THURSDAY
August 6, 2026
CHENNAI
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Over 43 lakh voters deleted from draft rolls
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NEARBY

Tasmac shops must issue bill for each sale: HC

CHENNAI
The Madras High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac) to ensure that bill books are maintained in every retail liquor shop run by it and that consumers are issued bills for every purchase. » PAGE 7

'Efforts on to get nod for Metro Rail extension'

CHENNAI
Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson has said that Tamil Nadu is taking efforts to secure the Centre's approval for the three Chennai Metro Rail extension projects. » PAGE 3

METROPLUS » 6 PAGES

Rijiju meets Rahul in bid to end Parliament logjam

Parliamentary Affairs Minister says there is no proposal to hold Special Session to push through women's quota and delimitation Bills; Cong. presses for Shah's statement, debate on donation row

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju met Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday in an effort to break the deadlock in Parliament, with the two sides discussing the proposed delimitation Bill and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment (FCRA) Bill, 2026.

Amid speculation that the government could convene a three-day session after Independence Day to push through the women's reservation Bill and the delimitation Bill, Mr. Rijiju told *The Hindu* that "there is no such proposal".

Sources said Mr. Rijiju did not raise any proposal to extend the ongoing Monsoon Session or convene a Special Session during the nearly 50-minute meeting with Mr. Gandhi. Instead, he sought to know the Congress's stand on delimitation, they said.

Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and others protest against the Centre at Parliament complex on Wednesday. PTI

'Non-negotiable'

According to sources, Mr. Gandhi conveyed to Mr. Rijiju that a statement by Home Minister Amit Shah on the police action against students who protested against the NEET paper leak and a discussion on the alleged theft of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya were non-negotiable if the House was to function.

The meeting, held in Mr. Gandhi's Parliament office, was attended by Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

The Congress leaders also reiterated their opposition to any constitutional amendment to carry out the delimitation exercise, sources added.

The government's outreach came on a day when Opposition MPs held a symbolic march within the Parliament complex, questioning Mr. Shah's continued absence from the House.

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Vijay govt.'s debut Budget strikes a balance between welfare and fiscal prudence

B. Kolappan
N. Sai Charan
CHENNAI

The Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government, of Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, on Wednesday presented its first Budget, seeking to strike a balance between fiscal prudence and welfare and focussing on empowerment of women, youth, students, and the elderly.

While some of the TVK's election promises figured in the Budget, several others did not. The Budget, presented by Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson, also prioritised skill development, rural and infrastructure development.

Mr. Wilson said the State's outstanding debt is put at ₹10.98 lakh crore in the Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27. The outstanding debt-to-GSDP ratio is estimated at 27.01%.

The government plans to borrow ₹1,73,445 crore and repay ₹51,971 crore this fiscal. The State's Own Tax Revenue is projected to grow by 9.78%, with commercial taxes accounting for 68.9% of the collections, followed by Stamps and Registration (15.5%) and State Excise (6.2%).

MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 4 & 6

Key highlights

The first Budget presented by the TVK-led government focuses on empowerment of women, youth, and the elderly

- **Annan Seer:** 8-gram gold coin and silk saree for brides
- **'Arivagam':** India's first AI and innovation city with an AI university
- **TN-SUDAR:** 200 integrated student hostels with 1 lakh modern beds
- **Kamarajar Schools of Excellence:** Free residential schools for Classes IX-XII with boarding, food, textbooks and uniforms

- **After-school sports:** One-hour daily programme in government and aided schools

RBI panel keeps repo rate steady at 5.25%

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) voted unanimously on Wednesday to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.25%, after a detailed assessment of the evolving macroeconomic and financial developments.

Consequently, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 5%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the bank rate remain at 5.5%.

The MPC also decided to continue with the neutral stance.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, in his monetary policy statement, said the Indian economy has remained resilient amid persisting global headwinds.

Robust consumption

"High-frequency indicators available so far point towards steady domestic demand in Q1: 2026-27. Private consumption remained robust. Investment continues to be resilient, as suggested by various indicators," he said.

"External demand also sustained, as healthy expansion in services exports was complemented by a rebound in merchandise exports," he stated.

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'ENOUGH FUNDS FOR UPI'
» PAGE 13

Monsoon rhythm

Children play on a waterlogged street in New Delhi after heavy rain left several roads submerged on Wednesday, disrupting movement in different parts of the city. The India Meteorological Department has forecast moderate rain on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

CJP will function as a pressure group: Dipke

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Wednesday ruled out a political debut for now and announced it will go to Jharkhand to extend support for the students protesting against alleged irregularities in State recruitment examinations.

Claiming that people have lost faith in institutions, the founder of the group, Abhijeet Dipke, said that the CJP will work as a "pressure group". "May it be politics, judiciary, the media, or the Election Commission, their credibility has reduced. They need to be made accountable, neutral," he said in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in Maharashtra, where the CJP's core committee has gathered for a two-day meeting to outline a road map. The CJP will keep working on issues related to education, employment, inflation, high cost of living, and the economy, Mr. Dipke said.

Abhijeet Dipke

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JHARKHAND PROTEST
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Meta apologises for 'errors in operating platform' as govt. summons senior official

Nistula Hebbar
Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Meta chief executive officer Mark Zuckerberg conveyed his "apologies" for child sex abuse material (CSAM), deepfake content, and "errors in operating the platform", government sources said, after Joel Kaplan, the technology giant's global head of public policy, met with officials from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on Wednesday.

"Meta will be called again," the sources said, indicating that further meetings are on the slate. The delegation led by Mr. Kaplan also met Union Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

> If he [Mr. Zuckerberg] fails to tender an unqualified apology within 3 days of receipt of this letter, the protection/immunity given under Section 79(3) of IT Act may be withdrawn and action taken against him as a publisher
> **STANDING COMMITTEE LETTER**

> I apologised... on behalf of Meta for the error restricting PM Modi's post
> **JOEL KAPLAN**
> Meta's Chief Global Affairs Officer

Mr. Kaplan had been summoned, among other things, to explain why Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first video message to the youth posted on July 23 was temporarily removed from Facebook. The company had attributed it to an error. The government had insisted on full accounting of the error and a personal apology from Mr. Zuckerberg. The informal readout of the meeting did not include a specific reference to that post's takedown.

"I apologised to the Minister on behalf of Meta for the error restricting PM Modi's post," Mr. Kaplan later said in a statement.

The meetings follow heightened discussions around Instagram's role in amplifying the protests at Jantar Mantar last month, as well as the brief takedown of Mr. Modi's post on Facebook. Officials asserted that Meta was "not covered under intermediary definition" – a significant statement – since this would make the company liable in court for every single post by users.

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Hasina says fear will not decide her duty to people

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was deposed in 2024 following protests, on Wednesday virtually addressed a press conference here, and said "fear" and "concerns of personal safety" will not prevent her from returning home.

She also called for lifting the ban on her Awami League party and termed India a country that has "always been a friend" and supported Bangladesh when it faced difficulties.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 10

Having majority no reason for lawmakers to defy party: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court made it clear on Wednesday that a group of MLAs or MPs cannot override the official directives of the parent political party merely for the reason that they hold a majority among the elected members.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, part of a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, said the maturity of a democracy was measured by the constancy of political parties and their members to their ideology. The court was hearing a dispute between the Shiv Sena factions led by Uddhav Thackeray and current Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde over which was the real party and the rightful bearer of the party symbol.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Mr. Thackeray, said "mergers" orchestrated by a faction of MLAs or MPs were not dictated by democratic or ideological powers, but a naked pursuit of power. "You are carrying this shenanigan to an absurd level where the entire electoral process becomes a farce because the electoral verdict can be changed through manipulation and defection. The government that comes into existence is not the government that the people voted for. This has huge repercussions," Mr. Sibal said.

The court, meanwhile, indicated the striking of a balance between the electorate's decision to vote a party to power and the individual representatives' liberty to express genuine disagreement with the party's decisions.

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T.N. Budget promises fresh push to restore Cooum, Adyar rivers

The government would invite global tenders, prepare detailed feasibility and project reports to transform the rivers into city's defining landmarks

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

For Chennai, no State Budget seems complete without allocation for the city's rivers restoration. The maiden Budget of the TVK-led government also promises restoration of the Cooum and the Adyar rivers.

Presenting the Budget in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Wednesday, Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson said the government would strive with the "utmost resolve to restore the Cooum and the Adyar to their natural state".

Drawing parallels with Seoul's Cheonggyecheon and Singapore's Kallang, he said the government would invite global tenders and prepare detailed feasibility and project reports to transform both the rivers into Chennai's defining landmarks. He outlined an ambitious goal of making the rivers clean for boat rides.

A detailed project report for Adyar river restoration was already under preparation for a scheme announced under the Hybrid Annuity Model by the previous regime.

Sources said that the project report is awaiting a few clarifications. While some improvement works proposed by the Water Resources Department have been completed, a detailed project report was being prepared for the Cooum. The reports may be refined in line with the new government's priorities.

Huge task: Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson outlined an ambitious plan to make the rivers clean for boat rides. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Pipeline construction

The ₹3,108-crore Ring Main Pipeline project announced by the previous regime during the last fiscal also found a place in the Budget. Sources said preliminary work is in progress to construct the circular pipeline, which will connect all major drinking water sources in Chennai with distribution points. The project, which aims to provide equitable and uninterrupted water supply, would be completed by 2030-31.

The circular pipeline for the city was designed to handle a flow of 1,762 million litres of water a day, which is the projected water demand for 2057. The project would be expanded to cover the entire Chennai Metropolitan Area in phases, sources said.

The State government has also promised to take steps to expedite river interlinking initiatives.

River linking projects

Mr. Wilson noted that the Cauvery - Vaigai - Gundar river linking project would commence this year with an initial fund allocation of ₹150 crore.

It would also allocate ₹50 crore towards preparing detailed project reports for other river linking projects, including Pennaiyar - Cheyyar.

Govt. announces AI planning approvals, new housing scheme

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday announced an AI-enabled planning approval system, integrating multiple agencies, and a new rental housing scheme to develop one lakh housing units in Chennai over the next seven years, as part of the 2026-27 Budget.

In the revised Budget Estimates, ₹8,852 crore has been allocated for the Housing and Urban Development Department, which is an increase from the Interim Budget 2026-27 by the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government, which allocated ₹7,547 crore. A total of ₹8,737.71 crore was allocated for the department in FY 2025-26.

The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) was preparing the Third Master Plan (2027-2046) for the existing Chennai Metropolitan Area (CMA) covering 1,189 sq. km., the Budget mentioned. A Comprehensive Master Plan would be prepared for the expanded CMA covering 5,904 sq. km. to serve as a roadmap for its long-term growth and transformation, benchmarked against internationally acclaimed metropolitan planning frameworks. An allocation of ₹25 crore has been made for the scheme.

To streamline planning approvals, the State government announced the introduction of an AI-enabled online planning approval system, Single Platform for Efficient Expedited Development (SPEED), integrating the CMDA, the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP), and rural and urban local bodies to provide timely and transparent planning permissions across Tamil Nadu. The Budget allocated ₹40 crore for the initiative.

The Budget also stated that 24,131 under-construction multi-storeyed tenements would be completed this year, while work on another 14,194 tenements would commence during the year. A total of ₹1,253 crore was allocated for the programme.

The TNUHDB will also launch the Metropolitan Youth and Family Housing Scheme (MY-HOME) as a pilot initiative in the CMA. Under the scheme, one lakh housing units will be developed over the next seven years through public-private partnership model, attracting an estimated investment of ₹15,000 crore, supported by ₹3,500 crore in Viability Gap Funding through the Tamil Nadu Shelter Fund.

Healthcare spending continues to rise in T.N., ₹23,357 cr. allocated

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu has increased its healthcare spending by about 6.6% this year, allocating ₹23,357 crore, and continuing its steady increase in public health allocations over the past few years. The announcements for the health sector include 1,000 Mobile Geriatric Treatment Centres, maternity care and support centres and a Hub-and-Spoke medical system for cancer care.

There has been a year-on-year increase in Tamil Nadu's health allocation, with the amount rising from ₹20,197 crore in 2024-2025 to ₹21,905 crore in 2025-2026. While the allocation increased by 8.45% in the previous year, the current year's increase stands at 6.62%. Despite drawing differing views, the TVK government went ahead and allocated ₹560 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates for its "Thai Maaman Thanga Mothiram Thittam," in which every newborn delivered in a government hospital will receive a one-gram gold ring.

The government allocated ₹33 crore for establishing mobile geriatric centres for senior citizens. To be introduced in phases across the State, each centre will have a team comprising a doctor, a nurse and a physiotherapist, who will visit every village panchayat to conduct free health check-ups and provide medicines for chronic conditions.

It will also set up "Thai Care", maternity care and support centres for pregnant women. They can stay at these centres to receive care as their delivery date approaches. The centres will offer free meals, medical support, and continuous health monitoring. A total of ₹23 crore was allocated for the scheme. The government allocated ₹18.5 crore for a telemedicine system based on a "Hub-and-Spoke" hospital model to ensure access to specialised medical care for people in remote and rural areas. Five hubs staffed by specialist doctors will be linked to 200 spokes at Primary Health Centres and government hospitals through an online network. This network will be expanded to 1,000 hubs and spokes in the next five years.

Like previous years, cancer care continued to be a priority area. The government will establish a "Hub-and-Spoke" medical system for cancer care. Five zonal cancer care hospitals will be set up as primary points of contact for patients and will also undertake research and development activities in cancer care. Financial allocation for medicines were increased by ₹100 crore to ensure continuous supply.

However, the health announcements in the Budget fell short to address the need to increase manpower. The Tamil Nadu Nurses Empowerment Association expressed disappointment over the Budget, stating that it did not have any announcements benefitting government employees and healthcare staff, particularly nurses.

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CINEMA ❖ ARTS ❖ EVENTS

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

The Music Academy Madras
36th SPIRIT OF YOUTH FESTIVAL of MUSIC AND DANCE . Today: At the Kasturi Srinivasan Hall, 6 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. R L Krishna Priya (Vocal), Malladi Sindhu Rageswari (Violin), Rangasubramanian K (Mridangam) – 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Bharatanatyam by Advith Shashidhar (Disciple of Indira Kadambi). Members of the Academy are specially invited. The festival sponsored by SUNDRAM FASTENERS LIMITED and dedicated to the memory of Smt. Ambujam Krishna.

Narada Gana Sabha Trust
Ph: 24993201
Today Mini Hall (Swami Haridhos Giri Hall) - 6.30 pm - Talent Promotion Concerts - Nadasangamam - V Sai Govind (Mandolin), Adambakkam J Arvind, (Mridangam) Aranala V Sabharish Lakshmipathi. (Ghatam). All are welcome.

Raja Annamalaipuram Bhakta Jana Sabha R A Puram Chennai 28
SRIMAD BHAGHAVADA SAPTHAHAM by Dr Smt. SUDHA SESHAYYAN at Sringeri Pravachana Mandiram Ch 28. Programme on 6/8/26 stands cancelled. The series will be completed on 10/8/26 instead of 9/8/26.

Rasika Ranjani Sabha Foundation, Ch-4
Today at 5 pm, Shreya Ravikumar - Vocal, Kailashapathy - Violin, Punnur Arvind Kaushik - Mrdangam. 6.45 pm Dhanush Anantharaman - Vocal, Shyam Ragav - Violin, Adharsh Devarajan - Mrdangam. Ph. 8610357987. Rasikas Welcome.

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PRE-BID MEETING NOTICE

The department of Nuclear Medicine is scheduled to conduct Pre-Bid meetings of following equipment on the dates and time mentioned below:

Sl. No	Name of Equipment	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Robotic PET/CT Guided Biopsy System	10.08.2026	02:00 PM to 03:00 PM	e-Tumor Board Room Telemedicine Department
2.	Digital PET/CT Scanner (128 Slice)	10.08.2026	03:00 PM onward	e-Tumor Board Room Telemedicine Department
3.	Radiation Monitoring System of Cyclotron facility	11.08.2026	03:00 PM onward	e-Tumor Board Room Telemedicine Department

Considering the highly specialized, rapidly evolving, technology-intensive, and globally dynamic nature of above equipment, and in order to ensure transparency, fairness, wider and healthy competition, optimal technical standardization, and formulation of Clinically relevant technical specifications, a Pre-Bid Meeting is being convened on the above scheduled date and time.

The objective of the pre-bid meeting is to obtain complete stakeholder participation from Manufacturers/Authorized Importers/Indian Subsidiaries/OEM representatives regarding technical inputs and suggestions of currently available as well as globally emerging technologies and associated infrastructure requirements.

The draft of tentative technical specifications, in line with the broad institutional requirements, are available for perusal on the institute website: **https://sgpgims.org.in/**

All Manufacturers/Authorized Importers/Indian Subsidiaries/OEM representatives are requested to participate in the aforesaid pre-bid meeting as per the scheduled date and time with complete technical details of their current and emerging line of products to facilitate formulation of final technical specifications in accordance with the latest state-of-the-art technology available globally and in the best interest of patient care, academics, training and institutional growth and submit your technical inputs & suggestion regarding the draft of tentative technical specifications latest by **09.08.2026** (upto 04:00 PM) with a line of confirmation for Participation on email: **nuclearmedicinesgpgi@gmail.com.**

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E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of MADURAI ARM Branch of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and " Whatever there is" on **28/08/2026** for recovery of **Rs. 1,18,77,896.19** (Rupees One Crore Eighteen lakh Seventy Seven thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Six and Paisa Nineteen Only) as on 22/07/2026 with further interest from 23/07/2026 + cost due to the ARM Branch, Madurai of Canara Bank from **1. Mr. RAMAIAH A RAMESH PANDIAN G** (BORROWER), **2. Mrs. JOTHILAKSHMI A** (CO-BORROWER).

Details and full description of the Immovable properties: Name of the Title Holder : Mr.Ramaiah A Ramesh Pandian G.

"A" Schedule of Property (Entire Property) All that the piece and parcel of lands in all measuring about 30416 Sq.ft Situate in the Premises bearing Door No.1, JawaharlalNehru Salai, (inner ring road) Ponniamman Medu, Madhavaram Village, comprised in the following four (4) items of land : **Item 1 :** All that piece and parcel of lands measuring about 3 cents comprised in Survey No. 1414/2A and 22 cents comprised in survey No 1415/1, in all measuring about 25 cents,(as per Extract from the Town Survey Field Register, T.S No 66/2, Block No 46, Ward 'D') situate in Madhavaram Village, formerly AmbathurTaluk, Now in Madhavaram Taluk, Chennai District, within the limits of Chennai Corporation, **Bounded on** the North by - Water channel, South by - Lands belonging to Ulaganathan, East by - 200 feet Road, West by - Land belonging to Ashok R Patel and his Mother. Situate Within the Registration District of North Chennai and the Sub district of Madhavaram. **Item 2:** All that piece and parcel of vacant land measuring about 1800 sqft bearing Plot No 22 in the layout known as **Vana Sakthi Nagar Extension,** comprised in Survey Nos 1413 and 1414/1, (as per Extract from the town survey Field Register, T S No 66/1, Block No 46, Ward 'D') situated in Madhavaram Village, formerly Ambathur Taluk, Now in MadhavaramTaluk, Chennai District, within the limits of Chennai Corporation, **Bounded on** the North by - Plot no 15 and 16, South by - 30 feet wide road, East by - Plot no 21, West by - Plot no 23. **Measuring -** East to West on the Northern Side - 30 feet, East to West on the Southern Side - 30 feet, North to South on the Eastern Side - 60 feet, North to South on the Western Side- 60 feet. In all admeasuring about 1800 sqft, and All that the Piece and parcel of vacant house site bearing plot no 23 in the layout known as **Vana Sakthi Nagar Extension,** comprised in Survey Nos 1413 and 1414/1 (as per Extract from the town Survey Field Register, T.S No 66/1, Block No 46, Ward 'D') situated at in Madhavaram Village, formerly AmbathurTaluk, Now in MadhavaramTaluk, Chennai District, Within the limits of Chennai Corporation, **Bounded on** the North by - Plot no 15, South by - Survey No 1414/1 and 30 feet wide Road, East by - Plot no 22, West by - Survey No 1413 and 24 Feet wide Road. **Measuring -** East to West on the Northern Side - 30 feet, East to West on the Southern Side - 30 feet, North to South on the Eastern Side - 60 feet, North to South on the Western Side- 60 feet. In all admeasuring about 1800 sq ft, Situate within the Registration District of North Chennai and the Sub-district of Madhavaram. **Item 3 :** All that the piece and parcel of vacant land measuring about 31 cents comprised in Survey No 1413 part and 1414/1 (as per Extract from the town Survey Field Register, TS No 66/1, Block No 46, Ward'D'), situated in Madhavaram Village, formerly AmbathurTaluk, Now in Madhavaram Taluk, Chennai District, within the limits of Chennai Corporation, **Bounded on** the North by - Road, South by - Road and Land in S.No. 1411, East by - S.No.1415, West by - S.No. 1413 and 1414/1 and Road, Situate within the Registrarion District of North Chennai and the Sub-district of Madhavaram. **Item 4 :** All that the piece and parcel of vacant land bearing Plot No 20, an extent of 2400 Sqft, Comprised in Survey No 1414/1(as per Extract from the town Survey Field Register, TS No 66/1,Block No 46, Ward 'D') situate in Vanasakthinagar in Madhavaram Village, formerly AmbathurTaluk, Now in Madhavaram Taluk, Chennai District, within the limits of Chennai Corporation, **Bounded on** the North by - Plot no 17 and 18, South by - 30 feet wide Road, East by - Plot No 19, West by - Plot No 21. **Measuring -** North to South on the Eastern Side - 60 feet, North to South on the Western Side - 60 feet, East to West on the Northern Side - 40 feet, North to South on the Southern Side - 40 feet. In all admeasuring about 2400 sq ft, Situate within the Registration District of North Chennai and the Sub-district of Madhavaram. **"B" Schedule of Property (Property hereby agreed to be sold and conveyed) :-** 282 Sqft undivided share and interest in the land from and out of 30416 Sqft., more fully described in aforesaid Schedule-A mentioned property and there on constructed Flat No 301, Block No:C in the said multi storied buiding named as 99 DELIGHTS constructed on the Schedule-A mentioned property developed CMDA vide planning permit No: C/PP/MSB/34A TO F/2014 in the file No : CEBA/WDC03/00025/2015 Dated 23/02/2015 and fro, corporation of Chennai(Zone No 03) vide building Permit No: C3(N)3834/2012 dated 17/10/2014 for the same.

Reserve Price of the Property will be Rs. 40,50,000/- (Rupees Forty Lakhs Fifty Thousand only)
Earnest Money Deposit will be Rs. 4,05,000/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Five Thousand only)

Auction Date : 28.08.2026 between 12.00 p.m. - 01.00 p.m. EMD shall be on or before 4.00 p.m of 27.08.2026

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the website **"https://baanknet.com/"** or may contact **Chief Manager, Canara Bank, Specialized Asset Recovery Management Branch,** Madurai. (Cell No.**94890 46509**) during office hours on any working day.

Date : 05.08.2026 **Authorised Officer**
Place : Madurai **Canara Bank**

PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT) DEPARTMENT

Online Sale of Tenders :- 06/08/2026 to 13/08/2026 upto 03:00 PM
Last date of submission of tenders :- 06/08/2026 to 13/08/2026 at 03:00 PM
Date of opening of Tenders :- 14/08/2026 at 03:00 PM

Sr No	Tender No	Name of Work	Total Project Cost incl. GST, Royalty and Testing charges (Rs.)	Tender Amount (Excluding GST, Royalty, Testing charges (Rs.)	GST (18%) Rs.	Royalty Rs.	Material Testing Charges Rs.	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.) 0.50 %	Security Deposit (5%)	Time Limit in Calender months including monsoon	Cost of Tender Document Rs.	All the documents are attached to online tender	Tender Type	Contact Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	Pmc/ Chief Eng. (Project)/ 37/2026	Construction of Railway over bridge (ROB-I, Gate No. 586) on the Pune-Miraj railway line at Ghorpadi- execution of the remaining works	7,58,24,738/-	6,29,11,773	1,13,24,119	4,31,141/-	11,57,705	7,58,300	31,91,237	4 Months (Including mansson)	17,879/-	YES	New Tender	Sonali Wanjari (Jr. Engineer) 8262038510

A. This tender will be implemented as per B-1 type
B. Detailed terms / conditions for the tendered works are mentioned in the tender set and the tender set for this work is published on the website www.mahatenders.gov.in.
C. Complete information about online tendering process is available at The Office of Chief Engineer (Projects), 3rd Floor, Main Building, Pune Municipal Corporation, Shivajinagar, Pune- 05.
D. EMD amount will be accepted only through ECS / RTGS / NEFT facility.
E. It will be sole responsibility of the tenderer if the tender set is not downloaded or submitted at the last moment.

Sd/-
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Pune Municipal Corporation

ADVT No: 3/514, Date: 05/08/2026

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, C.A.SHYLA alias SHYLA JOSEPH W/o Lt.Col.(Retired) Thazon Joseph Mathew, Age 60, Residing at GF–2, C–Block, Vasanth Apartment, T.T. Mathiew Road, Athipet, Chennai–600095, shall henceforth be known as C.A.SHYLA

I, K.S. SANTHI, wife of Thiru A.Natarajan born on 03rd June 1970 (District of Birth: Perambalur), residing at No 2/4, 1st Floor, Muthu Mariamman Kovil Street, Ganapathy Nagar, Vanagaram, Maduravoyal, Chennai 600095 shall henceforth be known as K S Shanthi

I, VIJAYALAKSHMI GOPINATH, (Indian Passport No. V2101400) D/o. N. Gopinath, Born on 16.06.1987 residing at Plot No.40, Door No.4, 3rd Cross Street, Udhayam Nagar, Velachery, Chennai 600042, In my online birth certificate my name is mistakenly mentioned as G VIDYALAKSHMI, I, declare that "VIJAYALAKSHMI GOPINATH", "G. VIJAYALAKSHMI", "VIJAYALAKSHMI G", "G VIDYALAKSHMI" and "G VIJAYALAKSHMI" are one and the same person. My correct name is "VIJAYALAKSHMI GOPINATH"

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANKARAN Balamurugan, hereby declare that my son, Mughil Alagan Sankaran Krishnapriya, born on 27-04-2011 residing at F2/B4 Valliamal Apts, Selaiyur,Ch-73 shall hereafter be known as "Mughil Alagan S.K."

I, SHAANTHI Kalimuthu W/o Kaliemuthu V P, resident of Flat 2, 3rd Floor Kaleeswari Tower, Pace Aagam, No 10/98A Velachery Main Road, Medavakkam 600100 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shaanthi Kalimuthu to Shanthisri Kaliemuthu and henceforth I shall be known as SHANTHISRI KALIEMUTHU in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Chennai on 04/08/2026. Shanthisri Kaliemuthu and Shaanthi Kalimuthu both are same and one identical person.

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INBRIEF

Airport gets 13 automated external defibrillators

Thirteen automated external defibrillators (AEDs) were inaugurated at the city airport on Wednesday as part of the 'HeartSafe' initiative of Kauvery Hospital and Chennai airport. Manivannan S., founder and managing director, Kauvery Group of Hospitals, said the hospital's 24x7 emergency clinics were equipped with advanced medical equipment and supported by experienced emergency physicians, skilled nurses, and trained paramedics, who can respond immediately. "The addition of AEDs further strengthens our emergency response capability, enabling timely defibrillation alongside expert medical care," he added. Raja Kishore, director, Chennai airport, said, "The installation of the automated external defibrillators is an important step towards strengthening our emergency medical preparedness." As per a release, Kauvery Hospital has been operating a 24x7 emergency medical service at Chennai airport, with 49 healthcare professionals and four clinics.

Efforts are on to get Centre's nod for Metro Rail extension projects: Finance Minister

N. Marie Wilson says the projects are under active consideration of the Centre; State govt. is also pursuing a plan to create Metro Rail connectivity from Hosur to Bommasandra in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson on Wednesday said the State government is taking efforts to secure the Centre's approval for the three Chennai Metro Rail extension projects.

In the Budget, he said, three stretches – Airport to Kilambakkam (₹9,335 crore), Koyambedu to Pattabiram via Avadi (₹9,744 crore), and Poonamallee to Sunguvarchathiram via Sriperumbudur (₹8,779 crore) – have been recommended by the State government, and is under the active consideration of the Government of India.

Long wait: The Minister said the phase II stretch from Poonamallee Bypass to Vadapalani was 'scheduled to be commissioned for public use shortly.' B. VELANKANNI RAJ

The detailed project reports (DPR) for these projects were forwarded last year to the Union Government, and was recently reviewed by the Network Planning Group.

Sources said these projects need to receive the nod from NITI Aayog, Public Investment Board, and finally from the Union Cabinet.

Mr. Wilson also said, the ongoing 118.9 km phase II Metro Rail network, coming up at an estimated completion cost of ₹63,246 crore, was progressing in full swing, and the first stretch from Poonamallee Bypass to Porur Junction, connecting Vadapalani station (14.64 km), was "scheduled to be commissioned for public use shortly."

The State government has been pursuing the proposal to create Metro Rail connectivity from Hosur in Krishnagiri district to Bommasandra in Karnataka with the Centre and the Karnataka government.

Educationists react sharply as Budget cuts allocation for higher education

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The allocation for Higher Education Department in Revised Budget 2026-27 has dropped by ₹101 crore compared to last fiscal, prompting sharp response from educationists and activists. The total outlay for the department has been put at ₹8,393 crore.

In his Budget speech, Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson highlighted the allocation of ₹2,000 crore for 'Vetri Laptop Scheme' for college students and the proposal to establish a specialised government law college in Madurai with an intake of 300 students. He also announced the setting up of Tamil Nadu Student Housing and Infrastructure Corporation to build 200 integrated students' hostels with one lakh beds through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model at a total capital outlay of ₹3,200 crore, with a State grant of ₹640 crore. The budget documents indicate that the government has allocated ₹1,807 as grant to universities, which is an increase from ₹1,678 crore last fiscal. Besides, there has been a marginal rise in the amount allocated for payment of fees of students admitted to colleges under the 7.5% horizontal reservation scheme.

Reacting to the budget, G. Thiruvasagam, former vice-chancellor of University of Madras said that 20-odd universities in the State have over 50% vacancy in faculty positions. If the government seeks to fill up the vacancies, the allocation will not be enough. Although the universities and colleges in the State have fared better than others in the country in NIRF rankings, poor funding from the government has begun to take a toll. "All universities are low on resources. The allocation would not even meet a fraction of their requirement," Dr. Thiruvasagam asserted. He said that public universities were losing students to private universities because of better infrastructure, laboratory facilities, and technology-oriented teaching materials there. "If we are to attract more students to our universities, we need to increase funding several times," he added.

Meanwhile, P.B. Prince Gajendra Babu, general secretary, State Platform for Common School System-Tamil Nadu, raised concerns over cost of accommodation and food at the students' hostels built under the PPP model.

He said there was significant risk that it would impose heavy financial burden on both students and parents, especially first generation learners and women students.

CM's integrated urban mission to reshape cities by 2031 at ₹2,117 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

To reshape the urban landscape in Tamil Nadu by 2031, the State government's 2026-27 Budget has launched the ₹2,117-crore 'Chief Minister's Integrated Urban Development Mission', a multi-sectoral project focusing on civic infrastructure, urban public health, and AI-driven e-governance. In the revised Budget estimates, a total of ₹29,863 crore was allocated to the Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department. This is an increase from the ₹28,227 crore allocated by the DMK-led government during the Interim Budget 2026-27.

According to the Budget, the Mission will bring under one roof urban infrastructure, water supply, underground sewerage system, integrated solid waste management, city roads, urban transport, expansion of green spaces, protection of urban waterbodies, social infrastructure, safety of women and children, AI-driven e-governance, and a dedicated 'Urban Public Health Improvement Mission.'

The Budget said the Intelligent Transport Management System, within Greater Chennai Corporation, is in its final stage of implementation. "A comprehensive street redesign and urban mobility project will also be implemented, with key emphasis on pedestrian infrastructure, accessibility, and urban design enhancements, including smart parking management at 20 locations and restructuring of roads in the Ambattur and Guindy Industrial Estates," it added. To expand the city's green canopy and create people-centric public spaces, footpaths along major routes and residential zones will also undergo greening and beautification, the Budget added.

"People-friendly streets will be developed in all Municipal Corporations, transforming them into modern urban thoroughfares with proper road connectivity, dedicated pedestrian pathways, separate cycling lanes, well-connected cross-streets, junction improvements, safe school access networks, and modern LED street lighting."

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Govt. needs two years to restore fiscal prudence: Finance Minister

'Unlike previous govt. that focused on short-term political gains, we believe we need to achieve sustained growth'

Tamil Nadu's fiscal position remains under strain, and the new government inherited a treasury burdened with debt, inadequate income, and systemic leakages, Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson said on Wednesday.

Presenting the Revised Budget 2026-27 in the Assembly, he said the process of repair had begun, but it would require at least two years to bring the financial administration back on the track of fiscal prudence.

He said that under the leadership of Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay, the government aimed to build fiscally prudent governance capable of delivering balanced and inclusive economic growth. "Unlike the previous government, which focused only on short-term political gains with the belief that they should make the best use of their five-year term, our government believes that we need to look forward to at least 15 years of sustained growth through consistent policies and clean and efficient governance," the Minister said.

"The State has been borrowing without reference to what its revenues can sustain. While there is nothing wrong with borrowing to invest in human and physical capital that acts as the driver of economic and social growth, this needs to be accompanied by corresponding efforts to mobilise resources that could cover such borrowings. The previous government failed to recognise this simple fact," the Minister said.

"The previous government allowed revenue-earning departments to bleed uncontrollably, while permitting a substantial share of public money to be siphoned off by unscrupulous middlemen," he said.

Since the formation of the current government, he said, continuous efforts had been made to plug the leakage in revenue and expenditure, enabling the government to generate at least ₹1,500 crore from the revenue side so far. It also expected to create substantial fiscal space on the expenditure side through savings in the procurement of goods and services, he added.

Welfare schemes

The Minister reiterated that welfare schemes – such as scholarship, free education for students, subsidies for entrepreneurs to start businesses and manufacturing units and for PDS, and free housing for the poor – were not largesse but investment in human and social capital that drove consumption and long-term economic growth. The government would continue most of the welfare schemes that had been implemented for the past three decades, and planned to expand them. However, it believed that a calibrated balance was necessary between investment in welfare schemes and investment in physical capital and infrastructure. Such measures required adequate resources and fiscal space, and without sustained efforts in this regard, welfare schemes could not be continued, he said.

State's outstanding debt is ₹10.98 lakh cr.

State's Own Tax Revenue is pegged at ₹2,26,740 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates, when compared with the Interim Budget Estimates' projection of ₹2,29,579 crore. The State will receive ₹8,160 crore in additional funds from the Centre as it will implement VB-G RAM G

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's overall outstanding debt is estimated at ₹10,98,768 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27, as against ₹10,99,458 crore in the Interim Budget Estimates for 2026-27, Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson said.

Presenting the Revised Budget for 2026-27 in the Assembly, he said the outstanding debt includes public debt and public account liability. "Public debt includes ₹9,523 crore, which should be reflected in the accounts of the Union government after the approval of the Chennai Metro Rail Phase II project as a Central Sector Project," he said.

The outstanding debt-to-GSDP ratio in the Revised Budget Estimates is estimated at 27.01%, as against 27.03% in the Interim Budget Estimates. In the Revised Budget Estimates, State's Own Tax Revenue (SOTR) is estimated at ₹2,26,740 crore, when compared with the Interim Budget Estimates' projection of ₹2,29,579 crore.

"Aligning with the observations in the White Paper on Fiscal Management regarding past overestimations, projections have been recalibrated downward in the Revised Budget Estimates," Mr. Wilson said, adding that SOTR is projected to expand at a rate of 9.78% in 2026-27 over the Revised Estimates of 2025-26.

The State's Own Non-Tax Revenue is estimated at ₹27,704 crore in the Interim Budget Estimates, as against ₹26,265 crore in the Revised Estimates of 2025-26. In the Revised Estimates for 2026-27, it is pegged at ₹27,835 crore.

Tamil Nadu will receive ₹8,160 crore in additional funds from the Centre in the current financial year, according to the Revised Budget Estimates. The increase is largely on account of the State's decision to implement the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G), which replaced the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). Under a 60:40 cost-sharing pattern, the Centre's share for the scheme is ₹7,586 crore, while the State's contribution is ₹5,057 crore. According to the Budget, grants-in-aid from the Centre were estimated at ₹24,762 crore in the Interim Budget Estimates for 2026-27. In the Revised Budget Estimates, it has gone up to ₹32,922 crore.

Status report: Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson presenting the Budget in the Assembly on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The share in central taxes was estimated at ₹56,819 crore in the Revised Estimates of 2025-26. The same was estimated at ₹62,531 crore in the Interim Budget Estimates for 2026-27, based on the Union government's allocation in its Budget. The same has been retained in the Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27. In aggregate, the total revenue receipts, projected at ₹3,09,698 crore in the Revised Estimates of 2025-26 and ₹3,44,575 crore in the Interim Budget Estimates for 2026-27, have now been estimated at ₹3,50,027 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27. This is an increase of ₹5,452 crore over Interim Budget Estimates, he said.

Total revenue expenditure has been revised up to ₹4,05,802 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27 from ₹3,93,272 crore in the Interim Budget Estimates. This increase is attributable to mandatory outlays for new flagship commitments, agricultural crop loan waivers, 200 units of free electricity, and the Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram scheme.

The overall capital expenditure, projected at ₹59,562 crore in the Interim Budget Estimates for 2026-27, is estimated at ₹56,985 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27. The total capital outlay, including net loans and advances, is estimated at ₹66,060 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates. The revenue deficit in the Interim Budget Estimates 2026-27 was ₹48,696 crore. It is pertinent to note that this is an underestimate, particularly due to the overestimation of revenue receipts and the underestimation of revenue expenditure. Hence, the revenue deficit is estimated to increase to ₹55,775 crore in the Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27, he said.

The fiscal deficit in the Revised Budget Estimates for 2026-27 is estimated at ₹1,21,819 crore as against ₹1,21,949 crore in the Interim Budget Estimates for 2026-27. The fiscal deficit is within the targets fixed under the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2003, he added.

Budget break-up

An overview of the TVK-led government's first Budget, presented in the Assembly on Wednesday

Classification	2024-2025 Accounts	2025-2026 Revised Estimates	2026-2027 Interim Budget Estimates	2026-2027 Revised Budget Estimates
Total revenue receipts	2,82,829	3,09,698	3,44,575	3,50,027
Total revenue expenditure	3,28,669	3,78,917	3,93,272	4,05,802
Revenue deficit	45,840	69,219	48,696	55,775
Capital expenditure	47,108	51,443	59,562	56,985
Net loans & advances	8,439*	3,360	13,708	9,075
Fiscal deficit (as a % of GSDP)	3.25*	3.48	3	3
Outstanding debt (as a % of GSDP)	27.4	27.41	27.03	27.01
GSDP	31,15,998	35,67,818	40,67,312	40,67,312

*Includes transfer of ₹350 crore to Contingency Fund
All values except those for fiscal deficit and outstanding debt are ₹ in crore

Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson with Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay ahead of the presentation of the Budget.

> Tamil Nadu's fiscal position remains under strain, and the new government inherited a treasury burdened with debt, inadequate income, and systemic leakages
>
> **N. MARIE WILSON**
> Finance Minister

MAJOR SECTORAL ALLOCATIONS

- Education ₹52,920 crore
- Rural development ₹39,609 crore
- Urban development ₹38,715 crore
- Health ₹23,357 crore
- Food and cooperation ₹22,859 crore
- Highways ₹21,524 crore
- Energy ₹15,828 crore
- Police ₹14,552 crore
- Transport ₹13,561 crore
- Social welfare ₹9,819 crore
- Water resources ₹9,264 crore
- Industries and MSME ₹6,556 crore
- Social justice ₹3,938 crore

Revised Budget a damp squib: Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

M.K. Stalin

DMK president M.K. Stalin on Wednesday described the Revised Budget Estimates as a "damp squib", saying they lacked originality and failed to fulfil the government's promises.

"People expected it to be a 'blast', but it turned out to be a 'waste'. It is a remake of the 'Dravidian Model' (DMK) government's Budget," Mr. Stalin said in a social media post.

According to him, the Budget had failed to present any far-sighted schemes for the State, and had not addressed the problems faced by farmers, issues relating to electricity consumption billing, or the rising cost of living.

Leader of the Opposition Udhayanidhi Stalin said the only change ushered in by the TVK government was the renaming of schemes introduced by the previous DMK government.

Referring to the Thaimaman Thangamothiram Scheme announced in the Budget, Mr. Udhayanidhi said it fell short of the Chief Minister's election promise which, he claimed, was to extend the benefit to all children in Tamil Nadu. "Now, the Budget document says the scheme will be implemented only for children born in government hospitals," he said.

Mr. Udhayanidhi said the Annal Ambedkar Business Champions Scheme, the Iyothee Thass Pandithar Habitation Scheme, and the Olympic Centres of Excellence were introduced during the DMK regime.

"Anbu Cholai, a scheme for the welfare of senior citizens, has been renamed Integrated Senior Citizen Homes. Similarly, the Ulagam Ungal Kaiyil laptop distribution scheme has been renamed the Vetri Laptop Scheme, Kalaignar Kanavu Illam Thittam has become Vetri Veedu Thittam, Model Schools have been renamed Thagaisal Pallikal, and Mudhalvar Padaipagangal has been renamed Digital Noolagam," he said.

DMK MLA and former Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu said the figures contained in the Revised Budget Estimates had disproved the criticism levelled against the previous DMK government in the White Paper released by the TVK-led regime earlier.

He said the State's annual borrowing was around ₹1 lakh crore during the DMK's tenure, but had now increased to ₹1.22 lakh crore. "The capital expenditure has been reduced by ₹3,000 crore, while the revenue deficit has increased to ₹7,000 crore. Revenue expenditure, which stood at ₹3.39 lakh crore, has risen to ₹4.05 lakh crore," he said.

Only 'zero marks' to Budget, govt. merely renamed schemes: EPS

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Wednesday criticised the first Budget presented by the TVK-led coalition government, saying he would give it only "zero marks."

Speaking to reporters at the Secretariat after the presentation of the Budget, Mr. Palaniswami said the ruling party had made several promises before coming to power, but none of them had found a place in the Budget. He alleged that the government had merely renamed existing schemes.

"Only a sticker has been pasted on the existing schemes. None of the poll promises has been fulfilled," he said.

Recalls promises

He recalled that the TVK had promised to increase the monthly entitlement for women to ₹2,500, and the old-age pension to ₹3,000. However, no announcement was made in this regard in the Budget, he said. "What happened to the promise of increasing the medical insurance cover to ₹25 lakh for all families," he asked.

Bleak assessment: AIADMK leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami emerging from the Assembly on Wednesday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

> Only a sticker has been pasted on the existing schemes. None of the poll promises has been fulfilled
>
> **EDAPPADI K. PALANISWAMI**
> AIADMK leader

Mr. Palaniswami said the government had not taken any concrete steps to address the revenue deficit.

"There are no proper commitments to restore the State's financial position. Merely forming a committee will not restore the State finances," Mr. Palaniswami said, adding that even the previous DMK government had formed an expert committee, but ended up increasing the debt by ₹5 lakh crore.

Referring to the AIADMK regime, he said the party had implemented schemes such as the gold-for-*thaali* scheme and distribution of goats and cows.

TVK government's first Budget strikes the right chord with captains of industry

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The first Budget of the TVK government received a positive response from industries and chambers of commerce in Tamil Nadu, with industry leaders calling it a progressive Budget that focuses on growth and development.

"This Budget delivers on fundamentals of industrial competitiveness, AI-led investment facilitation, and infrastructure built for scale. Battery storage, rooftop solar, smart metering, and EV charging networks aren't add-ons here; they are core to Tamil Nadu's pitch as India's top investment destination. These steps will also help MSMEs unlock the full potential of India's Free Trade Agreements and propel manufacturing growth across the State," said Ravichandran Purushothaman, chairman, CII Southern Region, and president, Danfoss India.

"New ITIs, AI and robotics training, and expanded apprenticeships mean the talent pipeline is being built in parallel, not as an afterthought," said Murugavel Janakiraman, vice-chairman, CII Tamil Nadu, and founder and CEO of Matrimony.com.

The Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) said the Budget reflects a conscious effort to balance long-term economic priorities with investments in human capital and social development. A. Viswanathan, president, MCCI, said: "The Budget sets a positive direction by according priority to manufacturing, infrastructure, technology, MSMEs, skill development and ease of doing business. These are all critical to Tamil Nadu's long-term growth and global competitiveness." He said the Chamber looks forward to working closely with the government in the formulation and implementation of the proposed Industrial Policy and other key reforms to help shape a competitive, future-ready industrial ecosystem for Tamil Nadu.

Industry leaders call it a progressive Budget that focuses on growth and development

Mehul H. Doshi, president, CREDAI Chennai, said the MY-HOME Affordable Housing Scheme, aimed at providing affordable homes for working-class youth and lower-income families through the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, is a welcome initiative.

"Fiscal discipline and development don't usually move together; this Budget makes them [do so]," said C. Devarajan, chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Council, and Managing Director, URC Construction (P) Ltd.

V.N. Shiva Shanker, senior vice-president of SICCI, said the Chamber welcomes the proposed internship opportunities for 20,000 youth in the first phase, skill and employability training for one lakh job-seekers, and five new Industrial Training Institutes at an outlay of ₹90 crore. "Industry linkage will be critical to ensure that course design, assessment, and placements are aligned with demand. SICCI stands ready to help shape curricula and facilitate internships and placements across its member network," he added.

G.S.K. Velu, chairman, FICCI Tamil Nadu State Council, welcomed the substantial investments in healthcare, including maternal and child health programmes, telemedicine expansion, mobile geriatric care services, and strengthening public health infrastructure.

INBRIEF

Trust to improve access to healthcare launched in city

Beyond Frontiers Trust (BFT), a non-profit organisation, was formally launched on Wednesday with the aim of improving access to specialist healthcare for tribal and underserved rural communities in Tamil Nadu. Founded by senior physician S.C. Chandilya, the Trust has been working in Jawadhu Hills, where geographical barriers and limited transport infrastructure often restrict access to specialised medical care. Addressing the launch event, Dr. Chandilya said the Trust seeks to provide specialist diagnosis and treatment to underserved tribal and rural populations. Shobana Kamineni, Promoter Director of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd. and Executive Chairperson of Apollo HealthCo Ltd, Jayshree Muralidharan, former IAS officer and Chairperson of Srinivasan Services Trust, and former IAS officer Swaran Singh, Chairman of TVS Cheema Scholarship Foundation spoke at the event.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (August 6, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- The road ahead for the Asiatic lion **newsth.live/asiaticlion**
- How excessive police force turns peaceful marches into medical crises **newsth.live/policeexcesses**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Two women receive M.S. Swaminathan award for their efforts

While one awardee P. Pechiyammal pioneered in ghost gear collection, the other winner, Govindhammal, championed sustainable agriculture

Working for a cause: Winners of the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026 with dignitaries at the event in the city on Wednesday. R. RAGU

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Two women – P. Pechiyammal, who has pioneered in ghost gear collection from Ramanathapuram, and Govindhammal who has championed sustainable agriculture from Villupuram – were honoured with Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award for Environment Protection 2026 on Wednesday. They brought about changes in their communities.

Virendra Tiwari, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, who presented the awards, said that it was important to strike a balance between development and biodiversity. Sustainable agriculture practices and keeping the sea plastic-free were commendable efforts.

The women who received the awards were immensely grateful to the foundation for assisting their communities in contributing towards environmental protection. "They (the communities) couldn't believe that I will get an award for just having collected wastes like old nets, nylon ropes, and other plastics from the shore," said Ms. Pechiyammal. From a small farmer, who depended on the skies for water and got a few bags of produce, Ms. Govindammal said she had risen to being a member of a Farmers Producer Company. "We were all like that, dependent on the rains. But now we get good seeds and good rates for produce," she said.

Soumya Swaminathan, chairperson, M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation, thanked Rotary Club of Madras East (RI District 3234), and CavinKare Pvt. Ltd, for taking the effort to present the awards. She said that from last year a decision had been taken to award people from the grassroots. "Both fishing and agriculture are risky businesses which we don't realise because we get our grocery from stores. The women do it because it is the right thing to do," she added. D. Suresh Jain, District Governor, RI District 3234, and Club president Radhika Sathyanarayana were present.

Experts highlight link between diabetes and vascular disease

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The month of August marks the observance of vascular health awareness, and on the eve of Vascular Disease Awareness Day, which falls on August 6, doctors from Kauvery Hospital stressed the need to safeguard vascular health, a growing concern in India, in the light of its massive diabetes burden. The doctors were speaking at a webinar of *The Hindu* Wellness Series on 'Vascular Health: Prevention, Healing and Limb Protection' held on Wednesday.

N. Sekar, chief vascular and endovascular surgeon, Kauvery Hospital, Chennai, gave an overview of the need to understand vascular health and create awareness about it.

He explained the link between diabetes and vascular disease, noting that the length of time a person lived with diabetes increased the risk of vascular disease and highlighted that an amputation-free Tamil Nadu campaign was started to help bring down the number of amputations.

Arunagiri Viruthagiri, consultant vascular and endovascular surgeon, Kauvery Hospital, Tiruchi - Cantonment, delved into the details of the vascular structure in the human body - the network of blood vessels. He explained the different diseases that affect the arteries and veins, why these occur, the treatment options, and prevention strategies.

kauvery hospital presents THE HINDU WELLNESS SERIES a webinar on Vascular Health: Prevention, Healing and Limb Protection

Anushri S., consultant endocrinologist at Kauvery Hospital, Salem, highlighted the burden of diabetes India currently carries and how diabetes affects vascular health. She stressed the need for early detection and control of blood sugar levels.

All the doctors underscored the need to keep moving - as 'sitting is the new smoking' - and for patients with diabetes to regularly check and take care of their feet.

The doctors also answered a number of questions from the audience related to identification of vascular issues in the feet, varicose veins and their treatment, vascular parkinsonism, diets for better diabetes control, diabetes in menopausal women and more.

The webinar can be viewed on YouTube, https://newsth.live/THKAVY.

Two men held in connection with death of accountant

CHENNAI: The Anna Nagar police arrested two persons in connection with the death of S. Akash, 23, who fell from the fourth floor of a travel company in Anna Nagar on Saturday. The arrested persons were D. Senthilkumar and B. Dilieepkumar. The police had earlier arrested Sugumar, owner of the firm. Police said Akash, an accountant at the firm, fell from the building after he was allegedly assaulted by three persons over alleged misappropriation of ₹40 lakh from the company's funds.

Chennai Weather	max	min
Tiruvallur	37	26
Chennai Airport	37	27
Chennai City	37	25

Chennai Airport Today
36°C The weather will be very warm and uneasy. Night will also be comfortable. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershowers.

Chennai Airport Tomorrow
35°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershowers to occur.

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Timings
CHENNAI

THURSDAY, AUG. 06			
RISE	05:56	SET	18:34
RISE	00:00	SET	12:19
FRIDAY, AUG. 07			
RISE	05:56	SET	18:34
RISE	00:03	SET	13:21
SATURDAY, AUG. 08			
RISE	05:56	SET	18:34
RISE	00:59	SET	14:26

Government of Tamil Nadu
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION TAMIL NADU LIMITED - ANGADI
ELCOT Angadi
9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai-600 008
https://elcotangadi.tn.gov.in |+91 44 2855 1234| tenders@elcotangadi.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. E-ANGADI-RC-IT02-2026-0014

ELCOT Angadi invites **"Rate Contract Tender for empanelment of vendors for supply, installation and commissioning of Bio-metric devices, SSL & DSC, Data card & Voice Sim, through ELCOT Angadi e-Commerce portal".** For complete details, please visit www.tntenders.gov.in. Pre-bid meeting: **11.08.2026, 11:00 AM** at ELCOT Nandanam Office. Last date for submission of e-bids: **03.09.2026, 3 PM.** For queries: tenders@elcotangadi.in.

DIPR/2463/Tender/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER (PROCUREMENT)**

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Head Office, CMRL Depot, Admin Building,
Poonamalli High Road, Chennai - 600107
Ph No. (044) 26426773, E.mail ID : tncsc.tn@nic.in
CIN: U15137TN1972SGC006157

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE

Short e-tender No: BS4 /016600/2026/TNCSC/26-27 Dt.05.08.2026

Online short e-tender is invited for the " PURCHASE OF 7.250 Bales of 5 PLY JUTE TWINE (WEIGHING 185 Kg. NETT PER BALE as per specifications.

Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

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

Last Date and Time for Online Submission : 21.08.2026 Upto 11.00 AM

DIPR /2464 / TENDER / 2026 **Managing Director**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF URBAN MANAGEMENT (NIUM), HYDERABAD
CORRIGENDUM - EXTENSION OF EOI SUBMISSION DATE
With reference to **EOI No. NIUM-UP/5/1/2026-PH-NIUM dated 18.07.2026 for Empanelment of Consulting Firms/ Agencies** the last date for submission of applications has been **extended from 05.08.2026 (5:00 PM) to 12.08.2026 (5:00 PM).** All other terms and conditions of the EOI remain unchanged. For details, visit **www.nium.org.in.**
Sd/- Director General NIUM
DIPR R.O. No. : 393-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/2026-27 Dt:05-08-2026

TAMILNADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU UNDERTAKING)
5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai- 35.
e- Tender Notice

e-Tender Ref. Nos	Name of the Works	Est.value in Rs.	EMD in Rs.	Due Date
08/2026-27	Appointment of transport contractors for movement of packed cement through open trucks from Ariyalur Cement Works, Ariyalur District to various destinations in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala on rate contract basis.	44.94 crore	50,000	07.09.2026
09/2026-27	Appointment of transport contractors for movement of packed cement through open trucks from Alangulam Cement Works, Virudhunagar District to various destinations in Tamil Nadu and Kerala on rate contract basis.	5.38 crore	50,000	07.09.2026

Important Note: Pre-bid meetings for e.T.No.**08 & 09/2026-27** will be held on **13.08.2026** at **3.00 & 3.30 PM** respectively at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035. The Tender document can be downloaded from **https://tntenders.gov.in.** Corrigendum /Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.
DIPR/2454/TENDER/2026 **General Manager Marketing / DRO**

THE HINDU
Air Surcharge as applicable:
New Delhi - Rs. 15/-;
Port Blair - Rs. 20/-

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान (अ.भा.आ.सं.), भुवनेश्वर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (AIIMS), BHUBANESWAR
(A Statutory body under aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Sijua, Post-Dumuduma, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) -751019

File No. RECT-11014/3/2026-RECU SEC Dated: 05-08-2026

NOTIFICATION

ADVT. NO. - DEPUTATION/02/2026

Sub- Recruitment of various Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' posts on Deputation Basis at AIIMS Bhubaneswar.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar, an Autonomous Institute of National Importance, is one of the newer AIIMS and an apex healthcare Institute established by the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India,** under the **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)** with the aim of correcting regional imbalances in quality tertiary level healthcare in the country and attaining self-sufficiency in undergraduate, postgraduate & higher medical education, research and training.

Applications are being invited in prescribed pro-forma (Hard Copy Only) from eligible officials of Central / State / U.T. Governments / Statutory / Autonomous Bodies / Government Universities / Government Research and Development Organizations etc. as applicable to fill the below mentioned various **Group 'A', 'B' and 'C' posts on Deputation Basis at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Bhubaneswar.**

Sl.	Name Of the Post	Group	Pay Scale as per 7th	Vacancy
1.	Medical Superintendent	A	Level 14 + NPA	1
2.	Chief Librarian	A	Level 13	1
3.	Registrar	A	Level 12	1
4.	Senior Analyst (System Analyst)	A	Level 12	1
5.	Chief Nursing Officer	A	Level 12	1
6.	Senior Administrative Officer	A	Level 11	1
7.	Senior Procurement Cum Store Officer	A	Level 11	1
8.	Nursing Superintendent	A	Level 11	3
9.	Chief Dietician	A	Level 11	1
10.	Chief Medical Social Service Officer	A	Level 11	1
11.	CSSD Officer	A	Level 11	1
12.	Principle Private Secretary	A	Level 11	1
13.	Librarian Selection Grade (Senior Librarian)	A	Level 11	1
14.	Chief Medical Record Officer	A	Level 10	1
15.	Private Secretary	B	Level 7	3
16.	Chief Pharmacist	B	Level 7	1
17.	Senior Sanitation Officer	B	Level 7	1
18.	Manager/ Supervisor/ Gas Officer	B	Level 7	1
19.	Junior Administrative Officer	B	Level 6	9
20.	Sr. Pharmacist	B	Level 6	3
21.	Pharmacist Grade I	B	Level 6	11
22.	Medical Record Officer	B	Level 6	4
23.	Sanitation Officer	B	Level 6	3
24.	Personal Assistant	B	Level 6	6
25.	Senior Administrative Assistant (UDC)	C	Level 4	3
	Total			**61**

For comprehensive details regarding the eligibility criteria, essential educational qualification, age and other terms & conditions, please refer to **Advt No. DEPUTATION/2/2026 Dated 04.08.2026,** available on the Institute's official website **https://aiimsbhubaneswar.nic.in**

Sd/-
(Md. Salim Golder)
Administrative Officer
AIIMS, Bhubaneswar

Recruitment Notice
DAKSH Innovation and Incubation Centre (DIIC)-UPSIFS Foundation
Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Science, Lucknow
Aurawan, Daroga Kheda, P.O. Banthra, Lucknow - 226401
(Walk-in Interview)

Advertisement No- DIIC/01/2026

DAKSH" Innovation and Incubation Centre (DIIC)-UPSIFS Foundation, invites applications for following post in on contractual basis. UPSIFS Lucknow (Established in 2021) is a flagship Institution functioning under the aegis of the Home Department, Govt. of U.P.

Post	Remunerations/ month	Post	Remunerations/ month
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	₹ 1,50,000	Startup Coordinator	₹ 45,000
Incubation In-charge/Officer	₹ 70,000	Office Executive	₹ 25,000
Incubation Faculty Coordinator	₹ 65,000		

For more details, please visit website www.upsifs.ac.in.
Mail your CV to **ceo@upsifsf.org.**
The last date was 02-08-2026 which has been extended till 16-08-2026 and interview will be on 21-08-2026

UPID Ro.: 254489
R.O. Dt: 05/08/2026 **Director**
Website: www.up.gov.in **DIIC-UPSIFS FOUNDATION**

JHARKHAND RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (JREDA)
3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda,
Ranchi- 834002. Ph. No: 2491161, Fax No: 0651-2491165
Web site: www.jreda.com, E-mail: info@jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice
Tender Reference No.: 14/JREDA/Misc. Services/26-27
Dated: 03.08.2026

Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA) is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Act, 1860, and is under the administrative control of the Department of Energy, Govt. of Jharkhand, for promoting the use of renewable energy sources, with its registered office at Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi, Jharkhand-834002. JREDA requires a Rate Contract for Supply of Office Stationery Items, Cleaning Materials, IT Consumables, Computer Accessories, Printing Materials, Office Utility Items & Allied Services, Repair & Maintenance of Electrical & Electronics Items for its office operations and official requirements at its headquarters and other project locations in the State of Jharkhand.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Details
1	Name of the Work	Rate Contract for Supply of Miscellaneous Office Stationery Items, Cleaning Materials, IT Consumables, Computer Accessories, Printing Materials, Office Utility Items & Allied Miscellaneous Services, Repair & Maintenance of Electrical & Electronics Items to Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA).
2	Approx. for 1 Year Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	₹ 5,00,000/- (Five Lakhs Rupees Only) Inclusive of GST*
3	Earnest Money Deposit (Refundable) (In Rs.)	₹ 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Rupees Only)
4	Cost of Tender Document (Bid Fee) Non-Refundable (In Rs.)	₹ 1,475/- (Rupees One Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Five Only) Inclusive of GST
5	Contract Period	12 (Twelve) Months
6	Date of Publication of NIT on website: https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in	05.08.2026 (Wednesday)
7	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Queries at JREDA Office	10.08.2026 (Monday) up to 02:00 PM
8	Last Date & Time for Receipt of Online Bids	27.08.2026 (Thursday) up to 05:00 PM
9	Submission of Bid Fee & EMD (Online via SBI Payment Gateway of Jharkhand Tenders)	27.08.2026 (Thursday) up to 05:00 PM
10	Technical Bid Opening Date	01.09.2026 (Tuesday) at 03:00 PM
11	Name & Address of Office Inviting Tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA), 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002
12	Contact No. of Procurement Officer	0651-2491161 / 63 / 67
13	Helpline No. of e-Procurement	0651-2491161 / 63 / 67

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on the website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on the website:http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda. com.

PR.NO.386673 Energy(26-27):D **Sd/ Director, JREDA, Ranchi**

PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY
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Centre for Distance and Online Education (Formerly DDE)
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40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE
NAAC A+ GRADE
ADMISSIONS OPEN 2026-27

MBA PROGRAMMES (2 YEARS - SEMESTER PATTERN)
- MBA – Marketing
- MBA – Finance
- MBA – International Business
- MBA – General
- MBA – Operations & Supply Chain Management
- MBA – Human Resource Management
- MBA – Tourism
- MBA – Hospital Management

UG PROGRAMMES (4 YEARS - SEMESTER PATTERN)
- BBA (HONS)
- B.Com (HONS)
- BA English (HONS)
- BA Sociology (HONS)

ELIGIBILITY FOR UG PROGRAMMES
The student must have passed in any of the stream of 10+2 or 11+2 year or 3 year diploma

PG PROGRAMMES (2 YEARS - SEMESTER PATTERN)
- MA (English)
- MA (Hindi)
- MA (Sociology)
- M.Com (Finance)

ELIGIBILITY (PG PROGRAMMES)
Any Degree from the UGC Recognised University under 10+2+3 or 11+1+3 or 11+2+2 system.

ELIGIBILITY M.COM - FINANCE
Student must possess B.Com / BBA / BBM / BISM / BA (Economics) / MBA / Commerce or Accountancy as a subject in UG Degree / any degree with CA (Inter) or ICWA (Inter) / CA / ICWA from a recognized institution in any of the following stream: 10+2+3 or 11+1+3.

Eligibility for MBA - Hospital Management:
Any Graduate with MBBS degree, Pharmacy, Dental, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Bio-Engineering, Bio-Sciences [or] A Graduate from any of the Indian Systems of Medicine like Homeopathy, Siddha, Ayurveda and Unani. [or] Any other graduate with 2 years of Work Experience in any hospital and the degree should be from a UGC recognized University with pass in the stream of 10 + 2 + 3 or 11 + 1 + 3 or 11 + 2 + 2 system.

ELIGIBILITY For All MBA PROGRAMMES
Any Degree from the UGC Recognised University under 10+2+3 or 11+1+3 or 11+2+2 system.

CERTIFICATE COURSES
- Certificate course in Tax and Corporate Compliance
- Certificate course in Research and Publication Ethics
- Certificate course in Research Data analysis Using AI
- Certificate course in Generative AI
- Certificate course in Agentic AI
- Certificate Course in Music Therapy
- Certificate Course in Music Composition

Minimum Eligibility: Pass in 10+2.

CONTACT US
Website : https://dde.pondiuni.edu.in
Email : ddehelpdesk@pondiuni.ac.in
Phone No.:0413- 2654439/440

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Earnings & outgo

State's revenue: In the Revised Budget 2026-27, the T.N. govt. has projected its revenue receipts at **₹3,50,027 cr**. Of this, the State's Own Revenue constitutes 72.73%, while 27.27% comes from its Share in Central taxes and Grants-in-Aid from the Union government

State's Own Tax Revenue	State's Own Non-Tax Revenue	Grants-in-Aid from Union Govt.	Share in Central Taxes
₹2,26,740 crore	₹27,835 crore	₹32,921 crore	₹62,531 crore

State's expenditure: The total expenditure of the State government is projected at **₹4,72,585 crore** in the Revised Budget 2026-2027, which is **an increase of 8.52% over 2025-26 (RE)**

The lion's share: A major portion of the revenue expenditure is spent on various welfare schemes for the people, especially the poor and vulnerable

Capital expenditure: The government lays emphasis on adequate capital spending to sustain the economic growth

Total capital expenditure ₹56,985 Cr.

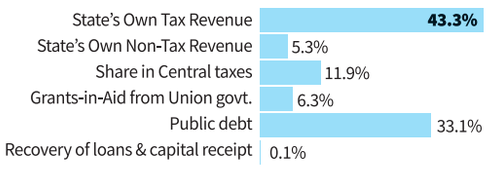
KEY SECTORS

Roads & bridges	Transport & energy	Urban development	Water supply schemes	Waterbodies	Education & health
₹19,242 cr.	₹11,991 cr.	₹7,962 cr.	₹4,773 cr.	₹4,286 cr.	₹3,953 cr.

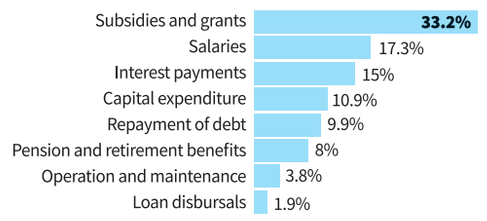
The Capital expenditure has been projected at **₹56,985 cr.**, which is an **increase of 10.77% over 2025-26 (RE)**

HOW ₹1 IS MOBILISED

The graphs show the avenues from where the money comes and how it is spent in different sectors



HOW ₹1 IS SPENT



Govt. to give one-sovereign gold coin, silk saree to brides

'Aran' shelter homes will be set up in 5 districts to provide safe accommodation, food, counselling, and rehabilitation support to transpersons who face social challenges, says State Finance Minister

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Keeping a promise: An allocation of ₹812 crore has been made in the Revised Budget Estimates for the 'Annan Seer' scheme, which was among the assurances in the TVK's manifesto. REPRESENTATIONAL PHOTO

The Tamil Nadu government will present an eight-gram (one-sovereign) gold coin and a silk saree as 'Annan Seer' (Elder Brother's Gift) to eligible women on the day of their wedding, Finance Minister Marie Wilson announced in the Assembly on Wednesday. An allocation of ₹812 crore has been made in the Revised Budget Estimates for the scheme, which was among the election promises of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam.

Reiterating the State government's commitment to transforming Tamil Nadu into an elder-friendly State by ensuring a life of dignity, graceful ageing, and comprehensive social security for senior citizens, the Minister told the Assembly that an integrated home for senior citizens, equipped with essential amenities including qualified caregivers, medical personnel, and recreational facilities, would be established in all districts.

In the first year, 12 such homes will be set up in 12 districts, each accommodating 40 beneficiaries, at an allocation of ₹6.6 crore. Additionally, senior citizens' recreation centres featuring libraries, yoga and meditation facilities, and indoor sports amenities will be established in five districts in the initial phase.

The Minister said the government would construct 500 Anganwadi centres during the current financial year, ensuring the provision of essential basic amenities such as safe drinking water, toilets, and electricity.

To support the transgender community in achieving socio-economic empowerment, Mr. Wilson said skill training will be provided in various income-generating trades through the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation. "Along with this, subsidy-linked bank credit facilities will be extended to enable them to establish enterprises and secure sustainable livelihoods. They will also be assisted in availing themselves of bank loans for self-employment, with a subsidy of up to ₹50,000," he said. He announced that the government will establish 'Aran' shelter homes in five districts to provide safe accommodation, food, counselling, and rehabilitation support to transpersons facing social and family-related challenges.

Short-stay homes

In addition, short-stay homes will be established in 15 districts to meet the needs of transgender persons travelling to other cities for education, employment, medical treatment, examinations, and training programmes. An allocation of ₹9,818 crore was made for the Social Welfare and Women's Empowerment Department.

T.N. increases Haj subsidy to ₹35,000 for first-time pilgrims

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson said on Wednesday that the subsidy provided by the Tamil Nadu State Hajj Committee to the first-time Haj pilgrims would be increased from ₹25,000 to ₹35,000.

Presenting the Revised Budget for 2026-27, he said the government had allocated ₹372 crore for pre-matric and post-matric educational scholarships, ₹77 crore towards the tuition fees of students pursuing medicine and dentistry under the 7.5% reservation, and ₹13.41 crore as incentives for girl students to prevent school dropouts. The aim was to ensure that students of the Backward Classes, the Most Backward Classes and the Denotified Communities pursued school and higher education without hindrance.

Additional Christian and Muslim Women Aid Societies would be formed with an allocation of ₹1.05 crore, while ₹34 crore had been allocated in the Revised Budget Estimates to improve the infrastructure of burial grounds and kabarsthans, he said. The State government had allocated ₹1,700 crore for the Department of Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, and Minorities Welfare.

The Department for the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons had been allocated ₹1,485 crore.

Financial assistance of up to 50% of the cost of equipment, subject to a maximum of ₹30,000, would be provided for purchasing modern AI-based assistive devices not covered under the existing assistive devices distribution scheme, he said.

The Finance Minister said government institutions for persons with intellectual disabilities, named 'Nambikkai Illam', will be established in Thanjavur, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Cuddalore, and Virudhunagar districts. These institutions would provide special education, early intervention services, rehabilitation, and vocational training to children aged three and above. Initially, each institution would function as a day school with 50 students before being furnished with residential facilities. An amount of ₹4 crore had been allocated for this purpose.

Mr. Wilson added: "A new 'Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme' will be introduced in convergence with the 'Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana'. Under this scheme, a subsidy of up to ₹1 lakh will be provided to domestic consumers for installing solar panels."

India's first AI and innovation city to come up in State

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson said on Wednesday that the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK)-led government had so far signed seven memoranda of understanding (MoUs), worth ₹35,062 crore, with the potential to create 14,790 direct and indirect jobs.

Presenting the Revised Budget for 2026-27, he said India's first dedicated artificial intelligence (AI) and innovation city, named 'Arivagam', would be established for AI and deep-tech development, with facilities including an AI university, an international skill development centre, a semiconductor hardware testing lab, multi-domain innovation incubators, and modern residential infrastructure. A feasibility study for the project would be undertaken at an estimated cost of ₹5 crore.

To encourage large-scale investment and accelerate industrial growth, the government would strive to establish more Multi Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs) and Dry Ports at strategic locations and petrochemical and ancillary industries, and explore the possibility of setting up new ports.

According to the Minister, Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli will be declared a 'Space Industrial Investment Zone', anchored by the strategic significance of the spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam. To provide infrastructure and technological support to private enterprises, start-ups, and research organisations, the government, in collaboration with IN-SPACe, will establish an advanced 'Space Vehicle Common Technical Facility'.

Promoting innovation: The 'Arivagam' will be established for AI and deep-tech development, with facilities including an international skill development centre. GETTY IMAGES

A new Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy would be released to strengthen the State's industrial and economic growth. It would foster innovation and technology-driven growth, support emerging industry sectors, drive sustainable development, and export promotion. The government would also create the Tamil Nadu Industrial Capability Directory, a comprehensive digital platform listing the State's manufacturing and supply capabilities, Mr. Wilson said.

To enhance Tamil Nadu's competitiveness, the State would introduce an AI-powered investment service system, called Guidance 3.0, making all requisite information, clearance, and services available on a single platform for investors. As part of this initiative, the Tamil Nadu Single Window Portal 3.0 will be upgraded to issue all statutory permissions, clearance, and no-objection certificates for establishing industries through a unified interface, he said.

Besides, a Non-Resident Tamil Investment Facilitation Desk would be established within Guidance to promote investment by the global Tamil diaspora in the State.

To ensure balanced and equitable industrial development across all regions of Tamil Nadu, SIPCOT would establish new industrial parks in the industrially backward districts based on district-specific industrial development plans and sectoral strengths. These parks would be developed with state-of-the-art infrastructure at an estimated cost of approximately ₹3,200 crore over the next five years, the Minister said.

The Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce Department has been allocated ₹4,414 crore in the Budget.

Assistance given to fishermen during lean period raised to ₹7,000 per family

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government will increase lean-period fishing assistance for traditional fishermen from ₹6,000 to ₹7,000 per family on an allocation of ₹135 crore. This will benefit 1.93 lakh traditional fishermen families, Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson said on Wednesday.

Presenting the Revised Budget for 2026-27, Mr. Wilson said to encourage traditional fishermen to take up deep-sea fishing, financial assistance in the form of interest subsidy would be given to those purchasing deep-sea fishing boats equipped with modern processing facilities. A sum of ₹12 crore had been allocated for the scheme.

The Minister also announced that under 'Vetri Magalir Goat Rearing Scheme', five goats or sheep would be provided with a 100% subsidy to destitute widows, deserted women, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities living in rural areas. The scheme would benefit about 30,000 persons at a cost of ₹110 crore.

A sum of ₹12 crore has been allocated to provide interest subsidy to traditional fishermen who purchase deep-sea fishing boats.

A total of 41 new buildings required for veterinary hospitals would be constructed at a cost of ₹47 crore.

To meet the medical treatment needs of livestock, 25 veterinary hospitals would be upgraded as veterinary polyclinics and 210 veterinary dispensaries would be upgraded as veterinary hospitals at a cost of ₹40 crore. Furthermore, 143 new mobile veterinary units would be established at a cost of ₹35 crore, Mr. Wilson said.

The government would introduce a new livestock insurance scheme, named 'Kaalnadaigal Kaappom', to provide financial protection against the loss of livestock, due to unforeseen mortality, disease or disaster, at a cost of ₹31 crore, he said. To ensure that farmers received quality feed at a lower price, the government would establish fodder seed banks and depots across the State at a cost of ₹6.70 crore. An amount of ₹13 crore had been allocated to promote green fodder cultivation, improve the use of chaffed fodder, and restore grazing land through community participation.

Besides, to increase milk production and secure the livelihood of women living in rural areas, milch cows would be provided free of cost to 10,000 eligible women every year, and ₹57 crore had been allocated for the initiative. The Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare Department has been allocated ₹4,880 crore.

₹708 crore allocated to consecrate 3,000 temples over 5 years

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Restoration and conservation are also being carried out at 213 temples that are more than 1,000 years old

The Tamil Nadu government plans to undertake renovation and perform 'Thirukudamuzhukku' (consecration) at 3,000 temples and restore 84 temple cars over the next five years, Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson said on Wednesday.

Presenting the Revised Budget Estimates in the Assembly, he said the government would also upgrade basic amenities at temples that attracted a large number of devotees by providing safe drinking water, restrooms, bathrooms, accommodation, and other infrastructure.

An allocation of ₹708 crore has been made for the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department in the Revised Budget Estimates. He said the government had recognised the need to appoint trustees to temples and issued notification for the appointment of trustees to 9,205 temples within a short span. Action was under way to complete the process.

Restoration and conservation were also being carried out at 213 temples that are over 1,000 years old at an estimated cost of ₹418 crore. Besides introducing structural reforms in the department, the government was focusing on safeguarding the movable and immovable properties of the temples, he added.

SNIPPETS

CM called 'Jananayagan' and 'Vijay Mama' in Budget speech

Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson on Wednesday described Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay as a 'Jananayagan' (the title of his last film) during the Budget speech in the Assembly. He said that, within just three months of assuming office, the Chief Minister had earned an enduring place in the hearts of the people, becoming part of every household as a son, an elder brother, a younger brother, their very life, their kin and the embodiment of their emotions. Elsewhere in his speech, the Minister referred to the Chief Minister as 'Vijay Mama' (Uncle Vijay) to children. He said the Chief Minister had entered public life solely to repay his debt of gratitude to the people who had given him everything. "He overcame numerous conspiracies to secure a historic victory, for the sake of the people whom he loves as his own life," he added.

Finance Minister carries rosary, makes sign of the cross

Finance Minister N. Marie Wilson, who presented the Revised Budget Estimates 2026-27 on Wednesday, entered the Assembly carrying a rosary and began his speech by making the sign of the cross. His attire also differed from that of his predecessors, who traditionally wore dhotis. Mr. Wilson was dressed in trousers and a tucked-in shirt with button tabs to secure the rolled-up sleeves.

Budget session to continue till September 8, says Speaker

Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar said on Wednesday that the Budget session of the Assembly would continue till September 8. The entire proceedings would be telecast live, he added. Addressing journalists after the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, he said the Revised Agriculture Budget for 2026-27 would be presented on Thursday. The general discussion on the Revised Budget and Revised Agriculture Budget Estimates for 2026-27 would begin on the same day and continue on August 10, 11, and 12.

INBRIEF

Bengaluru to host 16th edition of Aero India in February

Come February next year, the Surya Kirans and the Sarangs will once again dazzle the Bengaluru skies as the 16th edition of the biennial Aero India show will be held at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka. A meeting between senior Indian Air Force (IAF) officers and Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on August 4 has put to rest speculation whether Bengaluru would continue to be the host city for the five-day event. Sources told *The Hindu* that the dates of the event would be announced by the Defence Ministry.

7 held in connection with tiger killing in A.P. reserve

Four days after a tiger carcass was found in the Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) in Andhra Pradesh, authorities arrested seven persons suspected of poaching at Giddalur in Markapuram district on Tuesday. The carcass of an adult tiger was found in Racherla forest beat under Giddalur division on July 31. The officials recovered seven tiger claws, limb bones, and a country-made fire arm from the accused.

Kerala Minister apologises for remark on free bus scheme

Kerala Transport Minister C.P. John apologised on Wednesday for appearing to suggest that women faked poverty to avail free-of-charge travel on Kerala State Road Transport Corporation buses under the United Democratic Front government's flagship Priyadarshini free travel scheme. "I was casual. It was a small conference... I should not have said what I said, and if anyone felt distressed, I apologise to them publicly. I have no false ego," Mr. John said.

Kerala govt. to give ₹8 lakh to families of flood victims

Toll from rain-related incidents rises to 26, four still missing; Cabinet decides to increase the compensation for 'fully damaged' houses from ₹4 lakh to ₹6 lakh, says Chief Minister Satheesan

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday announced ₹8 lakh each as financial assistance to the kin of those killed in the torrential rainfall and floods that ravaged large parts of the State over the past week.

The death toll has risen to 26 even as four people are still missing, Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan told a post-Cabinet briefing in Thiruvananthapuram.

Across districts, 27,048 people are lodged at 462 relief camps. The highest number of camps are in Pathanamthitta (157), Kottayam (154), and Alappuzha (81) districts.

As part of the relief measures, the Cabinet decided to increase the compensation for "fully damaged" houses from ₹4 lakh to ₹6 lakh and that for loss of both land and house, from ₹10 lakh to ₹12 lakh. Of the ₹8 lakh announced to kin of the deceased, ₹4 lakh will be drawn from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and ₹2 lakh each from the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund (CMDRF) and the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

Rising waters: The Kanjikuzhi-Thiruvanchoor road was inundated following heavy rain in Kottayam on Monday. LEJU KAMAL

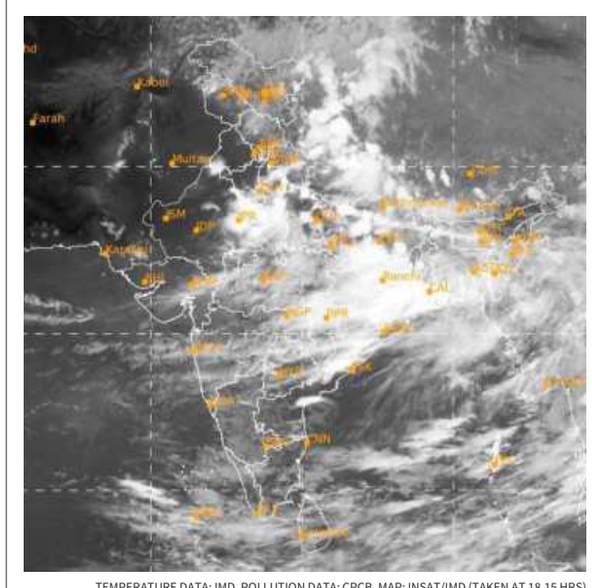
Mr. Satheesan on Wednesday said the government had begun work on creating an "effective" long-term disaster resilience programme for the State. Announced in the United Democratic Front (UDF) government's Revised Budget for 2026-27, the Kerala Disaster Resilience Programme will "serve as a model for the country", he added.

Crop loss

A preliminary assessment has pegged losses to the State's farm sector at ₹67.44 crore. Crop damage has been reported in 1,882 hectares, affecting 23,537 farmers, the Chief Minister said, adding that the losses are likely to be slightly higher when the final figures are out.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3.8	31.7	26.3	Kurnool	0.4	33.4	25.7
Ahmedabad	0.1	33.4	27.0	Lucknow	9.2	32.9	26.4
Aizawl	4	29.7	21.4	Madurai	—	40.5	26.1
Bengaluru	1.9	28.6	20.7	Mangaluru	41	28.2	23.6
Bhopal	—	30.5	24.2	Mumbai	13.5	29.8	25.0
Bhubaneswar	—	33.2	26.6	Mysuru	—	30.0	20.0
Chandigarh	16.5	35.2	25.5	New Delhi	10.8	32.6	26.6
Chennai	33.4	36.3	25.0	Patna	1.4	30.5	28.0
Coimbatore	—	32.3	21.6	Port Blair	28.5	30.8	25.4
Dehradun	20	31.3	23.4	Prayagraj	64.7	28.8	24.8
Gangtok	35.4	20.4	18.5	Puducherry	5.7	36.0	25.2
Goa	26.1	31.0	24.8	Pune	2.8	27.9	22.2
Guwahati	46.5	31.5	25.4	Raipur	0.2	33.0	25.5
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Ranchi	36	29.2	23.0
Hyderabad	0.1	31.0	24.3	Shillong	19	22.8	17.4
Imphal	31.8	24.7	22.3	Shimla	9.5	26.2	20.0
Jaipur	—	34.3	27.1	Srinagar	—	31.0	19.8
Kochi	20.4	29.0	23.6	Thiruvananthapuram	18.4	31.5	22.9
Kohima	—	23.0	19.0	Tiruchirappalli	0.2	38.5	28.0
Kolkata	21.4	31.7	26.6	Vijayawada	1	35.6	26.8
Kozhikode	30.2	29.1	23.8	Visakhapatnam	—	34.5	28.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	20	31	40	66	102	Moderate
Bengaluru	20	27	51	27	70	Good
Chennai	46	9	27	32	58	Good
Delhi	19	36	86	162	182	Moderate
Hyderabad	26	11	43	57	56	Good
Kolkata	14	23	26	76	91	Good
Lucknow	35	12	25	68	80	Good
Mumbai	8	38	69	29	40	Good
Pune	12	19	70	34	41	Good
Visakhapatnam	8	55	22	35	111	Moderate

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dholpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 298 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 8

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Telangana CM seeks talks on key barrage

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy called on Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil in New Delhi on Wednesday to convince the Maharashtra government to allow an increase in the height of Tummidihatti barrage on the Pranahita River.

The Chief Minister reiterated that Telangana and Maharashtra had reached an agreement over construction of a barrage at 148 metres.

Limiting the height to 148 metres would not help release water in sufficient quantities and hence, the Centre should convince Maharashtra for allowing enhancement of barrage height to 150-152 metres, the Chief Minister said.

Gas leak at Karnataka pharma plant kills 3

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

Three labourers were killed and two sustained severe injuries after reportedly inhaling sulfur dioxide that leaked at a pharmaceutical factory in Yadgir district of Karnataka on Wednesday.

The incident occurred at CIL Laboratories Private Ltd, located in the Kadechur-Badiyal Industrial Area, around 44 km from Yadgir. Sulfur dioxide gas leaked from a scrubber pipeline.

The leak happened at approximately 3 a.m. while the victims were on duty.

The deceased have been identified as Vikram Singh and Sanjay Singh, both residents of Katni district in Madhya Pradesh, and Ganesh, a native of Alampally village in Mahabubnagar district of Telangana.

Tasmac shops must issue bill for every bottle of liquor they sell: Madras HC

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has directed the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (Tasmac) to ensure that bill books are maintained in every retail liquor shop run by it across the State and that consumers are issued bills for every bottle of liquor they purchase.

Justice G.K. Ilanthiraiyan issued the directions while dealing with a writ petition (criminal) filed by advocate clerk G. Devarajan, who had lodged complaints, particularly with respect to 30 retail liquor shops across Chennai that collected excess amounts between 2022 and 2026.

The petitioner had sought a direction to the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC) to register a First Information Report (FIR) against the employees of all those 30 shops under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and recover the excess amount collected by them. He wanted the recovered money to go to government coffers, and the salesmen, supervisors, and managers of all those retail shops to be subjected to disciplinary action for having indulged in the malpractice of collecting excess amounts from customers.

The Madras High Court also directed Tasmac to ensure that bill books are maintained. FILE PHOTO

Responding to the writ petition, Tasmac standing counsel K. Sathish Kumar told the court that five of the 30 shops mentioned by the writ petitioner had been closed down. After recording his submission, the judge had directed the corporation to produce stock-cum-sale registers and shop-wise bill summaries. The documents produced before the court, in compliance with the direction, revealed that the retail liquor shops were maintaining details of opening balance, inward bottles, sold-out bottles, and the amount of money collected from the customers. However, they did not maintain any bill books.

Disapproving of the practice of not issuing bills for the liquor bottles sold at the shops, the judge ordered that all Tasmac retail shops must issue bills for every bottle of liquor sold by them and that customers must be made to stand in a queue outside the shops while purchasing the bottles.

The judge directed the High Court Registry to list the case once again on Friday (August 7) for reporting compliance with the directions issued by him in order to address the concerns raised by the writ petitioner.

Kerala will never agree to raising water level in Mullaperiyar Dam, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala will never agree to raising the water level in the Mullaperiyar Dam in Idukki district, Minister for Water Resources Mons Joseph said in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday.

Mr. Joseph reacted strongly to the announcement in the Tamil Nadu State Budget 2026-27, presented on Wednesday, regarding Tamil Nadu's plans to "pursue" the raising of the water level in the Mullaperiyar Dam. The Kerala government sticks to its declared stand that a new dam has to be built in Mullaperiyar to replace the existing structure which is 131 years old, Mr. Joseph said.

New dam

Following the Tamil Nadu Budget announcement, Mr. Joseph chaired a high-level meeting in Thiruvananthapuram and also held discussions with Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan.

"Kerala's stand is very clear on this issue. The primary requirement is a new dam in Mullaperiyar. The State has put forward a suggestion that guarantees the safety of the people of Kerala and water for Tamil Nadu," Mr. Joseph said.

The Supreme Court has so far accepted an approach where the water level is maintained at 142 ft. When Tamil Nadu pressed for raising the level, the court had recommended an examination of issues related to the safety of the dam. But Tamil Nadu (which operates the dam) is yet to carry out the comprehensive dam safety evaluation, which has to be completed by December 31, 2026, the Minister said.

The United Democratic Front government has decided to explore the possibility of holding discussions with Tamil Nadu to arrive at a consensus on the issue. The Kerala government, with the approval of the Supreme Court and the Centre, will explore all possible avenues to reach an agreement with Tamil Nadu, he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

2nd ANNIVERSARY

K.R RAVI
03/02/1957 to 06/08/2024
In fond memories of my loving Husband and loving father of my two children
Deeply Remembered by:
K.UMA
Family & Friends, West Mambalam

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Dr. (Mrs.) Y.G.P
(27-11-1925 - 06-08-2019)

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A legacy that endures time and tide,
Cultivating artists par excellence
Sculpting value ambassadors
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Our humble pranams to you, Ma'am

Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Group of Schools

Highs and lows

GST must be fuelled by domestic production, not inflation or imports

That GST grossed ₹2.11 lakh crore in July, expanding by 15.4% year-on-year, the second best growth in FY27, could indicate that the Indian economy is resilient. But it conceals the uneven internal and external trajectories, and disparities within India. The 26.9% growth in import IGST *vis-à-vis* a 4.5% rise in domestic revenues ferrets out the criticality in the trade-led tax buoyancy. IGST's faster pickup started during the post-pandemic recovery, reflective of global commodity inflation, higher imports of capital goods and the rupee's depreciation. A 10%-12% depreciation of the Indian denomination over the past year had its reflection on the rupee cost of crude oil, electronics, machinery and chemicals – they collectively constitute as much as 50% of total imports – contributing to a higher import bill. Although gold imports added to higher IGST collections, supply fell to a six-year low, due to lower bullion imports, which fell 22%. High WPI inflation, notably at the manufacturing level, at 7.18% this June against 1.52% a year-ago period, explains the traction of domestic revenues in an ad valorem tax system amid five-year low manufacturing growth as seen from the HSBC Manufacturing PMI. The services witnessed slowest growth in 53 months with real estate and business services recording the strongest rise in charges, but the sector's GST buoyancy is concentrated geographically.

The fiscal reality is that only 16 States/UTs have reported post-settlement GST growth exceeding the national average and a little over a dozen States saw higher than average growth in GST, showing an increasingly chequered path as manufacturing and organised services are concentrated in a few jurisdictions; others, especially those with a larger unorganised sector, struggle to generate tax buoyancy, becoming dependent on central transfers and Finance Commission devolution. GST 3.0 should ensure that the benefits of economic expansion are geographically broad-based and fiscally inclusive. The faster domestic refunds, in comparison to IGST refunds, imply that formal businesses are expanding their GST compliance and also carrying larger credit balances as the government improved the GST ecosystem, even as faultlines such as input tax credit disputes and litigation are yet to be resolved. The July numbers warrant a closer reading as a healthy GST trajectory should reflect domestic production, growing incomes and broad-based consumption rather than exchange-rate-induced gains in import taxation and piggyback riding on local inflation. Otherwise 'Make in India' remains a tall claim as imported inputs do much of the heavy lifting in the GST metrics.

Quantum shift

Private R&D spends should be used to bolster manufacturing

The Department of Science and Technology's latest figures on India's research profile record a milestone. In 2023-24, private industry accounted for 51.8% of national research spending – a first in India's history – overtaking all tiers of government combined for the first time. Moreover, industry now employs more core researchers than government institutions. Transport firms are the largest corporate investors, followed by pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and information technology (IT). The break from the past is sharp. Through the 2010s, private industry contributed a little over a third of national R&D, and the ratio moved slowly. Then, between 2020-21 and 2021-22, private spending nearly doubled – from ₹46,388 crore to ₹82,975 crore – and total R&D jumped from ₹1.27 lakh crore to ₹1.95 lakh crore in a single year. R&D spends in the transport sector, which barely registered before 2020, has roughly tripled and leads the triumvirate that includes biotechnology and IT that are counted among India's most research-intensive industries.

Officials attribute this to a post-pandemic realisation that research is essential to competitiveness, and that may be part of the story. The purported investments for '23-'25 also look healthy, but a change concentrated in one year looks less like a shift in corporate behaviour and more like a change in what is counted. Mandatory sustainability disclosures for large listed firms, and tighter RBI norms on reporting research, took effect at the same moment. Spending that was always occurring – in the foreign subsidiaries of Indian companies, and in the captive centres of multinationals – is only now being fully captured. Some of the surge, in other words, reflects better measurement rather than more money. Genuinely new capital is flowing too – into artificial intelligence, chip design and semiconductor fabs – though much of that is still infrastructure building and may not yet belong in the R&D column. India's R&D stands at 0.84% of GDP, against 2.58% for China, 3.45% for the U.S. and 4.94% for South Korea; it fields 354 researchers per million people where South Korea and Israel field several thousand. The private sector's own priorities are a further reason for caution: more was spent on advertising than on research in 2023-24. The shift will prove worthwhile if it deepens India's pool of specialised workers and its capacity for sophisticated manufacturing, carrying the economy beyond its long reliance on supplying low-cost services. That depends less on how spending is recorded than on how many researchers the country can train. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation, with a ₹50,000-crore corpus largely to be raised from private sources, was created for precisely this purpose. Its promise now rests on delivery.

Fiscal federalism, efficiency versus equity concerns

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The Finance Commission, an institutional innovation embedded in India's constitutional architecture, was never intended to be a routine allocator of funds. It was designed as a central pillar of India's fiscal federal compact and as a corrective institution that would mediate the inherent asymmetry between a fiscally dominant Union and structurally constrained States, while also addressing deep horizontal inequalities arising from history, geography, and institutional capacity. In a country marked by uneven development at Independence, the Commission's central mandate was to safeguard the interests of the States and thereby preserve a strong Union.

Each successive Commission, cognisant of its historical context, has interpreted this mandate in its own way, yet all have contributed to sustaining India's fiscal federal compact. The recently submitted report of the 16th Finance Commission (FC-16), chaired by Arvind Panagariya and covering the period 2026-31, marks a decisive turning point. While it retains the vertical devolution of central taxes to the States at 41%, it fundamentally re-engineers the structure of fiscal transfers, particularly grants-in-aid. In doing so, it prioritises efficiency and performance but raises serious concerns about equity and constitutional intent. At the heart of the issue lies a deeper question: has the Commission moved away from its equalising role toward one that implicitly protects the Union's fiscal primacy?

The constitutional logic of grants-in-aid

Evidently, the provision for grants-in-aid under Article 275 was not an afterthought; it was a foundational design element. In a country more diverse than any other in the world, tax devolution, however sophisticated its formula, cannot account for the diversity of State-specific needs. For instance, Kerala's "export-oriented" human capital development strategy has accounted for nearly 23% of India's total remittances, thereby strengthening the country's external sector. However, this has come at a cost to the State's fiscal health, as it has had to rely on borrowing to finance investments in education.

Similarly, Punjab has played a critical role in ensuring national food security, but at the cost of its revenue base, by focusing on the production of wheat and rice, which are non-taxable apart from paying the price of being a border State. The same is true of the hill States, which face high infrastructure costs; the north-eastern States, which grapple with connectivity constraints; and fiscally stressed States burdened by demographic pressures and social sector commitments.

Grants-in-aid were therefore conceived as instruments of equalisation, enabling targeted support for States with special needs where formula-based tax devolution falls short. The F-14 and the FC-15 recognised this reality by retaining Revenue Deficit Grants (RDGs), sector-specific grants, and State-specific grants.

The FC-16 departs sharply from this tradition. It recommends grants-in-aid of ₹9.47 lakh crore, compared with ₹10.1 lakh crore under the FC-15, while their share in total Finance Commission transfers has more than halved, from 19.4% to 8.3%. By restricting grants-in-aid to local bodies and disaster management, it eliminates RDGs, sector-specific grants, and State-specific grants.

While retaining the States' share in the divisible pool at 41%, despite the demand from 18 States to raise it to 50%, the Commission presumes that improved fiscal discipline should enable States to manage their finances without additional gap-filling transfers. However, this reasoning rests on a problematic assumption: that fiscal capacity across States is sufficiently uniform for devolution to be self-equalising.

Empirically and historically, this assumption is untenable. The Commission's justification for doing away with RDGs is rooted in concerns about fiscal prudence. It argues that RDGs create moral hazard by incentivising States to underperform in revenue mobilisation or overspend in the expectation of central support.

It also points to aggregate data suggesting that the States, taken as a whole, are not in severe fiscal distress. Yet, this aggregate view masks deep inter-State disparities, with some States remaining fiscally stressed despite contributing disproportionately to national development and continuing to require fiscal assistance. The very purpose of RDGs was to recognise this heterogeneity, as a fiscal surplus in one State cannot offset a fiscal deficit in another.

More troubling is the contrast between the Commission's stance on RDGs and its treatment of cesses and surcharges. While advocating fiscal discipline for States through the withdrawal of RDGs, it stops short of recommending any binding rollback of these non-shareable union levies ignoring the demand by many States.

Dual shift

Instead, it proposes a "grand bargain", whereby the Centre would gradually merge cesses into the divisible pool in exchange for States accepting a lower devolution share. This asymmetry is difficult to overlook. RDGs are removed in the name of discipline, yet cesses – arguably a more distortionary instrument from a federal perspective – are only gently nudged toward reform. The resulting framework imposes stringency on States while preserving fiscal flexibility for the Union. This dual shift, protecting Union revenues while constraining State support, raises a fundamental concern: is the Commission inadvertently reinforcing vertical imbalance rather than correcting it?

The consequences are particularly severe for States that already face structural disadvantages. As many as eight States, including most of the disadvantaged north-eastern States and fiscally stressed West Bengal, are set to experience a reduced share in both tax devolution and grants-in-aid, while another six States have seen a decline in their share of grants. The problem is further compounded by the reduction in the weight assigned to income distance (from 45% to 42.5%) and the introduction of a 10% weight for contribution to GDP. When combined with the removal of the RDGs, which accounted for about 20% of Finance Commission grants in 2024-25, this creates a double burden: lower tax devolution and the absence of compensatory grants. The Commission's implicit assumption that efficiency should trump equity risks widening regional disparities.

Another defining feature of the FC-16 is its emphasis on tied and performance-based grants, particularly for local governments. While the allocation of nearly ₹7.2 lakh crore to the third tier is commendable, the conditionalities attached to these grants are stringent, linking the release of funds to targets in water and sanitation, revenue mobilisation, and audited accounts. This approach promotes accountability, but it also reduces fiscal autonomy. In effect, the architecture of grants shifts from need-based equalisation to compliance-based incentivisation. Fiscal discipline, while necessary, cannot substitute for fiscal justice.

Efficiency versus equity

The FC-16's report is bold in ambition but uneven in balance. The dismantling of the RDGs and the shift toward performance-based transfers reflect a technocratic confidence in market-like incentives, even though fiscal federalism is a political and constitutional arrangement designed to manage diversity. The contrast between the Commission's strict stance on RDGs and its accommodative approach to cesses and surcharges, along with its hesitation to raise the States' share in the divisible pool to 50% despite demands from several States, reveals a deeper tension.

It suggests a framework that, intentionally or otherwise, protects the fiscal space of the Union while placing a greater adjustment burden on the States. In doing so, the Commission may have moved away from its core mandate of acting as an equalising force within the federation. If the Finance Commission is to continue playing its historic role in holding India together, future Commissions must reward high-performing States while supporting those that continue to face structural disadvantages.

For a country as diverse as India, fiscal federalism cannot be sustained on performance alone; it must be anchored in fairness.

> The Sixteenth Finance Commission risks moving away from its core mandate of acting as an equalising force within the federation

The views expressed are personal

A climate resilience pathway between India and China

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This year, El Niño delayed the monsoon in India. When the rains arrived, they were intense, with cities such as Mumbai and Surat receiving a month's rainfall in a matter of days. Regions in Assam and Odisha have experienced severe flooding, resulting in loss of life and damage to infrastructure. Similar conditions have recently affected large swathes of China's provinces, particularly Guangxi, Shaanxi and Gansu. Such extreme weather events are becoming increasingly common, threatening economic growth, food security, and public well-being in the two most populous countries.

In both cases, experts attribute these short, high-intensity bursts to climate change which is causing higher atmospheric temperatures and rapidly warming oceans. Mitigating and recovering from these frequent and large-scale events will become increasingly important for China and India to address. Given the scale of the challenge, could climate resilience become an opening for India-China cooperation?

Similar climate extremes

India and China confront remarkably similar challenges. Rapid urbanisation has replaced wetlands, forests, and permeable surfaces with concrete. Changing weather patterns, combined with outdated drainage systems, poor waste management, rapid urbanisation, and a lack of green spaces, have aggravated waterlogging and flooding. Coastal megacities face the combined risks of extreme precipitation, storm surges, and sea-level rise, while inland cities grapple with heatwaves, droughts, and flash floods occurring in quick succession. These challenges demand scientific collaboration, technological innovation, stronger local governance, and community participation. The costs of inaction include disrupted supply chains, economic losses, declining productivity, and mounting public health risks. This may be the right moment for renewed engagement between India and China. After years of strained ties, bilateral relations are showing tentative and slow signs of improvement.

In April 2026, the visit by a Chinese delegation led by China's Special Envoy for Climate Change to New Delhi suggests that climate cooperation remains a priority. Within the area of climate and clean energy, identifying key issues for engagement is important. Collaboration in areas such as green technology and critical minerals remains challenging due to economic competition and geopolitical tensions. Disaster mitigation and urban resilience could offer a relatively low-risk pathway for rebuilding trust.

Past engagement, sister city agreements

A mapping of India and China's climate engagement in a recent paper by the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) shows that there is precedent for such engagement. Beginning from the early 1990s until 2020, there were several summit-level joint statements, agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) calling for practical cooperation on climate change. Topics included climate-induced disasters such as floods, earthquake, droughts and extreme weather events. These MoUs promised facilitation of joint research and development, hydrological, oceanic and seismic data sharing, and exchange of governance practices. During the six Strategic Economic Dialogues, policymakers discussed sustainable urban planning, waste management, sewage treatment, water efficiency and capacity building.

Practical implementation of joint projects in these areas was formally agreed upon in the multiple sister city agreements – Delhi-Beijing, Mumbai-Shanghai, and Chennai-Chongqing. Yet, disruptions in diplomatic engagement resulted in little on-ground action.

China demonstrates the importance of embedding resilience into core urban and rural planning investment decisions. This includes using data-driven approaches to drive policies in transport, housing and drainage systems. India's strength lies in adaptive governance, spearheading community-led strategies for targeted interventions in vulnerable populations.

Successes in India have been seen in early warning systems, heat action plans, cool roofs and nature-based solutions. There has to be engagement between state and non-state actors. Officials from municipal governments can enable knowledge and policy exchanges on urban design such as sponge cities, drainage modernisation and waste management.

Beyond urban issues, rural livelihoods and resilient agricultural practices for food security become salient points for mutual learning. Joint collaboration between planning agencies and academic institutions can improve systems for hydrological modelling and integrating regional and indigenous knowledge into climate adaptation strategies. A critical aspect will be addressing challenges of the melting glacial systems in the shared Himalayan ecosystem. While India and China had agreements on shared water resources, they ceased to function in 2022.

The finance gap

A major barrier to climate adaptation remains financing, with both countries relying heavily on public funds to carry out their policies. Bridging this gap requires greater private sector participation through tools such as blended finance, municipal bonds, and credit enhancement. However, these are nascent ecosystems, constrained by limited local capacity and regulatory gaps. Evidence-based studies and knowledge exchanges between India and China on these models could provide an innovative avenue for engagement. Such cooperation would not only benefit both countries but also enable them to shape climate resilience norms across the Global South through stronger standards, metrics, and fiscal frameworks.

Climate change impacts transcend national borders, from Europe's heatwaves to Asia's heavy monsoon floods. Greater coordination and cooperation could provide India and China with a pathway for a low-risk, win-win engagement.

> Shared climate challenges create opportunities for India-China cooperation

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Language in politics

Recent developments in political discourse across India, particularly in Tamil Nadu, underscore the need for restraint, dignity, and moderation in public debate. Language is the apparel of democracy. If democracy is the best form of governance, it must be protected, nurtured, and enriched. The language used in public life reflects one's commitment to democratic values.

K.S.S. Seshan,
Errepalle, Andhra Pradesh

As a septuagenarian, I have witnessed many changes in our country over the decades — some for the better, others for the worse. Among the latter, one of the most disturbing has been the steady decline in the quality of public discourse in recent years, particularly among our political leaders. With millions watching them every day on television and social media, political leaders ought to realise that their words and conduct shape public behaviour. It is therefore unsurprising that coarse, intemperate, and abusive language has gradually become normalised in our society.

Sharp exchanges between the treasury benches and the Opposition are an integral part of any vibrant democracy. But when political discourse descends into vile personal attacks, drags family members into political battles, pries into private lives, or levels unsubstantiated allegations of moral turpitude, it demeans public life and weakens democratic values. Those who sow the wind of abuse should not complain when they reap the whirlwind of retaliation.

G.G. Menon,
Tripunithura, Kerala

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

India's cancer focus must shift to early detection

Dr. Harit K. Chaturvedi

CEO & Clinical Head, Apollo Oncology Network

Every day, oncology clinics across India confront the same heartbreaking reality. More than 70% of patients present with advanced-stage cancer, when treatment is more complex, more expensive, and far less likely to achieve a cure. Over the past two decades, India has invested substantially in building world-class tertiary cancer centres and has expanded access to sophisticated surgery, radiation therapy, and systemic treatments. Yet these advances cannot deliver their full potential because most patients arrive too late.

The solution to this challenge lies upstream.

Cancer in India is still diagnosed predominantly after symptoms become severe enough to disrupt daily life. By then, opportunities for curative treatment have often been lost. The consequences extend far beyond health. More than three-quarters of cancer-affected households experience catastrophic healthcare expenditure. Late diagnosis is therefore not only a medical problem – it also drives poverty.

Moreover, five-year survival for lung cancer in India is only about 4%, compared with nearly 33% in Japan. Similar gaps exist across several common cancers, reflecting differences not merely in treatment quality but in the stage at which patients enter the healthcare system. A delayed diagnosis is thus a poor outcome on all fronts.

Need for fundamental change

The scale of the challenge continues to grow. India recorded an estimated 1.56 million new cancer cases and over 8,74,000 cancer deaths in 2024. The lifetime risk of developing cancer has now reached approximately 11% nationally and exceeds 20% in some northeastern States. As the population ages and lifestyles change, this burden will continue to rise unless our national strategy changes fundamentally.

> Cancer in India is still diagnosed predominantly after symptoms become severe enough to disrupt daily life. By then, opportunities for curative treatment have often been lost

The first step is to redefine prevention as a lifelong public health priority rather than as an occasional awareness campaign. Nearly half of all cancers are preventable. However, efforts to spread awareness among adults give poor results as lifestyle wiring happens at an early age. Once habits are coded, it is extremely difficult to course correct them through awareness campaigns. Health education must therefore begin in schools, where "life skills" should receive the same importance as other mainstream subjects such as mathematics or social sciences. These life skills would not only help in cancer prevention but also other major health issues such as cardiac, neurological, vascular, and bowel diseases. Such education would comprehensively cover all aspects related to physical, mental and social health, addictions, diet, vaccinations, financial literacy, and responsibilities towards the family, society, and nation.

The second step is the need to receive earlier diagnoses. Public awareness about the fact that persistent symptoms lasting more than three weeks deserve medical evaluation can substantially reduce diagnostic delays. However, symptom awareness alone is insufficient. Screening remains our most powerful tool for identifying cancer before symptoms appear. Until recently, organised screening was largely confined to cancers such as cervical, breast, and prostate cancer. Scientific advances are now expanding these possibilities. Blood-based Multi-Cancer Early Detection (MCED) tests have the potential to detect biological signals from multiple malignancies – including colorectal, lung, liver, pancreatic, ovarian, gastric, oesophageal, breast, prostate, and bladder cancers – through a single blood sample.

While these technologies still require careful evaluation for population-wide implementation, they represent one of the most promising frontiers in cancer research and deserve focused Indian validation.

Future plan for India

India must also develop solutions suited to its own healthcare realities. A single centralised screening programme cannot effectively serve a country of 1.4 billion people with enormous geographical and socioeconomic diversity. Instead, we need a layered model combining community health workers, digital risk assessment, AI, mobile diagnostic services, and strong referral pathways linking primary care with cancer centres.

Encouragingly, important foundations are already being laid. NITI Aayog is supporting the development of a large imaging biobank comprising more than 20,000 cancer patient profiles. Such datasets can accelerate the development of AI tools capable of assisting frontline healthcare workers in identifying suspicious lesions and prioritising patients who require specialist evaluation.

The Draft National Health Research Policy 2026 provides an opportunity to accelerate this transformation. By prioritising diseases that contribute the most to India's health burden and encouraging research with measurable impact, the policy signals a welcome shift from publication-driven research towards implementation science. This approach should encourage innovation in affordable screening technologies, risk prediction models, digital health platforms, and implementation research that improves cancer detection across India's diverse healthcare settings.

India should not measure progress in cancer care solely by the sophistication of treatments delivered during advanced stages. The true measure of success is how many cancers never reach an advanced stage. And that success will require coordinated partnerships between government agencies, medical colleges, technology companies, and community healthcare providers.

YSRCP's search for political momentum

The YSRCP chief is desperately trying to regain his foothold in Andhra politics

STATE OF PLAY

Sumit Bhattacharjee

Two years after suffering one of the most severe electoral setbacks in its history, the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) appears to be trying its best to breach the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) fortress and once again gain a stronghold in Andhra politics. However, it has not been an easy task, primarily because, as political scientists point out, the YSRCP cadre base is in disarray, and has failed to capitalise on pertinent issues that could have become major rallying points against the Chandrababu Naidu-led NDA government.

However, in the last few months, Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy, president of the YSRCP, has been hitting the road quite often after a hiatus of about a year following the election debacle, which could serve as a motivating factor for his party leaders and cadre.

Mobilising efforts

Mr. Reddy began his comeback trail by opposing the State Government's proposal to develop at least 10 of the 17 medical colleges under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. However, as per analysts, the YSRCP chief could only partially capitalise on the issue as the government, to a large extent, was successful in changing public opinion by arguing that the PPP mode would allow colleges to become operational faster without placing the entire financial burden on the State, whose finances had allegedly been weakened by the earlier YSRCP government. The NDA government has consistently maintained that private investment is essential for completing unfinished infrastructure projects, improving facilities, and expanding access to specialised healthcare services.

Additionally, with the success of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protests in New Delhi, the YSRCP had been trying hard to scale up its protest over alleged irregularities in the District Selection Committee (DSC) recruitment, but has, so far, not been able to garner that kind of mass response or participation. The State government has rejected such allegations in the DSC recruitment process and insisted that the exercise was conducted fairly and transparently. The government not only countered every allegation with proof (or so it claims), it is also basking in the glory of successfully conducting the long-pending exam and recruiting close to 16,000 teachers.

Falling back on farmers

The 2024 election results have certainly dented the YSRCP's image, but Mr. Reddy is known for his resilience. Of late, he has been working on highlighting the issues plaguing farmers, especially those related to minimum support prices and the alleged unfulfilled promises of the ruling coalition.

He began his campaign by engaging with farmers in February this year, when he visited chilli farmers at the Guntur Chilli Yard. He demanded that the State Government work out a remunerative price and also flagged the sharp drop in chilli prices. Here again, the State government was quick to address the issue through a multi-pronged strategy involving market intervention, financial aid, acreage management, and strict quality control measures.

Farmers constitute a huge chunk of the electoral mandate and play a decisive role in election outcomes. Mr. Reddy's father, Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, had also focused on farmers' welfare, which catapulted him to power as Chief Minister of undivided Andhra in 2004. He is still regarded as the farmers' Chief Minister.

Mr. Reddy's every visit has been mired in some controversy, and at times the YSRCP has alleged police excesses. In almost every visit, there has been a scuffle with the police, including the one in Bangarupalem, where he had gone on July 9, 2025, to meet mango farmers, and in Srikakulam, where he had gone on July 30, 2026, to meet his former minister, Seediri Appalaraju. Some of his visits have also been controversial such as the recent one in which he visited Mr. Appalaraju. The former minister is in jail for allegedly screening evidence in an accident case involving his son. The NDA was quick to latch onto the issue and accused Mr. Reddy of visiting the accused while not caring to visit the family of the deceased.

In all this, the larger challenge before Mr. Reddy is to transform the current momentum into a lasting political advantage. Protests and demonstrations may generate immediate attention, but only a coherent policy alternative can sustain public confidence.

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Did abrogating special status for J&K make a difference?

Analysis of data show that the Union government has not delivered on its promise of wide-ranging transformation in Jammu and Kashmir

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Pon Vasanth B.A.
Sachin Swaraj

Seven years have passed since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) introduced legislations in Parliament to implement its long-standing objective – stripping the special status accorded to the State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) by Article 370 of the Constitution. Through these legislations, the Union government not only abrogated the special status, but also took direct control of the State's administration by bifurcating it into two Union Territories – J&K and Ladakh.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who introduced the legislations in both Houses, projected them as a panacea for J&K's woes. Attributing the State's poor healthcare, poverty and slow economic growth to the special status, he argued that Article 370 prevented J&K's economic development while breeding terrorism.

On August 5, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X, "Seven years ago, on this day, articles 370 and 35(A) became history, marking a decisive new chapter in the journey of Jammu and Kashmir as well as Ladakh." He said lives had been transformed by growing opportunities in education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and sports.

An analysis of available data shows that while many of Mr. Shah's 2019 contentions about J&K's backwardness in health and education were misleading, the Union government has not delivered on its promise of wide-ranging transformation – be it in the economy, on terrorism or civil liberties. J&K was in fact a relatively better-performing State before 2019 on indicators such as life expectancy, poverty, infant mortality, government doctors per capita, and human development index.

Data gaps after the bifurcation make meaningful comparison difficult on several socio-economic indicators. For instance, the annual finance audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) note missing data in many sections.

Data shows that J&K's economy contracted by 1% in real terms in 2019-20 and shrank further during the pandemic in 2020-21. It rebounded subsequently, partly on a low base, but growth dropped sharply in 2024-25 **(Chart 1)**. Capital outlay for J&K, according to the CAG's finance accounts reports, did not increase significantly and in fact contracted in the two years since 2019 **(Chart 2)**.

On the education front, higher education enrolment in J&K and its Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) declined in 2022-23 and 2023-24 – the latest years for which All India Survey on Higher Education reports are available. The drop in enrolments was particularly sharp in 2023-24 (-11%) **(Chart 3)**. The Periodic Labour Force Survey reports show that while the unemployment rate did not improve noticeably for men, it rose for women, particularly in 2023-24 **(Chart 4)**. RBI data show that the number of factories in J&K dropped marginally between 2019-20 and 2023-24, though a Lok Sabha reply this week stated marginal improvements in the number of small companies and start-ups.

Though curbing terrorism was a key objective of the 2019 legislations, the number of incidents and deaths of civilians and soldiers have not dropped below 2012-2016 levels **(Chart 5)**. Meanwhile, cases registered under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and the number of undertrials and detenues have increased sharply. J&K's Freedom House score for civil liberties and political rights has also declined since 2019 **(Table 1)**.

Importantly, the government's promise of restoring J&K's Statehood remains unfulfilled.

Undelivered promises

The data for the charts were sourced from the RBI, Freedom House, the NCRB, Software Freedom Law Center (SFLC) and South Asia Terrorism Portal. With inputs from Gandla Sneha and Nivedha M. The two and Sachin Swaraj interned with The Hindu

CHART 1: Gross State Domestic Product and rate of growth (in constant prices) for Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh over years

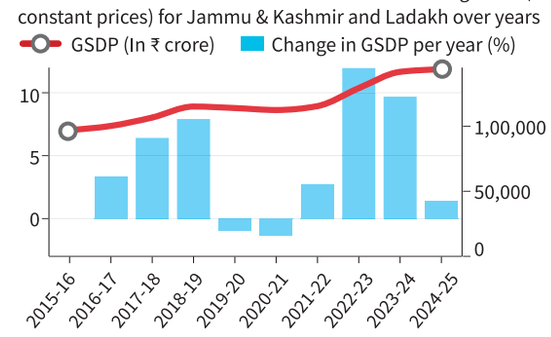

CHART 2: Capital outlay (in ₹ crore) and change in outlay per year (in %)

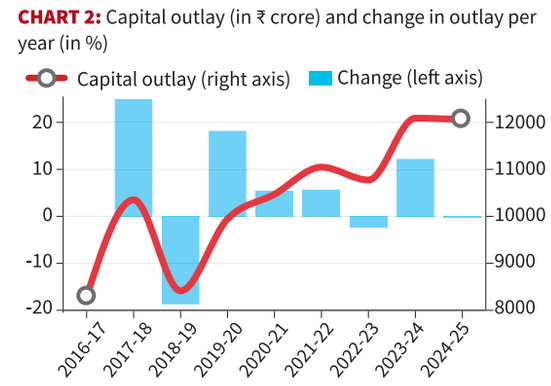

CHART 4: Unemployment rate per thousand persons for Jammu and Kashmir

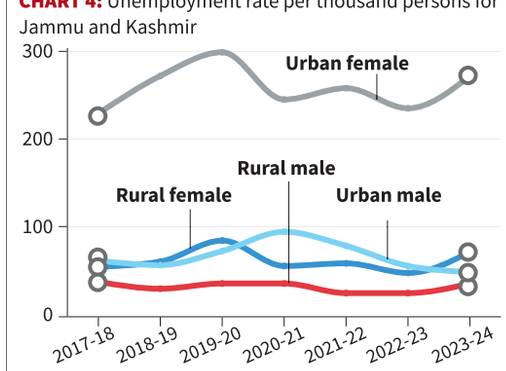

CHART 3: Total enrolments in higher education and Gross enrolment ratio (GER) for J&K and Ladakh

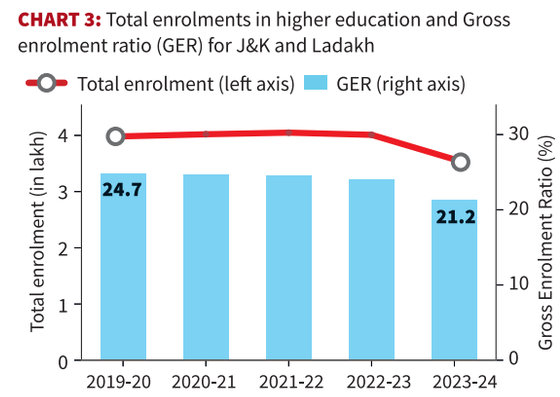

CHART 5: Terrorism-related incidents and deaths of civilians and soldiers have not dropped below 2012 to 2016 levels

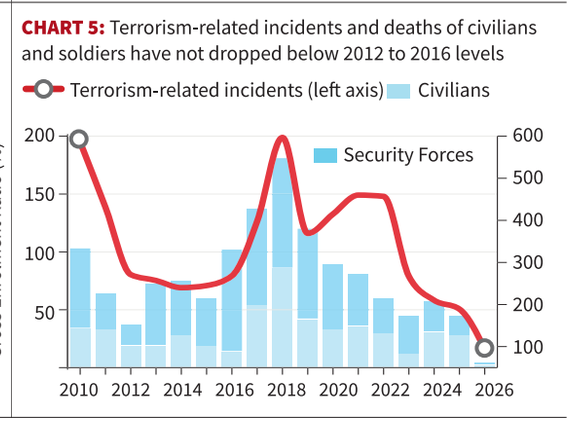

TABLE 1: Number of Internet shutdowns, undertrials, detenues and UAPA cases. Values not available for cells left blank

State/UT	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Internet shutdowns	10	32	65	55	116	79	43	14	3	12	4
Civil liberties		28	27	27	20	20	20	20	20	21	21
Political rights		22	22	22	8	7	7	7	6	17	17
UAPA cases	161	156	245	255	287	289	371	178	215		
No. of detenues	432	212	283	404	228	252	546	632	667		
No. of undertrials	1959	2181	2568	3075	3738	4547	4613	4610	4593		

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 6, 1976

More students fancy snuff

Madras, August 5: Snuff, a sniff of which is said to drive drowsiness away, is spreading its sway in the country.

A survey of the snuff industry in Madras, the biggest snuff production centre in the country, revealed, however that fashions and fads, like the ceremonious use of ornate snuff boxes that attended the advent of snuff, are passing away.

There were but a dozen manufacturers in the city till 40 years ago. Their number now exceeds 100 and production has gone up to 2,367 tonnes a year.

The city gets its raw material, tobacco, from Andhra Pradesh. Snuff is produced in Gujarat, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh also, but they account for only a fraction of the country's total production.

Snuff-users are predominantly villagers, especially along the coastal regions stretching in a great arc from Gujarat to West Bengal, the demand being the greatest along the Kerala coast. Mr. M.V. Ranga Rao, Secretary of the Madras State Snuff and Tobacco Merchants Association, says snuff has found growing patronage among students.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 6, 1926

A military revolt in Goa

Goa, August 5: A small military revolution broke out here on Sunday but it was short-lived. Three garrison Commanding Officers waited on the Acting Governor, Commander Moraes on Sunday the 1st August and demanded the suspension of the New Officers Pay Act. Commander Moraes referred the matter to the Lisbon Government simultaneously requesting his dismissal from the Governor's charge, if the suspension was granted. Before Lisbon had answered, the Officers intimated Commander Moraes on Monday that he must withdraw from the Government. He refused, whereupon they took him to Cabo Palace and detained him there. Col. Sequeira assumed the Governorship. The Lisbon Government did not recognise the military Government and ordered that the three officers be dismissed from their charges and their immediate embarkation to Lisbon. Commander Moraes resumed his duty last evening and dismissed the three officers. Then he transferred his powers for reasons of health to the Attorney General. The new Governor-General is expected within a fortnight.

From Page One

Rijiju meets Rahul in bid to end House logjam

Both Houses witnessed repeated disruptions before being adjourned for the day.

Sources said Mr. Shah was expected to reply to the debate when the FCRA Bill comes up for discussion and passage. "The LoP has made it very clear that they cannot bring the FCRA Bill in this form," Mr. Venugopal told reporters after the meeting.

"Now you see, the mood of Narendra Modi will change within a minute. If the Indian Opposition says something, he will not listen, but this kind of diktat is coming from a foreign country, they will now...," he added, when asked about U.S. Congressman Riley M. Moore's social media post criticising the FCRA Bill.

RBI panel keeps repo rate steady at 5.25%

Looking ahead, he said, the turbulent global economic environment would have some bearing on domestic economic activity.

"Energy prices and supply chain pressures remain elevated and uncertain. The adverse impact is being contained with various supply-side measures. Even though the situation is still evolving, a deficient and uneven south-west monsoon amidst El Niño conditions poses some risks to the agriculture sector's outlook and rural demand," he emphasised.

Taking various factors into consideration, real GDP growth for 2026-27 is projected at 6.7% which is 10 bps higher than the earlier projection, with Q1 at 7.0%; Q2 at 6.4%; Q3 at 6.5%; and Q4 at 6.8%. Real GDP growth for Q1:2027-28 is projected at 7.3%. The risks are evenly balanced.

The Governor said "even though headline inflation is projected to increase, it is primarily on account of supply side pressures caused by food and fuel; it is not getting broad-based; core inflation remains moderate and is expected to decline after peaking in Q3." "Growth, albeit resilient, is expected to be lower in 2026-27," he stated.

CJP will function as a pressure group: Dipke

Mr. Dipke said the CJP was in touch with the protesters in Jharkhand and supported their demand for reforms and a probe by Central agencies.

When asked if the group was in touch with Sonam Wangchuk, Mr. Dipke said the climate activist is the group's "mentor" and will continue to guide them.

'Frustration against defections'

He said people are fed up with defections and breaking of political parties. "People vote for someone, but then that person is seen in some other party the very same evening. There is frustration against it. That is why people have kept their differences aside and have come together to show their support to us," he said, adding that the CJP's responsibility has increased after the Jantar Mantar protests.

Meta apologises for 'errors in operation'

Earlier in the day, according to a letter from the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, headed by the Bharatiya Janata Party's Nishikant Dubey, demanded that Google India's safe harbour be lifted, thereby leaving the firm liable to individual users' posts as a publisher. The letter, seen by *The Hindu*, cited cybercrime complaints in Hyderabad where complainants lost over ₹48 lakh to cyberfrauds from apps downloaded from Google Play, where Google's India country manager was named as a co-accused.

Having majority is no reason to defy party: SC

The dispute dated back to June 2022 when the Shiv Sena had split into two rival camps after Mr. Shinde, backed by 40 out of 55 party MLAs, rebelled and left the party led by Mr. Thackeray. The crisis saw the eventual toppling of the Thackeray government. Mr. Shinde teamed up with the Devendra Fadnavis-led BJP side and formed the government. The Election Commission later concluded that Mr. Shinde was the "real" Shiv Sena and gave his party the party symbol.

Mr. Sibal said it was time the Supreme Court examined the "trend" of "coordinated and unilateral" shift of loyalties by legislators of one political party to another, leading to the overthrow of elected governments in multiple States. He asked whether a few legislators could unilaterally decide a "merger" with another party without the knowledge of the parent political party.

"The control of the political party subsists over the legislature party. Any valid decision of the political party has to prevail over the will of the majority of the legislature party," Justice Bagchi observed orally.

Fear, personal safety cannot decide my duty to the people: Sheikh Hasina

The former Prime Minister of Bangladesh signals return to her country in December despite risk of arrest; demands that ban on Awami League be lifted; she terms India a country that has 'always been a friend', especially in 1971 and 1975

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was deposed in August 2024 following protests, on Wednesday virtually addressed a press conference here, and said "fear" and "concerns of personal safety" will not prevent her from returning home.

In an audio-only broadcast, she said the members of her party, Awami League, have been persecuted and killed, and called for lifting the ban on the party. She termed India a country that has "always been a friend" and supported Bangladesh when it faced difficulties in 1971 and 1975.

"I know, I may be detained. I may be sent to prison, and they may implicate me in fabricated cases. But fear cannot decide my duty to the people, my life or beyond. My life has been beyond the considerations of personal safety for long," said Ms. Hasina indicating that she may return in December 2026. "You will get to know when I decide to go," said Ms. Hasina when asked about the date of her return.

Sheikh Hasina addresses a virtual press conference by audio in New Delhi on Wednesday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Awami League activists said Ms. Hasina will not use a third country to reach Dhaka, and she will take permission from the Indian authorities in December before starting her journey.

Ms. Hasina recounted that she along with her mother were imprisoned in 1971 during the Liberation War and that she lost most of her family members in 1975.

'People deserve peace'

"Even the August 21, 2004, grenade attack could not stop me. Therefore, I am not worried about my own future. I am worried about the future of Bangladesh. I want to return because people deserve security, development, prosperity and peace," said Ms. Hasina. She described the protesters of 2024 as "organised" groups that worked according to a "meticulous" plan.

The media event at the Foreign Correspondents Club was the first occasion when Ms. Hasina answered questions from the international media since arriving here on August 5, 2024.

"Fear has entered homes, workplaces and campuses. This is not the Bangladesh that we built," said Ms. Hasina, accusing the interim government and the current dispensation led by Prime Minister Tarique Rahman of being responsible for the breakdown in law-and-order situation in the country.

Ms. Hasina referred to an investigation committee that she had ordered to probe the uprising of July-August 2024 and accused the interim government under Mohammed Yunus of scrapping that commission.

On Tuesday, authorities in Bangladesh had urged news outlets to avoid telecasting the speech and the interaction that was beamed live on social media.

Bangladesh govt. 'outraged'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bangladesh government said it was "outraged" by Sheikh Hasina's press conference.

"Dhaka deeply regrets that in spite of concerns conveyed *a priori* to the Government of India about the likely ramifications of this event on the reset of our bilateral relations, this public event was permitted to be held," the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Bangladesh said that its "repeated requests" to extradite Ms. Hasina to Bangladesh "have not yet elicited a response".

Misri calls for provincial elections in Sri Lanka

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Wednesday urged the Sri Lankan leadership to hold the long-delayed elections to the Provincial Councils "at the earliest" and to "fully implement" constitutional provisions to meet the aspirations of the Tamil people, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Issued following Mr. Misri's day-long visit to Colombo, the Ministry's statement further highlighted bilateral discussions on Indian assistance to Sri Lanka's recovery from Cyclone Ditwah, collaborations in the energy sector, and possible upgrade of the trade agreement.

A media statement from President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's office said the discussions focused on "further strengthening cooperation". However, it made no mention of any discussion of the provincial elections, revealing an apparent difference in the two sides' priorities in messaging.

2019 marked a new chapter for J&K and Ladakh, says Modi

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the reading down of Articles 370 and 35(A) seven years ago marked a decisive new chapter in the journey of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, asserting that the regions have witnessed a wide-ranging transformation since the constitutional provisions were revoked on August 5, 2019.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said infrastructure has expanded while opportunities in education, healthcare, entrepreneurship and sports have grown significantly in the two Union Territories.

He added that women and marginalised communities, who had been denied their basic constitutional rights for decades, have been empowered through the full application of the Constitution.

Mr. Modi said this year's anniversary assumed added significance as India is commemorating the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee. He said the vision championed by Mookerjee found historic fulfilment on August 5, 2019. He said the government would continue to work for the progress of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh while ensuring that every citizen gets the opportunity to dream big and contribute to the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also marked the occasion, saying the reading down of Articles 370 and 35(A) ushered in a new era of peace, progress and equal opportunity for J&K and Ladakh.

Parties stage protests across J&K on anniversary of Article 370 dilution

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Amid heightened security, the ruling National Conference (NC) and the Opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) held street protests across Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday to mark the seventh anniversary of the dilution of Article 370, which had granted special status to the erstwhile State.

Recalling August 5, 2019, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said, "Seven years, we haven't forgotten, and we haven't reconciled, far less accepted our current circumstances. My party and I remain committed to reversing all that was done to J&K that took away our rights and threatens our identity..."

Several NC leaders and legislators held protests in their respective constituencies across the Union Territory. Senior Minister Sakina Itoo led a protest at the party headquarters in Srinagar, where NC leaders carried placards demanding the restoration of J&K's special status. "August 5 will always be observed by us as a Black Day," said NC legislator Ahsan Pardesi.

Police try to stop National Conference leaders and supporters during a protest in Srinagar on Wednesday. IMRAN NISSAR

NC Minister Javed Rana said the emotions associated with August 5 remain as profound today as they were then. "Time may have moved forward, but our resolve has only grown stronger... Our commitment has never been about confrontation; it has always been about restoring dignity, democratic rights, constitutional guarantees and the trust of our people through lawful and peaceful means," said Mr. Rana.

Following a call by the Opposition PDP, party leaders held district-wise protests across J&K. The PDP alleged several of its leaders had been placed under house arrest. The party posted videos on social media of several party leaders detained at police stations, and others allegedly prevented from leaving their homes.

PDP president Mehbooba Mufti held a late evening protest on Tuesday and termed August 5 as "the first step towards erosion of the Constitution by the BJP".

Other regional parties, including the J&K Apni Party, the Awami Ittehad and the J&K Peoples Conference, also registered their protests over the Centre's decisions made in 2019.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha handed over appointment letters to the kin of civilian victims of terrorism in Srinagar on the occasion.

Cabinet and Home Secretaries get extension

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan and Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan's tenures have been extended for another year, according to a government order issued on Wednesday.

Mr. Mohan was appointed Home Secretary in 2024 and assumed office on August 23, 2024.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved extension in the service of Govind Mohan as Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs for a period of one year, that is up to 22.8.2027," the order said.

The ACC, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the extension for Mr. Somanathan as Cabinet Secretary for a further period of one year beyond August 30, 2026, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said.

'Police modernisation scheme awaits Finance Ministry's nod'

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Centre made the submission before the SC in a hearing on non-functional CCTV cameras at police stations

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Wednesday that a proposal seeking in-principle approval for an umbrella scheme for the modernisation of police forces across the country had been sent to the Department of Expenditure under the Union Ministry of Finance.

Additional Solicitor-General Rajkumar Bhaskar Thakare, appearing for the Centre, told a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta that the proposal was forwarded on July 8, 2026 and was currently under consideration.

The submission was made in a *suo motu* proceeding initiated in 2025 after the court took note of a media report highlighting non-functional CCTV cameras at police stations in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The court had subsequently sought compliance reports from the Centre, States, and Union Territories while reviewing the implementation of its 2021 judgment in *Paramvir Singh Saini vs Baljit Singh*, which mandated the installation of CCTV cameras at key locations within police stations.

Earlier, the Bench had urged the Union government to consider requests from States for the release of funds to install CCTV cameras and establish a centralised monitoring dashboard covering police stations.

On Wednesday, Justice Mehta asked whether the proposed umbrella scheme would be confined to infrastructure or would also extend to the augmentation of human resources.

Mr. Thakare informed the Bench that the scheme was intended to cover the modernisation of the police force as a whole.

Describing the development as "significant progress", the Bench directed the Centre to place details of the proposal on record through an affidavit within two weeks, and posted the matter for further hearing on September 1.

The Bench was also informed that the Assistance to States and Union Territories for Modernisation of Police scheme, under which the Ministry of Home Affairs provides financial assistance for CCTV infrastructure at police stations, had been extended until March 31, 2027.

Senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, assisting the court as *amicus curiae*, expressed concern that some States were seeking funds for additional police vehicles instead of prioritising modern equipment and scientific methods of investigation.

Woman 'blamed for rape, humiliated' by panchayat in Bihar

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

A 30-year-old woman in Begusarai district of Bihar has alleged that after being raped by her neighbour, she was subjected to public humiliation instead of receiving justice.

According to her complaint, villagers caught the accused while he was allegedly trying to flee by breaking a window. They then convened a village panchayat and allegedly humiliated her in front of those present.

A purported video showing the woman being humiliated went viral on social media, triggering widespread outrage.

As per the FIR, lodged on Saturday, the mother of two children was allegedly raped twice on June 2 and 4, when her husband, who works as a labourer in another State, was away from the village. The woman lodged the complaint after her husband returned to the village on June 25.

The complaint states that during the panchayat meeting on July 5, 2026, she was asked to hold her ears and kneel, and was allegedly forced to lick her own spit after the village panchayat declared that it was all her fault.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Begusarai, Nikhil Kumar, said, "Police have lodged the FIR based on the complaint of the woman. The incident took place two months back, in which she has alleged that she was threatened by the accused and raped..."

He further said, "Both the accused and the woman were subjected to humiliation."

When contacted, Sub-Divisional Police Officer, Ballia, Subodh Kumar, said one person, who is the son of a ward councillor, had been arrested in the case.

Protests stall Parliament for 13th consecutive day

Houses witness repeated disruptions over donation theft and police action against protesters; Lok Sabha passes Bankers' Books Evidence Bill without debate; Rijiju slams MPs for staging skits

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Disruptions continued in both Houses of Parliament for the 13th consecutive day on Wednesday, with the Opposition persisting in its protests over the alleged Ram Temple donation scam and its demand for a statement from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on last month's police action against protesters.

The government has not extended any assurance on either issue.

In the Lok Sabha, Opposition MPs trooped into the Well of the House as soon as it convened in the morning and began shouting slogans and displaying placards. Speaker Om Birla asked MPs to allow the House to function and take up Question Hour. However, as they remained unrelenting, he adjourned the House till 2 p.m.

Stormy session: Rajya Sabha proceedings under way during the Monsoon Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju criticised Opposition MPs for staging skits in the Parliament House complex to protest the alleged theft of donations.

He claimed that the Congress, the Communist parties, and the Samajwadi Party had opposed the construction of the temple and were against Lord Ram.

When the Lok Sabha reconvened at 2 p.m., the Bankers' Books Evidence Bill was taken up, with Opposition members continuing to raise slogans in the Well of the House. The Bill was taken up for consideration and passed by a voice vote without debate.

"We had given time for discussion, but they [the Opposition] disrupted proceedings," Mr. Rijiju said. Referring to Congress leader K.C. Venugopal as a "good man", he said Mr. Venugopal should make his party members understand the importance of debate.

He added that the government was open to discussions as decided in meetings of the Business Advisory Committee, but the Opposition should not exert pressure.

Adjournments in RS too

Similar scenes were witnessed in the Rajya Sabha, which saw two adjournments during the first half of the day. A few members managed to deliver their speeches during Zero Hour, which allows MPs to raise issues of national importance. Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan criticised the Opposition for not adhering to the rules of conduct. His repeated appeals to maintain order were ignored by both sides, and the Upper House was adjourned after 26 minutes till noon.

Learn from seniors, stay clear of 'intrigues in Delhi', PM tells new NDA RS MPs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday cautioned newly elected Rajya Sabha members of the National Democratic Alliance against falling prey to the "intrigues in Delhi", and urged them to learn from all parliamentarians, including those in the Opposition, during their tenure in the Upper House.

Mr. Modi hosted 37 newly elected Rajya Sabha MPs for breakfast. Among the tips shared by the Prime Minister was a caution about the "web of intrigues" in the Lutyens' Zone of Delhi.

"Be mindful of whom you meet and where you meet. Delhi is a dangerous place," he is reported to have told the MPs. The caution was an echo of a similar warning to NDA MPs during the alliance's Parliamentary Party meet after the 2019 Lok Sabha election. In that speech, Mr. Modi had said that first-time MPs might meet many people eager to serve them, and later these very people could lead to their downfall – the allusion was to not getting caught among middlemen. On Wednesday, the Prime Minister reiterated the advice.

Warm welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting the new Rajya Sabha MPs in New Delhi on Wednesday. X/@NARENDRAMODI

Mr. Modi also instructed the MPs to guard against the misuse of their letterhead and to avoid being rude to people on the phone.

PM's personal routine

Responding to questions about his personal routine, he told the group that he falls asleep within eight seconds of getting into bed and that he sleeps for only three hours.

He added that it is important to live in the moment to get optimum results. "Right now, I am with you, so I am not thinking about anything else. I think about and live in the moment I am in," he reportedly said.

Those who attended the meeting included BJP president Nitin Nabin, Tarun Chugh, Vinod Tawde, Swati Maliwal, Raghav Chadha, and Ashok Mittal.

RS clears Bill to increase number of SC judges

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill even as the Opposition members walked out before voting on the Bill. The Bill, passed in the Lok Sabha on Monday, is a Money Bill and the Upper House returned it to the Lower House after a discussion.

The Bill increases the number of Supreme Court judges from the present strength of 34 to 38, including the Chief Justice of India. The Bill replaces an Ordinance issued by the government in May. Opposition members questioned the "hurry" for bringing the Ordinance. "Why was this not brought as an Act straight to the Parliament? asked Congress MP and senior lawyer Vivek Tankha, who initiated the debate.

Replying to the debate, Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal said the increase of judges is a step to improve judicial efficiency.

Over 43 lakh voters deleted from draft rolls in Jharkhand

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Almost 16.5% of Jharkhand voters' names have been removed in the draft electoral rolls published by the State Election Commission on Wednesday after the enumeration phase of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of voter lists.

Of the 43.6 lakh names that have been removed, over seven lakh are dead, over 14 lakh untraceable, and over 15 lakh have permanently shifted away from the State, Jharkhand Chief Electoral Office K. Ravi Kumar told presspersons in Ranchi. Another 1.16 lakh voters refused to sign their enumeration forms and did not return them to the booth-level officers (BLOs).

"As many as 43,61,987 voters have been removed, falling under the 'Absent, Shifted, Dead, or Duplicate' (ASDD) categories," Mr. Kumar said.

Second chance

He pointed out that eligible electors whose names existed in the 2026 electoral roll but who failed to submit the enumeration form can still be added back to the rolls during the claims and objections phase from August 5 to September 4. They are required to submit Form-6 along with the declaration form.

"The Election Commission (EC) is implementing the SIR of the Electoral Rolls in Jharkhand with a clearly defined objective to ensure inclusion of all the eligible citizens of India in the electoral roll and exclusion of all the ineligible electors from the electoral roll with full transparency at every stage of the process," Mr. Kumar said.

"As on July 29, out of 2,64,63,236 electors, 2,21,01,249 (83.51%) electors have submitted their enumeration forms, reflecting an overwhelming participation in the enumeration phase of the SIR," Mr. Kumar said.

The SIR process began in Jharkhand on June 30.

1.8 lakh voters excluded from Meghalaya rolls

SHILLONG

Around 1.8 lakh electors have been excluded from draft electoral roll of Meghalaya published on Wednesday after the special intensive revision identified them as deceased, shifted, untraceable or duplicate, officials said. They clarified that the cases will be examined during the claims and objections phase. PTI

Rahul using children to build political narrative: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday accused the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of taking a "selective approach" to students' issues by highlighting protests in Delhi while ignoring the ongoing agitation in Congress-ruled Jharkhand.

Responding to Mr. Gandhi's charge that Union Minister Amit Shah was responsible for the violence against young protesters during the march on July 20, BJP MP and spokesperson Sambit Patra accused him of attempting to "build a political narrative through children".

Mr. Patra clarified that his remarks were not directed at the children who accompanied Mr. Gandhi during his press conference, but solely at the Congress leader.

He accused Mr. Gandhi of indulging in the "wrong practice" of "using innocent children as a means to pursue politics". Stating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP were with them, Mr. Patra said children need not hesitate to participate in movements or protests whenever necessary.

He also accused Mr. Gandhi of disrupting the functioning of the House.

Rahul steps up attack on Shah; protesters recount police action during march

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Wednesday accused Union Home Minister Amit Shah of being responsible for the alleged police excesses recently directed at students protesting against examination paper leaks.

Mr. Gandhi said Mr. Shah lacked the "decency" and "courage" to explain the incident in Parliament.

Addressing the media here, Mr. Gandhi said he had met students from different States, who had participated in the protests. He was proud of the "thousands of students" who had fought for the Constitution, the education system, and the future of the country, he said.

The students had narrated how they were assaulted, beaten and threatened despite protesting peacefully, Mr. Gandhi said. "Complaining about a flawed education system is not a crime. The system needs to be changed and corrected," he said.

Stepping up his attack on the Union Home Minister, Mr. Gandhi said, "There are two possibilities – either he did not know that violence was carried out on children, in which case he is incompetent, or he ordered it, which means he is culpable. Either way, he is responsible."

Voicing out: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with a few protesters at a press conference in New Delhi. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Later, Mr. Gandhi shared photographs from his interaction with students on Instagram, describing the students as "young, fearless, outspoken and patriotic". "And the Prime Minister and Home Minister? Neither the courage to come to Parliament nor the guts to provide answers," he posted.

Protesters speak up

Among those who addressed the media alongside Mr. Gandhi was model Rhiya Ahir, whose photograph blocking a police van during the student protests in Mumbai went viral. Ms. Ahir said she had prevented the unlawful arrest of students and was now facing sustained online harassment. "This is not trolling, it is a crime," she said.

Other students, including Nutan Topo, Farha Naz, Bharat, and Muskan Sharma, also spoke to the media, giving their personal accounts of alleged police brutalities against them at Jantar Mantar.

Ms. Topo alleged that she was hit by pellet firing during the July 20 demonstration. Ms. Naz claimed that police personnel, after finding out her name, labelled her "anti-national". Mr. Bharat alleged he was beaten during the agitation, and said it was important to protest to safeguard democracy.

Mr. Gandhi hailed the students for speaking publicly despite facing harassment.

HC orders removal of deepfake videos targeting Gadkari

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court directed social media platforms on Wednesday to take down deepfake and AI-generated videos that linked Union Minister Nitin Gadkari to the ethanol blending programme (EBP). The court found the content to be defamatory.

Justice Arif Doctor, presiding over a Single Bench, ordered the removal of all content highlighted by Mr. Gadkari in his lawsuit. The court also issued a directive to remove any similar content in the future if brought to its attention by the Minister.

The order came in response to a suit filed by the Union Minister, who asserted that he had no role in the ethanol blending programme decision-making process. He stated that the policy was managed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

'False portrayal'

Mr. Gadkari, who has been the Union Minister of Road Transport since 2014, told the court that unknown users had created and circulated videos that falsely portrayed him as responsible for the implementation of the ethanol blending policy. The content also made allegations that he and his family had derived undue financial benefits from the programme, implying corruption and misuse of office.

Nitin Gadkari

The suit referenced at least 24 posts that contained such allegations. Mr. Gadkari clarified that his legal action was not intended to suppress fair debate or criticism of government policies but to address content that was fabricated and malicious. He also noted that the deepfake content exploited his personality and publicity rights without his consent.

During the proceedings, the court expressed concern over the absence of a mechanism to remove abusive content without judicial intervention. It observed that individuals are compelled to approach courts for relief in such matters.

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The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

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Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002

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GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - ENGAGEMENT OF CERT-IN EMPANELLED AUDITOR FOR CONDUCTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDIT

BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7853129 DATED 30.07.2026

The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

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Congratulation to all NEET 2026] (UG) qualified candidates of the State.

Admission to MBBS/BDS State Quota seats of different Government and Hi-Tech/ Dreams Medical (Private) Colleges of the State will be done for the session 2026-27 on the basis of NEET 2026 (UG) merit list following rules and regulation of the State Govt.

The online registration and counselling process for state merit list preparation **starts from 06.08.2026**, for other detail schedule, Instructions/Guideline please visit OJEE website. Candidates are advised to keep in touch with website **www.ojee.nic.in** / **www.odishajee.com** and OJEE Android/IoS App for latest information.

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NIT No. OSSC/Mktg (Hort)-23/2026

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Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.

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OIPR-1001/1045/1/26-27/0026

CENTRE FOR MATERIALS FOR ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY (C-MET)
Panchwati, off. Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pashan, Pune 411 008
Ph: +91-020-25898390/25899273

NOTICE OF INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

This department intents to solicit EOI from interested collaborators for submission of project proposal on Photonic Packaging to MeitY. EOI start **date: 05.08.2026** and last date of submission : **23.08.2026**

Note: For detailed information visit https://cmet.gov.in

Sd/-
In-charge Administration

INBRIEF

Meghalaya launches mission to protect clouded leopards

Meghalaya has launched a dedicated programme for its State animal—the mainland clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*). On Tuesday, Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma unveiled Mission Clouded Leopard. "The mission covers habitat protection and restoration, scientific research and long-term monitoring, stronger protection measures, landscape connectivity, capacity building of frontline staff, community participation, and public awareness. It will be guided by the Meghalaya Clouded Leopard Action Plan, now being prepared by the Forest and Environment Department," the Chief Minister said.

Top court allows reportage on proceedings, curbs use of clips

The Supreme Court has clarified on July 31 that recognised news outlets can continue to report on court proceedings, but without "utilising" audio and video clippings of judicial hearings. This would mean that recognised news outlets cannot post raw or edited audio and video content on social media or digital platforms, ostensibly for commercial purposes. On July 31, a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant clarified its July 24 interim order, which barred the unauthorised sharing, posting, monetisation or storage of recordings of judicial proceedings on digital platforms without prior approval.

Working to address students' concerns, says Jharkhand CM

Hundreds of students are demanding a CBI inquiry into alleged irregularities in competitive exams, cancellation of the 14th JPSC prelims, and a review of exams conducted through agencies

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

As a student protest over alleged irregularities in competitive examinations entered its 12th day in Ranchi, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday assured demonstrators that appropriate action was being taken to address their concerns.

Hundreds of students have gathered at the Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in the State capital, demanding an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) followed by action against those responsible for alleged irregularities in competitive exams for government jobs in the State, including in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) Combined Civil Services Examination, and the Jharkhand General Graduate Level Combined Competitive Examination, which is also known as Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission-Combined Graduate Level exam.

The protesters have also called for the cancellation of the Preliminary Test of the 14th JPSC Civil Services Examination, and a review of exams conducted through agencies, including TSR Data Processing Private Ltd.

A medical worker checks Devendra Nath Mahto's blood pressure at Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in Ranchi on Wednesday. PTI

"The concerns of my students are extremely serious matter for us. The issue of paper leaks is not confined to Jharkhand; it has become a major national problem affecting the youth across many States. Our government is working on this matter with utmost seriousness. The relevant agencies are conducting investigations day and night and the culprits are being sent to jail as well," Mr. Soren told presspersons in Ranchi.

"The doors of the government are open to everyone. Any student or candidate who has a demand or suggestion can put forward their point before the government," he said.

A protest march to the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly in Ranchi has been announced on Friday by the All India Students' Association (AISA), in which its national president, Neha Bora, will also participate.

Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha leader Devendra Nath Mahto ended his fast on Wednesday after speaking to educationist Sonam Wangchuk via video call. He had launched a peaceful protest on July 25 and had been on indefinite fast, giving up even water since Sunday.

The Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Babulal Marandi, visited the stadium to meet the protesting students. "The BJP stands with the students on this issue, supporting them both on the streets and in the Legislative Assembly. This matter will be raised in the Assembly as well," Mr. Marandi said.

Sub-Divisional Officer (Ranchi Sadar) Kumar Rajat and Additional District Magistrate (Law and Order) Dhananjay Kumar met the students with the government's proposals, urging them to send a delegation to the Chief Minister's residence for talks. The students refused, urging the officials to bring the Chief Minister to the protest venue for talks instead.

The Jharkhand government has issued prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS within a 750-metre radius of the Assembly, an official said. The order will be effective from 8 a.m. on August 6 to 10 p.m. on August 12, prohibiting unlawful assembly of five or more persons, processions, marches, and demonstrations.

(With PTI inputs)

Listen to Gen Z, don't repress them, says SC on NEET-UG protests

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday struck a parental tone, saying reasoning with students, youth, and organisers involved in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-UG) paper leak protests would be a better option than taking an aggressive stance against them.

"A better way is to counsel them, pacify them... The most powerful resource is reasoning. To listen to them. The government knows how to deal with it," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said.

The court was hearing a petition filed by a retired Air Force officer, Manish Kumar Solanki, who said the government was on the "backfoot" and "bending over backwards" to accommodate the "organisers" of Cockroach Janta Party-linked (CJP) demonstration, that drew students and youth from across the country and ultimately led to a police crackdown in Delhi on July 20.

Mr. Solanki's counsel said no action had been taken against the organisers 15 days after the July 20 incident. He said the CJP was not even a registered organisation. "The government is bending backwards to accommodate them. Violence, meanwhile, is continuing. A youth died in Rajasthan. In [a] society, everybody is important, including the farmers who had agitated and the protesters of Shaheen Bagh... If the government is on the backfoot, society and the institutions of law cannot be seen to be on the backfoot," advocate Rizwan Ahmed, appearing for the petitioner, submitted.

"Stone-pelters cannot be allowed to go scot-free just because the government is on the back foot. Tomorrow, Generation Alpha, Beta, Gamma may come... ," he argued. The petitioner suggested that the "young boys and girls" should be asked to do seven days of community service. But the CJI advised conciliation, counselling and peace.

"Youngsters are required to be pacified, even if some among them are involved in stone-pelting. They need a lot of advice and counselling. Any aggression will only unnecessarily aggravate the situation and lead to further violations. That needs to be avoided," the CJI said.

Home filmed without my consent: CJP spokesperson

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) chief spokesperson Saurav Das on Wednesday alleged that certain YouTubers and media persons had entered his residence and filmed inside without consent, calling it "a serious invasion of privacy" and a security threat to him and his family. He is in Maharashtra to attend a two-day meeting of Citizens for Justice and Peace.

In a post on X, Mr. Das claimed that around 15 to 20 people had gathered outside his residence on Wednesday morning, with some camping there since the previous night.

An officer from the South district police told *The Hindu* that security personnel had been deployed outside Mr. Das's residence after he raised the issue on X.

DGMA warns of rising cyberthreats as ports adopt digital technologies

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

With ports increasingly adopting digital technologies and automation, cyberthreats have emerged as a potential risk to maritime security and the continuity of port operations, the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) has cautioned in a fresh advisory.

Referring to the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, the DGMA said the growing dependence of modern ports on interconnected information technology and operational technology systems had created new vulnerabilities that could adversely affect the safety, security and functioning of port facilities.

The advisory said terminal operating systems, cargo handling infrastructure, vessel traffic management systems, access control mechanisms, surveillance networks and communication systems among others were vulnerable to cyberrisks.

Port authorities were advised to test their backup and recovery arrangements to improve resilience against cyberattacks. REUTERS

Incidents of cyberattacks could result from unauthorised access, malware, ransomware attacks, insecure remote access arrangements, third-party access and compromise of interconnected systems, it said.

To strengthen cyberresilience, the DGMA advised ports to incorporate cybersecurity risk assessments into their Port Facility Security Assessment.

The assessment could identify vulnerabilities, threat possibilities and the impact of cyberattacks on port security and operational continuity. The mitigation measures identified through the exercise should be integrated into the Port Facility Security Plan. Port authorities were advised to periodically test their backup and recovery arrangements to improve resilience against cyberattacks.

Emphasising the importance of preparedness, the advisory said Port Facility Security Officers and other personnel responsible for security should be aware of cyberattacks. Officers designated for cybersecurity risk management should hold regular awareness programmes, drills, simulations and exercises to assess preparedness and improve response capabilities, it said. The DGMA urged the ports to establish clear procedures for cyberincident reporting, response, containment and recovery, while periodically reviewing and updating cybersecurity measures in line with evolving threats, technological advancements and operational requirements.

SC seeks action on illegal constructions, warns civic authorities of contempt

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up civic authorities in State capitals for failing to act against illegal constructions and the unauthorised use of residential premises for non-residential purposes despite its earlier directions. The court also restrained municipal authorities from issuing directions contrary to its orders, warning that any interference could invite contempt proceedings.

"...Irrespective of any order that may be in operation, our directions shall be fully complied with by the authorities concerned... This will apply pan-India. We are indicating that if there is any attempt by any authority or government to interfere with any order of this court, the court may not show such restraint in issuing notice of contempt against the concerned authority, government or individual," a Bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R. Mahadevan said.

The Bench directed civic authorities across the country to identify illegal constructions within their respective jurisdictions and take action "without any delay". It also directed them to ensure that public spaces and roads were cleared of stray cattle and to file compliance affidavits within three weeks.

The directions were issued in a case arising from Tamil Nadu concerning a construction carried out in violation of land use norms and building bye-laws. In March this year, the court had expanded the scope of the proceedings and issued notices to civic bodies in several State capitals, seeking details of action taken against similar violations.

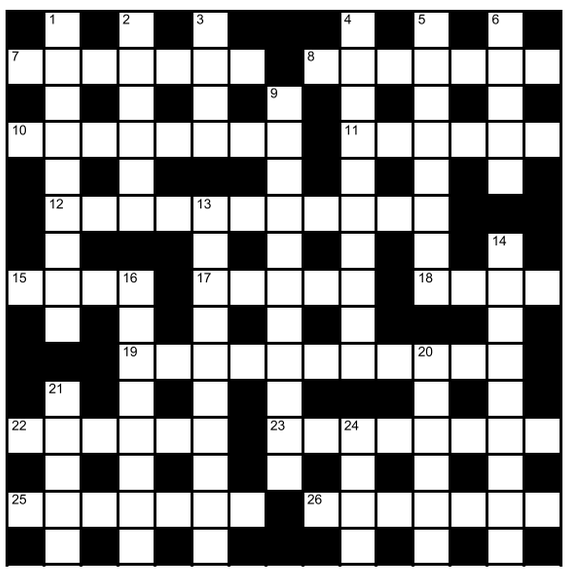
On Wednesday, Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj told the top court that the Bhopal Municipal Corporation had sealed about 100 premises for violations but later unsealed them after the State paused action and formed a panel to frame a policy on commercial establishments in residential areas. He urged the court to restrain the State from interfering with the civic body's statutory functions.

TH CROSSWORD + 14865

(set by Vidwan)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Love on the rebound! Strove after losing his heart and matured! (7)
8 Fair basis of sharing a part or split (3,4)
10 Sick one, very engrossed in exploit that is unreal (8)
11 500 make love and magic! (6)
12 Disapproving sound, it reflects female habit! It transforms into a sweet flavour! (5-6)
15 Years ago, devised by Patanjali (4)
17 Some irritate heedlessly and snigger (2-3)
18 Soil in Buffalo, America (4)
19 He devours or cooks appetiser (4,7)
22 One who holds liquor without a hint of restraint? (6)
23 South ignored marketed name, welcomed learner and earlier partner (3,5)
25 One about to get married in cafe around England (7)
26 Flower within my grasp (7)

Down

1 Advance a prop, possibly for overpopulation (9)
2 Female relative hosting large parade (6)
3 This Himalayan man is still fictional essentially (4)
4 A teen mostly locked in closet with latest issue of Nancy Drew, perhaps (7,3)
5 Provide weapons to old hide-out, rockets and heraldry (8)
6 Small and also large seat (5)
9 Shape of toned heart throbs (11)
13 Teen birder struggling to mix (10)
14 Something that prevents copyright violations with a model English royal brand (9)
16 Fan promotion at this place? Not on vacation! (8)
20 Twisting and turning sound, time for mass (6)
21 Unfortunately tries to appear in examination again (5)
24 No more fear! No resistance! (4)

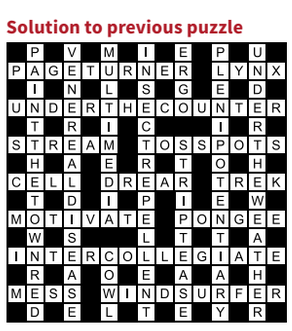
SUDOKU

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

No.SS6964 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Right way to respond

Whenever someone scolds a Vaishnava, he must assume that he deserves it. Acharya Nampillai demonstrated this in an incident, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. A person called Kandadai Thozhappan abused Nampillai with the most hurtful words. Later Thozhappan's wife told him how wrong it was to abuse a great Acharya like Nampillai. Thozhappan decided that the next morning he would visit Nampillai and seek his forgiveness. The next morning, when he opened the door of his house, he found someone sitting on the pyol. Before he could ask the man what he wanted, the visitor fell at Thozhappan's feet and asked for forgiveness. Only then did Thozhappan notice that the visitor was Nampillai! Nampillai explained: "You are the descendant of a great man. I must have done something wrong. Otherwise, why would you have scolded me? I am here to ask for your forgiveness." Thozhappan was moved and told Nampillai, "You have proved through your action that you are an Acharya for whole world."

The 15th pasuram of Thiruppavai shows that if someone accuses us of having a bad trait, we should willingly accept the abuse, even if the accuser is the one who has the bad trait. In this verse, those outside the room in which a girl has been sleeping say, "We know all about your sharp tongue and your harsh words." The girl inside the room replies, "You are the ones with a sharp tongue. But never mind. Let me be the one who has this quality." Thus, the girl accepts the insult thrown at her, without retaliating. To show the importance of such tolerance on the part of Vaishnavites, this verse is placed in the middle of Thiruppavai.

INBRIEF

Centre awards LoIs for 11 new flying training schools

The Centre on Tuesday issued Letters of Intent (LoIs) for the establishment of 11 new Flying Training Organisations (FTOs) across seven airports operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). With the addition of these 11 FTOs, India's annual pilot training capacity is expected to increase by 750 cadets, providing a significant boost to the domestic training ecosystem, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said in a statement.

Air India appoints Tewolde Gebremariam as its new CEO

Air India has appointed Tewolde Gebremariam as its new CEO. A former Ethiopian Airlines chief, he was most recently selected to lead Pakistan International Airlines. He will succeed Campbell Wilson, the first chief executive appointed after Air India was privatised and handed over to the Tata Group in 2022. Mr. Wilson stepped down from the role in April but continued to serve until his successor was appointed.

Services sector growth hits four-and-a-half-year low

India's services sector growth fell to a four-and-a-half-year low in July as new business orders eased in both domestic and export markets, constrained by fierce competition and fading demand, a monthly survey said on Wednesday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index fell from 57.4 in June to 53.3 in July, registering the weakest growth rate in close to four-and-a-half years. PTI

RBI has enough funds to pay for UPI use

The government has introduced a Bill in Parliament that will allow it to notify the kinds of transactions that can attract such a charge; However, an analysis by The Hindu has found that RBI itself has sufficient funds to pay for the platform's use without having to charge merchants or customers

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday said that "someone will have to pay the cost" of UPI transactions, which are currently free for merchants and customers. The cost is currently being borne by banks and the National Payment Corporation of India.

Mr. Malhotra was responding to media queries in the context of recent moves by the government to pave the way for a charge to be levied on such transactions.

If implemented, certain merchants would have to pay banks for the use of the UPI platform, which experts say they would pass on to customers.

An analysis by *The Hindu* has found that the RBI itself has more than enough funds to pay for the UPI platform's use, without involving any additional charge on merchants or customers.

This additional cost would amount to between 3-8.5% of what the central bank transferred to the Union government as its annual surplus.

Surpluses double

Further, even with the volume of UPI transactions growing 425% over the last five years, the quantum of surpluses transferred by the RBI to the Union government has grown at more than double that rate.

"The costs have to be paid by someone," Mr. Malhotra said. "We all want that this public infrastructure should continue to strengthen. Let's wait and watch for further developments on this."

> The costs have to be paid by someone... we all want that this public infra should continue to strengthen. Let's wait and watch
>
> **SANJAY MALHOTRA,** RBI Governor

"The cost is already getting passed on," he added.

"It may not be directly on to the very user, but someone is paying the cost. This is what I meant when I said someone will have to pay the cost. What is important is that we continue to invest and we continue to find the means, whether it is MDR or other things."

A provision in the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 introduced in Parliament by the government on Tuesday dilutes the earlier restrictions imposed on banks from imposing charges such as a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on UPI transactions.

Instead, it says that the government can notify the kinds of transactions that can attract such a charge.

Cost of running UPI

According to sources in the government, the proposal to allow banks to levy an MDR is currently limited to a small sub-set of merchants – those with an annual turnover of ₹1-1.5 crore – and to transactions above ₹2,000 in value.

However, the wording of the Bill provides an avenue for this charge to be levied on a wider set of transactions in the future.

According to banking industry officials, the UPI platform currently costs about ₹0.4-1 per transaction to operate and maintain. Official data shows that 24,161.69 crore UPI transactions were conducted in 2025-26. This would peg the cost of running the platform at ₹9,664-24,161 crore per year.

The RBI earned approximately ₹4.3 lakh crore in 2025-26. Out of this, it transferred about ₹2.9 lakh crore to the Union government as surplus for 2025-26. The cost of running the UPI platform that year would have worked out to 3-8.5% of this amount.

RBI surplus transfers have grown from ₹30,307.45 crore in 2021-22 to about ₹2.9 lakh crore in 2025-26, a growth of 857%. Over this period, the volume of UPI transactions grew 425%.

This shows that, even with this rapid growth in UPI adoption, the RBI surpluses have grown more than enough to cover the cost of all UPI transactions.

India emerges strong from each disruption, says Malhotra

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Asserting that India's macroeconomic fundamentals are "very strong", RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the country had emerged strong with each disruption.

"Even this particular episode [West Asia conflict] of shock is being treated as an opportunity for us to further enhance our resilience," he said.

"Our macroeconomic fundamental is very strong, growth is resilient, inflation, although headline is going up, the underlying inflation pressures are muted while we are aligning with core inflation," Mr. Malhotra said.

Answering a question from *The Hindu* during his post Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting press conference in Mumbai on Wednesday, he said, "We have not only faced these challenges [COVID, Russia-Ukraine war, Israel-West Bank conflict, U.S. tariffs and the ongoing West Asia conflict] but have come out stronger."

Asked how confident he was, Mr. Malhotra said, "confidence comes from the way the Indian economy, including us [RBI] and other institutions have faced these challenges."

'Polymer currency notes will be in circulation from next FY'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Currency notes made out of polymers (plastic) will be in circulation in the country from next financial year, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said on Wednesday.

> **There will be several security features in the new notes, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said**

"We are still at a pilot [stage]. We will test, check as to how they [the polymer currency notes] perform in the Indian condition, climate and other infrastructure we have put in place. And thereafter we will see if we need to further scale it up as it is or with changes," Mr. Malhotra said while answering a question at the post Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) press conference.

"We are targeting that they [the polymer notes] are in circulation, if everything goes as planned, in the beginning of next financial year," he said.

"Testing will be done, security clearance is required and there will be several security features in the new notes," the Governor added.

RBI to resume licensing of urban cooperative banks

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to resume licensing of urban cooperative banks (UCBs) after a pause of more than two decades as part of developing a vibrant co-operative sector in the country.

"It has been decided to resume licensing of UCBs on 'on tap' basis," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra announced as one of the additional measures. Draft guidelines would be issued shortly for stakeholder consultation, he added.

A discussion paper on licensing of UCBs was published for stakeholder feedback on January 13, 2026 and the decision has been taken based on feedback from stakeholders.

As per RBI and NABARD, there are 1,457 urban cooperative banks.

The RBI has also decided to review the guidelines on concentration risk management of rural co-operative banks (RCBs).

Highlighting the banking sector in general and co-operative banking sector in particular, have undergone significant expansion and changes over 18 years, it said there was a need to review prudential norms on concentration risk management of RCBs.

These are governed by the Credit Monitoring Arrangement (CMA) instructions issued in 2008.

The Reserve Bank of India proposed to rationalise the regulatory framework on interest rates for all regulated entities (REs) on an in-principle basis.

The move is aimed at harmonising guidelines across REs while maintaining proportionality.

SIAM withdraws letter to Centre flagging chloride related concerns with E20

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) late on Tuesday withdrew its earlier letter to the government flagging concerns about vehicular parts experiencing either corrosion or wear and tear due to high chloride presence in E20 fuel, saying the data would require further authentication.

In its latest statement, the auto industry body said concerns it had raised earlier had been addressed.

A draft of the earlier letter to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) accessed by *The Hindu* stated, "SIAM members are observing huge increase in the issues in customer vehicle parts and replacement (like fuel injectors, fuel pump, exhaust gas recirculation valve, exhaust and other parts that are in direct contact with fuel or engine emission gases)."

The letter goes on to state 'investigations of field failure vehicle parts reveal the failure is due to corrosion or wear caused by high chloride presence which is traced to the fuel used,' adding deposits in failed parts also showed the presence of chlorides.

However, in a social media post past midnight on Monday, SIAM clarified the data it had cited required further authentication through the "collection of elaborate data from various regions across the country followed by a comprehensive consultation with our member OEMs".

SIAM did not, however, mention why it had included unauthenticated data in its letter to MoPNG.

Volte-face: The auto industry body said concerns it had raised earlier had been addressed. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Chloride contamination has the potential to corrode and permanently damage engine and other vehicular parts either immediately or over a period of time depending on the contamination level.

Reacting to SIAM's previous letter, Tehseen Poonawalla, founder of citizens' advocacy collective Team Bharat, said it contradicted Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari's assertions about there being no vehicular damage because of the blended fuel.

"A direct side-by-side technical evaluation of both documents exposes alarming contradictions that severely undermine the technical authority of the auto industry's premier apex body, giving the distinct impression of an institutional retreat under administrative duress of Nitin Gadkari *ji* as he had made tall claims," Mr. Poonawalla said.

Mr. Poonawalla also called for accountability from OEMs, emphasising they must now be "transparent with citizens" and urged the Petroleum Ministry to scout for ways to control chloride contamination.

SIAM stated in its previous letter it had come across chloride contamination of as much as 500 milligrams for every kilogram (mg/kg) in the fuel samples collected from vehicular tanks it inspected. It specified fuel chloride contamination was among the reasons it observed while analysing engine oils of failed vehicles.

'Excess moisture'

SIAM in the now-withdrawn letter had also observed issues relating to "excess moisture" in the ethanol blended fuel.

In its statement withdrawing the letter, however, it emphasised that oil-marketing companies have instituted necessary checks, including water ingress testing about 8-12 times a day in over 87,000 outlets and after each spell of rain near petrol pumps.

The clarification came after the automobile manufacturers' body had stated that high moisture content – of more than 1% in fuels – caused separation of the fuel and damaged the vehicle immediately after fuelling.

"Even though the moisture level permitted in the E20 fuel is 3000 mg/kg, we have observed values even beyond 10,000 mg/kg level [1%] in many cases," it said.

India said to mull levy on gas users to fund '$42-bn fuel reserve'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India may impose a charge on cooking and natural gas consumers to help fund a planned $42 billion strategic fuel reserve, according to two sources with direct knowledge of the matter, after disruptions from the Iran war exposed supply chain vulnerabilities.

The plan would extend India's strategic reserves beyond crude oil for the first time, with stockpiles designed to cover about two months of crude and liquefied natural gas demand and around six weeks of liquefied petroleum gas or cooking gas consumption, the two sources said.

Under the plan, cooking and natural gas storage infrastructure would be financed through levies on users that could raise about $1.5 billion annually, the two sources said.

India's Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is considering a levy of ₹1.29 ($0.0136) per kg of LPG, which would raise about $460 million a year based on current consumption and add about ₹18 rupees to the cost of a standard domestic cooking gas cylinder, the sources said.

For natural gas, the Ministry proposed a levy of ₹1.43/standard cubic metre, generating about $1 billion a year at current consumption levels.

The proposed levies would add about 2% to household gas bills. India is the world's third-largest oil importer and consumer. It buys almost 90% of the crude from overseas, which exposed it to the turmoil from the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran.

Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise & Group Company of IndianOil)
[CIN-L40101TN1965GOI005389]
Regd. Office: No.536, Anna Salai, Teynampet, Chennai-600 018. Tel: 044-24346807/24349959
Email Id: lalitkumarmohanty@cpcl.co.in Website: www.cpcl.co.in

Further to our Newspaper Publication regarding subject "Notice of the 60th Annual General Meeting" vide two newspapers "The Hindu" and "Makkal Kurral" dated. 02.08.2026, this is to inform that due to unavoidable obligatory development and administrative commitments, the 60th AGM of the Members of the Company has been rescheduled from **Monday, August 24th, 2026 at 11:00 AM to Wednesday, August 26th, 2026 at 12:00 Noon (IST)** through Video Conference ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM"). Accordingly, the revised notice of 60th AGM which is already sent to the shareholders through their registered email id on 04.08.2026 is issued herewith for information.

REVISED NOTICE OF 60th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the **60th Annual General Meeting ("AGM")** of the members of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited ("Company") is re-scheduled to be held on **Wednesday, the 26th August 2026 at 12:00 Noon (IST)** through Video Conference / Other Audio Visual Means ("VC/OAVM") to transact the businesses as set out in the notice of the AGM.

Notice of AGM and Annual Report:

In compliance with the MCA & SEBI Circular(s), the revised Notice setting out the businesses to be transacted at the 60th AGM together with the Integrated Annual Report of the Company for the year 2025-26 **has been sent on Tuesday, the 04th August 2026** through electronic mode to the members whose email address is registered with the Company / Depository Participant(s). The Revised Notice is also available on the Company's website **https://www.cpcl.co.in/investors/financials/exchange-intimations/** and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at **www.bseindia.com** and **www.nseindia.com** respectively, and on the website of KFin Technologies Ltd. at **www.kfintech.com.**

Accordingly, following amendments to Notice of 60th AGM is hereby submitted for information and dissemination.

Sl.No.	Events	Original Dates	Revised Dates
1	Date of the AGM	24.08.2026 at 11.00 AM	26.08.2026 at 12.00 Noon
2	Record Date	07.08.2026	07.08.2026
3	Cut-off Date	17.08.2026	19.08.2026
4	Speaker Registration Date	20.08.2026 to 22.08.2026	22.08.2026 to 24.08.2026
5	Question Registration Date	20.08.2026 to 22.08.2026	22.08.2026 to 24.08.2026
6	E-Voting Date	20.08.2026 (9.00AM) to 23.08.2026 (5.00 PM)	22.08.2026 (9.00AM) to 25.08.2026 (5.00 PM)

It is hereby confirmed that except above dates, there is no other changes in the notice of the 60th AGM.

Remote e-voting and e-voting during AGM:

The Company provides to the members through KFin Technologies Ltd. the facility to cast their vote(s) on the business as set out in the Notice of the 60th AGM through remote e-voting facility ("remote e-voting") as well as during the AGM to those members who could not cast their vote(s) through remote e-voting. Members are requested to note the following:

i. any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a member of the Company after dispatch of the Notice and holds shares as on the cut-off date, may obtain the login ID and password by sending a request at **evoting.cpcl@kfintech.com.** However, if the member is already registered with KFin Technologies Ltd. for remote e-voting then he/she can use their existing User ID and password for casting the vote.

ii. the members who have cast their vote through remote e-voting prior to the AGM can also attend / participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again at the AGM.

the Revised remote e-voting module shall be disabled by KFin Technologies Ltd. after **5.00 PM** (IST) on **Tuesday, August 25th, 2026.** The votes once cast by the member, cannot be changed subsequently.

iii. those members, who intend to participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM facility and could not cast their vote on the resolutions through remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, shall be eligible to vote through e-voting during the AGM.

iv. the manner of voting for members holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM.

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

Contact Details:

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

For Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited
Sd/-
(LALIT KUMAR MOHANTY)
Company Secretary
M.No. F6655

Place : Chennai
Dated : August 4th, 2026

DUBAI

Yemen's Houthis say they attacked Saudi tanker off Yanbu in Red Sea

REUTERS

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis said on Wednesday they had launched a missile attack on a Saudi oil tanker off the coast of the kingdom's Red Sea port city of Yanbu. The Houthis' military spokesperson, Yahya Saree, did not say when the attack took place. Saudi officials did not respond to a request for comment. REUTERS

ANKARA

Turkish MPs back conditional amnesty for Kurdish militants

REUTERS

A majority of Turkish MPs on Wednesday backed limited and conditional amnesty for PKK Kurdish militants, a first legislative step to end decades of deadly fighting. Entitled "Strengthening National Solidarity and Social Integration," the Bill, which will be put to a vote soon, was signed by 360 of 592 MPs. AFP

CEUTA

Ceuta warns of 'unsustainable' plight for child migrants, seeks aid

AP

The leader of Spain's north African territory of Ceuta on Wednesday said the number of children left there after last week's rush of migrants was "unsustainable", pleading for government aid. Juan Jesus Vivas said that authorities were taking care of 1,100 youngsters against a theoretical capacity of 90. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump administration revokes visa of Brazil's Ambassador to the U.S.

AFP

The United States has revoked the visa of Brazil's Ambassador to the U.S., Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, in retaliation for Brazil's denial of visas for two American diplomats who sought to visit ahead of elections as well as what it said was Brazil's stalling on approving President Donald Trump's nominee to be Ambassador in Brasilia. AP

New Hormuz route agreed, to be managed jointly with Oman: Iran

The geographical coordinates of the route envisaged by the two countries have been agreed upon, and a joint statement, containing the main considerations and points of agreement, is in the final drafting stage, says Tehran's Foreign Ministry

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran and Oman have agreed to a route for ships transiting the Strait of Hormuz and are putting the final touches on arrangements for jointly managing the passage, Tehran's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

Iran has seized *de facto* control of the strait, a strategic waterway for the global energy trade, since the U.S. and Israel launched their war against the country on February 28.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly insisted Tehran is keen to do a deal to reopen the route to shipping, but Iran denies this and says it will instead make arrangements with its neighbour across the strait, Oman.

Motorists drive past a large billboard pledging revenge against Donald Trump along Jomhouri Street in central Tehran. AFP

"The geographical coordinates of the route envisaged by the two sides have been agreed upon and, if certain third parties do not obstruct the process, the joint statement of the two countries, containing the main considerations and points of agreement, is also in the final review and drafting stage," spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei said, according to state news agency *IRNA*.

According to the report, Mr. Baqaei told pressperson that talks with Oman were moving forward, but that even if an understanding was reached, it would not mean that the strait had become safe for all passing vessels.

"The factors making the Strait of Hormuz insecure still exist on the part of the United States, particularly the naval blockade and other aggressive and threatening actions against Iran and its interests," he said.

Mr. Trump had said Tuesday a deal with Iran to reopen Hormuz could happen "tomorrow or the next day," telling reporters in California that negotiators "had a very good day".

"The strait is going to be open very soon, or they're going to get hit very hard – and then the strait's going to be open," Mr. Trump said in an interview with Fox News.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Tuesday that the United States was involved in negotiations between Oman and Iran on increasing traffic through the Strait of Hormuz.

Russian barrage on Kyiv kills 17; defences fall short

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian attacks on Kyiv and its surrounding region killed 17 people and wounded dozens, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Wednesday, as Ukraine's depleted air defences failed to stop any of Moscow's incoming missiles overnight.

The barrage, which lasted about two hours, was the latest in a series of large-scale Russian missile strikes that have become almost routine this summer. Moscow is exploiting Ukraine's critical shortage of interceptors for the U.S.-made Patriot systems, the sole air defence weapon in its arsenal able to shoot down ballistic missiles.

Mr. Zelenskyy has pleaded with other countries, especially the United States, to send more of the ammunition made scarcer by the Iran war. Failing that, he wants to make Patriot ammunition in Ukraine.

Railway workers gather on railway tracks next to bodies in plastic bags of people killed during Russian strikes on Wednesday. AFP

Mr. Zelenskyy said after a Russian aerial attack on Friday night that air defences shot down only one ballistic missile "solely because there are no missiles for the Patriots".

The targets hit in the barrage included a brewery, a warehouse for construction material, and a mail sorting office that had nothing to do with the war, Mr. Zelenskyy said. But Russia's Defence Ministry said the businesses had military ties.

Dhaka turns Hasina's official residence into memorial museum

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Amid tightened nationwide security, Bangladesh on Wednesday inaugurated a memorial museum at the official residence of ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to commemorate the victims of violence during the anti-government protests in 2024 that toppled her government.

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman inaugurated the 'July Mass Uprising Memorial Museum' at Ganabhaban, Prime Minister's official residence during Ms. Hasina's regime, coinciding with the day she left to India on August 5, 2024.

Sheikh Hasina

Mr. Rahman announced that government institutions would be named after slain activists of the uprising and those who were killed during the rule of Ms. Hasina's Awami League since 2009.

According to a UN report, up to 1,400 people were killed between July 15 and August 15 last year.

China announces countermeasures against Washington

Associated Press
BANGKOK

China announced a series of economic measures on Wednesday against the United States, including controls on exports of drones to the U.S. and a ban on dealings with six American entities, in response to recent restrictions imposed by Washington.

Tensions are simmering between the world's two biggest economies ahead of an expected visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to the U.S. in September, despite signs of warming ties during his meetings with U.S. President Donald Trump in Beijing in May.

The Commerce Ministry said the sanctions are in response to recent moves from the U.S., including a ban by the U.S. Federal Communications Commission on imports of Chinese drones, and the Department of Homeland Security's decision to add 43 Chinese companies to the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act entity list to prevent imports of goods made with forced labour.

The "measures seriously violate the important consensus reached by the two heads of state and severely damage China's legitimate rights and interests. China has no choice but to take necessary countermeasures in response," the Ministry said.

Abdul El-Sayed wins Michigan Senate primary in major win for progressives

Associated Press
DETROIT

Abdul El-Sayed has won Michigan's Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate, defeating U.S. Representative Haley Stevens in a massive victory for the party's progressive wing in a battleground state.

The real test of Mr. El-Sayed's and progressives' strength will now come in a November match-up against Republican Mike Rogers, a former congressman who ran unopposed for the GOP nomination. The seat is pivotal to Democrats' chances of flipping the Senate and Mr. El-Sayed will face the challenge of uniting a divided Democratic base after a bruising primary.

Massive support: Abdul El-Sayed speaks during a news conference at the Spirit of Detroit, in Michigan, on Wednesday. AP

The race remained tight throughout Tuesday night, with a winner not declared until early Wednesday. In his final remarks at a primary night party before the race was called, Mr. El-Sayed said, "tomorrow we begin to mend fences".

Mr. El-Sayed's win represents a significant shift for the Democratic Party; in 2018, he lost the gubernatorial primary to now-Governor Gretchen Whitmer by 21 percentage points.

Mr. El-Sayed, a former health official, campaigned on "Medicare for All," halting military aid to Israel and campaign finance reform. He had support from progressive leaders including Senator Bernie Sanders and U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who framed the race as a grassroots-focused movement and a broader fight against the establishment and big-money spending.

Now comes the more difficult challenge for Democrats: uniting the party to defeat Mr. Rogers, for whom Republicans have already reserved large sums of money ahead of the general election. Democrats consider the seat a must-win if they are to flip control of the Senate this year.

कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर
पण्डित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय भवन, लालकोठी, जयपुर
क्रमांक :– जसअ/2026/199 दिनांक : 03.08.2026
अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा सूचना क्रमांक :– 13–14/2026–27
नगर निगम जयपुर हेतु सीवर जैटिंग मशीन तथा सुपर सकर मशीन क्रय किये जाने हेतु पंजीकृत फर्म्स से ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र, विस्तृत सूचना एवं शर्ते आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाइट www.jaipurmc.org, www.sppp.raj.nic.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट के UBN No. JMC2627GLOB00309 to JMC2627GLOB00310 पर देखी जा सकती है।
राज.संवाद/सी/26/8758 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता (गैराज)

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF CONTRACT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS
No. GMA/GS/1521(CMP)(4)-Pt-III, Date:03.08.2026. Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW), under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India desires to engage Contract Medical Practitioners (Specialist) on full time contract basis on fixed monthly remuneration against 02 (UR-02) vacant post through Walk-in-Interview for a period of one (01) year or till further order whichever is earlier. Notification in this regard has been uploaded in CLW Website **(https://clw.indianrailways.gov.in)→ under link News & Recruitment → Recruitment.** Eligible Doctors (Specialist) are advised to fill up the application format enclosed as Annexure-A with the Notification dated 31.07.2026 and report to KG Hospital/Chittaranjan for **Walk-in-Interview on 25.08.2026 (10:00 AM).**
PR 5/453 SPO/Gaz./CLW/Chittaranjan
visit us on:www.facebook.com/clwrailways

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
Post Bag No. 3, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411007
Email: estt@ncra.tifr.res.in; URL: http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in
Recruitment Advt. No. 2026/10
1. Project Engineer (Electronics) [1-Post; 1-UR; HQ: RAC, Ooty]
2. Engineer Trainee (Electronics) [2 Posts, UR; HQ: RAC, Ooty]
3. Lab Assistant Trainee (Electronics) [1 Post, UR; HQ: RAC, Ooty]
Last Date is **31-Aug-2026.** For detailed advertisement and for making online application, Visit **https://tinyurl.com/ncrajob-2026**

झारखंड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, गोड्डा 814133
(rdsd.godda@gmail.com)
शुद्धि पत्र
इस कार्यालय द्वारा आहूत ई निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या RWD/SD/GODDA/06/2026-27 जिसका पी॰आर॰ संख्या 385257 Rural Development (26-27)D है के Instruction To Bidders (ITB) के तहत् पृष्ट संख्या 11 के कंडिका 4.4A.b में Satisfactorily completed, as a prime Contractor at least 19.38 M Length of single bridge work (minimum 50% of the bridge length of tender invited). के स्थान पर Satisfactorily completed, as a prime Contractor at least 38.74 M Length of single bridge work (minimum 50% of the bridge length of tender invited) पढा जाय। अन्य सभी शेर्तें यथावत् रहेगा।
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
गोड्डा
PR 386696 Rural Development (26-27)_D

TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008
CIN-U65993TN1965SGC005327
e-TENDER NOTICE
NIT. No. TIDCO/FINTECH TOWER/2026-1 Date:06.08.2026
TIDCO invites bids from the eligible bidders through e-Tender for the work mentioned below:

Name of the Work	Approx Value of work in Rs.	EMD Amount in Rs.
e-Tender for Laying of Granolithic Flooring at Fintech Tower, Fintech City, Nandambakkam Village, Alandur Taluk, Chennai District.	1.82 Cr	1,10,300/-

Tenders shall be uploaded through https://tntenders.gov.in on or before **3.00 PM on 21.08.2026** and the same will be opened on **21.08.2026 at 4.00 PM.**
For More details please visit **https://tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/2448/Tender/2026 CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR TIDCO

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा
ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
डी0एम0एफ0टी0 मद से चतरा जिलान्तर्गत स्वीकृत निम्नांकित योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन हेतु ग्रामीण विकास विभाग (ग्रामीण कार्य मामले), झारखण्ड सरकार द्वारा समुचित श्रेणी के निबंधित संवेदको से एकल लिफाफा/द्वि (Two) लिफाफा पद्धति के अंतर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या :–RDD/SD/CHATRA/15/2026-27/RE_01
1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :–

ग्रुप० सं०	प्रखण्ड	पंचायत	ग्राम	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	लिफाफा पद्धति
1	Simariya	Hurnali	Tapsa	Construction of High Level Girder Bridge Across Bhurahi River no Hurmur to Tapsa in Gram Tapsa Under Hurnali Panchayat	23636286	472800	10000	18 माह	द्वि (Two)
2	Simariya	Chope	Torar	Construction of High Level Girder Bridge Across Local Nala at Gram Torar Under Chope Panchayat	32399953	648000	10000	18 माह	द्वि (Two)

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि–**10.08.2026**
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय –दिनांक–**10.08.2026** से दिनांक–**20.08.2026** के अपराह्न 05:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान–कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, चतरा।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –**22.08.2026** अपराह्न 02:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करनेवाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :–कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, चतरा।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं०–9431060939 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है, तदनुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बन्द कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
चतरा
PR 386671 (Rural Development)26-27*D

CHALLENGING TIMES

Last 10 months tested me in ways I never expected: Neeraj

PTI

There are throws that travel far, and then there are moments that carry the weight of an entire journey. The past 10 months tested me in ways I never expected. To be back competing at this level feels good. None of this would have been possible on my own — Neeraj Chopra in an Instagram post.

SELF APPRAISAL

Deep down, I always told myself I was a 'big club' player: Vozinha

AP

The decision was very clear. Despite playing in smaller leagues for clubs that weren't exactly giants, deep down I always told myself I was a 'big club' player. So when Colo-Colo came calling, there was no doubt. From day one, I knew where I wanted to play. I received many offers, but Colo-Colo was always the priority — Vozinha.

STRONG STANCE

'Deceitful' Infantino has debased the office of FIFA president: Figo

AFP

I could write 10,000 words on the problems at FIFA. But the solution needs only three: Infantino must go. Infantino has debased the office of FIFA president that he promised to elevate. He has lied, deceived and tried to feather his own nest. It is too late to save his dignity, but it is not too late to save football — Luis Figo.

INJURY WOES

Carlos Alcaraz withdraws from the Cincinnati Masters

AFP

Carlos Alcaraz has withdrawn from the ATP Cincinnati Masters as he recovers from a wrist injury that has sidelined him since April. The 23-year-old had been slated to make his return in the tune-up for the US Open, where he is the defending champion. The seven-time Slam champ had also pulled out of French Open and Wimbledon.

Sindhu and Lakshya handed easy openers in the Worlds

Ayush draws top-ranked Shi Yu Qi first up; the fifth-seeded pair of Satwiksairaj and Chirag receives a bye into the second round; chief National coach Gopichand optimistic of India's chances in the championship

BADMINTON

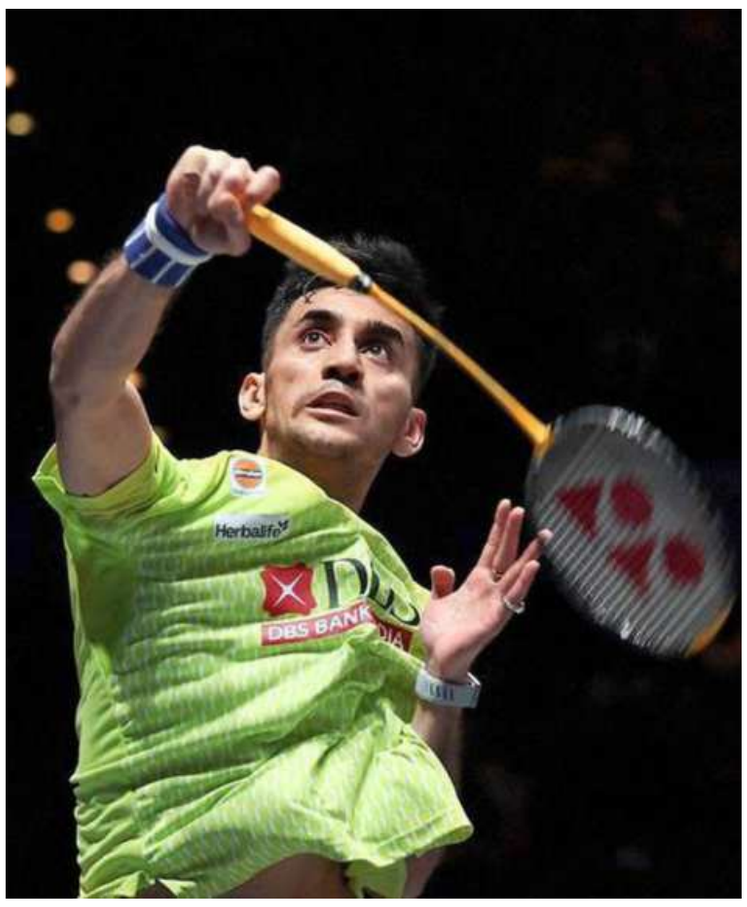
Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

P.V. Sindhu will kick-start her pursuit of a sixth World Championship medal against Sophia Noble of Ireland but the road to the top will be anything but easy for most Indians after a mixed bag in the draw here on Wednesday.

With a 64-player draw for men's and women's singles, there are no byes for seeded players, unlike the doubles which is a 48-pair event allowing the 16 seeded pairs, including fifth seeds Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty to advance to round two.

Placed in the top half of the draw, Sindhu is likely to run into China's Wang Zhi Yi in the pre-quarters, followed by Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia and then a possible semifinal against top-ranked An Se Young.

Lakshya Sen, meanwhile, will begin against Collins Valentine Filimon of Austria but the road to the final is peppered with possible tough outings against World No. 2 Kunlavut Vitidsarn, Christo Popov or Alex Lanier and then Loh Kean Yew or Victor Lai starting from pre-quarterfinals onwards. Ayush Shetty drew the short end of the stick, being handed an opening-round clash against defending champion and World No. 1 Shi Yu Qi in a repeat of their Asian Championships final.



Ready for the battle: Lakshya opens against Filimon while Ayush faces a huge challenge against World No.1 Shi. GETTY IMAGES

Chief National coach Pullela Gopichand was cautiously optimistic of India's chances. "I think it's great to see the World Championships come back to India after 17 years. And the difference now is that India as a nation, sporting-wise and badminton-wise has grown. We're looking at many stars who could end up on the podium.

"Having said that, it's a tough event. We have a couple of tough initial rounds, especially Ayush against Shi Yu Qi. Sindhu has done well in Japan, Unnati has a favourable draw. Overall, happy with the way the draw has has come out," Gopichand said on the sidelines of the draw.

> Last year, they (Sat-Chi) had eight semifinals and two finals so the results were quite consistent. Game-wise, they are getting better now
>
> KIM TAN HER
> Doubles coach

Injury worries

Doubles coach Kim Tan Her, meanwhile, insisted that the players were all fit but admitted that recurring injuries have been a hurdle to sustained success.

"Last year, they (Sat-Chi) had eight semifinals and two finals so the results were quite consistent. Game-wise, they are getting better now. Confidence, okay. But what's bothering them is the injury. That's bothering me and bothering them also. Especially for Satwik, his shoulder, it's on and off. Hopefully this time, he can overcome," Kim hoped.

The World Championships are scheduled at the revamped Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here from August 17-23.

Sindhu's ambitious plan to groom future champions

Anirudh Velamuri
VISAKHAPATNAM

P.V. Sindhu and Andhra Pradesh IT & HRD Minister Nara Lokesh laid the foundation stone for the P.V. Sindhu Centre for Sports Excellence here on Wednesday, marking the beginning of an ambitious project aimed at nurturing the next generation of India's Olympic athletes.

Spread across nearly two lakh square feet, the campus has been envisioned as an integrated sports and education ecosystem.

What began as an initiative focused solely on badminton expanded into a multi-sport project following discussions with AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and will now cater to seven disciplines – badminton, table tennis, swimming, shooting, football, basketball and chess. The vision, Sindhu said, was to create a place where every discipline would receive equal importance from the outset.

To prepare for the project, Sindhu and her husband, Venkata Datta Sai, spent their vacations studying some of the world's leading sports facilities, visiting centres in Doha, Milan and Australia, among others. The trips, she said, became learning opportunities as they sought to understand global best practices in sports infrastructure and athlete development, joking that she now needed a "holiday from all her holidays."

"We put our sweat and blood into it. I can confidently tell you that it will be a world-class centre and, at the same time, it will be an institute where people will actually be like, 'Wow, this is what we need in our state and in the country,'" Sindhu told *The Hindu*.

Great expectations: Sindhu, seen with Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh, hopes the Centre for Sports Excellence will help nurture the next generation of India's Olympic athletes. K.R. DEEPAK

Scheduled for completion by May 2028, the facility will allow children to experience multiple sports before choosing a discipline to specialise in, with the broader aim of creating a pathway to build elite athletes.

Reflecting on the significance of the project, Sindhu said it represented a legacy beyond her achievements on the court.

"Sport has given me and taught me so much. It is a big project and is not easy, but at the same time I wanted something on this scale. I want to show people that we have a lot of talent and if we give them the world-class facilities, I'm sure you will see a lot of kids go on to bag medals for the state and the nation," she remarked.

"India gave me the opportunity to win two Olympic medals, which changed my life. And this institution is how I carry that opportunity forward. My medals will always be my greatest honour and I hope this centre becomes my greatest contribution. Olympic medals inspire a generation, but institutions build generations."

The facilities: Badminton: Nine international-standard courts, capable of hosting BWF International Challenge level tournaments.
Table Tennis: Nine professional grade tables with a dedicated performance training hall.
Swimming: 25-metre performance pool designed for elite training and conditioning.
Shooting: Indoor ranges at 10m and 25m, built for national and international level competition preparation.
Chess: Dedicated high-performance training space for advanced coaching and competition readiness.
High-Performance Engine Room: An 8,000 sq. ft. Strength and Conditioning Arena, one of the largest in India and benchmarked against global centres including Aspetar in Doha, houses sports science, performance tracking, load monitoring, physiotherapy, recovery systems and yoga and wellness facilities.

Tanvi leads a strong women's show, men disappoint

Press Trust of India
ASAN (SOUTH KOREA)

Taipei Open champion Tanvi Sharma led a strong Indian showing in women's singles, but K. Srikanth suffered an opening-round exit in men's singles at the Korea Masters Super 300 badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

Third seed Tanvi eased past China's Yuan An Qi 21-16, 21-15 to progress to the second round.

Srikanth, also seeded third, lost to Israel's Daniil Dubovenko.

Kiran George, Mithun Manjunath, Tharun Mannepalli, Rounak Chouhan and Saneeth Dayanand made first-round exits.

Smooth start: Tanvi had it easy in the first round. FILE PHOTO

The results (first round):
Women: Tanvi Sharma bt Yuan An Qi (Chn) 21-16, 21-15; Rakshitha Ramraj bt Yoo A. Yeon (Kor) 22-24, 21-12, 21-13; Mansi Singh bt Kim Joo Eun (Kor) 14-21, 21-19, 21-9; Isharani Baruah bt Lee So Yul (Kor) 21-18, 15-21, 21-7; Anmol Kharb bt Lo Sin Yan Happy (HK) 16-21, 21-17, 21-12; Ashmita Chaliha bt Riko Hiramoto (Jpn) 22-20, 21-18; Shriyanshi Valishetty bt Pai Yu Po (Tpe) 21-15, 21-14; Hina Akechi (Jpn) bt Tanya Hemanth 21-16, 22-20; Kim Min Ji (Kor) bt Aakarshi Kashyap 20-22, 23-21, 21-3.
Doubles: Sonali Singh & Ritika Thaker bt Bang Ji Sun & Hyun Ji Jang (Kor) 13-21, 21-15, 21-12.
Men: Daniil Dubovenko (Isr) bt K. Srikanth lost 22-20, 14-21, 21-12; Park Sang Yong (Kor) bt Kiran George 21-15, 21-9; Zhu Xuan Chen (Chn) bt Mithun Manjunath 21-11, 21-9; Yoo Tae Bin (Kor) bt Tharun Mannepalli 21-13, 12-21, 21-19; Jeon Hyeok Jin (Kor) bt Chouhan 23-21, 21-19; Yudai Okimoto (Jpn) bt Saneeth Dayanand 21-11, 13-4, retd.
Doubles: Aaron Chia & Aaron Tai (Mas) bt Bhargav Ram Arigela & Viswa Tej Gobburu 21-17, 21-15.
Mixed doubles: Ishaan Bhatnagar & Shruti Mishra bt K. Sathwik Reddy & Radhika Sharma 20-22, 21-10, 21-15; Loo Bing Kun & Nurul Maisarah Mohamad Zamani (Mas) bt Dhruv Rawat & K. Maneesha 18-21, 21-14, 21-17.

Asunta denies charges, questions Ethics Committee jurisdiction

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Former Indian women's hockey team captain and selector Asunta Lakra has not only denied all allegations made against her by another player but also questioned the jurisdiction of the Ethics Committee itself and the maintainability of the proceedings against her. "I deny each and every allegation, insinuation and imputation levelled against me in the said complaints, whether express or implied... The allegations are false, baseless, malicious, motivated, defamatory and are a complete distortion of facts," Asunta wrote in a detailed preliminary reply to the chairman of Hockey India's Ethics Committee Justice (Retd) Raghvendra Kumar on Wednesday.

Asunta, who has levelled serious allegations of sexual misconduct against coach Sudhir Golla and criminal intimidation against Hockey India Secretary-General Bholanath Singh, had complaints filed against her by Albela Rani Toppo and had been asked to reply by August 5.

"Both the complaints in question are, on their own face, addressed to the Secretary-General, Hockey India, and not to the President, Hockey India... Under the scheme of the bylaws of Hockey India adopted on 20th June, 2026 and the Code of Ethics framed thereunder, the Ethics Committee is not a body of original or *suo-motu* jurisdiction... A complaint referable to the Ethics Committee must first be placed before, examined by and referred in writing by the President, Hockey India, who alone performs the gatekeeping function.

"Until such a written reference is made by the President, the Ethics Committee is not, and cannot be, seized of the complaint, and no inquiry – fact-finding or otherwise – can be commenced against any person," she stated.

She also questioned the veracity of the notice issued to her "at the instance of the secretary-general" given that he is a person of interest in the matter. Asunta also questioned the constitution of the Ethics Committee and the authority of the chairman to hold an enquiry, issue notice or record findings singly. "The Ethics Committee is a collegiate body which must act as a body and through a validly constituted quorum," she wrote. Seeking complete documents including a copy of the president's referral, HI bylaws and all communication on the matter, she sought four weeks' time from receiving the requested documents while reserving the right to file civil and criminal proceedings in a court of law.

Pakistan secures series-levelling win

CRICKET

Associated Press
PORT OF SPAIN

Pakistan ended its eight-match losing streak away from home in Test matches with a resounding eight-wicket victory over West Indies in the second match on Wednesday.

First-innings century-maker Abdullah Shafique and Babar Azam led Pakistan to 77 for two with unbeaten knocks of 24 each as the visitor achieved victory shortly after lunch on day four, drawing the series 1-1.

Earlier, the host had set up a modest target of 75 after it got bowled out for 117 inside half an hour, with off-break bowler Sajid Khan (four for 32) and left-arm spinner Ali Usman (four for 39) sharing eight wickets between them.

Brandon King couldn't bat in West Indies' second innings due to a back injury sustained on day three.

Sajid Khan. AFP

The scores: West Indies 344 & 117 in 46.1 overs (Ali Usman 4/39, Sajid Khan 4/32) lost to Pakistan 387 in 115 overs (Azan Awais 55, Abdullah Shafique 160 n.o., Babar Azam 88, Jomel Warrican 6/112) & 77/2 in 23.3 overs. **PoM:** Shafique; **PoS:** Greaves & Babar.

INBRIEF

Arsenal agrees to £75 million Guimaraes deal: reports

Arsenal has reportedly agreed a £75 million fee with Newcastle to sign captain Bruno Guimaraes. The Brazil midfielder's future has been the subject of fevered speculation for weeks since it emerged he wanted to leave Tyneside for the Emirates Stadium.

Salah arrives in Istanbul ahead of Trabzonspor move

Mohamed Salah was greeted by cheering Trabzonspor fans in Istanbul on Wednesday as he closed in on a move to the Turkish club. The Liverpool icon wore the team's blue and burgundy striped shirt after flying in on a private jet to complete the deal. "Trabzon are you ready? I can hear you. See you very soon," Salah said in a video message posted on the club's X profile.

National junior u-18 clay court tennis from August 8

The 33rd edition of the MCC-N. Sankar Memorial National junior u-18 clay court tennis championship will be held from August 8 to 15 at the Madras Cricket Club (MCC) courts in Chennai. The tournament is organised by MCC in association with the Tamil Nadu Tennis Association under the aegis of the All India Tennis Association. The qualifying rounds will begin on August 8, while the main draw starts on August 10. The doubles finals are scheduled for August 14, followed by the singles finals on August 15. The top 120 boys and 104 girls from across the country will feature in the singles and doubles events.

LIVE TELECAST

Durand Cup: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.

TNPL: Sony Sports Ten 4 Tamil & TNPL Official Youtube channel (youtube@tamilnadupremierleague), 7.30 p.m.

Saravanan and Gurjapneet help Madurai Panthers pull off a heist

The two emerge unlikely batting heroes to guide the team past Grand Cholas; Royal Kings ease to victory against Super Gillies

TNPL

S. Shrivathsan
DINDIGUL

The phrase 'it's not over until it's over' holds true for sport, especially the shortest format of cricket where the complexion of a match can change in the blink of an eye.

The unpredictable nature of T20s was on full display at the Tamil Nadu Premier League on Wednesday, when Madurai Panthers snatched victory from the jaws of defeat against Trichy Grand Cholas.

At the NPR College Ground here, P. Saravanan (26 not out off 13 balls, 2x4, 2x6) and Gurjapneet Singh (21 not out off nine balls, 3x4, 1x6) emerged as the unlikely batting heroes, pulling off a nail-biting two-wicket win with two deliveries to spare.

When Gurjapneet joined forces with Saravanan, Panthers appeared to be down in the dumps – they required 42 runs off just 17 balls in their 174-run pursuit.

But Gurjapneet provided a glimmer of hope, smacking Antony Dhas for two fours and a six in the 18th over, before Saravanan completed the epic turnaround with a maximum and a four off R. Rajkumar in the final over.

The Panthers enjoyed a slice of luck in the penultimate over, during which Shyam Sundar spilled a chance offered by Saravanan at long-off.

Winning partnership: Gurjapneet and Saravanan turned things around for the Panthers in quick time. G. KARTHIKEYAN

Rajalingam shines

Earlier, pacer S. Rajalingam (three for 26) helped Madurai keep Trichy down to 173 for seven after B. Anirudh Sitaram elected to field.

In the other game, a final flourish with the bat and a well-executed bowling show propelled Nellai Royal Kings to a comfortable 50-run victory over Chepauk Super Gillies.

The scores:

Trichy Grand Cholas 173/7 in 20 overs (J. Suresh Kumar 43, Sanjay Yadav 37 n.o., R. Rajkumar 35, S. Rajalingam 3/26) lost to Madurai Panthers 174/8 in 19.4 overs (Kiran Karthikeyan 38, Gowtham Thamarai Kannan (Impact Player) 2/36, R. Rajkumar 2/37, Antony Dhas 3/36).

Nellai Royal Kings 204/6 in 20 overs (S.R. Athish 41, Rithik Easwaran 36, Sonu Yadav 35 n.o., Abhishek Tanwar 2/54, M. Silambarasan 2/24) bt Chepauk Super Gillies 154 in 17.2 overs (Ashwanth Valthapa 31, R. Rohit 2/41, B. Rocky (IP) 2/22, N.S. Harish 4/25, Sonu Yadav 2/16).

Thursday's match: SKM Salem Spartans vs. Vida Kovai Kings, 7.30 p.m.

In Ashwin-Varun absence, Nirankar rises

Miserly spell: Nirankar, who moved from MP to TN to fuel his dream, tightened the screws in the middle overs. G. KARTHIKEYAN

S. Shrivathsan
DINDIGUL

When Dindigul Dragons strolled out for the Tamil Nadu Premier League season-opener here on Tuesday, there was uncertainty over how the 2024 title-winner would cope with the absence of two masters of the spin-bowling craft.

R. Ashwin is in the dugout as a mentor and not on the field while Varun Chakaravarthy is yet to recover from a hamstring injury. But in an encouraging sign for its adaptive strategy, the Dindigul side watched debutant leggie Nirankar Sharma dish out a Player-of-the-Match performance of three for 21 against iDream Tiruppur Tamizhans.

Nirankar, who moved from Madhya Pradesh to Tamil Nadu to fuel his cricket dream, tightened the screws in the middle overs with his miserly spell.

"I was just so excited. It was an emotional moment for me because I had waited for it (making his maiden appearance at such a level) for years. I could not have asked for a better debut. The Dragons management, Ashwin *bhaiya* and Inder (B. Indrajith) *anna* have been supporting me a lot," said Nirankar, the lone DD spinner in action on Tuesday.

Enjoying his time

The 26-year-old is enjoying the time of his professional life while learning the tricks of the trade from Ashwin. "I had dreamt of working with him. He has been superb with his mentorship. He is expecting a lot from me. Hopefully, I fulfil his expectations. I cannot ask for anything better with what is going on in my life," he added.

After making a good first impression, Nirankar should strive for consistency.

Pragg leads after rapid phase

Anish and Praggnanadhaa face off. FLICKR/GRANDCHESSTOUR

CHESS

Press Trust of India
ST. LOUIS

Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa topped the rapid section of the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz, scoring 12 points out of a possible 18 to keep his hopes alive for a place in the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) finals.

Praggnanandhaa lost the ninth and final round in the rapid section to GM Jorden van Foreest but still managed to retain a one-point lead, finishing ahead of Javokhir Sindarov.

There are 18 more blitz games to be played before the winner is determined for the $200,000 prize pool out of which $50,000 goes to the champion.

Standings after rapid: 1. R. Praggnanandhaa (12); 2. Javokhir Sindarov (11); 3. Wesley So (11); 4-7: Levon Aronian, Leinier Dominguez Perez, Anish Giri, Vincent Keymer 9 each; 8-9; Fabiano Caruana, Jorden Van Foreest 8 each; 10. Awonder Leong (5).

Indian Army eases past Baghpat, on top of Group B

First strike: Samir opened the scoring for Indian Army in the 11th minute. X@THEDURANDCUP

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Indian Army stormed to the top of Group B with a dominant 4-0 victory over Baghpat FC in a group league match of the 135th Durand Cup tournament at the Kishore Bharati Stadium on Wednesday.

The Army side produced a fine first-half performance, with Samir Murmu, Saikhom Borish Singh, Shubham Rana, and Christopher Kamei finding the net in succession to seal their team's second successive win.

The win also took Indian Army to six points from two matches and moved it ahead of Samaleswari FC – also on six points – on the basis of a superior goal difference. Baghpat, which suffered its third consecutive defeat, exited the tournament without a point.

In the other match of the day, Indian Navy FT beat NEROCA FC 2-0 in a Group D encounter at the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium in Imphal.

Roshan Panna opened the scoring in the first half before E. Muhammed Inayath doubled the lead after the break to seal the Sailors' first win. Indian Navy had lost its opening fixture 0-1 to local side FC Raengdai.

The win lifted Indian Navy to three points from two matches, leaving it second in the group behind FC Raengdai (six points).

The results: Group B: (Kolkata): Indian Army FT 4 (Samir Murmu 11, Saikhom Borish Singh 22, Shubham Rana 35, Christopher Kamei 45+3) bt Baghpat FC 0.

Group D (Imphal): Indian Navy FT 2 (Roshan Panna 23, Muhammed Inayath 65) bt NEROCA FC 0.

A calculated risk which paid off for Sakshi at the CWG

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

A calculated risk to drop from 54kg to 51kg paid off for newly-crowned Commonwealth Games champion Sakshi Chaudhary.

A former World junior champion, two-time World youth champion, Asian championships bronze medallist and World Boxing Cup gold medallist, Sakshi secured most of her international medals in 54kg.

Hungry for success at a multi-sport event, the gutsy Sakshi sought the advice of her coach Chhote Lal Yadav at the Army Sports Institute (ASI) in Pune, and decided to switch to 51kg after the National championships in January, when boxers were allowed to change weight categories.

For Sakshi, it was a risky decision as the lower weight class had several accomplished boxers, including double World champion Nikhat Zareen and reigning World champion Meenakshi Hooda.

"Since (another Army boxer) Preeti (Pawar) was doing well in the 54kg, it made sense for Sakshi to come down to 51kg. She was capable of beating everyone. Once we made the make-or-break decision, I asked her to keep quiet as it could have backfired," Chhote Lal told *The Hindu*, as his ward stayed busy attending felicitation functions.

"Only a few boxers have qualities like Sakshi. She is aggressive, has good endurance and has a superb left jab, which she used effectively in Glasgow. Even during her training at the ASI, she used to beat male boxers because of the jab. I am sure she will medal at the Asian Games as well."

Former Indian women's team head coach Bhaskar Bhatt, under whom Sakshi claimed her maiden World youth gold in Guwahati in 2017, said, "Sakshi didn't stop for a moment during her bouts at the Commonwealth Games and didn't give her opponents any chance. It shows how much work she has put in to increase her endurance and strengthen her legs.

"She should work on two areas to become even more effective. She needs to connect her punches with the full knuckle to unleash maximum power and stop using her elbow to stay away from trouble," said Bhatt.

No practice games for Australia before India Tests: McDonald

Press Trust of India
MELBOURNE

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald has revealed that his team will not play any practice match before its high-profile Border-Gavaskar Trophy away Test series against India next year, as a short preparatory camp in conditions similar to the sub-continent would be more useful.

The much-anticipated five-Test series is scheduled to start on January 21 in Nagpur.

"We feel as though we've got enough time to immerse ourselves in those conditions. We won't be taking on a practice game. It'll just be more around the location," McDonald told *cricket.com.au*.

"We've got a couple of options there. We have gone to the UAE previously and we have also gone into India last time into Bengaluru.

"So we're just working through what that would look like in terms of how we then manage the individuals."

TAMIL NADU ROUND-UP

Tiruvallur beats Chengalpattu

TENKASI: Tiruvallur eased to a four-wicket win over Chengalpattu in a Group-G fixture of the TNCA inter-district under-14 tournament on Wednesday.

The scores: Group-G: At Tenkasi: Chengalpattu 121 in 45.4 overs (Hari Sainath 38, N. Haethish 3/15, Dhashwanth Siddhan 3/23) lost to Tiruvallur 122/6 in 46.1 overs (R.V. Bhuvanendra 33, S. Jishnu 31).

Group-H: At Kancheepuram: Kancheepuram vs. Karur: *Match abandoned without a ball being bowled due to a wet outfield. Two points shared.*

Raghav takes the honours

CHENNAI: FIDE Master Raghav of Velammal Vidyalaya (Karambakkam) claimed the title in 15th Modern School International FIDE-rating chess championship and also won ₹25,000 in prize money.

Raghav.

Venkata Naga Karthik of Lake Montfort School (Bengaluru) finished runner-up and received ₹20,000, while Sundar Guhan of Chinmaya Vidyalaya (Chennai) secured third place and earned ₹15,000.

The tournament, organised by Modern Senior Secondary School under the aegis of the Tamil Nadu State Chess Association (TNSCA) and the All India Chess Federation (AICF), attracted 515 players, including 159 FIDE-rated participants, from across India and overseas.

ENGAGEMENTS

General: SRMIST Founder's Birthday Trophy inter-collegiate invitation tournament: Ball badminton and kabaddi,SRM College of Agricultural Sciences, Acharapakkam,7.45 a.m.

Tale of the tape — a study in extremes and an unsettled championship

Five different winners in five races, a title fight that keeps rewriting itself every fortnight. It hasn't all been smooth sailing under the new rules. If this is what growing pains look like, Formula 1's new era is at least proving it can keep everyone guessing

All to drive for: Antonelli, Russell and Hamilton are in a battle for the top prize. AP, REUTERS

R.K. Arjun

Halfway through 2026, Formula 1 has delivered everything except a settled championship. A rookie in a Mercedes built a 66-point lead, then watched it evaporate to 25 in less than a month. A four-time champion resurrected the Red Bull while many were questioning whether he would continue in Formula one. A team that hadn't won all season suddenly looked unbeatable in Budapest. Five different winners in five races and a title fight that keeps rewriting itself every fortnight. It hasn't all been smooth sailing under the new rules. Moments like Silverstone's software blunder and driver complaints about battery-dependent racing are hard to romanticise. However, if this is what growing pains look like, Formula 1's new era is at least proving it can keep everyone guessing.

George Russell converted pole into victory in the season opener at Albert Park, fending off an early Charles Leclerc charge before a Virtual Safety Car handed Mercedes the decisive strategic edge. Kimi Antonelli recovered from a poor start to complete a Mercedes 1-2, with Leclerc salvaging third after Ferrari's one-stop gamble backfired late on. Lewis Hamilton finished fourth, just six-tenths behind his teammate. While Max Verstappen produced the drive of the day, recovering from 20th on the grid to 6th.

Shanghai belonged to F1's newest wonderkid. After Russell claimed Saturday's Sprint, his Mercedes teammate stole the spotlight in the Grand Prix, converting pole into a maiden F1 win at just 19 years old — becoming the youngest polesitter in the sport's history in the process. Hamilton surged into an early race lead but couldn't hold off Antonelli's recovery, eventually settling for a maiden Ferrari podium in third as Russell completed a second consecutive Mercedes 1-2. It was a weekend to forget for reigning title holders, with both Mclaren cars failing to make the start after electrical issues on the grid.

History was made once again at Suzuka. Antonelli claimed his second consecutive win, recovering from a wheelspin-hit start that dropped him to sixth before an Ollie Bearman crash triggered a mid-race Safety Car which swung the race back in his favour. The result meant that he became the first teenager to win back-to-back races. Oscar Piastri secured McLaren's first podium of the season in second, with Leclerc completing the podium after edging out his teammate in a tense intra-Ferrari fight. Russell, starting from second, could only manage fourth. Antonelli carried a nine-point lead over Russell into F1's first month-long break, the youngest championship leader in the sport's history after consecutive wins in China and Japan.

As the season resumed in Miami, the Italian made it three wins in a row, holding off a race-long challenge from Lando Norris. Pole-sitter Antonelli locked up alongside Verstappen and Leclerc into Turn 1, with the Red Bull spinning out shortly after and triggering an early Safety Car following separate crashes for Isack Hadjar and Pierre Gasly. The lead changed hands repeatedly through the race, with Norris and Piastri both enjoying spells at the front before Antonelli reasserted control. Piastri completed the podium in third, while Leclerc's afternoon ended in the wall, completing the story of a disappointing return for Ferrari after the break.

Canada brought heartbreak for one Mercedes driver and history for the other. Russell led from pole and looked set for victory in Montreal, only for a late power unit failure to hand Antonelli his fourth win in a row. Hamilton profited from the chaos to claim his best Ferrari finish yet in second, while Verstappen finally found his first podium of the season in third. This result stretched Antonelli's lead at the top to 43 points. Monaco descended into chaos, and the Mercedes wonderkid simply drove away from it with a dominant lights-to-flag victory after Verstappen's front-row start ended in a stall and immediate retirement. Leclerc's podium bid crashed out late on a crumbling track surface, while his Ferrari teammate secured back-to-back second-place finishes. Once again, the day's biggest fallout fell to Russell, who was hit with a pit-lane speeding penalty en route to a forgettable finish outside the points. Antonelli's championship lead stood at a staggering 66 points as he secured his fifth win in six rounds.

Hamilton finally ended his Ferrari drought in style at the newly-hosted Barcelona-Catalunya Grand Prix, converting an aggressive undercut strategy and a well-timed Virtual Safety Car stop into his first win for the Scuderia, 686 days after his last victory. Russell and Norris completed a historic all-British podium. Championship leader Antonelli's dominant start finally hit a snag, retiring just four laps from the finish after briefly passing his teammate. The result cut Antonelli's lead to 50 points, ending Mercedes' perfect run to open the season.

Mercedes reclaimed track dominance, as Russell secured his second win of the season at the Red Bull Ring. Antonelli endured a rough afternoon, running wide twice in the opening laps and admitting he'd gotten "too excited," while Max Verstappen produced a strong recovery from fifth to finish second after his own qualifying crash. Russell's win cut Antonelli's championship lead to 40 points, though the Mercedes rookie's third place was enough to protect his advantage. Ferrari, meanwhile, endured a quiet weekend, with both cars finishing outside the top four.

Leclerc ended a winless run stretching back to Austin 2024 in the most chaotic way imaginable, crossing the line first at Silverstone after Antonelli's late mechanical failure handed him control of the race. But the headlines belonged just as much to the finish itself: a "Safety Car In This Lap" message was shown in error before being withdrawn, and the race ended fully behind the safety car for the first time since Monza 2022. Russell claimed second after a bold tyre gamble paid off, Hamilton completed the podium, and the championship leader was classified a distant 16th after a penalty compounded his misfortune.

The Italian driver bounced back from a difficult month with a commanding win at Spa, losing the lead twice. First to Verstappen off the line through Eau Rouge, then to a Ferrari strategy masterstroke during a Virtual Safety Car sequence. The Italian teenager reclaimed the lead on the Kemmel Straight with six laps to go. Leclerc held on for second despite never getting back into range, with Verstappen completing the podium. The result was overshadowed early on by Russell's opening-lap retirement, colliding with Hamilton at Turn 6 as his race ended in the gravel, while Hamilton was handed a five-second penalty for his part in the incident. Norris salvaged some points, finishing seventh from 13th on the grid after a gamble on Safety Car timing didn't pay off, though he did set the race's fastest lap on the final tour. The win stretched Antonelli's championship lead to 45 points. McLaren finally had their day, but it came with a side of internal drama. Oscar Piastri seized the lead from teammate Lando Norris at Turn 1 and controlled the race for its first half, until he was hit by a lapped Carlos Sainz. The delay in getting past the Williams was enough for Norris to overcut his teammate at the second stop. The Australian's afternoon went from bad to worse as he not only lost time in traffic but a late gearbox on Lap 56 forced a retirement. The resulting Virtual Safety Car proved a lifeline for Antonelli, who used it to recover from a seventh-place grid slot to a damage-limiting third. Verstappen secured second through an extended tyre strategy. Hamilton crossed the line fourth only to be demoted to fifth by a late pit-lane speeding penalty, his fourth infraction in three race weekends/

Formula 1's 2026 season has been a study in extremes. It began with a bang in Melbourne under a radically overhauled rulebook: no DRS, new power units, a fresh chassis philosophy, and quickly found its star: Kimi Antonelli. The 19-year-old won five of the first six races of the season, becoming the youngest points leader in the sport's history and building a 66-point championship lead by Monaco. Then the season turned. A retirement in Barcelona let Hamilton end a 686-day victory drought in stunning fashion for his first win in red. A mistake-strewn Austria let Russell back into the fight. Silverstone's chaotic, software-error-marred finish handed Leclerc his first win in nearly two years while gutting Antonelli's result entirely. By the time the sport reached Spa, Antonelli's once-commanding lead had been cut to just 25 points.

Spa and Hungary, though, showed exactly why he still leads. A composed recovery drive in Belgium and a damage-limiting third place in Budapest, despite starting from a penalised seventh, which stretched his advantage back out to 50 points heading into the summer break, even as Norris finally delivered McLaren's first win of the season.

Now, after a month-long break, the sport will resume at Zandvoort for the final Dutch Grand Prix under the current promoter agreement.

Verstappen's home race arrives at a pivotal moment for Red Bull, who are still searching for their first win of the season. Beyond that, Monza, a maiden Madrid GP, and Singapore's Sprint finale await before the season turns toward its final leg. With Antonelli's lead sizeable but not unassailable, and Ferrari and McLaren both building momentum, the second half promises to be as exciting as the first.

THE GIST

- The 2026 season began with a bang in Melbourne under a radically overhauled rulebook: no DRS, new power units, a fresh chassis philosophy
- Antonelli won five of the first six races of the season, becoming the youngest points leader in the sport's history and building a 66-point championship lead by Monaco
- With Antonelli's lead sizeable but not unassailable, and Ferrari and McLaren both building momentum, the second half promises to be just as combustible as the first

How police excesses turn peaceful demonstrations into medical crises

The chemical compounds in tear gas can cause intense coughing, nausea, and physical weakness in a person for a short period of time; according to the U.S.-based Physicians for Human Rights, use of tear gas and shock-batons in excess can have severe long-term consequences for a person's health

Nivedita S.
CHENNAI

When 23-year-old Arhaan (name changed to protect identity) reached his accommodation after attending the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protest march in New Delhi on July 20, his ears kept ringing with pain when he closed his eyes.

He remembers it started when a canister burst with a loud sound near his head when he was trapped between the barricades and the police. He said he blacked out for a minute when it happened, before running away when the police started lathi-charging.

In the series of protests at Jantar Mantar called by the CJP, the Delhi Police and security personnel have been accused of using lathis, tear gas, pellet guns, and shock-batons against peaceful protesters. Several protesters had to be treated for injuries, with one 20-year-old woman requiring ventilator support.

But while security forces have denied the use of many of these devices against protesters, transparency on the crowd control measures has been lacking.

Police personnel use lathis to disperse CJP supporters during a protest march in New Delhi on July 20. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

'Less lethal'

These devices are part of less-lethal crowd control measures. Forces deployed similar devices during the farmers' protests in 2020-2021, protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019, and during crackdowns in Manipur and Jammu & Kashmir.

However, their use in excess and misuse is known to have severe long-term consequences for a person's health, according to the U.S.-based nonprofit Physicians for Human Rights (PHR).

"We completed two systematic reviews looking at the health impacts of so-called 'less lethal' crowd control measures," Madhavi Dandu, director of the University of California Global Health Institute and a member of PHR, said. "Across both reviews, injuries affected nearly every organ system and ranged from transient symptoms to lifelong disability and even death."

The reviews were published in 2017 in *BMJ Open* and *BMC Public Health*.

Deadly gaps

In India, the law requires the intensity and type of less-lethal crowd control measures to escalate only if the crowd does not disperse or becomes violent. However, regulations fall short on what these devices must be made of and on when and who can deploy these measures.

This lacuna can in turn be deadly. For example, tear gas is a lachrymatory – or tear-inducing – agent that the Chemical Weapons Convention classifies as a chemical weapon and has been banned in war. However, the Indian state can use it to control riots in exceptional circumstances.

In India, the most common chemical compound in tear gas is CS gas or *o*-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile. When in contact with a person, it causes intense coughing, nausea, tightness in the chest, and even physical weakness for a short period of time.

Another compound the Tear Smoke Unit of the Border Security Force produces is pelargonic acid vanillylamide (or PAVA), a synthetic pepper spray. Oleoresin capsicum, a.k.a. pepper spray, is also used.

"Chemical irritants can lead to chronic respiratory disease, persistent eye injuries, skin conditions, and psychological effects such as PTSD," Dr. Dandu said. Tear gas should never be used in places with poor ventilation or where protesters cannot safely escape from it, she added.

The risk is higher for people with pre-existing respiratory or skin conditions and allergies to these compounds. A 2025 study in *Toxicology Reports* reported that people exposed to CS spray during a protest in Georgia had significantly higher ECG abnormalities, indicating potential cardiopulmonary effects.

Tear gas canisters, when thrown into a crowd with force, can also cause head injuries and direct contact with the skin can cause burns.

Excessive force

In India, forces have been known to use grenade launchers to deploy tear gas canisters. These launchers can fire around 20 canisters in less than a minute and to up to 400 metres. One 21-year-old protester named Subhkaran Singh died during the farmers' protests after sustaining a head injury from such a tear gas shell in 2024.

Handheld kinetic weapons, which include lathis or batons, are common less-lethal weapons used to control crowds. They are only to be used on violent protesters after adequate warning from an executive magistrate.

According to the Kerala Police Manual of 1970, personnel must use the lathi only against soft parts of the body – from the shoulder to the thighs – and avoid the neck and the head. The United Nations Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement has also said that thorax, spine, throat, kidneys, and abdomen should not be struck as they can suffer damage or be ruptured.

"Often, we have seen security personnel hit whoever is in front of them," Dr. Harjit Singh Bhatti, a member of Progressive Medicos and Scientists Forum, said. "This is a sign of poor training. Women, children, and the elderly are getting injured because of lathis." He added that when excessive force is used, the strikes may also lead to disability or nerve damage that can cause lifelong pain.

Protesters from the CJP march on July 20 alleged that some of the lathis were studded with nails, severely wounding many among them. Many also suffered fractures and head injuries. The incident was also the first known case of shock-batons being used for crowd control in the national capital. These batons release a mild electric shock at the moment of the strike.

Human rights groups have called for such batons to be banned as they can cause permanent disability and even death.

Caught off guard

Kinetic impact projectiles are plastic or rubber bullets with metal fragments, and include those fired by pellet guns. However, these projectiles are inaccurate, particularly at long distances, and can cause indiscriminate harm. Around five protesters at the CJP march reportedly suffered pellet gun injuries, with one risking loss of vision.

In 2016, more than 6,000 people in Jammu and Kashmir suffered severe pellet-gun injuries. In a study published in the *Indian Journal of Ophthalmology*, of 777 victims examined, 82% had lost vision to some degree.

"Kinetic projectiles should never target the head, neck or torso and should be fired from recommended distances at the lower extremities only when necessary for safety," Dr. Dandu said.

Protesters are often caught off guard when confronted with such force and weapons. That can cause fear and panic, heightening the risk of a crowd collapse.

"Ideally, these weapons should only be considered when absolutely necessary and proportionate, after all other de-escalation efforts have failed," according to Dr. Dandu. "Prioritise communication and avoid indiscriminate deployment."

She added that rapid access to medical care, officer training, transparency, and accountability are also essential to minimising harm.

In India, information on the crowd control devices that security personnel possess and use is not easily available. Regular audits are necessary to ensure these devices meet quality standards and tests should be conducted in a manner that reveals the weapons' full impact before they are deployed, per the UN guidance. Also according to the guidance, the state must monitor the use of force and information about the crowd must be disaggregated to the extent possible on the basis of age, gender, and disabilities before deciding which devices to use. It also requires any serious injuries or deaths caused by such devices to be duly investigated by the competent authority.

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A Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission member near the spent fuel pool at the Fukushima nuclear power plant, 2013. IAEA IMAGEBANK (CC BY-SA)

'Ghost particles' can point way to spent nuclear fuel

Vasudevan Mukunth

In the high-stakes world of preventing governments from secretly developing atom bombs, the ability of inspectors to check what happens inside a reactor core – without stepping foot inside the highly radioactive structure – is a holy grail.

For many decades, International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors have used cameras and close inspections to ensure operators are not diverting spent nuclear fuel for illicit uses.

A new study in *Physical Review Letters* by researchers of the 'Double Chooz' Collaboration in France has reported a breakthrough in this domain. The team has reported the first measurement of the signature of particles emitted by spent nuclear fuel, which a detector can detect even from a distance.

For decades, cameras and close inspections were used to ensure operators were not diverting spent nuclear fuel for illicit uses

These particles are called neutrinos. They are subatomic particles and are very, very light. They interact so weakly with matter that around 100 billion neutrinos pass through each one of your fingers every second and your body does not even notice.

The nuclear fuel inside a reactor produces antimatter neutrinos in similarly staggering quantities. But while scientists have studied these emissions from active reactors for six decades, the low-intensity stream of neutrinos that persists after a reactor has shut down has remained elusive. This stream is produced by isotopes such as Pr-144 and Rh-106, which continue to decay in the partially burnt fuel within the core and in nearby spent fuel cooling pools for a long time.

Using a detector located 400 m from the Chooz B nuclear power plant in France, the Double Chooz team analysed 2.5 weeks of data. In this window, when both of the plant's reactor cores were simultaneously offline, the detector recorded around 106 neutrino candidate events.

The researchers used statistical methods to confirm the signal was not a fluke. The data showed that 56% of the signal originated from the reactor cores and 44% came from the cooling pools.

The ability to measure the residual flux allows monitors to remotely verify the spent fuel inventory. If a rogue state clandestinely removes fuel assemblies from a cooling pool to extract plutonium – a key ingredient of nuclear weapons – the neutrino glow from that pool would diminish.

Future detectors

Soviet scientists pioneered this way of using neutrinos in 1978. Now, the Double Chooz team has become the first to describe the energy levels of the neutrinos emitted by spent fuel at high precision. The unique pattern of these energy levels is the signature.

Scientists have also worked out a way to use neutrino detectors to estimate the plutonium content in a reactor core in real-time. This information can be used to check if operators are swapping fuel out prematurely – a common tactic to harvest weapons-grade plutonium.

In a 2019 study in *Nature Communications*, researchers in the U.S. also reasoned that compact and portable detectors of the future could help authorities discover small, undeclared facilities used to produce fissile materials. However, building such machines is still a significant challenge. Current detectors are large and stationary because they need to filter out cosmic rays, which are constantly streaming in from space.

One of the Double Chooz detectors itself weighed over 500 tonnes, with 300 tonnes of shielding alone.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Strange stars: a quiz on the universe's more unusual twinklers

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The collective name of these neutron stars comes from their most outstanding feature — magnetic fields a quadrillion-times stronger than that of the earth. This is why they can scramble a credit card from 1,000 km away and polarise light passing close to them. What are these stars called?

QUESTION 2

A neutron star forms when a massive star collapses, squeezing its electrons and protons into neutrons. Scientists think that the neutrons could further collapse to form a _____ star. Fill in the blank with a type of whimsically named subatomic particle that, together with gluons, makes up protons and neutrons.

QUESTION 3

Astronomers have tentatively identified a small number of X-Zytkow objects. Each of these objects is a red giant with a neutron star at its core. As a result, these objects have an unusual surface chemistry, including heavy elements that aren't produced by the regular fusion in stars. What is the full name of X?

QUESTION 4

Stars in old star clusters that appear younger and hotter than they should, given the clusters' age, are called _____. They are formed when stars collide or when one star siphons mass from another star, and either way the final object acquires a new lease of life. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

Sometimes, a star can survive its supernova explosion without being destroyed — but in exchange for being thrown across its galaxy at a very high speed. For instance, SGR 0501+4516 is flying through the Milky Way at 1.7 lakh km/hr. What is the colloquial name for these stars?

Visual: Name this astronomer. From 2017 to 2019, a star since named for her began to dim and brighten in unusual ways, exciting astronomers about the potential causes.

Answers to August 4 quiz:

1. Monk who contributed to making better sparkling wine – **Ans: Dom Perignon**
2. Fibres that contributes to bubbling in champagne – **Ans: Cellulose**
3. Process whereby vapour cools and clumps together – **Ans: Condensation**
4. Pigments in skins of grapes that give red wine its colour – **Ans: Anthocynanins**
5. Sweet-smelling compounds made of an acid and an alcohol – **Ans: Esters**

Visual: **Marangoni effect**

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

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Public grievances received by Centre in last six months

15 lakh. Over 15 lakh public grievances have been received between January and July 15 this year, the Centre said. The government has undertaken initiatives to strengthen the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System to improve efficiency, quality and accountability. PTI

Occupancy rates across India's prison system in 2024

112.7 in per cent. India's prisons operated at 112.7% occupancy in 2024, with 609 jails housing more inmates than their sanctioned capacity and Delhi recording the highest occupancy rate of 194.6%, according to data tabled in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. PTI

Number of people executed in Iran since March 19, 2026

56 UN rights chief Volker Turk said on Wednesday he was "alarmed" by the surge in executions in Iran since March, with the death penalty being used by Tehran to "instil fear". "Since March 19, 2026, at least 56 people have been executed on national security-related charges," he said. AFP

Number of major online gambling sites banned by Sri Lanka

24 Sri Lanka has blocked access to some of the world's largest online betting sites as part of a crackdown on unauthorised gambling, the Digital Economy Ministry said. Online gambling is legal in Sri Lanka, but operators must register with the authorities and pay licence fees. AFP

Persons killed in monsoon floods, landslides in India

100 Floods and landslides triggered by monsoon rains have killed more than 100 people across India since July, official data showed on Wednesday, with thousands forced to flee their inundated homes. PTI

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The road ahead for the Asiatic lion

Six decades of conservation have increased the Asiatic lion population from about 100-150 to over 1,000, with nearly half now living outside the protected area; however, the species remains confined to single forested landscape, while habitat fragmentation, disease threats continue to pose major conservation challenges

FULL CONTEXT

Meena Venkataraman

The only free-ranging population of the Asiatic lion today survives in and around the Gir National Park and Sanctuary. The semi-arid landscape of Gir extends into expansive agricultural fields and traditional grasslands, forming a checkered landscape matrix. Dispersing lions use these habitats as passages, stepping stones, and refuges as they navigate riverbeds and mountainous terrain, eventually establishing territories far from their source population.

Lions today occupy habitats as ecologically distinct as the rugged hills of Girnar, the forests of Mitiyala, the landscapes around Savarkundla-Liliya, and the sandy coastal tracts stretching across Saurashtra to the Bhavnagar coast. What is perhaps most remarkable is that, at their destinations, these lions are accommodated by the local people.

As is evident, the challenge of lion conservation in Gujarat rests not only on protecting Gir, but also on safeguarding the network of habitats and corridors through which lions disperse and establish new territories. Around 50 lions inhabit the coastal habitats of Jafrabad Taluka, linked to the larger lion population through Babarkot. Significantly, the Gujarat Forest Department's 2025 lion population estimation identifies this coastal sector as Satellite IV, one of nine recognised satellite lion populations in the State, while the Gir Management Plan explicitly designates the Babarkot area as a lion movement corridor. Together, these official documents recognise the area as both an important satellite habitat and a crucial landscape linkage for dispersing lions.

An Asiatic Lioness with four cubs at Gir Sanctuary on May 12, 2025. VIJAY SONEJI

A crucial corridor under pressure

It is against this backdrop that a recent proposal to divert approximately 75 hectares of reserved forest for limestone mining has generated concern. The apprehension is that such a move would run counter to the long-standing legal and management framework established to protect lion habitats and movement corridors. If mining were permitted, habitat disruption could functionally disconnect this coastal subpopulation from the larger forest-linked source population and displace lions from portions of their habitat.

The proposed project would reportedly require the felling of nearly 5,000 mature trees and affect a landscape that local communities themselves do not wish to see mined. Human-lion conflict could also intensify. The larger question is whether the prime habitat of a nationally treasured species, a landscape showcasing one of India's greatest conservation recoveries, should be sacrificed for private profit.

Over the six decades since the declaration of the Gir Sanctuary, the lion population has grown from about 100-150 individuals to a healthy population of over 1,000 today. More admirable, however, is the fact that nearly half of them now reside outside the designated protected area. Lions have, over the years, shown remarkable recovery, expansion and resilience, sustained by a resourceful habitat and a rich prey base.

The unfinished task

This success has been built through a transition from protected-area management to landscape-level conservation, supported by political will, capable administration, sustained funding and the goodwill of local communities. These have been the sturdy pillars of lion conservation.

However, the entire lion population remains confined to a single forested landscape. More puzzling has been the continued resistance to acknowledging the need for a second home for the lions. After years of downplaying the risk of disease in a geographically concentrated population, we received a jolt in 2018 when more than 20 lions succumbed to an outbreak of Canine Distemper Virus (CDV). The forest department responded with a series of immediate measures, but have we effectively applied the lessons learned from previous outbreaks?

Mortality is but a part of a natural demographic cycle. If we are to achieve long-term coexistence in shared spaces, we may even need to accommodate a degree of anthropogenic mortality. Yet the reports of lion deaths associated with babesiosis in May 2026, together with suggestions of possible CDV involvement, are worrying.

If disease exposes the vulnerability of the population, land-use decisions expose the vulnerability of the landscape that sustains it. These controversies raise a broader question: have the once-strong pillars of the State's conservation legacy begun to weaken? Are cracks emerging in the framework that has sustained lion conservation for decades? Historically, there was little room for negotiation where lions and their habitat were concerned. Indeed, Gir remains an important case study of how protected areas were progressively expanded around the original sanctuary. Hopefully, there will be no shift in the vision underpinning the law, its application, or administrative decision-making.

Next chapter of recovery

Given the species' continuing conservation challenges, any ill-advised decision could yet turn the clock back to a far more precarious situation. The International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List tells an encouraging story: the Asiatic lion has moved from Critically Endangered to Endangered. Among the northern lion subpopulations, it is the only stable population exceeding 250 individuals and is therefore of immense global conservation significance. At the same time, the newer Green Status assessments remind us that recovery and restoration are not the same thing.

A species can recover substantially and still remain far from fully restored across its ecological and historical range. Under the Green Status framework, the lion remains largely depleted. While the lion has recovered from the brink, it remains far from fully restored across the landscape it once occupied.

The story of the Asiatic lion is one of sustained recovery achieved through six decades of unwavering conservation effort, and of the responsibility that comes with safeguarding those gains. Our goal is not merely to celebrate this legacy, but to sustain it.

(Meena Venkatraman, PhD, is a wildlife biologist with over two decades of experience in mammalian ecology, with a particular focus on the Asiatic lion)

THE GIST

- Landscape-level conservation, backed by political will, capable administration, sustained funding and local community support, has been the foundation of the Asiatic lion's recovery.
- Protecting habitats and movement corridors, addressing disease risks and securing a second home for the species are critical to sustaining India's lion conservation legacy.

Why is the Indian Statistical Institute Bill controversial?

What changes does the Bill propose to the governance of the ISI?

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

The story so far:

The government has tabled a new Bill in Parliament, called the Indian Statistical Institute Bill, 2026, which will replace its approximately 67-year-old predecessor enacted in 1959. While seemingly innocuous, several provisions of the Bill have become contentious, with many faculty members of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) and MPs protesting against it.

What is the ISI?

In the 1920s, India's greatest statistician P.C. Mahalanobis set up the Statistical Laboratory in the Presidency College in Kolkata. On December 17, 1931, he founded the Indian Statistical Institute as a "learned society" housed in the Statistical Laboratory. The Institute was registered on April 28, 1932, as a non-profit distributing learned society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 and is now registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act of 1961, amended in 1964. The ISI quickly became India's premier statistical organisation. It was declared an Institution of National Importance through the Indian Statistical Institute Act, 1959.

What does the Bill seek to change?

At the most basic level, the new Bill seeks to bring ISI's governance structure on par with that of other Institutions of National Importance, such as the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

According to the government, in the IITs and IIMs, compact empowered bodies such as the Board of Governors and executives such as Directors take decisions impacting both the day-to-day functioning and long-term policies of the organisations. However, ISI continues to follow the governance model of a society, in which significant control is exercised by a large General Body of members of the society. A key outcome of this structure is that any amendment to the regulations can only be carried out with the approval of the General Body.

The government's contention is that since the regulations are prescriptive, even small reforms require the approval of the General Body.

Therefore, the new Bill is aimed at incorporating ISI into a statutory body corporate, strengthening its legal status and providing a "more robust and contemporary governance framework".

What will the governance model be?

The new Bill provides for the creation of a compact Board of Governors that will serve as the principal policy-making executive body of the ISI and will be accountable to the government. It also provides for the creation of an Academic Council as the principal academic body.

The Board of Governors will consist of 11 members. The Board will be headed by a Chairperson, who is supposed to be an eminent person "in the field of academia, industry, education, public policy, Statistical Sciences and allied sciences, or other fields" and will be nominated by the Visitor (the President of India) on the recommendation of the Centre.

The government will also nominate a government official not below the level of Joint Secretary to the Government of India. The government's representation will further include another joint secretary or additional secretary.

The Board will include four eminent persons in the field of statistical sciences and allied fields, to be nominated by the Chairperson, and four representatives of the Institute who will include two members of the Academic Council to be nominated by the Board.

The Registrar of ISI will serve as the Secretary of the Board.

What is the controversy around the governance structure?

Ever since the draft Bill was made public last year, professors and officials of ISI have been protesting it. One main contention is that the new governance structure would wrest control of ISI from the people working there and place it in the hands of the Union government. The new structure does give the government direct or indirect control of eight out of the 11 members of the Board of Governors.

Were stakeholders consulted?

The critics say that the Bill has been prepared without consultations with the ISI Society, faculty members, students, or other stakeholders.

The government has argued that as per the review framework in the existing ISI Act, four Review Committees (RCs) have examined the functioning and progress of ISI. The second, third and fourth RCs suggested the reduction in size of the ISI Council, the government said. Despite this, the size of the Council of ISI increased over this period and currently numbers 33 members.

The fourth RC also pointed to certain structural and legacy issues.

Following this, the government said a brainstorming session had been organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on July 2, 2025, in collaboration with the ISI at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bengaluru under the Chairpersonship of Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, the current Chairman of the ISI Governing Council. The aim was to "deliberate on pathways that can transform ISI into a world-class centre of learning and research, as it completes 100 years in 2031".

The government said, as per the pre-legislative consultation policy, comments and suggestions from the public on the draft Bill were invited and the timelines were extended in line with the requests of various stakeholders.

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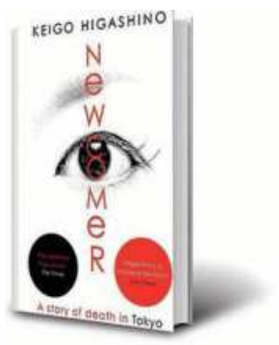
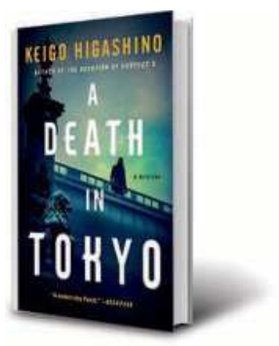
Keigo Higashino. AFP





Keigo Higashino: chronicler of human nature, crime and conscience

The writer elevated crime fiction beyond the conventional whodunit, using intricate mysteries to explore human nature, moral ambiguity, family dynamics and Japanese society; Higashino's detective novels and masterful storytelling earned him a lasting global readership

Ramya Kannan

Last month, when Keigo Higashino died of colorectal cancer at the age of 68, reports of his passing seemed like a scene from one of his own novels – a private family funeral and a public mourning, with condolences pouring in on social media. For a fan of Higashino's writings, the scene, so well described in so many of his novels, played itself out mentally as a sombre Japanese memorial service; you could even smell the incense sticks.

However, for his fans, one sentence rankled. In many reports, he was described as a "Japanese mystery novelist". But Higashino was not merely a mystery writer; he was among Japan's best writers. He was as much a chronicler of human nature and the country's social norms and nuances as he was a writer of intricate, nippy police procedurals – a master storyteller who might have remained confined to his home country had translations not made him available to the world.

The art of the slow reveal

Higashino's best-known work is *The Devotion of Suspect X*, but a fan would most probably recommend *Newcomer* to a novice.

Going by online bibliographies, Higashino had published "78 novels, 24 short story collections, four essay collections, one children's book, one manga, and one original audiobook" by 2026. The finest among them were arguably the detective Galileo and detective Kaga mysteries.

The idea that Higashino's novels are character-driven is beautifully exemplified in *Newcomer*. The book also shows how skillfully he flips the bare-bones mystery format on its head, turning the process of unraveling what led to the crime into a fine work of art.

In *Newcomer*, the gentle, restrained, but astute Inspector Kaga has just been transferred to a new precinct in Nihonbashi. A woman has been strangled to death, and unlike the traditional mystery plot that narrows down the list of suspects, this one spirals outwards. With every chapter, someone new emerges as a suspect – a different shopkeeper each time. It seems probable that anyone could have been the murderer. That is where detective Kaga's skills come into play: he gently disentangles each thread in this complicated plot until his usual penchant for studying the histories of the characters involved pays off. Secrets from the victim's past and her activities in the last few days preceding her death lead the reader, hand-held by Kaga, to the murderer.

Science and logic

If *Newcomer* is an uncommon favourite, *The Devotion is Suspect X* is a popular one. This one is led by the enigmatic detective Galileo, a nickname given to him by the police. He is actually Manabu Yukawa, a physicist and friend of detective Kusanagi of the Tokyo police force, who turns to him for assistance. The physicist then pits his science against a mathematician who has helped the perpetrators conceal the evidence for the murder. Even after it becomes clear to Yukawa who might have been responsible for the murder, he still needs to provide proof that it was an accidental killing that was later covered up. How he does it is a simply riveting read. No wonder the book was adapted into several television series and films, while also inspiring other tales.

Higashino's hallmark is to subvert the regular whodunit structure, which means the reader often learns of the crime early. So, where does the tension in the text come from? It comes from the slow unraveling of motive and cover-up, and the exploration of guilt, loyalty, and, very often, the psychological cost of deception and how it weighs an individual down. Only an author who is a student of the human condition can describe that kind of insight in such great detail – it takes more effort to connect a crime with social relationships, linking up neighbours and co-workers, studying family dynamics, and unearthing old resentments.

In *A Death in Tokyo*, *Malice*, and *The Final Curtain*, Higashino drags us through the alleyways of the past, sometimes going back years or even generations to find motive in an old injury, an insult, or patterns that make sense in the present, to wind up his investigation.

Beyond the whodunit

If a standalone novel is your poison, then pick up a copy of *Journey Under the Midnight Sun*. It is not a typical procedural, but it is an epic exploration of the toll that an unsolved crime can take on the lives of the people involved. The book, which covers over two decades, tracks the lives of two children who grow into adulthood and explores the dark shadow of a secret hanging over them. Even though it is not a mind-bender like his other books, *Journey...* is a master class in writing about the human mind and its infinite potential to deceive, manipulate, and confound, and even stoop to murder. The moral ambiguity that accompanies crime, an essential human predicament, gets maximum play in Higashino's work.

Since Higashino is not just a mystery writer, we get a sense of Japan through his works. Through his novels, he allows us to explore the prefectures, food, shops, shrines and customs of his motherland, while capturing how a younger generation is negotiating change in an ageing society steeped in rituals and tradition.

It is safe to say that, apart from all the reels that flood social media, Higashino too has a role to play in increasing interest around the world in Japan as a tourist destination.

As his fans across the world mourn his demise, Higashino still has one last gift. His final, posthumous novel, *Eternal Memory*, was released on August 5. It is the 11th instalment in the detective Galileo series. One more tango with Yukawa's powerful intellect, and who is to complain, even if it is the last we get?

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the tragic atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that took place on August 6 and 9, 81 years ago

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
What were the nicknames of the bombs dropped on the two Japanese cities?

QUESTION 2
What were the core nuclear materials used in the two bombs?

QUESTION 3
Apart from the two unfortunate cities that bore the brunt of the dastardly attack, which other three cities were in the initial list?

QUESTION 4
Name the two intended aim points in both the cities that were not hit because of weather conditions.

QUESTION 5
Which flower became the official flower of Hiroshima because it was the first plant to bloom on the scorched earth following the atomic bombing?

QUESTION 6
Which legendary scientist remarked, "Had I known that the Germans would not succeed in developing an atomic bomb, I would have done nothing for the bomb"?

Visual Question:
This is Tsutomu Yamaguchi, a 'hibakusha'. What is his unique claim to fame as regards the survivors? AP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. In which year was she awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature? **Ans: 1993**
2. In 1988, Morrison won the Pulitzer Prize for which of her works? **Ans: Beloved**
3. Morrison became the first Black female editor for fiction at which publishing house in New York? **Ans: Random House**
4. In her capacity as an editor, she published two groundbreaking works. One was of a boxing champion, titled 'The Greatest: My Own Story,' and the other of a little-known novelist and poet who in 1968 had been shot to death by a transit officer in the New York City Subway. Name both the figures. **Ans: Muhammad Ali, Henry Dumas**
5. Which writer, upon Morrison's death, said, "Morrison rejected the very concept of the narrow door and claimed for herself the wide world. All readers and writers are indebted to her for the space she created"? **Ans: Zadie Smith**
Visual: Identify this boy on whom Toni Morrison wrote her first play. The boy was abducted and lynched in Mississippi in 1955. **Ans: Emmett Till**
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas | Sunil Madhavan | Siddhartha Viswanathan | Sudhir Thapa | Piyali Tuli

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"What is the meaning of "sting operation"? (B. Premananda Bhat, Manipal)
A sting operation is a well-planned scheme used by law enforcement agencies to entrap a criminal. It usually involves a lot of undercover work. Often the term is reduced to "sting". Here are a few examples.

It was a well-planned sting operation.

The sting, as expected, went off without a hitch.

The word "sting" has another meaning as well. It is often used in informal contexts to mean "to cheat or overcharge someone".

(Remember the Robert Redford and Paul Newman movie called "*The Sting*"?) Here are a few examples.

The fruit vendor tried to sting me.

The supermarket next to my house makes it a point to sting its customers.

What is the difference between "while" and "whilst"? (S. Anand, New Delhi)
As far as meaning is concerned, there is no difference between the two words; they can be used interchangeably. "Whilst" is considered by some people to be rather old-fashioned. It is mainly used in British English; Americans seldom use it. I understand that even within Britain, "whilst" is more common in the north than in the south. As far as the pronunciation is concerned, the final 'st' of 'whilst' is pronounced. Here are some examples.

The Police entered the former Chief Minister's house while/whilst he was sleeping.

Shakunthala called up while/whilst I was having dinner.

Who is a "psephologist"? (Murali Krishnan, Ernakulam)
First, let's deal with the pronunciation. The first 'p' is silent. The 'se' in the first syllable sounds like the 'se' in 'set', 'sent', and 'sell'. The 'ph' is pronounced like the 'f' in 'fit', 'feet', and 'food'. The vowel 'o' is like the 'o' in 'got', 'not', and 'lot'. The 'o' in the third syllable sounds like the 'a' in 'China' and the following 'g' is like the 'j' in 'jam'. You can probably guess how the final 'ist' is pronounced. It is the second syllable which has the main stress. Psephology is the scientific study of the way in which people vote in elections.

A 'psephologist' therefore is someone who studies how people vote – he comes up with the statistics, the trends, etc. These are the people you see on TV during elections telling us about the 'swing factor', etc.

Several psephologists were interviewed a day before the elections.

My cousin Mohan wants to be a psephologist when he grows up.

What is the meaning and origin of the expression "to hit the sack"? (A. J. Venkatasubramayam, Bangalore)
This is an informal expression meaning to 'go to bed'.

Ranjani hit the sack early last night.

The expression became popular during World War II when American soldiers began referring to the sleeping bag/blanket that they were carrying as "sack". Later, the word "sack" began to be used for anything that one could sleep on – a bed, a table, a bench, etc. The earlier expression that was commonly used was "to hit the hay".

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Word of the day

Axiomatic: evident without proof or argument

Synonyms: obvious, unmistakable, apparent

Usage: *It is axiomatic that clean water is essential for life.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/axiomatic

International Phonetic Alphabet: /æksiəmætɪk/

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