MONDAY
August 10, 2026
CHENNAI
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 5.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 149 • No. 189
Regd. TN/ARD/110/2024-2026
RNI No. 1001/1957

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

milkymist®

INDIA'S
FASTEST GROWING
PACKAGED FOOD
COMPANY*

Rs. 3,138 Cr
FY26 Revenue

31.26%
FY24 - FY26 CAGR

74,000+ Farmers#
Direct Sourcing of Raw Milk

640 SKUs
22 Product Categories#

3,75,000+#
Retail Touchpoints

4000+ Distributors
22 States & **5** UTs#

Exclusively focused on premium, value-added dairy products (Source: 1Lattice Report)
Diversified product categories
Manufacturing facilities equipped with advanced machinery to ensure consistent quality of products and operational efficiency

*(Among companies with revenue scale of more than ₹15,000 million) in India in terms of revenue, growing at a CAGR of 31.26% from Fiscal 2024 to Fiscal 2026. (Source: 1Lattice Report) | # As of March 31, 2026

MILKY MIST DAIRY FOOD LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with RoC, SEBI and the Stock Exchanges on August 4, 2026. The RHP shall be available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, and is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, on the website of the Company at www.milkymist.com and the websites of the BRLMs, i.e., JM Financial Limited, Axis Capital Limited and IIFL Capital Services Limited (formerly known as IIFL Securities Limited) at www.jmfl.com, https://www.axiscapital.co.in/ and www.iiflcapital.com, respectively. Any potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see ''Risk Factors'' beginning on page 23 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP and should instead rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved, for making any investment decision.
The Equity Shares offered in the Offer have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities laws in the United States and, unless so registered, may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. Accordingly, such Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) outside of the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur; and (ii) within the United States to "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act), pursuant to the private placement exemption set out in Section 4(a) of the U.S. Securities Act. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered, listed or otherwise qualified in any other jurisdiction outside India and may not be offered or sold, and Bids may not be made by persons in any such jurisdiction, except in compliance with the applicable laws of such jurisdiction. There will be no public offering in the United States.

MilkyMist®

MILKY MIST DAIRY FOOD LIMITED

Largest Private Packaged **Paneer** Brand*

Largest Private Packaged **Cheese** Brand**

Among the Top Two Largest Private Packaged **Yogurt** Brands#

*In the organized market with a market share of approximately 19% In terms of the organised packaged paneer market value in Fiscal 2026 in India (Source: 1Lattice Report) | **In South India in Fiscal 2026, with a market share of approximately 12% In terms of market value in the Southern region's organised cheese segment (Source: 1Lattice Report) | #With a market share of approximately 13% in terms of market value in the organized yogurt market in India (Source: 1Lattice Report)

MILKY MIST DAIRY FOOD LIMITED is proposing, subject to applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offering of its Equity Shares and has filed the RHP with RoC, SEBI and the Stock Exchanges on August 4, 2026. The RHP shall be available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, and is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE and NSE at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, on the website of the Company at www.milkymist.com and the websites of the BRLMs, i.e., JM Financial Limited, Axis Capital Limited and IIFL Capital Services Limited (formerly known as IIFL Securities Limited) at www.jmfl.com, https://www.axiscapital.co.in/ and www.iiflcapital.com, respectively. Any potential investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risk, see ''Risk Factors'' beginning on page 23 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP and should instead rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved, for making any investment decision.

The Equity Shares offered in the Offer have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "U.S. Securities Act") or any state securities laws in the United States and, unless so registered, may not be offered or sold within the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. Accordingly, such Equity Shares are being offered and sold (i) outside of the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur; and (ii) within the United States to "qualified institutional buyers" (as defined in Rule 144A under the U.S. Securities Act), pursuant to the private placement exemption set out in Section 4(a) of the U.S. Securities Act. The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered, listed or otherwise qualified in any other jurisdiction outside India and may not be offered or sold, and Bids may not be made by persons in any such jurisdiction, except in compliance with the applicable laws of such jurisdiction. There will be no public offering in the United States.

MONDAY
August 10, 2026
CHENNAI
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 5.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 149 • No. 189
Regd. TN/ARD/110/2024-2026
RNI No. 1001/1957

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

NATIONAL SONG ROW
Kerala Minister hints at withdrawing directive
SOUTH » PAGE 7

DRONE BARRAGES
Seven killed as Russia, Ukraine trade strikes
WORLD » PAGE 14

SLOGANS RAISED
Mamata faces protest in West Bengal district
NEWS » PAGE 11

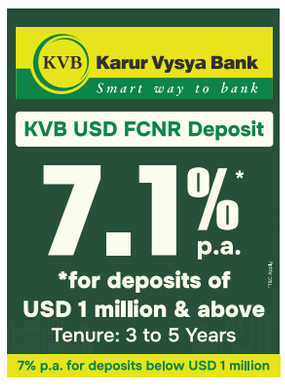
RAHUL GANDHI WRITES
Either culpable or incompetent
Students were brutally attacked by forces which report to one man
EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

MEMORABLE TRIUMPH
Ashmita Chaliha wins Korea Masters title
SPORT » PAGE 15

NEARBY

CM expected to move resolution on State song

CHENNAI
Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay is expected to move a resolution in the Assembly on Monday, stating that the State song, *Tamil Thai Vazhthu,* be mandatorily sung before official events in Tamil Nadu. » PAGE 6



EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 17

Netanyahu rejects Trump's 15-point proposal for Gaza

Israeli military will not withdraw from Gaza unless Hamas is 'genuinely disarmed', says the Israeli PM amid pressure from right-wing base ahead of election; willing to 'challenge' Trump, he adds

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday rejected a U.S.-led Gaza plan endorsed by Hamas, putting distance between himself and U.S. President Donald Trump as he tries to shore up his base ahead of close elections.

After more than a week of gradually escalating criticism of the plan proposed by the Board of Peace, and despite receiving assurances that Israel would not need to start withdrawing from Gaza immediately, Mr. Netanyahu explicitly opposed the deal following pushback from his right-wing allies.

"Israel rejects the 15-point document," Mr. Netanyahu said, referring to the plan Hamas agreed to in late July.

The Israeli military "will not carry out any withdrawal until Hamas is genuinely disarmed, and will continue to thwart threats against our forces and our citizens", he told a Cabinet meeting.

Mr. Netanyahu described Mr. Trump, who had hailed the Gaza deal as a milestone for peace, as "our greatest friend in the White House", but quickly made clear he was willing to challenge him, saying Israel was raising its objections with the United States.

"They have ideas; some of them are acceptable to us and some are not, and we know how to stand our ground on these matters," he said.

Mr. Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving leader, is running even or trailing in some polls ahead of October 27 elections, the country's first since the devastating October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas that sparked the war on Gaza.

Polls show that the Gaza plan is unpopular with Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing base, and far-right members of his Cabinet have urged him to kill it.

Hamas, days after selecting a new leader, Khalil al-Hayya, announced it supported the Gaza plan, and has since called on Washington to push Mr. Netanyahu to accept it.

Hamas in a statement said it was still committed to the plan.

Difference of opinions

The Israeli PM's opposition to the proposal comes after more than a week of gradually escalating criticism of the plan

What the plan says:
- Hamas would surrender weapons to a nascent Palestinian governing body
- Israel would begin pulling out forces in tandem with the disarmament

> They [U.S.] have ideas; some of them are acceptable to us and some are not, and we know how to stand our ground
>
> **BENJAMIN NETANYAHU**
> Israeli Prime Minister

Jharkhand govt. cancels 3 exams as protests continue

Suruchi Kumari
RANCHI

The Jharkhand government on Sunday agreed to cancel the 14th Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) preliminary examination and the JPSC backlog examinations held in 2023 and 2025 following discussions with protesting student groups.

The State's Technical and Higher Education Minister, Sudivya Kumar, said the government had accepted "98% of the demands" of the protesting groups. The government also announced an Enforcement Directorate probe into alleged financial irregularities in the JPSC exam.

However, the students remained firm on their demand for a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the alleged irregularities in the Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission-Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) examination and said the agitation would continue, including a march to the State Assembly on Monday. The announcement came even as all three JPSC members resigned and Chief Minister Hemant Soren assured protesters that "justice will be delivered with full transparency".

A Jharkhand government delegation with student representatives at the State Guest House in Ranchi, after the meeting on Sunday. PTI

'No jurisdiction'

"The government has agreed with the demand for cancellation of the 14th JPSC and backlog examinations of 2023 and 2025," Mr. Kumar said, adding that the State cannot recommend a CBI probe "as we do not have jurisdiction over the JSSC-CGL exams that happened in line with High Court and Supreme Court directions".

The protesting groups, led by Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha (JLKM) and JPSC-JSSC Reforms Manch, said they wanted cancellation of the JSSC-CGL and all exams connected to the TSR Data Processing Private Ltd., a blacklisted entity.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
'WILL SAFEGUARD FUTURE'
» PAGE 10

Houthis hit Saudi oil facility, kill 11 in Yemen

Agence France-Presse
ADEN

At least 11 persons were killed in Houthi strikes in Yemen's port city of Mokha on Sunday while a drone salvo by the Iran-aligned rebels targeted a Saudi Arabian oil refinery on the Kingdom's Red Sea coast.

The attack in Mokha comes after a years-long truce in the civil war between the Houthis and the Saudi Arabia-backed, internationally recognised Yemeni government appeared to collapse as fighting between the rebels and the Kingdom in West Asia flared in recent weeks.

A medical source in Mokha said three civilians and eight military personnel had been killed in the Houthi attack. Mokha is one of the main ports under Yemen's internationally recognised government and has been renovated to handle shipping that avoids the Houthi-held port of Hodeida.

Two sources with the government forces earlier confirmed at least eight troops had been killed and more than 40 personnel were injured, saying that the Houthis attacked Mokha with several waves of missile and drones.

The Houthis' military spokesperson Yahya Saree said the group targeted "Saudi enemy" troops and equipment in the area with missiles and drones.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Almond season

Valley of plenty: Farmers collect almonds during the harvesting season at a village in Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. Almond cultivation is a key agricultural activity in the Kashmir Valley, contributing to the livelihoods of thousands of families. IMRAN NISSAR

J&K group flags 'terror threat' against Pandits

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A Kashmir organisation on Sunday expressed concerns over purported online threats issued by terrorists to Pandits living in the Valley and demanded a probe, saying that the threats had "forced many minority community employees" working in the region to "go on leave".

The Panun Kashmir, a Jammu-based organisation of Kashmiri Pandits, said the purported threat communication, dated August 7 and issued in the name of the United Liberation Council, "has specifically named members of the Kashmiri Pandit community and disclosed their telephone numbers".

Scores of Pandits working in Kashmir have left the Valley after the fresh threat, sources say

Official sources said scores of Pandits working in Kashmir under the Prime Minister's rehabilitation package had left the Valley in the face of the fresh threat. They said departments in "volatile and sensitive locations" in Kashmir had allowed Pandit employees to go on leave till August 20. However, there has been no official communication from the government.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Velumani, Viswanathan blame EPS for setbacks to AIADMK

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Mounting pressure on AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, senior party leaders and former Ministers S.P. Velumani and Natham R. Viswanathan have opposed the removal of "more than 400 members" of the party general council and executive committee.

They have also called for re-induction of the party's former interim general secretary, V.K. Sasikala, and the former deputy general secretary, T.T.V. Dhinakaran, into the AIADMK.

Among other charges, the two leaders said Mr. Palaniswami "did not use the opportunity to have an alliance with the TVK".

S.P. Velumani

An undated, four-page letter lays bare the internal affairs of the party since the 2021 Assembly election, lists the instances of possible alliances, including those with the BJP and the TVK, having failed to materialise, and pinned the blame on Mr. Palaniswami's leadership and handling of the party matters.

The letter, meant for the "notice of the party general secretary", was signed by Mr. Velumani and Mr. Viswanathan.

"You have so far removed over 400 members of the party's general council and executive committee so that none should express any view contrary to yours," said the letter, which surfaced days after Mr. Velumani and others called on TVK general secretary and Minister N. Anand.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

Ladakh to lead Independent India's first caste census

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Ladakh, one of the two youngest Union Territories in the country, is set to lead the way in demonstrating how caste will be enumerated for the first time in Independent India. The second phase of the Census – the Population Enumeration (PE) – which starts on August 17 in Ladakh and other snow-bound areas, is likely to ask questions on 40 parameters and provide an open-ended column for caste enumeration.

While the ongoing exercise is India's first digital Census, officials are making an exception for Ladakh by printing a sufficient number of paper schedules. The move takes into account the presence of large defence establishments in the region bordering China and Pakistan, whose locations cannot be geo-tagged because of security concerns. The digital Census mandatorily requires enumerators to geo-locate the structures on a mobile App. Respondents who self-enumerate on Census portal are also required to do the same.

Enumerators interact with residents during an awareness campaign in Birbhum, West Bengal, as part of the Census 2027. PTI

As reported by *The Hindu* on July 6, the rehearsal, or the "pre-test", for the PE phase was conducted from July 1 to 20 in 16 States and Union Territories, where respondents, other than those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, recorded their castes in an "open column", or the enumerator noted a resident's caste as declared by them. The methodology is likely to be retained in the final form.

Ladakh's case is peculiar as it was not among these 16 States and Union Territories.

Though the questionnaire or the schedule is yet to be notified by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RG&CCI), preparations have begun in Ladakh and snow-bound areas of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand to conduct PE from August 17 to September 30, ahead of the rest of the country, where the exercise will be conducted in February 2027. The Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, has concluded a three-day Master Trainers' Training Programme for Census 2027 population enumeration, marking the next phase of field preparedness.

According to Chief Principal Census Officer, Amit Sharma, the three-day programme provided comprehensive training on all aspects of Census 2027 population enumeration, covering census concepts, caste and demographic data collection, digital tools, self-enumeration, interviewing techniques, and hands-on use of the mobile application.

A senior government official said that, in the absence of the pre-test in Ladakh, the master-trainers are being trained based on tentative questions, around 40, which are likely to be notified this week.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

INBRIEF

Singapenn marathon held for awareness on cervical cancer

Singappen Special Force chief K. Bhavaneeswari flagged-off the Singappen marathon at Marina Beach on Sunday for creating awareness of cervical cancer and the women's safety helpline. The marathon was held from Island Grounds to Light House. It was organised by the Rotary Club of Madras Central, InnerWheel Clubs of District 323 and the Singappen Special Force, and saw the participation of more than 3,000 people. Ms. Bhavaneeswari stressed the need to strengthen women's safety through the national women helpline no. 1091. Sridhar Krishnaswamy, president of the Rotary Club of Madras Central, also participated.

Movie screening organised for Thalassemia warriors

Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Teynampet, organised a special screening of *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* at Kamala Cinemas for around 100 young "Thalassemia warriors" and their families and caregivers. A release from the hospital said, the choice of the movie was fitting as its story reflects courage, hope and the strength to overcome challenges. Revathi Raj, Senior Consultant - Paediatrics & Haematology Oncology, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Teynampet, said: "We wanted to give them a moment to forget the hospital, laugh freely and simply be children." Ramya U., Consultant - Paediatric Haematology, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Teynampet, said: "Our Thalassemia Warriors show remarkable courage, and today is about celebrating their childhood, dreams and happiness."

Doctor held for misbehaving with nurse at hospital

The MKB Nagar All Women Police arrested a 34-year-old doctor for misbehaving with a 20-year-old nurse at a private hospital in Manali Salai, Kodungaiyur, on Saturday. On Friday evening, when the nurse was attending to a patient, Syed Masth Ahamed, who was on duty, tried to misbehave with her. On a complaint from the nurse, the police filed a case and arrested the doctor under three Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and one section of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act. He was then produced before a judicial magistrate and sent to prison.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (August 10, Monday), the following explainers are available:

- The stakes in India's delimitation debate **newsth.live/delimitationdebate**
- If DNA is the instruction manual, we just opened a big second volume **newsth.live/generesearch**

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

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU · thehindu businessline. · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · THE HINDU Young World · THE HINDU

CMRL to deploy three more tunnel boring machines for Phase II Metro Rail works

The TBMs, to be procured at a cost of ₹180 crore, will be deployed on Thiruvanmiyur to Taramani, Thousand Lights to Anna Flyover, and Mandaiveli to Thirumayilai stretches to speed up tuneling

TRACK TALES

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

On track: Officials said the tunneling work was progressing well despite delays, and work will pick up pace when the additional tunnel boring machines are deployed. FILE PHOTO

Due to the delay in tunneling in various stretches of the Phase II network, Chennai Metro Rail will shortly procure three additional tunnel boring machines (TBM) to speed up works.

According to officials of Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), the TBM's will be deployed on three stretches – Thiruvanmiyur to Taramani, Thousand Lights to Anna Flyover, and Mandaiveli to Thirumayilai. CMRL will buy them at an estimated cost of ₹180 crore.

In the 118.9-km Phase II project, 23 TBMs are deployed at present. These three stretches fall under Corridor 3, which originates at Madhavaram and ends at SIPCOT with a total distance of 45.8 km. For this corridor, 43.04 km (upline and downline) has to be tunneled. So far, CMRL has completed only 19.68 km, and another 23.36 km of tunneling is pending.

This corridor has the maximum length of underground network at 26.7 km in the Phase II project.

"Based on the current pace of work, we need only three additional TBMs. If there is further need, we will purchase a fourth machine. These three TBMs will reach the city in the coming months, one after the other," an official said.

The need to get more TBMs for the Phase II network was due to the inordinate delay in the tunneling operations.

Factors that significantly contributed to the delay in works include the cancellation of tenders floated for building underground stations, the delay in completing the construction of the station shaft, and the relocation of various types of utilities.

But officials said the work was progressing well, and tunneling work would pick up pace when the additional TBMs are deployed. A few TBMs, which were stuck underground due to the delay in station shaft construction, have made a breakthrough.

CMRL builds tunnel from Purasawalkam to Kellys after delays

Sunitha Sekar
CHENNAI

After facing undue delays for a year and a half, Chennai Metro Rail has built a tunnel from Purasawalkam to Kellys under the Phase II project. Opposition from residents and the protracted delay in building the shaft at Kellys had caused significant setback for tunnelling in this stretch.

The Phase II network comprises three corridors – Madhavaram to SIPCOT, Light House to Poonamallee, and Madhavaram to Sholinganallur.

Purasawalkam, a dense commercial hub, and Kellys, a rather quiet residential neighbourhood, will be connected by this tunnel under the Madhavaram-SIPCOT corridor.

The tunneling work for this 300 metre stretch began in December 2024, and was expected to be completed in a couple of months. But the tunnel boring machine (TBM) from Purasawalkam made a breakthrough only recently.

Sources said that a resident in Kellys fiercely opposed the ongoing work as it created a lot of noise. The increased time taken in building the shaft at Kellys also contributed to the delay. Now that the upline tunnel has been built, work to construct the downline track will commence in the third week of September.

According to officials of the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL), both TBMs are usually launched from the same point of origin, but will tunnel at a distance of at least 100 metre from each other. "But since the first TBM has already been delayed, we do not want to lose time any more. The TBM, which has arrived at Kellys, will be turned around and will begin boring from Kellys towards Purasawalkam next month. Otherwise, launching a TBM again will cost us another two months," an official said.

The TBM began boring at Purasawalkam at a depth of 18 metres and gradually started going deeper, officials said. At Kellys, the machine bored and made a breakthrough at a depth of nearly 28 metres. "We had to slowly dig deeper because at Kilpauk Medical College, the Phase II tunnel is coming up below the Phase I tunnel. The station after Kellys is Kilpauk Medical College, and hence, we had to make such a transition in depth," he added.

GCC officials told to expedite civic works, initiate pending projects

G.S. Sameeran

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) Commissioner G.S. Sameeran has directed officials to expedite ongoing civic works and initiate pending projects during a review meeting at the Ripon Buildings.

Assessing precautionary measures for Northeast monsoon on Saturday, the Commissioner ordered the desilting of stormwater drains, improvement of canals, and the pruning of precarious tree branches.

As of July 15, GCC has constructed 1,016.25 kilometres (km) of stormwater drains against a target of 1,126 km, at an estimated cost of ₹5,127.40 crore.

The civic body has removed 16,270 metric tonnes (MT) of silt and water hyacinth from major canals using amphibian vehicles and robotic excavators.

Further, 68,281 of the city's 1,09,975 silt catch pits have been cleaned.

Officials were instructed to maintain the readiness of high-capacity motor pumps, 215 relief centres, and community kitchens.

The review meeting also evaluated the progress of infrastructure initiatives at the detailed project report and tender stages, including urban primary health centres, modern bus shelters, gig workers' resting facilities, integrated sports complexes, and the restoration of 49 ponds completed at an estimated ₹214.02 crore.

The Commissioner also issued directives to initiate strict action against unauthorised constructions and the commercial utilisation of residential buildings.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
POLICE DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE

RC.No.Tr.Imp. 1/113/17664/2025 — Dated: 01.08.2026

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF LIVE TRAFFIC MONITOR FOR CHENNAI TRAFFIC POLICE

S. No	Name of Equipment to be procured	Tender Value	EMD Amount in Rs. (1% on Tender Value)	Closing Date and Time for the receipt of Tender Document	Tender Opening Date and Time
1.	Maintenance of Live Traffic Monitor for Chennai Traffic Police	Rs. 97,50,000/-	Rs. 97,500/-	27.08.2026 up to 12.00 hrs	27.08.2026 at 15.00 hrs

Note:
1. The Tender Document is available in the following website, the commercial bid and technical bid and the updated tender document should be submitted in the website www.tntenders.gov.in. All the entire process of tender will be at the above website as e-tender.
2. The Department/Tender Committee reserves the right to reject all or part or any of the Tenders without assigning any reasons whatsoever and the Department/Tender Committee is not bound necessarily to accept the lowest tender.
3. The above dates are final and no further extension shall be given.

For Addl. Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Chennai-07.

DIPR/ 2467 /Tender/2026

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई– अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना सं० – RDD/SD/RANCHI/02/2026-27 E-tender

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	राँची जिला के नामकुम प्रखंड अंतर्गत पंचायत हुवांगहातू के डोकापीड़ी एवं डाउडीह के बीच कुडुन्दा इकीर नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	288.747	5,77,500	10,000	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 12.08.2026
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 13.08.2026 से दिनांक 03.09.2026 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, राँची।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय – 05.09.2026 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, राँची।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 7903003903
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार 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 बंद 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, राँची

PR 387028 Rural Development (26-27)_D

Public Notice
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency

Objections/ Comments invited from various stakeholders on the tariff petition for 2 MW grid connected Canal-top Solar Project over Sikidri Dam.

Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA) is a Nodal Agency for Renewable Energy Development in the State of Jharkhand.

The Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA) has filed a tariff petition for 2 MW grid-connected canal-top solar project over Sikidri Dam.

1. The copy of the petition can be downloaded from the website of JREDA https://jreda.com//Content/getHeadersMenuContents/187 and from the website of the Commission www.jserc .org/jreda.aspx.
2. Suggestions/comments may be sent to the below contact detail within 2 weeks of issuance of this **notice:**

The Secretary
Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission
1st Floor, Jharkhand State Housing Board (Old Head Quarter)
Harmu Housing Colony, Ranchi-834002, Jharkhand
Email Id- secretary@jserc.org

3. The objections can be submitted in English or in Hindi. The sender should clearly specify his/her full name, postal address, e-mail id and telephone number. It should also be indicated if the objection is being filed on behalf of any organisation, consumer or consumer group.

Sd/- Name & Signature of the Authorised Representative

PR.NO.386981 Energy(26-27):D

झारखण्ड सरकार
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग

ई– निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा सं0 :– **RDD/SD/HZB/19/2026-27**

1. कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी :

ग्रुप सं0	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखण्ड	योजना का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1.	**RDD/SD/HZB/ 19/01/2026-27**	कटकमसांडी	हजारीबाग जिला अंतर्गत कटकमसांडी प्रखण्ड के पंचायत ढौठवा बक्षा नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	2,60,07,000.00	5,20,140.00	10000.00	18 माह
2.	**RDD/SD/HZB/ 19/02/2026-27**	कटकमसांडी	हजारीबाग जिला अंतर्गत कटकमसांडी प्रखण्ड के ग्राम लखनु चतरा जिला के ग्राम –खलारी से जोड़ने वाले महाने नदी में पुल निर्माण।	3,97,78,400.00	7,95,568.00	10000.00	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 18.08.2026
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय – दिनांक 18.08.2026 से दिनांक 07.09.2026 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, हजारीबाग
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –09.09.2026 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, हजारीबाग
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9934523795
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार 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।

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, हजारीबाग

PR 387042 Rural Development(26-27)#D

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport & Highways)

भर्ती सूचना /RECRUITMENT NOTICE

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण (भा.रा.रा.प्रा.) **संविदा आधार पर** निम्नलिखित पद पर नियुक्ति हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है:–

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) invites applications from professionals for engagement to following post **on contract basis**:-

Name of the post	No. of posts*
युवा पेशेवर (विधि) Young Professionals (Legal)	05

*पदों की संख्या भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की आवश्यकता के अनुसार बढ़ाई या घटाई जा सकती है।

*Number of posts may increase / decrease as per requirement of NHAI.

2. पात्रता मानदंड और अन्य शर्तें भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट **www.nhai.gov.in** पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
Eligibility criteria and other conditions may be seen on NHAI's website **www.nhai.gov.in**
3. **आवेदन जमा करना:** इच्छुक और पात्र उम्मीदवार अपने आवेदन **08.09.2026 (सायं 06:00 बजे तक)** भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध लिंक के माध्यम से केवल ऑनलाइन जमा करें।
Submission of Applications: Applications are to be submitted online only. Eligible candidates may apply online on the link provided on the website of NHAI by **08.09.2026 (upto 06:00 PM)**.
4. इस विज्ञापन के संबंध में शुद्धिपत्र / अनुशेष / निरस्तीकरण, यदि कोई होगा तो, उसे केवल भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।
Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancelation to this advertisement, if any, shall be published on NHAI website only.

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

Public Notice
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency

Objections/ Comments invited from various stakeholders on the feed-in tariff petition for ground-mounted, Canal-top and Floating Solar Projects having Capacity less than 10 MW.

Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency(JREDA) is a Nodal Agency for Renewable Energy Development in the State of Jharkhand.

The Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA) has filed a petition for determining feed-in tariff for Ground Mounted, Canal-top and Floating Solar Projects having Capacity less than 10 MW.

1. The copy of the petition can be downloaded from the website of JREDA https://jreda.com//Content/get HeadersMenuContents/187 and from the website of the Commission www.jserc.org/jreda.aspx.
2. Suggestions/comments may be sent to the below contact detail within 2 weeks of issuance of this notice:

The Secretary
Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission
1st Floor, Jharkhand State Housing Board (Old Head Quarter)
Harmu Housing Colony, Ranchi-834002, Jharkhand
Email Id- secretary@jserc.org

3. The objections can be submitted in English or in Hindi. The sender should clearly specify his/her full name, postal address, e-mail id and telephone number. It should also be indicated if the objection is being filed on behalf of any organisation, consumer or consumer group.

Sd/-
Name & Signature of the Authorised Representative

PR 387004 Energy(26-27).D

INBRIEF

Walkathon to raise awareness on vascular diseases held

The Chennai Vascular Society organised a walkathon at Elliot's Beach in Besant Nagar on Sunday to mark National Vascular Day and raise awareness on vascular diseases and limb health. Over 1,000 people, including vascular surgeons, doctors, students, and members of the public, participated. The campaign was held under the theme 'Save Limbs - To Save Life', with a focus on preventing avoidable amputations through early diagnosis and treatment. The event was attended by Justice C. Saravanan of the Madras High Court and A. Aravind, Dean, Stanley Medical College, and senior medical professionals. K. Elancheralathan, president of the Chennai Vascular Society and Head of the Department of Vascular Surgery at Government Stanley Hospital, stressed greater awareness of vascular diseases.

Graduates advised not to depend only on technology

K.M. Suceendran, head, Academic Alliances Group, Tata Consultancy Services, said continuous learning, responsible use of social media, networking and maintaining good health were important elements of a successful career. Addressing the convocation of St. Joseph College of Engineering in Chennai on Saturday, he called upon the graduates to remain curious, listen carefully, build meaningful relationships, mentor younger students and contribute positively to society. "Don't depend only on technology; develop your own actual intelligence. Read, stay updated, meet people and remain curious," he said. R. Parthasarathy, global head, Talent Acquisition, Wipro, also spoke. B. Babu Manoharan, chairman, St. Joseph Group of Institutions, presided over the function.

Police cancel film event at mall in Velachery owing to stampede-like situation

Thousands of motorists were put to hardship due to traffic gridlock in and around Velachery, as huge crowds thronged Phoenix Mall for a film event; heavy rain worsened the traffic situation

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

On Saturday, thousands of motorists were put to hardship on several roads in and around Velachery for hours after people thronged a film event at a mall. A stampede-like situation arose in the mall as the surging crowds became uncontrollable. Alarmed, the city police cancelled the event, which was scheduled for the evening.

Usually on weekends, the Phoenix Mall junction would be crowded as hundreds throng the mall. On Saturday, Google Maps showed heavy traffic near the mall from afternoon as people, mostly youngsters, started arriving early for the film event that was to be held in the evening. The event was was not ticketed.

By early evening, it took more than an hour to cross the mall and reach Guindy. The locals had no idea about the unusual crowd surge, but they had to tolerate the inconvenience and move at a snail's pace.

On Sunday, the social media was abuzz with videos of the huge traffic jam outside the mall and the uncontrollable crowd that had gathered inside the mall. The videos went viral on social media with netizens raising questions on why the city police granted permission for the event in a mall located on a narrow road.

Massive hold-up: Google Maps showed heavy traffic near the mall from afternoon as people started arriving early for the film event that was to be held in the evening on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

S. Nagavel, a resident of Velachery, who works in Vadapalani, complained that for any event where 'Hiphop Tamizha' Aadhi was present, there would be huge crowds, and being a film release function, the police should have given permission to hold the event on an open ground. He said that it took more than an hour to reach his office in Vadapalani.

On X, many users like Rajesh pointed out that the traffic snarl on Saturday was unreal and that big events need crowd limits, public transit plans, and advance traffic advisories. Several motorists faced the same situation in all the link roads as well. The heavy rain worsened the traffic situation.

The situation was brought under control after the city traffic police forced the organisers to cancel the event and by deputing more traffic personnel at important junctions of the Velachery Main Road to regulate the vehicle movement.

A senior police officer said that since it was an indoor event, the organisers did not seek permission from the traffic police. However, after coming to know that there was a huge crowd and that the traffic situation was going out of control, additional traffic personnel were immediately deputed to regulate the traffic. Senior police officials contacted the chief guest and stopped him from coming to the event, he added.

On Sunday, the traffic police, along with patrol vehicles, cleared even the slightest of bottleneck on the Velachery Main Road at every junction.

Chennai, a land of opportunity and exposure, says Health Minister

K.G. Arunraj

Chennai has always been a land of opportunity. To me, it is everything. What I am today is because of this city. The exposure it gave me shaped my life and career

I completed my schooling in Salem and moved to Chennai in 1997 to pursue MBBS at Madras Medical College (MMC). I still vividly remember the bus journey from Salem to Chennai.

Studying at MMC sparked my interest in administration.

During my final year as a house surgeon, I visited the Secretariat nearly 30 times to meet friends. Those visits strengthened my resolve to pursue a career in administration.

Then, most buses terminated at Parry's Corner, where the MMC hostel was located.

It was a bustling hub for people arriving from across Tamil Nadu.

Evenings at Marina Beach with friends, followed by second-show movies at Devi Theatre on Mount Road and late-night dinners, will remain etched in my memory forever.

(As told to N. Sai Charan)

CASAGRAND
Presents
Made Of Chennai
THE HINDU
Co-powered by
AU Small Finance Bank
In association with
Andhra Pradesh Tourism

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Maharatna Company)

NOTICE FOR INVITING APPLICATION FOR OFFERING SUITABLE LAND BANKS FOR PUTTING UP COMPANY OWNED AND COMPANY OPERATED RETAIL OUTLET (COCO)

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited proposes to take suitable land banks by way of **outright sale** or **long term lease from Prospective Applicants** to put up **COMPANY OWNED AND COMPANY OPERATED RETAIL OUTLET (COCO)** in the state of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry (Puducherry and Karaikal districts).

The detailed advertisement guidelines / brochure and application form are available on our website **https://www.Hindustanpetroleum.com/land- for-retail-outlets** and the same can also be downloaded. **Completed application forms** should reach the office as in the detailed advertisement latest by 7th September 2026, 04:00 PM.

Delivering Happiness. /hpcl | /hpcl | /hpcl /@Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
www.hindustanpetroleum.com

Institute releases textbooks for neurodivergent students

Meghna M.
CHENNAI

In an effort to standardise the curriculum for neurodivergent children, Chennai-based Prakramika Vocational Institute has brought out textbooks for them to ensure their education is not broken.

"A uniform curriculum per se for neurodivergent children does not exist. Special schools follow their own based on the broad needs of the child; however, the continuity in their education might be broken as they move around different schools," said founder and director of the institute Gayatri Narasimhan. She also pointed out that a structured curriculum provides a common academic framework which enables consistency in teaching and continuity in learning across special schools.

To bridge this, Ms. Gayatri came out with a curriculum and launched 'Beyond Labels' textbooks for the children. "The 23 textbooks cater to neurodivergent children from birth to 25 years," she said.

The books are designed for children with autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, and intellectual disability.

The curriculum covers topics including communication skills, mathematics, functional academics, computer skills, activities of daily living, financial literacy, sex education, safety, personality development, self-advocacy, soft skills, physical fitness, yoga, and vocational education. The books are designed for children with autism spectrum disorder, Down syndrome, and intellectual disability, among others.

The books integrate academic learning with communication, functional independence, life skills, workplace readiness, and community participation to ensure that education extends beyond the classroom, and prepares learners for independent lives.

"The work started in 2020, when I published the first version of the curriculum in a book. Over the last two years, seven others and I worked on the textbooks covering various aspects of the curriculum," said Ms. Gayatri.

Launched in February 2026, the Beyond Labels books cater to five developmental stages: early childhood (0-6 years), pre skill (6-10 years), basic (11-15 years), intermediate (16-20 years), and advanced (21-25 years).

"These books can be implemented in special schools in the same way that prescribed textbooks and curricula are used in mainstream education. Based on each learner's developmental stage, educators can use the curriculum to prepare Individualised Education Programmes. Beyond Labels textbooks are right now available at the PVI office," Ms. Gayatri added.

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: 044-28576300 ▪ TOLL FREE: 1800 102 4161
or Contact your nearest Authorised space sellers

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME & D.O.B:
I, SANTHI mother of No.15683258N, Rank: HAV, Name: G.KARTHIK residing at Village-Rajapalayam, Rajapalayam-Post, Teh-Tirupattur, District-Tirupattur State-Tamil Nadu, Pin-635653. In my son's army records, my name and date of birth was wrongly entered as SANTHI & 01-07-1951 instead of my correct name and date of birth as SHANTHI GUNASEKARN & 04-08-1971. Tirupattur, 17-07-2026 Santhi (Mother)

I, ANAND Suryanarayanan, permanent resident of 42A, AF1 Vijay Manor Apt, Ramasamy St, Hastinapuram, Chennai–600064, declare Anand S and Anand Suryanarayanan both refer to me.

LOST & FOUND

PASSPORT MISSING on 06/08/2026 No : V8721339 Pranithan Sathish Kumar. If anyone Find Please Ct: 8939238936

PASSPORT MISSING on 06/08/2026 No: T0723471 Sai Dakshith Satish Kumar. If anyone find Please Ct: 8939238936

PASSPORT MISSING on 06/08/2026 No: T0719499. Sathish Kumar Ramu. If anyone find Please Ct : 8939238936

OLD AGE HOME

PALLIATIVE CARE at your home Trained Nurses, 24/7, Dr., Physio visits, Lab tests 1800–313–1883 tikotra.com/seniors

PEST CONTROL

NETLON SAINTGOBAIN SS Doortype SV Trading Authorised Dealer:9940386715

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE SPECIAL JUDGE FOR COMMERCIAL DISPUTES AT VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH
C.O.S. No. 22 of 2025
Between:
M/s. Structicon India Private Limited, represented by its Director Amudhaa Tower, III Floor, 25, Valayalkara Street, Tiruvannamalai-606 601 Tamil Nadu
... Plaintiff
Versus
The Union Bank of India, represented by its Branch Manager, Medavakkam Branch, Chennai-600 100 Tamil Nadu
... Defendant No. 2
COURT NOTICE
Whereas the above Commercial Original Suit is pending on the file of the Commercial Court at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh and whereas the Hon'ble Court has ordered substituted service by way of publication to Defendant No. 2, The Union Bank of India, represented by its Branch Manager, Medavakkam Branch, Chennai, is hereby called upon to appear before the **Commercial Court at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on 21-08-2026 at 10.30.a.m,** either personally or through a duly authorized Advocate/Counsel, without any failure.
Take notice that, in default of such appearance, the suit shall be proceeded with and decided ex parte in accordance with law.
By Order of the Commercial Court at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
S.R.A. ROSEDAR
Counsel for Plaintiff
Vijayawada A.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is informed to the Public that my client The Chennai Metropolitan Co-operative Housing Society Ltd, rep. by its Administrator is the absolute owner of Land comprised in Survey Nos. 7/10B(0.64Acre), 7/13(0.49Acre), 62/2(2.17Acre), 62/3A(1.40Acre), 62/3B(1.40Acre), situated at Vedal Village, Kancheepuram District and they have misplaced the original Documents like Settlement Deed reg. Doc.No.1301/1960 Dt. 11/02/1960 at SRO, Kancheepuram, Sale Deed reg. Doc.No.5445/1973 Dt. 14/11/1973 at SRO, Kancheepuram Joint II and Sale Deed reg. Doc.No.343/1979 Dt. 09/03/1979, Sale Deed reg. Doc.No. 895/1975 Dt. 04/06/1975, Sale Deed reg. Doc.No.1877/1995 Dt. 19/07/1995, Sale Deed reg. Doc.No. 1740/2002 Dt. 10/06/2002, Sale Deed reg. Doc.No.3666/2020 Dt. 13/10/2020, General Power of Attorney reg. Doc.No.84/IV/2002 Dt. 10/06/2002, Sale Deed reg.Doc.No. 1375/2003 Dt. 14/05/2003, Sale Deed reg. Doc.No.3667/2020 Dt. 13/10/2020 and Sale Deed reg. Doc.No.2816/2006 Dt. 12/07/2006 all registered at SRO, Kancheepuram Joint IV.
Any person/s is/are having knowledge or possession of aforesaid Original Document/s shall inform or lodge their claim or charge/s if any, to undermentioned address within 15 DAYS from today, failing which it would be deemed and concluded that the Documents are not traceable/available as such and no further claim/possession or create an interest either over the said Documents or property by anyone and subsequent claim will not be entertained and the same will not be binding on my client.
Mr. V.Sivakumar,
Advocate,
117-118, Angappan Naicken Street,
Chennai - 600001
Cell: 94441 01414 & 95001 36204
Email: sivavlaw@gmail.com

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 Vignesh Shankarnarayanan (Vocal), B. Bhargava (Violin), Sairam Kumar (Mridangam) – 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. – Bharatanatyam by Shrinaagi Venkatesh (Disciple of Divya Nayar). Members of the Academy are specially invited. The festival sponsored by SUNDRAM FASTENERS LIMITED and dedicated to the memory of Smt. Ambujam Krishna.

Arulmigu Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore, Chennai
Today (10-08-2026) Monday 6:45 PM - PRADHOSHAM Special "NAMASANKEERTHANAM" by Sri. V. Karthik Gnaneshwar Bhagavathar & Group. All are welcome.

Brahma Gana Sabha
at Dakshinamurthy Hall
(PS High School Complex), Mylapore
Nalli NAAMA SANKEERTHANA VAIBHAVAM
Today - Aug 10 - 6.30 pm: Smt. SAVITA SREERAM & Party.
Tomorrow 6.30 pm: Smt. SUCHITHRA BALA SUBRAMANIAN
All are Welcome.
Powered by: Nalli

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan,
East Mada Street, Mylapore, Chennai-4
in association with
Sri Krishna Sweets
is celebrating "Aadi Bakthi Vizha"
Today: 10th August: 6.00 pm: High Tea, 6.30 pm: Inauguration followed by Discourse by "Kalaimamani Sri Nagai Mukundan" on "Kandhan Karunai"
Tomorrow: 11th August : 6.30 pm: Villupaattu by "Kalaimamani Smt. Bharathi Thirumagan & team" on "Aadi Katril Amman Ula".
All are Welcome.
Powered by : Nalli

Naada Inbam, 24992672
Today Smt. Shankari Natarajan Tribute concert. 6.15 pm Dr. R. Lakshmipriya, R. Srikritii, Sannath Parameshwaran, Karaikkal Jaikishan. Ragasudha Hall.

Rasika Ranjani Sabha Foundation, Ch-4.
Today at 5 pm, Aditi B Prahlad - Vocal, Amogh Nadadur - Violin, Nandan Kashyap - Mrdangam. 6.45 pm Baanupriya - Vocal, Krithik Koushik - Violin, Gomathishankar - Mrdangam. Ph: 8610357987. Rasikas welcome.

To advertise visit
www.thehinduads.com
☎ 044-28576300
☎ Toll Free: 1800 102 4161

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

DAKSHINAMNAYA SRI SHARADA PEETHAM, SRINGERI
Vande Guruparamparam
Young Vidwans of Music and Shastras Share the Stage
Parayana and Collective Prayer for World Peace.
Parayanam @ 5.30 pm - 6.15 pm - Shiva Sahasranamam
Vidwan Ramakrishnan Murthy
Violin R.K. Shriramkumar
Vidwan Dr. K.S.Maheshwaran Nambutiri
Mridangam N.C.Bharadwaj
Date : 10/08/2026 Time : 6.30 - 8.30pm
NARADA GANA SABHA (MAIN HALL)
All are welcome

Chennai Weather	max	min
Thiruvallur	37	25
Chennai Airport	36	24
Chennai City	36	25

Chennai Airport Today
35°C The weather will be warm and uneasy. Chances of light rain and thundershowers. Night also will be comfortable.

Chennai Airport Tomorrow
36°C Morning will be comfortable. Day will be vwarm. Spell of light rain and thundershowers to occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

Timings
CHENNAI

MONDAY, AUG. 10			
RISE	05:56	SET	18:33
RISE	03:07	SET	16:33
TUESDAY, AUG. 11			
RISE	05:57	SET	18:32
RISE	04:13	SET	17:30
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12			
RISE	05:57	SET	18:32
RISE	05:18	SET	18:20

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

इसरो isro
भारत सरकार/Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग/Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन/Indian Space Research Organisation
समानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान केंद्र/Human Space Flight Centre
बेंगलूरु/Bengaluru – 560 037

विज्ञापन सं./Advt. No.HSFC:01:RMT:2026 दिनांक/Date:10.08.2026

समानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान केंद्र सातवें वेतन आयोग के वेतन मेट्रिक्स के स्तर-11 में विविध क्षेत्रों में वैज्ञानिक/अभियंता - एस.डी. के पद के लिए पूर्व-आवश्यक योग्यता वाले पात्र पी.एच.डी. धारकों से आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है / Human Space Flight Centre invites applications from eligible PhD holders with pre-requisite qualifications for the post of Scientist/Engineer 'SD', Level-11 of VII CPC Pay matrix in various fields.

इसरो के लाइव पंजीकरण पोर्टल के माध्यम से दिनांक 10.08.2026 को 10:00 बजे से दिनांक 30.08.2026 को 17:00 बजे तक आवेदन ऑनलाइन प्राप्त किए जाएँगे। तदनुसार, अभ्यर्थियों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे इसरो के लाइव रजिस्टर पोर्टल https:// www.isro.gov.in में "वृत्ति" पर दिनांक 30.08.2026 को [1700 बजे तक] या उससे पहले पंजीकरण करें या अपने पंजीकरण को अद्यतित करें। लाइव रजिस्टर पोर्टल https://liveregister.isro.gov.in/LRClient पर सीधे संपर्क किया जा सकता है। विस्तृत विज्ञापन के लिए एच.एस.एफ.सी. की वेबसाइट www.hsfc.gov.in देखें / Applications will be received on-line through ISRO LIVE REGISTER portal from 10:00 hrs on 10.08.2026 to 17:00 hrs on 30.08.2026 Accordingly, candidates are advised to either register or update their registrations in the Live Register portal of ISRO at https:// www.isro.gov.in under "Careers" tab on or before 30.08.2026 [1700 hours]. Live register portal can directly be accessed on https://liveregister.isro.gov.in/LRClient. For detailed advertisement, please visit HSFC website www.hsfc.gov.in.

परिशिष्ट/अद्यतनीकरण/शुद्धि-पत्र, यदि कोई हो, तो केवल एच.एस.एफ.सी. की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा । अभ्यर्थियों को नवीनतम जानकारी के लिए एच.एस.एफ.सी. की वेबसाइट www.hsfc.gov.in नियमित रूप से देखनी चाहिए / Addendum/Updates/Corrigendum, if any, will only be published on HSFC website. Candidates should regularly visit the HSFC website www.hsfc.gov.in for latest updates.

CBC49122/11/0002/2627

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at Kasturi Buildings, 859-860, Anna Salai, Chennai 600002 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT.LTD. and Printed by Ra Babu Vijay at THG PUBLISHING PVT.LTD. Plot B-6 & B-7, CMDA Industrial Complex, Maraimalai Nagar, Chengalpattu Taluk, Chengalpattu Dist., Pin 603209. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

INBRIEF

B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Industrialist honoured with Homepreneur Award 2026

Coimbatore-based industrialist Nandini Rangaswamy, managing director of Chandra Group, was given an award under the Business and Education category at Sakthi Masala's SuyaSakthi Virudhugal - Homepreneur Awards 2026. Several others were also given awards under categories, including arts and culture, social welfare, education, and home retail. The winners were selected through a rigorous two-stage evaluation process. Applications were first shortlisted by the Centre for Research, Entrepreneurship & Social Technology (CREST), IIT Madras based on factors such as business viability. The finalists were then evaluated by a 25-member expert jury, who selected the winners across nine award categories.

D. Krishnakumar appointed head of T.N. Law Commission

The Tamil Nadu government has reconstituted the State Law Commission and appointed Justice D. Krishnakumar, former Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court, as its Chairman. A Government Order to this effect was issued by the Law Department. Justice R.M.T. Teekaa Raman, former judge of the Madras High Court; T.K. Ramachandran, former Additional Chief Secretary; and A. Arunagiri, former Secretary, Law Department, have been appointed full-time members. P. Mohan Doss and R. Govindarajan, both former District Judges, have been appointed as part-time members. An officer of the cadre of Secretary, Law Department, will be the full-time Member-Secretary.

Salt producers operating on govt. land urge CM to direct officials to renew their licence

Though around 3,500 acres of land in Thirukazhukundram taluk and Kadambadi was originally leased out for salt manufacturing, production happens only on around 900 acres, they say. Non-renewal of licences is also an issue for producers in Ramanathapuram and Nagapattinam

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Salt manufacturers operating on lands belonging to the State government in Thirukazhukundram taluk near Kalpakkam and in Kadambadi have urged Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay to direct officials to renew their licences.

No alternatives: A manager at a pan says the land has been used for the manufacture of salt for many decades, and it cannot be put to use for any other purpose. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Salt production

An industry source said though around 3,500 acres of land was originally leased out for salt manufacturing, now production only happened on around 900 acres. "It is a long strip of a land. About 150 families used to be dependent on this land. The respective District Collectors have already been told to renew the licences by the Commissioner of Land Administration, but somehow the process has been delayed here," the source said.

'Seasonal business'

Vimal, a worker at a salt pan near Kalpakkam, said they were producing salt for some more days this year than usual due to the weather. "It is a seasonal business. So, if we get more working days, we make additional money. Many smaller salt pans in the Kovalam and Kelambakkam areas managed, but many individuals have closed shop due to licences not being extended," he said.

A manager at a pan said the land had been used for the manufacture of salt for many decades, and it could not be put to use for any other purpose.

"There is a highly concentrated saline underground. And every monsoon, this land gets flooded with water run-off from inland," he said.

State-wide issue

The non-renewal of licences for salt manufacturing on land belonging to the State government is not limited to these locations. There are similar lands in Ramanathapuram, Nagapattinam, and Thoothukudi. Ponraj of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) in Thoothukudi said they planned to write to the government asking that lands be handed over to the individual owners, who were currently working on them.

"We are hearing that there are plans to lease out such lands to multi-national companies. We will oppose any such move. Smaller lease holders should not be harmed in any manner," he said.

Tamil Nadu also has salt pan lands owned by the Central government. The issue of licence renewal for these is also under arbitration.

Amit Shah's helicopter diverted to IAF station due to heavy rain

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Due to heavy rain that lashed the city on Sunday afternoon, Union Home Minister Amit Shah's helicopter, which was to land at the Chennai airport, was diverted to the Air Force Station at Tambaram.

Mr. Shah was scheduled to arrive from Puducherry at Chennai airport by an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter at 3.26 p.m., according to a statement from Airports Authority of India (AAI). However, the helicopter could not land at the airport due to adverse weather, and the helicopter with Mr. Shah on board and another were diverted to the Air Force Station.

The police informed AAI that Mr. Shah would reach Chennai airport by road. He departed for New Delhi from the airport by an IAF aircraft at 4.54 p.m.

"Despite the diversion of the helicopters, subsequent road movement and departure from Chennai Airport were carried out smoothly," a statement said.

Revelling in rain

Children playing on a waterlogged stretch of Anna Salai on Sunday. R. RAGU

HR&CE Dept. issues guidelines to be followed during VIP visits

Deepa H. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department has issued guidelines for the visit of famous persons, including those from the film industry to temples.

One of the major instructions issued as part of the circular signed by Commissioner T.G. Vinay is that photographs and videos should not be taken inside temples. "In recent days, a few incidents wherein videos and reels of VIPs were taken inside temple premises have occurred. The department wants to keep such instances in check," said an official source.

If the temple gets advance notice of the visit of such persons, the administration should inform the Commissioner's office. "Their entry/exit should be regulated in such a manner that the darshan of other devotees should not be affected," the circular said.

The sanctity and traditions of the temple should not be disturbed during such visits, the circular stated. It also went on to say that only official security personnel travelling with these people can be allowed inside the temples.

Many think that with an increase in population and more devotees, crowd management during days such as Tuesdays and Fridays must be given priority over VIP visits. Venkatesh, who visits temples regularly, said that there have been times when he had tried entering temples like those of Sri Bhavani at Periyapalayam or the Murugan temple at Siruvapuri but could not enter these places of worship due to the crowd. "Regular worshippers somehow seem to know priests or staff at such popular shrines and gain entry," he pointed out.

Activist T. Sadagopan said that the nexus between priests and temple workers has been broken in Thiruchendur and similar steps must be taken in other places. "The staff must be posted on a rotational basis. Special darshans should not be permitted during festivals or special occasions. The Tiruvallur District Collector had requested pregnant women, young mothers, and the elderly to not visit the temple during the *Aadi Krithikai* festival," he said.

The Tamil Nadu Thirukoil Thozhilalargal Union had also recently made a representation to the government saying temple staff, including archakas, gurukkal and poosaris should be allowed in other temples on production of their ID cards.

AINRC to contest polls in T.N., says Lakshminarayanan

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Leaders of the Puducherry-based All India N.R. Congress (AINRC) have announced that the party has plans to expand its footprint in Tamil Nadu. The AINRC celebrated the birthday (August 4) of party founder and Puducherry Chief Minister N Rangasamy, in Chennai on Sunday.

Former Minister and senior party leader K. Lakshminarayanan said many people from Tamil Nadu, especially youngsters "who were impressed by Mr. Rangasamy's leadership", had expressed their desire to contest in Tamil Nadu on behalf of the party. "We have plans to contest in the next elections," he said. Puducherry Minister P. Rajavelu said he was "amazed to see the kind of support that Mr. Rangasamy had in Tamil Nadu". The party also celebrated the birth anniversary (July 15) of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K. Kamaraj. Former MLA and Member, Pondy Backward Classes Commission, M. Ilango recalled he and Mr. Rangasamy met Kamaraj at the same time in 1974 during the elections. "We both became first-time MLAs at the same time," he said.

Party leaders V.P. Sivakolundhu, and N.S. Jayapal were among those present.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
The following **E-Tenders** can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in.** Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply**. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, for **Sl. No. [A]** Dy.CMM/P/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340721 or AMM/P, 9163342746 & for **Sl. No. [B]** Dy. CMM/M-II/CLW/Chittaranjan, 9163340708 or AMM/M, 9163340706. **Office Address:** Office of The PCMM /CLW/ Chittaranjan. **[A] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 06/08/2026. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 91260562. Brief Description of Item:** Brazing Rod, Size: DIA 2 X 600 +/- 6 MM Long, Specification No. DIN EN 1044 AG 203, STR NO. CLW/TM/951 REV.1. **[Warranty Period**: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 1634.00 Kg. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 1546600.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 25/09/2026** at11:00 AM.
[B] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 06/08/2026. Sl. No.: [1]. Tender No.: 75263845. Brief Description of Item: Impregnated Compressed Laminates for WAG-9HC As per Drg. No. **(i)** 1209-08.331-015 Alt.-4 **(ii)** 1209-08.331-016 Alt.-4 **(iii)** 1209-08.231-013 Alt.-6 Ref.1 **(iv)** 1209-08.231-013 Alt.-6 Ref.2 **(v)** 1209-08.231-014 Alt.-5 Ref.1 **(vi)** 1209-08.231-014 Alt.-5 Ref.2. [One set consists of 06 items as per set details attached.] **[Warranty Period:** 30 Months after the date of delivery]. **Quantity: 739.00 sets. Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹ 177900.00. **Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 12/10/2026** at 11:00am.
PR2/458 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan
"Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways"

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

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

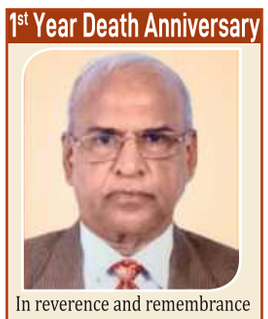
Mr. S.G Venkataramani
Ex-SIEMENS
Passed away on 8th August 2026
Mourned by Family & Friends

We Regret to announce the sad demise of

Thiru S.Duraipandian, B.E.
Retd. Chief Engineer, T.N.H.B
at 11.30am on 9th Aug, 2026.
Last rites 10th Aug,2026 start at 10.30.a.m @
New 2, 5th Cross St, Indiranagar, Adyar, Chennai - 20
Deeply mourned by
Chella (Wife) Balaji Subramaniam (Son)
Subha (Daughter in Law) &
Neha (Grand Daughter) & Family members
Ct: 98410 28633 / 98405 90769

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1st Year Death Anniversary



In reverence and remembrance
Shri A V Narayanan
We miss your presence every day of our lives.
From AVN family

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
044-28576300
from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
Toll Free 1800 102 4161
from 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m.
For Placing Advertisements Online
log on to
www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THE HINDU GROUP

CASAGRAND building aspirations
Presents
Made Of Chennai
THE HINDU
Co-powered by
AU SMALL FINANCE BANK
In association with
ANDHRA PRADESH TOURISM

This August, *The Hindu* brings together everything that makes Chennai, Chennai.
Its food. Its music. Its art. Its businesses. Its neighbourhoods. And, above all, its people.
Join a month-long love letter to our favourite city, as we weave together every story,
every street and every spirit with *The Hindu* #MadeOfChennai.

Joyalukkas World's favourite jeweller | HINDUSTAN GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS CHENNAI | ORCHIDS The International School | TOYOTA | Akshayakalpa Organic | यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India | इंडियनऑयल IndianOil | Licious | முருகன் இட்லி MURUGAN idli

Scan the QR or visit
newsth.live/MOC2026PA
to know more and
register for our events.

@thehindu_madeofchennai

From Page One

Velumani, Viswanathan blame EPS for setbacks

Even after the party started losing strengthen since the 2026 Assembly election, functionaries who were discharging their duties efficiently in Coimbatore, Tiruppur, The Nilgiris, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi, Tiruchi, Thanjavur, Tenkasi, Villupuram, Tirupattur, Dharmapuri, Namakkal, Karur, Pudukkottai, and Perambalur were being removed from their posts, they said. "This is not acceptable. It will only weaken the party."

The functionaries who were divested of the party membership were part of the AIADMK since its inception in 1972 and instrumental in maintaining the party's electoral prospects thus far, they stressed. "The actions of the general secretary, which overlook their contributions to the party and weaken the party, should not continue. In the interest of the party, those who were removed should be given back their original positions," they said. Party functionaries were to be elected to local bodies, which was quite important, they said. "We need to strengthen the party for this."

Amit Shah's proposal 'disregarded'

The AIADMK lost the prospects in 42 constituencies in the 2021 Assembly election only because Mr. Palaniswami "disregarded" the proposal made by BJP leader and Union Minister Amit Shah to forge an alliance with Mr. Dhinakaran, which was accepted by former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, they said. "You denied a seat to TTV [Mr. Dhinakaran]. You did not embrace the DMDK, the Puthiya Thamizhagam, and Mr. Sarath Kumar (who were with us from 2019) and let them go in the 2021 Assembly election."

Even after the BJP's national leadership attempted repeatedly to forge an alliance by promising that all our demands would be fulfilled, "you acted arbitrarily and without thoughtfulness", which led to the DMK-Congress alliance securing all the 40 seats [in the last Lok Sabha election], they said.

Krishnamurthy defends Palaniswami

AIADMK whip Agri S.S. Krishnamurthy said Mr. Palaniswami was not responsible for the poor performance of the party in the 2026 election as candidates were shortlisted by the district secretaries. Addressing journalists in Tiruvannamalai, Mr. Krishnamurthy said, "The AIADMK district secretaries act as "feudal lords" in their regions. The leadership merely announced the candidates recommended by the respective district secretaries. Who has to take responsibility for the party's poor performance? Those district secretaries should take moral responsibility and resign," he said.

How can there be a fair delimitation when it is a fraud: TNCC president

B. Manickam Tagore criticises DMK and AIADMK for 'changing their view on the delimitation Bill in just a matter of months', and not participating in the meeting convened by Chief Minister Vijay

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) president B. Manickam Tagore on Sunday said there could be no "fair delimitation", and criticised certain political parties "for changing their tune in their opposition to the delimitation Bill in just a matter of months".

Speaking at the anti-delimitation march held at Medavakkam in Chennai, Mr. Tagore said, "When Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kamarajar, and Vallabhbhai Patel called for the Quit India Movement on August 8, 1942, two groups did not take part in it: one, *sanghis*, and the other, everyone knows who they are."

He further said those who did not participate in the meeting of MPs from Tamil Nadu were now "talking about fair delimitation". The DMK, AIADMK, and their allies had stayed away from the delimitation discussion meeting chaired by Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Saturday.

"This is a fraud – how can there be a fair and an unfair delimitation when it is a fraud? The [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi government is denying Tamil Nadu its financial share and schemes. We have 39 MPs from Tamil Nadu. In April this year, we defeated the Bill [on delimitation] by voting against it. But those who said 'no to delimitation' are now calling for a 'fair delimitation'. What is fair delimitation? They may increase the seats of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh by 50%. But, the 40 seats will become 60, and 80 will become 120. The difference in the number of seats between Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh will be 60 after the delimitation. 'Fair' delimitation is a scam," he said.

Strong opposition: TNCC president B. Manickam Tagore and Congress Rajya Sabha member Praveen Chakravarthy at a march to oppose the delimitation Bill, in Chennai on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Congress Rajya Sabha member Praveen Chakravarthy said, "Tamil Nadu's rights and freedom are in danger. The delimitation Bill will suppress its voice in Parliament. The share of MPs from Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh should remain the same. That's our demand. But the BJP is trying to increase the representation of north Indian States. They are trying to defraud us by showing some numbers... if they increase our seats by 20, they will increase Uttar Pradesh's by 40. We have to oppose this. All parties in Tamil Nadu should oppose the Bill... if they don't, it is a betrayal."

On the Mekedatu dam issue, Mr. Tagore said, "The Tamil Nadu Congress is very clear that the Mekedatu dam should not be allowed to be constructed. Who can give clearance? Only Prime Minister Modi, Chief Minister Vijay, and [Karnataka] Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar can. Just like how we are fighting for Tamil Nadu's interests, the Chief Minister of Karnataka will fight for Karnataka's interests."

TNCC district president Vijay Sekar said the party's district office-bearers held marches against delimitation across Chennai.

Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi general secretary D. Ravikumar said any delimitation Bill, including the proposal that there would be a uniform increase of 50% for each State, would render the idea of parliamentary democracy in India "meaningless".

Speaking to *The Hindu*, he said, "It is obvious that the BJP finds a great advantage in bringing in this delimitation at this moment. They could simply pass the Bills and amendments without any debate."

Forest Department staff use a drone on Sunday to look for the carnivore that killed a man in the Nilgiris. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

58-year-old man dies in suspected tiger attack in Gudalur

The Hindu Bureau
UDHAGAMANDALAM

A 58-year-old man is believed to have been killed and eaten by a carnivore, most likely a tiger, in the O'Valley Forest Range at Gudalur in the Nilgiris on Saturday night.

Following the discovery of his remains on Sunday, local residents staged a protest and refused to allow the Forest Department to retrieve them for a post-mortem.

The deceased was identified as M. Balakrishnan, who was living near Manjushree Estate in O'Valley. According to the Forest Department, Balakrishnan was reported missing after he left for work on his farm on Saturday evening.

After receiving word about his disappearance, Forest Department workers launched a search in the area.

Protest staged

On Sunday, Balakrishnan's remains were found in a field nearby, with most of the body consumed by a wild animal. The residents staged a protest on Sunday morning, demanding that the animal involved in the attack be captured.

After lengthy discussions and assurances of action, the remains were taken for autopsy. The Forest Department said it had handed over interim compensation to his family and would expedite the release of the full compensation.

The department also said it had increased the presence of Rapid Response Team personnel, placed camera traps, and deployed drones to identify the animal involved in the attack. Officials said they could ascertain whether the attack was accidental or not only after identifying the carnivore.

Negative interactions

Conservationists said that in the last few years, negative interactions between humans and wildlife, especially elephants, had become acute in O'Valley.

The region is home to repatriated tea estate workers as well as more recent settlers who are vying with wildlife for space.

CM expected to move resolution prioritising *Tamil Thai Vazhthu*

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay is expected to move a resolution in the Assembly on Monday, mandating that the State Song, *Tamil Thai Vazhthu* (invocation to mother Tamil), be sung before the commencement of programmes held by all educational institutions, universities, government offices, public sector undertakings, and other public institutions in the State.

The move comes against the backdrop of a letter from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs on July 9, asking the States and Union Ministries to "strictly comply" with its January 28 directive that the National Song, *Vande Mataram,* be played before the National Anthem at official events.

In Tamil Nadu, a Government Order was issued on November 23, 1970, stipulating that *Tamil Thai Vazhthu* be sung at the commencement of official events.

On December 12, 2021, the State government officially recognised *Tamil Thaai Vazhthu* as the State Song, and ordered that it be rendered first at all official events.

'Absence of DMK, AIADMK MPs at meet regrettable'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Veteran Congress leader P. Chidambaram on Sunday said it was regrettable that MPs from the DMK, the AIADMK, the PMK, and the DMDK failed to attend the all-party meeting convened by the State government to discuss delimitation on Saturday.

"We lost the opportunity to convey to the world that there was a consensus among the political parties in Tamil Nadu. People should ask why the unity forged during the polls in April last year has frittered away now," he said.

T.N. police arrest 837 cyber criminals in two days

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

In a crackdown on cybercrime network, the Cyber Crime Wing (CCW) of the Tamil Nadu Police launched a 48-hour "Statewide Special Drive against Mule Account Holders" commencing on August 6, and arrested 837 cyber criminals across the State.

The operation focused on identifying persons involved in opening, operating, and facilitating the misuse of bank accounts for receiving and withdrawing proceeds from cyber fraud.

Acting on the instructions of the Director-General of Police and Head of the Police Force, Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, special teams of the CCW conducted the operation in all the districts and cities.

Investigators targeted individuals linked to 9,804 complaints about fraudulent transactions amounting to over ₹545 crore. GETTY IMAGES

It was based on accused profiling through the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal and the Pratibimb portal of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), Ministry of Home Affairs.

The profiling was further strengthened through bank fund-trail linkages established by financial data analysis of cybercrime networks.

"Mule accounts are bank accounts used by cyber criminals to receive, transfer, layer, or withdraw money obtained through fraudulent and illegal activities. Individuals who allow their bank accounts to be used for such transactions facilitate the movement of illicit funds," Dr. Aggarwal said.

Investigators targeted individuals linked to 9,804 complaints involving fraudulent transactions amounting to more than ₹545 crore, and arrested 837 cyber criminals involved in 601 cases. Also, 157 new FIRs were registered across the State to curb the operation of mule bank accounts for facilitating cyber fraud.

The police said 204 mobile phones and other storage devices, some cash, and bank documents were seized from the premises of the accused.

Dr. Aggarwal said the arrests marked a significant achievement in disrupting and dismantling the organised cybercrime network operating in Tamil Nadu.

The operation was directly supervised from the police headquarters by the Additional Director-General of Police, CCW, Bala Naga Devi, to ensure seamless coordination and real-time monitoring throughout the drive.

The police were analysing the digital evidence seized and interrogating the arrested persons to uncover layers of the criminal network and identify their associates operating in other States. Efforts were on to trace and apprehend other members of the network, recover defrauded funds, and establish wider linkages with nationwide cybercrime operations, the police said in a statement.

Fifteen new judges of Madras High Court sworn in

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari on Sunday administered the oath of office to 15 new judges. With this, the working strength of the High Court has increased to 66, against its sanctioned strength of 75 judges.

Advocate-General (A-G) Vijay Narayan welcomed the new judges and introduced them. While the first five out of the eight elevated from the Bar had been appointed directly as permanent judges of the High Court, the rest had been appointed as additional judges for a fixed tenure.

Justice K. Govindarajan was born in Kulithalai, Karur district, in March 1972, and had been practicing as a lawyer since 1994. He was the founding member and convener of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court Bar Association, and served as the Deputy Solicitor General before his elevation.

Madras High Court Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari handing over the presidential warrant of appointment to Justice N. Ramesh after administering the oath of office to him on Sunday.

Justice Rajnish Pathiyil was born in New Delhi to Indian Army veteran V. Muraleedharan in February 1973, and had pursued Masters in Law at the University of California. He had been practicing as a lawyer since 1997, and served as Special Public Prosecutor for the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) before his elevation.

Justice N. Ramesh, a first-generation lawyer, was born in 1973 and did his schooling in Vellore. He enrolled with the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry in 1997, and was appointed as civil judge in December 2003. He resigned from Tamil Nadu State Judicial Service in March 2009 to return to practice. He was the Special Public Prosecutor for the ED till his elevation.

Justice G.K. Muthukumaar enrolled as an advocate in 1998 and specialised in intellectual property law. He had served as Special Government Pleader. He was instrumental in obtaining geographical indication for several renowned products.

Justice R. Rajesh Vivekananthan, born in Thoothukudi in 1975, studied at the Madurai Government Law College. He had been practising since 1998, and had served as Deputy Solicitor General.

"It is a matter of pride for all of us that this High Court has 13 women judges, the highest among all high courts in the country... Before concluding, on behalf of the Bar, I would like to make a small request to the honourable Chief Justice. When I joined the bar, the sanctioned strength of the High Court was only 18 judges... Today the strength is 75. Even when the sanctioned strength was 18, we never achieved a full strength... Even after the present appointments, there are still a few vacancies and I would like to express a hope that the remaining vacancies are also filled up at the earliest, so that one day, at least in my lifetime, we can see the full strength of 75 judges on this dais," the A-G said.

Read the full story on newsth.live/newjudges

'HR&CE Department keen on retrieving temple properties'

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUCHI

Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) S. Ramesh said on Sunday that the department was keen on retrieving temple properties and ensuring that properties belonging to temple trusts were used for the purposes for which they had been allocated.

Citing a recent instance, Mr. Ramesh said a First Information Report had been registered by the police against 19 persons based on a complaint by the HR&CE Department regarding the illegal registration of properties belonging to a trust established to serve the Madurai Meenakshi Amman Temple.

S. Ramesh

Some of the accused had been arrested in connection with the case, he said, adding that no action was taken during the previous DMK regime.

Speaking to journalists at Srirangam in Tiruchi, the Minister said that the 'tirupani' (renovation work) being taken up in various temples across the State was being expedited.

During the ongoing Budget session, announcements would be made regarding the number of consecration ceremonies ('kumbhabhishekam') to be performed in temples; new 'tirupani' to be taken up; temples in fully/partially dilapidated state and their renovation; and the number of temple cars and temple tanks to be renovated, Mr. Ramesh added.

Mobile phone ban

Dedicated counters for depositing mobile phones would be established in major temples across the State before September 1. This was to prohibit the use of mobile phones on temple premises, the Minister said.

INBRIEF

Telangana launches portal for families of police 'martyrs'

Recalling the sacrifice of 28 police personnel from erstwhile Warangal district who laid down their lives fighting naxalism, Telangana Director-General of Police C.V. Anand said that peace in the region was built on the sacrifices of personnel who placed duty above their lives. Mr. Anand launched TG-VEER, a dedicated portal for the families of police martyrs to register grievances relating to financial assistance, compassionate appointments and other benefits.

Auto driver, friend 'sexually assault' two children in A.P.

Two 13-year-old girls studying at a State-run institute and staying in its hostel were allegedly sexually assaulted by an autorickshaw driver and his friend in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh. The girls had left school two days ago and boarded an autorickshaw at Machilipatnam later that night. The police booked the accused under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and other relevant provisions, including rape, on Saturday.

Protest held in A.P. against seafarer deaths in war zones

The Merchant Navy Officers Welfare Association, Visakhapatnam, conducted a silent protest from the Kali Mata temple to the Beach Road in Andhra Pradesh on Sunday, condemning the killing of seafarers in war zones. Around 40 merchant navy seafarers took part in the protest and expressed solidarity with seafarers who lost their lives. The association sought compensation and adequate support for the kin of deceased seafarers from shipowners and agencies.

Kerala govt. may withdraw directive on *Vande Mataram*

Following Opposition allegations of 'toeing RSS line', Health Minister says only the first two stanzas would be sung at State govt. programmes; CMO is yet to officially clarify or withdraw instruction

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Following Opposition allegations of toeing the Sangh Parivar's line on the recital of *Vande Mataram* in its entirety, the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) government in Kerala appeared to backtrack on the Chief Secretary's directive to government departments to ensure the song was recited in its entirety during the Independence Day celebrations.

Although the Chief Minister's Office is yet to make an official clarification or withdraw the directive, Health Minister K. Muraleedharan told the media on Sunday that only the first two stanzas will be sung in the State government's programmes. He said that the Chief Secretary sometimes issues circulars based on Union government directives. Though Mr. Muraleedharan and Education Minister N. Samsudheen of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) said that the Chief Secretary had acted as per Lok Bhavan's directives, Lok Bhavan has reportedly denied issuing any directions.

The Health Minister says that the Chief Secretary sometimes issues circulars based on Union government directives. FILE PHOTO

Even as the Opposition Left Democratic Front (LDF) lashed out at the UDF government for "surrendering completely" to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's (RSS) agenda, the Ministers of the ruling front had found it hard to defend the directive.

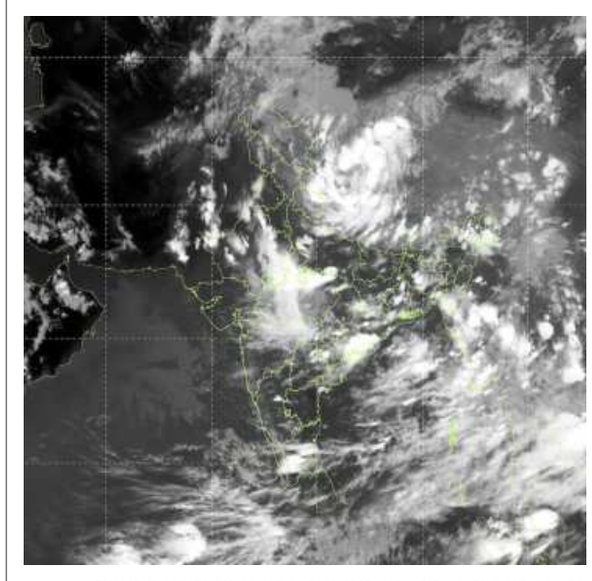
Opposition's criticism

Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan said that singing the first two stanzas of *Vande Mataram* was not wrong, but the song in its entirety goes against the country's secular spirit.

CPI(M) leader T.M. Thomas Isaac said that even though in a federal system States might be forced to follow Central directives, the State should at least make a mark of protest.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to Very Heavy Rainfall very likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Madhya Pradesh. Thunderstorm accompanied with Lightning very likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam & Meghalaya, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat Region, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and Uttarakhand.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.5	26.5
Ahmedabad	—	33.7	27.0
Aizawl	—	27.3	22.4
Bengaluru	4.4	29.4	20.8
Bhopal	—	—	—
Bhubaneswar	6.2	34.2	26.8
Chandigarh	—	36.0	25.0
Chennai	17.8	36.1	25.4
Coimbatore	—	33.4	22.8
Dehradun	2.5	32.2	24.1
Gangtok	43	22.3	18.1
Goa	18	31.4	—
Guwahati	25.9	32.9	25.4
Hubballi	—	—	—
Hyderabad	12.4	—	24.6
Imphal	3.8	27.7	22.7
Jaipur	2	00.0	26.7
Kochi	3	29.6	24.6
Kohima	—	—	—
Kolkata	—	32.0	27.2
Kozhikode	6.6	31.9	25.2
Kurnool	—	35.5	25.4
Lucknow	—	33.5	27.8
Madurai	—	40.2	26.1
Mangaluru	—	29.1	24.4
Mumbai	—	—	—
Mysuru	—	29.0	20.0
New Delhi	4.8	35.3	26.5
Patna	—	34.9	27.0
Port Blair	17.8	29.4	24.2
Prayagraj	12.9	33.5	25.0
Puducherry	—	25.0	—
Pune	—	30.2	22.9
Raipur	66	30.0	24.3
Ranchi	7	29.9	22.0
Shillong	0.2	23.3	17.3
Shimla	—	24.1	17.0
Srinagar	0.7	30.4	19.0
Thiruvananthapuram	17.3	31.0	23.8
Tiruchirappalli	—	39.5	27.4
Vijayawada	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	5.2	34.0	27.4

(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	11	23	27	40	114	Poor
Bengaluru	8	—	52	31	87	Good
Chennai	6	12	—	34	89	Good
Delhi	20	31	81	173	166	Poor
Hyderabad	4	18	14	27	57	Good
Kolkata	9	15	35	19	30	Good
Lucknow	36	12	24	69	84	Good
Mumbai	4	4	10	30	80	Good
Pune	—	27	2	39	82	Good
Visakhapatnam	6	71	20	49	89	Good

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hingoli, Maharashtra recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 336 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14.

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

Karnataka portfolios set to be announced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the Monsoon Session of the legislature set to begin on August 13, the Congress government in Karnataka is likely to allocate portfolios to the 19 newly sworn-in Ministers on Monday.

While the new Ministers were sworn in amid confusion, revolt, and last-minute changes last Monday, the discussion on portfolio allocation is still under way. Party sources said that portfolio allocation has become difficult owing to insistence by the Ministers on getting portfolios of their choice.

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar left for Delhi on Sunday to meet the Congress Central leadership and hand over the list of possible portfolios for the Ministers. "The list is likely to be finalised by Monday," government sources said.

Kerala Police arrest Hindutva ideologue

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala police on Sunday took into custody Hindutva ideologue T.G. Mohandas for his alleged inflammatory statements made in connection with the youth protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

Mr. Mohandas, a former head of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) State intellectual cell, had stated in a YouTube video that he would have ordered a curfew at the protest site and shot the student protesters if he were in control.

In another video, he said secular women who take part in protests "enjoy being gang-raped".

A team of cyber police officers had carried out searches at his Mattancherry residence on Sunday afternoon. He would be taken to Thiruvananthapuram, a police officer said.

'Mastermind' in illegal explosives case arrested

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has reportedly arrested T.A. Harris, the alleged mastermind in a case involving the seizure of a huge cache of explosives from Chemmad, near Tirurangadi, in the Malappuram district of Kerala. He was reportedly arrested from Manjeri in the district.

According to the NIA, Mr. Harris played a key role in illegally procuring, stockpiling and distributing the explosives.

The seizure

The case relates to the seizure of 89,600 gelatin sticks and 10,500 non-electric detonators from a hollow bricks factory compound at Chemmad on February 7, 2026. They were stored in boxes and found hidden among onion sacks.

The case was handed over to the NIA after the explosives were found to have been brought without a licence. The NIA took over the investigation citing its national security implications.

19 locations searched

The NIA conducted searches at around 19 locations across Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, recovering digital devices and documents.

Three people were arrested in Karnataka earlier, while the total number of arrests in the case has now reached 10.

The agency had also searched quarry-related locations in Kozhikode, Kasaragod and Kannur districts before arresting the suspects.

Cultural showcase

Indigenous rhythms: Kommu Koya tribal dancers perform during the World's Indigenous Peoples Day celebration at Kumram Bheem Adivasi Bhavan in Hyderabad on Sunday. SIDDHANT THAKUR

BJP, JD(S) launch march against Bidadi Township project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and Leader of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly R. Ashok on Sunday flagged off a joint *padayatra* by the JD(S) and BJP at Bidadi in Bengaluru South district, against the Bidadi Township project.

The *padayatra* will reach Bengaluru on Tuesday, where a large protest will be held at Freedom Park. The development comes just before the start of the Monsoon Session.

This is the first major joint protest by the BJP and JD(S) and is being spearheaded by JD(S) youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy.

While the JD(S) is leading the *padayatra*, the BJP is all set to debate the township project during the upcoming session.

Mr. Kumaraswamy launched the march by reading excerpts from the fact-finding report on the Bidadi Township project prepared by Congress leaders in 2006.

He pointed out that while the report had described the project as disastrous, the Congress itself is pursuing it now. The Minister said the report states that there are 3,000 houses in the area proposed for acquisition, along with 1.56 lakh coconut trees, 48,000 areca nut trees, and 13,000 neem trees.

Video of BJP leader's Bidadi issue remarks goes viral

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA/BENGALURU

The Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party and its State president B.Y. Vijayendra faced embarrassment after a video of Mr. Vijayendra purportedly saying that the party was extending "symbolic" support to the cause of the Bidadi Township Project and that the farmers were gradually accepting the compensation, went viral on Sunday.

The video showed a casual conversation between Karnataka Minister Madhu Bangarappa and Mr. Vijayendra, who is also the MLA of Shikaripur, at a drought review meeting held in Shikaripur on Saturday.

A.P. govt. will protect rights of tribal youth, says Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Sunday that the Andhra Pradesh government was working on an alternative mechanism to protect employment opportunities for tribal youth, following the striking down of G.O. No. 3, while setting a 2027 deadline for ensuring every tribal family in the State had access to safe drinking water and housing.

Struck down by SC

The GO No. 3, issued in 2000 to reserve 100% of teacher posts in the Scheduled Areas for the local tribal candidates, was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2020, prompting Mr. Naidu to explore a legally sustainable alternative to protect tribal youth employment. The G.O. remained a major issue for tribal communities, with the tribal groups protesting its scrapping and demanding restoration of safeguards for local youth in government employment.

Addressing the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples programme, Mr. Naidu said the government was committed to protecting the rights of tribal communities.

Mr. Naidu said ₹4,764 crore had been allocated for the comprehensive development of 27.39 lakh tribal people, with focus on infrastructure, livelihoods, employment and skill development through the Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs).

He also stressed the need to increase tribal incomes through value addition, processing and branding of forest produce such as Seethampeta turmeric, Rampachodavaram rubber, Parvathipuram pineapple, honey and palm jaggery.

As many as 1.5 lakh tribal youth would be provided skill training, while special initiatives would be taken to prepare tribal students for competitive examinations, he said.

Combined effects of climate and geology caused 2024 Wayanad landslide: study

Sam Paul A.
KOZHIKODE

The devastating 2024 landslide in Kerala's Wayanad cannot be attributed to extreme rainfall alone but was also likely influenced by geological, geomorphological and structural factors, according to a new study published in the international peer-reviewed journal *Landslides*.

The study, published on the journal's website, notes that while intense monsoon rain triggered the collapse, underlying geological conditions influenced where the landslide began, how it travelled, and why it became one of the most destructive landslide recorded in the Western Ghats. It was conducted by researchers from the University of Kerala, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Mohali, and Savitribai Phule Pune University.

The researchers conducted extensive field investigations across the affected valley in April 2025. FILE PHOTO

To understand why the landslide became so destructive, the researchers conducted extensive field investigations across the affected valley in April 2025. Geological mapping was carried out from Chooralmala to Punchirimattam, while rock samples were analysed in the laboratory. As the landslide crown remained unsafe to access, drone-mounted LiDAR and high-resolution aerial imagery were used to investigate it.

"The study reveals the interplay of climate and geology. Extreme rainfall acted as the immediate trigger, but the pre-existing geological framework determined where the slope failed, how the debris moved and why the event became exceptionally destructive," said Y. Anilkumar and K.S. Sajinkumar, assistant professors at the Department of Geology, University of Kerala.

Shifting sands

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye will struggle to create credible deterrent

The joint defence agreement, signed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye in Mecca on August 7 reflects their shared strategic anxieties and the changes under way in West Asia's security architecture. The three countries have pledged to bolster collective security and deterrence, and promised to treat an armed attack against one as an attack against all. On paper, this is a formidable alliance. Pakistan is a nuclear-armed country with a powerful military; Saudi Arabia, one of the world's largest crude oil exporters, has deep pockets and considerable influence across the Muslim world; and Türkiye has an expanding military industrial base, including advanced drone production capabilities. That the pact was announced in the middle of the war on Iran and Israel's continuing bombing campaigns in the region is no coincidence. Faced with the prospect of reduced American strategic presence in West Asia, regional powers have begun looking beyond the traditional U.S. security umbrella for new partnerships. In September 2025, a few weeks after Israel bombed Qatar, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia announced a bilateral defence agreement. The war on Iran, which saw Tehran retaliating by striking U.S. bases across the Persian Gulf, and Israel's wars in its neighbourhood, have further deepened the security concerns of Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. They have now decided to turn the page on their often fraught relationship and build a trilateral framework with Pakistan, which fought a short aerial war with India in May 2025.

This agreement shows the growing appetite of regional powers for formal security pacts. Türkiye, which has long sought a bigger role in West Asia, will gain more strategic space. Pakistan, traditionally a South Asian regional power overshadowed by India, is also seeking to expand its role as a West Asia security provider and mediator. The alliance would allow the three countries to deepen defence cooperation and military interoperability though it is too early to say whether it would help them address their security challenges. Alliances based on collective security, such as NATO and CSTO, are generally formed to build deterrence against conflicts. The biggest liability of the Mecca Agreement is that it was signed amid ongoing wars. Over the past five months, Saudi Arabia has faced repeated Iranian missile and drone attacks. The collective security pledge is unlikely to deter Iran from targeting U.S. bases in Saudi Arabia if the war, currently on pause, escalates further. Existing conflicts, therefore, make the promise of collective defence largely symbolic from the very outset. So, the credibility of the Mecca Agreement will ultimately depend on whether the three partners can turn their political commitment into a credible deterrent, which is currently non-existent.

Podium finish

India's women boxers were the highlight of the Glasgow Commonwealth Games

In the truncated Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, India performed well, exceeding expectations and retaining fourth place behind developed nations such as Australia, England, and Canada, despite a sharp drop in medals from 61 to 39, including 13 gold, 17 silver, and nine bronze. The gold rush on the penultimate day, powered by the spectacular performance of the boxers who won seven gold and three silver medals, improved India's position. While some weight classes had weaker draws, several categories posed strong challenges. Propelled by determination and hard work, five women boxers – Sakshi Chaudhary, Preeti Pawar, Jaismine Lamboria, Priya Ghanghas, and Arundhati Choudhary – and two men, Sachin Siwach and Ankush Panghal, ensured India's best-ever showing of 10 medals, three more than that in the last edition. The women boxers' fearless approach established them as a force to reckon with. India won 16 medals in athletics and para-athletics, with notable contributions from para-athletes Dilip Gavit, Soman Rana, and Sharmila Dhankar. In world-class fields, the country's athletes won 10 medals compared to eight in Birmingham 2022. Neeraj Chopra recovered from injury to take a creditable silver and lead the country to twin-medal glory in javelin along with Yashvir Singh and underlined India's rising status as a javelin powerhouse. Other moments to cherish included triple jumpers Praveen Chithravel and Selva Prabhu's twin podium finishes, Gulveer Singh becoming the first Indian to medal in 5000m and 10000m, Murali Sreeshankar winning his second straight long jump silver, Tejaswin Shankar claiming the country's first-ever decathlon medal, and Sarvesh Kushare pocketing a high jump silver.

Asmita Dey and Harsh Singh sprang a surprise by winning the country's first gold medals in judo, while Mirabai Chanu lived up to her billing to clinch her third successive gold medal. She led Indian lifters to a significant haul of eight medals. The country's strong show, against an expectation of around 30 medals, helped the contingent leave Glasgow on a high as Ahmedabad prepares to host a bigger Games offering more medals in 2030. Indian athletes' praiseworthy performance in Glasgow has raised hopes for the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games next month, where a bigger haul is expected from a wider range of disciplines. While India is capable of securing impressive medal collections at the Commonwealth and Asian Games, it needs to raise its level manifold to be counted among the best globally. Aspiring to host the 2036 Olympics, it must identify priority sports and invest in them to ensure a higher finish, even while waging a perennial war against doping.

Either culpable or incompetent

Rahul Gandhi

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Member of Parliament for Rae Bareli, Uttar Pradesh, and Member of the Indian National Congress

On July 20, 2026, India's young people came together to demand a fair education system and accountability for paper leaks.

These young women and men came from every caste, class, region and religion. They were brave enough to demand justice, wise enough to know their Constitutional rights, tender enough to laugh at their own turmoil, and earnest enough to believe that they could fight and win.

The nation watched the protesters in awe, as they sang, danced, laughed, held hands and stood together. Their resistance gave voice to the pain both of their own generation, and of crores of Indians who are suffering but have been silenced by fear.

Met with violence

The protests carried forward India's proud legacy of peaceful resistance, a tradition which won it independence and is protected by Article 19 of the Constitution.

Yet, the government tried to crush the youth's voice with a brutal assault. They were attacked with tear gas shells, beaten with nail-studded lathis and shot with pellet guns.

Nineteen-year-old Sahil Lochab, whom I met, had hundreds of lead pellets lodged all over his upper body. A pellet struck his eye, likely blinding him. Policemen wielding batons brutally assaulted young women, injuring many on their private parts. Minors were beaten with lathis, their bones broken, gashes and bruises on their bodies. In Bihar, student protesters were shot with firearms, including an AK-47, in Siwan, leaving many severely injured.

Who authorised this illegal and unconstitutional violence?

> Five hundred metres from Parliament, students were brutally attacked by forces which report to one man

Centralised power

The Narendra Modi government prides itself on its centralised control. Whether it is a mission to Mars or an Olympic medal, it repeatedly trumpets that the credit is due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. Nothing moves without their approval.

The violence happened in the heart of Delhi, barely 500 metres from Parliament. Both the security forces deployed, the Delhi Police and the Rapid Action Force (RAF), report directly to the Home Minister.

There are only two possibilities. First, he authorised the attack on the students – in which case he is culpable. Second, he had no idea that it was taking place – which means that he is entirely incompetent. Either way, as Home Minister, what happened on that day is his responsibility, and he must resign.

Instead, his inaction proves that he approves of the attack on students. He has not ordered any inquiry or even issued a statement. He has refused to come to Parliament, and motions filed daily by the Opposition asking for a discussion have been summarily rejected.

At the same time, Prime Minister Modi, desperate to protect his image, has activated his propaganda machinery and *Godi* media. First information reports and detentions of young protesters continue, in order to intimidate them. The Bharatiya Janata Party's online trolls threaten young female protesters and their parents, forcing them to issue public apologies. Prime Minister Modi personally made a video "forgiving" the youth of India for exercising their legitimate right to express themselves. How absurd it is for a Prime Minister to forgive his own people when they are demanding accountability.

Standing with India's youth

Since Prime Minister Modi is clearly so out of touch, let me warn him – young people across the country have awakened. His image is destroyed and can never be rebuilt. The youth of India will not allow him, Home Minister Shah, or any official to escape the consequences of their actions. We in the Opposition stand with the youth. We will not allow these crimes to pass unpunished.

On July 20, 2026, Sahil and thousands of young people across India demanded accountability from those they elected to office. Sooner or later, they will get that accountability. And we will ensure it.

A new security triangle emerges with the Makkah Pact

Mahesh Sachdev

Retired Indian Ambassador, specialising in the Arab world and oil issues

The Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA), signed on August 7, 2026, by the top leaders of Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Pakistan, is the first regional realignment since the geostrategic tsunami of the United States-Iran war. While the MJDA text has not been revealed, the joint statement issued specifically states that "any armed attack against any one of the three states shall be regarded as an attack against them all".

This echoes infamous Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) – never invoked – leading speculators to claim that the MJDA was a harbinger of a "Muslim NATO". It appears to be part of a jerky Saudi response to specific security challenges, including a Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SMDA) with Pakistan last year and a 14-country Multinational Maritime Defence Alliance (MMDA) in the last week of July.

Shifting alignments, uncertain stakes

Any analysis of the MJDA faces multiple uncertainties, including ongoing regional turbulence, partners' previous karma, and their varied expectations. This hazy context creates a push-pull effect: from anticipation of the MJDA having profound cascading implications to it being a seemingly desultory, inconsequential response to their asymmetric defence and security challenges. Some also see it as inducing counter-polarisation and alarming other stakeholders from Iran and its non-state allies, Israel, Kurds, and Greece to the United Arab Emirates and India. To walk back, the Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister has clarified that it is neither an effort to establish a military axis nor a sectarian bloc. He denied any link to nuclear ambitions or an arms race.

This denial is unlikely to pierce the statement's conspicuous silence about the precise threats that the MJDA is geared to confront, the U.S.-Iran war roiling the region, Israeli aggressiveness, threats from the non-state actors, and the impact of choke point constrictions. It also refrains from either inviting like-minded regional powers to join in or an uplink with the existing collective security architectures provided by the Arab League, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Observers point out that the Arab-Muslim world has remained divided against Israel for close to eight decades. Hence, the prospect of the MJDA being a precursor to a Muslim NATO polarised against Iran and its Arab proxies appears far-fetched at this stage. Moreover, even as all three MJDA signatories are allies of the U.S. (which remains suspiciously silent), it is unclear if it is meant to substitute the regional Pax Americana or to serve as a surrogate for the *ancien régime*. In the same vein, if the proposed Muslim NATO in future decides to confront Israel, the U.S. would have scored its own goal.

Moreover, the MJDA is beset by various snags. The Saudis have bitter memories of the Ottoman rule, which brutally suppressed the Al-Saud. For similar reasons, from Türkiye, Ankara's boots on the ground have been shunned by most post-independence Arab regimes.

> Depending on how different scenarios unfold, the Makkah Joint Defence Agreement (MJDA) could affect India's interests in several ways

Till recently, Türkiye promoted the Sunni outfits such as the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas and motley Syrian militias, many of which are anathema to the Gulf regimes. Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Neo-Ottoman ambitions to lead the Sunni Islamic world collide with the Kingdom's self-image of being the Custodian of Islam's Two Holiest Shrines. Riyadh does not continence playing second fiddle to Turkey or any other Muslim power. President Erdoğan had a testy relationship with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MbS) over the 2018 murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S.-based Saudi journalist, in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul. Turkish leaks on this episode sullied MbS's image, making him a western outlier.

On the other hand, Pakistani troop deployments in Saudi Arabia in the past resulted in frictions due to chain of command disputes, Islamabad's refusal to have its troops shorn of Shias and its reluctance to confront Iran or Yemen. Armed forces in Türkiye and Pakistan have a long-standing tradition of Bonapartism. Saudis have kept armed forces and the National Guard, both with an American-styled set up, out of politics since the Ikhwan militia insurrection (the late 1920s) and the Makkah siege of 1979. Both Türkiye and Pakistan have an active border with Iran – offering a potentially lucrative post-war economic bonanza that they would be loath to forego. Pakistan's enthusiasm for the MJDA is circumscribed by its 900 kilometre-long border with Iran, a large Shia minority, internal security challenges and hostility with India and Afghanistan. In a typical doublespeak, last week, Pakistan began formal discussions on a Free Trade Agreement with Iran, notwithstanding the U.S. sanctions, the MJDA and the SMDA.

Riyadh's security needs

The MJDA is clearly fulcrumed around Saudi security requirements, which Riyadh expects Türkiye and Pakistan to mitigate as part of a "friends with benefits" arrangement. However, the current threats faced by Saudi Arabia are complex and asymmetric, ranging from air attacks on its vital and vulnerable oil and civil infrastructure by Iran and its proxies, the closures of the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandeb and the possible insurrection by the restive Shia minority. It is unclear if Türkiye and Pakistan can meet such challenges, where the U.S. Central Command, with its large, long-standing presence and state-of-the-art equipment, failed. The new allies could perhaps upstage the U.S. in having more boots on the ground in Saudi Arabia, but the Kingdom is unlikely to face a ground invasion. Moreover, relying on foreign forces to address internal security challenges would be bad optics for the Kingdom. The foregoing is not to deride the MJDA as merely a cosmetic exercise. It symbolises the congruence of the three large Sunni powers with considerable complementarity: the Saudi $83 billion defence budget, Türkiye's booming military industrial complex exporting $10 billion annually and Pakistan's 6,60,000-strong armed forces. Their defence and security cross-pollination through military exercises, interoperability of weapon systems and co-production and development of hardware would be beneficial to them all. Additionally, Türkiye and Pakistan could gain political influence in the Kingdom and enrich themselves.

At this stage, the MJDA's future appears uncertain. It may flourish if a low-burn attrition war continues to ripple through the region. Ironically, if an all-out shooting war breaks out, Türkiye and Pakistan may be hesitant to commit forces against Iran, their neighbour. At the other end, if peace prevails, the MJDA would become superfluous. A market share scrimmage among the oil exporters would create a glut, affecting the Saudi capacity to bankroll the MJDA partners.

Having suffered Iranian doggedness and Trumpian tantrums, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arabs are currently experimenting with various security alternatives. The Saudis began the SMDA with Pakistan last year and have felt the need for an MMDA and MJDA. They do not appear to be playing a zero-sum game between semi-reliable Pakistan and India. U.S. President Donald Trump's unreliability was on full display to the Saudis recently in his last-minute Abraham Accords rider to the recent nuclear agreement with the Kingdom. The Saudis may not wish to further complicate their dependence on Uncle Sam by deepening their entanglement with Ankara and Islamabad, both ultimately subject to Washington's dictates.

The implications for India

Depending on various scenarios panning out, the MJDA can impact India's interests in multiple ways. While India needs to keep a steely eye on Pakistan's attempt to align the MJDA partners with it against India, New Delhi should not overreact. As the world's third-largest crude oil importer, India is slated to drive global demand for the next 15 years. India has been the Kingdom's third-largest market and second largest trading partner. Like Saudi Arabia, India has been both a consistent and moderate pro-status quo power amenable to simpler paradigms of economic complementarity.

Riyadh finds ties with India uncluttered by extraneous considerations. India is a geo-strategically safe bet for the turbulent Gulf. Riyadh, facing a huge paradigm shift, is most unlikely to wade into supporting Pakistan's adventurism against India. So, while the MJDA may give Islamabad an adrenaline high, Pakistan's quest to match India's rise through military fluster in West Asia is unlikely to succeed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Approach to delimitation

Neither the votaries of delimitation nor its critics have come up with any convincing arguments or acceptable points. If the purpose of delimitation is to ensure equal population representation in every constituency, it is high time that delimitation is undertaken. But the foremost question is whether this will in any way improve the provision of civic amenities and address other social issues. If the delimitation exercise is merely a ruse and the real objective is to improve electoral prospects, it requires deeper introspection. Unless political parties come clean about their genuine concerns and spell out the pros and cons, this issue will not be resolved to the satisfaction of the people. Data from previous exercises should come in handy to support the case for delimitation, while the resultant increase in the number of people's representatives could act as a deterrent. This critical issue requires deft handling.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

Tariffs as a weapon

The U.S. Senate's overwhelming approval of a Bill threatening 100% tariffs on countries continuing to import Russian oil should concern India deeply. Washington's objective may be to squeeze Russia's war revenues, but using trade as a secondary sanction risks penalising countries pursuing their own energy security. India cannot abruptly replace Russian crude, particularly when supplies through the Strait of Hormuz remain uncertain. At the same time, New Delhi must recognise that continued dependence carries a growing geopolitical cost. India should intensify diplomatic engagement with Washington while diversifying energy sources and markets. Strategic autonomy now requires both economic prudence and diplomatic agility.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Such an exorbitant protectionist measure could engender profound distortions in supply chains, exacerbate inflationary pressures and erode the sanctity of the multilateral trading architecture. India must, therefore, exercise strategic circumspection while safeguarding its economic interests. Diplomatic engagement, market diversification and calibrated reciprocity would be more efficacious than retaliatory brinkmanship. In an interdependent world, protectionism is ultimately inimical to shared prosperity and sustainable economic growth.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

Reviving Chennai's rivers

The Tamil Nadu Budget has highlighted the plan on cleaning up the Adyar and Cooum rivers in Chennai. Successive governments have allocated crores of rupees towards cleaning these rivers. Yet, for decades, none of them has made any serious attempt to even begin the project in a meaningful way. What Chennai needs today, however, is not merely announcements about river restoration, but flood-free neighbourhoods and roads. The TVK government should prioritise completing the pending drainage works and take concrete steps to protect Chennai from flooding during the monsoon season. Restoring the Adyar and Cooum could also spell significant tourism potential for Chennai. Clean and well-maintained riverfronts could add to the city's attractiveness as a tourist destination.

N. Mahadevan,
Chennai

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

Xi Jinping's doctrine for a self-governing party

Manoj Kewalramani

Chairperson, Geostrategy Programme, The Takshashila Institution

The July meeting of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China (CPC) ended with an announcement that the fifth plenary session of the 20th Central Committee will convene in Beijing in October.

The meeting said that the plenum would focus on major issues concerning comprehensive and strict self-governance within the party. This concept has been closely connected with the ruthless anti-corruption and conduct improvement campaign that China's President Xi Jinping has been carrying out ever since he first took charge in 2012.

The plenum's focus on it is indicative of an effort to further deepen Mr. Xi's control over the party ahead of the 21st Party Congress next year, where, in all likelihood, Mr. Xi will seek a fourth term as General Secretary.

The tables appear to have been set for precisely that outcome as there is no serious contender in sight, and much of the machinery that Mr. Xi has built over the past 13 years has been geared, in one way or another, towards ensuring that there is none.

Beyond scale

It is difficult to overstate the scale of Mr. Xi's anti-corruption campaign.

Between 2012 and 2025, some 7.011 million party members were disciplined or dismissed, among them 930 'tigers', or centrally managed senior cadres. The unprecedented reach of all this is underscored by a striking fact: that three members of the 20th Politburo – a body constituted only in October 2022 – have been sacked.

Additionally, alongside the anti-corruption wave, a sweeping campaign has been targeting the persistent issues of formalism, bureaucratism, hedonism and extravagance within the party, which are the four ills that undermine party conduct, according to the central Eight-Point Regulation issued in 2012. By official accounting, roughly 1.5 million people have been caught in this crackdown since 2012. Mr. Xi has left little doubt that neither drive will ease. If anything, the message from Beijing is that the pressure will be sustained, and intensified.

Yet reading the comprehensive and strict party self-governance project through the anti-corruption lens alone misses its ambition.

Mr. Xi's party-building agenda is considerably more broader.

> It is difficult to overstate the scale of Mr. Xi's anti-corruption campaign. Between 2012 and 2025, some 7.011 million party members were disciplined or dismissed

Strengthening the foundation

Earlier this year, Cai Qi, a member of the Politburo Standing Committee and a close confidant of Mr. Xi, formally announced the establishment of 'Xi Jinping Thought on Party Building' – a branch of the wider canon of 'Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era'.

Chinese media commentary and policy discourse have since stressed the depth of its significance, emphasising that this is not merely a set of instructions on discipline, but rather a systematised body of doctrine that distils the laws governing how a long-term ruling Marxist party should build and govern itself.

In practice, this means an ideological and institutional edifice is being constructed to further entrench Mr. Xi's authority, and bind the CPC ever more tightly to his vision. Ideology supplies the frame, organisational control and incentive structures shape who rises, and discipline enforces loyalty. Together, they are the tools with which Mr. Xi is remaking the party in the image of his own reading of China's trajectory and policy goals, the future he believes the country must pursue, and the kind of cadre he believes must carry it there.

This mindset runs through a recent authoritative essay from the party's discipline inspection and supervision apparatus. There are three key takeaways from it, which are indicative of what one can expect in the months and years ahead.

First, there is unabashed praise for Mr. Xi. The essay attributes all the achievements of discipline work in the new era to Mr. Xi's "navigation and helmsmanship" and instructs cadres to mould themselves in Mr. Xi's "selfless and fearless" image. The goal of discipline, in other words, exists in no small part to put the chairman at ease.

Second, the essay repeatedly presses for institutional innovation to make compliance permanent, calling to "lock power in an institutional cage," to turn discipline into "a genuinely electrified high-voltage line," and to build a "digital" inspection system that harnesses big data to detect and pre-empt wrongdoing.

And third, the animating purpose of discipline is not just loyalty to Mr. Xi but also to the cause that he has outlined. So inspectors are called to ensure that "what the Party Central Committee advocates is resolutely responded to, what it decides is resolutely carried out, and what it forbids is resolutely not done", and to "clear obstacles and provide escort" for the goals and tasks of the 15th Five-Year Plan.

Moulding a political class

In essence, the goal of the Xi Jinping Thought on Party Building and comprehensive and strict party self-governance is not simply to punish wrongdoing.

Rather, the aim is to produce a political class that is, by design, composed of believers and adherents. Of course, this is much easier said than done, as evidenced by the fact that the anti-corruption campaign seems to be an endless affair for a leader who has been in power for 13 years.

The solutions he continues to offer are more of the same pursued with greater intensity, and now dressed in the permanence of doctrine and institution.

Mediating Telangana's inter-State issues

The Centre must act decisively to amicably resolve issues between States

STATE OF PLAY

M. Rajeev

The Telangana Government is gearing up to present its views against the unauthorised projects taken up by the neighbouring State of Karnataka across the river Krishna to the Central Government.

The State is focussing on raising the disputes under Section 3 of the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 which allows it to complain to the Union Government in the event of river water disputes arising with neighbouring States. Telangana is firming up plans to furnish its views at the 31st Southern Zonal Council (SZC) meeting scheduled to be held at Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu on August 20.

The Union Government has invited Telangana to attend the SZC meeting, claiming that it provides an excellent forum for deliberating upon and amicably resolving issues of mutual interest between the Centre and the States as well as among the States themselves. According to the agenda approved tentatively by the Union Home Ministry, the State Government will insist on its demand for conferment of national project status to the Kaleshwaram and Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Projects. Interestingly, the agenda of the meeting indicates that the Karnataka Government is also planning to complain to the Centre about the new projects being taken up by Telangana.

The Karnataka Government has maintained that the liberty to use the remaining water in the Krishna river mentioned in the final order of the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II is not devolved upon Telangana and that the State could not take up any permanent construction to utilise the surplus waters.

Given the firm stances adopted by the two neighbouring States, the zonal council meeting is likely to witness heated arguments between the two sides if river water sharing forms part of the final agenda.

Slow progress

The Telangana Government is preparing detailed notes to present a strong case in support of its stand on major projects at the SZC meeting, which will be chaired by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Home Secretary. The planning department of the State has been directed to identify key inter-State and regional issues that require deliberations at the SZC meeting while the other departments have been instructed to prepare a list of pending issues so that inter-State issues can be put on fast track mode.

The departments are accordingly finalising Telangana's agenda; the recommendations to be made at the council; and the State's submissions regarding pending matters that require the Union Home Ministry's approval.

Senior officials are however sceptical about the outcome of the SZC meetings as the resolution of pending issues has been relatively slow. Officials say that the focus of the previous meetings was on resolving the issues connected to the Central Government rather than issues pertaining to individual States. While the issues raised by Telangana in the past have been deliberated in the meetings of the standing committee, they were subsequently dropped.

For instance, the issue over a subsidy from the Centre between Telangana and Andhra Pradesh remains unresolved till date. The subsidy amount, which was due to both the States, was credited to the account of Andhra Pradesh. Telangana has been claiming a refund of its share which was considered positively by the SZC which directed Andhra Pradesh to credit the amount to Telangana. The latter is yet to release the amount along with the applicable interest to Telangana.

A similar conundrum is seen with the division of assets pertaining to institutions not listed anywhere in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. Telangana is firm that only cash balances should be shared between the two States while institutions should be apportioned on a location basis. However, Andhra Pradesh, referring to Section 66 of the Act, is insisting that some of these institutions be included in Schedule IX or X.

It is better for the Union Home Ministry to take a serious view on addressing the issues raised by States so that they will be motivated to raise their issues at the national level rather than prolonging them. The Centre's intervention for the speedy resolution of pending issues will go a long way in helping the States focus on issues which need immediate attention.

rajeev.madabhushi@thehindu.co.in

The cost of unconditional cash transfers

Data show that an overemphasis on cash transfer schemes is bound to eat into investments needed for other public service sectors such as education

DATA POINT

Dipa Sinha
Vijay Ram S.

On August 1, the Delhi Chief Minister launched the Lakshmi Yojana which will provide eligible women with an Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) of ₹2,500 per month, fulfilling one of the ruling party's central promises during the Assembly elections. With this, Delhi joins the list of States/UTs which now have such a UCT scheme for women.

Over the last two years, many studies, including the Economic Survey and the 16th Finance Commission (FC) report have raised concerns over the increasing fiscal burden of such schemes. Recent reports show that in States such as Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, the number of beneficiaries has been reducing in the name of rationalisation. In Delhi, even before the scheme has been rolled out, restrictive criteria such as requiring a recommendation from the local MLA or MP have been included, plausibly to keep the numbers in check. Evaluations of these schemes show that the money received by women is mostly spent on useful expenditures such as food, health and education. The usual barriers to access such as lack of documents, access to banks, and errors in digital records also remain. The question to be asked going forward is whether the finances for these schemes are coming at the cost of other investments in public services such as education and health. **Chart 1** shows the expenditure of these schemes relative to total expenditure and the expenditure of these sectors for some major States.

As a proportion of total State expenditure, expenditure on these UCT schemes range from over 10% in Jharkhand to less than 0.3% in Himachal Pradesh. According to the 16th FC report, almost 44% of State expenditure is tied up in interest payments, pensions and salaries; this indicates that States do not have much space to manoeuvre towards financing new initiatives or investing in necessary infrastructure. The 16th FC also shows that the States' social sector revenue expenditure as a proportion of total revenue expenditure has remained stable since 2011-12. However, as a proportion of GDP they show a declining trend since 2020-21, indicating that there has been no commensurate increase in spending on these sectors with the increase in spending capacity.

In Jharkhand, Karnataka and West Bengal, which happen to have the largest UCT schemes, the spending on UCTs is more than half the entire spending on education **(Chart 2)**. Further, in Jharkhand, Karnataka, West Bengal, and Maharashtra, the spending on these schemes exceeds the entire State spending on health **(Chart 3)**. This shows that household benefits notwithstanding, there is a need for informed discussions on what the long-term implications of such schemes might be.

As these schemes expand, they increase the fiscal burden on States, which is likely to generate pressure on other forms of social sector spending, including existing expenditures towards providing health and education services. Given the resource-constrained position of State governments, this is not an unreasonable apprehension. Over time, the implications of underfunded public services must be considered.

Some scholars have been arguing that such cash transfers are a 'compensation' for the failure of the state to create opportunities for all. The timing of the cash transfers, immediately before elections, has also led many to call them a 'dole'. It could be argued that the recent protests demanding better facilities and greater accountability are an indication that people are no longer satisfied with only 'compensation' and demand a fair share in resources.

Burden or benefit?

Data were sourced from the Reserve Bank of India. Dipa Sinha and Vijay Ram S are affiliated with the Centre for the Study of the Indian Economy, Azim Premji University. Views expressed are personal

Cost of welfare: Women receive the Pongal gift items, along with ₹1,000 provided by the Tamil Nadu government in Madurai in January 2023

Chart 1: Expenditure of UCT schemes as a share of total expenditure for select States (in %)

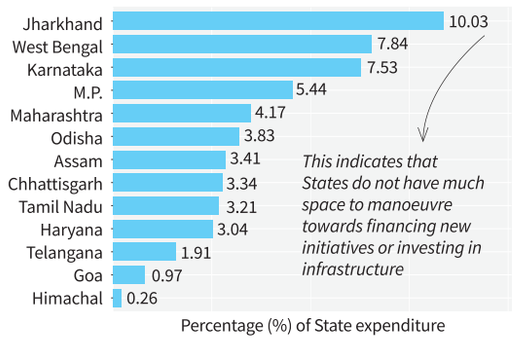


Chart 2: Expenditure on UCTs as a % of State expenditure on education for select States

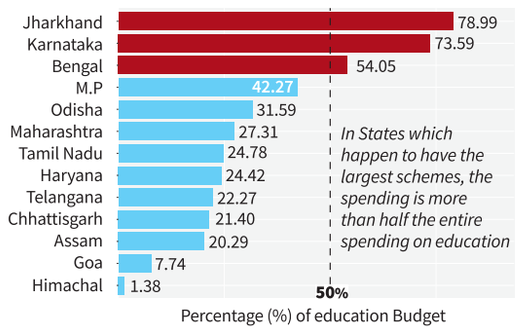


Table1: A State-wise list of unconditional cash transfer (UCT) schemes, which have increased since 2023

State	Scheme name	Monthly amount (₹)	Year of introduction
Goa	Griha Aadhar Scheme	₹1,500	2016 (renewed in 2023)
Sikkim	Sikkim Aama Sashaktikaran Yojana	₹40,000 (per year)	2022 (expanded in 2023)
Karnataka	Gruha Lakshmi Scheme	₹2,000	2023
M.P.	Ladli Behna Yojana	₹1,500	2023
T.N.	Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai	₹1,000	2023
Telangana	Mahalakshmi Scheme	₹2,500	2023
Maharashtra	Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana	₹1,500	2024
Jharkhand	Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana	₹ 2,500	2024
Odisha	Subhadra Yojana	₹10,000 (per year)	2024
Chhattisgarh	Mahtari Vandan Yojana	₹1,000	2024
Assam	Orunodoi 3.0	₹1,250	2024
Himachal	Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi	₹1,500	2024
Haryana	Lado Lakshmi Yojana	₹2,100	2025
Kerala	Sthree Suraksha Scheme	₹1,000	2026
Punjab	Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojna	₹1,000 - 1,500	2026
Delhi	Lakshmi Yojana	₹2,500	2026 (replacing earlier scheme)
West Bengal	Annapurna Bhandar	₹3,000	2026 (replacing Lakshmir Bhandar [2021])

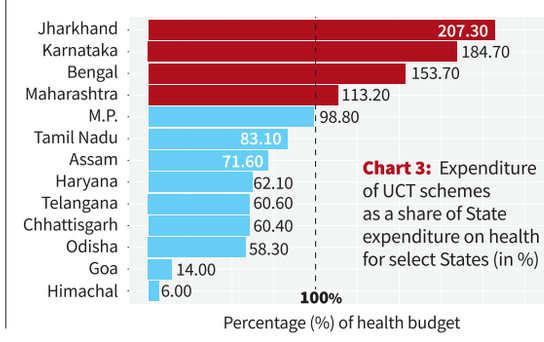


Chart 3: Expenditure of UCT schemes as a share of State expenditure on health for select States (in %)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 10, 1976

12 gunny bags of watches seized

Bombay, August 9: The Bombay Customs to-day made a big haul of watches seizing 12 gunny bag loads of it from the rocky terrain adjoining the light house at Khar-Danda near the northern suburb of Bandra.

The watches, both ladies and gents, were neatly packed in lots of 1,200 or 500 depending on their sizes in water-proof cellophane bags which were hidden in the gunny bags found ashore by the Marine and Preventive section of the Customs Collectorate.

Announcing this at a news conference, Mr. M.L. Wadhawan, Collector of Customs (Preventive), said the bags contained as many as 13,500 pieces, totally valued "at a little over Rs. 10 lakhs."

Mr. Wadhawan described it as "the biggest of the season" since July is a lean month for contraband because smuggling by sea during monsoon is rendered difficult by gusty winds and high waves. It would be very risky for the dhows to make the trip from West Asia to Bombay shores, it was stated.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 10, 1926

The Cauvery floods

Trichinolpoly, August 10: There has been a very slight rise in the Cauvery since yesterday. The reading at the Upper Anicut which was 10.9 at nine this morning rose to 10.97, at eleven and at Trichinopoly bridge, it is now eleven feet. The overflow at Konakarai still continues and this is due to a small breach near the toll-gate where the water from the river rushes into the Konakarai area. Practically the whole road for about half a furlong from the Church of the St. Joseph's College to the Fort railway station including the station compound is still under water, the volume having increased since yesterday in this and other places.

The railway District Engineer and his staff are sanding up either side of the line between the distant and home signals of the Fort railway station where water is nearer the line than at other places. The fierce wind and drizzling which still continue are believed to be the forerunners of more freshes, but the report received from Dhanagiri in Mysore shows that water is to-day 30.5 feet as against 30.7 feet yesterday with a tendency to fall.

From Page One

Jharkhand cancels 3 exams as stir continues

Responding to the demand over Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission-Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) examination, the government said a committee will be formed under a retired judge for a judicial probe and the CID will investigate the criminal angle. It has not yet agreed to cancel exams conducted by the TDPL.

Piyush Kumar, a student delegation member, said that the resolution was "unacceptable". "We first want the cancellation of the exam and then the investigation," he said.

The four-member committee of State Ministers informed the protesting groups that a fast-track court will be established for the speedy disposal of cases on the alleged exam irregularities. The court will file a charge-sheet within 90 days, Minister Kumar said. "A panel will also be formed with experts drawn from IIT-ISM Dhanbad, IIM Ranchi and XLRI Jamshedpur to suggest examination reforms," he said.

But Chandan Kumar, another delegation member from Jharkhand Loktantrik Krantikari Morcha said that there is "no clarity over the timeline."

Houthis hit Saudi oil facility, kill 11 in Yemen

Earlier, the Houthi military spokesperson said the group had struck an oil facility on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast after the Gulf kingdom's Energy Ministry said it had extinguished a fire at the Jazan site.

The Saudi Arabian Ministry said relevant authorities were completing procedures to deal with the incident at the attacked site, which processes 4,00,000 barrels of crude oil per day in southwestern Saudi Arabia. No injuries were reported, it added.

Mr. Saree said that the attack on the facility operated by Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil firm Aramco was launched in response to incursions by drones from the Gulf monarchy into northwest Yemen. The group had struck Aramco sites before in Jazan and Yanbu on the Red Sea.

J&K group flags 'terror threat' against Pandits

"The communication represented a serious escalation because it went beyond generic threats and appeared to identify individuals as potential targets while claiming access to information about their families, locations and places of work," said Agnishekhar, convener of Panun Kashmir.

Mr. Agnishekhar demanded an investigation into the authenticity of the claims made in the letter. He also urged J&K Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha "to immediately direct the police and security agencies to undertake a comprehensive threat assessment of all persons named in the communication and their immediate families".

The Pandit organisation also sought appropriate security measures for the individuals identified in the communication and a review of the security of Kashmiri Pandit employees working in sensitive government departments.

Referring to the letter, Mr. Agnishekhar said it needed to be established whether the perpetrators actually possessed such information or were "attempting psychological warfare". "The authorities must investigate the source of the information, the digital trail behind the communication and whether any surveillance, profiling or reconnaissance of the targeted persons has taken place," he added.

A sense of fear returned to Kashmir after terrorists killed one policeman and two non-local labourers in south Kashmir in the past 20 days in two separate targeted killings.

Ladakh to lead India's first caste census

"The broad contours have been conveyed to us. This time the questions are descriptive and will also include caste. The caste column will be open-ended, and enumerators will record the name of the caste as provided by the respondent," said the official.

The official added that since the Census envisages counting all structures and buildings, enumerators are being told to exercise caution and record defence structures along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as "special charges" on paper schedules.

The open-column methodology had resulted in the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) returning over 46 lakh different "caste names", largely owing to the differences in what people understand by caste.

On August 3, the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India notified in the gazette of India that "the conduct of Census of the population shall be undertaken in the Union territory of Ladakh and the snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the snow-bound non-synchronous areas of the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, from 1st September, 2026 to 30th September, 2026 with a revisional round from 1 October, 2026 to 5th October, 2026".

An option for self-enumeration will be available from August 17 to 31, the notification said.

Will safeguard future of students: Jharkhand CM

Hemant Soren urges protesters not to be misled by political parties, says the State government would ensure 'strict action' and 'justice' over alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Sunday assured students protesting in Ranchi that the State government was fully committed to safeguarding their rights and future.

It was the government's responsibility to ensure justice for the youth protesting against alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations, Mr. Soren said.

Hundreds of students have been protesting at the Jaipal Singh Munda Stadium in the State capital for the past 16 days against alleged irregularities in competitive exams for government jobs in the State, including in the Jharkhand Public Service Commission Combined Civil Services Examination, and the Jharkhand General Graduate Level Combined Competitive Examination.

Hemant Soren addresses the public gathering during Jharkhand Adivasi Mahotsav in Ranchi on Sunday. ANI

While addressing the Jharkhand Adivasi *Mahotsav* in Ranchi, Mr. Soren said the strictest action would be taken against those held responsible for the irregularities, and the individuals involved had already been identified.

"I want to send a clear and open message to all students, a message I always convey – that we operate a vast system, and our intentions regarding the people of this State have always been deeply sensitive," Mr. Soren said.

"Whether they are residents of villages or small towns, farmers, labourers, women, educated youth, or those with little to no formal education, we are concerned about the well-being of everyone. Regarding the issue for which our youth are currently agitating and protesting, the government is indeed listening to their grievances," Mr. Soren said.

'No politics needed'

"Have faith, we were born of this soil and will be laid to rest in this very soil. No one needs to see this protest from a political lens. You are students, you have rights, and it is the government's responsibility to ensure you receive those rights and secure justice – a responsibility that will be fulfilled," Mr. Soren said.

"Many are focusing on the youth. Political parties are actively working on a large scale to mislead them by contaminating the truth with falsehoods," he said.

State ready for dialogue

He emphasised that every problem could be resolved through dialogue and not through the use of batons and bullets. "Forces such as batons and bullets are meant for enemies at the borders, resorting to such measures does not solve problems," Mr. Soren said.

"Your problems are our problems. I assure you completely that justice will be served, and it will be done transparently," Mr. Soren said.

Bengal CM orders fresh investigation into R.G. Kar case

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Sunday announced a fresh probe into the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on August 9, 2024.

"Ratna Debnath (mother of the victim and now BJP MLA from Panihati) had written to me, requesting a fresh investigation. After extensive discussions with the Chief Secretary and a team of experts, I am announcing a fresh investigation under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952," the Chief Minister said, speaking at an event at Panihati.

Different angles

The Chief Minister directed the Commissioner of Police, Barrackpore, to investigate how the body of the victim was cremated without the family's approval.

Former Trinamool Congress MLA Nirmal Ghosh and other Trinamool leaders have been accused of hurriedly cremating the body.

Suvendu Adhikari

He said the Central agencies are already looking into different angles of the case, including the rape and murder, financial irregularities, and the attack on the hospital.

Mr. Adhikari also raised questions on why the Supreme Court took up the R.G. Kar case *suo motu*.

"It is beyond my understanding and the understanding of Ratna Debnath why the Supreme Court took up investigation in the case," he said.

Govt. job a way past barriers for Adivasi youth

Suruchi Kumari
RANCHI

For 26-year-old Sarita Munda, the struggle to get a government job has stretched across years, exam cycles and disappointments.

She came to Ranchi from a village near Latehar with a familiar plan among young Adivasi youth in many parts of Jharkhand: study, prepare for the State recruitment examinations, find a government job and build a life that guarantees a place in the system that governs them, visibility and a source of income other than agricultural work or daily wage labour.

But preparation costs money. Ms. Sarita has been doing domestic work in Ranchi to support herself while studying. Her brother and sister have also spent years preparing for the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC) and Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission (JSSC) examinations.

She appeared for an examination in 2024, only to see it cancelled. The following year brought another round of uncertainty and allegations of irregularities. Now, in 2026, she finds herself once again in the middle of a student movement demanding that the recruitment process be made credible.

For her, the dispute is not simply about an examination. It is about whether the years spent preparing for it will lead anywhere.

'Core Adivasi issue'

For many, JPSC and JSSC represent perhaps the clearest route to secure employment in a State where the private sector offers limited opportunities, particularly for young people from rural and Adivasi communities.

According to the 2011 Census, Scheduled Tribes account for roughly 26% of Jharkhand's population. The Census also maintains separate data on the educational levels of Scheduled Tribe communities in the State.

According to the 2011 Census, Scheduled Tribes account for roughly 26% of Jharkhand's population. ANI

For Adivasi youth, government job means being the first person in a family to enter the formal system that makes decisions about the community that remains on the margins.

That is why Akriti Lakra believes the current agitation cannot be separated from the Adivasi question. Ms. Lakra, who is from a village near Namkum, has been attending the protest and joined the Adivasi Bachao Yuva Manch's programme around International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on Sunday.

She questioned the absence of an Adivasi voice from much of the visible leadership of the agitation, arguing that education has always been at the heart of the Adivasi struggle after *jal, jungle, zameen* (water, forests, land.)

Students from Adivasi communities, she said, have been part of the protest from its beginning, even while leaving behind agricultural work during monsoon.

That dependence is visible in the stories of aspirants who have spent years preparing. There is the cost of books, coaching, rent, food, travel and examination fees. There is also the opportunity cost: years that could otherwise have been spent pursuing another career.

Every delay, therefore, carries a different meaning for a student who has already spent several years preparing. "By the time another opportunity arrives, private-sector employment may no longer be an easy alternative," said Nishi Kumar, 39, who has lost years to unsuccessful conduct of exams.

ED Director Rahul Navin gets one-year extension

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has extended the tenure of Enforcement Directorate Director Rahul Navin by a year, a government order said.

Mr. Navin's tenure as the ED chief has been extended by one year beyond August 13, 2026, "including extension in service beyond the date of his superannuation i.e. July 31, 2027, or until further orders, whichever is earlier", the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet said.

The 1993-batch IRS (Income Tax) official had joined the agency as a Special Director in November 2019. He was given the additional charge as ED Director in September 2023. In August 2024, he became full-time chief.

Protests over, but students in Delhi allege continued police harassment

Lavpreet Kaur
NEW DELHI

For Gurkirat, a former Delhi University student now pursuing a Master's in Sociology at Panjab University, Chandigarh, fear is no longer confined to what might happen to her. She worries about what the police might do to her parents.

Ms. Gurkirat, former president of the Bhagat Singh Chhatra Ekta Manch, alleged that Delhi Police personnel have been visiting her parents' home at Shivaji Enclave in the city every seven to 10 days for several months, asking about her whereabouts and serving notices in connection with old cases, including defamation cases.

According to her, the personnel have told her parents, "If you can't control your daughter, then we will do it in our way".

On August 6, 2026, when Ms. Gurkirat was visiting her parents in Delhi, she was arrested in connection with a case pertaining to the February 2026 protests over the University Grants Commission's Equity Regulations at Delhi University, and granted bail on the same day. Police personnel subsequently told her, she alleged, that while she had secured bail in one case, "the next will be a big Maoist case".

A student claims they were held for three days and subjected to continuous harassment and intimidation. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Pattern of surveillance

Students told *The Hindu* that police scrutiny has continued long after the demonstrations ended, describing a sustained pattern of harassment, surveillance, intimidation, and political labelling. Students from different parts of the country said personnel have visited and contacted their families in Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Bengaluru.

Ilakkiya, 24, who completed her Master's in Psychology and is preparing for a Ph.D. in Delhi, alleged that the police reached her family in a remote village in Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

"Men claiming to be from the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the police visited my parents twice. They told them that I was an 'urban Naxalite'. My father is a small-scale farmer and does not understand English or Hindi and was intimidated by the warnings and terminology," Ms. Ilakkiya said.

She was among the students picked up by the Delhi Police in March 2026 while preparing for a permitted programme of the Bhagat Singh Chhatra Ekta Manch, a part of the Forum Against Corporatisation and Militarisation, which was planning a public convention at Ambedkar Bhavan on March 31, Bhagat Singh's martyrdom day.

According to her, men in civilian clothes took the students to an unknown location, where they were kept for three days and subjected to "continuous harassment and intimidation". They were released after *habeas corpus* proceedings were initiated before the Delhi High Court. *The Hindu* reached out to the Delhi Police but did not receive a response at the time of writing this report.

Students' body slams JNU for cancelling event on Khalid book

Jaideep Deo Bhanj
NEW DELHI

The Jawaharlal Nehu University Students' Union (JNUSU) on Sunday hit out at the JNU administration for cancelling a discussion on the book *Fractured Communities: Adivasi Histories and the Politics of Power*, written by former student Umar Khalid, scheduled to be held at the SSS-1 auditorium on August 10.

The JNUSU in a statement said discussing a book was a fundamental part of academic culture and democratic engagement on any university campus.

"By cancelling the venue for this event, the JNU administration has once again exposed its anti-student and anti-intellectual agenda, one that seeks to suppress critical thought and silence dissenting voices rather than foster the free exchange of ideas that a university is meant to protect," the JNUSU said.

Umar Khalid

The administration, in response, said the JNU was a democratic and decentralised institution and that permission for the event was given by the Dean, School of Social Sciences.

"The booking of the auditorium SSS-1 stands cancelled because of non-disclosure of the full facts about the programme," the university said.

The JNUSU said cancelling a room did not cancel a conversation and that the programme would take place outside the venue.

The RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad claimed responsibility for the cancellation of the programme.

Mayawati opposes 'creamy layer' for SCs, STs

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Sunday opposed the "creamy layer" concept in reservation for the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), arguing that affirmative action was linked to their social transformation, economic emancipation and self-respect. She criticised the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) for politicising the issue.

"For the SC and ST sections, who have been divided, oppressed and marginalised for centuries, it [reservation] becomes a crucial issue, especially when caste-based hatred, exploitation, torture, injustice and atrocities show no signs of abating," wrote Ms. Mayawati on X. She added that creamy layer for SCs and STs was "against the objectives" laid down by the Constitution.

Ms. Mayawati questioned RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat over his remarks that reservation had been politicised, creating bitterness in society, and that beneficiaries should voluntarily give up the benefits. She described the RSS's position as a reflection of a "casteist mindset".

Will strongly oppose FCRA Bill in Parliament: Congress

The party warns govt. against repeating events of December 2023, when key laws were passed after suspending 146 Opposition MPs; it asks INDIA bloc MPs to be present from August 10 to 12

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday said it would strongly oppose the proposed Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill in Parliament, warning the government against repeating the events of December 2023 when several key laws were passed after 146 Opposition MPs were suspended during the Winter Session.

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal said the government should not assume that it could introduce and pass the FCRA Bill in the remaining days of the Monsoon Session without resistance.

"If the Central government thinks they can cook up and introduce the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill within these two or three days, they should keep that wish to themselves," he said, addressing presspersons in Alappuzha.

The Congress's warning came alongside a reminder by party general secretary Jairam Ramesh that the government had used the absence of a large part of the Opposition to push through major legislation in 2023. "History should not repeat itself," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X, recalling that 146 MPs – 100 in the Lok Sabha and 46 in the Rajya Sabha – were suspended between December 14 and 21, 2023.

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Monsoon Session of Parliament, in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

With minimal Opposition presence, the Parliament subsequently passed the three new criminal law Bills, replacing the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act. The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill was also passed.

Mr. Venugopal alleged that the proposed FCRA changes were aimed at minorities and NGOs and said the Opposition would not allow the Bill to be passed.

He also questioned the alleged foreign funding received by organisations associated with the RSS. "If you have the courage, try controlling the RSS," he said, alleging that organisations operating lawfully under the FCRA would instead be targeted.

The Alappuzha MP accused Home Minister Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of avoiding Parliament for fear of facing questions. "If students in India are asking the crucial question of who ordered the use of pellet guns, lathi charges and tear gas shells against them, Amit Shah should come forward and answer it," Mr. Venugopal said.

On delimitation

On the proposed delimitation legislation, Mr. Venugopal said it would penalise States that had successfully implemented population control measures, particularly in southern India and parts of the Northeast. "This Bill effectively chokes States that have successfully implemented population control," he said.

The Congress has issued a three-line whip to its MPs in both Houses to remain present from August 10 to 12, when the final week of the session is expected to see consideration of the FCRA Bill and the possibility of a Constitution amendment Bill on delimitation.

The party has also urged its INDIA bloc allies to ensure the presence of their MPs in Parliament.

Mizoram Chief Minister, Christian bodies appeal to Shah to roll back FCRA Bill

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Chief Minister of Mizoram, Lalduhoma, and several Christian institutions on Sunday took to social media to appeal to the Centre and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to roll back the Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and send the legislation to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) for further consultation.

The government is likely to consider the appeal despite an earlier plan to discuss the passage of the Bill in the Lok Sabha on August 12, 2026, sources said. The Monsoon Session of Parliament concludes August 13.

Among the organisations which made synchronous appeals on You Tube, Facebook and Whatsapp are the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI), the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI), and the Council of Churches in Mizoram. Since July 5, the Christian groups, Mr. Laduhoma and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, have held at least four meetings with Union Home Minister Amit Shah to express their

Lalduhoma

objection and concerns against the provisions of the Bill, which they say is against the minorities, and the Christian community in particular.

Mr. Lalduhoma said on Facebook that he met Mr. Shah on August 6 along with members representing all Christian denominations in New Delhi and placed their concerns regarding the Bill.

"In the spirit of democratic consultation, we respectfully appeal to the Union government to refer the Bill to a JPC. This would provide an opportunity for concerns and suggestions from different parts of the country and across stakeholders to be carefully examined and considered before the legislation is finalised," Mr. Lalduhoma said. He hoped that the Union government will give due consideration to the request in the larger interest of inclusive, transparent and consultative policymaking.

The CBCI, the apex body of the Catholic church in India also made a similar appeal. Mr. Shah on July 10 assured the CBCI that the Bill is not against the Christian NGOs, which receive a little under 15% of the total foreign donations.

"As long-standing partners in nation-building through education, healthcare, and humanitarian service, we respectfully appeal to the Government of India to reconsider and roll back the FCRA Bill 2026. While we fully support transparency and national security, certain provisions present significant operational challenges for genuine, charitable organisations. We humbly request that the Bill be referred to a JPC to facilitate structured dialogue with civil society and faith-based leaders, ensuring we can work together toward balanced solutions that protect both regulatory integrity and essential community service," Jonathan Lalremruata, adviser to the CBCI, told *The Hindu*.

BJP MP lists Bill on restriction of social media for children

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Amid the debate over whether to impose a social media ban on children under 13 or 16, a private members' Bill listed in the Lok Sabha by BJP MP Baijayant Panda offers a glimpse of what such a measure could look like in legislative form. The Bill also comes amid the Union government's stand-off with Meta.

Baijayant Panda

The Safeguarding Healthy Internet Environments for Little Digital-Natives (Shield) Bill, 2025 was listed on Friday but could not be tabled as the House was adjourned early.

It is "now well established by multiple studies that many social media algorithms are not only designed to foster addiction but also to embellish and reinforce narrow and extreme viewpoints, rather than shed light on all angles of any issue," Mr. Panda told *The Hindu*.

It was "particularly harmful for young teenagers and children", Mr. Panda said. Many social media platforms had acknowledged these conclusions, and consequently, several countries had started imposing restrictions on social media access to minors, especially those under the ages of 16 or 13, with the Centre also seized of the issue. "I had drafted a private member's Bill for this purpose a year ago, after wide consultations with all stakeholders," he said.

"Opposition parties need to reflect and rethink their blanket disruption of Parliament even on issues such as this, where there is no dispute with the Treasury Benches," the BJP legislator said.

Parental consent

The Bill specifically states that no child under 13 years of age shall create an account on any social media or online gaming platform without verified parental consent, and that every intermediary shall provide parental control dashboards enabling guardians to monitor activity, manage privacy settings, and restrict screen time.

Any harmful content reported by an individual, guardian or parent shall, subject to verification by the intermediary, be removed or disabled within 36 hours of receipt, or 24 hours if it involves child sexual material. Every application shall have a reporting button titled "Report Child Harm" accessible to all users.

Any intermediary who fails to comply with the Act shall be liable to a penalty of up to ₹10 crore, and wilful or repeated violations will lead to suspension of the intermediary's services or blocking under the provisions of Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

Officers designated by intermediaries who fail to observe due diligence in matters, specifically child safety or content removal obligations, will be personally liable and could face imprisonment for up to three years, a fine of ₹10 lakh, or both.

An annual child safety and risk assessment process, identifying exposure risks related to content algorithms and interactions on a service, has to be carried out and submitted to the government. Information collected about users via the verification requirement cannot be used for behavioural profiling, the Bill says.

Mamata faces protests during visit to house of deceased party worker

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday visited the residence of a Trinamool Congress worker who was found dead in police custody at Halisahar in North 24 Parganas.

Ms. Banerjee faced protests from local people who raised slogans against her and attacked the vehicle in which she was travelling. The Trinamool chairperson stated that bricks were thrown at her vehicle by BJP supporters and blamed the police for the attack. Ms. Banerjee was accompanied by Trinamool MPs Kalyan Banerjee and Dola Sen.

Birju Keot, husband of former Trinamool councillor Jenny Sharma Keot,

Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee speaks to the media following the attack on her vehicle on Sunday. ANI

was arrested by Halisahar police on Friday on allegations including extortion and corruption. He was presented before a Barrackpore sub-divisional court, which remanded him in police custody for five days. On Saturday, Birju Keot was taken to a State-run hospital from the police lock-up, where he was pronounced dead.

"I condemn this. Even after a custodial death, they are threatening the family of the deceased," Ms. Banerjee said, adding that instead of providing security to her, the police allowed "lumpen from outside" to attack her vehicle.

The former Chief Minister stated that her party would move court over the custodial death.

'Informed police'

The former Chief Minister claimed that she had informed the police about the visit to the deceased Trinamool Congress worker's residence.

"This is nothing but a conspiracy. I had informed the police that I would be coming, but despite that, no security measures had been taken. My car has been attacked with stones, shoes and mud," Ms. Banerjee told presspersons.

She said her head could have been smashed. "I could have died here," she said. Lok Sabha MP Kalyan Banerjee who was accompanying her said the attack was a plan to kill her.

Shah must answer for action against students, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Sunday mounted a sharp attack on Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the alleged use of batons and pellet guns by the security forces against students protesting at Delhi's Jantar Mantar on July 20.

He said Mr. Shah would "sooner or later" have to answer for the "crime".

In a post on *X*, Mr. Gandhi referred to a student he met at his '*Chhatron Ki Goonj*' programme in Prayagraj on Saturday who, he claimed, told him that he had "no options left".

The student had spent years preparing for examinations, sold family land and left his parents burdened with debt, Mr. Gandhi said. "This is not his failure, it is the failure of a system that refused to reward his hard work," he said.

The Opposition leader said several days had passed since the students called off their agitation over paper leaks, but Mr. Shah had not spoken about the police action against them. "Batons and pellets were used against young people on the streets of the capital – and you did not utter a single word. Sooner or later, you will have to answer for this crime," Mr. Gandhi said.

The issue has also disrupted the Parliament, with the Opposition insisting that Mr. Shah make a statement in both the Houses on the police action.

Rahul Gandhi

'Disruption of event'

Speaking to presspersons in Alappuzha, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal also targeted Mr. Shah and defended Mr. Gandhi's student outreach in Prayagraj. He alleged that the BJP government attempted to disrupt the event.

"Yogi Adityanath and Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried their best to disrupt that event in Allahabad. They even spread human waste along the path leading to the venue," Mr. Venugopal said. He said the venue was initially denied after pressure was allegedly exerted on the college management, but permission was eventually granted.

"But what was the scene witnessed there yesterday, in Allahabad? Those were not typical Congress workers, Youth Congress, or NSUI members. That was India's real Gen Z," he said.

Biju Janata Dal sees opportunity to regain political ground in Odisha

NEWS ANALYSIS

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as Union Education Minister, following protests led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) last month, appears to have had implications for the political landscape in Odisha, with the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), one of the country's strongest regional parties, viewing it as a potential opportunity to regain political ground.

The party's renewed confidence appears to stem from ground-level conversations that are critical of the pace of development under the BJP government, which is now past its "honeymoon period" in office. The Mohan Charan Majhi government is also yet to clearly articu-

Naveen Patnaik

late a narrative around its governance model.

After the setback in the 2024 Assembly election, the regional party has ceded ground to the BJP, losing three Rajya Sabha MPs, while its strength in the Odisha Legislative Assembly has dropped from 51 to 42, following the defection of eight MLAs.

Despite shifts in political dynamics across rural and urban local bodies over the past two years due to defections, political observers note that the scale of disintegration within the BJD remains contained.

"We were never in doubt about our ability to bounce back as a strong regional force. We knew the new BJP government would eventually struggle under the weight of public expectations. It clearly lacks the capability to sustain the pace of development Odisha witnessed under Naveen Patnaik," Debi Prasad Mishra, senior vice-president of the BJD, said.

Mr. Mishra further argued that the State's economy has "lost direction". "When we left office, Odisha ranked among the States with fiscal surpluses. Within just a couple of years, borrowing has surged, while progress on major projects has been negligible," he said.

The deteriorating law and order situation, particularly crimes against women and instances of mob violence, has also dented the government's image.

A key positive for the BJD has been the renewed energy of party supremo Mr. Patnaik. Of late, Mr. Patnaik has taken an unambiguous political stance, clearly distancing himself from the BJP. He demanded the resignation of Mr. Pradhan in the wake of the NEET controversy and also came down heavily on the BJP over the change of the colour of the Indian Hockey team's jersey to saffron. The former Chief Minister has announced that the party will fight the next election under his leadership.

Above all, the party has kept itself afloat by regularly presenting its views on important issues in the media, organising public agitations and strengthening its connection with cadres.

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2026_KMML_864611_1	Supply of Electric Hoists
2	2026_KMML_864480_1	Supply and application of Acid Resistant Tiles at ARP
3	2026_KMML_864235_1	Supply and Fixing Aluminium partition above sill level at west side of first floor of ARP DCS building
4	2026_KMML_864682_1	Supply of Crucible Assembly for Ladle Furnace
5	2026_KMML_864826_1	Supply of 1536 MT of Sodium Silicate

Chavara 07.08.2026 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

INBRIEF

Trainer aircraft veers off runway at Baramati airfield

A Cessna C172 trainer aircraft with two people onboard suffered damage after veering off the runway at the Baramati airfield on Sunday afternoon. There were no injuries or fatalities, according to the Civil Aviation Ministry. The air safety team from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is travelling to the site in Maharashtra to conduct a preliminary investigation, the Ministry said. The runway excursion incident occurred at 12.25 p.m. The Cessna, VT-SEX, was operated by Carver Aviation's flying academy. On January 28, a chartered plane carrying Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others crashed near Baramati airfield, killing all five onboard. PTI

Six of Gujarat family killed as truck hits van in M.P.

Six people belonging to a family from Gujarat were killed and one injured in Madhya Pradesh's Dhar district on Sunday after a speeding container truck collided with a van they were travelling in, the police said. Dhar shares a border with Gujarat. The incident took place on the Ujjain-Badnawar road when a truck coming from the wrong side crashed with the van head-on, killing six out of seven passengers on the spot, according to the police. The driver of the truck has been taken into custody for allegedly driving at high speed and in a rash manner, Dhar SP Sachin Sharma told *The Hindu*. One passenger is currently in hospital in a critical condition, Additional SP Vijay Dawar said.

Two-thirds of nursing staff not listed in national registry: data

Only 14.24 lakh of the country's 46.02 lakh registered nursing personnel are enrolled on Nurses Registration and Tracking System, or NRTS, resulting in delays in accessing many basic services

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

More than two-thirds of India's registered nursing workforce are yet to be brought under the Nurses Registration and Tracking System (NRTS), despite the digital platform having been introduced over seven years ago to create a national registry and streamline registration-related services.

Government data tabled in the Lok Sabha last month show that only 14.24 lakh of the country's 46.02 lakh registered nursing personnel – comprising Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives (RN & RM), and Lady Health Visitors (LHVs) – have been enrolled on the platform, leaving 31.78 lakh outside the national system.

The incomplete rollout has left many nurses waiting months for No Objection Certificates (NOCs) required to change their place of employment, while others seeking overseas employment have encountered delays in credential verification, affecting their career opportunities and livelihoods.

The State-wise figures point to stark disparities in implementation. Karnataka, which has more than 5.58 lakh registered nursing personnel, has enrolled only around 82,000 on the NRTS. Tamil Nadu, with over 4.76 lakh registered nurses and midwives, has enrolled just 57,000, while Andhra Pradesh has brought only 92,000 of its 4.52 lakh registered personnel onto the platform. Kerala has enrolled about 1.5 lakh of its 4.2 lakh registered personnel. The rollout, however, has been relatively successful in a few States. Bihar has enrolled 62,020 of its 62,591 registered nursing personnel on the NRTS, making it one of the best-performing States. Jharkhand has brought 24,640 or around 90% of its 27,160 registered personnel under the system.

Incomplete registration

State-wise figures point to stark disparities in implementation of the NRTS. A look at the States ranked at the top and bottom

State	Total personnel	Enrolled on NRTS	Yet to be enrolled	Coverage
Bihar	62,591	62,020	571	**99.1%**
Jharkhand	27,160	24,640	2,520	**90.7%**
Odisha	98,194	78,244	19,950	**79.7%**
Nagaland*	6,808	1,024	5,784	**15.0%**
Karnataka*	5,58,851	82,194	4,76,657	**14.7%**
Tamil Nadu*	4,76,264	57,084	4,19,180	**12.0%**

**bottom-ranked States (data tabled in Lok Sabha last month)*

MP's letter

Congress MP Anto Antony recently urged Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda to complete the enrolment of all registered nurses and issue National Unique Identity (NUID) cards within six months.

In a recent letter to the Health Minister on July 30, the MP said the incomplete implementation of the NRTS had caused considerable hardship to nurses, particularly those seeking NOCs, inter-State registration and verification of credentials for overseas employment.

The NRTS was launched by the Indian Nursing Council (INC) in association with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to maintain a live national register of nursing personnel and provide a common online platform for primary registration, renewal, reciprocal registration, higher qualification registration and other services.

Meanwhile, nursing organisations argue that the uneven implementation has undermined the very purpose of creating a centralised digital registry. The Indian Professional Nurses Association (IPNA) contends that several State Nursing Registration Councils continue to process registration, renewal and reciprocal registration through their own systems, resulting in delays and duplication.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Siju Thomas, Joint Secretary of the IPNA, called the NRTS "the hope of nurses across the country" and alleged that its failure was the result of "mismanagement and lack of accountability" on the part of the INC.

Centre says report on theatre commands under consideration

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The long-pending plan to operationalise theatre commands for the Indian military has entered a decisive phase, with the final report on the proposed restructuring of the armed forces now under consideration by the government, according to the latest report of the Standing Committee on Defence submitted in Parliament.

The development assumes significance as the theatrisation exercise moves into a crucial phase following the appointment of General N.S. Raja Subramani as Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) after General Anil Chauhan demitted office at the end of May.

"The final report for operationalisation of theatre commands is under consideration and further deliberations are ongoing," the Defence Ministry told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence.

The committee has classified theatre command operationalisation as the only recommendation among the 34 recommendations in the report for which a final government reply is still awaited.

The committee noted that the Joint Staff had taken the theatrisation process to an "advanced stage". A dedicated team comprising officers from the Army, Navy and the Air Force has been constituted under the Chief of Integrated Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), to fast-track the exercise.

Holding consultations

The committee report further reads that the three Joint Staff officers are studying global military organisations and holding consultations among the three Services to streamline the reorganisation.

Under the proposed architecture, HQ Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) will continue to coordinate operational issues involving the theatres with the three Service headquarters during the transition and thereafter. Operational coordination between theatres, as well as between theatres and the individual Services, is envisaged to be handled through a Joint Operations Staff under the structures finally approved, it reads.

The theatrisation exercise is aimed at creating a more integrated war-fighting structure by bringing the capabilities of the three Services under unified operational command structures.

ED registers plaints against Anil Ambani Group firms

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Sunday said it has filed a prosecution complaint against Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra) Limited and others in an alleged money-laundering case and a supplementary complaint in a case involving the alleged diversion of funds by Reliance Communications (RCom) Limited.

In the RInfra case, the agency named former Reliance Anil Ambani Group executive Sateesh Seth, and others.

In the RCom case, the ED has filed a complaint against the company, Reliance Telecom Limited, former Reliance Anil Ambani Group executives Gautam Bhailal Doshi, Sateesh Seth, Amitabh Jhunjhunwala, and others.

Water purifiers developed during Rajasthan deluge delivered to Assam

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

A set of specialised water purifiers developed during the 2006 deluge in Barmer, Rajasthan, have been delivered to the flood-hit districts of Charaideo, Jorhat, and Sivasagar in eastern Assam.

On Sunday, two scientists from the Nagpur-based Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) began distributing 100 units of the emergency insta-portable water purification system. The system is called NEERI-ZAR.

CSIR-NEERI's Atul Maldhure and Kumar Amrit assembled the filtration units at the CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology in Jorhat. These will be distributed by Monday.

According to the scientists, the purifier meets the requirements for drinking and cooking water in emergencies. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Of the 100 units, 25 are community-based, and 75 are household units. Collectively, they can produce 2,500 litres of purified water per hour, require no electricity, and have no operational cost," Mr. Maldhure told *The Hindu*.

"The best thing about these gravity-based units is that they can purify ambient water from rivers, ponds, and wells by removing suspended matter, turbidity, and microbial contamination," he said.

According to the scientists, the NEERI-ZAR unit meets the requirements for drinking and cooking water in emergencies and will ensure a stable drinking water supply in flood-affected regions.

"Designed for easy operation, the unit is easy to transport and install," Mr. Maldhure said.

The technology was developed in 2006, during the Barmer floods. It was improvised and deployed during the 2009 cyclone in the Sundarbans, Uttarakhand (2013), Chennai (2015), Kerala (2018), and Bihar (2019).

The scientists said the filtration units would go a long way in addressing a challenge posed by plastic pollution from thousands of units of bottled water and soft drinks distributed as relief to flood-affected people since the disaster struck the eastern Assam districts on July 19.

"Water in plastic bottles is a quick-fix solution in disaster zones, but they come at a cost – environmental and financial – unlike the NEERI-ZAR," Mr. Maldhure said.

SC Collegium names Chief Justices for four High Courts

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has recommended Chief Justices to four High Courts.

The Collegium, in a meeting held on August 6, of which the resolution was published on Sunday, has proposed new Chief Justices to the High Courts of Patna, Calcutta, Bombay, and Punjab and Haryana.

Delhi High Court judge, Justice V. Kameswar Rao, has been recommended for elevation as the Chief Justice of Patna High Court. Justice Rao was appointed Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court in April 2013 and became a Permanent Judge in March 2015.

Justice Ravindra V. Ghuge, a Bombay High Court judge, has been recommended for the Calcutta High Court Chief Justiceship. Justice Ghuge is presently serving as the acting Chief Justice of Bombay High Court after the appointment of Justice Shree Chandrashekhar to the Supreme Court. He was elevated as the judge of the High Court in 2013.

The Collegium has proposed Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi, a judge of the Allahabad High Court, for elevation as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra, whose parent High Court is Allahabad and currently serving on the Punjab and Haryana High Court Bench, has been recommended for the Chief Justiceship of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Nine injured in Jharkhand steel plant explosion

Press Trust of India
RAMGARH

At least nine workers were injured in an explosion in a furnace chamber at a private steel plant in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district on Sunday afternoon, an official said.

Following the incident, all the injured were admitted to a private hospital in Ramgarh. Chief factory inspector Manish Sinha said two critically injured workers have been referred to a private hospital in Ranchi.

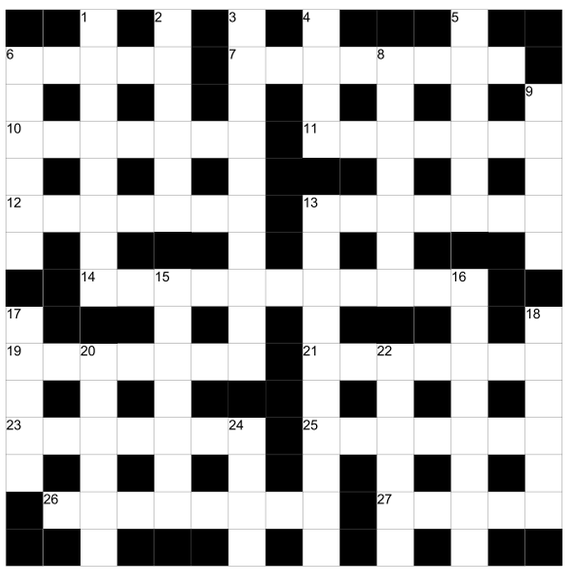
"Workers sustained burn injuries after hot metal splashed following an explosion in the furnace chamber of the plant. The factory inspector in Hazaribag has been directed to inquire into the issue and submit a detailed report at the earliest," Mr. Sinha said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14868

(set by Crossant)

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

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

6. Move forward suddenly with energy after a breather (5)
7. Drunk giant beating one in a suit (8)
10. Sweet simpleton about to lose (7)
11. Lots following latest in protein food (7)
12. Salad vegetable you eat finally instead of essentially sweet items seen often on the table (7)
13. Figure study about past is boring (7)
14. Need tip from proven inside source (11)
19. Open dancing club on Western border of Kentucky (7)
21. Starmer finally dismissed in England — not unexpected (7)
23. Fancy cloak worn by wealthy mostly (7)
25. Poor cautious husband overcome by panic in the middle (7)
26. Not worried about a judge concealing source of earnings? (8)
27. Firm promoted clothing — Indo-Western primarily (5)

DOWN

1. Energetic Team India playing without inhibition from the beginning (8)
2. Rule about replacing girl in class (6)
3. Kid's storage device? (6,4)
4. Something done to attract attention mostly causes shock (4)
5. Do this when fully charged? (6)
6. On a vacant country estate (6)
8. Good study about origin of curry — hot Indian dish (7)
9. Dreaming, wasting money — what addicts are often doing (5)
13. Look-alike of late Queen outside club (4,6)
15. Word for one, included in MS Office finally (7)
16. Trouble with data after new digital enhancement tool (4,4)
17. Left group starting late for midday meal (5)
18. Norwegian perhaps went ahead and settled (6)
20. Lesser action near entrance of popular place (2-4)
22. Apprehension about Europeans losing exports essentially (6)
24. Uncovered vehicle carrying dead body and organs (4)

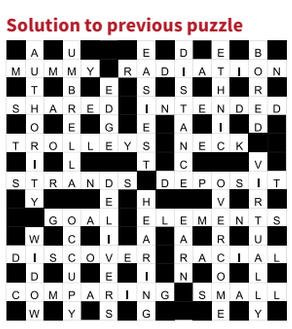
SUDOKU

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

No.SS6968 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Janabai's devotion

Janabai is one of the most prominent saints of the Varkari tradition, said Vishaka Hari in a discourse. Janabai demonstrated through her life that work and worship need not be separate. Every task she performed became an act of devotion, transforming her entire day into uninterrupted remembrance of Lord Panduranga (Vithoba).

Lord Panduranga of Pandharpur is renowned for His countless divine plays (*leelas*) with His devotees. Among the inspiring lives of saints such as Namdev, Tukaram, Dnyaneshwar and Sakubai, the story of Janabai holds a uniquely intimate place because of the Lord's personal affection for her. Janabai was a simple, innocent girl who came to the sacred town of Pandharpur drawn by deep devotion. She found refuge in the home of Saint Namdev, where she lived as a humble servant doing household chores. She proved that sincere devotion does not require seclusion or rituals alone; even ordinary household work can become divine worship when performed with love for God.

In a beautiful divine play, disguised as a humble blanket seller, Lord Panduranga adorned Janabai with His own yellow silk garment (*Peethambaram*), divine ear ornaments, and the sacred Vaijayanti garland. He then playfully accused her of stealing these ornaments. Through this extraordinary *leela*, the Lord revealed to everyone that Janabai was His most cherished devotee and that He Himself is the true "*Chitta Chora*" – the One who steals the hearts of His devotees. This divine act proclaimed Janabai's greatness to the entire world, ensuring that her devotion would be remembered and celebrated for generations.

If your NPS corpus is too small

COVERNOTE

K. Nitya Kalyani

"What's the point of receiving a pension of just a few hundred rupees a month?" an acquaintance asked me recently. We were discussing the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's (PFRDA) revised exit rules for the National Pension System (NPS).

It is a fair question. At a certain age, you begin to simplify life. Activities reduce, commitments turn fewer, unnecessary work is quietly dropped and somehow the little glass figurines in the showcase disappear as well!

Investments get streamlined, portfolios are consolidated, scattered mutual fund folios merged and the lone fixed deposit in a distant bank is redeemed. The objective is not merely to maximise returns but to make life simpler. For some people, an NPS account now falls into that category.

This is not true for everyone. But if you shifted to the new tax regime, no longer receive additional tax deduction for NPS contributions and accumulated only a modest corpus, it may be time to review if continuing the account still serves financial goals. Why discuss NPS in an insurance column? Because the NPS end game is purchase of an annuity viz. a pension product offered by life insurers. And why now? Because the revised PFRDA rules have made it easier for some subscribers to exit.

Little use: If the corpus is small, the pension generated is likely to be modest.

Changing equation

If the NPS corpus is up to ₹8 lakh, you can withdraw the full amount without purchasing an annuity. Earlier, part of the corpus had to be compulsorily used to buy one. For many investors, that changes the equation.

An annuity has its place. It provides an income for life, something few financial products can promise. But if the corpus is small, the pension it generates is likely to be modest. A corpus of about ₹8 lakh may translate into an annual pension of roughly ₹5,000, depending on age and option chosen. Some investors may decide they would rather deploy the money elsewhere.

Large corpus, more choices

If your corpus is larger, you have more choices. You can continue with NPS, defer exit, withdraw a part of the corpus and use the balance to buy an annuity or simply keep the account without making fresh contributions. The right answer depends on overall retirement income not NPS alone.

Advantage of buying annuity

There is another point worth remembering. Buying an annuity via NPS has one important advantage: there is no GST on the purchase. Your entire amount goes towards buying the pension. Outside NPS, GST is payable. Depending on corpus size, this benefit can be meaningful.

The new rules are therefore not an invitation to exit NPS. They are an opportunity to rethink it. Retirement planning is not only about accumulating investments. It is also about knowing when to simplify them. If your NPS account has become a small holding that no longer offers tax benefits and adds little to your retirement income, this may be the right time to decide whether it still deserves a place in your portfolio.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history.)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

ILLUSTRATION: SAAI

Mutual Fund flows and takeaways for you

Investors are staying invested despite volatility, getting comfortable delegating market-cap allocation decisions to fund managers and warming up to one-stop asset allocation via MAFs

FLOW CHART

Joydeep Sen

Mutual Funds (MFs) come in multiple categories, spanning equity, debt and hybrid structures. Tracking categories receiving more flows than others give us a clue on what a majority of investors are preferring at a point in time. You have to gauge which category is suitable for your risk appetite and time horizon.

Two categories have been excluded from this analysis. One is Sectoral/Thematic Funds since the AMFI data for this category is a cumulation of multiple sub-categories from banking to infrastructure to pharma and is not comparable with other single-strategy categories. The other exclusion is Liquid Funds as this is dominated by corporate investors parking treasury money. Our data source for this piece is the AMFI Monthly Note.

Flexi Cap leads flows

The category receiving the highest flows from December 2025 to June 2026 is Flexi Cap funds. Gross flows, before redemptions, has been ₹55,225 crore. Here, the fund manager faces no curbs in allocation to large-, mid- or small-cap stocks and is entirely at manager's discretion.

Given the flexibility, strategy varies from one AMC to another. That said, there is a general bias towards large caps in most such portfolios since they are relatively less volatile vis-a-vis mid- or small-caps, cushioning the fund in times of market stress.

> In Flexi-cap funds, the fund manager faces no curbs in allocation to large-, mid- or small-cap stocks and is entirely at the discretion of the fund manager

The inference is instructive. Though equity market has been somewhat volatile, that investors are continuing to build portfolios is a sign of their growing maturity. It also tells us investors are comfortable with the fund manager handling market-cap allocation decision. That is the value proposition a Flexi Cap fund offers which investors seem to be recognising.

Multi-assets gain

The next most popular category in terms of flows over the last seven months is Multi-asset allocation funds or MAFs under which gross flow was ₹45,453 crore. A MAF combines three or more asset classes such as equity, debt, global equity, gold, silver, REITs and InvITs in a single fund structure.

Rather than investors buying separate equity, debt and gold funds and then manage the allocation, a single MAF does the job. This imparts the benefit of asset allocation in one product and inculcates discipline. When the intended allocation ratio gets altered, for instance if equity rallies and weight in portfolio rises beyond the target, the fund manager books profit in equity and rebalances towards the original ratio. If investors were to attempt this on their own, there would be a tax implication every time they switched funds. MAF Inflows picked up after equity turned volatile after September 2024. The rally in gold prices till February contributed to MAFs positive sentiment.

> As fewer taxpayers find it worthwhile to stay in the Old Tax Regime to claim this deduction, the flow of fresh money into ELSS funds has naturally tapered off

Mid-, small-cap flows

The other two categories seeing buoyant flows over the last seven months are Mid-cap and Small-cap funds. Valuations of mid-cap and small-cap stocks are relatively stretched compared with large caps.

The risk level in the categories is relatively higher and investor must have a long investment horizon to ride out the volatility coming with it.

The one category consistently losing corpus is Equity Linked Savings Schemes (ELSS).

ELSS funds lose

The primary motivation for investing in ELSS was the tax benefit under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act, now Section 123 of the new Income Tax Act. Given the New Tax Regime is more beneficial for an overwhelming majority of the I-T payers, the Old Tax Regime and the relevance of Section 80C (now Section 123) deductions is steadily losing charm. As fewer taxpayers find it worthwhile to stay in the Old Tax Regime to claim this deduction, the flow of fresh money into ELSS funds has naturally tapered off.

The takeaway

Data across categories tells a fairly coherent story. Investors are staying invested despite volatility, increasingly getting comfortable delegating market-cap allocation decisions to fund managers via Flexi Cap funds and warming up to the idea of one-stop asset allocation via MAFs. At the same time, elevated flows into Mid- and Small-cap funds call for caution than imitation. As always, use this as a reference point for what the market at large is doing and then map it against goals, risk appetite and time horizon before deciding what is right for you. Popularity and suitability are not the same.

(Joydeep Sen is a corporate trainer (financial markets) and author)

Transfer to core from satellite?

THINKINVESTOR

You can transfer gains from your satellite to a core portfolio but not the other way around; this constraint is very important to protect the excess gains you may have in any of your core portfolios

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Previously in this column, we discussed the benefits of creating and managing a satellite portfolio; you can use the gains from the satellite portfolio to bridge a shortfall in any of core portfolios. What if there is no shortfall and the satellite portfolio is generating handsome gains? Here, we discuss why you should not transfer money from core to satellite portfolio.

Market timing

If you pursue three life goals, you should have three core portfolios. The portfolio with the longest time horizon will be retirement portfolio to accumulate wealth to meet post retirement expenses. When the satellite portfolio is generating handsome gains, you may be tempted to raise trading capital by transferring money from retirement portfolio. The argument could be retirement is far away and you can bridge any shortfall during the last 10 years of working life. There are, however, two factors to be mindful of.

Market timing, skill, luck

One, the satellite portfolio is about market timing involving skill and luck. If you have a period of bad luck, you could lose a huge part of the money transferred from the core to the satellite portfolio. Recovering losses is more difficult than giving-up gains of the same magnitude. For instance, 50% unrealised losses require 100% appreciation in value to recover the loss but 50% unrealised gains requires only 33% dip to wipe-out the gains. Two, if you are tempted to transfer excess returns in any core portfolio to the satellite portfolio, think about this.

Suppose you expect 12% pre-tax return on equity investment in child's education portfolio. If the investment were to experience 14% return, it would be optimal to take out the excess returns of two percentage points and create a fixed deposit.

The deposit can be used as capital when actual return on equity investments in any year is less than 12% during the remaining time horizon for the goal.

Conclusion

You can transfer gains from your satellite to a core portfolio but not the other way around. This constraint is important to protect excess gains you may have in any of your core portfolios. Such gains can be also used as buffer capital to account for inflation risk, as the amount needed to achieve the goal can increase because of inflation.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.40	6.35	7.40	6.75
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.10	7.10	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.75	6.00	6.00	5.75
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.00	8.00	7.77
Shivalik Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.00	7.50	6.25
slice Small Finance Bank	7.75	6.25	7.50	7.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.10	7.25	7.25	7.90
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.80	7.25	7.25	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.10	6.00	7.50	7.00
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
Bandhan Bank	7.45	7.00	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.25	6.65	6.50	6.55
CSB Bank	7.35	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.85	6.30	6.40	6.25
DCB Bank	7.50	6.90	7.00	7.50
Federal Bank	6.70	6.25	6.40	6.40
HDFC Bank	6.50	6.25	6.45	6.40
ICICI Bank	6.50	6.25	6.45	6.50
IDFC FIRST Bank	7.25	6.50	7.25	6.75
IndusInd Bank	7.00	6.75	7.00	6.65
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.05	6.55	6.80	6.85
IDBI Bank	6.50	6.20	6.35	6.25
Karnataka Bank	7.00	6.50	6.15	6.15
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.80	6.35	6.40	6.25
RBL Bank	7.20	7.00	7.20	6.70
SBM Bank India	7.30	7.10	7.10	7.00
South Indian Bank	6.80	6.25	6.20	5.70
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.25	6.80	6.70	6.70
YES Bank	7.25	6.65	7.00	6.75
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	6.75	6.25	6.25	6.30
Bank of India	6.85	6.50	6.70	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	6.65	6.40	5.25	5.00
Canara Bank	6.60	6.25	6.25	6.25
Central Bank of India	6.70	6.10	6.00	6.00
Indian Bank	6.65	6.10	6.05	6.00
Indian Overseas Bank	6.60	6.50	6.10	6.10
Punjab National Bank	6.60	6.25	6.30	6.35
Punjab & Sind Bank	6.85	5.85	5.85	5.95
State Bank of India	6.45	6.25	6.30	6.05
Union Bank of India	6.55	6.20	6.10	6.00

Home Loan Interest Rates

(In %)

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	7.25-9.05	7.25-9.05	7.25-9.05
Bank of Baroda	7.20-9.00	7.20-9.00	7.20-9.25
Union Bank of India*	7.15-9.60	7.15-9.60	7.15-9.60
Punjab National Bank	7.30-9.30	7.25-9.20	7.25-9.20
Bank of India	7.10-10.00	7.10-10.00	7.10-10.25
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00-9.90	7.00-9.90	7.00-9.90
Punjab and Sind Bank	7.35-10.75	7.35-10.75	7.35-10.75
Indian Overseas Bank	7.20 #	7.20 #	7.20 #
Indian Bank	7.15-9.55	7.15-9.55	7.15-9.55
Central Bank of India	7.10-9.15	7.10-9.15	7.10-9.15
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.60 #	7.60 #	7.60 #
ICICI Bank	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Axis Bank	8.00-11.90	8.00-11.90	8.00 - 9.10
HSBC Bank	7.45 #	7.45 #	7.45 #
South Indian Bank	7.20 #	7.20 #	7.20 #
Karur Vysya Bank	8.50-10.65	8.50-10.65	8.50-10.65
Karnataka Bank	7.48- 11.80	7.48- 11.80	7.48- 11.80
Federal Bank	8.35 - 10.25	7.35 - 10.25	7.35 - 9.25
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.90 - 9.30	7.90 - 9.30	7.90 - 9.30
Bandhan Bank	8.55 - 13.52	8.55 - 13.52	8.55 - 13.52
RBL Bank	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
CSB Bank	8.30 #	8.30 #	8.30 #
HDFC Bank	7.75 #	7.75 #	7.75 #
City Union Bank	8.25-9.50	8.50-10.00	8.75-10.50
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	7.15 #	7.15 #	7.15 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	7.25 #	7.25 #	7.25 #
Tata Capital	8.00 #	8.00 #	8.00 #
PNB Housing Finance	7.75-14.50	7.60-14.50	7.50-9.95
GIC Housing Finance	8.20 #	8.20 #	8.20 #
SMFG India Home Finance	9.25 #	9.25 #	9.25 #
Sammaan Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Aditya Birla Capital	7.75 #	7.75 #	7.75 #
ICICI Home Finance	7.50 #	7.50 #	7.50 #
Godrej Housing Finance	7.65 #	7.65 #	7.65 #

*Extra interest rate concession of 0.05% to borrowers opting for insurance policy.
Rates as on August 5 #onwards Source:Paisabazaar.com

WASHINGTON

Former U.S. President Joe Biden's cancer has spread further, says son

AP

Former U.S. President Joe Biden's prostate cancer has metastasised further, according to his son Hunter Biden, who shared the update in an interview with the BBC. Mr. Hunter said his father's disease has spread despite the treatment. "It's very painful, and it's very debilitating in many respects, but he's still out there," he said. AFP

ISLAMABAD

Mecca pact with Saudi Arabia and Turkiye 'purely defensive': Pakistan

AP

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Sunday the landmark Mecca Joint Defence Agreement his country signed with Saudi Arabia and Turkiye was not directed against any country and remained open to other nations in the region. In a post on X, Mr. Dar said the agreement was "purely defensive in nature". AP

DAMASCUS

Syria reaches understanding with Moscow on future of Russian bases

REUTERS

Syria and Russia have reached a memorandum of understanding on the fate of Russian bases at Tartous and Hmeimim after 18 months of talks. Syria's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday Damascus would take over management of civilian facilities, including Hmeimim airport and the commercial berth at Tartous port. REUTERS

BANGKOK

Thai teen school shooter watched violent content online, police say

REUTERS

The Thai teen behind a deadly school shooting on August 7 outside Bangkok had an air gun confiscated by a teacher last year and had watched violent content online, police said on Sunday, as the government promised new safety protocols for schools. Eight people died in Thailand's worst mass shooting since 2022. REUTERS

Trump says U.S. going 'low key' as Tehran firm on Hormuz demands

U.S. President says his administration is only 'semi-negotiating', will wait and watch economic pressure mount on Iran; Hormuz deal with Oman in final stages, says Araghchi, reiterates U.S. must fulfil conditions for reopening of key waterway

Reuters
DUBAI/WASHINGTON/CAIRO

U.S. President Donald Trump signalled on Sunday he is prepared to let economic pressure mount against Iran, apparently backing away from ordering more military strikes even as Tehran issues tough demands.

"We are low-keying it," Mr. Trump said, according to the news outlet Axios.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Sunday that a deal with Oman defining new shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz was in its "final stages" but repeated comments made on Saturday that it would not reopen the waterway unless other conditions were met. He also denied on Sunday that Iran was negotiating with the U.S., saying they were merely "exchanging messages" via intermediaries.

Silent watch: A banner with an image of Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei at Valiasr Square in Tehran on Saturday. AFP

The strait's blockage by Iran since the war started has sent fuel prices soaring and rattled the world economy, putting pressure on the Trump administration as midterm elections in November grow nearer.

"We are only semi-negotiating with them. We are just watching Iran with its huge inflation and the fact they have no money," Mr. Trump was quoted as saying.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards also reiterated on Sunday that they would not reopen the strait until demands were met, including U.S. compensation for war damage. The strategy was to maintain the closure "until the enemy accepts all our conditions... the strait is now actually a theatre of war for us and not just a waterway", the Guards said.

The conditions listed include ending U.S. threats against Iran, stopping aggression against Iran and its Lebanese, Palestinian, Yemeni and Iraqi allies, lifting a blockade and sanctions on Iran and freeing Iranian assets.

Rare meet

Iranian state media said on Sunday that President Masoud Pezeshkian had met Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei in late July and a paramilitary leader has promised new footage of the Supreme Leader, who has not been seen in public since being reportedly injured in the air strike that killed his father and predecessor on February 28, the first day of U.S.-Israeli air strikes on Iran.

(With inputs from AFP)

7 killed as Russia, Ukraine exchange overnight strikes

Associated Press
KYIV

Russia and Ukraine exchanged strikes overnight that killed civilians and injured many others on both sides, local authorities reported on Sunday.

Ukrainian drones killed five people and injured two dozen others, including a 4-year-old boy, in Russia's border region of Belgorod, according to the regional administration.

In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, Russian missiles struck a high-rise apartment block in the Saltivskyi district, killing two people and injuring 13, according to regional head Oleh Syniehubov.

Eight people were injured in Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa after "dozens of missiles and drones" struck the city, according to local officials. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the seaport had been damaged by the strike.

Aftermath of attack: Burned cars at the site of a Russian air raid in Odesa, Ukraine on Sunday. AFP

Large-scale Russian missile strikes on Ukrainian cities have become almost routine in recent weeks, with Moscow 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.

Meanwhile, Kyiv has kept up long-range drone strikes against Russian energy infrastructure, as well as the country's largest online retailer, Wildberries, and other targets deep inside Russia, sparking a fuel crisis.

Bombings mark first day in office for new Colombian President

Agence France-Presse
BOGOTA

Two bombing attacks in different parts of Colombia on Saturday marked the first day in office for new President Abelardo de la Espriella, leaving at least one police officer dead and several wounded.

The tough-talking hard-right leader campaigned on confronting "narcoterrorism without truce" and ending peace talks with armed groups following his inauguration on Friday in the city of Cali.

His inauguration comes during the worst wave of violence the country has experienced in the last decade.

Colombia's Army said FARC guerilla dissidents used explosives to destroy a highway tollbooth near Cali in the early hours of Saturday.

Mr. De la Espriella condemned the bombing, saying "attacking the country's infrastructure is attacking progress" in an X post. "To those responsible, I send a clear message: there will be no refuge, no leniency and no impunity," he added.

About 1,000 kilometres away, in the northern department of Cesar, an officer was killed in another bombing when an explosive-equipped drone struck a police station, officials said.

Wildfire in western Canada forces over 20,000 evacuations

Agence France-Presse
VICTORIA

Canadian officials declared a state of emergency on Saturday after a fast-moving wildfire in the western province of British Columbia forced the overnight evacuation of more than 20,000 people.

Winds fanned the Bald Range wildfire to grow rapidly late on Friday, pushing flames into the Summerland area and affecting communities throughout the surrounding valleys.

"We know there have been significant losses of property. We also know that some people became trapped as conditions changed quickly," British Columbia Premier David Eby said in a statement.

"Air evacuations are under way for people who remain isolated behind the fire perimeter," Mr. Eby said.

The Bald Range fire covered an estimated area of 25,552 acres as of early Sunday, according to the BC Wildfire Service website. It reported a total of 102 active wildfires in the province as of early Sunday, with nearly half of them deemed out of control.

Kelly Greene, the province's Minister of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, declared a state of emergency.

Pentagon pushes for faster weapons production amid stockpile shortage

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The Pentagon is pressing the U.S. defence industry to accelerate production of weapons to help replenish its diminished stockpile of munitions, including those depleted in the ongoing war with Iran.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement on Saturday that the department was actively focused on boosting munitions acquisitions to provide "the weapons our warfighters need at the pace the threat demands." He confirmed department efforts in the last week to significantly speed the process but insisted it was part of a broader modernisation effort that predated the five-month-old conflict.

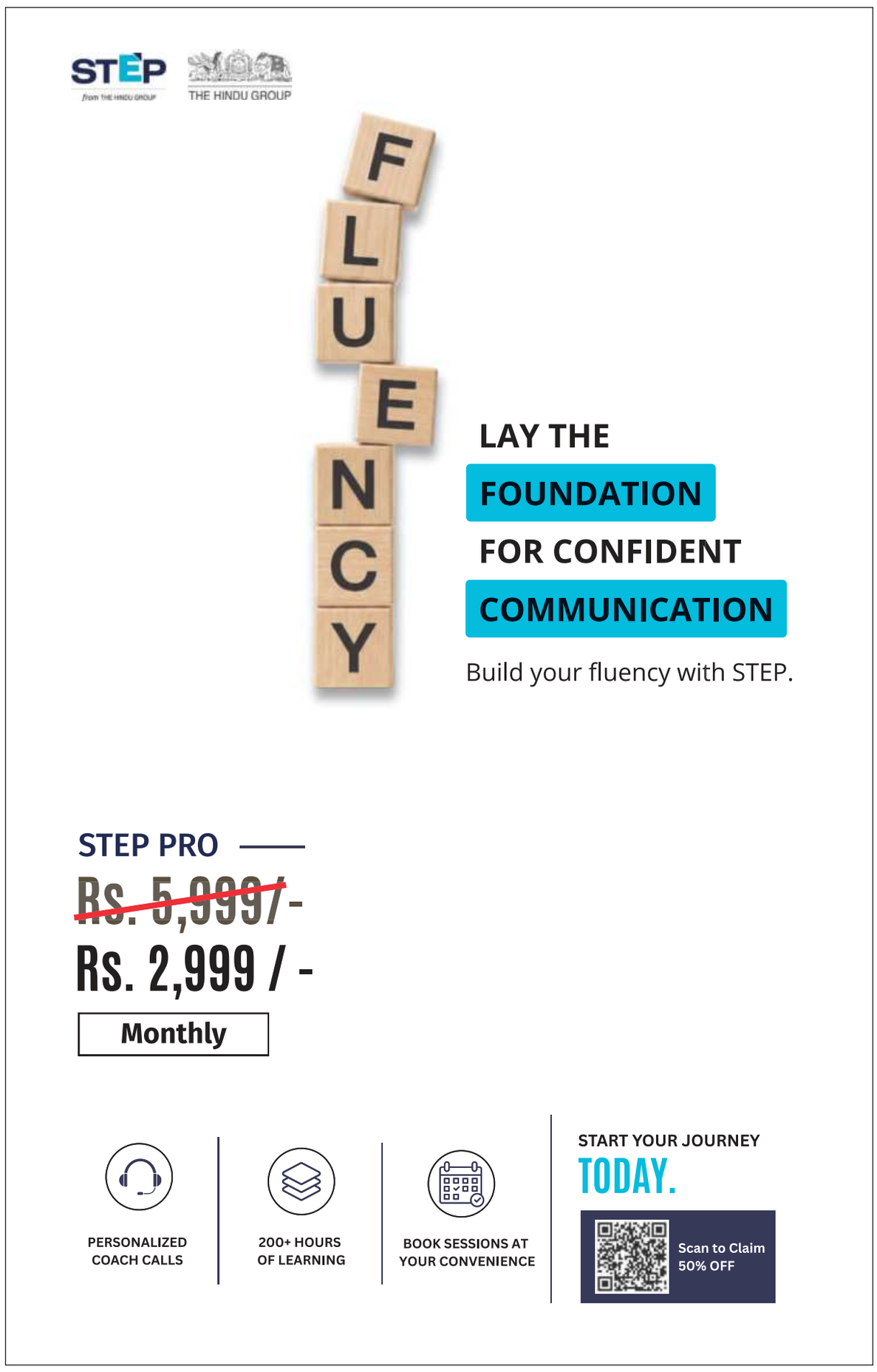
THAAD interceptor inventories fell from 452 before the Iran war to roughly 232-262 in April, according to U.S. think tank CSIS. REUTERS

Deputy Defence Secretary Steve Feinberg wrote to industry leaders on Wednesday, giving them no more than 21 days to submit plans to "drive significantly faster, more aggressive delivery schedules and/or increased production for critical capabilities," according to a memo obtained by *The Washington Post*.

"Years-long development cycles are not acceptable," Mr. Feinberg wrote. "We must dramatically accelerate our program schedules and expand our production capacity now."

The memo comes as recent fighting with Iran used up more of the U.S. military's already diminished stockpiles of advanced missile interceptors, potentially putting American troops at more risk if hostilities resume, according to a new analysis.

However, President Donald Trump has bristled over public reports of a munitions shortage, posting on Truth Social on Thursday that the U.S. has "massive amounts."



BEST IN CLASS

'Kohli an exemplary professional, tries to meet his standards always'

AFP

There is no doubt that Virat Kohli is an exemplary professional. The standards he sets for himself... he tries and goes out every time he plays to meet those standards. And that is why he is a great role model. I think a lot of youngsters or players want to emulate him — V.V.S Laxman, head of BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE).

ALL IS WELL

'Kuldeep took a break to assess body, not due to fitness concern'

FILE PHOTO: PTI

Kuldeep Yadav didn't bowl in the second innings of the warm-up game against Sri Lanka Cricket XI as he wanted to assess his body after a heavy workload, India's spin bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule said. "He had a very good outing and just wanted to take a break," Bahutule said.

METICULOUS

Gill takes his preparation very seriously, says Bahutule

X@BCCI

India's spin bowling coach Sairaj Bahutule praised Shubman Gill's meticulous preparation, saying he was preparing specifically for the threat posed by Sri Lanka's spinners. "Gill takes his preparation very seriously. He understands whatever is the demand for that particular series... his preparation is done accordingly," he said.

NO-SHOW

World No. 1 Sinner withdraws from Cincinnati Open with knee injury

AFP

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner will be absent from the Cincinnati Open due to a right knee injury, the tournament announced on Sunday. "After consulting with my doctors and my team, I have to announce that I need to withdraw from the Masters 1000 tournament in Cincinnati," the Italian said in a statement.

Ashmita stuns Han to bag her maiden BWF Tour title

Coach Park, who has now seen two of his wards win Super 300 tournaments in successive weeks, believes the Assam girl always had the tools to succeed, wants her to be more consistent

On a high: Ashmita with Park after her memorable triumph.

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
ASAN (KOREA)

Ashmita Chaliha produced a gritty show to secure her maiden BWF World tour title with a fighting win over fourth seed Han Qian Xi of China in the women's singles final of the Korea Masters Super 300 badminton tournament on Sunday.

Slow start

The 26-year-old from Assam, who had suffered a career-threatening knee injury two years back in Korea, overcame a slow start and a testing decider to complete a memorable victory, recovering from the loss of the opening game to stun world No. 35 Han 14-21, 21-14, 21-14 in the summit clash that lasted 53 minutes.

"I feel really great and unbelievable. But then I am trying to digest it. Now, I am hungry for more," said Ashmita, who trains under Park Tae-Sang at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati.

"In the first game, it was a little bit tricky because of the drift conditions, so I was not able to manage it... But in the second, the other side was more comfortable and there was less drift, so I was able to control it," she said. "And in the third, after 11 points, I changed again, so I was on the good side. I'm glad that I could pull it off."

Ashmita's win marks back-to-back BWF World Tour finals for Indians, with Tanvi Sharma having won the Taipei Open last Sunday.

Park, who has now seen two of his wards win Super 300 titles in successive weeks, believes Ashmita always had the tools to succeed but needed to become more consistent in her approach.

"Before the injury, Ashmita was already a good player and a very good talent. She has a good smash and nice movement, but unfortunately, at the wrong time, she had to take a break because of the injury," the South Korean told PTI.

"When she joined me, I thought, 'Oh, she is a good player.' But tactically and strategically, and also a little bit mentally, she had some problems."

She enjoyed a strong comeback on the BWF Tour with back-to-back quarterfinals at China Masters and Malaysia Masters and then a semifinal appearance at the Macau Open.

Biggest obstacle

Ahead of Sunday's final, Park and Ashmita analysed Han's game on video, with the coach identifying unforced errors as the biggest obstacle.

"Yesterday, we also did a video analysis of her Chinese opponent. I told Ashmita, 'Your biggest problem is your own mistakes. You are making simple mistakes.

"But if you can reduce those simple mistakes, 100 per cent, I promise you, you can win the title today," Park said.

Sarfaraz replaces the injured Sai Sudharsan in Test squad

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Sarfaraz Khan has returned to India's Test squad after 20 months, with the Mumbai batter replacing the injured B. Sai Sudharsan for the two-Test series against Sri Lanka.

The Hindu understands that the selection committee, in consultation with the team management, picked Sarfaraz after Sai Sudharsan did not recover in time from a right big-toe stress injury.

The BCCI announced Sarfaraz's inclusion on Sunday.

He is expected to link up with the Indian team in Colombo before the side travels to Galle on Tuesday.

Comeback: Sarfaraz last played for India in November 2024.
FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

The 28-year-old had emerged as a primary contender alongside Shaik Rasheed and Ruturaj Gaikwad. Rasheed, who has been knocking on the selectors' door after a prolific domestic run, was considered for his ability to bat in the top-order while Ruturaj's experience and First Class record kept him in the conversation.

Sarfaraz's selection marks the return of a batter whose Test career had appeared to stall after his promising debut in 2024.

He was conspicuously left out of India's squad after not getting an opportunity during the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy. All of his six Test appearances came in 2024.

The Mumbai batter has continued to remain a top performer in domestic cricket, keeping himself in the selection frame despite the long hiatus at the international level.

The vacancy at No. 3, created by Sai Sudharsan's absence, may give Sarfaraz a chance to revive his Test career that began with considerable promise.

Jaiswal and Gill find form as India canters to a victory in warm-up game

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill scored useful runs at the top of the order before Mohammed Siraj's late blitz helped India beat Sri Lanka Cricket XI by six wickets in their three-day warm-up game here on Sunday.

Chasing 207 for victory, India achieved the target in 45 overs, finishing on 214 for four with Siraj smashing 32 off just 15 balls, including three successive sixes, to bring the game to an emphatic finish.

Jaiswal made a quickfire 61 off 46 balls. He and Gill put on 105 for the opening wicket to give India a flying start to their chase. Jaiswal retired after reaching his half-century.

Back in the groove: Gill and Jaiswal provided a flying start. X@BCCI

Gill made a useful 44 before being dismissed by spinner Keshara Nuwantha.

Dhruv Jurel chipped in with 17, while Rishabh Pant made a patient 28 before India was briefly reduced to 155 for three.

But the target was never in serious danger, with the lower-order completing the chase in the final session. Siraj then provided the fireworks, hitting three consecutive sixes to finish the game in style.

Earlier, Sri Lanka Cricket XI declared their second innings at 200 for six in 45 overs, leaving India a target of 207.

The scores: Sri Lanka Cricket XI 363/8 decl. and 200/6 decl. (Nishan Fernando 63, Nipun Dhanjaya 46) lost to India 357/6 decl. and 214/4 in 45 overs (Jaiswal 61 (retired hurt), Gill 44, Siraj 35 n.o).

There is brilliant coordination between CoE and Indian team management, insists Laxman

Straight bat: Laxman, seen here with Saikia and BCCI president Mithun Manhas, defended CoE's injury-management methods. SUDHAKARA JAIN

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

With Indian cricket in the throes of an injury crisis, the latest being Jasprit Bumrah and B. Sai Sudharsan's absence from the upcoming tour to Sri Lanka, V.V.S. Laxman, head of BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE), defended the institution's injury-management methods and recovery protocols.

"We don't like to use the word blame, because when you do, you're [trying to] find a scapegoat," Laxman told reporters at the CoE premises on Sunday. "There's brilliant coordination between the CoE, the team management and the SSM (Sports Science & Medicine) staff."

There has been a worrying trend of players being declared fit only to pick up a new injury within a short period of time. Laxman stressed that this was not a cause for concern even as he clarified that the "CoE was not a rehab centre" and that it had a "bigger mandate".

"When someone is playing at the elite level, you're supposed to give more than 100%," Laxman said. "Injuries are bound to happen. If you're thinking about not getting injured, you're not playing to the best of your ability. Monitoring is very, very critical, and I've got no doubt that Adrian Le Roux (S&C coach, Indian team) and others are doing that," the 51-year-old added.

Both Bumrah and Sai Sudharsan were named conditionally in the squad for the two Tests against Sri Lanka before failing to obtain fitness clearances. Asked if it would be prudent to avoid players who are still undergoing rehabilitation, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia replied in the negative.

"We have our selection meetings at least three to four weeks before the team departs," Saikia said. "We don't reject because by the time the player will have to travel or play, he may be totally fit. It's a human body, not a machine. It may take 14 days or 28 days."

The CoE has been without a Head of Sports Science since Nitin Patel's exit in March 2025. Saikia attributed this to an "acute shortage of right candidates" and Laxman stated that there will be no unseemly haste in the appointment process, for quality was paramount.

Andrew Leipus, who had had successful tenures with the Indian National team and the erstwhile National Cricket Academy, was the BCCI's first choice to replace Nitin, but he pulled out.

"Andrew had almost agreed but then backed out," Laxman said.

"The next interview process was extensive, and the first candidate was from Australia, but he did not join. The second and third candidates are already working at the CoE. It is our responsibility to upskill them while we identify someone of that stature, experience and knowledge."

More Duleep Trophy games to be telecast live: Saikia

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

This time last year, when the 2025-26 Duleep Trophy was held at the BCCI's sprawling Centre of Excellence (CoE) in the city outskirts, supporters were a disappointed lot.

The first-round matches of the domestic cricket season-opener were not broadcast on television and the whole tournament was held behind closed doors. However, in glad tidings for the fans, the 2026-27 edition, which begins on August 23 at the CoE, will see an increased share of matches on television.

And the BCCI even said that it would explore the option of holding at least the final at a proper stadium which can seat an audience. "There are some government restrictions to how we use this land and because of that, we cannot have crowds in this campus," BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said on Sunday while answering a question from *The Hindu*.

"But this year, we have increased the number of matches to be telecast. That way, we are giving fans the chance to watch their favourite players and teams. We definitely appreciate your suggestion to see whether the final can be hosted in a stadium. We still have time and we'll look into that aspect."

> We definitely appreciate your suggestion to see whether the final can be hosted in a stadium

INBRIEF

Sanya Vats finishes runner-up in Ballarat Open squash

Sanya Vats finished runner-up at the Ballarat Open squash, a $3000 PSA Challenger event in Victoria, Australia on Sunday. The second-seeded Indian went down 6-11, 8-11, 6-11 to top seed and local favourite Sarah Cardwell in the women's final. The Delhi girl earlier beat South Korean Ain Jun 11-5, 11-8, 11-4 in the semifinals after defeating another South Korean Sunghee Oh 6-11, 11-9, 12-10, 11-4 in the quarterfinals.

Afridi nets a brace as TRAU gets the better of Indian Navy

Afridi Buyamayum, *left in pic,* scored twice as TRAU FC beat Indian Navy 2-1 in its final Group 'D' match of the Durand Cup in Imphal on Sunday. TRAU, with four points, finished second while Navy was third with three. Group-topper FC Raengdai moved into the last-eight.

The result: TRAU FC 2 (Afridi Buyamayum 16, 60) bt Indian Navy 1 (Khullakpam Zahir Khan 46).

Raul Fernandez speeds to glory in British MotoGP

Aprilia-Trackhouse's Spanish rider Raul Fernandez won the British MotoGP Grand Prix on Sunday, claiming just the second race victory of his career. Championship leader Jorge Martin started on pole but was outpaced from the flag by his 25-year-old compatriot. Martin finished second with Italian Marco Bezzecchi rounding off the podium.

FIFA warns of effort to undermine Infantino

FIFA has warned against what it called a "concerted and ongoing effort" to undermine president Gianni Infantino, saying attempts to challenge his leadership must follow the governing body's statutes and democratic procedures. The statement came amid an increasingly bitter stand-off over his leadership.

Jagadeesan and bowlers win it for Super Gillies

The skipper leads from the front as CSG records its maiden win of the season; openers Tushar and Amith come up with match-winning knocks to star in Tamizhans' victory over Royal Kings

TNPL

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
DINDIGUL

Chepauk Super Gillies produced a clinical bowling effort before captain N. Jagadeesan's unbeaten 90 (58b, 8x4, 5x6) powered it to a seven-wicket win over Dindigul Dragons in the Tamil Nadu Premier League at the NPR College Ground here on Sunday.

After a rain-delayed start, Super Gillies opted to field and struck early, with pacer Abhishek Tanwar (two for 19) having Anuraag Nair (0) and R.K. Jayant (11) caught at mid-on. A mix-up saw Karthik Saran (4) get run out at the non-striker's end, leaving Dragons at 37 for three in the PowerPlay.

Ashwanth Valthapa (two for 20) struck twice with carrom balls, trapping Shivam Singh (25) and R. Vimal Khumar (21) plumb in front to help restrict the 'home team' to 126 for eight.

In reply, Jagadeesan anchored the chase, reaching his fifty off 43 balls before shifting gears. He hit two consecutive sixes off spinner Mohit Mittan to seal his side's first win of the season.

In the second match, openers Tushar Raheja (90 n.o., 52b, 6x4, 5x6) and Amith Sathvik (76, 31b, 3x4, 8x6) added 119 off 52 balls to set up iDream Tiruppur Tamizhans' eight-wicket win over Nellai Royal Kings.

Tamizhans chased down 207 with 11 balls to spare.

Tushar was belligerent, taking the attack to pacer Emmanuel Cherian with a lofted four and three sixes, including back-to-back maximums. He brought up his fifty with a cover drive off a full toss from left-arm seamer S. Selvaganapathi.

Amith struck a 104-metre six off leg-spinner B. Rocky – the longest of the season so far – before smashing three successive maximums off the same bowler, underlining the ferocity of his assault.

On song: Opening batters Jagadeesan and Amith did the star turn for Super Gillies and Tamizhans respectively. G. KARTHIKEYAN

The scores:

Dindigul Dragons 126/8 in 20 overs (Abhishek Tanwar 2/19, Ashwanth Valthapa 2/20) lost to Chepauk Super Gillies 131/3 in 16.2 overs (N. Jagadeesan 90 n.o.).

Nellai Royal Kings 206/8 in 20 overs (D. Santhosh Kumar 43, G. Ajitesh 35, U. Mukilesh 46, R. Silambarasan 4/46, Sai Kishore 2/23) lost to iDream Tiruppur Tamizhans 207/2 in 18.1 overs (Amith Sathvik 76, Tushar Raheja 90 n.o., Sai Kishore 32 n.o.).

Monday's match: SKM Salem Spartans vs. Madurai Panthers, 7.30 p.m.

On a mission: Chaturved says his focus is on contributing more to the team. G. KARTHIKEYAN

Working on small things tactically helped: Chaturved

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
DINDIGUL

N.S. Chaturved knew the ability was always there. He felt he needed to trust it.

"I knew I had this kind of game. I just wanted to go and react to the ball. That was the only thought I had," said the 35-year-old over phone on Sunday, a day after his record 40-ball century (121 off 47 balls) powered Madurai Panthers to a stunning chase of 240 against Vida Kovai Kings.

That approach was a recurring theme during the pre-season camp, where he worked with head coach K.B. Arun Karthick.

"We worked on small things tactically – like, how I can use my footwork. What kind of footwork to use for which bowler and how to challenge them. That came in handy – which moments to choose and all," he added.

Arun Karthick's influence, though, extends beyond batting. "He is bringing a lot of calmness to the team - how we can keep things simple even in the most desperate moments. And that calmness is helping," said Chaturved.

It was also the conversion that had eluded him, having gone without a fifty in the previous two seasons.

"I got starts last season, but I just couldn't carry on. Two seasons had gone by with small contributions. So, when I came into this TNPL, I just wanted to contribute a lot more. It (the record) gives me more confidence in my own ability," he said.

The innings also received appreciation from some of Tamil Nadu cricket's leading names.

"R. Ashwin, Varun Chakaravarthy, and Washi (Washington Sundar) have sent messages. To get all that praise from eminent TN cricketers definitely feels special," he said.

Meghwal secures silver; Shahnavaz wins bronze

Raising the bar: Meghwal, seen with coach Sahana, lost out on the high jump gold on a countback while Shahnavaz's 7.84m leap earned him bronze. X@AFIINDIA

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
EUGENE

Basant Kumar Meghwal became the first Indian to win the high jump silver medal at the World Athletics U20 Championships, while Shahnavaz Khan added the long jump bronze.

The 19-year-old Meghwal from Anupgarh, a border town in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar district, cleared a personal-best of 2.21m to win silver.

Algeria's Younes Ayachi won the gold, while Great Britain's Otis Poole took the bronze.

All three medallists cleared only 2.21m but failed to sail over 2.24m. The positions were decided on countback.

Ayachi cleared 2.21m in his first jump, while Meghwal and Poole did the same in their second and third attempts respectively.

Coached by former Indian women's high jump national record holder Sahana Kumari, Meghwal has made a remarkable 10cm improvement this season.

Shahnavaz clinched the long jump bronze with a best effort of 7.84m.

The 18-year-old produced his best jump in his third attempt, with his series reading 7.67m, 7.72m, 7.84m, 7.52m, 7.83m and 5.37m.

R.C. Jithin Arjunan was the other Indian in the final, finishing eighth with a best jump of 7.59m that he achieved in his first and fourth attempts.

Italy's Daniele Inzoli won the gold medal with a jump of 7.97m, while Australia's Mason McGroder took silver with a personal best of 7.96m.

Eshanth comes up trumps in Senior Max

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Eshanth Vengatesan (MSPORT) emerged winner in the Senior Max category in the third round of the MECO-FMSCI National karting championship here on Sunday. Several front-runners were involved in a collision.

The results (Provisional):

Senior Max – Finals (18 laps): 1. Eshanth Vengatesan (Chennai, MSPORT) (15:24.827); 2. Arjun Chheda (Pune, Crest Motorsports) (15:25.207); 3. Rohaan Madesh (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (15:26.312). **Best Rookie:** Eshanth Vengatesan (Chennai, MSPORT). **Pre-finals (14 laps):** 1. Krish Gupta (Mumbai, Rayo Racing) (11:45.183); 2. Kiaan Shah (Mumbai, Rayo Racing) (11:46.026); 3. Laksh Manish Bafna (Kochi, Rayo Racing) (11:51.598).

Junior Max – Finals (16 laps): 1. Rehan Khan Rasheed (Chennai, Momentum Sports) (14:21.312); 2. Rishik Rohit Reddy (Bengaluru, MSPORT) (14:22.753); 3. Hamza Murtuza Balasinorwala (Mumbai, Crest Motorsports) (14:22.888). **Best Rookie:** Rehan Khan Rasheed (Chennai, Momentum Motorsports). **Pre-Finals (14 laps):** 1. Rehan Khan Rasheed (Chennai, Momentum Sports) (11:59.241); 2. Rivaan Dev Preetham (Chennai, MSPORT) (11:59.569); 3. Hamza Murtuza Balasinorwala (Mumbai, Crest Motorsports) (12:00.083).

Mini Max – Finals (14 laps): 1. Shiv Neel (Coimbatore, MSPORT) (12:19.928); 2. Raghav Krishnaraj (Coimbatore, MSPORT) (12:22.559); 3. Jishnu Seralathan (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (12:22.779). **Best Rookie:** Shiv Neel (Coimbatore, MSPORT).

Pre-Finals (12 laps): 1. Jishnu Seralathan (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (10:35.775); 2. Arshi Gupta (Faridabad, Leap Frog Racing) (10:35.960); 3. Ridhaan Anil Kumarr (Bengaluru, Red Rabbit Racing) (10:36.126).

Micro Max – Finals (12 laps): 1. Rudrapratap Singh Shekhawat (Gurugram, Leap Frog Racing) (11:02.508); 2. Zidaan Arshaan Anees (Bengaluru, Peregrine Racing) (11:04.084); 3. Aarav Sureka (Mumbai, Rayo Racing) (11:05.633). **Best Rookie:** Yeshwin Vinay Kishore (Chennai, Peregrine Racing). **Pre-Finals (12 laps):** 1. Aarav Sureka (Mumbai, Rayo Racing) (11:03.180); 2. Rudrapratap Singh Shekhawat (Gurugram, Leap Frog Racing) (11:07.875); 3. Ayansh Patil (Kolhapur, MSPORT) (11:09.574).

Ashwin sends Madurai into quarterfinals

Sports Bureau

M. Ashwin struck an unbeaten 99 as host Madurai defeated Kancheepuram by 69 runs in the TNCA inter-district under-14 tournament pre-quarterfinal clash on Sunday.

In another last-16 game, Tiruvallur got the better of Namakkal by three wickets.

The scores:
At Tiruvallur: Namakkal 144 in 49.4 overs (T. Vidhul 74 n.o., Dhashwanth Siddhan 3/14) lost to Tiruvallur 148/7 in 48.4 overs (D. Pramodhan 32, R.V. Bhuvanendra 62).
At Madurai: Madurai 222/8 in 50 overs (M. Ashwin 99 n.o., K. Anbuselvan 32) bt Kancheepuram 153/9 in 50 overs (Thashwin Gopinath 68 n.o.).

LIVE TELECAST

Ireland vs Afghanistan: Third ODI, FanCode, 3.15 p.m.

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

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

N R I Triple Power obliges in the feature

RACING

Hyderabad: Trainer D. Netto's filly N R I Triple Power, ridden by Shivam, claimed the Telangana And Andhra Sub Area Trophy, the main event of Sunday's (Aug. 9) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh and jockey P. Ajeeth Kumar scored a treble each.

1. SULTAN PHEROZE PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100M): MATERIALITY (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Ashwa Jaffna (Gaurav) 2, Gacchanmanasvin (Md. Ismail) 3 and Miri (Mohit) 4. Not run: Northern Sky. 3/4, 1-1/2 and 1-1/4. 1m, 7.55s. ₹32 (w), 14, 21 and 11 (p). SHP: 65, THP: 44, FP: 261, Q: 192, Tanala: 581. Favourite: Gacchanmanasvin.

Owner: Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. SULTAN PHEROZE PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100M): N R I CRYPTO POWER (Rafique Sk.) 1, French Lieutenant (Surya Prakash) 2, Queen Dali (Akshay K) 3 and Trend Setter (Abhay Singh) 4. 2, Short Head and 2-1/4. 1m, 5.26s. ₹119 (w), 19, 16 and 11 (p). SHP: 32, THP: 40, FP: 870, Q: 358, Tanala: 1,459. Favourite: Queen Dali.

Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

3. NORTHERN DANCER PLATE (1,200M): MYSTICAL DAWN (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Catch The Worm (B.R. Kumar) 2, Divine Secret (Gaurav) 3 and Tootsie Darling (Kuldeep Jr.) 4. Not run: Greif. 3/4, 2-1/4 and 2. 1m, 14.38s. ₹27 (w), 13, 10 and 11 (p). SHP: 35, THP: 47, FP: 90, Q: 45, Tanala: 185. Favourite: Catch The Worm.

Owner: Mr. Kersi H. Vachha. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

4. FAIRWAY PLATE (1,600M): QUINTESSENTIAL (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, American Gangster (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Beech Wood (Gaurav) 3 and Hoping High (Mohit) 4. Not run: Always Special. 4, 2-1/4 and 5. 1m, 42.88s. ₹38 (w), 10, 15 and 21 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 63, FP: 99, Q: 37, Tanala: 728. Favourite: American Gangster.

Owners: M/s. Ramakrishna Reddy Makireddy, Suraj Teja Potlapally, Srinath Reddy Kottam & Ram Bhoopal Poduvu. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

NOTE: *Golden Bourbon (Akshay Kumar up) broke down in the last 200m dislodging the rider who escaped unhurt.*

5. TELANGANA AND ANDHRA SUB AREA TROPHY (1,600M): N R I TRIPLE POWER (Shivam) 1, Corte Madera (Ajay K) 2, Silver Act (Akshay K) 3 and Bhairava (P. Ajeeth K) 4. Not run: Ode To Nature. 7-1/2, 4-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 37.99s. ₹23 (w), 10, 16 and 15 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 47, FP: 93, Q: 78, Tanala: 353. Favourite: N R I Triple Power.

Owner: Mr. Ravinder Reddy Male. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. THREE WISHES PLATE (1,800M): SILVER ARROW (A.A. Vikrant) 1, Hoping Star (Mohit) 2, Exclusive Luck (Md. Ekram) 3 and Take A Breath (Rafique Sk.) 4. 1-1/4, 3/4 and 1/2. 1m, 58.57s. ₹75 (w), 29 and 23 (p). SHP: 38, THP: 33, FP: 371, Q: 151, Tanala: 1,007. Favourite: N R I Star.

Owner: Mr. Ashok Kumar Gupta. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

7. ADLER PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): MY HONEY (Shivam) 1, American Affair (P. Ajeeth K) 2, Aditya (Rafique Sk.) 3 and December Caspian (Mohit) 4. Not run: Beverley. 1-1/2, 3-1/4 and Neck. 1m, 14.70s. ₹32 (w), 17, 10 and 22 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 40, FP: 58, Q: 42, Tanala: 278. Favourite: American Affair.

Owner: Mr. Saleem A. Jasdanwalla. Trainer: D. Netto.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹32,647 (16 tkts.) & 30%: 1,929 (116 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: 47, 936 (c/o).

Treble: (i) 3,354 (10 tkts.), (ii) 1,348 (31 tkts.).

Exclusive Black tipped to deliver in the chief event

HYDERABAD: The five-year-old gelding Exclusive Black may score over his rivals in the upper division of the P.G. Reddy Memorial Trophy, the chief event of Monday's (Aug. 10) races.

1 P.G. REDDY MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. III) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat.II), 1.35 p.m.: 1. Glorious Power (1) Neeraj 61, 2. Torchbearer (6) P. Ajeeth K 60, 3. Victoria Doresaani (5) Akshay K 59.5, 4. Rival (3) Ajay K 58, 5. Blue Pantheress (4) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 6. Clefairy (8) A.A. Vikrant 54, 7. Coming Home (2) B. Nikhil 52.5 and 8. Juramento (7) Surya Prakash 50.5.

1. VICTORIA DORESAANI, 2. CLEFAIRY, 3. GLORIOUS POWER

2 ROYAL REVIVE PLATE (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 2.10: 1. Concordia (5) B.R. Kumar 56, 2. Toshiro (10) Neeraj 56, 3. Weseethesamesun (2) Rafique Sk. 56, 4. Aakarshaka (7) Md. Ismail 54.5, 5. Bayone (3) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5, 6. Digital Empress (4) Akshay K 54.5, 7. Evan Sville (8) P. Sai K 54.5, 8. Khamagani (11) Gaurav 54.5, 9. Love All (6) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 10. Ruby Tuesday (9) Arjun 54.5 and 11. She's A Bomb (1) Shivam 54.5.

1. DIGITAL EMPRESS, 2. TOSHIRO, 3. SHE'S A BOMB

3 ADLER PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.45: 1. Daring Spirit (6) Trevor 60.5, 2. Normui (3) D.S. Deora 60.5, 3. Basilica (1) Akshay K 60, 4. Inderdhanush (4) A.A. Vikrant 58.5, 5. La Quinta (9) Ajay K 57.5, 6. Dream To Fly (5) G. Naresh 57, 7. Ilene (7) B.R. Kumar 55.5, 8. Sadiya (11) P. Ajeeth K 54.5, 9. Bold Indian (2) B. Nikhil 52, 10. Moonlite Rose (8) Surya Prakash 51 and 11. Sugriva (10) Arjun 50.

1. DARING SPIRIT, 2. LA QUINTA, 3. ILENE

4 DEVARAKONDA TROPHY (DIV. I) (1,100m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.20: 1. Sweet Dancer (4) P. Ajeeth K 61, 2. Lego (7) Rafique Sk. 57.5, 3. Taaliyah (3) Surya Prakash 54, 4. Quality Warrior (2) Santosh Raj 53, 5. Most Beautiful (5) Md. Ekram 52, 6. Varada (1) D.S. Deora 52, 7. Glimmer Of Hope (9) B. Nikhil 51.5, 8. Faizah (6) Abhay Singh 51 and 9. Screenshot (8) Arjun 50.

1. VARADA, 2. SWEET DANCER, 3. GLIMMER OF HOPE

5 P.G. REDDY MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. I) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.55: 1. Exclusive Black (5) Trevor 61, 2. Dyanoosh (6) Kuldeep Jr. 60.5, 3. Golden Gazelle (8) Afroz K 59.5, 4. Best Buddy (4) Md. Ekram 58.5, 5. Federer (1) P. Ajeeth K 55, 6. Colt Pistol (3) Rafique Sk. 54, 7. Sangreal (7) Ajay K 54, 8. Shooting Star (2) Gaurav 52 and 9. Top In Class (9) B. Nikhil 51.5.

1. EXCLUSIVE BLACK, 2. DYANOOSH, 3. FEDERER

6 DEVARAKONDA TROPHY (DIV. II) (1,100m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.30: 1. Feel The Magic (5) D.S. Deora 60, 2. Windsor (7) Surya Prakash 55, 3. Beast Master (4) P. Sai K 54, 4. December Rain (6) Mohit 52.5, 5. Deccan Ranger (2) Rafique Sk. 52, 6. French Lady (3) G. Naresh 52, 7. Golden Unicorn (1) Shivam 52 and 8. Don Cherie (8) Md. Ekram 51.

1. FEEL THE MAGIC, 2. FRENCH LADY, 3. DECEMBER RAIN

7 P.G. REDDY MEMORIAL TROPHY (DIV. II) (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 5.05: 1. Calistoga (1) Md. Ismail 61, 2. Star Forever (6) P. Sai K 60, 3. Leather Back (4) Rafique Sk. 59.5, 4. Warwick (7) P. Ajeeth K 58.5, 5. Arion One (2) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 6. Shadow Baby (–), 7. Arthisha (3) Akshay K 54 and 8. Shah Of Iran (5) Surya Prakash 52.

1. ARTHISHA, 2. LEATHER BACK, 3. CALISTOGA

Day's Best: **DARING SPIRIT**

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 5, 6 & 7.

Tanala: All races.

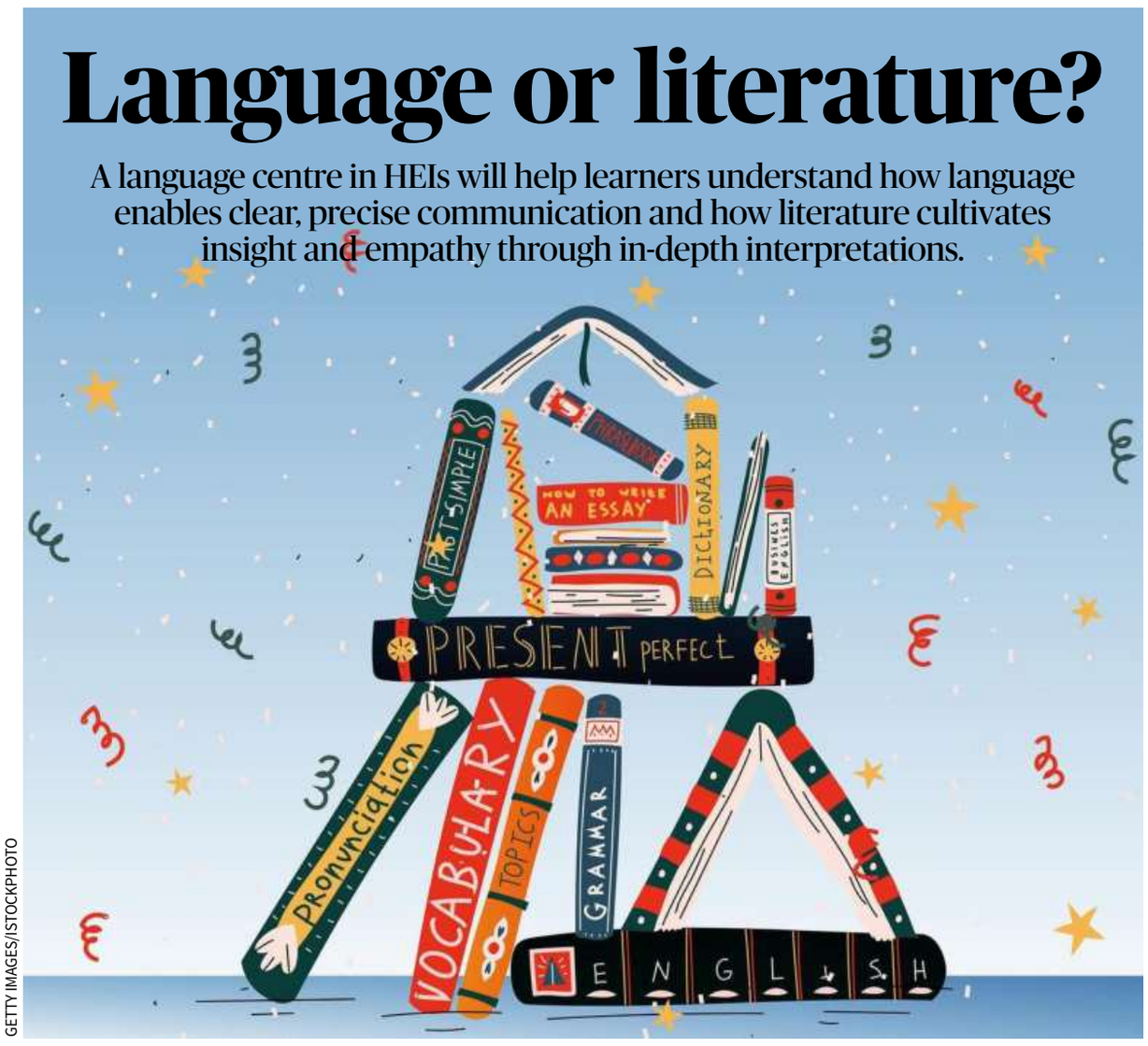
EDUCATIONPLUS

GET THE EDGE Follow us facebook.com/thehindu x.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Language or literature?

A language centre in HEIs will help learners understand how language enables clear, precise communication and how literature cultivates insight and empathy through in-depth interpretations.

H. Kalpana Rao



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Often, when I am introduced as a professor of English, the immediate response is "Oh, I need to be careful when I speak to you in English." Such comments point to a widespread confusion between language proficiency and the study of literature. This is a misconception that needs clarification.

Literature is more content-driven and deals with ideas and experiences and communicates to the reader through an emotional quotient. On the other hand, language is more about the structural aspects, such as understanding grammar, vocabulary, and syntax, and about knowing the underlying structure.

Language training

An important need in higher education today is training in language. This is not to say that literature students are unable to use language.

They do but in a different way. They can analyse and deconstruct plots, stories, and narratives, explore cultural nuances, recognise discrimination, ponder social and political backdrops, and identify the plural meanings that a text offers. Yet, they are unable to draft an essay with the nuanced perspective by which they read a text.

We need to, therefore, find a methodology to improve this. One solution is to set up a language centre that can provide training in English language skills and help scholars and students in academic writing. It is not just literature students who lack the skills necessary to author academic articles.

Students and scholars in the sciences and other fields also find it difficult to communicate their research ideas clearly. This lack of language proficiency also has implications for employability, as students and scholars struggle to write clear resumes, articulate confidently in interviews, and communicate well in professional settings. In the case of researchers, inadequate language skills limit their ability to produce well-structured dissertations or critically engaged conference papers. Over time, these issues also erode confidence and make students hesitate to participate boldly and positively in academic forums.

Improved presentation

Another lacuna lies in presentation skills. Too often, scholars, including faculty members, prepare dull slides and speak without preparation, leading to frequent miscommunication and a sense of boredom among listeners. Therefore, a language centre may help by providing support to prepare strong, attractive slides and offering training in seminar presentations and speaking coherently. Additionally, it could also offer structured modules in grammar, vocabulary building, academic writing, and critical reading, along with workshops on citation practices, editing skills and communication.

Such a centre might also collaborate with different departments by designing specific writing sessions such as scientific writing for science students, report writing for social sciences, and research papers for humanities. The centre could be staffed by English language tutors who combine strong language skills with patience and a supportive approach to learners. Many universities abroad run such writing centres and communication labs that function as academic support hubs offering consultations and skill sustenance across the university.

It is significant that higher education institutions recognise that language is not merely a medium of instruction but a tool for thinking, shaping how students organise ideas, construct arguments and engage intellectually at a global level. This does not mean that literature is not necessary. On the other hand, literature nurtures critical consciousness by providing readers to analyse varied perspectives, recognise power structures, and explore the complexities of human experience. Higher education needs both these dimensions to exist side by side so that learners understand how language enables clear, precise communication and how literature cultivates insight and empathy through in-depth interpretations.

The writer is a former professor of English at Pondicherry University and now volunteers as the editor for the literary section of the online journal, Muse India. Email: hkalp.eng@pondiuni.ac.in

DIGITAL SPEEDOMETER WITH BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY^
^Available in Top Variant.

DUAL-CHANNEL ABS MODES

UPSIDE-DOWN FRONT FORKS

NO COST EMI**

LOW DOWN PAYMENT ₹11,999#

INSTANT CASHBACK UP TO ₹10,000**

BENEFITS UP TO ₹8,500##

SCAN TO KNOW MORE

*T&C apply. #Finance schemes are mutually exclusive. #Finance will be at the sole discretion of the financier. *Ex-showroom price of base variant. **Applicable on HDFC debit and credit cards. ##Offer valid from 8th - 17th Aug 2026 on base variants (only on select credit cards).

TVSCREDIT

FOR ALL INSTITUTIONAL/BULK REQUIREMENTS PLEASE MAIL corporatecustomersupport@TVSmotor.com. **Authorised Main Dealer: Adyar:** Ramkay TVS: 9940177708. **Avadi:** Unikorn TVS: 91764 34443. **Ambattur:** SVS TVS: 98417 44417. **Anna Nagar:** Shri Mishri TVS: 91767 83339. **Ashok Nagar:** Dhiraa TVS: 72007 59059. **Aynavaram:** SBM TVS: 87545 79994. **Kelambakkam:** Shri Shakthi TVS: 94459 33493. **Kolathur:** SBM TVS: 87545 72405. **Korattur:** Sri Lakshmi TVS: 91766 49217. **Maduravoyal:** Om Shakthi TVS: 73388 88225. **Mandaveli:** Brilliant TVS: 9080917906. **Moolakadai:** SBM TVS: 87545 72414. **Mudichur:** MG TVS: 93600 01394. **MKB Nagar:** Walters TVS: 7338840166. **New Washermenpet:** RVM TVS: 91500 66182, 91500 66183. **Navalur:** Shri Shakthi TVS: 94459 33491. **Pallavaram**: MG TVS: 9360001396. **Pammal:** Kothari TVS: 73052 37666. **Peravallur:** SBM TVS: 87545 79993. **Perambur:** SBM TVS: 73977 75595. **Poonamalle :** Laxmi TVS: 63850 93939. **Rajakilpakkam:** Brilliant TVS: 9500102654. **Redhills:** SBM TVS: 87545 72422. **Sholinganallur:** Keshvin TVS: 99512 52666. **Tambaram:** MG TVS: 93600 01397. **Thiruvanmaiyur:** Keshvin TVS: 99512 52666. **Ullagaram:** Dhiraa TVS: 72004 59059. **Velachery:** Walters TVS: 9150003444. **Virugambakkam:** Dhiraa TVS: 72006 59059. **Chengalpet:** Arihant TVS: 78458 02807. **Kanchipuram:** KNK TVS: 7305996013. **Little Kanchipuram**: KNK TVS: 7305996053. **Kalpakkam:** Star TVS: 99524 25819. **Tiruvallur:** SPS TVS: 90437 16214. **Tiruttani:** GJ TVS: 95855 56928. **Guduwanchery:** Arihant TVS: 70920 77990. **Kattupakkam** RVM TVS: 99628 70101. **Alanthur:** Kothari TVS: 74181 06663. **Veperi:** RVM TVS: 81226 22949. **Perungudi:** Walters TVS: 91500 03440. **Pallikaranai:** Ganesh TVS: 91762 55253. **Porur:** Venkateshwara TVS: 89259 42983

Pant — an enigma at the crossroads

GETTY IMAGES

Having been replaced as India's Test vice-captain, he can focus on his primary disciplines without having to attend lengthy team discussions or the distraction of being pulled in different directions; the team needs the most potent version of the player to come to the fore

R. Kaushik

When we talk one-format India internationals in the current milieu, almost all the focus is on India's two immediate all-format past skippers. Since May 2025, when they bid adieu to Test cricket within weeks of each other, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli play for the country only in One-Day Internationals, having already announced their retirement from T20Is at the conclusion of a triumphant World T20 campaign in Bridgetown in June 2024.

There has been so much talk about whether one, or both, or neither, will be present at next year's 50-over World Cup in southern Africa that most other issues have been relegated to the background. Including the fact that there is another high-profile one-format-only international in recent times, a young man who has completed a decade in India colours but is now at a tenuous crossroads after an eminently forgettable last few months.

As India embarked on a journey of transition, replete with excitement and promise, last summer through a five-Test tour of England, it was expected that the future would be shaped by two of the most luminous gems in the Indian firmament. Shubman Gill's elevation to the Test captaincy was no surprise, even though he didn't have a great deal of leadership experience at the First Class level. Gill had time on his side, he was even then one of the top batters whose place wasn't under threat, and he had shown himself to be a quick learner. Thrust into the role of his deputy was a once-fearless force of nature who had been forced by circumstances to temper his exuberance, both because of extraneous pressure and owing to the fact that, having established himself as one of the seniors within the setup, he had to strike a fine balance between carefree and careless batsmanship.

Rishabh Pant's rise as the vice-captain of the Test side was welcomed with as much breathless anticipation as Gill's to the captaincy. Or Pant's arrival at the batting crease, if you like. With the chunky left-hander, you still don't know what to expect. Or maybe you do, but even so, what he does simply blows your mind. Pant isn't reckless; he isn't someone who doesn't not put a price on his wicket, though from time to time, 'Stupid, stupid, stupid' will surface because that's just who he is. Successive coaches, from Ravi Shastri to Rahul Dravid to now Gautam Gambhir, have given him the licence to be himself with the rider that he should be a little more selective, a little more game-aware, a little more respectful of situations and conditions.

It might have been tough for Gambhir to reconcile, for instance, to Pant's extravagant aerial drive to his fifth delivery, from off-spinner Ramesh Mendis, that nestled in long-off's hands at the NCC ground on Saturday in India's only practice game, against a Sri Lanka Cricket XI. Most other batters would have been happy to play themselves in, get some circulation going, get a feel of the conditions, prepare conservatively for the two-Test series beginning in Galle next Saturday. But Pant isn't most people, and that's precisely what makes him the compelling attraction in front of the stumps that he has been since his Test debut in August 2018.

Pant fell just two balls after attempting a similar stroke that fell just beyond the reach of the backtracking mid-off fielder, compelling Mendis and skipper Sonal Dinusha to push Nishan Madushka back. Perhaps in a show of bravado, or more likely because he backed himself to middle the ball turning away from him and comfortably clear the fielder, Pant went through with the stroke only to put the ball up in the air for Madushka to complete a smart grab. Two runs from five deliveries isn't what Pant, or the leadership group of Gill and Gambhir would have hoped for, but as mentioned earlier, India have been willing to accept the trade-off because when Pant gets going, the destruction he can wreak is beyond parallel.

Pant's dalliance with the vice-captaincy didn't last too long, the decision-makers arriving at the conclusion that he and Indian cricket would be better off without additional responsibilities being thrust on his shoulders. In his first sojourn as Gill's deputy, Pant was a runaway success. His batting in England, on admittedly excellent tracks for batting, was a sight for sore eyes. While Gill was wooing and wowing the connoisseurs with his correctness and his silken stroke-making on his way to 754 extraordinary runs, Pant was at his innovative, unpredictable best without compromising on consistency. In Leeds during the first Test, he became the first Indian stumper to notch up twin hundreds in England, backed it up with 25 and 65 in the series-levelling win in Birmingham, produced efforts of 74 and 9 in the Lord's loss and won himself a few million more fans by coming out to bat with a broken foot in the first innings and making a stirring 54 in the fourth Test in Manchester.

On-field heroism

The manner in which he contracted that injury, and the events that followed as he took on-field heroism to a different level, are archetypal Pant. The 28-year-old attempted a reverse against seamer Chris Woakes and only managed to play the ball on to his foot, carried off the field as that part of his body swelled up dramatically within seconds of the impact. When he came out to bat, hobbling and unable to put any weight on his right foot, he still found enough timing and power to smack fours - and a six - as he brought up his fifty to raucous applause and walked off to warm appreciation and genuine respect from England's fielders.

That broken foot not only ended his England tour but also kept him out of the home series against West Indies in October. By this time, Pant was clearly only in the running for Test matches. His last ODI was in August 2024, his last T20I a week before that, both in Sri Lanka in Gambhir's first assignment as Dravid's successor. Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan in the shorter white-ball format, and K.L. Rahul and Kishan in the 50-over version, have surged well clear in the wicketkeeper-batter stakes, which means the only canvas available to Pant, apart from the IPL which hasn't been his happiest hunting ground, is the five-day spectacle.

Pant's return to Test cricket, against South Africa in Kolkata in November, was anything but auspicious as India failed to hunt down 124 on an Eden minefield. Gill's batting efforts in that Test were restricted to just three deliveries in the first innings as he retired hurt with a neck injury, an affliction that kept him out of the second Test in Guwahati and thrust Pant into the Test skipper's role for the first time.

Hard times

It was a disastrous initiation; Pant himself played one of the most horrendous strokes of his career, a little after lunch on day three, then oversaw a 408-run hammering - India's heaviest by runs in Test history. A few months later came a campaign of gigantic failure in the IPL when, under Pant, Lucknow Supergiants hurtled from one misadventure to another. Even before the tournament had ended, Pant had stepped down as captain, and a few weeks later, it was confirmed that the IPL's most expensive player would return to his original franchise, Delhi Capitals, after taking a heavy pay cut.

Pant had a reasonably fruitful outing in the one-off Test against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh in June, with a somewhat restrained 81 in his, and India's, only innings of the game that they bossed all the way through. By then, though, he had been replaced as vice-captain by K.L. Rahul, one of the few individuals to have captained the country in all three formats, all in a stand-in capacity. It was the clearest indication that Agarkar's panel, if no one else, believed that Pant himself and the team as a whole would be better off if he was divested of official leadership responsibilities, though given his standing in the international circuit, Pant can't not be a leader in his own right.

Now, Pant can focus on his primary disciplines without having to attend lengthy team discussions or the distraction of being pulled in different directions, an inevitable fallout of additional role thrusts. Behind the stumps, he is unconventional and unorthodox, more Mahendra Singh Dhoni than Syed Kirmani or Nayan Mongia. In front of it, he is evidently in a league of his own. Like he showed on Sunday in Colombo, he can stonewall if so required - though even he will admit that he took it too far - and switch gears around his stonewalling without warning. It is exactly this unpredictability that makes him such an irascible force, a revolving door that can exasperate as much as it can exhilarate.

Impressive numbers

Despite the presence in the squad, and possibly in the playing XI, of Dhruv Jurel, there is not even an artificial threat to Pant's presence in the Test scheme of things. After all, we are talking about someone who averages 43.37 from an even 50 Tests, at a jaw-dropping strike-rate of 74.05 embellished by eight centuries and 19 fifties in 87 innings. These are numbers that would do several specialist batters proud - remember that Mike Atherton and the recently retired Ajinkya Rahane both averaged less than 40 - and yet, there is more to Pant. Such as 162 catches and 16 stumpings, and the very rare ability to change the course of even Test matches with two hours of unadulterated mayhem.

Six of Pant's eight centuries have come away from home - four in England, and one each in Australia and South Africa - though like most of the rest of his colleagues, he hasn't played a Test match in Sri Lanka yet. In some ways, the conditions there will be strikingly similar to India, but in others, they won't be, especially when it comes to pace off the surface. Galle from Saturday, and the SSC ground the week thereafter, will ask questions of Pant that he hasn't been asked too often in the past, but knowing him, he will find the answers. How he uses those answers, however, will make for fun viewing, as much as how much and how freely he is allowed to use them. There is no point asking Pant to bat like Ravindra Jadeja because, well, he wouldn't be Pant then, would he? India need the most potent version of Pant to come to the fore. Only a really brave or stupid individual will bet against that eventuating.

THE GIST

- Pant's rise as the vice-captain of the Test side was welcomed with as much breathless anticipation as Gill's to the captaincy. Or his arrival at the batting crease, if you like. With the chunky left-hander, you still don't know what to expect
- In his first sojourn as Gill's deputy, Pant was a runaway success. His batting in England, on admittedly excellent tracks for batting, was a sight for sore eyes
- The Tests in Galle and the SSC ground will ask questions of Pant that he hasn't been asked too often in the past, but knowing him, he will find the answers

If DNA is the instruction manual, we just opened a big second volume

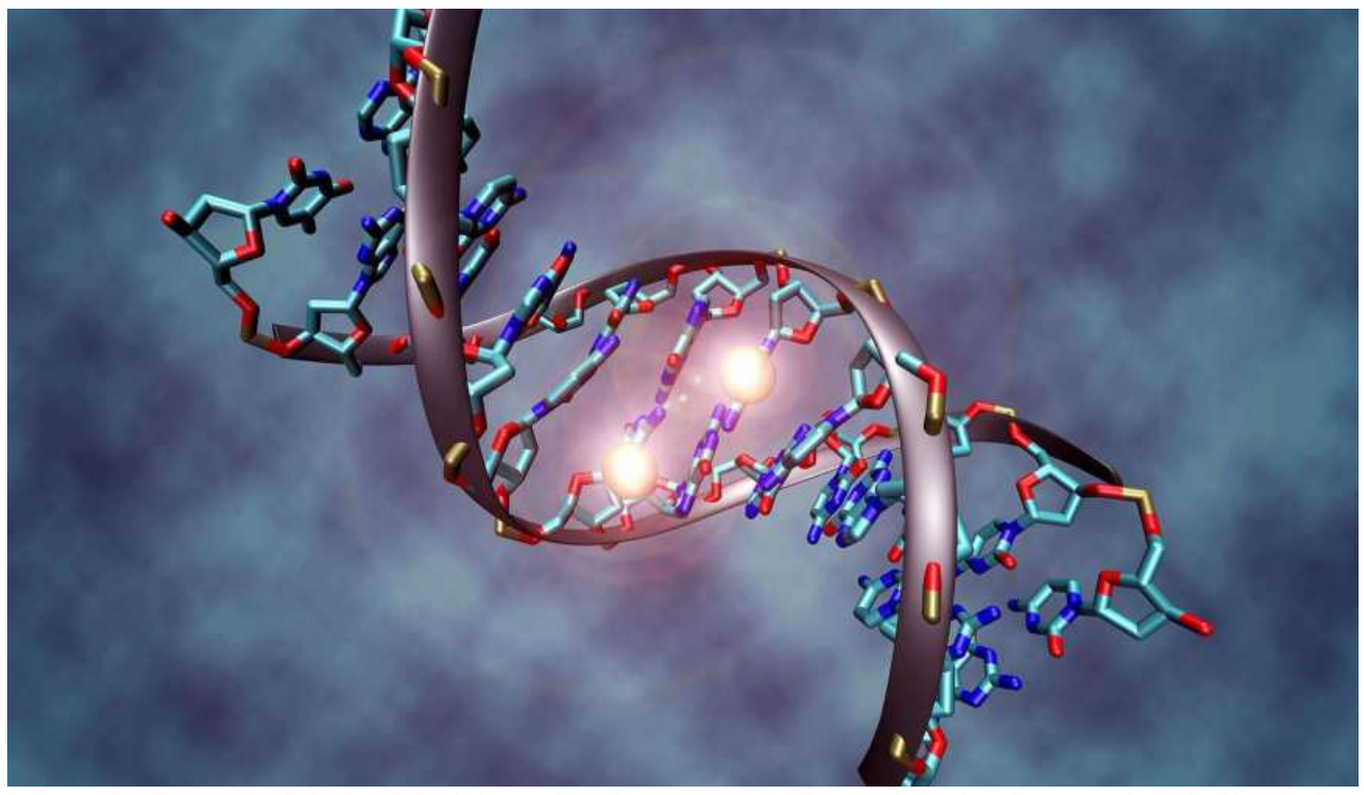
A new study found that several inherited traits occur not because genes mutate but because of chemical modifications of the genome that can jump across generations, change depending on whether an animal is male or female, and even copy themselves from one copy of a gene to another

D.P. Kasbekar

A team led by researchers at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine has found that several inherited traits in the mouse genome break the rules Gregor Mendel laid down in the 19th century about how genes work. This is not because the genes mutate but because of chemical modifications of the genome that can jump across generations, change depending on whether an animal is male or female, and even copy themselves from one copy of a gene to another.

Their findings were reported recently in *Nature Genetics*.

While the study was in mice, the implications go far beyond – as the same mechanisms may also shape human health, and be able to explain conditions that have long resisted genetic analysis.



Representation of a DNA molecule that is methylated. The two white spheres represent methyl groups. They are bound to two cytosine nucleotide molecules that make up the DNA sequence. CHRISTOPH BOCK (CC BY-SA)

'On' and 'off' genes

Every cell in the body carries two kinds of genetic information. One is the sequence – the order of the four chemical bases, A, T, G, and C, that spells out which proteins a gene produces. This is the genome that geneticists have spent decades mapping. The other is about whether a small chemical compound – called the methyl group ($-CH_3$) – is attached to the DNA at specific locations.

When cytosines are methylated, the gene is usually silenced. When the group is removed, the gene can be expressed again. This process of switching genes 'on' and 'off' without changing the underlying sequence is called epigenetic modification. Epigenetic modifications are not permanent. They can even differ between tissues – e.g. liver cells and muscle cells methylate differently. Many of them are also reversed when the body makes fresh sperm or eggs.

The new study has found this rule to be violated.

Vastly underestimated

The researchers used a technology called nanopore sequencing. A single strand of DNA is threaded through a microscopic hole – the pore. As each base passes through, it produces a distinct blip in the electrical current flowing across the pore. Methylated cytosines produce a different blip from unmethylated ones.

The team sequenced DNA from the liver and muscle tissues of mice belonging to two inbred strains. Their genomes differed at millions of positions.

Of the 7,600 or so locations on the genomes where the methylation patterns differed, around 93% followed Mendel's rules. That is, methylation had passed reliably from parent to offspring. But in the remaining 7% or so, the researchers identified more than 500 instances of non-Mendelian epigenetic inheritance.

To illustrate, in 305 genome regions, all in the liver, the methylation depended on whether the mouse was male or female. Mendel's rules don't allow this. In 304 of these regions, females' genomes were more methylated than males' genomes.

While sex-specific methylation in the liver has been reported before in both mice and humans, the new study found that the scale has been vastly underestimated.

A new first

The researchers also identified at least five new genes displaying genomic imprinting – where the level of methylation depends on whether the gene was inherited from the mother or the father.

The most striking finding had to do with a phenomenon called paramutation. Here, the methylation status of one copy of a gene – say, the one inherited from the father – is also transferred to the other copy, inherited from the mother. The 'rewritten' mother's copy then persists through the next generation.

Again, scientists had observed paramutation in plants and engineered mice before. This is the first time it has been reported to be naturally occurring in a mammal's genome.

In the study, the paramutated gene was *Capn11*, which contains the recipe for a protein that is active in the testes during meiosis. When this protein is not available in sufficient amounts, the effects may include infertility and azoospermia (having no sperm in the semen).

The researchers also identified at least five new genes displaying genomic imprinting – where the level of methylation depends on whether the gene was inherited from the mother or the father

The team also identified two likely instances of paramutation related to the gene *Vps37c* and a downstream stretch of the genome. Both these areas are associated with intracisternal A particles – the genetic remains of ancient viruses that became embedded in the mouse genome.

According to the study's authors, these particles may be central to the paramutation process since they have been known to resist the body's mechanisms to remove epigenetic modifications when producing sperm or eggs.

Genome-wide association studies

The study also offers a new framework to explain heritable traits that researchers have struggled to study using genetics. For instance, a condition called hypertrichosis pinnae auris leads to the growth of coarse, dark hair on the outer ear and is prevalent among South Asian men. It is transmitted from fathers to sons but never to daughters.

According to the study's results, if a father carries a paramutagenic version of the gene that causes this condition and the mother carries a 'normal' version, then in a son the paramutagenic copy would rewrite the maternal copy, leaving the son to have hairy ears. He could then pass the paramutagenic variant of the gene to his own children. But if the paramutagenic variant is demethylated in females – as the new findings suggest can happen – a daughter's own copies of the gene would be unmethylated and her ears would be unaffected.

Even more broadly, the findings imply that genome-wide association studies – an increasingly popular kind of study that looks for the genetic variants linked to diseases – may be missing a significant fraction of heritable variation because that variation is not in the sequence. Instead, the study's authors have argued the work opens the door to a new kind of analysis: allele-specific epigenome-wide association studies, which trace methylation patterns rather than sequence variants, to find parts of the genome associated with diseases that conventional methods miss.

Human genetics has long assumed that if you sequence the genome, you have read the instruction manual. It may be that the manual has a second volume – and we have barely opened it today.

(D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist. kasbekardp@yahoo.co.in)

THE GIST

A team led by researchers at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine has found that several inherited traits in the mouse genome break the rules Gregor Mendel laid down in the 19th century about how genes work

The study offers a new framework to explain heritable traits that researchers have struggled to study using genetics

The study's authors have argued that the work opens the door to a new kind of analysis: allele-specific epigenome-wide association studies

BIG SHOT

Workers prepare geo bags to prevent erosion of the Brahmaputra river bank at Borakhat village, in Kamrup district of Assam on August 7. ANI

WHAT IS IT?

Glueball: matter of force

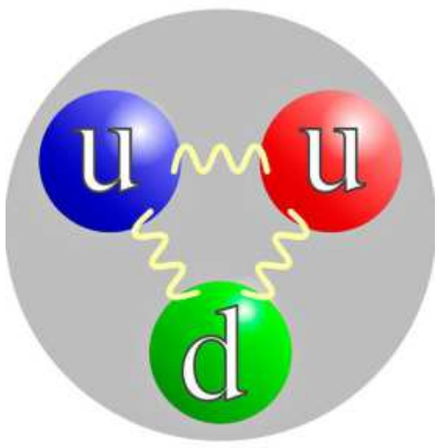
Vasudevan Mukunth

Nature has four fundamental forces: gravity, the weak force (responsible for radioactivity), electromagnetism, and the strong force. The strong force is responsible for keeping the protons and neutrons together in the nuclei of atoms.

The theory describing the strong interaction between two particles is called quantum chromodynamics (QCD). In QCD, the strong force is carried by gluons — just like how the electromagnetic force is carried by photons. But unlike photons, gluons carry a kind of charge that allows gluons to be attracted to each other. And QCD says they can come together to form composite particles called glueballs.

In new research, scientists have taken a big step closer to showing glueballs exist. The team used data from the BESIII experiment in Beijing to uncover them. This is easier said than done because when a glueball appears in a particle physics experiment, it will be very short-lived and quickly decay into lighter particles in a way that is hard to distinguish from some other particles.

Scientists had first observed a candidate glueball called X(2370) in BESIII data in 2011. Its mass seemed consistent with a glueball. They also estimated some of its properties based on the decays of a particle called the J/ψ meson. The new data buttresses the odds that X(2370) is indeed a glueball by revealing more properties glueballs possess.



Protons are made up of three smaller particles called quarks, held together by the strong interaction mediated by particles called gluons. ARPAD HORVATH (CC BY-SA)

Thus, BESIII has assembled the strongest case to date that X(2370) has a dominant glueball component, potentially providing the first evidence for a form of matter made just from the carriers of a fundamental force.

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

Number of flight cancellations due to Typhoon Dolphin

1,300 Typhoon Dolphin made landfall in densely populated eastern China on Sunday, meteorological authorities said, after the storm triggered more than 1,000 flight cancellations, evacuations and a top-level alert. AFP

Grievances resolved by Delhi Police received during public hearings

368 The Delhi Police has resolved 368 complaints and grievances received during public hearings held at police stations across the national capital on Saturday, as part of its Thana Divas-Jansunwai initiative. The initiative was launched in June. PTI

Area of safe haven carved out for lions in Gujarat

100 hectares. Stepping up efforts to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, the Gujarat forest department is establishing a 100-hectare enclosure at the Ambardi Safari Park in Amreli district to house Asiatic lions that have attacked humans, an official said on Sunday. PTI

Subsidy to be provided by Himachal Pradesh govt. for cold storage

70 in per cent. The Himachal Pradesh government will provide a 70% subsidy for establishing 5-metric-tonne cold storages, freeze-dry units and refrigerated vans. The cost has been fixed at ₹15 lakh for a 5 MT cold storage unit, ₹10 lakh for a freeze-dry unit and ₹20 lakh for a refrigerated van. PTI

Estimated annual rise in Taiwan's defence spending for 2027

16 in per cent. Taiwan's cabinet will propose a 16% annual rise in defence spending for 2027 which will for the first time exceed T$1 trillion ($31 billion), the official Central News Agency reported on Sunday, as Taipei bolsters its military. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

The stakes in India's delimitation debate

What triggers delimitation? How will the 2027 Census affect seat allocation? Can the exercise be completed before 2029? Which States could gain or lose seats? What happens without a constitutional amendment? How will women's reservation be implemented? How can new boundaries affect electoral outcomes?

EXPLAINER

Varghese K. George

The story so far:

The BJP is keen to kick off a fresh delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies. It is trying to garner a two-thirds majority in Parliament to pass a Constitutional amendment for this purpose. In April 2026, it had moved the amendment but could not pass it. The Centre has not revealed its exact proposals. The proposals that the Centre placed before Parliament in the previous Session were the following:

1) Increase the size of the Lok Sabha up to a maximum of 850 seats; 2) distribute these seats among the States based on the 2011 Census through a fresh, countrywide delimitation of constituencies; and 3) reserve one-third of the total seats for women.

According to the existing Constitutional provisions, a fresh delimitation is possible only after the data of the 2027 Census is published, and reservation for women can be rolled out only along with it.

What happens if there is no Constitutional amendment?

For a fresh delimitation to happen, a Constitutional amendment is not required. A fresh delimitation will be triggered soon after the data of the 2027 census is published. The terms for the next delimitation are already written into the Constitution, principally in Articles 81 and 82. A Constitutional amendment is required only if the existing constitutional provisions relating to delimitation are to be changed.

Articles 81 and 82 mandate that after the data from the first Census conducted after 2026 is published, two things will happen.

The first is a reallocation of the existing strength of the Lok Sabha among the States and Union Territories on the basis of the population recorded in that Census, which would, in this case, be the 2027 Census. The second is the delimitation of individual constituencies within each State.

Therefore, if there is no Constitutional amendment at all, there will be a delimitation exercise that must begin after the data of the 2027 Census is published.

Gearing up: A fresh delimitation will be triggered soon after the data of the 2027 census is published. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Can a fresh delimitation be completed before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections?

May or may not. In the past, delimitation exercises took several years. The last one was set up on 12 July 2002, after the 2001 Census. Its recommendations were implemented in 2008, and the 2009 Lok Sabha elections were held based on newly drawn constituencies.

The last delimitation did not involve a reallocation of seats of individual States; only the existing constituencies within each State were redrawn. The last time Lok Sabha seats were reallocated among States was in 1973, based on the 1971 Census. That ratio remains as of today.

The 2027 Census is the first time that data gathering has been completely digitalised. Theoretically, it is possible that the delimitation process could be quicker than before. If the exercise is not completed before the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, it could continue into the term of the next Lok Sabha and the government.

The last Delimitation Commission was appointed during A. B. Vajpayee's tenure as the Prime Minister, and its work was completed during the first term of the Manmohan Singh government, with a Lok Sabha election in 2004 in between. The same can happen with the next Delimitation Commission.

What will be the mandate of the next Delimitation Commission?

If a fresh delimitation is triggered under the existing provisions of Articles 81 and 82, the following will happen.

At present, the distribution of the 543 Lok Sabha seats among the States is based on the population figures of the 1971 Census. When the benchmark changes from the 1971 population to the population recorded in the first Census after 2026, the seat distribution is likely to change **(Table 1)**. Broadly speaking, the southern States are likely to face a reduction in their share of Lok Sabha seats, while the Hindi-speaking States, particularly Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, are likely to gain seats. The maximum number of Lok Sabha seats allowed by the Constitution is 550. A third of the Lok Sabha seats nationally, and one-third of the seats within each State, will be reserved for women.

So, in the absence of any Constitutional amendment, the following sequence is envisaged: first, the reallocation of Lok Sabha seats among States; second, the delimitation of constituencies within States; and third, the implementation of women's reservation – all tied to the Census 2027.

How is the allocation of seats to each State determined?

Think of India as one large joint family and the States as its constituent family units. Imagine that each individual across the joint family was entitled to one acre of land **(Image 1)**. A family with five members got five acres, another with seven members got seven acres, and so on. Each family then divided its share among its members. At that point, everyone got roughly the same share. In political terms, every vote had roughly the same value. But then time passed. Some families grew much faster than others. In the larger families, the same land had to be shared among more people. In the smaller families, fewer people shared the same land. As a result, the value of each person's share began to differ.

That is, in a sense, what has happened to votes in India. In 1967, an MP across most major States represented roughly four to five lakh electors. Today, a MP from Kerala represents about 14 lakh electors, while in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the figure is around 19 lakh.

This variation is the result of a deliberate decision by all parties, taken on two occasions, in 1976 and 2001, not to punish States that had stabilised their populations. The Constitution gives that leeway. The size of Lok Sabha constituencies is not necessarily based on a national average, which today would be about 18 lakh voters per constituency. Article 81 requires seats to be allocated among States "so far as practicable", on the basis of a national average. This leeway for variation allows for a balance between two principles that can be in tension: federalism, or representation of States, and democracy, or one vote, one value.

And that is the central tension the debate on delimitation now needs to resolve.

Image 1

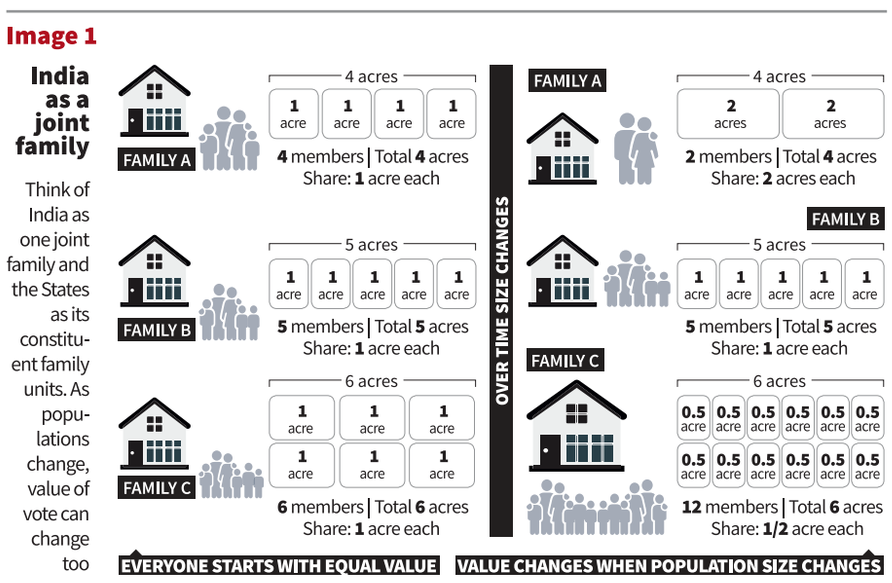
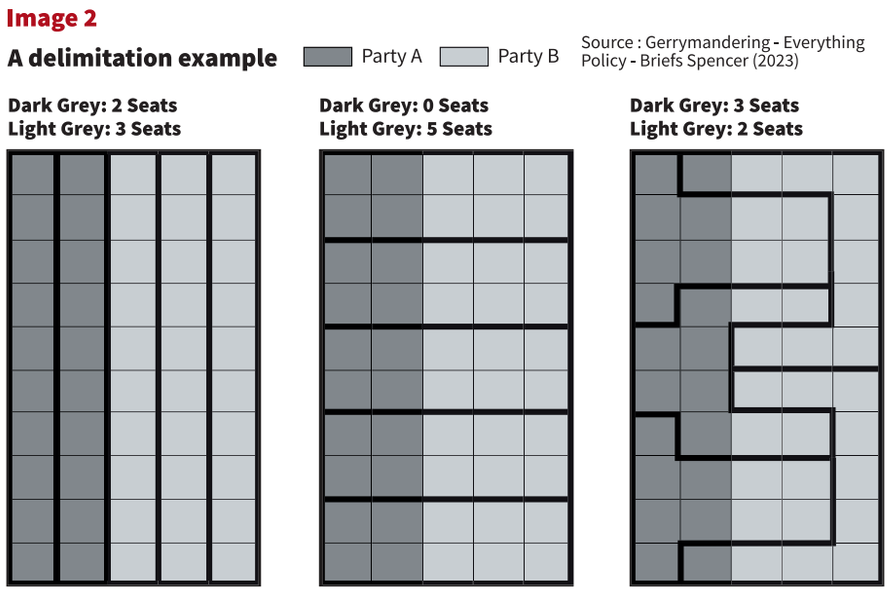


Image 2



Comparison of Lok Sabha seat distribution based on 2024 electors and 2011 population

State/ Union Territory	Current Seats (543)	Seats*	Seats**
A.P.	25	23	22
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	1
Assam	14	14	14
Bihar	40	43	47
Goa	2	1	1
Gujarat	26	27	27
Haryana	10	11	11
H.P	4	3	3
Karnataka	28	30	27
Kerala	20	15	15
M.P	29	31	33
Maharashtra	48	52	50
Manipur	2	1	1
Meghalaya	2	1	1
Mizoram	1	0	0
Nagaland	1	1	1
Odisha	21	19	19
Punjab	13	12	12
Rajasthan	25	30	31
Sikkim	1	0	0

State/ Union Territory	Current Seats (543)	Seats*	Seats**
Tamil Nadu	39	35	32
Tripura	2	2	2
U.P.	80	86	90
WB	42	42	41
Chhattisgarh	11	11	11
Jharkhand	14	14	15
Uttarakhand	5	5	5
Telangana	17	18	16
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	0	0
Chandigarh	1	0	0
Dadra & NH and Daman & Diu	2	0	0
Delhi	7	8	8
Lakshadweep	1	0	0
Puducherry	1	1	1
J&K	5	5	6
Ladakh	1	0	0
Total	**543**	**541**	**543**

*If seats are redistributed as per the 2024 electoral roll

**Seats are redistributed as per the 2011 population

What is gerrymandering?

When we discuss the democratic principle of One Person, One Vote, One Value, the first requirement is that every Lok Sabha constituency should have roughly the same number of voters. But equal numbers alone do not guarantee equal value for every vote. Why? Because even when constituencies contain the same number of voters, the way those voters are grouped can dramatically affect electoral outcomes.

Consider a simple example **(Image 2)**. Imagine there are 50 voters. Party A has 20 supporters and Party B has 30 supporters. There are five constituencies, each with 10 voters and electing one representative.

In the first scenario, voters are distributed fairly across the five constituencies. The result broadly reflects the overall vote share. Party A and Party B win seats broadly in proportion to their support. In the second scenario, Party A's voters are spread thinly across constituencies. This is called cracking. Although Party A has 40% of all voters, it may not have enough support to win even one constituency. Thus, 40% of voters could end up with no representation at all.

In the third scenario, Party B's voters are heavily concentrated in a few constituencies. This is known as packing. Party B wins those seats with huge margins but ends up wasting votes, allowing Party A to win more seats despite having fewer supporters overall.

The way constituency boundaries are drawn can profoundly shape democratic representation and electoral outcomes.

Extracted from the author's introduction to 'The Delimitation Debate: The Union and its Units,' published by The Hindu. Order the book here:

THE GIST

- The 2027 Census is set to trigger a fresh delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies under Articles 81 and 82, even without a new Constitutional amendment.
- The exercise could significantly alter the distribution of Lok Sabha seats, with southern States likely to lose their share and Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan likely to gain.
- Redrawing constituency boundaries could also affect electoral outcomes, as the grouping of voters through 'cracking' and 'packing' can influence which parties win seats.

CACHE

A common blueprint for India's industrial heat electrification

India's next phase of energy transition must focus on electrifying industrial heat; a coordinated approach involving innovative financing, skilled workers, demonstration projects and cluster-level planning can help scale the transition and strengthen manufacturing competitiveness

Vrinda Gupta
Srinivas Ethiraj

India's energy transition is already mainstreaming renewable-powered electrification across major demand centres. Electric mobility is replacing internal combustion engines, agriculture is increasingly powered by solar irrigation, and buildings are adopting smarter appliances. The next phase lies in electrifying industrial heat, particularly across India's MSMEs, to strengthen manufacturing competitiveness, energy security and decarbonisation.

India's solar photovoltaic revolution reduced solar tariffs by more than 85% over the past decade through a coordinated ecosystem of supportive policies both at the national and state level, innovative financing, competitive vendors and markets, institutional mandates, and sustained private sector investment. Now, scaling industrial heat electrification will require a similar approach. The focus has shifted to how India plans and scales this transition.

No blanket solution

First, facility-level engineering assessments should become the foundation of industrial heat electrification. Most industries have limited visibility of their thermal systems beyond fuel consumption. Steam flow is rarely metered, process temperatures are often unmonitored, and waste heat streams remain unquantified. Without robust engineering assessments, industries risk investing in technologies unsuited to their process requirements. So, engineering assessments should evaluate legacy boiler performance and operating costs, optimise steam systems, identify recoverable waste heat, and where feasible, replace steam with more efficient direct heating before electrification.

Electricity can be used only where it delivers the greatest value. So, process integration tools such as pinch analysis should identify internal heat recovery opportunities before electrification.

Representative facilities can be used to develop standardised process profiles that estimate hourly thermal demand, identify electrifiable heat loads, and inform future electricity demand for utilities and grid operators. Aggregated across industrial clusters, these assessments can support district-level industrial decarbonisation plans tailored to local industrial profiles, renewable resources, and infrastructure readiness. Localised planning recognises that there is no one-size-fits-all solution.

Second, India should adopt a technology-inclusive approach. Industrial processes vary widely in temperature, production schedules, and thermal demand. So a single technology solution is impractical.

Heat pumps are well suited for low- and medium-temperature applications, particularly where waste heat can be recovered. Electric boilers currently offer a practical pathway for steam generation above 200° C. Mechanical vapour recompression systems can recover and reuse process vapour in evaporation-intensive processes. Thermal energy storage solutions can act as thermal buffers by storing surplus heat generated when renewable electricity is abundant or recovered from industrial waste heat, and releasing it when process heat is required, improving operational flexibility and reducing peak electricity demand.

Powering up: A successful electrification programme hinges on affordable and reliable renewable electricity supply. GETTY IMAGES

Access to capital

Third, a successful electrification programme hinges on affordable and reliable renewable electricity supply. While renewable generation costs have fallen dramatically over the past decade, the delivered cost of renewable electricity for industries remains influenced by network charges, open-access provisions, and other transaction costs.

As India's commercial and industrial renewable energy market matures, reforms should focus on reducing these costs by streamlining open-access procedures, rationalising banking provisions, reducing transactional complexity, and strengthening grid infrastructure, particularly for electrification projects that replace fossil fuel-based heating. Renewable electricity planning should be integrated with industrial electrification, enabling industries to align thermal demand with periods of renewable generation.

Fourth, financing models must evolve alongside technologies. The principal challenge in scaling industrial heat electrification extends beyond technology to reducing engineering and investment risks, particularly for MSMEs with limited access to capital and technical expertise.

Technology leasing, heat-as-a-service, energy service company models, and blended finance can lower the upfront investment and technology risks. Equally important is demand aggregation. Facility-level assessments should feed into cluster-level investment pipelines, allowing industries with similar thermal profiles to aggregate demand, reduce procurement costs, and improve access to low-cost finance.

Demonstration projects

Fifth, India needs skilled workers and implementation capacity tailored to cluster needs. Many industries, particularly MSMEs, face capability and skill gaps that slow technology adoption, reduce efficiency, and limit innovation. Most of the vocational and industry training programmes often focus on routine operations and maintenance. Industrial heat electrification will require an engineering transition at the shop floors rather than a simple equipment replacement exercise. Scaling it requires a workforce of engineers, technicians, and operators with capabilities in process integration, system design, installation, commissioning, operation, and maintenance, and digital automation and control systems.

Sixth, India needs demonstration projects before it needs large-scale mandates. India needs first-of-a-kind demonstration projects across representative sectors, process temperatures, and industrial clusters. This will generate engineering evidence, validate business models, and reduce investment uncertainty. The priority should be to identify the most suitable first-mover facilities.

Based on our analysis in brownfield settings, units that meet these screening criteria are the best candidates for early deployment of low- and medium-temperature (up to 250 °C) electrification technologies **(Table 1).**

Common blueprint

Finally, industrial heat electrification needs a coordinated national framework supported by place-based implementation. It should establish engineering standards, designate institutional responsibility, facilitate demand aggregation, mobilise finance, and support early demonstration projects. Its implementation should be driven through district and cluster-level industrial energy transition plans, allowing each industrial cluster to transition according to its unique thermal profile, local context, electricity market, and renewable energy potential.

India now needs a common blueprint to transform industrial heat electrification into a scalable industrial strategy. Industrial heat offers an opportunity to decarbonise manufacturing, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build a more resilient and future-ready industrial economy.

(Vrinda Gupta is associate director, Energy Transition, Vasudha Foundation. Srinivas Ethiraj is assistant manager, Energy Transition, Vasudha Foundation)

The right fit

The following criteria can help identify brownfield units best suited for early deployment of low- and medium-temperature electrification technologies:

Screening criterion	Indicative threshold
Steam generation cost	> ₹2.8 per kg of steam
Steam-to-fuel ratio	< 3 kg steam per kg fuel
Recoverable waste heat	Temperature ≥ 50° C; flow rate ≥ 60 cubic metres per hour
Delivered cost of renewable electricity	< ₹6 per kWh
Boiler service life	> 18 years

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

The rejection punctured his enthusiasm

The proposal was dead on arrival from the very beginning

S. Upendran

"The monsoon is here, finally! The people in our building are celebrating."

"I, for one, am over the moon. Sujatha is throwing a party this weekend."

"She told me, but I won't be able to come. I'm busy Sunday."

"You're busy Sunday? You mean, 'I'm busy on Sunday', don't you?"

"We're both right! In informal contexts, it's acceptable to say, 'I'm busy Sunday', without the 'on'. Americans do it quite often."

"I see. How about this example? The children's school reopens Tuesday."

"Sounds good. But remember such sentences are okay in informal contexts. But they'll be frowned upon in writing."

"Especially if it's a formal email or letter you're writing."

"That's right! Anyway, whether Sujatha's party is Sunday or on Sunday, I won't be able to come. Meeting Gautam Sunday evening."

"How is he doing? I heard that his partner took over his company."

"He never expected his partner to do it. His ego was punctured, and he..."

"Does it mean his ego had a flat tyre?"

"In a sense, yes. When someone punctures your ego, what he does is to make you lose or weaken your confidence."

"That happens whenever I talk to Bala. Every time we have a discussion, he punctures every argument I put forward."

"It's not just the argument that you put forward. He punctures everyone's arguments. By the way, it's not just arguments that can be punctured. A person's beliefs, feelings and dreams can also be punctured. For example, Mayank's love for cricket was punctured when he saw his brother being hit on head by a bouncer."

"A hit on the head can definitely puncture one's enthusiasm for the game, I guess. Hemant's dream of buying a new flat was punctured when the bank turned down his application for a loan."

"When I learnt that Revathi was a member of the selection committee, my positive mood was punctured."

"Revathi's cutting remarks have punctured the ego of many candidates."

"That's so true! She can be quite nasty when she's in a bad mood."

"Do you think Management will accept the changes she's recommended?"

"Not a chance! I think the proposal is dead on arrival. It needs...."

"What are you talking about?"

"It means that it is unlikely to be passed. It's unlikely to get the required number of votes. It will fail."

"I see."

"It was first used with patients who died before they could reach the hospital. The doctors declared my grandfather dead on arrival. The expression is often abbreviated to DOA. Over the years, it has acquired a figurative meaning. You normally use it to suggest that something - it could be a plan, and idea, proposal, etc. - that is unlikely to be accepted."

"I see. If you ask me, the bill that the Speaker has tabled is dead on arrival."

"The peace plan that we put forward yesterday is dead on arrival."

"That must have punctured your ego!"

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Persnickety: characterised by excessive precision and attention to trivial details

Synonyms: careful, picky, fussy, particular

Usage: *She is persnickety about how her room is arranged.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/persnickety

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pəsnɪkəti/

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

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On August 10, 1793, one of the most famous museums in the world, the Louvre, was opened for the public. A quiz on the museum and its works

Joan Sony Cherian

QUESTION 1

The establishment of the museum is closely linked with this paramount event in 1789. Name the event.

QUESTION 2

A steel-and-glass pyramid, known as the Louvre Pyramid, serves as the entrance to the museum. Name the architect who designed it.

QUESTION 3

During the Nazi occupation of France in the Second World War, many treasures of the museum, including the Mona Lisa, were transported to secret hiding places. Name the director of the museum who was responsible for ensuring the safe transport of these artifacts.

QUESTION 4

The Louvre was once the official residence of French Monarchs. When did it stop becoming the royal seat?

QUESTION 5

Last year, the Louvre was burgled by brazen thieves who entered the museum disguised as construction workers. What did they steal?

Visual Question:
What is this building and where is it located? SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Why was August 7 chosen as the National Handloom Day? **Ans: To commemorate the 'Swadeshi Movement'**

2. After whom is the country's highest recognition for handloom weavers who have demonstrated extraordinary craftsmanship and dedication to the preservation and promotion of India's weaving traditions named? **Ans: Sant Kabir, who was a weaver**

3. Which State is synonymous with the Wangkhei Phee and Shapee Lanphee weaves? **Ans: Manipur**

4. Name the master weaver of the Gods in Hindu mythology from whom the silk weavers of Kanchipuram consider their descendance. **Ans: Sage Markanda**

5. What is special about Eri silk, locally called Ryndia, from Meghalaya? **Ans: It is 'Ahimsa' or 'Peace' silk where the yarn is spun after the moth exits the cocoon naturally**

6. Which popular weave from Central India was patronised by Queen Ahilyabai Holkar? **Ans: Maheshwari**

7. Where is Calico Museum of Textiles? **Ans: Ahmedabad**

Visual: Name this social reformer affectionately called 'Hatkargha Maa' (Handloom Mother) **Ans: Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay**

Early Birds: Tsewang Chosdon | Saniya Kumari | Abhay Krishan | Prem Raj P. | Devan Monga