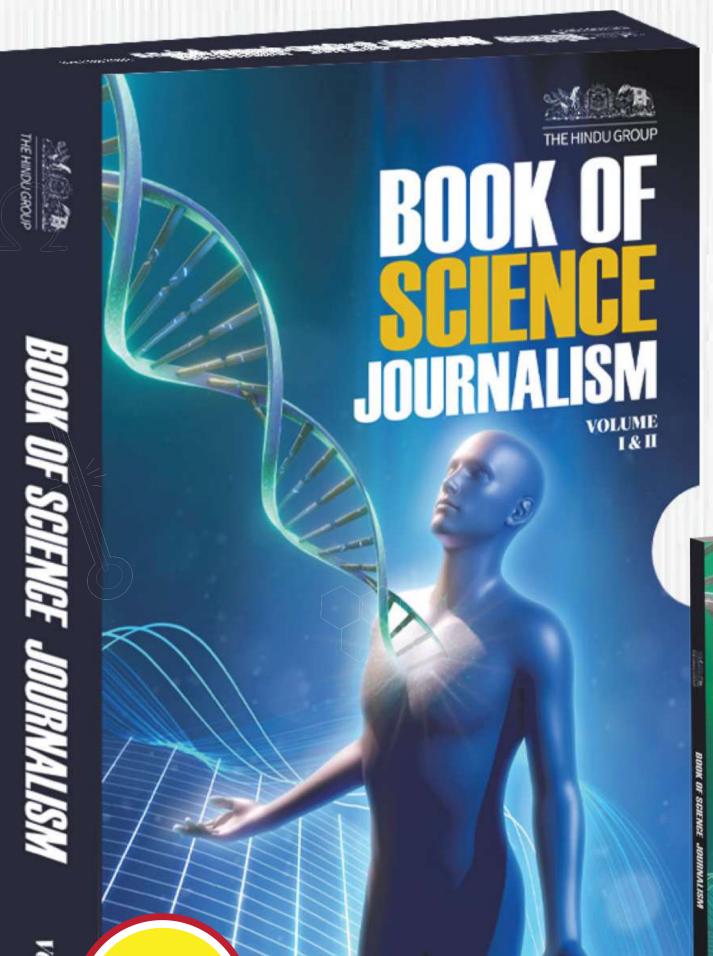




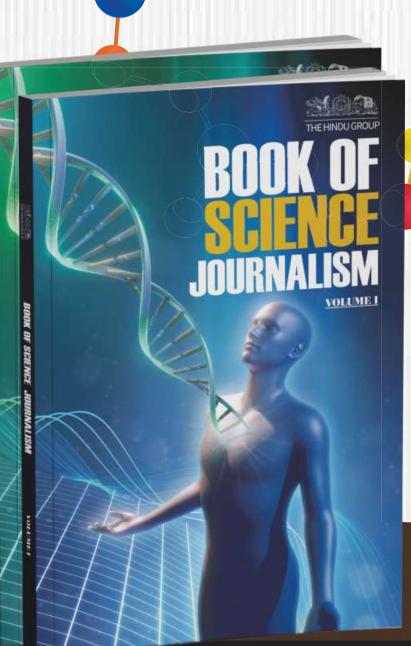


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UPDATED ADMINISTRATION New Kartavva Bhavan inaugurated in Capital NEWS » PAGE 11





ASSESSING SITUATION RBI body votes to hold repo rate at 5.5% **BUSINESS** » PAGE 13

Trump raises U.S. tariffs on Indian imports to 50%

U.S. President signs executive order for 25% tariff on Indian goods on top of the 25% announced on July 31; one part takes effect from today, the other after 21 days; 'extremely unfortunate', says MEA

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan NEW DELHI

T.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed an executive order imposing an additional 25% tariff on imports from India, in response to India "directly or indirectly" importing oil from Russia. This is over and above the 25% tariff on Indian imports that Mr. Trump approved on July

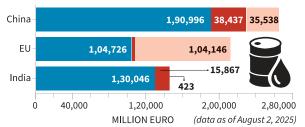
While the initial 25% tariff will come into effect from Thursday, the additional 25% tariff will come into effect after 21 days.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in response, said it has made its stand clear - through an earlier statement following Mr. Trump's threat of additional tariffs - that these ac-

Singling out India

Trump's rationale for tariffs on India for its oil trade with Moscow overlooks a key fact: all goods combined, China and EU have imported more from Russia since its invasion of Ukraine

Coal imports Gas imports



SOURCE: CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON ENERGY AND CLEAN AIR (CREA)

tions were "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable". It was "extremely unfortunate" that the U.S. has chosen this course of action, the MEA said.

"To deal with the national emergency described in Executive Order 14066 [relating to Russia's actions in Ukraine], I determine that it is necessary and appropriate to impose an additional ad valorem duty on imports of articles of India, which is directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil," Mr. Trump's executive or-

der said. "Accordingly,

190 rescued, two bodies recovered after Uttarkashi floods

and as consistent with applicable law, articles of India imported into the customs territory of the United States shall be subject to an additional ad valorem rate of duty of 25%," it added. Over the last few days, Mr. Trump has repeatedly threatened additional tariffs on India as a "penalty" for its oil imports from Russia.

In response to one such threat, the MEA on Monday pointed out that, not only did the U.S. encourage such trade previously, both the European Union and the U.S. actively trade other items with Russia in excess of the amount that India pays for Russian oil.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10 **'ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL'**

SC sets aside Madras HC order limiting State scheme names

Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed as "misconceived" and an "abuse of law" a challenge raised by All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) MP C.Ve. Shanmugam to naming a Tamil Nadu government outreach programme, 'Ungaludan Stalin', after the Chief Minister.

A three-Judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai set aside a Madras High Court order, passed in Mr. Shanmugham's petition, imposing "sweeping restrictions" on the Tamil Nadu government from naming State welfare schemes after "any living personality".

The DMK had appealed the High Court's July 31 restraining order in the Supreme Court.

Senior advocates Mukul Rohatgi and P. Wilson, ap-

pearing for the DMK, argued the High Court order had operated as a "de facto injunction" on the elected government in Tamil Nadu from formulating and implementing public welfare schemes. Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi appeared for the State government in a separate petition.

The Bench dismissed the pending case instituted by Mr. Shanmugham in the High Court with costs of ₹10 lakh. The MP has to pay the costs to the State government to be used in welfare programmes.

Mr. Shanmugam's side, represented by senior advocate Maninder Singh and advocate Balaji Srinivasan, challenged the implementation and publicity of 'Ungaludan Stalin (With You, Stalin)', an outreach programme notified on June 19.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

SC seeks EC's response on omissions from Bihar draft rolls

Roll revisions

The table shows the districts in Bihar with the highest and lowest deletions (in %) in the draft SIR roll released on August 1, 2025, compared to the electoral roll released on January 1, 2025



Krishnadas Rajagopal NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Election Commission (EC) to give a detailed response to an application seeking the particulars and reason for each of the 65 lakh voters deleted from the Bihar draft electoral roll.

The draft roll was published on August 1 as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) in the pollbound State.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant told the poll body to file the particulars by Saturday. A hearing has already been scheduled for August 12. The application, orally mentioned by advocates Prashant Bhushan and Neha Rathi for urgent hearing, said the reasons for deletion of the voters were various, including deaths, permanent shifting out of the State, duplication of names, and untraceability. However, the reason for removing each name is not individually shown, either constituency-wise

booth wise list of names and details of approximately 65 lakh electors whose enumeration forms were not submitted along with reasons for non-submission against each sought.

The applicants have also asked for the publication of lists of electors whose enumeration forms have been marked 'not recommended by the BLOs [Booth Level Officers]'.

"The list with names of 65 lakh deleted electors curiously fails to disclose the reason for the non-submission of their enumeration forms, an information that the Election Commission evidently possesses," Mr. Bhushan, for NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, argued.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10 **DATA POINT**

Lowest deletions (in	%)	
Sheikhpura	-4	.34
Arwal	-4	.95
Nalanda	-5	.21
Kaimur (Bhabhua)	-5	.32

Paschim Champaran booth-wise, in the draft

"Direct the publication of a full and final Assembly constituency and part/

the application

» PAGE 7

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Around 190 people were rescued from Dharali town in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand on Wednesday, a day after devastating flash floods wreaked havoc, leaving scores missing and the town covered in mud and slush. Rescue teams also recovered two bodies from the site.

Bad weather continued to hamper rescue efforts, with roads to the area blocked by mud and boulders following landslides triggered by heavy rainfall. Rivers across the State remained above danger levels after continuous downpour over the past 50 hours.

Uttarakhand's Disaster Management and Rehabilitation Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman said "prima facie, around 15 people were missing from the disaster spot". Efforts were under

way to ensure that the rescue teams were able to work continuously, he ad-

Tireless efforts

Mr. Suman said, "As many as 150 Army personnel from Rajputana Rifles and 12 jawans from Ghatak battalion are working tirelessly in the rescue operations in Dharali while 100 personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police [ITBP] are also assisting... Around 40 Army personnel are walking to the disaster site from Nelong valley while a 50member team of the Army's medical wing has reached till Tekla." Around 80 jawans of the State Disaster Response Force were stuck in Papadgadh due to landslips, he added.

Additionally, 130 ITBP personnel are expected to reach the site on Thursday.

EDITORIAL



War footing: Army personnel undertaking a search-and-rescue operation at Dharali, Uttarkashi, on Wednesday following the flash floods. PTI

Petrol lobbies behind E20 fuel fear campaign: Gadkari

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Tests show that older vehi-

cles are not damaged in any way by using a new petrol blend with a higher 20% of ethanol, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday, blaming the social media outrage against the new E20 blend on a "political conspiracy", possibly fuelled by petrol lobbies.

Speaking at The Hindu MIND event, a conversation series in the national capital, Mr. Gadkari emphasised that making the switch to biofuels helped put the country on the path to self-reliance by cutting oil imports, and also reduces pollution and saves farmers' lives by ensuring they received a higher value for their crops. While new E20-tuned

vehicles have started rolling out from April 2025, existing owners are connot found any problems," the Minister said.

cerned about the impact on their older vehicles and a surge in maintenance costs. "Pune-based Automotive Research Association of India has tested old vehicles on a total distance of one lakh kilometres and

Asked whether the cheaper ethanol variant would result in lower petrol costs for the end user, given that there is also a 5% to 6% drop in mileage, Mr. Gadkari said that determining petrol prices was not under his domain.

While he acknowledged an impact on vehicle mileage, he enumerated several benefits that accrued to the country due to the transition to E20, a fuel blend that comprises 20% ethanol produced from plant products such as sugarcane, rice, and maize, and 80% gasoline.

He said the transition to blended fuel started in 2001, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister. The then Petroleum Minister sent a delegation to Brazil, of which Mr. Gadkari was a part.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10



Nistula Hebbar, political editor at The Hindu, presenting a book to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

IN BRIDE

BJP stalling BC reservation Bills: Telangana CM

NEW DELHI

The Telangana CM criticised the BJP on Wednesday during a protest demanding the President's assent for two Bills to provide 42% reservation for Backward Classes. » Page 5

Omar seeks help for restoration of J&K's Statehood

SRINAGAR

CM Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday he has written to the heads of political parties seeking their help to raise the restoration of J&K's Statehood in Parliament. » Page 4



Zero tolerance for campus defacement, DU tells students

Delhi University has issued a stern warning to students ahead of the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) election, stressing a zero-tolerance policy towards defacement on campus. In a statement issued on Wednesday, the university stated, "Candidates must use only handmade posters for campaigning, within the prescribed expenditure limits. Vehicles with tinted glass or missing number plates will be seized immediately." The DUSU poll has become synonymous with lavish roadshows and widespread littering of pamphlets and posters.

Hold letter writing initiative thanking armed forces: DoE

As part of Independence Day celebrations, the Directorate of Education (DoE) has directed schools to hold various patriotic events, including an initiative for students to send letters to the armed forces and the police. "The letter writing drive should be organised on August 11, wherein students will write letters addressed to the armed forces and the police. Schools shall coordinate with the Department of Posts for facilitating the dispatch of the letters to nearby police or Army stations," the DoE stated.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice to all and everyone is hereby given for and on behalf of our clients Smt. Rita Gupta wife of Shri

clients Smt. Rita Gupta wife of Shri PARVEEN KUMAR GUPTA.. and (2) Mr. Praveen Kumar Gupta S/o Shri Jugal Kishore Gupta R/o H.no. 9, 3rd Floor Road No.5, East Punjabi Bagh-110026 now Residing in Paschim Vihar who have entered into an agreement to sell and purchase with the owner Smt. Neera Mehra wife of Late Shri Som Nath Mehra, Resident of A-2/13.1, Raijouri Garden. New

of A-2/131, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027. Property no. A-2/131. Rajouri Garden, New Delhi -110027

Rajouri Garden, New Delhi -110027 measuring 262 Sq. Yards The matter is pending for execution of sale deed/documents due to NOC awaited from the pertaining to this property. That in the meantime Mr. Mohit Nagi who is Son of Neera Mehra and Instrumental in the deal also witness in the a greement to sell by misrepresentation got the Gift deed executed in his favour after the receipt of Rs. 1.51 Crores from our client, our

of Rs. 1.51 Crores from our client, ou

of Rs. 1.51 Crores from our client, our clients are always ready and willing to perform the said agreement Any attempt to sell or purchase the above said property by the Neera Mehra on Mohit Mehra on the basis of the said

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try to sell and purchase the above said property which is bound under

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that our client, **Emaar India Limited** and its ubsidiaries had entered into a transaction with Worldwide Resorts & Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. for joint development of a project or the land ("said Land"), more particularly

However, due to multiple and continuing defaults by Worldwide Resorts & Entertainment Pvt. Ltd., the said transaction documents have been terminated and all rights, entitlements and authorities granted to Worldwide Resorts & Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. with effect from 20 luly 2025. effect from 20 July 2025.

The public at large is cautioned not to deal with Worldwide Resorts & Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. or any person claiming through or under it in relation to the said Land or any

Any person entering into any transaction or dealing with Worldwide Resorts & Entertainment Pvt. Ltd. or any person claiming through or under it in relation to the said Land shall be doing so at their own risk and consequences, and Emaar India Limited and its subsidiaries shall not be responsible for any such dealings.

This Caution Notice is issued in the public interest by Emaar India Limited and its ubsidiaries owning the said Land. Schedule Referred to Hereinahove

I. Description of Property

admeasuring 73.60 acres in Sub-tehsil Harsaru, District Gurugram, Harvana, as described below -

(1) Rectangle No. 28 Killa No. 15/2/2 (0-12); Rectangle No. 39 Killa No. 1 (8-0), 2 (4-8) and 10 (3-13); Rectangle No. 40 Killa No. 13 (8-0), 17 (2-3) 18/1 (1-12), 18/2 (7-2), 21/3 (0-8) Rectangle No. 41 Killa No. 5/2 (4-0) 6/1 (6-4), 21 (8-0), 22 (8-0); **Rectangle No. 42** Killa No. 1/3 (0-4), 8/2/2 (0-9), 13/1 (3-16); **Rectangle No. 43** Killa No. 1 (8-0), 2 (8-0), 4/3 (2-18), 4/4 (0-13), 7 (8-0), 8/1 min south (0-10), 8/2/1 (3-11, 9/1 (6-13), 9/2 (1-7), 10 (8-0), 11 (8-0), 12/1 (3-11), 12/2 (4-9), 13/2 (4-4), 14/1 (4-0) of Village Bans Haria

7/2 (4-9), 8/1/1/2 (0-4), 8/1/2/2/2 (3-9), 8/1/2/2/1 (0-3), 10/1/1 (2-10) 10/1/2 (4-0), 11 (8-0), 12 (8-0), 13 (8-(5-0); Rectangle No. 6 Killa No. 5 (2 (3-0); **rectainge vo. 5** killar vo. 5 (2: 11), 6/2 (1-1), 6/1/1 (5-0), 6/1/2 (1-16), 7 (2-15), 13 (3-2), 14 (7-18), 15 (8-0), 16 (8-0), 17 (8-0), 18 (8-0), 19 (4-0), 21 (5-2), 22 (8-0), 23/1 (7-4), 24/1 (5-12), 25/1 (1-7); **Rectangle** No. 7 Killa No. 25 (0-4), Rectangle No. 8 Killa No. 25 (5-5); Rectangle No. 5 (3-17), 6 (2-18), 7 (8-4), 8 (2-18), 13/1 (2-18), 13/2 (5-2), 14 (8 0), 15 (8-0), 16 (8-0), 17 (8-0), 18 (8-0), 20/2 (5-4), 21 (8-0), 23 (8-0), 24 (8-0), 25 (8-0); **Rectangle No. 10** Killa (8-0), 23 (8-0), 9 (10-0), 10/11 (8-1), 10/27 (1-16), 10/27 (0-18), 11 (8-0), 12 (4-13), 13/1 (7-13), 14 (8-0), 15/1 (2-0), 18 (6-13), 19 (8-0), 20 (8-0), 21 (8-0), 22/4 (0-16), 22/5 (6-10), 23 (8-0), 24/2 (7-9), 25/1 (0 19); Rectangle No. 23 Killa No. 4/1/2 (0-19); Rectangle No. 24 Killa No. 4 (8-0), 5/1 (1-6); **Rectangle No. 23** Killa No. 1 (8-0), 2 (8-0), 3 (8-0), 4/1/1 (1-11), 4/2 (4-6) and **Rectangle No. 24** Killa No. 1/1 (2-5), 3 (8-0) of Village

3 Rectangle No. 56 Killa No. 11 (8-0), 12 (8-0), 13/1 (6-12), 19 (8-0), 20 (8-0), 21 (8-0), 22 (8-0) and Rectangle No. 63 Killa No. 1 (1-16) of Village Bangrola

II. Parties to the transaction

 Emaar India Limited (CIN: U45201DL District Centre, Saket, New Delhi 110017), and its subsidiaries

2. Worldwide Resorts & Entertainmen Pvt. Ltd. (CIN: U74999DL2016PT) 299194, registered office at House No 738, 2nd Floor, Block A, Shastri Nagar Delhi - 110052)

III. Transaction Documents:

1. Joint Development Agreement dated 28.06.2023

. Addendum dated 04.10.2023 3. Special Power of Attorney dated 28.06.2023

Issued by: For and on behalf of Emaar India Limited and the Landowners hrough their Advocates Chandhiok & Mahajan, Advocates &

CM demands refund of ₹1 crore from Kejriwal over 'fake' phansi-ghar

Declaring a tiffin room as an execution chamber was 'insult to martyrs', says Rekha Gupta; AAP accuses ruling party of 'standing with the British'

NEW DELHI

hief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday called for a thorough inquiry and demanded that the ₹1.04 crore spent by the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government on a Britishera "fake" 'phansi-ghar (execution room)' at the Delhi Assembly be recovered from former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

Terming the move a "deception of people" and an "insult to martyrs", Ms. Gupta said the installation was based on no official documentation and essentially a repurposed "tiffin room" falsely portrayed as a historic phansi-ghar to mislead the public.

During a discussion in the Assembly, she said an FIR should be registered against Mr. Kejriwal and the structure be removed before August 25.

EDUCATIONAL



Speaker Vijender Gupta showing the *phansi-ghar* during the Delhi Assembly's Monsoon Session on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Noting that the phansighar was inaugurated on August 9, 2022, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta said the 1911-12 building map accessed from the National Archives clearly marked the space as a tiffin room. "I challenge AAP to find one historian who can verify it was an execution room," he said.

'Distortion of heritage' "Such tiffin rooms are in other offices too. You will

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know about them if you conduct an inquiry. Without any documents, it was declared as an execution room. We are ashamed of this. He [Kejriwal] had a disease of lying," the CM said, terming it a "distortion of heritage".

AAP legislator Sanjeev Jha said many execution rooms from the British era are not officially recorded and accused the ruling party of "standing with the British".

KALAM IAS

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snatching of the gold chain of a Congress MP from Tamil Nadu in Chanakyapuri on Monday. The accused, identified as Sohan Rawat alias Sonu,

The Delhi police on Wed-

nesday arrested one per-

son in connection with the

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Man who snatched

Congress MP's chain

arrested from Okhla

was arrested from Okhla's Harkesh Nagar area.

R. Sudha, Lok Sabha member from Mayiladuthurai, had complained that she was robbed of her gold chain, weighing more than four sovereigns, by a bikeborne assailant when she was on a morning walk along with DMK Rajya Sabha member Rajathi Salma outside the Embassy of Poland in Chanakyapuri. Ms. Sudha had sustained minor injuries in the incident.

A police officer said with

the police said the help of CCTV footage and technical surveillance, the accused was found rid-

The accused is a

habitual offender

and was released

on bail on June 26,

mitting the alleged crime. On Wednesday morning, the police received a tip-off on the accused's location. "A trap was laid and Sonu was apprehended along with the stolen twowheeler he had allegedly used in the crime," said the

ing a two-wheeler in the

Moti Bagh area after com-

"The accused is a habitual offender and was released on bail on June 26," said the officer, adding that the chain was recovered from his possession.

police officer.

Facial recognition part of safe city project, govt. tells RS

Thursday, August 7, 2025

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

The 'Safe City Project' approved by the Union Home Ministry for the national capital includes deployment of a facial recognition system on select CCTV cameras to monitor "suspected people and criminals", the Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday.

Replying to a question posed by Rajya Sabha member Saket Gokhale, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Ministry has approved the project to be implemented by Delhi Police.

"The project includes the deployment of a facial recognition system on identified CCTV cameras to watch suspected persons/criminals," he said.

Act on plea for database of repeat sexual offence complainants: HC

The Hindu Bureau

The Delhi High Court on

database of individuals who have filed multiple complaints against sexual offences

A Bench of Chief Justice D.K. Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela observed that the petitioner had already submitted a re-

presentation to the Delhi police and other authorities concerned. The petition alleged rampant misuse of rape laws by some and called for the mandatory collection of identity proof, preferably Aadhaar, from such complainants.

NEW DELHI

Wednesday directed the police and other authorities in the Capital to expeditiously decide on a plea seeking the creation of a

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE Short e-Tender No: BS6/051115/2025 - TNCSC/25-26

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites online electronic tender for the Purchase of "60,000 Metri Tonnes of Tur dal (Split- Husked &Fatka)[Indigenous]/Tur Dal (Split Husked-Imported)/ Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Split - Husked & Laired No.2) / Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellov Lentil (Whole - Husked & Laired No.2) for three months of October-2025, November-2025 and December-2025 as per AGMARK specifications Complete Short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded from https:tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

The bidders have to participate only through online bidding with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or

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-:: EXTENDED TIME SCHEDULE FOR "FIRST ROUND" OF In the continuation of the extended time schedule issued by the Medical Counseling

Committee (MCC) New Delhi for NEET UG counseling, the Extended Time Schedule of the first round of UP NEET UG Counseling 2025 for admission to state quota seats of MBBS/BDS courses in government/private medical/dental colleges/institutions/ universities is as follows:-

S.No.	Description	Dates	Total Days	
1.	Date of online registration and uploading of documents	From:- 08-08-2025 (11:00 AM) To:- 11-08-2025 (11:00 AM)	03 days	
2.	Date of depositing registration and security money	From:- 08-08-2025 (11:00 AM) To:- 11-08-2025 (02:00 PM)	04 days	
3.	Date of merit list declaration	On:- 11-08-2025	01 days	
4.	Date of On-line Choice filling From:- 11-08-2025 (05:00 PM) To:- 13-08-2025 (05:00 PM)		02 days	
5.	Date of Allotment Result Declaration	On:- 14-08-2025	01 days	
6.	Date for downloading the allotment letters & Admission	From:- 18-08-2025 To:- 23-08-2025 & From:- 25-08-2025 To:- 26-08-2025	08 days	

contained in the government order/brochure of UP NEET UG 2025.

 Only those candidates will be eligible for choice filling who have completed the registration process and whose original documents have been verified online and who have deposited the security Fee. Candidates who have already completed online registration, document verification

and deposited registration fee and security money as per the schedule issued earlier for the first round of counseling of UP NEET UG 2025, are not required to re-register, re-verify documents and deposit registration fee and security money Such candidates, who have locked their choices after choice filling between 31.07.2025 to 04.08.2025 as per the schedule issued earlier for the first round

counseling of UP NEET UG 2025, no request for unlocking of their choices or making changes in the choices filled by them will be considered. The brochure and important instructions of UP NEET UG 2025 are available on the

website www.upneet.in and www.dgme.up.gov.in. Keep visiting regularly for

 Other terms and conditions will remain same ➤ Helpline Numbers: 8189011696, 8189011697, 8189011698, 8189011699,

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Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.optcl.co.in**. HIPR-27/2025-26

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GENERAL COMMERCE & ACCOUNTANCY OPTIONAL By CA RAHUL KUMAR (3 UPSC Interviews) **MANAGEMENT OPTIONAL** BY TEAM OF EXPERTS **ENGLISH LITERATURE**

Learn

PERSONAL CHANGE OF NAME

This is to cerify that I. Reshma w/o Rajender kumar R/o C/83 gali no 9 C-block Gamri extn. Bhajanpura

Delhi-53 Have Changed My Name Reshma To Raj Bala For All Future Purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

No -15819204P Hay Amannree Singh have changed my mother name from Gurmeet Singh to Gurmeet vide affidavit No. PB61219380082523X before Executive Magistrate Mansa, Punjab.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CAUTION NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that ou client, **Emaar India Limited** and its with Synergy Finhub LLP for development of a residential project on the Land ("said Land"), more particularly described in the

transaction documents have been terminated and all rights, entitlem authorities granted to Synergy Finhub LLP with effect from 18 June 2025. The public at large is cautioned not to deal with Synergy Finhub LLP or any person claiming through or under it in relation to

the said Land or any part thereof. Any person entering into any transaction or dealing with Synergy Finhub LLP or any person claiming through or under it in relation to the said Land shall be doing so at their own risk and consequences, and Emaar India Limited and its subsidiaries

This Caution Notice is issued in the public interest by Emaar India Limited and its subsidiaries owning the said Land. Schedule Referred to Hereinabove

shall not be responsible for any such

Description of Property admeasuring 17.61875 acres in Sector 66, Gurugram-Manesar Urban Complex, Gurugram, Haryana within the revenue estate of Tehsil Badshahpur,

(1) Rectangle No. 71 Killa No. 1/1(5-7) 1/2/2 (1-18), 2/1 (1-14), 2/2 (3-10), (7-0), 8(7-7), 9(8-0), 10/1 (5-16) 12/2/2 (2-16), 13 (8-0), 14 (8-0), 17/ (5-16), 18/1 (6-7), 19/1/1/1 (2-9) 22/2/2 (4-12), 23/2 (7-18), 26/2 (0-19 and **Rectangle No. 97** Killa No. 2/2 (5-8 and 3 (8-0) of Village Badshahpur

2) Rectangle No. 71, Killa No. 24/1 (2-9),

Farates to the trainsaction: Emaar India Limited (CIN: U45201 DL2005PLC133161, having its registered office at 306-308, Square One, C-2, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi - 110017) and its subsidiaries

. Addendum dated 12.08.2024

Issued by: or and on behalf of Emaar India Limited and the Landowners

this Notice shall be deemed to be legal notice to the public and all parties and any action contrary to the Agreement shall be null and void. Sanjay Mishra (Advocate) Office 9/10 Subhash Nagar. New Delhi-27

However, due to multiple and continuing defaults by Synergy Finhub LLP, the said

ectangle No. 97 Killa No. 4/1 (2-4), 4/2 |-16), 4/3 (5-0) and 5/1/1 (7-7) of II. Parties to the transaction

Synergy Finhub LLP (Registration No. AAR-4416, having its Office at Block B, First Floor, Lok Vihar, Pitampura, New Delhi - 110034) III. Transaction Documents:

. Special Power of Attorney dated 29.08.2022 . Addendum to Special Power of Attorney dated 12.08.2024

their bids through the Through their Advocates Chandhiok & Mahajan, Advocates &

PUBLIC NOTICE **DECLARATION OF** PROCLAMATION OF **OFFENDERS**

Whereas the Hon'ble Delhi State n order dated execution Petition No. EA-34/2024 itled as "Satish Gupta vs Parsvnath Developers Ltd." declaring the ollowing Directors of the Judgment Ollowing Directors of the Substitution of the Debtor Company namely Parsynath Developers Ltd. as Proclaimed

Sheetal Prasad Jain r/o 7, Central Lane, Bangali Market, NDMC, New Delhi-110001, DIN: 00333486 2. Mr. Rajeev Jain S/o Mr. Sheetal Jain r/o H.no. D-129, Ist Near Durga Mandir, Preet Shakarpur, Delhi-110092,

00433463. 3. Mr. Subhash Chander Setia S/o Mr. Suraj Prakash r/o KG-1/350, Vikas Puri, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi-110018, DIN: 01883343. Mr. Ashok Kumar S/o Mr. Jai

ash r/o Disco Compound, Road Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201001, DIN: 00138677. 5. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar Jain S/o Mr. etal Prasad Jain r/o J 12/2. DLF City, Phase-II, Gurgaon-122002, DIN: 00333881. The aforementioned individuals ar nereby directed to appear before the Hon'ble Commission (DSCDRC) within

a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice. Issued under Order of the Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DSCDRC). Date: 30-07-2025.

Deputy Registrar

TENDERS

SOPHISTICATED TEST AND INSTRUMENTATION CENTRE (STIC) Cochin University Campus, Kochi-22 Sealed online tenders are invited for the Procurement of Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscope (FESEM) for Sophisticated Test and Instrumentation Centre (STIC), CUSAT Campus, Kochi. Interested suppliers may submit

e-procurement portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in/nicgep/app DIRECTOR, STIC

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THE HINDU



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

<u>The Hindu Bureau</u>

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'

Iustice 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,

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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 GROUP

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Clarify land pooling policy: HC to Punjab

Court asks State government whether environmental impact assessment had been carried out before notifying the policy; Aam Aadmi Party govt. submits that the policy, approved by the Cabinet in June, will be put on hold till the next date of hearing

The Hindu Bureau CHANDIGARH

he 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

Gurdeep Petitioner Singh Gill had submitted that the policy was notified

sustenance.



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 also 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 Avushman 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.

Timings **DELHI**

Palam

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RISE	05:46	9

	anni.	IVIOL	05:46	JEI	19.00
RISE 18:00 SET 03:		RISE	18:00	SET	03:21

FRIDAY, AUG. 08 RISE 05:47 SET 19:07

	RISE	18:43	SET	04:23
SAT	URDAY.	AUG. 09		

RISE	05:47	SET 19:06
RISE	19:21	SET 05:28

RISE	SET	05:	28	
Delhi We	ma	ΙX	min	
Delhi City	33	3	26	
Safdarjang		33	3	26

Delhi Palam Today 33°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 34°C Morning will be pleasant rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

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THE HINDU

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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: -SI. Post Level/Pay Band Post

Pay Level 11 (Salary shall be payable based on last pay Extendable up to 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, Schedulec

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 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

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,
- · GENERAL MEDICINE, BIOCHEMISTRY,
- MICROBIOLOGY, FORENSIC MEDICINE,
- GENERAL SURGERY, • TB & CHEST,

PHARMACOLOGY,

· RADIOLOGY, COMMUNITY MEDICINE, 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.

TRIPURA RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

(Department of Power, Government of Tripura)

PNIe-T No.F.6(432)/TREDA/NCES/2024-25/Pt.-I/3114

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 DNIe-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.

(DS DAS) Joint Director

MADHYA PRADESH RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (An Agency of Panchayat & Rural Development Department, Govt. of M.P.) 3rd Floor, Vikas Bhawan, Arera Hills, Bhopal (M.P.), (GST No. 23AAATM9054A3ZX) Bhopal, Dated: 06.08.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 1236 (PM-JANMAN)

(Batch-II, Year-2024-25)

Online Tenders for Construction of Rural Roads /CDs with 5 years maintenance are invited on the E-Procurement System portal https://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in. as detailed below;

- Name of Work Construction/Up-gradation of Rural Roads under PMGSY including maintenance for Five year after construction. SSR Applicable :- SSR issued by M.P. Rural Road Development Authority, effective from
- 01.01.2024 and amended upto issue date of NIT.
 - PMAJANMAN-Batch-II

S. No. | Name of District | No. of Packages | No. of Road | Total Length (in kms) | Total PAC (In Rs.) 1. Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission : The bid document is available

online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

Bid document may be purchase online from 11.08.2025 (17:30 hrs.) and last date for online bid submission is 27.08.2025 (17:00 hrs.)

Other Critical dates and details can be viewed in the detailed N.I.T. and SBD for PMGSY

Works (June-2020) on the above-mentioned portal and concerned PIU.

C. Madhyam/121457/2025

CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (TENDER) M.P. Madhyam/121457/2025

''मेरी सड़क'' ऐप डाउनलोड कर, फीडबैक देकर राष्ट्र के विकास में सहयोग दें।

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

Invitation for Contractor Engagement Survey & Virtual Meeting PWD, Government of Puducherry has proposed to avail ADB Joan (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



Time Extension Notice-03

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-24800 Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvnl.com

ldentification 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

Due to unavoidable circumstances, due dates in respect of online Bio

Last Date /Time of Receipt of bid on the portal: 22-09-2025 till 16:00 Hrs Detail of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancelation etc. may b obtained from the website. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement porta http://uktenders.gov.in.

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



DIPR/CP/MIA/2226/2025-26

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)-2-1 Sub Division.

Amount put to tender: Rs. 1,85,81,179/-. EMD: Rs. 2,78,800/-.

Last date and time for reciept 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)

TIDEL PARK LTD. (An ISO 9001/1400/145001 Company) CIN No. U7/4999TN1997PLC039523 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/2025-2026/16 E- TENDER NOTICE FOR OUTSOURCING OF SECURITY AND FIREFIGHTING 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. DIPR/4231/TENDER/2025 Managing Director **EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manage (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad dated 04.08.2025:- SI. No.: 1 E-Tender No.: 147-DHN-

2025-26. Name of the work with its location & completion period: Repair to leaky roo 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 SI. No.: 3 E-Tender No.: 149-DHN-2025-26. Name of the work with its location & completion period: Enhancement of Coach stabling 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. SI. 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. SI. 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 Sr. DEN/1/DHN jurisdiction. 06(Six) months Approx. cost of work (In Rs.): 29,92,888.45. SI. No.: 6 E-Tender No.: 152-DHN-2025-26. Name of the work with its location & completion period: Special maintenance repairs in roofs, floors, toilets, wall & door windows at BRWD, RAY, KLRE & MMLN station service buildings & provision of station name boards under Sr. DEN/1/DHN jurisdiction. 12(Twelve) months Approx. cost of work (In Rs.): 64,98,965.55. SI. No.: 7 E-Tender No.: 153-DHN-2025-26. Name of the work with its location & completion period: Replacement of perforated/cracked members of 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 SI. 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 & br no. 334UP (3X12.20)m, 315UP (2X12.20+7X18.30+2X12.20)m, 310UP (1X30.50)m 278UP (2X12.20)m, 253 UP(1X12.20+ 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 SI. 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 etc. 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.ireps.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.ireps.gov.in No. manual

PR/0724/DHN/Engg./T/25-26/112

tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

for Divisional Railway Manager(Engineering) East Central Railway/ Dhanbad

M ND-NDE

DIPK-4860/25

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 orignal/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenderes, and any such maunal offer received shall be ignored Tender/Bid No.: TKD-20-2025, Name of Work And Station: "Retro Fitmen of Air Conditioning in Cabs with provision of thermal insulation of Cabs in three phase locomotives" Qtv.: As per schedule of rates, Estimated Cost (In Rs.):82563304.04, Cost of Tender Form (In Rs.): Nill, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 562800/-, Completion Period: 18 Months, Last Date & Time of Submmission 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.ireps.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. fo any correction in this tender corrigendum will be up-loaded or website, which may be seen up-to the date of tender opening., 4. Tenderer must have class-III, digital signature certificate and will have to register or REPS portal.

(SD) For Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/TR abad, West Central Railway, New Dehli 🔿 स्वच्छ भारत अभिन

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



HEMALATHA RAMACHANDRAN ndly called Chaichai, Charu, Hemu, Phi 09.02.1932 - 04.08.2025 W/O Late C.V. Ramachandra Forever on our minds Deeply mourned by family & friends Mobile: +91 99402 63005



Your feedback will keep us

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THE HINDU the hindu businessline.

FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR YOURSWORLD THE HINDU

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/S/E-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 the maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with the J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways, and other State Governments. in a e of

	Name of Work with Package No. (Rs in I		(Rs in lacs.)			à	n of		in en (c	Class of contractor.
S. No.		Construction	Maintenance	Total	Cost of document (In Rs)	Earnest Money (Bid Security) (Rs in lacs.)	Time for completion of construction of	Tender Call	Time and Date of openi of tenders online (Technical Bid)	
1	2		3		4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Construction and maintenance of road from L030 (Link Road) Balhama Braman RD-3750 to Ladiagan, Length: 2.20 KM, JK03-4003 stage Complete, PMGSY4V (Batch-I, 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology) PMGSY Division	493.32	39.47	532.79	8500/-	10.66	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 roadL023 Link Road Chatoosa Pazalpora Hamam Km 8th to Markote Length 2 20KM JK034004 stage Complete PMGSY IV Batch I 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 Collage Gohan RD-4300 to Kallar, Length: 1.60 KM JK03-4008, stage Complete, PMGSYIV (Batch-I, 2025-26), 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) BaramullaBabareshi RD-13300 to Galibal, Length: 2.60 KM, JK03-4009, stage Complete, PMGSYIV (Batch-1, 2025-26) (Waste Plastic Technology), PMGSY Division Baramulla	535.28	42.82	578.10	8500/-	11.56	548 days	1st	276.08.2025 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! Dassi to Nai Basti Badwan Wanpora Stage Complete, Package No. JK15- 4014 Sanctioned Length: - 2,76 Km (Waste Plastic Technology), Carriage way 3,736mtr. PMCSY IV Batch-Ist (2025- 2026) Division Bandipora.	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) Maidanan to Chotali RD 6400 to Somali, Package No JMO3-4503, Sanctioned Length -2.5 Km, Complete Stage, Carriage way Width - 3.75 Km, under PMGSY -IV, Batch -I 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- 4505, Sanctioned Length -1.60 Km, Complete Stage, Carriage way Width - 3.75 Km, under PMGSY IV, Batch I 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) Mohura BaazTrahgan RD 4000m to Bajar Mohalla, Package No JK03-4506, Sanctioned Length -2.00 Km, Complete Stage, Carriage way Width -3.75 Km, under PMGSY IV.	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

Batch of 20025-26, PMGSY Division Un

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diding documents can be downloaded from the website http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.infrom 06-08-2025(10:00 AM) to 26-08-2025upto (4:30 PM).

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up to due date and time will be opened online on 27-08-2025 at 11:00 AM in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed of

the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue,

mplete bidding process will be on line.

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Trissed 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 I arately at the time of allotment. All duties, taxes, royallies and other levies payable by the Contractor under the Contract, or for any other cause, shall be included in the rate by at the time of allotment. All duties, taxes, royalties and other revises payative by the Command of the Comm

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bidders are advised to upload the required occuments murmature across a second control of the declared as non-responsive, in tructions shall be declared as non-responsive, date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site http://mgsqtendersjk.gov.in. This is conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail messer anial address. The Financial-Bids shall be opened accordingly on line on same Web Site at the Superintending Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Circle Baramulja Kashmir er detals can be seen in the bidding documents/bid data sheet. The Employer shall not be held leible for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even through a second to the control of the properties of any internation to received by the defect. Its the bidders' responsibility to verify and sistle for the latest information related to the tender. Corrigendum (if any) will be posted on the https://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in. All future correspondence/corrigendum standards and the control of the control of the standards and the control of the control of the control of the standards and the control of the control of the control of the standards and the control of the control of the control of the standards and the control of the control of the control of the standards and the control of the c ublished on the same website which should be regularly monitored by the intending tenderer.
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Qualification of Bidders) of TIB (Instruction to Bidders), Appendix to TIB, Section 3 (Qualification Information), Contract Data to G.C.C. & Section 7 of Bidding Document.

Superintending Enginee PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kmi

States



Jharkhand MP, Congress MLA seek Bharat Ratna for Soren

Jharkhand Rajya Sabha MP and JMM leader Mahua Maji on Wednesday demanded that former Chief Minister Shibu Soren be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna. "I don't think there is any other tribal leader of his stature in the country," Ms. Majhi said. Supporting the lawmaker, Congress legislator Rajesh Kachchap said, "Shibu Soren was a true tribal leader. People of the State, along with me, will support the demand, which will be a true tribute to him." On Tuesday, Bihar MP Pappu Yadav and Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari had also demanded the Bharat Ratna for the departed JMM leader. PTI

Hathras stampede: charges framed against all 11 accused

Charges were framed against all 11 accused in the July 2024 Hathras stampede during a religious gathering after they were produced in court on Wednesday. With this, the court has moved the case to the evidence stage and the trial proceedings are set to begin. The next hearing is scheduled for August 18, the defence lawyer said. The charges were framed based on the SIT's chargesheet submitted earlier in the district court. The stampede, which took place during a satsang of self-styled godman Surajpal, claimed 121 lives on July 2, 2024 in the Sikandrarao area. The police arrested 11 people, including Mr. Surajpal's close aide, Devprakash Madhukar. PTI

Omar reaches out to leaders across party lines seeking **J&K Statehood restoration**

Letter to political parties seeks support to raise issue in Parliament so Bill on matter is introduced and passed in ongoing Monsoon Session; demand not concession but course correction, says CM

Peerzada Ashiq SRINAGAR

n a bid to garner support for the restoration of Statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said on Wednesday that he has written to the heads of all national political parties, including the BJP and the Congress, seeking their help to raise the issue in Parliament so that a Bill on the matter is introduced and passed in the ongoing Monsoon Session.

"Statehood is a promise made to the people of J&K in public meetings, in Parliament, and before the Supreme Court. The issue should be raised in Parliament so that the Bill is passed in the current session," Mr. Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister said he reached out to the political parties on Tuesday, the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under provisions of Article 370 of the Constitution in 2019. The letter also coincided with the growing demand from regional pol-



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah (centre) during a public outreach programme in Srinagar on Wednesday. X/@CM_JNK

itical parties – such as the Peoples Democratic Party, Congress, CPI(M), J&K Peoples Conference, J&K Apni Party, and Awami Ittehad Party – to restore Jammu and Kashmir's Statehood.

'Constitutional right' In the three-page letter, ac-

cessed by The Hindu, Mr. Abdullah described restoration of Statehood as "an essential course correction". "Restoration of Statehood is not a concession to J&K but a course correction that the very idea of India is undermined if the Statehood, which is a foundational

and constitutional right, is reduced to the discretionary favour of the Central government," it stated.

Mr. Abdullah said the precedent set by downgrading a State to a Union Territory will have unsettling consequences for the country and it should be a "red line... that must never be crossed".

"Federalism is anchored in the recognition of a State's right to exist and function with dignity, autonomy, and constitutional protection. If the Union were to assume and exercise the unilateral authority to downgrade a State to a Union Territory, regardless of the justification, it would mark a fundamental departure from the constitutional scheme," it read.

The circumstances may vary, Mr. Abdullah said, but the precedent it sets is profound and unsettling. "The act of reducing J&K from a State to a UT in 2019 and the prolonged delay in restoring its status as a full State, you would agree, has profound implications for the future of Indian polity."

The Chief Minister expressed regret in the letter over the Central government "not acknowledging" the overwhelming participation of voters in the Assembly election last year and people rising against terrorism after the Pahalgam attack in April.

"I was assured that Statehood would be restored. The Centre's commitment that [status as] UT (Union Territory) was temporary appears to be more a convenient alibi than a genuine commitment. Only the strength of moral conviction can now pave the way for the restoration of Statehood," it stated.

In Delhi, Shinde says no 'strings' in his ties with Maharashtra CM

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday, on a visit to Delhi, said after meeting Home Minister Amit Shah that the Mahayuti alliance of the BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP will fight the local body elections in Maharashtra together.

The Shiv Sena leader rejected suggestions that his frequent visits to Delhi are linked to his "differences" with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, saying there are no strings in their ties and that they are working together for the State's development.

In a statement later, he announced his party's "unconditional support" to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) for the vice-presidential election scheduled for September 9, which has been necessitated following the resignation of incumbent Jagdeep Dhankhar last month.

Praise for Shah

Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted at a meeting of NDA MPs on Tuesday that Mr. Shah has become the longest-serving Union Home Minister,



Maharashtra Deputy CM Eknath Shinde with PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

the Maharashtra Deputy CM said he and his party MPs congratulated Mr. Shah on the milestone.

He also hailed the Home Minister for his "decisive" leadership, saying he fulfilled the dream of Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray by abrogating Article 370, and taking effective action against terrorism and Naxalism. "From cooperative development to national security, Shah's contributions have been exemplary," he said.

Mr. Shinde also met the Prime Minister and congratulated him on the success of Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev. He was accompanied by wife Lata, son Shrikant and daughter-in-law Vrushali during his audience with Mr. Modi.

KDA declares 3-day stir from Aug. 9 to press for demands

Press Trust of India

The Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) on Wednesday announced a three-day hunger strike from August 9 over the "delay" by the Centre in holding the next round of talks concerning its demand for Statehood and inclusion of the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Leaders of the Leh Apex Body have also been requested to join the protest that will begin in Kargil town and send a message to the Central government that the people of Ladakh will not stay silent on their "genuine" demands, KDA co-chairman Asgar Ali Karbalai told reporters.

The other demands of the outfits include a dedicated Public Service Commission and two parliamentary seats for the UT.

Kerala CM Vijayan seeks help to rescue Malayali tourists caught in Uttarakhand floods

The Hindu Bureau THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has sought the help of his Uttarakhand counterpart Pushkar Singh Dhami to locate the whereabouts and ensure the welfare of Malavali travellers believed to be stranded in Uttarkashi district after flash floods swamped the Kheer Ganga river causing widespread havoc and destruction on Tuesday.

In a letter to Mr. Dhami late Wednesday, Mr. Vijayan said media reports indicated the travellers from Kerala remained incommunicado since disaster struck the Dharali region, situated at an estimated 8,600 feet above sea level.

He requested the Uttarakhand CM to inform the Kerala government in case of any news about the tourists from Kerala while also



Reports say a 28-member group of Keralites is stranded in the Dharali region, worst hit by flash floods. ANI

expressing solidarity with Mr. Dhami and offering to assist in the ongoing search and rescue operations.

No information Mr. Vijavan's letter comes in the wake of reports that a 28-member group of Keralites, including several from Mumbai, was stranded in the Dharali region. Their relatives in Kerala had expressed concern about their welfare to several news outlets. A family member of one of the tourists, however, told reporters in Kochi that Defence sources informed them that the entire group was safe, but stuck in the bus with nowhere to go. The relatives said the tourists had arranged the trip through a travel agency based in Haridwar. However, the agency's best efforts to locate them have not yielded any

Dissatisfied with probe, R.G. Kar victim's parents to meet CBI chief, Amit Shah in Delhi

Shiv Sahay Singh KOLKATA

Ahead of a mega rally on August 9 to mark one year of the rape-murder of a doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Hospital, her parents on Wednesday left for New Delhi The parents said they will meet the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) chief during their visit and are willing to meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah if they can secure an appointment.

The visit assumes significance as it comes ahead of the August 9 march to Kalighat, where the residence of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is located. The parents have given a call to the people of the State, including political parties, to join the march to mark one year of the incident.

"From SUCI (Communist) to CPI(M), Congress



A man tying a rakhi on a student's wrist in Kolkata on Wednesday ahead of completion of one year of R.G. Kar rape-murder case. PTI

and BJP – we are urging all parties, except the Trinamool Congress, to join this rally for justice - not just for our daughter, but for every woman who has been brutalised," the father of the victim said.

A civic police volunteer was arrested by Kolkata Police for alleged involvement in the crime. After the case was transferred to the CBI by the Calcutta High Court, the Central agency submitted a chargesheet against Sanjoy Roy, the accused.

Life sentence

A trial court sentenced Roy to life term in January 2025. The victim's parents, however, have not been satisfied with the outcome of the investigation by the CBI, and have said that they have been failed by both the State government and the Union government.

Attempts made to defame Kanwar

penalises Punjab **Minister**

Akal Takht

Press Trust of India AMRITSAR/CHANDIGARH

The Akal Takht, the highest Sikh temporal seat, on Wednesday pronounced 'tankhah (religious punishment)' for Punjab Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains in connection with a dance performance at an event organised in Srinagar on July 24 to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru.

Mr. Bains had appeared before the five 'Singh Sahibans (high priests)' in Amritsar after he was summoned for "hurting" Sikh sentiments by organising the event. The Minister was asked to perform a series of tasks, including a two-day sewa (voluntary service) of cleaning shoes at 'Jora Ghar (place where shoes are kept)' at Sri Anandpur Sahib.

19-year-old Dalit woman 'gang-raped' by four men in M.P.

Mehul Malpani

A 19-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped by four men in Madhya Pradesh's Sidhi district when she was out with her friend, who was also assaulted by the accused, police said on Wednesday. The woman hails from the Dalit community.

According to the police, the incident took place on Tuesday afternoon when the two were hanging out in the forest area under Churhat police station limits.

Sidhi Superintendent of Police Ravindra Verma told The Hindu that the couple were in a secluded area and the accused had followed them after seeing them.

"They thrashed the man and while he ran to seek help, the accused raped the woman," he said, adding that the woman and her friend reported the incident at Semaria police station later in the day.

All four accused have been arrested.

M.P. Congress president Jitu Patwari slammed the State's ruling BJP over the incident and said that such incidents prove the "failure of the government".

"In the past three years, 7,418 cases of rape of Dalit and tribal women, 558 murders, and 338 gang rapes have been recorded in Madhya Pradesh!" he posted on X while tagging Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

Haryana human rights panel demands report on newborn's severed arm during delivery

The Hindu Bureau GURUGRAM

The Haryana Human Rights Commission has taken suo motu cognisance of an incident pertaining to a newborn, whose arm was completely severed during the delivery at a hospital in Nuh district. The incident took place on July 30 when the infant's mother, Sarjeena, was admitted to Mandi Khera Ci-Hospital for the delivery.

The Commission said the incident "constitutes a grave violation of the rights of the child as enshrined under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)" and The incident happened on July 30, when a woman was admitted to **Mandhi Khera Civil** Hospital in Haryana's Nuh for delivery

"undermines faith in public institutions".

Seeking a detailed medical and factual report from the Civil Surgeon within a fortnight, the three-member Commission, headed by Chairperson Lalit Batra, has demanded to know the exact circumstances of the delivery, reasons for the severing of the limb and steps taken for the treatment and rehabilitation of the child.

order read.

"The right to safe childbirth and postnatal care is an integral part of the right to health, protected under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The alleged severing of the newborn's arm during delivery indicates prima facie a case of egregious medical negligence," observed the Commission, in its four-page

"The failure to ensure standard operative procedures, particularly in a government facility where patients rely upon public healthcare, not only endangers lives but undermines faith in public institutions," the Commission's

Yatra but foiled by alert society, effective law and order: Adityanath

Press Trust of India BAREILLY (U.P.)

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday said that attempts to defame the Kanwar Yatra have repeatedly failed due to the vigilance of society and the proactive stance administration.

Addressing a public meeting here after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of 545 development projects worth ₹2,264 crore, he also said that the yatra is now a symbol of unity and devotion.

Taking a swipe at the Opposition parties, Mr. Adityanath accused them of indulging in appeasement



politics.

"Before 2017, Bareilly used to witness communal riots every third month. Today, it is known for the Nath Corridor and spiritual tourism," he said.

On the Kanwar Yatra, he said, "Attempts were made to hurt people's sentiments and defame the yatra, but the resolve of an awakened society and effective law and order crushed those intentions. Today, lakhs of devotees perform Jalabhishek in Bareilly's Nath Corridor – this is becoming the new identity for the city."

Development projects Talking about development

works, the Chief Minister said, "The double-engine BJP government is linking heritage with development. Projects include Nath Corridor, flood protection works, road widening, a Unani medical college, drinking water schemes, and urban infrastructure." He also distributed appointment letters to over 6,000 youths selected

through a Rozgar Mela.

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Vijay Deverakonda deposes before ED in betting apps case

Actor Vijay Deverakonda appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday as part of its ongoing probe into the alleged promotion of unauthorised online betting platforms. He arrived at the ED office in Basheerbagh, Hyderabad. Mr. Deverakonda is one of the 29 individuals summoned by the agency. The case pertains to promotional content allegedly masking unregulated gambling apps as entertainment/charity-related initiatives.

Lankan Navy arrests 14 fishers from Ramanathapuram

About 14 fishermen from Ramanathapuram district were arrested by Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL). Police sources said a mechanised boat with 10 fishermen on board was intercepted by a Sri Lankan Navy patrol boat. As they had allegedly crossed the IMBL, ten fishermen were apprehended. In another incident, four fishermen on a country boat were detained along with their boat by the Sri Lankan Navy.

No skeletal remains found at new spot in Dharmasthala

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Dharmasthala burials case did not find any skeletal remains at the new spot shown by the complainant-witness, near site no. 11 at Banglagudde near Dharmasthala, after digging at the location on Wednesday. The SIT had recovered some skeletal remains, said to be of a male, on Monday. The SIT is likely to dig at site no. 13, the last of the sites identified by the complainant-witness, on Thursday.

Telangana CM slams BJP for stalling BC reservation Bills

Members of Revanth's Cabinet protest in Delhi demanding the President's consent for two Bills on 42% BC reservation; CM says if the Bills don't get approval, it will mean the BJP is 'against BCs'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

elangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, accompanied by his entire Cabinet, including Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, held a dharna in Delhi's Jantar Mantar demanding the President's assent for two Bills passed by the State Assembly that seek to increase reservations for Backward Classes to 42% in education, employment and local bodies. The Bills have been pending for four months.

Mr. Reddy said that if the Bills are not cleared, it will be clear that BJP is "against Backward Class-



Band together: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Ministers protest at Jantar Mantar on Wednesday, SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAR

es". A related Ordinance to remove the 50% cap on reservations under the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act is also awaiting approval. The Congress government is under pressure to get the

reservation approved at the earliest since the Telangana High Court had directed the State to complete the process for local body elections by Septem-

Mr. Reddy accused the Centre of being indifferent to the pleas of the State government regarding the Bills. "That is why we have decided to protest – on the streets and in Parliament," he said. He also informed that he and his Cabinet had sought an appointment with President Droupadi Murmu but had not received any response. "If the Bills are not granted assent, it will be clear that the BJP is against Backward Castes," he added.

Mr. Vikramarka underlined that both the BJP and the Bharat Rashtra Samithi supported the Bills in the House. These Bills, he said, have been framed after meticulous planning.

HC acquits murder convict on grounds of 'legal insanity'

Shubhomoy Sikdar

The Chhattisgarh High Court recently acquitted a 25-year-old man who was awarded a life sentence for murdering his father and grandmother, after his counsel was able to prove that the appellant was of unsound mind.

Holding that Dhamtari resident Mahesh Verma, who had been convicted for the 2021 double murder, fitted the term legally insane, the court said that the Investigating Officer admitted that during the investigation, he did not procure any documents relating to psychiatric treatment of the accused from his family members.

'No certificate obtained' It further said that despite a preliminary report clearly referring to the appellant as a mental patient, no certificate from the treating psychiatrist was obtained, and the trial court merely relied on a report from the inquiry under Section 328 CrPC (which assesses competency to stand trial), not the mental status at the time of the act which is the legally relevant consideration under Section 22 BNS (or Section 84 of the IPC referring to an act by a person of unsound mind - Nothing is an offence which is done by a

person who, at the time of

doing it, by reason of un-

soundness of mind, is in-

capable of knowing the na-

ture of the act, or that he is

doing what is either wrong

'No ground' for case against

Adoor as per legal opinion

The police had

sought the district

opinion after activist

filmmakers from the Sche-

duled Castes and Sche-

duled Tribes (SC/ST) at a

cinema conclave organised

by the State government

Mr. Veyil demanded that

the police book Mr. Gopa-

lakrishnan on the charge of

violating the provisions of

the Scheduled Caste and

Scheduled Tribe (Preven-

tion of Atrocities) Act,

1989. Deputy Commission-

er of Police (Law and Or-

der), Thiruvananthapuram

City, Nakul Rajendra Desh-

mukh confirmed to *The*

here recently.

registers complaint

The HC held that an accused who seeks exoneration from liability of an act under Section 84 has to prove legal insanity and not medical insanity

or contrary to law).

The HC held that an accused who seeks exoneration from liability for an act under Section 84 has to prove legal insanity and not medical insanity.

Legal insanity "Since the term insanity or

unsoundness of mind has not been defined in the Penal Code, it carries different meaning in different contexts and describes varying degrees of mental disorder. A distinction is to be made between legal insanity and medical insanity. The court is concerned with legal insanity and not with medical insanity," the verdict delivered by Judge Bibhu Datta Guru and Chief Justice Ramesh Sinha said.

Mahesh's counsel, Abhishek Sinha, had argued before the High Court that his client was suffering from insanity at the time, and a non-examination of his mental state created a serious infirmity in the case. Mr. Sinha said the accused had suffered a head injury during COVID 19 lockdown, and his mental state was not good, and he had been under treatment for the last year at Raipur Mental Hospital.

Hindu that the government

lawyer had opined that

[for the registration of] a

Another officer privy to

the process said the pro-

secutor had told that the

remarks did not target any

specific individual or a

community. Mr. Gopalak-

rishnan's viewpoint on

training novices did not

meet the legal criterion of

a casteist slur. The prosec-

utor said a close examina-

tion of Mr. Veyil's com-

plaint did not prima facie

reveal any evidence that

warranted a registration of

However, several acti-

vists have signalled that

they would file petitions

demanding the filmmak-

by importing it from el-

ers' prosecution.

there was no

case."

a case.

Ahead of AMMA polls, | Pushpa 2 stampede: case against Shwetha

The Hindu Bureau KOCHI

The Ernakulam Central police, based on a complaint, have registered a first information report (FIR) against actor Shwetha Menon under Section 67A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 for making financial gains through her roles in movies having alleged vulgar and obscene content.

The FIR said that the alleged content was transmitted through social media and adult sites to gain popularity. It alleged that such content was misused commercially to make an earning. The police said they would initiate a probe into the allegations.

It is to be noted that the actor is contesting for the post of the president of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) in the election to the executive committee of the actors' body to be held on

NHRC issues notice

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a showcause notice to Telangana Chief Secretary, asking why it should not recommend a compensation of ₹5 lakh to the next of kin of a woman who died in a stampede during the prerelease screening of Allu Arjun-starrer Pushpa 2 at a theatre in Hyderabad on December 4 last year.

The initial report submitted by the Additional Commissioner of Police (Law & Order), Hyderabad City, on March 20, stated that permission for the event was rejected and that allegations of lathi charge were false.

However, the NHRC, after reviewing the matter, questioned why the police allowed the crowd, Allu Arjun and the theatre management to gather for an event in the absence of permission.

The Hindu Bureau

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Police have re-

ceived a legal opinion that

film director Adoor Gopa-

lakrishnan's assertion that

aspiring filmmakers from

marginalised sections of

society and women should

undergo intensive training

as a prerequisite for State

funds for making movies

and documentaries with

artistic and social value

The police had sought

the district public prosecu-

tor's opinion after social

activist Dinu Veyil regis-

tered a complaint at the

Musuem police station

here accusing Mr. Gopalak-

rishnan of articulating a

discriminatory caste pre-

judice against aspiring

Surging coconut oil prices hit Kerala Ayurvedic drug

makers; manufacturing costs go through the roof

does not warrant a case.

A.P. Ministers to visit foreign countries on study tour

The Hindu Bureau

Groups of Ministers will be sent to the developed countries to study the development projects there with an aim to bringing innovative policies to Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has informed the Cabinet.

The Ministers, particularly the young ones, will be divided into groups for the purpose. Mr. Naidu revealed the idea after the Cabinet meeting he chaired at the Secretariat on Wednesday.

Mr. Naidu said the Ministers should understand the development projects in the countries they visit and find new ways to develop Andhra Pradesh.

On Singapore visit

Revealing details of his Singapore visit, the Chief Minister, according to a few Ministers, said, "With great difficulty, we have been able to revive confidence among the Ministers and officials in the Singapore Government. Due to the unacceptable attitude of the YSRCP Government, the Singapore Government, lost trust in us. After more than 40 meetings, the Singapore authorities have accepted to participate in the investor summit slated for November in Andhra Pradesh to explore opportunities. They are reluctant to take up the Seed Capital project, as agreed before 2019, but they will extend support to complete the project."

The Chief Minister said, from the next Cabinet meeting, one Minister must explain the progress and achievements of his portfolio.

King of the hill



Perched atop: A red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*), a semi-aquatic turtle, basking in the sun at a pond in the Javamahal Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday. J. ALLEN EGENUSE

Kerala school ceiling caves in; rain holiday

averts major accident

The Hindu Bureau **THRISSUR**

A major accident was narrowly avoided after the ceiling of the assembly hall at the Government Lower Primary School, Kodaly, in Thrissur in Kerala collapsed early on Wednesday morning. None was injured as schools remained closed due to a rain-related holiday in the district.

The ceiling, located above the school's assembly area, gave way and crashed down, damaging fans and chairs placed beneath. Parents and local residents expressed deep concern, pointing out that the hall was inaugurated tion of ₹54 lakh from the local MLA's funds.

Structural defects

Locals alleged that the building was constructed in an unscientific manner and structural defects had been flagged previously. In fact, a recent Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meeting had taken a decision to carry out repairs.

Construction firm Costford attributed the collapse to relentless rain. Thrissur District Collector Arjun Pandian ordered an inquiry into the incident. MLA K.K. Ramachandran assured that the ceiling will be fully reconstructed.

A.S. Jayanth KOZHIKODE only in 2023 with an alloca-

Surging coconut oil prices have left Ayurvedic medicine manufacturers in Kerala in a fix. Despite increasing the prices of products involving coconut oil by up to 20%, the manufacturing cost is going through the roof, they say.

The Ayurveda industry

in the State is estimated at around ₹4,000 crore, and around 800 manufacturers, both big and small, are involved in the business. According to D. Ramanathan, general secretary, Ayurvedic Medicine Manufacturers of India (AMMOI), around 12,000 tonnes of coconut oil are required a year for making various products. Apart from this, coconuts and coconut oil are required for the bathing soap industry and for producing virgin coconut oil. "The price of one litre of coconut oil was ₹166 in 2020, ₹185 in 2021, ₹150 in 2022, ₹138 in 2023, and ₹160 in 2024. However, it has now risen to ₹450 this year," he says.

such as Murivenna, a healing oil for joint pain and muscle strain, and Dhurdurapathradi Velichenna, which is used for treating dandruff, pure coconut oil is used. "The market price of 450 ml of Murivenna is ₹430. The price of the coconut oil being used in this itself costs around ₹225. Along with it come the

For making products



Ripple effect: Coconut stacked in an oil mill in Kerala. The price of coconut oil has nearly tripled in one year. H. VIBHU

prices of herbs and the cost of manufacturing, packing materials, fuel, marketing, and commission for dealers. So, the manufacturers will not be able to survive if the price is at least around ₹450," points out Dr. Ramanath-

P. Ramkumar of Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala, Malappuram, who is also the president of AMMOI, says there seems to be a shortage of coconut oil across South India. "The prices of coconut oil have gone up in the past as well. We could manage the situation then

sewhere. Now, the scarcity is spread across all southern States. Even though the manufacturers have increased their product prices by 10-20% to address the situation, it is not helping much. But, we can't raise them any more as it will burden the customer," he says. As prescribed by ancient Ayurveda texts, sesame seed oil was earlier used for the preparation of 'Thailam' or oil-based products, say doctors. A few decades ago, it was replaced by coconut oil to suit Kerala's social situation and also to help coconut growers who were then hit by a campaign against its alleged unhealthy aspects.



Sleeping disasters

Governments must monitor silt accumulation at vulnerable points

he disaster in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand serves as a reminder of the permanent risk of destabilisation in the Himalayas. At least four persons were killed and at least 60 people are feared washed away after a mass of water, debris and muck triggered by torrential rain hit the Kheer Ganga river on Tuesday afternoon. The flood hit hotels and residential buildings in Dharali town, situated 8,600 feet above sea level, where video footage recorded by residents showed giant waves of water gushing through the area, engulfing people and homes. Several Indian Army personnel are also feared dead, according to preliminary reports.

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 kneejerk 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.

Judicial overreach

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

he Supreme Court of India's recent handling of defamation charges against Conoress leader Rahul Candhi marks a trou bling shift from established norms of free speech and jurisprudence on constitutional protections for political discourse. This became clear when the Bench led by Justice Dipankar Datta, while staying the proceedings on Mr. Gandhi's remarks on the Galwan clash in 2020, made problematic oral observations. Among others, Justice Datta said that had Mr. Gandhi been a "true Indian", he would not have said what he did. The Court's primary function is to adjudicate on questions of law and constitutional principle rather than to prescribe standards of national loyalty. In a democracy, surely a 'true Indian' is one who fearlessly pursues the truth and holds the government accountable – not one who accepts official narratives without question. Mr. Gandhi's commentary, in which he questioned the government's border policies and drew attention to credible reports of Chinese intrusions, also fell well within the legitimate ambit of Opposition politics. This critiquing does not, and must not be seen to, undermine the nation. Such criticism is protected by the principles of free speech and is indispensable for a healthy public discourse. The Court's remarks, by implying otherwise, risk chilling legitimate dissent and setting an inimical precedent for future Opposition conduct.

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.

Decoding China — the lessons for a vulnerable India

he exodus of over 300 Chinese engineers from Foxconn's pivotal iPhone 17 manufacturing facilities in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka – a recent move ostensibly executed under corporate directive – is far more than an administrative recalibration. It is a meticulously calibrated stratagem, designed to arrest India's burgeoning manufacturing ambitions and to perpetuate a "unipolar Asia" under Beijing's overarching economic hegemony.

A geo-economic move

This calculated withdrawal is not simply a logistical reshuffling. It is a subtle, yet potent, geo-economic manoeuvre by a rival apprehensive of a rising India. The recall of these highly specialised technicians, possessed of invaluable expertise in establishing sophisticated production lines, optimising operational efficiencies, and troubleshooting the labyrinthine complexities of modern manufacturing, represents a deliberate impediment to the crucial transfer of technology. Such knowledge is the bedrock upon which India seeks to construct its edifice of advanced electronics manufacturing, and its withholding strikes at the very heart of India's aspirational

In addition, China has leveraged its dominance in rare earth production and processing by restricting exports of rare earths (which include elements such as gallium, germanium, graphite), and rare earth magnets, which are crucial for electric vehicles and electronics, to India. China has also imposed curbs on the export of other critical minerals that are vital for various high-tech industries. There have also been informal trade restrictions on the export of capital equipment from China to India, including high-end manufacturing equipment for electronics assembly and other sectors, heavy-duty boring machines and solar equipment, severely impacting India's ability to set up and expand its own manufacturing

The broader implication of these actions, particularly the recall of engineers and restrictions on specialised equipment, is a deliberate attempt to limit the transfer of advanced manufacturing technology and know-how to India. This aims to keep India dependent on Chinese inputs and prevent it from developing a truly self-reliant high-value manufacturing base. Crucially, many of these restrictions are not formalised bans but are implemented through verbal instructions and administrative delays. This makes them harder to directly challenge but equally effective in disrupting supply chains, increasing costs, and creating uncertainty for Indian manufacturers.

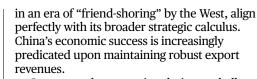
In essence, China's strategy is multi-pronged, leveraging its control over crucial raw materials, manufacturing equipment, and even human capital to impede India's manufacturing ascent, especially in the high-stakes electronics and emerging technology sectors. These actions, when viewed through the prism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



Shashi Tharoor

is a former
Under-Secretary
General of the
United Nations,
a fourth-term
Member of
Parliament
(Congress),
Lok Sabha, for
Thiruvananthapuram,
Chairman of
the Parliamentary
Standing Committee
on External Affairs,
and the

Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 27 books, including 'Pax Indica: India and the World of the 21st Century' (2012)



Consequently, any nation daring to challenge its pre-eminence in global manufacturing, particularly in high-value sectors such as electronics, is inevitably perceived not merely as a competitor but also as an existential threat. The withdrawal of these engineers, therefore, constitutes a potent stratagem to disrupt India's trajectory and safeguard China's long-entrenched export market share and economic primacy in the region and beyond. India's ambition to transform itself into a globally competitive manufacturing hub is seen in Beijing as a direct challenge to China's long-term stability.

The reality in China

Consider the demographic exigencies currently confronting China: an ageing and progressively shrinking populace, an unfortunate legacy of the protracted one-child policy, coupled with a palpable erosion of wealth occasioned by an enduring property crisis – even as local satraps exceed production targets in their zeal to impress Beijing. This widening structural imbalance between an excessive production capacity and faltering domestic consumption increasingly compels China to lean heavily on export revenues to underwrite its fiscal outlays and maintain a semblance of economic progress. As its social welfare and pension liabilities burgeon exponentially, the Chinese government finds itself under mounting fiscal duress. Any reduction of export revenues would directly impinge upon Beijing's capacity to fund critical domains such as domestic security and military expenditure, potentially precipitating an undesirable degree of social instability.

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.

An appraisal of India's strengths, shadows

China's industrial pre-eminence is not fortuitous or trivial; it is a systemic dominance that spans critical and emerging sectors, from the esoteric realms of Artificial Intelligence and quantum computing to the cutting-edge frontiers of 6G telecommunications and electric vehicles. We need to understand that China does not merely export goods; it orchestrates and largely controls global supply chains in these advanced technologies. Even its overcapacity, otherwise a sign of economic infirmity, is being deftly weaponised as a strategic instrument for price suppression and audacious market capture. The aggressive pricing strategies employed by behemoths such as BYD in the electric vehicle segment are a quintessential illustration: by flooding global markets with irresistibly priced goods, China effectively stifles nascent competition and inexorably solidifies its global market share. This is economic statecraft in action.

In stark contrast, India's manufacturing ecosystem, despite its vibrant aspirations, remains undeniably nascent. The cherished dream of transforming into a global "manufacturing hub" frequently founders upon a litany of formidable hurdles, including persistent infrastructure lacunae and the pervasive sclerosis of bureaucratic red tape. We remain regrettably reliant on imports for a pantheon of crucial components - ranging from sophisticated chips and engines to semiconductors and sensors even for the foundational "screwdriver technology" indispensable for basic assembly. This profound reliance on external sources underscores the considerable ground India must traverse to genuinely metamorphose into a self-sufficient manufacturing powerhouse. "Make in India" still needs help from outside India.

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.

Mumbai train blasts, an exoneration, the questions

he Bombay High Court's exoneration of all those convicted in the Mumbai train blast case of July 2006, has come as a rude shock for the families of the 189 people killed and around 800 people who were injured. The High Court has ripped apart the investigation, calling witnesses untrustworthy, deeming confessions gained as under duress, terming identification parades faulty and citing forensic evidence custody as not foolproof. It is a shocker because it was based on the same evidence that the trial court, in 2015, sentenced five of the accused to death and seven to life imprisonment.

A long wait, lapses

Who will answer for the inordinately long incarceration of the accused since 2006? The police, the prosecution, lawyers or the courts? Or all of them, that is the criminal justice system? It takes years for trials in courts. One of the defence lawyers said that the charge sheet filed by the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) had 20,000 pages, while much lesser numbers would suffice. It is like schoolchildren taking their examinations and filling pages with answers, hoping to impress the teacher with volume rather than quality. But the nine years taken by the Special Court and 10 years by the High Court for their decisions make the waiting period so agonising to the point of being meaningless for the accused. Nineteen years is a lifetime and almost like a sentence

Admitted there is tremendous pressure on investigating teams and the police chief in a terrorist or any high-profile case. The government gets unsettled with the Opposition's relentless attacks and demand to arrest the accused within minutes. It impacts investigation severely, pushing investigating officers into a corner, taking hasty decisions and bypassing protocol and procedures.

But some of the issues referred to by the High



China's

of a

determined

moves to target

India are part

meticulously

calibrated plan

to safeguard its

core economic

interests and its

internal stability

<u>Yashovardhan</u> Azad

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

The Bombay
High Court's
exoneration of
all those
convicted in the
2006 case is a
reminder that
every element
in the criminal
justice system
needs
to be reformed

Court raise concerns. Despite two confessions taken by two different deputy commissioners of police, they appear to be not similar but actually the same, with even the ellipsis matching. The witnesses became untrustworthy because, on cross-examination, they did not remain true to their original statements. Guess no one can after a lapse of so many years. It was surprising that the drawer of the sketches of the accused was not

called as a witness.

The test identification parade became suspect because the special executive officer who conducted it was not authorised to do so. Strange, because the magistrate who conducted it should have known whether he was the right person to undertake the TIP.

The investigation, however, is truly flawed if the forensic evidence purity and chain of custody cannot be vouched for faithfully. It is troubling to hear that even in such critical cases there could be lapses on this count.

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

police would have been the discovery of an Indian Mujahideen (IM) module, busted by the crime branch Mumbai in 2008, which accepted its role in the series of blasts in Ahmedabad, Delhi and Jaipur between 2005 to 2008. The gang led by Sadiq Israr Sheikh also claimed responsibility for the series of blasts in suburban trains on that day in Mumbai at around 6.30 p.m. The charge sheet in the July 11, 2006 Mumbai train blast case had already been filed by then, and the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) had announced it as the handiwork of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

In fact, in 2008, the top man of SIMI, Safdar 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump and tariffs

U.S. President Donald Trump appears to be punishing India for obtuse reasons. India, a democratic ally, has tariffs slapped on it while the West's trade with Russia continues quietly in the shadows. India has to consider seeking partners who show mutual respect. Ultimately, India should stop seeking validation and find ways now to protect its long-term interests. **Vaibhav Kochar,** Rajpura, Punjab

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

India will bounce back.

V.R. Ganesan,

Chennai

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

M ND-NDE

Opunon

Quranic justice is restorative, not retributive

he 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 (diyah) to the victim's family, as provided for under Shariah law.

The concept of *diyah* 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 (*diyah*) to the family of the slain. The Quran also talks about legal retribution (*qisaas*) 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

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Quranic

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.

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

he Telugu Desam Par-ty-led NDA government in Andhra Prais 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 33,37,762 students 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 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% and 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 reapportioned 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 period, 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

n 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?

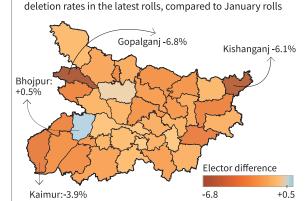
In yesterday's Data Point, we found that more deletions occurred in districts where more women than men turned out to vote in absolute numbers, even though there were more registered male electors. We had suggested that these districts had higher out-migration of men. But deletions have been more among 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,



Chart 1: The gender-wise number of electors in the January



Map 2: The district-wise gender-gap (male minus female) in

Chart 3: Male and female death rates in Bihar over the past five years. Death rate is defined as the number of deaths per thousand population in a given region and time period

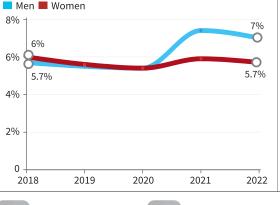
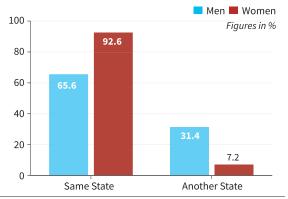


Chart 4: Percentage distribution of migrants by location of their last usual place of residence being the "same State" or from "another State" as recorded in PLFS 2020-21



OM THE ADOHIVES



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.

M ND-NDE

Text&Context

THEMOHINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Public buildings made accessible by Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan

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

In billion euros. The Messina Bridge will link Messina bridge
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

■ 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

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

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:

ith 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 CO_2 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

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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:

n 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.

The Taiwan Public Officials Election and Recall Act is a rarely used constitutional

What is the removal vote about?

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.

Digital campaign strategies in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls

Lokniti-CSDS team*

ndia's 2024 Lok Sabha election spanned seven phases from April 19 to June 1, with around 642 million voters casting ballots at 1.05 million polling stations. While traditional campaign methods such as rallies, motorcades, and door-to-door canvassing remained influential, many voters' primary engagement with political parties came through screens. Political content flooded digital spaces through short videos on social media, targeted ads following users across apps, meme pages, and influencers weaving political commentary into lifestyle content. The 2024 election was not just supported by digital media; it was fundamentally shaped by it.

The recently released report by Lokniti-CSDS provides a data-driven analysis of digital platforms' role in the 2024 elections, showing how they complemented traditional door-to-door efforts in mobilising voters. This study analysed the social media campaigns of eight political parties - the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Congress, Janata Dal (United) (JD(U)), Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Shiv Sena (Shinde), and Trinamool Congress (AITC)- on X and Facebook during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Focusing on engagement metrics and thematic content, the study tracked all posts across both platforms, including those in regional languages translated into English. Metrics such as likes, shares, comments, and views on Facebook, and likes, reposts, replies, and views on X, were used to assess voter response and messaging effectiveness. This is Part 1 of the study.

To account for differences in follower counts, the Effective Engagement Rate

LOKNITI-CSDS SURVEY

Table 1: Engagement rates (ER) on X

122,079

44,855

6,504

5,654

4,195

2,356

run by the BJP and the Congress

Note: In some instances, the same

advertisement was run in multiple

versions. This data only includes

period of the study

Money spent in ₹

0-999

1,000-4,999

5.000-9.999

10,000-19,999

20.000-49.999

50,000-99,999

>=5.00.000

BJP

INC

INC

Ads by the

Ads by the

Congress

Phase 7

1,00,000-499,999

Table 3: Total number of advertisements

41,127

1,041

No. of

dvertisemer

26,495

8,105

2,582

1,822

1,356

491

266

10

41,127

% of positive advertisements

% of negative advertisements

% of positive advertisements

% of negative advertisements

Table 9: Advertisements posted and

money spent on the corresponding

Source: The Google Ads Transparency Centre

Table 12: Impressions on advertisements

posted by the BJP and the Congress

27

Table 14: Number of advertisements

analysed and violations recorded in the

phase-wise analysis of BJP advertisements

Note: All figures are in per cent.

advertisements on Google

Number of

ads

2,25,695

9.251

and Facebook

Party

INC

BJP

AAP

RJD

DMK

AITC

BJP

INC

Shiv Sena

(Shinde)

(EER) was calculated by dividing total engagements by the total number of followers on each platform. Analysing engagement relative to follower count reveals the real impact of campaign messaging. A large following with low EER suggests weak content appeal, while a smaller following with high EER indicates stronger resonance with supporters. The engagement analysis revealed key platform-specific trends. On X, Congress recorded the highest engagement, followed by BJP and AAP, reflecting strong voter interaction (Table 1). On Facebook, Trinamool Congress led in engagement, with JD(U) also performing notably well.

Advertising strategies

Beyond engagement metrics, thematic analysis revealed distinct campaign strategies during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Posts were categorised into themes such as economic issues, policies, governance, vote appeals, and attacks on the opposition. The Thematic Average (TA) was calculated by averaging each party's thematic focus across both platforms. AAP (56%) and Trinamool (44%) focused heavily on attacking opponents, while BJP (36%) and Shiv Sena (32%) emphasised vote appeals. JD(U) centred its campaign on policy issues (60%), including reservations, youth employment, and women's empowerment (Table 2). Religious content appeared primarily in BJP and Shiv Sena posts. Demographic targeting – addressing women, youth, and farmers –was visible in posts by the JD(U) (16%) and RJD (15%).

Digital advertising is now essential in electoral campaigns, shaping voter perceptions. Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram, both owned by Meta, have become widely used in India, enabling political parties to reach and influence a diverse audience through posts

Table 2: Thematic average (TA) across parties: Facebook and X combined

Policies

19

20

11

14

60

29

27

86

13

Per cent of

advertisements

12

10

6

14

11

34

5

100

100-999 | 1,000- | 5,000- | 10,000- | 50,000- | 1,00,000- | 5,00,000-

99,999

1

49,999

25

14

Democracy

15

0

10

Demographic

targeting

13

4

10

16

15

Leadership

& personal

0

0

4

Corruption

6

Attack

against

22

33

56

44

25

36

17

Table 4: Advertisement distribution

across Meta platforms for BJP and the

BJP

53

45

Number of

62

85

147

116

351

49

1,041

11

7

4,999

15

14

11

BJP

INC

AAP

AITC*

DMK

JD(U)

Congress

Platform

Instagram

Facebook

Facebook

Unknown

Per cent of

100

Instagram &

RJD

Facebook

24,872

29,053

31,351

16,167

2,840

91,384

14,965

33,133

Table 5: Expenditure on advertisements by the BJP and the Congress

Table 8: Tone and impressions of ads run by the BJP and the Congress

Money

spent (₹)

210 million

Range of impressions

0-10,000 | 10,001-1M | Above 1M

52

21

53

Vote

appeals

36

13

13

18

23

18

32

Note: All figures are in per cent. *Trinamool Congress

and ads. The study analysed the digital strategies of Congress and BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, with a focus on their extensive use of Facebook and Instagram ads. It examines ad spend, thematic messaging, user engagement, and content consumption through the Meta Ad Library.

BJP and Congress showed stark contrasts in their digital advertising. The BJP ran 41,127 ads on Meta during the period, compared to Congress's 1,041, reflecting BJP's aggressive saturation strategy versus Congress's more targeted approach. However, the sheer number of ads does not necessarily translate into messaging effectiveness or voter engagement (Table 3). BJP's digital strategy was more diversified, placing 53% of its ads on Instagram, 45% on Facebook, and 1% on both platforms, allowing tailored messaging for each. In contrast, Congress concentrated 86% of its ads on both Instagram and Facebook simultaneously, with only 1% exclusive to Instagram and none solely on Facebook (Table 4). The language distribution of Meta ads also reveals contrasting strategies. The Congress focused primarily on Hindi, using it for 92% of ads, with limited regional presence (2% each in Tamil and Kannada), suggesting a more centralised voter appeal. In contrast, the BJP adopted a more linguistically diverse strategy, with 72% of ads in Hindi, and the rest distributed across Bengali, Odia, Marathi, and Tamil, highlighting its regional outreach within a national campaign framework.

Moreover, spending patterns of the BJP and Congress reflect different campaign strategies. The BJP favoured cost-efficiency, with 65% of its ads costing between ₹0 and ₹999, allowing for high-volume dissemination and broader visibility. The Congress in contrast, allocated more to higher-cost ads, with 34% in the ₹1,00,000

Religion

0

0

Table 6: Thematic analysis of

Vote appeals

Infrastructure

Development

Economy

Schemes/

policies

Women

Article 370

Religion

Farmers

Table 7: Thematic analysis of

ads run by the Congress

Youth

Attack

Unemploy

Vote appeals

Farmers

Women

policies

Youth

Other

Schemes/

Table 11: Money spent on advertisements posted

advertisements run by the BJP

Policy

Achieve

2

2

3

0

BJP

in per cent

52

10

4

% of

Congress ads

27

26

20

10

Other

5

10

2

to ₹4,99,999 range, emphasising quality over quantity. This indicates Congress's focus on fewer, high-impact ads, contrasted with BJP's saturation strategy of numerous low-cost ads (Table 5). The BJP's ads were primarily focused on direct vote appeals, with significant emphasis on infrastructure, development, and the economy. Nationalist themes, such as India's global standing and the abrogation of Article 370, were also prominent (Table 6). On the other hand, the Congress's digital ads featured a more aggressive approach, with a heavy focus on criticism of the BJP's handling of economic issues, especially unemployment and inflation. Interestingly, religious content was notably absent from Congress's ads (Table 7). An analysis of ad impressions reveals contrasting strategies between the BJP and Congress. The BJP's negative ads consistently had more reach, with 23% appearing in the 1,00,000-4,99,999 impression range, compared to just 18% of its positive ads in a similar range. In contrast, Congress prioritised positive messaging, with over half (52%) of its positive ads surpassing one million impressions, while only 27% of its negative ads achieved the same (Table 8).

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, digital platforms, particularly Google, played a pivotal role in political outreach. A comparative analysis of the BJP and Congress reveals distinct differences in their digital strategies. The data used has been derived from the Google Ads Transparency Centre. The BJP ran 2,25,695 ads across all seven election phases (excluding the silence period), while the Congress deployed only 9,251 ads. This disparity was further reflected in their respective expenditures, with the BJP spending ₹560 million and the Congress ₹210 million (Table 9). Nearly all BJP Google ads ran for 20 days or fewer, reflecting a strategy of rapid content turnover. In contrast, most Congress ads lasted between 21 and 40 days, indicating a focus on sustained visibility. Very few ads from either party exceeded 40 days. In terms of format, both parties used image and video ads, though with different emphasis. The BJP leaned on image-based content for broad visual appeal, whereas the Congress allocated a larger share to video ads, favouring more dynamic and

For the BJP, a majority of its ads (98%) fell within the ₹1,00,000 range, with only 2% of ads exceeding this amount. In contrast, the Congress displayed a more balanced spending distribution, with 73% of its ads falling within the ₹1,00,000 range, while 27% exceeded this threshold (Table 11). The outcomes were visible in impressions: 61% of BJP ads had fewer than 10,000 views, and only 3% crossed one million. However, 21% of Congress ads surpassed the one million mark, and over half fell within the 10,001-one million range indicating stronger reach and engagement (Table 12). Across seven election phases, the BJP used a highly localised micro-targeting strategy, focusing on specific regions while excluding others. In contrast, the Congress adopted a broader strategy, mainly targeting entire States or the country, with minimal exclusions, reflecting a less localised campaign focus (Table 13).

BJP's ads showed significant variation across phases, while Congress's remained mostly consistent, often repeating similar content. Nearly all BJP ads featured Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the slogan "Fir Ek Baar Modi Sarkar" (Once again Modi Government). Congress ads mainly showcased the slogan "Hath Badlega Halaat" (The Palm will change the condition). Unlike BJP, Congress ads did not include explicit vote appeals.

The silent period

The digital shift of political campaigns has made it easier for political parties to bypass election regulations, particularly during the 48-hour silence period meant to ensure free and fair voting. An analysis of Google Ads using the Transparency Centre data reveals potential violations of these rules by parties during the recent elections.

The Election Commission's (EC) Model Code of Conduct (MCC) requires a 48-hour silence period before polling, banning all campaigning including digital. Despite this, parties have been observed violating the

During the 48-hour silence period, the BJP ran 179,070 ads on Google compared to Congress's 8,149 – a ratio of approximately 21:1. Yet the BJP's total spend was only about 25% higher, than the Congress's. These figures reflect all ads live at any point in the silence windows, not necessarily violations. To identify actual breaches of the MCC, researchers sampled ads to check if they targeted poll-bound constituencies during the restricted window. Only such ads were considered violations of the rules.

To assess compliance, a sample of ads from both parties was analysed in each phase. For the BJP, 2,996 ads were analysed, and 492 were found to be in violation of the MCC. In contrast, of the 958 Congress ads analysed, 698 (or 73%) were found to be in violation of the MCC (Table 14 and Table 15). These repeated violations reveal gaps in current election

regulations concerning digital platforms. *Sanjay Kumar, Suhas Palshikar, Sandeep

Outreach on Google

immersive storytelling (Table 10).

silence period by running online ads.

Shastri, Aditi Singh and Vibha Attri.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian S. Upendran

"... to tell you the truth, he doesn't know anything. He is ignorant with everything."

"First of all, the word ignorant has the stress on the first syllable 'ig'. The 'n' in the second syllable and the 'a' in the third syllable are pronounced like the 'a' in China."

"So, it's IGnorant?"

"Yes, that's right. And secondly, you are never ignorant with something. It's always ignorant of something. For example, the new Minister was ignorant of the facts."

"How about this sentence? The principal was ignorant of the argument that led to the fight."

"Sounds good to me. Here's another example: Many people are ignorant of the

"People who don't know how to read and write are ignorant of their rights."

"That's true. Often, people use about after ignorant. For example, the new Minister is ignorant about the old policies."

"Can I say, our principal is ignorant about politics?'

"You certainly can! Here's another example: Thanks to Star TV, many of our young people are ignorant about our rich cultural heritage.'

"Rich cultural heritage! You're beginning to sound like my father. Tell me, which is more correct? Ignorant of or ignorant about?"

"As I said, both are acceptable. But some people think that ignorant of is better usage than ignorant about."

"I see. Hey, how about seeing The Lost World tomorrow?"

"I've already seen it. I saw it last Saturday."

"You did? What did you think of it?" "It isn't all it's cracked up to be."

"What do you mean it's cracked? You mean it's a crazy movie?"

"No, no! That's not what I mean at all. racked up to be is an informal expression meaning supposed to be. So, the sentence The Lost World isn't all that it's cracked up to be means..."

"... it isn't as great as people make it out to be?"

"Yes, that's right. It's not as good as people say it is." "So, can I say, this hotel isn't all it's

cracked up to be?"

"You certainly can. I wanted to find out if my new boss was what he was cracked up to be."

"You have a new boss? I didn't know that! When did ... "

"...relax! That was just an example." "Oh! I was worried. I thought something had happened to your old

boss." "...dummy up, will you?"

"Dummy up? What does that mean?" "It means to keep quiet. Whenever a salesman comes to our place, my father just dummies up and lets my mother do all the talking."

"In our school, students dummy up whenever they see the Principal walk by." "Why have you dummied up?"

"You told me to dummy up, didn't

Published in The Hindu on July 29, 1997.

Word of the day

Tapestry:

a heavy textile with a woven design, used for curtains and upholstery; a wall hanging of heavy handwoven fabric often with pictorial designs

Synonyms: tapis, arras

Usage: The artist made a beautiful tapestry.

Pronunciation: newsth.live/tapestrypro

International Phonetic Alphabet:/ˈtæpəstɹi/

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

M ND-NDE

analysed Phase 1 250 Phase 2 279 Phase 3 625 Phase 4 662

180

Number of Violations advertisements 64 92 93 63 Phase 5 640 91 360 36

Table 10: Format of advertisements posted by the BJP and the Congress

9,999

	Format of ads			
	Image	Video		
Advertisements by	91	9		
the BJP				
Advertisements by Congress	70	30		
Note: All figures are in per cent.				

	Format of ads			
	Image	Video		
dvertisements by ne BJP	91	9		
dvertisements by Congress	70	30		
ote: All figures are in per cent.				

	by the BJP and the Congress						
S		Range of n	noney spent				
eo		Up to	Above				
		₹1,00,000	₹1,00,000				
	Advertisements by the BJP	98	2				
)	Advertisements by the INC	73	27				
	Note: All figures are in per cent.						

52

27

Table 13: Phase-wise micro-targeting in advertisements posted by the BJP and the Congress									
Party	Ads in								
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6	Phase 7		
BJP	96	77	84	69	84	77	100		
INC	32	22	10	52	30	52	59		

ON 13TH MRY, 2024

DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER

18

23

18

20

13

13

Table 15: Number of advertisements
of the advertisements for each party did not have micro-targeting.
Note: All figures are in per cent. The rest

analysed and violations recorded in phase-wise analysis of Congress advertisements		
Phases		Violations
	advertisements	

	Phases	Number of	Violations
		advertisements analysed	
l		ariatyscu	
	Phase 1	250	115
	Phase 2	100	78
	Phase 3	168	154
	Phase 4	70	57
	Phase 5	160	94
	Phase 6	140	130
l	Phase 7	70	70



From Page One

Trump raises tariff on **Indian imports to 50%**

"We have already made clear our position on these issues, including the fact that our imports are based on market factors and done with the overall objective of ensuring the energy security of 1.4 billion people of India," the MEA statement said on Wednesday. "It is therefore extremely unfortunate that the U.S. should choose to impose additional tariffs on India for actions that several other countries are also taking in their own national interest."

This latest escalation by Mr. Trump is a "severe setback" for Indian exports, said S.C. Ralhan, president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

Negotiators from the U.S. and India are currently engaged in finalising the first tranche of a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall of this year.

SC seeks EC's reply on **Bihar rolls omissions**

"In other words, it fails to provide any explanation as to why these names were not included in the draft electoral rolls whether for reason of having been deceased, permanently migrated out of Bihar, being untraceable or on the ground of duplicate entry," Mr. Bhushan added.

"The EC's concealment of reason for deletion seems to be an attempt to obviate the public from ascertaining whether or not electors whose names figure in the list, are indeed dead or permanently migrated. It is to be noted that as per the EC, those whose names do not figure in the draft roll stand do not enjoy the right to routine legal remedies (notice, personal hearing and appeals) available under Section 21A of the Registration of Voters Rules," the application said.

SC rejects AIADMK MP's plea on scheme names

Mr. Shanmugham had urged the High Court to direct the Election Commission to take action against the DMK under Paragraph 16A of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order of 1968. It had also wanted the Content Regulation Committee on Government Advertising (CCRGA) to interdict the Tamil Nadu government from using the name 'Stalin' in the programme.

The Supreme Court did not agree with both submissions. It questioned why the petitioner had focussed on one particular political party, DMK, and not challenged the actions of other political outfits using their leaders' names to brand programmes.

'Time and again, we have observed that political battles should be settled before the electoral roll and courts should not be used for this... Schemes in the name of political leaders is a phenomenon followed across the country. When such schemes are floated..., we do not appreciate the anxiety of the petitioner to choose only one political party and one political leader... If the petitioner was so concerned about the misuse of political funds, the petitioner could have made a challenge to all such schemes. However, singling out only one political leader shows the intentions of the petitioner," the court observed.

Petrol lobbies behind E20 fuel fear campaign'

"From an economic point of view, the country spends ₹22 lakh crore on fossil fuel imports and the automotive industry is growing and imports are too. There are also concerns over rising levels of pollution. Thirdly, our push for alternative fuels and bio fuels places the country on the path to Atmanirbharta [self-reliance]."

'No vested interest'

Allegations have also been made on social media about the Minister's "vested interest" in promoting ethanol blending because of his family's ownership of sugarcane companies such as the Purti

"This is a deliberate misinformation campaign. We have identified an organisation that is dialing phones and talking to people [to write posts on X]. It is possible that this is a political conspiracy. It is common in politics," Mr. Gadkari said emphatically. "Vajpayee ji started ethanol blending in 2001. Did he do it at my behest?" he asked.

He said that his family-owned companies are running at an annual loss of ₹30 crore, claiming that despite advice to shut them down, he continues to remain invested because of his passion. These firms only generate a mere 1.3 lakh litres of ethanol, which is too small a quantity, he said.

"If I promote electric or hydrogen or flex engine car, does it mean I manufacture those? I promote various alternative and biofuels so that import and pollution goes down, farmers don't commit suicide, and we fulfil the dream of the Prime Minister, of atmanirbharta [self reliance]," Mr. Gadkari said. "When we used corn to produce ethanol, its market price rose from ₹1,200 to ₹2,600..., and farmers also benefitted from the higher value."

On whether vehicle owners could choose between E20 and E5 – as in the case of Brazil, the Minister said that India was still at a nascent stage of its transition to biofuels unlike Brazil, which has over 80 years of experience. It will take another seven to eight years for stability, he said.

Doval to visit Moscow, as Trump imposes additional tariffs on India

The National Security Adviser's visit is intended to prepare details for Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Delhi later this year; however, President Trump's latest action is expected to dominate talks; agenda includes supply of Russian oil

Suhasini Haidar NEW DELHI

ational Security Adviser Ajit Doval will hold meetings with senior Russian officials in Moscow on Thursday, just a day after the U.S. decided to impose an additional 25% penalty tariffs on India for its import of Russian

According to sources, Mr. Doval's visit is intended to prepare details for Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Delhi later this year. However, U.S. President Donald Trump's latest action, which the government called "extremely unfortunate", is expected to dominate talks. India is the second largest buyer of Russian crude oil after

Although the visit had been scheduled weeks earlier, the government's decision to go ahead with the NSA's travel appears to underline its intention to defy the U.S. actions.

'The current escalation of the geopolitical situation will also be discussed.



Seeking clarity: Ajit Doval during a meeting with Vladimir Putin in St Petersburg, Russia in September 2024. PTI

Apart from that, the topics will include such pressing matters as supplies of Russian oil [to India]," Russia's official TASS agency report-

Ahead of the NSA's visit, Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar met with Russia's Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Aleksandr Fomin for talks, the Russian MFA said, that focused on "further strengthening the specialised cooperation in the form of a particularly privileged strategic partnership"

Among talks on defence

cooperation, Mr. Doval is also expected to speak about the delivery of the remaining S-400 missile systems, that played an important role during the India-Pakistan conflict and Operation Sindoor in May this year. This is the NSA's first visit to Moscow since Operation Sindoor, although he attended the SCO NSA meeting in Beijing in June, and met with Mr. Shoigu's deputy, Russia's Security Council Deputy Secretary Aleksandr Venediktov there. In addition, Russia's recent decision to

grant recognition to the Taliban regime in Afghanistan is also expected to come up. The two sides will also

possibly discuss the latest moves for talks between Russia and Ukraine, after the Kremlin said on Tuesday that U.S. Special envoy Steve Witkoff would be in Moscow to meet Mr. Putin. Announcing the upcom-

ing visit of Mr. Witkoff on Tuesday, Mr. Putin's Presidential aide Dmitry Peskov said Mr. Putin was prepared to meet Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after expert-level talks but gave no timeline for the meeting.

When asked about Mr. Trump's threats against India, Mr. Peskov said Russia believes "sovereign countries must have, and do have, the right to choose their trade partners on their own, and independently determine those modes of trade and economic cooperation that suit the interests of a country in question".

Later this month, External Affairs Minister S. Jaish-

ankar will also visit Moscow for talks on the visit, which has been delayed for several years due to the Ukraine conflict which began in February 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Moscow last July, reviving the summit af-

ter a gap of three years. Since 2022, India increased its oil imports from Russia multi-fold, defying pleas from European countries to stop increasing Russian revenues, from procuring less than a per cent of its imports from Russia, to nearly 40% of its oil at its peak.

After the U.S. announced plans for penalty tariffs on India last week, many Indian oil importers have reduced their demand, although the government said it would not submit to the tariffs by the U.S. and sanctions by the European Union.

In its statement on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had also pointed out that the U.S. and the EU continue to trade on other goods with Russia.

Modi to meet Japanese PM as part of East Asia outreach

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of growing uncertainty in India-U.S. ties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to reach out to East Asia in the coming weeks. As part of that initiative, Mr. Modi is likely to travel to Japan to meet his Japanese counterpart, Shigeru Ishiba, by the end of August. The visit to Japan is significant, as both countries are part of the Quad initiative that launched by Australia, India, Japan, and the United States in 2017.

As the United States reorients its trade priorities, the resultant dynamics are expected to spill over to platforms where India and the U.S. cooperate on a number of issues.

Around this time, global attention will also be focused on the upcoming summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in China, where leaders of the SCO member states are expected to be present. However, there is no official confirmation of Mr. Modi's participation in the SCO summit during August 31-September 1.

'Trump's imposition of 50% tariff is economic blackmail to secure unfair trade deal'

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday said the second round of 25% tariff imposed on India was an "economic blackmail" aimed at securing an unfair trade deal.

In a post on X, Mr. Gandhi said Prime Minister Na rendra Modi should not let his "weakness" override the interests of the Indian people.

"Trump's 50% tariff is economic blackmail - an attempt to bully India into an unfair trade deal. PM Modi better not let his weakness override the interests of the Indian people," he wrote on X.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh also took a dig at the Union government's earlier assertions regarding the close personal relationship between Mr. Modi and the U.S. President.



"Mr. Modi has time and again flaunted his supposedly close friendship with President Trump. On Feb 14, 2025, he had shown off his knowledge of algebra by telling President Trump that MAGA + MIGA = ME-GA," Mr. Ramesh said on X.

"Now President Trump, while still claiming to be a friend of Mr. Modi, has hit India hard and unjustly. While his tariff and penalty actions are simply unacceptable, the fact remains that they also reflect the abysmal failure of Mr. Modi's personalised and headline-grabbing style of huglomacy," Mr. Ramesh

Earlier, in a separate post, Mr. Gandhi had alleged that Prime Minister Modi cannot resist U.S. President Donald Trump's repeated threats due to "the ongoing U.S. investigation into Adani".

However, business tycoon Gautam Adani, and seven other defendants have been accused of paying about \$265 million in bribes to Indian government officials to secure lucrative solar energy supply contracts on terms that expected to yield \$2 billion of profit, according to an indictment unsealed in a New York court in November last year.

The Adani group had denied the allegations and maintained it is "committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance, transparency and compliance regulatory across all jurisdictions of its operations".

College student's charred body found in Odisha; kin allege police 'negligence'

Satyasundar Barik

The charred body of a 20year-old college student was found in her house in Kendrapara district of Odisha on Wednesday.

When the woman's parents returned from hospital, they found smoke billowing from their house, which was locked from inside. After breaking open the door, they discovered the body.

The victim was a finalyear undergraduate student. The woman's father alleged that she had been in a relationship with a youth for the past two years and had taken her own life after being blackmailed by her ex-boyfriend, with whom she had broken up six months ago.

This was the third incident of a woman dying of burns in Odisha since July 12 this year. The case took a controversial turn when the woman's father ac-

Villagers claim timely police intervention could have stopped her from taking the extreme step

cused personnel of the Pattamundai Rural Police Station of discouraging his daughter from filing a complaint against the boy for blackmail.

Villagers said timely police intervention could have prevented the mental distress that ultimately drove her to take such an extreme step. The local police, however, denied the allegation.

Superintendent of Police Siddharth Kataria, who visited the house, said the alleged suicide and negligence by the local police would be thoroughly investigated.

The police filed a case under Sections 108 (abetment to suicide) and 351(2) (criminal intimidation) under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). However, no suicide note was recovered. The police said further clarity would emerge after the postmortem report is received.

Meanwhile, the Congress has announced a week-long campaign in protest against the increasing incidents of violence against women in the State. From August 8, Congress workers will gherao the office of the Director-General of Police in Cuttack, demanding the arrest of the three culprits who set ablaze a minor girl at Balanga in Puri.

State Congress president Bhakta Charan Das has appealed to party workers and citizens to join the protest in large numbers.

Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can seek help and counselling by calling Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, telephone: 011-40769002

J&K govt. declares 25 books 'forfeited', citing 'secessionism'

The Hindu Bureau SRINAGAR

The Jammu & Kashmir government on Wednesday declared 25 books, many by prominent writers such as A.G. Noorani, Sumantra Bose, Arundhati Roy and Ayesha Jalal, as "forfeited for propagating false narrative and secessionism" in

The Home Department invoked Section 98 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to categorise the 25 books as "forfeited".

Their circulation will be stopped.

"The identified 25 books have been found to excite secessionism and endangering sovereignty and integrity of India, thereby, attracting the provisions of Sections 152, 196 & 197 of Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023," the Home Department said in an order.

It said this literature would deeply impact the psyche of youth by promoting a culture of grievance, victimhood and terrorist-heroism. The books declared as

"forfeited" include Independent Kashmir by author Christopher Snedden; The Kashmir Dispute 1947-2012 by author A.G. Noorani; Kashmir at the Crossroads: Inside a 21st Century Con*flict* by Sumantra Bose; Kashmir & the future of South Asia by Ayesha Jalal and Sugata Bose; Azadi by Arundhati Roy; and Confronting Terrorism by author Stephen P. Cohen.

Parliament passes legislation to modernise India's maritime laws

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday even as the Opposition continued loud protests against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. The Lok Sabha passed another maritime legislation, the Merchant Shipping Bill,

Amid the din in the Upper House, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also tabled the Demands for Grants for Manipur for 2025-26. Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13.

The Rajya Sabha was earlier adjourned, soon after the tabling of papers and obituary references at



Large backing: The Bill marks a significant step towards aligning India's maritime legal framework with global standards. REUTERS

11 a.m. When the House approved by a voice vote reassembled at 2 p.m., amid the din. It had been Bhubaneswar Kalita, who was in the Chair, called for earlier. taking up the Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, Shipping and Waterways even as Opposition mem-

bers continued to protest

and trooped into the Well

of the House. The Bill was

passed by the Lok Sabha Union Minister of Ports,

the Bills, the Modi govern-

ment's push for India's

Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Today, with the passage of

modern shipping gets double endorsement from Parliament."

The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 is meant to be progressive, future-ready legislation that replaces the outdated Merchant Shipping Act of 1958. The Bill marks a significant step towards aligning India's maritime legal framework with global standards and strengthening the country's position as a trusted maritime trade hub.

The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025, repealed the Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925.

The legislation is expected to simplify maritime trade laws, reduce litigation risks, and enhance transparency and commercial efficiency in cargo movement by sea.

M ND-NDE

THE HINDU

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 Sab-

ha 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

rime 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 gramme 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-



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.



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.

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.

Due date & time of opening

of tender online from 15.00 Hrs (*)

M ND-NDE

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 electoreforms

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

fundamental importance in our democracy," Mr. Kharge said in his letter.

electoral rolls, which is of

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.

Online Tenders are invited for following items:-

TS No.

Discom/EZ/Pur TS-1609 (e-Tender No.

2025_PKVVC_439804_1)



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

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 Wed-

Speaking at the launch of The Man Who Fed India, a biography of Dr. Swaminathan by the Singaporebased 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.



ऑनलाईन निविदा फार्म डाउनलोड करने

व अपलोड करने की दिनांक व समय



to 22.08.2025 up to 1500 Hrs. https://www.iimk.ac.in/announcements/ Tender.php or https://mhrd.ewizard.in.

करने की अंतिम दिनांक

व समय

दोपहर 12.00 बजे तक

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION JHUNJHUNU NIB Code: PWD2526A0848 and UBN is: PWD2526WLOB02727 Corrigendium इस कार्यालय के क्रमांक 125 दिनांक 26.05.2025 द्वारा आमंत्रित ऑनलाईन ई-निविदा सचना 08/2025 26 (NIB No. PWD2526A0848) के अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है मंशोधित टेण्डर प्रस्तृत पूर्व में टेण्डर प्रस्तृत

करने की अंतिम

सायं 05.00 बजे तव

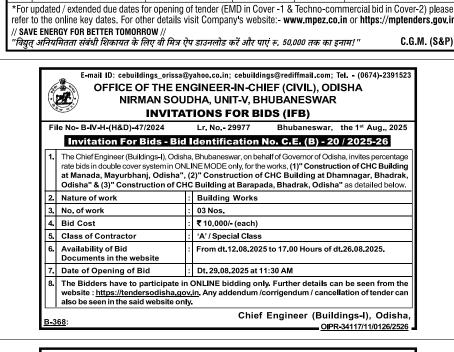
निविदा खोलने की दिनांक व समय 24.07.2025 08.08.2025 शेष शर्ते यथावत रहेंगी। (NIB No.: PWD2526A0848) DIPR/C/11049/2025 Executive Engineer, PWD Division JHUNJHUNU



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 SI. 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: 94495 96574, 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

ONLINE TENDER

Lightning Arresters

(Rs. in Lakhs)



News



Former U.P. Minister Swami Prasad Maurya 'slapped'

Former Uttar Pradesh Cabinet Minister Swami Prasad Maurya was allegedly slapped by two youth near Rae Bareli 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.

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

adhaar 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

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.

on Wednesday.

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 Pavments Bank, under the Department of Posts, intro-Aadhaar 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

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

empowerment".

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

Knowledge) novation. 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

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 rules since 2020.

Ex-BJP spokesperson cannot be HC judge, says Opposition

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

The Opposition parties in Maharashtra on Wednesday sought the revocation of the Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation to appoint former BIP spokesperson Aarti Sathe as a judge of the Bombay High Court. NCP(SP) MLA Rohit Pa-

war 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 BIP'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 Waddettiwar 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



Aarti Sathe

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.

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 released from those 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 counterparts.

The Bench proposed uniform guidelines in granting permanent commissions, but pointed out that factors such as specialised training must be kept in mind. It also asked the officers what they felt should be the basis for assessment for permanent commissions.

Inconclusive

The Supreme Court was hearing a batch of more than 75 petitions challenging the denial of permanent commissions on various grounds. The hearing remained inconclusive and will be continued on August 7.

The top court said that interim orders passed earlier would remain in force, restraining the Centre from releasing these officers from service till the adjudication of their pleas.

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

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.

SUDOKU

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6

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 madebris 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

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DIFFICULTY RATING:

8

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

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

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.

TH CROSSWORD+ 14557



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)

Remove wrapping of fuse & cables to get current (6)

To solve this puzzle online.

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

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)

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)

Cracks seen after reviewing bridges (5) 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)

5

7 1 5 6 3 9 8 15987624 5 8 6 3 9 4 7 2 692874

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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 devo-

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 inundation (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 Arunchaleswara to his devotees.

9 Order lunch perhaps, including starter of dumplings (5)

11 Part of mixed fraction having one number missing? (6)

13 They have hopes of getting peace initially, in rocky sierras (8)

10 Grass is basically recreational - enjoy every drag (4)

12 Discovered best hotel - pricy, and private (8)

Across

8 Facts twisted a bit? (4)

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY % CHANGE
Sensex	80,5440.21
US Dollar	87.72 0.18
Gold	99,020 0.20
Brent oil	67.33 0.10

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter		
Adani Ports		
Apollo Hosp		
Asian Paints		
Axis Bank		
Bajaj Auto		
Bajaj Finserv		
Bajaj Finance		
Bharat Elec		
Bharti Airtel		
Cipla		
Coal India		
Dr Reddys Lab		
Eicher Motors		
Eternal Ltd.		
Grasim Ind		
HCL Tech		
HDFC Bank		
HDFC Life		
Hero MotoCorp		
Hindalco		
Hind Unilever		
ICICI Bank		
IndusInd Bank		
Infosys		
ITC		
Jio Financial Servic-		
es 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		
Reliance Ind		
SBI Life	1854.30	2.70
State Bank	805.15	4.55
Shriram Finance		
Ltd.	630.60	0.50
Sun Pharma		
TataConsumerPro-		
duct	1052.80	11.80
Tata Motors		
Tata Steel		
TCS		
Tech Mahindra		
Titan		
Trent Ltd.		
UltraTech Cement		

EXCHANGE RATES

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 Ringitt	20.69	20.78	
Acceptation Dellan	EC 04	E7 1E	

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

MUMBAI

he 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, 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 mediumterm target for consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4% within a band of +/while supporting growth. The MPC took note that the global environment continues to be challenging. 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 vasupply 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

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'

<u>Lalatendu Mishra</u> 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 con-

ference 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.



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 Crisil 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, Crisil Ratings said, "Around 26 gigawatt (GW) of underconstruction utility scale renewable energy projects, for which power purchase agreements (PPAs) have already been signed, may face moderation in cash flow following expiry



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, Crisil 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&Ms kev subsidiaries viz. Mahindra & amp; 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



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'

<u>Press Trust of India</u> 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 Shamika 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-in-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 lowincome 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 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

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

The Hindu Bureau HYDERABAD

Hylenr raised about \$3 million in a pre-series A funding round expected to aid the clean energy startup accelerate 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, Hylenr said.

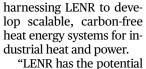
The round was led by Valour Capital and Chhattisgarh Investments, early-



free heat energy systems.

stage investors focused on deep-tech/energy transi-

tion technologies. Individual investors Karthik Sundar Iyer and Anant Sarda also participated. Hylenr is focused on



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),

DIPR/4207/TENDER/2025

PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-16.



DIPR/4205/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**

PESHAWAR

Pakistan extends Afghan refugee deportation deadline to Sept. 1



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



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



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



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

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 (MA-GA) 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



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

ticket.

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

"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

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

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

Agence France-Presse

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. Ushsaid, akov without elaborating.

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

Ahead of the talks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged Washington to increase its pressure on Moscow to agree to a ceasefire.

Sanctions threat

The White House has not outlined what action it would take against Russia, but Mr. Trump has previously threatened to im-

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 campaign-

"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'

envoy.

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.

vernment claims those

marches were also orchestrated by Washington.

President Miguel Diaz-

Canel said the "Malecona-

zo" anniversary was a re-

minder that "there will al-

ways be dark forces lurking

against a genuine Revolu-

tion in difficult moments".

lance, house arrests, arbi-

trary detention, and selec-

tive internet shutdowns,"

according to Cubalex, a

The government "activ-

Tuesday saw "surveil-

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KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice Tender No: 2/2025-26/SRI/NTR; JJM 2022-23- Procurement of lor

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

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

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.

Superintending Engineer SRI Circle

🖚 TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-tenders are invited for OUTSOURCING OF RIMMING WORK with tape pasting to TTD In-House Calendars-2026 i.e., SV(Big), SV&SP, SP (Big), Local & Outside Temples etc., Calendars-2026. For further details please long on to the web site http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.ap.eprocurement.gov.in. For further details contact: 0877-2264355 (or) 0877-2264292. **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.160) Date:06-08-2025



V.O.Chidambaranar 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

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

CHIEF ENGINEER VOCPA

ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNION TERRITORY OF LAKSHADWEEP (DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES) KAVARATTI-682555. Phone: 04896 263650

Email:gnckavaratti@gmail.com F.No. 5/45/2021-DHS, Dated: 01.08.2025

ADMISSION NOTICE 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 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 LSGD, Goyt, of Kerala, intends to conduct a market sounding process for 30 TPD Bio-CNG project, including collection and transportation services of biodegradable waste at Changanasserv Municipality. Kottavan district, Kerala through design, build & operate model (PPP basis) on Augus 13, 2025, from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

We request experienced technology providers, equipment suppliers collection and transportation service providers, contractors 8 operators including commercial banks and financial institutions to participate in this process. More details are provided at KSWMF web page (www.kswmp.org)

ment is published in compliance with World Bank procurement guidelines D3/582/2025/I&PRD

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

KREWS/A/330/2025 Date: 05-08-2025

Tender Notice for supply of (1) Fully Automatic Programmable Paper Cutting Machine E-Tender ID - 2025_DP_780065_1 (2) Automatic Binding Machine (Perfect Hotmelt) Simple Clamp

E-Tender ID - 2025_DP_780281_1

Competitive Tenders are invited

Sd/- SECRETARY

RAJASTHAN POLICE INFRASTRUCTURE **DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD, JAIPUR**

ई-निविदा सूचना स० २०/२०२५-२६ निम्न कार्यों के लिए राज्य / केन्द्र सरकार के अभियात्रिकी विभागों / उपक्रमों

समकक्ष श्रेणी में पंजीकृत योग्य एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से नियमानुसार तीन वर्षों की

डीएलपी के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्र में 1 कार्य के लिए एकल बिंड के तहत आमंत्रित निविदा की कुल लागत रूपये ३९४.७१ लाख 14 अगस्त 2025 साय 4.00 बजे तक

ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म जमा कराने की तारीख 14 अगस्त 2025 साय 6.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख निविदा सम्बन्धित जानकारी राजस्थान पुलिस की बेबसाइ

http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध रहेगी | इच्छुक संवेदको को निविदा संबंधित जानकारी प्रबन्ध निदेशक कार्यालय से कार्यालय समय में प्राप्त की जा सकती है। भविष्य ग निविदाओं में संशोधन होने पर उपरोक्त वेबसाइटों पर ही प्रेषित किया जावेगा।

राजस्थान पलिस आधारभत संरचना राज संवाद/सी/25/7618

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

Activists, journalists and

Agence France-Presse

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



Cuban activists complain of detentions on

the anniversary of 1994 anti-Castro protest

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

Nearly five years after

Castro's death, historic protests shook the island on July 11, 2021. The go-

ated its repressive appara-

Miami-based NGO.

tus" said Yoani Sanchez, director of independent newspaper 14ymedio.

THE HINDU

BACK HOME

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



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India pacer Mohammed Siraj landed in Hyderabad on Wednesday after a stellar show in the Test series against England. Siraj, along with fielding coach T. Dilip, first landed in Mumbai from London before heading to their home base. He was dressed in dapper black casuals, and a group of fans gave him a joyous welcome.

PURPLE PATCH

India captain Gill shortlisted for ICC PoTM award



India Test captain Shubman Gill was on Wednesday named among the three nominees for ICC's Player of the Month award for July, along with South Africa's Wiaan Mulder and England's Ben Stokes. "Gill had a sensational month, amassing 567 runs at an average of 94.50 in three Tests during India's series in England," the ICC posted.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

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



is exceptional. What he has

been able to do is just unbelievable so far. He has

been a consistent perform-

er without any doubt, and I

would put him right at the

top with anyone else," he

praise on all-rounder

Washington Sundar, who

made crucial contributions

throughout to help the

played, he has contribut-

ed. Even if you look at the

second Test match, in the

fourth innings he bowled a crucial ball to Ben Stokes

just before lunch on the

fifth day and got him out.

To me, that was one of the

turning points," Tendulkar

The Mumbai maestro al-

so offered his take on the

tense exchange that followed India's refusal to ac-

cept the draw offered by

England captain Ben

Tendulkar felt Ravindra

Jadeja and Washington had

every right to get to their

hundreds and India's deci-

sion to continue was totally

in "right spirit" despite a

draw being the only possi-

Man-

Stokes during the

chester Test.

ble result.

"Whenever he has

lavished

added.

Tendulkar

team's cause.

Harry Brook disagreed with India coach Gautam Gambhir's decision to name him as England's Player-of-the-Series, saying the honour should've gone to Joe Root. "I didn't score as many runs as Rooty. I think he should be Man-of-the-Series — and Man-of-the-Summer again, like he has been for many years," Brook told the BBC.

BONANZA

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



The prize money at the U.S. Open tennis tournament will rise to nearly \$85 million across all competitions this year, including a record \$5 million each to the women's and men's singles champions. The total player compensation will jump 20% to \$90 million, the most in the sport's history.

Singled out: Greg Chappell wants a more restrained approach

Chappell tears into the Bazball approach

Press Trust of India NEW DELHI

"Positive cricket doesn't mean reckless cricket," Australian great Greg Chappell said, lambasting England's Bazball philosophy during the high-intensity drawn Test series against India.

In his column for ESPN-Cricinfo, Chappell criticised the Englishmen, particularly Harry Brook, for failing to read situations which required perseverance instead of flashy strokeplay.

"England's own journey in this series presents a cautionary subplot – one embodied by the brilliant but mercurial Harry Brook, whose virtues I have extolled publicly before," Chappell said.

"He has time, range, confidence, and that rare gift of making batting look effortless. But cricket, particularly Test cricket, is not just about shot-making. It's about judgment. About recognising when the moment demands attack - and when it demands restraint," he added.

England was 301 for three in pursuit of 374 when the Brook's dismissal triggered a collapse on the fourth day of the fifth Test in London that the home side lost by six runs.

"Brook's dismissal at The Oval was symptomatic of the conundrum that is facing the England setup. The Bazball philosophy – of fearless, attacking cricket - has revitalised their Test side. But it cannot become an excuse to avoid doing the hard yards.

"All England needed was for one batter to hold his nerve.Brook went for the glory shot and perished. Positive cricket doesn't mean reckless cricket. It means conficalculated dent, risk-taking."

Chappell said a more restrained approach in challenging match situations would help Brook establish himself as a worthy successor to Joe Root.

India winning without Bumrah is just a coincidence: Tendulkar

The pace ace's quality remains exceptional and unbelievable, says the legendary cricketer; lavishes praise on Washington for his crucial contributions in the series against England

Press Trust of India MUMBAI

atting great Sachin Tendulkar feels that India winning two Tests against England in Jasprit Bumrah's absence was a mere "coincidence" and the talismanic pace spearhead's quality remains "exceptional and unbelievable".

Bumrah played three of the just-concluded five-Test series in which a relatively inexperienced India eked out a creditable 2-2 draw.

The two games that India won did not feature Bumrah due to a pre-decided workload management plan.

Tendulkar said India emerging victorious at Birmingham and The Oval in Bumrah's absence was a matter of chance. He went on to highlight Bumrah's performances in the three Tests he played, fetching 14 wickets in all.

"Bumrah started off really well, got five wickets in the [first innings of the] first Test. He did not play the second Test, but [played] the third and the fourth Tests. Again, in [one of] those two Tests, he got



On the ball: Tendulkar hailed Bumrah's consistency. GETTY IMAGES

a five-wicket haul," Tendulkar said in his video analysis of the series on Reddit.

"In the three Tests that he played, he picked up five wickets twice. I know

that people are discussing a number of things, that we won those Tests in which he did not play. To me, that is just a coincidence.

"The quality of Bumrah

Pakistan cites security reasons, withdraws from Asia Cup hockey



K. Keerthivasan CHENNAI

The Pakistan men's hockey team will not be taking part in the Asia Cup to be held in Rajgir, Bihar, from August 29 to September 7, according to a Hockey India official.

Speaking to The Hindu on Wednesday, the Hockey India official said even though the Indian government was willing to provide visas for the Pakistan players, the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) refused to travel, citing security reasons.

Bangladesh invited

"In fact, PHF has written a letter to the Asian Hockey Federation on Wednesday, saying that it won't be able to compete in the Asia Cup due to security reasons. We have invited Bangladesh now," the official said.

Pakistan's participation in the competition – a qualifying event for the 2026 World Cup – had been uncertain given the continued tensions between the two nations, with the PHF making it clear that it had security concerns and even suggesting moving the tournament elsewhere as an option.

This was despite the Indian government's assurances in early July that no Pakistan team would be stopped from travelling to

Officials had claimed as late as July-end that the Pakistan team had already applied for visas. However, the Pakistan government had recently ordered that no invitation to travel to India should be accepted by any sports federation without its explicit approval.

The decision also casts a shadow on Pakistan's participation in the Junior World Cup to be held in Chennai and Madurai in November-December. Pakistan had also missed out on the JWC in 2016 - which India won - after the Pathankot and Uri terror attacks. Interestingly, Pakistan last travelled to India for the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai, finishing fifth in the sixteam competition.

(with inputs from Uthra Ganesan).

Siraj climbs 12 spots, reaches a career-best 15th rank

Press Trust of India

India pacer Mohammed Siraj jumped 12 spots to reach a career-best 15th position in the latest ICC Test rankings following his match-winning performance in the fifth and final Test against England at The Oval.

His earlier best was the 16th position in January last year. Jasprit Bumrah continued to lead the charts with 889 points.

Prasidh Krishna also achieved a career-high ranking of 59 after his superb performance in The Oval Test.

India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal returned to the top-5 in the batting rankings following his second century in the series at The Oval. With 792 points, he climbed three spots.

The only other India batter in the top-10 was Rishabh Pant, who slipped one spot to eighth.

Joe Root firmed up his position at the top while Harry Brook was in the second spot.

Super-sub Ahadad helps EBFC edge out Namdhari SA

DURAND CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma

Moroccan substitute Hamid Ahadad's 68th minute goal helped Emami East Bengal FC beat Namdhari Sports Academy by a solitary goal in a Group-A match of the 134th Durand Cup tournament at the Salt Lake Stadium on Wednesday, to brighten its quarterfinal chances.

With four foreigners in its ranks, East Bengal made a strong start and enjoyed around 70 per cent ball possession but that dominance was not reflected in the scoreline as its attackers failed to utilise the chances.

Namdhari also rode its luck seeing three attempts from the East Bengal forward Miguel Damasceno coming off the framework.

Ahadad, who came in as a 61st minute substitute, found the mark in the 68th minute from a Damasceno corner to secure the win for East Bengal, which now has six points from two wins with a match to go.



Heads-up: East Bengal pulled off a narrow win. DEBASISH BHADURI

Earlier, Indo-Tibetan Border Police football team held ISL side Punjab FC to a goalless draw in a Group-D match at the SAI

Stadium in Kokrajhar. The Punjab team earned a lot of scoring chances but its forwards muffed opportunities and allowed ITBP snatch a point from the goalless encounter. Both teams remained locked on top of the group standings with four points each from two matches and will now face local side Bodoland FC in their last group league matches.

The results: Group-A (Kolkata): Emami East Bengal 1 (Hamid Ahadad 68) bt Namdhari Group-D (Kokrajhar): Punjab

FC 0 drew with ITBP FT 0.

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

Sports Bureau

The Chennai Grand Masters chess tournament, scheduled to get underway on Wednesday (August 6) was postponed by a day due to an unexpected fire incident at the venue, Hyatt Regency.

The players, who were relocated to an alternative accommodation, are safe. The playing area remained unaffected and fully equipped to host the tournament.

"The safety of players and staff was our top priority. They were immediately shifted to a nearby venue for the night," said Sreeker Channapragada, co-founder, MGD1.

"We are doing our best to ensure everyone's safety while conducting the event seamlessly. The tournament will proceed from August 7 to 15 without a rest day in between, and we look forward to its sucadded cess.

Channapragada. The event will begin at 3 p.m. on Thursday.

Iniyan determined to keep his good form going

C. Shyam Sundar

Grandmaster Pa Iniyan has been on a roll with five titles in 2025. And he wants to make the most of his good form.

The 22-year-old from Erode, who has prepared in earnest for the Chennai **Grand Masters tournament** here, is eyeing a triumph in the Challengers' section and a spot in next year's Masters' category.

Iniyan, who recently won the second Dole Open International title in Aixen-Provence, France, says he wants to keep getting better and boost his rating.

"This year, I have won five Open tournaments, including the National Rapid title. My rating had increased in the last year and I want to keep increasing it," he told *The Hindu*.

Saying that he doesn't have specific targets in mind, Iniyan remarked, "I am very close to 2600 rating (2586) now. I want to breach the 2600-mark.

"The long-term goal is always going to be much higher.



The big picture: Iniyan is aiming to win the Challengers crown at the Chennai Grand Masters and boost his rating.

"This year has been going better than expected. Hope to continue in the same vein," said Iniyan who began 2025 with a triumph in the Chennai Open. He is gunning for the top prize in the Chennai GM tournament.

"I am playing in the Challengers. As there are a few 2600 (three players) and a couple around 2450, I will be in the middle of the pack. I will go for a

After the event in Chennai, Iniyan will feature in the Abu Dhabi Masters and the chess World Cup in India, in which he hopes to do well.

Pat for Divya, Humpy Terming Divya Desh-

mukh'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.



Son finalises his move to MLS. to join Los Angeles FC

Son Heung-min agreed to a contract with Los Angeles FC on Tuesday, finalising his move to Major League Soccer after a decade at Tottenham. LAFC reportedly paid a transfer fee of more than \$20 million, which could end up being the most ever for an MLS move. He is joining LAFC three days after he announced he was leaving Spurs.

Jharkhand to take on Punjab in the final

Punjab upset defending champion Uttar Pradesh 4-3 in the semifinals of the National sub-junior men's hockey championship in Chennai on Wednesday. In the other last four clash, Jharkhand defeated Madhya Pradesh 3-1.

The results: Semifinals: Jharkhand 3 (Soreng Sumray 29, Kandulna Jaysan 56, Purti Ashish Tani 44) bt Madhya Pradesh 1 (Love 21); Punjab 4 (Mandeep Singh 19, Varinder Singh 28, Sukhdev Sing 51 & 52) bt Uttar Pradesh 3 (Harsh Pratap Singh 9, Shahrukh Ali 21, Ketan Kushwaha 28).

LIVE TELECAST

Zimbabwe vs NZ: 2nd Test, day 1, FanCode, 1.30 p.m. Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m. Tennis: Cincinnati Open, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8.30 p.m.

Crucial ranking points at stake for Indian athletes

The Continental Tour Bronze event will be held in Bhubaneswar from Aug. 10 but some events, which had a medal potential for the country, are missing because of World Athletics guidelines

ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan NEW DELHI

he first-ever World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze event will be held in Bhubaneswar on August 10 but quite a few prominent names will be missing in action from the competition that will provide crucial ranking points for Indian athletes.

The one-day event at the Kalinga Stadium, jointly organised by the Odisha government and the Athletics Federation of India with a prize money of \$25,000, will see 160 athletes from 17 countries, including 97 Indians, participate in 18 track and field events.

"It is mandatory to include one throwing and one jumping event and the competition should have a minimum of 12 disciplines, including five for women," AFI president Bahadur Singh Sagoo said on Wednesday, explaining the rationale behind the selec-



Much at stake: Sachin will strive to attain the World Championships qualifying mark of 85.50m. AFP

tion of events.

"The events were identified by the AFI keeping the World Athletics guidelines which specify the competition duration is two hours and 30 minutes."

Some of those missing from the schedule include the 3000m steeplechase and high jump, which had the potential for an Indian medal.

There will be no 100m relay teams either, although the 4x400m teams will participate in men, women and mixed catego-

On the other hand, the likes of Gurindervir Singh, Manikanta Hoblidhar, Kishore Jena and Gulveer Singh won't be participating for various reasons.

"Kishore is still not fit

and Gulveer is training and participating abroad. The best-placed Indians on current form as on July 12 were considered," JOA secretary Madhukant Pathak ex-

plained. Among those confirmed are long jumpers M. Sreeshankar and Jeswin Aldrin and National 800m record-holder Mohd. Afsal.

Animesh Kujur and Amlan Borgohain will lead the sprint challenge in both 100m and 200m while Sachin Yadav would be hoping to clear the automatic Championships qualifying mark of 85.50m in javelin throw.

Interestingly, while the foreign athletes will be representing their countries, the Indian athletes will be representing their respective States or the organisa-

"The relay teams, however, will be fielded as the India team and if they manage to set a new record, it will be registered as the Indian record," AFI treasurer and technical committee member Stanley Jones explained.

Arpit, Rounak guide Riders to an emphatic victory



Up top: East Delhi Riders players celebrate a wicket on Wednesday.

Sports Bureau NEW DELHI

Opener Arpit Rana's unbeaten 63 and Rounak Waghela's three for 18 guided East Delhi Riders to an emphatic seven-wicket victory over New Delhi Tigers in the Delhi Premier League at Arun Jaitley Stadium on Wednesday.

Having opted to bat, New Delhi was restricted to 172 for six on the back of left-arm spinner Waghela's crucial spell. The 17-yearold tweaker dismissed New Delhi's top three batters, including skipper Himmat Singh on 24.

In the run chase, Riders showed no signs of panic. With southpaw Arpit leading the way, the target was reached in 18.2 overs for East Delhi's second win of the season. Mayank Rawat was unbeaten on 32 at the

This is New Delhi's second consecutive defeat, and it will face Purani Dilli 6 in its next match on Friday.

Strikers win

In the evening clash, North Delhi Strikers rode on a knock of 77 by opener Sarthak Ranjan to beat Outer Delhi Warriors by 19 runs. Ranjan's innings helped North Delhi reach 163 for seven.

With Priyansh Arya falling for eight, Outer Delhi could only make 144 for

The scores: New Delhi Tigers 172/6 in 20 overs (Deepak Punia 41, Shivam Gupta 38, Aryan Dalal 31 n.o., Rounak Waghela 3/18) lost to East Delhi Riders 174/3 in 18.2 overs (Arpit Rana 63 n.o., Mayank Rawat 32 n.o., Hardik

North Delhi Strikers 163/7 in 20 overs (Sarthak Ranjan 77, Vaibhav Kandpal 38) bt Outer Delhi Warriors 144/9 in 20 overs (Keshay Dabas 40, Sanat Sangwan 32, Vikas Dixit 3/19).

Chennaiyin temporarily suspends operations

Sports Bureau CHENNAI

Two-time Indian Super League champion Chennaiyin FC has temporarily suspended operations in light of the continuing uncertainty surrounding the future of the ISL, according to a release from the club on X on Wednesday.

"These are never easy ecisions to make and ours has come after much thoughtful consideration and careful deliberation," the statement read.

"We hope that this pause will be short-lived and that we can return to doing what we love as soon as there is clarity for all clubs. Throughout this uncertainty, our commitment to the growth of Indian football – upon which this journey began – remains as strong as ever," the statement added.

Amardeep in sole lead after second round

GOLF

Sports Bureau

Amardeep Malik jumped into the sole lead with a sparkling 7-under 65 in the second round, as he put together a 10-under 134, in the Coal India Open championship, offering ₹1 crore prize money, in Ahmedabad on Wednesday.

Amardeep got a twostroke lead after eight birdies, ranging from 15 to 50 feet, and a lone bogey on the fifth.

"I tried to hit the safest shot and found most fairways and greens. I also got lucky on the tough greens as I converted a lot of long putts," said Amardeep.

Angad Cheema was two strokes behind Amardeep, while other overnight leaders Karandeep Kochhar and Anshul Kabthiyal slipped to the tied fourth and tied sixth spots, respectively. The cut was ap-



plied at five-over 149, leading to 53 professionals and one amateur making it to the third round.

The scores (second round): 1. Amardeep Malik (69, 65) 134; 2. Angad Cheema (69, 67) 136; 3. Shaurya Bhattacharya (71, 66) 137; 4. Karandeep Kochhar (69, 70) 139: 5. Yuvrai Sandhu (70, 70) 140: 6T. Khalin Joshi (71, 70): Ariun Prasad (71, 70), Manoj S. (70, 71) 141; 9T. Jamal Hossain (75, 67), Anshul Kabthiyal (69, 73); Mohd Azhar (73, 69) 142; 12T. Rakshit Dahiya (72, 71), Ravi Kumar (70, 73), Abhinav Lohan (71, 72) 143.

Tommy Fleetwood to play in DP World India C'ship

Sports Bureau NEW DELHI

Olympic silver medallist Tommy Fleetwood of Britain confirmed his entry for the \$4 million DP World India Championship to be played at the Delhi Golf Course from October 16 to

He joins the career Grand Slam champion Rorv McIlrov in the star cast. A seven-time winner on

ne DP World Tour, 34 year-old Fleetwood expressed his eagerness to return to Delhi after 2016 and entertain the fans.

"I can't wait to get back to Delhi. It is such an amazing place – the people, the food. I am aiming to play some good golf and entertain the Indian fans.

I remember the Delhi Golf Club as a tight, challenging, strategic golf course. Players with all styles of play can contend, so it should help make for a



Seasoned pro: Fleetwood is a seven-time winner on the DP World Tour. GETTY IMAGES

very exciting week," said Fleetwood.

The chief financial officer at DP World, Yuvraj Narayan, was delighted with the increasing star power of the event in Delhi.

"India is a key part of our global business and hosting a tournament of this scale reflects our longterm commitment to the country. With Rory McIlroy already confirmed, we are pleased to have Tommy Fleetwood joining the field, adding to a world class line-up," said Na-

The organisers also announced that tickets would go on sale online on Book-MyShow from Thursday, August 7.

Mahika rallies to beat Jennifer

Sports Bureau NEW DELHI

Top seed Mahika Khanna recovered from a hesitant start to outplay Jennifer Luikham 4-6, 6-0, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of the ₹100,000 AITA women's tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex on Wednesday.

In the semifinals, Mahi-

ka will play Riya Sachdeva. The other semifinal will be between second seed

Samriti Punyani and Jeetesh Kumari, who came through matches in the quarterfinals against Suryanshi Shekhawat and Shagun Kumari, respectively.

Mahika Khanna bt Jennifei Luikham 4-6, 6-0, 6-2. Riya Sachdeva bt Aditi Tyagi 6-1,

The results (quarterfinals):

Jeetesh Kumari bt Shagun Kumari 6-0, 6-3. Samriti Punyani bt Suryanshi Shekhawat 6-1, 3-6, 4-3 (retd.).

Tanvi enters semifinals

Sports Bureau

Fifth seed Tanvi Khanna knocked out the second seed Menna Walid of Egypt 11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 10-12, 11-6 in the women's quarterfinals of the HCL India Tour PSA Challenger squash at the Sawai Man Singh Stadium, Jaipur, on Wednesday.

Tanvi, who won the battle of wits in 54 minutes, was the lone Indian to progress into the semifinals, and will play Goh Zhi Xuan of Malaysia.

The results (quarterfinals): Men: Yasin Shohdy (Egy) bt Naoki Hayashi (Jpn) 11-2, 11-6, 11-5;

Seif Refaav (Egv) bt Darren Pragasam (Mas) 11-3, 5-11, 11-13, 11-2, 11-3; Ravindu Laksiri (Sri) bt Karim Aguib (Can) 11-4, 11-7, 7-11, 11-5; Mohamed Gohar (Egy) bt Lap Man Au (Hkg) 11-6, 8-11, 11-7, 11-6.

Women: Nour Khafagy (Egy) bt Pooja Arthi 11-3, 11-3, 11-5; Akari Midorikawa (Jpn) bt Shameena Riaz 13-11, 11-6, 11-5; Goh Zhi Xuan (Mas) bt Aniali Semwal 11-3. 8-11, 11-5, 11-5; Tanvi Khanna bt Menna Walid (Egy) 11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 10-12, 11-6

Neeraj, Ishan, Yatri and Priya punch their way into the finals

BOXING

Press Trust of India BANGKOK

Neeraj, Ishan Kataria, Yatri Patel and Priya reached the finals of the U-22 Asian Boxing Championships here on Wednesday.

Neeraj relied on his speed and counter-attacking skills to defeat Kyeongho Bang of South Korea 5-0 in the men's 75kg category, while Ishan Kataria dominated China's Chen Chen in the men's 90+kg, with his big punches forcing the referee to stop the contest in the third round.

In the women's section, Yatri Patel reached the 57kg final by using a combination of left-right punches to dominate Vietnam's Thi Nhung Quand and win 5-0.

Priya also came up with a dominating performance to overpower Uzbekistan's Odinakhon Ismoilova to



Dominant: Priya pummelled Ismoilova into submission in the 60kg semifinals. FLICKR/ASIAN BOXING

reach the 60kg final.

Chaudhary's Rockev bout against Iran's Sam Estaki was stopped in the second round as he suffered both his cuts over eyebrows.

Harsh (60kg) and Mayur (90kg) took the fight to their respective opponents but could not finish on the right side of the split ver-

Harsh went down 1-4 against Uzbekistan's Shohruh Abdumalikov, Mayur lost to Shakhzod Polvonov from the same country and Ankush went down 0-5 to Sanzhar-Ali Begaliyev of Kazakhstan. Among the women,

Bhawna Sharma went down against Robiyakhon Bakhtiyorova of Uzbekistan in the 48kg category, while Parthavi Grewal (60kg), Parnjal Yadav (65kg) and Shruti (75kg) also lost their semifinal bouts.

All the losing semifinalists will bring home a bronze medal.

Liverpool set to cut losses with Nunez

Agence France Presse LIVERPOOL

Liverpool striker Darwin Nunez is reportedly closing in on a move to Saudi club Al Hilal, which could allow the Premier League champion to make a fresh bid for Newcastle's Alexander Isak. Nunez joined the Reds for an initial €75 million from Benfica three years ago. The Uruguayan has scored 40 goals in 143 appearances but slipped down the pecking order at Anfield under both Jurgen Klopp and Arne Slot.

tures of Luis Diaz, Jarell

Quansah, Caoimhin Kel-

leher, Trent Alexander-Ar-

nold and Tyler Morton.

According to transfer (pre-quarterfinals): Dmitry specialist Fabrizio Romano, Al Hilal will pay an in-Sundar Prashanth 6-4, 6-4. itial €53 million for the 26-\$30,000 ITF men, Bali, year-old. The sale of Nunez Indonesia: Singles (first would take Liverpool's income for transfer sales this window to nearly €200 million after the depar-

> Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Francis Alcantara (Phi) &

Arabella in Austria

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Qualifier Riya Bhatia beat Arabella Koller 6-4, 6-2 in the \$60,000 ITF women's tennis first round in Amstetten, Austria

Other results: €91,250 Challenger, Cordenons, Italy: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Zdenek Kolar (Cze) & Nino Serdarusic (Cro) bt Siddhant Banthia & Alexander Donski (Bul)

6-4, 3-6, [11-9].

€91,250 Challenger, Bonn, **Germany: Doubles** Popko & Denis Yevseyev (Kaz) bt Johannes Ingildsen (Den) & Vijay

round): Karan Singh bt Lucky Kurniawan (Ina) 6-4, 6-2; Ajay Malik bt Tomas Perez (Esp) 5-7. 6-4, 6-4; S. Mukund bt Kabir Hans

Christopher Rungkat (Ina) bt

Kabir Hans & Maan Kesharwani 7-6(2), 6-4.

Qualifier Riya Bhatia downs

\$30,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (first round): Manas Dhamne bt Roan Jones (GBR) 6-4, 6-0.

\$30,000 ITF men, Brazzaville, Congo: Singles (first round): Digvijay Pratap Singh bt Constantin Kouzmine (Fra) 6-4, 7-6(4); Seydina Andre (Sen) bt

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):

Aditya Balsekar 6-1, 6-4.

Chinmaya Dev Chauhan & Nishith Naveen bt Alexey Dubinin & Zachary Mintz (USA) 6-4, 6-2: Prakaash Sarran & Matas Vasiliauskas (Ltu) bt Isaac Bokungu & Guelord Kayombo (Cod) 6-1, 6-3; Kacper Szymkowiak & Jan Wygona (Pol) bt Matteo Covato (Ita) & Digvijay Pratap Singh 6-2, 7-6(4); Aditya

Balsekar & Stephane Kamendje

Christopher Koummba (Gab) 6-0,

(Can) bt Moye Koffi (CIV) &

6-1. \$15,000 ITF men, Singapore: Singles (first round): Ali Habib (GBr) bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-4, 7-6(7). Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):

Shaheed Alam & Bill Chan (Sgp) bt Parth Aggarwal & Felix Mischker (GBr) 6-4, 5-7, [10-8];

Abhinay Shanmugam & Manish Sureshkumar bt Ilya Ignatov (Uzb) & Markos Kalovelonis (Gre

\$60,000 ITF women, Amstetten, Austria: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Michaela Bayerlova (Cze) & Riya Bhatia bt Liel Rothensteiner & Ava Schueller (Aut) 6-7(5), 6-3, [12-10].

\$30,000 ITF women, Roehampton, Britain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Yeonwoo Ku (Kor) & Ankita Raina bt Erica Brennan & Lydia Brennan (Irl) 6-1, 6-1; Naiktha Bains (GBr) & Rutuja Bhosale bt Lucia Casidy & Marelie Raath (GBr) 6-3, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF women, Singapore: Singles (first round): Darja Suvirdjonkova (Srb) bt Smriti Bhasin 6-3, 6-1. Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Smriti Bhasin & Sravya Shivani bt Tanisha Kantam & Emma Maan (Sgp) 6-0, 6-1.

round): Anjali Rathi bt Anna Sedysheva 7-6(5), 6-1. Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Aglava Fedorova & Daria Khomutsianskaya (Blr) bt Prathyusha Rachapudi & Anjali Rathi 6-4, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF women, Astana,

Kazakhstan: Singles (first

Recharged and revitalised - Nikhat Zareen 2.0

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



Anirudh Velamuri HYDERABAD

Hyderabad is known for two things: the delicious biryani and its very own boxing ki rani."

Nikhat Zareen's wit, which is as sharp as her punches, was in full flow at an event in Hyderabad recently when she one-upped the emcee with a quick lesson on how to work on his introductions.

And yet, in that quip, was also an indication of how Nikhat views herself and a gentle reminder to everyone that her self-confidence, which had taken a beating a year ago in Paris, has been

Last year, having exited the Paris Olympics much earlier than expected, Nikhat was understandably distraught. Time has passed and this Nikhat is wiser and kinder to herself.

"There are a lot of things that have happened in the past. I don't want to focus on negatives. I just want to focus on the positive things that I have learned from Paris. It was a memorable competition for me. Not everyone gets the chance to represent India at the Olympics. I count myself lucky that at least I had the opportunity to go to the Olympics," she said in a chat with *The*

Not written in the stars

If the Paris Olympics taught Nikhat anything, it is that there are many more factors beyond hard work and self-belief that contribute to clinching an Olympic

"Paris was my first experience at the Olympics. I used to hear a lot about the Olympics from my seniors, about how it is not an easy event, how winning other competitions is easier. It's not easy because once you go there, there are a lot of expectations from you and a lot of pressure from everyone," she said.

"But when I went to the Olympics, what I experienced is that it's not just about working hard and having that belief in you that you can win medals. Sometimes it's also about destiny, it's also about luck. Sometimes that also matters a lot in your journey."

When she landed in the French capital, Nikhat had her eyes on two boxers: China's Wu Yu and Turkey's Buse Naz Cakiroglu. While she was far from afraid of facing them, she also did not want to meet either until the very end.

Fate, however, had other plans.

A series of unfortunate events

"My only hope was that these two boxers should not face me in the initial rounds and that they should face me in the semifinals or the final. Unfortunately, I

faced one of them, the Chinese girl, in the early rounds. It was bad luck," she said, recalling her defeat to the then reigning Asian Games champion.

That was not the only thing that went wrong for her there.

"That bout was in the morning at 11 o'clock. There was no time for recovery, and we also had no air conditioning in Paris. If you take everything, it was quite clear that it (succeeding there) was not written in my destiny," Nikhat brushed off

Her otherwise *bindaas* and steely persona dropped and she admitted, not for the first time, that she let herself go after the Paris Olympics.

"As soon as I came back from Paris, I ate everything at home. I ate everything that I do not usually eat. I gained 7 kgs as soon as I came back, within one month. I know that's very unhealthy, but what can I do? That time, my mindset was like that. I didn't care about anything. I didn't want to talk to anyone. I didn't want to go anywhere," she explained.

She was coaxed out of this rut first by Bella, the golden retriever she and her sister adopted, and then by a trip away from home, where she could recharge her spirits away from the cacophony of daily

"I sat and thought that this was not going to help me. It would only spoil me. I needed to get out of that zone. I do not want to overthink and stay in the shadow of disappointment. I didn't want to be in that disappointment phase. I want to move on and come back stronger. I'm in that phase of life. So I decided to go on a trip to Kashmir, which really helped me to

In her enthusiasm to get back on track, she began to work twice as hard and picked up a meniscus injury, which pushed her to the sidelines for almost four months. She returned to the ring at the Elite Women's Boxing Tournament in Hyderabad, her focus being on joining the elite national camp.

The two-time World champion and home favourite made it to the final in the 51kg category, but had to pull out before her bout with Jyoti due to a minor injury.

"Sometimes I feel like *meri kismat hi* kharaab hai (my destiny is bad)! Maybe no one is as unlucky as I am."

"These challenges break me, but they also make me stronger. Each obstacle makes me stronger and hungrier to achieve my goals. It's an interesting journey going on in my life right now. I am enjoying whatever life is throwing my way. I always tell myself, 'Nikhat, you are stronger. You are stronger than ever. You can handle this.' Always."

Nikhat also credited Sunny, a Sports Authority of India coach, with whom she began working this year, for helping her get back on course.

"I spoke to the federation and TOPS about needing a coach and finally decided to work under Sunny. I was training in ASI Pune for five months under him, and he has helped me regain my fitness levels. He has played a major role after the Paris Olympics in helping me get back into the national team?

Present perfect

The 29-year-old is just an Olympics old but has learnt the hard lesson of compartmentalising the intensity of the ring. Living in the present, she admits, is as imperative to her success in the ring as it is to her peace outside it.

"I know what I want in my life. At the same time, I just don't want to be blindly focused on that because when you don't get that, then you're totally shattered. That is what happened in Paris. Every time in my mind, there was only the thought of winning a medal. I left everything for it. I didn't eat junk food for so long. I didn't focus on eating sweets because I followed a strict diet. But what happened in Paris? I got broken. Literally



broken. I'm pushing myself every day, telling myself that whatever has happened in the past is in the past. Let's see what the future holds for me. Paris has taught me to focus on the present. I don't care what the future holds for me, what it brings in my life."

The two big events on this year's calendar are the World Boxing Championships and the Boxing Cup, while the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics is already on the back of everyone's minds.

"I just don't want to put pressure on myself like, 'Oh, what will happen in the World Championship? What will happen in LA?' No, I just want to live in the present and give my 100% in training and just enjoy my workouts, enjoy the game. I don't want to ruin my present thinking about the future. I just want to enjoy my training, enjoy my life.

Nikhat is too much of a free spirit to allow room for regret and realises that finding joy in life need not be on pause just to accommodate sporting excellence.

"Being an athlete, you have to be focused and disciplined. But at the same time, I have my life also. I know that once I leave boxing, when I look back, I'll regret that didn't do this and that. At the same time, I also want to live to the fullest. I want to do everything. I want to win a medal, I want to work hard, and I want to enjoy life. Because you only live once."

Nikhat has now made it to the Indian team heading to Liverpool, England, for the World Boxing Championships in September, where she will be in action on the international stage for the first time since the Paris Olympics.

"I'm working hard again. I am seeing this as the start of my Olympic cycle. So I'll keep pushing myself. This is my first competition after the Paris Olympics, and I'll have butterflies in my stomach when I

"But once I enter the ring, my mind will be set only on winning that match and the competition."

Nikhat forced her way onto the scene as a teenager, taking a circuitous route to the top, via stardom at the sub-junior nationals and Youth World Championships and ostracism for daring to challenge the legendary Mary Kom.

She remained undeterred then and is even more resolute now. Amidst all the doubters and critics, she cuts a very confident figure, like a lone show of human will in the path of history.

"I'm still that Nikhat Zareen who has that hunger to achieve and make the country proud.

"I'm happy that I'm finally back in the national team. Now the focus is on winning the medal."

THE GIST

If the Paris Games taught Nikhat anything, it is that there are many more factors beyond hard work and self-belief that contribute to clinching an

The 29-year-old has learnt the hard lesson of compartmentalising the intensity of the ring. Living in the present is what she has now embraced

She now heads to the World Boxing Championships, her first international event after Paris, with renewed self-belief and the hunger to make her country proud

'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, Bhubaneshwar

Rohini Subrahmanyam

hen 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), Bhubaneshwar, 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.

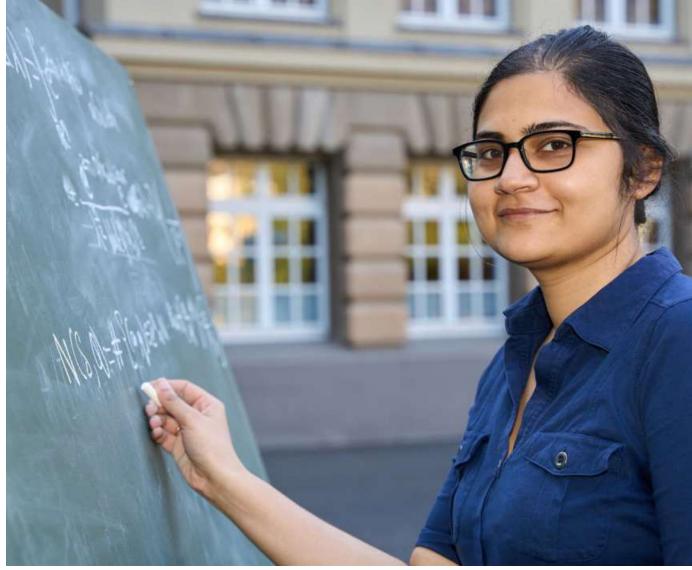
That's the basic idea of harmonic analysis, where one breaks down functions in terms of their frequencies or "harmonics" using a method called the Fourier transformation. One can imagine these frequencies to lie on a line, but you can also ask these questions in higher dimensions, Srivastava said. "Then 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

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 happer 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

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,"

"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

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



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science@thehindu.co.in with the

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